

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA

WALWORTH COUNTY WISCONSIN

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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PLANNING REPORT
NUMBER 242

**A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN
FOR THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Prepared by the

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April 1999

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Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

PLAN CONTEXT

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

The primary purpose of the park and open space plan for the City of Lake Geneva is to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land for park, outdoor recreation, and related open space purposes as needed to satisfy the recreational needs of City residents and to protect and enhance the important natural resources within the City and the remainder of the study area. The plan seeks to provide a variety of parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities which will offer opportunities for City residents to participate in a wide range of active and passive recreational pursuits. The focus of this plan is toward land based outdoor recreation activities, and while it is recognized that the commercially operated marinas in the City do fill a recreational need in providing watercraft opportunities, these marinas will not be formally addressed by this plan. It is also recognized that there may be additional recreational demands by the non-resident population in the City of Lake Geneva, including seasonal residents, tourists, and visitors. The level of such demands would, however, be difficult if not impossible to determine. This plan is thus designed to meet the needs of the resident population of the City.

Park and open space acquisition, development, and use have long been issues of concern to public officials and citizen leaders because of the importance of outdoor recreation sites and areas for natural resource protection. On December 1, 1977, the Southeastern Wisconsin

Regional Planning Commission adopted SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, which identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommends a system of large resource-oriented parks, recreational corridors and a regional trail system, and smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, together with attendant recreational facility requirements. Following completion of the regional plan, and at the request of Walworth County, the Regional Planning Commission refined and detailed the regional plan as it relates to Walworth County. That plan, documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County*, was adopted by the County Board on January 14, 1992. The regional plan, and therefore the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan, also recommends that each local unit of government in the County refine and detail the adopted plan as it relates to its local area of jurisdiction.

CITY REQUEST

The City of Lake Geneva, on March 1, 1996, requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the City in the preparation of a new park and open space plan. The plan was to reflect recent park and open space acquisition and development activities within the City, and was also intended to maintain City eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids in partial support of the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities. The requested new plan is documented in this report. The planning process involved was conducted under the guidance of the City of Lake Geneva Park Board.

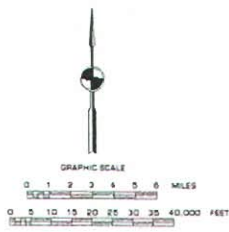
PLANNING AREA

The study area for the planning effort, shown on Map 1, is located in the southeastern portion of Walworth County and consists of the City of Lake Geneva and portions of the Towns of Geneva, Lyons, Linn, and Bloomfield. The planning area encompasses about 30.2 square miles. The City of Lake Geneva--based on 1990 corporate limits--

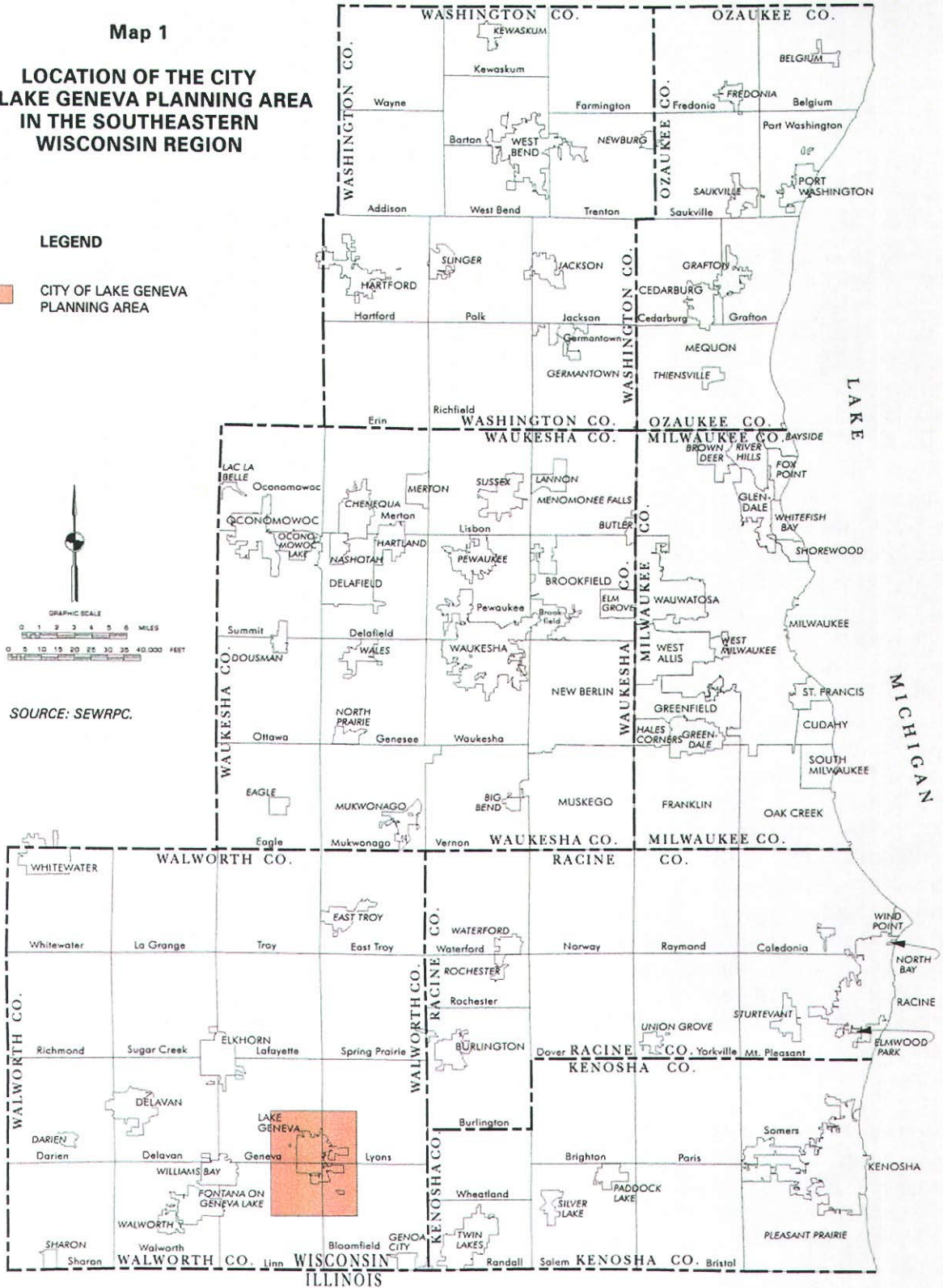
Map 1
LOCATION OF THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA IN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION

LEGEND

 CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA



SOURCE: SEWRPC.



comprises about 5.5 square miles, or about 18 percent of the planning area.

REPORT FORMAT

The findings and recommendations of the City park and open space plan are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter II presents information about the City pertinent to park and open space planning, including information on the resident population, the land

use pattern, and natural resources within the City. An inventory of existing park and open space sites and facilities within the City is also included in Chapter II. Chapter III presents the objectives, principles, and supporting standards which served as the basis for the development of the new park and open space plan, and provides an analysis of park and open space needs in the City. The recommended park and open space plan and the actions required to carry out the plan are presented in Chapter IV. A summary is presented Chapter V.

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Chapter II

INVENTORY FINDINGS

INTRODUCTION

The proper formulation of a park and open space plan requires the collection of pertinent data relating to population levels, the pattern of land use development, existing park and open space sites and facilities, and natural resources within the area concerned. These data for the Lake Geneva planning area are presented in this chapter.

RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA

Historic and existing population levels are an important consideration in any park and open space planning effort. Data on the historic resident population of the City are presented in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1. The City of Lake Geneva experienced little population growth between 1900 and 1940, increasing from 2,585 to 3,238 persons over that time. After 1940, the population increased steadily between all census years except for the decade between 1960 and 1970 when a slight decrease occurred. Between 1970 and 1980, the population of the City increased to 5,612 persons, a gain of 722 persons, or about 15 percent. Between 1980 and 1990, the population increased by 367 persons or about 6.5 percent, to a level of 5,979 persons. The resident population of the City was estimated at 6,453 persons in 1997, an increase of 474 persons, or about 7.9 percent over the 1990 census.

EXISTING LAND USE BASE

Land use is an important determinant of both the supply of, and the demand for, outdoor recreation and related open space facilities. Accordingly, an understanding of the amount, type, and spatial distribution of land uses in the City and the planning area, as well as of the historical conversion of rural lands to urban use, is essential to the development of a sound park and open space plan. Also integral to plan development is an understanding of land available for conversion to various types of urban uses.

The location and extent of urban development in the Lake Geneva planning area in 1990 are shown on Map 1. From 1900 to 1940 all of the urban growth was concentrated within an approximately one square mile area located just north of Geneva Lake. However, between 1940 and 1990, most of the urban development occurred in areas along the

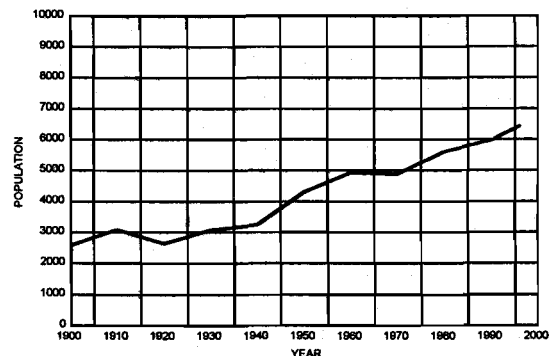
shores of Geneva Lake, and in scattered locations throughout the planning area.

Information on the amount of land devoted to the various types of land uses in the City of Lake Geneva and the Lake Geneva planning area in 1990 is presented in Table 2 and shown on Map 2. The planning area totals 19,303 acres, or about 30 square miles. Residential uses occupied 1,946 acres or about 10 percent of the planning area, while other urban uses combined occupied 2,487 acres or about 13 percent of the planning area. Thus, in 1990, 4,433 acres, or about 23 percent of the planning area, were in urban uses. Agricultural uses accounted for 6,924 acres or about 36 percent of the planning area. Other nonurban land uses, including woodlands, wetlands, surface water, and other open lands, together encompassed 7,946 acres or about 41 percent of the planning area.

In 1990, the City of Lake Geneva encompassed 3,488 acres or about 5.5 square miles. Residential uses occupied 741 acres, or about 21 percent of the area of the City, and 43 percent of the urban lands; while other urban uses combined occupied 978 acres, or about 28 percent of the City and 57 percent of the urban lands. Thus, in 1990, 1,719 acres, or about 49 percent of the area within the City, were in urban uses. Agricultural uses accounted for a relatively large portion of the City--409 acres, or about 12 percent. Other nonurban land uses, including woodlands, wetlands, surface water and other open lands, together encompassed 1,360 acres, or about 39 percent of the City. Thus, 1,769 acres, or 51 percent of the City of Lake Geneva, were in nonurban uses in 1990.

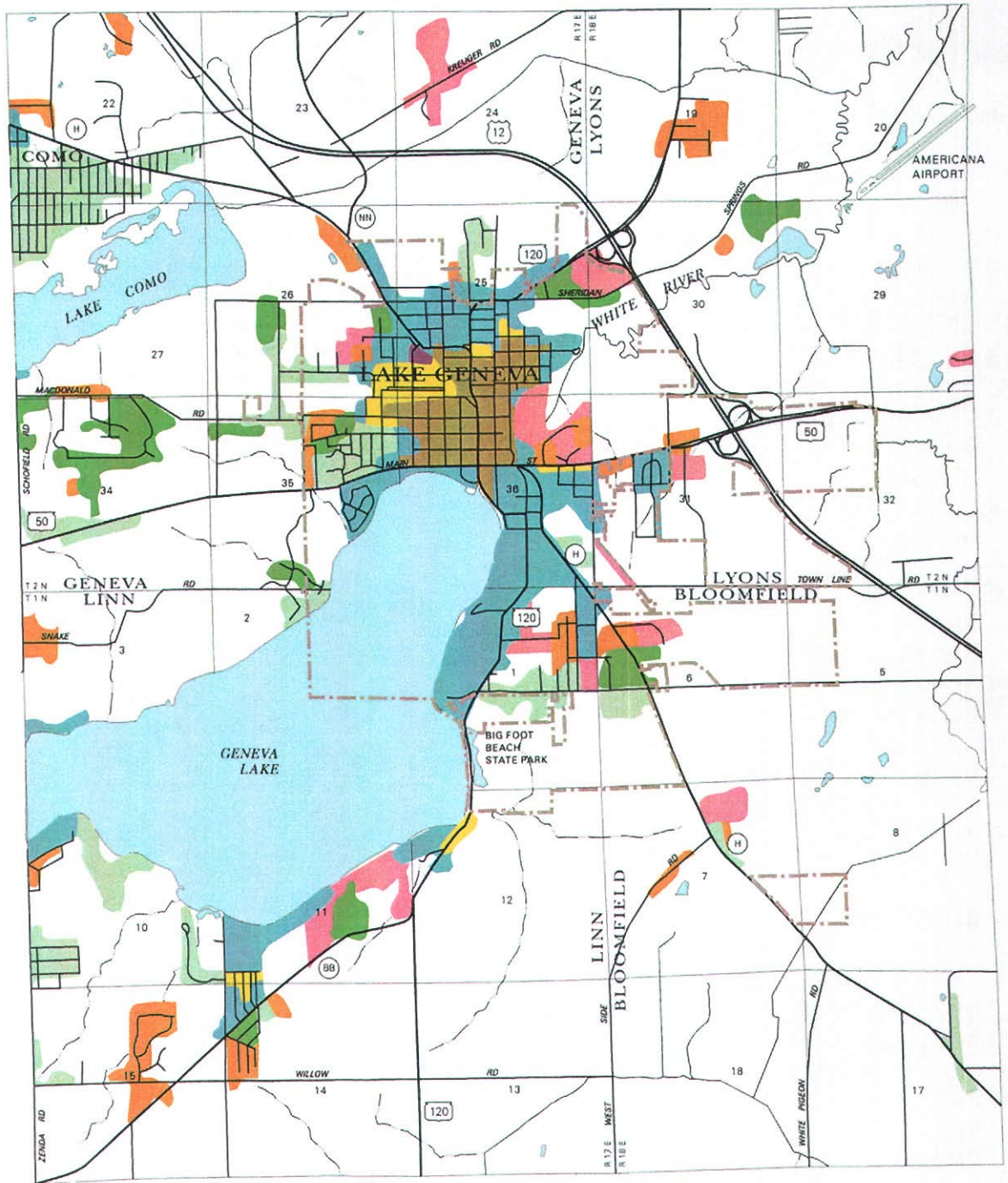
FIGURE 1

RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA: 1900 - 1997



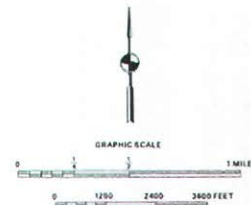
Map 2

HISTORIC URBAN GROWTH IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA: 1900-1990



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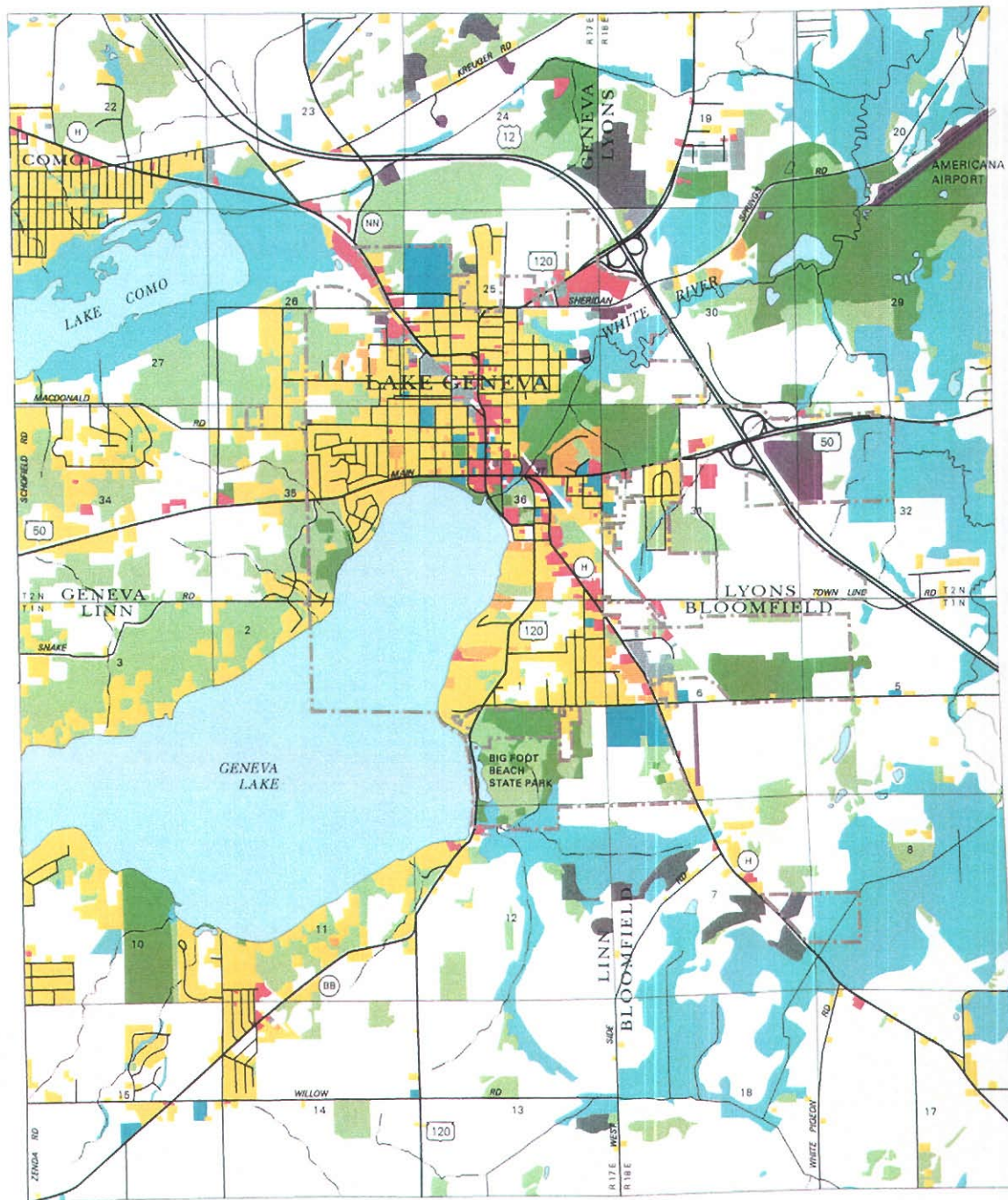
- 1997 CITY OF LAKE GENEVA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- 1900
- 1920
- 1940
- 1950
- 1963
- 1970
- 1980
- 1990



Source: SEWRPC.

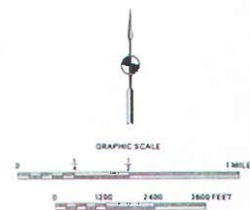
Map 3

EXISTING LAND USES IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA: 1990



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- 1997 CITY OF LAKE GENEVA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, AND UTILITIES
- GOVERNMENTAL AND INSTITUTIONAL
- PARKS AND RECREATIONAL
- WETLANDS
- WOODLANDS
- EXTRACTIVE AND LANDFILL
- AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER OPEN LANDS
- SURFACE WATER



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 1
RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE
CITY OF LAKE GENEVA: 1900-1997

Year	Population	Change from Preceding Period	
		Number	Percent
1900	2,585	--	--
1910	3,079	494	19.1
1920	2,632	-447	-14.5
1930	3,073	441	16.8
1940	3,238	165	5.4
1950	4,300	1,062	32.8
1960	4,929	629	14.6
1970	4,890	-39	-0.8
1980	5,612	722	14.8
1990	5,979	367	6.5
1997	6,453	474	7.9

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

LAND USE PLAN

The City of Lake Geneva master plan¹ is a guide for the growth and development of the City of Lake Geneva. The plan includes a central area land use plan which seeks to ensure that the central portion of the City of Lake Geneva, and its accompanying land uses, will remain as the focus of community identity. This park and open space plan was designed to be consistent with the City of Lake Geneva master plan.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

Existing Park and Open Space Sites and Facilities

In 1997, there were 43 existing park and open space sites in the City of Lake Geneva planning area, which together encompassed a total of 2,526 acres, or about 13 percent of the planning area. As indicated in Table 3 and shown on Map 3, 31 sites encompassing 893 acres, or about five percent of the area, were publicly owned. The remaining 12 sites, encompassing 1,633 acres, were privately owned. As indicated in Table 4, intensive recreational facilities provided at sites in the planning area include: three baseball diamonds, 17 basketball goals, four soccer fields, six picnic areas, eight playfields, 11 playgrounds, seven

league softball diamonds, nine sandlot softball fields, and 16 tennis courts. Other significant outdoor recreation facilities available within the planning area include: two swimming beaches, three boating facilities, and four regulation 18-hole golf courses.

City of Lake Geneva Park System

In 1997, the City of Lake Geneva owned 21 park and open space sites², encompassing a total of 148 acres³. As indicated in Table 5, the City-owned sites ranged in size from the less than one-acre Oak Hill Tot Lot, to the 64-acre Four Seasons Nature Preserve. Locations of the City-owned sites are shown on Map 4. A brief description of each of the City sites is presented below.

Baker Park

Baker Park is an approximately one-acre open space site along the northeastern shore of Lake Geneva. This site contains steep slopes, with shrubs and trees.

City Boat Access

The City Boat Access is a less than one acre special use site, located on the northeastern shore of Lake Geneva. Parking for vehicles with trailers is provided at nearby Seminary Park.

Cobb Park

Cobb Park is a five-acre neighborhood park located just west of the City. This mostly wooded site features a nature trail, playground, group picnicking area, and restrooms.

Donian Park

Donian Park is a four-acre open space site which encompasses a wetland and the 100-year recurrence interval floodplain along the White River in downtown Lake Geneva.

Dunn Field

Dunn Field is a 13-acre community park, under ownership of the school district, which adjoins Eastview Grade School. Under a 1984 agreement, the land was placed under the control and use of the City for recreational purposes. Including facilities at the grade school, this park contains one lighted baseball diamond, two tennis courts, one league softball diamond, two sandlot softball

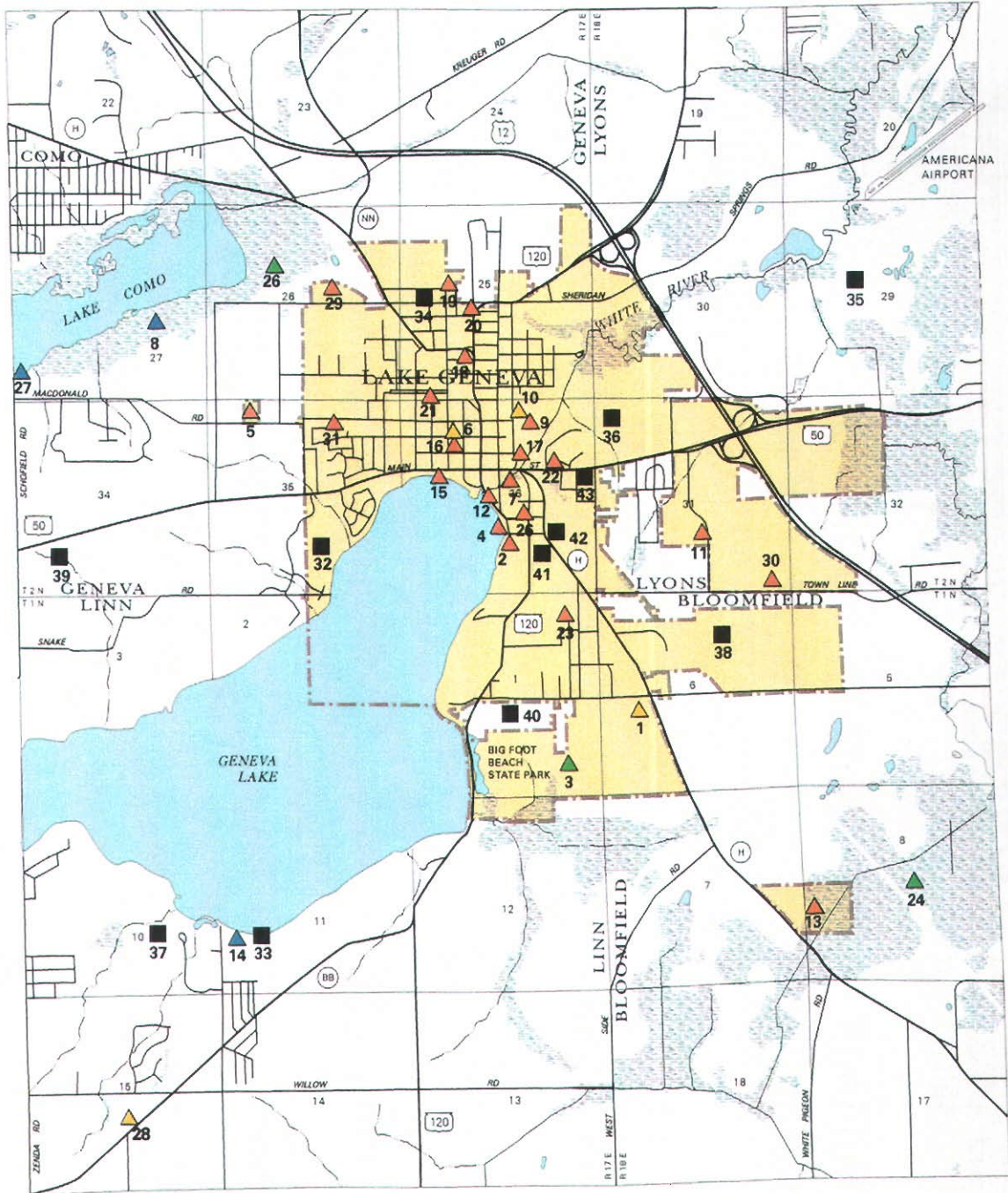
¹The recommendations of this plan are documented in The City of Lake Geneva Comprehensive Master Plan, prepared by Vandewalle and Associates and adopted by the City on August 13, 1997.

²Includes Dunn Field, which is owned by the School District, but managed by the City.

³An additional 86 acres of land within Hillmoor Golf Course are owned by the City.

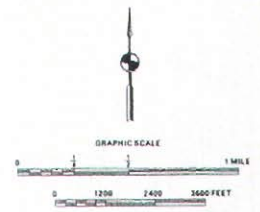
Map 4

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA: 1997



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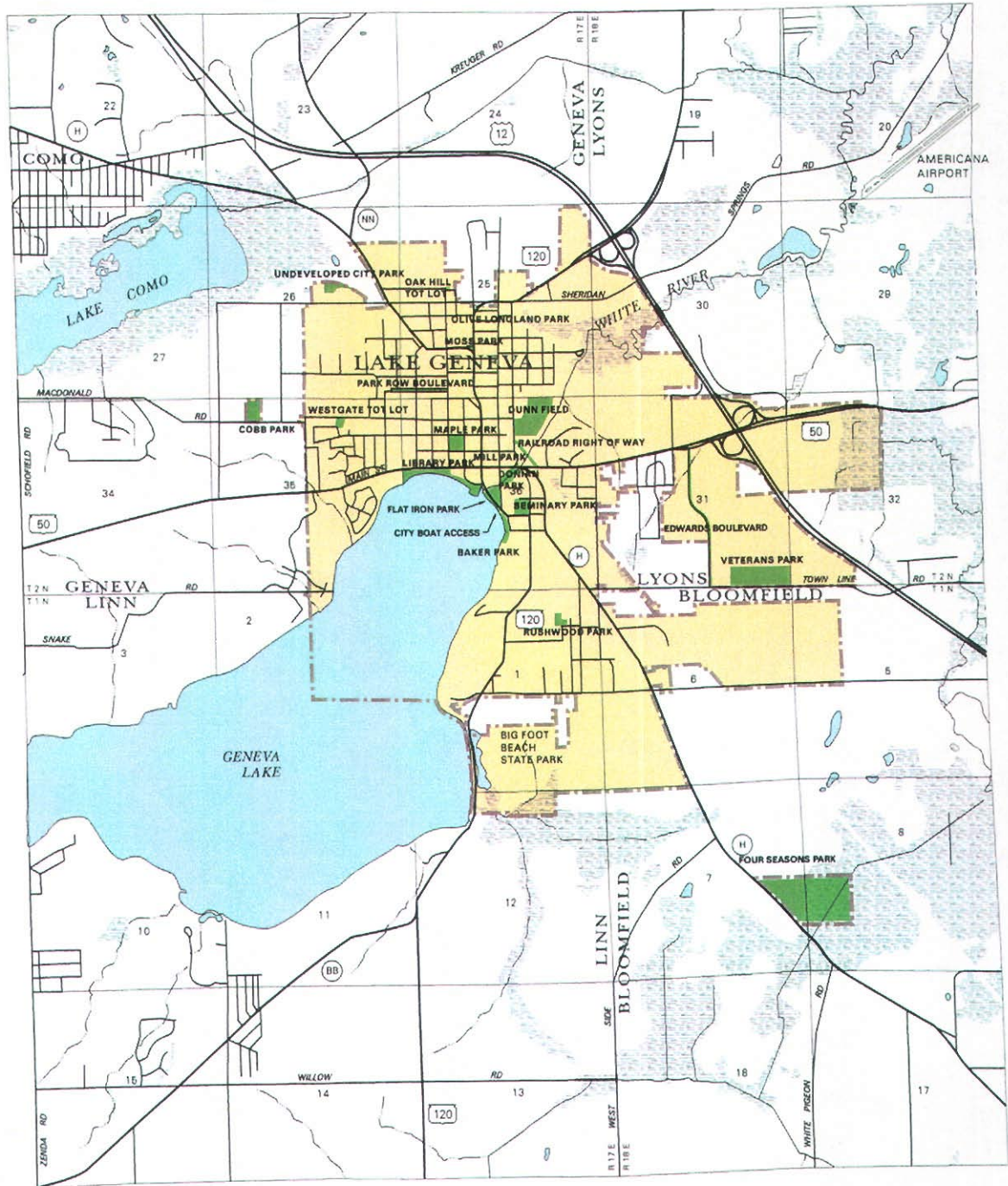
- 1997 CITY OF LAKE GENEVA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- ▲ CITY OF LAKE GENEVA SITE
- ▲ TOWN OWNED SITE
- ▲ SCHOOL DISTRICT SITE
- ▲ STATE OF WISCONSIN SITE
- PRIVATE SITE
- 14 SITE NUMBER ON TABLE 3





Source: City of Lake Geneva and SEWRPC.

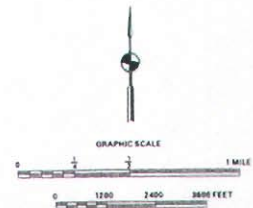
Map 5

CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES: 1997



LEGEND

-  1997 CITY OF LAKE GENEVA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
-  CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PARK OR OPEN SPACE SITE



Source: City of Lake Geneva and SEWRPC.

Table 2

EXISTING LAND USE IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA: 1990

Land Use Category	City of Lake Geneva		Remainder of Planning Area		Total	
	Acres ^a	Percent of Total	Acres	Percent of Total	Acres	Percent of Total
Urban						
Residential	741	21	1,205	8	1,946	10
Commercial	149	4	84	-. ^b	233	1
Industrial	50	2	42	-. ^b	92	-. ^b
Transportation, Communications, and Utilities ^c	370	11	750	5	1,120	6
Governmental and Institutional	115	3	20	-. ^b	135	1
Recreational	294	8	613	4	907	5
Subtotal	1,719	49	2,714	17	4,433	23
Rural						
Agricultural	409	12	6,515	41	6,924	36
Wetlands	191	5	2,328	15	2,519	13
Woodlands	335	10	1,697	11	2,032	11
Surface Water	518	15	1,696	11	2,214	11
Other Open Lands	316	9	865	5	1,181	6
Subtotal	1,769	51	13,101	83	14,870	77
Total	3,488	100	15,815	100	19,303	100

^aIncludes associated street rights-of-way and off-street parking areas for each land use category.

^bLess than 1.0 percent.

^cIncludes freeway rights-of-way, airports, and communication, utility, and transit station properties.

Source: SEWRPC.

diamonds, a playground, four basketball goals and soccer facilities.

Edwards Boulevard

Edwards Boulevard is an approximately two acre open space site owned and maintained by the City.

Flat Iron Park

Flat Iron Park is a three-acre special use site adjacent to the confluence of Geneva Lake and the White River. The park is the site of the Chamber of Commerce Tourist Information Center. Facilities include boat slips, a gazebo, and restrooms.

Four Seasons Nature Preserve

The Four Seasons Nature Preserve is an approximately 64-acre open space site which is located southeast of the City. The site includes a shelter building, observation deck, nature trail, and boardwalk amid a wetland, prairie, and oak opening.

Library Park

Library Park is a ten-acre community park located on the north shore of Lake Geneva. The historic Riviera Building lies on the east end and the Public Library is located in the center of the park. Facilities include a swimming beach, informal picnicking, ice skating, boat slips, boat rentals, and restrooms.

Maple Park

Maple Park is a three-acre neighborhood park located in the heart of the City. Although it is owned by the City of Lake Geneva, the site is managed by the Lake Geneva School District. Facilities at the park include two basketball goals, a playfield, a playground, one sandlot softball diamond and two tennis courts.

Mill Park

Mill Park is a less than one-acre open space site on the City's near east side.

Moss Park

Moss Park is a less than one-acre open space site located on the north side of the City.

Oak Hill Tot Lot

Oak Hill Tot Lot is a less than one-acre playlot on the City's north side which provides playground equipment.

Olive Longland Park

Olive Longland Park is a one-acre open space site located on the north side of Lake Geneva.

Park Row Boulevard

Park Row Boulevard is a one-acre open space site owned and maintained by the City.

Table 3

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA: 1997

Number on Map 4	Site Name	Location	Ownership	Acreage
	Public			
1	Badger High School	T 1N, R 18E, Section 06	School District	19
2	Baker Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1
3	Big Foot Beach State Park	T1N, R 17E, Section 01	State of Wisconsin	272
4	City Boat Access	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1
5	Cobb Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 35	City of Lake Geneva	5
6	Denison School	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	School District	1
7	Donian Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	4
8	Duck Lake Nature Trail	T2N, R 17E, Section 27	Town of Geneva	22
9	Dunn Field ^a	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	13
10	Eastview Grade School	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	School District	2
11	Edwards Boulevard	T2N, R 18E, Section 31	City of Lake Geneva	2
12	Flat Iron Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	3
13	Four Seasons Nature Preserve	T1N, R 18E, Section 07	City of Lake Geneva	64
14	Hillside Drive Boat Access	T1N, R 17E, Section 11	Town of Linn	1
15	Library Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	10
16	Maple Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	3
17	Mill Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	1
18	Moss Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 25	City of Lake Geneva	1
19	Oak Hill Tot Lot	T2N, R 17E, Section 25	City of Lake Geneva	1
20	Olive Longland Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 25	City of Lake Geneva	1
21	Park Row Boulevard	T2N, R 17E, Section 25	City of Lake Geneva	1
22	Railroad Right-of-Way	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	2
23	Rushwood Park	T1N, R 17E, Section 01	City of Lake Geneva	3
24	Scattered Wildlife Area	T1N, R 18E, Section 08	State of Wisconsin	248
25	Seminary Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	City of Lake Geneva	3
26	Statewide Habitat Area	T2N, R 17E, Section 26	State of Wisconsin	176
27	Town Boat Access	T2N, R 17E, Section 27	Town of Geneva	1
28	Traver School	T1N, R 17E, Section 15	School District	4
29	Undeveloped City Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 26	City of Lake Geneva	3
30	Veterans Park	T2N, R 18E, Section 31	City of Lake Geneva	25
31	Westgate Tot Lot	T2N, R 17E, Section 35	City of Lake Geneva	1
--	Subtotal 31 sites	--	--	893
	Non-Public			
32	Covenant Harbor Bible Camp	T2N, R 17E, Section 35	Organizational	56
33	Emma Fleck Memorial Park	T1N, R 17E, Section 11	Private	1
34	First Evangelical Lutheran School	T2N, R 17E, Section 25	Organizational	4
35	Grand Geneva Spa and Resort	T2N, R 18E, Section 29	Commercial	1,182
36	Hillmoor Golf Club ^b	T2N, R 18E, Section 31	Commercial	111
37	Lake Geneva Country Club	T1N, R 17E, Section 10	Commercial	118
38	Lake Geneva Raceways	T1N, R 18E, Section 06	Commercial	115
39	Lake Geneva YMCA Camp	T2N, R 17E, Section 34	Organizational	17
40	Lake Geneva Youth Club	T1N, R 17E, Section 01	Organizational	22
41	Par T Miniature Golf	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	Commercial	1
42	Paradise Golf Park	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	Commercial	2
43	St. Francis School	T2N, R 17E, Section 36	Organizational	4
--	Subtotal - 12 sites	--	--	1,633
--	Total - 43 sites	--	--	2,526

^a Dunn Field, located adjacent to Eastview Grade School, is owned by the School District, but managed by the City.

^bThe City of Lake Geneva owns 86 acres within the Hillmoor Golf Course.

Source: SEWRPC.

Table 4

FACILITIES FOR SELECTED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA: 1997

Number on Map 3	Site Name	Regulation Baseball	Basketball Goal	Soccer Facilities	Picnic	Playfields	Playgrounds	League Softball	Sandlot Softball	Tennis Court	Other Facilities
Public											
1	Badger High School	1	2	--	--	X	--	2	--	8	Football/Track Sand Volleyball
2	Baker Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	Big Foot Beach State Park	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	Swimming Beach
4	City Boat Access	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Boat Access
5	Cobb Park	--	--	--	X	--	X	--	--	--	Hiking Trail
6	Denison School	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
7	Donian Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
8	Duck Lake Nature Trail	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Hiking Trail
9	Dunn Field*	1	--	X	--	X	--	1	2	2	--
10	Eastview Grade School	--	4	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
11	Edwards Boulevard	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
12	Flat Iron Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Gazebo, Boat Slips
13	Four Seasons Nature Preserve	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Nature Trail
14	Hillside Drive Boat Access	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Boat Launch
15	Library Park	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	Boat Slips, Swimming Beach, Ice Skating
16	Maple Park	--	2	--	--	X	X	--	1	2	--
17	Mill Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Pond
18	Moss Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
19	Oak Hill Tot Lot	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
20	Olive Longland Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
21	Park Row Boulevard	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
22	Railroad Right-of-Way	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Walking Trail
23	Rushwood Park	--	--	--	X	X	X	--	1	--	Sledding Hill
24	Scattered Wildlife Area	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25	Seminary Park	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
26	Statewide Habitat Area	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
27	Town Boat Access	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Boat Launch
28	Traver School	--	3	X	--	X	X	--	1	--	Volleyball
29	Undeveloped City Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
30	Veterans Park	1	--	X	--	X	X	4	--	--	Horseshoes
31	Westgate Tot Lot	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
	Subtotal 31 sites	3	11	3	5	6	8	7	5	12	
Non-Public											
32	Covenant Harbor Bible Camp	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	2	Archery
33	Emma Fleck Memorial Park	--	1	--	X	--	--	--	--	--	Swimming Beach
34	First Evangelical Lutheran School	--	2	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
35	Grand Geneva Spa and Resort	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	36 Holes Regulation Golf
36	Hillmore Golf Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18 Holes Regulation Golf
37	Lake Geneva Country Club	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18 Holes Regulation Golf
38	Lake Geneva Raceways	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Auto Racing
39	Lake Geneva YMCA Camp	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
40	Lake Geneva Youth Club	--	2	X	--	X	X	--	4	2	--
41	Par T Miniature Golf	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Miniature Golf
42	Paradise Golf Park	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Miniature Golf
43	St. Francis School	--	1	--	--	--	X	--	--	--	--
	Subtotal 12 sites	--	6	1	1	2	3	--	4	4	--
	Total 43 sites	3	17	4	6	8	11	7	9	16	--

* Dunn Field, located adjacent to Eastview Grade School, owned by the School District, but managed by the City.

Source: SEWRPC.

Table 5

CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PARK SYSTEM: 1997

Number on Map 4	Site Name	Location	Type	Acreage
2	Baker Park	T2N, R17E, Section 36	Open Space Site	1
4	City Boat Access	T2N, R17E, Section 36	Special Use Site	1
5	Cobb Park	T2N, R17E, Section 35	Neighborhood Park	5
7	Donian Park	T2N, R17E, Section 36	Open Space Site	4
9	Dunn Field*	T2N, R17E, Section 36	Community Park	13
11	Edwards Boulevard	T2N, R18E, Section 31	Open Space Site	2
12	Flat Iron Park	T2N, R17E, Section 36	Special Use Site	3
13	Four Seasons Nature Preserve	T1N, R18E, Section 07	Open Space Site	64
15	Library Park	T2N, R17E, Section 36	Community Park	10
16	Maple Park	T2N, R17E, Section 36	Neighborhood Park	3
17	Mill Park	T2N, R17E, Section 36	Open Space Site	1
18	Moss Park	T2N, R17E, Section 25	Open Space Site	1
19	Oak Hill Tot Lot	T2N, R17E, Section 25	Playlot	1
20	Olive Longland Park	T2N, R17E, Section 25	Open Space Site	1
21	Park Row Boulevard	T2N, R17E, Section 25	Open Space Site	1
22	Railroad Right of Way	T2N, R17E, Section 36	Special Use Site	2
23	Rushwood Park	T1N, R17E, Section 01	Neighborhood Park	3
25	Seminary Park	T2N, R17E, Section 36	Special Use Site	3
29	Undeveloped City Park	T2N, R17E, Section 26	Undeveloped Neighborhood Park	3
30	Veterans Park	T2N, R18E, Section 31	Community Park	25
31	Westgate Tot Lot	T2N, R17E, Section 35	Playlot	1
--	Total - 21 Sites	--	--	148 ^b

*Dunn Field, located adjacent to Eastview Grade School, is owned by the School District, but managed by the City.

^bTotal does not include 86 acres of City-owned land located within the Hillmoor Golf Course.

Source: SEWRPC.

Railroad Right-of-Way

This site is a two-acre portion of the abandoned Chicago & North Western Railway right-of-way located on the near east side of the City and is the trailhead of the proposed Memorial Trail. This trail is proposed to continue in a southeasterly direction to the section line, then run east, connecting with Veterans Park. Currently, this site is undeveloped.

Rushwood Park

Rushwood Park is a three-acre neighborhood park on the City's south side. Facilities include a sandlot softball diamond, playground equipment, picnicking and a sledding hill.

Seminary Park

Seminary Park is a three-acre special use site located proximate to downtown. The site provides picnicking, restrooms, and parking for vehicles with boat trailers.

Undeveloped City Park

This undeveloped three-acre site on the City's north side contains wetlands and primary environmental corridor and is adjacent to the Town-owned Duck Lake Nature Trail.

Veterans Park

Veterans Park is a 25-acre community park located east of the City. Facilities at the park include a lighted baseball diamond, two lighted softball diamonds, two unlighted softball diamonds, a soccer field, playground equipment, and horseshoe pits.

Westgate Tot Lot

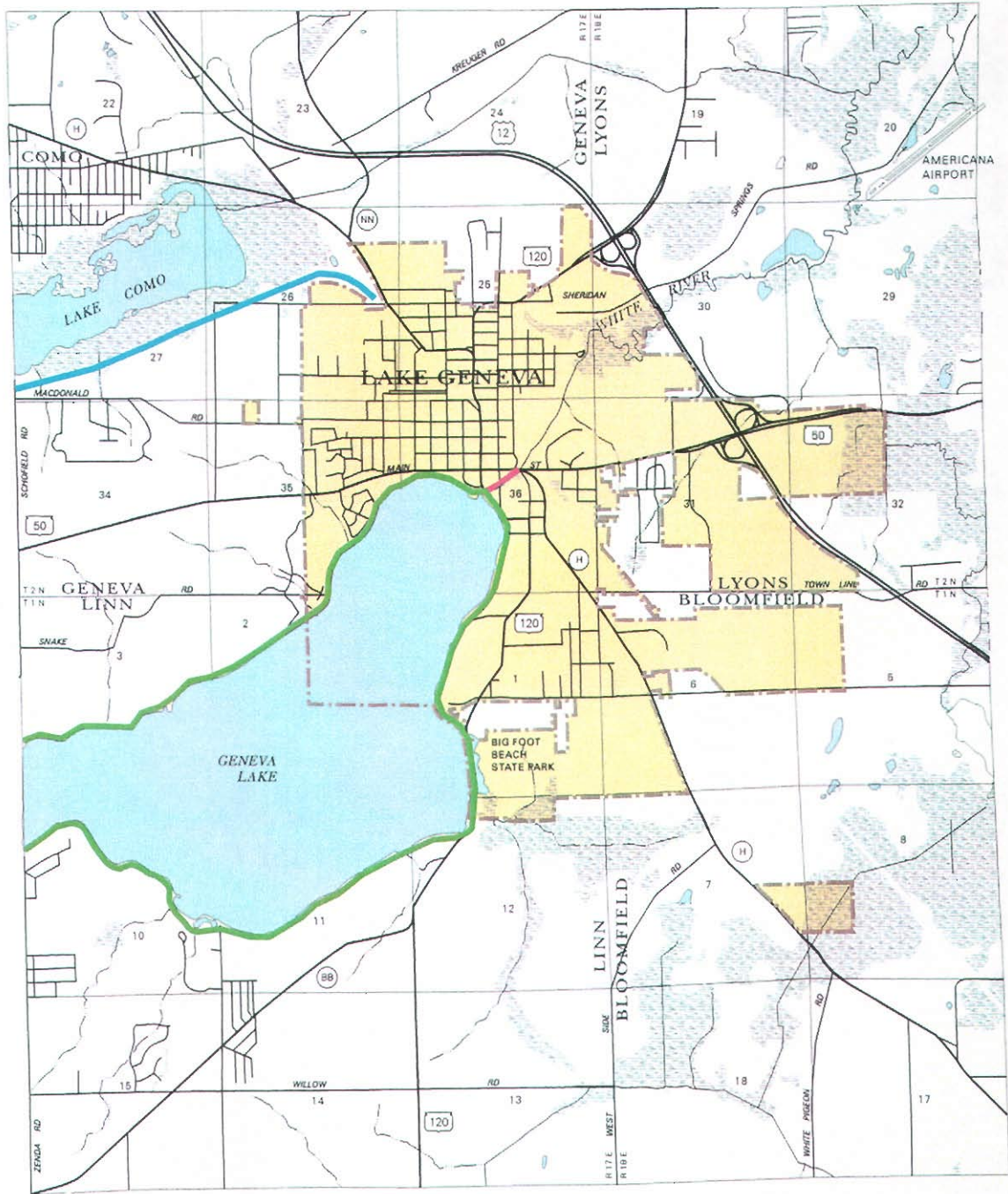
The Westgate Totlot is a less than one-acre playlot located on the west side of the City which provides playground equipment.

Selected Trail Facilities

Opportunities for trail related outdoor recreation activities, such as hiking and nature study are provided at trail facilities within some of the City-owned park and open space sites listed above. Additional recreational trail sites

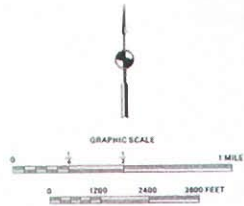
Map 6

RECREATIONAL TRAILS IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA: 1997



LEGEND

- 1997 CITY OF LAKE GENEVA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- GENEVA LAKE WALKWAY
- WHITE RIVER WALKWAY
- DUCK LAKE NATURE TRAIL



Source: City of Lake Geneva and SEWRPC.

shown on Map 5, include the Geneva Lake and White River walkways and the Duck Lake Nature Trail.

Geneva Lake Walkway

A historical walkway path, which is believed to have been originally established by the Potawatomi Indians, extends completely around Geneva Lake's wooded lakeshore. Although the path crosses private lands, recent court rulings have supported public use of the trail. Approximately three miles of the 26 mile trail are located within the City.

White River Walk

An unofficial walk currently exists along the White River from Geneva Lake to Main Street. Proposed extension of the White River Walk will be discussed in Chapter IV.

Duck Lake Nature Trail

This Town of Geneva site covers 22 acres along the southern edge of State-owned lands which abut Lake Como. Formerly a railroad right-of-way, this two-mile walkway offers excellent viewing of wild birds.

NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES

The natural resources of an area are important determinants of the ability of an area to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life and to maintain its social and economic well-being. The planning of parks and open spaces should seek to preserve the most significant remaining aspects of the natural resource base to help retain the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area. A description of the natural resource base of the City of Lake Geneva, including surface water resources, wetlands, woodlands, and natural areas, as well as the environmental corridors encompassing such resources, is presented in this section.

Surface Water Resources

Surface water resources and associated floodlands, shown on Map 6, form a particularly important element of the natural resource base of the City of Lake Geneva planning area. Lakes and streams provide water-related activities, provide an attractive setting for properly planned residential development and enhance the aesthetic quality of the City.

There are two major lakes, that is, lakes with a surface area of greater than 50 acres, located partially within the planning area. Geneva Lake encompasses an area of about 5,262 acres, of which about 1,831 acres lie within the planning area, and Lake Como encompasses an area of

about 946 acres, of which about 290 acres lie within the planning area.

Rivers and streams may be classified as perennial or intermittent. The perennial and certain intermittent streams within the City of Lake Geneva planning area are shown on Map 6. Perennial streams are defined as watercourses which maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. Intermittent streams are defined as watercourses which do not maintain a continuous flow throughout the year. Within the planning area, a total of approximately 45 linear miles of perennial and intermittent rivers and streams were identified.

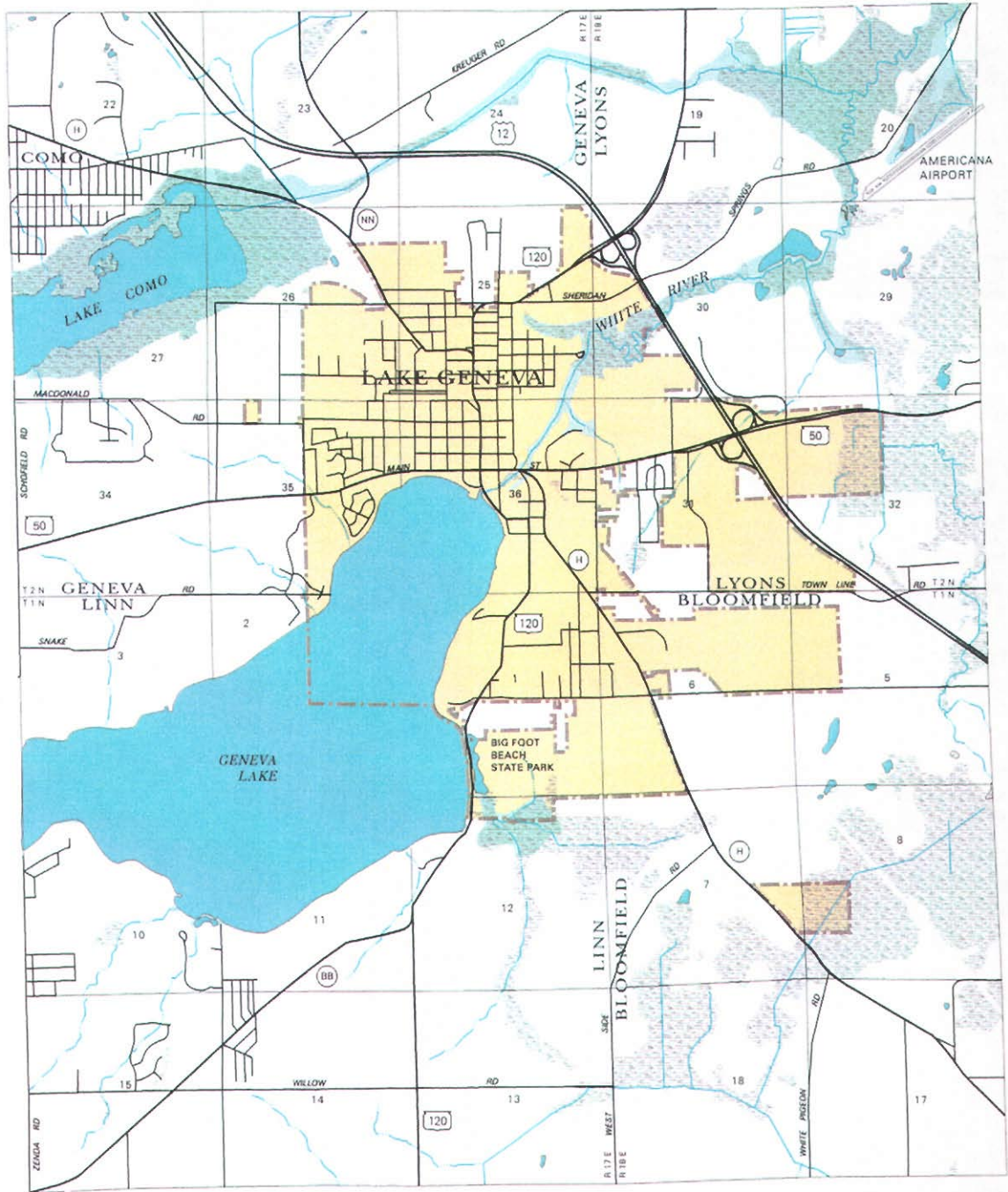
The floodlands of a river or stream are the wide, generally sloping areas contiguous to, and usually lying on both sides of, the river or stream channel. Rivers and streams occupy their channels most of the time. However, during even minor flood events, stream discharges increase markedly, and the channel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

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






Floodland have been delineated within the planning area under the Regional Planning Commission comprehensive Fox River Watershed Plan and were refined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for flood insurance purposes. These floodland delineations are shown on Map 6 and encompasses an area of

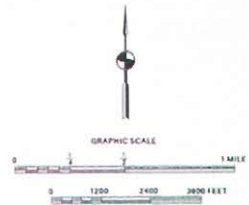
Map 7

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE AND FLOODLANDS IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA



LEGEND

-  1997 CITY OF LAKE GENEVA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
-  INTERMITTENT STREAM
-  PERENNIAL STREAM
-  SURFACE WATER
-  100-YEAR RECURRENCE INTERVAL FLOODPLAIN



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and SEWRPC.

approximately 1,200 acres, or about 6 percent of the planning area.

Wetlands

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

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

As shown on Map 2, wetlands covered about 2,519 acres or about 13 percent of the City of Lake Geneva planning area in 1990. It should be noted that such areas as tamarack swamps and other lowland wooded areas are classified as wetlands rather than woodlands because the water table is located at, near, or above the land surface, and such areas are characterized by hydric soils which support hydrophytic trees and shrubs. As further shown on Map 2, wetland areas are distributed throughout the City of Lake Geneva planning area.

Woodlands

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

Woodlands provide an attractive natural resource of immeasurable value. Under good management, woodlands can serve a variety of beneficial functions. In addition to contributing to clean air and water and regulating surface water runoff, woodlands can contribute to the maintenance

of a diversity of plant and animal life. Woodlands, which may require a century or more to develop, can be destroyed through mismanagement within a comparatively short time. The deforestation of hillsides contributes to rapid stormwater runoff, the siltation of lakes and streams, and the destruction of wildlife habitat.

Woodlands can and should be maintained for their scenic, wildlife habitat, educational, and recreational value and for air and water quality protection. As shown on Map 2, woodlands occur in scattered locations throughout the City of Lake Geneva planning area. In 1990, woodland areas covered 2,032 acres or about 11 percent of the total planning area.

Environmental Corridors

One of the most important tasks completed by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was the identification and delineation of those areas in the Region in which concentrations of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base occur. The protection and preservation of such areas in essentially natural, open uses is critical to maintaining both the ecological balance and natural beauty of the Region and the planning area.

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

The delineation of these 11 natural resource and natural resource-related elements on a map results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow, elongated areas which have been termed "environmental corridors" by the Regional Planning Commission.⁴ Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of these important resource and resource-related elements and are at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors generally connect with

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

the primary environmental corridors and are at least 100 acres in size and one mile in length. In addition, smaller concentrations of natural resource features that have been separated physically from the environmental corridors by intensive urban or agricultural uses have also been identified. These areas, which are at least five acres in size, are referred to as isolated natural resource areas.

In any consideration of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, it is important to note that preservation of such corridors and areas in essentially natural, open uses can assist in noise, air, and water pollution abatement as well as in favorable climate modification. Preservation of such features is also essential to facilitate the movement of wildlife, especially in times of stress, and for the movement and dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. In addition, because of the many interacting relationships existing between living organisms and their environment, the destruction or deterioration of an important element of the total environment may lead to a chain reaction of deterioration and destruction. The drainage of wetlands, for example, may have far reaching effects, since such drainage may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge areas, and natural filtration and floodwater storage areas of interconnecting stream systems. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to a deterioration of the quality of the groundwater which serves as a source of domestic, municipal, and industrial water supply, and upon which low flows of rivers and streams may depend. In addition, the intrusion of intensive urban land uses into such areas may result in the creation of serious and costly problems, such as failing foundations for pavements and structures, wet basements, excessive operation of sump pumps, excessive clearwater infiltration into sanitary sewerage systems, and poor drainage. Similarly, the destruction of ground cover may result in soil erosion, stream siltation, more rapid runoff, and increased flooding, as well as the destruction of wildlife habitat. Although the effects of any one of the environmental changes may not in and of itself be overwhelming, the combined effects must eventually lead to a serious deterioration of the underlying and supporting natural resource base and of the overall quality of the environment for life. The need to preserve the remaining environmental corridors and important isolated natural resource areas in the City of Lake Geneva planning area, thus becomes apparent.

As already noted, a wide variety of resource features occurs within the environmental corridors. A number of individual resource features often occupy the same location within these corridors. For example, a single area

may be classified as wetlands, floodlands, shorelands, wildlife habitat, and an area with poor soils. As another example, a single area may be classified as woodlands, an area of steep slope, a scenic viewpoint, and wildlife habitat. However, certain resource features within the environmental corridors are mutually exclusive. Moreover, these features characterize the types of resources generally found in individual environmental corridor segments. In order to characterize the types of natural resource base and related elements within the primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, the following four resource categories have been identified: 1) surface waters, 2) wetlands, 3) woodlands; and 4) other resource features, which generally include wildlife habitat areas and either areas of steep slopes or areas of wet, poorly drained, or organic soil. A more detailed description of the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in the City is presented below.

Primary Environmental Corridors

As shown on Map 7, the primary environmental corridors within the Lake Geneva planning area in 1990 were located throughout the planning area. These corridors encompassed a total area of about 6,516 acres, or about 34 percent of the planning area; and about 989 acres or about 28 percent of the City of Lake Geneva.

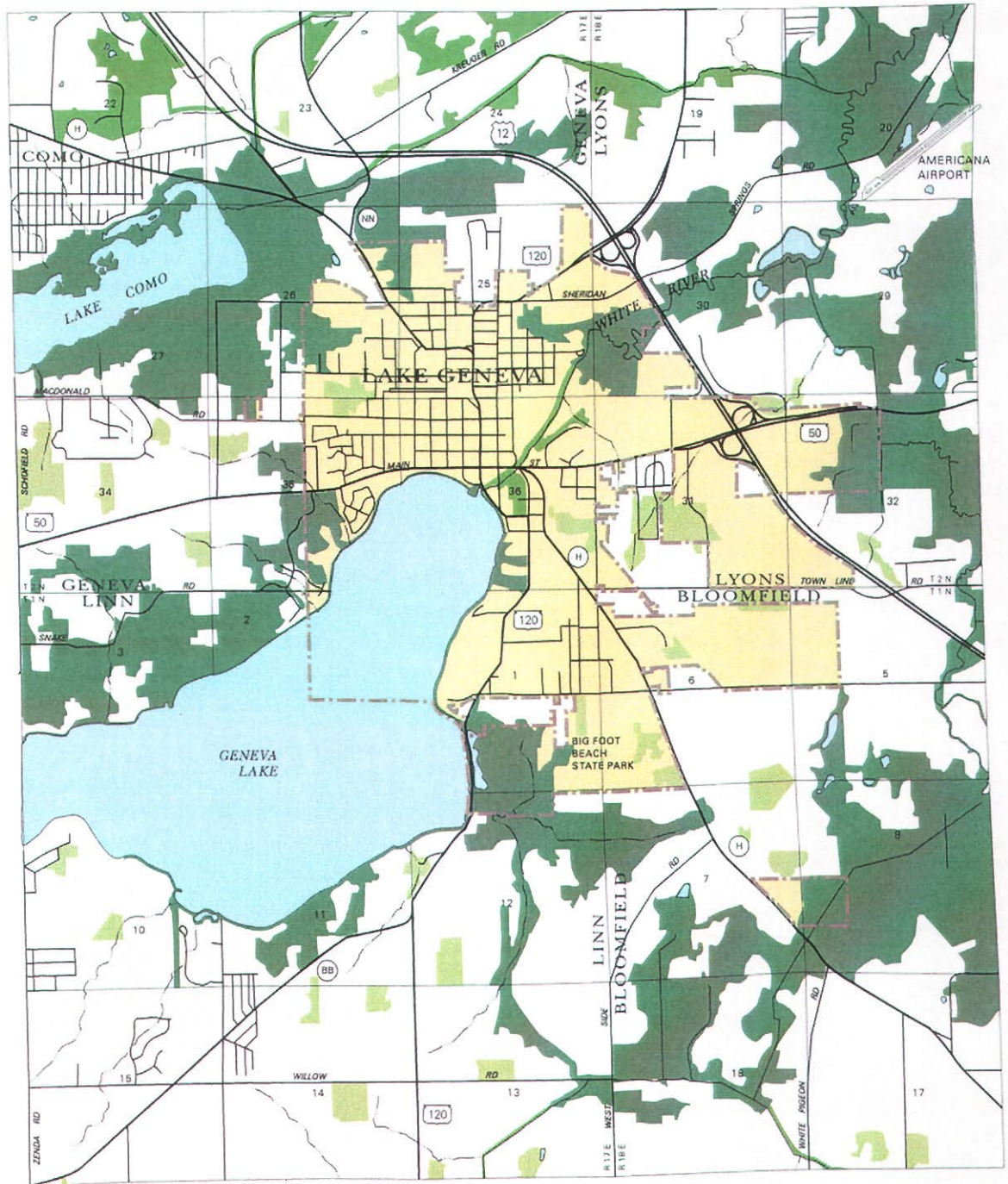
The generalized natural resource composition of the primary environmental corridors is summarized in Table 6. Of the total of 6,516 acres of primary environmental corridors in the planning area in 1990, about 2,209 acres, or about 34 percent, were surface water; 2,382 acres, or 37 percent, were wetlands; 1,258 acres, or about 19 percent, were woodlands; and 667 acres, or about 10 percent, consisted of other resources.

As further indicated in Table 6, of the approximately 989 acres of primary environmental corridor in the City of Lake Geneva in 1990, about 518 acres, or about 52 percent were surface water; 178 acres, or about 18 percent, were wetlands; 189 acres or about 19 percent were woodlands; and the remaining 104 acres, or 11 percent, consisted of other resources.

The primary environmental corridors include the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas; and are, in effect, a composite of the best remaining residual elements of the natural resource base of the City of Lake Geneva planning area. These corridors have truly immeasurable environmental and recreational value. The protection of the primary environmental corridors from intrusion by incompatible rural and urban uses, and

Map 8

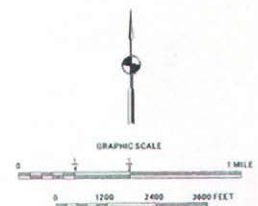
ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA: 1990



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
|  | PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR |  | SURFACE WATER |
|  | SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR |  | 1997 CITY OF LAKE GENEVA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY |
|  | ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA | | |

Source: SEWRPC.



thereby from degradation and destruction, should be one of the principal objectives of the City park and open space plan. Their preservation in an essentially open, natural state, including park and open space uses and very low density residential uses, will serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality, protect the natural beauty, and provide valuable recreation opportunities within the City of Lake Geneva and the remainder of the planning area.

Secondary Environmental Corridors

As shown on Map 7, secondary environmental corridors in the City of Lake Geneva planning area in 1990 were generally located along intermittent streams or between segments of primary environmental corridors. These corridors encompassed about 383 acres or about two percent of the planning area, and about 38 acres or one percent of the City of Lake Geneva.

The generalized natural resource composition of the secondary environmental corridors is summarized in Table 6. Of the total of 383 acres of secondary environmental corridors in the planning area in 1990, one acre, or less than one percent, was surface water; 55 acres, or about 14 percent, were wetlands; 193 acres, or about 51 percent, were woodlands; and 134 acres, or about 35 percent, consisted of other resources.

As further indicated in Table 6, of the approximately 38 acres of secondary environmental corridor in the City of Lake Geneva in 1990, 3 acres, or about 8 percent were wetlands; 9 acres, or about 24 percent, were woodlands; and the remaining 26 acres, or about 68 percent, consisted

of other resources.

The secondary environmental corridors are often remnants of primary environmental corridors which have been developed for intensive agricultural or urban uses. Secondary environmental corridors facilitate surface water drainage, maintain pockets of natural resource features, and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife and for the movement and dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. Such corridors should also be preserved in essentially open, natural uses as development proceeds within the City of Lake Geneva and the planning area, particularly when the opportunity is presented to incorporate the corridors into urban stormwater detention areas, associated drainageways, or neighborhood parks.

Isolated Natural Resource Areas

In addition to the environmental corridors, other small concentrations of natural resource base elements exist within the planning area. These pockets are generally isolated from the environmental corridors by urban development. Although separated from the environmental corridor network, these isolated natural resource areas have important natural values. Isolated natural resource areas may provide the only available wildlife habitat in an area, provide good locations for local parks and open space areas, and lend aesthetic character and natural diversity to an area. As shown on Map 7, isolated natural resource areas encompassed about 495 acres, or about three percent of the planning area, and 114 acres, or about three percent of the City of Lake Geneva.

Table 6

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA: 1990

Natural Resource Component of Corridor	Primary Environmental Corridor						Secondary Environmental Corridor						Isolated Natural Resource Area					
	City of Lake Geneva		Remainder of Planning Area		Total Planning Area		City of Lake Geneva		Remainder of Planning Area		Total Planning Area		City of Lake Geneva		Remainder of Planning Area		Total Planning Area	
	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total	Total Acres	Percent of Total
Surface Water	518	52	1,691	31	2,209	34	0	0	1	..*	1	..*	0	0	1	..*	1	..*
Wetland	178	18	2,204	40	2,382	37	3	8	52	15	55	14	1	1	39	10	40	8
Woodland	189	19	1,069	19	1,258	19	9	24	184	54	193	51	103	90	293	77	396	80
Other Resources	104	11	563	10	667	10	26	68	108	31	134	35	10	9	48	13	58	12
Total	989	100	5,527	100	6,516	100	38	100	345	100	383	100	114	100	381	100	495	100

*Less than 1.0 percent.

Source: SEWRPC.

The generalized natural resource composition of the isolated natural resource areas is summarized in Table 6. As indicated in Table 6, of the total 495 acres of isolated natural resource areas in the planning area in 1990, one acre, or less than one percent was surface water, 40 acres, or about eight percent, were wetlands; 396 acres, or about 80 percent, were woodlands; and 58 acres, or about 12 percent, consisted of other resources.

As further indicated in Table 6, of the approximately 114 acres of isolated natural resource areas in the City of Lake Geneva in 1990, one acre, or about one percent, were wetlands; 103 acres or about 90 percent, were woodlands; and the remaining 10 acres, or nine percent, consisted of other resources.

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

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

A comprehensive inventory of natural area sites and critical species habitat sites in Walworth County was completed in 1994 by the Regional Planning Commission.⁵ As indicated in Table 7 and shown on Map 8, five natural area sites encompassing a total of about 601 acres, or about 3 percent of the Lake Geneva planning area, were identified in 1994.

⁵The findings of this inventory are documented in *SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September, 1997.*

Critical species habitat sites are defined by the Regional Planning Commission as areas that support rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species. Four critical species habitat sites were also identified within the planning area in 1994. These sites are also identified in Table 7 and shown on Map 8. These sites cover about 48 acres of land and approximately 1,850 acres of surface water, or collectively about 10 percent of the Lake Geneva planning area.

SUMMARY

This chapter has presented the findings of an inventory of the characteristics of the City of Lake Geneva planning area pertained to park and open space planning; including a description of population levels, existing land uses, existing park and open space sites, natural resource features, and environmental corridors. The key components of this chapter are as follows:

1. The City of Lake Geneva encompassed an area of 3,488 acres, or 5.5 square miles in 1990. Land developed with urban uses encompassed about 1,719 acres, or about 49 percent of the City. Nonurban uses, including agriculture, wetlands, woodlands, and other open lands, encompassed about 1,769 acres, or about 51 percent of the area of the City.
2. The resident population level of the City in 1997 was estimated at 6,453 persons.
3. In 1997, the City of Lake Geneva park system consisted of 21 park and open space sites encompassing about 148 acres, or about 4 percent of the area of the City.
4. An inventory of the natural resource base of the planning area indicated that in 1990 there were two major lakes located partially within the planning area--together encompassing within the planning area about 2,121 acres; approximately 45 linear miles of perennial and intermittent rivers and streams; approximately 1,200 acres of floodlands located within the 100-year recurrence interval flood hazard area; approximately 2,519 acres of wetlands; and approximately 2,032 acres of woodlands.
5. In the City of Lake Geneva planning area in 1990 there were about 6,516 acres of primary

environmental corridor lands, or about 34 percent of the planning area, about 383 acres of secondary environmental corridors, or about 2 percent of the planning area, and about 495 acres of isolated natural resource areas, or about 3

percent of the planning area.

6. There were nine natural areas and critical species habitat sites encompassing about 1,898 acres, or about 13 percent, within the planning area.

Table 7

NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA: 1994

Map 9 Reference Number	Area Name	Classification Code*	Location	Ownership	Size	Description and Comments
1	Wychwood	NA-3	T 1N, R 17E Sections 2, 3, 4 Town of Linn T 2N, R 17E Section 35 Town of Geneva	Private	226 acres	A large tract of dry-mesic hardwoods occupying a terminal moraine on the north side of Lake Geneva. Generally good quality throughout, except for the large estates which occupy much of the woods
2	Bloomfield Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict	NA-3	T 1N, R 18E Sections 7, 8, 18 Town of Bloomfield	City of Lake Geneva, Department of Natural Resources, and private	171 acres	Large wetland complex of good-quality sedge meadow, with shrub-carr and tamarack relict. Disturbances include past ditching attempts. Contains Alder flycatcher and Veer, both common bird species
3	Pell Lake Railroad Prairie	NA-3 (RSH)	T 1N, R 18E Sections 8, 17 Town of Bloomfield	Private	4 acres	Small remnant of mesic and wet-mesic prairie along abandoned railway right-of-way. Floristically rich, with several regionally uncommon species
4	Warbler Trail Wetlands (Duck Lake Nature Trail)	NA-3	T 2N, R 17E Sections 26, 27 Town of Geneva	Department of Natural Resources and private	40 acres	Shallow marsh, shrubb-carr, sedge meadow, and lowland hardwoods along east shore of Lake Como
5	Lake Geneva Tamarack Relict	NA-3	T 2N, R 18E Sections 28, 29 Town of Lyons	Private	160 acres	Large tamarack relict-shrubb-carr complex with small, shallow lakes in depression. Adjacent development and past ditching attempts have disturbed the site
6	Radio Station Wetland	CSH (Plant)	T 2N, R 18E Section 32 Town of Lyons	Private	30 acres	<i>Gentiana procera</i> , a rare plant species, grows on this site
7	Section Five Marsh and Pond	CSH (Bird)	T 1N, R 18E Sections 4, 5 Town of Bloomfield	Private	18 acres	Site contains a colony of Black terns, a rare bird species
8	White River	CSH (AQ-2)	T 2N, R 17E Sections 25, 36 Town of Geneva T 2N, R 18E Sections 19, 20, 29, 30 Town of Lyons	--	4.5 miles (estimated 20 acres of surface water)	The entire length of the White River within the planning area is classified as an aquatic area of countywide or regional significance, containing a good assemblage of mussel species. The portion of the river from the outlet at Geneva Lake extending 1.7 miles downstream is a critical stream reach containing the Longear sunfish, a threatened species, and the Least darter, a species of special concern
9	Geneva Lake	CSH (AQ-2)	T 2N, R 17E Sections 35, 36 Town of Geneva T 1N, R 17E Sections 1, 2, 3, 10-12 Town of Linn	--	5,262 acres (1,831 acres within planning area)	This deep spring lake, the largest in the Region, contains good overall fish diversity including the Least darter and the Lake herring (Cisco), both species of special concern

*NA-3 identifies Natural Area sites of local significance.

RSH identifies a Rare Species Habitat.

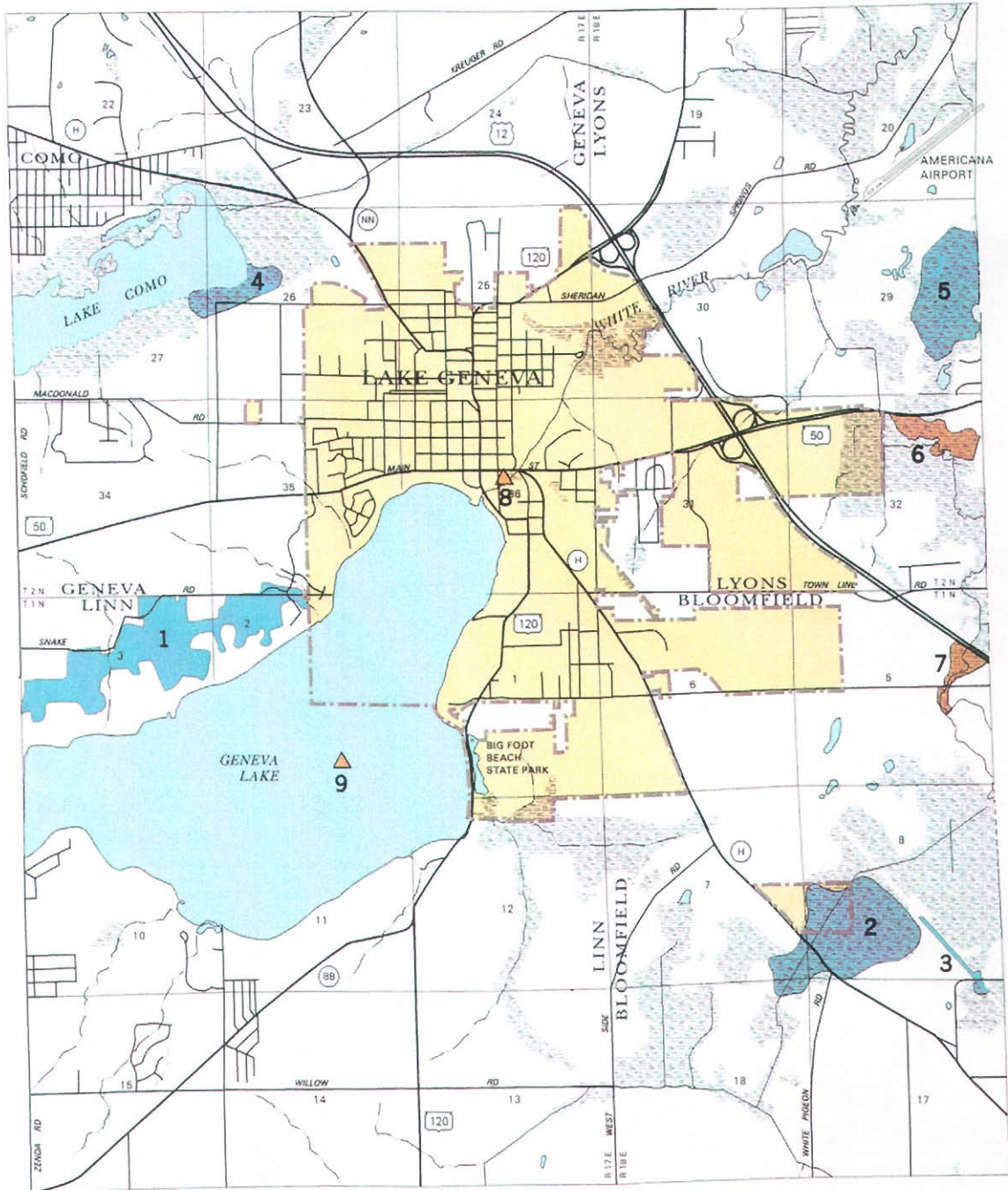
CSH identifies a Critical Species Habitat.

AQ-2 identifies an Aquatic Habitat Area of countywide or regional significance.





Source: SEWRPC.

Map 9

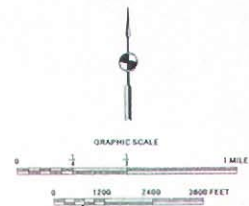
NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES
IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA



LEGEND

-  1997 CITY OF LAKE GENEVA CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
-  NATURAL AREA SITE OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-3)
-  CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE (TERRESTRIAL)
-  CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE (AQUATIC)
- 3** SITE NUMBER ON TABLE 7

Source: SEWRPC.



Chapter III

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

INTRODUCTION

This chapter sets forth the objectives, principles, and standards used in the preparation of this park and open space plan for the City of Lake Geneva. Objectives guide the preparation of plans. The standards listed under each objective provide the specific measures used to design the plan. The standards are applied to the anticipated 2020 population of the City to help determine the need for additional park sites and facilities. Needs identified through the application of the standards are identified in this chapter. Recommendations intended to provide the needed sites and facilities are presented in Chapter IV.

OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

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

The attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide City residents with needed opportunities for high-quality recreational experiences. The responsibility for providing the necessary parks, open space lands, and associated recreational facilities is shared among various levels of government. The adopted Walworth County park and open space plan¹ and this City plan divide the responsibility for providing parks and recreational facilities into two levels. Large resource-oriented parks, resource-

oriented recreational facilities², parkways, and areawide recreational trails are delegated to the state and county levels of government. The responsibility for providing smaller community and neighborhood parks and facilities for intensive outdoor recreational facilities is delegated to the local units of government. The responsibility for protecting primary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas is shared by all levels of government.

Plan Objectives

The following seven park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives, which were originally formulated under the regional park and open space planning program, were used in the development of the park and open space plan for the City of Lake Geneva.

1. To provide an integrated system of public outdoor recreation sites and open space corridors which will afford residents of the City adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.
2. To provide outdoor recreation facilities to afford residents of the City adequate opportunities to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
3. To provide outdoor recreation facilities to afford residents of the City adequate opportunities to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
4. To provide outdoor recreation facilities to afford residents of the City adequate opportunities to participate in trail-related outdoor recreation activities.

²Resource-oriented recreational facilities include camping, golfing, picnicking, skiing, and beach swimming. Such facilities are dependent on the natural resources, such as woodlands and water bodies, of the site in which they are located. Facility requirements for these activities are set forth under Objective No. 3 in Appendix A.

¹See SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135, A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County, February 1991.

5. To provide access to rivers and major lakes to afford residents of the City adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities, consistent with safe and enjoyable inland lake and river use and the maintenance of good water quality.
6. To maintain the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the City by preserving lands having important natural resources.
7. To satisfy outdoor recreation and related open space needs in an efficient and economical way.

Plan Standards

A set of standards accompanies each objective. Each objective and its accompanying standards is set forth in Appendix A. The standards provide the specific measures used to design the plan and to evaluate how well the plan meets the objectives.

Two types of standards—per capita and accessibility—are used to help estimate the number, size, and distribution of outdoor recreation sites needed to serve the anticipated future population of the City. The per capita standards help estimate the total number of acres needed to satisfy requirements for park and recreational land based on the anticipated future resident population of the City. The accessibility or service radius standards are intended to ensure that public parks are spatially distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are intended to serve. In some situations, while per capita standards may be met, a need may still exist for additional sites or facilities because of the relative inaccessibility or distance of an existing site or facility to some City residents.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Forecast Population

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

As noted in Chapter II of this report, 5,979 persons resided in the City of Lake Geneva in 1990. Based upon population estimates prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the City population grew to 6,453 persons in 1997, an increase of 474 persons over the 1990 level. Under the Regional Planning Commission intermediate growth forecast, the resident population level

of the City of Lake Geneva urban service area is envisioned to increase to 9,300 persons by the year 2020. The urban service area used in this analysis includes all lands within the 1997 City limits as well as those lands within the City's sewer service area³ expected to be provided with park and recreational services by the City by the year 2020. The forecast 2020 population of 9,300 persons was viewed to be consistent with recent population growth trends in the City of Lake Geneva and was thus utilized in the needs analysis presented in this chapter.

Resource-Oriented Sites and Facilities

As previously noted, the responsibility for the acquisition and development of such resource-oriented recreational sites and facilities as major parks, parkways, and areawide trails is delegated to the state and county levels of government. The Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan sets forth recommendations for these sites and facilities. Accordingly, the need for such sites and facilities within the City will not be addressed in this City park and open space plan. Rather, a description of the recommendations of the County plan as they relate to the City of Lake Geneva planning area follows.

The Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan recommends that the one existing major park⁴ within the Lake Geneva area, Big Foot Beach State Park, continue to be maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Located in the southern portion of the City along Geneva Lake, this 272 acre park provides opportunities for beach swimming, camping, hiking, and picnicking. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources, in December 1996, completed a master plan for Big Foot Beach State Park proposing redevelopment of the park to improve vehicular circulation, development of a boat launch facility, and the acquisition of 111 acres of additional land to the park. No other major recreational sites are proposed to be developed by Walworth County or the State within the City of Lake Geneva planning area.

³The City's refined sanitary sewer service area is set forth in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 203, Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the City of Lake Geneva and Environs, December 1992.

⁴A major park is defined as a large outdoor recreation site (100 acres or more) which relies heavily for its recreational value and character on natural resource amenities, and provides opportunities in a wide variety of recreation pursuits.

Nonresource-Oriented Sites and Facilities

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

The standards specify per capita and accessibility requirements for nonresource-oriented recreational sites and facilities in urban areas. The need for urban outdoor recreation sites and facilities may be determined by applying the standards set forth in Appendix A to the anticipated 2020 urban service area resident population level of 9,300 persons. The results of that analysis are presented in this chapter. A recommended plan to address the identified needs is presented in the following chapter.

Community parks typically range in size from 25 to 99 acres, have a service radius of two miles, and generally provide community-oriented facilities such as baseball diamonds, softball diamonds, and swimming pools. Neighborhood parks typically range in size from 5 to 24 acres and have a service radius of 0.5 mile in high density residential areas, 0.75 mile in a medium density residential areas, and 1.0 mile in low density residential areas. The City of Lake Geneva generally consists of medium density residential areas, thus a service radius of 0.75 mile was applied. Neighborhood parks provide facilities for children's outdoor recreation activities, such as playground and playfield activities, and basketball and other court games.

Community parks can fill the need for neighborhood parks because community parks generally include typical neighborhood park facilities (playfields and playgrounds) in addition to community park facilities (baseball diamonds and swimming pools). Both community and neighborhood parks should also provide landscaped areas for passive recreational uses such as picnicking, walking, and general relaxation.

School outdoor recreation sites, while not generally perceived as parks, provide areas for the pursuit of nonresource activities in urban areas. Public school outdoor recreation sites are, therefore, taken into account in the application of the per capita area standards for

urban outdoor recreation sites and facilities and in the application of the service area standards for recreational facilities. Because school sites generally do not provide areas for picnicking and other passive uses, school sites are not considered when applying the service area standards for outdoor recreational sites.

Neighborhood park sites generally provide facilities for children's outdoor recreation activities, such as playground and playfield activities, ice-skating, basketball, and other court games. Such facilities should be accessible through a convenient and safe pedestrian circulation pattern. Therefore, in the accessibility analysis for neighborhood parks, features such as major roads which physically separate urban residential areas from neighborhood parks and outdoor recreation facilities were considered as barriers preventing pedestrian access.

Site Needs Based on Per Capita Standards

The results of applying the adopted regional per capita area standards to the planned year 2020 population level for the City of Lake Geneva urban service area are presented in Table 8. Application of the per capita standards indicates no additional need for public outdoor recreation lands in the Lake Geneva urban service area by the year 2020.

Site Needs Based on Service Area Standards

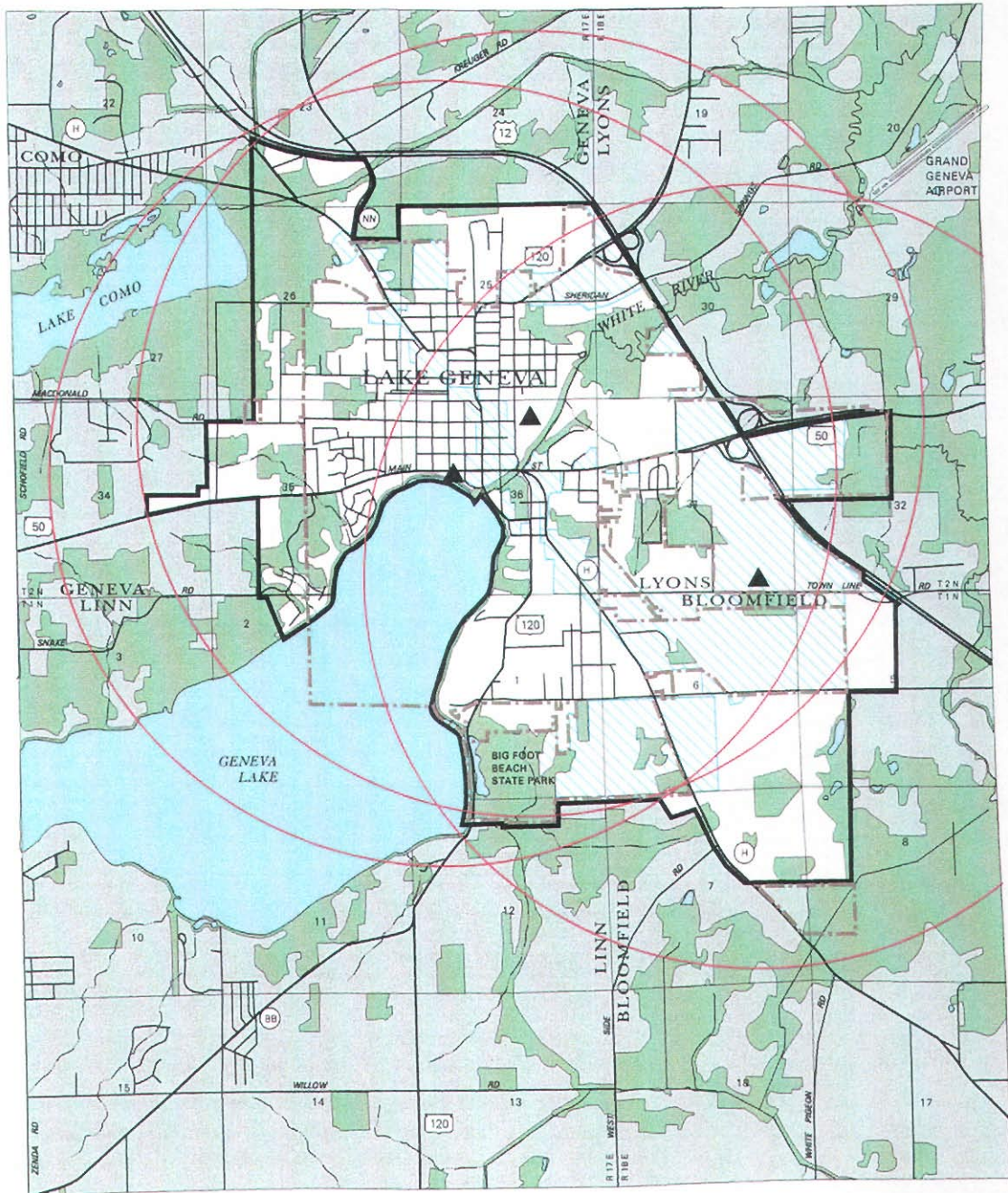
In addition to meeting the per capita area standards, the spatial distribution of community and neighborhood parks should provide ready access by City residents. Areas developed with non-residential uses need not be served with community and neighborhood parks. Those areas developed with commercial, industrial, and institutional uses are therefore not considered in determining the need for additional park sites.

Application of the two-mile service area radius to the three existing community parks in the City, Library Park, Veterans Park, and Dunn field, as shown on Map 10, indicate that the entire City is within the recommended service area of a community park. The planned urban service area is also well served by existing community parks.








As shown on Map 11, application of the 0.75 mile service area radius to the three existing neighborhood parks in the City, Cobb Park, Maple Park, and Rushwood Park, as well as the three community parks noted above, indicates that the outlying portions of the urban service area, most of which lie beyond the 1997 City limits, are outside the recommended service area of a neighborhood park. In addition, there are several areas in the central portion of the urban service area which lie within a service radius, but

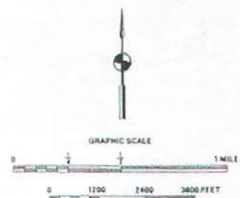
Map 10

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS
IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA
NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A COMMUNITY PARK**



LEGEND

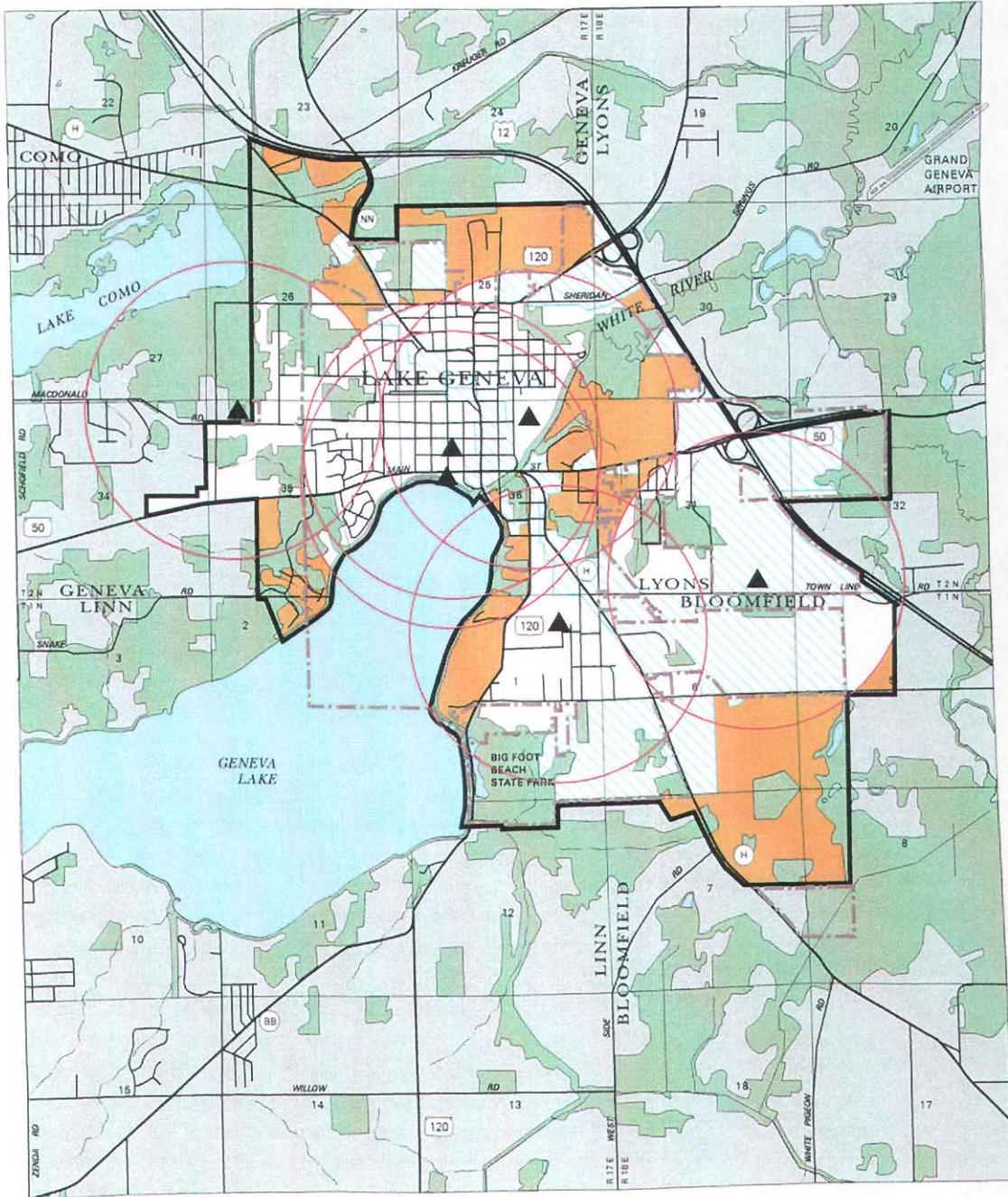
-  EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK
-  COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE RADIUS
-  1997 CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
-  URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
-  PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A COMMUNITY PARK (NONE)
-  PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT
-  ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
-  LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

Map 11

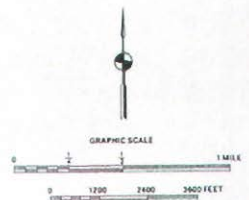
**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS
IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA
NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**



LEGEND

- ▲ EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE RADIUS
- - - 1997 CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY

- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

are considered inadequately served due to accessibility barriers.

Facility Needs Based on Per Capita Standards

The facility standards set forth in Appendix A are concerned with providing an adequate number and distribution of outdoor recreation facilities to afford City residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive outdoor recreational activities such as baseball, softball, and tennis. The results of applying the adopted per capita facility standards to the planned year 2020 population level for the City urban service area are presented in Table 9. The existing quantity of each facility includes those located in public and private sites within the City. Facilities at public sites included those at community parks, neighborhood parks, and public schools. Facilities at private sites include those at private schools, subdivision parks, and private campgrounds.

As shown in Table 9, no need was identified through the application of the per capita standards for the selected outdoor recreational facilities.

Facility Needs Based on Service Area Standards

In addition to meeting the per capita acreage standards, the spatial distribution of outdoor recreational facilities should provide ready access by City residents. Application of the service radius standards set forth under Objective No. 2 in Appendix A determined which portions of the Lake Geneva urban service area lack adequate access to selected nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation facilities. The planned urban service areas not adequately served by such facilities are identified below.

Baseball Diamonds-As shown on Map 12, baseball diamonds were provided at three public outdoor recreation sites in the Lake Geneva urban service area in 1997. Since the maximum service radius of a baseball diamond is two miles, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that the entire urban service area would be served by the existing distribution of baseball diamonds.

Basketball Goals-As shown on Map 13, basketball goals were provided at three public outdoor recreation sites in the Lake Geneva urban service area in 1997. Since the maximum service radius of a basketball goal is 0.5 mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that virtually all portions of the planned urban service area outside the central portions of the City would not be served by the existing distribution of basketball goals.

Playfields-As shown on Map 14, playfields were provided at five public outdoor recreation sites in the Lake Geneva urban service area in 1997. Since the maximum service radius of a playfield is 0.5 mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that virtually all portions of the planned urban service area outside of the central portion of the City would not be served by the existing distribution of playfields.

Playgrounds-As shown on Map 15, playgrounds were provided at seven public outdoor recreation sites in the Lake Geneva urban service area in 1997. Since the maximum service radius for a playground is 0.5 mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that much of the planned urban service area outside the central portion of the City would not be served by the existing distribution of playgrounds.

Softball Diamonds (League)-As shown on Map 16, league softball diamonds were provided at three public outdoor recreation sites in the Lake Geneva urban service area in 1997. Since the maximum service radius for a softball diamond is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas primarily in the northwestern portion of the planned urban service area would not be served by the existing distribution of league softball diamonds.

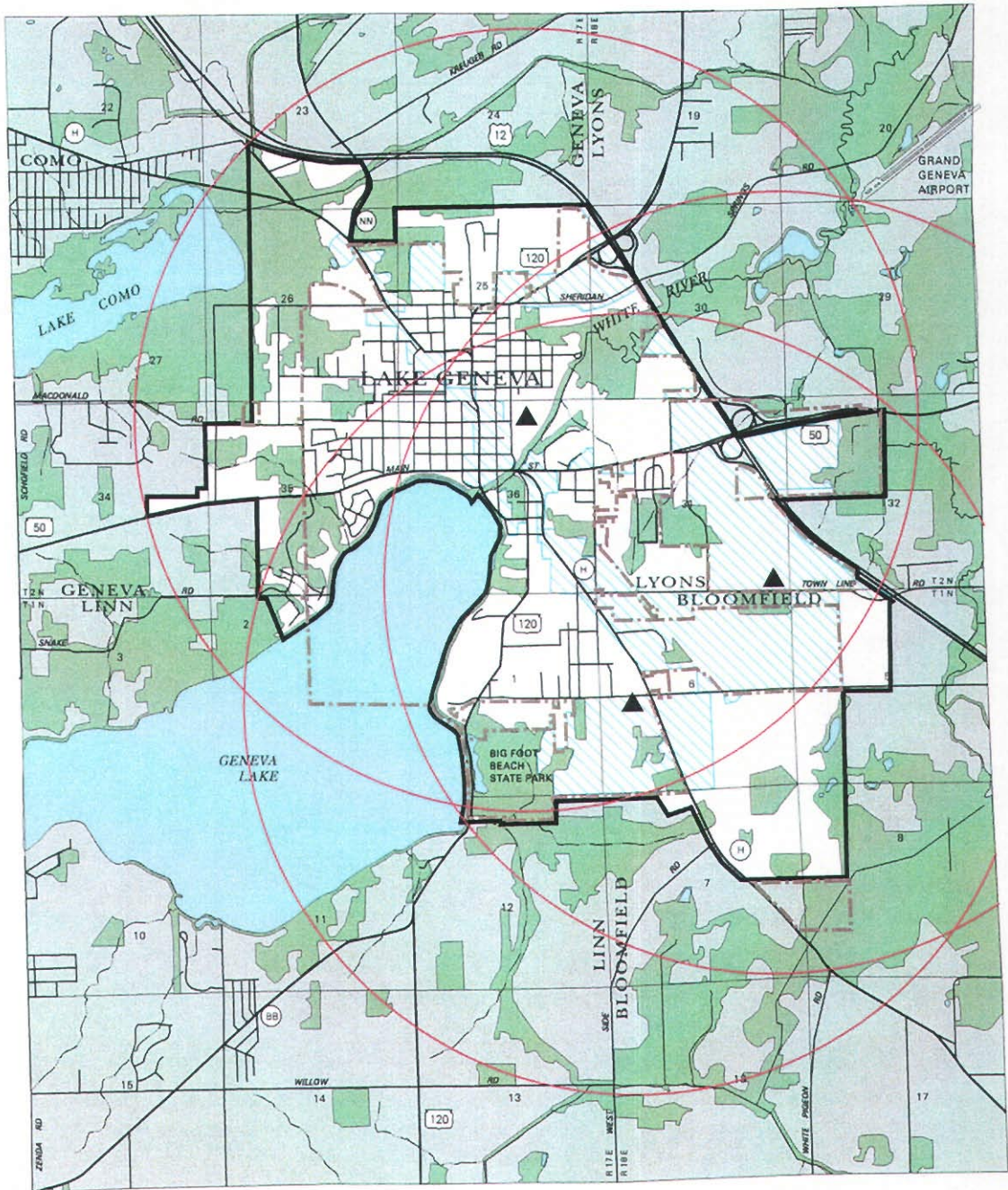
Softball Diamonds (Sandlot)-As shown on Map 17, sandlot softball diamonds were provided at three public outdoor recreation sites in the Lake Geneva urban service area in 1997. Since the maximum service radius for a softball diamond is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the southeastern and northwestern portions of the planned urban service area would not be served by the existing distribution of sandlot softball diamonds.

Swimming Pool or Beach-As shown on Map 18, there were two swimming beaches provided in the Lake Geneva urban service area in 1997. Since the maximum service radius for a pool or beach is 3.0 miles, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that the entire planned urban service area would be adequately served by the existing swimming beaches.

Tennis Courts-As shown on Map 19, tennis courts were provided at three public outdoor recreation sites in the Lake Geneva urban service area in 1997. Since the maximum service radius for a tennis court is one mile, application of the accessibility requirement indicates that areas in the southeastern and northwestern portions of the planned urban service area would not be served by the existing distribution of tennis courts.

Map 12

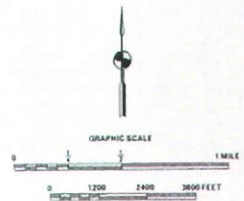
PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A BASEBALL DIAMOND



LEGEND

- ▲ EXISTING BASEBALL DIAMOND
- BASEBALL DIAMOND SERVICE RADIUS
- - - 1997 CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY

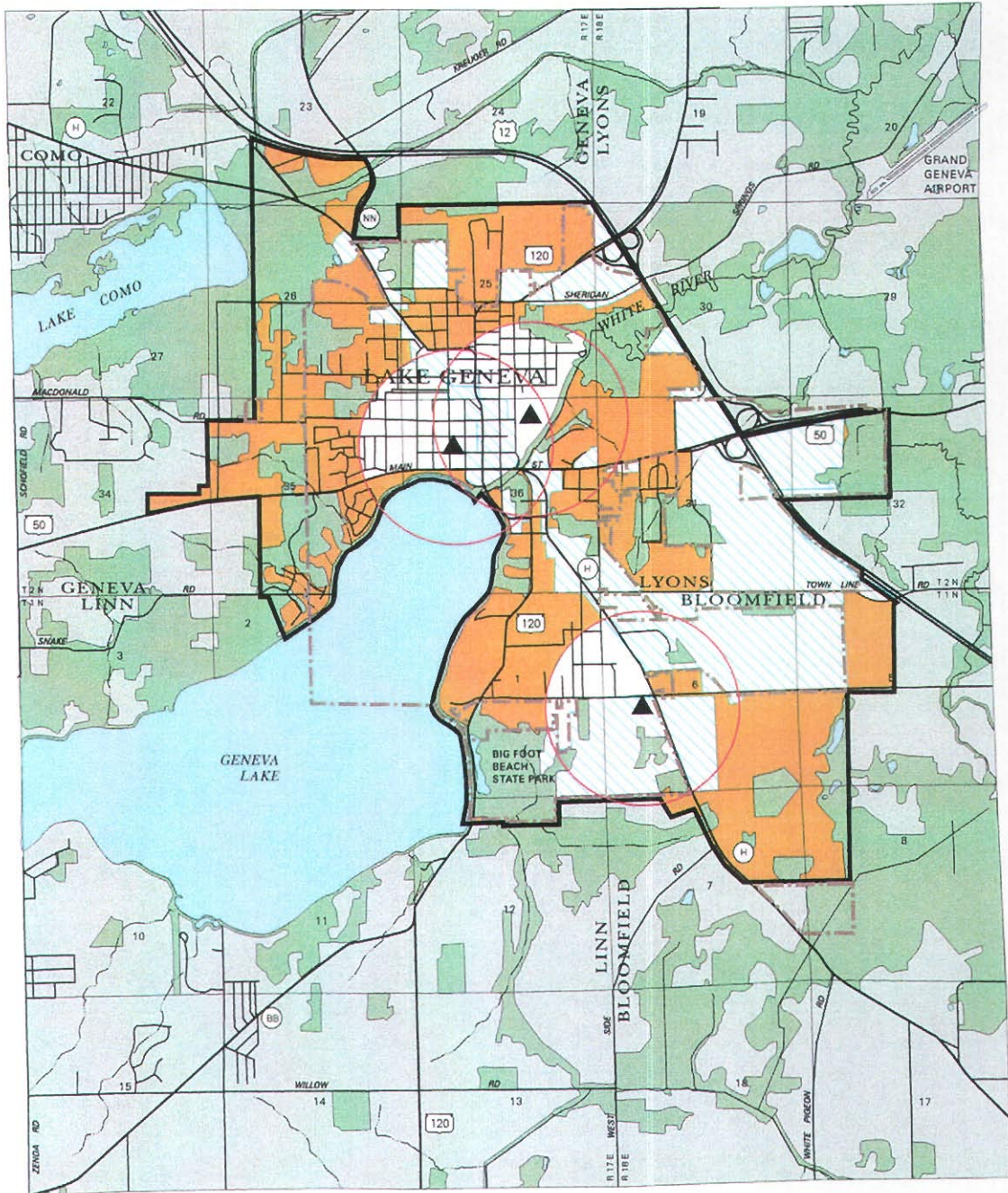
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A BASEBALL DIAMOND (NONE)
- ▨ PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

Map 13

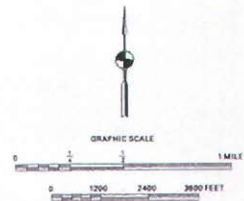
**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS
IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA
NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY BASKETBALL GOALS**



LEGEND

- ▲ EXISTING BASKETBALL GOALS
- BASKETBALL FACILITIES SERVICE RADIUS
- - - 1997 CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY

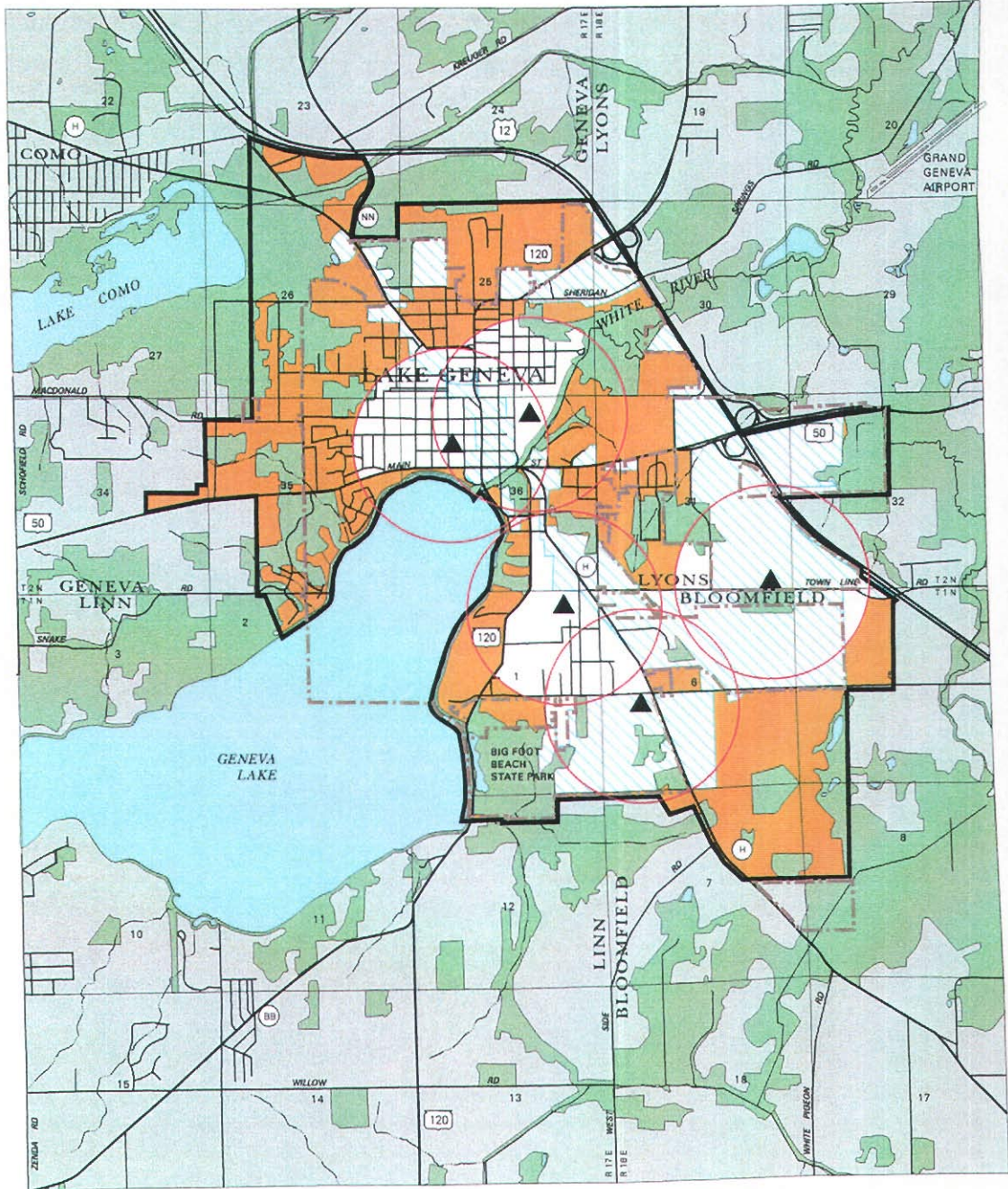
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY BASKETBALL GOALS
- PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA











Source: SEWRPC.

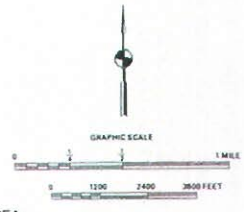
Map 14

**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS
IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA
NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYFIELD**



LEGEND

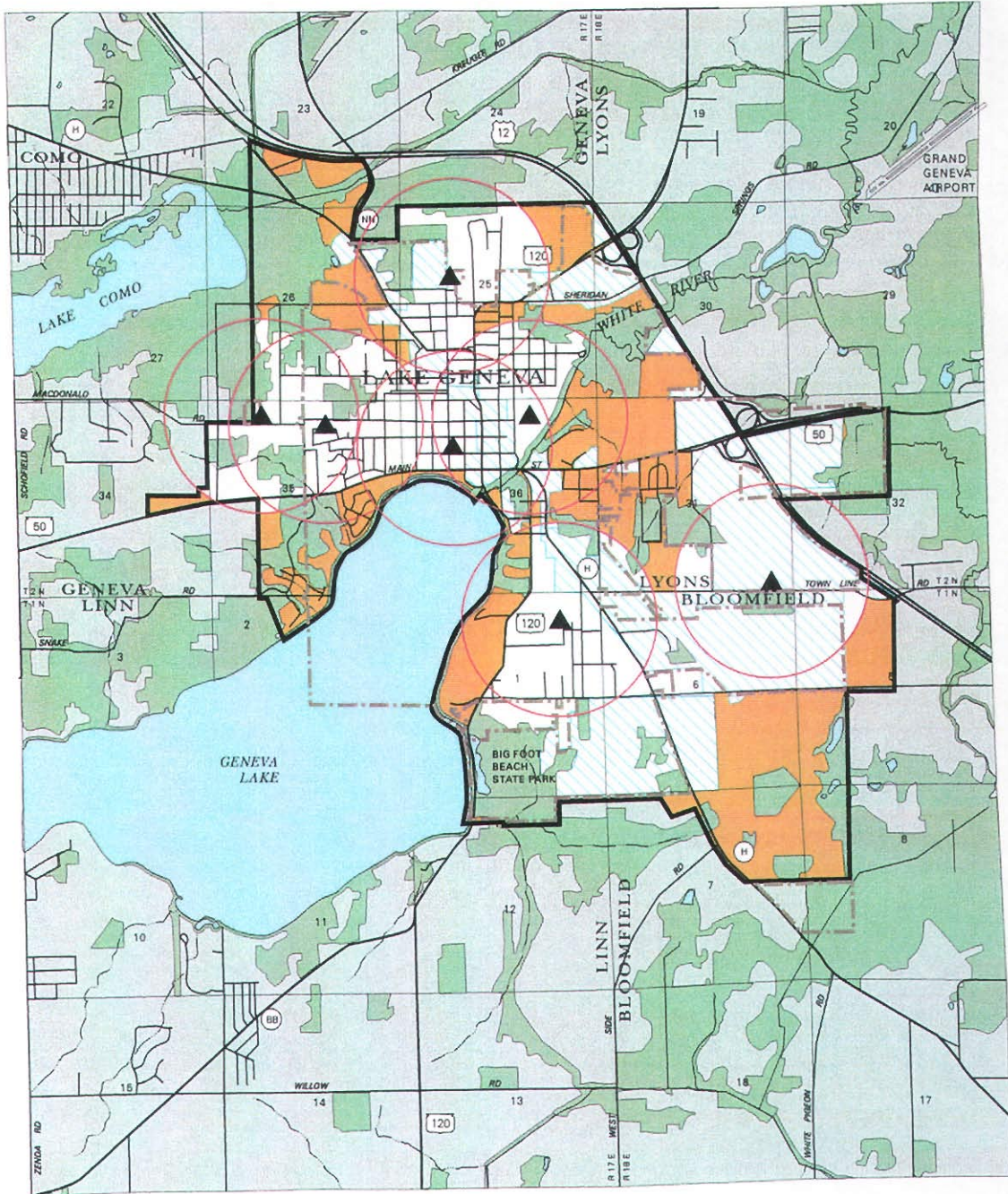
-  EXISTING PLAYFIELD FACILITIES
-  PLAYFIELD FACILITIES SERVICE RADIUS
-  1997 CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
-  URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
-  PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYFIELD
-  PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT
-  ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
-  LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

Map 15

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS
IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA
NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYGROUND



LEGEND

- ▲ EXISTING PLAYGROUND FACILITIES
- PLAYGROUND FACILITIES SERVICE RADIUS
- - - 1997 CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
- URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY

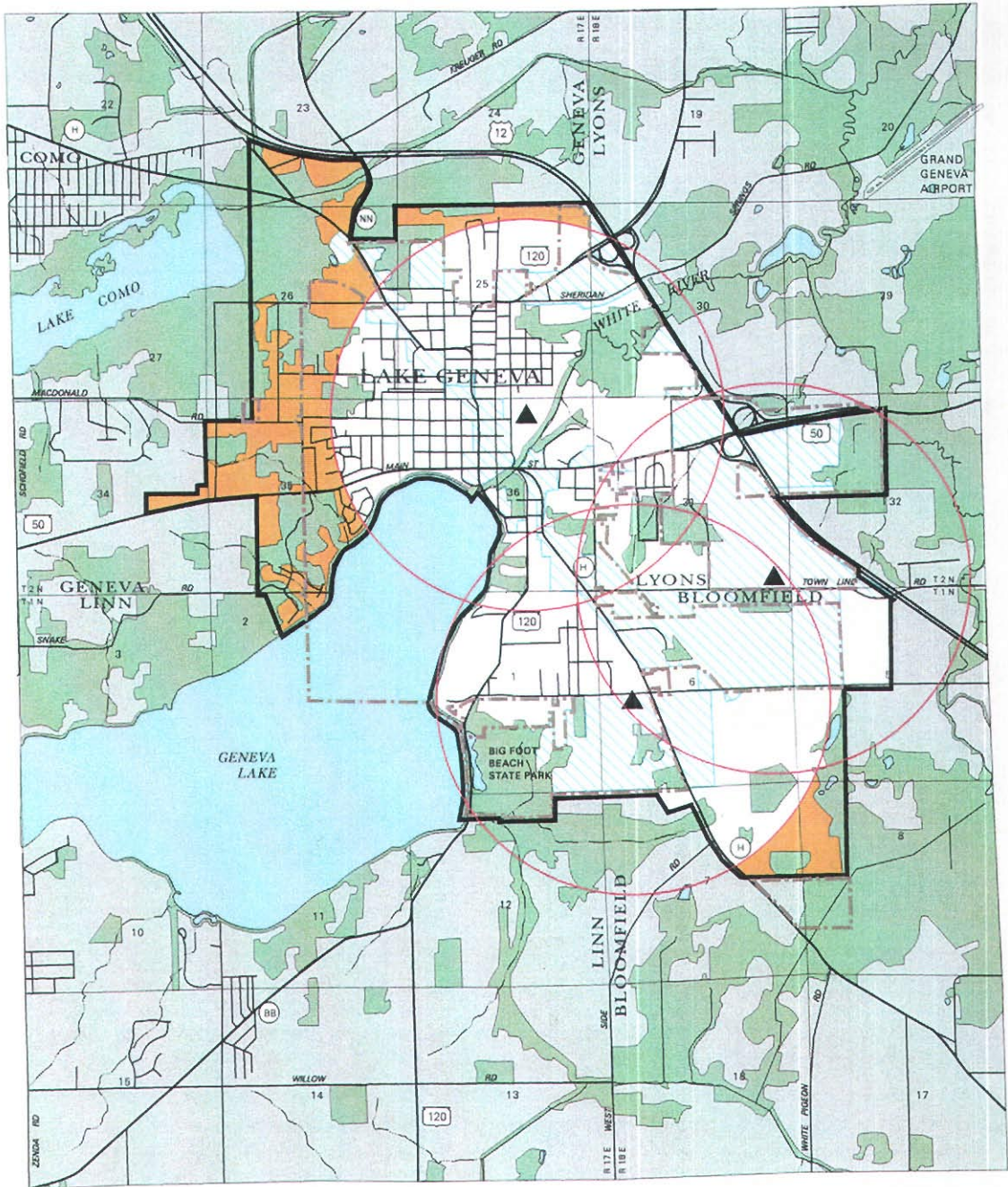
- PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A PLAYGROUND
- PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
- LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

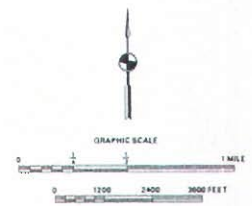
Map 16

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND



LEGEND

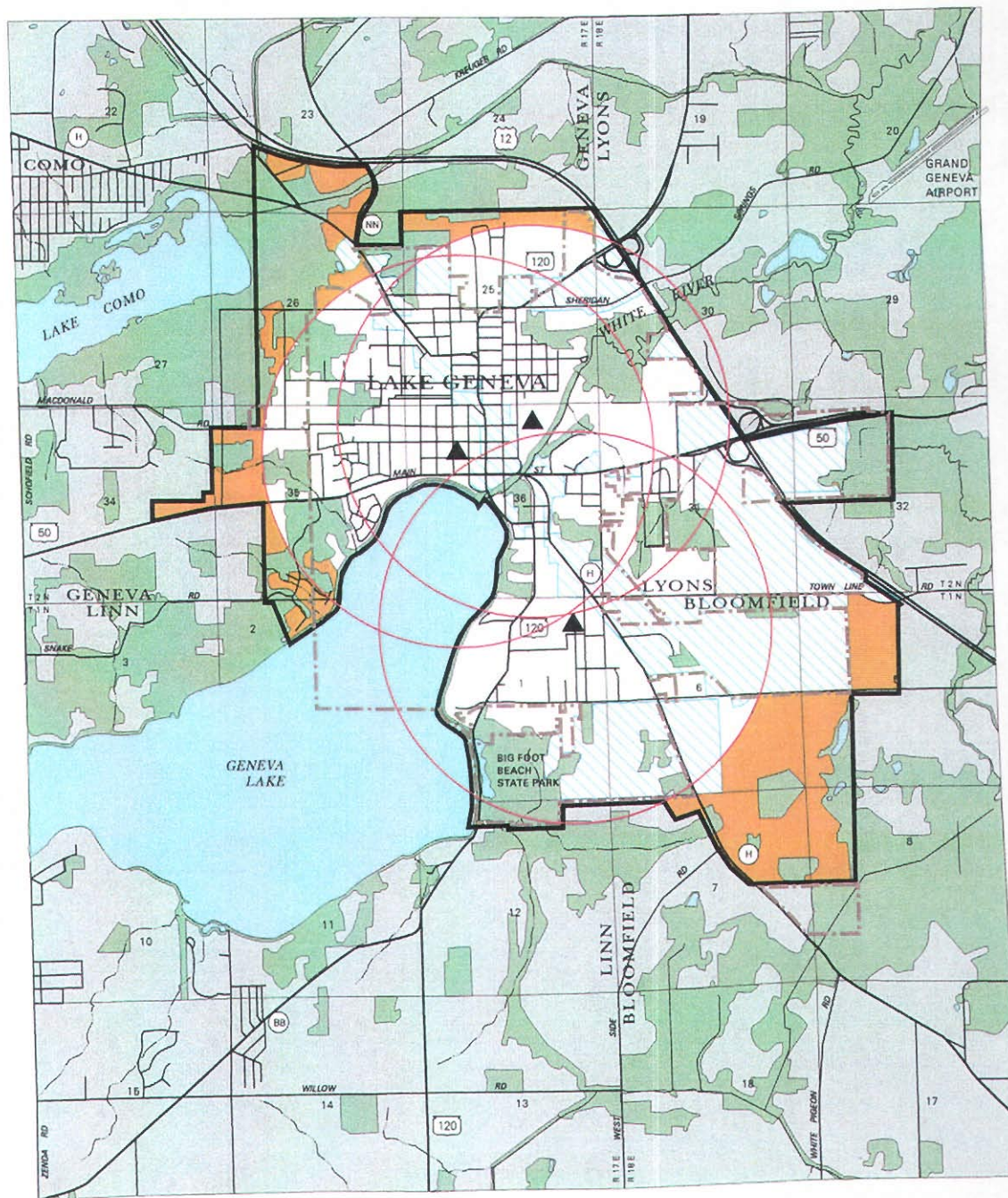
- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | EXISTING LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND |  | PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND |
|  | LEAGUE SOFTBALL DIAMOND SERVICE RADIUS |  | PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT |
|  | 1997 CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY |  | ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS |
|  | URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY |  | LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA |



Source: SEWRPC.

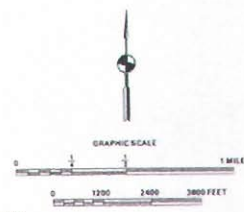
Map 17

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A SANDLOT SOFTBALL DIAMOND



LEGEND

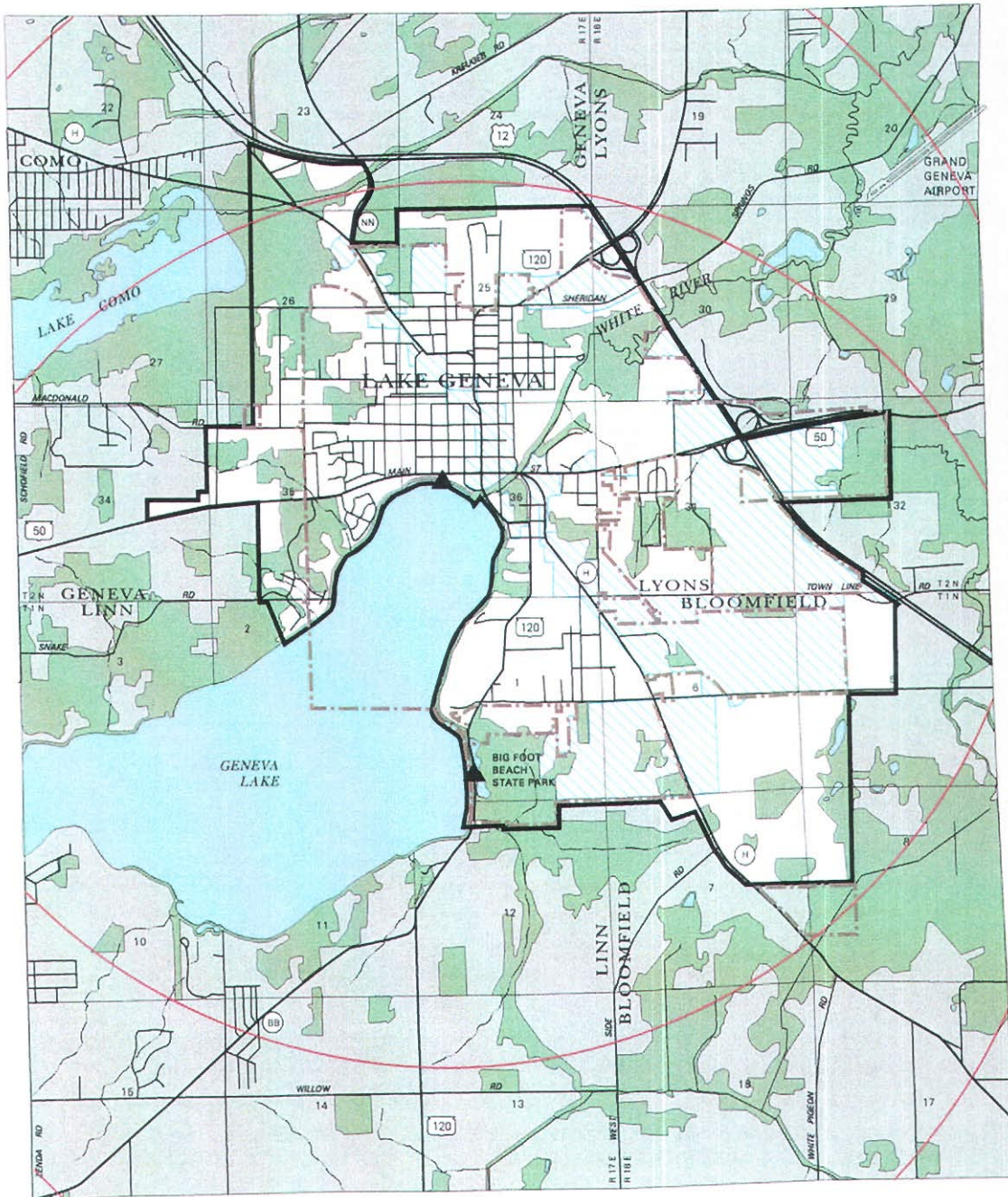
- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|--|
| ▲ | EXISTING SANDLOT SOFTBALL DIAMOND | ■ | PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A SANDLOT SOFTBALL DIAMOND |
| ○ | SANDLOT SOFTBALL DIAMOND SERVICE RADIUS | ▨ | PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT |
| --- | 1997 CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY | ■ | ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS |
| — | URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY | ■ | LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA |











Source: SEWRPC.

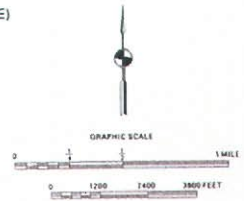
Map 18

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A SWIMMING POOL OR BEACH



LEGEND

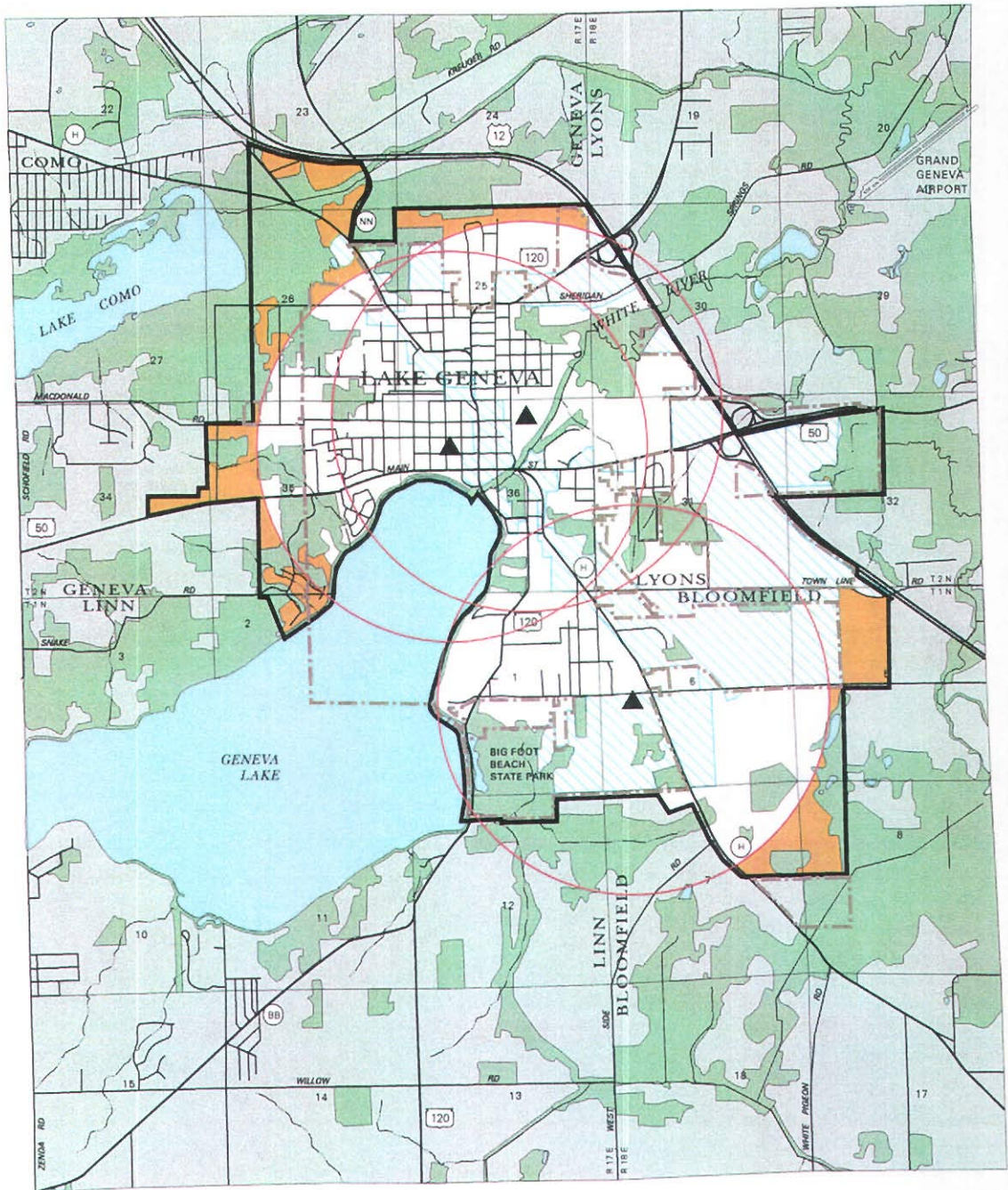
-  EXISTING SWIMMING POOL OR BEACH
-  SWIMMING POOL OR BEACH SERVICE RADIUS
-  1997 CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
-  URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY
-  PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A SWIMMING POOL OR BEACH - (NONE)
-  PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT
-  ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
-  LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA







Source: SEWRPC.





Map 19

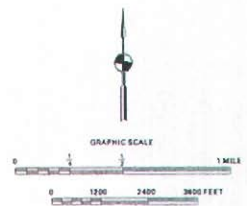
**PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS
IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA
NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A TENNIS COURT**



LEGEND

-  EXISTING TENNIS COURTS
-  SERVICE RADIUS OF TENNIS FACILITIES
-  1997 CIVIL DIVISION BOUNDARY
-  URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY

-  PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AREA NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A TENNIS COURT
-  PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT
-  ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS
-  LANDS OUTSIDE THE URBAN SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 8

RECREATIONAL AREA NEED IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA: 2020

	Minimum Area Standard (acres per 1,000 persons) ^a	Area Need Based on Standard ^b	Existing Number of Acres	Additional Need (Acres)
Public Parks and Schools				
Parks	3.9	36	55	--
Schools	2.5	23	21	2
Total	6.4	59	76	--

^aSee Objective No. 1 in Appendix A for more detailed information.

^bThe area needed for public outdoor recreation sites was determined by multiplying the standard acreage requirement by the anticipated 2020 population of 9,300 residents in the City of Lake Geneva urban service area.

Source: SEWRPC.

Table 9

RECREATION FACILITY NEED IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA URBAN SERVICE AREA: 2020

Minimum Per Capita Standards ^a				Facility Need Based on Standard ^b	Existing Number of Facilities	Additional Facility Need ^c
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Residents			
Baseball	Diamond	Public	0.09	1	3	--
		Nonpublic	0.01	-- ^d	--	
		Total	0.10	1	3	
Basketball	Goal	Public	0.91	8	8	--
		Nonpublic	0.22	2	6	
		Total	1.13	10	14	
Playfield Activities	Playfield	Public	0.39	4	4	--
		Nonpublic	0.11	1	2	
		Total	0.50	5	6	
Playground Activities	Playground	Public	0.35	3	9	--
		Nonpublic	0.07	1	3	
		Total	0.42	4	12	
Softball	Diamond	Public	0.53	5	11	--
		Nonpublic	0.07	1	4	
		Total	0.60	6	15	
Swimming	Pool or Beach	Public	0.015	1	2	--
		Nonpublic	--	--	--	
		Total	0.015	1	2	
Tennis	Court	Public	0.50	5	12	--
		Nonpublic	0.10	1	4	
		Total	0.60	6	16	

^aA more complete list of per capita facility standards is set forth under Objective No.2 in Appendix A.

^bThe facility need was determined by multiplying the facility requirement per 1,000 residents by the anticipated 2020 urban service area population of 9,300 persons.

^cThe facility need was determined by subtracting the existing number of facilities from the facility requirement. In cases where the existing number of facilities exceeds the facility requirement, no facility need was identified.

^dLess than 0.1.

Source: SEWRPC.

Other Site and Facility Need Considerations

The preceding section described per capita and accessibility needs for urban parks and selected outdoor recreation facilities in the City of Lake Geneva urban service area. These needs were based on the application of standards presented under Objectives No. 1 and No. 2 in Appendix A of this report. In addition, other park site and facility needs have been identified by the City of Lake Geneva Park Commission and staff. Specifically, such additional needs include: 1) provision of a system of local bicycle and pedestrian routes and paths which would interconnect the community and neighborhood parks within the City, and also connect with major parks and trails within the planning area; 2) provision of a skateboarding and inline skating facility within the City; 3) provision of a fishing pier at Library Park; 4) provision of a concession and restroom building at Veterans Park; and 5) repairing and repainting old playground equipment at existing parks, or replacing the existing equipment with new playground facilities as needed.

Open Space Preservation Needs

The need to preserve and protect the natural resource base is set forth under Objective No. 6 in Appendix A. As noted in Chapter II, most of the remaining natural resources within the City are located within the primary environmental corridors. By preserving these primary corridors in essentially natural, open uses, flood damage can be reduced, soil erosion abated, water supplies protected, air cleansed, wildlife populations enhanced, and continued opportunities provided for educational and recreational pursuits. Conversely, the intrusion of urban land uses into these corridors can, because of the soil limitations, high groundwater table, and flood hazards, result in the creation of serious and costly construction and maintenance problems, such as failing foundations for pavements and buildings, wet basements, excessive clear water infiltration and inflow into sanitary sewerage systems, and poor drainage.

The need to protect the primary environmental corridors cannot be related to per capita or accessibility requirements, since the achievement of the open space preservation objective is essentially independent of any population level or distribution and relates rather to the location and character of natural resources.

SUMMARY

This chapter has presented information concerning the need for park and open space sites and facilities in the City

of Lake Geneva urban service area; including the presentation of park and open space objectives and the accompanying standards, application of those standards as they apply to the City of Lake Geneva planned urban service area, and other needs as identified by the City of Lake Geneva Park Commission and staff. The key components of this chapter are as follows:

1. The park and open space objectives, principles and standards used in this plan are set forth in Appendix A of this report.
2. The need for resource oriented sites and facilities has been identified in the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan. Big Foot Beach State Park, providing opportunities for beach swimming, camping, hiking, and picnicking, is the only major park in the planning area. It is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources acquire the remaining 111 acres within the project boundary for the park and provide the additional facilities called for in the park master plan.
3. Application of the per capita standards for nonresource oriented park sites indicates no additional need for park land.
4. Application of the service radius standards for nonresource oriented park sites indicates a need mostly in the outlying portions of the urban service area for neighborhood parks.
5. Application of the per capita standards for facilities indicates no additional need for outdoor recreation facilities.
6. Application of the service radius standards for facilities indicates several areas that are not adequately served by the existing distribution of basketball goals, playfields, playgrounds, softball diamonds or tennis courts.
7. Additional facility needs were identified by the City Park Commission and staff. Identified needs include a fishing pier, skateboarding and

roller skating facilities, bicycle and pedestrian paths and trails, and repair or replacement of playground equipment at existing City parks.

8. The maintenance of the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in essentially natural, open uses, would generally serve to meet the open space preservation needs.

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Chapter IV

RECOMMENDED PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of the park and open space planning program for the City of Lake Geneva is the preparation of a sound and workable plan to guide the acquisition of lands and development of facilities needed to meet the outdoor recreation demands of the resident population of the City, and to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base. Careful consideration was given in the planning effort to the maintenance, redevelopment, and expansion of existing sites and facilities as well as to the acquisition and development of new sites and facilities. Important preliminary steps in the development of such a plan included the collection of the necessary planning data, presented in Chapter II of this report; and the preparation of park and open space acquisition and development objectives, principles, and standards and the identification of park and open space needs, presented in Chapter III.

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

Natural resource base preservation objectives to protect important natural resource features, such as the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are the responsibility of all levels of government.

The first part of this chapter summarizes the regional park and open space plan, as updated and amended in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County*, February 1991. Included in that plan are recommendations for the provision of resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities and the protection of the environmental corridors and isolated natural

resource areas within and adjacent to the City of Lake Geneva. The second section of this chapter sets forth recommendations for the provision of local park and open space sites and facilities in the City of Lake Geneva by the City. The second section also includes an estimate of the acquisition and development costs of needed park and open space sites and facilities within the City.

AREAWIDE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

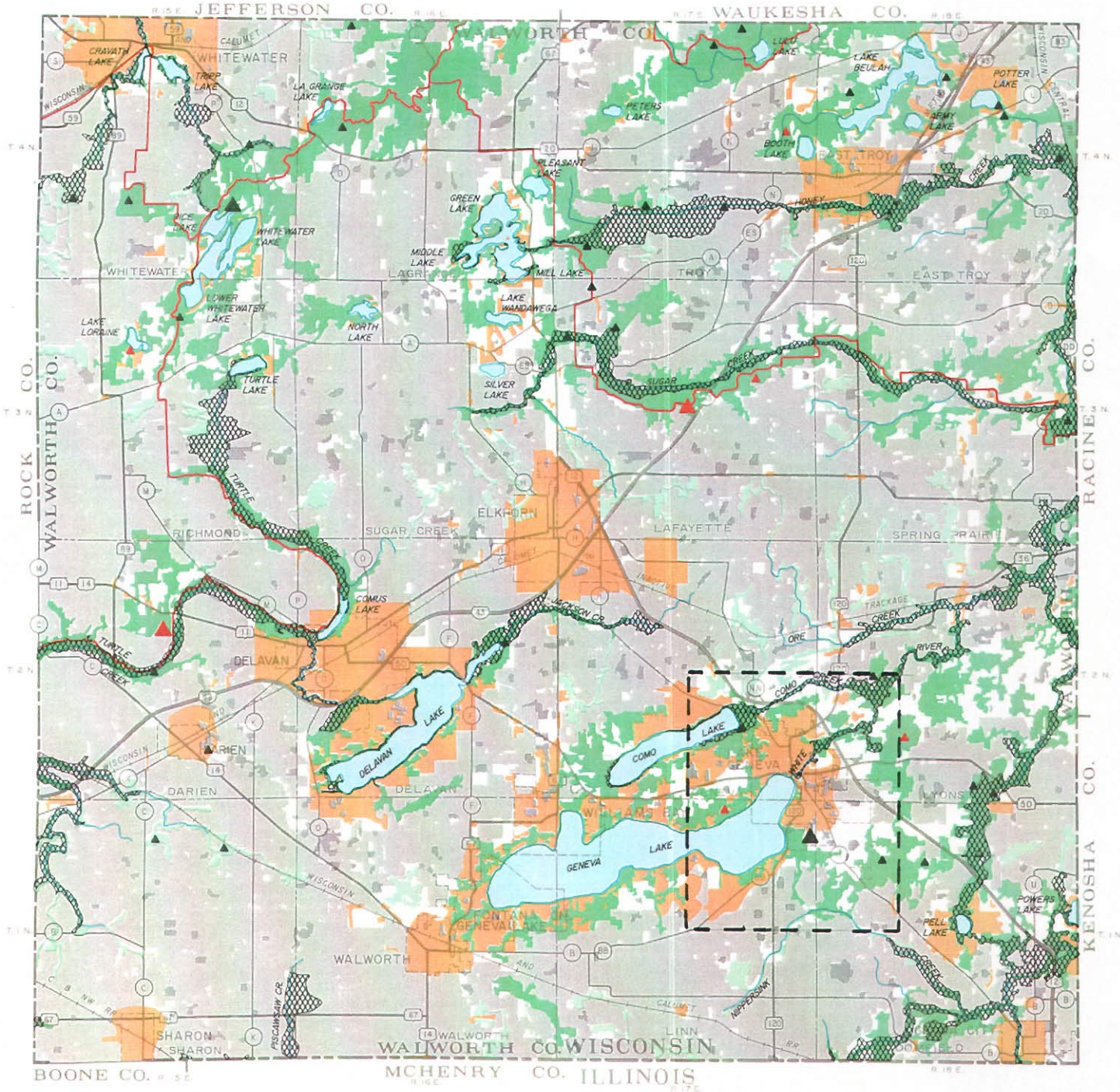
The regional park and open space plan, as amended by the park and open space plan for Walworth County, contains recommendations which, if implemented, would provide residents of Walworth County opportunities to participate in a wide range of resource-oriented outdoor recreational activities. These recommendations, which are hereby incorporated in the park and open space plan for the City of Lake Geneva, are concerned with the provision of major parks, which provide opportunities for intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreational activities such as golfing, picnicking, and swimming, and the provision of recreation corridors, which provide opportunities for various trail-oriented recreational activities, including hiking, biking, and ski-touring. In addition, the plan contains recommendations for the protection and preservation of open space lands, including such natural resource features as woodlands, wetlands, and floodlands located within the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas of the City and environs.

Major Parks and Trail Facilities

The park and open space plan for Walworth County recommends that the State and County levels of government assume responsibility for the provision of major parks.¹ The County plan, as shown on Map 20, recommends that a total of four major public outdoor recreation sites be provided in the County. Under the

¹Major parks are defined as publicly owned outdoor recreation sites of 100 acres or larger which provide opportunities for such resource-oriented activities as camping, golfing, picnicking, and swimming and have areas containing significant natural resource amenities.

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WALWORTH COUNTY



LEGEND

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

OTHER RURAL LAND

COUNTY OR STATE PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

EXISTING MAJOR PARK

EXISTING OTHER PARK OR OPEN SPACE SITE

PROPOSED MAJOR PARK

PROPOSED OTHER PARK OR OPEN SPACE SITE

RECREATION CORRIDOR (TRAIL)

NATURAL RESOURCES

PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

ISOLATED NATURAL AREA

SURFACE WATER

FLOODLANDS

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND



Source: SEWRPC.

County plan, one major park, Big Foot Beach State Park, would continue to be maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources within the planning area. Big Foot Beach State Park, located in the southern portion of the City, is an existing 272-acre State-owned site. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in December 1996, completed a master plan for Big Foot Beach State Park proposing redevelopment of the park to improve vehicular circulation, provide a boat launch facility, and acquire an additional 111 acres.

The County plan also recommends that about 77 miles of recreational trails be provided in Walworth County, as part of an interconnected 500-mile system of recreation corridors² in Southeastern Wisconsin. In Walworth County, these trails follow certain natural resource corridors, none of which, however, are located within the City of Lake Geneva. In 1995, the Commission adopted a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan³ which recommends a network of on-and-off-street bicycle ways within the county. In that plan, Highway H to the west of the City; Highway NN to the north of the City; Sheridan Springs Road to the northeast of the City; Bloomfield Road to the east of the City; and Highway 120 through the City of Lake Geneva, are identified as regional on-street bicycle routes. It is recommended that steps be taken by the County and local levels of government to improve these roads as bicycle routes through widening and striping paved shoulders.

Boat Access Facilities

There are two lakes within the planning area considered to be major lakes, that is, lakes with a surface area greater than 50 acres. It is recommended that all major lakes be provided with adequate public boat access consistent with the Wisconsin Statutes and attendant State regulations which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly-owned inland waters. One of the major lakes within the Lake Geneva planning area, Lake Como, is not considered to have adequate access. Thus, it is recommended that the Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources acquire and develop a public boat access site on Lake Como. The other major lake, Geneva Lake, is considered adequately served. Development of the proposed boat launch facility at Big Foot Beach State Park by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources would provide additional boat access to Geneva Lake while helping to alleviate traffic problems associated with the existing City access point.

Open Space Preservation

The location and extent of the important open space lands in the City of Lake Geneva planning area, including the surface water, wetlands, floodlands, and woodlands within the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are described in Chapter II of this report. The preservation of these open space lands in essentially natural, open uses would serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality in, and protect the natural beauty of, the City of Lake Geneva, as well as provide valuable recreational opportunities for residents of the City. Such preservation will also help to avoid the creation of serious and costly environmental and developmental problems within the City.

Primary Environmental Corridors

As described in Chapter II, primary environmental corridors in 1990 encompassed about 6,500 acres, or about 33 percent of the planning area, and about 990 acres, or about 28 percent, of the City of Lake Geneva. The primary corridors are located along the White River, Lake Como, Geneva Lake, and within and adjacent to wetlands and woodlands within the planning area. The primary corridors contain concentrations of the most important elements of the natural resource base. Under the recommended plan, 940 acres of primary environmental corridor within the urban service area would be preserved in essentially open, natural land uses. This total reflects a loss of about 50 acres of land within the primary environmental corridor which are anticipated to be converted to urban uses. The anticipated changes in the primary environmental corridor are described in more detail in the City's sewer service area plan.⁴

The permanent preservation of primary environmental corridors is most certain when corridor lands are acquired in the public interest for resource protection or compatible outdoor recreation uses or are located within

²A recreation corridor is defined as a trail at least 15 miles in length located within areas of scenic, scientific, historic, or other cultural interest which provides opportunities for such linear outdoor recreation activities as biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing.

³Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 43, A Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2010, January 1995.

⁴Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 203, Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the City of Lake Geneva and Environs, December, 1992.

privately-owned park or open space sites. Much of the primary environmental corridor lands in the City are currently in protective ownership. The plan recommends the acquisition of about 325 additional acres of primary environmental corridor lands by the City. An additional 65 acres of primary environmental corridor lands are proposed to be acquired by the Department of Natural Resources as part of the expansion of Big Foot Beach State Park. The primary corridors proposed to be acquired by the City or the DNR are shown on Map 21. It is envisioned that the remaining primary environmental corridor lands within the planning area will be preserved through public land use regulation.

Secondary Environmental Corridors

The secondary environmental corridors, as shown on Map 21, are generally located along intermittent streams in the northern and southern portions of the Lake Geneva planning area and along the White River in downtown Lake Geneva. These secondary environmental corridors encompass about 400 acres of land, or 2 percent of the planning area, and about 38 acres within the City. It is recommended that secondary environmental corridor lands which are presently held in public or private park and open space use be maintained in such use. All secondary environmental corridor lands within the urban service area are currently in public ownership, and are recommended to remain in such ownership. It is envisioned that the remaining secondary environmental corridor lands, located in rural portions of the planning area, will be protected through public land use regulation.

Isolated Natural Resource Areas

As shown on Map 21, isolated natural resource areas encompass about 500 acres, or 3 percent of the Lake Geneva planning area, and about 114 acres, or 3 percent, of the City. It is recommended that such areas be preserved and protected in essentially natural, open uses. Under this plan, isolated natural resource areas currently held in public or private park and open space use would continue to be maintained in such use. Isolated natural resource area lands within the urban service area not in public or private outdoor recreation use are proposed to be protected through public acquisition or land use regulation. Isolated natural resource areas recommended to be acquired by the City are shown on Map 21 and encompass about 69 acres. It is envisioned that isolated natural resource area lands located in the rural portions of the planning area would be preserved through public land use regulation.

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

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

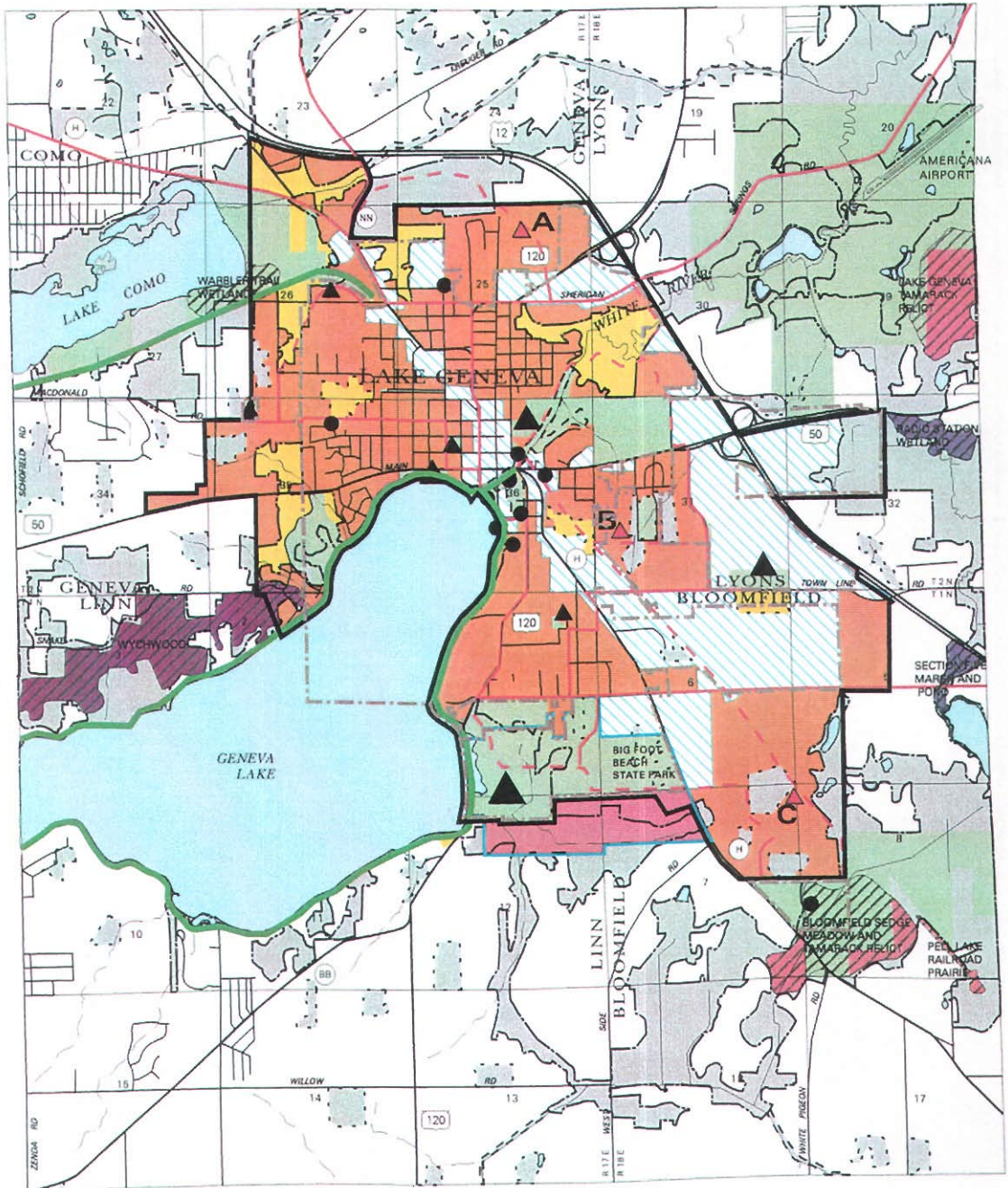
As noted in Chapter II, there are five natural areas, two critical species habitat sites, and two aquatic habitat areas within the planning area. It is recommended that all of the natural areas and critical species habitat sites in the planning area be protected through public or private conservation organization ownership. Specific aquatic habitat area plan recommendations were not formulated under the natural areas planning effort since such habitats are under the direct management authority of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The plan recommends that the Department of Natural Resources implement management and regulatory efforts necessary to ensure the long term viability of the aquatic habitats and their critical species. Table 10 lists each natural area and critical species habitat site to be acquired and the proposed acquisition agency. These recommendations are also reflected on Map 21. In all, the natural area and critical species habitat sites recommended for preservation encompass 649 acres, of which 162 acres, or 25 percent, are already in public ownership. All of these areas are encompassed by the planned primary environmental corridor.

CITY PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the analysis of outdoor recreation needs, presented in Chapter III of this report, indicate that there is a need in the City of Lake Geneva for additional local public outdoor recreation sites and facilities, including additional park lands and such facilities as additional basketball goals, softball diamonds, playfields, playgrounds, and tennis courts. The analysis was based on an anticipated population level of 9,300 residents in the City of Lake Geneva in the year 2020. Urban parks and facilities are intended to meet the outdoor recreation needs of the residents of the City of Lake Geneva and are recommended to be provided by the City. To meet the identified needs, the park and open space plan, as shown

Map 21

A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA: 2020



LEGEND

PLANNED URBAN SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY	OPEN SPACE LANDS TO BE PROTECTED BY LAND USE REGULATION	EXISTING STATE PARK
PLANNED RESIDENTIAL	PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR	EXISTING COMMUNITY PARK
PLANNED NONRESIDENTIAL	SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR	EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
NATURAL AREA OR CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE	ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA	PROPOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
EXISTING STATE, COUNTY, LOCAL, NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION, LAKE OR SANITARY DISTRICT, OR COMPATIBLE PRIVATE, OUTDOOR RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE LANDS	PROJECT BOUNDARY ADOPTED BY THE WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD	OTHER CITY PARK
PROPOSED PUBLIC INTEREST OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS - STATE	PROPOSED OFF STREET TRAILS	
CITY	PROPOSED ON STREET ROUTES	
PRIVATE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION	EXISTING RECREATIONAL TRAILS	

Source: SEWRPC.

GRAPHIC SCALE
0 1200 2400 3600 FEET
0 1 MILE

Table 10

**PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREA AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT
SITES IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA PLANNING AREA**

Site Identification				Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
Reference Number on Map 9	Civil Division	Name	Classification ^a	Already Under Protective Ownership	Proposed to be Acquired	Total	
1	Town of Geneva	Wychwood	NA-3	--	226	226	Private Conservation Organization
2	Town of Bloomfield	Bloomfield Sedge Meadow and Tamarack Relict	NA-3	129	42	171	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
3	Town of Bloomfield	Pell Lake Railroad Prairie	NA-3	--	4	4	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
4	Town of Geneva	Warbler Trail Wetlands	NA-3	33	7	40	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
5	Town of Lyons	Lake Geneva Tamarack Relict	NA-3	--	160	160	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
6	Town of Lyons	Radio Station Wetland	CSH (Plant)	--	30	30	Private Conservation Organization
7	Town of Bloomfield	Section Five Marsh and Pond	CSH (Bird)	--	18	18	Private Conservation Organization
Total	--	--	--	162	487	649	--

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

^aNA-3 identifies natural areas of local significance, and CSH identifies critical species habitat sites.

Source: SEWRPC.

on Map 21, recommends the acquisition and development by the City of three new neighborhood park sites, development of facilities at the undeveloped neighborhood park, upgrading of facilities at certain existing park sites, acquisition of open space lands along the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas within the City, and development of bicycle and pedestrian routes and trails throughout the City.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The recommended park and open space plan is not

complete until the steps required to implement the plan have been specified. This section includes a description of the actions required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Walworth County, and the City of Lake Geneva to implement the recommended park and open space plan for the City.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has authority and responsibility for park development, natural resource protection, water quality management, and water use regulation. Certain DNR functions have particular importance in the implementation of county

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

More specifically, in relation to the implementation of the City park and open space plan, it is important that the Department endorse the plan, thus qualifying the City for available State and Federal outdoor recreation grants in support of plan implementation. In regard to Big Foot Beach State Park, the Department should acquire additional land and develop new facilities as set forth in the master plan for that park.

Walworth County

Walworth County administers zoning regulations in the unincorporated portions of the planning area. The County zoning ordinance includes a range of conservancy zoning districts, including lowland and upland districts. It is recommended that the County continue to protect the primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas shown on Map 21 and located in unincorporated areas through implementation of its zoning ordinance.

It is further recommended that the County work with the local units of government within the planning area to establish a network of bicycle trails and on-street routes as recommended in the regional bicycle and pedestrian system plan.

City of Lake Geneva

Under the recommended plan, the City of Lake Geneva would have responsibility for the provision of a variety of outdoor recreation sites and facilities, including the acquisition and development of several new park sites and facilities, the acquisition of environmentally significant lands within the City, and the maintenance of existing City park sites and facilities. Implementation of these recommendations would result in the attainment of

the park acquisition and development and open space preservation objectives presented in Chapter III of this report.

Specific recommendations for existing and proposed parks in the City of Lake Geneva are presented below. Recommendations for the new parks include the acquisition of lands by the City for recreational and open space purposes, as shown on Map 21. The red symbols on the plan map indicate a need for additional park lands in the area designated. The location of the symbol represents a generalized location and should not be construed as definitive. There may be other sites in the area that are also suitable for development as a park.

Proposed New Park and Open Space Sites and Facilities

Under the park and open space plan for the City of Lake Geneva, it is recommended that the City acquire and develop new park sites, provide certain additional facilities at existing parks, and acquire open space lands for resource preservation and trail development within the City. The following recommendations are summarized in Table 11.

1. *Park Site A:* Park Site A is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northern portion of the City. The site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Facilities proposed for this site include two basketball goals, playfields, a playground, a sandlot softball diamond, two tennis courts, and appropriate support facilities.
2. *Park Site B:* Park Site B is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the east central portion of the City. The site would encompass approximately five acres. Facilities proposed for this site include two basketball goals, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities. It should be noted that the City acquired about 30 acres of isolated natural resource area adjacent to the proposed park site in late 1998 for open space preservation. The area acquired, known as the Wurtz property, is reflected on Map 21.
3. *Park Site C:* Park Site C is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve existing and future residential areas in the southeastern portion of the City. The site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Facilities proposed for this site include two basketball goals, a playfield,

a playground, a sandlot softball diamond, two tennis courts, and appropriate support facilities.

4. *Undeveloped City Park (Edgewood)*: This undeveloped neighborhood park is intended to serve existing and future residential areas in the northwestern portion of the City. The site encompasses approximately three acres. Facilities proposed for this site include two basketball goals, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
5. *Dunn Field*: Dunn Field is a 13-acre community park in the central portion of the City. Facilities proposed for this site include a picnic shelter and a skateboarding and inline skating facility.
6. *Library Park*: Library Park is a 10-acre community park in the central portion of the City along the shore of Geneva Lake. Facilities proposed for this site include a fishing pier, a playground to be located in the beach area, and restroom facilities.
7. *Seminary Park*: Seminary Park is a three-acre special use park in the southwestern portion of the City. Facilities proposed for this site include a playground, a picnic shelter, and ornamental landscaping for a formal passive use area.
8. *Veterans Park*: Veterans Park is a 25-acre community park in the eastern portion of the City. The site is proposed to expand to the north to encompass an additional 10 acres. Facilities proposed for this site include two basketball goals, additional playground equipment, picnic shelter, concession and restrooms building, roller hockey rink, and appropriate support facilities.
9. *Open Space Lands*: As shown on Map 21, it is recommended that the City acquire a total of 394 acres of land for open space preservation within the urban service area, including 325 acres of primary environmental corridor lands and 69 acres of isolated natural resource area lands. These lands are intended to be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses or used for future park and trail facilities. The preservation of these lands will serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality and natural beauty in the City as well as help to avoid the creation of serious and costly environmental and developmental problems.

10. *Bicycle and Pedestrian Route and Trail System*: As shown on Map 21, in addition to the Geneva Lake Walkway and the White River Walkway, it is recommended that the City develop a system of bicycle and pedestrian routes and paths. It is envisioned that this system would interconnect with major parks, trails, and on-street bike routes and the existing and proposed local park and open space sites when feasible, traveling along many of the lands proposed for acquisition by the City for resource protection purposes. This system is proposed to include about 11 miles of routes associated with street rights-of-way and about nine miles of trails associated with environmentally significant lands within the City.

As shown on Map 21, the plan proposes establishing a trail in the abandoned right-of-way of the former Chicago & North Western Railway on the east side of the City. In most cases, the abandoned right-of-way has been purchased by adjacent private property owners, which will make establishment of a trail more difficult than if the right-of-way were still intact and held by one owner. Nevertheless, it is the City's intent to reassemble the right-of-way for trail purposes. It should be noted that the State of Illinois has established the Prairie Trail on portions of the right-of-way south of the State line, and that in the future it may be possible to extend the trail south from Lake Geneva to connect with the trail in Illinois.

The proposed park symbols and trails shown on Map 21 represent a general location and should not be construed as specific site locations. Specific site locations will be determined as detailed neighborhood planning proceeds in those areas. It is envisioned that the proposed sites would be located immediately adjacent to and associated with environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas whenever feasible. Such resources greatly add to the aesthetics and passive use qualities of a park site. In addition to the site specific recommendations listed above, there is also a more general concern directed towards the overall park system of the City. As mentioned in Chapter III, most of the playground facilities provided at the City parks are becoming old and outdated. The City should consider repainting and repairing the older playground equipment or replacing the existing equipment with new playground facilities. Depending on how the existing playground facilities are improved, maintenance, repair, and replacement costs may be between \$50,000 and \$100,000. It is important

Table 11

**RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT AT PROPOSED AND
EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA**

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition ^a (acres)	Acquisition Cost ^b	Proposed Facility Development	Development Cost	Total Cost
Proposed Site A ^c	10	\$125,000	Basketball	\$ 10,000	
			Playfield	20,000	
			Playground	25,000	
			Sandlot Softball	25,000	
			Tennis Courts	45,000	
			General Development	60,000	
			Subtotal	\$185,000	
Proposed Site B ^c	5	60,000	Basketball	\$10,000	
			Playfield	20,000	
			Playground	25,000	
			General Development	30,000	
			Subtotal	\$85,000	
Proposed Site C ^c	10	125,000	Basketball	\$ 10,000	
			Playfield	20,000	
			Playground	25,000	
			Sandlot Softball	25,000	
			Tennis Courts	45,000	
			General Development	60,000	
			Subtotal	\$185,000	
Undeveloped City Park (Edgewood)	--	--	Basketball	\$10,000	
			Playfield	20,000	
			Playground	25,000	
			General Development	18,000	
			Subtotal	\$73,000	
Dunn Field	--	--	Picnic Shelter	\$25,000	
			Skateboarding and Inline Skating Facility	80,000	
			Subtotal	\$105,000	
Library Park	--	--	Playground	\$25,000	
			Fishing Pier	10,000	
			Restrooms	55,000	
			Subtotal	\$90,000	
Seminary Park	--	--	Landscaping for Formal Passive Use	\$10,000	
			Playground	25,000	
			Picnic Shelter	25,000	
			Subtotal	\$60,000	
Veterans Park	10	125,000	Basketball	\$10,000	
			Concession/Restrooms	65,000	
			Playground	25,000	
			Picnic Shelter	50,000	
			Roller Hockey Rink	45,000	
			General Development	60,000	
			Subtotal	\$255,000	
Open Space Lands and Trails	394	3,829,500	Nine miles of Trails	\$450,000	
			Subtotal	\$450,000	
On-Street Bicycle Routes	--	--	11 miles of Routes	\$5,500	
			Subtotal	\$5,500	
Total	429	\$4,264,500	-	\$1,493,500	\$ 5,758,000

^aDoes not include lands within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

^bUnit costs used to estimate acquisition costs were \$5,000 per acre of wetlands, \$12,000 per acre of woodlands, and \$12,500 per acre of other open lands.

^cRefers to site reference letter on Map 21.

Source: SEWRPC.

to note that all proposed facility development should comply with the accessibility requirements set forth under the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Existing Park and Open Space Sites and Facilities

Under the park and open space plan for the City of Lake Geneva, it is recommended that the City adequately maintain all existing City owned park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities. The maintenance activities of these sites would include, as necessary, the repair and replacement of playground equipment as such equipment becomes unsafe or outdated; the repair and resurfacing of parking lots and walkways; the resurfacing of court areas, such as volleyball, basketball and tennis courts; the provision, repair or replacement of such support facilities as sport field lighting, park benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains; the repair or replacement of restroom facilities, water supply facilities, maintenance buildings, picnic shelters and community buildings; and the maintenance of lawns, gardens and other landscape plantings. In addition, such maintenance activities would also include the provision of picnic tables and areas for passive recreational use. It is also recommended that any existing outdoor recreation facility not meeting the accessibility requirements set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act be brought into compliance with that Act in a timely fashion.

Other Plan Implementation Considerations

The park and open space plan for the City of Lake Geneva proposes that the City acquire and develop new park sites and facilities and acquire open space lands within the planned City urban service area. Open space lands proposed for acquisition are located along the White River, Lake Como, and Geneva Lake or consist of isolated woodlands. The City zoning ordinance can serve to protect those lands proposed for park and open space uses from incompatible urban uses. Changes to the zoning district map should be made as appropriate to reflect the proposed park and open space land acquisitions recommended in this plan.

It is also important to note that, while the usual manner of acquisition of park and open space land consists of the purchase of fee simple interest, there are other methods of acquiring land. These other methods may include the purchase of conservation easements; the acquisition of land subject to a life estate; the acquisition of tax delinquent land; acquisition through a gift or donation; and acquisition through dedication as development of an area takes place.

Plan Costs

Implementation of the park and open space plan for the City of Lake Geneva, as presented herein and summarized on Table 11, would entail a total cost to the City of \$5,758,000 over a 22-year implementation period, excluding costs associated with maintaining existing park facilities. It should be noted, however, that the cost of implementing the plan could be significantly reduced through the use of Federal and State grant funds for acquisition of park and open space lands and the development of recreational facilities. Typical grant funding sources for implementation of park and open space plans are summarized in Appendix B of this report. As shown by Appendix B, State and Federal grant programs generally fund from 50 to 80 percent of eligible projects.

In addition to grant funds, alternative methods of land acquisition are available to the City to further reduce the out-of-pocket costs of implementing the plan. These methods include acquisition of conservation easements, rather than fee-simple purchase, to protect environmentally significant lands and acquiring land through dedication as development occurs in the City. Funds for the purchase of park and open space sites can be raised through the use of fee-in-lieu of dedication requirements and park impact fees for new development.

As already noted, the estimated acquisition and development costs of \$5,758,000 would be distributed over a 22-year implementation period. This would approximate an expenditure of about \$261,700 per year. Under the assumption that the population of the City would approximate 9,300 residents by the year 2020, the average annual acquisition and development cost would be about \$33.23 per capita.⁵ As noted above, the cost to the City could be significantly reduced through the use of grant funds, and other alternative financing methods.

⁵The average annual per capita cost was estimated by dividing the estimated average annual cost by the average annual population over the 22-year plan implementation period. The average population was determined by calculating the average of the 1997 population estimate by the Wisconsin Department of Administration of about 6,453 persons and the plan design year 2020 population of about 9,300 persons, which equals 7,877 persons.

SUMMARY

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

The key components of the plan are as follows:

1. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources should acquire additional lands and develop new facilities at Big Foot Beach State Park, as set forth in the master plan for that park.
2. Three new neighborhood parks are proposed to be acquired and developed by the City of Lake Geneva.
3. The City should provide several outdoor recreation facilities at the undeveloped City park site.
4. The City should provide a variety of additional outdoor recreation facilities at several of the existing City Parks.
5. A local system of bicycle and pedestrian trails and routes throughout the community is recommended to be developed by the City of Lake Geneva in cooperation with Walworth County.
6. The City should acquire and preserve approximately 394 acres of environmentally significant lands to be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses.
7. The cost to implement the plan would be \$5,758,000 over a 22-year plan implementation period. This represents an annual expenditure of about \$261,700. The City's cost for implementing the plan could be significantly reduced through the use of available State and Federal grant funds, acquisition of conservation easements rather than fee-simple land purchases, and requiring parkland dedication or impact fees as development occurs within the City.

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Chapter V

SUMMARY

On December 1, 1977, The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission adopted SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000*, which sets forth a plan intended to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of lands needed for outdoor recreation and for the protection of natural resources within the seven county Southeastern Wisconsin Region. At the request of Walworth County, the Regional Planning Commission refined and detailed the regional plan as it relates to the County in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 135, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County*. The County plan was adopted in 1992 by the Walworth County Board. The regional plan and County plans both recommend that each local unit of government refine and detail the adopted regional and county plans as those plans relate to the local municipal jurisdiction. On March 1, 1996, the City of Lake Geneva requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the City in preparing a City park and open space plan. The City of Lake Geneva Park Commission was designated to oversee the necessary planning work.

The requested plan is documented in this report. The plan was approved by the City Park Commission on February 10, 1999, and by the City Plan Commission on April 19, 1999. The Common Council adopted the plan on April 26, 1999.

INVENTORY FINDINGS

The planning area used to develop the City's park and open space plan encompasses about 30.2 square miles, including about 5.5 square miles within the City's corporate limits. The City had a 1997 estimated population level of 6,453 persons. Land developed with urban uses encompassed about 1,720 acres, or about 49 percent of the City. Residential land uses encompassed about 740 acres or 21 percent of the total area of the City. Transportation, communication and utility land uses encompassed about 370 acres or about 11 percent, while commercial and industrial land uses encompassed about 200 acres, or about 6 percent of the City. Governmental and institutional uses encompassed about 115 acres, or about 3 percent of the City. Natural resource areas including woodlands, wetlands and surface waters encompassed 1,044 acres, or about 30 percent of the total

area of the City. About half of this total, 518 acres, consisted of surface water, primarily made up of a portion of Geneva Lake within City limits. The remaining 1,019 acres, or about 29 percent of the City's area, were undeveloped or consisted of agricultural, recreational, or other open lands.

An inventory of existing outdoor recreation and open space sites and facilities in the planning area was conducted in 1997. The inventory identified 43 such sites encompassing 2,526 acres, or about 4 percent of the planning area. Of the 43 recreation and open space sites, 31 sites encompassing 893 acres, or 35 percent of the total area devoted to outdoor recreation and open space, were publicly owned. The City of Lake Geneva owns 21 sites, which together encompass 148 acres. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources owns three sites within the planning area, encompassing a total of 696 acres. The 12 privately owned outdoor recreation sites in the planning area encompass 1,633 acres.

The most important features of the natural resource base in the City of Lake Geneva, including the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat areas, undeveloped floodlands, and sites having historic, scenic, scientific, cultural, and recreational value, occur in linear areas termed environmental corridors. By definition, primary environmental corridors include a variety of the afore-listed natural resource features and are at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Primary environmental corridors in 1990 encompassed about 6,516 acres, or about 34 percent of the planning area. Secondary environmental corridors are at least 100 acres in size and one mile in length. Secondary environmental corridors in 1990 encompassed 383 acres, or about 2 percent of the planning area. In addition to the environmental corridors, several smaller pockets of wetlands and woodlands exist within the City and planning area. These areas, termed isolated natural resource areas, are a minimum of five acres in size and are separated physically from the environmental corridors by intensive urban uses. These isolated natural resource areas encompassed 495 acres, or 3 percent, of the planning area in 1990.

Five natural areas, encompassing about 600 acres, are located within the planning area. All but one of these sites are located within the primary environmental corridor. There are also four critical species habitat sites,

encompassing about 48 acres of land and 1,850 acres of surface water, within the City of Lake Geneva planning area.

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

The formulation of objectives to be used in plan design and evaluation is a necessary part of any sound planning process. Seven park and open space preservation acquisition and development objectives were formulated under the regional park and open space planning program. These objectives were adapted for use in the development of the park and open space plan for the City of Lake Geneva. Each of the objectives is accompanied by a set of standards which provide specific measures that were used in the design of the plan and in the evaluation of how well the plan meets the objectives. Both per capita and accessibility standards were formulated and used to help determine the number, size and distribution of outdoor recreation sites and facilities needed to serve the existing and probable future resident population of the City.

The responsibility for the acquisition and development of major natural resource-oriented outdoor recreation and open space sites and facilities logically rests with the State and County levels of government. Recommendations relating to the acquisition, improvement and maintenance of such sites and facilities within the City of Lake Geneva planning area are set forth in the Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan. The County plan, and this plan, recommend the continued maintenance and additional land acquisition and facility development at one State-owned site in the planning area, Big Foot Beach State Park. No other major recreational sites are existing or proposed to be developed by the County or State within the planning area.

The need for nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation sites was determined by applying the standards to the anticipated 2020 resident population level of 9,300 persons within the planned City of Lake Geneva urban service area. Application of the per capita standards in this measure indicates no need for additional public outdoor recreation land. Application of the accessibility standards, however, indicates a need for additional neighborhood park sites in the outlying portions of the year 2020 urban service area.

Application of the per capita standards for nonresource-oriented recreation facilities indicates no need for additional facilities. Application of the accessibility standards indicates that several areas of the City urban

service area are not adequately served by the existing distribution of basketball goals, playfields, playgrounds, softball diamonds and tennis courts.

Additional facility needs were identified by the City Park Commission and staff. Identified needs include a fishing pier, roller skating facility, bicycle and pedestrian paths, a concession and restroom building, and repair or replacement of existing playground equipment at several City parks.

The need to protect the natural resources of the planning area cannot be determined on the basis of per capita or accessibility standards, since such need is related directly to the location and character of the natural resources concerned rather than to population levels or distribution. The maintenance of the environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in essentially natural, open uses would generally serve to meet the natural resource preservation and protection needs within the planning area.

RECOMMENDED PLAN

The recommended park and open space plan includes recommendations concerning both areawide and local outdoor recreation and park and open space needs, addressing all of the needs identified through the application of the per capita and accessibility standards as well as the additional needs identified by the City Park Commission and City staff. In accordance with the recommendations relating to areawide level facilities, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources would continue to provide one major park within the planning area, at Big Foot Beach State Park.

It is recommended that all environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas remaining within the planning area be held in protective ownership or protected through public land use regulation for natural resource preservation, flood control, and outdoor recreation purposes. It is also recommended that the five natural areas and four critical species habitat sites within the planning area be protected through public ownership and be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses.

The recommended plan calls for the continued maintenance of City-owned park and open space sites. The plan further recommends the development of three new neighborhood parks and development of a playfield and playground at the undeveloped park site in the northwestern portion of the City. Recommendations for new facilities at existing City parks include development of a skateboarding and inline skating facility at Dunn

Field, a fishing pier at Library Park, a picnic shelter and formal landscaping at Seminary Park, and a picnic shelter, restrooms, and roller hockey rink at Veterans Park. The plan also recommends that new or improved playground equipment be provided at several City parks. The plan further recommends a local system of bicycle and pedestrian routes and paths, including development of a trail within the abandoned right-of-way of the former Chicago & North Western Railway. The plan also recommends that the City acquire about 394 acres of environmentally significant lands to be preserved in essentially natural, open space uses.

Implementation of the recommended plan would entail a total cost of about \$5,758,000 over the 22-year plan implementation period. The majority of this cost, about \$4,264,500 or 74 percent, would be required for the acquisition of land for park and open space preservation purposes. The remaining \$1,493,500 would be required for development of recreational facilities. The cost to the City of implementing the plan could be substantially reduced through the use of State and Federal grant funds, conservation easements, parkland dedication requirements of either land or fees-in-lieu of dedication, and impact fees as new development occurs within the City.

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APPENDICES

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Appendix A

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS FOR THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA

OBJECTIVE NO. 1

To provide an integrated system of public outdoor recreation sites and corridors which will afford City residents adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

The provision of public outdoor recreation sites and corridors contributes to the attainment and maintenance of physical and mental health by providing opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities. An integrated system of public outdoor recreation sites and corridors, properly related to the natural resource base, can serve the dual purpose of satisfying recreational demands in an attractive setting while protecting natural resource amenities. An integrated system of public outdoor recreation sites and corridors can also contribute to the orderly growth of the City by lending form and structure to urban development patterns.

A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

PRINCIPLE

Public outdoor recreation sites promote the maintenance of physical and mental health both by providing opportunities to participate in physical activities that help maintain physical strength and flexibility and that help to reduce everyday tensions and anxieties. In addition, well designed and properly located public 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 neighborhoods and communities.

STANDARDS

1. The public sector should provide outdoor recreation sites sufficient in size and number to meet the recreation demands of the resident population. Such sites should contain the amenities appropriate to the size and nature of the site and be spatially distributed in a manner which provides convenient access by the resident population, as set forth below:

Site Type	Size (gross acres)	Publicly Owned Park and School Sites							
		Minimum Per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^d	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^e		Minimum Per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^f	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^e	
				Urban ^g	Rural			Urban ^g	Rural
I ^h 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	10.0	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	--	--	--	--

Site Type	Size (gross acres)	Publicly Owned Park and School Sites							
		Parks				Schools ^a			
		Minimum Per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^a	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^a		Minimum Per Capita Public Requirements (acres per 1,000 persons) ^a	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles) ^a	
				Urban ^a	Rural			Urban ^a	Rural
III ^a Community	25-99	2.2	Swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, boat launch, nature study area, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer and other playfields, tennis courts, passive activity area ^b	2.0 ^a	--	0.9	Soccer and other playfield, baseball diamond, softball diamond, tennis court	0.5-1.0 ^a	--
IV ^a	Less than 25	1.7	Wading pool, picnic areas, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer and other playfields, tennis court, playground, basketball goal, ice-skating rink, passive activity area ^b	0.5-1.0 ^a	--	1.6	Soccer and other playfield, playground, baseball diamond, softball diamond, tennis court, basketball goal	0.5-1.0 ^a	--

2. Public outdoor recreation sites should, to the maximum extent possible, include portions of the planned primary environmental corridors of the City in order to provide an attractive natural setting for recreational activities. Recreational facilities should, however, be carefully located and designed to protect and preserve such environmentally sensitive areas as wetlands, natural areas, and high value wildlife habitat.

B. RECREATION CORRIDORS

PRINCIPLE

Certain recreational pursuits such as hiking, biking, pleasure driving, and ski touring are best provided for through a system of recreation corridors^p located within or adjacent to linear resource-oriented open space lands. A well designed system of recreation corridors can serve to connect existing and proposed public parks, thus forming an integrated system of parks and recreation corridors related to the natural resource base.

STANDARDS

The public sector should provide a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors in accordance with the following standards to meet the resident demand for trail-oriented activities:

1. A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation corridors should be provided for each 1,000 persons in the County.
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. Recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
 - a. Primary and secondary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented recreation activities, provided environmentally sensitive resources are protected.
 - b. Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites.
 - c. Existing trail facilities within the City.

OBJECTIVE NO. 2

To provide outdoor recreation facilities to afford City residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the City, as set forth below:

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 3

To provide outdoor recreation facilities to afford the City residents adequate opportunities to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participation in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities--which include camping, golf, picnicking, downhill skiing, and stream and lake swimming--provides an opportunity for individuals and families to enjoy recreational activities in natural surroundings as well as an opportunity for physical exercise.

STANDARD

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

Minimum Per Capita Facility Requirement*				Design Standards						Service Radius of Facility (miles)*	
Activity	Facility	Owner	Per Capita Requirements (facility per 1,000 residents)	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Additional Suggested Support Facilities	Support Facility Requirements (acres per facility)	Total Land Requirements (acres per facility)	Resource Requirements		
Camping	Camp site	Public	0.35	Regional and multi-community parks	0.33 acre per camp site	Rest rooms - showers Utility hookups Natural area backup lands	-- -- 1.5 acres per camp site	1.83	Wooded area Presence of surface water Suitable topography and soils	25.0	
		Nonpublic	1.47								
		Total	1.82								
Golf	Regulation 18-hole course	Public	0.013	Regional and multi-community parks	135 acres per course	Clubhouse, parking, maintenance Practice area Woodland-water areas Buffer acres	8.0 acres per course 5.0 acres per course 35.0 acres per course 2.0 acres per course	185.0	Suitable topography and soils Presence of surface water Form-giving vegetation desirable	10.0	
		Nonpublic	0.027								
		Total	0.040								
Picnicking	Tables	Public	6.35'	Regional, multi-community, community, and neighborhood parks	0.07 acre per table minimum	Parking Shelters and grills Buffer and parking overflow	0.02 acre per table (1.5 spaces per table) -- 0.02 acre per table	0.11	Topography with scenic views Shade trees Presence of surface water desirable Suitable soils	10.0	
		Nonpublic	2.39								
		Total	8.74								
Skiing	Developed slope (acres)	Public	0.010	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	1.0 acre per acre of developed slope	Chalet Parking Ski tows (and lights) Buffer and maintenance Landscape	0.13 acre minimum 0.25 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.40 acre per acre of slope 0.35 acre per acre of slope	2.1	Suitable topography and soils (20 percent slope minimum) North or northeast exposure	25.0	
		Nonpublic	0.090								
		Total	0.100								
Swimming	Beach (linear feet)	Public Nonpublic Total	Major Inland Lakes	Regional, multi-community, and community parks	40 square feet per linear foot (average)	Parking Bathhouse-concessions Buffer areas	0.2 acre per acre of beach 0.10 acre minimum 10 sq. feet per linear foot	--	Natural beach Good water quality	10.0	
			Lake Michigan								
			6								16
			12								--
			18								16

OBJECTIVE NO. 4

To provide outdoor recreation facilities to afford City residents adequate opportunities to participate in trail-related activities.

PRINCIPLE

Participation in trail-related activities--which include biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, pleasure driving, ski touring, and snowmobiling--provides opportunity for contact with natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features. Such activities can increase an individual's awareness of the natural environment and contribute to a better understanding of that environment. Trail activities can be enjoyed by all family members, which can serve to strengthen social relationships within the family and provide an opportunity to educate younger members of the family in the importance of environmental issues.

STANDARD

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in trail-related activities should be provided throughout the County. Public facilities provided for these activities should be located within the recreation corridors identified in Objective No. 1. The following the following per capita standards and design criteria should be met:

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 5

To provide access to rivers and major lakes to afford County residents adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities consistent with safe and enjoyable inland lake and river use and the maintenance of good water quality.

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 6

To maintain the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity^{ee} of the City by preserving lands having important natural resources.

PRINCIPLE

Ecological balance and natural beauty within the City 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 City. Preservation of the most significant aspects of the natural resource base contributes to the maintenance of the biodiversity, natural beauty, and economic well being of the County.

A. PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARD

1. All remaining undeveloped lands in designated primary environmental corridors in the City should be preserved in natural, open uses to the maximum extent practicable.

B. NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

1. The remaining natural areas and critical species habitat areas should be preserved to the maximum extent practicable.

C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARDS

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

OBJECTIVE NO. 7

To satisfy outdoor recreation and related open space needs with high quality sites and facilities in an efficient and economical way.

PRINCIPLE

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

STANDARD

The sum total of all expenditures required to meet park demands and open space needs should be kept at a reasonable level required to provide high quality park and open space sites.

^aIn urban areas, facilities for nonresource-oriented recreational activities are commonly located in community or neighborhood school sites. Such facilities often provide a substitute for intensive recreational facilities within parks; however, school sites generally do not contain areas for passive recreational use.

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

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

^dFor major and multi-community parks, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the total resident population of the County. For community and neighborhood sites, which generally provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities primarily in urban areas, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the County residing in urban areas.

^eUrban areas contain a closely spaced network of minor streets which include concentrations of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental, or institutional land uses; have a minimum area of 160 acres; and a minimum population of 500 persons. Such areas usually are incorporated and are served by sanitary sewerage systems. Urban areas have been grouped into the following density classes in the regional land use plan: low-density urban areas or areas with 0.70 to 2.29 dwelling units per net residential acre, medium-density urban areas or areas with 2.30 to 6.99 dwelling units per net residential acre, and high-density urban areas or areas with 7.00 to 17.99 dwelling units per net residential acre.

^fFor public school sites, the minimum per capita acreage requirements apply to the resident population of the County residing in urban areas.

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

^hA passive activity area is defined as an area within an outdoor recreation site which provides an opportunity for such less athletic recreational pursuits as pleasure walking, rest and relaxation, and informal picnicking. Such areas generally consist of a landscaped area with mowed lawn, shade trees, and benches.

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

^jIn rural areas of the County, each resident should reside within 10 miles of a major or multi-community park. Within urban areas, each resident should reside within four miles of a major or multi-community park.

^kCommunity parks and school sites are defined as intermediate size sites having a multi-neighborhood service area. The location of such sites relies more on easy accessibility for community residents than on natural resource amenities.

^lIn urban areas the need for a community park is met by the presence of a major or multi-community park. Thus, within urban areas having a population of 7,500 or more, each resident should be within two miles of a community, multi-community, or a major park.

^mThe service radius of school outdoor recreation sites is governed primarily by the service radius, listed under Objective 2, of the outdoor recreational facilities provided at the school site. Because school sites generally do not provide areas for passive recreational use, school sites generally do not fulfill the need for community and neighborhood parks.

ⁿNeighborhood park and school sites are defined as small sites which have a neighborhood as the service area. Such sites usually provide facilities for intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities and are generally provided only in urban areas. Land and facilities to fulfill the requirement for a neighborhood park should most desirably be provided through a joint community-school district venture. Using the neighborhood park standard of 1.7 acres per thousand

residents and the school standard of 1.6 acres per thousand residents, a total of 3.3 acres per thousand residents or approximately 21 acres of recreation lands in a typical medium-density neighborhood would be provided. These acreage standards relate to lands required to provide for recreation facilities typically located in a neighborhood park and are exclusive of the school building site and associated parking area, and any undevelopable areas which may be incorporated into the design of the park site, such as drainageways and areas of poor soils.

^oThe maximum service radius of neighborhood parks is governed primarily by the population density in the vicinity of the park. In high-density urban areas, each urban resident should reside within 0.5 mile of a neighborhood park; in medium-density urban areas, each resident should reside within 0.75 mile of a neighborhood park; and in low-density urban areas, each resident should reside within one mile of a neighborhood park. It should be noted that the requirement for a neighborhood park also is met by a higher-order park within the neighborhood park service radius. It should further be noted that in the application of the service radius criterion for neighborhood sites, only parks five acres or greater in area should be considered as satisfying the maximum service radius requirement. Such park sites generally provide areas which offer space for passive recreational uses in addition to facilities which provide opportunities for active recreational uses.

^pA recreation corridor is defined as a publicly owned continuous linear expanse of land which is located within an area of natural, cultural, or historical interest and which provides facilities for participation in such trail-oriented recreational activities as biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, and ski touring.

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

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

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

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

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

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

^wThe minimum per capita requirements for facilities for intensive resource-oriented activities apply to the total resident population of the County.

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

^yThe allocation of the 6.35 picnic tables per thousand residents to publicly owned sites is as follows: 3.80 tables per thousand residents of the County to be located in major and multi-community parks to meet the resource-oriented picnicking needs of County residents and 2.55 tables per thousand residents of each urban area in the County to be located in community and neighborhood parks to meet local picnicking needs.

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

^{aa}The minimum per capita requirements for trails apply to the total resident population of the City.

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

^{cc}*Pleasure driving routes are located on existing public roadways; therefore, no requirement is indicated. A recreation corridor may, however, provide a uniquely suitable area for the development of a scenic drive.*

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

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

^{ff}*Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or which have sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European -settlement landscape.*

^{gg}*Critical species habitats are defined as those tracts of land or water which support Federally- or State-listed endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species.*

^{hh}*Lands in Walworth County are identified as prime agricultural land when all three of the following criteria are met: 1) Farm unit must be at least 35 acres in size; 2) At least 50% of the farm unit must be covered by soils which meet U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service standards for national prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance; and 3) The farm unit must be located in a block of farmland at least 100 acres in size.*

Source: SEWRPC.

Appendix B

TYPICAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLANS

Primary sources of grant funds for the acquisition and development of local park and open space sites in Southeastern Wisconsin are described in the following sections.

1. **The Wisconsin Stewardship Fund** was established by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1989 for a ten-year period.¹ The purpose of the fund is to protect environmentally sensitive areas and to maintain and increase recreational opportunities in Wisconsin. The Stewardship Fund is financed through general obligation bonds and distributes about \$23.1 million annually statewide. The Stewardship Fund is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). There are 12 funding programs within the Stewardship Fund. Four of these are available to local municipalities, and are summarized below:
 - a. Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)
\$2.25 million distributed annually statewide; about \$690,000 in southeastern Wisconsin.
ADLP provides up to 50 percent matching grants to counties, cities, villages, and towns who have adopted a park and open space plan to develop outdoor recreation facilities.
 - b. Urban Green Space (UGS)
\$0.75 million distributed annually statewide.
UGS provides up to 50 percent matching grants to counties, cities, villages, and towns to acquire land to provide open space within or near urban areas, protect scenic or ecological features, and to provide land for noncommercial gardening. Lake districts and qualified nonprofit conservation organizations are also eligible for this program.
 - c. Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)
\$1.90 million distributed annually statewide.
URGP provides up to 50 percent matching grants to counties, cities, villages, and towns to acquire land or conservation easements within or adjacent to rivers in urban areas for the purpose of preserving or restoring the river for economic revitalization and/or encouraging public outdoor recreation. Land to be acquired must be identified in a park and open space plan or in a river corridor plan. Tribal governments and qualified nonprofit conservation organizations are also eligible for funding under this program.
 - d. Streambank Protection Program
\$0.50 million distributed annually statewide.
The streambank protection program provides up to 50 percent matching grants to counties, cities, villages, and towns to acquire land adjacent to specified streams to protect or improve water quality and fish habitat. Qualified nonprofit conservation organizations are also eligible for funding under this program.
2. **The Federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21)** (formerly ISTEA) provides funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities under a variety of programs. The Recreational Trails Program, also known as the Symms Act, is administered by the WDNR. The remaining programs are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT). Only projects costing \$20,000 or more for non-construction activities and \$50,000 or more for construction-related activities are eligible for programs administered by WDOT. Each program is summarized below:

¹A new program, known as Stewardship II, is expected to replace the current Stewardship Fund in August 1999.

- a. **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**
 \$0.23 million distributed annually statewide (dependent on federal funding).
 RTP provides up to 80 percent matching grants to counties, cities, villages, and towns for both motorized and non-motorized trails. Eligible projects include trail maintenance, rehabilitation, and development and land acquisition for trails.
 - b. **Statewide Transportation Enhancements Program (STEP)**
 \$6.25 million distributed annually statewide
 STEP provides up to 80 percent matching grants to counties, cities, villages, and towns for a variety of projects that enhance a transportation project or an area served by a transportation project. Eligible projects include trails and on-street bikeways, landscaping, acquisition of scenic easements, preservation of abandoned railway corridors, and preservation of historic sites.
 - c. **Surface Transportation Discretionary Program (STP-D)**
 \$2.72 million distributed annually statewide .
 STP-D provides up to 80 percent matching grants to counties, cities, villages, and towns with a population of 5,000 or more for projects that encourage alternatives to motor vehicle trips. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities are eligible.
 - d. **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)**
 \$12.5 million distributed annually statewide.
 CMAQ provides up to 80 percent matching grants to counties, cities, villages, and towns in areas that do not meet federal air quality standards (all seven counties in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region are eligible). Transportation projects that provide alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, are eligible.
3. **The Land and Water Conservation Act (LAWCON)** was established by the U. S. Congress in 1964 to provide funding for the acquisition of land for park or open space preservation purposes and the development of outdoor recreation facilities. In Wisconsin, LAWCON funds are administered by the WDNR. Up to 50 percent of project costs are eligible for funding under this program. Congress has not allocated any money to this program for state or local park development for several years, but there have been recent efforts to include funding for this program in the federal FY 2000 budget.
 4. **The Urban Forestry Program**, administered by the WDNR, distributes \$0.47 million annually statewide. The program provides grants of up to 50 percent to counties, cities, villages, and towns for urban forestry activities. Eligible activities include development of an urban forestry plan or urban open space program, development of a tree ordinance, development of a public awareness program, conducting street tree inventories, and tree planting and maintenance.
 5. **Lake-Related Programs**
 - a. **Lake Protection Grants**
 \$1.9 million distributed annually statewide.
 The lake protection program provides grants of up to 75 percent, to a maximum of \$200,000, to counties, cities, villages, and towns to protect or restore lakes and their ecosystems. Tribal governments, lake districts, qualified nonprofit conservation organizations, and certain lake associations are also eligible for this program. Eligible activities include the acquisition of land or conservation easements to protect lake water quality, the restoration of wetlands tributary to a lake, the development of ordinances to protect water quality, and lake improvement projects included in a WDNR-approved lake management plan.
 - b. **Lake Planning Grants**
 \$0.6 million distributed annually statewide.
 The lake planning program provides grants of up to 75 percent, to a maximum of \$10,000, to counties, cities, villages, and towns for the preparation of lake management plans and for gathering and analyzing

lake-related information. Tribal governments, lake districts, qualified nonprofit conservation organizations, and certain lake associations are also eligible for this program.

c. Recreational Boating and Facilities (RBF)

\$5.0 million distributed annually statewide.

RBF is a state program intended to encourage development of recreational motorized boating facilities. The program is administered by the WDNR and provides up to 50 percent matching grants to counties, cities, villages, towns, and lake districts for projects such as boat ramps and piers and support facilities such as parking lots and restrooms. Initial dredging and construction of bulkheads and breakwaters may also be eligible for funding.

d. Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFR)

\$6.8 million distributed annually statewide (dependent on federal funding).

SFR is a federal program intended to support restoration of sport fishing habitat and to provide facilities for public access to sport fishing areas, including piers and boat landings. The program is administered by the WDNR and provides up to 75 percent matching grants to counties, cities, villages, and towns to develop fishing piers and public boating access sites.