

# A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY



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# **A PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY**

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## Chapter I

# INTRODUCTION

### PLAN CONTEXT

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is charged by law with the duty of preparing and adopting a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region, which includes Washington County. The regional plan, which is periodically updated, consists of a number of major elements, including land use, transportation, park and open space, and water quality management.

The regional land use plan sets forth the fundamental concepts which are intended to guide the development of the Region. The regional land use plan, the most recent version of which was adopted by the Commission in 1997, is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 45, *A Regional Land Use Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2020*. The three most important recommendations contained in the regional land use plan are:

1. The preservation of primary environmental corridors in essentially natural, open uses
2. The maintenance of the best remaining farmland in long-term agricultural uses
3. Encouragement of a more compact pattern of urban development, one that can be efficiently served by such essential public facilities and services as centralized sanitary sewerage, water supply, and mass transit.

These three recommendations provide the basic framework within which other regional plan components, including park and open space plans, are developed.

A park and open space plan for Washington County was included as part of the first regional park and open space plan,<sup>1</sup> which was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission on December 1, 1977. That plan identified existing and probable future park and open space needs within the Region and recommended a park system consisting of large resource-oriented parks and smaller nonresource-oriented urban parks, together with attendant recreational facilities. The regional park and open space plan also recommended the development of an approximately 440-mile network of hiking and bicycling trails within natural resource corridors of regional

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<sup>1</sup>Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, *A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000, November 1977*.

significance, including corridors along the Lake Michigan shoreline, through the Kettle Moraine, and along the riverine areas of the major streams and watercourses of the Region. The regional park and open space plan incorporated the regional land use plan recommendations concerning primary environmental corridors and farmland preservation.

In 1984, the Washington County Park and Planning Commission requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the County in refining and updating the regional park and open space plan as it applied to Washington County. The resulting plan is documented in the first edition of this report, SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 136, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Washington County*, March 1989. The plan, which has a design year of 2000, was adopted by the Washington County Board of Supervisors on December 12, 1989, and by the Regional Planning Commission on March 7, 1990.

In 1994, Washington County requested that the Regional Planning Commission prepare a new park and open space plan to refine and update information from the first edition of the Washington County park and open space plan. The resulting plan is documented in the second edition of this report, SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 136, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Washington County*, August 1997. The plan, which has a design year of 2010, was adopted by the Washington County Board of Supervisors on August 12, 1997, and by the Regional Planning Commission on March 4, 1998.

The 1997 County park and open space plan called for the provision of four new major parks, for a total of 12 major parks within the County. Washington County was to be responsible for acquiring and developing new major parks in the areas of Newburg, Jackson, Addison, and Erin. Recommended facilities for the new major park sites included development of picnicking and trail facilities at each of the new parks, development of a swimming beach or pool at the Jackson-area park site, and development of group camping facilities at the new parks in the Addison and Erin areas.

The plan also called for additional acquisition and development of facilities at existing major County parks including Glacier Hills Park, Heritage Trails Park, Ridge Run Park, Sandy Knoll Park; the acquisition of lands at the Washington County Golf Course and Family Park; and the development of additional facilities at Homestead Hollow Park. Recommendations for other parks owned by Washington County included acquisition of lands at Lizard Mound Park and development of facilities at Goeden Park. The plan also called for the development of boat access sites at nine major lakes in Washington County.

Since 1997, Washington County has taken steps to implement the currently adopted park and open space plan. This includes the acquisition and development of Ackerman's Grove Park in the Town of Polk; the acquisition of Henschke Hillside Lake Access; and development of new restrooms at Homestead Hollow Park, Ridge Run Park, and Sandy Knoll Park. Facilities developed at Ackerman's Grove Park include a fishing pier, beach, picnic area, playground, shelter, restrooms, a boat access facility; and a soccer complex which is currently under construction. The acquisition and development of Ackerman's Grove Park meets the need for a new major park site in the Jackson area, as well as the need for a boat access site on Little Cedar Lake. Henschke Hillside Lake Access, when developed, will meet the need for a boat access site on Silver Lake.

In addition, other development at Washington County Parks, generally consistent with the 1997 plan, include a shelter and playground development at Family Park, and a soccer complex and a disc golf course currently under construction at Heritage Trails County Park. Other acquisition at Washington County parks includes Leonard J. Yahr Park in the Town of Farmington, and Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve in the Town of Hartford.

Since the 1997 plan, Washington County has developed a new special outdoor recreation site. The Washington County Fair Park has been developed in the northeastern portion of the Town of Polk to replace the original site in the northwest portion of the Town.



The 1997 plan also called for a combined total of 52 linear miles of trails in the Ice Age Trail and the Milwaukee River recreation corridors in the County. To date, there are approximately 27 miles of existing trails associated with natural resource related outdoor recreation corridors.

## **THE BENEFITS FROM PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES**

Park and open space sites provide the opportunity for participation in, and enjoyment of, a wide range of outdoor recreational experiences. Park and open space sites afford the opportunity for participation in resource-oriented activities such as camping, golfing, picnicking, skiing, and beach swimming and nonresource-oriented activities such as baseball, basketball, softball, soccer, tennis, and pool swimming. Such sites also afford the opportunity for more passive pursuits, such as nature study or walking. In addition, park and open space sites have a number of important social, environmental, and economic benefits. Among these benefits are the following:

- Social Benefits—Individuals personally benefit from outdoor recreational experiences through:
  - The improvement of physical health
  - Learning and teaching
  - Rest, relaxation, and revitalization, which contribute to mental well-being
  - The opportunity to interact with other individuals in the community
  - An increase in the awareness of the natural environment
- Environmental Benefits—Acquiring land for parks and open space helps assure the long-term preservation of environmentally significant land, which in turn:
  - Protects wildlife and plant communities
  - Reduces congestion
  - Enhances air quality
  - Reduces the sediment load, toxins, and excess nutrients that enters the waterway
  - Reduces the rate and amount of stormwater runoff that causes flooding and erosion
- Economic Benefits—The development of park and open space sites benefits the economy by:
  - Contributing to a healthy and productive working environment
  - Providing an attraction for tourism
  - Making a community more desirable for businesses and residential development
  - Increasing values of nearby properties

## **COUNTY REQUEST**

On June 19, 2001, Washington County requested that the Regional Planning Commission assist the County in the preparation of a new park and open space plan. The new plan is to be based upon updated information related to land use, population levels and distribution, anticipated growth and development, natural resources, and park and open space acquisition and development activities within the County. The new plan is further intended to maintain County 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 new plan is documented in this report. The plan, which is based upon the recommended development pattern set forth in the year 2020 regional land use plan, is designed to extend the recommendations of the existing Washington County park and open space plan to that design year.

## **WASHINGTON COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The new County park and open space plan was prepared under the guidance of the Washington County Park and Open Space Plan Technical Advisory Committee. A complete membership list of the Committee is provided on the inside front cover of this report. The Committee's recommendations were forwarded to the Washington County Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee and the County Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

### **REPORT FORMAT**

The findings and recommendations of the requested park and open space planning effort are set forth in this report. Following this introductory chapter, Chapter II of this report presents information about the County pertinent to park and open space planning, including information on the existing resident population, land use pattern, and natural resource base of the County. Chapter III provides information on existing park sites and facilities and open space lands within the County. Chapter IV describes results of the public opinion survey conducted as part of the planning effort. Chapter V presents the park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives, principles, and supporting standards which served as the basis for the development of the park and open space plan for the County, and also presents an analysis of park and open space needs in the County. Chapter VI sets forth the recommended park and open space plan and identifies the actions required to carry out the recommended plan. A summary of the plan is presented in Chapter VII.

## Chapter II

# INVENTORY FINDINGS

### INTRODUCTION

The proper formulation of a park and open space plan necessitates the collection and collation of data related to existing demographic and economic characteristics, existing land uses, and natural resources. Such data provide an important basis for determining the need for additional park and open space sites and facilities and for designing a plan to meet those needs. The inventory findings are presented in this chapter.

### DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

#### Population

The area that is now the Southeastern Wisconsin Region was first included in the Federal census in 1850. In that year, the Region had a resident population of about 113,400 persons, or about 37 percent of the total population of the State. By 2000, the year of the most recent decennial census, the Region population was about 1,932,900 persons, comprising about 36 percent of the total population of the State. Historic population levels within Washington County, the Region, and the State are provided in Table 1.

Population growth in Washington County from 1850 to 2000 is graphically summarized by Figure 1. In 1850, Washington County had a resident population of about 19,500.<sup>1</sup> The County's population remained relatively stable from 1860 through 1910, then began to increase slowly until 1940. In the 1940s the County's population increased by about 5,000 persons, and after 1950 the population increased by 10,000 persons or more in each decade through the year 2000. The largest absolute increase in population in the County occurred between 1990 and 2000, when the population increased by about 22,000 persons, or about 23 percent. During this same period, the Region population grew by 7 percent, and the State population grew by 10 percent. The population of the County stood at about 117,500 persons in 2000.

The City of West Bend is the most populous community in the County, with 28,152 residents, or about 24 percent of the County's population, in 2000. The next most populous communities are the Village of Germantown, with 18,260 residents in 2000, or about 16 percent of the County's population; the City of Hartford, with 10,895 residents in 2000, or about 9 percent of the County's population; and the Town of Richfield, with 10,373 residents in 2000, or about 9 percent of the County's population.

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<sup>1</sup>Washington County in 1850 included all of present-day Washington County and all of present-day Ozaukee County. Ozaukee County was formed in 1853 from portions of Washington County. The 1850 population of that portion of Washington County that was not detached to form Ozaukee County was 11,204 persons.

Table 1

**HISTORIC RESIDENT POPULATION LEVELS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY,  
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, AND THE STATE OF WISCONSIN: 1850-2000**

Year	Washington County			Southeastern Wisconsin			Wisconsin		
	Population	Change from Preceding Census		Population	Change from Preceding Census		Population	Change from Preceding Census	
		Absolute	Percent		Absolute	Percent		Absolute	Percent
1850	19,485	--	--	113,389	--	--	305,391	--	--
1860	23,622	4,137	21.2	190,409	77,020	67.9	775,881	470,490	154.1
1870	23,919	297	1.3	223,546	33,137	17.4	1,054,670	278,789	35.9
1880	23,442	-477	-2.0	277,119	53,573	24.0	1,315,497	260,827	24.7
1890	22,751	-691	-2.9	386,774	109,655	39.6	1,693,330	377,833	28.7
1900	23,589	838	3.7	501,808	115,034	29.7	2,069,042	375,712	22.2
1910	23,784	195	0.8	631,161	129,353	25.8	2,333,860	264,818	12.8
1920	25,713	1,929	8.1	783,681	152,520	24.2	2,632,067	298,207	12.8
1930	26,551	838	3.3	1,006,118	222,437	28.4	2,939,006	306,939	11.7
1940	28,430	1,879	7.1	1,067,699	61,581	6.1	3,137,587	198,581	6.8
1950	33,902	5,472	19.2	1,240,618	172,919	16.2	3,434,575	296,988	9.5
1960	46,119	12,217	36.0	1,573,614	332,996	26.8	3,951,777	517,202	15.1
1970	63,839	17,720	38.4	1,756,083	182,469	11.6	4,417,821	466,044	11.8
1980	84,848	21,009	32.9	1,764,796	8,713	0.5	4,705,642	287,821	6.5
1990	95,328	10,480	12.4	1,810,364	45,568	2.6	4,891,769	186,127	4.0
2000	117,493	22,165	23.3	1,932,908	122,544	6.8	5,363,675	471,906	9.6

NOTE: Portions of Washington County were detached to form Ozaukee County in 1853. The 1850 population of that land area identified as Washington County in all subsequent Census years was 11,204 persons.

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

**Households**

In addition to total population, the number of households, or occupied housing units, is of importance in land use and public facility planning, because it greatly influences the demand for residential development. It is also an important component in creating demand for transportation and other facilities and services, including parks and recreational facilities.

Trends in the number of households in the County and the Region are shown on Table 2. Both the County and Region experienced significant gains in the number of new households between 1970 and 2000. The rate of increase in the number of households has exceeded the rate of population increase in both cases. Between 1970 and 2000, the rate of increase in the number of households was 152 percent in the County and 40 percent in the Region, compared to a population increase of 84 percent in the County and 10 percent in the Region. With the number of households increasing at a faster rate than the population, the number of persons per household has decreased.

**Age Distribution**

The age distribution of the population may be expected to influence the location and type of recreational areas and facilities provided within the County. The age distribution of the population of the County and Region in 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 is set forth in Table 3. The total population of the County increased dramatically between 1970 and 2000, with substantial increases in the number of adults of all ages, and moderate increases in the number of children. Washington County differed from the Region in relation to the change in the number of adults aged 18 to 24 and children of all ages, where the Region experienced decreases.

**Employment**

Trends in job growth in the County and Region are set forth in Table 4. The jobs are enumerated at their location and the data thus reflect the number of jobs within the County and Region, including both full- and part-time jobs. An increase in the number of jobs may be expected to attract additional residents to the County, thus influencing population growth.



As indicated in Table 4, employment grew in the County between 1970 and 2000, with the number of jobs increasing from 24,300 to 62,400. Total employment in the County increased by 44 percent in the 1970s, 32 percent in the 1980s, and 36 percent in the 1990s. The 157 percent rate of increase in the number of jobs in the County exceeded the rate of increase in the Region during the same period, which experienced an increase of 441,400 jobs, or about 56 percent.

### HISTORIC URBAN GROWTH AND EXISTING LAND USES

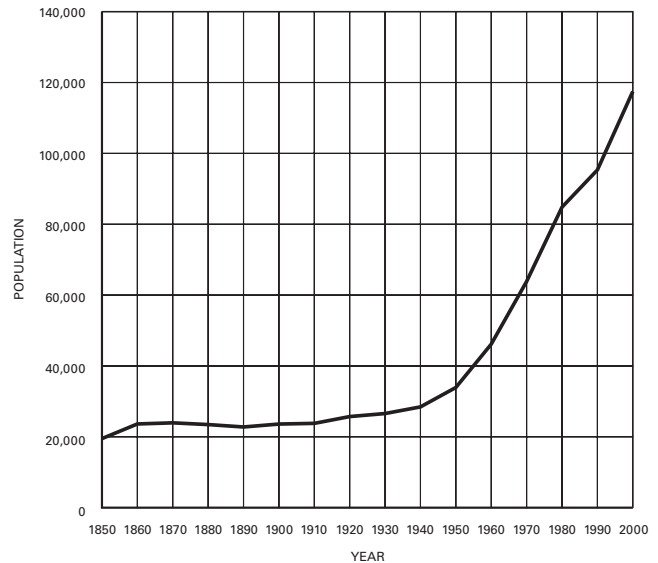
Land use is an important determinant of both the supply of, and the demand for, outdoor recreation and related open space facilities. Accordingly, an understanding of the amount, type, and spatial distribution of urban and rural land uses within the County, as well as the historic conversion of rural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

#### Historic Urban Growth

The historic urban development of Washington County since 1850 is presented on Map 1 and Table 5. Prior to 1950, urban development in the County had generally occurred in tight concentric rings around the established communities of Germantown, Hartford, Jackson, Kewaskum, Newburg, Slinger, and West Bend and along the shorelines of several of the larger lakes in the County, and the developed urban area of the County increased at an average rate of about 0.1 square mile per year. The period between 1950 and 1970 saw a significant increase in urban development within the County. This development occurred both in urban service areas and in scattered enclaves. The same pattern continued to occur in the decades following 1970, as land development for urban uses increased dramatically. Between 1950 and 1995, the developed urban area of the County increased at an average rate of about 1.0 square mile per year.

Figure 1

**HISTORIC POPULATION LEVELS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1850-2000**



NOTE: Portions of Washington County were detached to form Ozaukee County in 1853. The 1850 population of that land area identified as Washington County in all subsequent census years was 11,204 persons.

Source: SEWRPC.

Table 2

**NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: CENSUS YEARS 1970-2000**

Year	Washington County			Southeastern Wisconsin		
	Number of Households	Change from Previous Census		Number of Households	Change from Previous Census	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1970	17,385	--	--	536,486	--	--
1980	26,716	9,331	53.7	627,955	91,469	17.0
1990	32,977	6,261	23.4	676,107	48,152	7.7
2000	43,842	10,865	32.9	749,055	72,948	10.8

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

**Table 3**

**AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY AND THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: CENSUS YEARS 1970-2000**

Washington County										
Age Group	1970		1980		1990		2000		Change 1970-2000	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent
Under 5 .....	6,627	10.4	7,108	8.4	7,240	7.6	7,970	6.8	1,343	20.3
5-17 .....	19,525	30.6	21,488	25.3	19,877	20.9	23,360	19.9	3,835	19.6
18-24 .....	5,879	9.2	9,629	11.4	8,628	9.0	8,731	7.4	2,852	48.5
25-44 .....	15,616	24.5	25,316	29.8	31,641	33.2	37,064	31.5	21,448	137.3
45-64 .....	10,945	17.1	14,182	16.7	18,000	18.9	27,156	23.1	16,211	148.1
65 and Older .....	5,247	8.2	7,125	8.4	9,942	10.4	13,212	11.3	7,965	151.8
All Ages	63,839	100.0	84,848	100.0	95,328	100.0	117,493	100.0	53,654	84.0

Southeastern Wisconsin										
Age Group	1970		1980 <sup>a</sup>		1990		2000		Change 1970-2000	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent
Under 5 .....	153,243	8.7	128,085	7.3	138,286	7.7	132,390	6.8	-20,853	-13.6
5-17 .....	472,342	26.9	375,653	21.3	339,722	18.8	377,706	19.5	-94,636	-20.0
18-24 .....	198,211	11.0	234,264	13.3	181,211	10.0	179,500	9.3	-13,711	-7.1
25-44 .....	412,831	23.5	482,615	27.3	590,955	32.6	581,351	30.1	168,520	40.8
45-64 .....	354,845	20.2	349,008	19.8	333,818	18.4	420,937	21.8	66,092	18.6
65 and Older .....	169,415	9.7	195,294	11.0	226,372	12.5	241,024	12.5	71,609	42.3
All Ages	1,755,887	100.0	1,764,919	100.0	1,810,364	100.0	1,932,908	100.0	177,021	10.1

<sup>a</sup>The 1980 regional population of 1,764,919 includes 123 persons who were subtracted from this number after the conduct of the 1980 census but were not allocated to the various age group categories.

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

**Table 4**

**NUMBER OF JOBS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: 1970-2000**

Year	Washington County				Southeastern Wisconsin		
	Number of Jobs	Change from Previous Time Period		Number of Jobs	Change from Previous Time Period		
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent	
1970	24,271	--	--	784,136	--	--	
1980	34,992	10,721	44.2	945,186	161,050	20.5	
1990	46,057	11,065	31.6	1,067,202	122,016	12.9	
2000	62,400	16,343	35.5	1,225,500	158,298	14.8	







Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and SEWRPC.

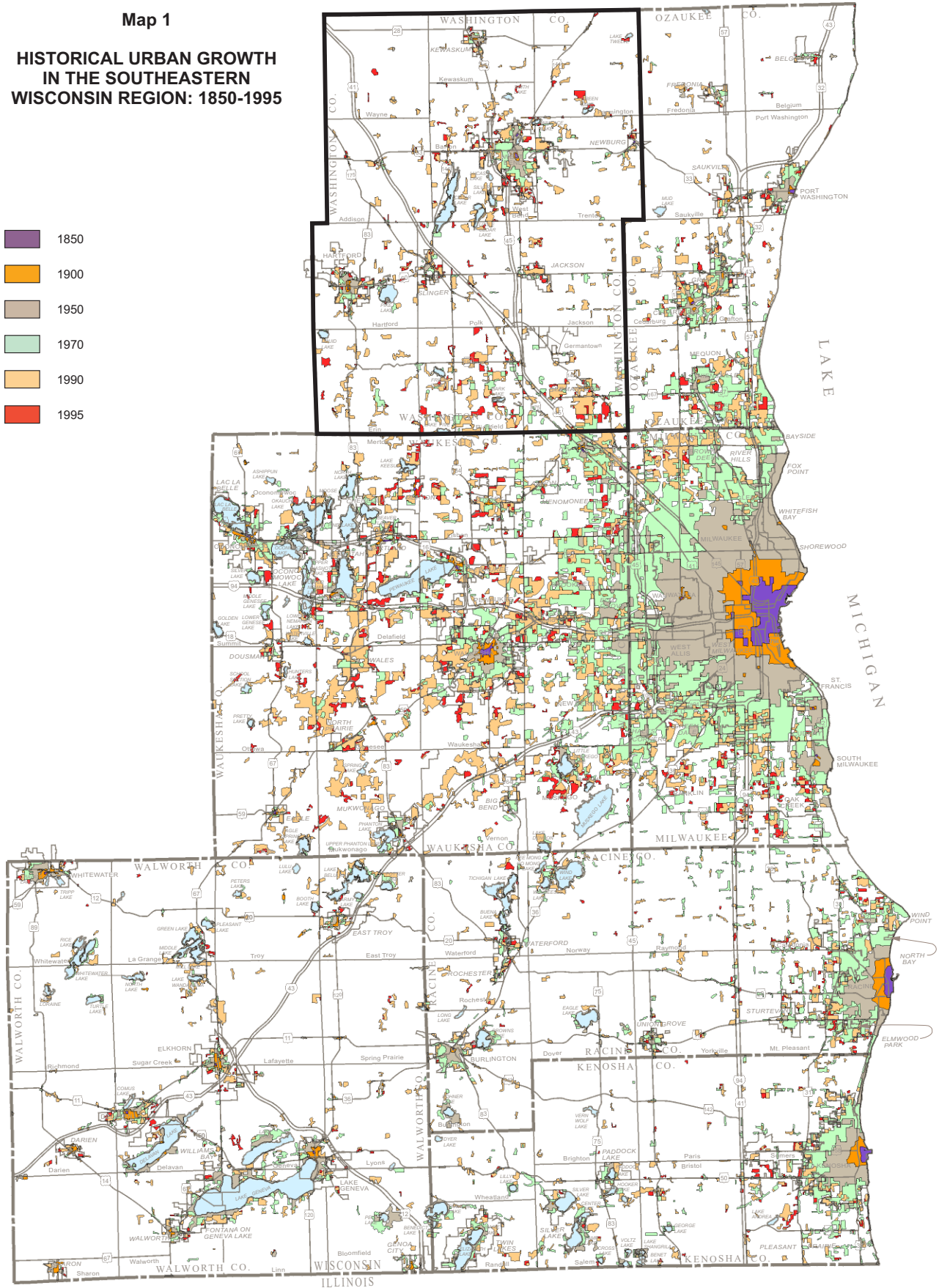
**Existing Land Uses**

Land uses in Washington County in 1970 and 1995 are set forth in Table 6. Land uses in Washington County in 1995 are shown on Map 2. In 1995, urban land uses—consisting of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional, recreational, and transportation, communication and utility uses—encompassed about 67.1 square miles, or 15 percent of the total area of the County. Residential land comprised the largest urban land use category in 1995, encompassing 34.9 square miles, or about 52 percent of all urban land use and 8 percent of the total area of the County.

Map 1

**HISTORICAL URBAN GROWTH  
IN THE SOUTHEASTERN  
WISCONSIN REGION: 1850-1995**

-  1850
-  1900
-  1950
-  1970
-  1990
-  1995



Source: SEWRPC.

Land uses categorized as transportation, communications, and utilities constituted the second largest urban land use category in 1995, encompassing about 20.4 square miles, or about 30 percent of all urban land and about 5 percent of the total area of the County. Streets and highways occupied about 18.0 square miles, or about 88 percent of the uses in this category. Major arterial highways serving the County include USH 45 and USH 41, which traverse the County in a generally northwest-southeast direction, and STH 33 and STH 60, which traverse the County in a generally east-west direction. Other uses in the transportation, communications, and utilities category within the County include three railway freight service lines, two of which are operated by the Wisconsin Central Transportation Corporation, and one by the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad Company; and three airports which serve the public: the West Bend Municipal Airport, owned by the City of West Bend; the Hartford Municipal Airport, owned by the City of Hartford; and the Hahn Sky Ranch, which is privately owned.

**Table 5**  
**HISTORICAL URBAN GROWTH**  
**IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1850-1995**

Year	Urban Area <sup>a</sup>	
	Square Miles	Average Annual Change from Previous Year (square miles)
1850	0.1	--
1900	0.4	0.0
1950	5.5	0.1
1970	14.1	0.4
1990	41.1	1.4
1995	47.5	1.3

<sup>a</sup>Based upon the Regional Planning Commission urban growth ring analysis.

Source: SEWRPC.

**Table 6**  
**LAND USES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1970 AND 1995**

Land Use Category	1970			1995			1970-1995	
	Square Miles	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of County	Square Miles	Percent of Subtotal	Percent of County	Change	Percent Change
<b>Urban<sup>a</sup></b>								
Single-Family Residential .....	15.2	39.6	3.5	33.2	49.5	7.6	18.0	118.4
Multi-Family Residential <sup>b</sup> .....	0.3	0.8	0.1	1.7	2.6	0.4	1.4	466.7
Commercial .....	0.8	2.1	0.2	1.8	2.7	0.4	1.0	125.0
Industrial.....	0.8	2.1	0.2	2.1	3.1	0.5	1.3	162.5
Governmental and Institutional .....	1.6	4.1	0.3	2.1	3.1	0.5	0.5	31.3
Recreational.....	2.1	5.5	0.5	4.1	6.1	0.9	2.0	95.2
Transportation, Communications, and Utilities								
Streets and Highways .....	14.5	37.7	3.3	18.0	26.8	4.1	3.5	24.1
Other .....	2.1	5.5	0.5	2.4	3.6	0.6	0.3	14.3
Undeveloped Urban.....	1.0	2.6	0.2	1.7	2.5	0.4	0.7	70.0
Subtotal	38.4	100.0	8.8	67.1	100.0	15.4	28.7	74.7
<b>Nonurban</b>								
Agricultural.....	279.6	70.4	64.2	238.7	64.8	54.8	-40.9	-14.6
Woodlands .....	32.7	8.2	7.5	35.0	9.5	8.0	2.3	7.0
Wetlands.....	65.3	16.5	15.0	66.1	17.9	15.2	0.8	1.2
Water .....	6.4	1.6	1.5	6.9	1.9	1.6	0.5	7.8
Landfill and Extractive .....	1.7	0.4	0.4	2.1	0.5	0.5	0.4	23.5
Other Open Lands .....	11.6	2.9	2.6	19.8	5.4	4.5	8.2	70.7
Subtotal	397.3	100.0	91.2	368.6	100.0	84.6	-28.7	-7.2
<b>Total</b>	435.7	--	100.0	435.7	--	100.0	--	--

<sup>a</sup>Parking lots are included with the associated use.

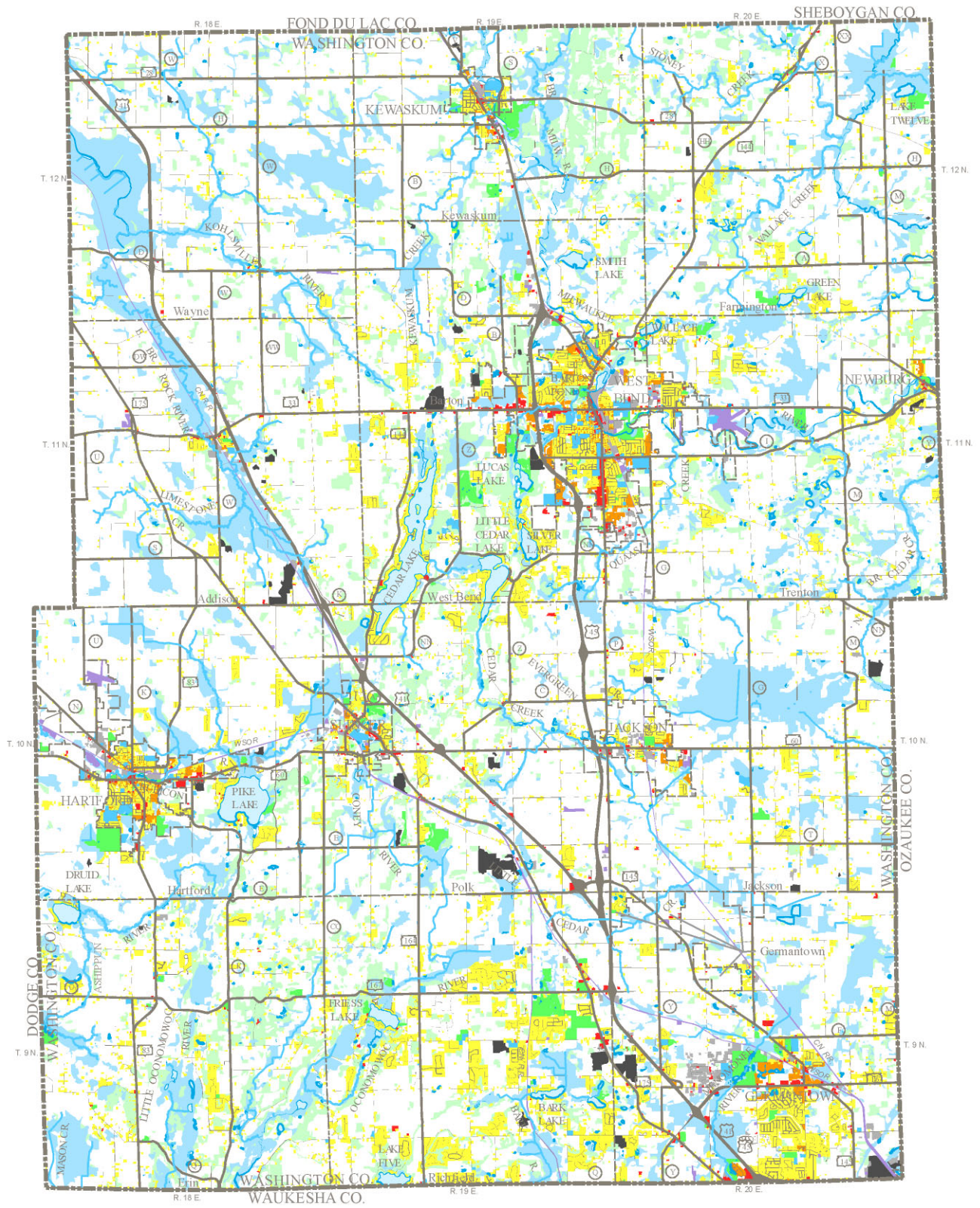
<sup>b</sup>Includes two-family residential.



Source: SEWRPC.

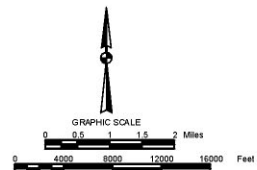


# Map 2

## GENERALIZED LAND USE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1995



- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL                   |  GOVERNMENTAL AND INSTITUTIONAL |  AGRICULTURAL LAND AND OTHER OPEN LANDS |
|  MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL                    |  RECREATIONAL                   |  SURFACEWATER                           |
|  COMMERCIAL                                  |  WETLANDS                       |  |
|  INDUSTRIAL                                  |  WOODLANDS                      |  |
|  TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION AND UTILITIES |  LANDFILL AND EXTRACTIVE        |  |



Source: SEWRPC.

Recreational land uses constituted the third largest urban land use category within the County in 1995, encompassing about 4.1 square miles, or about 6 percent of all urban land and about 1 percent of the total area of the County. These figures include only those areas that are developed for intensive recreational use, such as tennis courts, baseball diamonds, playfields, and accessory uses. Areas used for passive recreational purposes, such as hiking and nature study, are generally designated as open lands or woodlands. A description of park and open space sites within the County is presented in Chapter III. From 1970 to 1995, recreational land uses increased by 3.5 square miles, or about 24 percent.

Between 1970 and 1995 urban land uses have increased by 28.7 square miles, or about 75 percent. Residential and commercial land uses increased by about 125 percent; and industrial land uses increased by 163 percent. Lands in the governmental-institutional, recreational, and transportation-communication-utilities land use categories also increased significantly—by 31 percent, 95 percent, and 83 percent, respectively.

About 368.6 square miles, or about 85 percent, of the approximately 435.7 square miles within the County in 1995 were nonurban lands. Agriculture was the largest single nonurban land use in the County, accounting for about 238.7 square miles, or about 55 percent of the area of the County. Woodlands, wetlands, and surface water encompassed about 108.0 square miles, or about 25 percent of the County. The balance of the nonurban area was comprised of landfill and extractive areas and other open land, which encompassed about 21.9 square miles, or about 5 percent of the County.

Nonurban lands decreased by about 28.7 square miles or about 7 percent between 1970 and 1995. Most of this loss is attributable to the conversion of agricultural land to urban use. Agriculture land uses decreased by about 15 percent since 1970.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

An important recommendation of the adopted regional land use and park and open space plans is the preservation of the most important elements of the natural resource base of the Region. Since the preparation and adoption of the year 2010 Washington County park and open space plan in 1997, additional inventory information concerning the location and extent of natural resources has been collected. This section presents such information as it relates to Washington County.

### **Surface Water Resources**

Surface water resources, consisting of streams and lakes, form a particularly important element of the natural resource base. Surface water resources provide recreational opportunities, influence the physical development of the County, and enhance its aesthetic quality. Major surface water features within the County are shown on Map 3.

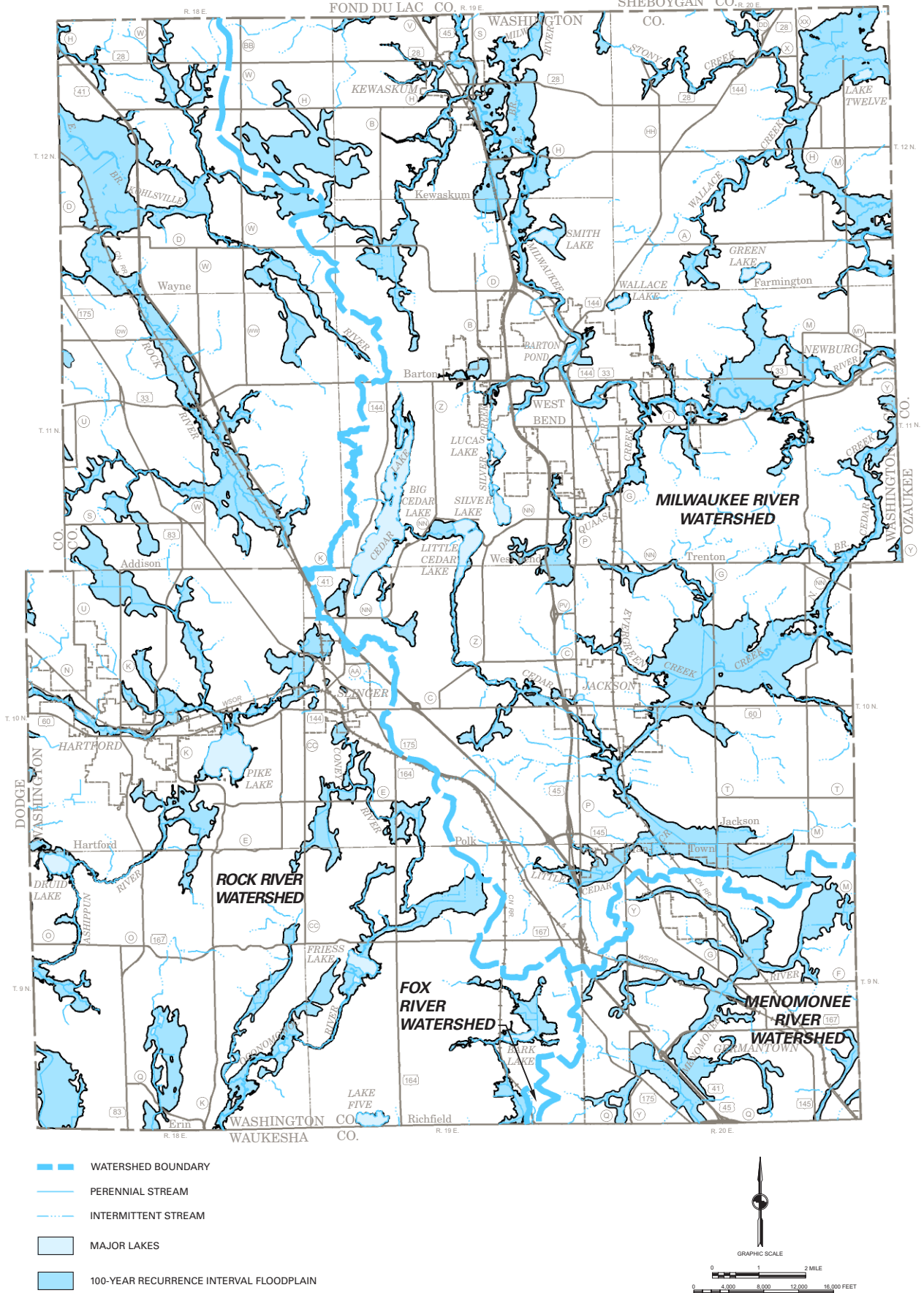
Lakes and streams are readily susceptible to degradation through improper land use development and management. Water quality can be degraded by excessive pollutant loads, including nutrient loads, which enter from malfunctioning and improperly located onsite sewage disposal systems, from sanitary sewer overflows, from construction and other urban runoff, and from careless agricultural practices. The water quality of lakes and streams may also be adversely affected by the excessive development of riparian areas and by the filling of peripheral wetlands, which remove valuable nutrient and sediment traps while adding nutrient and sediment sources. It is important that existing and future development in riparian areas be managed carefully to avoid further water quality degradation and to enhance the recreational and aesthetic values of surface water resources.

Major streams are defined as those which maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. There are approximately 220 miles of such streams in Washington County. The County includes portions of the Menomonee River, the Milwaukee River, and the Rock River watersheds, along with a very small portion of the Fox River Watershed. The major stream in the Menomonee River watershed, which is located in the southeast portion of the County, is the Menomonee River. Major streams in the Milwaukee River watershed, which generally includes the area in the eastern half of the County, include



Map 3

**SURFACE WATER RESOURCES AND FLOODLANDS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY**



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency and SEWRPC.

the Milwaukee River, East Branch Milwaukee River, North Branch Milwaukee River, Kewaskum Creek, Cedar Creek, Little Cedar Creek, North Branch Cedar Creek, Evergreen Creek, Quass Creek, Silver Creek, Stony Creek, and Wallace Creek. Major streams in the Rock River watershed, which generally includes the area in the western half of the County, are the East Branch Rock River, Ashippun River, Coney River, Kohlsville River, Limestone Creek, Mason Creek, Oconomowoc River, Little Oconomowoc River, and Rubicon River.

There are 13 major lakes—that is, lakes of 50 or more acres—located entirely within Washington County. Major lakes in the Milwaukee River watershed are Barton Pond, Big Cedar Lake, Little Cedar Lake, Green Lake, Lucas Lake, Silver Lake, Smith Lake, Lake Twelve, and Wallace Lake. Major lakes in the Rock River watershed are Bark Lake, Druid Lake, Friess Lake, and Pike Lake. One other major lake in the Rock River watershed, Lake Five, is located partially within Waukesha County. There are no major lakes within that portion of the Menomonee River watershed or the Fox River Watershed lying in Washington County. Together, these major lakes have a combined surface area of about 2,634 acres in Washington County. The three largest lakes are Big Cedar Lake, with a surface area of about 932 acres; Pike Lake, with a surface area of 522 acres; and Little Cedar Lake, with a surface area of about 246 acres.

### **Floodlands**

Floodlands are the wide, gently sloping areas contiguous to, and usually lying on both sides of, a stream channel. For planning and regulatory purposes, floodlands are normally defined as the areas, excluding the stream channel, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This is the flood that may be expected to be reached or exceeded in severity once in every 100 years, or stated another way, there is a 1 percent chance of this event being reached or exceeded in severity in any given year. Floodland areas are generally not well suited to urban development, not only because of the flood hazard, but also because of the presence of high water tables and, generally, of soils poorly suited to urban uses. Floodland areas often contain important natural resources, such as high-value woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat and, therefore, constitute prime locations for parks and open space areas. Every effort should be made to discourage incompatible urban development on floodlands, while encouraging compatible park and open space uses.

Floodlands, identified by the Commission and by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, are shown on Map 3. Approximately 64.8 square miles, or about 15 percent of the total area of the County, are located within the 100-year recurrence interval flood hazard area.

### **Wetlands**

The location and extent of wetlands in the County in 1995, as delineated by the Regional Planning Commission, are shown on Map 2. At that time, wetlands covered about 66.1 square miles, or about 15 percent of the County. Between 1970 and 1995, wetlands have increased by 0.8 square mile, or about 1 percent. The change in wetland areas, like changes in all land use categories, represents a net change. Thus the change in the wetland area reported is the net result of increases in certain areas—due, for example, to abandonment of agricultural drainage systems or to planned wetland restoration efforts—and decreases in other areas—due, for example, to drainage or filling activity.

Wetlands are important resources for the ecological health and diversity of the County. They provide essential breeding, nesting, resting, and feeding grounds and provide escape cover for many forms of fish and wildlife. Wetlands also contribute to flood control, because such areas naturally serve to store excess runoff temporarily, thereby tending to reduce peak flows. Wetlands may also serve as groundwater recharge and discharge areas. In addition, wetlands help to protect downstream water resources from siltation and pollution by trapping sediments, nutrients, and other water pollutants.

In view of the important natural functions of wetland areas, and their recreational value for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing, continued efforts should be made to protect these areas by discouraging wetland draining, filling, and urbanization, which can be costly in both monetary and environmental terms.

## **Woodlands**

Woodlands are defined as those upland areas one acre or more in size having 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 classified 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, the maintenance of woodlands within the County can contribute to sustaining a diversity of plant and animal life. The existing woodlands in the County, which required 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, as shown on Map 2, occur in scattered locations throughout the County. In 1995, woodland areas covered about 35.0 square miles, or about 8 percent of the County. These woodlands should be maintained for their scenic, wildlife habitat, recreational, and air and water quality protection values. Woodlands have increased by 2.3 square miles, or about 7 percent between 1970 and 1995. The change in woodland areas, like changes in all land use categories, represents net change. Thus the change in the woodland area reported is the net result of increases in certain areas—due, for example, to reforestation—and decreases in other areas—due, for example, to the clearing of woodlands.

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

A comprehensive inventory of natural and geological resources in the County was conducted by the Regional Planning Commission in 1994 as part of the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan prepared by the Commission.<sup>2</sup> The inventory systematically identified all remaining high-quality natural areas, critical species habitat, and sites having geological significance within the Region. Recommendations developed through that program for the protection and management of identified natural areas, critical species habitat, and geological sites have been incorporated into this park and open space plan.

### ***Natural Areas***

Natural areas are 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 sites are classified into one of three categories: natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1), natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2), and 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 from human activity, such as logging, agricultural use, and pollution; the commonness of the plant and animal community; unique natural features; the size of the site; and the educational value.

A total of 91 natural areas, encompassing about 15,970 acres, or about 6 percent of the County, were identified in Washington County in 1994. Of the 91 identified sites, seven are classified as NA-1 sites and encompass about 1,659 acres, 29 are classified as NA-2 sites and encompass about 6,350 acres, and 55 are classified as NA-3 sites and encompass about 7,961 acres. Map 4 depicts the locations of natural areas identified in 1994. Table 7 sets forth a description of each natural area.

### ***Critical Species Habitat***

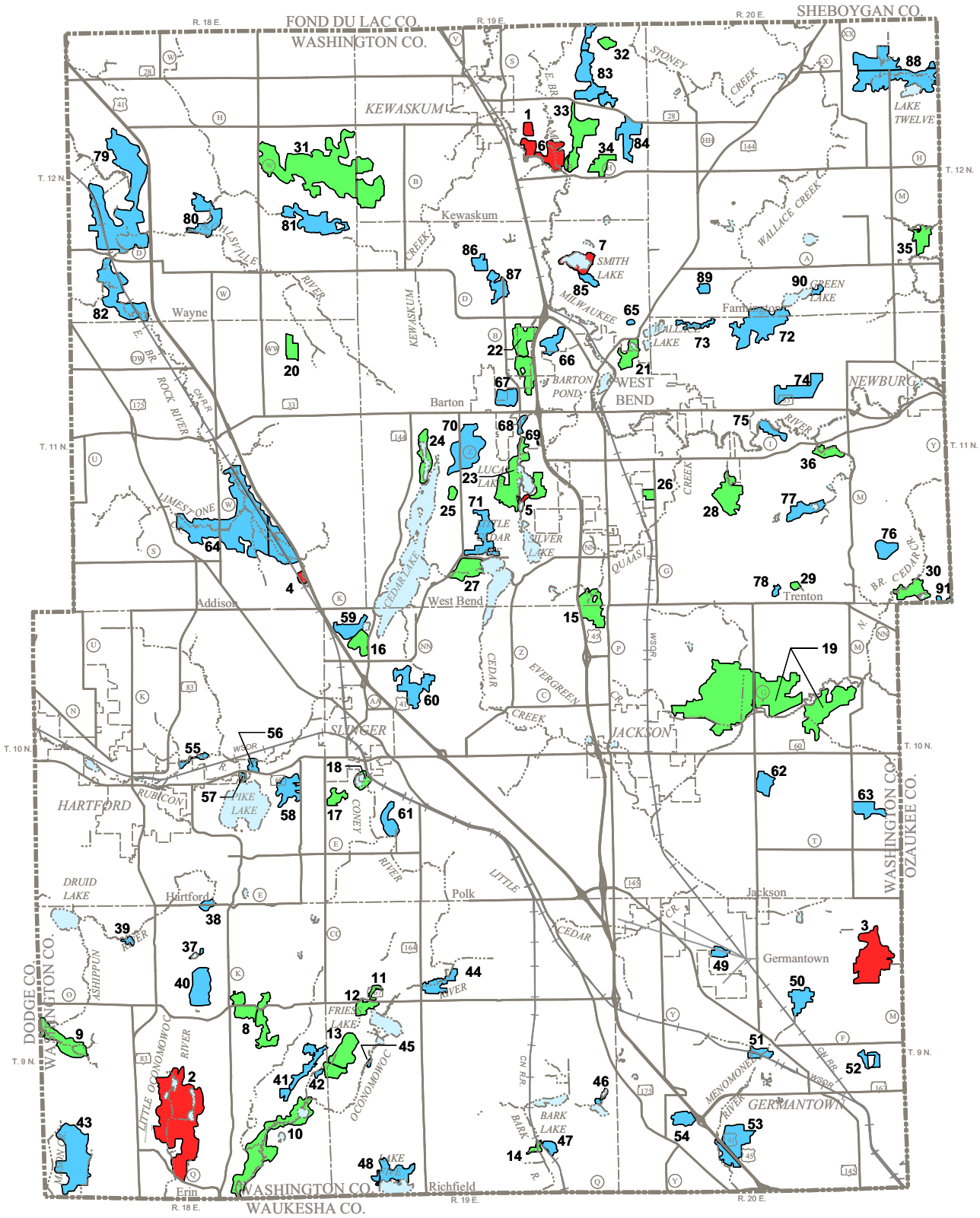
Critical species habitat sites are those areas, outside of natural areas, where the chief value lies in their ability to support rare, threatened, or endangered species. Such areas constitute “critical” habitat that is important to ensure survival of a particular species or group of species of special concern.

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<sup>2</sup>*SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997.*

Map 4

NATURAL AREAS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1994



- NATURAL AREA OF STATEWIDE OR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE (NA-1)
- NATURAL AREA OF COUNTYWIDE OR REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-2)
- NATURAL AREA OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (NA-3)

15 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 7)

Source: SEWRPC.

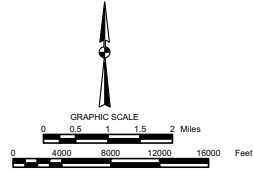


Table 7

## NATURAL AREAS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1994

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
1	Kewaskum Maple-Oak Woods State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA, RSH)	T12N, R19E Sections 10, 15 Town of Kewaskum	Department of Natural Resources and private	86	An extremely rich and relatively undisturbed southern mesic and dry-mesic forest, located just east of the Milwaukee River on undulating morainal topography. The northern two-thirds constitute a designated State Natural Area, which consists of two tracts separated by pine plantation. A number of regionally uncommon species are present. Kettle depressions hold water part of the year
2	Murphy Lake-McConville Lake Wetland Complex	NA-1 (RSH)	T9N, R18E Sections 21, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34 Town of Erin	The Nature Conservancy; Boy Scouts of America, Milwaukee County Council; and other private	890	Large wetland complex surrounding undeveloped hard-water seepage lakes that are located in a large glacial basin. The variety of plant communities includes shrub-carr, alder thicket, lowland hardwoods, sedge meadow, deep and shallow marsh, and both young and mature tamarack forest. Good to excellent quality overall
3	Germantown Swamp	NA-1	T9N, R20E Sections 1, 12 Village of Germantown	Village of Germantown and private	374	Located along the headwaters of the Menomonee River, this is a large low-lying woods that has apparently suffered only minimal human disturbance, although ditching near the perimeter has had some effect. This is predominantly a southern lowland hardwoods of silver and red maple, green ash, American elm, and basswood, but with substantial inclusions of northern wet-mesic forest of yellow birch, tamarack, and white cedar. At the north end is an upland stand of sugar maple and beech. The ground flora contains a mixture of northern and southern elements. The large size of the woods, together with its relatively undisturbed nature and unique combination of species, makes this a valuable site. A severe windstorm in late June 1991 toppled a large number of trees, mostly yellow birch and silver maple
4	Aurora Road Fen	NA-1 (RSH)	T11N, R18E Section 35 Town of Addison	Private	22	High-quality calcareous fen, with sedge meadow and tamarack relict associated with cold trout stream that is tributary to the Rock River. Location of swamp metal-mark, a State-designated threatened butterfly species. Threatened by surrounding incompatible land use
5	Paradise Lake Fen	NA-1 (RSH)	T11N, R19E Sections 22, 27 Town of West Bend	Private	22	Undeveloped nine-acre lake with good-quality calcareous sedge mat and deep and shallow marsh
6	Milwaukee River Floodplain Forest State Natural Area	NA-1 (SNA)	T12N, R19E Sections 14, 15 Town of Kewaskum	Department of Natural Resources and private	135	One of the best riverine forests remaining in the Region. Quality varies, but some areas are relatively undisturbed. Upland "islands" contribute to a rich and diverse ground flora
7	Smith Lake and Wetlands	NA-1 (RSH)	T12N, R19E Sections 26, 35 Town of Barton	Private	130	Shallow lake rich in aquatics bordered by sedge meadow, tamaracks, and good-quality calcareous fens on northeast and east sides
--	Subtotal	NA-1	7 sites	--	1,659	--
8	Holy Hill Woods	NA-2	T9N, R18E Sections 2, 11, 14 Town of Erin	Carmelite Fathers and other private	256	Moderate- to good-quality, medium-aged southern mesic and dry-mesic woods located on gently sloping to steep interlobate kettle moraine topography. Dominated by sugar maple, red oak, red maple, white ash, white oak, and basswood. Total wooded area is large, but dissected by highways. However, it remains as one of the larger, better-quality upland hardwood forests locally
9	Toland Swamp	NA-2	T9N, R18E Sections 18, 19, 20 Town of Erin	Private	193	Large, wooded wetland mixture of shrub-carr, lowland hardwoods, and tamarack relict, with a history of disturbance

Table 7 (continued)

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
10	Loew Lake Wetland Complex	NA-2 (RSH)	T9N, R18E Sections 24, 25, 26, 34, 35 Town of Erin	Department of Natural Resources and private	481	Undeveloped drainage lake and wetland corridor associated with the upper Oconomowoc River. The diverse wetland communities are in generally good condition, and include sedge meadow, lowland hardwoods, emergent aquatics, shrub-carr, and tamarack swamp. Swamp metalmark butterfly and queen snake have been documented
11	Daniel Boone Bogs	NA-2 (RSH)	T9N, R19E Sections 7, 8 Town of Richfield	Daniel Boone Conservation Club	21	A pair of good-quality, relatively undisturbed sphagnum bogs located within a dry-mesic forest matrix. A number of uncommon species are present, including common bog arrow-grass ( <i>Triglochin maritimum</i> ), a State-designated special concern species
12	Glacier Hills Park Bogs and Upland Woods	NA-2 (RSH)	T9N, R19E Sections 7, 17, 18 Town of Richfield	Washington County and private	60	Steep, interlobate kettle moraine topography supporting two good-quality bogs in kettle hole depressions. Southern mesic and dry-mesic hardwood forest covers the surrounding uplands, with small stands of dry hill prairie containing the State-designated threatened kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> )
13	Friess Lake Tamarack Swamp	NA-2	T9N, R18E Section 24 Town of Erin T9N, R19E Sections 18, 19 Town of Richfield	Private	228	Large, mostly wooded, wetland complex, consisting of young to medium-aged tamarack swamp, shrub-carr, and shallow marsh. South portion divided by high east-west crevasse fill
14	Colgate Fen-Meadow	NA-2 (RSH)	T9N, R19E Sections 26, 35 Town of Richfield	Private	23	Good-quality fen-sedge meadow complex, with tamarack relict, bordering the headwaters of the Bark River
15	Mud Lake Swamp	NA-2 (RSH)	T10N, R19E Section 1 Town of Polk T11N, R19E Section 35 Town of West Bend	Private and Wisconsin Department of Transportation	186	Good-quality, undeveloped calcareous head-water lake surrounded by lowland hardwoods and tamarack swamp. Fen and bog floral elements are present. Adversely affected by construction of USH 45
16	Big Cedar Lake Bog	NA-2	T10N, R19E Section 6 Town of Polk	Private	89	Good-quality, relatively large sphagnum bog, surrounded by a tamarack fringe. Regionally uncommon species are present. Some past attempts at ditching
17	Mud Lake Upland Woods	NA-2	T10N, R19E Section 19 Town of Polk	Private	54	Relatively undisturbed southern dry-mesic woods on rolling morainal topography. Dominated by red and white oaks, with an admixture of red maple, sugar maple, basswood, and white ash. Few exotics present. Threatened by encroaching residential development. A good example of this forest type
18	Mud Lake Meadow	NA-2 (RSH)	T10N, R19E Section 19 Town of Polk	Private	59	Good-quality open meadow to the east and north of a small, shallow, alkaline seepage lake. Dominated by wire-grass sedges. Fen elements are present, as well as a few scattered patches of tamaracks. A site of unusual species composition
19	Jackson Swamp	NA-2 (RSH)	T10N, R20E Sections 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17 Town of Jackson	Department of Natural Resources and private	1,571	Large forested wetland, consisting mainly of disturbed lowland hardwood swamp with green ash and red and silver maples. There are smaller, higher-quality inclusions of white cedar-dominated northern wet-mesic forest. Changes in hydrology have allowed reed canary grass to invade canopy gaps. The large forest interior is invaluable for a number of native breeding birds
20	St. Anthony Beech Woods	NA-2	T11N, R18E Section 2 Town of Addison	Private	68	An old-growth remnant of the once-extensive mesic woods, dominated by mature beech and sugar maple. Located on a moderate, east-facing slope. Not undisturbed, but in good condition



Table 7 (continued)

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
21	Lac Lawrann Conservancy Upland Woods and Wetlands	NA-2 (RSH)	T11N, R19E Sections 1, 12 Town of Barton	City of West Bend and private	101	A good-quality wet- and dry-mesic hardwood forest, with a deep and shallow marsh, shrub-carr, and floating sedge mat around a pond. The area contains a good example of kame and esker formation. Location of the State-designated threatened forked aster ( <i>Aster furcatus</i> )
22	Blue Hills Woods	NA-2 (RSH)	T11N, R19E Section 3 City of West Bend, Town of Barton Section 10 Town of Barton	City of West Bend, Department of Natural Resources, and private	266	Relatively large, good-quality mesic and dry mesic woods on glacial topography of significant relief. Recovering from past grazing and selective cutting. Recently disturbed by construction of USH 45 along east edge
23	Silverbrook Lake Woods	NA-2 (RSH)	T11N, R19E Sections 15, 21, 22, 27 Town of West Bend	Girl Scouts of Milwaukee Area, Inc., Washington County, Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, and other private	404	A large area surrounding Silverbrook Lake, consisting mainly of good-quality southern mesic to dry-mesic hardwoods. Fairly diverse ground flora. Low area contains tamaracks and lowland hardwoods. Residences are beginning to encroach on south and west. Important to preserve as an intact block of relatively contiguous woods
24	Gilbert Lake Tamarack Swamp	NA-2	T11N, R19E Sections 17, 20 Town of West Bend	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation and other private	130	A lightly developed lake surrounded by a wetland complex of tamarack swamp, bog, sedge meadow, and cattail marsh
25	Hacker Road Bog	NA-2	T11N, R19E Section 20 Town of West Bend	Department of Natural Resources	25	Good-quality sphagnum bog, bordered by sedge meadow, shallow marsh, and shrub-carr
26	Muth Woods	NA-2 (RSH)	T11N, R19E Section 24 City of West Bend	Private	30	A good-quality, medium-aged stand of southern mesic hardwoods, with an exceptionally rich and diverse ground flora that includes some uncommon species. A depression near the center of the woods contains lowland hardwoods
27	Little Cedar Lake Wetlands	NA-2	T11N, R19E Sections 32, 33 Town of West Bend	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation	137	Extensive wetlands at west end of Little Cedar Lake, containing good-quality deep and shallow marsh, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, tamarack relicts, and lowland hardwoods
28	Schoenbeck Woods	NA-2	T11N, R20E Sections 20, 29 Town of Trenton	Private	195	Relatively large, moderate- to good-quality forested tract, consisting of lowland hardwoods, shrub-carr, southern mesic forest, and southern dry-mesic forest
29	Bellin Bog	NA-2	T11N, R20E Section 33 Town of Trenton	Private	17	A good-quality sedge mat and tamarack swamp, with many fen elements, that border a shallow, undeveloped pond
30	Reinartz Cedar Swamp	NA-2	T11N, R20E Sections 35, 36 Town of Trenton	Private	119	Good-quality northern wet-mesic forest, dominated by white cedar, tamarack, yellow and paper birch, red maple, and black ash. A number of species with more northerly affinities are present. Uplands to the east support a disturbed mesic woods
31	Wayne Swamp	NA-2	T12N, R18E Sections 13, 14, 23, 24 Town of Wayne T12N, R19E Sections 18, 19 Town of Kewaskum	Private	1,126	A large depression in rolling moraine supports several wetland communities, including second-growth lowland hardwoods, northern wet-mesic forest, shrub-carr, and tamarack-fen, with southern mesic forest on isolated uplands
32	Kettle Moraine Drive Bog	NA-2	T12N, R19E Section 1 Town of Kewaskum	Department of Natural Resources and private	39	A good-quality forested bog of tamarack and larch spruce over a layer of ericads, with yellow and paper birch established in older areas. A number of regionally uncommon species are present
33	Glacial Trail Forest	NA-2	T12N, R19E Sections 11, 14 Town of Kewaskum	Department of Natural Resources and private	223	One of the largest intact tracts of contiguous southern mesic and dry-mesic forest remaining in the Region. Located on steep, irregular kettle moraine topography. Good overall quality; recovering from past selective cutting. Important to maintain as intact as possible

Table 7 (continued)

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
34	St. Michael's Woods	NA-2	T12N, R19E Sections 13, 14, 24 Town of Kewaskum	Department of Natural Resources and private	84	Rolling interlobate moraine supporting southern mesic to dry-mesic hardwoods, dominated by sugar maple, red oak, and basswood. Moderately rich ground flora. Relatively recent selective logging
35	North Branch Woods	NA-2	T12N, R20E Section 25 Town of Farmington	Private	96	Good-quality wooded tract bordering the North Branch of the Milwaukee River. Consists of southern mesic and wet-mesic hardwoods. Threatened by future logging operations
36	Myra Wetlands	NA-2	T11N, R20E Section 15 Town of Trenton	Private	69	Good-quality wetland complex of shallow lake, marsh, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, and lowland hardwoods
--	Subtotal	NA-2	29 sites	--	6,350	--
37	Hults Bog and Marsh	NA-3	T9N, R18E Sections 3, 10 Town of Erin	Private	14	Small, moderate-quality sphagnum bog-tamarack swamp and associated shallow marsh. Marsh is stopover spot for migrating waterfowl
38	CTH E Wetlands	NA-3	T9N, R18E Section 3 Town of Erin T10N, R18E Section 34 Town of Hartford	Private	28	Wetland complex of shrub-carr, sedge meadow, and shallow marsh that has suffered from past disturbance
39	Erin Sedge Meadow	NA-3	T9N, R18E Sections 4, 5 Town of Erin	Private	17	Moderate-quality sedge meadow
40	Thompson Swamp	NA-3	T9N, R18E Section 10 Town of Erin	Private	182	Large but disturbed wetland complex of lowland hardwoods, shrub-carr, sedge meadow, and tamarack relict. Contains some northern species, including white pine
41	Donegal Road Woods	NA-3	T9N, R18E Sections 13, 24 Town of Erin T9N, R19E Section 18 Town of Richfield	Department of Natural Resources and private	137	Large, irregularly shaped dry-mesic woods on steep, southeast-facing slopes
42	St. Augustine Road Sedge Meadow	NA-3	T9N, R18E Section 24 Town of Erin	Private	11	Good-quality southern sedge meadow
43	Mason Creek Swamp	NA-3	T9N, R18E Sections 30, 31 Town of Erin	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and private	432	Large lowland hardwoods area
44	CTH J Swamp	NA-3	T9N, R19E Section 9 Town of Richfield	Kettle Moraine Audubon Society and other private	100	Moderate- to good-quality complex of shrub-carr, lowland hardwoods, and mesic hardwoods, with scattered spring seepages
45	Hubertus Road Sedge Meadow	NA-3	T9N, R19E Section 19 Town of Richfield	Private	7	Good-quality southern sedge meadow bordering the Oconomowoc River
46	Amy Bell Lake and Lowlands	NA-3	T9N, R19E Sections 24, 25 Town of Richfield	YMCA	20	Small, undeveloped lake with a narrow bog fringe, associated with a tamarack relict and shrub-carr that have suffered from past disturbance
47	Colgate Shrub-Carr	NA-3	T9N, R19E Sections 26, 35 Town of Richfield	Private	38	Shrub-carr surrounding small, shallow lake; disturbed by access road
48	Lake Five Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T9N, R19E Sections 31, 32 Town of Richfield	Private	152	Low- to moderate-quality mesic, dry-mesic, and xeric woods on steep kettle moraine terrain on north side of Lake Five. Depression contains small seepage pond and disturbed wetland plant communities. Small patches of dry hill prairie are located within the xeric woods and contain the State-designated threatened kittentails ( <i>Besseyia bullii</i> ). Threatened by surrounding development
49	Faber-Pribyl Woods	NA-3	T9N, R20E Sections 4, 9 Village of Germantown	Private	39	Small but good-quality remnant of mesic woods which still exhibits characteristics of an old-growth forest. Dominated by sugar maple and basswood, with some beech. Adjoining wet-mesic woods to north are of lesser quality

Table 7 (continued)

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
50	Hoelz Swamp	NA-3	T9N, R20E Sections 10, 11, 14, 15 Village of Germantown	Private	109	A moderate-quality lowland hardwoods within the headwaters area of the Menomonee River. Dominated by silver and red maple and yellow birch, with some northern forest understory elements. Valuable for watershed protection
51	Lake Park Swamp	NA-3	T9N, R20E Sections 21, 22 Village of Germantown	Village of Germantown and private	54	A disturbed silver maple-dominated lowland hardwood forest, important for protection of two intermittent streams tributary to the Menomonee River
52	Schoessow Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T9N, R20E Section 24 Village of Germantown	Private	51	A relatively small but good-quality mix upland woods alternating with wet and wet-mesic woods in shallow depressions. Trees, mostly sugar maple, green ash, and basswood, are of medium-age. Very good species diversity, including two State-designated special concern species: American gromwell ( <i>Lithospermum latifolium</i> ) and goldenseal ( <i>Hydrastis canadensis</i> ). Threatened by residential subdivisions
53	USH 41 Swamp	NA-3	T9N, R20E Sections 28, 33 Village of Germantown	Private	228	An extensive floodplain forest dominated by silver maple, with green ash, black ash, and American elm. Due to Dutch elm disease, dissection by USH 41-45, a logging history, and artificial drainage, its ecological value is low. Important for protection of Menomonee River tributaries
54	Kleinman Swamp	NA-3	T9N, R20E Section 29 Village of Germantown	State of Wisconsin and private	71	Lowland hardwood forest of silver maple and some yellow birch. Low ecological value
55	Rubicon Lowlands	NA-3	T10N, R18E Sections 15, 21, 22 Town of Hartford	Washington County and private	30	Moderate-quality southern sedge meadow along the Rubicon River
56	STH 60 Swamp	NA-3	T10N, R18E Sections 14, 23 Town of Hartford	Private	32	Lowland hardwood swamp of moderate quality, containing some northern elements. Dominated by yellow birch and black ash
57	Pike Lake Sedge Meadow	NA-3 (RSH)	T10N, R18E Section 23 Town of Hartford	Wisconsin Department of Transportation and private	14	Good-quality southern sedge meadow and shallow marsh at north end of Pike Lake
58	Pike Lake Woods	NA-3	T10N, R18E Section 24 Town of Hartford	Department of Natural Resources	131	Low- to medium-quality dry-mesic woods that has suffered from past disturbance, including grazing and selective logging. The irregular kettle moraine topography includes a prominent wooded kame at the southeast corner
59	Mueller Woods	NA-3	T10N, R19E Section 6 Town of Polk	State of Wisconsin and private	97	Relatively large dry-mesic woods of moderate quality, located on rolling moraine with some deep kettle holes. Evidence of past grazing and selective logging. Site has recently been disturbed by road and residence in interior, and highway construction along western border
60	Slinger Upland Woods	NA-3	T10N, R19E Sections 8, 9 Town of Polk	Private	196	Relatively large area of disturbed southern mesic and dry-mesic hardwoods on kettle and kame topography
61	Heritage Trails Bog	NA-3	T10N, R19E Sections 20, 29 Town of Polk	Washington County and private	94	Relatively undisturbed tamarack bog within an interlobate morainal depression. Other associated communities include lowland hardwoods and shrub-carr
62	Kowalske Swamp	NA-3	T10N, R20E Section 22 Town of Jackson	Private	83	Young to medium-aged northern wet-mesic hardwoods, disturbed by past selective cutting and windthrow. The ground flora is relatively diverse. A knoll at the northeast corner supports upland mesic woods
63	Sherman Road Swamp	NA-3	T10N, R20E Section 25 Town of Jackson	Private	96	A lowland hardwood swamp dominated by red maple, green ash, and American elm on level terrain
64	Allenton Swamp	NA-3	T11N, R18E Sections 22, 26, 27, 28, 35 Town of Addison	Department of Natural Resources and private	1,091	Large, disturbed wetland complex along the Rock River, including southern sedge meadow, lowland hardwoods, shrub-carr, emergent aquatics, and relict tamaracks

**Table 7 (continued)**

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
65	Newark Road Wetland	NA-3	T11N, R19E Section 1 Town of Barton	Private	9	A kettle-hole wetland
66	Sunset Park Wetlands	NA-3	T11N, R19E Sections 2, 3 City of West Bend	Private	85	Disturbed wetland complex containing shallow marsh, fresh (wet) meadow, and a good stand of tag alder ( <i>Alnus rugosa</i> )
67	Albecker Park Wetlands	NA-3	T11N, R19E Sections 9, 10 City of West Bend	Washington County and private	91	Shallow marsh and disturbed fresh (wet) meadow complex with some shrub-carr and scattered lowland hardwoods. Disturbances include water-level changes due to past draining efforts and filling
68	Silver Creek Marsh	NA-3	T11N, R19E Section 15 City of West Bend	Washington County and private	27	Good-quality deep and shallow marsh and sedge meadow
69	University Fen	NA-3 (RSH)	T11N, R19E Section 15 City of West Bend	University of Wisconsin Center-Washington County	1	A small, moderate-quality calcareous fen and lowland hardwood forest recently disturbed by adjacent highway construction
70	CTH Z Upland Woods and Wetlands	NA-3 (RSH)	T11N, R19E Sections 16, 17, 20, 21 Town of West Bend	Cedar Lake Conservation Foundation and other private	281	Mature mesic hardwood forest on rough interlobate moraine, dominated by sugar maple, red oak, beech, and basswood. The moderately rich herb layer includes several uncommon species. Threatened by ongoing logging operations. Adjacent large wetland complex of shrub-carr, sedge meadow shallow marsh, and tamarack relict is divided by CTH Z
71	Ziegler Woods	NA-3	T11N, R19E Section 28 Town of West Bend	Private	170	Large tract of southern mesic to dry-mesic hardwoods, dominated by sugar maple and red oak, on irregular glacial terrain. Past disturbance includes grazing and selective logging; more recently, wide horse and all-terrain-vehicle trails have degraded the site, allowing a number of exotic species to invade
72	Sandy Knoll Swamp	NA-3	T11N, R20E Sections 4, 5 Town of Trenton T12N, R20E Section 33 Town of Farmington	Washington County and private	339	Large, patchy lowland hardwood forest with areas of tamarack. Some portions contain good-quality wet-mesic forest ground flora. Past disturbances include selective cutting and clear-cutting, and water-level changes due to ditching
73	Sandy Knoll Wetlands	NA-3	T11N, R20E Sections 5, 6 Town of Trenton	Washington County and private	47	A small but good-quality wetland complex containing tamaracks, lowland hardwoods, shrub-carr, shallow marsh, and sedge fen associated with a spring-fed stream
74	Poplar Road Lacustrine Forest	NA-3	T11N, R20E Sections 9, 10 Town of Trenton	Private	177	A disturbed lowland hardwoods stand
75	Fellenz Hardwood Swamp	NA-3	T11N, R20E Section 16 Town of Trenton	Private	58	A southern wet to wet-mesic hardwood forest, located within the Milwaukee River floodplain. Disturbances include selective cutting and excessive siltation
76	Paradise Drive Tamarack Swamp	NA-3 (RSH)	T11N, R20E Sections 26, 35 Town of Trenton	Washington County and private	81	Northern wet-mesic forest, tamarack swamp, and shrub-carr of moderate quality
77	Camp Wowitan Wetlands	NA-3 (RSH)	T11N, R20E Sections 21, 22, 27, 28 Town of Trenton	YMCA and other private	109	Relatively undeveloped lake and wetland complex with a well-developed esker. A good-quality calcareous fen, tamarack swamp, and mesic forest occur on the site
78	Schalla Tamarack Swamp	NA-3	T11N, R20E Section 33 Town of Trenton	Private	16	A tamarack swamp
79	Theresa Swamp	NA-3	T12N, R18E Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30 Town of Wayne	Department of Natural Resources and private	944	Lowland hardwood forest bordering the Rock River, composed of large silver maple, plus black ash, green ash, American elm, and swamp white oak. Canopy has been opened by Dutch elm disease

**Table 7 (continued)**

Number on Map 4	Area Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Ownership	Size (acres)	Description and Comments
80	Wayne Creek Swamp	NA-3	T12N, R18E Sections 21, 22, 27, 28 Town of Wayne	Private	178	Disturbed lowland hardwood forest along Wayne Creek. Openings in canopy from Dutch elm disease
81	Stockcar Swamp	NA-3 (RSH)	T12N, R18E Sections 23, 24, 25, 26 Town of Wayne	Private	240	Forested wetland of northern lowland hardwoods, tamarack-fen, shrub-carr, and alder thicket, of moderately good quality. A number of uncommon species are present
82	Rock River Marsh	NA-3	T12N, R18E Sections 30, 31, 32 Town of Wayne	Department of Natural Resources and private	326	Shallow marsh within the Rock River floodplain, dominated by cattails. Bisected by railway right-of-way
83	Kettle Moraine Drive Woods	NA-3 (RSH)	T12N, R19E Sections 2, 11, 12 Town of Kewaskum T13N, R19E Section 35 Town of Auburn	Department of Natural Resources	287 (plus 30 in Fond du Lac County)	Long, north-south-trending, irregularly shaped southern mesic and dry-mesic forest that is recovering from past grazing and selective cutting. Located on steep-sided, gravelly ridges of the interlobate kettle moraine. Forest is mostly second-growth. Important as linkage between other large forest blocks to the north and south
84	STH 28 Woods	NA-3	T12N, R19E Sections 12, 13 Town of Kewaskum	Private	145	Good-quality southern mesic hardwoods, dominated by sugar maple, ironwood, and basswood, located on kettle moraine topography. Recent cutting, roads, trails, and new homesite construction are threatening the integrity of the woods
85	Smith Lake Swamp	NA-3	T12N, R19E Section 35 Town of Barton	Private	38	Mixed lowland hardwood and conifer swamp bordering Smith Lake
86	Lange Hardwoods	NA-3	T12N, R19E Section 28 Town of Barton	Private	53	Good-quality southern mesic hardwood forest on steep kettle moraine topography
87	Wildwood Hardwood Swamp	NA-3	T12N, R19E Sections 33, 34 Town of Barton	Private	98	A lowland hardwood forest area
88	Milwaukee River Swamp	NA-3	T12N, R20E Sections 1, 2, 11, 12 Town of Farmington	Private	546	A large but disturbed wetland complex of lowland hardwoods, northern wet-mesic forest, shrub-carr, and sedge meadow bordering the Milwaukee River
89	Lizard Mound Woods	NA-3	T12N, R20E Sections 31, 32 Town of Farmington	Washington County	28	Mature dry-mesic hardwoods dominated by sugar maple, red oak, basswood, white ash, beech, and white oak. Contains Indian effigy mounds of statewide significance
90	Green Lake Bog	NA-3	T12N, R20E Section 34 Town of Farmington	Private	19	Small but good-quality undeveloped bog lake bordered by sphagnum mat, conifer swamp, and mesic hardwoods
91	Cedar-Sauk Low Woods	NA-3	T11N, R20E Section 36 Town of Trenton T10N, R21E Sections 5, 6 Town of Cedarburg T11N, R21E Sections 31, 32 Town of Saukville	Private	14 (plus 204 in Ozaukee County)	Lowland hardwood forest of silver maple, green and black ash, and American elm, with evidence of abundant past disturbances, including grazing, power-line right-of-way, and two highways. Stream flows through area from Cedarburg Bog
--	Subtotal	NA-3	55 sites	--	7,961	--
--	Total	All Natural Areas	91 sites	--	15,970	--

<sup>a</sup>NA-1 identifies Natural Area sites of statewide or greater significance.

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

NA-3 identifies Natural Area sites of local significance.

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

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

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

A total of 13 sites supporting threatened or rare plant or bird species have been identified in Washington County. These sites, which together encompass an area of about 332 acres, are shown on Map 5 and described in Table 8. A total of 60 aquatic sites supporting threatened or rare fish, herptile, or mussel species have also been identified in the County (see Map 5 and Table 9). There are 187.9 stream miles and 2,760 lake acres of critical aquatic habitat in Washington County.

### ***Geological Sites***

A total of 11 sites of geological importance, including four bedrock geology sites and seven glacial features, were identified in the County in 1994. The geological sites included in the inventory were selected on the basis of scientific importance, significance in industrial history, natural aesthetics, ecological qualities, educational value, and public access potential. The 11 sites selected in Washington County include two sites of statewide significance (GA-1), four sites of countywide or regional significance (GA-2), and five sites of local significance (GA-3). Together, these sites encompass about 5,949 acres in Washington County, with the Kettle Moraine Interlobate Moraine accounting for the vast majority of the area. Map 6 depicts the locations of geological sites identified in 1994. Table 10 sets forth a description of each site.

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

One of the most important tasks completed under the regional planning program for southeastern Wisconsin has been the identification and delineation of those areas in the Region in which concentrations of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base occur. The preservation of such areas in essentially natural, open uses is vital to maintaining a high level of environmental quality in the Region, protecting its natural heritage and beauty, and providing recreational opportunities in scenic outdoor settings.

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

The delineation on a map of the natural resource and resource-related elements specified above results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow, elongated areas which have been termed “environmental corridors” by the Regional Planning Commission.<sup>3</sup> Primary environmental corridors are a minimum of 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors typically connect with the primary environmental corridors and are at least 100 acres in size and one mile in length. Areas at least five acres in size which contain important natural resource base elements but are separated physically from primary and secondary environmental corridors by intensive urban or agricultural land uses have also been identified and have been termed “isolated natural resource areas”. Environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas within Washington County in 1995 are shown on Map 7. At that time, such areas encompassed about 119.7 square miles (including about 6.6 square miles of surface water) or about 27 percent of the County.

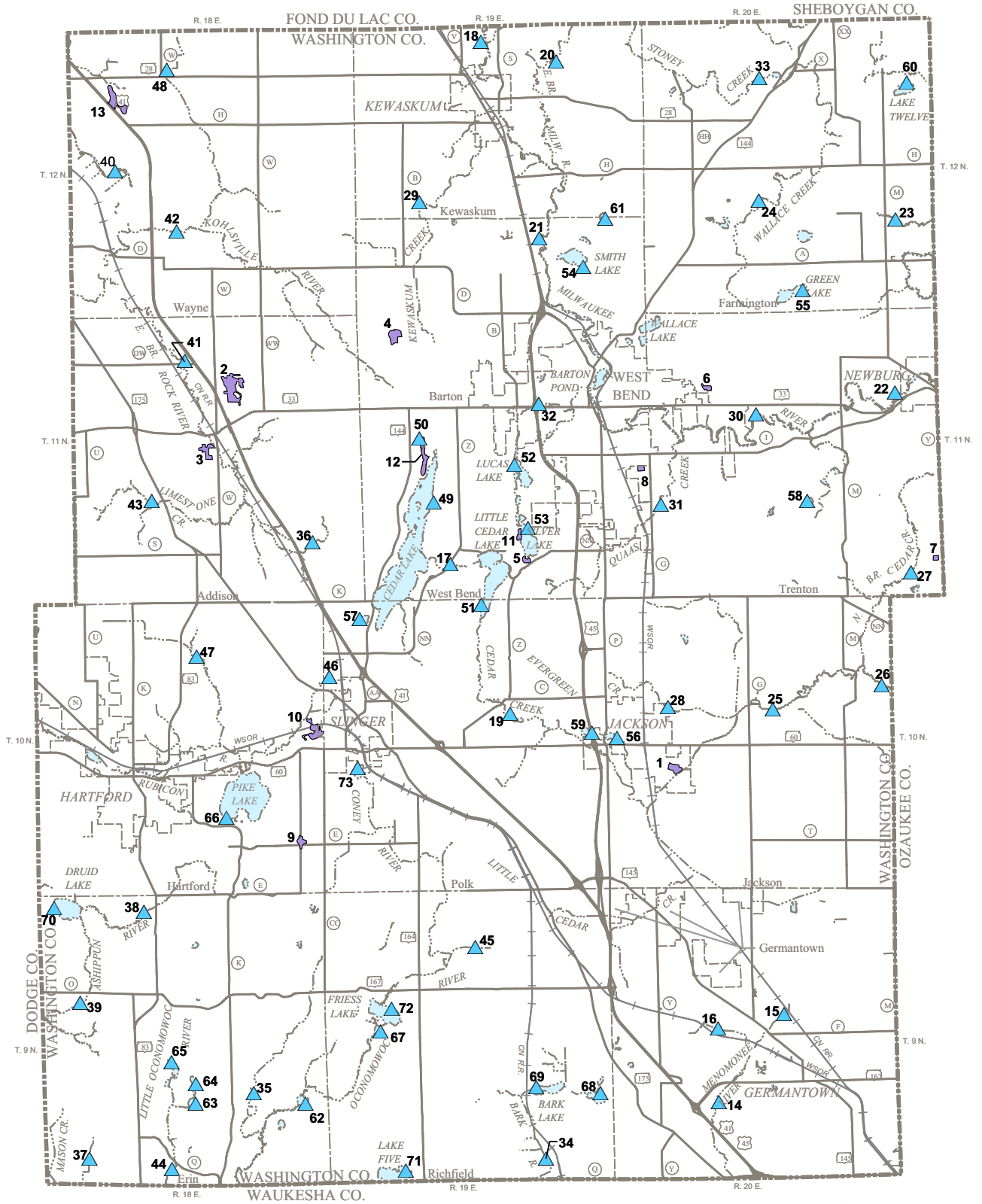
In any consideration of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, it is important to note that the preservation of such resources serves many beneficial purposes in addition to protecting the important natural resources that make up the corridors. Corridor lands provide areas for the storage of flood waters away from homes and other developed areas; help to protect water quality by filtering sediment and fertilizer from runoff before it enters surface waters; provide wildlife habitat and corridors for the movement of animals; and contribute to the scenic beauty of the Region. Excluding urban development from environmental corridors helps to prevent problems such as water pollution, wet and flooded basements, and building and pavement failures.

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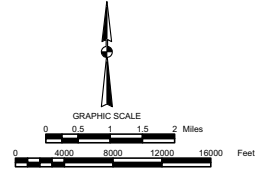
<sup>3</sup>A detailed description of the process of refining the delineation of environmental corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin is presented in SEWRPC Technical Record, Vol. 4, No. 2 (March 1981), pp. 1-21.

Map 5

CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES AND CRITICAL AQUATIC HABITAT AREAS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1994



- CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT AREA
- CRITICAL AQUATIC HABITAT AREA
- 10** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 8 AND TABLE 9)



Source: SEWRPC.

**Table 8**

**CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES LOCATED OUTSIDE NATURAL AREAS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1994**

Number on Map 5	Site Name and Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Location	Site Area (acres)	Ownership	Species of Concern <sup>b</sup>
1	Jackson Woods (CSH-P)	T10N, R20E, Section 20	24	Village of Jackson and private	American gromwell ( <i>Lithospermum latifolium</i> ) (R)
2	St. Anthony Maple Woods (CSH-P)	T11N, R18E, Section 10	90	Private	American gromwell ( <i>Lithospermum latifolium</i> ) (R)
3	Doll Woods (CSH-P)	T11N, R18E, Section 16	22	Private	American gromwell ( <i>Lithospermum latifolium</i> ) (R)
4	Riesch Woods (CSH-P)	T11N, R19E, Section 6	34	Private	American gromwell ( <i>Lithospermum latifolium</i> ) (R)
5	Silver Lake Swamp (CSH-P)	T11N, R19E, Section 34	10	Private	Showy lady's slipper ( <i>Cypripedium reginae</i> ) (R)
6	Cameron Property (CSH-P)	T11N, R20E, Section 8	12	Private	Small yellow lady's slipper ( <i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> ) (R)
7	Fechters Woods (CSH-P)	T11N, R20E, Section 36	6	Private	Golden seal ( <i>Hydrastis canadensis</i> ) (R)
8	High School Woods (CSH-P)	T11N, R19E, Section 24	7	West Bend School District	Ginseng ( <i>Panax quinquefolius</i> ) (R)
9	Unnamed Wetland (CSH-B)	T10N, R18E, Section 25	17	Private	Black tern (R) (Colony)
10	Unnamed Wetland (CSH-B)	T10N, R18E, Section 13	40	Private	Black tern (R) (Colony)
11	Silver Lake (CSH-B)	T11N, R19E, Section 27	7	Private	Red-shouldered hawk (T)
12	Gilbert Lake (CSH-B)	T11N, R19E, Sections 17, 20	10 <sup>c</sup>	Private	Black Tern (R) (Colony)
13	Unnamed Wetland (CSH-B)	T12N, R18E, Section 7	53	Private	Great egret (T)
Total	--	--	332	--	--

<sup>a</sup>CSH-P identifies a critical plant species habitat site; CSH-B identifies a critical bird species habitat site.

<sup>b</sup>"R" refers to species designated as rare or special concern; "T" refers to species designated as threatened.

<sup>c</sup>About 100 acres of this 110 acre site are within the Gilbert Lake Natural Area.

Source: SEWRPC.

In addition, because of the many interacting relationships between living organisms and their environment, the destruction or deterioration of any one element of the natural resource base may lead to a chain reaction of deterioration and destruction. The draining and filling of wetlands, for example, may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge or discharge areas, and the natural filtration action and floodwater storage functions which contribute to maintaining high levels of water quality and stable streamflows and lake stages in a watershed. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to the deterioration of the quality of the groundwater which serves as a source of domestic, municipal, and industrial water supply and on which low flows in rivers and streams may depend. Similarly, the destruction of woodland cover may result in soil erosion and stream siltation, more rapid stormwater runoff and attendant increased flood flows and stages, as well as destruction of wildlife habitat. Although the effects of any one of these environmental changes may not be overwhelming, the combined effects will eventually create serious environmental and developmental problems. The need to maintain the integrity of the remaining environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas thus becomes apparent.



Table 9

## CRITICAL AQUATIC HABITAT AREAS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1994

Streams				
Number on Map 5	Stream	Size (stream miles)	Rank <sup>a</sup>	Description <sup>b</sup> and Comments
14	Menomonee River downstream from STH 145 to CTH Q	3.8 miles	AQ-3	Bisects identified Natural Areas
15	North Branch, Menomonee River upstream from STH 145	9.2 miles <sup>c</sup>	AQ-3	Bisects identified Natural Areas
16	West Branch, Menomonee River	4.2 miles	AQ-3	Good fish population and diversity; good Biotic Index Rating <sup>d</sup>
17	Cedar Creek upstream from Little Cedar Lake	1.4 acres	AQ-1 (RSH)	Good water quality; good fish population and diversity; critical fish and herptile species habitat
18	Milwaukee River downstream from Washington-Fond du Lac county line to CTH H	5.4 miles	AQ-1 (RSH)	Excellent Biotic Index Rating; <sup>d</sup> good water quality and fish population and diversity
19	Cedar Creek downstream from Little Cedar Lake to Little Cedar Creek inflow	6.6 miles	AQ-2 (RSH)	Contains critical mussel and fish species habitat
20	East Branch, Milwaukee River downstream from Washington-Fond du Lac county line	5.0 miles	AQ-2 (RSH)	Low sedimentation and few modifications to channel; bisects the Milwaukee River Floodplain Forest State Natural Area
21	Milwaukee River downstream from CTH H to Woodford Drive	4.9 miles	AQ-2 (RSH)	Good water quality; critical fish species present
22	Milwaukee River downstream from STH 33 to main stem	5.6 miles <sup>c</sup>	AQ-2 (RSH)	Excellent Biotic Index Rating; <sup>e</sup> critical fish species present; good assemblage of mussel species
23	North Branch, Milwaukee River	7.7 miles <sup>c</sup>	AQ-2 (RSH)	Good overall fish population and diversity, including critical fish species; Biotic Index Rating; <sup>d</sup> of Good to Excellent
24	Wallace Creek	8.6 miles	AQ-2 (RSH)	Good overall fish population and diversity, including critical fish species
25	Cedar Creek downstream from Little Cedar Creek inflow to CTH M	9.3 miles <sup>c</sup>	AQ-3	Good fish population and diversity; bisects Jackson Swamp, an identified Natural Area
26	Cedar Creek downstream from CTH M to STH 60	0.7 miles <sup>c</sup>	AQ-3	Good fish population and diversity; good mussel species assemblage
27	North Branch, Cedar Creek	7.3 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical fish species; bisects an identified Natural Area, Reinartz Cedar Swamp
28	Friedens Creek	3.2 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Biotic Index Rating <sup>e</sup> of Very Good
29	Kewaskum Creek	4.7 miles	AQ-3	Good fish population and diversity
30	Milwaukee River downstream from Woodford Drive to STH 33	13.6 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical fish species present
31	Quass Creek	4.9 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Good fish population and diversity
32	Silver Creek	5.9 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical fish species present; Biotic Index Rating <sup>e</sup> of Good
33	Stony Creek	3.1 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical fish species present; Class II trout stream
34	Bark River upstream from Nagawicka Lake	4.5 miles <sup>c</sup>	AQ-1 (RSH)	Good overall fish population and diversity; important reservoir for critical fish and herptile species
35	Oconomowoc River downstream from Friess Lake to North Lake	7.8 miles <sup>c</sup>	AQ-1 (RSH)	Contains critical fish, herptile, and mussel species habitat; bisects high-quality Natural Areas
36	Allenton Creek	3.4 miles	AQ-2 (RSH)	Class I trout stream with good fish population and diversity

**Table 9 (continued)**

Streams (continued)				
Number on Map 5	Stream	Size (stream miles)	Rank <sup>a</sup>	Description <sup>b</sup> and Comments
37	Mason Creek	2.7 miles <sup>c</sup>	AQ-2 (RSH)	Class I trout stream; Biotic Index Rating <sup>d</sup> of Good; critical fish species present
38	Ashippun River upstream from Druid Lake	4.3 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical fish species present
39	Ashippun River downstream from Druid Lake to Washington-Dodge county line	5.2 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical herptile species habitat
40	East Branch, Rock River downstream from CTH D	4.4 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical fish species present
41	East Branch, Rock River upstream from CTH D	14.3 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical fish species present
42	Kohlsville River	1.9 miles	AQ-3	A cold-water stream
43	Limestone Creek	5.8 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Good fish population and diversity, including critical species records
44	Little Oconomowoc River	2.7 miles <sup>c</sup>	AQ-3 (RSH)	Biotic Index Rating <sup>d</sup> of Excellent; upper reaches bisect a high-quality Natural Area, Murphy Lake-McConville Lake Wetland Complex
45	Oconomowoc River upstream from Friess Lake	2.8 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical herptile species habitat
46	Rubicon River upstream from Pike Lake	2.8 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical herptile species habitat
47	Rubicon River downstream from Pike Lake	6.7 miles	AQ-3 (RSH)	Critical fish species present
48	Wayne Creek	3.5 miles	AQ-3	Good fish population and diversity
--	Total (35 stream reaches)	187.9 miles	--	--
Lakes				
Number on Map 5	Lake	Acreage	Rank <sup>a</sup>	Description <sup>b</sup> and Comments
49	Big Cedar Lake	932 acres	AQ-1 (RSH)	A deep spring-drainage lake at the headwaters of Cedar Creek; critical fish and herptile species present; good water quality
50	Gilbert Lake	44 acres	AQ-1 (RSH)	An undeveloped spring lake surrounded by tamarack swamp, bog, sedge meadow, and marsh at the headwaters of Cedar Creek; critical fish and herptile species present
51	Little Cedar Lake	246 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	A drainage lake with adjacent wetlands which support good habitat for critical herptile species such as the bullfrog
52	Lucas Lake	78 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	A largely undeveloped drainage lake with good water quality and critical fish species present
53	Silver Lake	118 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	A drainage lake with critical fish species present; wetland to west offers diversity of wildlife and plant communities
54	Smith Lake	86 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	A shallow seepage lake with adjacent high-quality wetlands; an identified Natural Area
55	Green Lake	71 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	A seepage lake with critical fish species present; extensive wetlands adjacent to Lake
56	Hasmer Lake	15 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	A drainage lake with critical fish species present
57	Mueller Lake	14 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	A spring lake with an adjacent Natural Area, Big Cedar Lake Bog; critical herptile habitat
58	Radtke Lake	10 acres	AQ-3	An undeveloped seepage lake within an identified Natural Area, Camp Wowitan Wetlands

**Table 9 (continued)**

Lakes (continued)				
Number on Map 5	Lake	Acreage	Rank <sup>a</sup>	Description <sup>b</sup> and Comments
59	Tilly Lake	13 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	A spring lake with critical fish species present
60	Lake Twelve	53 acres	AQ-3	A spring lake with a mostly undisturbed shoreline; good wildlife habitat
61	Unnamed lake	18 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	Suitable habitat for Blanding's turtle, a threatened species
62	Loew's Lake	23 acres	AQ-1 (RSH)	An undeveloped drainage lake located in the heart of the valuable upper Oconomowoc River environmental corridor
63	Beck Lake	16 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	An undeveloped seepage lake encompassed by a high-quality Natural Area, Murphy Lake-McConville Lake Wetland Complex
64	McConville Lake	14 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	An undeveloped seepage lake encompasses by a high-quality Natural Area, Murphy Lake-McConville Lake Wetland Complex
65	Murphy Lake	16 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	An undeveloped seepage lake encompassed by a high-quality Natural Area, Murphy Lake-McConville Lake Wetland Complex
66	Pike Lake	522 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	A drainage lake with critical fish and herptile species present; important spawning area for game fish
67	Unnamed Lake	13 acres	AQ-2 (RSH)	A drainage lake; a component of the Oconomowoc River corridor
68	Amy Bell Lake	26 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	A seepage lake encompassed by a Natural Area, Amy Bell Lake and Lowlands
69	Bark Lake	65 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	A spring-drainage lake located at the headwaters of the Bark River
70	Druid Lake	124 acres	AQ-3	A drainage lake within the Ashippun River watershed
71	Lake Five	101 acres <sup>c</sup>	AQ-3	A seepage lake with good water quality; adjacent Natural Area, Lake Five Woods
72	Friess Lake	119 acres	AQ-3 (RSH)	A drainage lake in the Oconomowoc River corridor; important for waterfowl
73	Mud Lake	23 acres	AQ-3	An undeveloped seepage lake encompasses by a Natural Area, Mud Lake Meadow
--	Total (25 lakes)	2,760 acres	--	--

<sup>a</sup>AQ-1 identifies Aquatic Area sites of statewide or greater significance.

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

AQ-3 identifies Aquatic Area sites of local significance.

RSH, or Rare Species Habitat, identifies those aquatic areas which support rare, endangered, threatened, or "special concern" species officially designated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

<sup>b</sup>"Seepage lakes" are lakes which have no inlet or outlet and whose main source of water is direct precipitation and runoff supplemented by groundwater. "Spring lakes" are lakes which have no inlet but do have an outlet and whose main source of water is groundwater flowing directly into the basin and from the immediate drainage area.

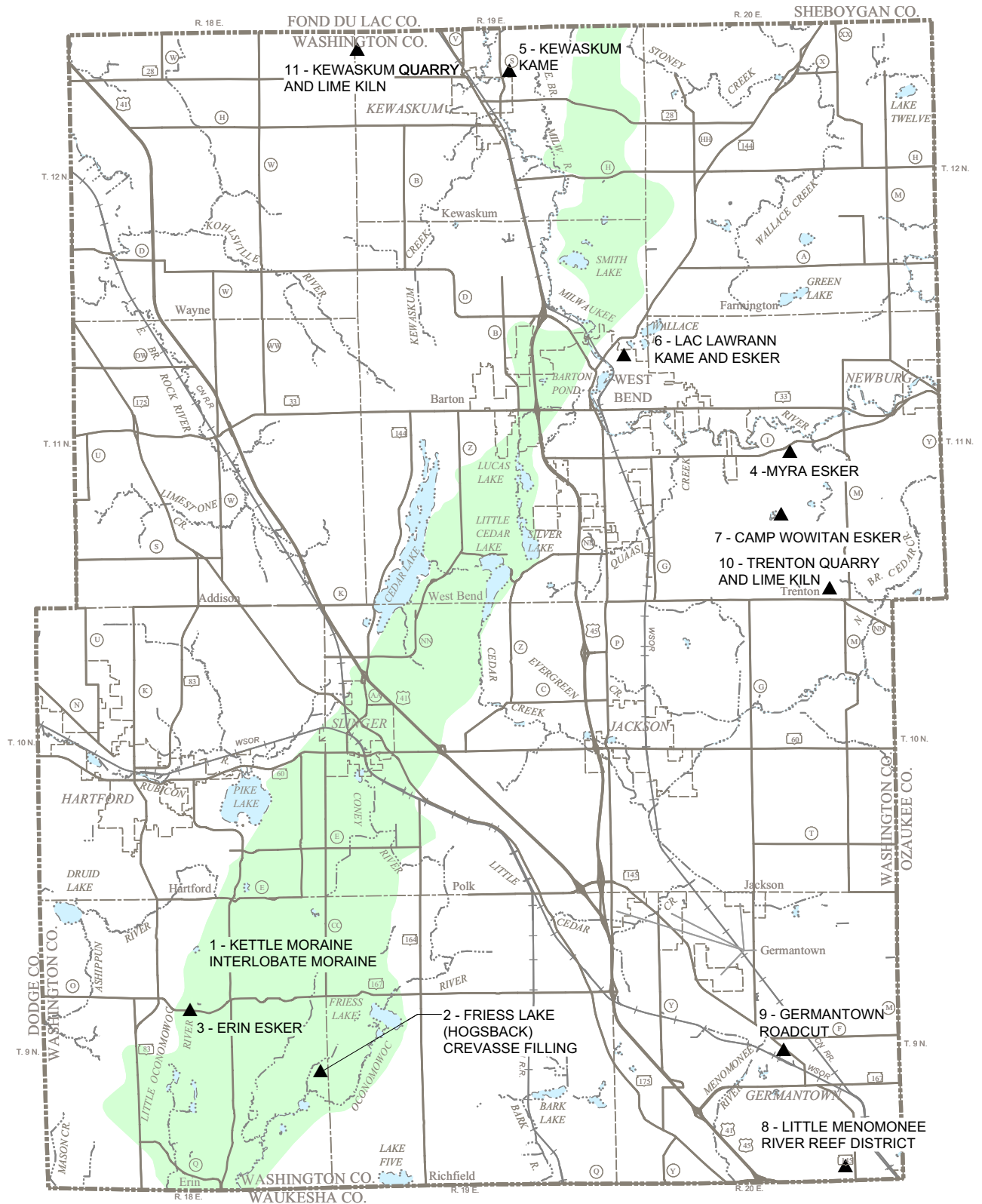
<sup>c</sup>Lake or stream is located partially within Washington County. Number refers to acreage or stream miles located within the County.

<sup>d</sup>Based upon the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) discussed in U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, General Technical Report No. 149, Using the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) to Measure Environmental Quality in Warmwater Streams of Wisconsin, April 1992.

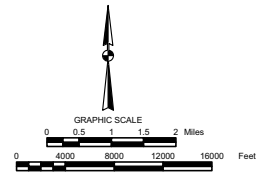
<sup>e</sup>Based upon the Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (HBI) discussed in Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Technical Bulletin No. 132, Using a Biotic Index to Evaluate Water Quality in Streams, 1982.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGICAL SITES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1994



- ▲ SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGIC SITE
- KETTLE MORAINES INTERLOBATE MORAINES
- 15 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 10)



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 10

## SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGIC SITES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1994

Number on Map 6	Site Name	Classification Code <sup>a</sup>	Site Area (Acres)	Location	Ownership	Description
1	Kettle Moraine Interlobate Moraine	(GA-1)	5,577 <sup>b</sup>	Central portion of County	Department of Natural Resources and private	Interlobate moraine consisting of a complex system of irregular, knobby ridges, trending northeast-southwest across the County
2	Friess Lake (Hogsback) Crevasse Filling	(GA-1)	25	T9N, R19E Section 19 Town of Richmond	Private	Excellent example of a crevasse filling
3	Erin Esker	(GA-2)	192	T9N, R18E Sections 10, 15, 16, 21 Town of Erin	Private	A good example of an esker, easily demonstrated on an agricultural landscape. Some development impacts
4	Myra Esker	(GA-2)	16	T11N, R20E Sections 15, 16 Town of Trenton	Private	A well-developed, little-disturbed east-west trending esker covered by natural vegetation
5	Kewaskum Kame	(GA-2)	47	T12N, R19E Section 3 Town of Kewaskum	Private	A well-developed, isolated conical kame which serves as the "gateway" to the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine Forest
6	Lac Lawrann Kame and Esker	(GA-3)	12	T11N, R19E Section 1 City of West Bend	City of West Bend	Good example of kame and esker formation
7	Camp Wowitan Esker	(GA-3)	57	T11N, R20E Sections 27, 28 Town of Trenton	YMCA and private	Well-developed northeast-southwest trending esker
8	Little Menomonee River Reef District	(GA-2)	10	T9N, R20E Sections 35, 36 Village of Germantown	Private	Silurian Racine Dolomite reef rock exposures. Considerable importance in scientific research. Contains a wide variety of reef features
9	Germantown Roadcut	(GA-3)	5	T9N, R20E Section 22 Village of Germantown	Wisconsin Department of Transportation	Roadcut providing excellent cross-section through Racine Dolomite, revealing fossils and rock types
10	Trenton Quarry and Lime Kiln	(GA-3)	3	T11N, R20E Section 34 Town of Trenton	Private	Small quarry exposing massive Silurian dolomite. Primitive, relatively undisturbed kilns
11	Kewaskum Quarry and Lime Kiln	(GA-3)	5	T12N, R19E Section 6 Town of Kewaskum	Private	Old quarry and lime kiln expose dolomite containing abundant brachiopod fossils. Relatively undisturbed lime-burning operation
Total	--	--	5,949	--	--	--

<sup>a</sup>GA-1 identifies Geological Area sites of statewide or greater significance; GA-2 identifies Geological Area sites of countywide or regional significance; and GA-3 identifies Geological Area sites of local significance.

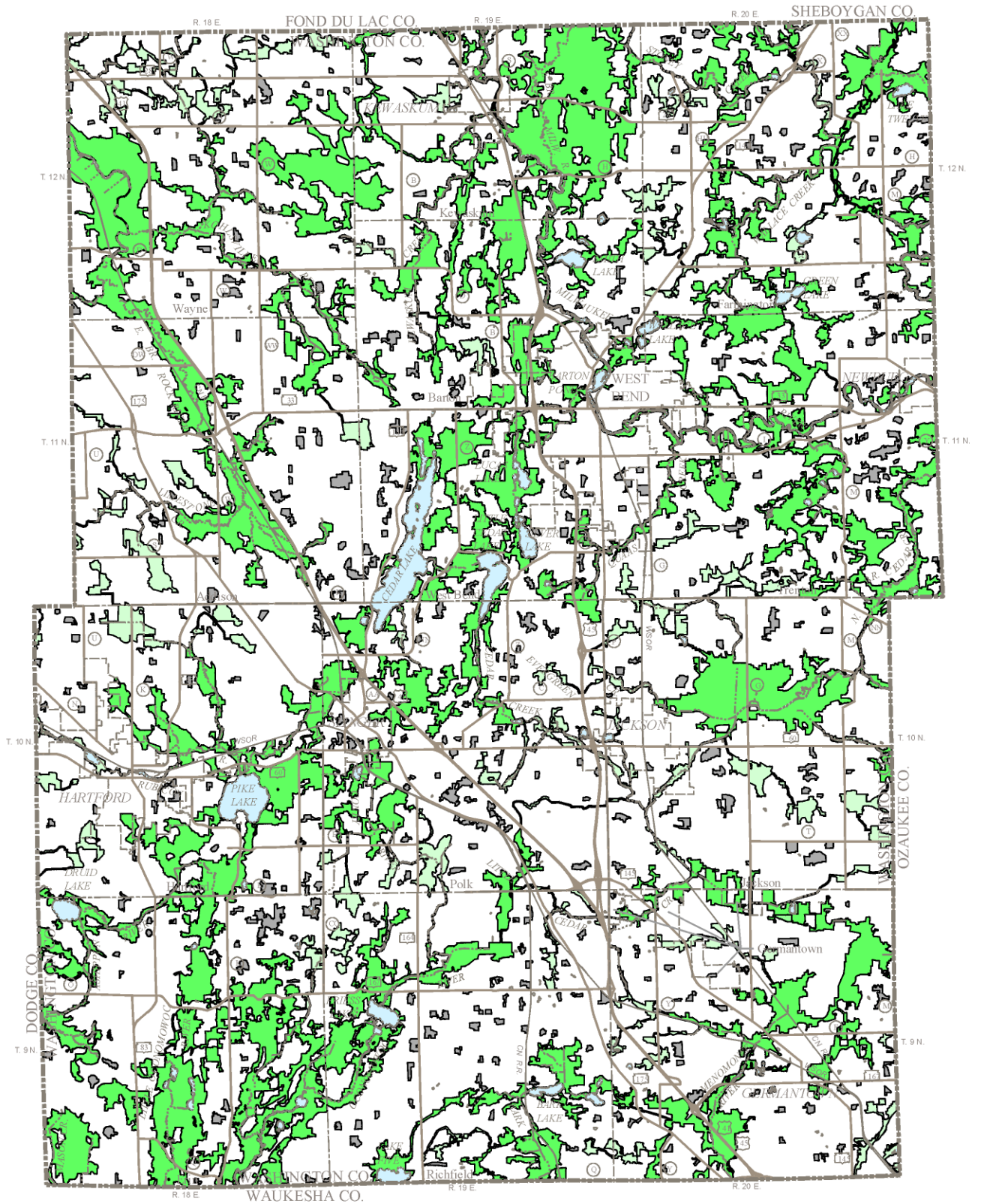
<sup>b</sup>Includes the area within the established project boundaries of the Loew Lake and Northern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest within Washington County.





Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, and SEWRPC.

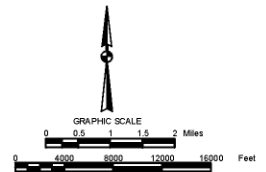
### Primary Environmental Corridors

As shown on Map 7, the primary environmental corridors in Washington County are located along the major rivers and their tributaries, around the major lakes in the County, in large wetland areas, and in the Kettle Moraine. In 1995, about 94.0 square miles, comprising about 22 percent of the total area of the County, were encompassed within the primary environmental corridors.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 1995



-  PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
-  SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
-  ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
-  SURFACE WATER



The primary environmental corridors contain almost all of the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas in the County and are, in effect, a composite of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base. Such areas have immeasurable environmental and recreational value. The protection of the primary environmental corridors from additional intrusion by incompatible land uses, and thereby from degradation and destruction, is one of the principal objectives of this park and open space planning program.

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

As shown on Map 7, secondary environmental corridors in Washington County are located chiefly along the small perennial and intermittent streams within the County. About 15.5 square miles, comprising about 3 percent of the County, were encompassed within secondary environmental corridors in 1995. Secondary environmental corridors contain a variety of resource elements and are often remnant resources from primary environmental corridors that have been developed with intensive agricultural or urban uses. Secondary environmental corridors facilitate surface water drainage and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife and for the dispersal of seeds for a variety of plant species. Such corridors should be considered for preservation in natural, open use or incorporated as drainage ways, stormwater detention or retention areas, or as local parks or recreation trails, in developing areas.

As also shown on Map 7, isolated natural resource areas within Washington County include a geographically well distributed variety of isolated wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitat; in 1995, these areas encompassed about 10.2 square miles, or about 2 percent of the County. Isolated natural resource areas may provide the only available wildlife habitat in an area, provide good locations for local parks and nature areas, and lend aesthetic character and natural diversity to an area. Such areas should be preserved in natural open uses insofar as practicable, being incorporated for use as parks and open space reservations or stormwater detention or retention areas where appropriate.

## **SUMMARY**

This chapter has presented data related to existing demographic and economic characteristics, land use, and natural resources for Washington County. The key findings set forth in this chapter are as follows:

1. The resident population of Washington County in 2000, the year of the most recent U.S. Census, was about 117,500, an increase of 84 percent since 1970. During the same period, households increased by about 26,500, or about 152 percent. With the number of households increasing at a faster rate than the population, the number of persons per household has decreased.
2. An inventory of land use in 1995 indicated 67.1 square miles, or about 15 percent of the 435.7 square mile County area, was developed with urban uses, while the remaining 368.6 square miles, or about 85 percent of the County, was devoted to nonurban uses.
3. There are 220 miles of major streams and 2,634 acres of major lakes within the County. There are approximately 64.8 square miles, or about 15 percent of the County, located within the 100-year recurrence interval flood hazard area of the major streams.
4. The County encompasses a number of significant natural resource base features including wetland areas which in 1995 occupied about 66.1 square miles, or about 15 percent of the County; and woodlands, which occupied about 35.0 square miles, or about 8 percent of the County. The County also contained 91 sites identified as natural areas—areas which contain native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European settlement landscape; and 13 critical species habitat sites—other sites which support rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals.
5. The most important elements of the natural resource base and features closely related to that base—including wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat, major lakes and streams and associated shorelands and floodlands, and outdoor recreation sites—when combined, result in an essentially linear pattern in



the landscape referred to by the Regional Planning Commission as environmental corridors. Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of important natural resource and resource based elements and are, by definition, at least 400 acres in size, two miles long, and 200 feet wide. In 1995, primary environmental corridors encompassed about 94.0 square miles, or about 22 percent of the County.



## Chapter III

# EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

### INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive areawide inventory of park and open space sites was conducted in 1973 under the initial regional park and open space planning program,<sup>1</sup> and updated in 1985 for use in preparing the year 2000 County park and open space plan. The inventory of park and open space sites in the County was updated again in 1995 for use in preparing the year 2010 County park and open space plan and then in 2002 for use in preparing this new County park and open space plan. The findings of the 2002 inventory are presented in this chapter.

The 2002 inventory identified all park and open space sites owned by a public agency, including State, County, or local units of government and school districts. Also identified in the inventory were lands held in conservation easements by organizations such as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, and The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust. The inventory also included privately owned resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites such as golf courses, campgrounds, ski hills, boating access sites, swimming beaches, hunting clubs, retreat centers, open space areas, and group camps such as Scout or YMCA camps, and special use outdoor recreation sites of regional significance. The inventory of private outdoor recreation sites focused on resource-oriented sites because the County park and open space plan is most directly concerned with the provision of sites and facilities for such activities. The inventory also identified such other resources of recreational significance as existing trails and bicycle ways and historic sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES

#### **Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Washington County**

Park and open space sites owned by Washington County in 2002 are shown on Map 8 and listed on Table 11. In 2002, Washington County owned 15 such sites, including seven major<sup>2</sup> parks encompassing 1,245 acres; six other

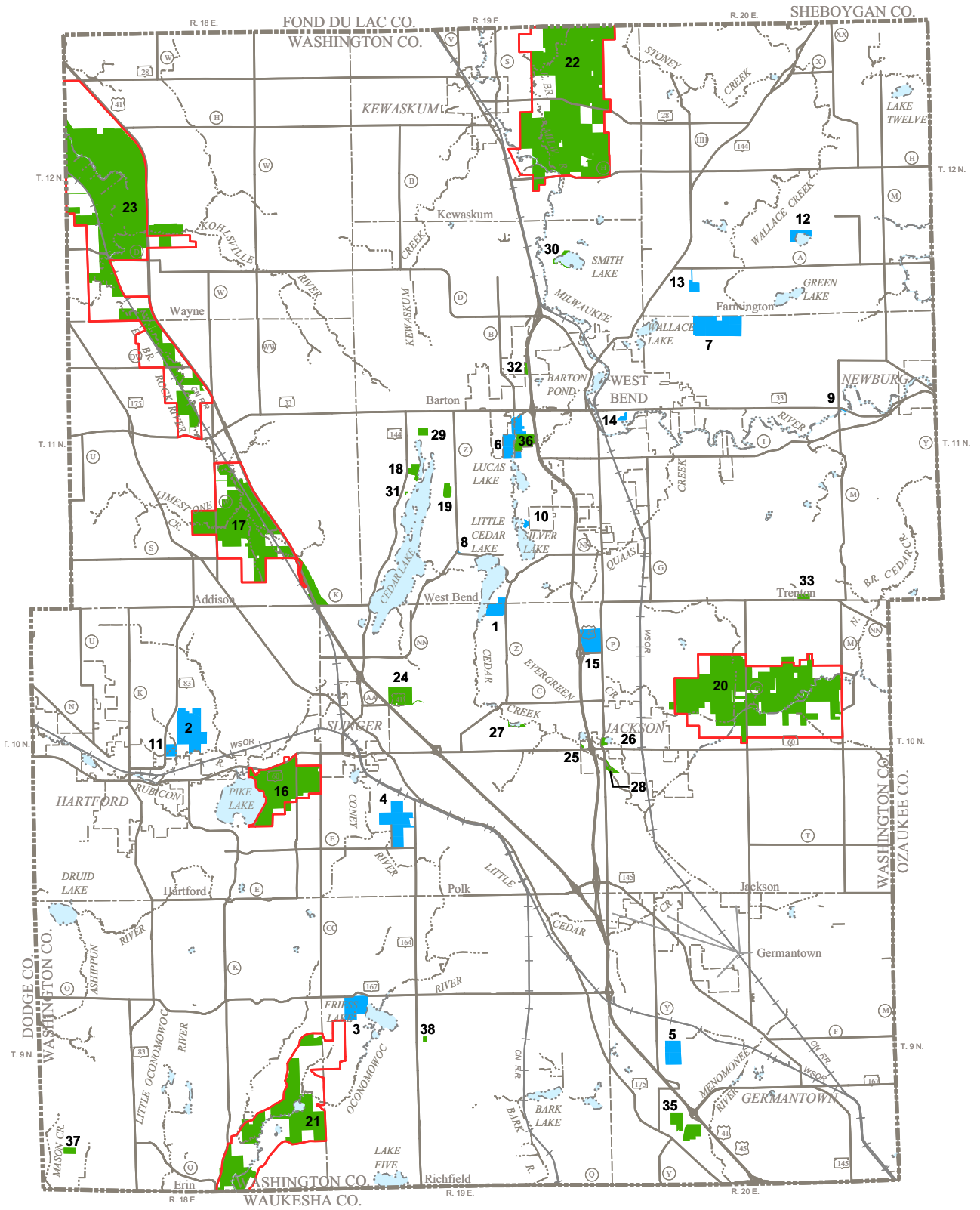
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<sup>1</sup>The regional park and open space plan is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000, November 1977.

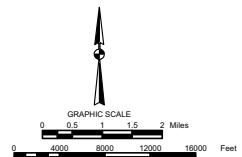
<sup>2</sup>Major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for such resource-oriented activities as camping, golfing, picnicking, and swimming. Major parks include both Type I, or regional parks, which are those having an area of 250 acres or more, and Type II, or multi-community parks, which are those having an area of generally 100 to 250 acres.

# Map 8

## WASHINGTON COUNTY AND STATE OF WISCONSIN PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES: 2002



- STATE OWNED SITES
- WASHINGTON COUNTY SITES
- WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT BOUNDARY
- 10** REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 11 AND TABLE 13)



Source: Washington County Planning and Parks Department, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and SEWRPC.

Table 11

PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES OWNED BY WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2002

Number on Map 8	Site Name	Location <sup>a</sup>	Size (acres)
	<b>Major Parks</b>		
1	Ackerman's Grove County Park.....	T10N, R19E, Section 3	78
2	Family Park/Washington County Golf Course .....	T10N, R18E, Section 15	283
3	Glacier Hills Park.....	T9N, R19E, Section 18	140
4	Heritage Trails Park .....	T10N, R19E, Section 29	234
5	Homestead Hollow Park.....	T9N, R20E, Section 20	105
6	Ridge Run Park.....	T11N, R19E, Section 15	148
7	Sandy Knoll Park.....	T11N, R20E, Section 5	257
--	Subtotal -7 Sites	--	1,245
	<b>Other Park and Outdoor Recreation Sites</b>		
8	Cedar Lake Wayside .....	T11N, R19E, Section 28	3
9	Goeden Park.....	T11N, R20E, Section 14	4
10	Henschke Hillside Lake Access .....	T11N, R19E, Section 27	9
11	Joseph P. Marx Woods and Nature Preserve.....	T10N, R18E, Section 16	40
12	Leonard J. Yahr Park .....	T12N, R20E, Section 27	38
13	Lizard Mound Park.....	T12N, R20E, Sections 31, 32	31
--	Subtotal -6 Sites	--	125
	<b>Special Outdoor Recreation Sites</b>		
14	Hughes Burckhardt Field <sup>b</sup> .....	T11N, R19E, Section 13	12
15	Washington County Fair Park.....	T10N, R19E, Section 1	129
--	Subtotal -2 Sites	--	141
--	Total -15 Sites	--	1,511

<sup>a</sup>Indicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

<sup>b</sup>Hughes Burckhardt Field is on County-owned land leased by the County to the West Bend Little League.

Source: Washington County Planning and Parks Department and SEWRPC.

park and outdoor recreation sites encompassing 125 acres; and two other special outdoor recreation sites, not considered part of the County park system, encompassing 141 acres. In all, these 15 sites encompass 1,511 acres or about 0.5 percent of the total area of the County.

The seven existing major parks are Ackerman's Grove County Park and Heritage Trails Park in the Town of Polk, Family Park/Washington County Golf Course in the Town of Hartford, Glacier Hills Park in the Town of Richfield, Homestead Hollow Park in the Village of Germantown, Ridge Run Park in the City and Town of West Bend, and Sandy Knoll Park in the Town of Trenton.

In addition to the existing major parks, the County also owns six other park and outdoor recreation sites which include: Cedar Lake Wayside, Goeden Park, Henschke Hillside Lake Access, Joseph P. Marx Woods and Nature Preserve, Leonard J. Yahr Park, and Lizard Mound Park.

Special outdoor recreation sites owned by the County, but not part of the County park system, include the Washington County Fair Park in the Town of Polk; and the Hughes Burckhardt Field, which is located on the County administrative center grounds in the City of West Bend and leased to the West Bend Little League.

Selected outdoor recreation facilities within the County park system in 2002 are listed in Table 12. As indicated in that table, four parks within the County system currently provide playfields, one park provides a golf course, 10 parks provide picnic areas, three parks provide a swimming beach, seven parks provide trails, and three parks provide a boat launch.

### **Park and Open Space Sites Owned by the State of Wisconsin**

As indicated in Table 13 and shown on Map 8, in 2002 there were 23 State-owned park and open space sites in Washington County, encompassing 11,655 acres, or about 4 percent of the total area of the County. Of these 23 sites, 17 sites encompassing 11,318 acres were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; three sites, encompassing 274 acres were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; and three sites, encompassing 63 acres, were owned by the University of Wisconsin.

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

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has acquired large areas of park and open space lands in Washington County for a variety of resource protection and recreational purposes. Sites acquired for natural resource preservation and limited recreational purposes include the Loew Lake and Northern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and the Allenton, Jackson Marsh, and Theresa Marsh Wildlife Areas. The Department owns two sites in the Town of West Bend, acquired primarily for resource preservation purposes, one adjacent to Gilbert Lake and one adjacent to Hacker Road. Other open space sites acquired by the State include three sites in the Town of Polk, one site in the Village of Jackson, one site in the Town of Jackson, one site in the Town of West Bend, and one site in the Town of Barton.

Department-owned sites associated with more intensive recreational activities include the Ice Age Trail Corridor, a boat access site on Big Cedar Lake, and the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest is classified as a major park site, and provides a swimming beach, picnicking facilities, family campsites, and hiking and cross-country ski trails.

Map 8 also reflects project boundaries approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board for State forests, parks, and wildlife areas within the County. Lands within the approved project boundaries have been identified by the Board as appropriate additions to adjacent forests, natural areas, or wildlife areas and are intended to be acquired by the Department of Natural Resources, on a “willing seller-willing buyer” basis, for recreational or open space purposes as funding permits.

#### ***Wisconsin Department of Transportation***

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation in 2002 owned three wetland mitigation sites within the County, which are being restored or enhanced as wetlands. They are located in the Towns of Addison and Trenton, and the Village of Germantown.

#### ***University of Wisconsin***

In 2002 there were three open space sites affiliated with the University of Wisconsin. The site of the University of Wisconsin Center-Washington County in West Bend encompasses about 75 acres, of which 36 acres are used for recreational or open space purposes. The site, although managed by the University, is owned jointly by Washington County and the City of West Bend. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee owns two open space sites in the County, a 20 acre site in the Town of Erin and a seven acre site in the Town of Richfield.

### **Park and Open Space Sites Owned by Local Governments or Public School Districts**

In addition to the County- and State-owned park and open space sites in Washington County, in 2002 there was a total of 136 sites owned by local units of government or public school districts. Those sites, listed on Table A-1 and shown on Map A-1 in Appendix A, encompass 2,724 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County. Local governments own 99 park and open space sites, and public school districts own 37 sites. The acreage attributed to school district sites includes only those portions of the site used for recreational or open space purposes.

**Table 12**

**SELECTED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN WASHINGTON COUNTY PARKS: 2002**

Number on Map 8	Site Name	Size (acres)	Playfield	Golf Course	Picnic Area	Swimming Beach	Trails	Boat Launch
1	Ackerman's Grove County Park.....	78	--	--	X	X	--	X
2	Family Park/Washington County Golf Course .....	283	X	X	X	--	--	--
3	Glacier Hills Park .....	140	--	--	X	X	X	--
4	Heritage Trails Park .....	234	--	--	X	--	X	--
5	Homestead Hollow Park.....	105	X	--	X	--	X	--
6	Ridge Run Park .....	148	X	--	X	--	X	X
7	Sandy Knoll Park .....	257	X	--	X	X	X	--
8	Cedar Lake Wayside .....	3	--	--	X	--	--	--
9	Goeden Park .....	4	--	--	X	--	X	X
10	Henschke Hillside Lake Access .....	9	--	--	--	--	--	--
11	Joseph P. Marx Woods and Nature Preserve.....	40	--	--	--	--	--	--
12	Leonard J. Yahr Park.....	38	--	--	--	--	--	--
13	Lizard Mound Park.....	31	--	--	X	--	X	--
--	Total -13 Sites	1,370	--	--	--	--	--	--

Source: SEWRPC.

It should be noted that one site, Riverside Park, owned by the City of West Bend, meets the criteria for a major park, because of its size, about 100 acres, and the resource-oriented outdoor recreational facilities provided at the park, which include picnicking facilities, a canoe access to the Milwaukee River, and a trail system through the park and along the river. Two other municipal park sites, Glacial Blue Hills Recreation Area, a 209 acre park owned by the City of West Bend, and Wilderness Park, a 203 acre site owned by the Village of Germantown, are over 100 acres in size, but serve primarily as open space sites for resource-protection purposes rather than as major parks. The Lac Lawrann Conservancy Area, a 105 acre site owned by the City of West Bend, serves as an outdoor education center and nature preserve.

**Private and Public-Interest Resource-Oriented Park and Open Space Sites**

The 2002 inventory of park and open space sites also identified a total of 47 privately owned resource-oriented recreation sites and 28 sites owned by private organizations for natural resource protection purposes. Those 75 sites are listed on Table A-2 and shown on Map A-2 in Appendix A. Together they encompassed 7,072 acres, or about 3 percent of the total area of the County.

The 47 privately owned recreation sites encompass 5,411 acres and include 10 hunting clubs, 11 golf courses, six boat access sites, four group camps, three family campgrounds, four ski hills, two swimming beaches, three retreat centers, two open-space areas, and two special-use recreation areas. The 28 sites owned for resource preservation purposes encompass 1,661 acres and include sites owned by the Friends of Nature Association, Friends of WI Preservation, Murphy-McConville Lake Natural Area, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Incorporated, Big Cedar Lake Protection Rehabilitation District, Ice Age Trail Foundation, Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, and The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, and The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust have acquired easements at 30 locations. Those sites, listed on Table 14 and shown on Map 9, encompass 953 acres. The easements are intended to help protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. The easements are for natural resource-protection purposes only and do not include any provision for public access.

Table 13

## STATE OF WISCONSIN RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE LANDS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2002

Number on Map 8	Site Name	Location <sup>a</sup>	Size (acres)
16	Department of Natural Resources Major Parks Kettle Moraine State Forest-Pike Lake Unit .....	T10N, R18E, Sections 23-26	705
--	Subtotal - 1 Site	--	705
	Department of Natural Resources Open Space Sites		
17	Allenton Wildlife Area .....	T11N, R18E, Sections 22, 26-28, 34	1,160
18	Gilbert Lake Open Space Site .....	T11N, R19E, Section 20	35
19	Hacker Road Bog Natural Area .....	T11N, R19E, Section 20	28
20	Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area .....	T10N, R20E, Sections 8-11, 14-17	2,196
21	Kettle Moraine State Forest-Loew Lake Unit .....	T9N, R18E, Sections 13, 24-27, 34-36	1,086
22	Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit .....	T12N, R19E, Section 1, 2, 10-15, 22-24	2,828 <sup>b</sup>
23	Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area .....	T12N, R18E, Sections 7, 17-20, 28-32; T11N, R18E, Sections 4, 5, 9, 16	3,074 <sup>b</sup>
24	WI DNR Site .....	T10N, R19E, Section 8	116
25	WI DNR Site .....	T10N, R19E, Section 13	2
26	WI DNR Site .....	T10N, R19E, Section 13	3
27	WI DNR Site .....	T10N, R19E, Section 14	17
28	WI DNR Site .....	T10N, R20E, Section 19	23
29	WI DNR Site .....	T11N, R19E, Section 17	20
30	WI DNR Site .....	T12N, R19E, Section 26	15
--	Subtotal - 14 Sites	--	10,603
	Department of Natural Resources Boat Access Sites		
31	Public Access-Big Cedar Lake .....	T11N, R19E, Section 19	2
--	Subtotal - 1 Site	--	2
	Department of Natural Resources Trail Corridor <sup>c</sup>		
32	Ice Age Trail Corridor .....	T11N, R19E, Section 10	8
--	Subtotal - 1 Site	--	8
	Department of Transportation Sites		
33	WI DOT Mitigation Site .....	T11N, R20E, Section 34	21
34	WI DOT Mitigation Site .....	T11N, R18E, Section 35	136
35	WI DOT Mitigation Site .....	T9N, R20E, Section 29	117
--	Subtotal - 3 Sites	--	274
	University of Wisconsin Sites		
36	University of Wisconsin Center-Washington County .....	T11N, R19E, Section 15	36 <sup>d</sup>
37	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Land .....	T9N, R18E, Section 31	20
38	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Land .....	T9N, R19E, Section 16	7
--	Subtotal - 3 Sites	--	63
--	Total - 23 Sites	--	11,655

<sup>a</sup>Indicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

<sup>b</sup>Includes only those lands located in Washington County.

<sup>c</sup>Includes only those lands specifically acquired for trail purposes. The Ice Age trail in Washington County also extends through the Loew Lake and Northern units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, through County and local park lands, and on easements across privately-owned lands. The location of the Ice Age trail is shown on Map 10.

<sup>d</sup>The University of Wisconsin Center-Washington County is located on lands managed by the University but owned jointly by Washington County and the City of West Bend. The entire site encompasses 60 acres, of which 36 acres are in recreational or open space use.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, City of West Bend, Town of Polk, and SEWRPC.

Table 14

**STATE OF WISCONSIN AND NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION  
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2002**

Number on Map 9	Site Name	Location <sup>a</sup>	Size (acres)
	<b>Department of Natural Resources Easements</b>		
1	DNR Easement.....	T11N, R18E, Section 5	1
2	DNR Streambank Easement .....	T11N, R19E, Section 2	1
3	DNR Easement.....	T11N, R19E, Section 17	2
4	DNR Streambank Easement .....	T11N, R20E, Section 12	4
5	DNR Streambank Easement .....	T11N, R20E, Section 15	3
6	DNR Streambank Easement .....	T11N, R20E, Section 16	43
7	DNR Streambank Easement .....	T11N, R20E, Section 18	12
8	DNR Easement.....	T12N, R18E, Section 18	10
9	DNR Easement.....	T12N, R18E, Section 19	13
10	DNR Easement.....	T12N, R18E, Section 19	22
11	DNR Easement.....	T12N, R18E, Section 28	94
12	DNR Easement.....	T12N, R18E, Section 29	22
13	DNR Easement.....	T12N, R18E, Section 30	25
14	DNR Easement.....	T12N, R19E, Section 3	9
15	DNR Streambank Easement .....	T12N, R19E, Section 6	9
16	DNR Streambank Easement .....	T12N, R19E, Section 7	43
17	DNR Easement.....	T12N, R19E, Section 26	27
18	DNR Easement.....	T12N, R19E, Section 26	3
19	DNR Streambank Easement .....	T12N, R20E, Section 25	5
20	DNR Streambank Easement .....	T12N, R20E, Section 36	30
--	Subtotal - 20 Sites	--	378
	<b>Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation Easements</b>		
21	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation Easement .....	T11N, R19E, Section 17	7
22	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation Easement .....	T11N, R19E, Section 28	15
23	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation Easement .....	T11N, R19E, Section 31	1
24	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation Easement .....	T11N, R19E, Section 34	148
--	Subtotal - 4 Sites	--	171
	<b>The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Easements</b>		
25	The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Easement .....	T9N, R18E, Section 14	40
26	The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Easement .....	T10N, R18E, Section 22	36
27	The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Easement .....	T10N, R18E, Sections 28 and 29	53
28	The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Easement .....	T11N, R20E, Section 26	170
29	The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Easement .....	T12N, R18E, Section 5	48
30	The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust Easement .....	T12N, R20E, Section 8	57
--	Subtotal - 6 Sites	--	404
--	<b>Total - 30 Sites</b>	--	<b>953</b>

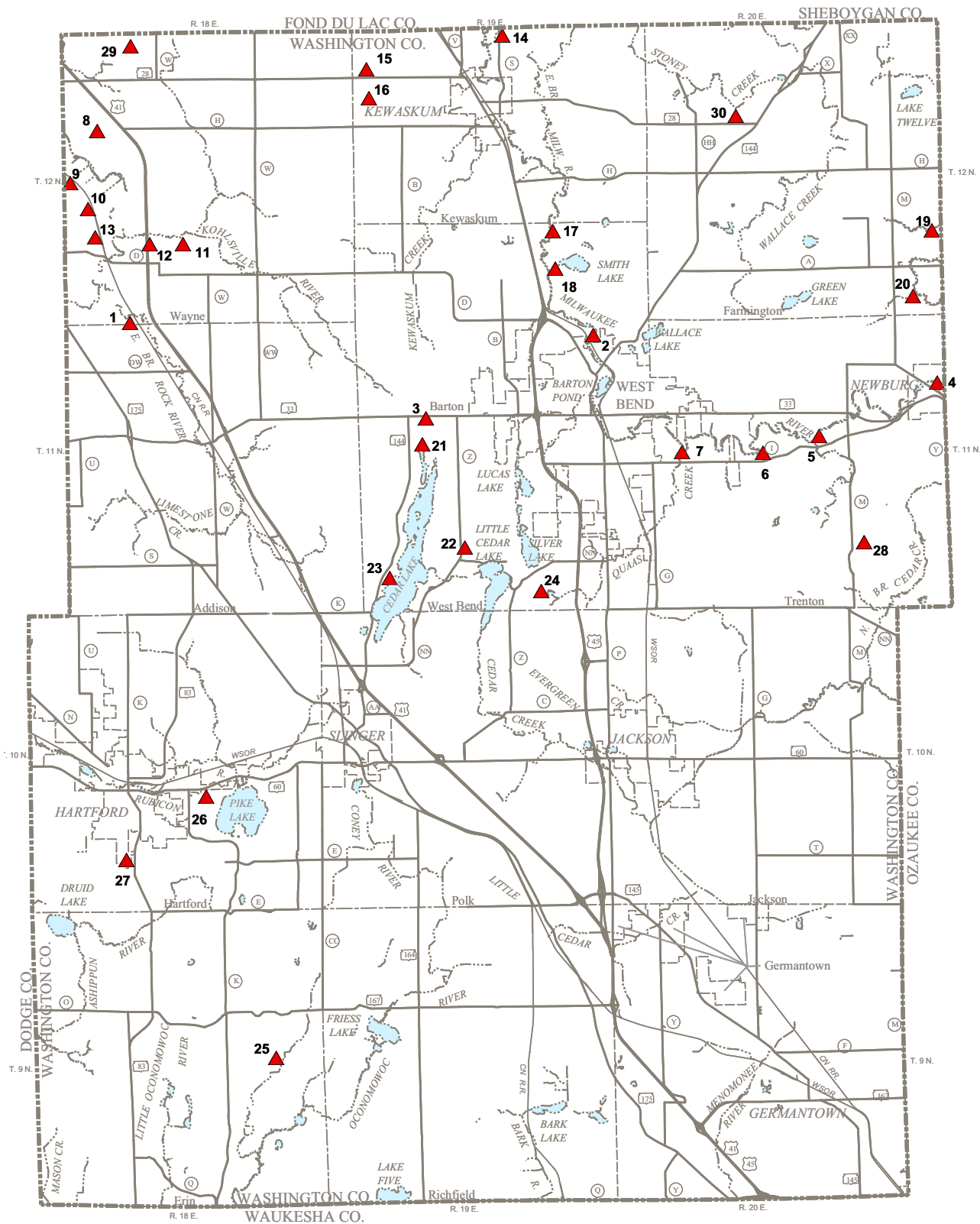
<sup>a</sup>Indicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, The Ozaukee/ Washington Land Trust, and SEWRPC.

## LAKE AND RIVER ACCESS SITES

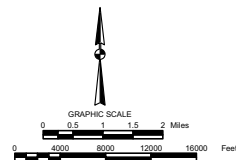
Lakes and rivers constitute a particularly valuable part of the natural resource base of the County. Lakes and rivers enhance the aesthetic quality of the County and are focal points for water-related recreational activities, including such active uses as swimming, boating, and fishing, and passive uses such as walking, or viewing along

STATE OF WISCONSIN AND NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2002



- ▲ CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
- 10 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 14)

Source: SEWRPC.





the water's edge. Boat access sites, both public and nonpublic, provide opportunities for persons who do not own land on a body of water to participate in water-related recreational activities. The regional park and open space plan recommends that rivers and major lakes, defined as lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more, be provided with adequate public access, including boat access, consistent with safe and enjoyable participation in water-related activities. There are 13 major lakes located entirely within Washington County: Bark Lake, Barton Pond, Big Cedar Lake, Little Cedar Lake, Druid Lake, Friess Lake, Green Lake, Lucas Lake, Pike Lake, Silver Lake, Smith Lake, Lake Twelve, and Wallace Lake. An additional major lake, Lake Five, is located partially within Waukesha County.

Publicly owned access sites for motor-boating purposes in Washington County are provided at the following major lakes: Big Cedar Lake, Little Cedar Lake, Druid Lake, Pike Lake, Smith Lake, and Wallace Lake. Privately owned access sites for motor-boating on major lakes are also provided at Big Cedar Lake, Little Cedar Lake, Friess Lake, Pike Lake, and Silver Lake. Public access to major lakes for carry-in boating is provided on Barton Pond and Pike Lake. Canoe access to the Milwaukee River is provided at a number of locations in the County. There are also numerous other sites that provide access for carry-in boating, fishing, and passive enjoyment to minor lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams in Washington County.

## **TRAILS AND BICYCLE WAYS**

The regional park and open space plan, adopted in 1977, recommended the development of an approximately 440-mile network of hiking and bicycling trails. Most of the trails recommended in the regional plan were proposed to be located in areas having natural resource values of regional significance, such as the Lake Michigan shoreline, the Kettle Moraine, and the riverine areas of the Milwaukee, Fox, and Root Rivers. The regional park and open space plan, including the recreation trail component, was subsequently refined through the preparation and adoption of park and open space plans by each of the counties in the Region.

The year 2000 park and open space plan for Washington County recommended the development of the Ice Age Trail and the development of a trail along the Milwaukee River. The year 2010 park and open space plan for Washington County reaffirmed these recommendations, calling for a total of 52 miles of trails along the Ice Age Trail Corridor and along the Milwaukee River. Of the 52 miles of trails to be provided, about 27 miles currently exist in Washington County as part of the Ice Age Trail and the Milwaukee River recreation corridor.

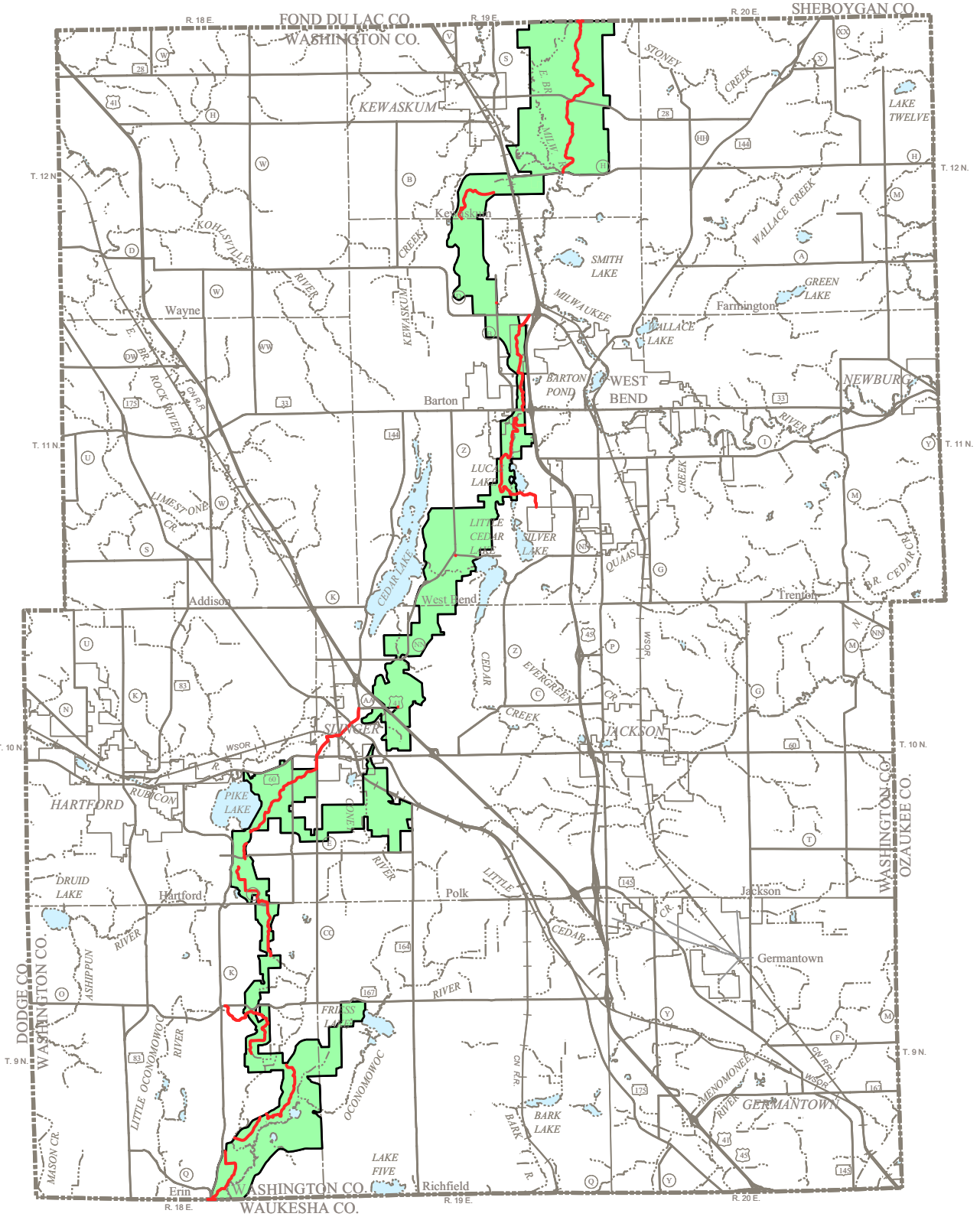
The Ice Age Trail, which is planned to extend approximately 1,000 miles across the State of Wisconsin along the terminus of the continental glacier, was designated as a National Scenic Trail by the United States Congress in 1980. The Trail is administered by the National Park Service in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Trail Park and Trail Foundation. In Southeastern Wisconsin, the Trail is located or is proposed to be located in the western portions of Walworth, Waukesha, and Washington Counties. About 25 miles of the proposed 37-mile length of the Trail within Washington County had been completed by 2002. Existing segments of the Ice Age Trail in the County, as well as the Ice Age Trail corridor adopted by the three managing agencies, are shown on Map 10. Existing segments of the Trail are open to pedestrian travel only, which includes hiking, snowshoeing, and limited cross-country skiing. Such uses as biking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling are not permitted.



The regional bicycle and pedestrian plan adopted by the Commission in 1995 and subsequently amended in 2001 recommends a network of on- and off-street bicycle ways within the County.<sup>3</sup> Map 11 depicts the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan as that plan pertains to Washington County.

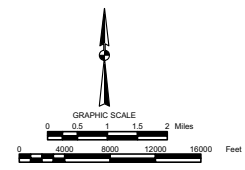
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<sup>3</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 43, A Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin—2010, January 1995, and Amendment to the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin—2020, December 2001.*

ICE AGE TRAIL CORRIDOR AND EXISTING TRAIL SEGMENTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2002



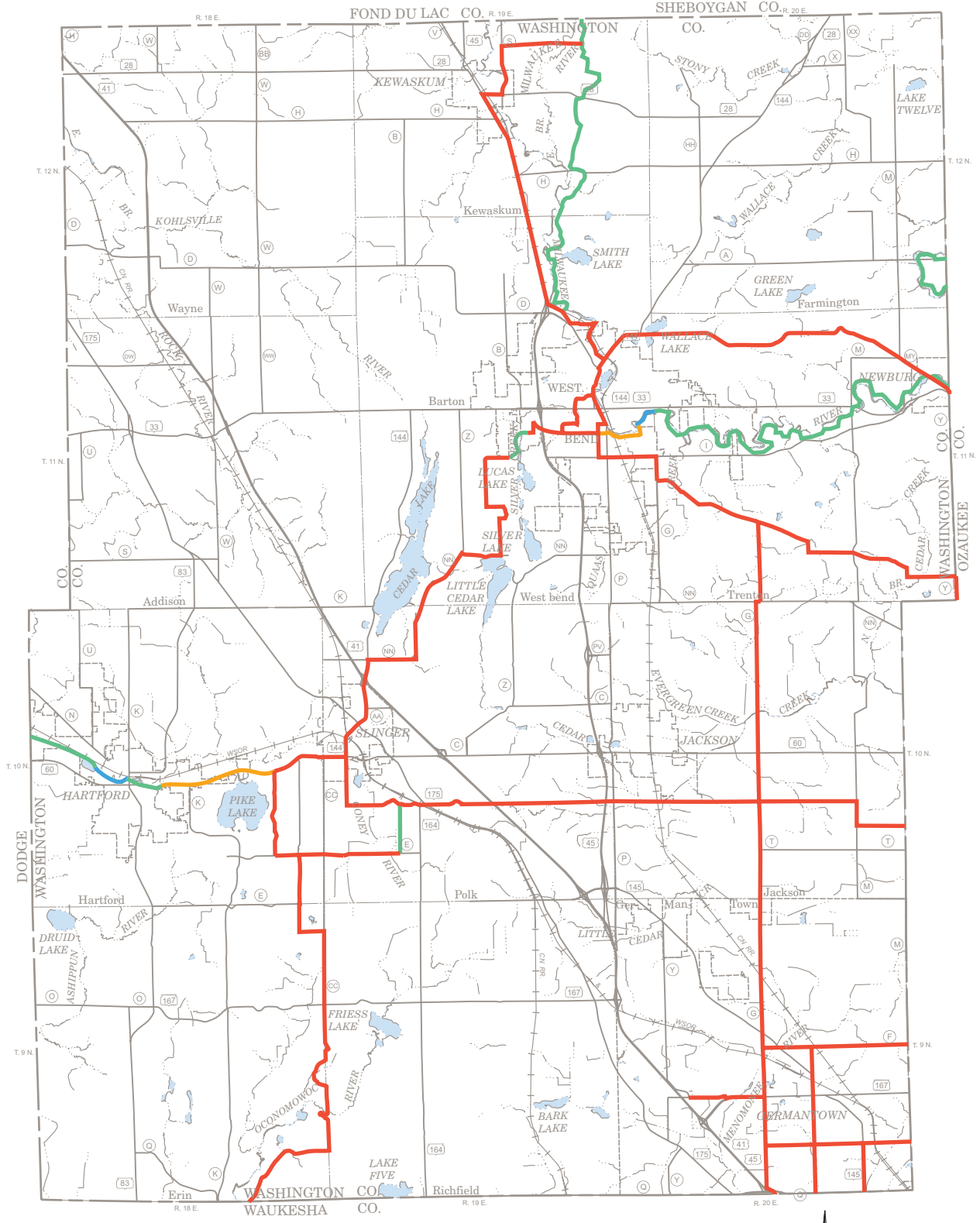
-  ICE AGE TRAIL CORRIDOR
-  EXISTING ICE AGE TRAIL SEGMENT



Source: SEWRPC.

Map 11

ADOPTED YEAR 2020 BICYCLE WAY SYSTEM PLAN FOR  
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AS IT RELATES TO WASHINGTON COUNTY

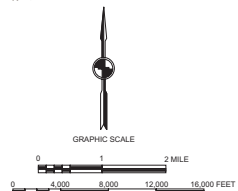


BICYCLE WAYS ASSOCIATED WITH  
NATURAL RESOURCE

- EXISTING
- PROPOSED

BICYCLE WAYS ASSOCIATED WITH  
STREET OR HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

- EXISTING
- PROPOSED



Source: SEWRPC.

For purposes of this report, the term “trails” refers to off-street paths and the term “bicycle way” refers to facilities for bicycle travel associated with street rights-of-way, including signed bicycle routes, striped and signed bicycle lanes, and separate bicycle paths within a highway right-of-way. Bicycle paths generally accommodate both foot and bicycle travel, while on-street bicycle routes and lanes generally accommodate bicycle travel only.

Bicycle use can and does legally occur on many public roadways in the Region that are not specifically designated for such use. State law permits bicycle use on all public roadways, except expressways and freeways, and on those roadways where the local government concerned has acted to prohibit bicycle use by ordinance.

## **HISTORIC SITES**

Historic sites in Washington County often have important recreational, educational, and cultural value. A number of inventories and surveys of potentially significant historic sites have been conducted by various units and agencies of government in Washington County since the completion of the regional park and open space plan in 1977. The results of these inventories and surveys, on file at such agencies as The Wisconsin Historical Society, indicate that there are more than 500 historic sites in Washington County.

Certain sites of known historic significance are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2002, there were 16 individual sites and four historic districts<sup>4</sup> within the County listed on the National Register. The location of sites and districts in Washington County listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 are presented on Table 15 and on Map 12, respectively.

## **SUMMARY**

This chapter has presented the findings of an inventory of existing outdoor recreation and open space sites in Washington County, including existing parks, other open space sites, lake and river access sites, recreation trails and bicycle ways, and historic sites. The key findings are as follows:

1. In 2002, Washington County owned 15 park and open space sites, which collectively encompassed 1,511 acres, or about 0.5 percent of the total area of the County.
2. The State of Wisconsin owned 23 park and open space sites, encompassing 11,655 acres, or about 4 percent of the total area of the County. Of these 23 sites, 17 sites encompassing 11,318 acres were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; three sites encompassing 274 acres were owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; and three sites, encompassing 63 acres, were owned by the University of Wisconsin.
3. Local units of government and school districts owned 136 park and open space sites, encompassing 2,724 acres, or about 1 percent of the total area of the County.
4. In 2002, a total of 75 privately owned resource-oriented recreation and natural resource protection sites encompassing 7,072 acres were located in Washington County.

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<sup>4</sup>A historic district is a geographically definable area, urban or rural, that contains a concentration of significant historic sites or structures from the same period of time.

Table 15

**HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY  
ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: 2002**

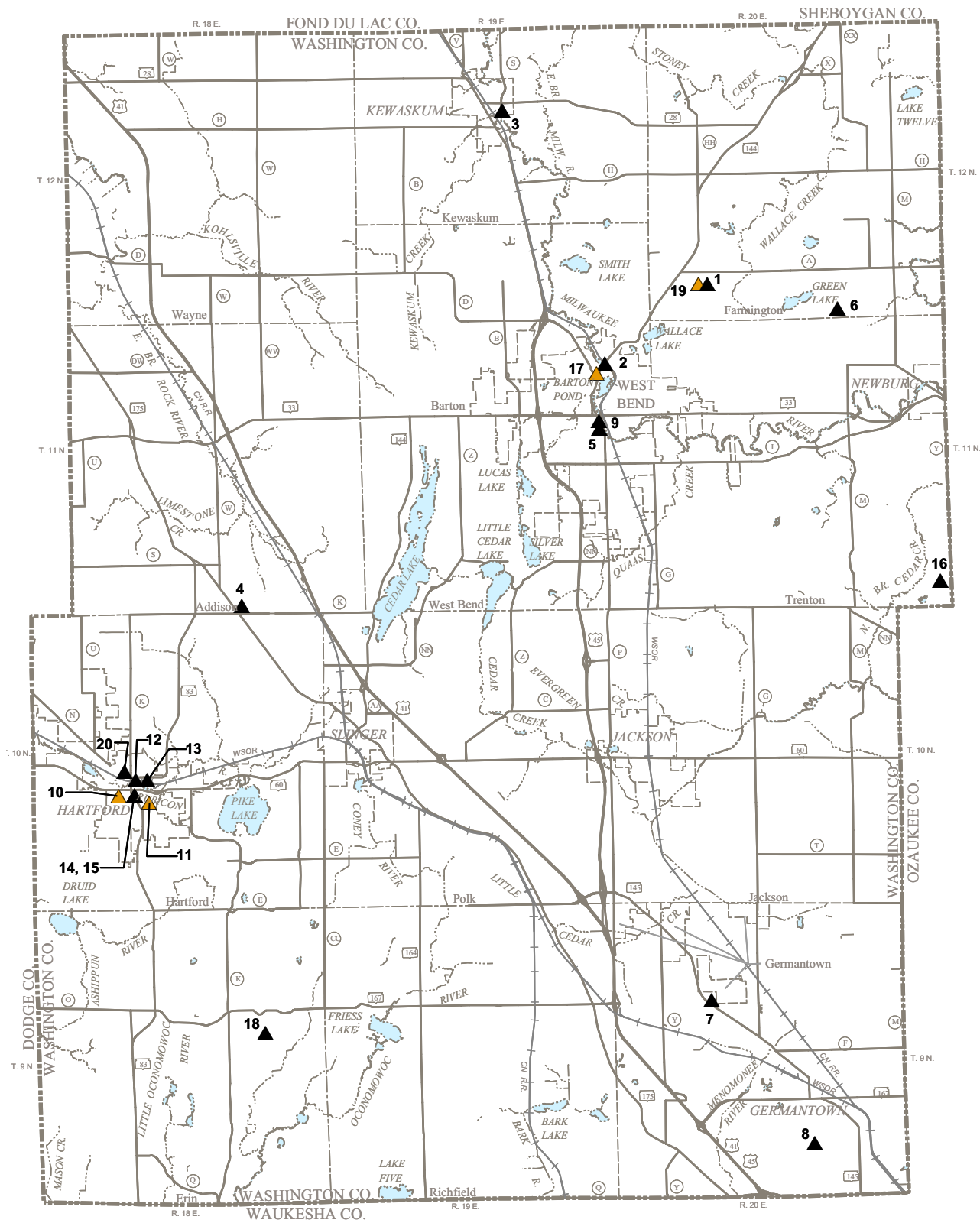
Number on Map 12	Site Name	Location <sup>a</sup>	Civil Division	Year Listed
1	Lizard Mound Park .....	T12N, R20E, Section 32	Town of Farmington	1970
2	Gadow's Mill .....	T11N, R19E, Section 1	City of West Bend	1974
3	St. John of God Roman Catholic Church, Convent, and School .....	T12N, R19E, Section 10	Village of Kewaskum	1979
4	Ritger Wagonmaking and Blacksmith Shop .....	T11N, R18E, Section 34	Town of Addison	1982
5	Washington County Courthouse and Jail .....	T11N, R19E, Section 14	City of West Bend	1982
6	St. Peter's Church .....	T12N, R20E, Section 34	Town of Farmington	1983
7	Christ Evangelical Church .....	T9N, R20E, Section 9	Village of Germantown	1983
8	Jacob Schunk Farmhouse .....	T9N, R20E, Section 26	Village of Germantown	1983
9	Leander F. Frisby House .....	T11N, R19E, Section 14	City of West Bend	1985
10	Kissel's Addition Historic District .....	T10N, R18E, Section 20	City of Hartford	1988
11	Kissel's Wheelock Addition Historic District .....	T10N, R18E, Section 21	City of Hartford	1988
12	George A. Kissel House .....	T10N, R18E, Section 21	City of Hartford	1988
13	Louis Kissel House .....	T10N, R18E, Section 21	City of Hartford	1988
14	Otto P. Kissel House .....	T10N, R18E, Section 21	City of Hartford	1988
15	William L. Kissel House .....	T10N, R18E, Section 21	City of Hartford	1988
16	St. Augustine Catholic Church and Cemetery .....	T11N, R20E, Section 25	Town of Trenton	1990
17	Barton Historic District .....	T11N, R19E, Section 11	City of West Bend	1992
18	Holy Hill .....	T9N, R18E, Section 14	Town of Erin	1992
19	Washington County "Island" Effigy Mound District .....	T12N, R20E, Sections 29, 32, 33	Town of Farmington	1996
20	Schwartz Ballroom .....	T10N, R18E, Section 21	City of Hartford	1998

<sup>a</sup>Indicates location given in U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, and Section.

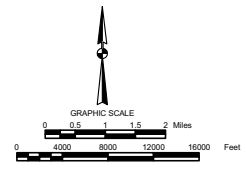
Source: The Wisconsin Historical Society and SEWRPC.

5. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, and The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust held conservation easements at 30 locations, encompassing 953 acres.
6. Public and private sites for boating access to major lakes was available on Barton Pond, Big Cedar Lake, Little Cedar Lake, Druid Lake, Friess Lake, Pike Lake, Silver Lake, Smith Lake, and Wallace Lake. Canoe access was provided to the Milwaukee River.
7. In 2002, 16 individual sites and four historic districts in Washington County were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**LOCATIONS OF HISTORIC SITES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY  
ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: 2002**



- ▲ HISTORIC SITE
- ▲ HISTORIC DISTRICT
- 15 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 15)



## Chapter IV

# PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY RESULTS

### INTRODUCTION

Two public opinion surveys of County residents were conducted under this planning program in 2002 to gather information related to public perceptions of outdoor recreation, the County park system, and protection of natural resources. A summary of the survey findings is presented in this chapter.

The surveys were conducted on behalf of the County by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research. The surveys were designed with the assistance of the Washington County Park and Open Space Plan Technical Advisory Committee. The surveys were viewed by that Committee as an important means of broadening citizen participation in the preparation of the new County park and open space plan.

Similar surveys were conducted in conjunction with the previous County park and open space plan in 1996.<sup>1</sup> The 2002 surveys included most of the questions asked in the 1996 surveys and certain additional questions. This chapter points out similarities and differences between the results of the 1996 and 2002 surveys.

### TELEPHONE SURVEY FINDINGS

The telephone survey, conducted during July 2002, interviewed 605 randomly selected County residents. The survey was intended to help determine the following: how familiar County residents are with the County park system and how often such residents use the parks; how safe County residents feel in the Washington County park system; how County residents are benefiting from use of the parks; the type of recreational activities in which County residents were interested in pursuing; and the public support for funding the acquisition of new parks and environmentally sensitive lands and for the development of additional park facilities. The questions asked and the findings of the telephone survey are documented in a report entitled *Resident Views on Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces in Washington County, 2002*, published by the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.<sup>2</sup> A copy of the survey instrument is included in Appendix B-1. The major findings of the telephone survey are described below.

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<sup>1</sup>Resident Views on Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces in Washington County, *January 1996, and Views and Assessments of Individuals Who Reserved Sites in Washington County Parks, 1994-95, February 1996.*

<sup>2</sup>Copies of the report are available from the Washington County Planning and Parks Department.



## **Use of County Parks**

### ***Visits to County Parks***

The telephone survey found that 66 percent of those surveyed had visited a County park at least once in the 12 months preceding the survey. The three County parks visited most often were Ridge Run, Sandy Knoll, and Glacier Hills Park. About 23 percent of survey respondents had visited one County park in the previous year, another 20 percent had visited two parks, and 23 percent had visited three or more parks. In 1996 the same percentage of survey respondents had visited a County park at least once in the 12 months preceding the survey, and the same three parks had been visited most often.

The survey also found that households with children were more likely than those without children to have used a County park within the past year, with 79 percent of households with children using a County park at least once compared to 56 percent of households without children. Households with children were also more likely to have used a County park in the 1996 survey. Households located in cities and villages were just as likely as households in unincorporated areas to use County parks, with 66 percent of households reporting a visit to a County park in both areas. In the 1996 survey, the percentage of households likely to use County parks was slightly higher for households located in cities and villages than households in unincorporated areas.

### ***Safety at County Parks***

Survey respondents were asked whether they felt safe at Washington County Parks. The majority, 97 percent, indicated that they felt safe. Only seven respondents (3 percent) reported not feeling safe, and listed the following locations: Ridge Run and Sandy Knoll County parks; Woodlawn Union Park, owned by the City of Hartford; and places in general after dark. This question was not included in the 1996 survey.

### ***Benefits from County Parks***

In another question not included in the 1996 survey, survey respondents were asked if they benefited from using Washington County Parks and how. The most frequently cited benefit (79 percent) was that parks helped obtain a greater appreciation of nature. Other benefits cited included: parks helped decrease stress level (77 percent); parks helped provide balance between work and play (77 percent); parks improved the quality of life (76 percent); and parks helped improve overall physical health (55 percent).

### ***Quality of County Parks***

Also a new question since the 1996 survey, respondents were asked to rate the quality of Washington County Parks on a scale from one to 10, with 10 being excellent. The average response was eight.

## **Interest and Participation in Various Recreational Activities**

One of the purposes of the telephone survey was to identify the level of interest and participation of County residents in a variety of specified recreational activities, in order to help determine the types of recreational facilities that should be considered when designing the new park and open space plan. The survey listed resource-related activities that are commonly provided at County and State parks, including hiking and other trail-related activities, picnicking, beach swimming, camping, fishing, and boating; as well as more intensive recreational activities such as tennis, soccer, and softball that are more commonly accommodated at city, village, and town parks.

### ***Types of Recreational Activities***

Survey respondents were first asked if they or anyone in their household had an interest in a certain activity, and if so, if anyone in the household had participated in the activity in the preceding year. The responses are summarized on Table 16. As shown by the table, the activities with the highest percentage of respondents that reported a household member participating were in hiking and walking (70 percent), on-road biking (60 percent), and swimming in pools (51 percent). These activities were also frequently mentioned in the 1996 survey. Survey respondents or a member of their household participated less often in organized sports than in individual or family recreational activities. Less than 20 percent of the respondents reported a household member participating in organized sports such as baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball. In 1996, respondents also participated in individual or family recreational activities more often than in organized sports.



Table 16

## RECREATIONAL INTERESTS AND PARTICIPATION LEVELS BY WASHINGTON COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS

Recreational Activity	Percent of Households Where One or More Members Have Interest in the Activity	Percent of Households that Have Interest in Activity and Actually Participated in Activity in the Past Year
Hiking/Walking .....	76	70
On-Road Biking .....	69	60
Swimming in Pools.....	62	51
Beach Swimming.....	60	45
Fishing .....	58	46
Picnicking .....	56	45
Camping .....	54	NA
Tobogganing or Sledding.....	50	38
Nature Education Program .....	48	19
Off-road Trail Biking .....	48	31
Water Slides/Water Parks.....	46	32
Children's Playgrounds .....	46	42
Driving through Parks.....	45	37
Mountain Biking.....	41	27
Golfing .....	36	29
Ice Skating .....	34	18
Canoeing .....	30	16
Recreational Boating .....	29	23
Rollerblading/Skateboarding .....	27	21
Dog Training/Exercise off Leash.....	24	14
Baseball .....	23	14
Volleyball.....	22	14
Cross-Country Skiing/Ungroomed Trails.....	22	11
Jogging.....	22	19
Football.....	21	10
Cross-Country Skiing/Groomed Trails .....	21	10
Snowmobiling.....	21	14
Softball .....	21	14
Basketball .....	20	17
Archery .....	20	12
Tennis .....	20	14
Soccer .....	15	11
Disc Golf.....	11	5
Roller Hockey.....	4	1

Source: UWM Urban Research Center.

There were several activities that showed a significant difference between the percentage of respondents or a household member interested in the activity and the percentage participating in the activity. The recreational activity with the most significant difference was nature education programs, with 48 percent having interest and only 19 percent actually participating. Other activities with a significant difference include: beach swimming, canoeing, ice skating, mountain biking, off-road trail biking, and water slide/water parks. These differences may reflect a demand for recreational activities that are not currently offered at Washington County Parks.

#### *Location of Recreational Activities*

Survey respondents who had participated in one of the specified recreational activities were asked where they had performed the activity. As may be expected, the responses were numerous and varied, and many respondents had participated in a specific recreational activity in more than one location over the course of the previous year.

Responses were broadly organized into three categories, on the basis of the sites utilized, as follows: publicly owned sites and private yards and neighborhoods within Washington County; publicly owned sites outside of the County; and other privately owned sites. The first category was further subdivided to differentiate between publicly owned sites owned by State, County, and local levels of government, and school districts; nearby streets or neighborhoods areas; and private homes or yards. The second category was further subdivided to differentiate between State or National Parks, sites owned by local levels of government, and other parks/lakes. The third category was further subdivided to differentiate between private facilities, retail facilities, and generic facilities.

For activities presently offered at Washington County parks—such as ice skating, cross country skiing on ungroomed trails, beach swimming, canoeing, fishing, jogging, hiking and walking, playgrounds, picnicking, recreational boating, and pleasure driving—County parks were mentioned most often as the location for these activities. Organized sports offered at Washington County parks, such as volleyball, basketball, and soccer also were most commonly pursued in County parks. Softball most commonly took place in sites owned by local units of government. A private facility was the most frequently mentioned place for golfing.

Activities such as disc golf, mountain biking, off-road trail biking, football, dog training or exercising, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and nature education programs, took place most often at Washington County Parks even though these activities or trails for these activities are not formally provided for at County parks. Private yards and nearby streets and neighborhood areas in the County were most commonly used for roller hockey. Nearby streets and neighborhood areas in the County were used most often for on-road biking. Archery took place most often in private yards in Washington County. The activities most likely to have occurred at sites owned by local units of government within the County were swimming in pools and tennis. Camping commonly took place at a private facility. The activities most likely to have occurred outside the County at sites owned by local units of government were visiting water slides or parks, and baseball.

#### ***Proximity and Participation in Recreational Activities***

Survey respondents were asked if anyone in their household would have participated or participated more often in specified recreational activities if sites or facilities for such activities had been available closer to home. Fifty-seven percent of respondents replied affirmatively, with pools/swimming being the activity identified by the highest number (21 percent) of respondents. Water slides/water parks and biking were identified by more than 10 percent of respondents; and off leash dog training/exercise, hiking/walking, archery, rollerblading/roller hockey, and camping were identified by between 5 and 8 percent of respondents. The activities identified are listed in Table 17. In 1996, the most often cited were swimming in pools and hiking/walking. Also in the 1996 survey, water slides/water parks were much less popular and off leash dog training/exercise and archery were not mentioned.

#### ***Increased Use of County Parks***

Respondents were asked if there was anything that would make it more likely that they or members of their household would use Washington County parks more often. Twenty-nine percent of respondents replied affirmatively, with the highest percentage of respondents citing a better understanding of what is available. Other factors that might cause them to visit County parks more frequently included: closer location, more free time, the addition of facilities, allowing dogs, and provision of opportunities for swimming.

#### ***Views on Acquisition, Protection, and Development of Parkland and Natural Resource Areas***

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions related to their views on acquiring and developing additional lands for parks, developing a County trail system, developing additional County facilities, acquiring land for resource protection purposes, and providing access to lakes and waterways. Respondents were also asked for their opinions regarding various means of raising funds for acquisition and development of park and open space lands. These questions directly relate to the emphasis placed in previous regional and county park and open space plans on preserving land with important natural resources, particularly lands within the primary environmental corridors, and in providing a regional recreational trail system along major streams and the Kettle Moraine.

**Conservation, Natural Resources, Connecting County Parks, and Providing Lake Access**

The first question asked respondents the extent to which they agreed with the statement: “Conserving land for public parks, recreation, water quality, and wildlife habitat is a good use of public funds.” A high level of support was expressed, with 93 percent of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with that statement, 3 percent disagreeing, and 4 percent expressing no opinion.

The next statement read: “The County should provide a system of recreation trails to connect County parks and other public recreational lands and trails.” Here, 68 percent agreed or strongly agreed, 21 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 11 percent had no opinion.

Somewhat less agreement was given to the next statement: “County government is doing enough to preserve natural resources and open space in your community.” Here, 58 percent agreed or strongly agreed, 26 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 16 percent had no opinion. Results of the previous three statements were very similar to the 1996 survey.

The last statement in this series, which is new to the 2002 survey, read: “County government is doing enough to provide access to lakes and waterways.” Here, 53 percent agreed or strongly agreed, 28 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 19 percent had no opinion.

**Future County Initiatives**

The next set of questions asked respondents their views regarding potential County actions to protect the environment and to expand and improve the park system. Strong support was expressed for County acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands, with 85 percent of respondents expressing support for such acquisition, 14 percent expressing opposition, and 1 percent expressing no opinion. Fifty-eight percent of respondents expressed support for County acquisition of lands for new County parks, while 42 percent expressed opposition. Much less support was expressed for improving or expanding facilities at existing County parks, with only 39 percent of respondents expressing support and 61 percent expressed opposition. Similar to the 2002 survey, the 1996 survey showed strong support for the purchase of environmentally sensitive lands. The 1996 survey showed slightly less support for County acquisition of land for new County parks, and slightly more for improving or expanding facilities at County parks.

Two questions not included in the 1996 survey asked if Washington County should provide a nature center for educational programming, and if Washington County should own and operate additional golf courses. Strong support was expressed for Washington County to provide a nature center, with 70 percent of respondents expressing support, 28 percent expressing opposition, and 2 percent expressing no opinion. There was significantly less support expressed for Washington County to own and operate additional golf courses, with only 24 percent of respondents expressing support, 72 percent expressing opposition, and 4 percent expressing no opinion.

**Financial Mechanisms**

Respondents who responded affirmatively that the County should take action to acquire lands for resource protection purposes and to expand the park system were asked how the County should finance the action. Respondents were asked to chose from the following: increased taxes, borrowing money through bonds to be repaid over time, fees charged to users, a combination of these three alternatives, and some other way.

**Table 17**

**ACTIVITIES IN WHICH RESIDENTS WOULD PARTICIPATE MORE OFTEN IF AVAILABLE CLOSER TO HOME**

Recreational Activity	Percent of Responses
Swimming in Pools .....	21
Water Slides/Water Parks .....	17
Biking .....	12
Dog training/Exercise off Leash .....	8
Hiking/Walking .....	7
Archery .....	7
Rollerblading/Roller Hockey .....	6
Camping .....	5

Source: UWM Urban Research Center.

Over half of the respondents favored a combination of taxes, bonds, and user fees to finance the acquisition of woodlands and wetlands, to improve or expand facilities in existing County parks, and to acquire lands to create new County parks. The least preferred financing mechanism for all options was increased taxes, being favored by only small percentages of respondents. In the 1996 survey, user fees were cited as the overall preferred financial mechanism.

### ***Activities for Expanded Facilities***

Respondents who responded affirmatively that the County should take action to acquire lands for resource protection purposes and to expand the park system were also asked what activities these expanded facilities should be used for. The top activities cited—those with at least a 20 percent response—were hiking/walking, children’s playgrounds, beach swimming, fishing, and picnicking.

Respondents were then specifically asked which activities Washington County should provide for, that are not already offered in the County. The activities cited most often were swimming in pools, and water slides/water parks.

## **MAIL SURVEY FINDINGS**

The mail survey was intended primarily to determine user satisfaction with park facilities and to help determine additional facilities park users would like to have provided at County parks. The findings of the mail survey are documented in a report entitled *Views and Assessments of Individuals who Reserved Sites in Washington County Parks, 2000-2001*, 2002, published by the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.<sup>3</sup>

The survey was mailed during August 2002 to 573 County residents who had reserved a facility at a County park between 2000 and 2001. A total of 161 surveys, or 28 percent of those mailed, were returned and included in the analysis. A copy of the survey instrument is provided in Appendix B-2. A summary of the results is provided below, with comparisons made, as appropriate, to the results of a similar survey conducted in 1996.

### **Use of County Park Facilities**

Respondents reported that they had reserved park facilities at Ackerman’s Grove, Glacier Hills, Homestead Hollow, Ridge Run, and Sandy Knoll parks. Facilities at Sandy Knoll Park were reserved slightly more often—by 27 percent of respondents—than Glacier Hills, Homestead Hollow, and Ridge Run parks, which were reserved by 23 percent, 25 percent, and 23 percent of respondents, respectively. Ackerman’s Grove was reserved by 2 percent of respondents.<sup>4</sup> These percentages somewhat differed from the 1996 survey in that proportionally fewer reservations were reported at Sandy Knoll Park, and proportionally more reservations were reported at Homestead Hollow Park. Ackerman’s Grove was not developed in 1996.

With respect to the type of facilities reserved, the highest percentage of respondents, 63 percent, had reserved a closed shelter, 32 percent had reserved an open shelter, 3 percent had reserved the chapel at Glacier Hills Park, and 2 percent had reserved an area for school groups. Comparisons to the 1996 survey are precluded by differences in the survey forms.

Respondents were asked the age of persons participating in the function for which the site was reserved. Adults aged 18 to 64 were present at nearly all functions (93 percent). Children 13 years or younger were present at 73 percent of all functions, while high-school-aged individuals were present at 57 percent of all functions. Those 65 years of age and over were present at almost half of park functions. These responses were similar to those of the 1996 survey.

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<sup>3</sup>*Copies of the report are available from the Washington County Planning and Parks Department.*

<sup>4</sup>*The shelter at Ackerman’s Grove did not open until June 2001.*

Mail survey respondents were asked to describe their purpose for reserving a site. Forty-six percent of respondents had reserved a park site for a group picnic, which included family, company, church, and scout or youth picnics. Another 25 percent of respondents reported reserving a site for a party, and about 29 percent of respondents reserved the site for functions other than a picnic or party, including weddings, school reunions, organized sporting events, graduations, special events, club events, and showers. These responses were similar to those of the 1996 survey.

### **Most Important Features at Washington County Parks**

Respondents were asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 10, how important the features were at the facility they reserved, with 10 being very important. A list of the features was given in the survey, with an option to list additional features. The rating of importance for each feature is shown in Table 18. Respondents identified the most important feature to be the availability of electricity, with an average rating of 9.3. Other important features, with a rating above eight, were proximity to bathroom, size of shelter, and proximity to parking. The least important feature was the availability of heat, which received a rating of 3.1. Some of the other features cited as important but not included on the list, were cooking facilities, quality of bathrooms, picnic tables, and privacy. This question was not included in the 1996 survey.

### **Reserving Areas in the Parks**

Respondents were asked if they would have reserved an outdoor area adjacent to a shelter building if this were an option (in a question not included in the 1996 survey). About 72 percent indicated they would not reserve an outdoor area if this were an option. About 28 percent indicated that they would reserve an outdoor area if available, and listed the following areas: volleyball court, athletic field, basketball court, playground area, horseshoe pits, and the area around the barn.

### **Assessment of the Reserved Facility**

Respondents were asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 10, the ease of access, cleanliness, and overall opinion of the facility they reserved. The ease of access was rated 8.8 on average, cleanliness was rated 8.5, and the overall opinion of the facility was 8.7. This question was not included in the 1996 survey.

### **Amenities Used in the Parks**

In another question not included in the 1996 survey, respondents were asked which amenities they used when reserving a site at a Washington County park (see Table 19). More than 80 percent of the respondents used picnic areas and 73 percent used playground equipment. The amenities used least at County parks were ice skating, boat launches, and snowmobile trails.

### **Assessment of Park Features**

#### ***Features Liked Best***

Survey respondents were asked in an open-ended question to identify features that they liked best at the reserved site. Respondents were allowed to give multiple answers, identifying over 247 features they liked best. The features identified by respondents were organized into five broad categories, including park amenities, recreation, park characteristics, park administration, and shelter amenities. As shown in Table 20, 42 percent of the respondents identified park amenities—such as restroom facilities, provision of shelters, picnic tables, and barbecue grills and fire pits—as features they liked best. Recreation features such as recreational facilities and hiking trails were identified by 24 percent of the respondents as features they liked best. Twenty percent of respondents liked park characteristics, such as the park's natural setting, privacy, spaciousness, and location. The percentage of respondents that liked recreation facilities has increased since the 1996 survey and the percentage of respondents that liked park characteristics has decreased since the 1996 survey.

#### ***Features Liked Least***

Survey respondents were also asked to identify what they liked least about the reserved site. Respondents were allowed to give multiple answers, identifying 95 features they liked least. There were less negative features identified than positive features, similar to the 1996 survey. The features identified were divided into seven broad categories, including restroom facilities, shelter amenities, park administration, park amenities, park

**Table 18**

**MOST IMPORTANT FEATURES AT WASHINGTON COUNTY PARK SITES**

Feature	Average Rating on a Scale from 1 to 10
Availability of Electricity .....	9.3
Proximity to Bathroom.....	8.9
Size of Shelter.....	8.7
Proximity to Parking.....	8.5
Proximity to Water .....	7.9
Proximity to Garbage Dumpsters .....	7.4
Proximity to Playground.....	6.5
Views of Park .....	6.0
Proximity to Athletic Fields.....	5.1
Availability of Fire Pit .....	4.3
Proximity to Hiking Trails .....	4.0
Proximity to Phone.....	3.9
Availability of Heat .....	3.1

Source: UWM Urban Research Center.

**Table 19**

**RESPONDENTS USE OF PARK AMENITIES AT WASHINGTON COUNTY PARK SITES**

Amenity	Percent of Respondents
Picnic Area.....	82
Playground Equipment.....	73
Playfields .....	48
Hiking Trails.....	46
Volleyball Court.....	31
Fishing .....	21
Basketball Court.....	18
Horseshoe Area.....	16
Swimming Beach.....	15
Sledding.....	7
Cross-country Ski Trails .....	4
Boat Launch.....	3
Ice Skating .....	3
Snowmobile Trails.....	2

Source: UWM Urban Research Center.

characteristics, inadequate recreation facilities, and safety. As shown in Table 21, the category most frequently cited was restroom facilities, with 32 percent of respondents dissatisfied with restroom facilities. Inadequacies with respect to shelter amenities such as cooking facilities, building conditions, and electrical service were identified by 18 percent of the respondents as features they liked least. Seventeen percent noted a problem with park administration, particularly maintenance. The 1996 survey also identified restroom facilities as the least liked facility, but respondents appear to be more satisfied in the 2002 survey.

**Suggestions for Improving County Parks**

***Improving Existing Park Facilities***

Survey respondents were asked for their suggestions for improving existing park facilities. Thirty-four percent of the suggestions for improving parks were related to park amenities, particularly providing additional dumpsters and recycling containers. Improving park administration was suggested by 20 percent, and improving shelter amenities was suggested by 18 percent. Improving restroom facilities and recreation facilities was suggested less often. Only 13 percent of respondents suggested improving restroom facilities, compared with 30 percent in 1996; this may be attributed, at least in part, to the development of new restrooms at Homestead Hollow Park, Ridge Run Park, and Sandy Knoll Park.

***New Amenities/Facilities at Parks***

Survey respondents were also asked for suggestions related to new or expanded park facilities. Forty percent suggested recreation facilities such as dog parks, playground equipment, and volleyball courts. Suggestions for new park amenities, such as additional benches/tables, and additional dumpsters/recycling containers, were listed by 35 percent of respondents. Twenty-two percent suggested additional shelter amenities, such as improving the electrical service. Again less respondents suggested new restroom facilities in the 2002 survey (5 percent) compared to respondents in the 1996 survey (16 percent).

**Assessment of Park Reservation System and Cost**

The mail survey also asked respondents what type of reservation system they would prefer. Respondents were allowed to give multiple responses. A telephone reservation system was preferred by the majority, as indicated by 51 percent of respondents. An internet based reservation system and an in-person system (the current method) was preferred by 32 percent, and a mail-in reservation system was preferred by 19 percent. In the 1996 survey, the majority of the respondents were satisfied with the current in-person system.

**Table 20**

**WASHINGTON COUNTY PARK FEATURES AND FACILITIES LIKED BEST**

Features and Facilities	Number	Percent
<b>Park Amenities</b>		
Bathroom Facilities .....	23	9
Potable Water .....	2	1
Shelter .....	43	17
Parking .....	6	3
Picnic Tables .....	18	7
Grills and Fire Pits .....	13	5
Subtotal	105	42
<b>Park Characteristics</b>		
Privacy .....	8	3
Park Setting.....	16	6
Spaciousness.....	9	4
Convenient Location of Park .....	17	7
Subtotal	50	20
<b>Recreation</b>		
Trails and Hiking.....	16	6
Recreation Facilities .....	44	18
Subtotal	60	24
<b>Park Administration</b>		
Maintenance and Cleanliness .....	13	5
Park Policy.....	2	1
Park Staff.....	1	1
Subtotal	16	7
<b>Shelter Amenities</b>		
Electricity.....	9	4
Cooking Facilities .....	7	3
Subtotal	16	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: UWM Urban Research Center.

In the 2002 survey, almost all (94 percent) responded that county staff had been helpful and courteous to them when making reservations. A similar response was given in the 1996 survey, with 96 percent indicating staff had been helpful and courteous when they made a reservation.

Survey respondents were asked to assess the cost of reserving a park site. Most of the respondents (82 percent) replied that the cost was about right, 18 percent said it was too high, and none of the respondents said it was too low. These responses were very similar to the 1996 survey responses.

Respondents were asked to list additional comments about the park reservation. Thirty-nine percent of respondents complained about the park reservations and price, commenting that the in-person system was inconvenient and cumbersome and that there should be more reservation systems and options. The same number (39 percent) of respondents were satisfied with the park reservation and experience, specifically giving comments about the beautiful park settings and that they would recommend reserving a park site to others.

**Assessment of County Staff at Park**

Respondents were asked if County staff at the park site was helpful and courteous. Over half (55 percent) of the respondents had no contact with park staff, just less than half (43 percent) indicated that staff was helpful and courteous, and 3 percent indicated that staff was not.

**Table 21**

**WASHINGTON COUNTY PARK FEATURES AND FACILITIES LIKED LEAST**

Features and Facilities	Number	Percent
<b>Restroom Facilities</b>		
General Complaint.....	9	10
No Water to Wash With .....	5	5
Odor, Smell, Cleanliness.....	4	4
Pit Toilets.....	9	10
Distance to Restrooms .....	3	3
Subtotal	30	32
<b>Park Administration</b>		
Maintenance.....	11	11
Park Policy .....	3	3
Park Staff .....	2	2
Subtotal	16	16
<b>Park Amenities</b>		
Lack of Potable Water.....	5	5
Parking.....	3	3
Lack of Tables-Old .....	1	1
Subtotal	9	9
<b>Park Characteristics</b>		
Lack of Privacy .....	1	1
Park Setting .....	3	3
Poor Access to Reserved Site.....	6	7
Subtotal	10	11
<b>Shelter Amenities</b>		
Condition of Buildings.....	5	5
Inadequate Electrical Service.....	3	3
Inadequate Cooking Facilities.....	6	7
Inadequate Cooling System.....	2	2
Poor Lighting.....	1	1
Subtotal	17	18
<b>Inadequate Recreation Facilities .....</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Subtotal	8	9
<b>Safety.....</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Subtotal	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: UWM Urban Research Center.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL/INPUT MEETINGS**

As another means of broadening citizen participation in the preparation of the new County park and open space plan, the Washington County Planning and Parks Department held public informational meetings throughout the planning process. The first in a series of meetings were held at: the Kewaskum Municipal Building Annex on October 22, 2002; the Washington County Public Agency Center in the City of West Bend on October 23, 2002; and at Glacier Hills County Park in the Town of Richfield on October 24, 2002. The purpose of the meetings were to review results of the telephone and mail surveys presented in this chapter, and to solicit public input on the completed portion of the new Washington County park and open space plan. Twelve people attended the public informational meeting on October 22, 26 people attended on October 23, and 14 people attended on October 24. A summary of comments from all public informational meetings are included in Appendix C.

Comments received at the public informational meetings were generally consistent with the results of the surveys. Those comments related to open space preservation, development of park and open space sites, and plan implementation responsibilities. Specifically, those in attendance spoke positively on topics including: the preservation of farmland; protection of natural areas; the acquisition of land just for protection purposes; the development of trails for bicycles, pedestrians, horseback riding, and rollerblading; the provision of ice skating on ponds; the development of a nature center; league baseball diamonds; a swimming beach on Big Cedar Lake; the provision of a dog park; more parks equally distributed throughout the County; and the consideration of using abandoned gravel pit sites for future parks.

## **YOUTH SURVEYS**

In 2002, the University of Wisconsin Extension—Washington County conducted surveys of Washington County youth in the Villages of Germantown and Jackson to gather information about use and perceptions of Washington County parks. Ages of those surveyed ranged from 12 to 18. Of the 20 surveys completed, 13 responded that they had visited one or more of the following Washington County parks in the last year: Ackerman's Grove, Family Park/Washington County Golf Course, Glacier Hills, Heritage Trails, Homestead Hollow, Lizard Mound, and Ridge Run. Hiking trails were mentioned most often as an amenity used by Washington County youth. Other amenities mentioned often included picnic areas, playfields, sledding, and sand volleyball. Suggestions for improvement or new features at Washington County parks included: the improvement of trails, playgrounds, and sled hills, and the provision of pools, ice skating facilities, soccer fields, and swimming beaches.

## **SUMMARY**

This chapter has presented the findings of the public opinion surveys regarding the Washington County park system conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research. The telephone survey, conducted during July 2002, interviewed 605 randomly selected County residents. The telephone survey was intended to help determine the County residents' use of County parks, recreational interests, and opinions on acquiring and expanding lands for parks. The mail survey, sent in August 2002 to County residents who had reserved a facility at a County park between 2000 and 2001, was received from 161 residents. The mail survey was intended to help determine user satisfaction with park facilities and determine additional facilities park users would like to have provided at County parks. The major findings of the telephone and mail survey are described below.

### Telephone Survey

1. The telephone survey indicated that 66 percent of respondents or members of their household had visited a County park during the preceding year. Ridge Run, Sandy Knoll, and Glacial Hills were the parks visited most by County residents. Households with children reported using the County parks more than those without children. Park use was the same for households residing in an incorporated or unincorporated municipality.
2. In a series of questions about the use of Washington County parks, results included: 97 percent of respondents indicated they felt safe at Washington County Parks; the most common reason respondents benefited from using Washington County Parks was that parks helped obtain a greater



appreciation of nature; and respondents rated the quality of Washington County at an average of eight, on a scale from one to 10 with 10 being excellent.

3. The highest percentage of telephone survey respondents reported that a household member had participated in hiking and walking, on-road biking, and swimming in pools. Survey respondents indicated that members of their household participated in individual or family recreational activities more than organized sports. Nature education programs was the activity that showed the most significant difference between the percentage of respondents interested in the activity and the percentage participating in the activity.
4. For activities presently offered at Washington County parks such as—ice skating, cross country skiing on ungroomed trails, beach swimming, canoeing, fishing, jogging, hiking and walking, playgrounds, picnicking, recreational boating, and pleasure driving—County parks were mentioned most often as the locations for these activities. Organized sports offered at County parks such as volleyball, basketball, and soccer were most commonly pursued at County parks. Activities such as—disc golf, mountain biking, off-road trail biking, football, dog training or exercising, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and nature education programs—took place most often at Washington County Parks, even though these activities are not formally provided for at County parks. Softball, swimming in pools, and tennis most commonly took place in sites in the County owned by local units of government. A private facility was the most frequently mentioned place for golfing and camping. Private yards and/or nearby streets and neighborhood areas in the County were most commonly used for roller hockey, on-road biking, and archery. The activities most likely to have occurred outside the County at sites owned by local units of government were visiting water slides or parks and baseball.
5. Fifty-seven percent of respondents replied affirmatively that members of their household would have participated or participated more often in specified recreational activities if sites or facilities for such activities had been available closer to home.
6. Twenty-nine percent of respondents replied affirmatively that there were things that would make it more likely that they or members of their household would use Washington County parks more often. The highest percentage of respondents cited a better understanding of what is available.
7. A high level of support was expressed for conserving land for public parks, recreation, water quality, and wildlife habitat. More than half of respondents agreed that County government is doing enough to preserve natural resources and open space, that the County should provide a system of recreation trails to connect County parks and other public recreational lands and trails, and that County government is doing enough to provide access to lakes and waterways.
8. Telephone survey respondents expressed strong support for public acquisition of woodlands and wetlands; more than half of respondents expressed support for County acquisition of lands for new County parks; and less than half of respondents expressed support for improving or expanding facilities at existing County parks. Over half of the respondents favored a combination of taxes, bonds, and user fees to finance these activities. Very few respondents favored increased taxes to pay for land acquisition or park improvements.
9. Strong support was expressed for Washington County to provide a nature center, and significantly less support was expressed for Washington County to own and operate additional golf courses.
10. Individuals who responded affirmatively that the County should take action to acquire lands for resource protection purposes and to expand the park system indicated these expanded facilities should be used for hiking and walking, children's playgrounds, beach swimming, fishing, and picnicking. Respondents indicated that Washington County should provide for activities that are not already offered in the County, such as swimming in pools, and water slides/water parks.
11. The results of the 2002 telephone survey were generally similar to the telephone survey conducted in conjunction with the previous County park and open space plan in 1996, although some notable

differences exist. Respondents expressed a greater interest in water slides/water parks in the 2002 survey compared to the 1996 survey. User fees were the overall preferred mechanism in the 1996 survey, compared to a combination of taxes, bonds, and user fees as the preferred mechanism in the 2002 survey.

### Mail Survey

1. Mail survey respondents indicated park facilities were reserved at Ackerman's Grove, Glacier Hills, Homestead Hollow, Ridge Run, and Sandy Knoll parks. Facilities at Sandy Knoll Park were reserved slightly more often. A closed shelter was reserved the most, by 63 percent of the respondents.
2. Adults aged 18 to 64 were present at nearly all functions. Children 13 years or younger were present at about 73 percent of all functions, while high-school-aged individuals were present at 57 percent of all functions. Those 65 years of age and over were present at almost half of park functions.
3. Forty-seven percent of respondents had reserved a park site for a group picnic, 24 percent reserved a site for a party, and 11 percent reserved the site for such functions as weddings, school reunions, and organized sporting events. Another 18 percent reserved a site for some other activity or function than those mentioned above, including graduations, special events, club events, and showers.
4. Respondents identified the most important feature at the facility they reserved to be the availability of electricity. Other important features were proximity to bathroom, size of shelter, and proximity to parking. The least important feature was the availability of heat.
5. Seventy percent of respondents would not reserve an outdoor area adjacent to a shelter building; a high rating was given to the ease of access, cleanliness, and overall opinion of the facility reserved; and picnic areas and playground equipment were used the most when reserving a site at a Washington County park.
6. Overall, there were more positive features identified at the reserved site by respondents than negative features. Amenities such as restroom facilities, shelters, picnic tables, and barbecue grills and fire pits were the most frequently cited positive features.
7. The majority of suggestions for improving park facilities related to park amenities, particularly providing additional dumpsters and recycling containers. Other suggestions related to improving park administration and improving shelter amenities. Recreation facilities such as dog parks, playground equipment, and volleyball courts, and park amenities such as additional benches/tables and additional dumpsters/recycling containers were cited most frequently as desired park facilities.
8. A telephone reservation system was preferred by most respondents. Almost all responded that county staff had been helpful and courteous to them when making reservations. Most of the respondents were satisfied with the cost of reserving a County park site.
9. The results of the 2002 mail survey of park users were generally similar to the results of a mail survey conducted in conjunction with the previous County park and open space plan in 1996, although some differences exist. Survey respondents' comments regarding park restrooms were somewhat more positive in the 2002 survey than in the 1996 survey. As noted above, respondents in the 2002 survey indicated that they would prefer a telephone park reservation system; in the 1996 survey, respondents favored the in-person system employed by the County.

## Chapter V

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

### INTRODUCTION

Planning is a rational process for formulating objectives and meeting those objectives through the preparation and implementation of plans. Objectives guide the preparation of plans and, when converted to specific measures of plan effectiveness, termed standards, provide the structure for evaluating how well the plan meets the objectives.

This chapter sets forth the objectives, principles, and standards used in the preparation of this park and open space plan for Washington County, and applies the standards to the anticipated year 2020 population to help determine the need for major park sites and such outdoor recreation facilities as golf courses, campgrounds, swimming beaches, lake access sites, and hiking and biking trails. Needs identified through the application of the standards are addressed in Chapter VI, which sets forth the recommended park and open space plan for Washington County.

### OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS

The Commission Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee on Regional Park and Open Space Planning, as part of the regional park and open space planning program completed in 1977, formulated a set of park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives and accompanying principles and standards. The regional standards were based on standards previously developed by the National Recreation and Park Association. The Advisory Committee compared the national standards to recreational preferences and demands of the Region as determined by surveys of recreation site managers and users, and modified the standards as necessary to meet park and open space demands within the Region.

The regional park and open space preservation objectives, principles, and standards were incorporated directly into the year 2000 Washington County park and open space plan. Those objectives, principles, and standards were reaffirmed in the year 2010 Washington County park and open space plan, and again in this year 2020 Washington County park and open space plan, with certain modifications. These modifications include: the incorporation of the guidelines set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the *Wisconsin Administration Code* relating to the standards for boating access; and the addition of a principle and standard for the preservation of natural areas and critical species habitat sites. The plan objectives are set forth below:

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

2. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
3. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
4. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.
5. To provide sufficient access areas to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities on the major inland lakes and rivers which are consistent with enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of adequate water quality.
6. To preserve sufficient high-quality open-space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the County.
7. To provide for the efficient and economical satisfaction of outdoor recreation and related open space needs meeting all other objectives at the lowest possible cost.

Each of these objectives, together with its supporting principle and standards, is set forth in Appendix D. Each set of standards serves to facilitate the identification of park and open space needs for plan design and evaluation.

It should be noted that while the attainment of all objectives is considered desirable to provide the residents of the County 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 the various levels, units, and agencies of government. Under the adopted regional park and open space plan and the new County plan presented herein, the responsibility for the provision of large resource-oriented parks, resource-oriented recreational facilities, and areawide recreation trails is delegated primarily to the State and County levels of government, while the responsibility for the provision of smaller community and neighborhood parks and associated intensive nonresource-oriented recreational facilities is delegated primarily to local units of government. The protection of important natural resource features, including primary environmental corridors and natural areas, is considered the responsibility of all levels of government.

## **PARK AND OPEN SPACE NEEDS**

### **Existing and Forecast Population Size and Distribution**

The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the County is determined by applying the standards set forth in Appendix D for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks and outdoor recreation facilities to the existing and anticipated future resident population levels and distribution within the County, and comparing the probable demand for such sites and facilities, as indicated through application of the standards, to the existing supply of recreation sites and facilities.

As noted in Chapter II of this report, the 2000 County population was 117,493 persons. The number of County residents anticipated by the year 2020 based upon forecasts developed by the Regional Planning Commission for the year 2020 regional land use plan would range from 128,800 persons under the adopted regional plan to as high as 150,200 under the high-growth alternative.

In addition to information on the overall size of the anticipated future population of the County, information on future population distribution is important to a determination of existing and probable future outdoor recreation needs. The regional park and outdoor recreation standards call for a major park to be provided within four miles of residents of urban areas having a population of 40,000 or greater and within ten miles of residents of smaller

urban areas and rural areas. In order to provide an increased distribution of major parks, the 2010 County park and open space plan applied the four mile service radius to all planned urban areas in Washington County regardless of population size. In order to be consistent with the existing plan, the same application of service radii were used in the development of this plan. The planned urban service areas delineated in the adopted year 2020 regional land use plan served as the basis for the identification of planned urban areas within the County. The year 2020 regional land use plan, as it applies to Washington County, is shown on Map 13. Planned urban service areas, which are divided into four levels of development density on Map 13, are associated with the Cities of Hartford and West Bend; and the Villages of Germantown, Jackson, Kewaskum, Newburg, and Slinger. The unincorporated community of Allenton in the Town of Addison is also a planned urban service area under the year 2020 land use plan.

### **Per Capita and Accessibility Standards**

Two types of standards—per capita and accessibility standards—are used to help estimate the number and distribution of outdoor recreation sites and facilities needed to serve the anticipated future population of the County. The per capita standards are intended to help estimate the total number of acres of land needed to satisfy requirements for park and recreational land and related facility requirements based on the anticipated future resident population of the County.

For purposes of analyzing future park site and future park facility needs, the population level anticipated under the high-growth scenario—150,200 persons—was considered. This recognizes the need to identify and reserve sufficient high-quality sites which may be required under conditions of more rapid population growth through the year 2020, as well as the need to serve the County population beyond the year 2020.

The accessibility—or service radius—standards are intended to insure that public parks are spatially distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are intended to serve. It should be recognized that 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 residents of the County. It should also be noted that for certain facilities, the accessibility standard for some residents of the County may be met by facilities located in adjacent counties.

### **Standards for Major Park Sites**

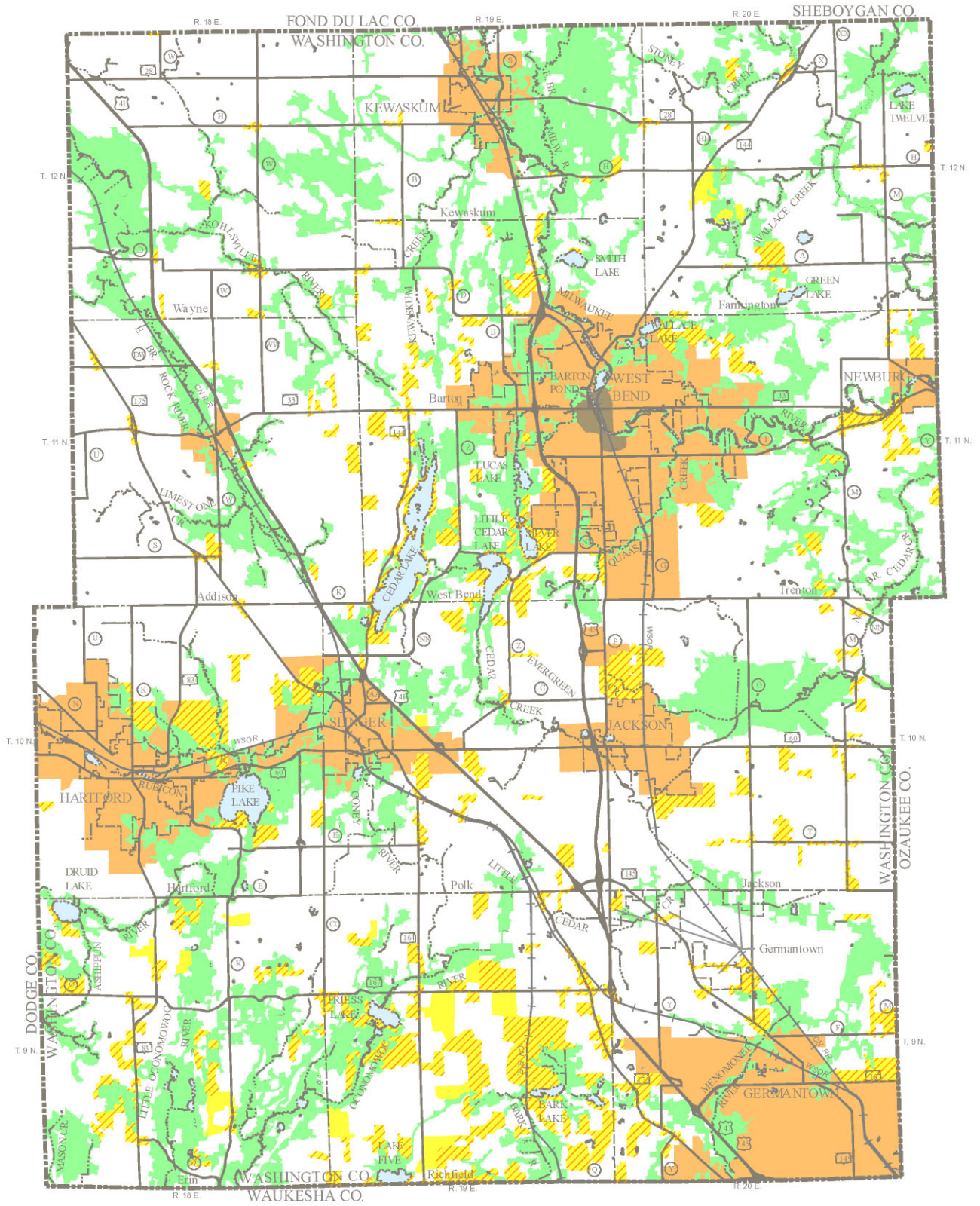
Per capita and service area standards for major parks are set forth under Objective No. 1 in Appendix D. As indicated in Chapter III, major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for resource-oriented activities and which are generally 100 acres or more in size. Application of the per capita standards for major park sites to the existing 2000 and anticipated year 2020 County population levels<sup>1</sup> indicates that no additional park land in major park sites is needed. This calculation is based on the acreage of the following major parks: the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Ackerman's Grove County Park, Family Park/Washington County Golf Course, Glacier Hills Park, Heritage Trails Park, Homestead Hollow Park, Ridge Run Park, and Sandy Knoll Park owned by Washington County; and Riverside Park, owned by the City of West Bend.

Application of the 10-mile service radius standard indicates that most residents of rural areas in Washington County are within the recommended service area of a major park, with the exception of the northwest portion of the Town of Wayne. Application of the four-mile service radius for urban areas indicates that residents in the urban areas of Allenton, Kewaskum, Newburg, and the southeastern portion of Jackson are located beyond the recommended service area for a major park. It should be noted that the area of Newburg not served by a major

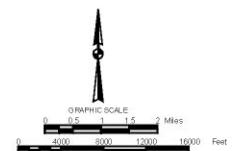
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<sup>1</sup>*In the balance of this chapter, the determination of future per capita park site and facility needs is based upon the application of the per capita standards to the 150,200 persons anticipated for the year 2020 under the regional land use plan's high growth scenario.*

REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN AS IT PERTAINS TO WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2020



- |   |                            |   |   |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
|  | SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL       |  | PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR                        |
|  | LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL    |  | AGRICULTURAL, RURAL RESIDENTIAL, AND OTHER OPEN LANDS |
|  | MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL |  | SURFACE WATER   |
|  | HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL   |   |   |





park in Washington County does fall within the service area of Hawthorne Hills County Park, a major park in Ozaukee County.

### **Standards for Intensive Resource-Oriented Recreation Facilities**

The standards in Objective No. 3 set forth per capita and service area standards for the provision of such resource-oriented recreational facilities as camping, golfing, picnicking, downhill skiing and beach swimming. Separate per capita standards have been established for public and nonpublic facilities. The per capita standards were applied to both the 2000 and anticipated year 2020 County population levels, and need estimates were generally prepared for both public and nonpublic facilities. This recognizes that, even though many nonpublic facilities are not available to the general population, the continued provision of such facilities is important because they do meet a significant portion of the overall demand for these recreation facilities which would otherwise have to be met by the public sector.

Service area standards for campsites, golf courses, picnic areas, downhill skiing and swimming beaches were applied only to public facilities. This recognizes that all residents should have good access to facilities, which, by virtue of their public ownership, are available for use by all.

#### ***Campsites***

Public campsites in the County are currently provided only at the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, where there are 32 campsites. There is no camping provided at County parks. Campsites are available to the public (for a fee) at the privately owned Lake Lenwood Recreation Park and the Lazy Days and Timber Trail campgrounds.

Application of the per capita standards for campsites indicates that there is a need for 21 additional publicly owned campsites to serve the anticipated 2020 population. The number of existing privately owned sites exceeds the need for such campsites under the standard for both the existing and anticipated 2020 population. The standards call for public campsites to be located within 25 miles of each County resident. This standard is met by the existing public campground in the County.

#### ***Golf Courses***

Within the County there is currently one publicly owned 18-hole regulation golf course, Washington County Golf Course. There are six privately owned courses with 18 holes or more open to the public: Hartford Country Club, and the Hon-E-Kor, Kettle Hills, Lake Park, Scenic View golf courses, and Stoneridge Golf Course. In addition, there are three privately owned 9-hole golf courses in the County open to the public, Arrowhead Springs Country Club, Riversbend Golf Club, and West Bend Lakes Golf and Recreation. There are also two privately owned courses with 18 holes not open to the public: Hidden Glen Golf Club and West Bend Country Club.

Application of the per capita standard for golf courses indicates a need for one additional public golf course in the County to serve the anticipated year 2020 population. The need for privately owned golf courses is met by the six existing 18-hole private courses open to the public. Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius to the existing public golf course shows that residents of the eastern, and far northwestern portions of the County are located beyond the recommended service area for a public golf course. The eastern portion of the County does fall within the service area of Hawthorne Hills County Park and Mee-Kwon County Park in Ozaukee County, and Wanaki Golf Course in Waukesha County, which provide public golf courses. It should also be noted that the need for public golf courses in the northwestern portion of the County could be met by existing private golf courses open to the public.

#### ***Picnicking***

Public picnic areas in the County are currently provided at all nine major parks, Ackerman's Grove County Park, Family Park/Washington County Golf Course, Glacier Hills Park, Heritage Trails Park, Homestead Hollow Park, the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Ridge Run Park, Riverside Park, and Sandy Knoll Park.

Application of the per capita standard for picnicking facilities at major parks indicates that a need exists for approximately 40 additional picnic tables at major parks to serve the anticipated year 2020 population. It should be noted, however that picnicking is available at three other County parks: Cedar Lake Wayside, Goeden Park, and Lizard Mound Park. These facilities may serve to meet some of the needs identified in the application of this standard. Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius standard for public picnicking facilities indicates that only residents in the extreme northwestern portion of the County are not adequately served by picnicking facilities within a major park. Part of this portion of the County does fall within the service area of Mauthe Lake Recreation Area within the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit in Fond du Lac County and Ledge County Park in Dodge County, which provide public picnic areas.

### ***Downhill Skiing***

There are no existing publicly owned ski hills within the County. There are two private ski hills open to the public, the Sunburst and Little Switzerland ski areas.

Application of the per capita standard for downhill ski areas to both the existing and year 2020 County population indicates the need for one public ski hill. The need for private downhill skiing facilities is met by the existing facilities. Provision of one public ski hill would satisfy the public ski hill accessibility standard throughout the County, given the 25-mile service radius attendant to public ski hills. The provision of a public ski hill was deemed unnecessary since existing private downhill skiing facilities adequately serve the County.

### ***Swimming Beaches***

Publicly owned swimming beaches are provided at Ackerman's Grove County Park, Glacier Hills Park, Kewaskum Kiwanis Community Park, the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Regner Park, Sandy Knoll Park, and Slinger Fireman's Park. Privately owned swimming beaches open to the public on a fee basis are provided at Wally and Bea's, Lake Lenwood Recreation Park, and at the Lazy Days Campground.

Application of the per capita standards for inland swimming beaches indicates that existing publicly and privately owned beaches are adequate to serve both the existing and the anticipated year 2020 population. Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius for public swimming beaches indicates that residents in the extreme southeastern portion of the County are not served by a public swimming beach. This portion of the County does fall within the service area of Menomonee Park in Waukesha County, which provides a public swimming beach.

### **Standards for Trail Facilities**

Objective No. 1 sets forth a standard for the provision by the public sector of sufficient open space lands to accommodate a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors to meet the resident demand for trail-oriented recreation activities. For the purposes of this report, recreation corridors are defined as publicly owned, continuous, linear expanses of land at least 15 miles in length which are located within scenic areas or areas of natural, cultural, or historic interest, and which provide trails marked and maintained for such activities as hiking, biking, riding all terrain vehicles, horseback riding, nature trails, and cross-country skiing.

Objective No. 4 sets forth recommended per capita standards for the aforementioned trail activities in association with recreation corridors. While segments of potential recreation corridors currently exist as part of the Ice Age Trail and the Milwaukee River recreation corridor, neither area meets the aforementioned definition, and therefore does not yet meet the standard for publicly owned recreation corridors in the County. Consequently, trails for the various activities should be provided in conjunction with the acquisition and development of a public recreation corridor system. It should be noted that while recreation corridors 15 miles in length or more are most desirable, the development of trail facilities under 15 miles should also be encouraged to meet local trail needs.

Objective No. 4 includes standards for trails within recreation corridors for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, nature study, and ski touring. In some cases, particularly in urban areas where they are subject to more intensive use, the trail facilities may be paved. Where they are paved, the trails may also provide opportunities for rollerblading and rollerskiing, as well as opportunities for use by individuals in wheelchairs.



The standards under Objective No. 4 also contain a recommendation for the provision of trails for snowmobiling. Approximately 291 miles of designated trails exist on public lands and on private lands open to the public. This adequately serves both the existing and anticipated 2020 population.

Objective No. 4 also contains a recommendation that each county have a public nature study center. A public nature study center does not currently exist in Washington County. However, a private nature study center, the Riveredge Nature Center, located in Ozaukee County, is open for public use. It should also be noted that Lac Lawrann Conservancy in the City of West Bend provides a place for nature study, but does not function as an interpretive nature study center.

### **Standards for Lake Access Sites**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in keeping with State Statutes which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, has adopted rules regarding lake access. Those rules, set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin *Administrative Code*, require public boating access sites, including boat launching and parking facilities, to be provided on inland lakes, with the number of parking spaces varying depending on the size of the lake. Minimum public boating access requirements must be met for the Department to provide natural resource enhancement services for a body of water. For example, the *Administrative Code* requires that launch facilities and at least one car-trailer parking space, and a combined total of five car-trailer and automobile parking spaces, be provided at boating access sites on lakes 50 acres to 99 acres in size. The required number of car-trailer parking spaces increases as the size of the lake increases. One additional parking space, in addition to the minimum specified in the *Administrative Code*, must also be provided for use by disabled persons. The regulations also specify a maximum number of parking spaces to be provided, which also varies according to the size of the lake, in recognition that too many boats on a lake may threaten both the safety of lake users and the environmental quality of the lake. Table 22 sets forth the requirements for public boating access for major lakes in Washington County under the Department rules. Public boating access fails to meet State requirements at Bark Lake, Barton Pond, Lake Five, Friess Lake, Green Lake, Lucas Lake, Silver Lake, Smith Lake, Lake Twelve, and Wallace Lake.

The *Administrative Code* also requires that public canoeing access points with parking should be provided on major streams every 10 miles. Major streams in Washington County are the Ashippun River, Cedar Creek, Little Cedar Creek, North Branch Cedar Creek, Coney River, Evergreen Creek, Kewaskum Creek, Kohlsville River, Limestone Creek, Mason Creek, Menomonee River, Milwaukee River, East Branch Milwaukee River, North Branch Milwaukee River, Oconomowoc River, Little Oconomowoc River, Quass Creek, East Branch Rock River, Rubicon River, Silver Creek, Stony Creek, and Wallace Creek. Public canoe access is currently provided at Goeden County Park, Newburg Fireman's Park, River Hill Park, and Riverside Park, along the Milwaukee River. Public canoe access is also provided at the West Bend Canoe Launch in the Milwaukee Riverfront Parkway on Barton Pond, which is already listed in Table 22, and at Centennial Park-Mill Pond on the Rubicon River.

### **Standards for Open Space Preservation**

Objective No. 6 calls for the preservation of sufficient high-quality open space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the County. These high-quality open space lands include primary environmental corridors, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and prime agricultural lands. The preservation of such lands is based upon the location and composition of existing natural resources, rather than the application of development standards.

Primary environmental corridors contain many of the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas within the County. The standard under Objective No. 6 indicates that primary environmental corridors should be preserved in essentially natural, open use. Although not specifically addressed in Objective No. 6, secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas should be considered for preservation based upon local needs and concerns. While secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas may serve as an attractive setting for well-planned residential developments, they also can serve as economical drainage ways and stormwater detention basins, and can provide needed open space in developing urban areas.

**Table 22**

**BOAT-ACCESS SITE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE<sup>a</sup> FOR MAJOR LAKES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2002**

Major Lake <sup>b</sup>	Minimum Number of Parking Spaces <sup>c</sup>	Maximum Number of Parking Spaces	Comment
Bark Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Barton Pond	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (Carry-in access and 6 car spaces are currently provided by the City of West Bend)
Big Cedar Laked	27 car-trailer spaces	37 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (37 car-trailer spaces at Big Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District/WDNR access site, and three car trailer spaces at Town of West Bend access site)
Little Cedar Lake	Eight car-trailer spaces	16 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (17 car-trailer spaces at Washington County access site)
Druid Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Eight car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (5 car-trailer spaces at Town of Erin access site)
Lake Five	Five car-trailer spaces	Seven car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Friess Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Eight car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Green Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (Three car-trailer spaces at Town of Farmington access site)
Lucas Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Pike Laked	17 car-trailer spaces	33 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (18 car-trailer spaces at private access site with WDNR lease agreement)
Silver Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Eight car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Smith Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (Three car-trailer spaces at Town of Barton access site)
Lake Twelve	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Wallace Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (Three car-trailer spaces at Town of Trenton access site)

<sup>a</sup>Public boating access standards are set forth in Section NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

<sup>b</sup>Major lakes are those having 50 or more acres of surface area.

<sup>c</sup>One additional parking space for handicapped individuals must be provided.

<sup>d</sup>There are additional publicly owned boat access sites that do not provide parking, and therefore do not meet NR 1.91 requirements.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

Natural areas and critical species habitat sites contain rare, threatened, and endangered animal and plant species within the County. The standard under Objective No. 6 indicates that natural areas and critical species habitat sites should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value.

Prime agricultural lands are lands best suited for the production of food and fiber. In addition to their agricultural value, such lands supply significant wildlife habitat. The standard under Objective No. 6 indicates that prime agricultural lands should be preserved to the extent practicable for agricultural use.

## **SUMMARY**

This chapter presents a set of park and open space planning objectives, principles, and standards for Washington County, and identifies existing and probable future park and open space needs within the County. The need for outdoor recreation sites and facilities within the County is determined by applying the standards for the size, number, and spatial distribution of public parks and outdoor recreation facilities to the anticipated future resident population levels and distribution within the County, and comparing the probable future demand for such sites and facilities, as indicated through application of the standards, to the existing supply of recreation sites and facilities. Two types of standards, per capita and accessibility standards, are used to help estimate the number and location of outdoor recreation sites and facilities needed to serve the anticipated future population of the County.

For purposes of analyzing future park site and future park facility needs, the population level anticipated under the high-growth scenario for the year 2020—150,200 persons—was considered. This recognizes the need to identify and reserve sufficient high-quality sites which may be required under conditions of more rapid population growth through the year 2020, as well as the need to serve the County population beyond the year 2020. The findings of the recreation site and facility needs analysis are summarized below:

1. Application of the per capita standard for major park sites indicates that no additional park land in major park sites is needed in the County. Application of the 10-mile service radius for rural areas indicates that residents in the northwest portion of the Town of Wayne are located beyond the recommended service area for a major park. Application of the four-mile service radius for urban areas indicates that residents in the urban areas of Allenton, Kewaskum, Newburg, and the southeastern portion of Jackson are located beyond the recommended service area for a major park.
2. Application of the standards for resource-oriented recreational facilities indicate a need for: additional publicly owned campsites; an additional public golf course; additional picnicking facilities at major parks; a public ski hill; and an additional publicly owned swimming beach.
3. Application of the standards for trails within recreation corridors indicates that existing public recreation corridors do not currently meet the need for recreation trail facilities in Washington County. A need exists for hiking, biking, horseback riding, nature study, and ski touring trails in conjunction with the acquisition and development of a public recreation corridor system.
4. Application of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources lake access standards would require that access facilities be provided or expanded at Bark Lake, Barton Pond, Lake Five, Friess Lake, Green Lake, Lucas Lake, Silver Lake, Smith Lake, Lake Twelve, and Wallace Lake.
5. The County park and open space plan objectives also address open space preservation needs. The need to protect the natural resources of the County cannot be related to per capita or accessibility requirements, since the achievement of the open space preservation objective is essentially independent of a population level or distribution, but relates, rather, to the location, character, and extent of remaining natural resources. Standards under Objective No. 6 indicate that primary environmental corridors and natural areas and critical species habitat sites should be preserved for natural uses, while prime agricultural lands should be preserved to the extent practicable for agricultural use.

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## **Chapter VI**

# **RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This park and open space plan for Washington County consists of two major elements. The first is an open space preservation element, which sets forth recommendations related to the protection of environmental corridors; natural areas and related resources; lands within State parks, forests, and wildlife areas and associated project boundaries; and prime agricultural land. The second element addresses the need for new County parks, park facilities, lake and river access areas and facilities, and trails.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL/INPUT MEETINGS**

The Washington County Planning and Parks Department held another series of public informational meetings at the following locations: Glacier Hills County Park in the Town of Richfield on September 9, 2003; the Kewaskum Municipal Building Annex on September 10, 2003; and the Washington County Public Agency Center in the City of West Bend on September 11, 2003. The purpose of the meetings was to acquaint public officials and interested citizens with the key recommendations of the plan and to receive comments on and answer questions pertaining to the plan. Twenty-three people attended the public informational meeting on September 9, 11 people attended on September 10, and 22 people attended on September 11. In addition, three letters were received from interested County residents and are included in Appendix E with a summary of comments from all public informational meetings.

Public comment on the draft County park and open space plan included positive feedback on issues such as the preservation of farmland and the provision of lands for hunting, as well as the development of facilities including: trails; a nature center; water access facilities; and a dog park. Of these issues, farmland preservation and the development of trails were the overall most mentioned at the informational meetings. Based on comments received and further consideration of the draft plan by the Technical Advisory Committee, the following recommendations and additions were incorporated into the plan:

- The recommendation to protect a significant geological area consisting of a cluster of kames located in the Town of Barton.
- Expanded text relating to farmland preservation in the County, the role of local governments in protecting farmland, and the success of the transfer and purchase of development rights of agricultural land.
- The recommendation to develop a dog park to serve residents in the central portion of the County.

- The addition of farmland education as a possible activity at the proposed nature center at Glacier Hills Park.
- The recommendation for the development of horse trails at County parks if suitable land is obtained in the future.
- Additional text describing alternative methods available to preserve land, such as easements and the purchase of development rights.
- The inclusion of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's Conservation Plan as it relates to the Village and Town of Germantown.
- The inclusion of maintenance cost estimates for a major and other County park.
- The recommendation of hunting as a possible management measure.
- The addition of DNR stream protection project areas on Map 19.

In addition to the public informational/input meetings, a public hearing for public comment was held at a meeting of the Washington County Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee on February 3, 2004 at the Moraine Park Technical College-Applied Manufacturing Technology Center. Based on comments received at the public hearing, text relating to environmental corridors and prime agricultural land was clarified and the data used for land values in Washington County was updated. The minutes from the public hearing and any written comments received from interested County residents are included in Appendix E.

## **RECOMMENDED OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT**

The open space preservation element consists of four major components. The first is the preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas. The preservation of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological and archeological areas in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the regional natural areas protection and management plan<sup>1</sup> is the second component. The third component calls for the protection of open space lands located within established Department of Natural Resources project boundaries, which in Washington County include the Loew Lake, Northern, and Pike Lake Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, the North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Area, and the Allenton Marsh, Jackson Marsh, and Theresa Marsh Wildlife Areas. The North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Area is a recently established Department of Natural Resources project boundary which will facilitate the implementation of the County park and open space plan as it relates to the preservation of open space lands and prime agricultural lands within the project area. The final component calls for the protection of prime agricultural land.

Recommended actions with respect to the preservation of open space lands, other than prime agricultural lands, are graphically summarized on Map 14. It is recommended that a total of 77,334 acres of open space lands, or about 28 percent of Washington County, be protected through a combination of public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership<sup>2</sup> or through the application of protective zoning. These 77,334 acres include planned primary and secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, and areas outside corridors but within the Department of Natural Resources project boundaries. All natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be preserved are contained within the planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or the planned isolated natural resource areas.

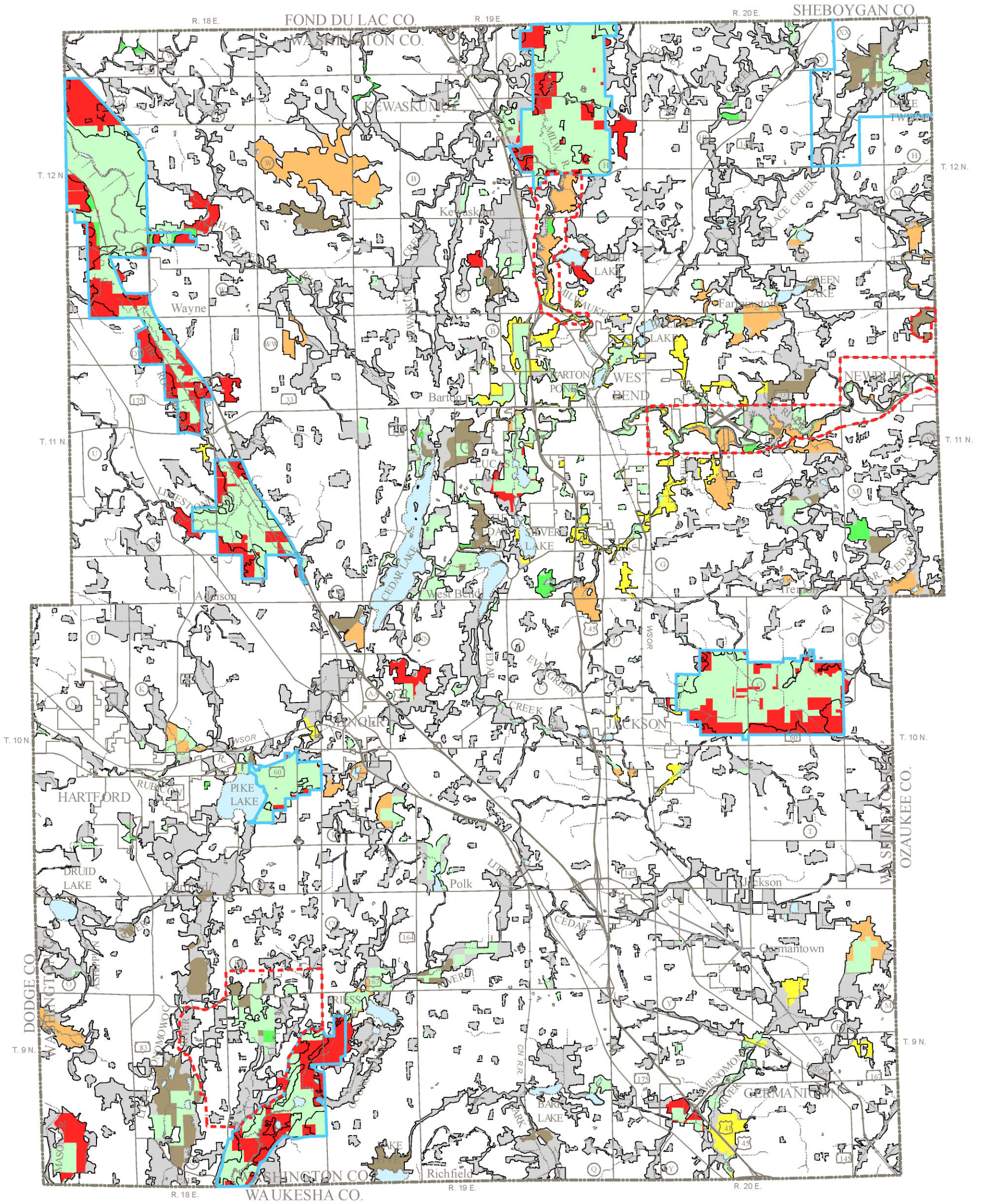
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<sup>1</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997.*

<sup>2</sup>*Public ownership includes lands owned by Federal, State, county, or local units of government, school districts, or lake districts.*



OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



EXISTING PUBLIC INTEREST OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS

■ STATE, COUNTY, LOCAL, NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION, LAKE OR SANITARY DISTRICT, OR COMPATIBLE PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE SITES

■ LANDS UNDER CONSERVATION EASEMENT

PROPOSED PUBLIC INTEREST OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS

■ STATE

■ COUNTY

■ CITY, VILLAGE, TOWN

■ NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

■ OPEN SPACE LANDS TO BE PROTECTED BY PUBLIC LAND USE REGULATION

■ SURFACE WATER

— PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

--- SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

- - - ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

— PROJECT BOUNDARY ADOPTED BY THE WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

- - - OZAUKEE WASHINGTON LAND TRUST FOCUS AREA



GRAPHIC SCALE

0 1 2 Miles

0 4,000 8,000 12,000 16,000 Feet



Of the total 77,334 acres of recommended open space lands, 17,758 acres, or about 23 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, conservation easements, or in compatible private outdoor recreation uses such as golf courses or camps in 2002. These areas are recommended to be preserved in current ownership or, for lands in compatible private outdoor recreation use, maintained in recreational or open space uses. It is recommended that an additional 16,228 acres, or about 21 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies for natural resource protection preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. The estimated cost of acquiring such lands is about \$72.7 million. A summary of the existing and proposed public and nonprofit conservation organization ownership of open space lands, and associated acquisition costs, is presented in Table 23.

The remaining 43,348 acres of open space lands should be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodland, lowland conservancy and, for upland portions of the corridor, upland conservancy which limits development to rural residential development with an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres. Protective zoning districts can be a very flexible tool and does not necessarily prohibit any development. Local municipalities are encouraged to consider the wide variety of protective zoning district options that are in use such as creating overlay districts, conservation subdivision ordinances or density bonus incentives for development. Beyond zoning, there are a number of stewardship methods that can also protect environmentally sensitive lands such as conservation easements and the purchase or transfer of development rights programs. Local municipalities will need to determine the best method of preserving these areas based on their needs and concerns. These methods are discussed in greater detail later in the chapter.

Each component of the open space preservation plan element is discussed separately below. There is considerable overlap between these components, and, accordingly, between the acreages cited in conjunction with each component. For example, all of the natural areas and critical species habitat areas identified and recommended for public interest acquisition under the natural areas plan component are also recommended for acquisition under the environmental corridor preservation plan component. The tabular summary of the open space preservation plan element (Table 23) thus represents the composite of the environmental corridor, natural area, and DNR project area plan components, which are described individually below.

## **Environmental Corridor and Isolated Natural Resource Area Plan Component**

### ***Primary Environmental Corridors***

The primary environmental corridors contain almost all of the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat, lakes and streams, and associated shoreland and floodland areas remaining in the County. The protection of the primary environmental corridors from additional intrusion by urban development, thereby preserving such lands in natural, open uses for resource protection, scenic value, and outdoor recreation and education purposes, is one of the primary objectives of this plan. The planned extent and location of primary environmental corridors in Washington County under the adopted 2020 regional land use plan are shown on Map 14. The permanent preservation of the primary environmental corridors in essentially natural, open space uses is most certain when the corridor lands are acquired in the public interest for resource preservation or compatible outdoor recreation uses. The following measures should be taken to protect the primary environmental corridors:

1. Primary environmental corridors that contain natural area sites or critical species habitat sites should be acquired by a public agency or nonprofit conservation organization.
2. Primary environmental corridors needed to accommodate parks or trail facilities proposed under the recommended outdoor recreation plan element described later in this chapter should be acquired in public ownership.
3. Primary environmental corridors that are in existing private recreational uses should be maintained in such uses.



Table 23

**PROPOSED OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS UNDER  
THE PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY<sup>a</sup>**

Ownership	Existing <sup>b</sup> (acres)	Plan (acres)	Planned Change (acres)	Estimated Acquisition Cost <sup>c</sup>
State of Wisconsin .....	11,302	18,476	7,174	\$ 36,339,100
Washington County .....	687	4,684	3,997	14,942,700
Local Government <sup>d</sup> .....	1,639	3,667	2,028	9,124,200
Nonprofit Conservation Organization .....	1,758	4,787	3,029	12,308,000
Compatible Private Recreation Use .....	1,777	1,777	0	0
State of Wisconsin and Nonprofit Conservation Organization Easements .....	595	595	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,758</b>	<b>33,986</b>	<b>16,228</b>	<b>\$ 72,714,000</b>

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2002 dollars.

<sup>a</sup>Includes planned primary environmental corridors, planned secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, and lands within a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources project boundary. These figures do not include associated surface water areas.

<sup>b</sup>Includes existing ownership in 2002.

<sup>c</sup>Unit costs used to estimate acquisition costs were \$2,500 per acre of wetlands, \$7,500 per acre of woodlands, and \$6,500 per acre of other open lands. As noted in the text, the protection of these areas could be accomplished through conservation easements, conservation subdivisions, donations, and purchase/transfer of development rights.

These costs are based on purchasing all recommended land for parks and open spaces. The acquisition of all land is unlikely to occur before the plan year 2020 since acquisitions occur only on a willing-seller, willing-buyer basis, and only when funds are available. All past major land acquisitions by Washington County have been subsidized by state and federal grants, which are not always available.

<sup>d</sup>Includes cities, villages, towns, school districts, and lake and sanitary districts.

Source: SEWRPC.

Primary environmental corridors located outside natural area sites or critical species habitat sites, corridors which are not needed for future park or trail development, and corridors which are developed with compatible recreational uses, should be protected through appropriate zoning.

A total of 57,221 acres of land are encompassed in the planned primary environmental corridors. Map 14 depicts those primary environmental corridors which are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership. Such areas currently encompass a total of 14,019 acres, or about 24 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. Additional such areas recommended for acquisition in the public interest are also shown on Map 14, and encompass a total of 13,217 acres, or about 23 percent of planned primary environmental corridors. An additional 1,600 acres, or about 3 percent of planned primary environmental corridors, are in compatible private recreational use. The remaining 28,385 acres of planned primary environmental corridors, or about 50 percent, are proposed to be protected through zoning. Local municipalities are encouraged to use appropriate land use regulations or other methods as discussed later in this chapter. It should be noted that primary environmental corridors are already provided with some level of protection through regulation in the *Wisconsin Administration Code*.

In addition to specific recommendations above, the plan includes the following general recommendations with respect to the public acquisition of primary environmental corridors:

1. Should primary environmental corridor lands not specifically recommended for acquisition in this plan become available for acquisition and use for public open space purposes, it is recommended that the appropriate public agency consider the acquisition of such lands.
2. Those primary environmental corridor lands located within the identified urban service areas in the County not recommended for acquisition by the County or State should be acquired for park and open space purposes by the appropriate city or village park agency, as determined in local park and open space plans.
3. Should urban development not proposed or envisioned to occur under this plan threaten to destroy or degrade natural resources located within the primary environmental corridors, an appropriate public agency should consider the acquisition of, or other protective measures for, such lands for resource preservation and open space purposes.

In addition to those primary environmental corridors which are considered protected because they are currently in public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership, other areas of primary environmental corridors can also be considered protected by other means. Thus, in addition to protection through public interest ownership, primary environmental corridor areas can be considered to be protected if: the area is under a conservation easement; the area consists of wetlands; the area is located within an adopted sewer service area; or the area is within a conservancy or protective floodland zoning district. As shown on Map 15, approximately 48,335 acres, or 84 percent of primary environmental corridors are currently protected from urban development.

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

It is recommended that secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas be considered for preservation based on local needs and concerns. Within developing areas, these areas may be retained in natural, open use, or incorporated as drainageways, stormwater detention or retention areas, or as local parks or recreation trail corridors. This plan further recommends that all secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas containing natural area or critical species habitat sites be protected through acquisition by a public agency or nonprofit conservation organization.

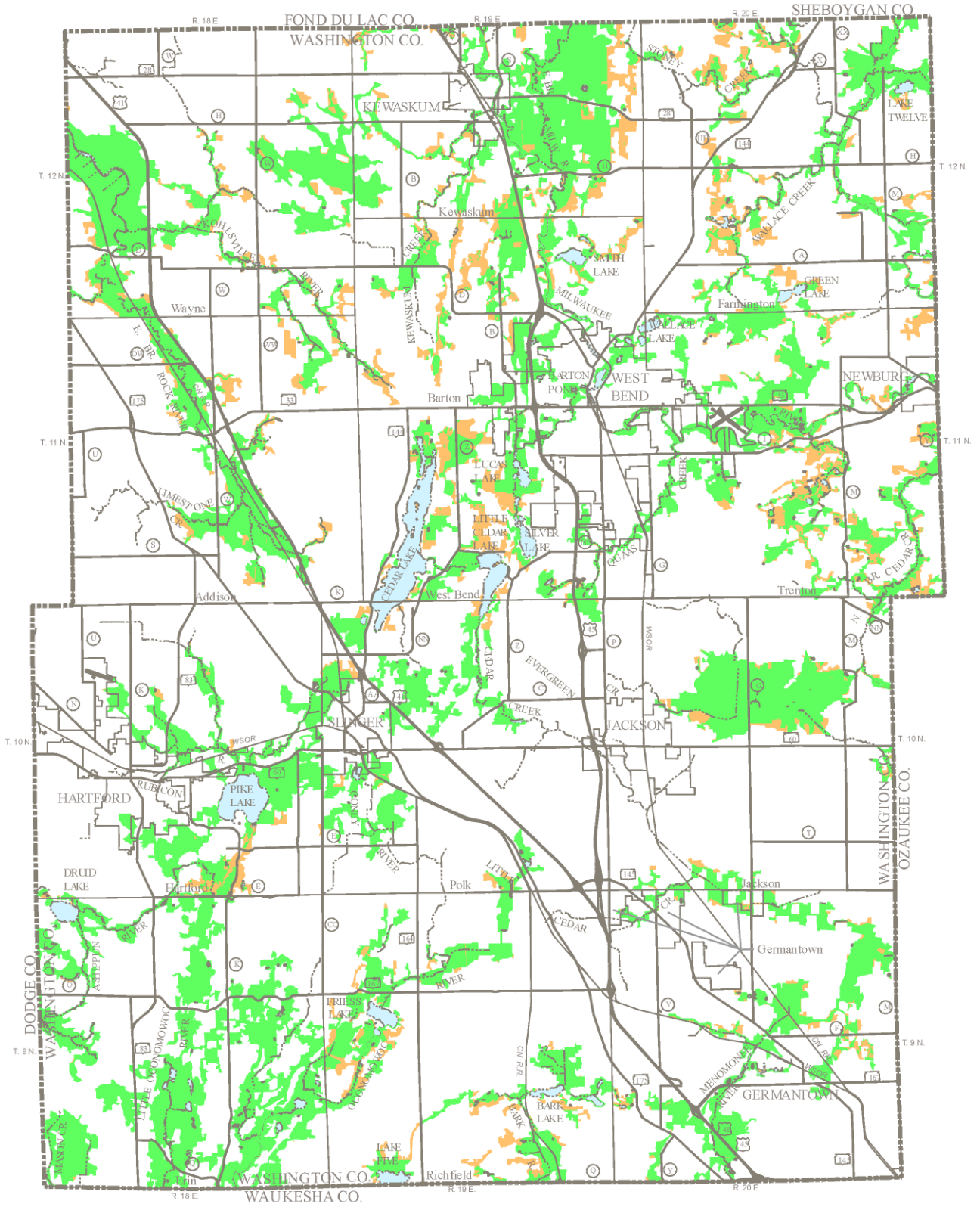
A total of 9,652 acres of land are encompassed in the planned secondary environmental corridors, and 6,379 acres are encompassed in the planned isolated natural resource areas, for a combined total of 16,031 acres. Map 14 depicts those secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas which are currently in, and are recommended to remain in, public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership. Such areas currently encompass a total of 542 acres, or about 4 percent of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. An additional 176 acres, or about 1 percent of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are in existing compatible outdoor recreation use.

Additional secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas recommended for acquisition in the public interest are shown on Map 14. Such areas encompass a total of 374 acres, or about 2 percent of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, including 304 acres of planned secondary environmental corridors and 70 acres of planned isolated natural resource areas.

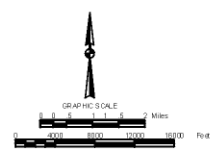
The remaining 14,939 acres, or 93 percent, of planned secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas are not anticipated to be needed for future park or trail development, and do not encompass natural area or critical species habitat sites. These areas may be retained in private ownership, but local municipalities may consider using appropriate land use regulations or other methods discussed later in this chapter to prevent their conversion to urban use. It should be noted that the portions of secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas consisting of wetlands, 100-year recurrence interval floodplains, shoreland areas and areas of steep slopes (slopes of 12 percent or greater) are already provided with some level of protection through

Map 15

PROTECTED PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY



- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS
- PROTECTED
  - UNPROTECTED
  - SURFACE WATER



Source: SEWRPC.

regulations in the *Wisconsin Administrative Code*. Should such lands be needed for local park or recreation purposes or for another public purpose, such as stormwater detention, it is recommended that the appropriate public agency consider the acquisition of such lands.

### **Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan Component**

The regional natural areas protection and management plan sets forth a number of recommendations related to the preservation of identified natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and important geological and archeological sites. The plan also set forth recommendations for the re-establishment of tracts of grasslands and forest interior to provide additional bird habitat areas. Pertinent recommendations from that plan have been incorporated into this park and open space plan, and are described in the following paragraphs.

As noted in Chapter II, a total of 91 natural areas were identified in Washington County in 1994 as part of the regional natural areas management plan. Seven of the sites, encompassing about 1,659 acres, are classified as natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1). An additional 29 sites, encompassing about 6,350 acres, are classified as natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2). The remaining 55 sites, encompassing about 7,961 acres, are classified as natural areas of local significance (NA-3). In addition, a total of 13 critical species habitat sites, located completely or partially outside a natural area, were identified. These sites together encompassed about 332 acres.

Combined, there are 104 natural areas and critical species habitat sites identified in the County, with a total area of 16,302 acres. It is recommended that 96 of these areas, which encompass 15,949 acres in 87 natural areas and nine critical species habitat sites, be protected through ownership by public agencies or by nonprofit conservation organizations. Sites proposed to be acquired are shown on Map 16.

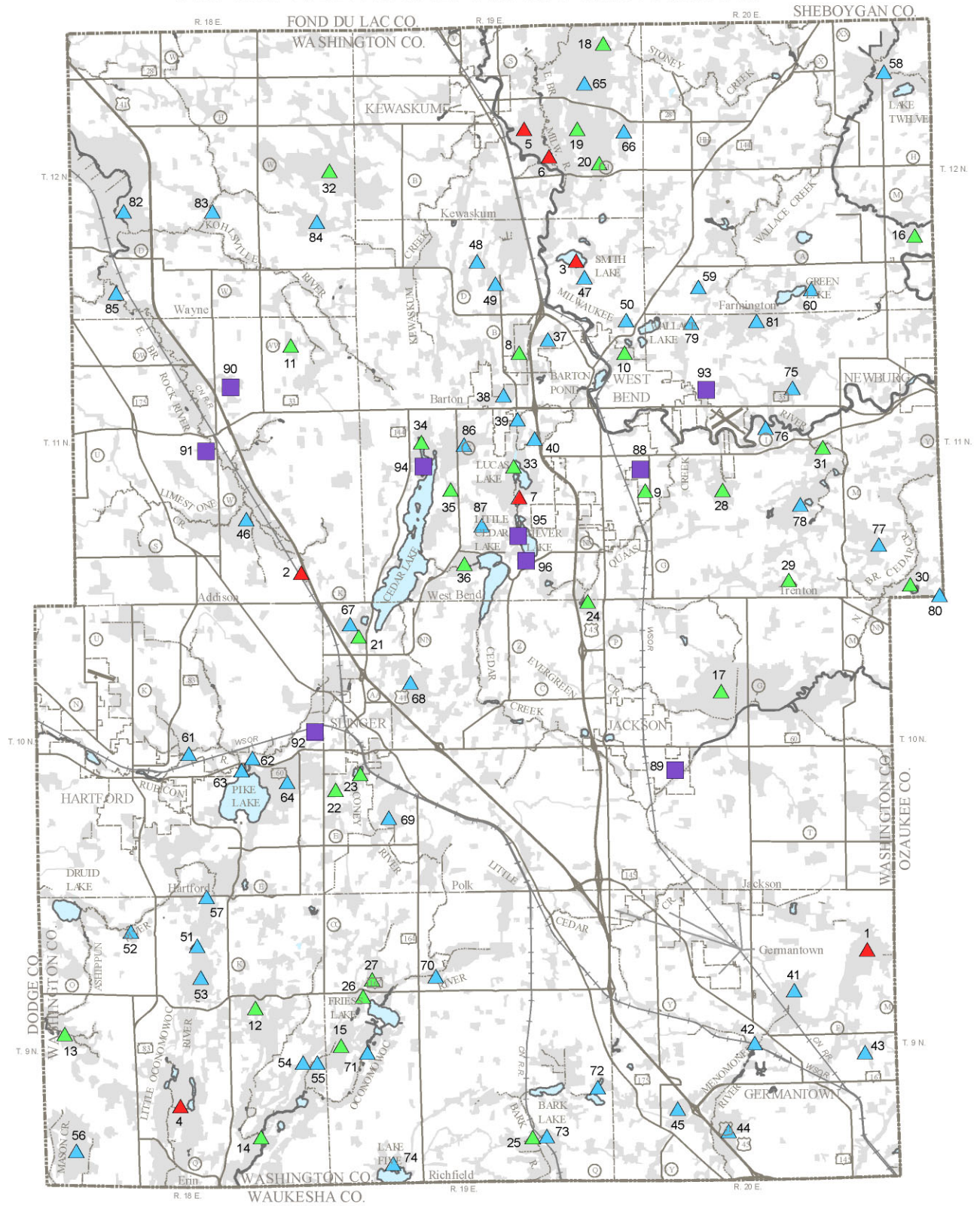
Natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be protected through acquisition meet one of the following criteria: 1) the site lies within a primary environmental corridor; 2) the site supports rare, threatened, or endangered plant, bird, or mammal species; and 3) the site is already at least partially in public interest ownership.






Table 24 lists each natural area site and critical species habitat site proposed to be preserved through protective ownership and the proposed acquisition agency. In all, these sites encompass 15,949 acres, including 15,727 acres within natural areas and 222 acres within critical species habitat sites. Of the total 15,949 acres to be preserved, about 6,179 acres, or about 39 percent, are under existing public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership. An additional 9,770 acres, or about 61 percent, are proposed for public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership or management. All of these areas are encompassed by the planned primary or secondary environmental corridor or by planned isolated natural resource areas. The cost of acquiring these areas is included in Table 23.

The recommendations made in this plan differ somewhat from those made in the regional natural areas protection and management plan. The regional plan anticipated that such refinements would be made when the County park and open space plans were updated. Specifically, the proposed acquisition agency differs for the following natural area sites in Table 24: Germantown Swamp (Site No. 1) is recommended to be acquired by Washington County, rather than by the Village of Germantown; Holy Hill Woods (Site No. 12) and Fellenz Hardwood Swamp (Site No. 76) are recommended to be acquired by the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, rather than by Washington County; Wildwood Hardwood Swamp Natural Area (Site No. 49) and Ziegler Woods Natural Area (Site No. 87) are recommended to be acquired by a nonprofit conservation organization, rather than by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. An additional site on Table 24, Newark Road Wetland Natural Area (Site No. 50) was not recommended to be acquired in the regional natural areas management plan, but is recommended to be acquired by this County plan. Finally, a portion of the Murphy Lake McConville Lake Wetland Complex (Site No. 4) lies within a proposed new Washington County park. The natural area is therefore proposed to be acquired by both Washington County and by The Nature Conservancy. Adoption of the County park and open space plan by Washington County and the Regional Planning Commission will amend the regional natural areas protection and management plan in these respects.

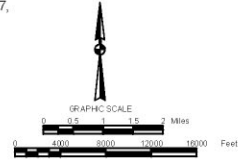


NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY PROPOSED TO BE PROTECTED THROUGH PUBLIC ACQUISITION



-  PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR, SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR, AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
-  NATURAL AREA OF STATEWIDE OR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE
-  NATURAL AREA OF COUNTYWIDE OR REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
-  NATURAL AREA OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE
-  CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE
- 15 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 24)

NOTE: FROM SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 42, A REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, SEPTEMBER 1997, PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 24

## PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREA AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Number on Map 16	Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition
	Civil Division	Name	Classification <sup>a</sup>	Already under Protective Ownership	Proposed to Be Acquired	Total	
1	Village of Germantown	Germantown Swamp	NA-1	190	184	374	Washington County
2	Town of Addison	Aurora Road Fen	NA-1	--	22	22	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
3	Town of Barton	Smith Lake and Wetlands	NA-1	85	45	130	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
4	Town of Erin	Murphy Lake-McConville Lake Wetland Complex	NA-1	279	611	890	The Nature Conservancy and Washington County
5	Town of Kewaskum	Kewaskum Maple-Oak Woods State Natural Area	NA-1	46	40	86	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
6	Town of Kewaskum	Milwaukee River Floodplain Forest State Natural Area	NA-1	130	5	135	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
7	Town of West Bend	Paradise Lake Fen	NA-1	11	11	22	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
8	City of West Bend	Blue Hills Woods	NA-2	105	161	266	City of West Bend
9	City of West Bend	Muth Woods	NA-2	21	--	21	City of West Bend
10	City of West Bend	Lac Lawrann Conservancy Upland Woods and Wetlands	NA-2	78	23	101	City of West Bend
11	Town of Addison	St. Anthony Beech Woods	NA-2	--	68	68	Washington County
12	Town of Erin	Holy Hill Woods	NA-2	--	256	256	Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
13	Town of Erin	Toland Swamp	NA-2	--	193	193	Washington County
14	Town of Erin	Loew Lake Wetland Complex	NA-2	280	201	481	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
15	Town of Erin Town of Richfield	Friess Lake Tamarack Swamp	NA-2	--	228	228	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
16	Town of Farmington	North Branch Woods	NA-2	--	96	96	Washington County
17	Town of Jackson	Jackson Swamp	NA-2	1,221	350	1,571	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
18	Town of Kewaskum	Kettle Moraine Drive Bog	NA-2	29	10	39	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
19	Town of Kewaskum	Glacial Trail Forest	NA-2	212	11	223	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
20	Town of Kewaskum	St. Michael's Woods	NA-2	81	3	84	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
21	Town of Polk	Big Cedar Lake Bog	NA-2	--	89	89	Washington County
22	Town of Polk	Mud Lake Upland Woods	NA-2	--	54	54	Washington County
23	Town of Polk	Mud Lake Meadow	NA-2	23	36	59	Washington County
24	Town of Polk Town of West Bend	Mud Lake Swamp <sup>b</sup>	NA-2	7	179	186	Washington County
25	Town of Richfield	Colgate Fen-Meadow	NA-2	--	23	23	The Nature Conservancy
26	Town of Richfield	Glacier Hills Park Bogs and Upland Woods	NA-2	49	11	60	Washington County
27	Town of Richfield	Daniel Boone Bogs	NA-2	13	8	21	Washington County
28	Town of Trenton	Schoenbeck Woods	NA-2	--	195	195	Washington County
29	Town of Trenton	Bellin Bog	NA-2	2	15	17	Washington County
30	Town of Trenton	Reinartz Cedar Swamp	NA-2	9	110	119	Washington County
31	Town of Trenton	Myra Wetlands	NA-2	--	69	69	Washington County
32	Town of Wayne Town of Kewaskum	Wayne Swamp	NA-2	--	1,126	1,126	Washington County
33	Town of West Bend	Silverbrook Lake Woods	NA-2	148	256	404	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
34	Town of West Bend	Gilbert Lake Tamarack Swamp	NA-2	54	76	130	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation
35	Town of West Bend	Hacker Road Bog	NA-2	25	--	25	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Table 24 (continued)

Number on Map 16	Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition
	Civil Division	Name	Classification <sup>a</sup>	Already under Protective Ownership	Proposed to Be Acquired	Total	
36	Town of West Bend	Little Cedar Lake Wetlands	NA-2	126	11	137	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation
37	City of West Bend	Sunset Park Wetlands	NA-3	--	85	85	City of West Bend
38	City of West Bend	Albecker Park Wetlands	NA-3	31	60	91	City of West Bend
39	City of West Bend	Silver Creek Marsh	NA-3	10	17	27	Washington County
40	City of West Bend	University Fen	NA-3	1	--	1	City of West Bend
41	Village of Germantown	Hoelz Swamp	NA-3	--	109	109	Village of Germantown
42	Village of Germantown	Lake Park Swamp	NA-3	9	45	54	Village of Germantown
43	Village of Germantown	Schoessow Woods	NA-3	--	51	51	Village of Germantown
44	Village of Germantown	USH 41 Swamp	NA-3	--	228	228	Village of Germantown
45	Village of Germantown	Kleinman Swamp	NA-3	38	33	71	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
46	Town of Addison	Allenton Swamp	NA-3	844	247	1,091	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
47	Town of Barton	Smith Lake Swamp	NA-3	--	38	38	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
48	Town of Barton	Lange Hardwoods	NA-3	--	53	53	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
49	Town of Barton	Wildwood Hardwood Swamp	NA-3	--	98	98	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
50	Town of Barton	Newark Road Wetland	NA-3	--	9	9	City of West Bend
51	Town of Erin	Hults Bog and Marsh	NA-3	--	14	14	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
52	Town of Erin	Erin Sedge Meadow	NA-3	--	17	17	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
53	Town of Erin	Thompson Swamp	NA-3	--	182	182	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
54	Town of Erin	Donegal Road Woods	NA-3	26	111	137	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
55	Town of Erin	St. Augustine Road Sedge Meadow	NA-3	--	11	11	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
56	Town of Erin	Mason Creek Swamp	NA-3	131	301	432	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
57	Town of Erin Town of Hartford	CTH E Wetlands	NA-3	--	28	28	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
58	Town of Farmington	Milwaukee River Swamp	NA-3	72	474	546	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
59	Town of Farmington	Lizard Mound Woods	NA-3	22	6	28	Washington County
60	Town of Farmington	Green Lake Bog	NA-3	--	19	19	Green Lake Association
61	City and Town of Hartford	Rubicon Lowlands	NA-3	4	26	30	Washington County
62	Town of Hartford	STH 60 Swamp	NA-3	--	32	32	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
63	Town of Hartford	Pike Lake Sedge Meadow	NA-3	11	3	14	Town of Hartford
64	Town of Hartford	Pike Lake Woods	NA-3	131	--	131	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
65	Town of Kewaskum	Kettle Moraine Drive Woods <sup>c</sup>	NA-3	287	--	287	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
66	Town of Kewaskum	STH 28 Woods	NA-3	--	145	145	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
67	Town of Polk	Mueller Woods	NA-3	4	93	97	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
68	Town of Polk	Slinger Upland Woods	NA-3	--	196	196	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
69	Town of Polk	Heritage Trails Bog	NA-3	41	53	94	Washington County
70	Town of Richfield	CTH J Swamp	NA-3	33	67	100	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
71	Town of Richfield	Hubertus Road Sedge Meadow	NA-3	--	7	7	Nonprofit Conservation Organization

**Table 24 (continued)**

Number on Map 16	Site Identification			Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition
	Civil Division	Name	Classification <sup>a</sup>	Already under Protective Ownership	Proposed to Be Acquired	Total	
72	Town of Richfield	Amy Bell Lake and Lowlands	NA-3	6	14	20	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
73	Town of Richfield	Colgate Shrub-carr	NA-3	--	38	38	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
74	Town of Richfield	Lake Five Woods	NA-3	--	152	152	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
75	Town of Trenton	Poplar Road Lacustrine Forest	NA-3	--	177	177	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
76	Town of Trenton	Fellenz Hardwood Swamp	NA-3	41	17	58	Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
77	Town of Trenton	Paradise Drive Tamarack Swamp	NA-3	--	81	81	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
78	Town of Trenton	Camp Wowitan Wetlands	NA-3	10	99	109	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
79	Town of Trenton	Sandy Knoll Wetlands	NA-3	17	30	47	Washington County
80	Town of Trenton	Cedar-Sauk Low Woods <sup>d</sup>	NA-3	--	14	14	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
81	Town of Trenton Town of Farmington	Sandy Knoll Swamp	NA-3	70	269	339	Washington County
82	Town of Wayne	Theresa Swamp	NA-3	879	65	944	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
83	Town of Wayne	Wayne Creek Swamp	NA-3	--	178	178	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
84	Town of Wayne	Stockcar Swamp	NA-3	--	240	240	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
85	Town of Wayne	Rock River Marsh	NA-3	186	140	326	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
86	Town of West Bend	CTH Z Upland Woods and Wetlands	NA-3	41	240	281	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation
87	Town of West Bend	Ziegler Woods	NA-3	--	170	170	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
88	City of West Bend	High School Woods	CSH	7	--	7	West Bend School District
89	Village of Jackson	Jackson Woods	CSH	3	21	24	Village of Jackson
90	Town of Addison	St. Anthony's Maple Woods	CSH	--	90	90	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
91	Town of Addison	Doll Woods	CSH	--	22	22	Town of Addison
92	Town of Hartford	Unnamed Wetland	CSH	--	40	40	Village of Slinger
93	Town of Trenton	Cameron Property	CSH	--	12	12	City of West Bend
94	Town of West Bend	Gilbert Lake	CSH	--	10	10 <sup>e</sup>	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation
95	Town of West Bend	Silver Lake	CSH	--	7	7	City of West Bend
96	Town of West Bend	Silver Lake Swamp	CSH	--	10	10	City of West Bend
Total	--	--	--	6,179	9,770	15,949	--

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*.

<sup>a</sup>NA-1 identifies natural areas of statewide or greater significance, NA-2 identifies natural areas of countywide or regional significance, NA-3 identifies natural areas of local significance, and CSH identifies critical species habitat sites

<sup>b</sup>Seven acres are within the right-of-way of USH 41 and are owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

<sup>c</sup>An additional 30 acres of this natural area are located in Fond du Lac County.

<sup>d</sup>An additional 204 acres of this natural area are located in Ozaukee County.

<sup>e</sup>Does not include 100 acres of this critical species habitat site located within the Gilbert Lake Tamarack Swamp Natural Area (see Site No. 34).

Source: SEWRPC.



### ***Reestablishment of Forest Interior Sites***

In addition to setting forth recommendations for the protection of existing areas with important biological resources, the regional natural areas protection and management plan also recommends that efforts be made to reestablish relatively large tracts of grasslands and forest interiors in the Region. Reestablishment of such tracts would serve to provide additional habitat for bird populations, which have been adversely affected by loss of habitat due to development in the Region.

Two sites in Washington County were identified for reestablishment of forest interior and are shown on Map 17. The first site is located in the Town of Addison and would use as its core the St. Anthony Maple Woods, recommended for preservation and protection as a critical species habitat site. The entire project is envisioned to cover approximately 160 acres after reforestation, of which about 94 acres, or 59 percent, would meet the definition of forest interior, that is, that portion of a forest lying at least 300 feet from the forest edge. It is recommended that Washington County assume responsibility for reestablishing this forest interior.

The second forest-interior reserve site lies in the Town of Trenton. This site would use as its core an existing wooded area near Shady Lane; it encompasses approximately 147 acres. After forest restoration, this area would include about 80 acres, or about 54 percent, of the site classified as forest interior. It is recommended that the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust assume responsibility for reestablishing this forest interior. This represents a change from the regional natural areas management plan, which recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources acquire and reforest the Shady Lane site.

### ***Protection of Geological Areas***

The inventory of geological areas identified as part of the regional natural areas protection and management plan and reported in Chapter II identified 11 sites of geological importance in the County, including four bedrock geology sites and seven glacial features. The 11 sites include two sites of statewide significance (GA-1), four sites of regional or countywide significance (GA-2), and five sites of local significance (GA-3).

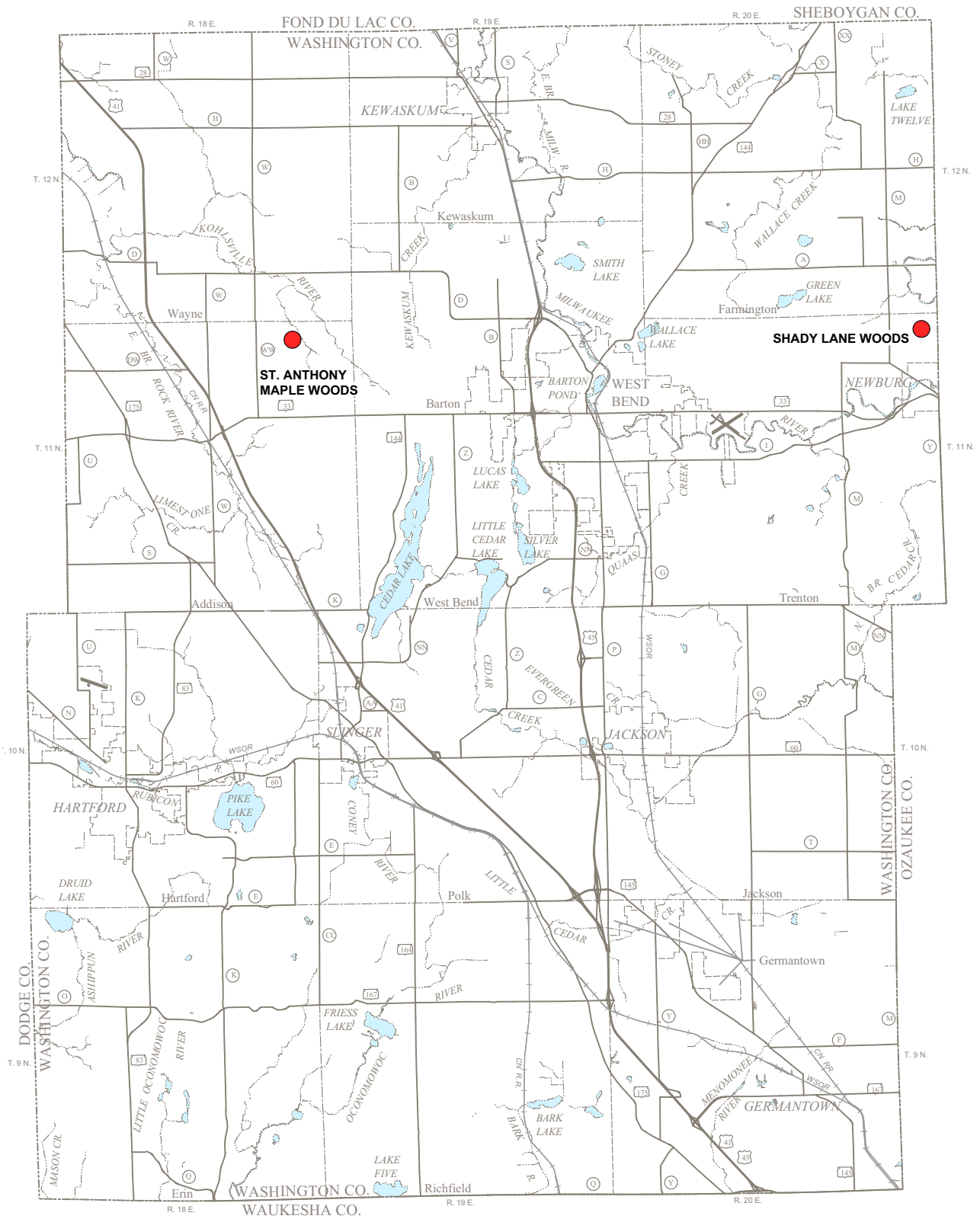
Map 18 shows the general location of geological areas recommended to be preserved through public agency or nonprofit conservation organization acquisition. Table 25 lists each site and the proposed acquisition agency. It is recommended that nine of the 11 geological area sites be preserved. Together, the nine areas encompass 5,747 acres. Of this total, 2,741 acres are within existing public ownership, with a remaining 3,006 acres, or about 52 percent, proposed for acquisition by a public agency or private conservancy organization.

Recommendations relating to the acquisition of geological areas were based on the following considerations. First, some sites overlap in whole or in part with identified natural area sites and critical species habitat sites, and would be protected and preserved under prior recommendations. Second, many geological area sites are either already in public ownership, or would be brought under public ownership upon implementation of existing State, regional, and county plans. Third, some of the sites lie within primary environmental corridors and are deserving of protection and preservation for that reason. Finally, the Kettle Moraine interlobate moraine extends over a large area and includes lands already developed for urban use. Recommended acquisition of the Kettle Moraine was limited to lands lying within established project boundaries for the three units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, the Loew Lake, Northern, and Pike Lake Units.

The geological areas were chosen based on a list of criteria including: scientific importance; significance in industrial history; natural aesthetic quality; ecological qualities; educational value; and public access potential. There may be additional areas that did not meet the criteria, and therefore were not included in the natural areas plan, but may still include a geological formation of importance. An example of this includes a cluster of kames located in the Town of Barton east of Glacier Drive between STH 33 and Schuster Drive. It is recommended that this geological area be considered for protection. This geological area should also be considered for inclusion in the update of the regional natural areas protection and management plan.

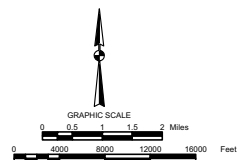
Map 17

LOCATION OF RECOMMENDED SITES TO REESTABLISH FOREST INTERIORS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY



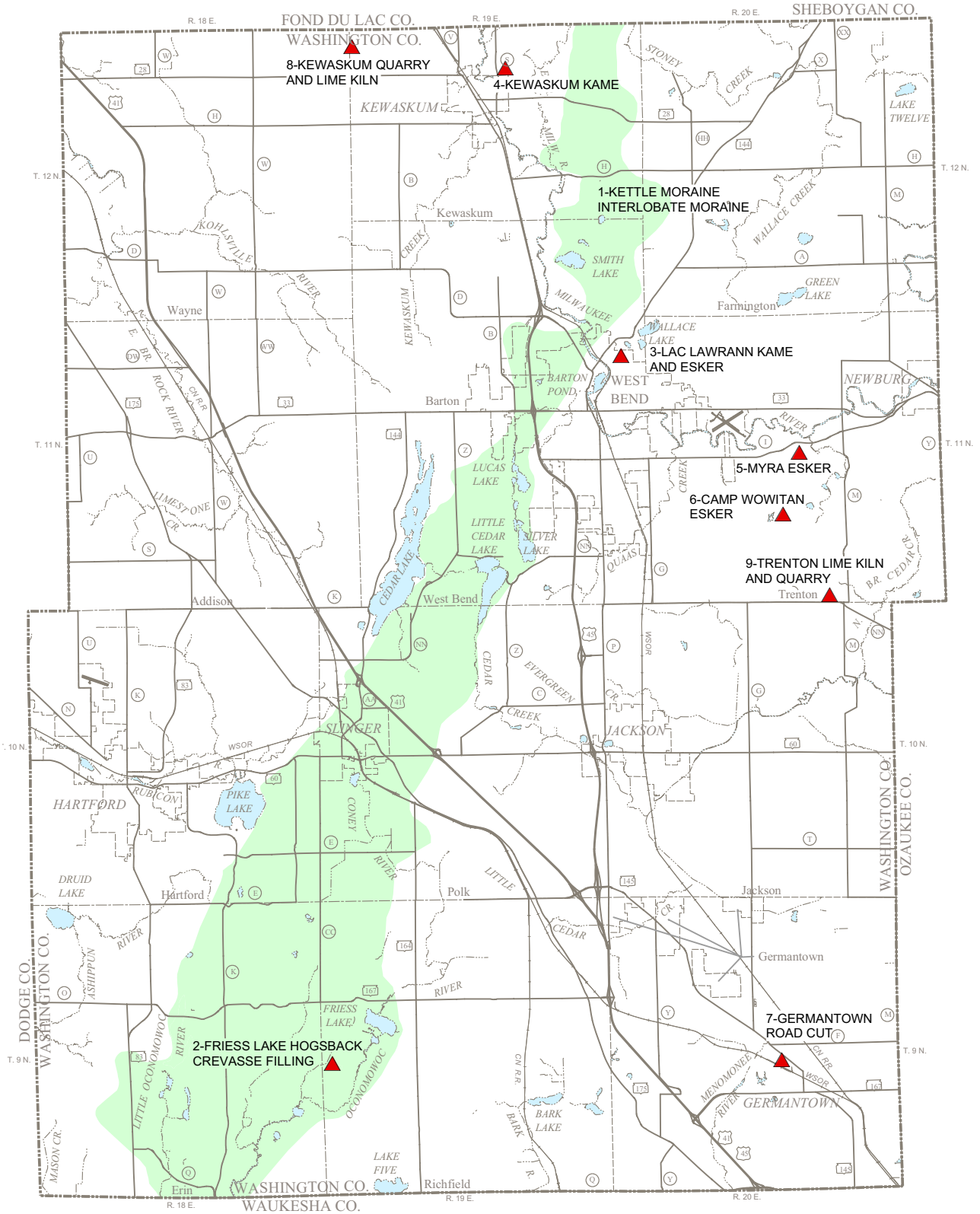
● FOREST INTERIOR SITES

NOTE: FROM SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 42, A REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, SEPTEMBER 1997, PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.



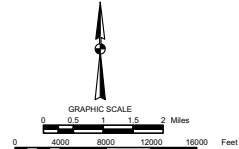
Map 18

RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION AND OWNERSHIP OF  
SELECTED GEOLOGICAL AREAS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY



- ▲ GEOLOGICAL AREA SITE PROPOSED TO BE ACQUIRED FOR PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP
- KETTLE MORAINES INTERLOBATE MORAINES
- 5 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 25)

NOTE: FROM SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 42, A REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, SEPTEMBER 1997, PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 25

**GEOLOGICAL AREAS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY RECOMMENDED  
TO BE FULLY OR SUBSTANTIALLY PRESERVED THROUGH ACQUISITION**

Type of Geological Area	Site Identification				Total Site Area (acres)	Portion of Area to Be Acquired for Protective Ownership	Responsible Agency	Remarks
	Civil Division	Name	Geological Area Class	Number on Map 18				
Glacial	Town of Erin, Town of Kewaskum, and Town of Richfield	Kettle Moraine Interlobate Moraine	GA-1	1	5,577 <sup>a</sup>	2,876	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	The area contains two Natural Areas of Statewide or greater significance (221 acres), five Natural Areas of county-wide or regional significance (990 acres), and three Natural Areas of local significance (435 acres), for a total of 1,646 acres within such sites
	Town of Richfield	Friess Lake Hogsback Crevasse Filling <sup>b</sup>	GA-1	2	25	--	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	The entire area is within the established project boundary of the Loew Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, although none of the area is in existing State ownership. The area is wholly contained within the Friess Lake Tamarack Swamp Natural Area (NA-2)
	City of West Bend	Lac Lawrann Kame and Esker	GA-3	3	12	--	City of West Bend	The entire area is located within the Lac Lawrann Conservancy Upland Woods and Wetlands Natural Area (NA-2) and is currently in City ownership
	Town of Kewaskum	Kewaskum Kame	GA-2	4	47	47	Village of Kewaskum	This site is adjacent to a proposed neighborhood park located in the Village of Kewaskum urban service area
	Town of Trenton	Myra Esker	GA-2	5	16	16	Washington County	This site is adjacent to the Myra Wetlands Natural Area (NA-2)
	Town of Trenton	Camp Wowitan Esker	GA-3	6	57	54	Local Conservation Group	About three acres, or 5 percent of this area, are located within the Camp Wowitan Wetlands Natural Area (NA-2)
Bedrock	Village of Germantown	Germantown Road Cut	GA-3	7	5	5	Wisconsin Department of Transportation	This site is within the right-of-way of STH 145
	Town of Kewaskum	Kewaskum Quarry and Lime Kiln	GA-3	8	5	5	Local Conservation Group	--
	Town of Trenton	Trenton Lime Kiln and Quarry	GA-3	9	3	3	Local Conservation Group	--
Total	--	--	--	--	5,747	3,006	--	--

<sup>a</sup>Includes all of the area within the Loew Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and that portion of the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest located in Washington County.

<sup>b</sup>This geological area lies within that portion of the Kettle Moraine Interlobate Moraine geological area already proposed to be acquired for public ownership.

Source: SEWRPC.

### ***Archeological Sites***

The inventory of significant archeological areas completed as part of the natural areas management plan identified one such site in Washington County, the Lizard Mound Park effigy mound group. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site encompasses about 28 acres, and is coincident with a natural area of local significance. About 22 acres of the archeological site and natural area are located within Lizard Mound County Park. The park encompasses 28 of the 30 intact effigy mounds remaining from the group of 60 mounds originally recorded.

It is recommended that Washington County acquire additional lands to the east of the existing park boundary, which would expand Lizard Mound park by about six acres. The expansion would include that portion of the natural area extending outside of the park and would also include the two remaining effigy mounds associated with the Lizard Mound group.

Subsequent to preparation of the natural areas management plan, two additional archeological sites within Washington County were added to the National Register of Historic Places. These two sites, known as the Glass and Susen-Backhaus mound groups, should be protected through conservation easements or public acquisition by the County.

According to the State Historical Society, there is one additional mound group still existing within the County. This group, known as the Joedike Mound group, is located along the Milwaukee River on the east side of the City of West Bend. The City is acting to acquire the site as part of the Milwaukee River parkway.

### **Department of Natural Resources Site Plan Component**

The open space preservation element of this plan includes lands which have been acquired or which are proposed to be acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, within the project boundaries of the Loew Lake, Northern, and Pike Lake Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and the Allenton Marsh, Jackson Marsh, and Theresa Marsh Wildlife Areas. In addition, a new project area has been designated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Area, which is located in Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Washington Counties, and includes lands in the Town of Farmington. Project boundaries for each of these areas have been approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and are reflected on Maps 14 and 19. It is recommended that the Department continue to acquire additional land within the approved project boundaries for open space or outdoor recreation purposes. Currently, the Department owns about 1,408 acres outside planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas, but within the approved project boundaries. An additional 2,627 acres of such areas are proposed to be acquired.

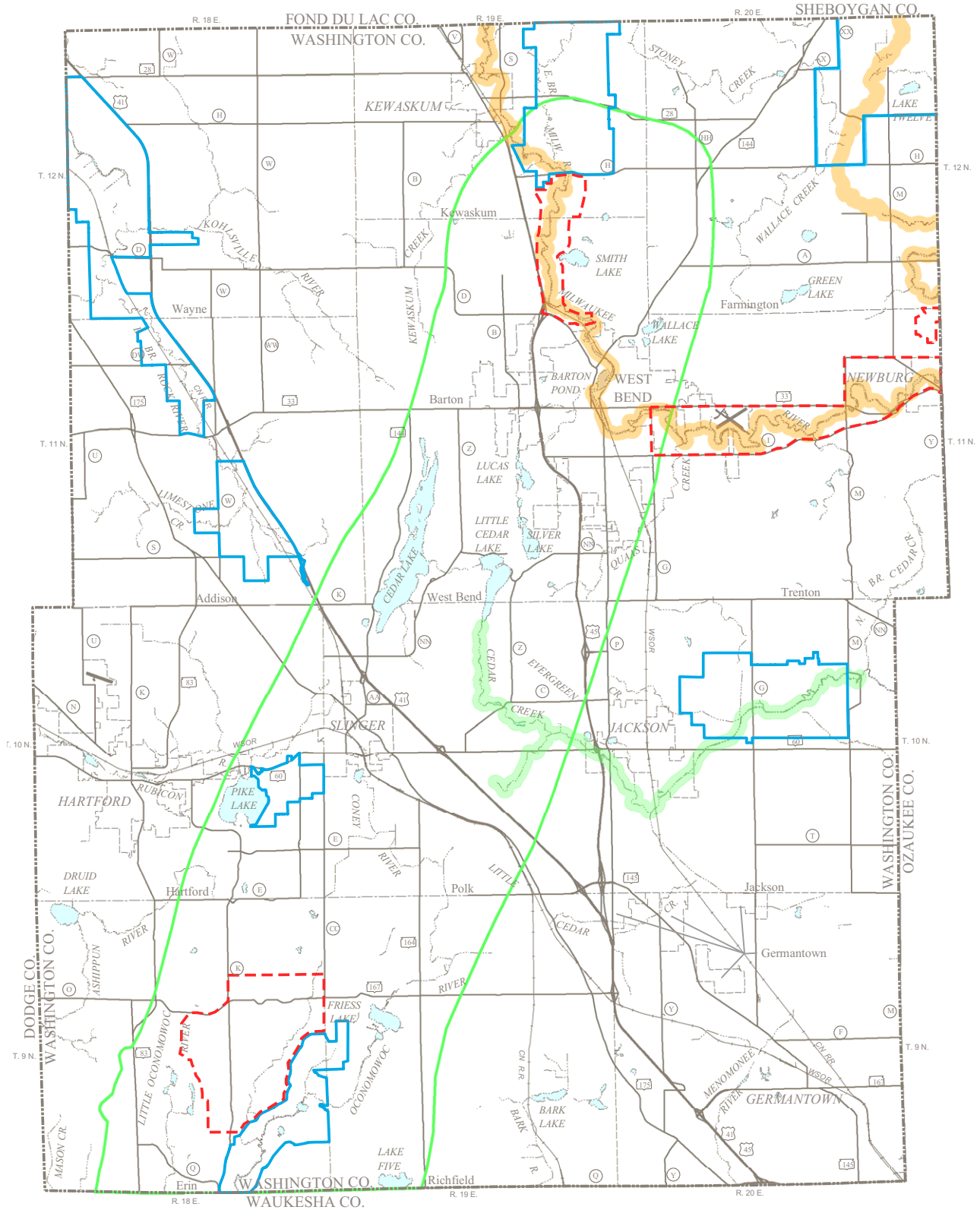
With respect to the North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Project Area, the Department does not intend to rely as heavily on fee simple acquisition as it does in the other project areas in the County. Rather, the Department anticipates implementing the long term plan of preserving both natural resource and agricultural lands within the project area through a combination of public ownership, conservation easements, and purchase of development rights. Consequently, the acquisition of lands within the project area are not reflected on Map 14, or in Table 23.

In addition to the Department's project areas, there is also a study area shown on Map 19—the Mid Kettle Moraine. The study area was identified by the Mid Kettle Moraine Partners Group, a coalition of public and private organizations (including the Department) with a common interest in protecting the best remaining natural and scenic areas of the Kettle Moraine in Washington and Waukesha Counties.

Also included on Map 19 are the Department's stream protection corridors. The Department has established two stream bank programs to protect the scenic, fishery, and water quality of waterways in Washington County, which are primarily funded through the State Stewardship Program, including: the Cedar Creek Stream Bank Protection program, which allows the Department to acquire, by fee simple title or easement, lands along the Cedar Creek and its major tributary from CTH M upstream to the outlet of Little Cedar Lake; and the Milwaukee River Watershed Stream Bank Easement program, which allows the Department to acquire, by easement only, lands along the main stem and major tributaries and along the upper reaches and smaller tributaries of the Milwaukee River. These acquisition efforts may or may not include public fishing access opportunities and are obtained only on a willing-seller basis.

It should be noted that nine natural areas and one forest interior restoration site, which includes a critical species habitat site, are located partially within or partially outside existing State project boundaries. These sites are listed on Table 26 and encompass about 768 acres. It is recommended that the Department of Natural Resources

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT AREAS  
AND OTHER FOCUS AREAS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY**



- WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT BOUNDARY
- MID KETTLE MORAINES STUDY AREA
- OZAUKEE WASHINGTON LAND TRUST FOCUS AREA
- CEDAR CREEK STREAM BANK PROTECTION PROGRAM CORRIDOR
- MILWAUKEE RIVER WATERSHED STREAM BANK EASEMENT PROGRAM CORRIDOR

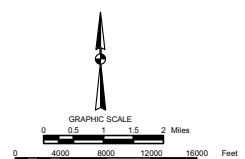


Table 26

## RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS TO WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECT BOUNDARIES

Number on Map 16	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Project	Location	Area (acres)	Comment <sup>a</sup>
46	Allenton Marsh Wildlife Area	T11N, R18E Section 28, 35 Town of Addison	105 <sup>b</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Allenton Swamp Natural Area (NA-3) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
2	Allenton Marsh Wildlife Area	T11N, R18E Section 35 Town of Addison	12 <sup>c</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Aurora Road Fen Natural Area (NA-1) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
17	Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area	T10N, R20E Sections 12, 17 Town of Jackson	32 <sup>d</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Jackson Swamp Natural Area (NA-2) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
83	Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area	T12N, R18E Sections 22, 28 Town of Wayne	178	Expansion is recommended to include the Wayne Creek Swamp Natural Area (NA-3) within the project boundary. The Natural Area is outside, but adjacent to, the existing project boundary
85	Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area	T12N, R18E Section 32 Town of Wayne	20 <sup>e</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Rock River Marsh Natural Area (NA-3) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
90 <sup>f</sup>	Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area	T11N, R18E Sections 9, 10 Town of Addison	160	Expansion is recommended to include a recommended forest interior site within the project boundary. The forest interior site encompasses the St. Anthony Maple Woods Critical Species Habitat site. The forest interior site is located about 0.25 miles outside the project boundary
54	Kettle Moraine State Forest–Loew Lake Unit	T9N, R18E Section 24 Town of Erin	28 <sup>g</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Donegal Road Woods Natural Area (NA-3) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
15	Kettle Moraine State Forest–Loew Lake Unit	T9N, R18E Section 24 Town of Erin  T9N, R19E Sections 18, 19 Town of Richfield	66 <sup>h</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Friess Lake Tamarack Swamp Natural Area (NA-2) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
5	Kettle Moraine State Forest–Northern Unit	T12N, R19E Sections 10, 15 Town of Kewaskum	22 <sup>i</sup>	Expansion is recommended to include that portion of the Kewaskum Maple-Oak Woods State Natural Area (NA-1) which currently lies partially outside the existing project boundary
66	Kettle Moraine State Forest–Northern Unit	T12N, R19E Sections 12, 13 Town of Kewaskum	145	Expansion is recommended to include the STH 28 Woods Natural Area (NA-3) within the project boundary. The Natural Area is outside, but adjacent to, the existing project boundary
Total	--	--	768	--

<sup>a</sup>NA-1 identifies a Natural Area of statewide or greater significance, NA-2 identifies a Natural Area of countywide or regional significance, and NA-3 identifies a Natural Area of local significance.

<sup>b</sup>An additional 986 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 1,091 acres in total.

<sup>c</sup>An additional 10 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 22 acres in total.

<sup>d</sup>An additional 1,539 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 1,571 acres in total.

<sup>e</sup>An additional 306 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 326 acres in total.

<sup>f</sup>The St. Anthony Maple Woods Critical Species Habitat site is shown as No. 90 on Map 16. The St. Anthony Maple Woods forest interior site is shown on Map 17.

<sup>g</sup>An additional 109 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 137 acres in total.

<sup>h</sup>An additional 162 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 228 acres in total.

<sup>i</sup>An additional 64 acres of the natural area are located within the existing project boundary. The natural area is about 86 acres in total.

Source: SEWRPC.



consider expanding existing project boundaries to include these sites when the master plans for the applicable State forest units and wildlife areas are updated. As an alternative to expanding the existing project boundaries, the Department may consider establishing new project boundaries to encompass the natural areas listed on Table 24. In cases where the natural areas are located within a larger primary environmental corridor, the Department should consider including the entire primary environmental corridor within the project boundary.

### **Ozaukee Washington Land Trust**

Similar to the Department's project areas, the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust has identified several focus areas throughout the County in their ongoing efforts of protecting and preserving important natural resource areas. These focus areas are shown on Map 19 and include the Holy Hill Woods, Milwaukee River, and Shady Lane Woods areas.

### **Prime Agricultural Land Plan Component**

Under this plan, it is recommended that Washington County and local units of government preserve to the extent practicable the remaining prime agricultural lands recommended for preservation under the Washington County farmland preservation plan,<sup>3</sup> other than those lands located within the planned urban service areas. Prime agricultural lands recommended to be preserved are shown on Map 20. The preservation of agricultural lands will help protect the rural character and scenic vistas throughout Washington County and will also help to maintain agriculture as a significant economic activity and way of life.

The Washington County Board of Supervisors adopted the Washington County Farmland Preservation Plan in August 1981. It is anticipated that this plan will be replaced by the agricultural section of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element of the Washington County Comprehensive Plan. It is further anticipated that the upcoming Washington County comprehensive plan will discuss, in greater detail, farmland preservation in the County. Current farming data in Washington County will be compiled and a detailed analysis and evaluation of possible farmland preservation options will be conducted as part of this planning process.

Planning for the preservation of agricultural lands and protection of such lands through zoning received impetus in 1977 with the passage of the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program, a program that combines planning and zoning provisions with tax incentives for the purpose of ensuring the preservation of farmland. The program is intended to help counties and local units of government preserve farmland through local plans and zoning and to provide tax relief, in the form of State income-tax credits, to farmland owners who participate in the program. General zoning authority in Washington County—which designates districts with land uses such as agricultural, residential, commercial, etc.—is regulated by the local municipalities.

The Washington County Farmland Preservation Plan was compiled to identify the best agricultural land in the County and to qualify farmers for tax credits under the State's Farmland Tax Credit Program. To qualify, the farmland must be a minimum of 35 acres and be in an exclusive agricultural zoning district or be subject to a preservation agreement between the farmland owner and the State. Several townships in Washington County currently participate in this program.

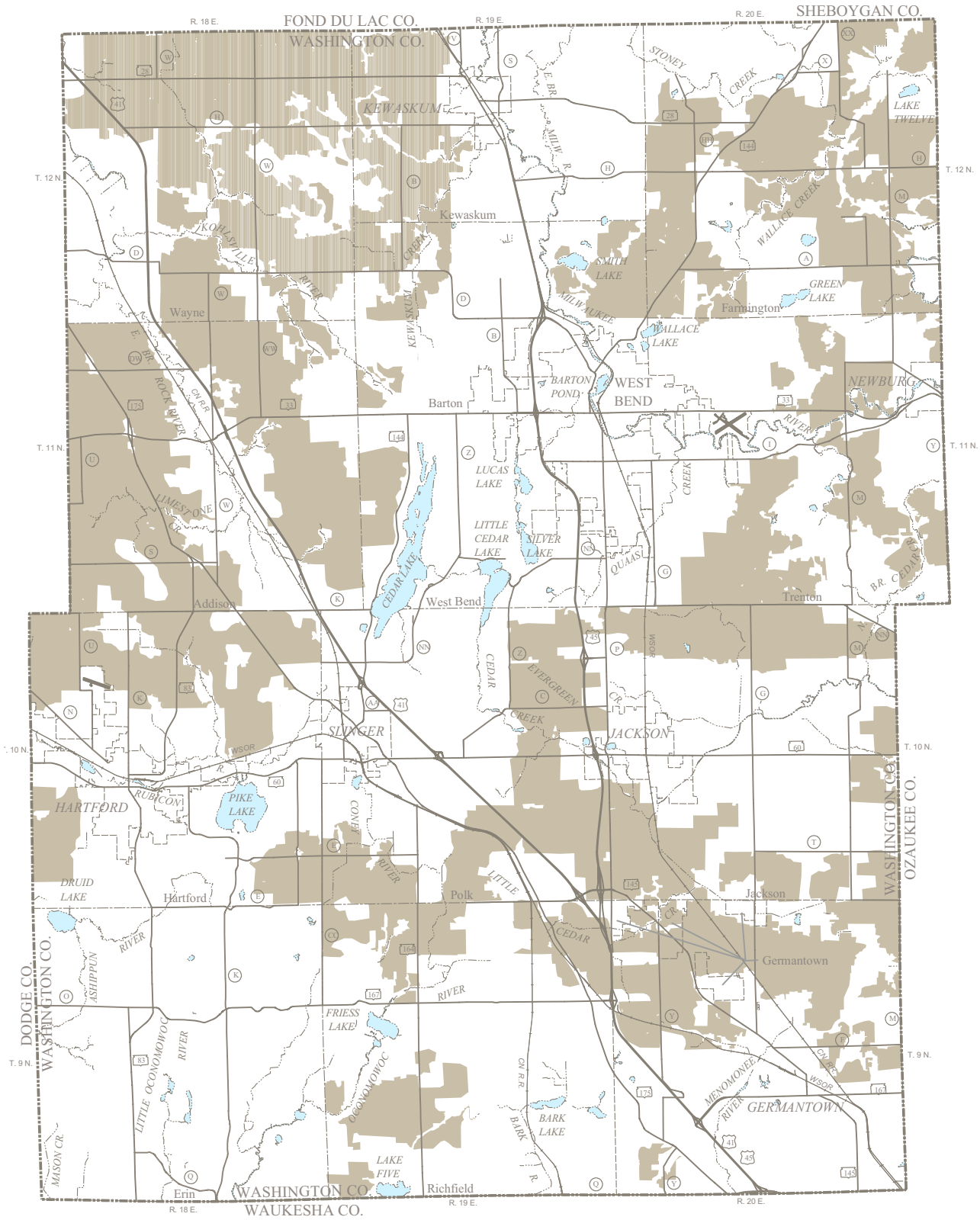
It is important to note that the exclusive agricultural zoning required as a condition for receipt of tax credits under the Farmland Preservation Program does not ensure the preservation of land held by participating farmers. Landowners can petition the concerned county or local unit of government for a change in zoning to accommodate development, although those who have claimed a tax credit would be liable to pay back at least a portion of the credits. Thus, even with the Farmland Preservation Program, the effectiveness of preserving farmland through exclusive agricultural zoning is dependent upon the level of commitment of the county and local units of government to such zoning.

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<sup>3</sup>Farmland Preservation Plan, Washington County, Wisconsin, August 1981, prepared by the firm of Stockham and Vanderwalle under the direction of the Washington County Park and Planning Commission and the Washington County Farmland Preservation Planning Technical Advisory Committee.

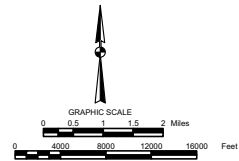


PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS UNDER THE 2020 REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN PREPARED BY THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND ADOPTED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD



 PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

NOTE: PRECISE BOUNDARIES SHOWN VARY FROM THE OFFICIAL WASHINGTON COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Source: SEWRPC.

In 1995, the Wisconsin Legislature took an additional action to lessen the property tax burden on farmers by mandating the "use-value" assessment of agricultural land. Under this system, agricultural land is assessed based solely on its value for farming, without regard for its development potential. The legislation froze the assessed value of agricultural land at 1995 levels through 1997, and provided for a phased reduction to "use" values over a ten-year period. In 1999, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue adopted an emergency rule which fully implements use-value assessments beginning in 2000.

Under the 1995 legislation, agricultural land is assessed at use-value, regardless of existing zoning. Landowners who sell their land after owning the land for less than five years are required to pay a modest penalty to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, an amount equal to five percent of the difference between the sale price and the use-value during the last year of ownership. Thus, while the new program may be expected to provide substantial property tax relief to owners of farmland, it will do so without attaching any additional restrictions to the land, so that there is no guarantee that the land will not be converted to urban use.

If the opportunity should arise, the Washington County Board should consider a pilot purchase of development rights program for land surrounding Washington County parks which are located outside planned urban service areas and monitor the success of the transfer and purchase of development rights of agricultural lands within the North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Project area.

## **RECOMMENDED PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT**

The outdoor recreation sites and trail facilities recommended under the County park and open space plan are shown on Map 21. The sites and facilities proposed to be provided include major parks and resource-oriented recreational facilities, trails, and boat access facilities. The recommendations are based on the needs identified from the application of the per capita and accessibility standards in Chapter V. The recommended recreation sites and facilities are intended to meet the need for such sites and facilities in the County through the year 2020. A description of the recommended sites and facilities follows.

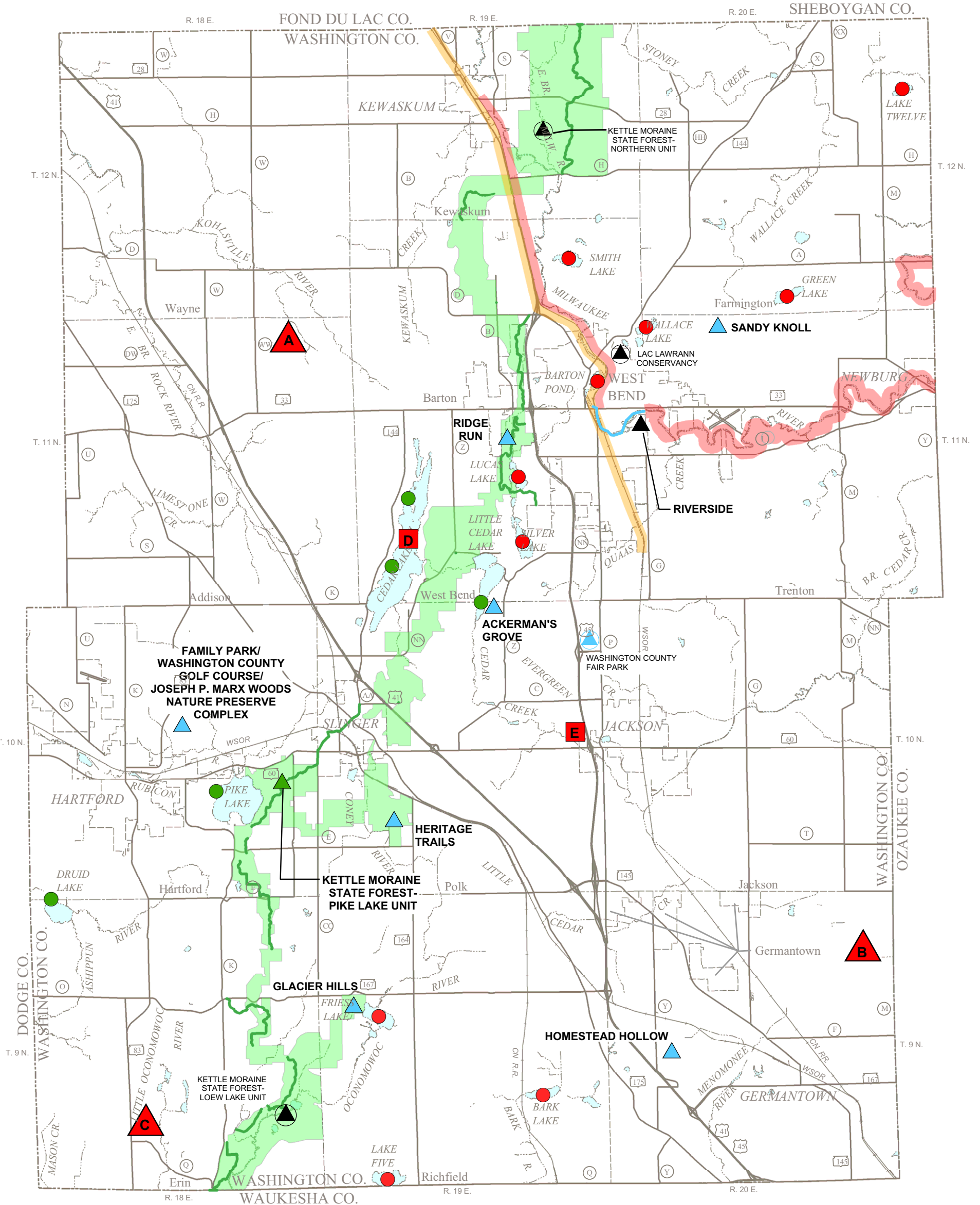
### **Major Parks**

Under the park and open space plan for Washington County, 12 major parks would be provided. Of the 12 major parks, nine are existing parks and three would be new parks to be acquired and developed by Washington County. The nine existing major parks are: the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Ackerman's Grove Park, Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex, Glacier Hills Park, Heritage Trails Park, Homestead Hollow Park, Ridge Run Park, and Sandy Knoll Park, owned by Washington County; and Riverside Park owned by the City of West Bend. The special regional outdoor recreational sites are: the Lac Lawrann Conservancy, owned by the City of West Bend; the Loew Lake and Northern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and the Washington County Fair Park, owned by the County, but not part of the County park system.

Under this plan, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources should continue to acquire lands at and provide additional facilities in accordance with the master plans for the Loew Lake, Northern, and Pike Lake Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The City of West Bend would maintain existing outdoor recreation facilities at Riverside Park and at the Lac Lawrann Conservancy Area. Washington County would continue to acquire lands and provide additional facilities at Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex, Glacier Hills Park, Heritage Trails Park, Ridge Run Park, and Sandy Knoll Park, and provide additional facilities at Ackerman's Grove Park and Homestead Hollow Park. Washington County would be responsible for the provision of three new major parks in the County, including a 200 acre park in the northwestern portion of the County, a 304 acre park in the northern portion of the Village of Germantown, and a 325 acre park in the southwestern portion of the County.

Major recommendations for outdoor recreational facilities at the major County parks include the development of: a nature center at Glacier Hills Park; additional formal picnic areas at Heritage Trails Park, Ridge Run Park, and

OUTDOOR RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2020



MAJOR PARKS

- STATE
- COUNTY
- LOCAL
- PROPOSED COUNTY

OTHER PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

- PROPOSED OTHER COUNTY
- SPECIAL OUTDOOR RECREATION SITE
- WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR PARK

RECREATION CORRIDORS

- EXISTING MILWAUKEE RIVER TRAIL
- EXISTING ICE AGE TRAIL
- PROPOSED MILWAUKEE RIVER TRAIL
- ICE AGE TRAIL CORRIDOR

OTHER TRAILS

- PROPOSED CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY TRAIL

- A** PROPOSED COUNTY PARK IDENTIFICATION LETTER (SEE TABLE 27)

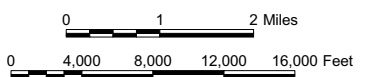
BOAT ACCESS FACILITIES

- EXISTING FACILITY MEETING WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STANDARDS
- LAKE NEEDING NEW OR EXPANDED FACILITY

NOTE: OTHER EXISTING COUNTY PARKS NOT SPECIFICALLY RECOMMENDED FOR IMPROVEMENT OR EXPANSION UNDER THE PLAN ARE NOT SHOWN.



GRAPHIC SCALE



Sandy Knoll Park; formal picnic areas at Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex and at the three new major park sites; additional picnic shelters at Ackerman's Grove and picnic shelter improvements at Homestead Hollow Park; boat access facilities at Glacier Hills Park; and a swimming beach at Heritage Trails Park.

In addition, the application of the per capita and accessibility standards for golf courses as described in Chapter V identified the need for an additional public golf course facility in the County. The County should consider providing additional public golf course facilities in the County through acquisition of a new site or through acquisition of an existing private site should one become available.

Specific recommendations for each of the major parks are presented below.

- **Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest**  
The Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest presently consists of 705 acres, and is located in the Town of Hartford. Under the plan, it is recommended that the State acquire an additional 53 acres of land within the project area and continue to provide additional facilities in accordance with the master plan. It should be noted that the Department anticipates updating the master plan for this park in the near future. This update will likely consider an expansion of existing camping facilities to meet the future needs of the County.
- **Ackerman's Grove County Park**  
Ackerman's Grove County Park presently consists of 78 acres, and is located in the Town of Polk. Under the plan, it is recommended that the County improve the trail system and provide additional picnic shelters, a playground, and a sled hill.
- **Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/  
Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex**  
Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex presently consists of 323 acres, and is located in the Town of Hartford. The plan recommends that the County acquire an additional 200 acres and provide formal picnic areas and necessary support facilities, a playground, playfields, boardwalks with associated trails, nature trails, and paved trails. It should also be noted that it is anticipated that this park site will connect to the proposed Rubicon River recreation corridor being developed by the City of Hartford.
- **Glacier Hills Park**  
Glacier Hills Park, located in the Town of Richfield, presently consists of 140 acres. Under the plan, it is recommended that the County acquire an additional 36 acres of primary environmental corridor adjacent to the park. This acquisition will connect the park with the Loew Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest to the south and protect a bog to the north of the park. The plan recommends that the County provide upgraded restrooms, a lighted sled hill, improved electrical service to existing picnic shelters, a fishing pier and boat access facilities on Friess Lake, a boardwalk with improved trails, and a nature center. The plan recommends that the nature center provide education opportunities not only relating to natural resources, but also farmland practices and preservation. In addition, the proposed nature center should not provide the same services as nature centers in the surrounding area.
- **Heritage Trails Park**  
Heritage Trails Park presently consists of 234 acres, and is located in the Town of Polk. It is recommended under the plan that the County acquire an additional 90 acres of land, which would protect the Heritage Trails Bog Natural Area (NA-3) and adjacent primary environmental corridor. It is proposed that the County provide additional formal picnic areas and shelters, a playground, upgraded restrooms, a swimming beach, an archery range, mountain bike trails, and a boardwalk with improved trails.

- **Homestead Hollow Park**  
Homestead Hollow Park, located in the Village of Germantown, consists of 105 acres. Under the plan, it is recommended that the County improve picnic shelters, redevelop the playground, provide nature trails, and pave existing trails.
- **Ridge Run Park**  
Ridge Run Park presently consists of 148 acres, and is located in the City and Town of West Bend. It is recommended under the plan that the County acquire an additional 25 acres, which would protect the remainder of the Silver Creek Marsh Natural Area (NA-3) and adjacent primary environmental corridor. The plan recommends that the County provide additional formal picnic areas and shelters, redevelop the playground, improve existing trails, and provide nature trails.
- **Sandy Knoll Park**  
Sandy Knoll Park presently consists of 257 acres, and is located in the Town of Trenton. Under the plan, it is recommended that the County acquire an additional 463 acres, which would protect the Sandy Knoll Wetlands Natural Area (NA-3) to the west of the park, the Sandy Knoll Swamp Natural Area (NA-3) to the east of the park, and would provide a connection with the Lizard Mound County Park located one-half mile to the north. The plan recommends that the County provide additional formal picnic areas and shelters, pave existing trails, redevelop playgrounds, and provide nature trails.
- **Riverside Park**  
Riverside Park presently consists of 99 acres, and is located in the Town of Trenton. The plan does not recommend any additional land acquisition or facility development.
- **Proposed County Park A**  
It is recommended that the County acquire a new 200-acre park site in the northwest portion of the County, which would include the St. Anthony Beech Woods Natural Area (NA-2). The plan recommends that the County provide formal picnic areas and necessary support facilities, a playground, playfields, and nature trails.
- **Proposed County Park B**  
It is recommended that the County acquire a new 304-acre park site in the northern portion of the Village of Germantown. This acquisition will protect the Germantown Swamp Natural Area (NA-1). Under the plan, it is recommended that the County provide formal picnic areas and necessary support facilities, a playground, playfields, and nature trails.
- **Proposed County Park C**  
It is recommended that the County acquire a new 325-acre park site in the southwest portion of the County. The plan recommends that the County provide formal picnic areas and necessary support facilities, a playground, playfields (not to include soccer fields), and nature trails.

#### **Other County Park and Outdoor Recreation Sites**

In addition to the seven major parks owned by the County, five other park and outdoor recreation sites were owned by Washington County in 2002. Under the recommended plan, Washington County would continue to maintain all of these sites and provide additional facilities as needed.

Specific recommendations for other Washington County parks include: the development of facilities and acquisition of an additional 45 acres at Leonard J. Yahr County Park; the acquisition of an additional six acres of land at Lizard Mound Park, which would protect the remainder of the Lizard Mound Woods Natural Area (NA-3) and two additional effigy mounds adjacent to the east boundary of the park; and additional development at Goeden Park and Henschke Hillside Lake Access. It is also recommended that the County acquire and develop a

10-acre dog park to serve residents in the central portion of the County. In addition, it is recommended that the County acquire and develop two new other County park sites. These two new sites are described as follows:

- **Proposed County Park D**

It is recommended that the County acquire a new 10-acre park site on Big Cedar Lake. The plan recommends that the County provide formal picnic areas and necessary support facilities and a swimming beach.

- **Proposed County Park E**

It is recommended that the County acquire a new 20-acre park site on Tilly Lake near the Village of Jackson. Under the plan, it is recommended that the County provide formal picnic areas and necessary support facilities and a swimming beach.

### ***Acquisition and Development Costs—County Parks***

The acquisition and development costs related to County owned parks envisioned under the plan are presented in Table 27. As indicated in Table 27, such costs are estimated at about \$27.8 million. Of this amount, about \$8.6 million, or about 31 percent, would be required for the acquisition of additional park lands; and about \$19.2 million, or 69 percent, would be required for the development of County park land.

Development costs related to County owned parks envisioned under the County's currently proposed Park Capital Improvement Plan are listed in Appendix F. The costs shown in Appendix F may not match those shown for individual sites and facilities in Table 27 due to installation cost adjustments. The Capital Improvement Plan and costs are subject to change based on a yearly review and approval by the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

### **Areawide Recreation Trails**

Under the recommended plan, about 52 miles of recreation trails would be provided to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. The recommended trails, which are shown on Map 21, are part of a larger, region-wide trail system. The recommended trail system within Washington County is comprised of two trails, including 27 miles of existing trails and 25 miles of proposed new trails. The trail locations shown on Map 21 are general in nature and are subject to refinement based on detailed facility planning and on negotiations with landowners to purchase land for the trails.

Of the recommended 52 mile trail system within Washington County, about 12 miles, or about 23 percent, would be provided by Washington County, and about three miles (including two existing miles), or about 6 percent, by the City of West Bend, as part of the Milwaukee River Corridor. The Milwaukee River recreation corridor would connect to a proposed Milwaukee River Corridor in Ozaukee County on the east and to the Kettle Moraine State Forest—Northern Unit on the north. It should be noted that approximately eight miles of the Milwaukee River Corridor coincides with the Canadian National Railway trail described below.

The Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation would be responsible for about 37 miles (including 25 existing miles), or about 71 percent, of the recommended trail system as part of the Ice Age trail, which would connect to the Ice Age trail segments in Fond du Lac County on the north and in Waukesha County on the south. The trail provides opportunities for hiking and ski-touring. Biking is not permitted on the trail.

The development of 52 miles of trails in the Milwaukee River and the Ice Age Trail corridors in the County is estimated to cost about \$930,000; with the Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation responsible for about \$630,000; with Washington County responsible for approximately \$230,000; and the City of West Bend responsible for about \$70,000. The development costs associated with that portion of the Milwaukee River trail to be developed by Washington County are included on Table 27. It should be noted that where the Milwaukee River trail coincides with the Canadian National Railway trail, the cost of that segment is included with the development costs of the Canadian National Railway trail.



Table 27

**ESTIMATED ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS FOR COUNTY PARKS AS SET FORTH BY THE RECOMMENDED PARK PLAN**

County Park	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Acquisition Cost	Proposed Facility Development	Development Cost	Total Cost
Major Parks Ackerman's Grove	--	--	Picnic shelters (3) Playground Sled hill Improve trail system General development <sup>b</sup>	\$ 240,000 70,000 20,000 20,000 158,000	\$ 508,000
Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex	200	\$ 887,900	Picnicking Playground Playfields Boardwalks/nature trails Nature trail Paved trail General Development <sup>c</sup>	\$ 190,000 70,000 330,000 247,500 9,000 23,000 1,490,000	\$ 3,247,400
Glacier Hills Park	36	\$ 164,100	Light sled hill Upgrade restrooms Upgrade electrical service to shelters (4) Fishing pier Boat access facilities Boardwalk/improve trail system Nature center General development <sup>d</sup>	\$ 50,000 175,000 60,000 30,000 110,000 125,000 500,000 110,000	\$ 1,324,100
Heritage Trails Park	90	\$ 416,200	Additional picnic areas and shelters Playground Upgrade restrooms Swimming beach Archery range Mountain bike trails Boardwalk/improve trail system General development <sup>e</sup>	\$ 25,000 70,000 175,000 50,000 1,000 63,000 100,000 1,490,000	\$ 2,390,200
Homestead Hollow Park	--	--	Picnic shelter improvements Playground redevelopment Nature trail Pave existing trail The development of the soccer complex was completed in the summer of 2003	\$ 130,000 50,000 9,000 55,000 --	\$ 244,000
Ridge Run Park	25	\$ 107,600	Additional picnic areas and shelters Playground redevelopment Improve trail system Nature trail General development <sup>f</sup>	\$ 25,000 50,000 35,000 9,000 165,000	\$ 391,600
Sandy Knoll Park	463	\$1,811,000	Additional picnic areas and shelters Playground redevelopment (2) Nature trail Pave existing trail	\$ 25,000 100,000 9,000 90,000	\$ 2,035,000
Proposed Site A <sup>a</sup>	200	\$1,238,600	Picnicking Playground Playfields Nature trail General development <sup>c</sup>	\$ 190,000 70,000 330,000 9,000 1,490,000	\$ 3,327,600
Proposed Site B <sup>a</sup>	304	\$1,437,600	Picnicking Playground Playfields Nature trail General development <sup>c</sup>	\$ 190,000 70,000 330,000 9,000 1,490,000	\$ 3,526,600
Proposed Site C <sup>a</sup>	325	\$1,921,000	Picnicking Playground Playfields Nature trail General development <sup>c</sup>	\$ 190,000 70,000 330,000 9,000 1,490,000	\$ 4,010,000
Subtotal - 10 Sites	1,643	\$7,984,000	--	\$13,020,500	\$21,004,500
Other Parks Dog Park	10	\$ 65,000	General development <sup>g</sup>	\$ 53,400	\$ 118,400
Goeden Park	--	--	Improve canoe launch Accessible fishing pier Paved ADA trail	\$ 15,000 30,000 12,000	\$ 57,000

**Table 27 (continued)**

County Park	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Acquisition Cost	Proposed Facility Development	Development Cost	Total Cost
Henschke Hillside Lake Access	--	--	Restrooms Boat access facilities General development <sup>c</sup>	\$ 128,100 182,500 359,400	\$ 670,000
Leonard J. Yahr County Park	45	\$ 312,700	Picnic shelter Playground Restrooms Fishing pads Finish remodeling home and adjoining parking Boardwalk/trails Phase 1 – General development <sup>h</sup> Phase 2 – General development <sup>i</sup>	\$ 70,000 70,000 175,000 6,000 125,000 54,000 -- 125,000	\$ 937,700
Lizard Mound Park	6	\$ 49,500	Picnic shelter Restrooms Design and construction of historic site interpretive center	\$ 80,000 175,000 150,000	\$ 454,500
Proposed Site D <sup>a</sup>	10	\$ 65,000	Picnicking Swimming beach General development <sup>c</sup>	\$ 190,000 50,000 1,490,000	\$ 1,795,000
Proposed Site E <sup>a</sup>	20	\$ 130,000	Picnicking Swimming beach General development <sup>c</sup>	\$ 190,000 50,000 1,490,000	\$ 1,860,000
Subtotal – 7 Sites	91	\$ 622,200	--	\$ 5,270,400	\$ 5,892,600
Trails					
Milwaukee River Trail	-- <sup>j</sup>	-- <sup>j</sup>	4 miles of crushed gravel/stone <sup>k</sup>	\$ 230,000	\$ 230,000
Subtotal – 1 Trail	--	--	--	\$ 230,000	\$ 230,000
Other County Trail					
Canadian National Railway	--	--	12 miles of crushed gravel/stone	\$ 633,600	\$ 633,600
Subtotal – 1 Trail	--	--	--	\$ 633,600	\$ 633,600
Total	1,734	\$8,606,200	--	\$19,154,500	\$27,760,700

NOTE: Cost estimates are expressed in 2002 dollars.

<sup>a</sup>Letter corresponds to designation on Map 21.

<sup>b</sup>General development includes parking areas and parking lot expansions, road extension, lighting, and picnic tables.

<sup>c</sup>General development includes landscaping, parking areas and access drives, and such furnishings as benches, waste containers, and signs.

<sup>d</sup>General development includes road improvement, parking areas, and grading.

<sup>e</sup>General development includes barn conversion, parking areas, road development, and gravel pit restoration.

<sup>f</sup>General development includes landscaping and rerouting of roads.

<sup>g</sup>General development includes chain link fence, parking, well, benches, signs, and water trough.

<sup>h</sup>Phase 1-General development (already approved under capital improvement plan) includes grading, entrance road, parking, demolition of buildings, starting conversion of home to shelter, paved trails, swimming beach, fishing pier, carry-in boat launch, utilities, electrical service, lighting, dry hydrant, lawn restoration, oak savanna restoration, picnic tables, signs, grills, bike rack, car stops, and playground.

<sup>i</sup>Phase 2-General development includes additional grading and parking, an overlook, bridge, landscaping, and site fixtures.

<sup>j</sup>The Milwaukee River trail is proposed to be developed within primary environmental corridor lands. The cost for acquiring such lands is included in Table 23.

<sup>k</sup>Where the Milwaukee River trail coincides with the Canadian National Railway trail, the cost of that eight mile segment is included with the development costs of the Canadian National Railway trail.

Source: SEWRPC.

The recommended trails shown on Map 21 are part of a region-wide system and may need to be refined based on detailed facility planning. The County should allocate \$40,000 to develop a detailed bike and pedestrian plan for Washington County. This plan would determine specific locations for bike and pedestrian trails and explore additional connections not shown in this plan. In addition, horse trails may be developed at Washington County parks if suitable land for this activity is obtained in the future. Horse trails currently exist at the Loew Lake and Northern Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.



### **Other Trails**

As shown on Map 21, the plan proposes that one other 12 mile trail be developed by Washington County—the Canadian National Railway trail. This trail provides connections to the recreation corridors and coincides with a portion of the Milwaukee River corridor as described above. The development of this trail is estimated to cost about \$633,600 (not including bridge development). The maintenance responsibility of this trail is yet to be determined.

### **Lake and River Access**

Boat access sites, both public and nonpublic, provide opportunities for individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such water related recreation activities as motor boating, waterskiing, fishing, and canoeing. The regional park and open space plan recommends that rivers and major lakes—lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more—be provided with adequate public boat access consistent with safe and enjoyable participation in various boating activities. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in keeping with State Statutes and regulations which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, recently adopted revised rules regarding lake access, and surveyed all the major lakes in the State to determine if adequate public access to each was provided and maintained. Table 22 in Chapter V lists the major lakes in the County and indicates whether or not public access is provided which meets Department requirements. As indicated in Table 22, in 2002, the following major lakes in Washington County had inadequate or no access provided which met Department standards: Bark Lake, Barton Pond, Lake Five, Friess Lake, Green Lake, Lucas Lake, Silver Lake, Smith Lake, Lake Twelve, and Wallace Lake. Under this plan, then, as shown on Map 21, it is recommended that public boat access sites at the aforementioned lakes be expanded or acquired and developed as appropriate by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The total estimated acquisition and development cost for the recommended lake access sites is about \$2.5 million.

It is recommended that public canoe access points with parking should be provided on major streams every 10 miles in Washington County. Major streams in Washington County are the Ashippun River, Cedar Creek, Little Cedar Creek, North Branch Cedar Creek, Coney River, Evergreen Creek, Kewaskum Creek, Kohlsville River, Limestone Creek, Mason Creek, Menomonee River, Milwaukee River, East Branch Milwaukee River, North Branch Milwaukee River, Oconomowoc River, Little Oconomowoc River, Quass Creek, East Branch Rock River, Rubicon River, Silver Creek, Stony Creek, and Wallace Creek. Public canoe access is currently provided at: Goeden County Park, Newburg Fireman's Park, River Hill Park, and Riverside Park, along the Milwaukee River; Centennial Park-Mill Pond, along the Rubicon River; Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area along the Rock River; the Loew Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest along the Oconomowoc River; Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area along the Cedar Creek; and the West Bend Canoe Launch in the Milwaukee Riverfront Parkway on Barton Pond.

In addition to boating and canoeing, the County park plan recognizes the popularity of such activities as beach swimming, shore fishing, and other lake-oriented activities and the need for general public access to lakeshore areas for such pursuits. Lakeshore areas capable of accommodating additional outdoor recreational development are scarce in Washington County. As lakeshore property, either developed or undeveloped, becomes available in the years ahead, Washington County, or the appropriate municipality, should evaluate their recreational potential and consider their acquisition for public recreational use as appropriate.

### **Local Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan Element**

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

Within urban areas of the County, it is recommended that a full range of community and neighborhood park sites and facilities be provided. Recommendations for the provision of local park sites and facilities should

be identified through the preparation and adoption of local park and open space plans. As of the end of 2002, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, which certifies local park and open space plans for purposes of reviewing applications for state Stewardship Fund and other recreational grant programs, had certified local park and open space plans for the City of West Bend, the Villages of Jackson, and Slinger, and the Towns of Erin and Hartford.

Within the rural areas of the County, it is generally recommended that one town-owned park and associated outdoor recreation facilities be provided in each town to serve the needs of town residents for local civic events and for organized recreational activities, such as softball and picnicking. As the community recreational facility, the town park should be located in conjunction with another community facility that serves as a focal point for town residents, such as a town hall, school, or fire station. Towns which currently lack park and outdoor recreation facilities should have the opportunity to acquire and develop, with available Federal and State grant-in-aid support, one town park and associated recreation facilities.

## **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

The recommended park and open space plan for Washington County consists of an outdoor recreation element providing recommendations for parks and other outdoor recreation sites and facilities, and an open space preservation element providing recommendations for the protection of important natural resources. The recommended plan described in the preceding sections of this chapter provides a design for the attainment of the park acquisition and development objectives and the open space preservation objectives presented in Appendix D of this report. In a practical sense, however, the recommended park and open space plan for the County is not complete until the steps required to implement the plan have been specified. This section is intended to serve as a guide for use in the implementation of the recommended plan, including a description of those actions required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and by Washington County. Also included is a description of the acquisition and development costs and priorities associated with the implementation of the recommended plan.

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

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has authority and responsibility for park development, natural resource protection, water quality control, and water use regulations. Because of this broad range of authority and responsibility, certain Department functions have particular importance in the implementation of the County park and open space plan. The Department has the obligation to prepare comprehensive statewide conservation and water resource 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 resources; and the authority to acquire conservation and scenic easements. The Department also has the obligation to establish standards for floodplain and shoreland zoning and the authority to adopt, in the absence of satisfactory local actions, shoreland and floodplain zoning ordinances. The Department also has the authority to administer the Federal grant program known as the Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Fund program within the State, and administers the State Stewardship Fund, which provides funding for county and local park and open space land acquisition and development.

It is important that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: 1) approve and certify the Washington County park and open space plan in order to maintain the eligibility of the County to receive available State and Federal outdoor recreation grants in support of plan implementation; 2) use available regulatory authority to guide urban development in a way that protects important natural resources; 3) be directly responsible for the maintenance of existing State-owned recreation and open space sites in the County; 4) be responsible for the acquisition and development of lands within established State project boundaries in the County; 5) be responsible for the acquisition of resource preservation sites, including natural areas and critical species habitat sites as recommended in this plan; 6) be responsible for the acquisition and development of boat access sites; 7) be responsible for the acquisition and development, in cooperation with the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, of the Ice Age Trail. A summary of the costs associated with recommendations directed to the Department is included in Table 28.

**Table 28**

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED OWNERSHIP OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE LAND AND ESTIMATED ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS UNDER THE RECOMMENDED WASHINGTON COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

Ownership	Planned Open Space Acquisition		Planned Park Land Acquisition		Total Planned Acquisition		Development Cost	Total Acquisition and Development Cost <sup>a</sup>
	Area (acres)	Cost	Area (acres)	Cost	Area (acres)	Cost		
State of Wisconsin.....	7,121	\$ 35,985,800	53	\$ 353,300	7,174	\$ 36,339,100	\$ 730,000	\$37,069,100
Washington County.....	2,895	10,451,900	1,734	8,606,200	4,629	19,058,100	19,154,500	38,212,600
Local Governments <sup>b</sup> .....	2,028	9,124,200	-- <sup>c</sup>	--	2,028	9,124,200	70,000	9,194,200
Nonprofit Conservation Organizations.....	3,029	12,308,000	--	--	3,029	12,308,000	--	12,308,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,073</b>	<b>\$ 67,869,900</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>\$ 8,959,500</b>	<b>16,860</b>	<b>\$ 76,829,400</b>	<b>\$19,954,500</b>	<b>\$96,783,900</b>

Note: Cost estimates are expressed in 2002 dollars. As noted in the text, the protection of these areas could be accomplished through conservation easements, conservation subdivisions, donations, and purchase/transfer of development rights.

<sup>a</sup>These costs are based on purchasing all recommended land for parks and open spaces. The acquisition of all land is unlikely to occur before the plan year 2020 since acquisitions occur only on a willing-seller, willing-buyer basis, and only when funds are available. All past major land acquisitions by Washington County have been subsidized by state and federal grants, which are not always available.

<sup>b</sup>Includes city, village, and town governments, school districts, and lake and sanitary districts.

<sup>c</sup>Additional local government park lands should be determined through the preparation and adoption of local park and open space plans.

Source: SEWRPC.

**Washington County**

The authority and responsibility for the provision of areawide resource-oriented park and open space sites and facilities in the County rests primarily with the Washington County Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee. A summary of the costs of the park acquisition and development and open space preservation recommendations for the County is also included in Table 28.

Under the recommended park and open space plan presented in this chapter, Washington County should: 1) acquire additional land and/or develop additional facilities at seven existing major park sites—Ackerman’s Grove Park, Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex, Glacier Hills Park, Heritage Trails Park, Homestead Hollow Park, Ridge Run Park, and Sandy Knoll Park; 2) acquire and develop three proposed new major County parks; 3) maintain and provide additional facilities as needed to all other County park sites; 4) acquire additional land at Leonard J. Yahr County Park and Lizard Mound Park; 5) acquire and develop a dog park in the central portion of the County; 6) acquire and develop two proposed new other County parks.

It is further recommended that Washington County pursue the acquisition and development of lands to provide the opportunity for public lake access for other recreational activities, such as beach swimming, shore fishing, and other passive uses, as opportunities become available.

Under the open space plan element recommendations, the County should acquire additional land to assure the preservation of important natural resources in the County, including the acquisition of an additional 3,903 acres of primary environmental corridors, about 86 acres of secondary environmental corridors, and about seven acres of

isolated natural resource areas. In addition to woodlands, wetlands, and other natural resources, the land recommended to be acquired by the County contains natural areas and critical species habitat sites providing habitat for rare plant and animal species.

The plan recommends the development by the County of about 12 miles of trail along the Milwaukee River and 12 miles along the Canadian National Railway. Approximately eight miles of the Milwaukee River trail coincides with the Canadian National Railway trail. Washington County should work cooperatively with the associated communities to identify and establish appropriate on- and off-street routes to connect these trails, including the implementation of the year 2020 regional bicycle and pedestrian plan amendment as shown on Map 11 in Chapter III, and provide proper signing and improvements such as safe drainage grates and improved railway crossings where necessary.

### **Local Units of Government**

While the provision of major parks, areawide trails, water access facilities, and certain important natural resource features are proposed to be County or State responsibilities, local units of governments should consult with the State and County to identify specific lands required for areawide park and open space preservation purposes. Once such lands are identified, local units of government should utilize their zoning and official map powers to reserve the needed lands for park and open space use. Further, it may be appropriate for local units of government to accept in dedication certain lands identified for State or County acquisition as the land subdivision process proceeds, and then transfer ownership of such lands to the County or State. Similarly, it would be appropriate for the County or State to assume the responsibility for the development of trail facilities in local park lands, as needed, to assure continuity and uniformity in the proposed continuous regionwide system of recreation trails.

In addition to maintaining and developing local park sites and facilities, local units of government should also support efforts relating to preservation of historic sites as identified in Chapter III.

Local units of government should also place lands identified as primary farmlands in an exclusive agricultural zoning district to preserve such lands in agricultural use. Primary farmlands are shown on Map 20.

## **PRESERVATION AND ACQUISITION CONSIDERATIONS**

It is the intent of the plan that all land acquisitions occur on a willing-seller, willing-buyer basis and that landowners receive fair market value for their property. Each transaction should follow the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources acquisition procedures, which include an appraisal by the Department for all acquisitions undertaken by governmental units using Department grants.

While preserving park and open space land often consists of the purchase of fee-simple interest, there are other methods available to preserve and protect land. These other methods are described in this section and include protective zoning districts, overlay districts, conservation subdivisions, density bonus incentives, conservation easements, donations, and purchase/transfer of development rights.

### **Protective Zoning Districts**

A common way to protect environmentally sensitive lands from incompatible development is through the placement of protective zoning districts. The preservation recommendations may be achieved by using a variety of zoning districts and lot size distribution.

### **Overlay Districts**

An overlay district is an additional zoning requirement that is placed on a geographic area but does not change the underlying zoning. Overlay districts are created to protect natural resources in desired areas of a community.

### **Conservation Subdivisions**

In areas of residential development, land may be preserved by using conservation subdivisions. The Wisconsin Statutes defines the term conservation subdivision as housing development in a rural setting that is characterized by compact lots and common open space, where the natural features of the land are maintained to the greatest extent possible. Conservation subdivisions typically concentrate the permitted number of lots on a small portion of the tract, leaving the remaining portion, including the most significant natural features, in open space use. Conservation subdivisions provide inherent incentives in the form of lower infrastructure costs and higher sale prices that make them attractive to developers. The preserved open space may be owned by a homeowners' association, the State, County, or local unit of government, a private conservation organization, or the original landowner.

### **Density Bonus Incentives**

Incentive-based ordinances that offer density bonuses are gaining popularity. Subdivision ordinances with density bonuses allow developers to build more homes, with smaller lot sizes, on a given parcel than would have been allowed under traditional zoning as an incentive to develop conservation subdivisions. This allows for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas while still providing development to occur on the parcel.

### **Conservation Easements**

The recommended acquisition may occur in less-than-fee-simple interest, such as through the purchase of conservation easements. Where a conservation easement is utilized, the landowner retains title to the property; the easement typically precludes mowing or other disturbance of the area by the owner and provides access for site management purposes, such as the removal of woody vegetation which may shade out desired plant species and removal of other nuisance vegetation.

### **Donations**

The recommended acquisition may also occur through land subdivision dedication as well as through donations of fee simple title or of conservation easements. Donations may yield income-tax advantages to those who donate, since the value of the land or easement donated generally may be deducted from taxable income as an itemized deduction for Federal income-tax purposes and may be considered in calculating the itemized deduction credit for State income-tax purposes.

### **Purchase/Transfer of Development Rights**

Farmland and other open space may be preserved through the "purchase of development rights" (PDR) or "transfer of development rights" (TDR). Under a PDR program, the owner of farmland receives a payment for relinquishing rights to development. Deed restrictions are used to ensure that the lands concerned remain in agricultural or other open use. Such restrictions are attached to the land and remain in effect regardless of future sale or other transfer of the land. PDR programs may be administered and funded by State, County, or local units of government, land trusts and other private organizations, or combinations thereof. The amounts paid to farmland owners under PDR programs may be calculated on the basis of the number of dwelling units permitted under existing zoning, on the basis of the difference between the market value of the land and its value solely for agricultural purposes, or on some other basis. In addition, development rights can be donated by the landowner.

Under a TDR program, the right to develop a specified number of dwelling units under existing zoning may be transferred from one parcel, which would be maintained in open space use, to a different parcel where the number of dwelling units would be correspondingly increased. When the parcels are held by the same owner, the development rights are, in effect, simply transferred from one parcel to the other by the owner; when the parcels are held by different landowners, the transfer of development rights involves a sale of rights from one owner to another, at fair market value. The result is a shift in density away from areas proposed to be maintained in farming or other open use toward areas recommended for development. The transfer of development rights may be implemented only if authorized under zoning regulations.

### **Associated Costs**

As already noted, the associated costs for the acquisition and development of County park and open space sites, as set forth in Table 28, are estimated at about \$38.2 million. This amount distributed over the 18-year planning implementation period would approximate an expenditure of about \$2.1 million per year. Under the assumption that the population of the County would approximate 150,200 persons by the year 2020, the average annual acquisition and development costs would be about \$15.52 per capita<sup>4</sup> per year. It should be noted that, to the extent that such costs are reduced through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, and through the use of available State funds for acquisition and development, the costs to the County could be significantly reduced.

### **MMSD Conservation Plan**

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's Conservation Plan identifies land parcels which are recommended to be protected for multiple purposes, including flood reduction potential and stormwater management benefits, as well as wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreational benefits. The Conservation Plan identified sites throughout the Menomonee River, Root River, and Oak Creek watersheds within the District and includes the Village and Town of Germantown in Washington County. Map 22 shows the MMSD's Conservation Plan and the open space preservation element of the plan as it relates to the Village and Town of Germantown. The partnering between MMSD and public or private agencies and organizations may increase the prospects for funding assistance through the Wisconsin Stewardship program in support of land acquisition or the purchase of conservation easements. It is envisioned that the sites acquired by the MMSD would eventually be conveyed to the appropriate county or local unit of government or private nonprofit conservation organization, with MMSD retaining a conservation easement on such lands. All land acquisitions or purchases of conservation easements by the MMSD or any other public agency would be on a willing-seller basis.

## **ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Priorities for the park and open space acquisition and development projects proposed for implementation by Washington County are presented in this section. It is necessary to establish priorities for park and open space acquisition and development because public financial resources available for acquisition and development are limited, and because implementation of the recommended plan will, as a practical matter, occur gradually over time.

It is recommended that the County give top priority to acquiring land for open space preservation purposes. Land acquisition is particularly important given the increasing urbanization occurring within the County. As urbanization occurs, development pressures inevitably cause an increase in property values, thus making land acquisition significantly more costly. Washington County should establish a fund to acquire park and open space lands at a reasonable cost before their development for urban uses. It is recommended that priority for land acquisition be given first to lands needed for new major parks or for expanding existing County parks, followed by lands within the Milwaukee River recreation corridor; and then by acquisition of other environmental corridor lands.

A summary of recommended acquisition and development activities for Washington County parks during the 18-year period from 2002 through 2020 are set forth in Table 27. These actions would allow the County to meet its long term goals of providing sites and facilities for outdoor recreation and for preserving important natural resource areas in Washington County.

### **Maintenance Impact**

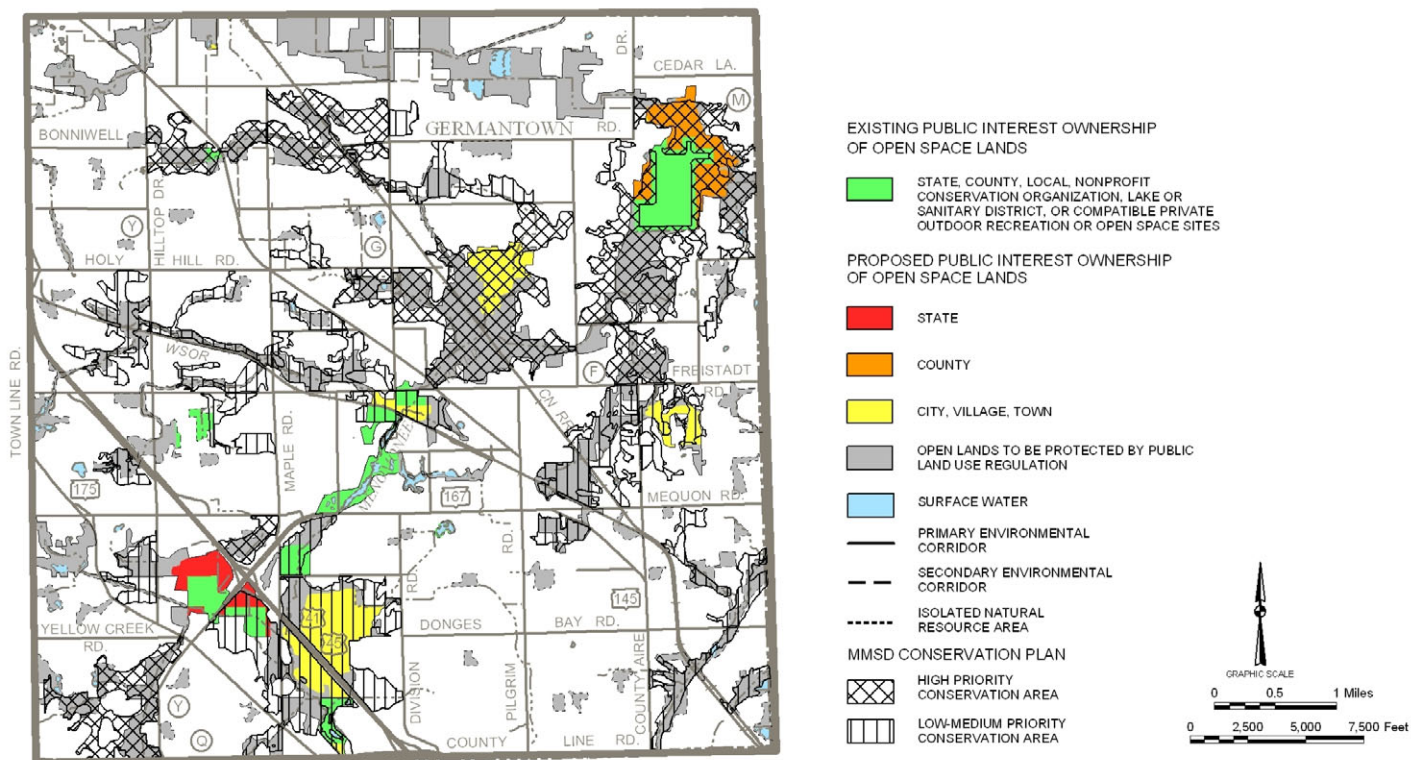
In addition to recommendations relating to the provision of new park sites and facilities, this plan anticipates the maintenance in continued recreational use of existing publicly owned recreation sites within the County. Mainte-

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<sup>4</sup>The average annual per capita costs were estimated by dividing the estimated average annual costs by the average annual population over the 18-year plan implementation period. The average population was determined by calculating the average of the 2002 population by the Wisconsin Department of Administration of about 120,500 persons and the plan design year 2020 population of about 150,200 persons, which is 135,350 persons.

## Map 22

### OPEN SPACE ELEMENT OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN AND THE CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE MMSD CONSERVATION PLAN AS IT PERTAINS TO THE VILLAGE AND TOWN OF GERMANTOWN



Source: SEWRPC.

nance activities at these sites should include, as necessary, such activities as the provision, paving, and resurfacing of parking lots and walkways; resurfacing of volleyball, basketball, and tennis court areas; provision, repair, or replacement of such support facilities as park benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains; provision, repair, or replacement of restroom facilities, water supply facilities, maintenance buildings, and picnic shelters; and the maintenance of lawns and other landscape plantings. Maintenance activities also include, importantly, the retrofitting of facilities where necessary to accommodate access by persons with disabilities. Examples of maintenance costs in Washington County include an estimated \$53,800 per year for a major County park and an estimated \$5,800 for a smaller County park.

The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1990, requires that "reasonable accommodation" be made to provide persons with disabilities equal opportunities for access to jobs, transportation, public facilities, and services—including access to recreational facilities. All new or renovated park and recreation facilities within the County must be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of the Act. Existing public park and recreation facilities should be evaluated by the unit of government concerned to determine if improvements are needed to meet Federal accessibility requirements.

### Management Plan

It is recommended that the County develop a natural resource management plan for the lands included in the evolving Washington County park system. This management plan would assure the long-term preservation of native species and communities by restoring and maintaining conditions to allow natural processes to function.



Management measures may include prescribed burning, control of exotic species, maintenance of natural water levels, noninterference of natural habitats, and hunting. Hunting is currently allowed on the following public lands: Allenton Marsh, Jackson Marsh, and Theresa Marsh Wildlife Areas; and the Loew Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Deer hunting at the Loew Lake Unit is restricted to deer archery and muzzle loader seasons, and turkey hunting is limited to special permits. Washington County should allocate \$50,000 to the development of a natural resource management plan.

## **SUMMARY**

This Chapter has presented the recommended park and open space plan for Washington County, consisting of an open space preservation element and an outdoor recreation element. The key recommendations of these plan elements are summarized below.

### **Open Space Preservation Element**

The open space preservation element consists of four major components: preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas; preservation of natural areas and critical species habitat sites; protection of open space lands located within the Department of Natural Resources project boundaries for the Loew Lake, Northern, and Pike Lake Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, the North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Area, and the Allenton Marsh, Jackson Marsh, and Theresa Marsh Wildlife Areas; and protection of prime agricultural lands.

- Overall, the open space plan element recommends the preservation of environmentally significant open space lands encompassing a total of 77,334 acres—including primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and certain adjacent lands. Of this total, 17,758 acres, or about 23 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, conservation easements, or in compatible private outdoor recreation use in 2002, and are recommended to be preserved in current ownership. It is recommended that an additional 16,228 acres, or about 21 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. Of the total of 16,228 acres, 7,174 acres would be acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; 3,997 acres by Washington County; 2,028 acres by local governments; and 3,029 acres by nonprofit conservation organizations.
- The plan recommends that 43,348 acres of environmentally significant lands be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodland, lowland conservancy, and upland conservancy with an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres. Local municipalities are encouraged to consider the wide variety of land use regulations that are in use such as zoning, overlay districts, conservation subdivision ordinances or density bonus incentives for development.
- The open space preservation element incorporates the recommendations of the regional natural areas protection and management plan as it applies to Washington County. Thus, the open space element recommends the preservation, through public-interest ownership, of 87 natural areas, nine critical species habitat sites, and nine geological areas.
- The open space preservation element also envisions the continued acquisition of land by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for natural resource protection and recreational purposes—including lands located outside planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas, but within approved project boundaries for the Loew Lake, Northern, and Pike Lake Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, the North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Area, and the Allenton Marsh, Jackson Marsh, and Theresa Marsh Wildlife Areas.

- Under this open space preservation element, it is further recommended that the County and local units of government protect existing prime agricultural lands. Specifically, it is recommended that all prime agricultural lands identified in the farmland preservation plan for Washington County be preserved insofar as practicable in agricultural use.

### **Outdoor Recreation Plan Element**

The outdoor recreation plan element seeks to provide sites and facilities needed to meet anticipated outdoor recreation site and facility needs in the County throughout the year 2020.

- Under the outdoor recreation element of the plan, 12 major parks would be provided within Washington County. Of the 12 major parks, nine are existing parks and three would be new major parks to be acquired and developed by Washington County. The nine existing major parks are: the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Ackerman's Grove, Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex, Glacier Hills, Heritage Trails, Homestead Hollow, Ridge Run, and Sandy Knoll owned by Washington County; and Riverside Park owned by the City of West Bend. The three proposed major County parks include: a park in the northwestern portion of the County; a park in the northern portion of the Village of Germantown; and a park in the southwestern portion of the County.
- The plan also recommends the development of: a nature center at Glacier Hills Park; additional formal picnic areas at Heritage Trails Park, Ridge Run Park, and Sandy Knoll Park; formal picnic areas at Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex and at the three new major park sites; additional picnic shelters at Ackerman's Grove and picnic shelter improvements at Homestead Hollow Park; boat access facilities at Glacier Hills Park; and a swimming beach at Heritage Trails Park.
- Under the recommended plan, a 52-mile system of recreation trails would be provided within the County to enable participation in such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and ski touring. A total of 37 miles of this system would be provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation as part of the Ice Age trail. A total of 12 miles would be provided by Washington County and three miles by the City of West Bend as part of the Milwaukee River Corridor. In addition, the 12-mile Canadian National Railway trail would be developed by Washington County. Approximately eight miles of this trail coincides with the proposed Milwaukee River Corridor trail.
- Under the plan, it is recommended that a public boat access sites be acquired and developed by the Department of Natural Resources on the following lakes: Bark Lake, Barton Pond, Lake Five, Friess Lake, Green Lake, Lucas Lake, Silver Lake, Smith Lake, Lake Twelve, and Wallace Lake. It is further recommended that Washington County pursue opportunities to provide access to inland lakes for beach swimming, shore fishing, and passive recreational activities, as such opportunities arise.
- The site and facility recommendations in this County park and open space plan only slightly differ from the recommendations in the previous County park and open space plan. The significant differences from the previous plan include: the proposed major park recommended in the previous park and open space plan near the Village of Newburg has been removed because it was determined that this area is served by Hawthorne Hills County Park in Ozaukee County; the proposed location of the major park site recommended near the Village of Jackson has been moved to the northern portion of the Village of Germantown; the new County park and open space plan recommends the development of a nature center at Glacier Hills Park; a proposed dog park to serve residents in the central portion of the County is recommended; two new other County parks are recommended, one to the west of the Village of Jackson on Tilly Lake and one on Big Cedar Lake; and

the new plan identifies the proposed development of a new recreation trail along the former Canadian National railway in the north central part of the County.

### **Plan Implementation**

- Implementation of the County park and open space plan would involve the acquisition by public agencies and nonprofit conservation organizations of a total of about 16,860 acres of land. Of this total, 7,174 acres, or 43 percent, would be acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; 4,629 acres, or 27 percent by Washington County; 2,028 acres, or 12 percent, by local units of government in the County; and 3,029 acres, or 18 percent, by nonprofit conservation organizations (see Table 28).
- The total cost of implementing the park and open space plan is estimated to be \$96.8 million, including \$76.8 million for land acquisition and about \$20 million for recreational facility development. Of the total plan implementation cost, about \$37.1 million, or 38 percent, would be borne by the Department of Natural Resources; \$38.2 million, or 39 percent, would be borne by Washington County; \$9.2 million, or 10 percent, would be borne by local units of government; and \$12.3 million, or 13 percent, would be borne by nonprofit conservation organizations.
- The total cost to Washington County of \$38.2 million includes \$19 million for land acquisition and \$19.2 million for facility development. This amount distributed over the 18-year plan implementation period would approximate about \$2.1 million per year. These costs may be off-set through grants provided for recreational and open space purposes by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The acquisition and development costs for recreational and open space lands and facilities may also be off-set by donations, land dedications, alternative methods of land preservation, or by revenues generated by existing parks and recreational facilities.

## Chapter VII

# SUMMARY

### INTRODUCTION

A park and open space plan for Washington County was included in the 1977 regional park and open space plan for the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region. The regional plan called for a system of large parks with natural resource amenities, such as lakes and wooded areas, to provide hiking trails and swimming beaches, as well as to accommodate uses such as camping, picnicking, and golfing. The plan also called for the development of smaller community and neighborhood parks for more intensive recreational activities, such as baseball, basketball, and tennis, and for playgrounds. Under the regional park plan, responsibility for acquiring and developing large, resource-oriented parks was assigned to the State and County levels of government, and responsibility for acquiring and developing community and neighborhood parks was assigned to cities, villages, and towns.

In addition to a system of parks, the regional park plan also recommended a network of recreational trails along major rivers, the Lake Michigan shoreline, and the Kettle Moraine; and further recommended that areas with concentrations of important natural resources, which are referred to as primary environmental corridors, be preserved through a combination of protective zoning and public ownership. The plan also recommended that adequate public access to major lakes and streams for boating and fishing be provided.

In 1984, the Washington County Park and Planning Commission requested that SEWRPC assist the County in refining and updating the regional park and open space plan as it applied to Washington County. The resulting plan was documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 136, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Washington County*, March 1989. That plan, which had a design year of 2000, was adopted by the Washington County Board of Supervisors on December 12, 1989, and by the Regional Planning Commission on March 7, 1990.

In 1994, Washington County requested that the Regional Planning Commission prepare a new park and open space plan to refine and update information from the first edition of the Washington County park and open space plan. The resulting plan is documented in the second edition of this report, SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 136, *A Park and Open Space Plan for Washington County*, August 1997. The plan, which has a design year of 2010, was adopted by the Washington County Board of Supervisors on August 12, 1997, and by the Regional Planning Commission on March 4, 1998.

On June 19, 2001, Washington County requested the assistance of Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in the preparation of a new County park and open space plan. This plan is designed to extend the recommendations of the existing Washington County park and open space plan to the design year 2020. The plan

is based on updated information related to land use, population levels and distribution, anticipated growth and development, natural resources, and park and open space acquisition and development activities within the County. The plan is further intended to maintain County 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.

## **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

A description of the population and employment levels, natural resources, land use, and land use regulations within Washington County is presented in Chapter II. A summary of existing conditions in the County follows.

### **Population and Employment Levels**

The population of the County in 2000, the most recent year for which data from the U.S. Census are available, was about 117,500. The population level increased by about 22,000 persons, or about 23 percent, between 1990 and 2000. Over the past three decades, the County population increased by about 53,700 persons, or 84 percent.

In 2000, there were about 43,800 households in Washington County, representing an increase of about 152 percent, from 1970. With the number of households increasing at a faster rate than population, the number of persons per household has decreased.

There were about 62,400 employment opportunities, or jobs, in Washington County in 2000. The County has experienced a 157 percent increase in employment over the past three decades, with the number of jobs increasing by about 38,100 between 1970 and 2000.

### **Natural Resource Base**

The location and extent of various elements of the natural resource base, including wetlands, woodlands, and surface water resources and associated shorelands and floodplains, were inventoried and mapped under the planning program. The most significant of these features lie within areas referred to as environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

Primary environmental corridors include a wide variety of important natural resource and resource-related elements and are, by definition, at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Primary environmental corridors are located throughout the County. Such corridors in 1995 encompassed about 94.0 square miles, or about 22 percent of the County. The preservation of these corridors in essentially natural, open use is important to the overall quality of the environment and natural beauty of Washington County. Since these corridors are generally poorly suited for urban development, their preservation also helps to avoid the creation of new environmental and developmental problems.

Secondary environmental corridors, often remnants of primary corridors that have been partially converted to intensive urban or agricultural use, also contain a variety of resource elements. By definition, secondary environmental corridors are at least one mile long and 100 acres in area. In 1995, these corridors encompassed about 15.5 square miles, or about 3 percent of the County. Maintenance of these corridors in open uses can facilitate natural surface water drainage, and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife.

Isolated natural resource areas represent smaller concentrations of natural resource features that have been separated from the environmental corridors. Such areas, which are by definition at least five acres in size, in combination encompassed about 10.2 square miles, or about 2 percent of the County, in 1995. These areas sometimes serve as the only available wildlife habitat in an area, and may function as storm water retention areas.

### **Land Use**

In 1995, urban land uses—consisting primarily of residential, commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional, recreational and transportation, communication, and utility uses—encompassed about 67.1 square miles, or about 15 percent of the total area of the County. Residential land comprised the largest share of the

urban land area, encompassing 34.9 square miles, or about 52 percent of all urban land and 8 percent of the total area of the County.

In 1995, nonurban land uses—including agricultural lands, wetlands, woodlands, surface water, landfill and extractive, and other open lands—encompassed about 368.6 square miles, or about 85 percent of the County. Agricultural land comprised the largest share of the nonurban land area, accounting for about 238.7 square miles, or about 55 percent of the total area of the County.

## **INVENTORY OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES**

An inventory of existing public park and open space sites in Washington County in 2002 found that the County owned a total of 15 park and outdoor recreation sites encompassing 1,511 acres. There are an additional 23 park and open space sites, encompassing 11,655 acres, owned by the State of Wisconsin, and 136 sites, encompassing 2,724 acres, owned by local units of government and school districts for outdoor recreation or natural resource preservation purposes. An additional 47 sites, encompassing 5,411 acres, are developed for private resource-oriented outdoor recreational use, and 28 sites, encompassing 1,661 acres, are owned by private organizations for resource protection purposes. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, and The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust held conservation easements at 30 locations, encompassing 953 acres.

Publicly owned access sites for motor-boating purposes in Washington County are provided at the following major lakes: Big Cedar Lake, Little Cedar Lake, Druid Lake, Pike Lake, Smith Lake, and Wallace Lake. Privately owned access sites for motor-boating on major lakes are also provided at Big Cedar Lake, Little Cedar Lake, Friess Lake, Pike Lake, and Silver Lake. Public access to major lakes for carry-in boating is provided on Barton Pond and Pike Lake. Canoe access to the Milwaukee River is provided at a number of locations in the County. There are also numerous other sites that provide access to minor lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams for other recreational and passive uses.

Existing trails in Washington County include a 25-mile segment of the Ice Age trail and a two-mile segment of the Milwaukee River recreation corridor.

## **PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS**

As part of the park and open space planning process, two public opinion surveys of County residents were conducted under this planning program in 2002 to gather information related to public perceptions of outdoor recreation, the County park system, and protection of natural resources. The surveys were conducted on behalf of the County by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research and were designed with the assistance of the Washington County Park and Open Space Plan Technical Advisory Committee. Major opinions and recommendations expressed included: interest in nature education programs and the provision of a nature center by the County; provision of a system of recreation trails by the County; acquisition of lands for new County parks; and the preference of taxes, bonds, and user fees as the mechanism for acquisition of lands for resource protection purposes and expansion of the park system. Recommendations related to existing County parks included: the provision of additional benches and tables, dumpsters and recycling containers; the improvement of park maintenance and shelter amenities; and the provision of dog parks, playground equipment, and volleyball courts.

Similar surveys were conducted in conjunction with the previous County park and open space plan in 1996. The results of the 2002 telephone and mail surveys were generally similar to the telephone and mail surveys conducted in 1996, although some notable differences exist. Respondents expressed a greater interest in water slides/water parks in the 2002 survey compared to the 1996 survey. User fees were the overall preferred mechanism to finance park and open space acquisition and development in the 1996 survey, compared to a combination of taxes, bonds, and user fees as the preferred mechanism in the 2002 survey. Survey respondents' comments regarding park restrooms were somewhat more positive in the 2002 survey than in the 1996 survey.

The respondents in the 2002 survey indicated that they would prefer a telephone park reservation system; in the 1996 survey, respondents favored the in-person system employed by the County.

It should be noted that a greater effort was made to obtain public input from Washington County residents compared to previous County park and open space plans. In addition to the public opinion surveys, six public informational meetings and one public hearing were held throughout the planning process. Special consideration was given to all public input, and many changes/additions were incorporated into the recommended plan chapter.

## **RECOMMENDED PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

The recommended park and open space plan for Washington County will guide the acquisition and development of lands to protect existing natural resources and to provide sites and facilities for outdoor recreation. The plan consists of two elements, an open space preservation element and an outdoor recreation element.

### **Open Space Preservation Element**

The open space preservation element consists of four components: 1) the preservation of primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas; 2) the preservation of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological and archeological areas in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the regional natural areas protection and management plan;<sup>1</sup> 3) the protection of open space lands located within established Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources project boundaries, which in Washington County include the Loew Lake, Northern, and Pike Lake Units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, the North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Area, and the Allenton Marsh, Jackson Marsh, and Theresa Marsh Wildlife Areas; and 4) the preservation of prime agricultural lands.

It is recommended that a total of 77,334 acres, or about 28 percent of Washington County, be protected through a combination of public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or through the application of protective zoning. These 77,334 acres include planned primary and secondary environmental corridors, planned isolated natural resource areas, and areas outside corridors but within the Department of Natural Resources project boundaries. All natural areas and critical species habitat sites recommended to be preserved are contained within the planned primary or secondary environmental corridors or the planned isolated natural resource areas.

Of the total 77,334 acres of recommended open space lands, 17,758 acres, or about 23 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, conservation easements, or in compatible private outdoor recreation use in 2002; and are recommended to be preserved in such ownership. It is recommended that an additional 16,228 acres, or about 21 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. The remaining 43,348 acres of open space lands should be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development. Such protective zoning districts include floodland and lowland and upland conservancy zoning. Upland conservancy zoning should limit residential development to an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres, in areas outside steep slopes.

Existing prime agricultural lands should be protected by Washington County and local units of government. Specifically, it is recommended that all prime agricultural lands identified in the farmland preservation plan for Washington County be preserved insofar as practicable in agricultural use.

### **Outdoor Recreation Element**

The outdoor recreation element of the plan recommends new major park sites and facilities; new facilities and improvements at existing major parks; the development of areawide trails; and boat access facilities to major lakes.

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<sup>1</sup>*Documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, September 1997.*



Under the outdoor recreation element of the plan, 12 major parks would be provided within the County. Of the 12 major parks, nine are existing parks and three would be new parks to be acquired and developed by Washington County. The nine existing major parks are: the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Ackerman's Grove, Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex, Glacier Hills, Heritage Trails, Homestead Hollow, Ridge Run, and Sandy Knoll owned by Washington County; and Riverside Park owned by the City of West Bend.

Under the new County park plan, the existing major parks would be maintained and improved. It is recommended that five of the existing major County parks be expanded to include adjacent lands with important natural resource values. Additional facilities are also recommended to be developed at all seven existing major County parks.

In addition to maintaining and improving the seven existing major County parks, Washington County would be responsible for acquiring and developing three new major parks. The three proposed major County parks include: a park in the northwestern portion of the County; a park in the northern portion of the Village of Germantown; and a park in the southwestern portion of the County. The County would also provide two new smaller parks, one to the west of the Village of Jackson on Tilly Lake and one on Big Cedar Lake, and a dog park to serve residents in the central portion of the County.

Major recommendations for outdoor recreational facilities at County parks include the development of: a nature center at Glacier Hills Park; additional formal picnic areas at Heritage Trails Park, Ridge Run Park, and Sandy Knoll Park; formal picnic areas at Family Park/Washington County Golf Course/Joseph P. Marx Woods Nature Preserve Complex and at the three new major park sites; additional picnic shelters at Ackerman's Grove and picnic shelter improvements at Homestead Hollow Park; boat access facilities at Glacier Hills Park; a swimming beach at Heritage Trails Park.

The plan also recommends that 52 miles of recreation trails be provided within the County. About 12 miles would be provided by Washington County, and about three miles (including two existing miles) by the City of West Bend, as part of the Milwaukee River Corridor. The Milwaukee River recreation corridor would connect to a proposed Milwaukee River Corridor in Ozaukee County on the east and to the Kettle Moraine State Forest—Northern Unit on the north. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation would be responsible for about 37 miles (including 25 existing miles) as part of the Ice Age Trail. The Ice Age Trail would connect to the Ice Age trail segments in Fond du Lac County on the north and in Waukesha County on the south. In addition to the recreation corridors, one other trail, the 12-mile Canadian National Railway trail, would be developed by Washington County. Approximately eight miles of this trail coincides with the proposed Milwaukee River Corridor trail.

The plan also recommends the development of boat access points on major lakes in accordance with State policy to provide public motor boat access to lakes of 50 acres or more. Such access provides opportunities for those individuals who do not own land contiguous to a body of water to participate in such water related recreation activities as motor boating, waterskiing, fishing, and canoeing. Under the plan, it is recommended that public boat access sites be expanded or acquired and developed as appropriate by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on the following lakes: Bark Lake, Barton Pond, Lake Five, Friess Lake, Green Lake, Lucas Lake, Silver Lake, Smith Lake, Lake Twelve, and Wallace Lake.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

The primary purpose of the park and open space plan for Washington County is to guide the acquisition and development of lands and facilities needed to satisfy the outdoor recreation needs of the existing and probable future year 2020 resident population of the County, and to protect existing natural resources. Implementation of the recommended plan would assure the protection and preservation of important natural resources within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in the County. The plan is also designed to provide a

variety of park and open space sites and facilities geographically well distributed throughout the County to meet the existing and probable future recreation needs of County residents.

Under the plan, 16,860 acres, representing about 6 percent of the total area of the County, would be acquired for park and open space purposes at an estimated cost of \$76.8 million. Washington County would be responsible for acquiring about 4,600 acres of that total, at an estimated cost of \$19 million. Development costs would total about \$20 million, with Washington County responsible for about \$19.2 million of that amount.

The total estimated cost for implementing the County park and open space plan, is about \$96.8 million. The estimated cost to Washington County is about \$38.2 million, or about 39 percent of the total. The costs associated with implementation of the County park plan may be off-set through grants provided for recreational and open space purposes by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The acquisition and development costs for recreational and open space lands and facilities may also be off-set by donations, land dedications, or by revenues generated by existing parks and recreational facilities.

## **APPENDICES**

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## Appendix A

### Table A-1

#### PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES, TOWNS, OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2002

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
1	Druid Lake Access-Town of Erin .....	06	0918061	1
2	Erin Town Hall and Park .....	06	0918094	40
3	Erin School .....	08	0918171	8
4	Friess Lake School .....	08	0919093	67
5	Herman Wolf Park.....	06	0919122	7
6	Richfield School .....	08	0919131	8
7	Town Hall Park .....	06	0919164	66
8	Bark Lake Park .....	06	0919233	5
9	Amy Belle School.....	08	0919253	8
10	Plat School.....	08	0919304	5
11	Rockfield School.....	08	0920093	4
12	Wilderness Park.....	05	0920121	203
13	Germantown Little League Park .....	05	0920153	10
14	Germantown High School.....	08	0920213	56
15	Firemen's Park.....	05	0920221	17
16	Kennedy Middle School .....	08	0920221	18
17	Menomonee River Parkway .....	05	0920222	20
18	Haupt-Strasse Park.....	05	0920222	13
19	Macarthur School.....	08	0920233	5
20	Friedenfeld Park .....	05	0920243	53
21	Kinderberg Park.....	05	0920263	23
22	Alt Bauer Park.....	05	0920273	21
23	Schoen Laufen Park.....	05	0920282	39
24	Weidenbach Park .....	05	0920312	4
25	Willow Creek School.....	08	0920322	7
26	Spasland Park-Germantown .....	08	0920341	20
27	County Line School.....	08	0920344	2
28	Country View Park.....	04	1018163	23
29	Woodlawn Union Park.....	04	1018174	21
30	Jordan Park.....	04	1018201	1
31	Hartford Community Development Housing.....	04	1018201	1
32	West Side Park .....	04	1018201	8
33	Recreation Center.....	04	1018201	1
34	Rubicon River Parkway.....	04	1018211	20
35	Rossman School .....	08	1018212	7
36	Centennial Park-Mill Pond.....	04	1018212	2
37	Chasa Memorial Park.....	04	1018212	1
38	Candy Cane Lane Park.....	04	1018213	1
39	Willow Brook Park.....	04	1018213	11
40	Sawyer Park.....	04	1018213	2
41	2nd Street Boat Access.....	06	1018224	1
42	Town of Hartford Land .....	06	1018232	32
43	Lakeview Acres.....	04	1018232	1
44	Independence Park .....	04	1018281	75
45	Wilson Wetlands .....	04	1018282	1
46	Lincoln Athletic Fields .....	08	1018291	6
47	Lincoln School.....	08	1018291	3
48	GIB Mahr Field.....	08	1018291	5
49	Hartford High School Fields.....	08	1018292	20
50	Maple Park.....	04	1018292	2
51	Veterans Memorial Park-Hartford.....	04	1018294	11
52	Central Middle School .....	08	1018294	55

Table A-1 (continued)

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
53	Rueckl Field.....	05	1019174	3
54	Middle School .....	08	1019174	20
55	Community Park.....	05	1019181	6
56	James St. Park.....	05	1019182	1
57	Slinger Schools .....	08	1019184	32
58	Slinger Firemen’s Park .....	05	1019184	16
59	Highway View School.....	08	1019363	1
60	Jackson School .....	08	1020173	3
61	Reis Memorial Park.....	05	1020173	1
62	Jackson Park.....	05	1020184	20
63	Meadowview Park.....	05	1020191	2
64	Hickory Lane Park .....	05	1020202	15
65	Cedar Creek Parkway.....	05	1020204	10
66	Jackson Town Hall and Park .....	06	1020272	49
67	Allenton Park and Town Hall .....	06	1118153	9
68	Allenton Elementary School .....	08	1118153	9
69	Riveredge Park .....	06	1118164	2
70	Sunset Park.....	04	1119023	18
71	Muenk Park.....	04	1119023	1
72	Barton School.....	08	1119024	4
73	Barton Park.....	04	1119024	6
74	Glacial Blue Hills Recreation Area .....	04	1119032	209
75	Villa Park .....	04	1119091	15
76	Albecker Natural Area .....	04	1119103	90
77	Grant Playlot.....	04	1119111	1
78	Sunset Parkway.....	04	1119112	38
79	Greentree School .....	08	1119112	6
80	Milwaukee Riverfront Parkway .....	04	1119114	53
81	Regner Park .....	04	1119114	91
82	Royal Oaks Subdivision Park .....	04	1119121	28
83	Lac Lawrann Conservancy .....	04	1119122	105
84	Fair Park School .....	08	1119123	6
85	Riverside Park.....	04	1119131	99
86	Old Settler’s Park .....	04	1119141	1
87	Veterans Memorial Park-City of West Bend .....	04	1119141	1
88	Silver Brook Creek Parkway .....	04	1119142	14
89	15th Avenue Retention Area .....	04	1119142	1
90	Open Space Site.....	08	1119142	15
91	Silverbrook Middle School.....	08	1119142	9
92	Kenny Park.....	04	1119143	9
93	Badger Middle School .....	08	1119144	15
94	McLane Elementary School .....	08	1119144	8
95	University Fen .....	04	1119151	24
96	Silver Creek Parkway .....	04	1119151	7
97	Bicentennial Park.....	04	1119154	30
98	Town of West Bend Land .....	06	1119182	53
99	Big Cedar Lake Boat Access-Town of West Bend .....	06	1119203	1
100	Boat Access Big Cedar Lake-Town of West Bend .....	06	1119203	1
101	Hawthorne Heights Open Space .....	04	1119231	6
102	Decorah Hills Park.....	04	1119231	11
103	Reservoir Open Space .....	04	1119232	3
104	Vogt Open Space .....	04	1119233	17
105	West Bend High Schools; East and West.....	08	1119241	33
106	Ziegler Park.....	04	1119242	14
107	Decorah School .....	08	1119243	7
108	Maplewynde Playlot .....	04	1119243	1
109	Forest View Park.....	04	1119244	3
110	Minz Park .....	04	1119252	14

**Table A-1 (continued)**

Number on Map A-1	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
111	Quass Creek Parkway .....	04	1119254	86
112	Park Site 'O' .....	04	1119261	78
113	Silver Lake Highlands Subdivision Park .....	06	1119274	4
114	Big Cedar Lake Boat Access-Town of West Bend .....	06	1119292	1
115	Big Cedar Lake Boat Access-Town of West Bend .....	06	1119311	1
116	Town Land .....	06	1119343	10
117	Silver Maple School.....	08	1119352	1
118	Town Boat Access.....	06	1120062	1
119	Wingate Park .....	04	1120074	7
120	Wingate Parkway .....	04	1120074	7
121	Open Space Site-City of West Bend .....	04	1120083	30
122	Dr. Weber Park .....	05	1120121	3
123	Town of Trenton Town Park.....	06	1120152	15
124	Quass Creek Park .....	04	1120184	66
125	Wayne School .....	08	1218104	8
126	Town Park.....	06	1218274	2
127	Kewaskum Elementary School .....	08	1219091	5
128	Wildlife Drive Neighborhood Park.....	05	1219091	2
129	Kewaskum Junior and Senior High School.....	08	1219091	14
130	Knights Avenue Neighborhood Park.....	05	1219092	1
131	Kewaskum Kiwanis Community Park .....	05	1219093	34
132	River Hill Park .....	05	1219094	14
133	Smith Lake Boat Access-Town of Barton.....	06	1219264	1
134	Fireman's Park.....	06	1220033	4
135	Farmington School .....	08	1220152	20
136	Green Lake Boat Access-Town of Farmington .....	06	1220343	1
--	Total- 136 Sites	--	--	2,724

<sup>a</sup>The ownership code numbers signify the following: 04-City, 05-Village, 06-Town, and 08-School District.

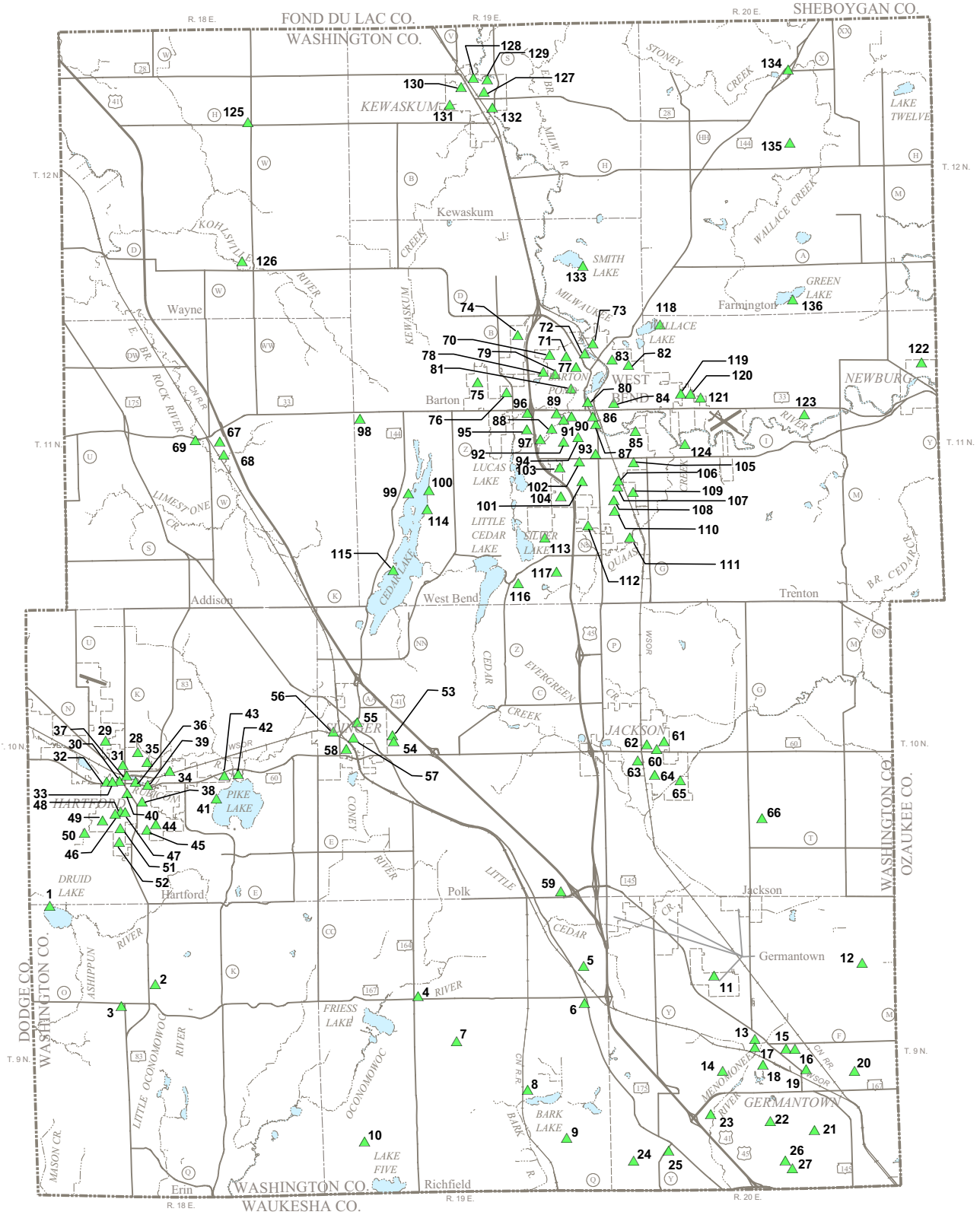
<sup>b</sup>The location numbers represent the U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, Section, and Quarter Section in which the site is located.

Source: SEWRPC.

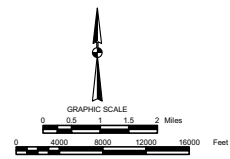


Map A-1

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SITES OWNED BY CITIES, VILLAGES, TOWNS, OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2002



- ▲ RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE SITE
- 5 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE A-1)



Source: SEWRPC.

Table A-2

PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2002

Number on Map A-2	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
1	Lake Erin Estates Subdivision Park .....	12	0918074	8
2	Heileger Huegel Ski Club.....	12	0918123	29
3	Holy Hill.....	10	0918141	437
4	Nature Conservancy Lands .....	10	0918223	26
5	Ice Age Trail Foundation .....	10	0918231	20
6	Murphy-McConville Lake Natural Area .....	10	0918272	161
7	Quadgraphics .....	11	0918283	323
8	Monches Fish and Game Club.....	10	0918311	160
9	Dan Boone Conservation League .....	10	0919083	150
10	Richfield Sportsmen Club.....	10	0919102	162
11	Arrowhead Springs Country Club .....	11	0919114	70
12	Kettle Hills Golf Course .....	11	0919141	256
13	Wally and Bea's.....	11	0919181	1
14	YMCA Camp Minikani.....	10	0919251	124
15	Germantown Sportsmen's Club .....	10	0920081	7
16	Lake Park Golf Course .....	12	0920214	253
17	Riversbend Golf Club.....	11	0920333	44
18	Reef Point Resort.....	11	1018224	2
19	Hartford Community Conservation Club .....	10	1018232	31
20	Hartford Country Club .....	11	1018293	175
21	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1019042	12
22	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1019051	6
23	Cedar Lake Hills Subdivision Park .....	10	1019053	4
24	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1019054	111
25	Slinger Speedway.....	11	1019083	30
26	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1019094	18
27	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1019103	40
28	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1019103	46
29	Friends of Nature Association.....	11	1019144	17
30	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1019151	11
31	Little Switzerland Ski Area .....	11	1019172	66
32	Scenic View Country Club.....	11	1019283	181
33	Friends of WI Preservation.....	10	1019333	172
34	Hidden Glen Golf Club.....	12	1020242	200
35	Lake Lenwood Recreation Park.....	11	1119014	53
36	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1119163	40
37	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1119172	5
38	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1119173	45
39	Big Cedar Lake Protection Rehabilitation District .....	10	1119203	2
40	West Bend Country Club.....	12	1119213	200
41	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1119214	40
42	Silver Brook Girl Scout Camp.....	10	1119222	265
43	West Bend Mutual Insurance.....	12	1119271	125
44	Silver Lake Yacht Club.....	12	1119272	1
45	Benevolent Corporation of Cedar Campuses .....	10	1119291	240
46	Big Cedar Lake Protection Rehabilitation District .....	10	1119304	106
47	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1119312	4
48	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1119312	86
49	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1119321	368
50	Milwaukee Ski Club.....	12	1119323	17
51	South Shore Heights Subdivision Park.....	12	1119332	1
52	Knight Boat Rental-Little Cedar Lake.....	11	1119332	1
53	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1119333	5

**Table A-2 (continued)**

Number on Map A-2	Site Name	Ownership <sup>a</sup>	Location <sup>b</sup>	Acreage
54	Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation .....	10	1119341	2
55	The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust .....	10	1120113	88
56	Newburg Sportsmen's Club.....	10	1120122	43
57	West Bend Lakes Golf and Recreation .....	12	1120152	84
58	The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust .....	10	1120162	160
59	YMCA Day Camp Moraine Wowitan .....	10	1120281	157
60	Cedar Valley Center .....	10	1218351	99
61	Hon-E-Kor Golf Course .....	11	1219103	181
62	West Bar Sporting Club.....	10	1219193	78
63	Sunburst Ski Area .....	11	1219211	44
64	Ice Age Trail Foundation .....	10	1219212	125
65	Faith Haven.....	10	1219312	59
66	Timber Trail Campground.....	11	1219332	24
67	West Bend Sportsmen's Club.....	10	1219341	94
68	Union Rod and Gun Club .....	10	1219342	82
69	Fillmore Sportmen's Club .....	10	1220013	89
70	Wildlife, Inc. ....	10	1220032	60
71	Camp Awana .....	10	1220122	242
72	The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust .....	10	1220123	12
73	Stoneridge Golf Course.....	11	1220332	177
74	Lazy Days Campground .....	11	1220333	155
75	Subdivision Beach and Park.....	12	1220343	60
--	Total- 75 Sites	--	--	7,072

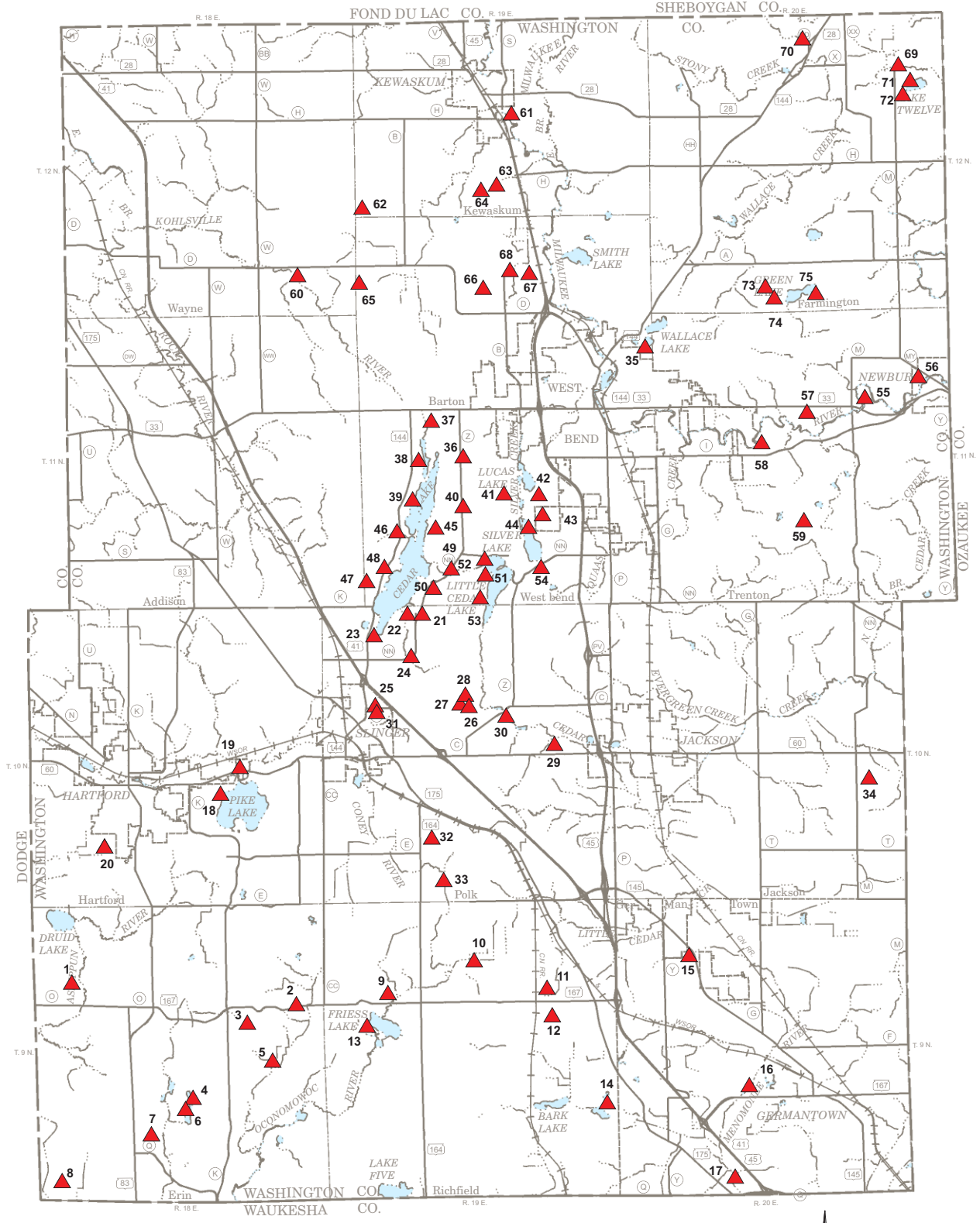
<sup>a</sup>The ownership code numbers signify the following: 10-Organizational; 11-Commercial; 12-Private.

<sup>b</sup>The location numbers represent the U.S. Public Land Survey Township, Range, Section, and Quarter Section in which the site is located.

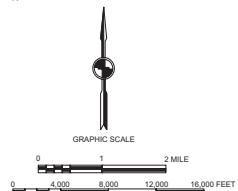
Source: SEWRPC.

# Map A-2

## PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE SITES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2002



- ▲ RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE SITE
- 5 REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE A-2)



Source: SEWRPC.

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**Appendix B**

**INSTRUMENTS USED IN PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS**

**Appendix B-1**

**Washington County Park System Telephone Survey**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am calling for Washington County in order to get citizen input about County-operated parks and other important natural resources. Your number was randomly selected for participation in a survey of 600 county residents. The survey is anonymous- we do not know your name or address- and will take less than 10 minutes.

Do you live in Washington County? (If yes, continue to question 1; if no, thank interviewee and terminate interview.)

- 1. In the past year did you or any family member of your household visit any of these County parks or any other parks in the County in the past year?

If yes, about how many times in the past year?

Lizard Mound	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____
Glacier Hills Park	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____
Homestead Hollow Park	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____
Ridge Run Park	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____
Goeden Park	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____
Heritage Trails Park	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____
Sandy Knoll Park	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____
Cedar Lake Wayside	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____
Ackerman's Grove	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____
Family Park	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____
Other Parks in the County	Yes	_____	No	_____	_____

- 2. Do you feel safe when you are in Washington County parks?

If no, where did you not feel safe?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_ Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Do you feel you have personally benefited from Washington County parks in the past year?

If yes, how did you benefit?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_

- 4. On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being Very Poor and 10 being Excellent, how would you rate the overall quality of Washington County Parks?

- 5. Next, I will be asking you about a variety of outdoor activities. Please tell me if you or any family member of your household has interest in this activity.

If yes, how many times has someone in your household participated in this activity in the past year and where have they participated?

	<u>Interested</u>		<u>Participated</u>		<u>Where</u>
Ice Skating	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Cross-Country Skiing/ Ungroomed Trails	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Tobogganing or Sledding	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Beach Swimming	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Canoeing	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Fishing	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Jogging	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Hiking/Walking	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Softball	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Volleyball	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Basketball	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Children's Playgrounds	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Picnicking	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Disc Golf	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Soccer	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____
Recreational Boating	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____

6. Next, I will be asking you about your interest and participation in some other recreational activities. Please tell me if you or any family member of your household has interest in this activity.

If yes, how many times has someone in your household participated in this activity in the past year, where have they participated, and should Washington County provide facilities for these activities?

	<u>Interested</u>		<u>Participated</u>		<u>Where</u>	<u>Should the County Provide Facilities for Activities</u>
Golfing	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Camping	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Nature Education Programs	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Mountain Biking	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Off-road Trail Biking	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
On-road Biking	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Cross-Country Skiing/Groomed Trails	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Snowmobiling	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Rollerblading/Skateboarding	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Roller Hockey	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Archery	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Dog Training/Exercising off Leash	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Driving through Parks	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Water Slides/Water Parks	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Swimming in Pools	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Baseball	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Tennis	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Football	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____
Other	Yes ___	No ___	Yes ___	No ___	_____	_____

7. Would you or anyone in your household have participated, or participated more often, in any of the recreational activities we just discussed if they were available closer to your home?

Yes \_\_\_ Please list activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No \_\_\_

8. Is there anything that would make it more likely for you or members of your household to use Washington County parks more often?

Yes \_\_\_ Please list what that would be: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No \_\_\_

9. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, or have no opinion about each of the following statements:

	<u>SA</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>NO</u>
Conserving land for public parks, recreation, water quality, and wildlife habitat is a good use of public funds	___	___	___	___	___
The County should provide a system of recreational trails to connect County parks and other public recreational lands and trails	___	___	___	___	___
County government is doing enough to preserve natural resources and open space in your community	___	___	___	___	___
County government is doing enough to provide access to lakes and waterways	___	___	___	___	___

10. Next we have a few questions on possible activities of the County.

If the answer is yes, how should the County finance the land purchase (please explain some other way to finance):

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Increased Taxes</u>	<u>Issue Bonds</u>	<u>User Fees</u>	<u>Combo</u>	<u>Some Other Way</u>
Would you like to see Washington County buy lands such as woodlands and wetlands to protect wildlife and preserve natural habitats for public enjoyment?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Would you like to see Washington County improve or expand facilities in existing County parks?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Would you like to see Washington County acquire land to create new County parks?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Should Washington County parks provide a nature center for educational programming?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Should Washington County own and operate additional golf courses?	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___

If you answered yes that the County should take action to expand facilities at existing parks, please list activities that these expanded facilities should be used for: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what activities not currently offered in County parks should the County provide facilities for: \_\_\_\_\_

What activities not currently offered in Washington County parks should the County provide: \_\_\_\_\_

11. What city, village, or town do you live in?

- |                           |                        |                       |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ___ City of Hartford      | ___ Town of Addison    | ___ Town of Kewaskum  |
| ___ City of West Bend     | ___ Town of Barton     | ___ Town of Polk      |
| ___ Village of Germantown | ___ Town of Erin       | ___ Town of Richfield |
| ___ Village of Jackson    | ___ Town of Farmington | ___ Town of Trenton   |
| ___ Village of Kewaskum   | ___ Town of Germantown | ___ Town of Wayne     |
| ___ Village of Newburg    | ___ Town of Hartford   | ___ Town of West Bend |
| ___ Village of Slinger    | ___ Town of Jackson    |                       |



12. How many adults 18 years or older, including yourself, live in your household?

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Do any children under the age of 18 live in your household?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please tell me how many children are:

\_\_\_\_\_ under the age of 5

\_\_\_\_\_ between the ages of 5 and 13

\_\_\_\_\_ between the ages of 14 and 17

14. Finally, I am going to read you some categories that describe total household income. Please stop me when I reach the category that best describes the total income of members in your household.

\_\_\_\_\_ Under \$25,000

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25,000-\$50,000

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50,000-\$75,000

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75,000-\$100,000

\_\_\_\_\_ More than \$100,000

\_\_\_\_\_ No Answer

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your answers will be very helpful to the future planning for Washington County.

Respondent's gender

\_\_\_\_\_ Female

\_\_\_\_\_ Male

## Appendix B-2

### Washington County Park System Mail-Back Survey

1. At what County park did you reserve a site? (If you have reserved more than one site, please answer the questions as they relate to your **most recent reservation**.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Cedar Lake Wayside  
\_\_\_\_\_ Glacier Hills Park  
\_\_\_\_\_ Goeden Park  
\_\_\_\_\_ Heritage Trails Park  
\_\_\_\_\_ Homestead Hollow Park  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lizard Mound  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sandy Knoll Park  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ackerman's Grove  
\_\_\_\_\_ Family Park  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ridge Run Park

2. What type of facility did you reserve?

\_\_\_\_\_ An open shelter  
\_\_\_\_\_ A closed shelter  
\_\_\_\_\_ The chapel at Glacier Hills Park  
\_\_\_\_\_ Area only (for school groups)- **skip to question 8**

3. What type of activity or function did you reserve the site for?

\_\_\_\_\_ Wedding  
\_\_\_\_\_ Party  
\_\_\_\_\_ Company picnic  
\_\_\_\_\_ Church picnic  
\_\_\_\_\_ Scout or other youth group picnic/outing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Family picnic/reunion  
\_\_\_\_\_ School reunion  
\_\_\_\_\_ Organized sporting event  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Roughly, what percentage of your group fell into the following age categories?  
(Percentages should add up to 100%)

\_\_\_\_\_ Under the age of 13  
\_\_\_\_\_ Between 14 and 17  
\_\_\_\_\_ Between 18 and 64  
\_\_\_\_\_ Age 65 or Older

We would like to ask you some questions about the features of the facility that you reserved. By features of the shelter or chapel we mean things like running water and electricity.

5. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being Not At All Important and 10 being Very Important, please rate how important the following features were to you when you reserved your site.

\_\_\_\_\_ Size of Shelter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Availability of Fire Pit  
\_\_\_\_\_ Availability of Heat  
\_\_\_\_\_ Availability of Electricity  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proximity to Bathroom  
\_\_\_\_\_ Proximity to Parking

- \_\_\_\_\_ Proximity to Garbage Dumpsters
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proximity to Water
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proximity to Playground
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proximity to Hiking Trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proximity to Athletic Fields
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proximity to Phone
- \_\_\_\_\_ Views of Park

6a. Currently, only the shelter buildings may be reserved. If given the option, would you have reserved an adjacent outdoor area such as a volleyball court or athletic field?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Yes- continue to question 6b
- \_\_\_\_\_ No- skip to question 7

6b. What would you have reserved?

7. Using a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being Very Poor and 10 being Excellent, how would you rate the following for the facility that you reserved?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Ease of Access
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cleanliness
- \_\_\_\_\_ Overall

We would like to ask you some questions about the park amenities. By park amenities we mean things like hiking trails, views, and playgrounds.

8. Please indicate which of the following amenities your group took advantage of when you reserved your site.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Picnic Area
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hiking Trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Playground Equipment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Play Fields
- \_\_\_\_\_ Basketball Court
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volleyball Court
- \_\_\_\_\_ Horseshoe Area
- \_\_\_\_\_ Boat Launch
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fishing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Swimming Beach
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cross Country Ski Trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sledding
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ice Skating
- \_\_\_\_\_ Snowmobile Trails

9. What park amenities did you like **best** about the park where you reserved a site?

10a. What park amenities **didn't you like** about the park where you reserved a site?

10b. If there were amenities that you **didn't like** about the park, why didn't you like these amenities?

11. What suggestions do you have for improving existing amenities at the park?

12. Are there any new amenities you would like to have provided at the park?

13. Of the following, what type of reservation system would you prefer?

- \_\_\_\_\_ In-person system (current method)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone reservation system
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mail-in reservation system

Internet based reservation system  
 Another type of system  
**Please explain:** \_\_\_\_\_

14. Were County staff helpful and courteous when you made your reservation?

Yes  
 No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Were County staff at the park helpful and courteous?

Yes  
 No  
 Not applicable- no staff contact

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Do you feel that the cost of reserving park facilities is too high, too low, or about right?

Too high  
 Too low  
 About right

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

17. Are there any additional comments you have about your park reservation?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Where do you live?

Washington County

<input type="checkbox"/>	City of Hartford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Farmington
<input type="checkbox"/>	City of West Bend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Germantown
<input type="checkbox"/>	Village of Germantown	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Hartford
<input type="checkbox"/>	Village of Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Jackson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Village of Kewaskum	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Kewaskum
<input type="checkbox"/>	Village of Newburg	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Polk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Village of Slinger	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Richfield
<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Addison	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Trenton
<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Barton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Wayne
<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of Erin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Town of West Bend

Other Counties

Please List: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY!**

Please return this form in the enclosed postage-paid envelope on or before July 12, 2002.

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## Appendix C

### PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL/INPUT MEETINGS COMMENT SUMMARY

#### October 22, 2002 – Village of Kewaskum

- How was the information obtained in regards to historic sites? Petre replied that these items are found on the National level. Comments were made that it would be helpful to include state historic sites and that this may help improve tourism. Sielski stated that local historic sites will be included as part of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Link trails to other county parks or communities; example: Ice Age Trail
- Link bike and pedestrian trails to other county parks, communities and existing trails.
- Concerns for preserving farmland.
- Concerns for “troubles or vandalism” that may come along with park development.
- More areas within parks for biking and rollerblading.
- More physical recreation activities in the parks.
- Possible creation of dog parks.
- Have the park and open space plan be more proactive to protect natural areas; example: watershed areas, preserve smaller natural areas and possibly linking these areas together.
- Reclamation plans for abandoned gravel pits and incorporate parks into these areas.
- Make sure the plan fills the void and identifies what is not being protected; example: headwater, spring areas, and woodlands. State what the County is doing to identify and protect these.
- Partnering with townships or have shared services with municipalities regarding cost and maintenance of parks.
- Encourage private foundations and nonprofit involvement and partnership.

#### October 23, 2002 – Public Agency Center

- Concerns regarding park use and statements were made at how Ackerman’s Grove is not used that often. Sielski replied that Ackerman’s Grove has been very popular since it has opened and the boat launch is used frequently.
- Lake access should no longer be important when other lake access sites are not be used. Sielski stated that the need for public access to lakes was one of the most frequent comments during the planning of the current park and open space plan. Due to these public comments, lake access became a priority recommendation in the plan. Washington County acquired lake property or partnered with other agencies to provide lake access on five lakes in Washington County since the plan was adopted in 1997. There are still many lakes in Washington County that need public access.
- County Board Supervisor Strupp stated that the lake access sites are used very frequently.
- Comments were made on the benefits of the extra lake access sites and they are very nice to have in the County.
- Representative from the West Bend Little League suggested creating more adult sized baseball diamonds, and possibly splitting cost with baseball organizations etc.
- Have mechanisms in place to help promote partnering with other organizations and agreements to help maintain the parks for various recreations.
- Create endowments for funding.
- Comments were made that the surveys were not significant. Sielski explained the statistical significance of the surveys.
- The County has done a great job with the lake access developments and stated that we need a park on Big Cedar Lake for beach swimming.
- Concerns regarding where ponds are being built, and may be increasing the geese problems in the area.

- Concerns regarding the Silver Lake access and how it will not have a park.
- Concerns regarding West Nile virus and who will be monitoring the mosquitoes.

#### **October 24, 2002 – Glacier Hills County Park**

- Were any of the surveys completed by youth? Sielski replied that all surveys were responded by someone 18 years or older.
- Comments were made that it is good to see that the County is making progress, great to see more public opinions included and large increase of interest for preserving land.
- Ideas were given to create more nature centers and the possibilities of partnering with other organizations.
- Many of the parks are located in the West Bend area, is the County looking outside of West Bend? Mueller stated that the County is very aware that many of the parks are located in West Bend. Mueller added that many acquisitions have become available that were not expected that just happen to be in the West Bend area.
- Establish more parks outside of the West Bend area.
- Connect bike trails to other parks.
- Create trails for inline skating uses.
- Suggestions were made to purchase land just for preservation, before there is no land left in the area to purchase when we plan to build a park.
- More advertising for the parks, and what types of recreation are available. Mueller added that press releases are done frequently. Sielski stated that information is being updated on the website.
- Ice skating on ponds. Make more opportunities in current parks.
- Creation of horse trails. Mueller stated that the County does not provide any horse trails, but horses are allowed on any paved areas. He added that there are not long enough trails within any of the County parks currently for that type of recreation.
- Start charging user fees for non-County residents.
- Make park areas closer to neighborhoods.
- Create a recreation guide for the County parks.

#### **Written comments obtained after the meetings through one-half sheet comment cards or e-mails**

- County should provide a dog park and horse trails.
- Hiking trails connecting environmental corridors.
- Want to see County parks and trails remain quiet place without noisy activities such as skateboarding, snowmobiling.
- Swimming pools should be indoors in Wisconsin.

## Appendix D

# OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES, AND STANDARDS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

### OBJECTIVE NO. 1

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

#### PRINCIPLE

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

#### A. PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

#### PRINCIPLE

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

#### STANDARDS

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

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

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

#### B. RECREATION RELATED OPEN SPACE

#### PRINCIPLE

Effective satisfaction of recreation demands within the County cannot be accomplished solely by providing public general use outdoor recreation sites. Certain recreational pursuits such as hiking, biking, pleasure driving, and ski touring are best provided for through a system of recreation corridors located on or adjacent to linear resource-oriented open space lands. A well designed system of recreation corridors offered as an integral part of linear open space lands can also serve to physically connect existing and proposed public parks, thus forming a



truly integrated park and recreation related open space system. Such open space lands, in addition, satisfy the human need for natural surroundings, serve to protect the natural resource base, and ensure that many scenic areas and areas of natural, cultural, or historic interest assume their proper place as form determinants for both existing and future land use patterns.

### STANDARDS

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

1. A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation related open space consisting of linear recreation corridors<sup>D</sup> 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. Resource-oriented recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
  - a. Primary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented recreation activities.
  - b. Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites.
  - c. Existing trail-type facilities within the County.

### OBJECTIVE NO. 2

The provision of sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

### PRINCIPLE

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

### STANDARD

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

Minimum per Capita Facility Requirements <sup>Q</sup>				Design Standards					Service Radius of Facility (miles) <sup>R</sup>
Activity	Facility	Owner	Facility per 1,000 Urban Residents	Typical Location of Facility	Facility Requirements (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 <sup>S</sup>	Types II, III and IV general use site	2.8 acres per diamond	Parking (30 spaces per diamond) Night lighting <sup>T</sup> Concessions and bleacher <sup>T</sup> Buffer and landscape	0.28 acre per diamond -- 0.02 acre minimum 1.40 acres per diamond	4.5	2.0
Basketball	Goal	Public Nonpublic Total	0.91 0.22 1.13	Type IV general use site	0.07 acre per goal	--	--	0.07	0.5
Ice-Skating	Rink	Public Nonpublic Total	0.15 <sup>U</sup> -- 0.15	Type IV general use site	0.30 acre per rink minimum	Warming house	0.05 acre --	0.35 minimum	0.5
Soccer Fields or Play Fields	Playfield	Public Nonpublic Total	0.39 0.11 0.50	Type IV general use site	1.0 acre per playfield minimum	Buffer area	0.65 acre minimum	1.65 minimum	0.5
Playground Activities	Playground	Public Nonpublic Total	0.35 0.07 0.42	Type IV general use site	0.25 acre per playground minimum	Buffer and landscape	0.37 acre	0.62 minimum	0.5
Softball	Diamond	Public Nonpublic Total	0.53 0.07 0.60	Type II, III, and IV general use site	1.70 acre per diamond	Parking (20 spaces per diamond) Nighttime lighting <sup>T</sup> Buffer	0.18 acre per diamond -- 0.80 acre per diamond	2.68	1.0
Swimming	Pool	Public Nonpublic Total	0.015 <sup>V</sup> -- 0.015	Type II and III general use site	0.13 acre per pool minimum	Bathhouse and concessions Parking (400 square feet per space) Buffer and landscaping	0.13 acre minimum 0.26 acre minimum 0.70 acre minimum	1.22 minimum	3.0
Tennis	Court	Public Nonpublic Total	0.50 0.10 0.60	Type II, III, and IV general use site	0.15 acre per court	Parking (2.0 spaces per court) Nighttime lighting <sup>T</sup> Buffer	0.02 acre per court -- 0.15 acre per court	0.32	1.0

**OBJECTIVE NO. 3**

The provision of sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

**PRINCIPLE**

Participation in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities including camping, golf, picnicking, downhill skiing, and stream and lake swimming provides an opportunity for individuals to experience the exhilaration of recreational activity in natural surroundings as well as an opportunity for physical exercise. In addition, the family can participate as a unit in certain intensive resource-oriented activities such as camping, picnicking, and beach swimming.

**STANDARD**

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

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

**OBJECTIVE NO. 4**

The provision of sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.

**PRINCIPLE**

Participation in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities including biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, pleasure driving, ski-touring, and snowmobiling provides opportunity for contact with natural, cultural, historic, and scenic features. In addition, such activities can increase an individual's perception and intensify awareness of the surroundings, contribute to a better understanding of the environment, and provide a wider range of vision and comprehension of all forms of life both as this life may have existed in the past and as it exists in the present. Similar to intensive resource-oriented activity, the family as a unit also can participate in extensive land based recreation activities; such participation also serves to strengthen social relationships within the family. For activities like biking, hiking, and nature study, participation provides an opportunity to educate younger members of the family in the importance of environmental issues which may become of greater concern as they approach adulthood.

**STANDARD**

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in land-based outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the County. Public facilities provided for these activities should be located within the linear resource-oriented recreation corridors identified in Objective No. 1. To meet this standard, the following per capita standards and design criteria should be met as indicated below:

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

#### OBJECTIVE NO. 5

The provision of sufficient access areas to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities on the major inland lakes and rivers and on Lake Michigan which are consistent with enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of adequate water quality.

#### PRINCIPLE

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

#### STANDARDS

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

#### OBJECTIVE NO. 6

The preservation of sufficient high-quality open-space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity<sup>ee</sup> of the County.

#### PRINCIPLE

Ecological balance and natural beauty within the County 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 County. Preservation of the most significant aspects of the natural resource base, that is, primary environmental corridors, natural areas and critical species habitat sites, and prime agricultural lands, contributes to the maintenance of ecological balance, natural beauty, and economic well being of the 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, streams, and rivers and their associated floodlands and shorelands; woodlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat; areas of groundwater discharge and recharge; organic soils, rugged terrain, and high relief topography; and significant geological formations and physiographic features. By protecting these elements of the natural resource base, flood damage can be reduced, soil erosion abated, water supplies protected, air cleansed, wildlife population enhanced, biological diversity preserved, and continued opportunities provided for scientific, educational, and recreational pursuits.

## STANDARD

1. All remaining nonurban lands within the designated primary environmental corridors in the County should be preserved in essentially natural open uses.

### B. NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES

#### PRINCIPLE

Natural areas and critical species habitat sites contain rare, threatened, and endangered animal and plant species which are important components of the biodiversity of the County. Maintenance of this biodiversity requires the preservation of the habitats concerned.

#### STANDARDS

1. All natural areas of Statewide or greater significance (NA-1) should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value.
2. All natural areas of Countywide or regional significance (NA-2) and natural areas of local significance (NA-3) lying within primary environmental corridors or containing Federal or State-designated rare, threatened, or endangered animal or plant species habitat should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value.
3. All critical species habitat sites within primary environmental corridors should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value.

### C. PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

#### PRINCIPLE

Prime agricultural lands constitute the most productive farm lands in the County and, in addition to providing food and fiber, contribute significantly to maintaining the ecological balance between plants and animals; provide 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 open spaces which give form and structure to urban development; and serve to maintain the natural beauty and unique cultural heritage of Ozaukee County.

#### STANDARDS

1. All prime agricultural lands should be preserved for agricultural use.
2. All agricultural lands should be preserved that surround adjacent high-value scientific, educational, or recreational sites and are covered by soils rated in the regional detailed operational soil survey as having very slight, slight, or moderate limitations for agricultural use. These lands should be considered for preservation to provide a buffer between such resources and urban development.

#### OBJECTIVE NO. 7

The efficient and economical satisfaction of outdoor recreation and related open space needs meeting all other objectives at the lowest possible cost.

#### PRINCIPLE

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

#### STANDARD

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

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#### Footnotes

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>g</sup>Type I sites are defined as large outdoor recreation sites with a multi-county service area. Such sites rely heavily for their recreational value and character on natural resource amenities and provide opportunities for participation in a wide variety of resource-oriented outdoor recreation pursuits.

<sup>h</sup>A 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 are generally located in parks or in urban open space sites, and usually consist of a landscaped area with mowed lawn, shade trees, and benches.

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

<sup>j</sup>In general, each resident of the County should reside within 10 miles of a Type I or Type II park. It should be noted, however, that within urban areas, having a population of 40,000 or greater, each urban resident should reside within four miles of a Type I or Type II park.

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>q</sup>Facilities 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 County.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>aa</sup>Both urban and rural residents of the County participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities. Thus, minimum per capita requirements for trails for extensive land-based activities apply to the total resident population of the County.

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

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

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

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

Source: SEWRPC.

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## **Appendix E**

### **PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL/INPUT MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Appendix E-1**

##### **Public Informational/Input Meetings Comment Summary**

###### **September 9, 2003 – Glacier Hills County Park**

- More multi-use trails within the parks.
- Create horse and biking trails within the County parks.
- Provide a nature center that does not duplicate services of existing nature centers in the surrounding areas.
- Preserve more open space, not for park construction, but for hunting and fishing recreation areas.
- New and expanded lake facilities. Provide a timetable for goals.
- Target priority properties.
- Provide areas for hunters to control the wildlife population.
- The County should be more proactive when acquiring land.
- Provide farmland education at future nature center.
- Allow more hunting to control wildlife population.
- Start measuring Gypsy Moth control for County lands.
- Preserve agriculture land and crops.

###### **September 10, 2003 – Village of Kewaskum**

- Create a dog park in the County.
- Provide more swimming areas and water access.
- Provide maintenance costs for the parks.
- Protect farmland.
- Include more snowmobile trails; for example: Rails to Trails.
- Compliments from citizens regarding the Sandy Knoll Park and the nice swimming area that is provided.

###### **September 11, 2003 – Public Agency Center**

- What can the County do for farmland preservation?
- Provide the tools available for farmland preservation.
- Add a timetable for Comprehensive Planning as it relates to agriculture preservation.
- Does park use warrant costs for the County?
- Tax base concerns for acquisitions and value of land.
- Change the language in the plan regarding ways in which land is preserved. Example: Change acquisition to protection for nonprofits and trusts.
- Add that quality of life is an important factor for employment for local businesses.
- Need lake access on Big Cedar Lake.
- Compliments from citizens regarding the swimming beach at Ackerman's Grove.
- Have a systematic approach to preserving land.
- Define role of County vs. other municipalities regarding zoning.
- Connect more trails throughout the County and add bicycle trails.



- On Table 25—Geological area—add the area to be protected at STH 33 and CTH Z.
- Accelerate creation of trails and encourage the County to integrate with other existing trails.
- Protect wildlife corridors.
- Protect the banks of the Milwaukee River and create trails along the river.

**Written comments obtained after the meetings through one-half sheet comment cards or e-mails**

- Add horse trails.
- Need more creative uses of park land, not the same thing.
- Use the Conservation Plan sites for Germantown site. Money is available through the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District to preserve land.
- Include PDR program as strong recommendation.
- Protect the banks of the Milwaukee River.
- Integrate County trails system with municipal trails.
- Mention open space in the introductory text referring to the benefits of parks and open space.
- Define difference between parks and open space.
- Expand the long-term plan to address the economic and aesthetic benefits of protecting open space—including farmland.
- Add railing to stair apron at Ackerman’s Grove.
- Improve entrance signage at parks.
- Control thistle growing in parks—especially at Ackerman’s Grove.
- Implement a PDR program to preserve farmland and open space.
- Preserve farmland for hunting purposes and “country” living.
- Preserve farmland and “country” living.
- Preserve farmland for farming and hunting, instead of creating new parks.
- Control the invasive species problems in the parks, etc.
- Preserving farmland in Washington County still adds greatly to quality of life.
- Preserve farmland for farming and hunting, instead of creating new parks.
- Hunting needs more consideration in the open space plan.
- Need for County-wide pedestrian and trail system.



— *City of Hartford* —

CITY HALL  
109 NORTH MAIN STREET  
HARTFORD, WI 53027-1591

Paul E. Mueller  
Planning and Parks Director  
Washington County, Wisconsin  
333 E. Washington Street  
West Bend, WI 53095

October 23, 2003

RECEIVED  
OCT 27 2003

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
PLANNING AND PARKS DEPT.

Re: Parks and Open Space Plan

Dear Mr. Mueller:

The City of Hartford has followed with interest the progress made by Washington County in the development of its new Park and Open Space Plan. Following a recent conversation with Ms. Debora Sielski of your office, I thought it worthwhile to advise you of the City's position with respect to several elements of the proposed plan, and to address the proposal from the Planning and Parks Department concerning Purchase of Development Rights zones around County parks. The City of Hartford commends the Planning and Parks Department for the quality of its proposed Park and Open Space Plan, and I note that almost all the details of the Plan are consistent with the City's approach to regional planning. However, the City has concerns in three specific areas: coordinated expansion of the Pike Lake State Forest, development of recreational facilities at the proposed new park in the Town of Erin, and most importantly, plans for the developable lands surrounding the Washington County Golf Course.

Coordinated Expansion of the Pike Lake State Forest

A portion of the Pike Lake State Forest is within the Hartford city limits, and we expect annexation of other portions over the next five years. This should be no cause for particular concern, and our recent meeting with the DNR indicated the State had no problem with future annexation into the City. I was advised by Ms. Sielski that the areas indicated by the County for future State Forest expansion are already a part of the DNR Master Plan. Although the State has eliminated funding of a new State Forest Master Plan for Pike Lake, the City of Hartford has previously advised the DNR that the City would amend its Land Use Plan to match future State Forest Master Plans, provided the planned expansion of the State Forest into developable areas was not excessive. The City notes with some concern that the properties recommended for State Forest expansion in the proposed Park and Open Space Plan are all developable lands within the City's Sanitary Sewer Service Area.

#### Proposed New Park in Town of Erin

The City of Hartford has a major investment in sports fields at Independence Park, West Side Park, and Lincoln Fields. Our ability to operate these sports fields economically involves attracting sports teams and leagues for baseball, football, and soccer competitions, and collecting user fees to recover maintenance costs. The City would prefer that the County not act to introduce additional competition which could impact our net recreational costs and ultimately our property tax levy. Ms. Sielski indicated that the County's plans for the proposed new park in the Town of Erin do not include sports fields, but rather "playing fields" which are not suitable for the kinds of formal competitions operated in area municipalities. The City welcomes this form of parks development, and is supportive of a new park with limited recreational playing fields.

#### Developable Lands Surrounding Washington County Golf Course

The City of Hartford is concerned that the Park and Open Space Plan includes the proposed development of additional parkland areas adjacent to the Washington County Golf Course. These concerns are based upon the following:

(1) The City of Hartford did not learn of the donation of the original Marx Preserve until it appeared in the local media. Although the Preserve is entirely undevelopable, it is contiguous to the City of Hartford at a point, and includes water and wetland areas which connect two of the City's parkland preservation areas. The City would have preferred some dialog on the subject prior to the acquisition to determine what coordinated plan (including annexation) best suited the area. I am anxious that the communication surrounding any expansion of the Marx Preserve be improved. The County Plan indicates the recommended acquisition of conservancy property at the southwestern corner of the current Washington County Golf Course. This parcel is contiguous to the City of Hartford. The City has no objection to the acquisition of the property at the southwestern corner of the Park for conservancy purposes (the Novak property), but I note that the lack of coordination in this area is resulting in contiguous waterways flowing into and out of City and County preservation areas. The City would also expect the County to annex the property to the City if it is acquired.

(2) The County Plan indicates the recommended acquisition of conservancy property at the southeastern corner of the current Washington County Golf Course. This parcel is also contiguous to the City of Hartford. More importantly, this parcel includes developable land which the new owner has suggested he may wish to develop in the future. Because the City believes developable land within our Sanitary Sewer Service Area should only be developed through annexation and the extension of sewer service, the City expects this property to be developed within our municipality. Like the Novak property this site is contiguous to the City's Rubicon River Parkway Project, the longest ongoing project ever undertaken by the City of Hartford. The City expects the undeveloped portions of this parcel, as well as lands adjacent to the Rubicon River from Hilldale Road to the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad tracks to eventually form a

part of the Rubicon River Parkway Project. The City favors this approach over the County's plan for this area.

(3) The County Plan recommends acquisition of property along the western side of the Washington County Golf Course in proximity to Highway 83. Much of this property on both sides of Highway 83 is wetland and conservancy. The City has no problem with the County's acquisition of undevelopable land in this area for the expansion of the Washington County Golf Course, provided it is annexed to the City of Hartford. The City has a serious problem with the possible acquisition by the County of any developable acreage adjacent to the Washington County Golf Course for the purpose of expanding the County Park. This area is within the City's Sanitary Sewer Service Area, and is identified for residential development except where development is impossible. The City faces significant infrastructure costs in extending services -- particularly sanitary sewer services -- in the Highway 83 corridor. These costs are offset by the assessment of benefitted property owners. Removing developable lands from residential development in this area increases the costs of development for the City of Hartford and land owners in the area seeking to develop their properties.

The Common Council of the City of Hartford has directed me to explore the expansion of our Sanitary Sewer Service Area at least one mile north of the Golf Course, and at least one property owner with large acreage fronting on Highway 83 anticipates annexation and development within the next five years. The City of Hartford expects to eventually annex the entire Washington County Golf Course to facilitate this development within its Sanitary Sewer Service Area, and to work with area developers to create residential properties which will enhance the Golf Course area and provide additional County tax revenues as well. In part, the Washington County Golf Course has been the catalyst for this development interest. Although the City has no plan to extend sanitary sewer service along Highway 83 to Clover Road within the next two years, the Common Council regards this area as a growth area for the City. The City of Hartford will object to the acquisition of any developable land within its Sanitary Sewer Service Area for the purpose of expanding the Washington County Golf Course and/or Family Park.

(4) The City of Hartford is in the process of completing a comprehensive water utility study aimed at planning the future development of water utility infrastructures within our 3 mile extraterritorial jurisdiction, and particularly within our Sanitary Sewer Service Area. The preliminary results of that study indicate the City will need to erect a new water tower in the vicinity of the Washington County Golf Course north of Clover Road, probably within the next 6-8 years. Some of the cost of infrastructures necessary for the support of the City's municipal water system are assessed to benefitted property owners. The more properties served by the system, the cheaper municipal water is for everyone in our community. This places a high priority on the development of some property adjacent to and nearby the Washington County Golf Course.

The City of Hartford believes several basic principles should guide Washington County in the development of parks and conservancy areas in proximity to incorporated municipalities. Most important among these principles is avoiding the use of developable land within the Sanitary Sewer Service Areas of those communities. I suggest the County should also coordinate its Park Plan with the Land Use Plans and Master Plans of incorporated municipalities, particularly those adjacent to existing County sites. Hopefully, the County will also take note of the extent of extraterritorial jurisdictions of adjacent municipalities, as well as extraterritorial land division ordinances and any comprehensive zoning ordinances in those areas. Although County and State properties are considered "neutral" under Wisconsin law, a *de facto* barrier to development is created when County parks remove developable land from these areas and create financial hurdles to compact municipal growth.

#### Development Rights Programs

The City of Hartford has a history of support for the purchase of development rights. More than five years ago the City proposed a PDR plan as a form of revenue sharing for township lands annexed to the City. However, the City believes the purchase of development rights within its extraterritorial jurisdiction (and certainly within its Sanitary Sewer Service Area) should be limited to nondevelopable property. The City has proposed several areas for such treatment, including the geologically significant lands southeast of Pike Lake.

The City is also concerned about the proposed use of property tax revenues for the subsidizing of agriculture within our extraterritorial jurisdiction through either PDR or TDR programs near County park properties. The concept of purchasing development rights around existing County parklands may be appropriate elsewhere in the County, but is wholly inappropriate in the areas adjacent to the Washington County Golf Course. The Family Park portion of this site encompasses a mere 15 acres, bounded by a town road on the north, an existing town subdivision on the east, and the Golf Course on the south and west. Including this small park within a broad PDR plan to provide agricultural open space around all County parks is the tail wagging the dog. The site is predominantly a golf course which gains no benefit from this plan, and the location of the tiny parkland portion of the site would seem to preclude any reasonable expansion of the park. The City of Hartford objects to the use of PDR or TDR programs for the purpose of frustrating urban growth and development within its recognized development area.

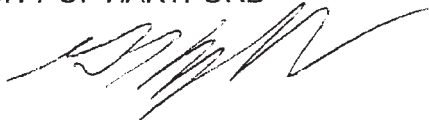
The City of Hartford favors a compact growth scenario. The City does not allow the development of property within its municipal boundaries without benefit of sanitary sewer, and the City follows the tenets of SEWRPC's 2020 Land Use Plan, which opposes the development of suburban subdivisions with on-site sanitary systems except in areas already established for that use. The City believes that one of the key ways in which suburban sprawl can be contained is to concentrate development within compact urban areas. I note that "sprawl" is invariably a suburban phenomenon, not an urban one. Creating compact urban areas is also consistent with the Rock River



Coalition's Rural Development Guidelines & Policies, as well as good environmental policy.

I hope you will make these comments a part of the official public record of any public hearing on the proposed Park and Open Space Plan. The City of Hartford looks forward to working with Washington County to realize this Plan, within the context of our long-term development objectives.

Sincerely,  
CITY OF HARTFORD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Koppelberger', written over a faint horizontal line.

Gary Koppelberger  
City Administrator

Cc: Mayor Scott M. Henke  
Mike Hermann, Director of Parks and Recreation

September 9, 2003

RECEIVED  
SEP 12 2003

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
PLANNING AND PARKS DEPT.

Debora Sielski, Assistant Administrator for Planning  
Planning and Parks Department  
333 E. Washington Street, Suite 2300  
West Bend, WI 53095

Dear Ms. Sielski:

I have read the recently completed Washington County 2020 Parks and Open Space Plan. Unfortunately, I will be out of town during the scheduled public input meetings. For that reason, I wanted to include my comments in a written statement. As a resident and business leader in Washington County, I would first like to congratulate you on having the foresight to look ahead to the year 2020 as far as it relates to parks and open space. I must admit, however, that I am concerned since there is no mention of open space in the introductory text referring to the benefits of parks and open spaces. The Washington County Land Protection Partnership feels this is a serious omission and must be addressed in the open space plan. The text does not separate the two, nor define the difference.

In both my personal and professional life, I am continually amazed by the open rural atmosphere that gives Washington County a true sense of place. In my own company, we find that the attractiveness of living in the West Bend area is so compelling that we are able to attract quality individuals and families to our area. Open space and the vistas people have learned to love have true economic value.

Obviously my views are shared by the majority of residents, 93% of your respondents agreed that conserving land for public parks, recreation, water quality, and wild life habitat is a good use of public funds.

On the other hand, the obvious lack of support for improving or expanding facilities in existing parks was a significant departure from the survey conducted in 1996. Obviously the residents of Washington County do not need or want more parks; the overwhelming desire is to protect and include open space in any long-term plan if we wish to preserve our rural landscape. Finally, based on your own survey, 85% of all respondents would like to see Washington County buy lands, woodlands, and wetlands to protect and preserve natural habitat. Please expand the long-term plan to address the economic and aesthetic benefits of protecting open space, and that includes farmland. Open space preservation has individual, community, environmental, and economic benefits that cannot be ignored.

Thank you for your consideration in helping maintain the type of atmosphere that creates growth, prosperity and a unique sense of place to our county. If there are questions, please advise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. Warren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony J. Warren  
4467 Honeywood Lane  
Jackson, WI 53037



Washington County Parks and Open Space Plan  
September 11, 2003

Kine Torinus, ~~President~~, President, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust  
4983 Lake Drive, Town of West Bend

Summary of Two major elements:

1. open space preservation element
  2. new county parks, park facilities, lake and river access areas and facilities and trails
- Reference to the *recommendation of 21% Open Space land protection to be acquired by public agencies for natural resource protection preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. Cost \$40.6 million.*  
*28% total*

Does this number reflect your expectations of private land purchases? I suggest you include partnering with private entities as a means to accomplish what the community wants – protection of open spaces and natural areas.

**1. Torinus speaking as a representative of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust  
Non-Profit Conservation Organization Table 23**

Change the word ACQUISITION to PROTECT. The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust uses a variety of tools to protect land in accordance with landowners' wishes or the resources of the land trust. Outright purchase is not the preferred method in most circumstances. Also, Change ACQUIRED LAND to PROTECTED LAND and proposed OWNERSHIP to OWNERSHIP OR PROTECTION

**2. Torinus speaking as a citizen of Washington County**

I suggest you clearly state the differences between Open Spaces and Parks so that your surveys and report reflect more accurately what the public wants. It is not clear how you plan for the two different elements. From public surveys conducted all over the United States, there is overwhelming support for OPEN SPACES and a willingness to pay for it. The strong desire for protection of these lands shows up in the ballot measures that have passed throughout the country. Buying land only for parks is not what the majority of the public wants. The public wants land protected, not just prime environmental lands, but farmlands as well. The value of the beautiful views that farmland provides all of us needs to be considered appearing our quality of life in Washington County. In fact, there are places in the US where scenic vistas are included in quality of life measurements and in evaluating which lands to protect. Maintenance of parks and their accompanying facilities is costly. Open spaces are not.

**Farmland**

Prime Agricultural land is mentioned as a part of open space, but not in your survey, nor is there any mention of a systematic protection farmland in your plan. Not including farmland in the survey was a serious omission as it is also regarded as open space by the people who live, work and visit. Our glaciated terrain, rolling farmland, farms and the habitat the farms provide should be included the measurement of quality of life that we use to attract people to Washington County.

According to all other surveys taken in this county, scenic vistas are highly valued. And farming is such an important part of the history and economy of Washington County that is should not be ignored in the County Parks and Open Space Plan. In fact, the 2000 Washington County survey conducted by American Farmland Trust found that the food/ag economy contributes nearly \$450 million to the Washington County economy.

**Trails:**

Public Survey results show that 68% of those polled agree or strongly agree they want the county to provide a system of recreational trails to connect county parks and other public recreational lands and trails. I ask that you increase funding for bicycle and walking trails and reduce funding for parks and their accompanying facilities. Your survey indicated that 61% voted NO to expanded or improved facilities in parks.

**Woodlands, wetlands**

85% YES in 2002 compared to 73% in 1996

**Table 25 Geological areas to be preserved through acquisition**

- Add kames and farm in the Town of Barton north of #33 and Cty Z and east of Glacier Drive between #33 and Schuster Drive.

## Appendix E-2

### Minutes of Public Hearing and Public Comments

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
**PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN PUBLIC HEARING**  
**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2004**

The public hearing was called to order by Chairman Strupp at 7:00 p.m. in Room T101 of the Moraine Park Technical College. Strupp read affidavit of posting. Those present included:

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Maurice Strupp, Chairperson  
Mark McCune, Vice Chairperson  
Paul Beistle  
Donald Berchem  
John Stern

**STAFF:**

Paul Mueller  
Deb Sielski  
Kelly Kravis

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:**

Mary Krumbiegel (changes at 3/10/04 meeting)  
Herbert Tennies

**OTHER:**

Dan Wilson  
Dave Schilling, SEWRPC  
Heather Nemoir, SEWRPC

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:** Presentation of Preliminary Draft Park and Open Space Plan

Wilson began presentation with an overview of public participation. Schilling reviewed the planning process. Sielski presented the recommendations of the preliminary draft Park and Open Space Plan.

**SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:** **PUBLIC HEARING:** An opportunity for public comment on preliminary draft plan.

**Bob Retko (Chairperson of the Land Conservation Partnership of Washington County)**

The Planning and Parks Department and the Park and Open Space Plan Technical Advisory Committee should be applauded for their efforts in preparing the Park and Open Space Plan for Washington County. It is obvious that a considerable amount of time, research, and forethought was put into developing the draft plan.

Retko stated on behalf of the Land Conservation Partnership of Washington County, he would like to express the partnerships hope that the final Park and Open Space Plan will be a useful tool for preserving our counties agricultural lands and natural landscapes and help maintain the farming economy. The partnership was pleased to see the suggestions regarding the protection of prime agricultural lands were included in the most recent draft. However, they feel a stronger recommendation be included in reference to the pilot purchase of development rights program (listed in Chapter 6, page 12). The current wording suggests considering a pilot program only if the opportunity should arise. Based on the strong support for farmland preservation at recent public hearings, they feel that Washington County should undertake a study to consider the use of development right programs for prime agricultural lands and monitor the success the transfer and purchase of development rights of agricultural lands within the North Branch of the Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Project area.

They are thankful to have had the opportunity to review the draft plan and to have started a dialogue with County staff and supervisors as to how they can work together to make the plan a reality. It is our hope that these discussions can continue and that they can develop a strong partnership that leads to a better quality of life in Washington County.

**Kine Torinous (Ozaukee Washington County Land Trust President)**

Torinous thanked everyone who participated in the great job done in planning the Park and Open Space Plan for Washington County. The Ozaukee Washington Count Land Trust has been involved in protecting our landscape as best as they can and would like to continue in a partnership.

They were pleased to see that the protection of the geological areas in prime agricultural lands was included in the most recent draft. However, they do believe that a stronger position should be taken in Chapter 6, page 12 of the Plan. The current language suggests considering a pilot program if the opportunity should arise. Based on the strong support of farmland preservation at all the past public hearings, they urge that more direct language be used to include farmland protection programs, zoning, purchase of development rights, and scenic easements. Torinous explained some history of the Ozaukee/Washington Land Trust and how they conducted a survey several years ago to look at the economic impact of the farm/agriculture industry has on the counties economy. From that study which the American Farmland Trust help fund, they found that there was a \$145 million dollar industry there that even the Economic Summit has addressed as an important part of the counties economy. Torinous added some other economic benefits from farmland preservation; the land remains on the tax roles, does not require continue maintenance. The farmers who own the land or other land owners continue preparing the land.

Torinous continued that the land trust would like to add that the cost of community services is far less for farmland than it is for any residential development. This should be considered as well. They also need to consider some of the natural benefits of water recharge and wildlife corridors. Lastly, for the benefits of having the farmland even considered as open space, there is the scenic value that benefits the human soul.

That land trust is aware that farmland preservation will be addressed in greater detail in the Washington County Comprehensive Plan and would like to be part of that process and offer any assistance they can. They know that this will be a wonderful tool to continue to make our County a wonderful place to live and maintain our livable communities.

**Carol Knapp (Washington County Resident)**

Knapp commented that the flyer she received for the public hearing was the first item received regarding park public participation meetings. She added that she does not receive any county papers and occasionally will receive the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. She was curious on when the County would be contacting her in regards to purchasing some of her property since this is the first time she was aware. The error for information leaves a little to be desired as far as people being impacted by these meetings.

**Kelly Valentino (Jackson Parks & Recreation Director & POSPTAC member)**

Valentino stated that the Technical Advisory Committee did work very hard and did their best to bring forth the best draft plan as possible could that would benefit all of Washington County and had great leadership. Valentino noted that anything of this magnitude and any projects like this will always have items that can be overlooked and may not be checked as a group. The Park and Open Space Plan Technical Advisory Committee is grateful for all the public participation which will help make a better plan. Valentino went on record thanking everyone for coming and participating in the public hearing.

**Jerome Zier (Washington County Resident)**

Zier commented have several concerns about the proposals in this plan. The use of County funds – firm believer if the County is purchasing land that it should be open to all uses and should not limit or

eliminate any uses. Therefore, no county fund should be used or should the county partner with any other organization where easements, which limit or eliminate some uses, that have been put in place. County residents should not be asked to fund a park system that is a magnet for out of county residents use. If they are proposing beaches, baseball diamonds, facilities, and soccerfields. Non-residents should pay their fare share and keeping these facilities up and for the development costs that these facilities will put a burden on County taxpayers.

**Kevin Thusius (Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation)**

Thusius thanked everybody for also considering Ice Age Trail in this plan. As many of you may, or may not know that the Ice Age Trail is a national scenic as designated by congress in 1980, and it is the only State scenic trail in Wisconsin. Thusius commented further on what the governor said in the most recent State to State address regarding the Ice Age Trail: They have 400 miles permanently protected now, and the goal is to protect the next 400 miles in the next 10 years. That calls on not only the State but also the County to give the Ice Age Trail the highest priority possible both in the plan and when planning comes to action.

**Gary Koppelberger (City of Hartford Administrator)**

Koppelberger state he is representing the City of Hartford at this public hearing and apologizes in advance for the imbalance of his comments. The City of Hartford is in general agreement with the draft Park and Open Space Plan, but the comments will be limited to those aspects of the plan in which the City disagrees. Koppelberger provided 5 pages of comments to the Committee on October 23, 2004, which he understands has been included and never-the-less it does not appear that the document has been changed with respect to several of our key areas of the cities concern.

The City is concerned about any threatened financial competition for it's recreational resources. Like most cities, the City of Hartford has enormous investment in organized recreational facilities and activities. In many cases the fee's charged to participants using the facilities offset the property tax levies which support them. Introducing similar facilities at the County level in areas in which are already adequately served enforces additional taxes on our citizens without additional services. The City has no objection to the development of play fields within our service area. The City will object to the development of sporting fields or other facilities, which are already provided in Western Washington County by its municipalities. These are revenue producing government facilities and do not benefit by competition. Because sporting organizations may wish to come and construct such facilities is not a reason to interfere with established revenue streams.

Koppelberger noted with curiosity that the plan for Heritage Trails Park includes a swimming beach, which would be in close proximity to swimming lakes which are constructed by the Village of Slinger, Pike Lake State Park, Hartford Pond, and the Veterans Pool facility and Hartford Signicast Family Aquatic Center. Each of these facilities, to some degree or another, are supported by fee's used to offset local property taxes. Placing another facility in this location whether on a fee bases or not, imposes a competition which will affect the City revenue stream. The City of Hartford anticipates a \$2 million-dollar reconstruction of Veterans Pool within the next 7-8 years. Much of this cost will be supported by property tax dollars and the City does not wish to see it's citizens further taxed for swimming facilities in County Parks from which they derive no benefit and which in fact undermine existing recreational efforts.

The second issue of concern, any plans by Washington County involving developable lands within our growth area. They do appreciate that the draft plan excludes municipal service areas from pilot PDR activities. However, the plan recommends PDR adjacent to all 12 park sites. Two of which are in the



Hartford service area. Portions of the Pike Lake State Forest are already within the corporate limits of the City and should be corrected in the draft plan. The City anticipates eventually the whole Pike Lake Unit.

The City has advised the Department of Natural Resources that they will cooperate in fulfilling the Pike Lake Master Plan for this area, as well as any successor plans provided that they do not absorb large parcels of developable land. The 20-year growth area for the City of Hartford includes areas South of the Pike lake Unit, North and some portions of Dodge County. The City will oppose any attempt to arbitrarily limit or frustrate the completion of the cities Compact Urban Model and is pretext to provide any additional park land, agricultural acreage, or open space within these areas, where such additions are clearly a secondary concern only to disguise any development motivations. The County Parks and Open Space Plan should not be a tool for undermining the orderly growth and development of urban areas in the County.

Clearly the City of Hartford anticipates annexing the whole Washington County Golf Course, Marx Nature Preserve, and Family Park site probably within the next 6 years. This entire area is already contiguous to the City as well as being with our existing sanitary sewer service area. The City Council has authorized a petition to SEWRPC for a further expansion of sewer service areas in this region. The City has previously indicated its future intention in placing major utility infrastructures in the Highway 83 and Clover Road area and beyond. The City expects to construct these infrastructures in advance of development in these areas. These infrastructures are expensive and typically funded by assessments by those who are benefited. When developable land along these infrastructure corridors is barred from development, this action imposes a financial barrier to the orderly growth and development of the City.

The draft plan recommends an addition of 200 acres to this site, which will be an increase in acreage of a whopping 62%. This recommendation is all the more puzzling given the results of the public opinion survey preceding this document were only 39% of those responding indicated at the time wish to see improving or expanding the facilities of existing parks. The City has no objection to the acquisition of additional acreage at this site, provide none of this acreage is developable and all acquired lands are annexed to the City. In addition, the City objects to the acquisition by the County of any lands adjacent to the South of Hilldale Drive where the City is maintaining its ongoing Rubicon River Parkway project. This road creates a reasonable delineation between County and City projects and avoids a patchwork of jurisdictions in this area.

The direct document recommends the addition of formal picnic areas, playgrounds, support facilities, and play fields. This cannot be accomplished on the 15 acres, which the County now refers to a Family Park. Recent conversation with the Planning and Parks Department the impression is that the County intends to acquire unspecified, but additional developable lands in this area. Which is anathetical to the interest of the City of Hartford. You cannot build parks around golf courses located in municipal service areas. You build condominiums around them there by increase tax space and provide immediate clientele. If the County were truly interested in preserving prime agricultural lands, this site or any development in this area the golf course then should have never been constructed in the first place. You will recall that it was a farmstead. To now use the presence of the golf course as a pretext for the acquisition for additional developable land for an existing 15 acre park is the tail wagging the dog.

In conclusion, in general the City of Hartford stands in opposition of any portions of the draft document, which threatens the cities Compact Urban Growth model. This model is based upon 5 key tips, it exercised to preserve growth space, the development of inter-municipal agreements to find areas of

mutual cooperation not within the urban model, a ban on development of property within our corporate limits without benefit of sanitary sewer, a broad and flexible sanitary sewer service area, and a ban on the development of suburban subdivisions with on-site sewer systems, except in areas already established for that purpose.

The City favors urban development consistent with the Rock River Coalition's recently published rules, development guidelines and policies, which strongly associates the preservation of open and agricultural spaces with the development of compact urban models. Urban models, never the less, require growth space. For the City of Hartford that space is defined by a 3 mile extraterritorial limit.

**Scott Mathie (Metropolitan Builders Association) – (See Attached letter).**

**Craig Johnson (Representing the Agriculture Cluster Council) –**

Johnson thanked everyone involved who worked on the plan. He added that Washington County is blessed with the tremendous amount of open space to date and a lot of that is a great aesthetic and natural resource value and applauds everyone involved for having the foresight to look ahead to protect that rather than have things happen before its too late. Johnson made comments on behalf of the Agriculture Industry Cluster Council. Many discussions have ensued regarding the agriculture land preservation. The council is pleased that agriculture is mentioned in the plan. The council would like to have stronger policies and practices in place. They have good reason to believe that there is significant support from private residents and local officials to support those same concerns for preserving agricultural lands in the County, not only for quality of life issues, but also as a viable piece of the economic picture. Johnson encouraged the County to do as much as possible, and the Cluster Council would welcome the opportunity to work on the plan with all the other partners who show interest for that piece of the puzzle.

**Dale Jacques Sr. – No Comments**

**Mike Dricken (Washington County Resident) –**

Dricken commented on the proposed upgrade to the parks. Dricken stated that he feels that when the development of the parks occur, it should not compete with existing private business, and if possible and some of the proposed upgrades and new facilities should be done by the private sector, thereby saving tax dollars and generating tax revenue. He added that user fees should be used wherever possible, due to the long term costs associated maintaining the parks and believes user fees should definitely be implemented, which would protect the tax payers. Finally, setting land aside and protecting for future generations is prudent, but at the same time feel that some of the proposed upgrades and new facilities is somewhat excessive.

**David Schwengel (Washington County Resident)**

Schwengel commented that he is in support of parkland. He has been reading that the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District is planning to acquire a large amount of land located in the Germantown area for flood control, and does not know if that is incorporated in the plan.

As farmland preservation is concerned he feels that this is a very worthy goal. As far of what farmland to preserve as through a PDR program, they should focus on what is the best land, whether or not it is next to a County parks should be a secondary consideration, because there might be places to preserve some very large blocks of farmland. Schwengel highlighted concerns regarding the railroad corridor. (See Attached).

**Jeannine Peters (West Bend Resident)**

Peters echoed a sentiment from earlier that this was not clearly brought to our attention until recently. While they enthusiastically support the parks and the parks and open space that our often created through the development process. They are also concerned about property owner's rights. They seem to be speaking of these lands as they don't belong to anybody and are not privately owned. Peters expressed concern about how this will affect property owners, because land is often used a long term investment, and may affect property value particularly when calling for zoning of 35 acre minimum. Peters expressed the importance to re-look at the calculations as to true fare market value of these lands. It's important to go to the people who are affected by this plan, the landowners, taxpayers, businesses and professionals who are associated with the developing industry. They are the ones who have to work with the plan that you set forth in the future. A plan of this scope and magnitude should welcome and solicit balanced input from those specifically affected by the plan. They are doing a disservice to our residents and they encumbering our future. Peters stated that it is premature to consider the plan at its present state.

**Dean Atay (Washington County Resident)**

Atay stated concerns regarding how the County parks are run. Atay stated that he lives near Ackerman's Grove County Park and express his disappointment on grass cutting. Atay stated additional concerns regarding County Park signs and the planning for parks.

**Herbert Nickel (Washington County Resident)**

Nickel commented that the public hearing flyer was the first indication that he received regarding public information meetings for the parks. Concerned about long term economics and the additional costs for running these facilities. He added that he lives near Homestead Hollow Park and questions why four soccer fields were built. Who is going to use the soccer fields? He added that the County is doing a disservice by not contacting enough citizens.

**Motion made by McCune, seconded by Stern to adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Mueller, Administrator

Approved by Mary A. Krumbiegel  
Mary Krumbiegel, Secretary

Date 3-17-04



# METROPOLITAN BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

N16 W23321 Stone Ridge Drive Waukesha, WI 53188  
Phone: (262) 436-1122 • Fax: (262) 436-1110 • www.mbaonline.org

February 3, 2004

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 04 2004

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
PLANNING AND PARKS DEPT.

Debora Sielski  
Washington County Parks & Planning Department  
Public Agency Center, Suite 2300  
333 East Washington Street  
PO Box 2003  
West Bend, WI 53095-2003

Dear Debora,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments and provide some general observations about the County's preliminary draft of its Park and Open Space Plan. Natural and recreational areas are very important to the quality of life in Washington County and the attraction of the area.

We applaud the efforts made by the Park and Open Space Plan Advisory Committee, Washington County officials, and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) to create an action plan that hopes to address the green space needs of the County's future growth.

While the Metropolitan Builders Association (MBA) generally supports efforts to preserve recreation and open space areas, there are occasions where the preservation approach does not recognize the true costs and impacts on small businesses, taxpayers, farmers, and private landowners. Related park and open space plans and other smart growth land use vehicles have become increasingly important to our industry because of the multitude of issues that are being addressed and cross-referenced within any given related plan. Further, this recent proposal will ultimately set the tone for the County's future smart growth planning and local municipal approaches to land use. As you may be aware, by 2010, state law requires that all zoning and land use decisions must conform to the Smart Growth Plan.

The following comments should provide the architects of this plan and the County Board, and their related committees, some constructive feedback and observations with respect to key components of this plan. Our Association looks forward to an opportunity to explain in greater detail our observations and help to improve the Park and Open Space Plan.

**Participation in the Plan was Limited.** Although a significant number of people may have participated in the process, it was not a diverse group that represented all legitimate stakeholders on this matter, such as farmers, landowners and the business community. Our Organization is willing to discuss and provide detailed comments about this proposal or any other.



**The Plan Could Usurps Local Control.** The Plan calls for a one-size-fits-all 5-acre zoning category on over 43,000 acres of land throughout the County, which does not respect the plans of local officials or individual landowners. Innovative design techniques could be implemented into this plan to provide a market driven approach to allow for increased open space potential, such methods include conservation subdivision design and density bonus provisions.

**The Plan Understates the Cost to Taxpayers.** We estimate that the true cost of the expenditures called for in the Plan are at least four to five times more than estimated. It may make sense to survey Washington County land sales data from the 2001-2002 Annual Land Sales Report for Metropolitan Milwaukee (Data is published 2001-2002 by Mark A. Harvey, MAI, SRA). This should provide County officials realistic land values that will help in providing accurate plan estimates for the future purchase of land.

**The Plan Goes Beyond Its Intended Scope.** The Plan attempts to regulate over 43,348 acres of land (15.70% of the entire County) that are NOT intended for park or trail use.

**Individual Landowners Will Bear the Majority of the Costs.** The Plan calls for the down zoning of all land the County desires to protect but cannot afford to purchase.

**The Plan Improperly Addresses Farmland Preservation.** The issue of farmland preservation is affected by matters having nothing to do with park and open space planning (e.g., economic viability of farming), the data used in the Plan is inaccurate and outdated (based on an obscure 1981 Report), and the proposed solution to farmland preservation relies solely on zoning regulations which infringe on local control and the choices of individual farm families (Restrictive Agricultural Districts). Further, the County intends to have a future plan that will address agricultural matters.

The attached document provides our Association's detailed comments pertaining to the Park and Open Space Plan. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss and work on the direction of this Plan with County officials. Our organization is optimistic that we will have a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the recommendations in the plan so it can reflect and be supported by all persons with legitimate concerns over land use in the County.

The MBA looks forward to working with the County and SE WRPC to address our concerns. Please feel free to contact me directly at 262-436-1122 ext. 19 with questions.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Mathie  
Director of Government Affairs

Cc: Matt Moroney, Executive Director  
Washington County Supervisors  
Ken Miller, County Board Chairman  
Paul Mueller, Administrator PPD  
Phil Evenson, SE WRPC  
Dave Shilling, SE WRPC

METROPOLITAN BUILDERS ASSOCIATION  
Washington County Park and Open Space Plan  
TECHNICAL COMMENTS  
FEBRUARY 3, 2004

PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN WAS LIMITED

Our first concern involves the very selective and limited number of stakeholders involved in preparing the Parks and Open Space Plan. Our Organization would recommend that before moving forward with this plan that a comprehensive focus group made up of interests who, up to this point, have not participated in the Plan, including farmers, landowners, builders, economic development officials, realtors, large employers, small businesses, taxpayer organizations, and elected government officials who should all have an opportunity to provide some constructive feedback about the plan before us. Such groups may have different, though equally legitimate perspectives on how certain lands should be used and how tax dollars should be spent.

Several County Officials and County Board members recognize that our Organization can be and has been a strong and fair-minded partner in assisting in the development of such planning documents. We would have provided a perspective that was not represented on the Advisory Committee. In the future, we would ask that our Organization or a representative of the building industry be included in advisory committees that seek to impact or change land uses.

THE PLAN COULD USURPS LOCAL CONTROL.

Our Organization believes that if the land cannot be acquired for County purposes, its use should be left for local officials and individual landowners to determine. Innovative design techniques could be implemented into this plan to provide a market driven approach to allow for increased open space potential adjacent to residential uses, such methods include conservation subdivision design and density bonus provisions.

In 1986, the County gave up its zoning authority (outside of shore lands) to permit individual Townships to determine their own destiny. This decision has resulted in an extremely diverse and vibrant County as each Township, through locally elected officials, has evolved to suit the desires of its residents. Vastly differing views on land use co-exist in the County with the contrasting visions of Polk and Richfield as only one example. Other Townships such as Jackson and West Bend have negotiated border agreements adding even more diversity to certain areas.

In this context, we view the “one size fits all” 5-acre density requirement as a huge step backwards. This proposed mandate would restrict almost 16% of the County and could have an impact on local town officials who were not closely involved in framing the Plan’s recommendations.

Further, with respect to lands near incorporated areas, this Plan may not appropriately address one of the “three most important recommendations contained in the regional land use plan”:

Encouragement of a more compact pattern of urban development, one that can be efficiently served by such essential public facilities and services as centralized sanitary sewerage, water supply and mass transit.

#### THE PLAN UNDERSTATES THE COST TO TAXPAYERS.

The Plan stated that 17,758 acres, or about 6.5% of the County is already protected through public or conservation ownership. The Plan recommends an additional 16,228 acres (another 5.8% of the County) be acquired with an estimated cost of \$40,600,000, with the County's share being \$8,223,000 or 20.85% of the total.

With our understanding of land prices in the County, the Plan's numbers appear to be understated. The Plan estimates that property in the County can be acquired for an average cost of \$2,500 per acre (\$16.6 M/ 16,228 acres = \$2501.84). The plan also states "landowners will receive fair market value for their property." With our familiarity with land values, we believe that prices are more realistic at a range of \$10,000 an acre in the northern Townships to over \$20,000 an acre closer to Milwaukee. Assuming a very conservative \$12,000 an acre, we would estimate that this Plan actually calls for spending at a level of approaching \$200 million (\$12,000 x 16,228 acres = \$194,760,000).

For a realistic County estimate, it may make sense to survey Washington County land sales data from the 2001-2002 Annual Land Sales Report for Metropolitan Milwaukee (Data is published 2001-2002 by Mark A. Harvey, MAI, SRA). This should provide County officials realistic land values that will help in providing accurate plan estimates for the future purchase of land.

We do not believe that the Park and Open Space Advisory Committee would feel comfortable in recommending that the County Board budget approximately \$95,705,190 (County's 20% share) for park and open space lands. Our Organization would also like to point-out to decision-makers that our comments do not address the fiscal implications of maintaining such lands or the loss of revenue from eliminating lands from the tax rolls.

#### THE PLAN GOES BEYOND ITS INTENDED SCOPE.

Under the heading "Need for the Plan" the County "Plan Summary," states that the "new plan maintains county eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids ... for the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities." In other words, the County needs a plan to identify future parkland so it will be eligible for grant money - a concept we all can support.

However, the Plan goes beyond its stated scope by identifying an additional 43,348 acres - or another 15.70% of the entire County - which the Plan admits "are not needed for future park or trail development."

It is also interesting to note that the Plan indicates that public and conservation entities already own 17,758 acres of lands and are targeting an additional 16,228 acres for future acquisition.

In addition, the Plan designates thousands of acres for "exclusive agricultural zoning" even though the seven "Plan objectives" under chapter V of the Plan make no mention of farmland preservation.

#### INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNERS WILL BEAR THE MAJORITY OF THE COSTS.

Our Organization does not believe it is the intentions of the Committee to recommend that individual landowners bear the majority of the costs; however, this proposed Park and Open Space Plan does exactly that. The Plan recommends that the 43,348 acres not needed for "future park or

trail development” be down-zoned in “protective zoning districts, which limits development... to an overall density of one dwelling unit per five acres.”

This recommendation will result in a severe hardship to those who deserve it the least. Farmers and landowners have been adding to the quality of life in the County for generations and just when the time comes for the well-deserved or necessary retirement, their primary asset is taken or substantially devalued with no compensation. Please remember that most farmers do not have 401-K plans.

In contrast, the 16,228 acres the County intends to purchase will come from “landowners that receive fair market value for their property”. How fair is it that one landowner should receive fair market value while another landowner, perhaps right next door, will receive nothing.

#### THE PLAN IMPROPERLY ADDRESSES FARMLAND PRESERVATION.

The issue of farmland preservation is an extremely important and controversial subject and should not be resolved as an after-thought to a Park and Open Space Plan. Park and Open Space relates to the identification and establishment of resources intended for active and passive recreational uses. Farming is a business involving an entirely different set of issues that need to be addressed, including the economic viability of farming, the affect of technology on the amount of farmland needed, the long-standing surplus of farm commodities and the respect for the decisions of individuals who elect to retire from or move out of farming operations. None of these key issues were even addressed in the Plan.

#### **The supporting data is outdated**

The entire basis for the Plan recommendations regarding farmland preservation is based on a Report prepared for the County in 1981. This Report has not been widely distributed and is only available upon specific request and with payment of a fee. Has anyone on the Technical Advisory Committee or the Park and Planning Commission even read this 1981 Report? If so, they would discover that the 1981 Report was prepared under the following conditions which do not apply in early 2004:

- The Report states that agriculture and related production are “leading sector’s of the County’s economic base.” (page 3) Presently, agriculture accounts for only a small fraction of the County’s economic base.
- The Report speaks in terms of “an improving farm economy” (page 1) which is totally out of touch with the dire circumstances of farm commodity prices over the last 5 years.
- The Report speaks about how the “inflated taxes” (page 6) are causing the loss of farmland, an issue which has no relevance today since the statewide implementation of the Use Value assessment system.
- The Report speaks about the “decline in building construction due to high interest rates” and “abundance of vacant platted residential lots” (page 8). Of course assumptions made during the depth of the 1979-1981 recession could not be more out of touch with today’s environment of low interest rates and extreme shortage of vacant residential lots.
- In 1981, the County’s population was 84,848, but has since jumped to approximately 122,000, a 50% increase during the last 23 years.

- In 1981, the County fully administered zoning in 9 of 13 Townships and was the approving authority for all Townships. Now County zoning is limited to Shoreland areas.
- In 1981, mound systems were considered experimental and first being “tested” in the County (page 54).
- In 1981, the U.S. 45 expressway did not exist and much of Highway 33 and 60 were still 2-lane roadways.

Despite these fundamental differences between 1981 and 2004, the Plan recommendations for farmland preservation are the same as set forth in the 1981 report. We can understand how consultants in 1981 could have never foreseen the facts of life in 2004. Our concern is over how planners could use a 1981 report to make decisions about life in 2004.

### **The Plan infringes on local control and personal choice**

The Plan’s only solution to farmland preservation is the establishment of exclusive agricultural zoning districts with 35-acre minimum lot sizes. Again, this is a one size fits all approach to planning which the County ended in 1986.

Agricultural zoning is not the answer, even at the local level. Each farming family should be free to continue farming indefinitely, or if they so choose, to convert their land to a different use. The viability of farming is a function of commodity prices, production costs, career choices and retirement age and no zoning regulation or other artificial government decision should change that. The County should encourage and assist with the continuation of farming not mandate it.

### **Better information is needed**

Absolutely no data about the farming industry in Washington County has been generated since 1981. We do not know how many people are still farming, or what part of the County’s economy is related to farming, or the expected economic viability of farming in Washington County over the next 20 years. All of these and many other important questions should be researched and answered before any recommendations can be made about farmland preservation.



Paul G. Hayes  
N63 W5795 Columbia Road  
Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012  
Telephone 262 377-7880

January 31, 2004

Washington County Planning and Parks Department  
Washington County Planning Conservation and Parks Committee  
Washington County Courthouse  
432 E. Washigton St.  
West Bend, WI 53095

Gentlemen and Ladies,

I am co-chair of the Mid-Kettle Moraine Partners Group, a coalition of public and private organizations with a goal to connect the north and south units of the Kettle Moraine with a greenbelt centered on the Ice Age Trail.

We congratulate Washington County for preparing a countywide Parks and Open Space Plan. You clearly lead most other Wisconsin counties in this farsighted action that will help assure that the natural beauty of Washington County will remain a regional, state and national attraction.

We were not surprised to discover in reading your plan that hiking and walking were the most popular outdoor activities listed in your public opinion poll of citizens who use Washington County Parks. That conforms to findings nationally.

Our members are pleased that your plan recognizes that the Ice Age Trail should be completed through Washington County. The segments already completed, including the North Kettle Moraine State Forest, west of West Bend, Pike Lake, Holy Hill and Loew Lake are among the most popular along the entire route of the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin.

We believe that completion of the trail in Washington County should be priority number one in any park and open space plan. Because the trail links natural areas, park lands, geological features and environmental corridors that also are recommended for permanent protection, the trail's completion would accomplish many more of your goals as well.

It is especially critical that the trail corridor and associated natural areas be protected at once because of the rate of urban development in Washington County.

Integral to the beauty and the natural health Washington County is the protection of farmland and other open space that are contiguous to the principal natural assets already identified in Washington County. These should be protected not only for the health of your agricultural community, but as scenic and natural buffers to such

wonderful places as Loew Lake , Pike Lake, Holy Hill woods, the Cedar Lakes and the upper Milwaukee River.

Nonprofit groups such as our members, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation, and Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, already are working hard to accomplish many of your goals, but limits of staff and funds restrict their efforts. Without close cooperation with county government, some of our shared goals may never be realized.

In this regard, we believe that the Washington County Parks and Open Space Plan should recommend more direct action to be taken by the county through farmland protection programs, zoning, scenic easements and purchase of development rights of critical open space and endangered resources.

You have our admiration for your good work.



Paul G. Hayes  
Co-Chair, Mid-Kettle Moraine Partners Group  
Board Member, Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation



Village of  
  
**Germantown**  
*Willkommen*

**RECEIVED**

Planning Department JAN 23 2004  
Jason Gallo, Village Planner WASHINGTON COUNTY  
N112 W17001 Mequon Road, P.O. Box 337 PLANNING AND PARKS DEPT.  
Germantown, WI 53022-0337  
(262) 250-4735 direct line  
(262) 253-8255 fax

January 22, 2004

Deb Sielski, Assistant Administrator for Planning  
Washington County, Planning & Parks Dept.  
P.O. Box 2003  
West Bend, WI 53095-2003

**RE: A Park and Open Space Plan for Washington County**

Dear Deb:

Thank-you for sending the Village Planning Department a copy of the preliminary draft of the Park and Open Space Plan for Washington County. I have read through the text and reviewed the many maps included within the document.

At this time, the Germantown Planning Department has no concerns with the comprehensive document. Once approved I feel this will be a valuable resource for my Department for linking parks, preserving significant lands and assisting in making long-range planning decisions.

Good luck with the public hearing on February 3, 2004 and if there is anything I can do to assist you with your efforts feel free to contact the Planning Department at (262) 250-4735.

Sincerely,  
**Village of Germantown**

  
Jason Gallo, AICP  
Village Planner/Zoning Administrator

cc: Juliene Hefter, Recreation Director  
Property File





# THE LAND CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

Feb. 3, 2003

Washington County Planning and Parks Department  
Washington County Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee  
333 E. Washington Street, Suite 2300  
West Bend, WI 53095

*My name is Bob Retko and I am the chair of the Land Conservation Partnership of Washington County; a group of individual, businesses and organizations working to protect farmland and natural areas in Washington County.*

The Planning and Parks Department and the Technical Advisory Committee should be applauded for their efforts in preparing the Park and Open Space Plan for Washington County. It is obvious that a considerable amount of time, research and forethought was put into developing the draft plan.

As you well know...land use is fast becoming the greatest environmental challenge in the United States. Across the county, land preservation initiatives, "Smart Growth" planning laws and anti-sprawl campaigns have dominated the local headlines. Despite these positive signs, overall land use trends are not good. This is especially the case for agricultural lands.

Since the 1980's, Washington County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Between 1989 and 1997 about 6,000 acres of agricultural land in Washington County were removed from production and converted to some other use. The future bodes a similar fate. Over the next 20 years, the population of Washington County is projected to increase from 117,500 to approximately 131,000, an increase of about 12%.

On behalf of the Land Conservation Partnership of Washington County, I would like to express our hope that the final Park and Open Space Plan will be a useful tool for preserving our county's agricultural lands and natural landscapes, and help maintain the farming economy.

PO Box 917 • West Bend, WI 53095 • phone 262/338-4881 • fax 262/338-4881 • email millinco@sbcglobal.net

**A partnership of individuals, businesses and organizations working to protect farmland and natural areas in Washington County**

The Partnership was pleased to see that the suggestions regarding protection of prime agricultural land were included in the current draft. However, we feel a stronger recommendation should be included in reference to the pilot purchase of development rights program listed in Chapter VI page 12. The current wording suggests considering a pilot program only if the "opportunity should arise." Based on the strong support for farmland preservation at the recent public hearings we feel Washington County should undertake a study to consider the use of a purchase of development rights program for prime agricultural land and monitor the success of the transfer and purchase of development rights of agricultural lands within the North Branch of the Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Project area.

We are thankful to have had the opportunity to review the draft plan and to have started a dialogue with County staff and supervisors as to how we can work together to make the plan a reality. It is our hope that these discussions can continue and that we can develop a strong partnership that leads to a better quality of life in Washington County.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Again, we look forward to working with you to preserve the beautiful countryside, farmland, and special natural areas that make Washington County a great place to live.

Sincerely,



Bob Retko  
Land Conservation Partnership of Washington County, Chair

*Saving Spaces... Protecting Places*

**COMMENTS ON COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN  
PUBLIC HEARING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2004**

My name is Gary Koppelberger. I am the City Administrator for the City of Hartford, and I am representing the City at this public hearing. I want to apologize in advance for the unbalanced nature of my comments this evening. The City of Hartford is in general agreement with the draft Parks and Open Space Plan; however, because my time allocation is limited, I will direct my comments to those aspects of the Plan with which the City disagrees. I provided five pages of comments to the Committee on October 23, 2003, which I understand have been included in the documents circulated in this matter. Nevertheless, it does not appear that the final draft document has been changed with respect to our key areas of concern:

**A.** The City of Hartford is concerned about any threatened financial competition for its recreational resources. Like most cities, Hartford has an enormous investment in organized recreational facilities and activities. In many cases the fees charged to participants using these facilities offset the property tax levies used to support them. Introducing similar facilities at the County level in areas which are already adequately served imposes additional taxes on our citizens without additional services. The City has no objection to the development of "play fields" and similar areas for informal recreational activities within our service area, but the City will object to the development of sporting fields or other facilities which are already provided to western Washington County by its municipalities. These are revenue producing government-owned facilities, which do not benefit by competition. Merely because sporting organizations may wish the County to construct such facilities is not sufficient reason to interfere with these established revenue streams.

I note with curiosity that the plan for Heritage Trails Park includes a swimming beach. This swimming facility would be in close proximity to the swimming lake newly constructed by the Village of Slinger, the beach at Pike Lake State Park, the Hartford Millpond, our Veterans' Pool facility, and Hartford's Signicast Family Aquatics Center. Each of these facilities, to some degree or another, is supported by fees used to offset local property taxes. Placing another facility in this location, whether on a fee basis or not, imposes competition which will affect our revenue stream. The City anticipates a \$2 million reconstruction of our Veterans Pool facility within the next 7-8 years. Much of this cost will be supported by property tax dollars. The City does not wish to see its citizens further taxed for new swimming facilities in County Parks from which we derive no benefit, and which act to undermine our existing recreational efforts.

**B.** A second concern to the City of Hartford are recreational and open space plans by Washington County involving developable lands within our growth area. We appreciate that the draft document excludes municipal service areas from proposed agricultural land protection plans. However, the draft document does recommend acquisition of agricultural lands (including the Purchase of Development Rights) adjacent to all 12 major park sites. Two of these major park sites are in the City of Hartford's sewer service area. Portions of the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest are already within the corporate limits of the City of Hartford (which should be corrected in the text of the draft report, where this park is described as lying within

**COMMENTS ON COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN  
PUBLIC HEARING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2004**

the Town of Hartford), and the City anticipates eventually annexing the whole of the Pike Lake Unit. The City has advised the DNR that it will cooperate in the fulfilling of the DNR master plan for the area, as well as any successor plans, provided they do not absorb inordinately large parcels of developable land. The 20 year growth area for the City of Hartford includes areas south of the Pike Lake Unit, north of the Pike Lake Unit, and into some portions of Dodge County. The City of Hartford will oppose any attempt to arbitrarily limit or frustrate the completion of the City's compact urban model under the pretext of providing additional park lands, agricultural acreage, or open space within these areas, where such additions are clearly of secondary concern and act only to disguise the true anti-development sentiments which occasion them. A County Parks and Open Space Plan must not be a tool for undermining the orderly growth and development of urban areas in the County.

C. The City of Hartford anticipates annexing the whole of the Washington County Golf Course/ Marx Nature Preserve/ Family Park site, probably within the next six years. This entire area is already contiguous to the City, as well as being within our existing sanitary sewer service area, and the City Council has authorized petitioning SEWRPC for a further expansion of sewer service areas in this region. The City Council has indicated its future intention of placing major utility infrastructures along Highway 83 north to Clover Road and beyond, and the City expects to eventually construct a water tower in this area. These infrastructures are expensive. Many are typically funded by assessments upon those benefited. When developable land along these infrastructure corridors is barred from development, this action imposes a financial barrier to the orderly growth and development of the City.

The draft plan recommends the addition of 200 acres for this site, which would be an increase in acreage of a whopping 62%. This recommendation is all the more puzzling given the results of the Public Opinion Survey preceding this document. Only 39% of those responding indicated at that time that they wished to see improved or expanded facilities at existing County Parks. However, the City has no objection to the acquisition of additional acreage at this site, provided none of this acreage is developable, and all acquired lands are annexed to the City. In addition the City objects to the proposed acquisition by the County of any lands adjacent to this site located south of Hilldale Road, where the City's ongoing Rubicon River Parkway project is expected to continue. Hilldale Road creates a reasonable division between County and City parklands, and avoids a patchwork of jurisdictions in this area. The draft document recommends the addition of formal picnic areas, playgrounds, support facilities, and play fields at this site. This certainly cannot be accomplished on the meager 15 acres which the County now refers to as a Family Park. Recent conversations with the County Planning Department leave the clear impression that the County intends to acquire additional unspecified but developable lands in this area, which is antithetical to the interests of the City of Hartford. You do not build parks around golf courses located within municipal service areas. You build condominiums around them, thereby increasing tax base and providing an immediate clientele. If the County had been truly interested in preserving prime agricultural lands in this area, it



**COMMENTS ON COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN  
PUBLIC HEARING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2004**

would not have opted to construct this golf course. You will recall it was originally a farmstead. Using farm land converted to a golf course as an excuse to purchase development rights to adjacent farm land is illogical at best. To use the size of the golf course site as a pretext for the acquisition of additional developable land to augment what is, in reality, a 15 acre Family Park, is the tail wagging the dog.

D. In general the City of Hartford stands in opposition to any portions of the draft document which threaten the City's compact urban growth model. This model includes five relevant tenets:

1. the exercise of extraterritorial jurisdiction to preserve growth space,
2. development of intermunicipal agreements to define areas for intermunicipal cooperation not within the urban model,
3. a ban on development of property within our corporate limits without benefit of sanitary sewer,
4. establishment of a broad and flexible sanitary sewer service area; and,
5. a ban on the development of suburban subdivisions with on-site sanitary systems except in areas already established for that use (in keeping with SEWRPC's published 2020 Land Use Plan.)

The City favors urban development consistent with the Rock River Coalition's recently published *Rural Development Guidelines and Policies*, which strongly associates the preservation of open and agricultural spaces with the development of compact urban models. Urban models nevertheless require growing space. For the City of Hartford that space is defined by our three mile extraterritorial limit. Therefore, the City jealously guards against attempts to interfere with the completion of this model by operation of other governmental units.

February 3, 2004

**Washington County Planning, Conservation & Parks Committee and the  
Planning and Parks Department**

On behalf of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, I compliment you all for your efforts in preparing the Park and Open Space Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the creation and implementation of the plan.

The County and the Land Trust, along with other organizations such as the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation and Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, share many common goals and we believe by partnering, we can have a greater impact on the preservation of Washington County's natural areas and agricultural heritage.

Our members were pleased to see that protection of geological areas and prime agricultural land is included in the most recent draft.

We do believe, however, that a stronger position should be taken in the recommendation for a pilot purchase of development rights program listed in Chapter VI, page 12. The current language suggests "considering" a pilot program if the "opportunity should arise." Based on the strong support for farmland preservation at all the past public hearings, we urge that more direct language be used to include farmland protection programs, zoning, purchase of development rights and scenic easements.

There are economic, cultural and aesthetic benefits for including farmland in your open space plan.

1. The March 2002 Ozaukee Washington Land Trust report *The Profile of Washington County Agriculture* found that the Ag/Food industry in Washington County contributes about \$145 million dollars to the county economy. The Washington County Economic Summit included the agriculture business cluster in their report.
2. The land remains on the tax rolls.
3. The cost of community services is far lower for farmland than residential developments.
4. No maintenance costs are borne by the county.
5. Real estate values increase in areas near protected natural areas and open spaces.
6. The land remains open for water recharge and wildlife corridors.
7. The land provides scenic value to the people who live in the county.
8. Businesses cite the protected natural areas and farmland in our county as some of the attractions to recruit and retain new employees.

It is our understanding that farmland preservation will be addressed in greater detail in the Washington County Comprehensive Plan. The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust again is eager to offer assistance in the development of that plan.

We are confident that the final Park and Open Space Plan will be a useful tool for protecting what makes Washington County a great place to live, work and play.

Together, we can preserve our sense of place and maintain livable communities.

Sincerely,

Kine Icks Torinus,  
President, Ozaukee Washington Land Trust

**RECEIVED**

FEB 02 2004

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
PLANNING AND PARKS DEPT.

***THE NORTH WESTERN CORRIDOR***

**A multiple-use transportation plan for the  
Milwaukee – Fond du Lac railroad corridor.**

**David A. Schwengel**

**West Bend, WI**

**Summary and Overview**

**FIRST DRAFT**

**January 29, 2004**



**David A. Schwengel**  
Railroad Safety Specialist  
174 Minz Park Circle #3  
West Bend, WI 53095-5275  
Phone: (262) 334-3862  
E-Mail: [rrdave@onwisconsin.com](mailto:rrdave@onwisconsin.com)

**Date:** January 29, 2004  
**To:** All Concerned  
**Subject:** ***NORTH WESTERN CORRIDOR***  
My "North Western Corridor" Rail-With-Trails plan

### **Overview**

The North Western Corridor Rail-with-Trails plan would provide a combination passenger rail and recreation trail corridor between Milwaukee and Fond du Lac. The project would begin in the area of 124<sup>th</sup> Street and County Line Road on Milwaukee's far northwest side and continue to the south side of Fond du Lac.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has selected the West Bend rail line as the route for future Chicago-Milwaukee-Fox Valley-Green Bay Amtrak service.

The multiple-use corridor would be on or near active or abandoned railroad rights-of-way now owned by the Canadian National Railway or the Department of Natural Resources. The 46.5-mile corridor would stretch from Milepost 99.5 on the Canadian National West Bend Subdivision to Milepost 146.0, near Morris Street in Fond du Lac.

The project would be modeled after several dozen other Rail-with-Trail projects now in place throughout the United States. The North Western Corridor would provide multiple recreational opportunities by providing two recreational pathways on the 100-foot wide right-of-way, one on each side of the track.

In urban areas, trail use would likely be limited to passive activities such as hiking and bicycling. In rural areas, one trail would be limited to passive activities while the other pathway would be opened to snowmobiling and other active sports, each in their season. The trails would be separated by the railroad track, as well as some vegetative barriers and safety fences where appropriate.

### **Rail and trail uses are compatible and mutually beneficial:**

Safe parking areas for trail users at rural crossings may be arranged through safety improvements necessitated by the rail service. For example, "vision corners" or sight triangles would be cleared in the quadrants of highway crossings where land is available. These areas could be used to allow trail users to park clear of the highway.

Having a substantial portion of the railroad right-of-way in trail use would make it easier to keep brushy vegetation under control near highway crossings. This has been a continual problem in many areas due to deep ditchlines and other topographical features.

The proposed snowmobile trail would be located on the west side of the Corridor and designed to allow the trail to catch drifting snow from prevailing winter winds, thus keeping it off the tracks.

The presence of the snowmobile trail, wider than the bike path, would benefit rail operations by allowing off-rail access for major maintenance projects, which would occur every few years. This path would also allow firefighters easy access to suppress grass fires and would be invaluable in the event of a derailment or other emergency in an area away from a public crossing.

The Corridor would require little in the way of major re-engineering south of West Bend. Some work is needed to ease some curvature between West Bend and Kewaskum. The Corridor would be raised out of a "sag" through downtown West Bend to allow the Water Street and STH 33 Washington Street crossings to be grade separated.

Between Kewaskum and Eden, the removal of the track provides the opportunity to redesign and reconstruct the section of the Corridor with the greatest engineering deficiencies (poor drainage, narrow cuts, sharp curvatures and/or steep grades.) This would involve substantial grading, which would allow the snowmobile path to be built as a state-of-the-art facility. Some existing grade crossings would be replaced with bridges.

Many existing railroad bridge structures are inadequate for modern rail service. These would be replaced with new structures. Some existing bridge components are adequate for trail uses and could be reused to carry the trails over waterways.

The track bed, centered on the right-of-way, would be restored and reconstructed to carry the 79 mph Chicago-Milwaukee-Fox Valley-Green Bay intercity passenger service under the Midwest Regional Rail System. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has selected the route through West Bend to carry these trains.

### **Environmental Enhancements**

Construction of the rail-with-trails project would provide incentive and funding for environmental enhancements along the way. The project would work well with, and may enhance, the efforts of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) to purchase easements and title to large areas of undeveloped land in Germantown to reduce flooding on the Menomonee River. The rail/trail route passes through large areas of Menomonee River headwater wetlands.

Also in Germantown, two parallel railroad tracks, on separate rights-of-way, could be consolidated onto one right-of-way. This would improve rail operations and make available some 27 acres for the trail and a nature area. Some wetland restorations may be feasible in partnership with MMSD flood control efforts. The state already owns one right-of-way.

In West Bend, the trail would cross the West Bend Co. millpond on a separate causeway, with the railroad grade used for rail service only. The rail embankment would be modified to raise a "sag" and ease two sharp curves.

The river channel would flow through a smaller millpond, improving water quality by reducing warming of water in the summer. The area between the trail causeway and the rail line would become a water treatment marsh, with stormwater runoff routed into the marsh to clean up pollutants before being allowed to enter the river channel. At the north end of the millpond, a branch trail to the Lac Lawrann Conservancy area would be routed beneath a slightly elevated rail grade.

Further north, additional wetland areas could be restored and enhanced. The project would result in small losses of fragment wetlands in the railroad ditchline. These areas would be replaced several times over by purchase or easement of larger trackside parcels. On these parcels, larger and more useful wetlands can be created or restored, resulting in a large net gain of quality wetlands along the line north of Kewaskum.

### **Other Benefits**

**Grade crossing safety:** Any at-grade public highway crossings would be equipped with state-of-the-art gates and flashing lights. These signals would have 12-inch LED lights and constant-warning-time circuitry.

**Grade crossing separations:** Where traffic, topography and other conditions make grade-separations advisable, rail traffic would be routed over or under the highway. Some likely locations include Pleasant Valley Road in the Town of Jackson; Decorah Road, Water Street and STH 33 Washington Street in West Bend; and CTH "V" north of Campbellsport.

**Quiet Zones (no train horns):** The Federal Railroad Administration has issued proposed rules for the installation of signals and median barriers to allow the cessation of train whistles at particular crossings. Some crossings on the line could be easily adapted to these requirements.

### **Trail Extensions**

Along the way, the trails would intersect other public pathways, such as the West Bend Riverwalk and the Ice Age Trail. Other branch trails are possible.

The North Western Corridor could be extended south into Milwaukee County to connect with that County's trail system. Another extension would be to the east along County Line Road to the Mequon Nature Preserve and the Interurban Trail. North of Fond du Lac, a track consolidation project (as proposed in Germantown) could allow the trails to be extended to the south side of Oshkosh.

---



The Kruegers  
<turtle@nconnect.net>

02/04/04 10:39 PM

To: <landeb@co.washington.wi.us>  
CC:  
Subject: A Comment on the Park and Open Space Plan

Deborah,

I took a few hours and read over the Plan at the library. Too much to read and digest at one sitting. Overall it looks good. I'm happy our county is doing such a thorough job. I'm especially happy that so many of our special areas are going to be preserved. Keep it up.

When we talked briefly last night I mentioned the need for an invasive control component in the Plan. In this note I want to "officially" make that point.

Preserving ecologically significant areas and putting them into "greenspace inventory" is only part of the picture. In 1900 this may have worked. Invasives were not present. And at that time just about every woods and field had a farm family looking over them. The lands were loved and cared for. We, to a some extent, mirrored the central European model where all lands are cared for by responsible parties.

THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

When a municipality preserves lands with a plan lacking a husbandry component (the farm family to care for the land), the plan cannot be considered complete.

To an extent never seen before in our country, invasive plants are eroding our native plant inventory. When evaluating the botanical aspects of an area, "Green is not Green". The untrained eye does not see the degradation of the biological diversity. It's happening (BIG TIME) here in Washington County and needs to be addressed.

I work for the DNR, BCLPRD, LCLPRD, CLCF, and advise several communities through Urban Forestry Grants. In my travels I visit and evaluate many former high-quality natural areas. To illustrate my point a few noticeable local problem areas from the County Plan are listed below. Twentyfive years ago these were all pretty much pristine natural areas with "pre-settlement" plant diversity. Today they are not.

The Little Cedar lake western wetlands, the Gilbert Lake wetlands and the Paradise (Little Silver) Lake wetlands. In 1975 these were all healthy and, species-diversity-wise, pretty much "OK". Today, when one walks these areas one sees that the buckthorn, honeysuckle and purple loosestrife are a major (and exploding) component of the plant inventory.

I'm getting wordy. Please note my message. The following example may make my point "clearer" to some of the decision makers.....

A family that loves dogs cannot keep adopting new puppies. At some point they will no longer be able to do a good job of caring for the puppies. A plan needs to be in place for that time. Additional help may be needed. Otherwise the family's good intentions will end up hurting the pets rather than helping them.

Thank you.

Lee Krueger  
West Bend  
338-0539



"Britton, Gary"  
<gbritton@uwc.edu>  
02/05/04 12:04 PM

To: <Deb.Sielski@co.washington.wi.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Park and Open Space Plan

2-5-04

TO: Deborah Sielski

FROM: Gary Britton

I want to complement you and the Washington County Planning and Parks Department on the Park and Open Space Plan that you presented at the public hearing Tuesday PM. The foresight shown for the park and open space needs of Washington County residents for several years is excellent. You are to be commended for not only the final product, but also for the process you used in getting there!

At the end of the hearing there were a few speakers who criticized the way that this plan was developed and stated that the public had not been well informed during the months leading up to the final draft. I beg to differ with them, but had not filled out one of the speaker forms so didn't say anything during the hearing. If you are still taking public opinion, please accept this note as an indication of my support for your efforts toward informing the public of the Department's activities in preparing the plan. Through articles in the newspaper, information presented at the series of meetings throughout the county over a year ago, and the material available at the library and your web site, I felt very well informed. Thanks for making it possible.

Best wishes as you proceed with adoption and implementation of the plan.

Gary Britton

4458 Summit Ridge

Slinger, WI 53086

gbritton@uwc.edu

Attn: Deb Sielski  
Planning & Parks  
333 E Washington St., #2300  
West Bend, WI 53095

Feb. 2, 2004

Dear Deb and Committee,

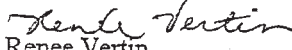
I am unable to attend the Feb. 3 hearing for the Washington County Park and Open Space Plan, therefore am enclosing copies of my original communications and am asking you to make them a part of the public record. My position remains as stated: I would support the use of motorized vehicles and horses on a separate section of the corridor only if it doesn't detract from the aesthetics, safety and functionality of the trail's usefulness for human-powered activities.

I'm also sending copies of two documents found on the Internet. One, Promoting Physical Activity Through Trails, is published by the Centers for Disease Control and has health statistics and trail usage ideas highlighted.

The other document, Lighten Up. Iowa, has information about an acclaimed initiative to get its residents active on trails.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Renee Vertin  
257 Lincoln Dr N  
West Bend WI 53095

Enclosures- 3



"Renee Vertin"

<renee\_vertin@hotmail.com> To: landeb@co.washington.wi.us  
cc:  
Subject: Input to Park & Open Space Plan  
09/24/03 09:00 PM

Hi, Deb.

I didn't make the meeting, and thought I had too much to submit on a comment card, so I chose to send you my impressions via e-mail.

Thanks for giving the opportunity to present written feedback. I reviewed the draft chapters and maps of the Park & Open Space Plan. It appears that it presents the creme de al creme option if full finding could be acquired. In light of the budgetary constraints, likely imposed because of the large state deficit, I'd like to see priority given to several developements mentioned in the plan for recreation.

1) Proposed county parks A, B, C, D & E. A, B & C give county residents in remote areas access to parks in their vicinity, which is only equitable. It may be an incentive for more outdoor physical activity, especially for lower income families and individuals who do not join activities at health clubs or recreation centers.

D & E should be given priority to avoid a lost opportunity; perhaps the general public would never again get a chance to enjoy access to these lakes if not developed now.

2) I wholeheartedly encourage an areawide trail. Again, not to capture this part of the plan will result in a lost opportunity. (I've been a user of the Ozaukee County trail and can enthusiastically endorse its well maintained trail, which includes long stretches of paved trails with a limited number of intersection crossings. I've also lived in the Chicago area and can attest that physical activity is not as enjoyable when one has to contend with recreation trails that have not been developed from well-designed plans.)

As a fairly new resident of Washington County, I see the proposed trail as a great opportunity to provide for a badly needed resource: a trail of considerable length (and hopefully paved in part) to accomodate residents who like to bike, in-line skate, ski, walk or run for distance in a safe manner. For example, to in-line skate for one hour (the recommended amount of physical activity most days for optimal health) I need to make 5 laps around the Sandy Knoll Park; it is the only park nearby that I feel accomodates safe skating (low traffic, gently sloping declines, quality surface).

A trail which would provide paved, fairly level segments may also appeal to seniors, which make up an ever expanding segment of the population as the Boomers reach their golden years. Making the trails a priority for implementation would likely save thousands of dollars- consider the value of physical activity in terms of preventing or delaying the onset of chronic disease.

Finally, I'd like to note that in Jan. 2003, I attended a program in West Allis, WI, entitled Moving to Healthier Lifestyles: How to Implement



Community-Wide Physical Activity Initiatives. One of the presenters was an Organizer of Wisconsin Walks- Kit Keller, JD, who resides in Cedarburg. Ms. Keller has been instrumental in making communities more friendly to physical activity; she has worked with community planners, planning commissions, public health departments and other organizations to get more fitness locales (accessible to all segments of the population, including those who are physically challenged) into communities.

The other presenter of the program I attended was an exercise physiologist; Kathleen Madden, B.S., ACSM (American College of Sports Medicine- Certified), provided information on the best practices in physical activity initiatives and how to involve community partners.

With the epidemic of obesity among the youth and adults in this country and our sedentary lifestyles, being proactive and reactive is key to improving health. Professionals such as those I've mentioned could prove to be a useful part in making the Park & Open Space Plan truly useful to the residents of Washington County. (By the way, copies of the handouts given by these speakers are available from me upon request.)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I'm a citizen, educator and health care professional who is concerned about the allocation of space for physical activity, and the future health of county residents.

Sincerely,

Renee Vertin, R.D.  
257 Lincoln Dr. N.  
West Bend, WI 53095

Hi, Deb.

This is an addendum to a previously sent e-mail. - 9/24/03

The National Institutes of Health issued a press release on 7/3/03 stating that Reducing Nationwide Obesity Starts in Neighborhoods. The Hearts 'n Parks Program brought science and skills to 50 communities. The coordinator of the National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute Obesity Education Initiative stated, "Combining proven health interventions and skills training with local recreational facilities seemed like a natural. Now we have the information to show that it really works."

For more on this program, go to these websites:

[www.nhlbi.nih.gov](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov)

or

[www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/heart/obesity/hrt\\_n\\_pk/index.htm](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/heart/obesity/hrt_n_pk/index.htm)

or call 1-800-649-3042.

Thank you.

Renee Vertin,  
West Bend resident

[landeb@co.washington.wi.us](mailto:landeb@co.washington.wi.us) Deb Sielski @ Planning & Parks on 1/12/04 > RAILS TO TRAIL.  
bcc to Dan Wilson and Ruth Moegenburg

To Deb and Other Key Decision Makers:

I have been to several meetings on this issue, including the last one on 1/8/2004, so my verbal and written remarks are on record. As a professional educator concerned about fitness and health, I want to add to previous comments before the close of the comment period.

When considering the design of the trail and the grants to secure, again I ask that you give priority to the sports that involve ambulation. Diet/inactivity rank number 2 (tobacco abuse being first) as the leading preventable causes of death in the U.S. With the current trends of obesity and overweight in this country (and I surmise in this county), improving the means to allow people to increase their physical activity would help to counter this trend.

Here are some interesting excerpts from e-mail that I received from a listserv of a professional nutrition organization.

1) U.S. teens are more likely to be overweight than are teens from 14 other industrialized nations, according to survey information collected in 1997 and 1998 by two agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services as well as institutions in 13 European countries and in Israel. The study appears in the January issue of "The Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine".

HHS authors of the study were Mary Overpeck, Dr.P.H., of the Health Resources and Services Administration and Mary Hediger, Ph.D., of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, one of the National Institutes of Health.

**"Overweight adolescents have an increased likelihood of being overweight during adulthood, and adult overweight increases the risk for such health problems as heart disease and diabetes,"** said Duane Alexander, M.D., Director of the NICHD.

2) Fitness Lowers Overweight Diabetics' Death Risk  
Tue January 6, 2004 02:00 PM ET

By Amy Norton

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Being fit can lower a diabetic man's risk of dying, even if he is significantly overweight, new research suggests.

Investigators found that diabetic men who were physically fit were less likely than their less-fit peers to die of any cause over about 15 years. What's more, men who were heavy yet fit had death risks similar to those of fit normal-weight men.

"This is a testament to the power of being physically active," said lead study author Dr. Timothy S. Church, medical director of the Cooper Institute in Dallas. **"Essentially, fitness totally negated the effects of being overweight,"** he told Reuters Health.

### 3) NHLBI STUDY TESTS NOVEL WAYS TO HELP AMERICANS KEEP WEIGHT OFF

>

> The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) today  
> announced the launch of a major study that could help solve  
> one of the hardest aspects of weight loss-keeping off lost  
> pounds. The study, called the "Weight Loss Maintenance  
> Trial," will be done in two phases at four clinical sites.

>

> The study will include 1,600 men and women in its first  
> phase, and 800 in its second. Phase I is a 5-month weight  
> loss program; phase II will try to help those who lose 9 or  
> more pounds in phase I keep the weight off for 2½ years.

>

> The study has begun seeking participants, who must be  
> overweight or obese, age 25 or older, and taking medication  
> to control high blood pressure and/or high blood  
> cholesterol. About 60 percent will be women and 40 percent  
> will be African American.

>

> "Maintaining weight loss is a critical element in the  
> struggle against overweight and obesity, which have reached  
> epidemic proportions in the United States," said NHLBI  
> Director Dr. Claude Lenfant. **"Two of every three adults are  
> overweight or obese.** This study could yield answers that  
> can help many Americans lead healthier lives."

>

> "Americans have shown that they can lose weight in the  
> short-term," said Dr. Laura Svetkey, Director of the Duke  
> Hypertension Center and of Clinical Research at the Sarah  
> Stedman Nutrition and Metabolism Center at Duke University  
> in Durham, NC, and lead investigator in the study. "Yet,  
> only a small proportion of them achieve long-term weight  
> control. **To successfully fight the obesity epidemic,  
> clinicians and other health care providers must have  
> options that are effective and feasible for a broad range  
> of people.**

>

> "The best weight-loss strategy will not only lead to long-  
> term weight control, but also achieve it by **establishing a  
> healthy dietary pattern and physical activity routine that  
> lasts a lifetime,**" she added. (my emphases in bold)

Also, I've learned recently that there are a high number of commuters in Washington County. They

have less time for physical activity than residents who don't commute, and may be more likely to engage in it if it's convenient, user-friendly, and developed in a way to minimize noise.

Please also take into deliberation the needs of limited income residents (when deciding on whether or not to implement a fee system). Try to also make accommodations for the disabled, the elderly, the very young, and in-line skaters (many of whom need paved and more gently-sloping sections on the trail).

Making the trail multi-use (walk, run, bike, cross-country ski, in-line skate) would serve to get the greatest number of people on the trail and active. I would support the use of motorized vehicles and horses on a separate section of the corridor only if it doesn't detract from the aesthetics and functionality of the trail used for human-powered activities.

I'd also like to address one comment made on 1/8/04 by a resident and the possibility of disruptive youth becoming a problem on the trail. The "Ambassadors" sounds like a good program. Another option might be to consider posting a phone number at several spots along the trail so that trail users could report incidents. Addressing any incidents in a swift, forthright manner may help to prevent problems from recurring.

Another idea for construction: it would be a welcoming gesture to the Hispanics in the county to include Spanish language on the trail signs.

Please refer to my last e-mail re: the use of a consultant (e.g., Kit Keller) and plan.

In closing, I was cheered to hear that the City of West Bend has set 2005 as a goal to get immediate parts of the trail in West Bend up and running. I am very much looking forward to the rest of the trail being constructed.

Thank you for allowing me to submit other comments.

A concerned citizen and health professional,

Renee M. Vertin

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West Bend, WI 53095

## Appendix F

### PRELIMINARY DRAFT WASHINGTON PARKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Year	Park	Ackerman's Grove County Park	Cedar Lake Wayside	Family County Park	Glacier Hills County Park	Goeden County Park	Henschke Hillside Lake Access	Heritage Trails County Park	Homestead Hollow County Park	Lizard Mound County Park	Marx Woods Nature Preserve	Ridge Run County Park	Sandy Knoll County Park	Leonard J. Yahr County Park
		Town of Polk and Town of West Bend	Town of West Bend	Town of Hartford	Town of Richfield	Town of Trenton	Town of West Bend	Town of Polk	Village of Germantown	Town of Farmington	Town of Hartford	Town and City of West Bend	Town of Trenton	Town of Farmington
2004	Large group shelter sidewalk and lot paving at overflow lot \$125,000	--	Finish Buth arboretum and trail to ADA specifications \$85,000	--	--	--	--	--	Pave trail loop to ADA specifications \$55,000	--	--	--	Replace play apparatus and ADA access \$60,000	Flush toilet restroom and septic \$175,000
2005	Medium group shelter and lot expansion near boat trailer parking \$60,000	--	--	Lighted sled hill \$50,000	--	--	--	--	--	Research design and construct historic site interpretive center and signs \$150,000	--	Replace play apparatus and ADA access \$50,000	Pave sidewalk and trail segment to ADA specifications \$90,000	--
	Open picnic shelter and fixtures near entrance \$50,000			Nature Center Part A \$50,000										
	Extend road and electric to and construct sled hill \$90,000			Nature Center Part B \$260,000										
2006	Extend road and electric to and construct sled hill \$90,000	--	--	Nature Center Part B \$260,000	--	--	--	--	--	Medium school group shelter and fixtures \$50,000	--	Finish arboretum plantings and trail work \$50,000	Replace play apparatus and ADA access \$50,000	--
2007	--	--	--	Nature Center Part C \$180,000	--	--	--	Beach development, barn conversion, road and parking \$250,000	--	--	--	--	--	Conversion of home to pavilion \$70,000
2008	--	--	--	Improve road and trail access to lakeshore \$255,000	--	--	--	Flush toilet restroom and septic system \$190,000	--	--	--	--	--	Pave pavilion road and parking \$55,000
2009	--	--	--	Flush toilet restroom and septic system \$190,000	--	--	--	Play apparatus \$60,000	Replace play apparatus and ADA access \$70,000	--	--	Close back entrance and re-route entrance road \$130,000	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Picnic area and fixtures \$50,000	--	--	--	--	--	--

NOTE: Park facility costs may not correspond to costs in Table 27 due to installation cost adjustments. This table is a preliminary draft. The Capital Improvement Plan is reviewed and approved on a yearly basis by the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

Source: Washington County Planning and Parks Department.