

WAUKESHA COUNTY PARK & OPEN SPACE PLAN



Waukesha County Park System

*Amendment to
Waukesha County Comprehensive Plan
Adopted on February 24, 2009*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MUNICIPAL PARTNERS

Big Bend	Menomonee Falls
Brookfield	Mukwonago
Butler	Muskego
Chenequa	Nashotah
Delafield	North Prairie
Dousman	New Berlin
Eagle	Oconomowoc
Elm Grove	Ottawa
Genesee	Pewaukee
Hartland	Summit
Lac La Belle	Sussex
Lannon	Vernon
Lisbon	Wales
Merton	Waukesha

COUNTY STAKEHOLDERS

Ducks Unlimited
Fabulous Fox! Water Trail
Faye Gehl Conservation Foundation
Fox River Commission
Friends of Mukwonago River
Friends of Retzer Nature Center
Pheasants Forever -SE Wisconsin Chapter
Sierra Club - Great Waters Group
Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium
Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA - Rural Development
USDA - Farm Service Agency
University of Wisconsin- Madison Extension
Waukesha County Community Schools (individual school districts within the County)
Waukesha County Snowmobile Association
We Energies
Wisconsin Bike Fed
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Wisconsin Off Road Series (WORS)

LAKE GROUPS

Ashippun Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Big Muskego Lake
Eagle Spring Lake Management
Eagle Spring Lake
Fowler Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Golden Lake Association
Lac La Belle Protection & Rehabilitation District
Lake Keesus Protection & Rehabilitation District
Linnie Lac Management District
Little Muskego Lake Protection & Rehabilitation Dist
Lower Genesee Lake Management Dist
Middle Genesee Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Nagawicka Lake Welfare Committee
North Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Okauchee Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Ottawa Lake Association
Pewaukee Lake Sanitary District
Phantom Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District
Pretty Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
School Section Protection & Rehabilitation District
Silver Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Upper Nemahbin Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

LOCAL LAND TRUSTS

City of Oconomowoc Wastewater Treatment Plant
(Adaptive Management)
City of Oconomowoc Watershed Management
City of Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program
Ice Age Trail Alliance
Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District
Mid-Kettle Moraine Partners
Pewaukee River Partnership
Tall Pines Conservancy
The Prairie Enthusiasts
Waukesha County Land Conservancy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
WAUKESHA COUNTY	6
PARK & OPEN SPACE PLAN MAP	6
INTRODUCTION	7
Description of the Planning Region	8
PLANNING PROCESS	9
Planning Goals & Objectives	9
Park Classifications	10
Waukesha County Park and Open Space Planning Objectives	12
Previous Planning Efforts & Resources	16
Public Involvement	17
NATURAL LAND MANAGEMENT	18
Overview	19
Land Management Practices	20
Species of Local Conservation Interest (SLCI)	20
SEWRPC Regional Natural Areas Plan	21
High Priority Areas	21
Wetland Banking	24
Hunting	27
EXISTING FACILITIES	28
EXISTING PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY	29
Developed Parks	31
Undeveloped Parks	58
Regional Trails	72
Water Access	84
Greenways	100
Specialty Areas	126

Existing Park System Facilities

Developed Parks

Fox Brook
 Fox River
 Menomonee
 Minooka
 Mukwonago
 Muskego
 Naga-Waukee
 Nashotah
 Northview Central

Undeveloped Parks

Ashippun River
 Eble
 Fox Bend
 Monches
 Ryan
 Smith

Regional Trails

Bugline
 Fox River
 Lake Country
 New Berlin
 Waukesha Bypass

Water Access

FABULOUS FOX!
 Ashippun Lake
 Fox Bend River
 Nagawicka Lake
 Nemahbin Lake
 Pewaukee Lake
 School Section Lake

Greenways

Ashippun River
 Bark River
 Fox River
 Mill Creek
 Mukwonago River
 Oconomowoc River
 Pebble Brook
 Pebble Creek
 Pewaukee River
 Scuppernong
 Spring Brook

Specialty Areas

Retzer Nature Center
 Moor Downs Golf Course
 Naga-Waukee Golf Course
 Eble Ice Arena
 Naga-Waukee Ice Arena

PARK & OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT	140				
Standards	140				
Public Involvement with the POSP Updates	142				
Partner Providers	144				
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS	146				
Overview	146				
Recommended Park Development	146				
Bike & Pedestrian Plan	147				
Lake & River Access	149				
Natural Areas	149				
Land Acquisition by Others	152				
Active Recreation	152				
Summary	152				
OUTDOOR RECREATION & CONSERVATION FUNDING	153				
Waukesha County Local Funding	153				
Partnerships	153				
Recreation Grant Programs	153				
Transportation Trail Grants	154				
Land Management & Wildlife Grants	155				
Agricultural Land Conservation Grants	156				
Forestry Grants	157				
Water Grant Programs	157				
Private Grants	158				
PLAN MONITORING & UPDATES	159				
Amendments	159				
Countywide, Regional, or State Plan Refinements	159				
Comprehensive Amendment	159				
APPROVED ORDINANCE	160				
MAPS					
Park & Open Space Plan	6	Undeveloped Parks Overview	59	Greenways Overview	101
Natural Area & Critical Species by SEWRPC	22	Ashippun River Park	61	Ashippun River Greenway	103
Wetland Banking & Hunting	26	Eble Park	63	Bark River Greenway	105
Parks Facilities Overview	30	Fox Bend Park	65	Fox River Greenway	107
Developed Parks	31	Monches Park	67	Mill Creek Greenway	109
Developed Parks Overview	32	Ryan Park	69	Mukwonago River Greenway	111
Fox Brook Park Amenities	34	Smith Park	71	Oconomowoc River Greenway	113
Fox Brook Park	35	Regional Trails Overview	73	Pebble Brook Greenway	115
Fox River Park Amenities	37	Bugline Trail	75	Pebble Creek Greenway	117
Fox River Park	38	Fox River Trail	77	Pewaukee River Greenway	119
Menomonee Park Amenities	40	Lake Country Trail	79	Poplar Creek Greenway	121
Menomonee Park	41	New Berlin Trail	81	Scuppernong Greenway	123
Minooka Park Amenities	43	Waukesha Bypass Trail	83	Spring Brook Greenway	125
Minooka Park	44	Lake & River Access Overview	85	Specialty Areas Overview	127
Mukwonago Park Amenities	46	Ashippun Lake Access	87	Retzer Nature Center	129
Mukwonago Park	47	Nagawicka Lake Access	89	Exposition Center	131
Muskego Park Amenities	49	Nemahbin Lake Access	91	Moor Downs Golf Course	133
Muskego Park	50	Pewaukee Lake Access	93	Naga-Waukee Golf Course	135
Naga-Waukee Park Amenities	52	School Section Lake Access	95	Eble Ice Arena	137
Naga-Waukee Park	53	Waukesha County Water Trails	96	Naga-Waukee Ice Arena	139
Nashotah Park Amenities	55	Fabulous Fox! National Water Trail: Waukesha County	97	Service Areas	143
Nashotah Park	56	Fox Bend River Access	99	Bike Facilities	148
Northview Cemetery Park	57			Park & Open Space Plan	150

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Waukesha County updates its comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan to provide a long-term approach to enhancing quality of life through outdoor recreation and open space preservation. As an integral component of the Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County, the Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan serves as a guide for land use decisions pertaining to County-owned parks and open space lands. This Plan is an update to the 2018 Park and Open Space Plan for the five-year period from 2023 to 2027.

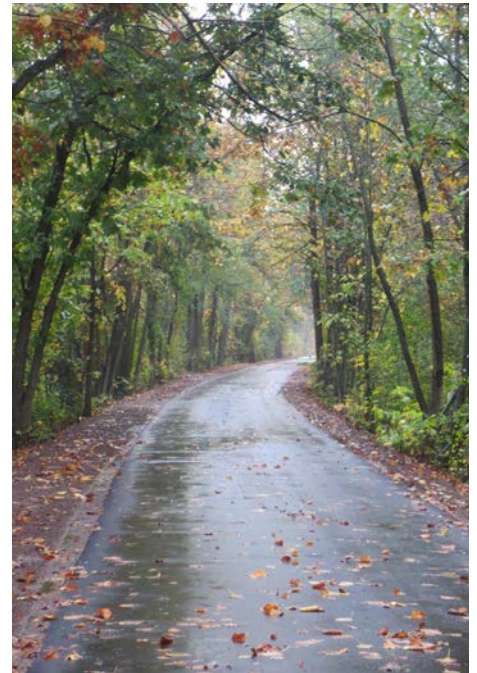
The Purpose

The Waukesha County Park & Open Space Plan **guides the development, acquisition, preservation, and management of park, recreation, and open space lands in the County.** The County Park and Open Space Plan is designed to meet State planning requirements for outdoor recreation funding programs, thereby affording the County eligibility to apply for, and receive, available State and Federal funds to assist in the acquisition and development of recommended park and open space sites and facilities. The County Plan also serves to assist towns that adopt the County's Plan in qualifying for available Federal and State funding in support of the development of park and associated recreation facilities. Ultimately, the Park & Open Space Plan also helps to provide guidance for future planning to support the Department's mission to provide protection, enhancement, and enjoyment of the County's natural resources.

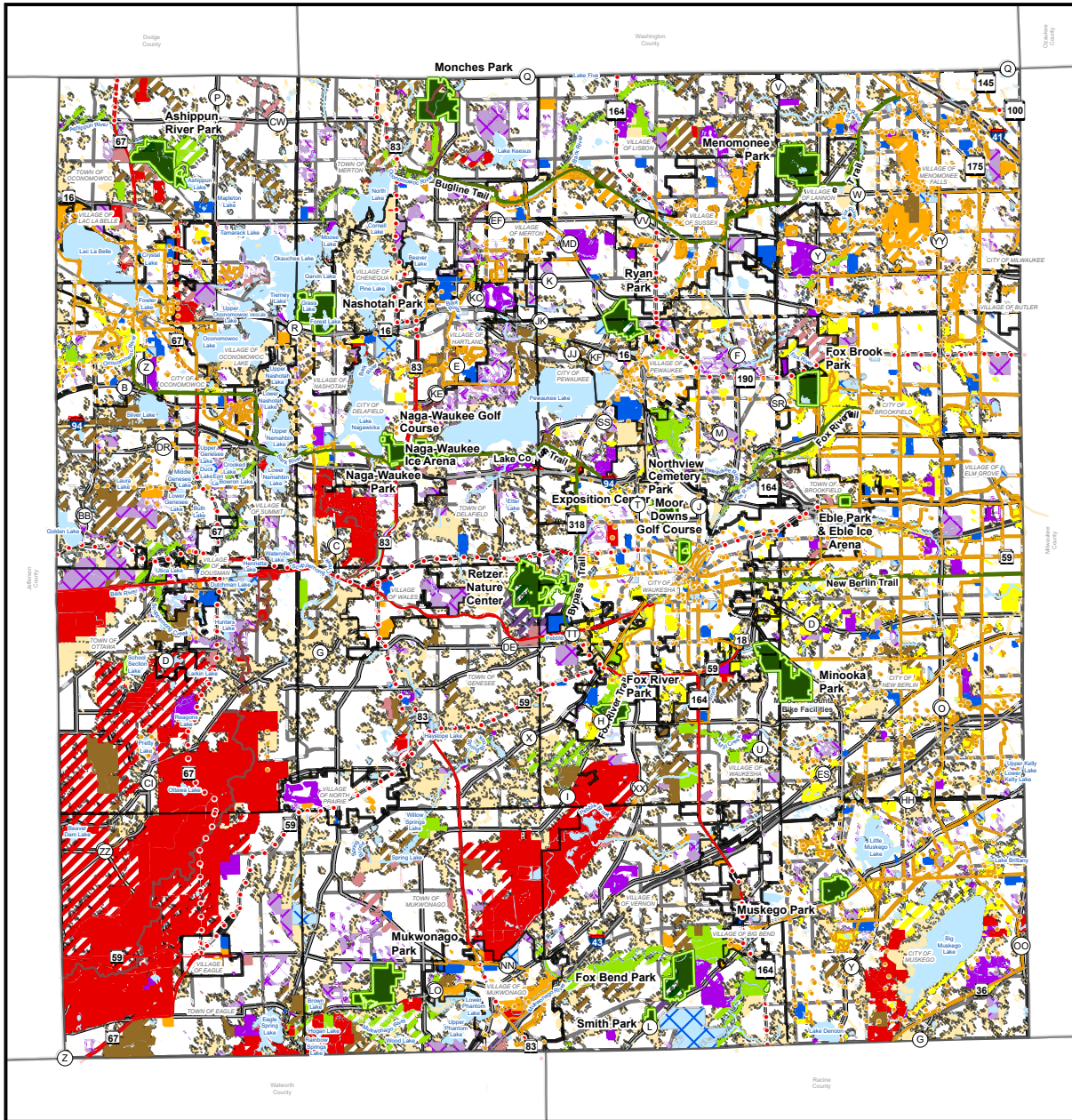
The Scope

The State of Wisconsin, Waukesha County, and local municipalities have the opportunity to coordinate to provide the residents of Waukesha County with a full range of outdoor recreation opportunities. Typically, sites and facilities for intensive non-nature-based recreational facilities are provided by city, village and town governments, and are not specifically addressed in the County's Plan. Further, it is not the intent of the Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan to serve as the plan for the individual units of government within the County, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), nor Nonprofit Conservation Organizations (NCOs). Recommendations for the provision of State and local park sites and facilities should be identified in the planning documents specific to those entities. Waukesha County requested the planning documents from these entities as part of the update, and those received have been incorporated in the County Plan.

Inventory data needed for the preparation of the Park and Open Space Plan is provided in Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County. Such data includes historic, existing, and projected resident population and household levels, the location and extent of environmental corridors, natural areas, flood lands, and other important natural resource-related elements, and the existing and planned land use patterns.



PARK & OPEN SPACE PLAN MAP



Waukesha County Park & Open Space Plan Map

<p>Current Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Parks County Greenway State City Village Town Non-Profits/Lake Dist or Assoc Public School Private School Private - Open to the Public Private - Not Open to the Public 	<p>Proposed Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Parks County Greenway State City Village Town Non-Profits/Lake Dist or Assoc Local or Non-Profit 	<p>County, Local, and State Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Regional Trails County Proposed Local Existing Local Proposed State Existing State Proposed Ice Age Trail Existing Ice Age Trail Proposed 	<p>Other Lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Boundary Ultimate Park Boundary Environmental Corridor (SEWRPC 2015) Open Space Lands to be Protected by Public Land Regulation <p style="font-size: small;">(Public Land Regulation refers to Primary and Secondary Environmental Corridors, Isolated Natural Resource Areas, Wetland and Floodplain zoning/land use regulations)</p>
--	---	---	---

Note: If designated entity declines ownership, designation should be transferred to another entity identified on this plan or default to Open Space Lands to be Protected by Public Land Regulation

Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use Land Resources Division - LIS
September 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Waukesha County Department of Parks & Land Use, working through a combination of collaboration, education and regulation is dedicated to fostering economic development, sound land use, and the protection, enhancement and enjoyment of the County's natural resources and health of its citizens.

The mission statement above helps guide the current and future planning of the County's facilities. In the following pages, the Park & Open Space Plan will detail our existing facilities, the planning process, and potential for future protection of resources, maintenance of existing facilities, and planning for future amenities. The Park & Open Space Plan is broken into various components:

The Planning Process

This summarizes the purpose of the Park & Open Space Plan. Overall objectives of Waukesha County's Park System are established. Previous Planning efforts and other planning resources that the County used in the development of the plan are detailed. Regular public feedback tools that the Department uses are discussed in general terms.

Natural Land Management

Provided here is an overview of the process used to manage the undeveloped portions of Waukesha County Park System. Land management principals and priority ecosystems are highlighted. Discussion on critical species within the Park System is also included. An overview of facilities that allow hunting within the County Park System is provided. A summary of potential sites for wetland banking is listed.

Existing Facilities

Information is provided herein on all Park System facilities. This includes the developed and undeveloped parks, regional trails, water access, greenways, open spaces, and specialty areas. Activities, amenities, critical species, overall site characteristics, land management,

and other items are included. Maps of each of the facilities are also included.

Park & Open Space Needs Assessment

Information on the standards used in determining overall Park System needs is provided here. Additional details on partner providers and the collaboration with the various facilities is also summarized. Finally, a public input summary related to the review of the Park and Open Space Plan is included.

Plan Implementation Recommendations

This section summarizes proposed projects, land management priorities, acquisition, and future opportunities to explore within the Park System.

Outdoor Recreation & Conservation Funding

This is a detailed overview of the various funding sources for park and open space projects.

Plan Monitoring & Updates

This section describes the planning processes associated with updates and implementation.



Description of the Planning Region

Waukesha County, located in southeastern Wisconsin, is the state's third-largest county. The 2010 U.S. Census states a population of 408,756 in 37 municipalities: 11 towns, 19 villages, and seven cities. The County encompasses 576 square miles of suburban and rural areas. Among its abundant recreation resources there are:

- 77 lakes
- 21,000 acres of public parks (state, county, and municipal)
- 129 miles of hiking and biking trails
- More than 70 miles of cross-country ski trails
- Nearly 200 miles of snowmobile trails
- 10 campgrounds
- 20 public golf courses



PLANNING PROCESS

Planning Goals & Objectives

As part of the original regional park and open space planning program developed in 1977 by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), the Regional Planning Commission Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee on Regional Park and Open Space Planning formulated a set of park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development goals.

These goals were the result of comparing standards developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association with the recreational preferences and demands of the region as determined by surveys of park and recreation professionals and citizens. The standards were modified as necessary to meet the park and open space demands of the region and the resulting goals were as follows:

1. To create guidelines for the acquisition, preservation, development, operation and maintenance of the Waukesha County Park System lands and facilities.
2. To incorporate, detail and modify regional park and open space objectives, principles and standards to reflect Waukesha County park and open space planning efforts.
3. To comply with State and Federal outdoor recreation grant eligibility planning requirements to make the County eligible to apply for and receive available State and Federal funds to assist in the acquisition and development of recommended park and open space sites and facilities.
4. To initiate the process to coordinate park and open space planning in Waukesha County with all stakeholders—local units of government, State of Wisconsin, non-profit conservation organizations (NCO's) and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)—in order to provide an integrated system of public general use outdoor recreation sites that will afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation and education activities.
5. To define roles and responsibilities of Waukesha County, local units of government, State of Wisconsin and NCO's in the plan implementation.
6. To establish consistent communication of the park and open space elements and resources to the citizens and development community of Waukesha County.

To formulate planning direction based upon national and regional process goals and feedback from residents and stakeholders, this plan aims to provide a hierarchical strategy that defines larger, more general planning objectives and filters those ideas into applicable guidance standards. The terms, 'objective', 'principle', 'standard', and 'plan' are subject to a range of interpretations.

Under the regional planning program, and to better structure comparison, these terms have been defined as follows:

Objective: a goal or end toward the attainment of which plans and policies are directed.

Principle: a fundamental, primary, or generally accepted tenet used to assert the validity of objectives and prepare standards and plans.

Standard: a criterion used as a basis of comparison to determine the adequacy of alternative and recommended plan proposals to attain objectives.

Plan: a design that seeks to achieve agreed-upon objectives.

Park Classifications

The classification system for Waukesha County Parks focuses on providing facilities of regional importance for County residents. Municipal park systems within the County typically provide recreation facilities to serve local residents through a hierarchy of mini-parks or tot lots, neighborhood parks, community parks, and, occasionally, regional or special use parks. The Waukesha County Park System provides an overlay of regional facilities to serve a countywide client base and to conserve valuable natural resources that frequently bridge multiple jurisdictions.

- Regional Parks
- Regional Greenways
- Conservancy Areas
- Regional Trail Corridors
- Regional Specialty Areas



Regional Parks

Regional Parks provide a wide range of natural resource-related recreation opportunities as well as preserving high-quality and unique landscapes and open spaces.

Site Selection Criteria:

- Regional park sites should contain a minimum of 250 acres, with a four-mile service radius. Regional parks may contain special use areas or other features that are unique within the County and serve a wider radius of park users.
- Sites should contain a diversity of resources, either natural or artificial, in an adequate space for both protection and management of the natural resources and the pursuit of compatible passive nature-based outdoor recreation activities. Access to recreation-quality water bodies is important.

- Sites should contain significant blocks of high-quality natural resource conservation areas of high quality or those in a condition that permits restoration through adequate management.
- Sites should contain land that will support resource-based recreation activities and buffers for recreation activities. The recreation sites should not adversely affect the areas of conserved or restored natural resources.

Implementation Criteria:

- Regional Parks are natural resource-based parks, and to maintain that vision 70% of each Regional Park will be managed in a natural condition, while 30% of each Regional Park will potentially be developed to accommodate needed recreational facilities and activities.
- Regional parks provide for **nature-based recreation activities** such as camping, swimming, walking and hiking, picnicking, boating and canoeing, nature study, cross-country skiing, sledding and snowshoeing.
- Existing Waukesha County Regional Parks:
 - Developed Regional Parks: Fox Brook Park, Fox River Park, Mukwonago Park, Muskego Park, Minooka Park, Menomonee Park, Nashotah Park, Naga-Waukeke Park.
 - Undeveloped Regional Parks: Ashippun River Park, Eble Park, Fox Bend Park, Monches Park, Ryan Park, Smith Park.

Regional Greenways

Greenways are a system of corridors along the County's major rivers and streams that will protect the high quality natural resource based elements, guide urban growth, connect major state, county, and local parkland along with other community social and cultural amenities and provide recreational and educational opportunities for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

Site Selection Criteria:

- Sites should preserve wetlands, A-rated vegetation, slopes greater than 20%, natural areas of statewide significance, critical species habitat, class I wildlife habitat, and water quality. These areas comprise the preservation zone of the greenway corridor.
- Sites should contain land to provide a buffer between residential land, commercial land or agriculture land and the preservation corridor zone.
- Sites should provide non-motorized trail opportunities within the greenway corridor and visual buffering from adjacent property owners.
- The regional trail & greenway trail corridor shall serve as the spine for the county-wide trail system connecting regional parks and local trail systems.



- Existing Waukesha County Greenways:
 - Ashippun River, Bark River, Fox River, Mill Creek, Mukwonago River, Oconomowoc River, Pebble Brook, Pebble Creek, Pewaukee River, Poplar Creek, Scuppernong Creek and Spring Brook Creek.

Conservancy Area

Conservancies are areas designated for the purpose of restoring or maintaining significant native wildlife or plant species. Development is limited for educational and restoration purposes. These areas may be included within Regional Parks or Regional Greenways or they may be unique natural areas. Intrusion by people is permitted on a limited basis for scientific investigation, education instruction or observation. They are intact areas providing habitat that act as reservoirs for species of special concern and interest. Conservancies must be protected from any unwarranted effects of human activity resulting from recreational use, but may require occasional management activities.

Site Selection Criteria:

- A delineated portion of a park or greenway for which a unique stewardship or management plan will be developed; or
- A unique parkland unit serving the goals of a Conservancy Area, benefiting from management under a specific stewardship plan.
- Existing Waukesha County Conservancy Areas are those that are identified within the Natural Land Management Plans. These include core zone areas identified within County Parks, Greenways, and the Retzer Nature Center.

Regional Trail Corridors

Site Selection Criteria:

- Corridors may follow natural features such as regional greenways or man-made features such as utility or transportation corridors.
- The regional trail corridor shall serve as the spine for the countywide trail system connecting Waukesha County communities and providing access to regional parks, cultural sites, special use facilities, local trail systems, trail systems in adjacent counties, and statewide trail systems.
- Waukesha County Regional Trail Corridors:
 - Bugline Trail, Fox River Trail, Lake Country Trail, New Berlin Trail, and Waukesha Bypass Trail

Regional Specialty Areas

Site Selection Criteria:

- Not meant to occur in Regional Parks, Regional Special Use Areas are to have a separate and distinct location.
- Size varies with use
- Existing Waukesha County Regional Specialty Areas:
 - Retzer Nature Center, Eble Ice Arena, Naga-Waukee Ice Arena, Moor Downs Golf Course, Naga-Waukee Golf Course, Expo Center, and Stand-alone Lake & River Boat Access Facilities.



Waukesha County Park and Open Space Planning Objectives

1. Create, maintain, and support an integrated system of park, recreation, and open space areas.
2. Encourage local municipalities to provide and facilitate active recreation opportunities.
3. Provide opportunities for natural resource-based outdoor recreation.
 - Land-based opportunities
 - Water-based opportunities
 - Protect natural resources

The Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Planning Objectives for Waukesha County will be met through a combination of State, County, or Local Municipality efforts. The following pages further define these objectives, and identify the principles, from SEWRPC Planning Report No.27, that support them as well as the standards by which decisions and recommendations should be evaluated and implemented.

Objective 1: Create, Maintain, and Support an Integrated System of Park, Recreation, and Open Space Areas

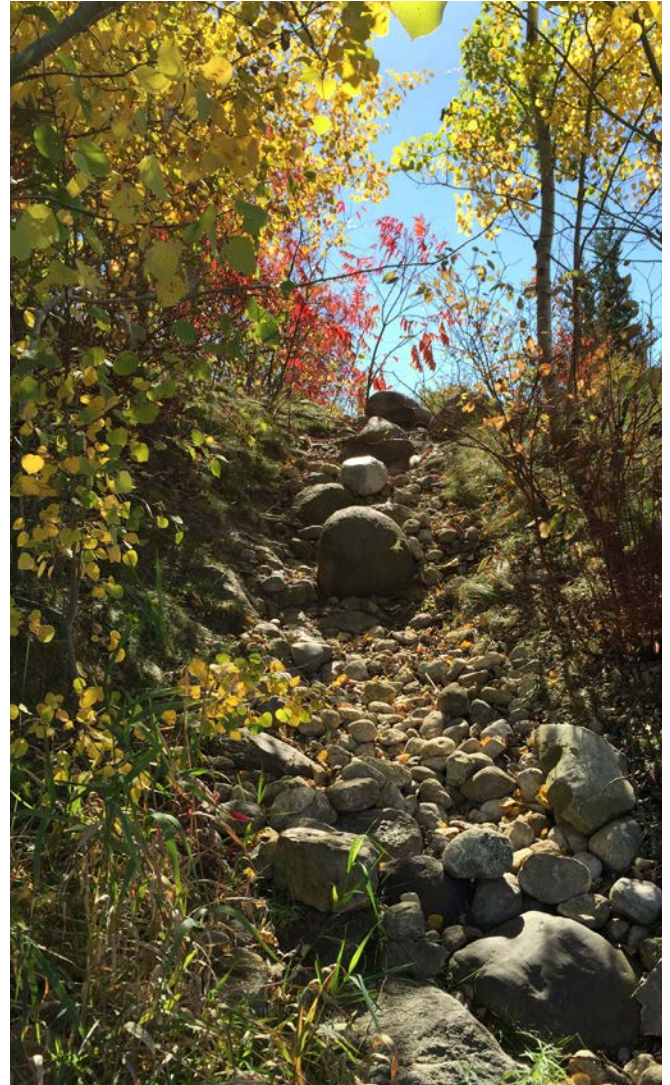
To provide an integrated system of public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas which will afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation and outdoor education activities.

Principle – The Benefits of an Integrated Park, Recreation and Open Space System

The 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 open space system properly related to the natural resource base, such as the existing surface water network, can generate the multiple benefits of satisfying recreational demands in an appropriate setting, protecting, and preserving valuable natural resource amenities and providing educational opportunities. 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.

Principle – Public General-Use Outdoor Recreation Sites

Public, general-use outdoor recreation sites can help to ensure the physical and mental well-being of the community by providing opportunities to participate in such athletic recreational activities such as baseball, swimming, tennis, ice-skating and other similar activities, as well as the opportunities to participate in activities such as walking, picnicking, rest and reflection. These activities may reduce everyday stress and help to maintain proper physical and mental health and well-being. Well-designed and properly located public general-use outdoor recreation sites provide a sense of community and bring people together for social, cultural and recreation activities; thus, contributing to the desirability and stability of residential neighborhoods.





Standard

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.
2. The general use recreation sites should contain the natural resource or man-made amenities appropriate for the recreation activities.
3. The general use recreation sites should be spatially distributed to provide equal and ready access to the resident population.
4. Public general use outdoor recreation sites should include, to the maximum extent possible, portions of the planned primary environmental corridors of the County in order to provide an attractive natural setting for recreation enjoyment and educational enlightenment.
5. Recreational facilities should be carefully located and designed to protect and preserve such environmentally sensitive areas as wetlands, natural areas, and high value wildlife areas.
6. The Waukesha County Park System Park Classifications Guidelines for County Park Facilities should be met.

Principle – Recreation Related Open Space

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 through a system of recreation corridors located adjacent to linear resource-oriented open space lands. A well-designed system of recreation corridors offered as an integral part of linear open space land also can serve to connect existing and proposed public parks physically, thus forming a truly integrated park and recreation related open space system. Such open space lands satisfy the human need for natural surroundings, serve to protect the natural resource base, and ensure that many scenic areas of natural, cultural, or historic interest assume their proper place as form determinants for both existing and future land use patterns.

Standard

1. The public sector should provide sufficient open space lands to accommodate a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors to meet the residential demand for extensive trail-oriented activities.
2. Resource-oriented recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
 - Primary environmental corridors and secondary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented recreation activities provided that environmentally sensitive resources are protected.
 - Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing parks.
 - Existing recreation trail facilities within the County.
3. Resource-oriented recreation corridors should effectively connect park system components, community public facilities, destinations, cultural sites, and historic sites together to form a continuous park environment.
4. The Waukesha County Park System Greenway Corridor Cross-Section and Standards should be met when development occurs within the greenway.

OBJECTIVE 2 – Encourage Local Municipalities to Provide and Facilitate Active Recreation Opportunities

Provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to ensure that residents have adequate opportunities to participate in active recreation activities.

Principle: The Benefits of Active Recreation Activity

Participation in active outdoor recreation activities including pickleball, basketball, baseball and softball, soccer, ice-skating, playfield and playground activities, pool swimming, and tennis provides an individual with both the opportunity for physical exercise and the opportunity to test and expand 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 non-natural resource-based activities also provides an opportunity to share recreational experiences, participate in team play and gain an understanding of other human beings.

Standard

A sufficient number of facilities for participation in active recreation activities should be provided throughout the County.

OBJECTIVE 3 – Provide Opportunities for Natural Resource-based Outdoor Recreation Activity on Land and in Water

Provide sufficient, intensive natural resource-based outdoor recreation and education activities to allow the resident population of the County adequate opportunities for participation. Provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunities to

participate in land-based outdoor recreation activities. To provide sufficient surface water-access areas to afford the resident population of the County adequate opportunity to participate in extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities consistent with safe and enjoyable inland lakes and river use and the maintenance of good water quality.

Principle: The Benefits of Natural Resource-based Outdoor Recreation Activities.

Participation in intensive, resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities including camping, golf, picnicking, downhill skiing, and swimming allows individuals to experience the exhilaration of recreational activity in natural surroundings as well as an opportunity for nature-based physical exercise.

Principle: The Benefits of Land-Based Outdoor Recreation Activities

Participation in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities including bicycling, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, pleasure driving, ski touring and snowmobiling provides opportunity for interaction with natural, cultural, historic and scenic features. In addition, such activities may improve environmental awareness and contribute to environmental literacy. It also will provide an individual with 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 outdoor recreation activity, the family unit also can participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities that may strengthen social relationships within the family. For activities such as bicycling, 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.



Principle – The Benefits of Water-based Outdoor Recreation Activities

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

Standard

1. A sufficient number of facilities for participation in natural resource-based, land-based, and water-based outdoor recreation activities should be provided throughout the County.
2. Public facilities provided for these activities should be located within the linear resource-oriented recreation corridors identified in Objective 1.
3. Access sites available for use by the general public on rivers and lakes that are 50 acres or larger should be provided in accordance with the requirements established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Section NR 1.90 and NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
4. The Waukesha County Park System Park Classifications Guidelines for County Park Facilities should be met.

OBJECTIVE 4 – Protect the Natural Resources

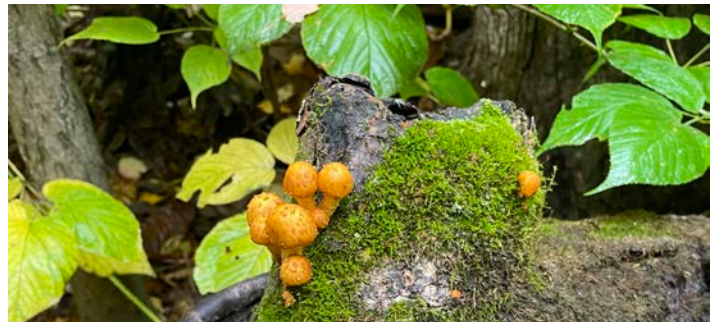
To preserve sufficient lands in essentially natural, open uses to assure the protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base, including surface-water and groundwater resources, and the enhancement of the social and economic well-being and environmental quality of the County.

Principle – The Benefits of Preserving the Natural Resources

Ecological balance and natural sustainability 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, including primary environmental corridors, and prime agricultural lands, contribute to the maintenance of the ecological balance, natural sustainability, and economic well-being of the County.

Principle – Primary Environmental Corridors

The primary environmental corridors are a composite of the best individual elements of the natural resource base including surface water, streams, rivers and their associated flood lands, shore lands, woodlands, wildlife habitat, areas of groundwater discharge and recharge, organic soils, rugged terrain, 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, biodiversity preserved, and continued opportunities provided for scientific, educational, and recreational pursuits.



Standard

1. All remaining non-urban lands within the designated primary environmental corridors in the County should be preserved in natural open uses.
2. Primary environmental corridors located within the preservation zone of the Waukesha County Greenway Cross Section and Standards should be preserved in permanent public or non-profit organizations through ownership or through preservation easements on privately owned land.

Principle – Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites

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 identified habitat.

Standard

In conformance with SEWRPC Planning Report Number 42, A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin, the remaining natural areas and critical species habitat areas should be preserved.

Principle – Prime Agricultural Lands

Prime agricultural lands are lands well suited for the production of food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops, with the soil quality and moisture supply needed to produce economically sustained high yields of crops. There are 72,400 acres of agricultural land remaining in the county, approximately 90% of which is covered by soils that are classified as prime farmland or soils of Statewide Importance by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Waukesha County Farmland Preservation Plan designates approximately 10,000 acres of farmland to be protected, primarily in the western portion of the county. Protecting prime agricultural lands provide open spaces that supply wildlife habitat and enhance the natural beauty of the County and provide opportunities for agricultural and agriculture-related employment.



Previous Planning Efforts & Resources

The Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan is intended as an extension of the regional level planning objectives and aims to integrate them with County resident/stakeholder input, planning objectives and standards. Therefore, an understanding of past park and open space planning efforts is essential to the preparation of an updated park and open space plan. Accordingly, this section summarizes the previous park and open space plans and various supporting functional plan elements that have been prepared to date as they pertain to Waukesha County.

Inventory of Park and Outdoor Recreation Facilities (1960)

The Inventory of Park and Outdoor Recreation Facilities report prepared by Waukesha County Park and Planning

Commission identified existing park and recreation facilities in Waukesha County. The report called for conservation of Waukesha County's natural resources and to provide for recreation facilities development. The report proposed a program of large regional county parks, lineal parkways and the conservation of wetlands.

A Park and Parkway Plan for Waukesha County (1973)

The Park and Parkway Plan for Waukesha County, prepared by the Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission, qualified the County for State and Federal parkland acquisition and development grants. The plan recommended the following:

- Preserve the County's natural resource base
- Establish regional County Parks distributed evenly throughout the County
- Develop parkways along the major rivers
- Establish land acquisition criteria
- Establish park classification standards
- Cooperation and coordination with other park agencies
- Promote family oriented natural resource-based recreation

A Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000 (1977)

The regional park and open space plan, described in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 27, identifies:

- Existing and probable future park and open space needs in the Region
- The need for a system of large regional resource-oriented parks
- Recreational corridors
- Recreational facilities
- Smaller urban parks

The portion of the regional plan that applies to Waukesha County was revised and updated in 1989 and is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 137, A Park and Open Space Plan for Waukesha County. The plan was adopted by both the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors and the Regional Planning Commission in 1990. Subsequent amendments to the Park and Open Space Plan were incorporated into Community Assistance Planning Report No. 209, A Development Plan for Waukesha County Wisconsin in 1996 and amended in 1998 and 2004.



The Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County

APPENDIX A - Park and Open Space Plan Update (2018)

The Waukesha County Comprehensive Development Plan was updated in February 2009, including updates to demographic and natural environment conditions. Chapter 2- Trends, Issues, Opportunities and Planning Standards, Chapter 3- Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Chapter 7- Land Use Element all have information that affect Park and Open Space planning. These chapters are referred to in this Appendix, the Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan. The VISION 2050 plan contains more recent inventory data, as described below.

VISION 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan: Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), 2017

As described on the SEWRPC website – “VISION 2050 recommends a long-range vision for land use and transportation in the seven-county Southeastern Wisconsin Region. It makes recommendations to local and state government to shape and guide land use development and transportation improvement, including public transit, arterial streets and highways, freight, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities, to the year 2050.” Information regarding existing conditions and historic trends with respect to the demographic conditions and natural environment is essential to the park and open space planning process and has been gathered as part of VISION 2050. An extensive database has been developed by SEWRPC pertaining to these and other aspects of the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. The database is updated periodically. For example, resource mapping was updated in 2010 and data collection has been completed for new inventories.

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023

As described in the executive summary of the SCORP, “The plan provides recommendations to guide public outdoor recreation policy and planning decisions, the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund money that comes to Wisconsin, and other Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administered grant programs. To support the development of SCORP, a statewide survey of Wisconsin residents was conducted regarding their outdoor recreation participation and frequency, as well as their opinions about future needs. In addition, the DNR undertook an assessment of recreation opportunities and needs in each region of the state. Together, these supporting documents provide the foundation of the SCORP.” More information on the recent SCORP can be found in the Park an Open Space Needs Assessment section of this update.

Public Involvement

Waukesha County Park System uses several methods to encourage customer feedback both for inquiry and for providing valuable feedback. The Department website offers customer email inquiries that are responded to within a 24-hour period. In addition, the morning after each facility reservation or registered program customers are sent a satisfaction survey to gauge how we are viewed by our users. Also, a general customer service satisfaction survey is sent out with all email correspondence and is available at kiosks located at public service counters. Finally, an annual Park System user survey is sent to all customers that have purchased an annual membership or daily permit which collects demographic, use and amenity data. Satisfaction survey customer feedback is available to the public and team members via the Waukesha County website. All survey data is reviewed, documented, and incorporated into the Department of Parks & Land Use’s continuous improvement processes, which are in place to enhance the customer experience.

NATURAL LAND MANAGEMENT

With 8,500 acres of parkland within the Waukesha County Park System, natural land management is critical in protecting and maintaining the environmentally significant sites. The Park System has a wide variety of recreational opportunities, and along with developed parks, trails, and greenways, the Park System also includes many acres of undeveloped natural areas, which are key components of the County's Park System.

This section will give an overview of the various ecosystems and management practices. The Existing Facilities section provides more detail on the land within each of the properties and the management strategies.

This section also includes a summary of elements from Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's (SEWRPC) Regional Natural Areas Plan. This plan highlights natural areas and species of concern in all of Southeast Wisconsin and is a resource when developing the County's land management plans.

Strategic natural land management encourages growth of beneficial plant species, provides habitat for wildlife, is critical for stormwater facilities, helps protect and enhance rivers and lakes, and promotes responsible stewardship of the County's resources.





Overview

The Waukesha County Park System is a natural resource-based Park System with more than 8,450 acres of parkland, 47 miles of recreational trails, numerous lakes, and the renowned Retzer Nature Center. The County falls within an ecologically rich region of Wisconsin having diverse landscapes containing over 1,300 documented plant species and 268 miles of major waterways, making it a major migration corridor for more than 300 different species of birds annually. The natural areas within the Park System contain a variety of habitat types including savanna, dry-mesic forest, maple-basswood forest, southern mesic forest, fens, sedge meadow, prairie, lowland hardwood swamps, and a variety of wetlands.

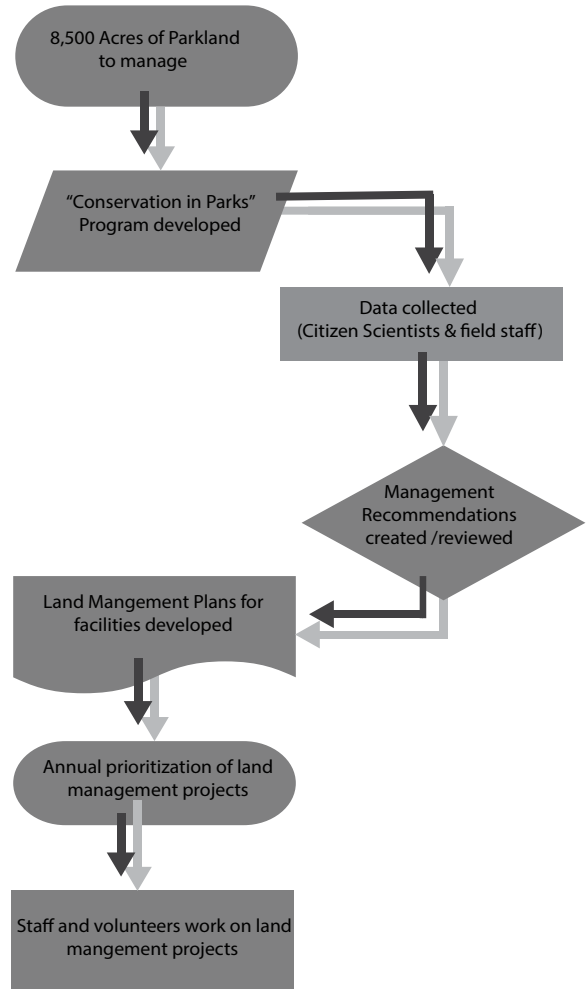
Effectively protecting and managing the diverse and unique natural resources in Waukesha County is of paramount importance in preserving the ecological integrity and function of these green spaces for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Conservation in the Parks Program

To address this need, the Department of Parks & Land Use developed a Conservation in the Parks Program to evaluate the presence, status, distribution, and population trends of plant and wildlife species on County-owned land, as well as the impacts on plant and wildlife communities from natural land management activities. It is the goal of this program to help ensure that common species remain common and to provide essential data and management actions for the protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species. The data collected for each park and greenway is compiled in order to develop site-specific Natural Land Management Plans.

Natural Land Management Plans

These Natural Land Management Plans greatly assist the Department in prioritizing sites and management activities within natural areas across the County. Management activities include but are not limited to prescribed fire, forest stand improvement, invasive species control, native seeding, and reforestation. These plans focus solely on the areas of each Park System property defined as “natural areas.”



More than 2,700 acres of Park System land -- about 31% of its total acreage -- is considered core zone natural area. **The core zone is usually a remnant natural area of high ecological integrity and quality that occurs within a site.** Core zones are typically assigned higher prioritization for natural land management and monitoring activities compared to other zones (e.g., planting beds, rights-of-way, buffer zones, etc.) contained within parks or greenways. This process of conducting site inventories to develop site-specific and comprehensive management plans allows for the Department to make data-driven decisions. It also allows for the Department to assign metrics for success to natural land management efforts utilizing focal

species as indicators of restoration success (e.g., restoration of oak opening results in successful establishment and breeding of Red-Headed Woodpeckers at a site).

A major focus of the Department's natural land management program efforts is invasive species control. An invasive species is a species that is not native to a specific location (an introduced species), which has a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy, and/or human health. About 42% of the species on the federal Threatened or Endangered species lists are at risk primarily because of invasive species. Park staff, volunteers, and partner organizations work together to control more than 40 invasive species throughout the Park System annually. Without such management (e.g., prescribed burning, mechanical brush removal, selective herbicide application, etc.), these invasive species would threaten native ecosystems in the County Parks and the natural experience that customers come to enjoy. Such "thickets," or mono-cultures, of a single non-native invasive species not only significantly decrease the aesthetic value of the parks and hiking trails, but they also lead to increased erosion and extremely poor wildlife habitat.

One of the most recognizable impacts of an invasive species is that of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB is a non-native, invasive wood-boring beetle that has caused the mass die-off of millions of ash trees across the Midwest. This has resulted in significant tree canopy loss in local parks and greenways which creates ecological issues as well as human safety concerns in parks; dead trees present a hazard in high-use areas. In order to mitigate the impacts of non-native invasive species an annual commitment from both trained staff and the County's volunteer corps should be made in order to maintain the value, both aesthetic and ecological, that the Park System provides to residents and visitors alike in Waukesha County.

Land Management Practices

In developing Natural Land Management Plans in Waukesha County, there are a number of practices that are employed based on specific facility needs, staff and financial resources, and cyclical ecosystem developments. These are summarized specific to each facility within the "[Existing Facilities](#)" section of this plan: however, it is beneficial to provide some additional detail here.

Depending on the specific property, the management priorities will vary. Based on the large amount of acreage throughout the Park System, prioritization is typically focused on the core zones. From that point, further prioritization is determined based on limitations of County resources.

Typical Natural Land Management priorities include:

- Completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory in order to establish baseline conditions and identify specific natural land management needs for the corridor.
- Selective control of invasive species in core zone.
- Maintenance of fire-dependent vegetative communities with prescribed fire.
- Phased wetland renovations for added buffer and habitat.
- Enhancement of species diversity through inter-seeding.
- Phased reforestation or prairie establishment of sections of degraded agricultural fields.
- Preservation of the existing forest canopy.
- Restoration of mature hardwood tree canopy within the lowland forest areas.



Species of Local Conservation Interest (SLCI)

The Species of Local Conservation Interest (SLCI) concept was developed to fill a gap in conservation planning. It is important to look at a local landscape level to identify which plant, fish, and wildlife species are actually rare in a given area or region, to better inform conservation planning and projects. State-wide assessments may not adequately address biodiversity conservation at the local level, especially in southeastern Wisconsin where the landscape is becoming increasingly urbanized and fragmented.

What is rare locally might be ranked as common at the state-wide level, hence these species may be overlooked in conservation planning locally. It is critical that declining populations are detected early enough to allow for proactive conservation efforts with the goal of avoiding extirpation and the need for eventual reintroduction programs. The SLCI assessment process addresses this issue by utilizing the latest information and techniques to provide updated population and distribution data for regionally relevant species, and improved quality control and data interpretation to identify those species that need further attention in the region and identifying those state-listed species that also may occur in the region and require conservation priority.

SEWRPC Regional Natural Areas Plan

At a more regional level, SEWRPC developed and adopted The Regional Natural Areas Plan. This document identifies natural areas and critical species habitat as a management plan for Southeastern Wisconsin as amended in 2010. The amended plan identified a total of 494 natural areas and 271 critical species habitat sites in the southeast region of Wisconsin.

The planning effort was undertaken to identify the most significant remaining natural areas—irreplaceable, bio-diverse remnants of the pre-European landscape—as well as other areas vital to the maintenance of endangered, threatened, and rare plant and animal species in the Region. Promoting biodiversity, the plan represents an important additional element of the evolving comprehensive plan for southeastern Wisconsin. It also provides an important supplement to the open space preservation recommendations of the regional land use, and park and open space plans.

The current map is included on the next page, which identifies significant natural areas and critical species for recommended protection.

Definitions within the SEWRPC Regional Natural Areas Plan which are referenced throughout the County's Park & Open Space Plan include the following:

Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or which have sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European-settlement landscape. Natural areas identified under the plan, and the plan amendment, are classified as being of statewide or greater significance, or "NA-1" areas; of countywide or regional significance, or "NA-2" areas; or of local significance, or "NA-3" areas.

Environmental corridors are defined as linear areas in the landscape containing concentrations of significant natural resources and resource-related features, such as water features, wetlands, woodlands, topography, remnant prairies, wet, poorly drained and organic soils and wildlife habitat (SEWRPC, 2019).

Primary environmental corridors are concentrations of these significant natural resources of at least 400 acres in area, two miles in length and at least 200 feet in width, and are generally located along major stream valleys, around major lakes and in the Kettle Moraine area.

Secondary environmental corridors are smaller concentrations of these natural resources that are at least 100 acres in area and one mile in length.

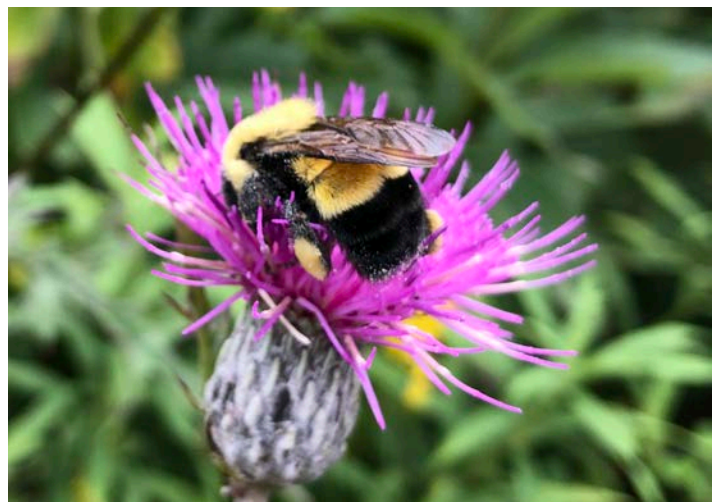
Isolated Natural Resource Areas (INRAs) are the remaining significant natural resources of at least five acres and 200 feet in width.

Critical species habitats are broadly defined as tracts of land or water which support endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species. Many of the designated natural areas provide habitat for endangered, threatened, or rare species. For purposes of the natural area plan, and the plan amendment, then, critical species habitats were more narrowly defined as those sites which are located wholly or partly outside designated natural areas and which support endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species.

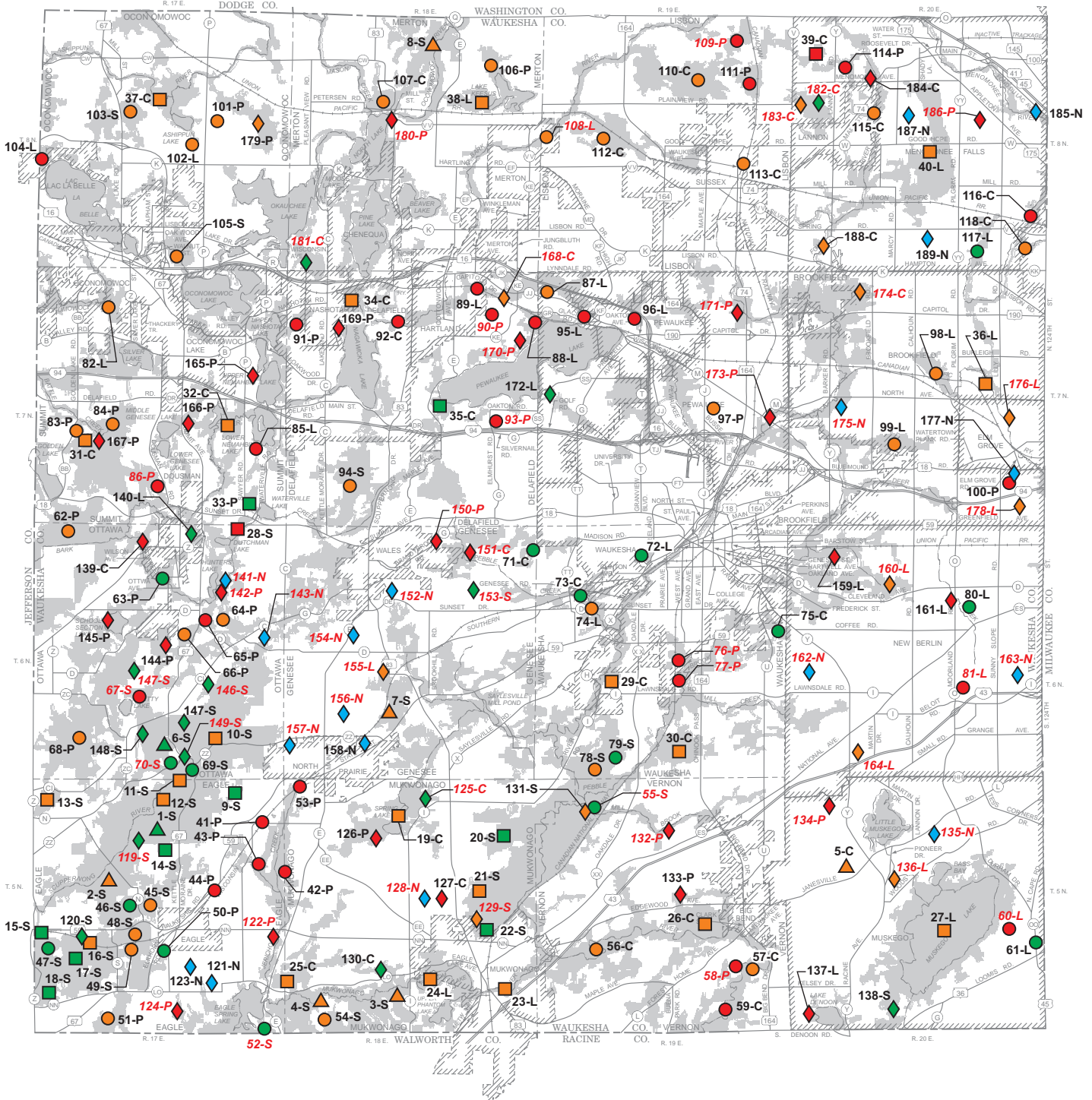
Rare species are defined as those species of wild animals or wild plants native to the State of Wisconsin which occur infrequently either as individuals or in specific communities on the landscape. These are also referred to by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as "special concern" species. They represent species about which a problem regarding their abundance or distribution in the State is suspected but not yet proven.

State-designated endangered species are defined as any species of wild animals or wild plants native to the State of Wisconsin whose continued existence in the State is determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, on the basis of scientific evidence, to be in jeopardy.

State-designated threatened species are defined as any species of wild animals or wild plants native to the State of Wisconsin determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, on the basis of scientific evidence, likely to become endangered in the State within the foreseeable future.



PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS IN WAUKESHA COUNTY



<p>CURRENT STATUS AND PLAN RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>ENTIRELY UNDER PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP/ PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP TO BE RETAINED</p> <p>PARTIALLY UNDER PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP/ REMAINDER OF SITE TO BE ACQUIRED</p> <p>NOT UNDER PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP/ ENTIRE SITE TO BE ACQUIRED</p> <p>NOT UNDER PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP/ TO BE PRESERVED TO EXTENT PRACTICABLE WITHOUT PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP</p>	<p>NA-1 SITE</p> <p>NA-2 SITE</p> <p>NA-3 SITE</p> <p>CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT</p>	<p>▲</p> <p>▲</p> <p>(NONE)</p> <p>(NONE)</p>	<p>■</p> <p>■</p> <p>■</p> <p>(NONE)</p> <p>(NONE)</p> <p>(NONE)</p>	<p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>●</p> <p>(NONE)</p> <p>(NONE)</p> <p>(NONE)</p>	<p>◆</p> <p>◆</p> <p>◆</p> <p>◆</p> <p>◆</p>	<p>RECOMMENDED OWNERSHIP KEY:</p> <p>S-STATE GOVERNMENT</p> <p>C-COUNTY GOVERNMENT</p> <p>L-LOCAL GOVERNMENT</p> <p>P-PRIVATE CONSERVANCY ORGANIZATION</p> <p>N-NO PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP RECOMMENDED</p> <p>27-SITE REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 43)</p> <p>55-NEWLY IDENTIFIED SITE REFERENCE NUMBER (SEE TABLE 43)</p> <p>PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS</p>	
--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--



High Priority Areas

Oak Ecosystems

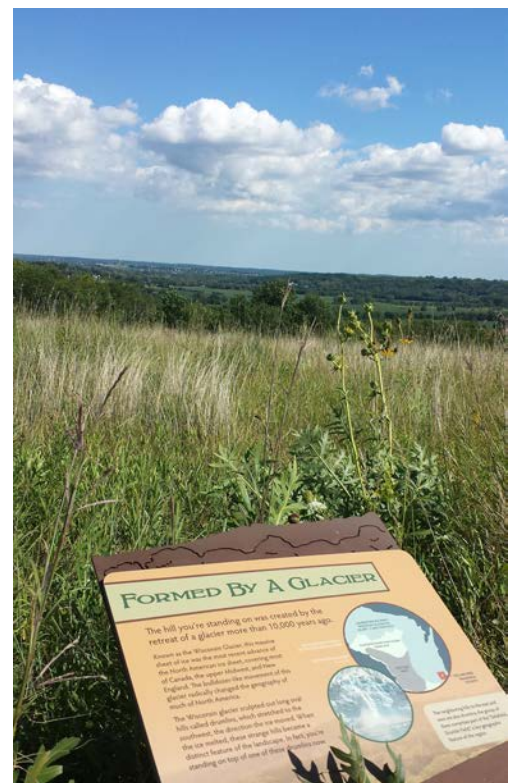
Oaks and oak dominated ecosystems provide a myriad of benefits including food and habitat for wildlife species, ecosystem functions such as carbon storage and water regulation, and natural beauty for the enjoyment of the people who inhabit the landscape (Dwyer et al. 1992). As a large, long-lived species, oaks are especially useful for climate mitigation via long-term carbon storage. Today, original oak savanna is the rarest plant community in the state. This ecosystem once covered over five million acres in southern Wisconsin, but less than one thousand acres exist today. Preservation and restoration of remnant oak ecosystem throughout the County should be prioritized and targeted via future opportunities for land acquisition.

Greenways & Habitat Connectivity

The continued preservation of contiguous parcels of greenway properties promotes habitat connectivity and greatly supports biodiversity and ecosystem services within Waukesha County. Habitat connectivity refers to how and to what degree distinct patches of habitat are connected. This can significantly influence the distribution, genetic diversity, and health of animal and plant populations on both local and statewide scales. As habitat continues to be fragmented, degraded, and lost to development, the need for a coordinated connectivity network can be met via continued acquisitions of greenway parcels throughout the County. In addition to identifying and prioritizing corridors across the landscape, consideration of infrastructure that enhances these efforts can also be made. This may consist of wildlife crossing signage and/or creating culverts (pathways for water to flow under infrastructure) that allow turtles and amphibians to cross barriers safely.

Grasslands

Grasslands are important for decreasing risk of flooding, water infiltration, and carbon storage, and as valuable habitat for many plants, insects, birds and other organisms. Unfortunately, as a result of habitat loss and degradation an estimated 15-20% of the state's original grassland flora is now considered rare (WDNR). Grassland birds have also declined,



suffering the biggest decline of any terrestrial biome since 1970 (Cornell Lab of Ornithology). Over 40 species of grassland birds breed in Wisconsin, and some open grassy areas, such as prairies, hay fields, small grain fields or pastures are required during the breeding season. Preservation and restoration of grassland habitats throughout the County should be prioritized and targeted via future opportunities for land acquisition. Grassland habitat can also be constructed through the strategic conversion of agricultural fields presently under County ownership.

Adaptive management within existing parks, greenways, and hay fields or pastures under County ownership should be considered in order to avoid detrimental negative impacts to this declining species guild. Management strategies include adhering to avoidance periods for activities such as mowing, haying, and prescribed burning. It may also include enforcement and education on dog leash rules to prevent disturbance to ground nesting birds in grassland areas.

Wetlands

Wetlands provide extensive ecosystem services such as water quality protection, and flood water control. They are also valuable areas for water-based recreation and they provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat. About 75% of Wisconsin's wildlife species depend on wetlands periodically throughout their lives for breeding, foraging, or other activities. With over 140 lakes and 268 miles of major waterway (i.e., rivers, streams) Waukesha County is rich in wetland resources. Wetland ecosystems in the County are threatened by invasive species, pollution, and altered hydrology due to the effects of urbanization. Planning for acquisition of buffer zones surrounding wetlands and conservation of wetland hydrological function should be considered during conservation planning and potential acquisition efforts.

Ephemeral Wetlands

Ephemeral wetlands are isolated, seasonal wetlands that typically fill with spring rain and snow melt, and subsequently dry before the following fall/winter. As a result, these wetlands are typically devoid of fish, which makes them an essential breeding area for invertebrates and many amphibians such as wood frogs and several salamanders. Ephemeral wetlands also help to protect other larger or more permanent water bodies by filtering excess nutrients and sediments generated from the surrounding landscape, such as agricultural and urban activities.

Wetland Banking

Wetlands perform an important set of natural functions, which make them particularly valuable resources lending to overall environmental health and biodiversity. Wetlands contribute to the maintenance of good water quality by serving as traps that retain nutrients and sediments, thereby preventing them from reaching streams and lakes. They act to retain water during dry periods and to hold it during flooding events, thus keeping the water table high and relatively stable. Some wetlands provide seasonal groundwater recharge or discharge. Those wetlands that provide groundwater discharge often provide base flow to surface waters. They provide essential breeding, nesting, resting, and feeding grounds and predator escape cover for many forms of fish and wildlife. These attributes have the net effect of improving general environmental health; providing recreational, research, and educational opportunities; maintaining opportunities for hunting and fishing; and adding to the aesthetics of an area.

Over the last five decades, the number of acres of land in urban uses in Waukesha County has grown, leaving many prior-converted wetlands isolated and abandoned. These prior-converted wetlands, which are unsuitable for urban development, often have drainage systems in various stages of disrepair or failure.

A goal of a Waukesha County compensatory wetland mitigation bank would be to identify these remnant wetlands and restore their wetland functionality, where possible, in cooperation with development sponsors that need to mitigate wetland impacts on their projects.



Wetland mitigation banks are restored, enhanced or created wetlands whose purpose is to provide credits to offset unavoidable impacts to existing wetlands. A bank can be located on land that historically supported wetlands or currently holds degraded wetlands. The bank is a system of establishing wetland compensatory mitigation “credits” at a wetland bank site. Credits can be sold to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) permittees whose obligation to provide compensatory mitigation is then transferred to the mitigation bank sponsor. A wetland mitigation bank is owned/operated as a private business by the bank sponsor and regulated by an Interagency Review Team (IRT) made up of the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), WDNR, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Once the mitigation bank instrument (MBI) is approved by the USACE and WDNR, the bank will receive credits over time as performance standards are met. The final standards must be met to warrant the final credit release.

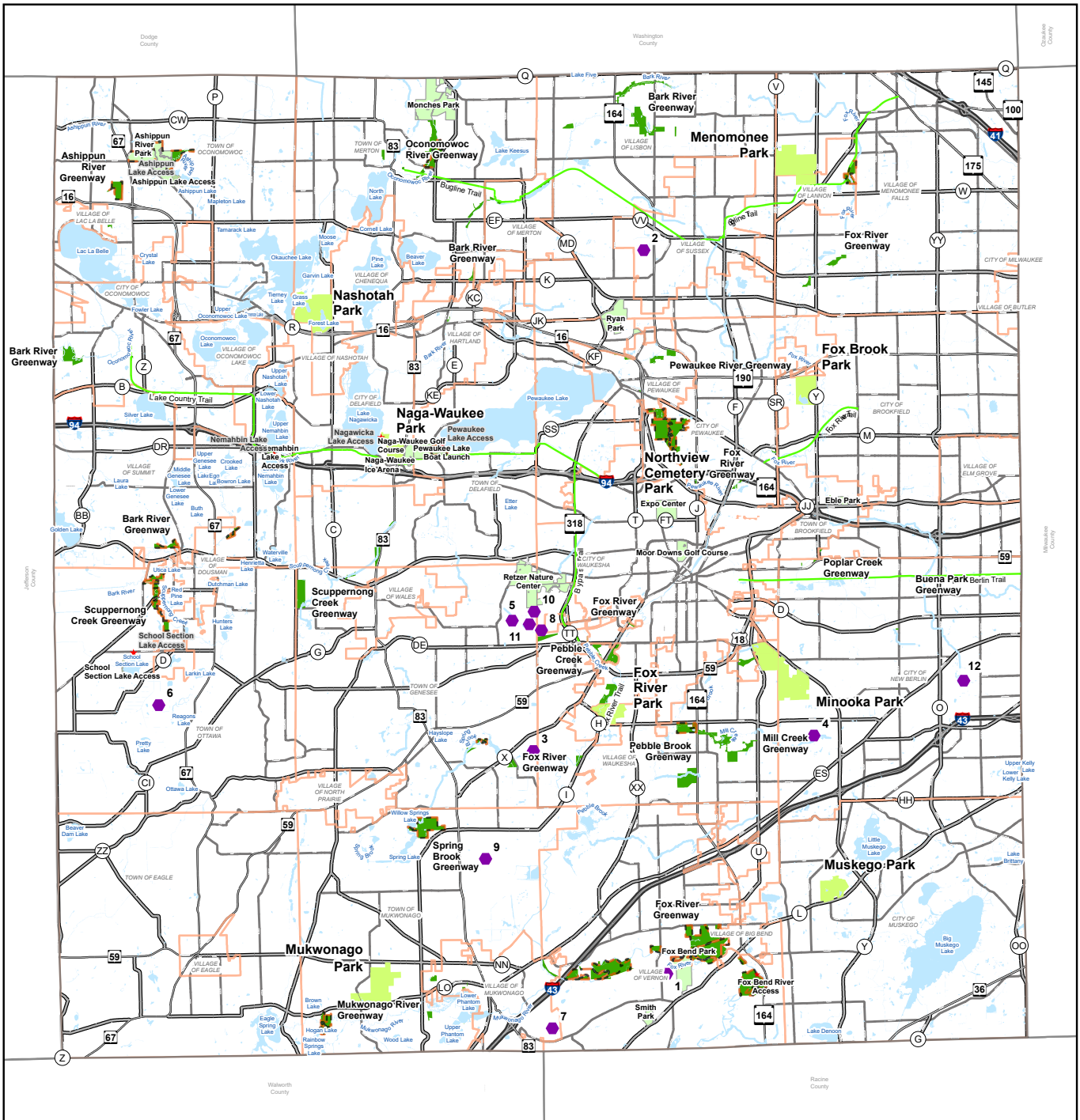
Waukesha County is considering potential sites for wetland mitigation bank on County-owned lands, or lands that are identified for future County acquisition for that purpose. Parcels identified for compensatory wetland mitigation projects would be owned by Waukesha County and the focus would be on areas that are identified in the Park and Open Space Plan.

These areas are to be restored, enhanced, created, buffered and maintained in perpetuity. The Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use would be the mitigation bank agent and sponsor. The wetland mitigation

bank would be operated, monitored and maintained by Waukesha County staff. Parcels identified for wetland mitigation would be owned and maintained by Waukesha County. Waukesha County would provide financial assurances for construction, monitoring and maintenance of the sites until all success criteria are met and all credits are sold. Waukesha County has the ability to receive and spend money for natural land management on County-owned properties. Perpetual deed restrictions would be recorded on the property with the Register of Deeds to ensure long-term maintenance and that the credit areas are kept in a natural state in perpetuity. Note: Lands purchased with State or Federal money are not eligible for mitigation banks. Lands to be acquired by the County for a mitigation bank site must be purchased with County dollars or be donated.

Since 2014, the WDNR has operated the Wisconsin Wetland Conservation Trust (WWCT) program. The WWCT sells advanced wetland credits to permittees needing to offset authorized wetland impacts through the in-lieu fee (ILF) program. The WWCT then funds wetland compensatory mitigation projects. The WDNR selects projects to fund through the WWCT through a rolling quarterly RFP process. The sites identified in the table below could be considered for ILF funding for restoration planning, construction, and long-term maintenance, as an alternative to creating a new wetland mitigation bank.

Wetland Banking Table						
Site No.	Ownership	Acres	Township	Section	Watershed	Basin
1	Private	158	Vernon	22 & 27	Middle Fox	Ill. Fox
2	Private	115	Lisbon	28	Sussex Cr.	Ill. Fox
3	Private	492	Waukesha & Genesee	25 (Genesee) & 30 (Waukesha)	Genesee Cr.	Ill. Fox
4	Private	80	New Berlin	29 & 30	Mill Cr.	Ill. Fox
5	Private	62	Genesee	12	Brandy Br.	Ill. Fox
6	Private	460	Ottawa	16 & 20	Bark River	Rock River
7	Private	150	Vernon	31	Middle Fox	Ill. Fox
8	Private	31	Waukesha	7	Pebble Cr.	Ill. Fox
9	Private	230	Mukwonago	11	Middle Fox	Ill. Fox
10	County	18	Genesee	12	Brandy Br.	Ill. Fox
11	Private	290	Genesee	1, 2, 11 & 12	Pebble Cr.	Ill. Fox
12	Private	67	New Berlin	14 & 23	Upper Fox	Ill. Fox



Hunting Lands & Potential Wetland Banking Sites



- County Parks Hunting Lands
- Potential Wetland Mitigation Sites
- Water Access
- County Regional Trails
- Municipal Boundary
- Developed Park
- Undeveloped Park
- County Greenway



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
September 2023

Hunting

Approximately 2,188 acres of our 8,450-acres of parkland are currently designated as huntable lands within Waukesha County. This includes hunting for waterfowl, deer, turkey, and other game species in the state of Wisconsin.

Hunting is not just a valuable resource socially and economically, but it also helps to improve the overall quality of natural areas in the park system. Research has shown that overabundant deer populations can eliminate understory vegetation, directly impacting the entire forest ecosystem. A reduced understory decreases habitat available for ground-nesting birds, cover for woodland amphibians, and shelter for other wildlife species.

Additionally, overabundant deer populations can increase the risk of deer-vehicle collisions, parasite transmission (e.g., deer ticks, which carry Lyme disease), and disease transmission (e.g. Chronic Wasting Disease).

The County also benefits from permitting hunting on county-owned lands by being eligible for grants such as the Wisconsin Wild Turkey Stamp and Waterfowl Stamp fund which can only be awarded for huntable lands.

The table below shows the hunting areas within the County-owned park lands.

County Hunting Property Table

Property Name	Acres
Ashippun River Greenway	304
Bark River Greenway	46
Fox River Greenway	988
Mill Creek Greenway	59
Mukwonago River Greenway	59
Oconomowoc River Greenway	71
Pewaukee Lake Access	51
Pewaukee River Greenway	322
Scuppernong Creek Greenway	274
Spring Brook Greenway	14
Total County Property Hunting Acres	2,188



EXISTING FACILITIES

The Waukesha County Park System provides regional facilities to serve countywide client base and conserves valuable natural resources that frequently bridge multiple jurisdictions. The facilities fall under one of several categories:

- Regional Parks (developed and undeveloped)
- Water Access
- Regional Trail Corridors
- Regional Greenways
- Regional Specialty Areas

Regional Parks provide a wide range of natural resource-related recreation opportunities and preserve high-quality and unique landscapes and open spaces. Regional parks provide for passive nature-based recreation activities such as camping, swimming, walking and hiking, picnicking, boating and canoeing, nature study, cross-country skiing, sledding and snowshoeing. The parks consist of both developed and undeveloped facilities.

Water Access is a key component in the Waukesha County Park System and access is provided as motorized and non-motorized access at launches, swimming beaches, fishing piers & observation decks, and dog swim areas. Access is provided at lakes throughout the system and some river locations.

Regional Trail Corridors provide opportunities for non-motorized recreation and serve as multi-modal transportation facilities for bicycle commuters and pedestrians. Portions of these trail corridors may be within Regional Parks or Regional Greenways.

Regional Greenways are a system of corridors along the County’s major rivers and streams that will protect the high quality natural resource-based elements, guide urban growth, connect major State, County, and local parkland along with other community social and cultural amenities. Greenways also provide recreational and educational opportunities for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

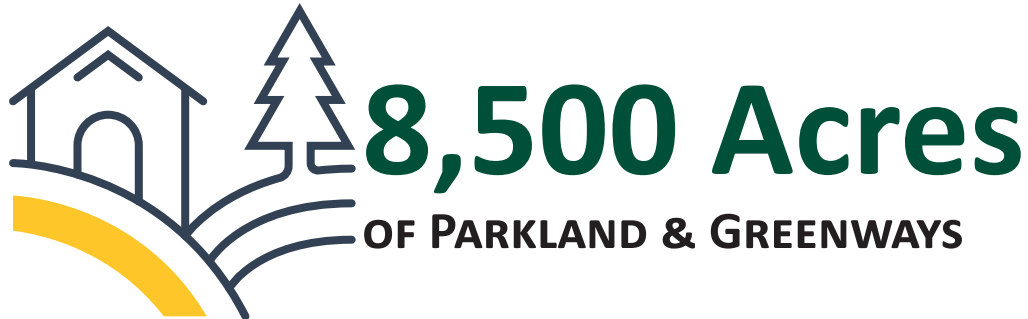
Regional Specialty Areas provide facilities to meet countywide educational or recreational needs that are generally not found in the regional parks, greenways, or trail corridors. This classification covers a broad range of special park facilities oriented toward single purpose use or more active uses that are incompatible with passive, nature-based recreation emphasized within the Regional Parks and Greenways.

Existing Waukesha County Park System Facilities

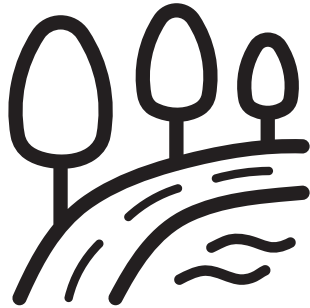
Developed Parks		Water Access	Trail Corridors	Greenways	Specialty Areas
Fox Brook Park	Ashippun River	Ashippun Lake	Bugline	Ashippun River	Retzer Nature Center
Fox River	Eble	Nagawicka Lake	Fox River	Bark River	Moor Downs Golf Course
Menomonee	Fox Bend	Nemahbin Lake	Lake Country	Fox River	Naga-Waukee War Memorial Golf Course
Minooka	Monches	Pewaukee Lake	New Berlin	Mill Creek	Exposition Center
Mukwonago	Ryan	School Section Lake	Waukesha Bypass	Mukwonago River	Eble Ice Arena
Muskego	Smith	Fox Bend River		Oconomowoc River	Naga-waukee Ice Arena
Naga-Waukee				Pebble Brook	
Nashotah				Pebble Creek	
Northview Cemetary				Pewaukee River	
				Poplar Creek	
				Scuppernong Creek	
				Springbrook Creek	

EXISTING PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

Waukesha County Park System



9 FEE-BASED
PARKS



47 MILES
OF REGIONAL TRAILS



6 SWIMMING
BEACHES



483 ACRE
NATURE CENTER



5 LAKE ACCESS
LOCATIONS



4 CAMPGROUNDS
123 SITES



2 GOLF
COURSES



4 DOG EXERCISE
AREAS



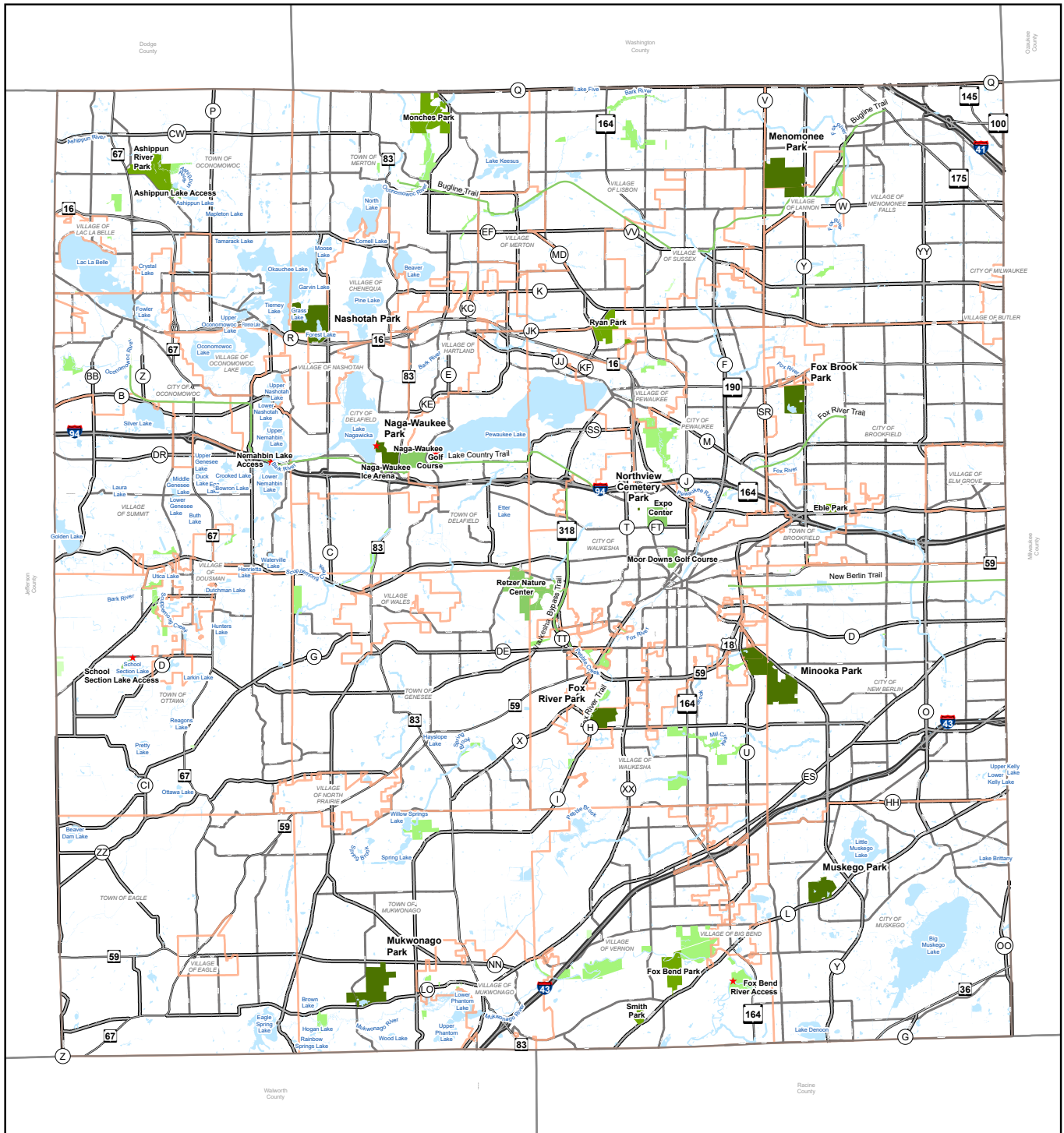
2 INDOOR
ICE ARENAS



4 ARCHERY
RANGES



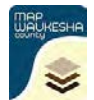
1 COMMUNITY
GARDEN



Waukesha County Park Facilities



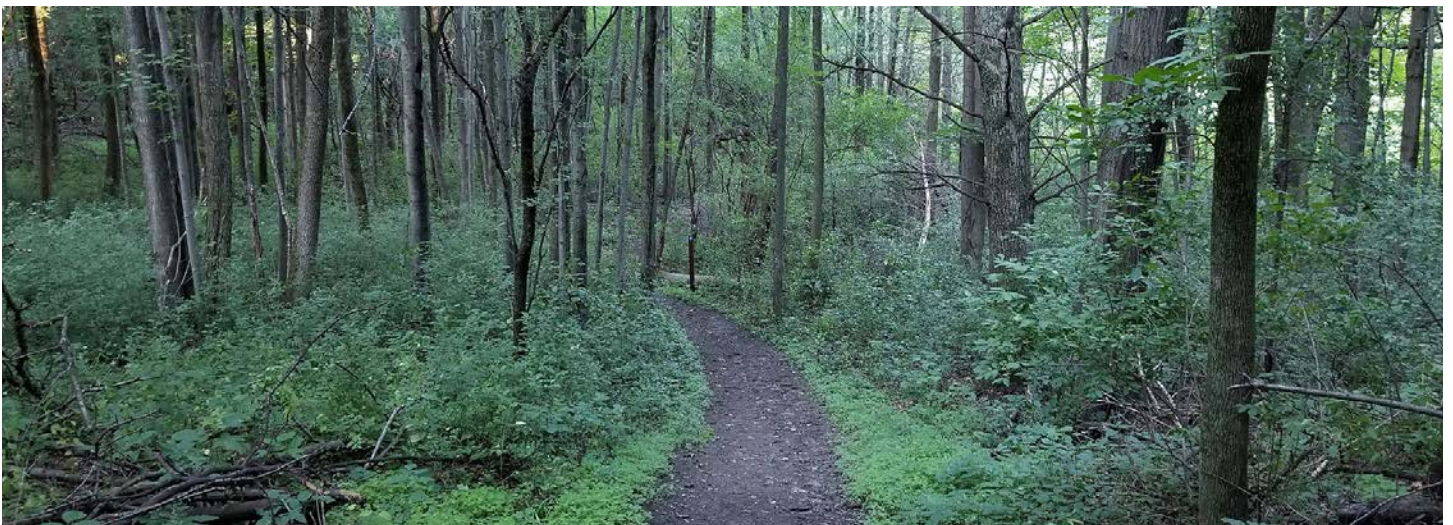
- Developed County Park
- Uncatetgorized Open Space
- Undeveloped County Park
- Municipal Boundary
- Specialty Areas and Water Access
- County Regional Trails
- County Greenway
- Water Access

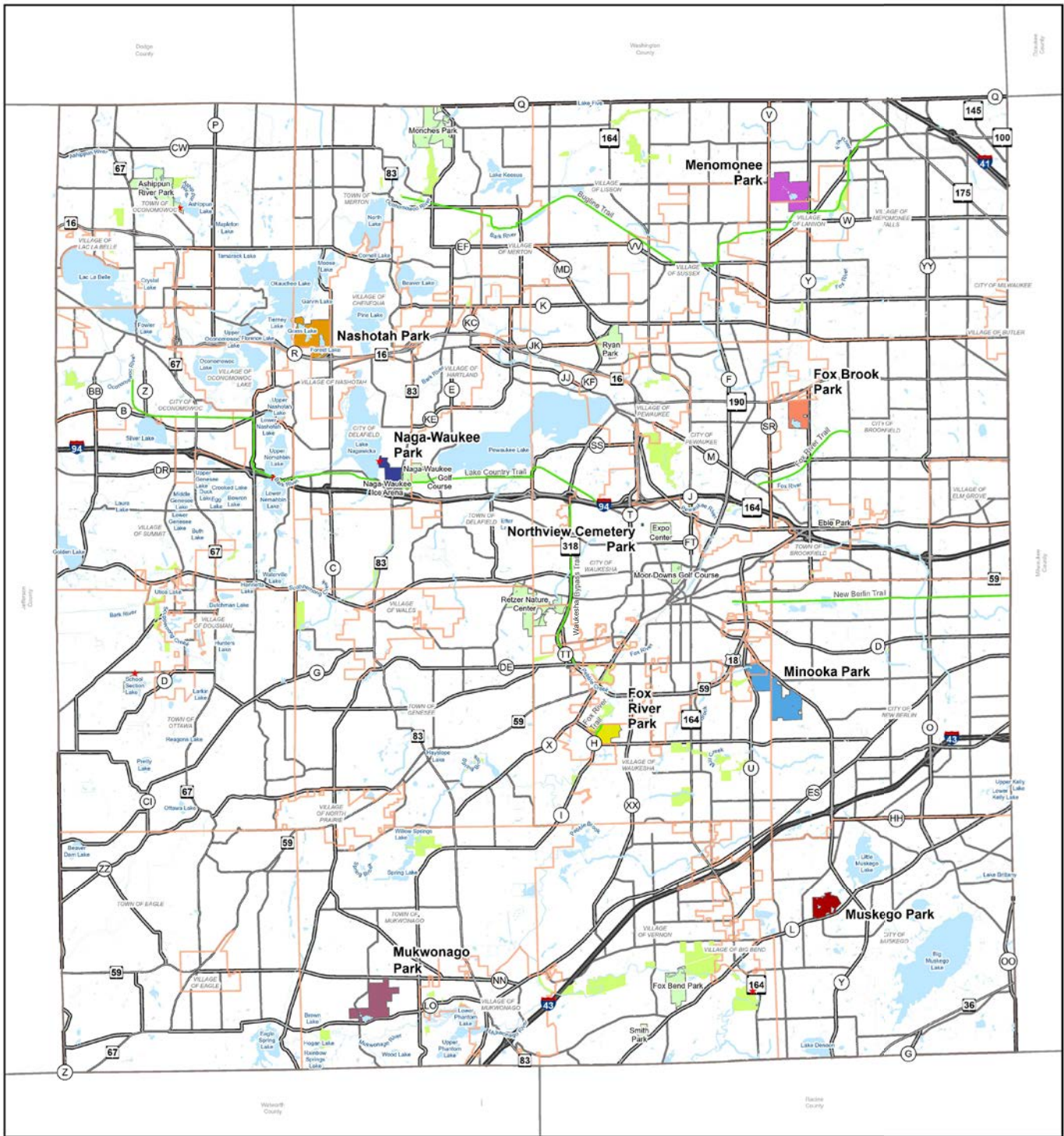


Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

Developed Parks

The Waukesha County Park System currently has eight developed parks which includes the following: Fox Brook Park, Fox River Park, Menomonee Park, Minooka Park, Mukwonago Park, Muskego Park, Naga-Waukee Park, Nashotah Park, and Northview Park. These parks have a wide variety of amenities and substantial natural areas. Dog Exercise Areas, water access, trails, rentable shelters, picnic areas, and camping sites are some of the many amenities that users will find at the parks.





Waukesha County Parks - Developed



- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  Fox Brook Park |  Naga-Waukee Park |  Municipal Boundary |
|  Fox River Park |  Nashotah Park |  Undeveloped County Parks |
|  Menomonee Park |  Northview Cemetery Park |  County Greenway |
|  Minooka Park |  County Regional Trails | |
|  Mukwonago Park |  Lake Access | |
|  Muskego Park | | |



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use Land Resources Division - LIS July 2023

FOX BROOK PARK

2925 N Barker Road, Brookfield 53045

201.8 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Accessible Dock/Watercraft Launch
- Accessible Fishing Pier
- Beach House/Lodge
- Beer Garden
- Carry-in Watercraft Access
- Dog Swim Area
- Legacy Forest
- Paved Trail (1 mile loop around lake)
- Picnic Pavilion
- Play Structure
- Quarry Lake
- Observation Decks
- Rental/Concession Building
- Scuba Diving Access
- Swimming Beach

Activities

- Beer Garden
- Biking
- Bird Watching
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Cultural Events
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Lodge/Picnic Pavilion Rental
- Paddle Boarding
- Picnicking
- Rollerblading
- Running/Jogging/Walking
- Scuba Diving
- Social Gatherings
- Swimming
- Watercraft Rentals

Acquisition:

History

- 1997 Acquired from the City of Brookfield – 173 acres
- 2000 Purchase from Wetzel with WDNR and City of Brookfield funding – 50 acres

Proposed Dedication/Donation

- Two parcels totaling 35.3 acres – includes 4-acre wetland along Barker Road and a 31.3-acre parcel to add to the North end of the park.

Valuable Species:

Birds

- American Kestrel
- American Woodcock
- Common Goldeneye
- Common Loon
- Lesser Scaup
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow

- Osprey
- Pie-billed Grebe
- Sedge Wren

Plants

- Fringed Loosestrife
- Marsh Pea
- Marsh Skullcap
- Purple-stemmed Aster

Site Characteristics:

Fox Brook Park is a well-used park in the City of Brookfield, located on Barker Road, west of the Fox River.

Formerly the site of a gravel quarry, the park currently has a 22-acre quarry lake that features a sandy beach and an adjacent beach house/lodge as the central attraction of the park.

One mile of paved multi-use trail curves around the quarry lake. The trail provides access to three wildlife-viewing decks at the lake's edge, an accessible fishing pier, a dog swimming area, an accessible kayak launch and dock, a carry-in watercraft launch and a reservable picnic pavilion with overlooking views of the lake.

The 138-acre wetland area is a natural habitat and resource preserve. This habitat allows many bird species, such as Gold Finches and Indigo Buntings, to flourish within the park.

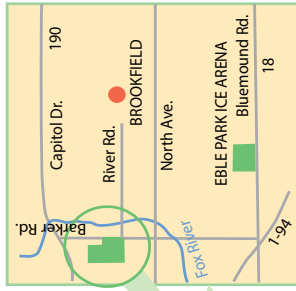
Land Management Overview:

The core zone for Fox Brook Park covers 94.2 acres of southern lowland forest, degraded sedge meadow, old field, and includes a 20-acre quarry lake.

The site falls within Primary Environmental Corridor and occurs within the Fox River watershed. A network of agricultural ditches run through the center of the property which is predominantly delineated wetland.

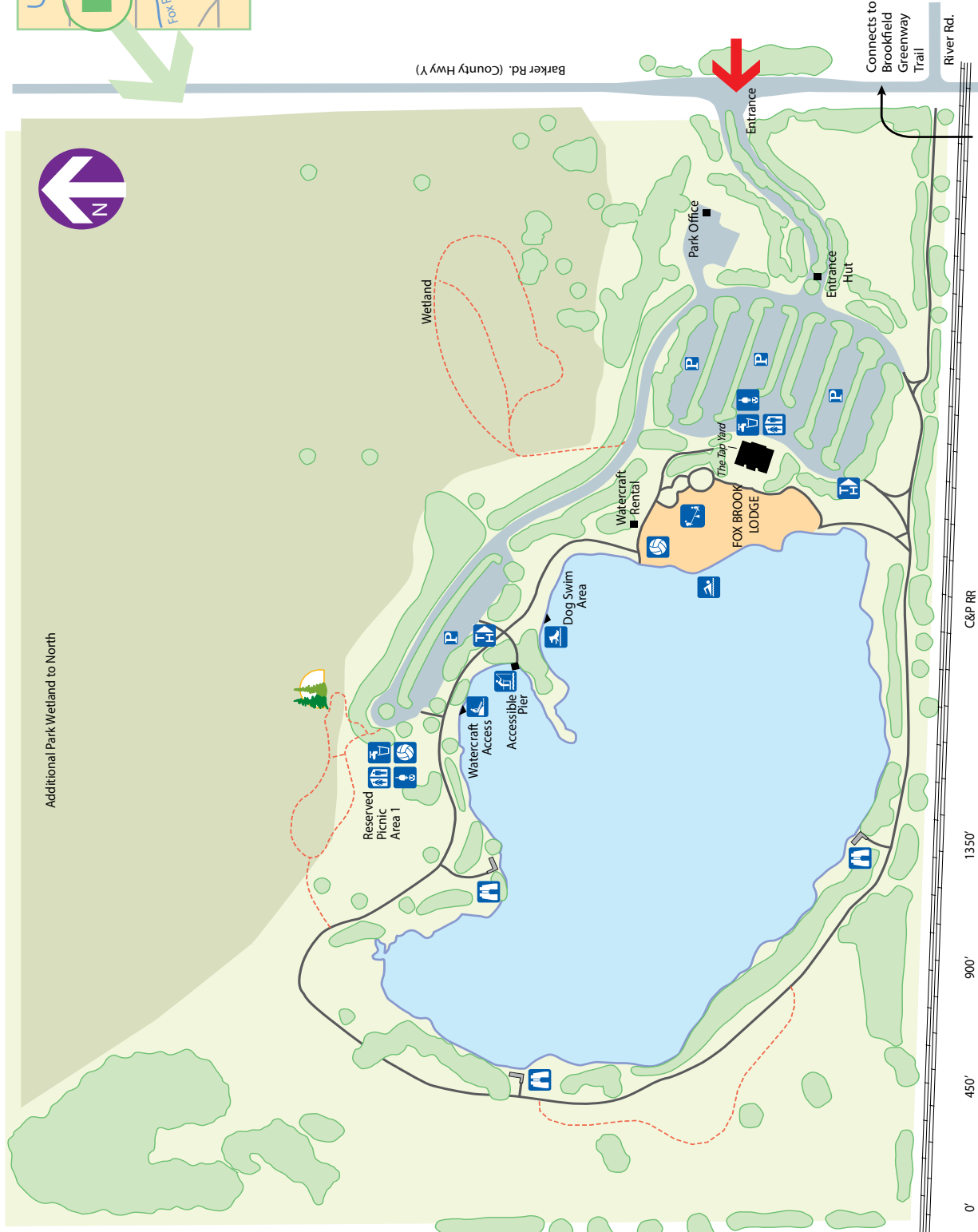
The structure of meadow habitat surrounding the open water of the lake at the park creates a valuable stopover habitat area for migratory waterfowl in the spring and fall.

Natural land management priorities for the site include selective control of invasive species within the core zone, preservation of the existing forest canopy, and restoration of mature hardwood tree canopy within the lowland forest areas impact by Emerald Ash Borer.

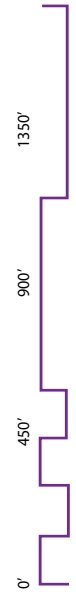


- ### Map Legend
- Woods
 - Wetland
 - Parking
 - Restroom
 - Drinking Water
 - Electric
 - Wildlife Viewing
 - Swimming
 - Carry-in Watercraft Access (Electric motors only)
 - Accessible Fishing
 - Dog Swim Area
 - Volleyball Court
 - Play Area
 - Trailhead Kiosk
 - Legacy Forest

- Trails
- Paved Trail - 0.9 Mile (around lake)
- Mowed Trails (Winter = Ungroomed)



Additional Park Wetland to North





Fox Brook Park

Waukesha County Park System



- Park Boundary
- Potential Dedication/ Donation Interest



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

FOX RIVER PARK

W264 S4500 River Road, Waukesha, WI 53189

192.7 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Legacy Forest
- Modern Restrooms
- Multi-use Paved Trail
- Nature Play Area
- Observation Decks (2)
- Picnic Pavilions (3)
- Trails
- Watercraft Launch (Fabulous Fox! Water Trail Access Point)
- Wetland Scrape Natural Area

Activities

- Bicycling
- Bird Watching
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Fishing
- Rollerblading
- Running/Jogging/Walking
- Seasonal Events
- Social Gatherings

Acquisition:

History

- 1988 Purchase from Winzenried/Mittelstadt
- 1989 Dedication from Richard Casper
- 1993 Dedication from Don Bellman
- 1994 Dedication from Don Bellman
- 1994 Dedication from Richard Casper

Valuable Species:

Birds

- American Woodcock
- Hooded Warbler
- Osprey
- Scarlet Tanager
- Willow Flycatcher
- Wood Thrush

Other

- Unicorn Clubtail (insect)
- Northern Sunfish
- Silver-haired Bat
- Showy Orchid

In 2024, a new accessible fishing pier and accessible kayak/canoe launch will be installed at Fox River Park.



Site Characteristics:

Fox River Park is located alongside the Fox River in the Village of Waukesha. This park features Fox River frontage, wetlands, upland oak-hickory woodlands, open meadows, and a deep marsh; all providing a feeling of wilderness and solitude.

No matter what season of the year one visits, the view and activity are ever-changing. The abundance of wildlife provides great opportunities for nature study and the exploration of the natural world. As the trails wind through the park, numerous wildflowers and bird species can be observed.

Several miles of paved trails draw hikers, bikers and rollerbladers throughout spring, summer and fall, offering a variety of trail experiences. The Fox River Park canoe launch provides access to the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail, which is part of the National Park Service's National Water Trail System.

Land Management Overview:

The core zone for Fox River Park is 125-acres and is of tremendous quality with the following notes:

- it includes high quality dry-mesic forest (NA-2), ephemeral wetlands, and restored dry-mesic, wet-mesic and wet prairie.
- it falls within Primary Environmental Corridor and occurs within the Fox River watershed.
- Additional vegetative communities include old field and emergent marsh.

Fox River Park is located upstream of the 4,655-acre Vernon Marsh, a state-owned natural area, providing a valuable upland buffer and habitat for the Fox River.

Natural land management priorities include selective control of invasive species in core zone, maintenance of fire-dependent vegetative communities with prescribed fire, enhancement of species diversity through inter-seeding, preservation of the existing forest canopy, and restoration of mature hardwood tree canopy within the lowland forest areas.



In 2016 the Milwaukee Public Museum hosted their annual Bio Blitz at Fox River Park which resulted in the documentation of 1,022 species of plants, insects, fungi, fish, and wildlife. Researchers from MPM stated that “given that 163 homes border the park, it was encouraging to see a diverse understory with mixed-age trees”.



WC Land Information Office, WLLP, SEWRPC, Ayres-Associates
 Orthophotography Date: 2022



Fox River Park

Waukesha County Park System

 Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LIS
 July 2023

MENOMONEE PARK

W220 N7884 Town Line Road, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

471.5 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Accessible Fishing Pier
- Archery Range
- Beach House
- Beer Garden
- Bugline Trail Connection
- Camp Pow Wow Lodge
- Carry-in Watercraft Access
- Dog Exercise Area (large & small breeds)
- Dog Swim Area
- Equestrian Trails
- Family Camping (30)
- Group Camping (7)
- Legacy Forest
- Modern Restrooms
- Picnic Pavilions (3)
- Quarry Lake
- Sledding Hill
- Swimming Beach
- Trails

Activities

- Beer Garden
- Biking
- Bird Watching
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Cross-country Skiing
- Cultural Events
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Lodge/Picnic Pavilion Rental
- Paddle Boarding
- Picnicking
- Rollerblading
- Running/Jogging/Walking
- Scuba Diving
- Social Gatherings
- Swimming
- Watercraft Rentals

Acquisition:

History

- 1960 Purchases from Arthur Prag
- 1960 Elmer Schultz
- 1960 Lake Shore Sand and Stone Co
- 1963 Conveyed by deed from Department of Interior – Nike Site M-86
- 1970 Purchase from Ritsch
- 1984 Purchase from June Prag
- 2009 Best Trust

Proposed Dedication/Donation

- A 21.4- acre wooded site to the north
- A 20-acre buffer to the group camp and wetlands to the south

Site Characteristics:

Menomonee Park is located in the northeastern section of Waukesha County in the Villages of Lannon and Menomonee Falls. The Park totals 471.5 acres of rolling fields, high-quality maple woods, cattail marsh, wetlands, several trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding, and a 16-acre quarry lake. There are three Artesian wells within the park located near the Beach House, Camp Pow Wow Lodge and the Family Camp Area. In 1880-1900, a stone quarry operated here, now remnants of its history include an old stone crusher and the railroad spur running from the quarry to the Bugline Recreation Trail.

The historic Bugline Trail, once a railroad that served Stone City, with its 16 miles of paved asphalt has become a valued trail for a variety of users. From the park, the trail extends to Menomonee Falls to the east and to North Lake to the west.

Land Management Overview:

The core zone for Menomonee Park is 146.3-acres and tremendous quality with the following notes:

- It includes high quality mesic forest (NA-3), dry-mesic forest, lowland forest, emergent marsh, and ephemeral wetlands (located singularly & within the mesic forest.
- Located in the northeastern corner of Waukesha County which places it within Wisconsin's ecological Tension Zone.
- The spring flora at the site is impressive, highlighted by Large-flowered Trilliums and Sharp-lobed Hepatica.

Natural land management priorities include selective control of invasive species in the core zone, enhancement of species diversity through inter-seeding, preservation of the existing forest canopy, and restoration of mature hardwood tree canopy within the lowland forest areas.

Valuable Species:

Birds

- American Woodcock
- Baltimore Checkerspot
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Brown Thrasher
- Ovenbird
- Scarlet Tanager

- Virginia Rail
- Wood Thrush

Plants

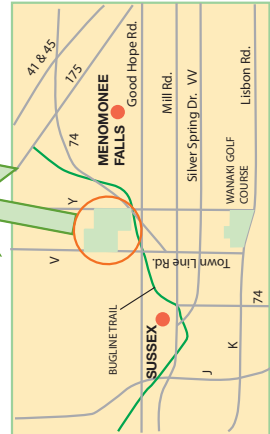
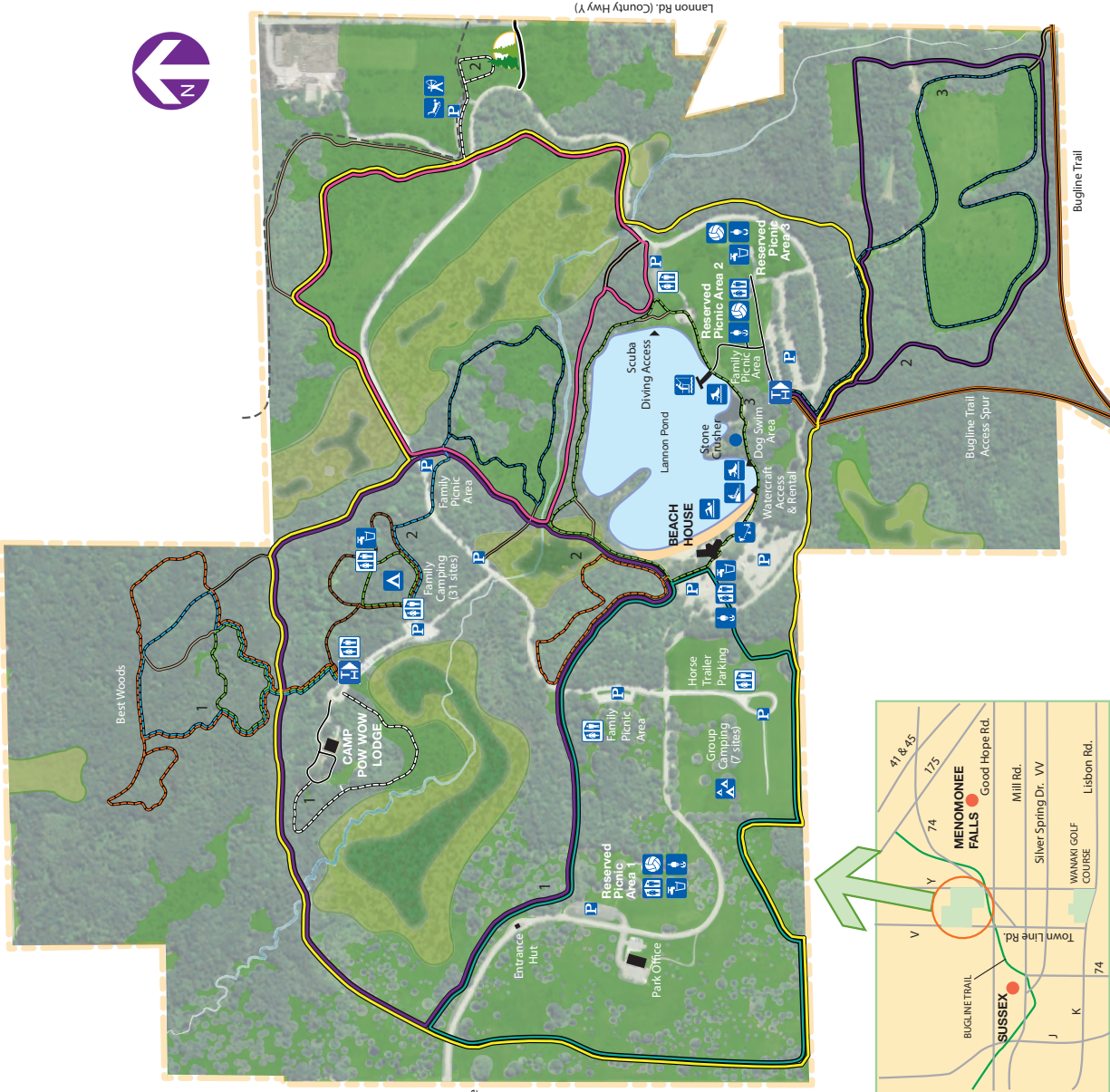
- Autumn Coralroot
- Fragrant sumac
- Walking Fern

Map Legend

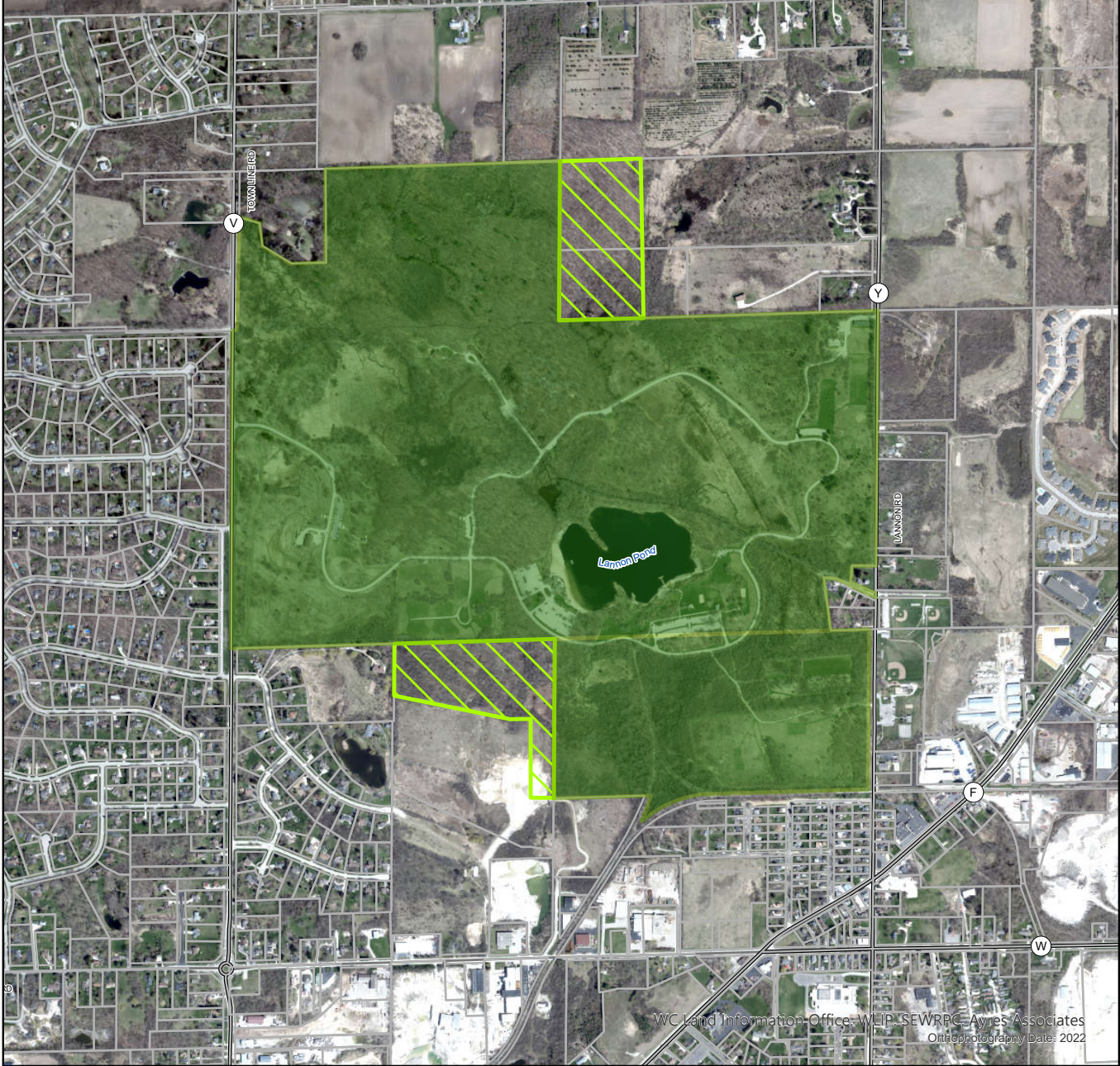
- Wetland
- Woodland
- Parking
- Restroom
- Pit Toilet
- Drinking Water
- Electric
- Swimming
- Dog Swim Area
- Accessible Fishing
- Carry-in Watercraft Access
- Volleyball Court
- Archery Range
- Sledding Hill
- Play Area
- Trailhead Kiosk
- Family Camping
- Group Camping
- Legacy Forest

Trails

- Paved Trail
- Yellow Loop - 3 Miles
- Orange Hiking Loop - (Winter = Snowshoe and Hike)
- Red Hiking Loop - (Winter = Snowshoe and Hike)
- Purple Loop - (Winter = SK Only)
- Blue/Green Loop - 1.5 Miles (Winter = SK Only)
- Pink Loop - 1.2 Miles (Winter = SK Only)
- White Hiking Loop - (Winter = Snowshoe and Hike)
- Brown Hiking Loop - 3 Mile (Winter = Snowshoe and Hike)
- Light Blue Hiking Loop - (Winter = Snowshoe and Hike)
- Dark Blue Hiking Loop - (Winter = Snowshoe and Hike)
- Green Hiking Loop - (Winter = Snowshoe and Hike)
- Connector Trail
- Bugline Trail
- Snowmobile Trail



The Tension Zone is an ecoclimatic band that crosses the state from northwest to southeast, separating the prairie-savanna-hardwood forest ecosystems of the south and west from the mixed coniferous-deciduous forest ecosystems of the north and east. Diverse species assemblages occur within and along the Tension Zone, which is demonstrated in the natural areas at Menomonee Park, particularly the mesic forest.



WC Land Information Office, WLRP, SEWRPC, Ayres Associates
 Orthophotography Date: 2022



Menomonee Park

Waukesha County Park System



Park Boundary



Potential Dedication/Donation Interest



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LIS
 July 2023

MINOOKA PARK

1927 E Sunset Drive, Waukesha, WI 53189

571.4 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Archery Range
- Athletic Field
- Barn
- Beach
- Beach House
- Beer Garden
- Cross-country Ski Trails
- Dog Exercise Areas (large & small breed)
- Equestrian Trails
- Legacy Forest
- Modern Restrooms
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Nature Trails
- Picnic Shelters (5)
- Pond
- Sledding Hill
- Swimming Beach

Activities

- Agriculture Land Rental
- Archery
- Beer Garden
- Bicycling
- Bird Watching
- Cross-country Skiing
- Dog Exercise
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Picnicking
- Rugby
- Running/Jogging/Walking
- Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Social Gatherings
- Swimming

Acquisition:

History

- 1965 Purchase from Scott Lowry
- 1965 Purchase from Richard & Stuart Fondrie
- 1965 Purchase from William Hart Estate
- 1965 Purchases from Frank Swartz
- 1994 Purchase from Piechura/O'Neil
- 1996 Purchase from John Illing

Valuable Species:

Birds

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- American Woodcock
- Acadian Flycatcher
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Brown Thrasher
- Cerulean Warbler
- Hooded Warbler
- Yellow-breasted Chat

Mammals & Reptiles

- Big Brown Bat
- Tricolored Bat
- Blanding's Turtle
- Butler's Gartersnake

Plants & Insects

- Large-leaved shinleaf
- Narrow-leaved Loosestrife
- Double-striped Bluet

Site Characteristics:

Located in the east-central section of Waukesha County, spanning the Cities of Waukesha and New Berlin and Village of Waukesha, Minooka Park is the largest in the County park system. The park is 571.4 acres of open mowed fields, meadows and fen, wetland, and upland and lowland woodlands.

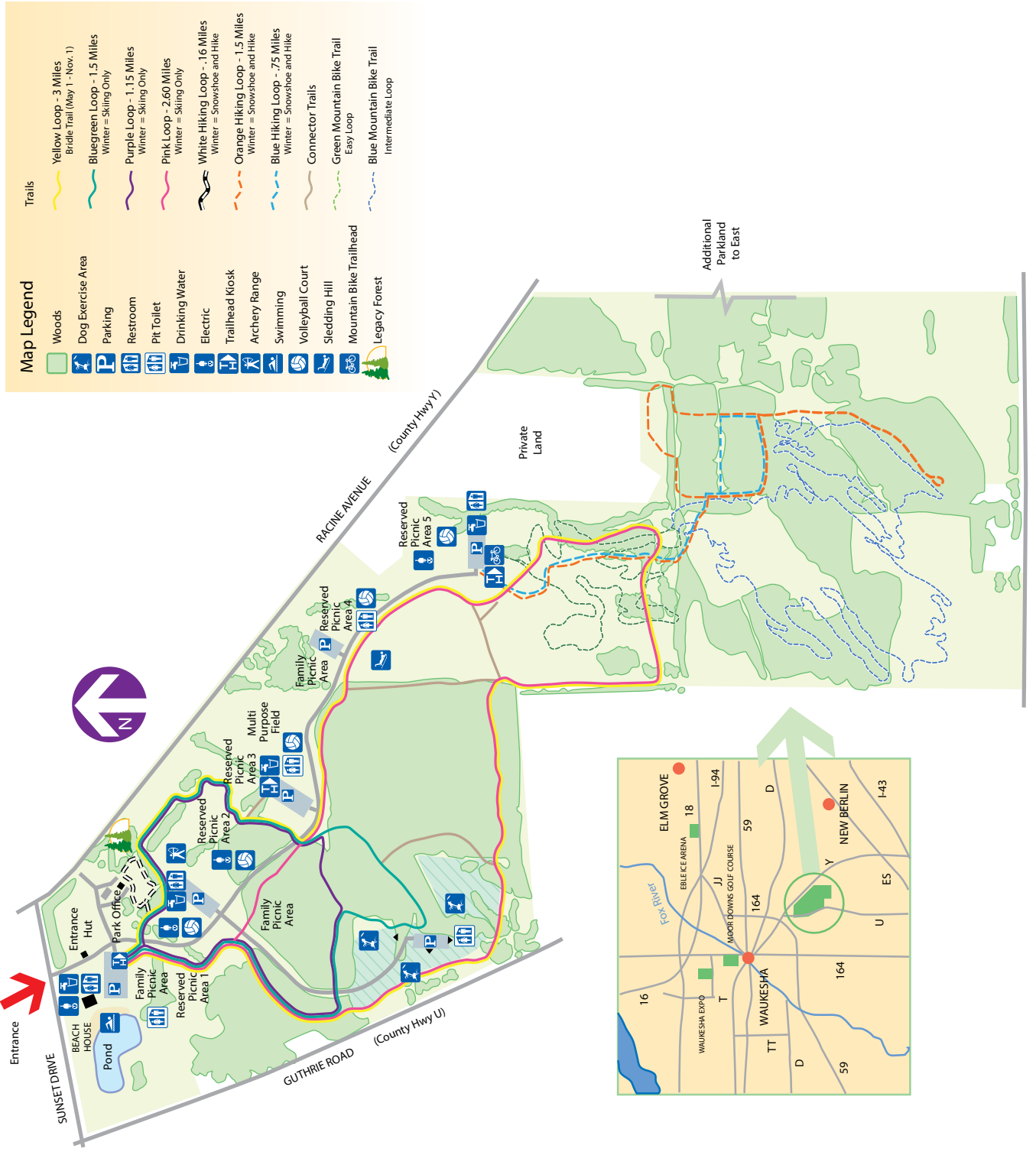
Minooka Park offers a wide variety of activities for both nature-based and active recreation. The active recreation facilities include athletic fields, an archery range, and rugby facilities. A 3.5-acre pond, multiple shelters, dog exercise areas, and miles of wooded trails for hiking and horse-back riding are some of the prominent features in the park. The southern portion of the park is dedicated to mountain bike trails. In winter, the park has miles of groomed cross-country ski trails and a spacious sledding hill.

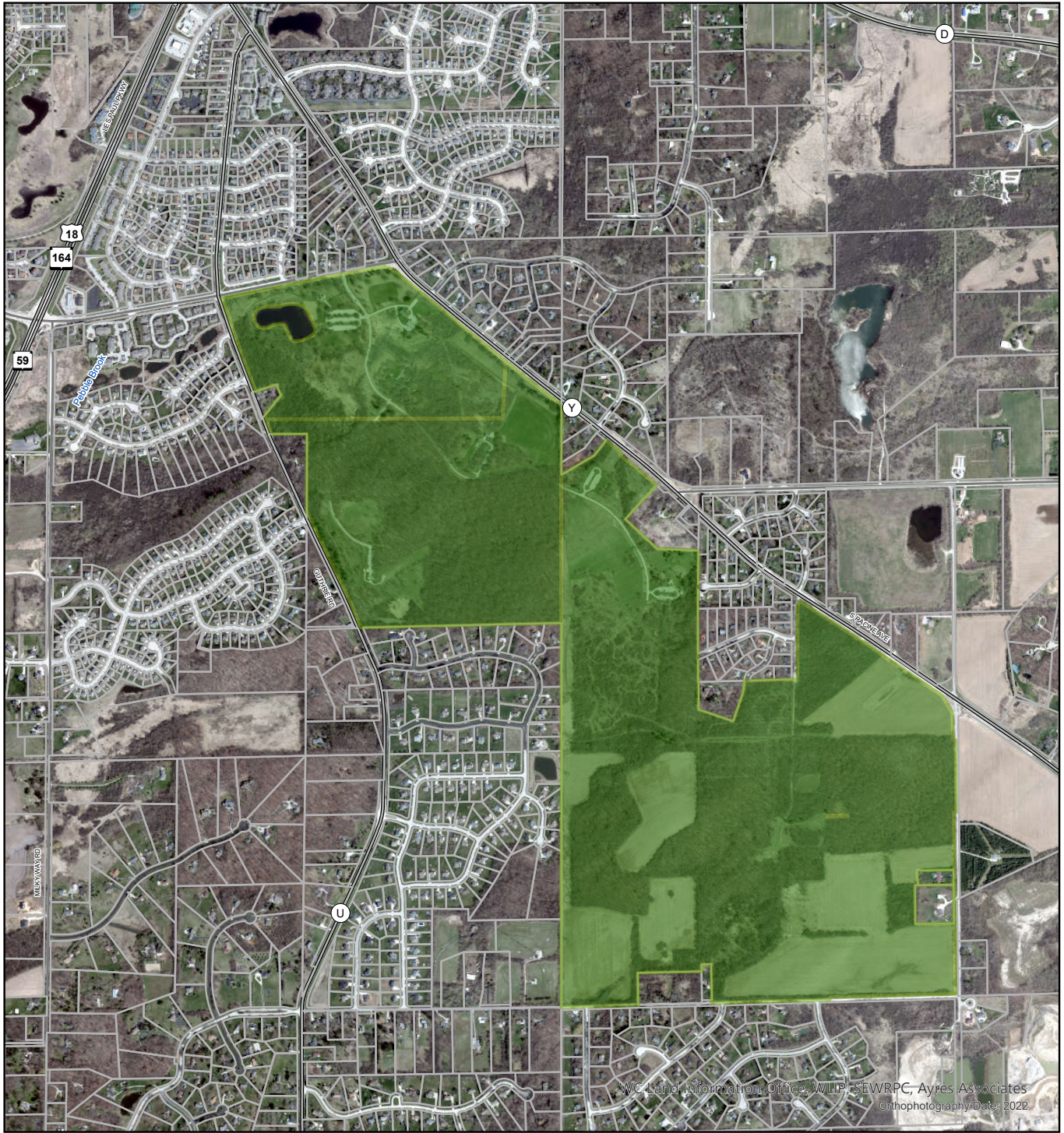
Land Management Overview:

The core zone for Minooka Park is 189-acres and is of tremendous quality with the following notes:

- Mostly dry-mesic (NA-3) and mesic forest with a small component of degraded prairie fen.
- It falls within Primary Environmental Corridor and occurs within the Fox River watershed.
- 42-acre section of shrubland for nesting species.
- Located in the Wisconsin Ecological Tension Zone.


Natural land management priorities include selective control of invasive species in the core zone, maintenance of fire-dependent vegetative communities with prescribed fire, phased wetland renovation, enhancement of species diversity through inter-seeding, preservation of the existing forest canopy, and restoration of mature hardwood tree canopy within the lowland forest areas.





Minooka Park

Waukesha County Park System

 Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

MUKWONAGO PARK

S100 W31900, County Hwy LO, Mukwonago, WI 53149

399.7 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Accessible Archery Range
- Archery Tower
- Barn
- Dog Exercise Areas – Separate Large and Small Breed Areas
- Family Camping (30)
- Group Camping (7)
- Hammock Camping
- Legacy Forest
- Modern Restrooms
- Picnic Shelters (4)
- Ponds (4)
- Shower Facility
- Swimming Beach
- Trails

Activities

- Ag Land Rental
- Archery
- Bicycling
- Bird Watching
- Canoeing/ Kayaking
- Dog Exercise
- Hammock Camping
- Hiking
- Social Gatherings
- Fishing
- Fishing Clinics
- Geocaching
- Kayaking
- Picnicking
- Running/Jogging/Walking
- Rustic and Electric Camping
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming

Acquisition:

History

- 1959 Purchase from Andrew Ketter
- 2000 Purchase from Kemp & Kathy Wilson
- 2016 – Purchase – Gene Thompson Family Trust

Site Characteristics:

Mukwonago Park is located in the southern portion of Waukesha County, in the Town of Mukwonago. The park's entrance is on Highway LO, just three miles west of Highway 83, near the Village of Mukwonago. The site includes a high ridge formed during the last glacial period, which stretches nearly the length of the park. This ridge allows a commanding view of the rolling terrain and farmlands that are typical of southeast Wisconsin.

The remnant oak opening is fine example of pre-settlement vegetation including Burr Oak, Shagbark Hickory, and ground cover prairie plants. The 0.3-acre spring pond flows into two fishing lakes and the 1.2-acre swim pond. Water from the pond winds through the park, and feeds into the nearby Mukwonago River, which is designated an Exceptional Resource Water.

Land Management Overview:

The core zone for Mukwonago Park is 66-acres of primarily oak opening and dry-mesic prairie with the following notes:

- Bur Oaks occur through the Oak Ecosystems that show savanna structure & remnants of native ground layer vegetation.
- It contains a 17-acre spring-fed lake - vital habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Located in the Primary Environmental Corridor in the Mukwonago River watershed.

Natural land management priorities include preservation & enhancement of the oak ecosystems, selective control of invasive species, maintenance of fire-dependent vegetative communities with prescribed fire, phased wetland renovations for added buffer and habitat, and enhancement of species diversity through inter-seeding.

Valuable Species:

Birds

- Brown Thrasher
- Field Sparrow
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Osprey
- Purple Martin

- Red-headed Woodpecker

Reptiles & Insects

- Blanding's Turtle
- Citrine Forktail

- Double-striped Bluet
- Rainbow Bluet
- Western Red Damsel

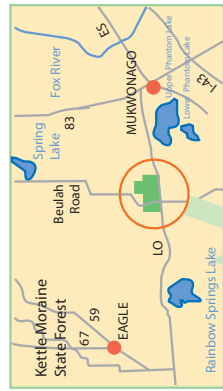
Plants

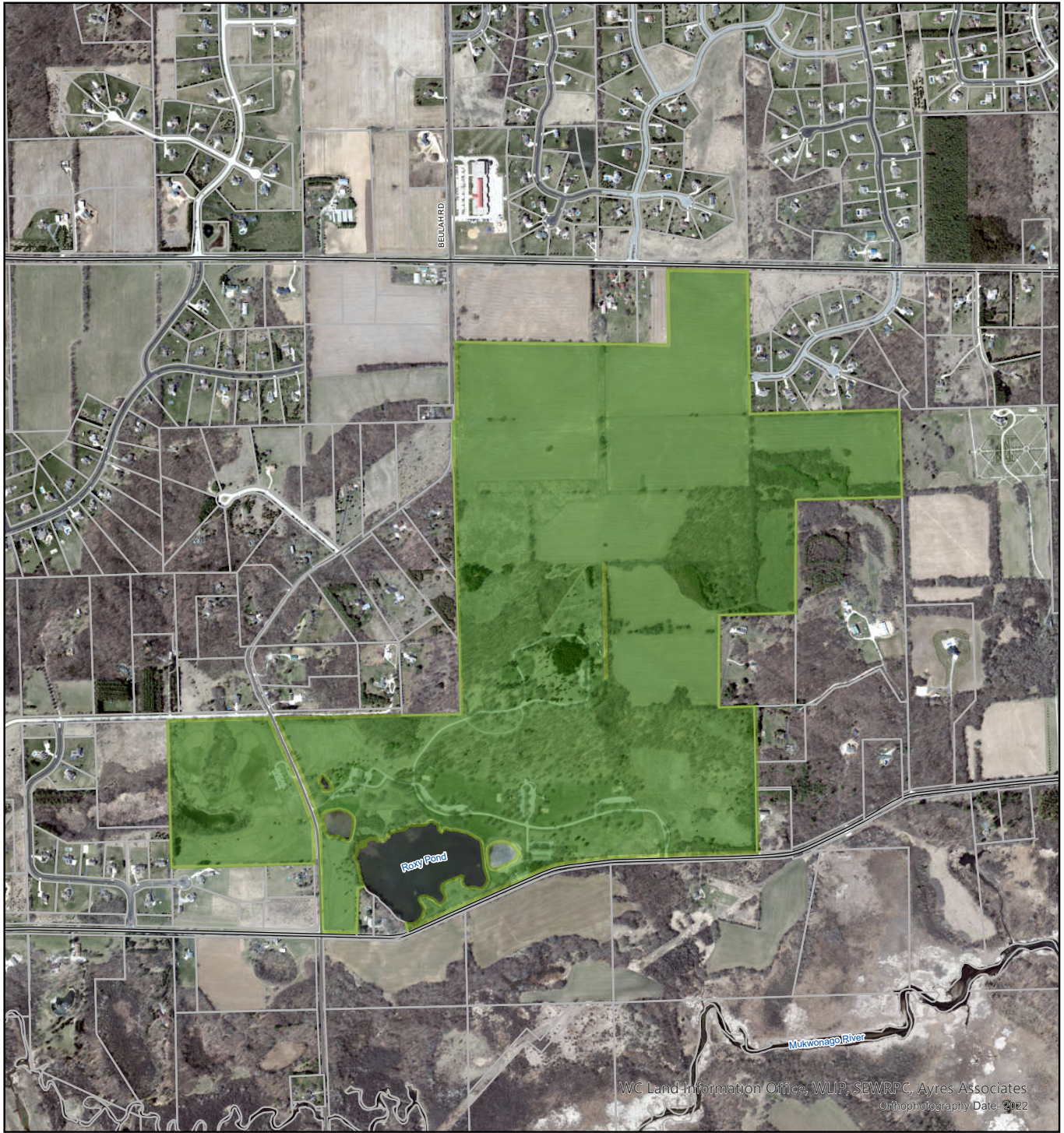
- Bent/Declined/ Gleason's Trillium

- False Foxglove
- Michigan/Turk's Cap Lily
- Small Skullcap
- Starry Campion
- Toothed Primrose

Map Legend


- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| | Woods |
| | Dog Exercise Area |
| | Parking |
| | Restroom |
| | Pit Toilet |
| | Drinking Water |
| | Electric |
| | Archery Range |
| | Swimming |
| | Volleyball Court |
| | Sledding Hill |
| | Family Camping |
| | Group Camping |
| | Shower (available seasonally) |
| | Firewood for Sale |
| | Legacy Forest |
-
- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| | Yellow Hiking Loop - 1.5 Miles |
| | Orange Hiking Loop - 1 Mile |
| | Blue Hiking Loop - .5 Mile |
| | Green Hiking Loop - .75 Mile |
| | White Hiking Loop - .4 Mile |
| | Brown Hiking Trail - .25 Mile |
| | Connector Trail |
| | Boardwalk |





Mukwonago Park

Waukesha County Park System

 Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

MUSKEGO PARK

583 W20370 Janesville Rd, Muskego, WI 53150

199 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Archery Range
- Beach House
- Family Camping (17)
- Group Camping (3)
- Legacy Forest
- Modern Restrooms
- Picnic Shelters (5)
- Swimming Beach
- Swimming & Fishing Pond
- Trails

Activities

- Archery
- Bicycling
- Bird Watching
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Horseshoes
- Picnicking
- Rustic and Electric Camping
- Running/Jogging/Walking
- Social Gatherings
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming

Acquisition:

History:

- 1958 Purchase from Addie Ellarson Crosswaite
- 1958 Purchase from Arthur Ellarson
- 1958 Purchase from Cecelia Ellarson Neiman
- 1987 Dedication from Scholbe Farms

Valuable Species:

Birds

- Acadian Flycatcher
- American Woodcock
- Cerulean Warbler
- Great Egret
- Wood Thrush

Plants

- Blue Ash
- Crow-spur Sedge
- False Hop Sedge
- Kentucky Coffee Tree
- Prairie (red) Trillium
- Red Baneberry
- Swollen Sedge
- Wild Ginseng

Site Characteristics:

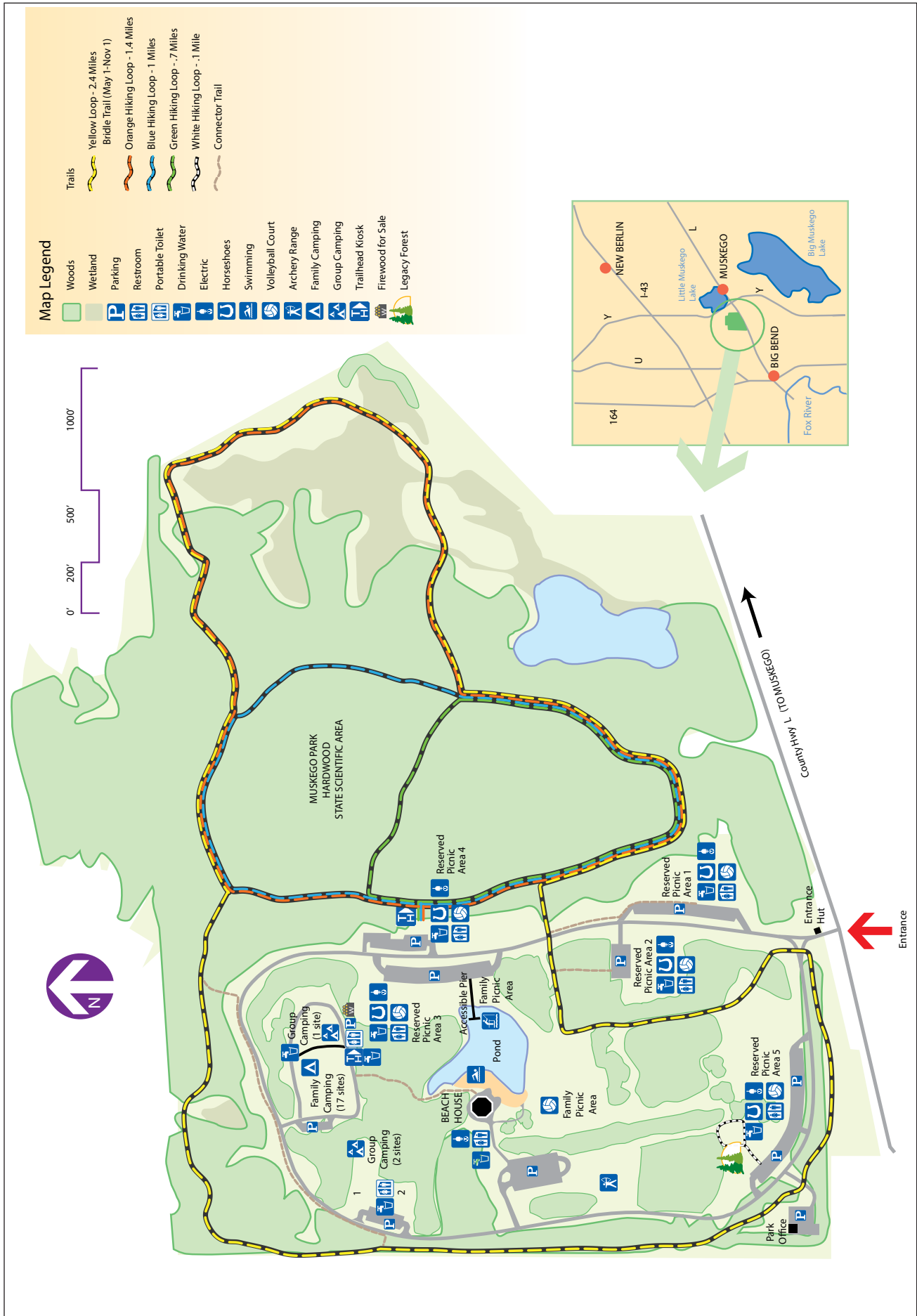
Located in southeastern Waukesha County, in the City of Muskego, and formerly known as the Ellarson Farm, Muskego Park was one of the pioneer farms occupied by members of the same family since 1836. The terrain in the park is a rolling landscape of dense soils and wetland areas with small ponds. Within the park is the State Natural Area known as the Muskego Park Hardwoods.

Muskego Park was purchased in 1958 as the County’s first regional park. The State of Wisconsin Scientific Area Preservation Council named the 60 acres of Hardwoods in the park a State Scientific Area. This area is to preserve valuable plant communities, teach conservation practices and study the area’s natural history. In 2021, the hardwoods joined the Old-Growth Forest Network. Many trails wind through Muskego Park Hardwoods, offering a tranquil atmosphere through and area with abundant wildlife.

Land Management Overview:

The core zone for Muskego Park is 138.4 acres of mesic and dry-mesic forest (NA-1) of exceptional floristic quality. Muskego Park Hardwoods is an old growth, southern, dry-mesic forest dominated by white and red oaks on a gently sloping grade. Occasional large sugar maples occur along with a mixture of other trees such as bitternut hickory, shagbark hickory, butternut, walnut, basswood, black cherry, ironwood, and, of particular interest, Kentucky coffee tree, and blue ash. The southeast corner has a lowland forest with some elm and hackberry. Spring flora is exceptionally rich and contains wild leek, toothwort, bloodroot, declined trillium, reflexed trillium, green dragon, and red baneberry. The large populations of sweet cicely, honewort, black snakeroot, and wood avens are indicative of past grazing. Small woodland ponds lie in the northwest portion. Summer bird populations are representative of southern hardwoods and include the state-threatened cerulean warbler.

Natural land management priorities for the site include selective control of invasive species within the core zone, preservation of the existing forest canopy, and restoration of mature hardwood tree canopy within the lowland forest areas impacted by Emerald Ash Borer.






Waukesha County Land Information Office, WLIP, SEWRPC, Ayres Associates
 Orthomotography Date: 2022



Muskego Park

Waukesha County Park System

 Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LIS
 July 2023

NAGA-WAUKEE PARK

651 WI-83, Hartland, WI 53029

239.9 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Accessible Lakefront Boardwalk
- Barn
- Beach
- Beach House
- Boat Launch Facilities – Pewaukee Lake and Nagawicka Lake
- Family Camping (25)
- Group Camping (5)
- Legacy Forest
- Modern Restrooms
- Multi-purpose Field – 14 acres
- Naga-Waukee War Memorial Golf Course – 18 holes
- Picnic Shelters (5)
- Trails
- Trail Connections – Lake Country Trail and Ice Age Trail

Activities

- Bicycling
- Bird Watching
- Boating
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Cross-country Meets
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Primitive Camping
- Rugby
- Running/Jogging/Walking
- Sailing
- Snowshoeing
- Soccer (organized)
- Social Gatherings
- Swimming

Acquisition:

History

- 1958 Purchase from Florence Yunker
- 1958 Purchase from Harry Larkin
- 1960 Purchase from August Kapchinski
- 1960 Purchase from Bernard Paulson
- 1960 Purchase from Herman Salen

Valuable Species:

Plants

- Lead Plant
- Purple Twayblade
- Robin's Plantain
- Short Green Milkweed
- Stiff Gentian
- Wholed Milkwort

Birds & Mammals

- Hooded Warbler
- Big Brown Bat
- Evening Bat

Site Characteristics:

Naga-Waukee Park is located in the central portion of Waukesha County, within the City and Town of Delafield.

The park includes land along the shoreline of both Pewaukee and Nagawicka Lakes, with varying terrain including rolling open fields, timbered slopes, and marshy wetlands along the interlobate moraine known, commonly, as the Kettle Moraine. There are several vistas with picturesque views of both Nagawicka and Pewaukee Lakes.

The main park area is West of Highway 83. The Naga-Waukee War Memorial Golf Course and the Pewaukee Lake Boat Launch are east of the park. The Lake Country Recreation Trail is located along the southern boundary of the park. The Ice Age Trail follows the eastern and southern edge of the main park area.

The diverse topographical features were created during the glacial age, which enhance the visual interest of the site. An accessible boardwalk winds through the trees along the lakefront. The oak hickory forest and the thick undergrowth define the trails that wind throughout the park, which is home to many different species of wildlife. Many Baltimore Orioles make Naga-Waukee Park their home, as do Great-Horned Owls.

Land Management Overview:

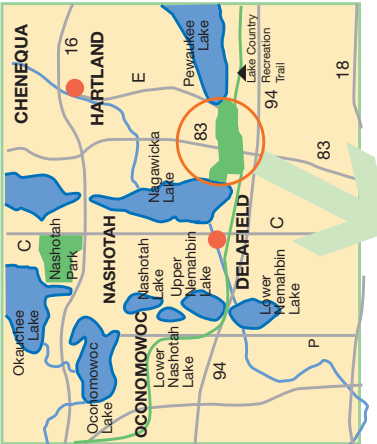
The core zone for Naga-Waukee Park is 84.7-acres of oak woodland, savanna, cedar glade, and oak barrens adjacent to Nagawicka Lake.

Significant work has been completed to stop erosion of the steep slopes adjacent to the lake and restore the native vegetation. The park falls within Primary Environmental Corridor within the Bark River watershed and contains Isolated Natural Resource Areas.

Natural land management priorities for the site include preservation and enhancement of the remnant oak ecosystems, selective control of invasive species within the core zone, maintenance of fire-dependent vegetative communities with prescribed fire, prevention against the spread of Oak Wilt, enhancement of species diversity through inter-seeding, and restoration of mature hardwood tree canopy within the sections of upland most impacted by Oak Wilt.

Map Legend

	Woods		Yellow Loop - 2.6 Miles
	Wetland		Orange Hiking Loop - 1.5 Miles
	Parking		Blue Hiking Loop - 1.15 Miles
	Restroom		Green Hiking Loop - .66 Miles
	Pit Toilets		White Hiking Loop - .13 Mile
	Drinking Water		Boardwalk to Beach - .5 Mile
	Electric		Connector Trail
	Swimming		Lake Country Trail
	Volleyball Court		Ice Age Trail
	Lake Access		Firewood for Sale
	Wildlife Viewing		Legacy Forest
	Play Area		
	Family Camping		
	Group Camping		



Beach distance from:
 Picnic Area 1 and 2 - .5 Mile
 Picnic Area 3 - .75 Mile
 Picnic Area 4 - .5 Mile
 Picnic Area 5 - .25 Mile






Naga-Waukee Park

Waukesha County Park System



 Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023



Park Basics:

<p>Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaumont Barn • Cross-country Ski Trails • Dog Exercise Areas (Large & Small) • Legacy Forest • Modern Restrooms • Multi-purpose Field – 3.5 acres • Picnic Shelters (2) • Sledding Hill • Trails 	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Watching • Canoeing/Kayaking • Cross-country Skiing • Dog Exercise • Family Gatherings • Fishing • Geocaching • Picnicking • Rugby • Running/Jogging/Walking • Snowshoeing • Social Gatherings
---	---

Acquisition:


History

- 1972 Purchase from Edwin Gallun et al
- 1974 Purchase from George Nicholas et al
- 2013 – Purchase from JoAnne Millpointer (Residential Use until 12/2018)

Valuable Species:

<p>Birds & Reptiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue-winged Teal • Blue-winged Warbler • Brown Thrasher • Least Bittern • Northern Shrike 	<p>Plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrow-Leaved Violet • Kitten Tails • Long Hair Hawkweed <p>Insects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lilypad Clubtail • Shagnum Sprite
--	---

In 2024, Forest Lake Access will be improved with a new access from the main parking lot down to the south side of the lake.



Site Characteristics:

Nashotah Park is nestled between the Village of Nashotah and the Town of Merton in the northwest corner of Waukesha County and contains some of the most ecologically diverse landscapes in the park system.

The park consists of rolling hills, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and two small lakes. Trails lead through landscapes created by the last glacial advance over 10,000 years ago. Eight glacial remnant terrains exist within the park, which are a natural lake system, an oak forest, an oak savanna (an area sparsely populated with trees), a cedar glade, a floating leaf marsh, a meadow, a shallow marsh, and a deep marsh.

Due to the variety of landscapes, outstanding arrays of songbirds flourish here. Each season brings a variety of colors and textures. The park continues to thrive in winter months for cold weather enthusiasts who utilize several miles of groomed cross-country ski and snowshoe trails in the park. Miles of trails for walking and running are interspersed through varied landscapes.

Land Management Overview:

The core zone for Nashotah Park is 160.4 acres of tremendous quality natural areas with the following notes:

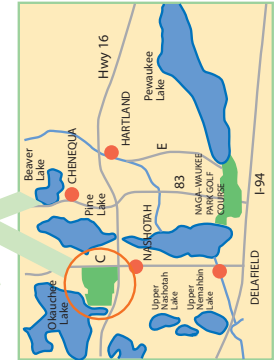
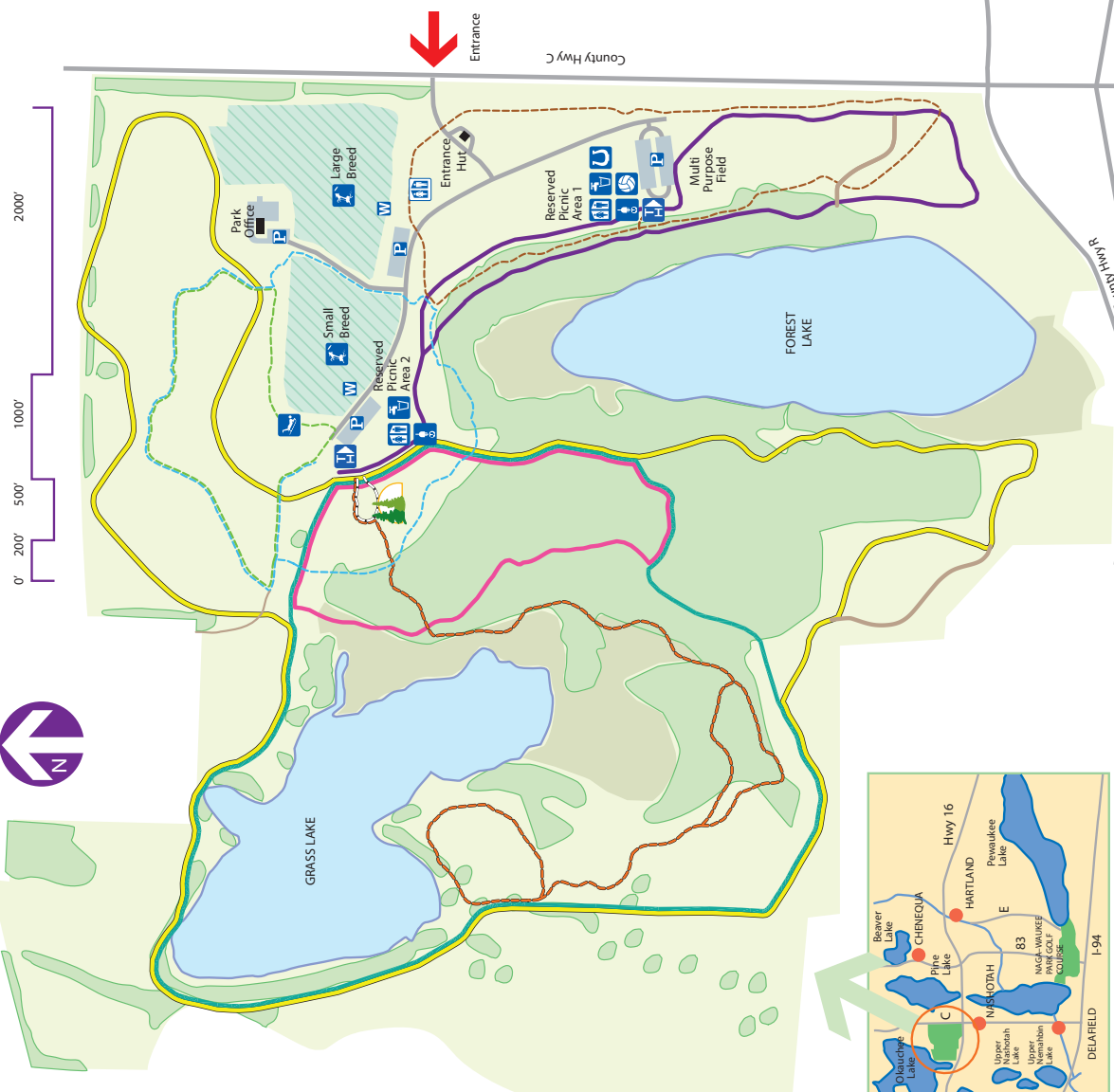
- Includes oak woodland, oak opening, dry-mesic forest, poor fen, emergent marsh, and two undeveloped lakes
- Core zone recently increased after 22 acres of previously farmed agricultural fields were converted to restored dry-mesic prairie on the western border of the park
- Includes a poor fen located on the southern end of Grass Lake.
- Designated as a NA-3 per SEWRPC.
- Falls within the Primary Environmental Corridor in the Oconomowoc River watershed.

Natural land management priorities for the site include selective control of invasive species within the core zone, maintenance of fire-dependent vegetative communities with prescribed fire, enhancement of species diversity through inter-seeding, and preservation of the existing forest canopy.

Map Legend

	Woods
	Wetland
	Dog Exercise Area
	Parking
	Pit Toilets
	Restroom
	Drinking Water
	Dog Watering Station
	Electric
	Volleyball Court
	Horseshoes
	Skiing Hill
	Trailhead Kiosk
	Legacy Forest

	Yellow Loop - 3.3 Miles (Winter = Ski Only)
	Blue/Green Loop - 1.9 Miles (Winter = Ski Only)
	Purple Loop - 1.4 Miles (Winter = Ski Only)
	Pink Loop - 0.9 Mile, Steep (Winter = Ski Only)
	Connector Trail
	Orange Hiking Loop - 1.3 Miles (Winter = Ungroomed)
	Brown Hiking Loop - 1.2 Miles (Winter = Ungroomed)
	Blue Hiking Loop - 1.15 Miles (Winter = Ungroomed)
	Green Hiking Loop - 0.75 Mile (Winter = Ungroomed)
	White Hiking Loop - 0.1 Mile (Winter = Ungroomed)





WC Land Information Office, WLIP, SEWRPC, Ayres Associates
 Orthophotography Date: 2022



Nashotah Park

Waukesha County Park System

Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LRS
 July 2023

NORTHVIEW CEMETERY PARK

Coordinates: 43.03448, -88.24841

2.2 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Benches
- Monument
- Trails

Activities

- Cultural Education
- Hiking

Site Characteristics:

Northview Cemetery Park was a potter's cemetery for the County's Northview Sanitarium. An estimated 319 people were buried at the site.

Acquisition:

History:

- Previously part of the Northview Home & Hospital Complex



WC Land Information Office, WLIP, SEWRPC, Ayres Associates
Orthophotography Date: 2022



Northview Cemetery Park
Waukesha County Park System



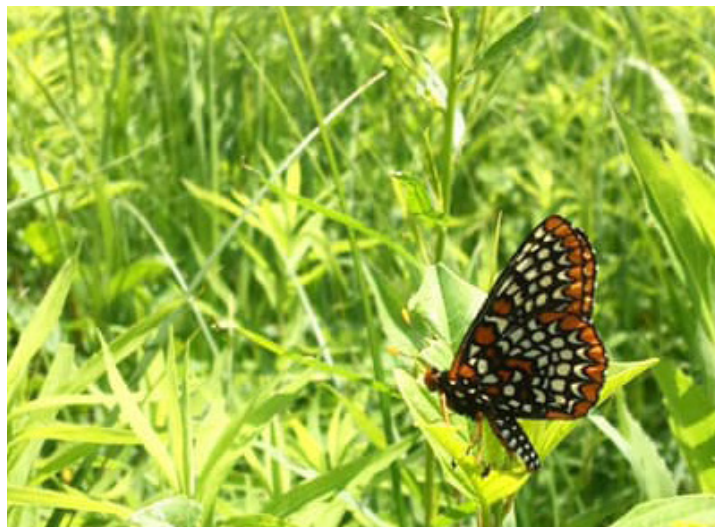
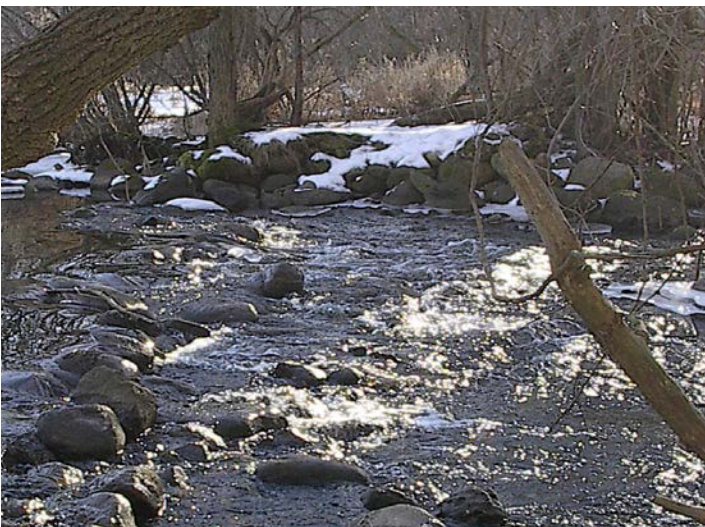
Park Boundary

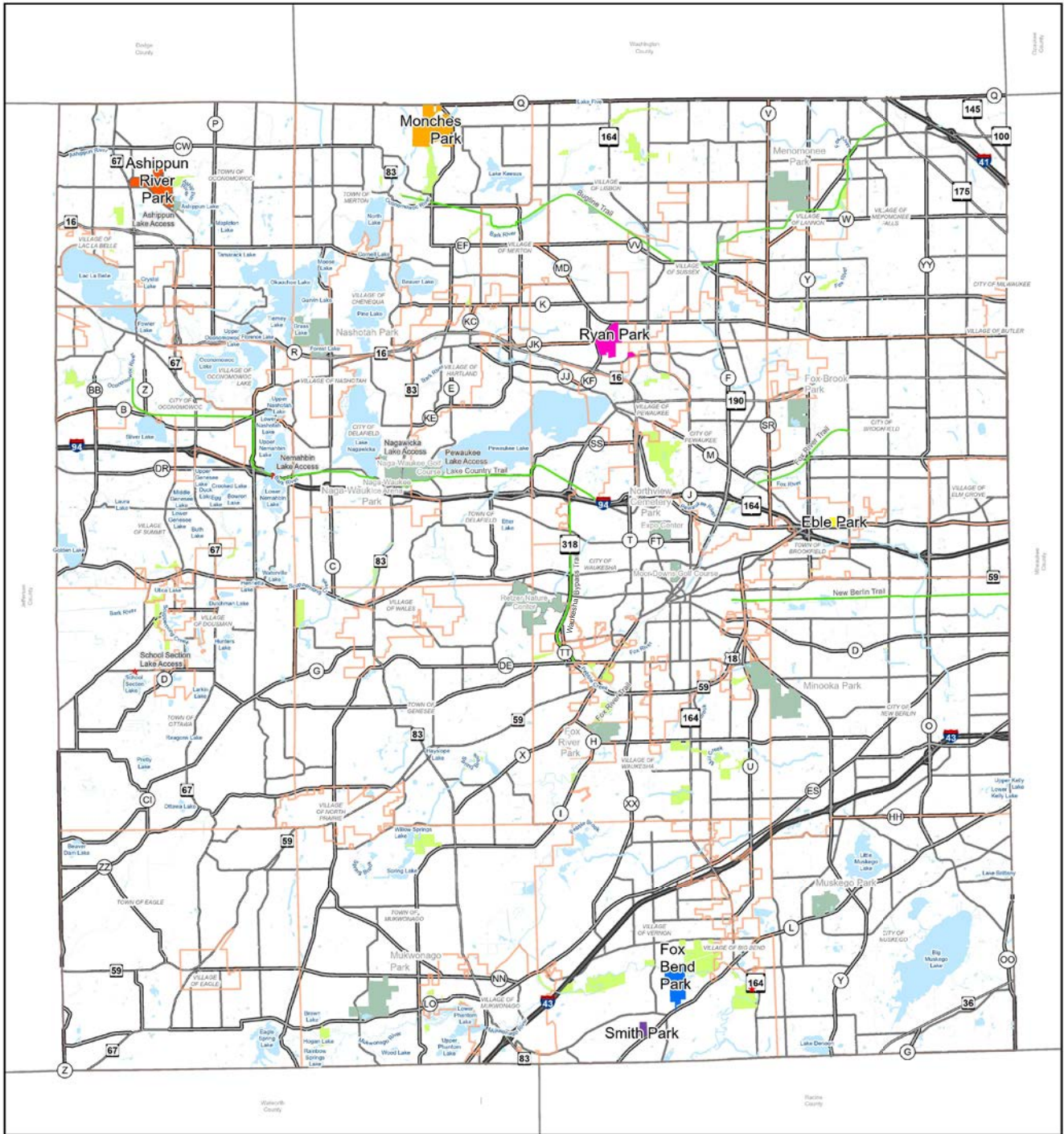


Undeveloped Parks

The Waukesha County Park System currently has six undeveloped parks, which includes the following: Ashippun River Park, Eble Park, Fox Bend Park, Monches Park, Ryan Park, and Smith Park.

These parks have limited facilities currently, but are priorities with Natural Land Management Plans for natural habitat improvements, critical species development, and land conservation.





Waukesha County Parks - Undeveloped



- Ashippun River Park
- Fox Bend Park
- Eble Park
- Ryan Park
- Smith Park
- Monches Park
- Developed Park
- County Greenway

- County Regional Trails
- Lake Access
- Municipal Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

ASHIPPUN RIVER PARK

7640 McMahon Road, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

336.9 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Adjacent Ashippun Lake Access
- e-Bird Hotspot

Activities

- Agriculture Land Rental
- Bird Watching
- Fishing
- Hunting & Trapping
- Storage Building Rental
- Citizen Science

Acquisition:

History:

- 1992 Dedication from Saddle Brook Farms
- 1999 Purchase from Jim & Patricia Williams
- 1999 Purchase from Jim Williams and John Zurheide

Proposed Acquisition:

- 60.8 acres of wetland and upland landscapes at Northwest boundary of park

Valuable Species:

Birds

- American Black Duck
- Black Tern
- Blue-winged Teal
- Yellow-headed Blackbird

Plants

- Annual Wildrice
- ### Water Species
- Least Darter Fish
 - Ellipse Mussel

Site Characteristics:

Ashippun Park is located in the northwest corner of Waukesha County in the Town of Oconomowoc. About 1 mile of the Ashippun River meanders in and out of the northeast portion of the park. The site is surrounded by roughly 131 acres of wetland. It abuts state-owned land upon which the Ashippun Lake Access is located.

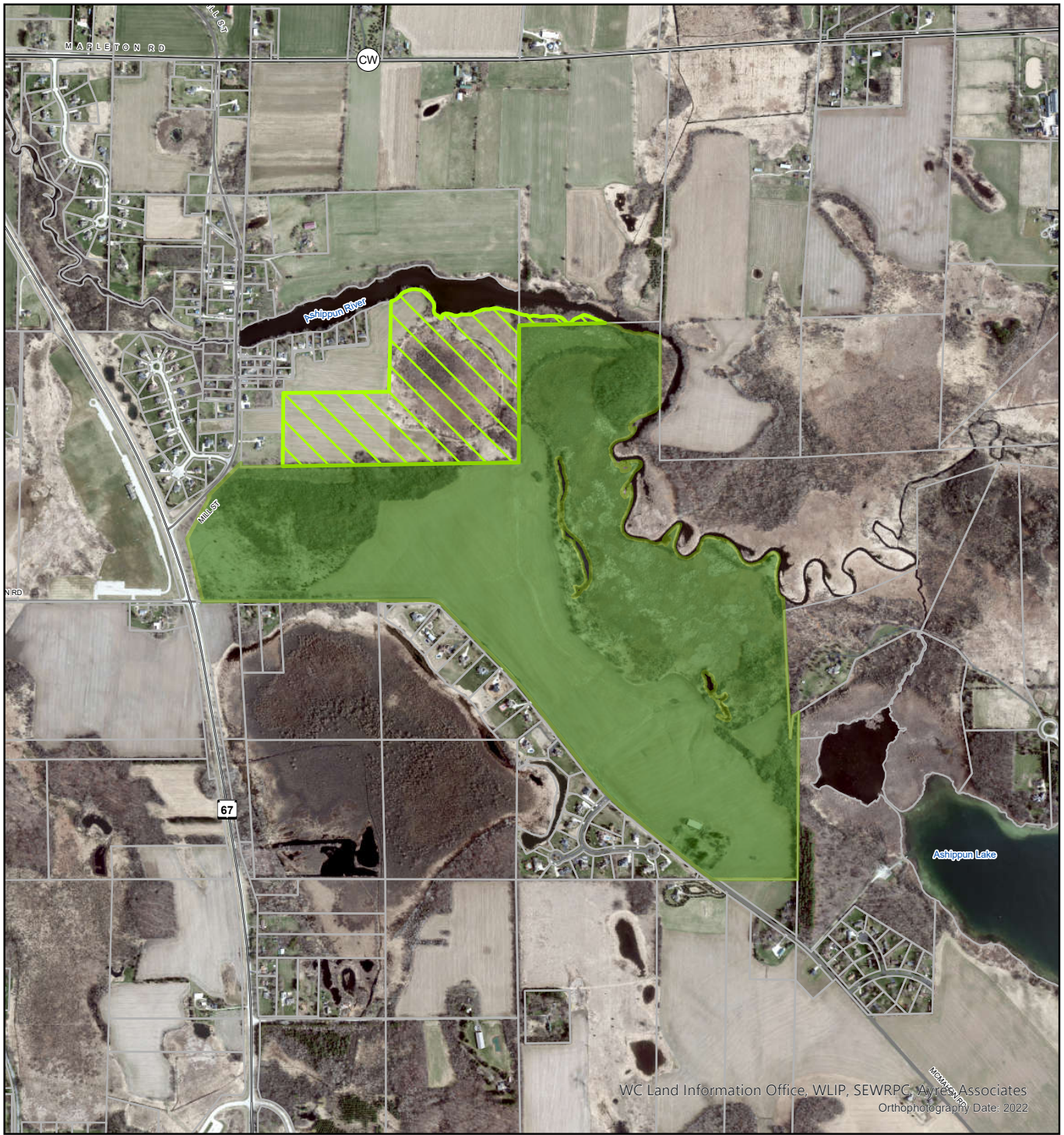
This undeveloped parcel has varying characteristics including tilled farm fields, wetland, floodplains, and wooded terrain.

Land Management Overview:

Ashippun Park is a key preservation site in northwestern Waukesha County, much of which is delineated wetland. The 244-acre Ashippun River Lowlands, rated as NA-2 by SEWRPC, are on the eastern boundary of the park and extend into Greenway property owned by Waukesha County (although some is in DNR and private ownership). Mostly native shallow marsh and sedge meadow, there are some areas of lowland shrub carr and lowland forest. The core zone for Ashippun Park mirrors the overview listed above, mostly wetlands with smaller sections of lowland to mesic forest.

Natural land management priorities for the site include selective control of invasive species within the core zone, restoration of mature hardwood tree canopy within the lowland forest areas, and phased reforestation of sections of the agricultural fields to increase natural buffer zones surrounding delineated wetlands and critical species habitats.

Other wildlife conservation opportunities include the installation of Wood Duck nest boxes, nesting structures for Purple Martin, and Osprey platforms.



Ashippun River Park

Waukesha County Park System



- Park Boundary
- Proposed Acquisition



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LRS
July 2023

EBLE PARK

19400 W. Bluemound Road, Brookfield, WI 53045

33.4 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- e-Bird Hotspot
- Ice Arena
- Formal flower and vegetable garden

Activities

- Gardening
- Hiking
- Ice skating

Acquisition:

History

- 1987 Donation of original farmstead by Florence & Roy Eble

Valuable Species:

- Butler's Garter Snake

Site Characteristics:

Eble Park is located in the Town of Brookfield at the northeast intersection of Bluemound Road (Hwy 18) and Janacek Road.

The park is a highly visible property with gardens and expansive lawns maintained by local volunteers and gardening groups. There is a wetland to the southeast and an old-field prairie to the north of the ice arena.

Land Management Overview:

Eble Park is a small park located within an urbanized setting. Despite the urban landscape the core zone for Eble Park covers 18.9 acres of old-field, dry-mesic forest and shallow marsh.

Native seed was planted into the northern and western sections of the park in 1989 along with forage species to create a more diverse grassland habitat at the site.

Invasive species that threaten the ecological quality of the core zone include Common and Cut-leaf Teasel, Wild Parsnip, Reed Canary Grass, Purple Loosestrife, non-native cattail species, Glossy and European Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, non-native honeysuckle species.

Natural land management priorities for the site include selective control of invasive species within the core zone and maintenance of the grassland habitat for wildlife. Other wildlife conservation opportunities include the installation of American Kestrel nest boxes and Eastern Bluebird nest boxes.



WC Land Information Office, WLIP, SEWRPC, Ayres Associates
 Dr. Orthophotography Date: 2022



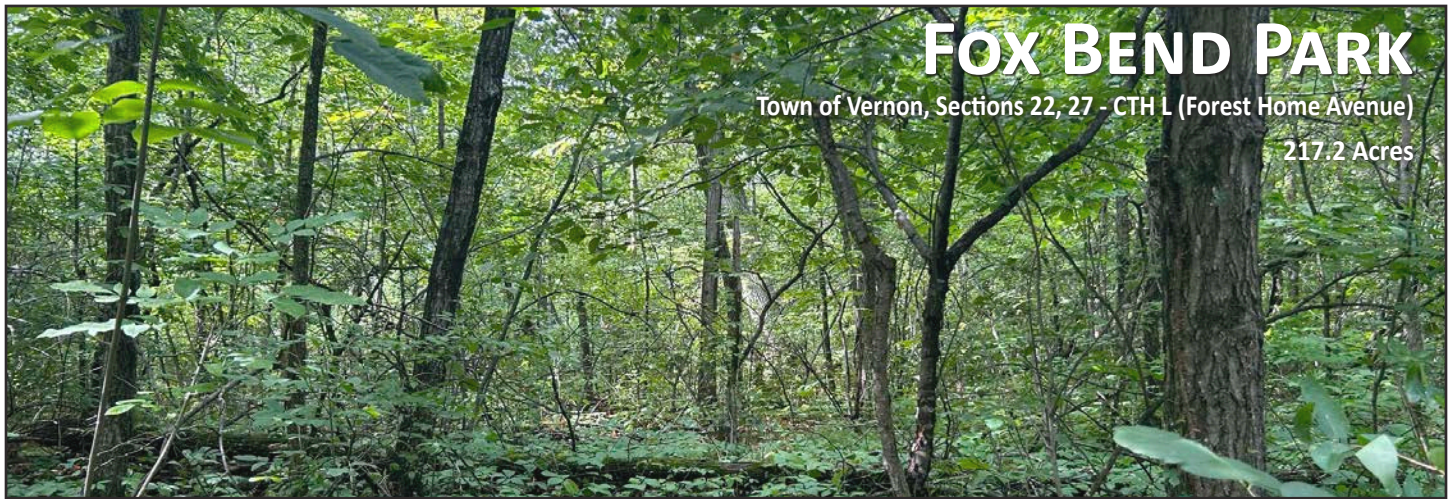
Eble Park & Eble Ice Arena

Waukesha County Park System

Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LIS
 July 2023



Park Basics:

Amenities

- e-Bird Hotspot

Activities

- Ag Land Rental
- Bird Watching
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Citizen Science

Acquisition:

History

- 1992 Purchase from Alice & Robert Mueller
- 1995 Links Acres
- 2004 Purchase from Dean Hintz

Proposed Acquisition

- Two parcels totaling 172.6 acres – small parcel to the North along the Fox River creating a connection to the Fox River Greenway and a larger parcel of woodlands and uplands to the Southwest creating a connection to Smith Park.

Valuable Species:

Birds & Crustaceans

- American Black Duck
- American Woodcock
- Bald Eagle
- Black Tern
- Blue-winged Teal
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Willow Flycatcher
- Wood Thrush

- Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Prairie Crayfish

Plants

- American Ginseng
- Blue Ash
- Chinquapin Oak
- Forked Aster
- Kentucky Coffee-tree
- Round Leaved Orchid
- Wafer Ash

Site Characteristics:

Fox Bend Park is located along the main branch of the Fox River in the Village of Vernon. The park is in an agricultural area and some of the property is tilled cropland.

The Fox River runs across the Northern portion of this park of varied terrain, which is in a conservancy wetland. Fox Bend Park is also part of the Fox River Greenway Corridor.

Land Management Overview:

Fox Bend Park is part of a 600+ acre contiguous section of county-owned Greenway that was upgraded to a designated of NA-1 by the SEWRPC in 2022. The core zone for Fox Bend Park is 54.1 acres of mostly dry-mesic forest, floodplain forest, hardwood swamp, old-field, and degraded sedge meadow.

The ecological quality of the existing dry-mesic forest in the center of the site is good, with a restorable plant community similar to neighboring Martin's Woods State Natural Area, owned by the Waukesha Land Conservancy. Much of the old-field and delineated wetlands are disturbed and degraded.

Natural land management priorities for the site include selective control of invasive species within the core zone, restoration of mature hardwood tree canopy within the lowland forest areas, and phased reforestation of sections of the agricultural fields to increase natural buffer zones surrounding delineated wetlands and critical species habitats.

Other wildlife conservation opportunities include the installation of Wood Duck nest boxes, nesting structures for Purple Martin, and Osprey platforms.



In 2023 the County was awarded funding via the Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp Fund to restore approximately 20 acres of fallow farm field at the northern end of the site via disabling drain tile, installation of shallow wetland scrapes, and restoration of native vegetation to improve habitat for breeding and migratory waterfowl.



Fox Bend Park

Waukesha County Park System



- Park Boundary
- Proposed Acquisition



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LIS
 July 2023



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Ice Age Trail and Trailhead
- e-Bird Hotspot

Activities

- Ag Land Rental
- Bird Watching
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoeing
- Citizen Science

Acquisition:

History

- 1973 Purchase from Ellen Guilfoile Estate
- 1973 Purchase from Metropolitan Property Corp.
- 1986 Purchase from Levenhagen
- 1991 Purchase from Norman Chester
- 1998 Purchase from Baumgartner/Follett
- 2001 Purchase from Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation
- 2005 Purchase from Ketterer
- 2009 Purchase from Hartmann

Proposed Dedication/Donation

- 9.8 acres of open lands that protrude into main parkland area in order to buffer the Monches hardwood forest

Valuable Species:

Birds

- Acadian Flycatcher
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Cerulean Warbler
- Field Sparrow
- Hooded Warbler
- Least Flycatcher
- Red-shouldered Hawk

Plants

- Dutchman's breeches
- Forked Aster
- Leatherwood
- Puttyroot Orchid
- Showy Orchid

Other

- Wood Frog
- Swamp Metalmark Butterfly

Site Characteristics:

Monches Park is located in the north central portion of Waukesha County, south/southwest of the County Road Q and County Road E intersection.

This undeveloped park site is a high-quality portion of Wisconsin's inter-lobate Kettle Moraine. The property is a mix of high-quality hardwood forest, moist mesic woods, Northern wet forest, lowland hardwoods, flood plain forest and plantations of pines and Norway Spruce. There are also shrub swamps and wet meadow/shallow marshes located within the floodplains of the Oconomowoc River.

Land Management Overview:

The sections of mesic and dry-mesic forest at Monches Park are one of the largest uninterrupted pieces of non-state-owned forest in Waukesha County and are designated as NA-1, natural area of statewide or greater significance, by the SEWRPC. This site is on the same terminal moraine as the southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, with similar soils and features.

The core zone for Monches Park is larger than most parks, covering 224 acres of mostly-wooded land with small sections of old-field, shrubland and early successional forest. Approximately 32 acres of agricultural fields were seeded with cool season cover and are gradually being reforested annually. The presence of two waterways, the Oconomowoc and Little Oconomowoc Rivers, make this site an important migratory pathway for birds and other resident wildlife. The floristic quality and geological features at the site make it an exceptional property.

Invasive species and the impact of Emerald Ash Borer that threaten the ecological quality of the core zone. Natural land management priorities for the site include selective control of invasive species within the core zone and maintenance of the floristic quality of the site by encouraging succession of native species and aiming to close the canopy of the forest areas. The historic pine plantation on the east side of the river should be reviewed for potential selective timber harvest opportunities in order to maintain the health of the pine stand that provides unique habitat structure for species of conservation.

RYAN PARK

W262N4656 Ryan Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072
217.1 Acres



Park Basics:

Amenities

- Equestrian Trails
- e-Bird Hotspot
- Gravel Parking Lot
- Trails

Activities:

- Ag Land Rental
- Bird Watching
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Citizen Science

Acquisition:

History

- 1976 Donation from Henry Ryan Estate
- 1995 Purchase from Glass
- 2010 Transfer from Brandenburg Life Estate
- 2015 – Calvin Klimeck –

Proposed Acquisition

- Total of 112.8 acres between 4 separate parcels which include a large track on SE corner, a parcel on the NE corner currently owned by the Forslund Trust, and two other parcels at the park edges.

Valuable Species:

Birds

- American Woodcock
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Bobolink
- Brown Thrasher
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Field Sparrow
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Sedge Wren
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Plants

- Cream Gentian

Site Characteristics:

Ryan Park is an undeveloped park in central/north central Waukesha County bounded by Lynndale Road on the north, Ryan Street on the west, and Lindsay Road on the south.

It is mainly an upland parcel consisting of open agricultural fields, prairie, and a large, wooded area with an elevation change of around 100 feet from the south to the north end of the property. There are maintained trails for equestrian use, dog walking, and hiking. There is an old plant nursery remnant in the north section near the Hwy JK and Lisbon Road intersection. The East Branch of Cocoa Creek flows through the north portion of the property.

Land Management Overview:

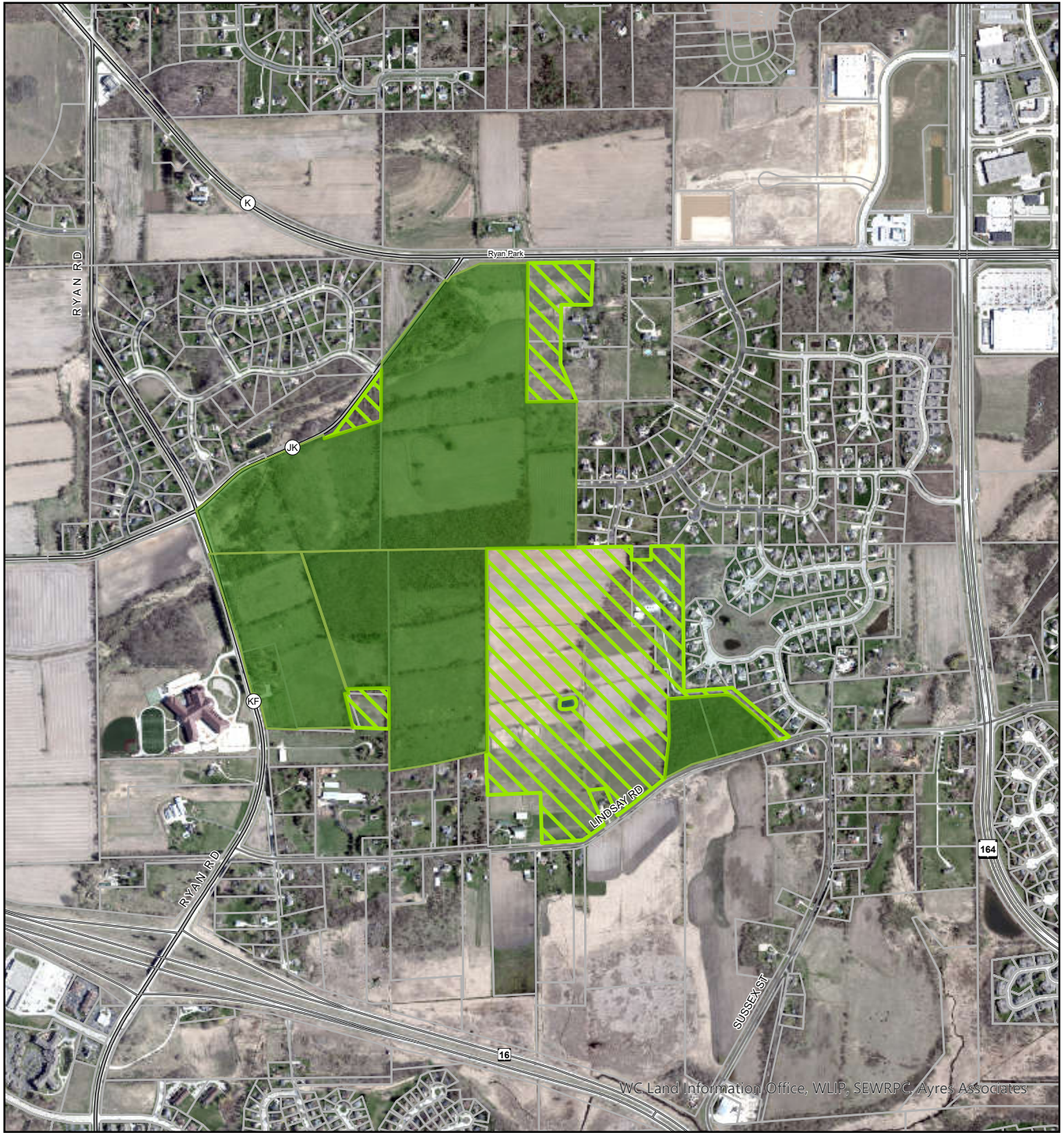
The core zone for Ryan Park includes 55.5 acres of old-field, planted prairie, sedge meadow, and woodland. Ryan Park is an isolated tract of natural area so it is not part of any designated environmental corridors. There are some Isolated Natural Resource Areas (SEWRPC) on the property. The wooded area within the park consists of dry-mesic forest that is actively succeeding into mesic forest.

Waukesha County parks staff planted all the acreage identified as prairie at the site to serve as a native seed nursery for other parkland.

Invasive species and the impact of Emerald Ash Borer that threaten the ecological quality of the core zone. Natural land management priorities for the site include selective control of invasive species within the core zone and maintenance of the prairie and old-field habitat for grassland obligate wildlife. Other wildlife conservation opportunities include inter-seeding of the existing old-fields to improve floristic diversity, the installation of American Kestrel nest boxes, and additional Eastern Bluebird nest boxes.



Grassland birds have suffered the biggest bird declines of any terrestrial biome since 1970 (Cornell Lab of Ornithology). The acreage of existing contiguous, restored grassland and potential for additional acquisition of grassland habitat at Ryan Park makes it a unique site for preservation of grassland bird species.



Ryan Park

Waukesha County Park System



- Park Boundary
- Proposed Acquisition



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023



SMITH PARK

Town of Vernon, Section 33

County Highway L - 49.7 Acres

Park Basics:

Activities

- Ag Land Rental
- Hunting
- Trapping
- Citizen Science

Acquisition:

History

- 1978 Donation by Cathryn Smith

Site Characteristics:

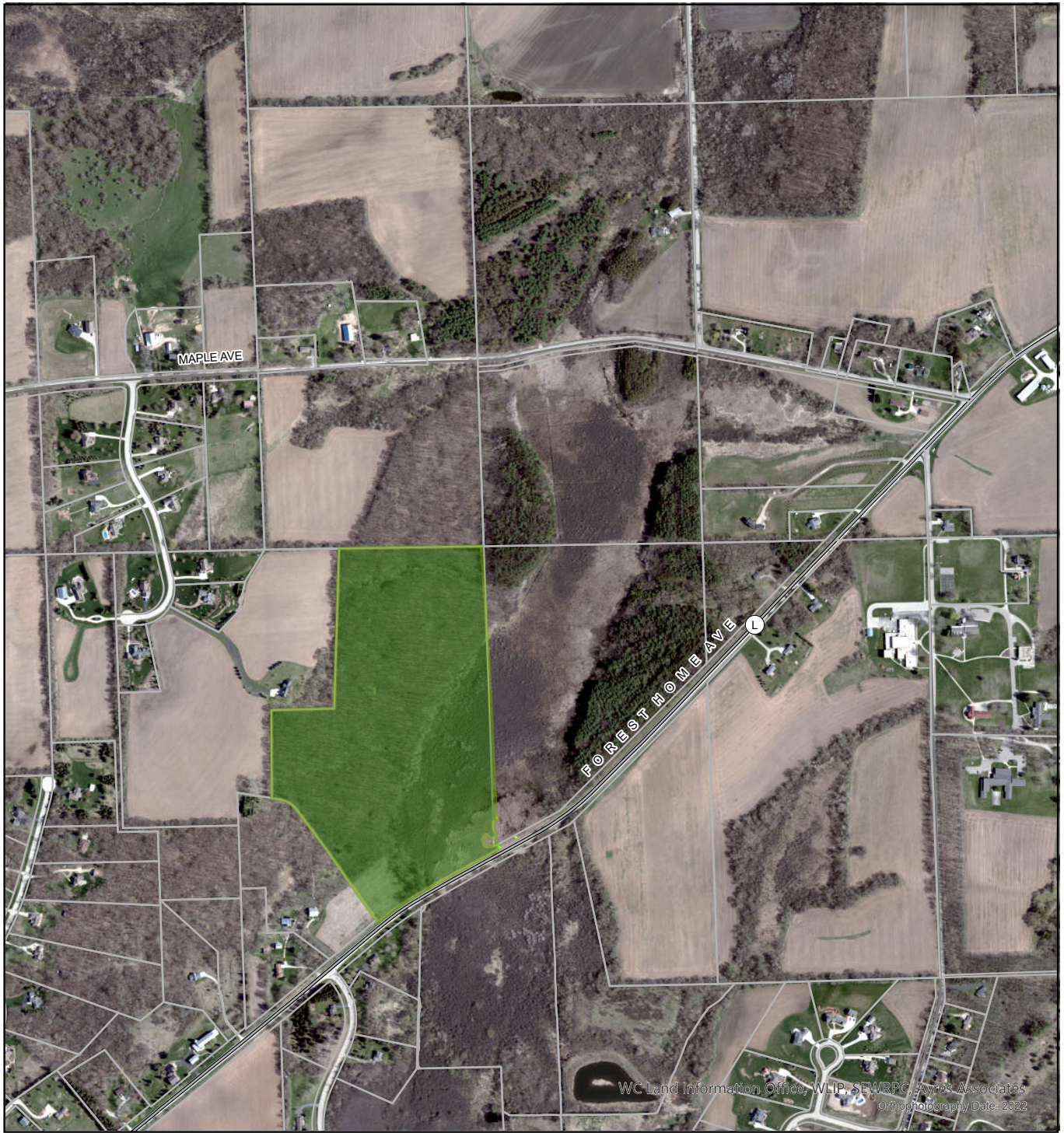
Smith Park is an undeveloped parcel, of approximately 50 acres, in south central Waukesha County, between Maple Avenue and County Highway L in the Village of Vernon.

Land Management Overview:

Smith Park is approximately 50 acres of southern mesic forest, degraded sedge meadow, and old-field. The upland, which covers most of the acreage, was heavily used by humans for grazing livestock historically.


Most of the high-quality fen and sedge meadow plant communities are on private land to the east. While there is not currently a core zone designated for this site, it does fall within the Primary Environmental Corridor (SEWRPC) and contains some pockets of remnant vegetation.

A thorough plant and wildlife inventory is required in order to establish baseline conditions and identify natural land management needs for the site. Invasive species that are likely to occur at the site and threaten the ecological quality include Glossy and European Buckthorn, Japanese Barberry, non-native honeysuckle species, Garlic Mustard, Purple Loosestrife, and Reed Canary Grass, non-native honeysuckle species.



Smith Park

Waukesha County Park System

 Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LUS
July 2023

Regional Trails

Multi-use trails continue to increase in popularity for both outdoor recreation and alternative transportation. Multi-use trails contribute to various health, safety, environmental and economic benefits for the community. A brief synopsis of these benefits are noted below¹.

Health and wellness:

Strong multi-modal facilities encourage more people to walk and bike, which in turn improves community health. Easily accessible walking and cycling facilities encourage people to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives, which ultimately improves community health. Regular walking and biking support the heart and lungs, build better bones and muscles, help with weight management, and even improve sleep quality.

Safety:

Separating motorists from bicyclists and pedestrians with off-road multi-modal trails helps to reduce the conflict points and brings a higher level of confidence and feeling of safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.

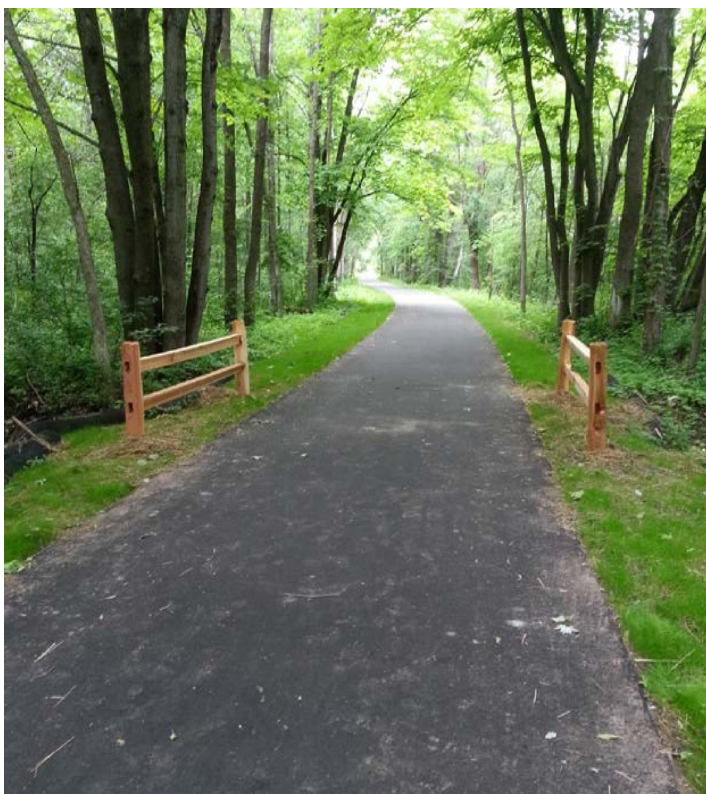
Environmental:

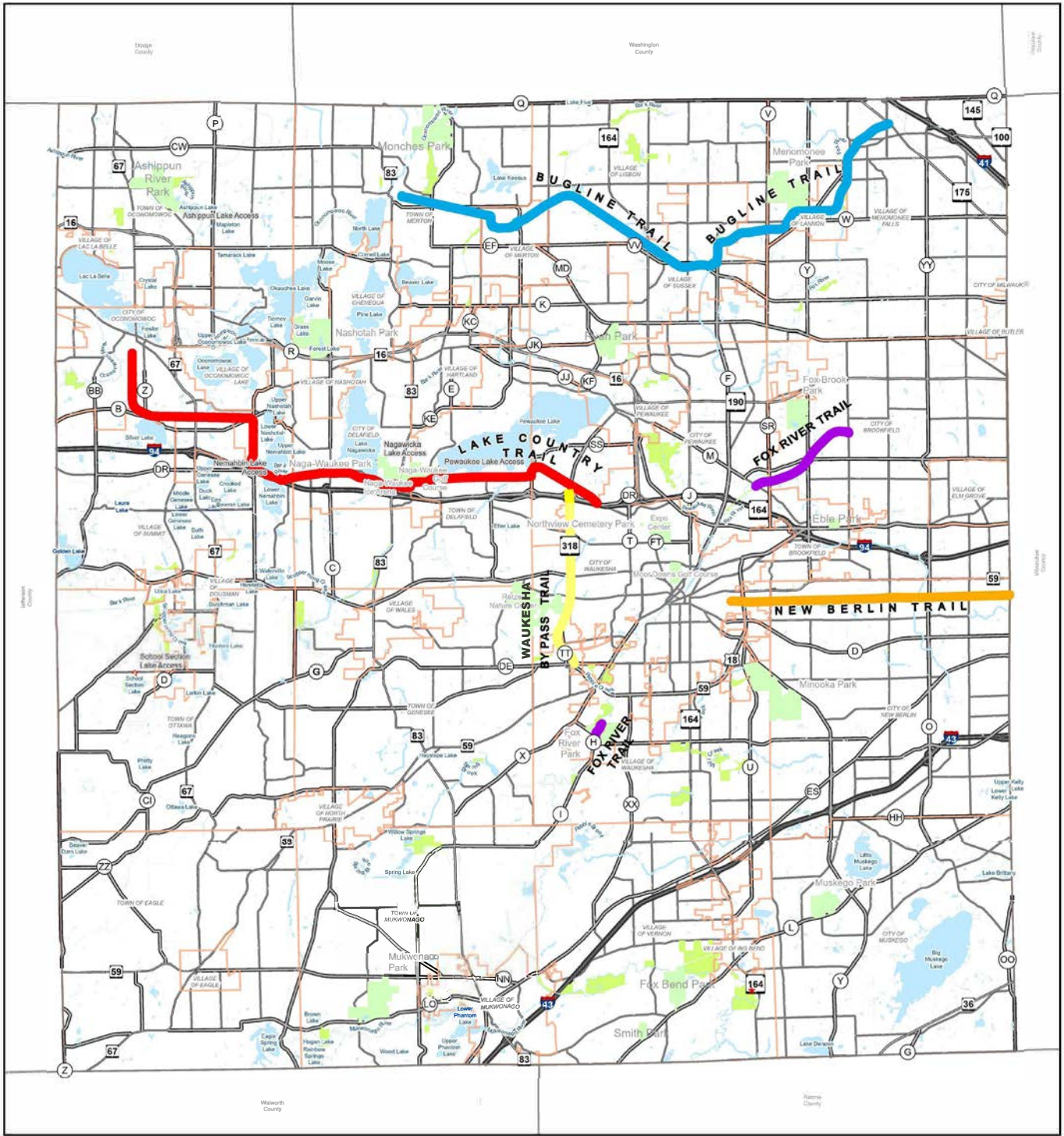
Replacing motor vehicle trips with pedestrian and bicycle trips can have a measurable impact on the environment. Walking and biking play an important role in improving our quality of life. Improving the environment, in turn, brings added health benefits that come from cleaner air, less traffic noise, and fewer vehicle crashes.

Economic Benefits:

Providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities can increase jobs, property values, spending, and tourism in Wisconsin. Bicycle and pedestrian-supportive design can enable residents to take short trips to local businesses by walking or cycling, instead of driving to services farther away in adjacent communities, in turn, encouraging residents to shop more often and spend more money in their communities. Additionally, bicycle and pedestrian facilities can positively impact the value of a home. Studies have shown that neighborhoods that invest in trails or bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure have higher property values.

¹ <https://www.ecwrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-Bicycle-and-Pedestrian-Quick-Facts.pdf>





Waukesha County Parks Regional Trails

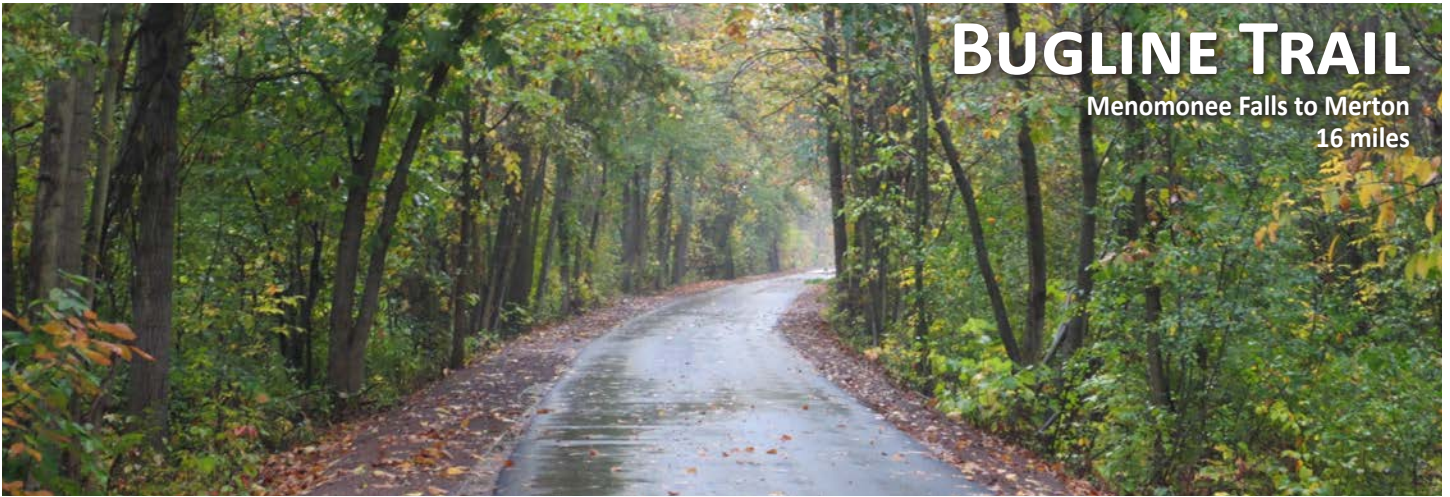
- Bugline Trail
- New Berlin Trail
- County Greenway
- Waukesha Bypass Trail
- Undeveloped County Parks
- Lake Access
- Fox River Trail
- Developed Park
- Lake Country Trail
- Municipal Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

BUGLINE TRAIL

Menomonee Falls to Merton
16 miles



Trail Basics:

Amenities

- Paved trail
- (7) Bridges
- Signage & Mile Markers
- Park System Connections
- Trailheads

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Biking
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Geocaching
- Roller-blading
- Running
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoeing

Trail Connections:

Current

- Fox River Trail in the Village of Lannon
- Menomonee Park (Menomonee Falls)
- Menomonee River Trail
- Mammoth Springs Trailhead (Sussex)
- Madeline Park (Sussex)
- Village Park (Sussex)
- Ice Age Trail at Dorn Road (Merton)

Future

- Bark River Trail in the Village of Merton
- Oconomowoc River Greenway and rail

Site Characteristics:

The Bugline Trail from Grand Avenue in Menomonee Falls to Highway VV in the Village of Merton is a 10-foot wide asphalt pavement trail. The trail starts in the Village of Menomonee Falls and travels through the Villages of Lannon and Sussex, the Town of Lisbon, the Village of Merton, and the Town of Merton. It crosses the Fox River, the Bark River, and the Oconomowoc River, and traverses seven timber bridges.

The trail passes through a wide variety of urban, residential and rural communities, and offers trail experiences in woods, wetlands, quarry overlooks, and open fields.

Primarily, the Bugline is used for biking and hiking purposes with some sections of the trail designated for equestrian and snowmobile use.

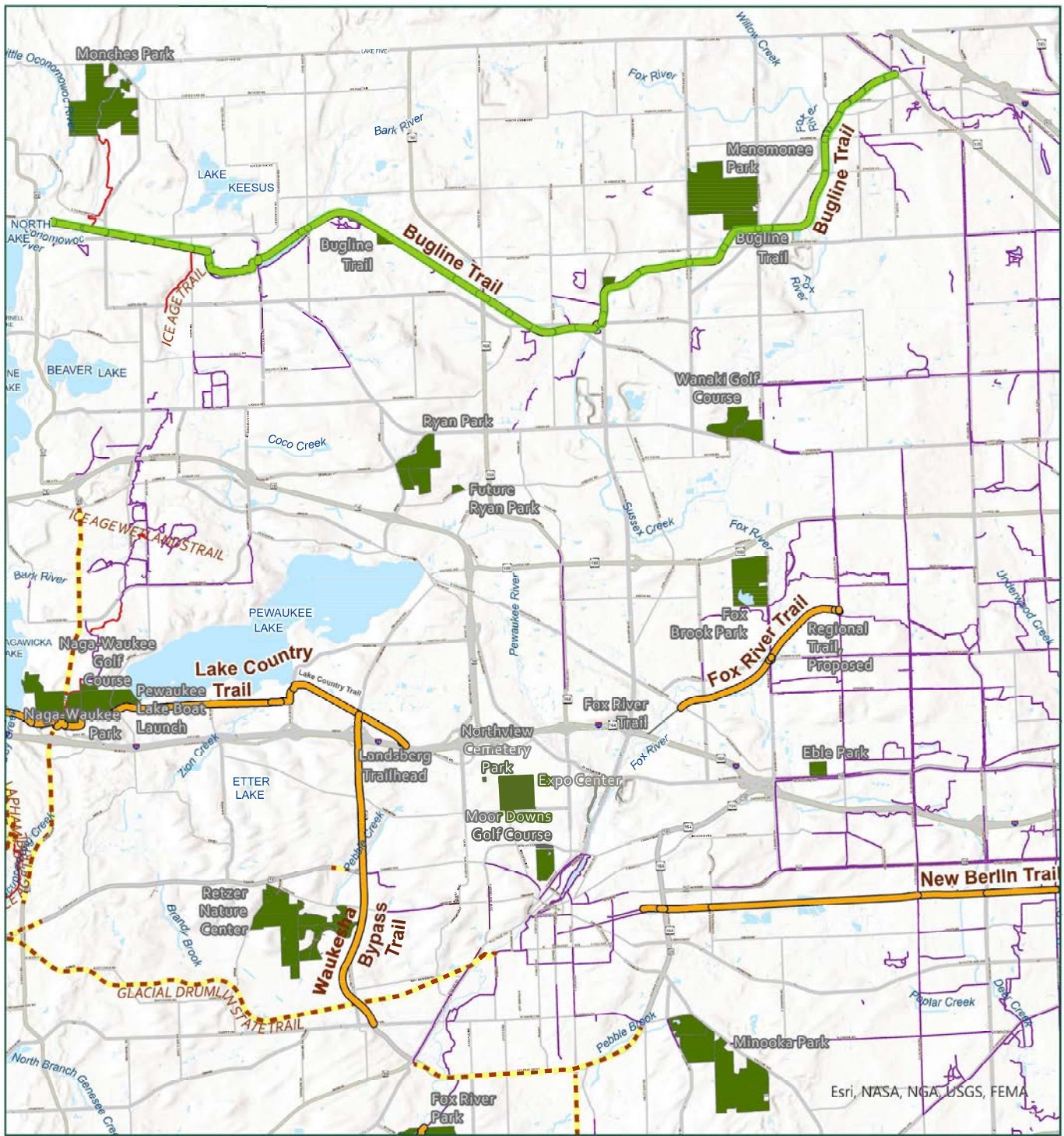
Development History:

- The name “Bugline” came from the name of the original railroad and its curving alignment known as the “Bug on a Vine” Railroad. The local citizenry later referred to the railroad as the “Bugline Railroad”. The original railroad, established in the early 1900’s by Joseph Hadfield, served the area’s limestone quarries.
- The original section of trail was constructed as an 8’ wide stone trail in 1983 and opened in 1984.
- In 2007, the underpass was built under STH 164.
- In 2013, the 1st phase of trail paving was completed from CTH VV to STH 164 (Merton to Sussex).
- In 2014, the 2nd phase of trail paving was completed from STH 164 to Appleton Avenue (Sussex to Menomonee Falls).
- In 2015, 2.4 miles of paved trail was completed from Dorn Road to Hartman Court in North Lake (Merton).
- In 2016, the connection from Phase 1 to Menomonee Park was created as a paved 10’ wide trail.

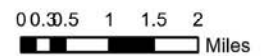


*In 2021, the SEWRPC trail counts recorded **96,731** trips on the trail. Record numbers were seen in 2020 with **132,567** trips recorded.*

(Trail count location @ Lake Five Road)



Bugline Trail



- Bugline Trail
- County Regional Trails
- Local Trail
- - - State Trail
- - - Ice Age Trail



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use June 2023



FOX RIVER TRAIL

Brookfield to Pewaukee & Village of Waukesha
3.6 miles (2 segments)

Trail Basics:

Amenities

- Paved trail
- (2) Bridges
- Signage Park System Connections
- Fox River Access
- Trailheads @ Riverview Dr & Watertown Road

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Biking
- Hiking
- Geocaching
- Roller-blading
- Running

Trail Connections:

Current

- Fox River Trail (Village & City of Waukesha)
- Fox River Park (City of Waukesha)
- Trailheads in Brookfield and Pewaukee



*In 2021, the SEWRPC trail counts recorded **3,895** trips on the trail within Fox River Park in July. Record numbers were seen in 2020 with **6,505** trips recorded in June.*

Site Characteristics:

The County's Fox River Trail currently consist of two separate unconnected sections that tie into municipal pathway systems.

The trail passes through a wide variety of urban, residential and rural communities, and offers trail experiences in woods, wetlands, and open fields.

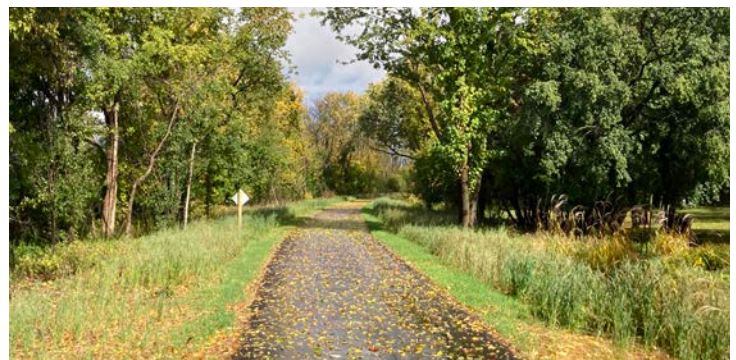
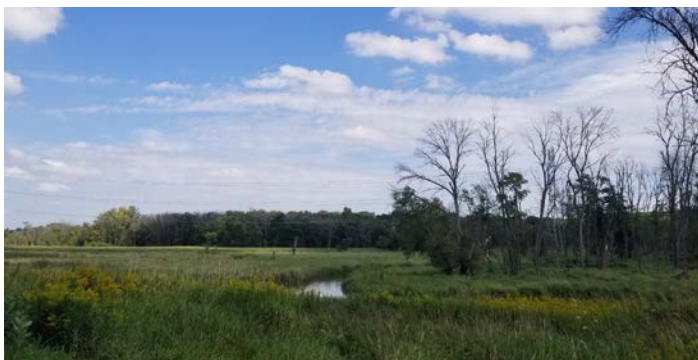
The 1st phase of the project built a 10' wide paved trail (0.6 miles) running parallel to the Fox River within Fox River Park in the Village of Waukesha.

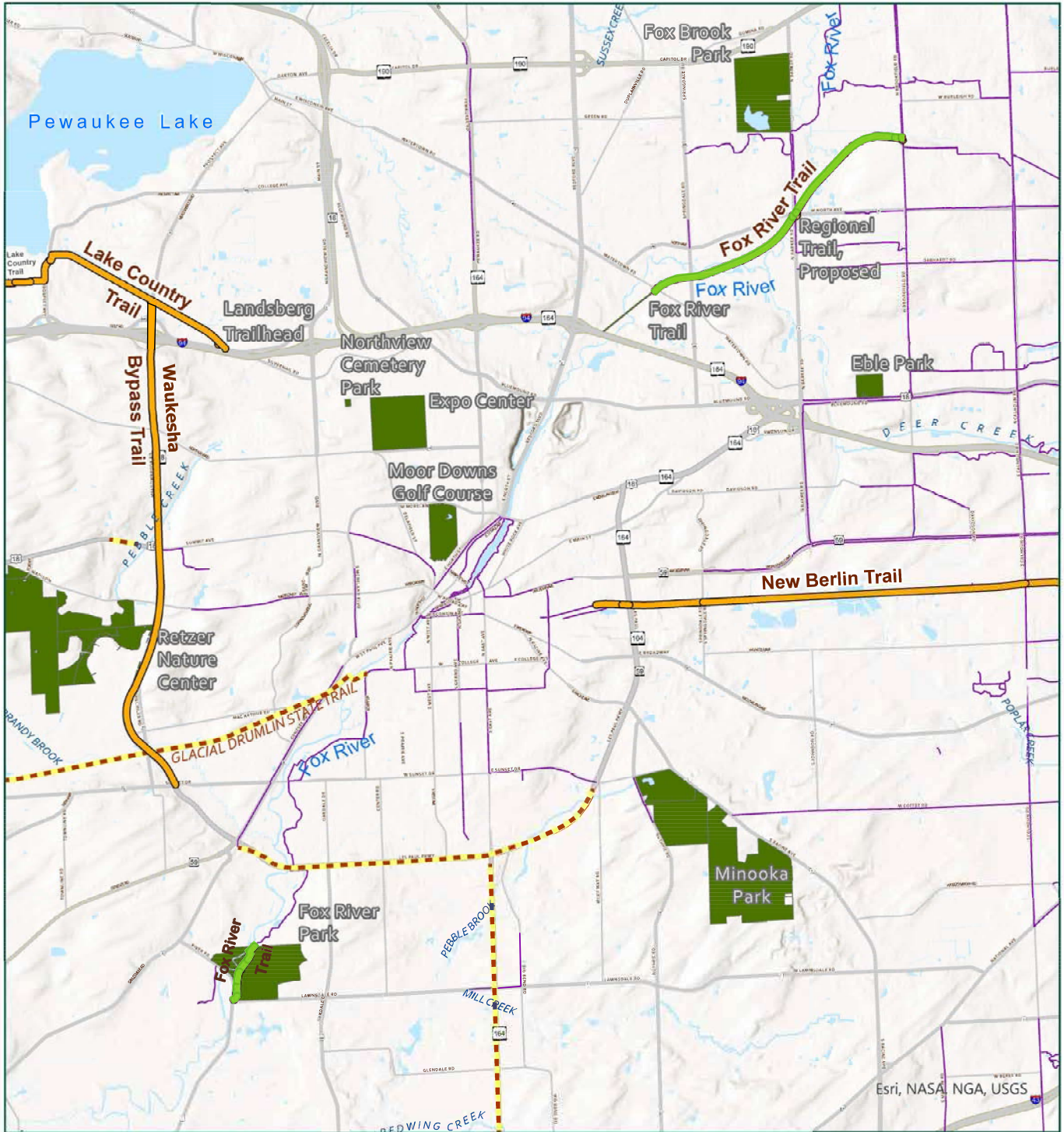
The 2nd phase of the project (3 miles) converted an old railroad corridor from Brookfield to Pewaukee into a 10' wide paved trail.

Primarily, the Fox River Trail is used for biking and hiking.

Development History:

- The first County section of this trail was built in Fox River Park and runs from Lawnsdale Road in the Village of Waukesha to the northern boundary of the park.
- The second phase of the trail from Brookfield to Pewaukee was constructed and opened in 2022 and included the addition of 3 miles of paved trail and two new bike/pedestrian bridges.





Fox River Trail

- Fox River Trail
- County Regional Trails
- Local Trail
- State Trail



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use June 2023

LAKE COUNTRY TRAIL

City of Waukesha to City of Oconomowoc
14.5 miles



Trail Basics:

Amenities

- Paved trail
- Signage & Mile Markers
- Trailheads @ Landsberg Center & Nemahbin Lake Access
- Park system connections
- Underpass at STH 164

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Biking
- Hiking
- Geocaching
- Roller-blading
- Running

Trail Connections:

Current

- Cushing Park (Delafield)
- Downtown City of Delafield
- Ice Age Trail in the City of Delafield
- Landsberg Center (Trailhead)
- Pewaukee Lake Access
- Naga-Waukee War Memorial Golf Course
- Naga-Waukee Park & Naga-Waukee Ice Arena
- Nagawicka Lake Access
- Nemahbin Lake Access
- Roosevelt Park (Oconomowoc)

Future

- Extension in Oconomowoc within the We Energies and past 2nd Street corridor connecting from the Jefferson County line to Roosevelt Park.

Site Characteristics:

The Lake Country Trail currently extends about 14.5 miles over an electric power line transmission and former TMER&L electric inter-urban railway right-of-way, from the Landsberg Center at the northwestern corporate limit of the City of Waukesha to Roosevelt Park in the City of Oconomowoc. The majority of the trail has a 10' wide asphalt surface. Portions of the trail are on-street bike routes in the Cities of Pewaukee and Delafield.

The Lake Country Trail runs through the middle of the County (North of I-94) from east to west through very rolling terrain and provides scenic views of the Mid Kettle Moraine area, including Pewaukee Lake, Naga-Waukee Golf Course, Lake Nagawicka and the historic City of Delafield, and Upper and Lower Nemahbin Lakes. A paved spur connects Naga-Waukee Park and the Naga-Waukee Ice Arena parking lot. Several new residential developments are located adjacent to the trail, and offer residents easy access for biking, hiking, running, or alternative transportation to work, business, schools, parks and shopping.

Development History:

- An agreement was reached in April of 1994 between We Energies and Waukesha County to allow the County to construct and maintain a recreation trail on the Power Company property. This trail was developed in 1994, as a partnership with the Town of Pewaukee, Town of Delafield, City of Delafield, and State of Wisconsin DNR.
- A unique feature of this trail is the Landsberg Center, a historic building that was relocated from the Town of Brookfield to its City of Waukesha location. It was a former barbecue & custard stand renovated into a trailhead and restroom building. The building was donated to Waukesha County by A. William Huelsman and Dick and Carol Richards donated the 1-acre parcel.
- In 2006, trail was extended and paved from Nemahbin Lake Access west to Sawyer Road in the Village of Summit (With trailhead and restrooms).
- In 2008, it was extended and paved from Sawyer Road to Roosevelt Park in the City of Oconomowoc.
- The trail section between the Landsberg Center and Glen Cove Road in Pewaukee was paved in 2010.
- The trail section between Glen Cove Road and Milwaukee Street in Delafield was paved in 2011.

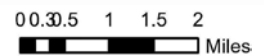


*In 2021, the SEWRPC trail counts recorded an average of **9,255** trips monthly during peak summer months. Record numbers were seen in 2020 with **11,562** monthly trips recorded in the summer.*

(Trail counts averaged @ various locations and time periods from May- July)



Lake Country Trail



- Lake Country Trail
- County Regional Trails
- - - Local Trail
- - - State Trail
- Ice Age Trail



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use June 2023

NEW BERLIN TRAIL

Milwaukee County line to City of New Berlin and Waukesha/
6.5 miles



Trail Basics:

Amenities

- Paved trail
- Signage & Mile Markers
- Park system connections
-

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Biking
- Hiking
- Geocaching
- Roller-blading
- Running

Trail Connections:

Current

- Milwaukee County Oakleaf Trail
- Buena Park (New Berlin)
- Greenfield Park (Milwaukee County)
- Glacial Drumlin State Trail (State of Wisconsin) via the City of Waukesha's New Berlin Trail and on-road accommodation
- New Berlin Trail- City section to the east (City of Waukesha)
- Oakleaf Trail (Milwaukee County)



In 2021, the SEWRPC trail counts recorded 90,621 trips on the trail. Record numbers were seen in 2020 with 121,707 trips recorded.

(Trail count location @ Moreland Road)

New Berlin Trail rehabilitation of the westernmost mile is being proposed as a priority pavement rehabilitation project starting as early as 2024.

Site Characteristics:

The County's 10' wide paved New Berlin Trail runs from The Milwaukee County Line to the City of New Berlin and the City of Waukesha. The eastern end of the New Berlin Trail connects with the Milwaukee County Oak Leaf Trail at Greenfield Park in the City of West Allis. A remodeled train bridge crosses over 124th Street joining these trails.

The New Berlin Trail has very little elevation change and is in a straight east-west direction.

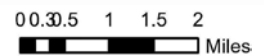
The trail west of Calhoun Road is naturally more open and includes plant communities like shrub carr, prairie/fen type wet meadow, high meadow old-fields, lowland thicket/ low prairie and old rail right of way with choice prairie flowers. The County's section of the New Berlin trail ends as it meets Lincoln Avenue in the City of Waukesha. The City of Waukesha has extended the trail off-road to Carrol College and developed an on-road route to connect the New Berlin Trail to the Glacial Drumlin Trail on the West side of Waukesha, a nearly 50-mile trail that travels west to the Madison area.

Development History:

- A license agreement with We Energies on December 28, 1978, allowed construction of the recreation trail on We Energies land. The trail construction started in late 1983 and was finished in early 1984.
- In 1996, a 1.5-mile west extension brought the trail to Lincoln Avenue in Waukesha.
- In 2019, the City of Waukesha constructed an off-road section from Carrol College to Fredrick Street.
- In 2022, the City of Waukesha extended the off-road trail from Fredrick Street to meet up with the County's portion at Lincoln Avenue.



New Berlin Trail



- New Berlin Trail
- County Regional Trails
- Local Trail
- State Trail
- Ice Age Trail



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use June 2023



WAUKESHA BYPASS TRAIL

City of Waukesha to Village of Waukesha
6.3 miles

Trail Basics:

<p>Amenities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paved trail • Park System Connections 	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biking • Hiking • Geocaching • Roller-blading • Running
--	--

Trail Connections:

Current

- Glacial Drumlin Trail
- Lake Country Trail
- Meadowbrook Road Park & Ride
- Kidson Hill Natural Area (City of Waukesha)

Future

- Pebble Creek Natural Area (City of Waukesha)
- Retzer Nature Center

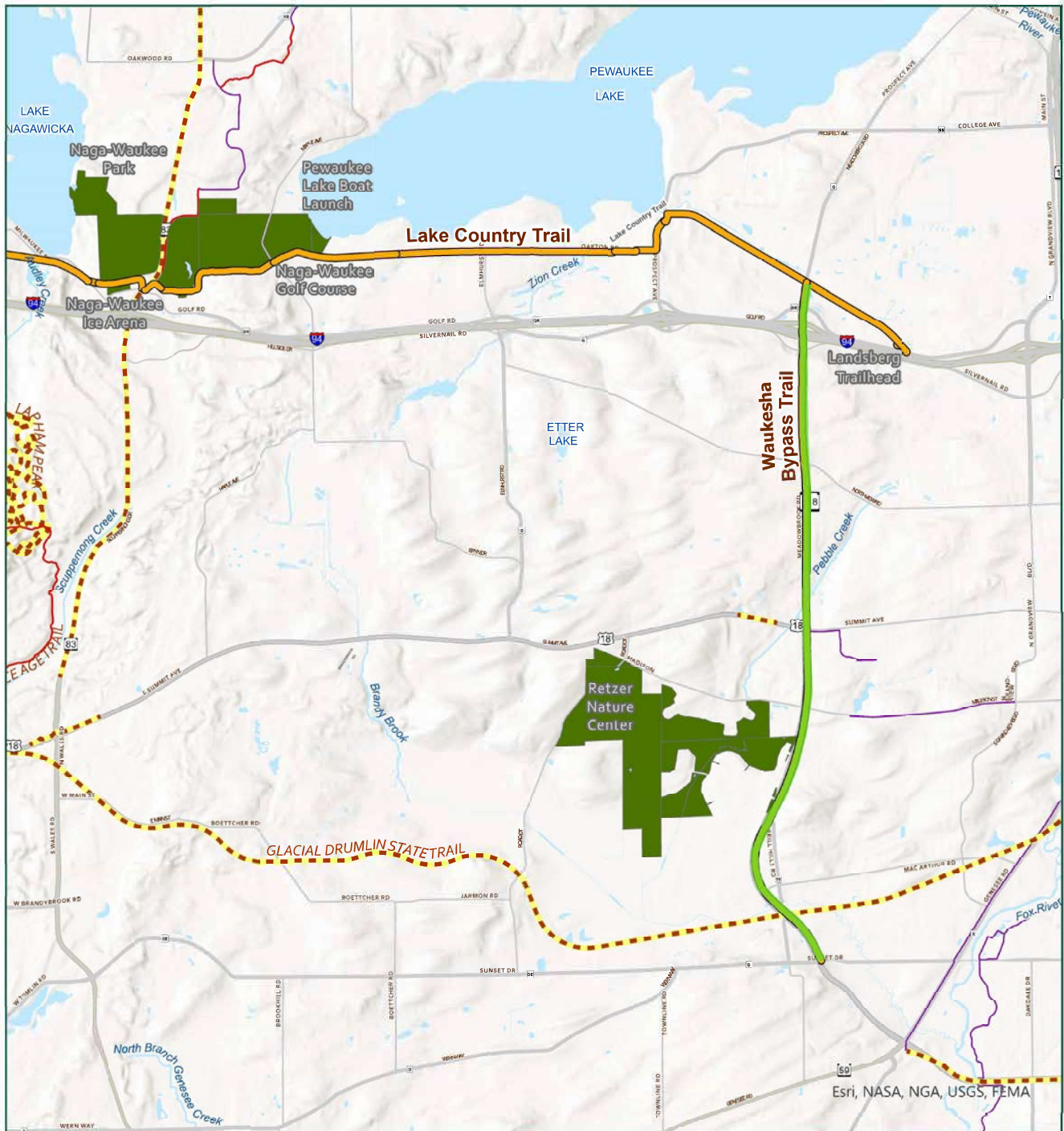
Site Characteristics:

The Waukesha Bypass Trail is a 10’ wide paved trail that reaches from Sunset Drive to the Lake Country Trail, the Meadowbrook Road Park & Ride, north of I-94, along the east side of the STH 318 Bypass.

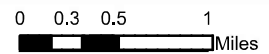
This trail runs though the Cities of Pewaukee and Waukesha and the Village of Waukesha, and connects a variety of small developments, neighborhoods communities, and playfields/natural areas. The current trail alignment provides recreation and transportation for commuters, neighborhoods, and school groups.

Development History:

- Original segments of the Waukesha Bypass Trail were built in the early 2000’s, as Meadowbrook Road and adjacent developments were constructed.
- Final segments of the trail, providing a continuous route, were constructed in 2019/2020 as part of the Western Bypass roadway construction in partnership with WisDOT.



Waukesha Bypass Trail



- Waukesha Bypass Trail
- County Regional Trails
- Local Trail
- State Trail
- Ice Age Trail



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use June 2023

Water Access

Access to water is an important element within the Waukesha County Park System. Activities include swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, boating, amongst others. The recreational water components generally fall under three general areas: Lake Access, Swimming Areas, and Water Trails. Each of these will be described in more detail below.

Lake Access

Lake access for water craft is typically formalized with a constructed launch and pier(s). Depending on the size of the site, parking will vary as will the inclusion of added amenities such as restrooms, picnic areas, fishing piers, etc. Access can be for motorized or non-motorized craft and can provide separate or combined access accordingly. The Waukesha County Park System has formalized lake access at the following facilities: Ashippun Lake, Nagawicka Lake, Nemahbin Lake, Pewaukee Lake, and School Section Lake. There are forty-seven boat access sites located within Waukesha County with eleven of them as carry-in sites along lakes and streams.

Swimming areas

Multiple parks within the Waukesha County Park System provide designated swimming areas for visitors. Beaches are located at the following parks: Fox Brook Park, Menomonee Park, Minooka Park, Mukwonago Park, Muskego Park, and Naga-Waukee Park. Additionally, two of our parks have designated Dog Swimming Areas (Fox Brook Park & Menomonee Park) separate from the beaches.

Water Trails

“Blueways,” canoe trails, paddle trails, blue trails...these terms are used to describe a traversable route along a river or around a lake. Typically navigated in a kayak, canoe, stand up paddle board (SUP) or other small, self-powered watercraft, water trails are the aquatic version of hiking trails. Within Waukesha County, a variety of opportunities exist for paddlers to experience

Wisconsin’s expansive shorelines from a different perspective.

Typical features that accompany water trails include:

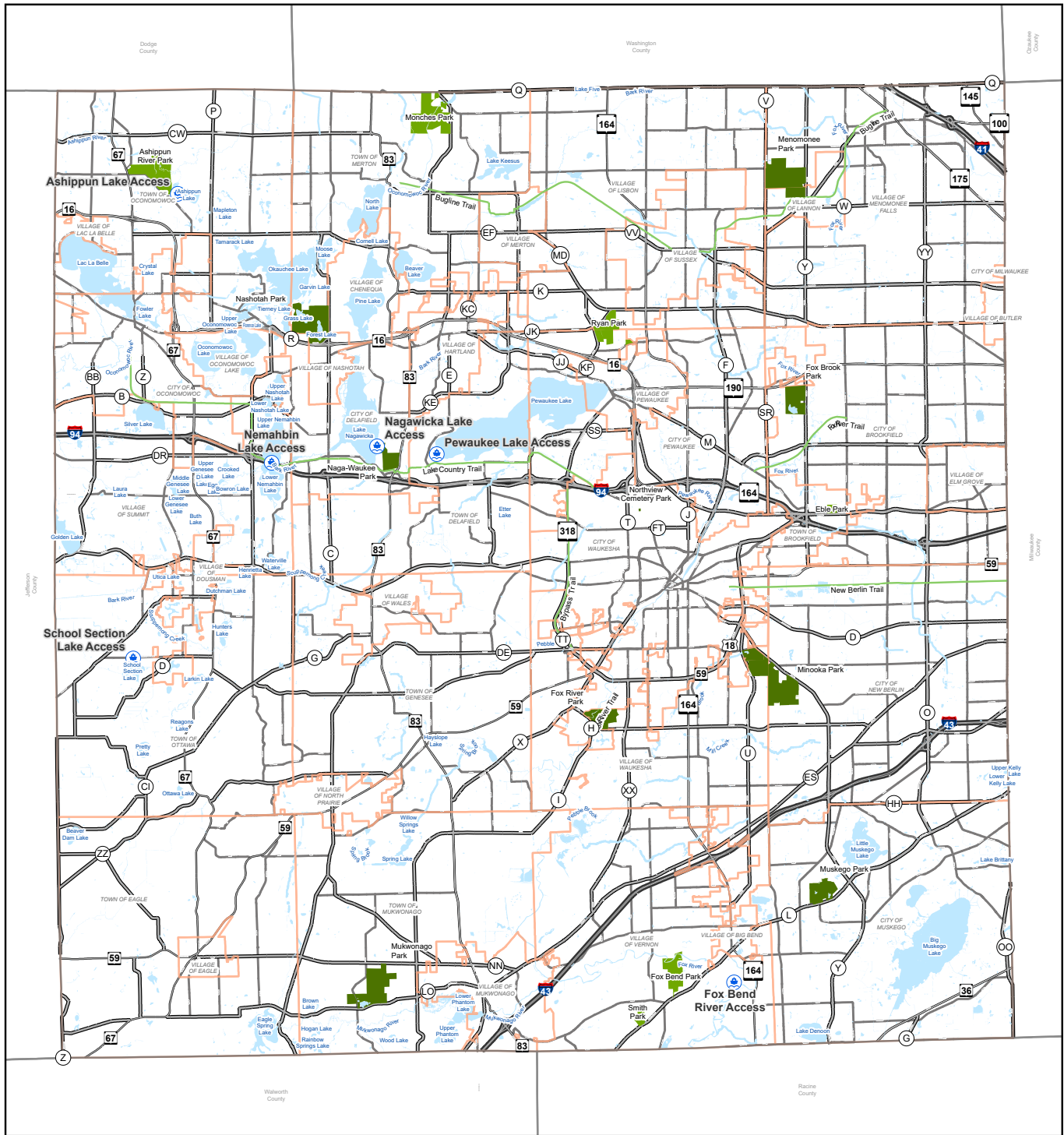
- **Access Sites:** Identified points along the water trail to launch into the waterway and take-out when your water “hike” is complete. Some access points are developed, include parking, signage, and universal accessibility. Some are rustic and located along a roadside or within a park or greenway. Others are located a short distance from the water trail and require the “hiker” to carry their watercraft into the river/ lake.
- **Connections:** Often, water trails link multiple community features like cultural, historic, and interpretive sites as well as restaurants, parks, environmental features, and campgrounds.
- **Dam Structures:** Multiple dam structures existing along Wisconsin waterways and as a part of the state’s water trails. These structures are identified so water trail users know their approximate locations and can plan their routes accordingly. Typically, dam structures are impediments to water trail users and require avoidance or portaging around the structure.

The Fabulous Fox River Water Trail is the multi-state water trail in Waukesha County’s Park System and an upgraded access point will be constructed in 2024 at Fox River Park.

Other Access






In addition to the accesses outlined above, the County Park System also provides access for fishing and views via a multitude of overlooks and piers throughout the parks.





Waukesha County Lake and River Access



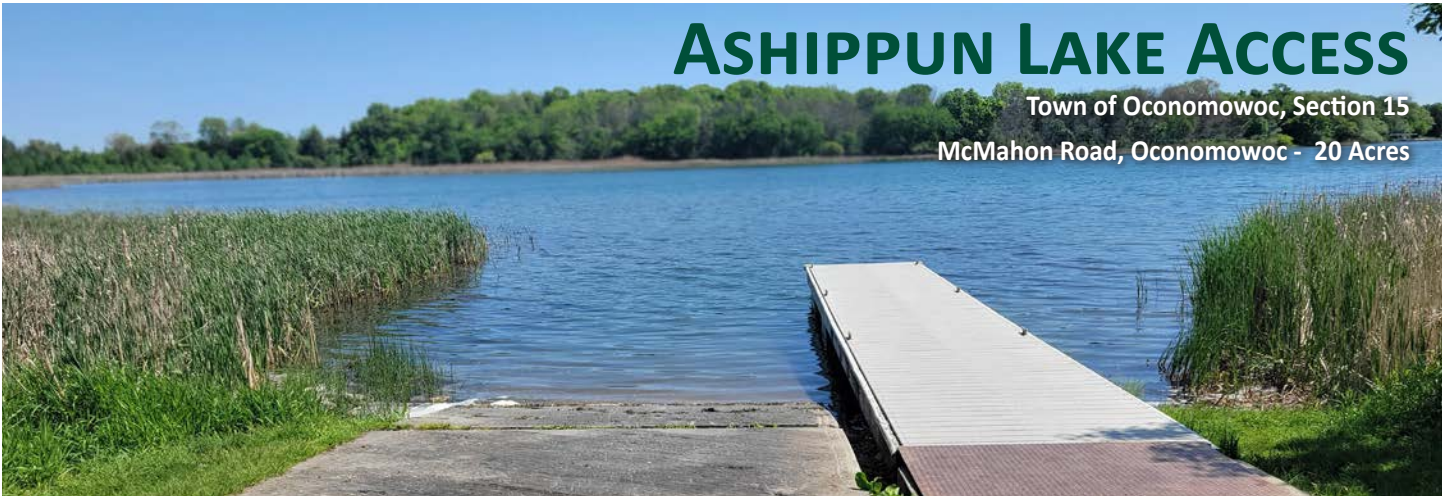
-  Water Access
-  Developed County Park
-  Undeveloped County Park
-  Municipal Boundary
-  County Regional Trails



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

ASHIPPUN LAKE ACCESS

Town of Oconomowoc, Section 15
McMahon Road, Oconomowoc - 20 Acres



Lake Access Basics:

Amenities

- Asphalt Parking Lot (8 trailer stalls, 10 automobile stalls)
- Lake Access Ramp and Dock
- Pit Toilet

Activities

- Lake Access
- Picnicking

Site Characteristics:

This boat launch is owned by Wisconsin DNR, but managed by Waukesha County.

Located in the southwest corner of Ashippun Lake (84 acres), the Lake Access ramp and dock provides no-fee access to Ashippun Lake for all boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and hunting activities.

Acquisition:

History

- In 1967 The Waukesha County Board approved and signed a perpetual lease agreement with the State of Wisconsin to develop, operate and maintain a recreational area on state-owned property.





Ashippun Lake Access

Waukesha County Park System



- Park Boundary
- Private - Not Open to the Public
- Water Access



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

NAGAWICKA LAKE ACCESS

651 STH 83, Hartland, WI 53029
1 Acre



Lake Access Basics:

Amenities

- Access to Beach House
- Accessible Boardwalk
- Parking (51 trailer stalls(upper and lower lot combined))

Activities

- Lake Access
- Picnicking

Acquisition:

History

- 1960 Acquired in purchase of land for Naga-Waukee Park

Site Characteristics:

The lake access is found within Naga-Waukee Park on picturesque Lake Nagawicka.

This is the primary public access to the 917-acre lake for all boating, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing activities. There are four launch lanes connected to an asphalt parking lot.

The northern launch was reconstructed in early 2023 and the entire parking lot will be reconstructed in late 2023.

Naga-Waukee Park's beach house building provides modern toilet facilities. The dock leads to an accessible shoreline boardwalk with beautiful views of the lake.



Nagawicka Lake Access

Waukesha County Park System

- Park Boundary
- Water Access



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

NEMAHBIN LAKE ACCESS

CTH DR at Upper and Lower Nemahbin Lake connection

Village of Summit, Section 24 - 1 Acre



Lake Access Basics:

Amenities

- (1) Concrete Ramp
- Dock
- Carry-in Watercraft Access
- Parking (14 trailer stalls, 3 automobile stalls)
- Pit Toilet

Activities

- Canoe/Kayak Launching
- Boat Launch
- Lake Access

Site Characteristics:

Nestled between Upper and Lower Nemahbin Lakes, this facility provides access to the 248 acres of Upper Nemahbin Lake and the 271 acres of Lower Nemahbin Lake.

Access to Lower Nashotah Lake is gained through a channel at the northern end of Upper Nemahbin Lake while access to the Bark River is gained at the southeastern end.

The lake access provides an asphalt parking lot with 14 trailer stalls and three vehicle stalls, a vault toilet, a concrete ramp, and a dock. Carry-in access is available as well.

Acquisition:

History

- 1965 Acquired from the State of Wisconsin for public recreational and park purposes.





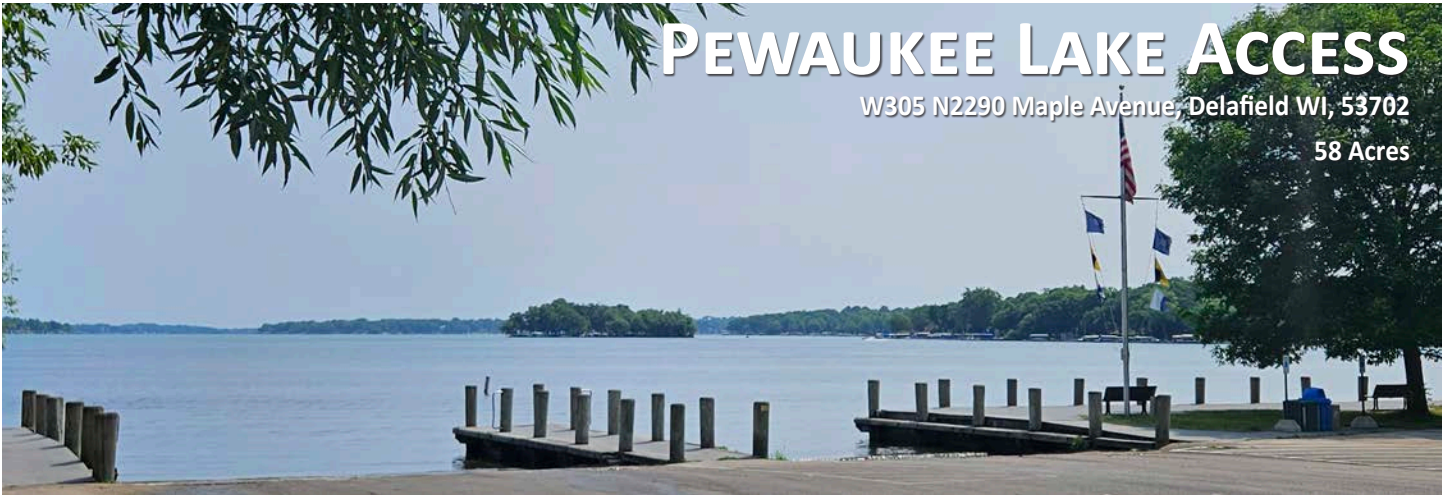
Nemahbin Lake Access

Waukesha County Park System

- Park Boundary
- Water Access



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023



PEWAUKEE LAKE ACCESS

W305 N2290 Maple Avenue, Delafield WI, 53702

58 Acres

Lake Access Basics:

Amenities

- (4) Concrete Ramps
- Dock
- Modern Restroom
- Parking (77 trailer stalls, 14 automobile stalls)
- Vending
- Accessible Boardwalk

Activities

- Lake Access
- Bird watching
- Fishing
- Hunting & Trapping
- Picnicking

Acquisition:

History

- 1960 Acquired in purchase of land for Naga-Waukee Park, constructed in 1964.

Valuable Species:

Plants

- Lesser Fringed Gentian
- Northern Bog Violet
- Ohio Goldenrod
- Soft-leaf muhly

Other

- Western Red Damsel fly
- Butler's Gartersnake
- Blanding's Turtle

Site Characteristics:

This lake access site found on the western end of Pewaukee Lake provides four launch lanes, an asphalt parking lot, and modern toilet facilities.

This launch site provides access to the 2,493 acres of Pewaukee Lake for boating, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing activities.

Land Management Overview:

The core zone for the Pewaukee Lake Access site is approximately 14-acres of high-quality sedge meadow with pockets of calcareous fen and emergent marsh. The fen portion of the site is designated NA-3 in the adopted regional natural areas and critical species habitat plan, prepared by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC).

Natural land management priorities for the site include selective control of invasive species within the core zone, especially within the calcareous fen, and the reduction of woody vegetation from within the sedge meadow and fen components of the core zone.





WC Land Information Office, WLIP, SEWRPC, Ayres Associates
 Orthophotography Date: 2022



Pewaukee Lake Access

Waukesha County Park System



- Park Boundary
- Water Access



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LIS
 July 2023

SCHOOL SECTION LAKE ACCESS

School Section Lake Road, WI 53188

Town of Ottawa, Section 17 - 10 Acres



Lake Access Basics:

Amenities

- (1) Concrete Ramp
- Dock
- Parking (5 trailer stalls)

Activities

- Lake Access
- Launching
- Hiking

Site Characteristics:

This lake access site offers the only public access to the 122-acre School Section Lake for boating, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing activities.

The site is comprised of an asphalt parking lot with five trailer stalls.

Acquisition:

History


- The parcels that now make up the School Section Lake Access were purchased in 1935, the first county park area in Waukesha County. On December 12, 1935, the Waukesha County Park Commission passed a resolution that the Park Commission proceed to purchase land for the School Section Lake dam and dike project. In 1938, the completed project resulted in lake levels that allowed boat access to the lake.





School Section Lake Access

Waukesha County Park System

 Park Boundary

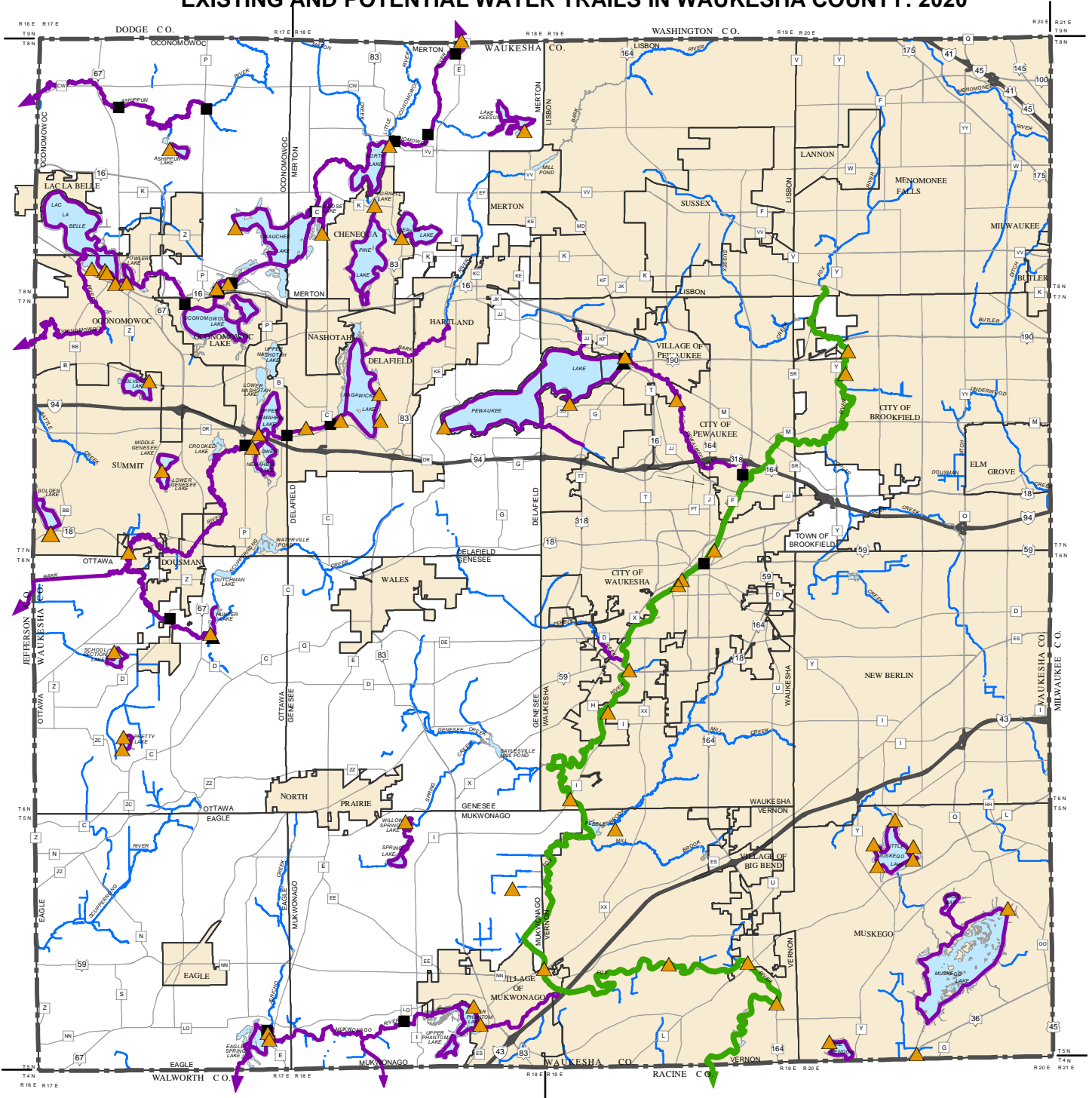
 Water Access











Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

Map

EXISTING AND POTENTIAL WATER TRAILS IN WAUKESHA COUNTY: 2020



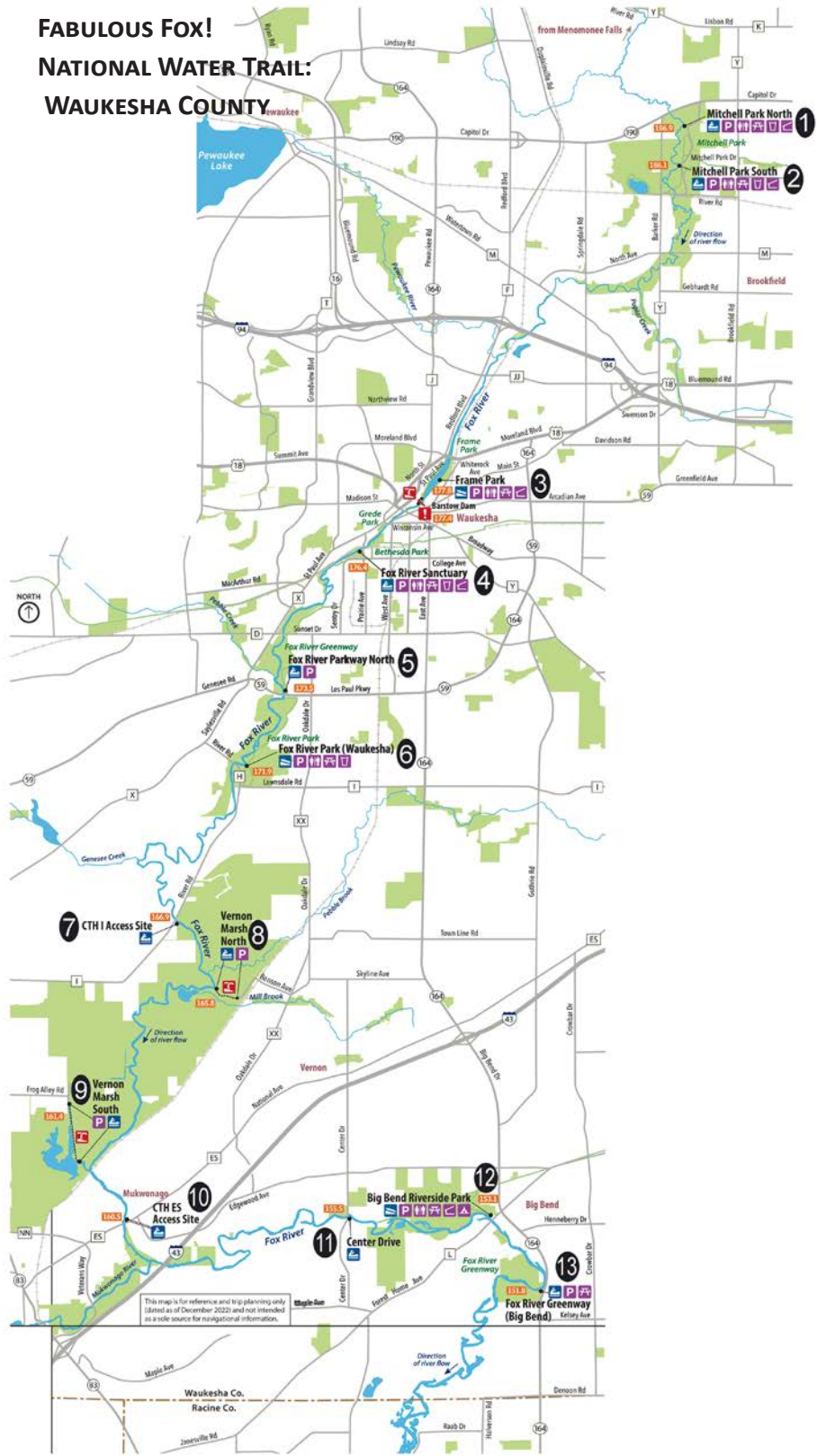
Legend

-  EXISTING WATER TRAIL
-  POTENTIAL WATER TRAIL
-  PERENNIAL STREAM - GENERALLY NOT CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING A WATER TRAIL
-  SURFACE WATER
-  EXISTING PUBLICLY-OWNED ACCESS SITE
-  EXISTING DAM
-  INCORPORATED AREAS (CITIES AND VILLAGES)
-  UNINCORPORATED AREAS (TOWNS)



Source: SEWRPC

**FABULOUS FOX!
NATIONAL WATER TRAIL:
WAUKESHA COUNTY**



1" = 1 mile
1" = 0.125 miles
NORTH

This map is for reference and trip planning only (dated as of December 2022) and not intended as a sole source for navigational information.

INFORMATION ON EXISTING FABULOUS FOX! NATIONAL WATER TRAIL ACCESS SITES AND DAMS IN WAUKESHA COUNTY

Site No.	Site Name	Nearest Community	River Mile	Access Type	Signs		Rest-rooms	Drinking Water	Shelter	Camping	Vehicle Access	Fee	Location		Notes/Comments	Owner
					From Water	From Land							Latitude	Longitude		
1	Mitchell Park North	Brookfield	186.9	Carry-in	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Parking lot	N	43.0856	-88.1602	Restroom, drinking water, and shelter across street from launch.	City
2	Mitchell Park South	Brookfield	186.1	Carry-in	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Parking lot	N	43.0781	-88.1616	May likely need to portage over boardwalk located south of launch. Launch via piers along shoreline or a paved ramp at south end of park. Seasonal watercraft rental in middle of park.	City
3	Frame Park	Waukesha	177.8	Developed	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Parking lot	N	43.0182	-88.2242	Launch via piers along shoreline or a paved ramp at south end of park. Seasonal watercraft rental in middle of park.	City
4	BARSTOW DAM Fox River Sanctuary	Waukesha	177.4	Portage	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Parking lot	N	43.0047	-88.2451	Dam Portage Take Out Slope to river	City
5	Fox River Parkway North	Waukesha	173.5	Carry-in	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Parking lot	N	42.9777	-88.2646	Gravel walkway, gradual slope to river. North Side of STH 59	City
6	Fox River County Park	Waukesha	171.9	Developed	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Parking lot	Y	42.9634	-88.2747	Paved walkway to river.	County
7	CTH I Access Site	Waukesha	166.9	Carry-in	N	N	N	N	N	N	Roadside Parking	N	42.9337	-88.2929	North side of Vernon Marsh, steep roadside slopes	County ROW
8	Vernon Marsh North (Walk-in)	Mukwonago	165.8	Carry-in	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Parking lot	N	42.9188	-88.2778	One-quarter mile walk on a service road to river from parking lot.	State
9	Vernon Marsh South (Walk-in)	Mukwonago	161.4	Carry-in	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Parking lot	N	42.8989	-88.3208	Approximately 1 mile walk from CTH-NN parking lot and Frog-Alley parking lot, short paddle east to river.	State
10	CTH ES Access Site	Mukwonago	160.5	Carry-in	N	N	N	N	N	N	Roadside Parking	N	42.8759	-88.3061	Parking area along National Ave (CTH ES)	County ROW
11	Center Drive	Big Bend	155.5	Carry-in	N	N	N	N	N	N	Roadside Parking	N	42.8768	-88.2481	Gradually-sloped gravel launch site	Town ROW
12	Big Bend Riverside Park	Big Bend	153.1	Developed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Parking lot	Y	42.8711	-88.2113	Paved launch	Village
13	Fox River Greenway	Big Bend	151.8	Carry-in	N	N	N	N	N	N	Parking lot	N	42.8630	-88.1981	Gravel parking area	County



FOX BEND RIVER ACCESS

W224 S9955 Big Bend Road, Big Bend

2.9 Acres

River Access Basics:

Amenities:	Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gravel Drive and Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Canoe/Kayak Launching

Acquisition:

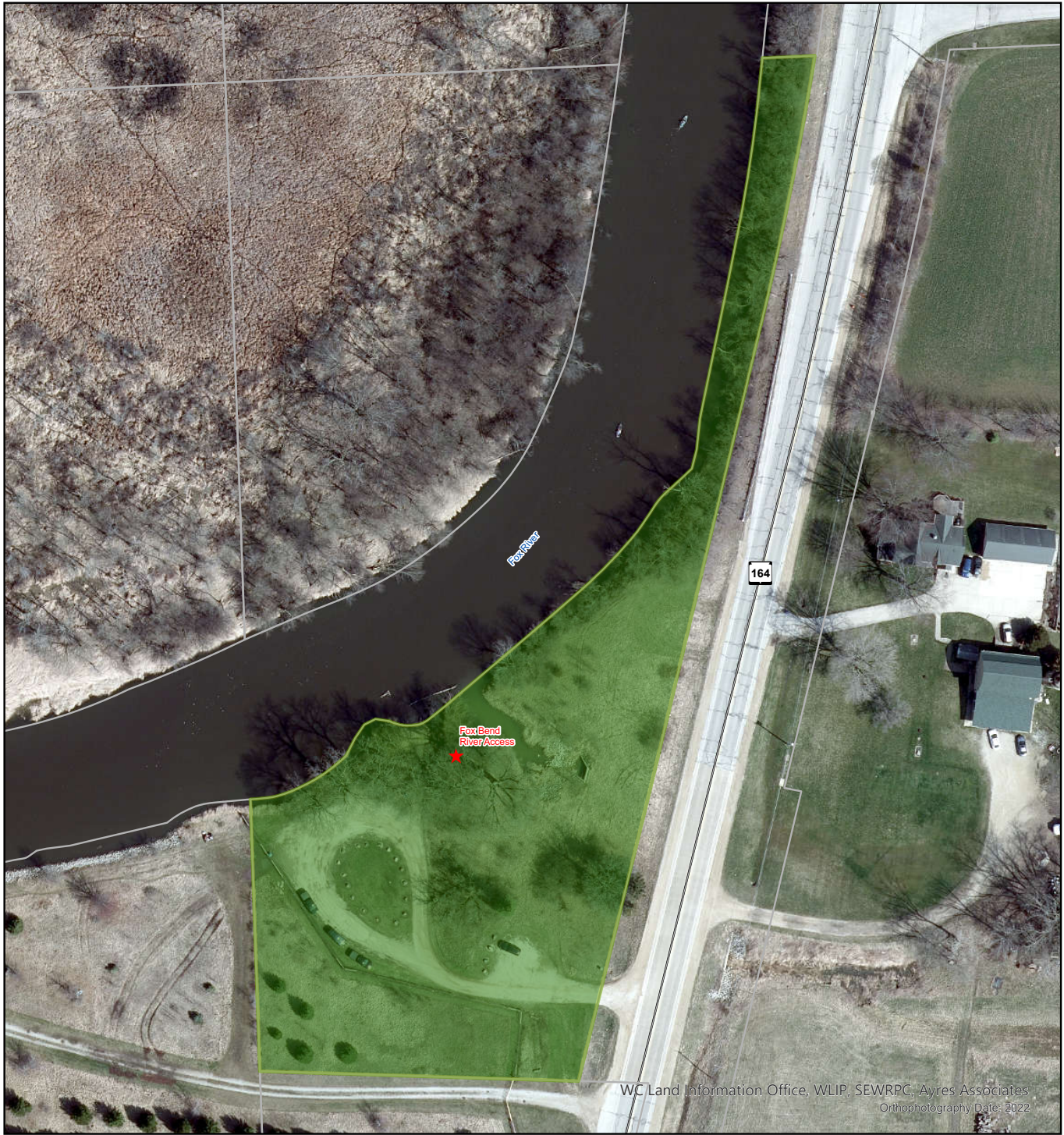
History

- 2001 Purchase from Carl R. Olson

Site Characteristics:

The river access area is located along the bank of the Fox River in Big Bend and has Primary Environmental Corridor along the shoreline.

On the site of a former tavern, the tavern building and stage area were removed and the land restored in 2001. The area now provides canoe and kayak access to the Fabulous Fox! National Water Trail.



WC Land Information Office, WLIP, SEWRPC, Ayres Associates
 Orthophotography Date: 2022



Fox Bend River Access

Waukesha County Park System



- Park Boundary
- Water Access



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LIS
 July 2023

Greenways

Environmental corridors in urban or urbanizing areas in Southeastern Wisconsin, which are held in public ownership or preservation easements, are often termed “Greenways.” Greenways are linear corridors of open spaces linking parks, natural areas, cultural features, historic sites, plant and animal habitats along a stream or river, environmental corridors, ridge-lines, or other linear natural features. These corridors are intended to provide aesthetic and natural resource continuity. Greenways in floodplains and floodways help to convey and infiltrate storm water to manage floods and to improve lake and stream water quality.

The vision of the Waukesha County Greenway Project is to create a system of corridors along the County’s major rivers and streams, which will protect the high quality natural resource-based elements; connect major State, County, and local parkland and other community social and cultural amenities; manage storm water; and provide recreational and educational opportunities for present and future generations.

The Greenway corridor serves as a river/stream buffer to:

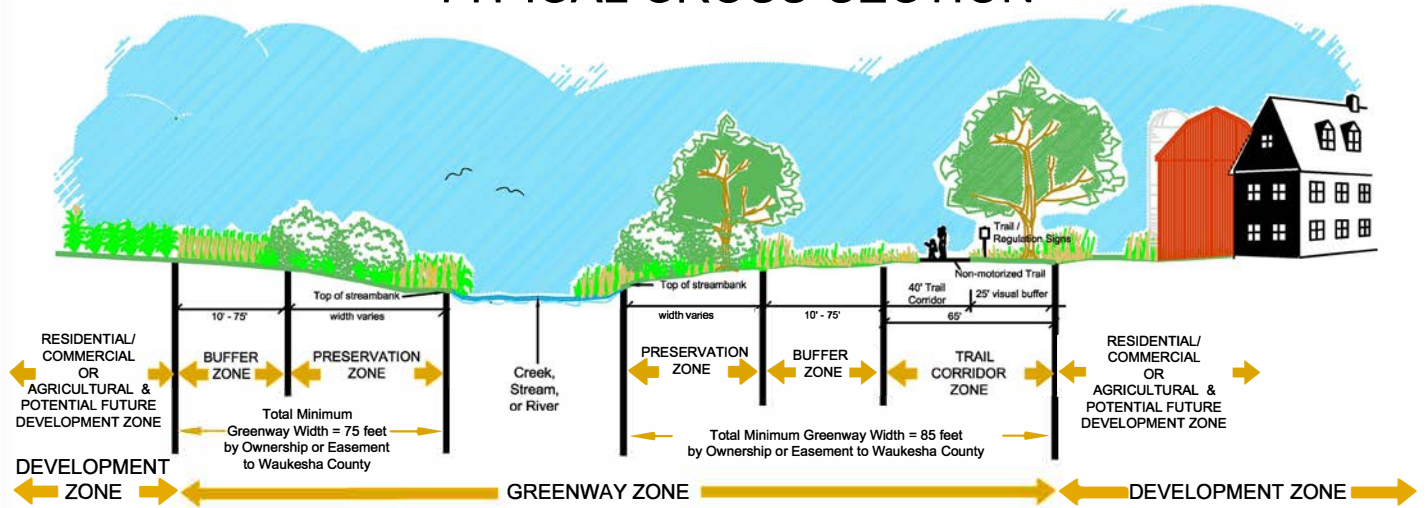
- Protect water quality by filtering and removing sedimentation, organic matter, pesticides and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow through deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification or other processes.
- Create, enhance and protect wildlife habitat and provide a corridor for the movement of a wide range of species.
- Protect and stabilize the riparian land and reduce floodwater velocity.
- Protect high quality plant communities, including upland woods.

The Greenway Corridor Typical Cross-section featured below was developed to ensure the preservation of the greenway corridors, and to guide the development of trails within the greenways, which give people access to enjoy these areas.

The County has established Greenway project areas along the following 11 major waterways:

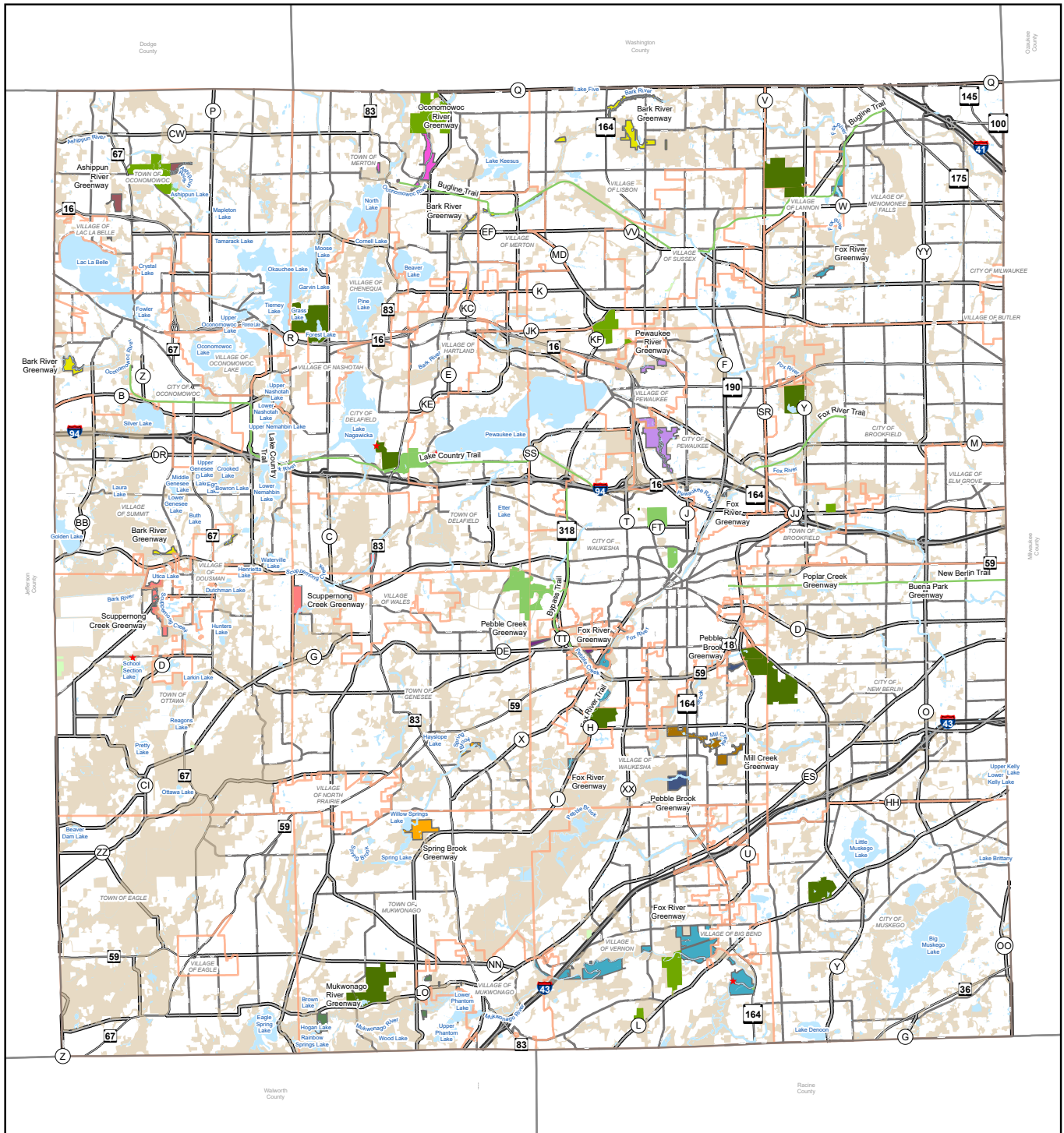
- Ashippun River
- Bark River
- Fox River
- Mill Creek
- Mukwonago River
- Oconomowoc River
- Pebble Brook
- Pebble Creek
- Pewaukee River
- Poplar Creek
- Scuppernong Creek
- Spring Creek

GREENWAY CORRIDOR TYPICAL CROSS-SECTION
























The Greenway Corridor serves as a River/Streamway buffer to:

- Protect water quality by filtering and removing sediment, organic matter, pesticides and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow through deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification or other processes
- Create, enhance, and protect wildlife habitat and provide a corridor for the movement of a wide range of species
- Protect and stabilize the riparian lands and reduce flood water velocity
- Protect high quality plant communities, including upland woods.
- Provide non-motorized trail opportunities.



Waukesha County Greenways

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  Ashippun River Greenway |  Pebble Brook Greenway |  Developed County Park |
|  Bark River Greenway |  Pebble Creek Greenway |  Undeveloped County Park |
|  Buena Park Greenway |  Pewaukee River Greenway |  Specialty Areas and Water Access |
|  Fox River Greenway |  Poplar Creek Greenway |  Open Space |
|  Mill Creek Greenway |  Scuppernon Creek Greenway |  Environmental Corridor (SEWRPC 2015) |
|  Mukwonago River Greenway |  Spring Brook Greenway |  Municipal Boundary |
|  Oconomowoc River Greenway | |  County Regional Trails |
| | |  Water Access |



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

ASHIPPUN RIVER GREENWAY

Town of Oconomowoc



Greenway Basics:

Major Basin

- Rock River

Watershed

- Ashippun River

Size:

- 111 Acres

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Canoe/Kayak Launch (At Ashippun Lake Access)
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Hunting & Trapping
- Snowshoeing

Site Characteristics:

Ashippun River enters Waukesha County, in the Town of Oconomowoc, on its northern border and exits on the western border, still within the Town of Oconomowoc.

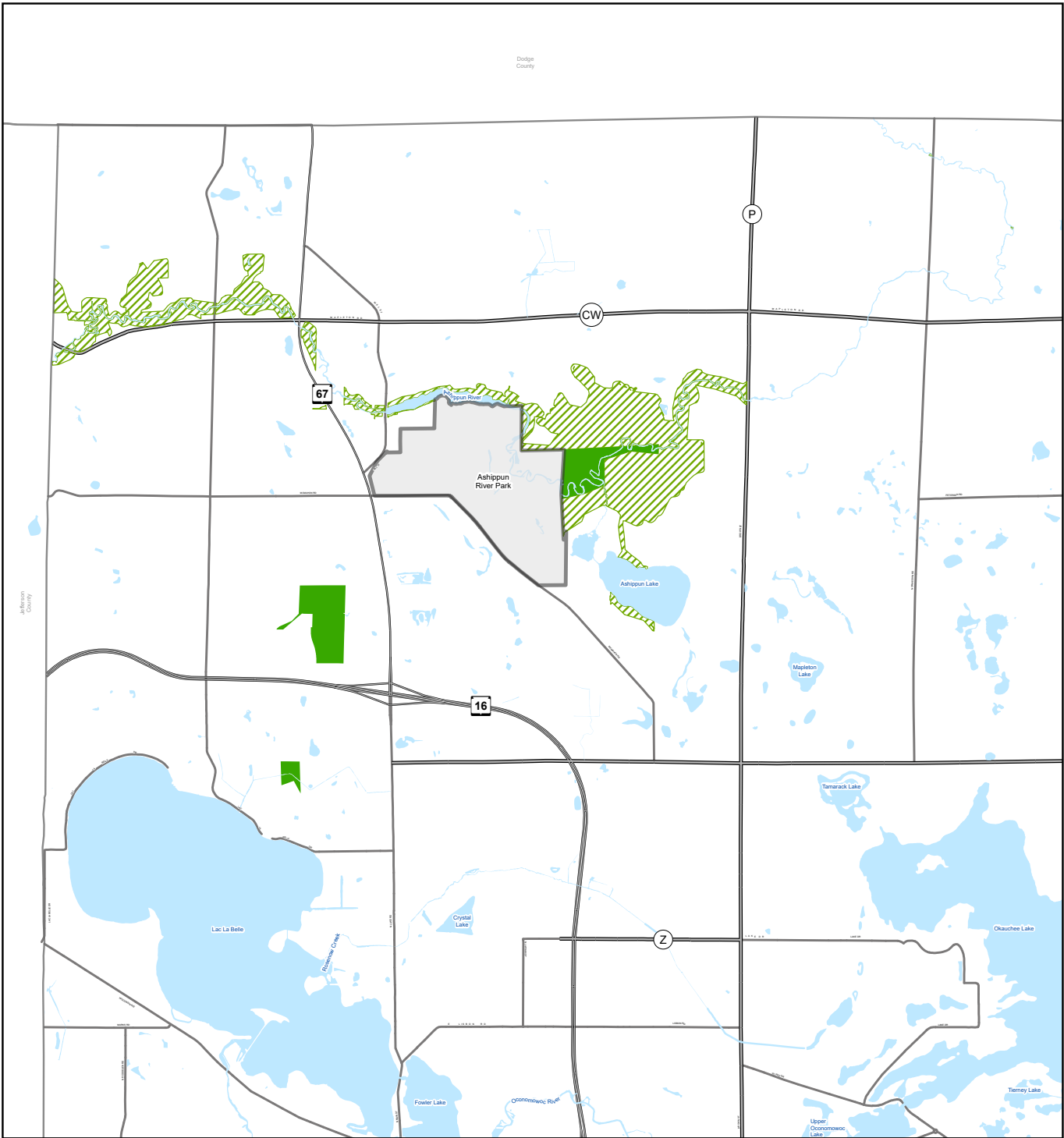
The river connects Waukesha County's Ashippun River Park and the Ashippun Lake Access both of which are described in more detail in their respective chapters within this update. The Ashippun River Greenway property owned by Waukesha County is adjacent to the east side of Ashippun River Park.

Land Management Overview:

There is limited additional data available for the Ashippun River Greenway. The completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory is required in order to establish baseline conditions and identify specific natural land management needs for the Mill Creek Greenway.

Proposed Preservation:

- 6,152 targeted acres to be evaluated for cooperative opportunities for protection with other government and non-profit partners as land becomes available.



Ashippun River Greenway

Waukesha County Park System



- County Greenway
- Proposed Acquisition
- County Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

BARK RIVER GREENWAY

Northwestern Waukesha County



Greenway Basics:

Major Basin

- Rock River

Watershed

- Bark River

Size

- 432 Acres

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Biking
- Roller-Blading
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Hunting & Trapping
- Running/Jogging
- Snowshoeing

Proposed Preservation:

- 9,617 targeted acres to be evaluated for cooperative opportunities for protection with other government and non-profit partners as land becomes available.

Valuable Species:

Birds

- Bald Eagle
- Black-necked Stilt
- Black Tern
- Blue-winged Teal
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Trumpeter Swan
- Yellow-headed Blackbird

Plants

- American sweet flag
- Dewey's sedge
- False Melic Grass

Reptiles

- Butler's Gartersnake
- Eastern Musk Turtle

Site Characteristics:

The Bark River Greenway enters Waukesha County in the Town of Lisbon and winds throughout the northwestern communities and lakes such as Nagawicka, Upper/Lower Nemahbin and Crooked Lake. West of the Village of Dousman, Bark River is joined by Scuppernong Creek and exits west into Jefferson County.

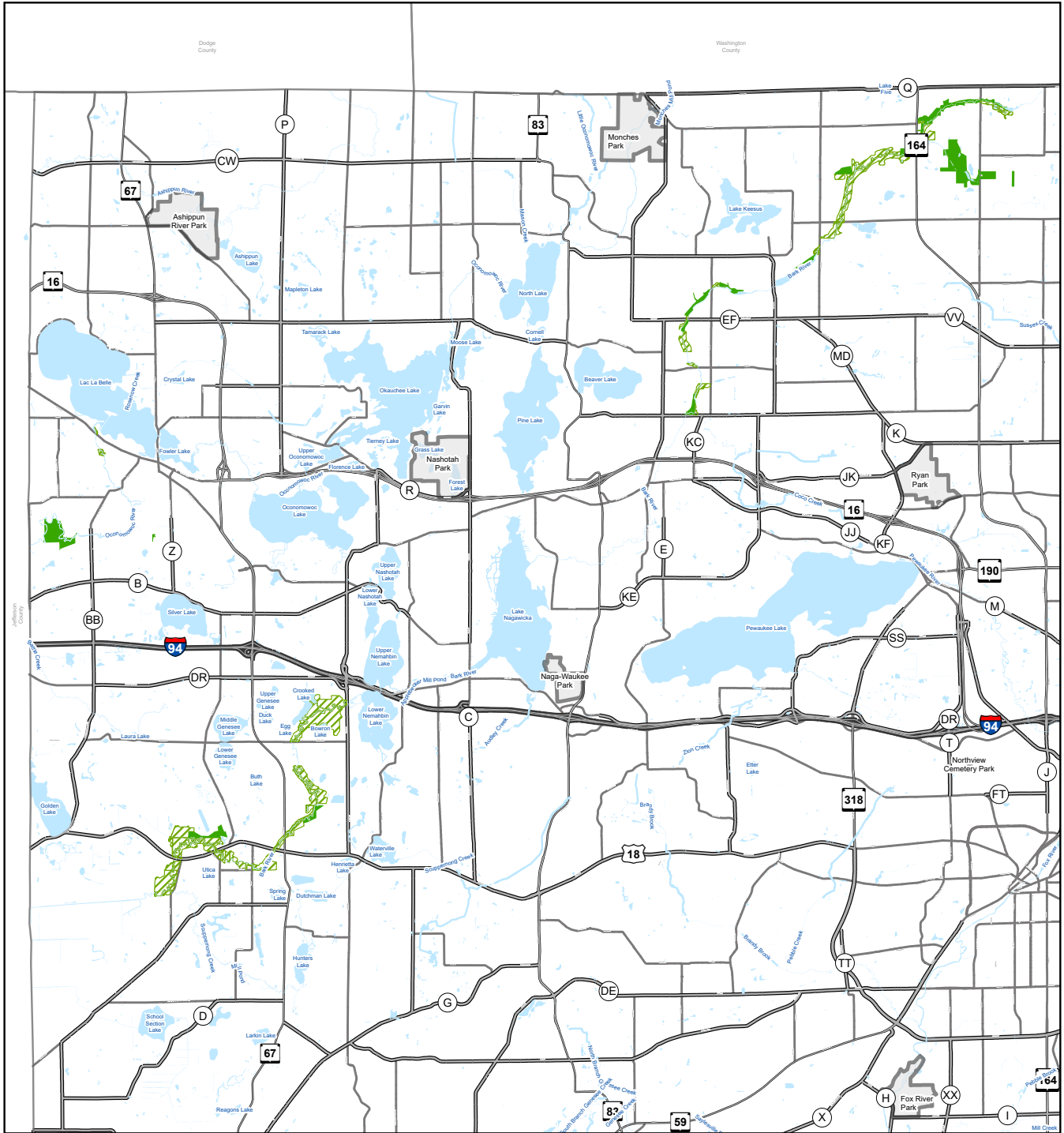
Both the Bugline Trail, (a Waukesha County Regional Trail), and the Glacial Drumlin State Trail traverse portions of the Bark River Greenway property.

Land Management Overview:

The Bark River is a tributary of the Rock River. The watershed contains the State-owned 6,318-acre Paradise Valley project in western Waukesha County. The project will result in a group of core wetlands and lakes surrounded by upland grassland, southern forest and working farmland. The Bark River portion of this project is a renowned location for birds and birdwatching, with over 200+ species observed to-date.

Natural land management priorities include the following:

- Completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory.
- Selective control of invasive species within the known high-quality habitats and/or remnants.
- Maintenance of the existing forest structure.
- Targeted restoration of agricultural fields and early successional areas to increase native buffer and improve wildlife habitat.
- Extension of natural areas within the watershed via targeted acquisitions.



Bark River Greenway

Waukesha County Park System

- County Greenway
- Proposed Acquisition
- County Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

FOX RIVER GREENWAY

Follows Fox River through the County



Greenway Basics:

Major Basin

- Upper Fox River

Watershed

- Fox River

Size:

- 1,271 acres

Adjacent County Parks & Trails

- Bugline Trail
- Fox River Trail
- Fabulous Fox Water Trail
- Menomonee Park
- Fox Brook Park

- Fox River Park
- Fox Bend Park

Activities

- Ag Land Rental
- Bird-watching
- Canoe/Kayak
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Hunting & Trapping
- Snowshoeing

Site Characteristics:

The headwaters of the Fox River are located in the Town of Lisbon. The river continues south, connecting several communities and natural features and providing a multitude of outdoor, water-focused recreational opportunities. The Fabulous Fox Water Trail meanders throughout this greenway.

The Bugline Trail crosses the Fox River Greenway in the northern part of the County. The Fox River Trail also traverses the Fox River Greenway in the middle part of the County. Multiple municipal parks can be found along the Fox River and adjacent to the Greenway- Menomonee, Mitchell (City of Brookfield), Fox Brook, Frame (City of Waukesha), Fox River, Vernon Marsh and Fox Bend Park are among the recreational opportunities connected by this river.

Proposed Preservation:

- 20,845 targeted acres to be evaluated for cooperative opportunities for protection with other government and non-profit partners as land becomes available.

Valuable Species:

Birds

- American Woodcock
- Bald Eagle
- Osprey
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Pugnose Shiner
- Wood Thrush

- Yellow-headed Blackbird

Other

- Blue Ash
- Starhead Topminnow (Fish)
- Blanding's Turtle

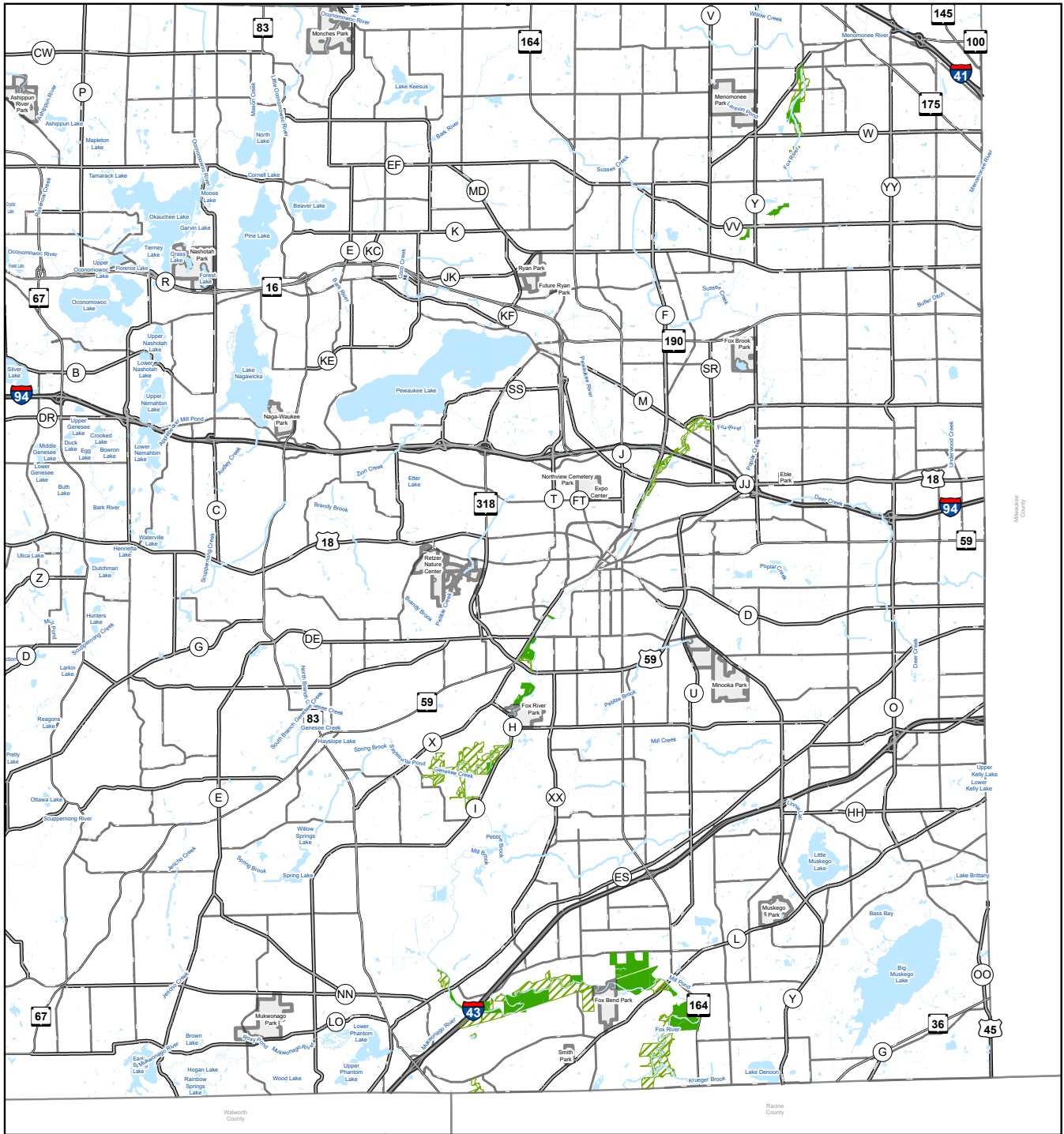
Land Management Overview:

The Fox River Greenway contains large and contiguous tracts of forest and segments of emergent marsh within and adjacent to the river corridor. Highlights include the following:

- Contains approximately 750 acres of remnant mesic forest, early successional forest, old-field, and emergent marsh.
- Contains Martin's Woods State Natural Area and future Fox Bend Park which are designated NA-1.
- Contains "River Oak Woods and Wetlands" (NA-3).
- Provides important habitat corridor for breeding and migratory wildlife, unique species guilds such as rails, shorebirds, and nesting for raptors.

Natural land management priorities include the following:

- Completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory.
- Selective control of invasive species within the known high-quality habitats and/or remnants.
- Reintroduction of prescribed fire.
- Enhancement of the forest structure through targeted reforestation of agricultural fields and early successional areas to increase native buffer and improve wildlife habitat
- Extension of natural areas within the watershed via targeted acquisitions.



Fox River Greenway

Waukesha County Park System

- County Greenway
- Proposed Acquisition
- County Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

MILL CREEK GREENWAY

City of New Berlin and Town of Waukesha



Greenway Basics:

Major Basin

- Fox River

Watershed

- Fox River

Size

- 245 Acres

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Hunting & Trapping
- Snowshoeing

Site Characteristics:

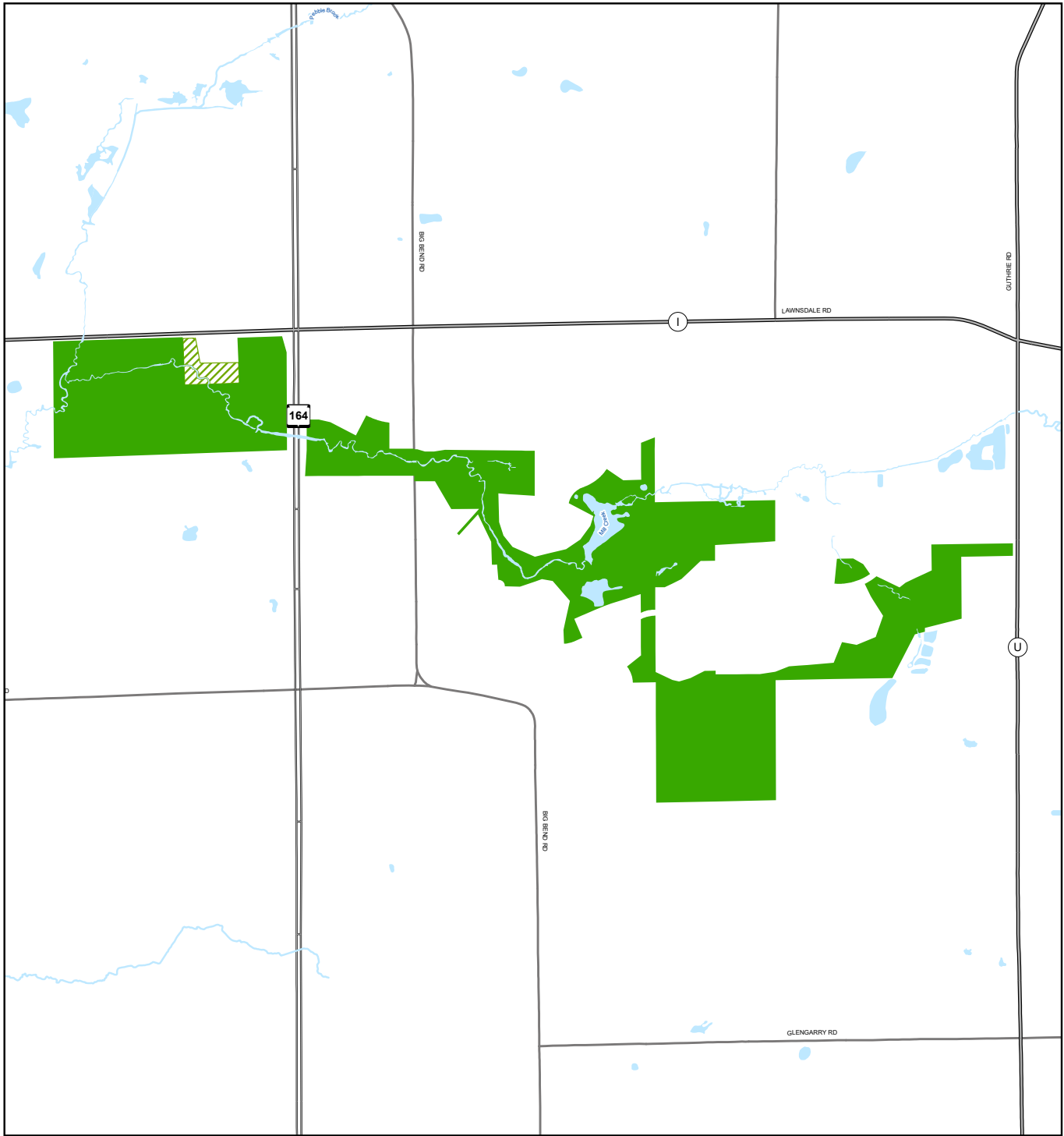
The Mill Creek Greenway is located in central Waukesha County. Mill Creek begins in New Berlin (southwest of Racine Ave and Lawnsdale Road) and flows west into the Town of Waukesha, where it joins the Pebble Brook System.

Land Management Overview:

There is limited additional data available for the Mill Creek Greenway. The completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory is required in order to establish baseline conditions and identify specific natural land management needs for the Mill Creek Greenway.

Proposed Preservation:

- 50 targeted acres to be evaluated for cooperative opportunities for protection with other government and non-profit partners as land becomes available.



Mill Creek Greenway

Waukesha County Park System



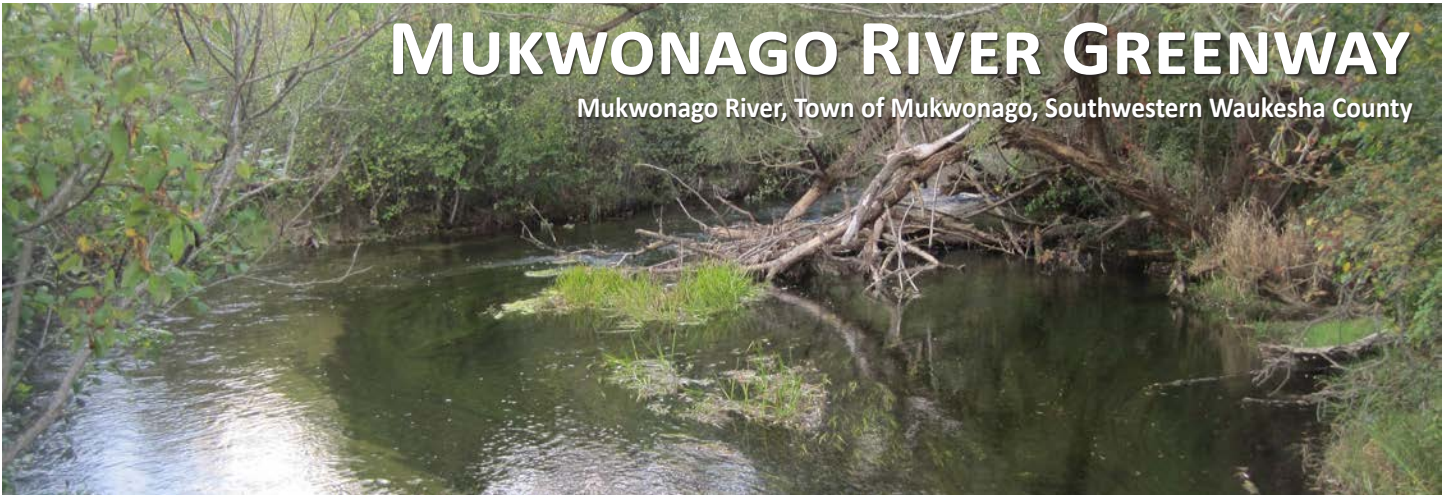
- County Greenway
- Proposed Acquisition



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

MUKWONAGO RIVER GREENWAY

Mukwonago River, Town of Mukwonago, Southwestern Waukesha County



Greenway Basics:

Major Basin

- Fox River

Watershed

- Mukwonago River

Size

- 98 Acres

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Hunting & Trapping
- Running/ Jogging
- Snowshoeing

Proposed Preservation:

- 8,279 targeted acres to be evaluated for cooperative opportunities for protection with other government and non-profit partners as land becomes available.

Valuable Species:

Birds

- Bald Eagle
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Field Sparrow
- Hooded Warbler
- Osprey
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Wood Thrush

Other

- Blanding's Turtle
- Smooth Green Snake
- Kittentails Plant
- Double-striped Bluet (insect)

Site Characteristics:

Jericho Creek at Eagle Spring Lake in the Town of Eagle forms the headwaters of the Mukwonago River, and the river meanders through southern Waukesha County until it connects to the Fox River in the Town of Vernon.

Protection of the Mukwonago River is of highest priority as it is listed as an "Exceptional Source Water" by the State of Wisconsin due to its clarity and ability to sustain threatened and endangered species. The Mukwonago River Initiative (MRI) has developed recommended language to encourage cooperative effort in the protection of the river.

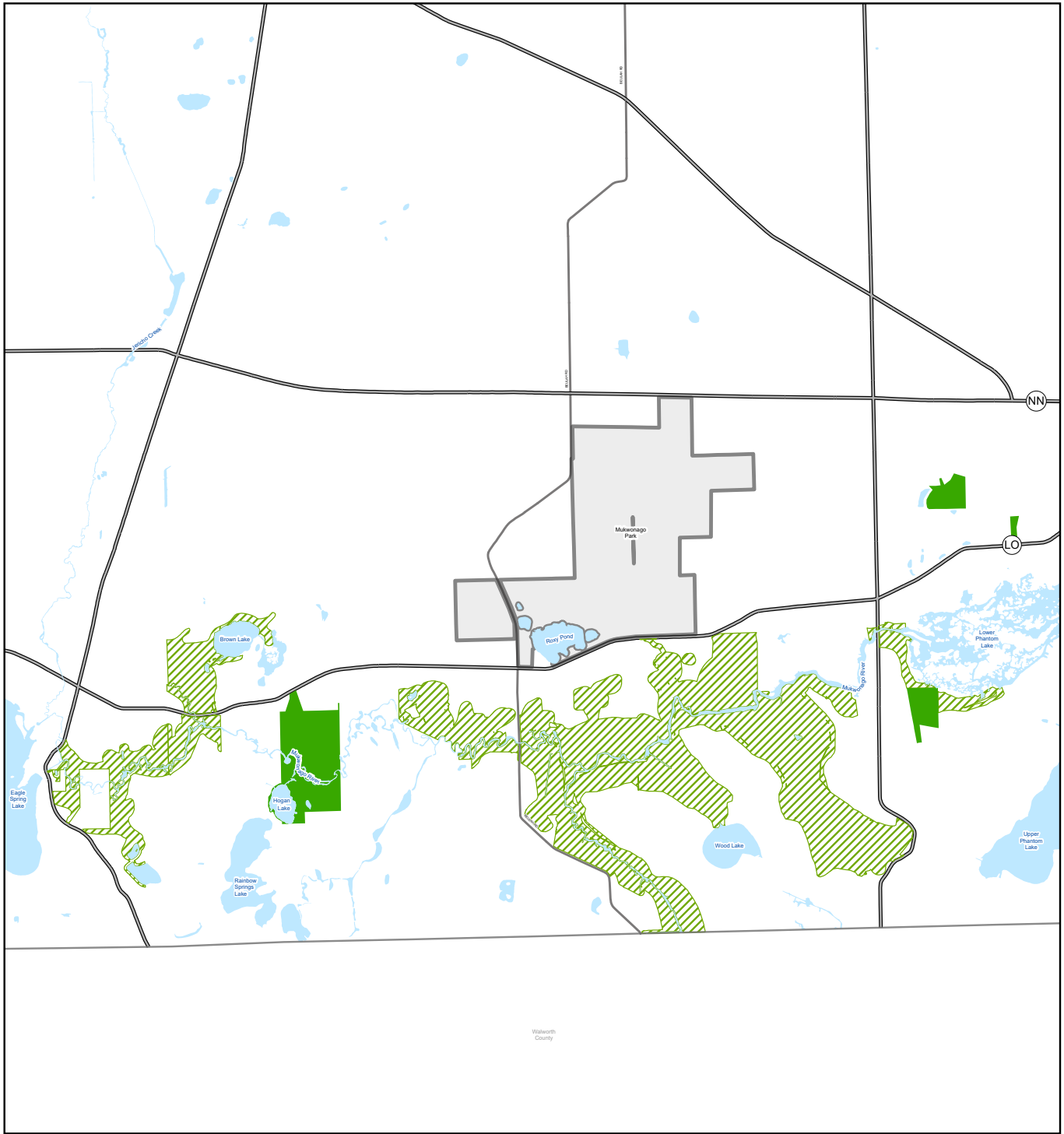
Land Management Overview:

The Mukwonago River is among the most biologically diverse waterways in southeastern Wisconsin and provides critical habitat for several rare, threatened, and endangered species of fish and freshwater mussels. Waukesha County currently owns a 69.7-acre parcel located southwest of Mukwonago County Park referred to as the Berg Property. The site falls within Primary Environmental Corridor and is primarily southern dry forest, oak savanna, and lowland forest with meadow growing on the muck soils along the Mukwonago River. It also occurs within the larger Upper Mukwonago River habitat area which is designated NA-1.

Given the excellent quality of this river corridor preservation of additional greenway to increase continuity of both upland and lowland habitats should be priority. This greenway provides an opportunity to preserve valuable remnant terrestrial habitats that buffer the cleanest river in southeastern Wisconsin.

Natural land management priorities include the following:

- Completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory.
- Selective control of invasive species within the known high-quality habitats and/or remnants.
- Reintroduction of prescribed fire.
- Maintenance of the existing forest structure
- Extension of natural areas within the watershed via targeted acquisitions.



Mukwonago River Greenway

Waukesha County Park System



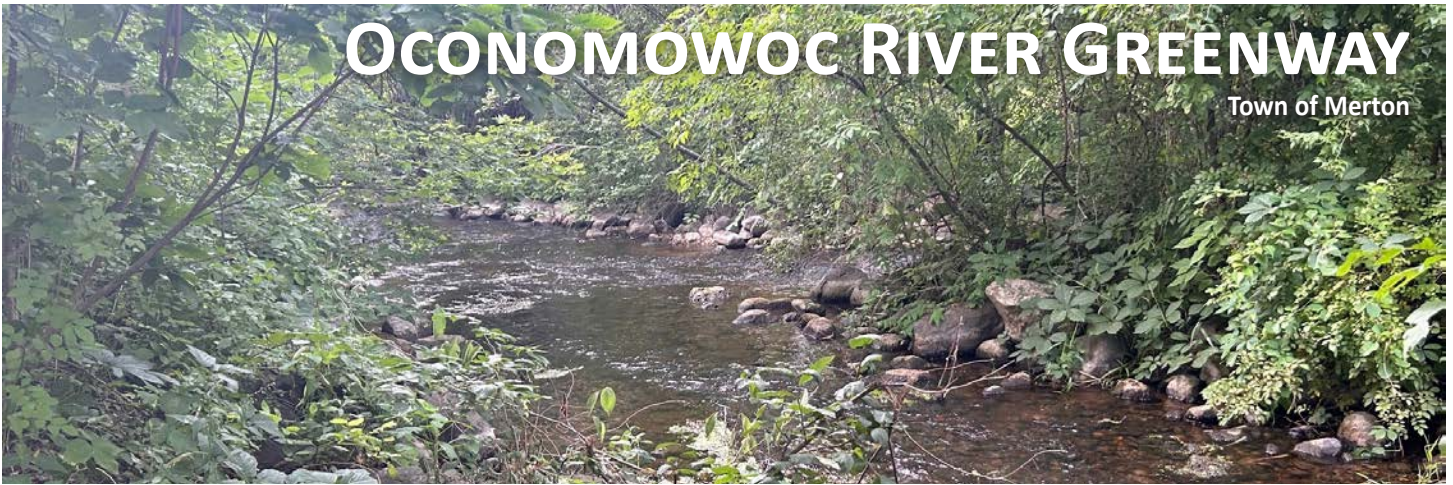
- County Greenway
- Proposed Acquisition
- County Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

OCONOMOWOC RIVER GREENWAY

Town of Merton



Greenway Basics:

Major Basin

- Rock River

Watershed

- Oconomowoc River

Size

- 158 Acres

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Hunting & Trapping
- Running/ Jogging
- Snowshoeing

Proposed Preservation:

- 2,211 targeted acres to be evaluated for cooperative opportunities for protection with other government and non-profit partners as land becomes available.

Valuable Species:

Birds

- Bald Eagle
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Hooded Warbler
- Osprey
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Wood Thrush

Other

- Blanding's Turtle
- Wood Frog

Site Characteristics:

The Oconomowoc River enters Waukesha County through the Town of Merton, flowing out of the Monches Mill Pond and into Monches Park. After meandering through the lakes, parks and trails of northwest Waukesha County, it continues into Jefferson County, north of the Village of Summit. The Oconomowoc River flows through North Lake, Okauchee Lake, Oconomowoc Lake, Fowler Lake and Lac La Belle.

The Bugline Trail crosses the Oconomowoc River Greenway in Merton. The Ice Age Trail also runs along the river and through the greenway property.

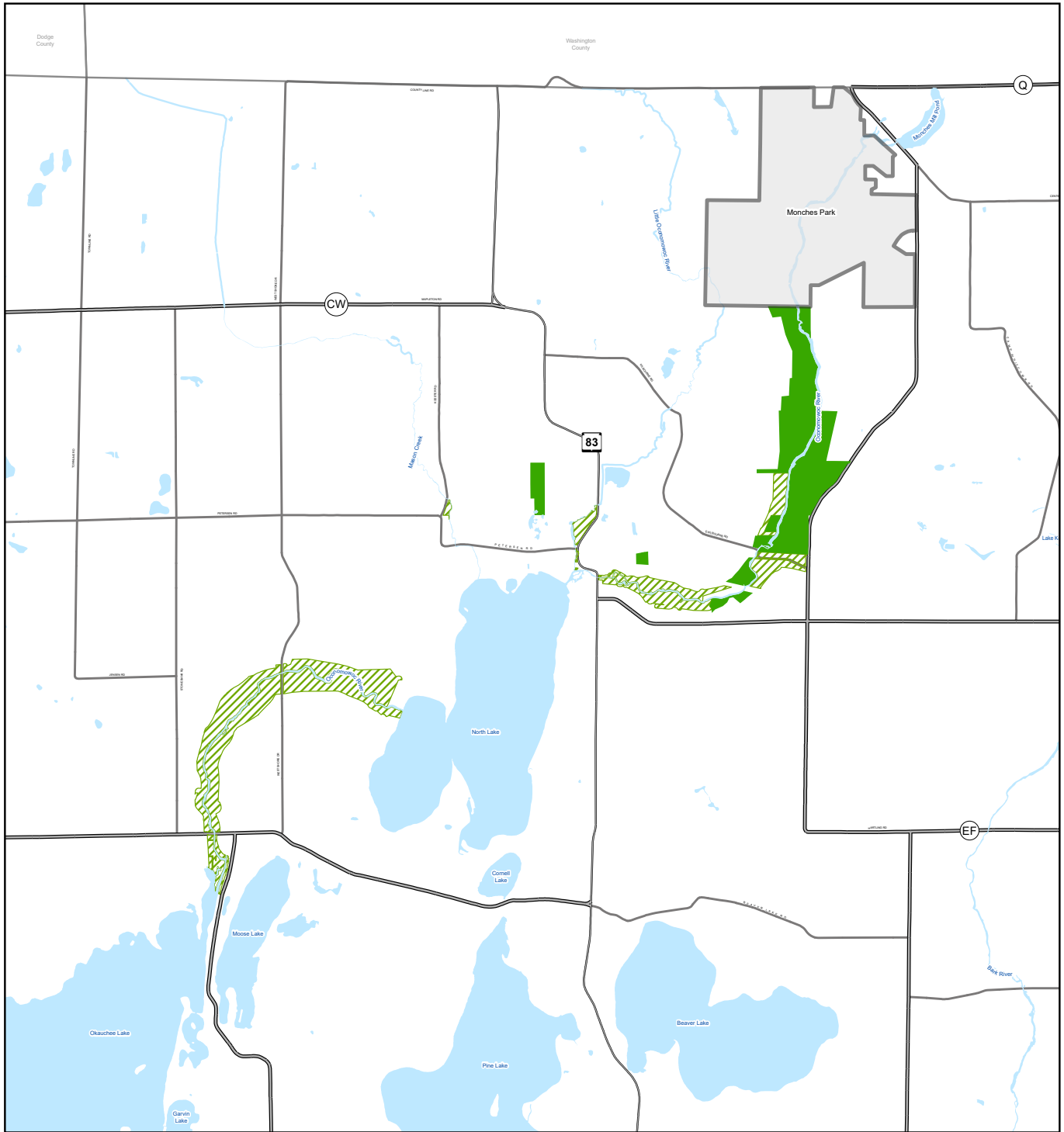
Land Management Overview:

The Oconomowoc River watershed links more than a dozen lakes in Waukesha County and is one of the most highly used recreational water systems in the region. The river and its associated terrestrial habitats contain a variety of rare, threatened, and endangered species including several species of fish, freshwater mussels, birds, and snakes.

Land use in the watershed is 46% agriculture, 19% wetland, 14% forest, 11% urban or suburban and 10% water or open land. Nutrient inputs from agricultural runoff and urban areas have led to high phosphorous levels, erosion, and sediment loading concerns within the Oconomowoc River watershed. The Oconomowoc River Greenway contains existing county-owned land which falls within the Primary Environmental Corridor consisting of degraded upland forest, savanna, sedge meadow and agricultural fields.

Natural land management priorities include the following:

- Completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory.
- Selective control of invasive species within the known high-quality habitats and/or remnants.
- Reintroduction of prescribed fire.
- Maintenance of the existing forest structure.
- Extension of natural areas within the watershed via targeted acquisitions.



Oconomowoc River Greenway

Waukesha County Park System



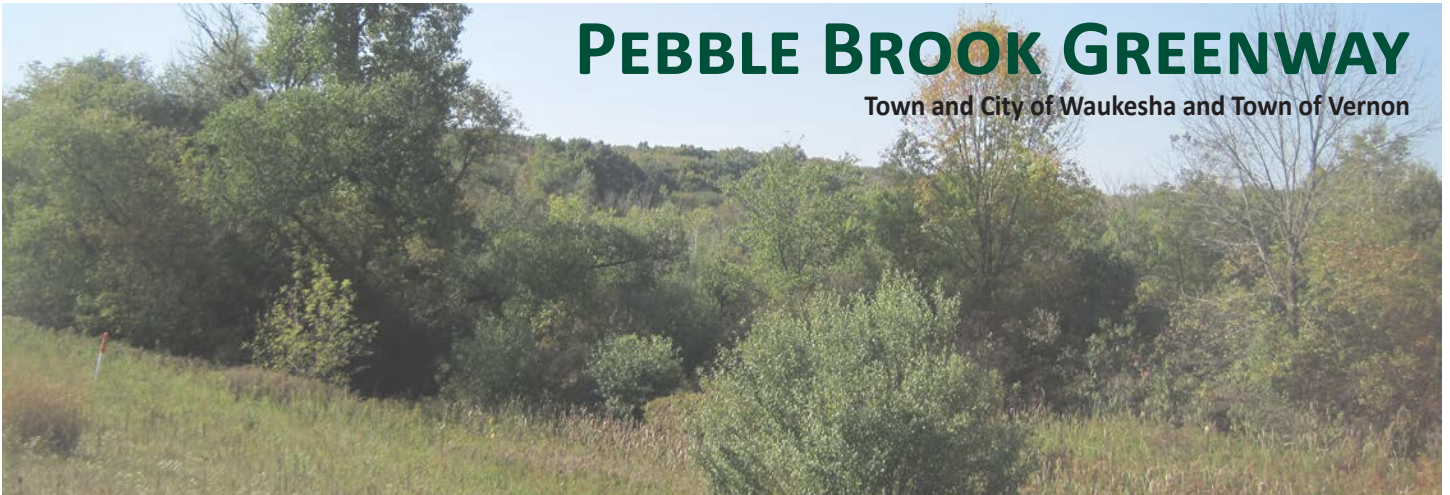
- County Greenway
- Proposed Acquisition
- County Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

PEBBLE BROOK GREENWAY

Town and City of Waukesha and Town of Vernon



Greenway Basics:

Major Basin

- Fox River

Watershed

- Fox River

Size

- 144 Acres

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Snowshoeing

Proposed Preservation:

- 135 targeted acres to be evaluated for cooperative opportunities for protection with other government and non-profit partners as land becomes available.

Valuable Species:

Plants

- Cowbane
- Fringed Gentian
- Kalm's Brome
- Poison Sumac
- Turtlehead

Insects

- Western Red Damsel

Site Characteristics:

Pebble Brook starts west of Minooka Park in the City of Waukesha. Winding throughout central Waukesha County, Pebble Brook is joined by Mill Creek and Red Wing Creek before flowing into the Town of Vernon and the Vernon State Wildlife Area where it flows into the Fox River.

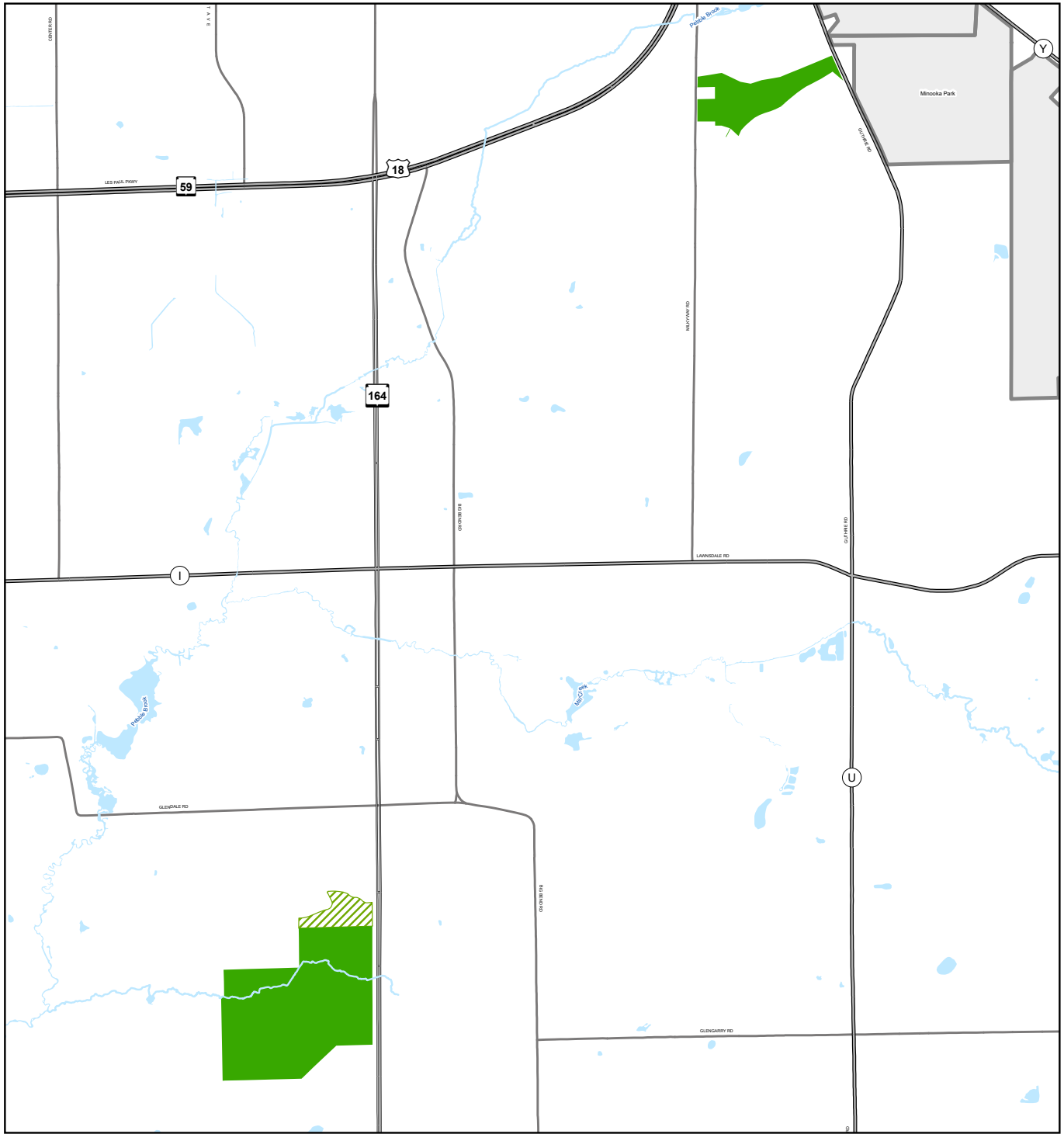
The Waukesha County-owned Greenway property was once a Nature Conservancy property. The original lot was acquired, by the Nature Conservancy, from the Falk family in the mid 1970's. Rights were transferred to Waukesha County in the mid 1990's.

Land Management Overview:

The Pebble Brook Greenway contains the County-owned natural area referred to as the "Falk Fen and Woods", encompassing approximately 116 acres of tamarack swamp, fen, lowland shrub-carr, dry-mesic forest, and old-field (NA-2) It was historically grazed and logged, but sections have been intact since 1941 based on historical aerial imagery. The Blue Heron Girl Scout Camp owns 78 acres that connects to the southwest corner of the county-owned parcel, and the Waukesha County Land Conservancy owns 96 acres that borders to the west. Vernon Marsh is also 1.3 miles southwest of the property, with Redwing Creek and Pebble Brook forming a connecting corridor between the natural areas. This forms a highly valuable habitat and wildlife corridor in our urbanizing region.

Natural land management priorities include the following:

- Completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory.
- Selective control of invasive species within the known high-quality habitats and/or remnants.
- Reintroduction of prescribed fire.
- Maintenance of the existing forest structure.
- Extension of natural areas within the watershed via targeted acquisitions.



Pebble Brook Greenway

Waukesha County Park System



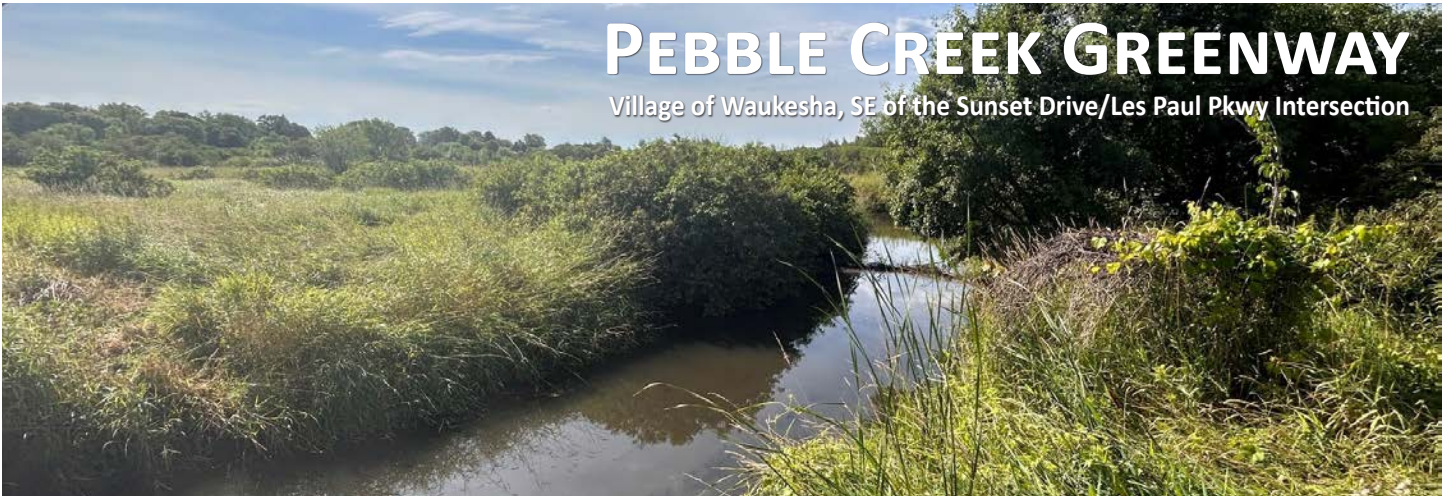
- County Greenway
- Proposed Acquisition
- County Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

PEBBLE CREEK GREENWAY

Village of Waukesha, SE of the Sunset Drive/Les Paul Pkwy Intersection



Greenway Basics:

Major Basin

- Fox River

Watershed

- Middle Fox River

Size

- 48 Acres

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Hiking
- Geocaching
- Snowshoeing

Proposed Preservation:

- 7.5 targeted acres to be evaluated for cooperative opportunities for protection with other government and non-profit partners as land becomes available.

Site Characteristics:

Pebble Creek begins in the City of Waukesha, east of Meadowbrook Road and North of Northview Road.

It flows south/southwest through central Waukesha County until it turns east and flows into the Fox River on the City of Waukesha, north of Les Paul Pkwy/US Highway 18. The creek meanders through Retzer Nature Center and runs parallel to a portion of the Glacial Drumlin Trail.

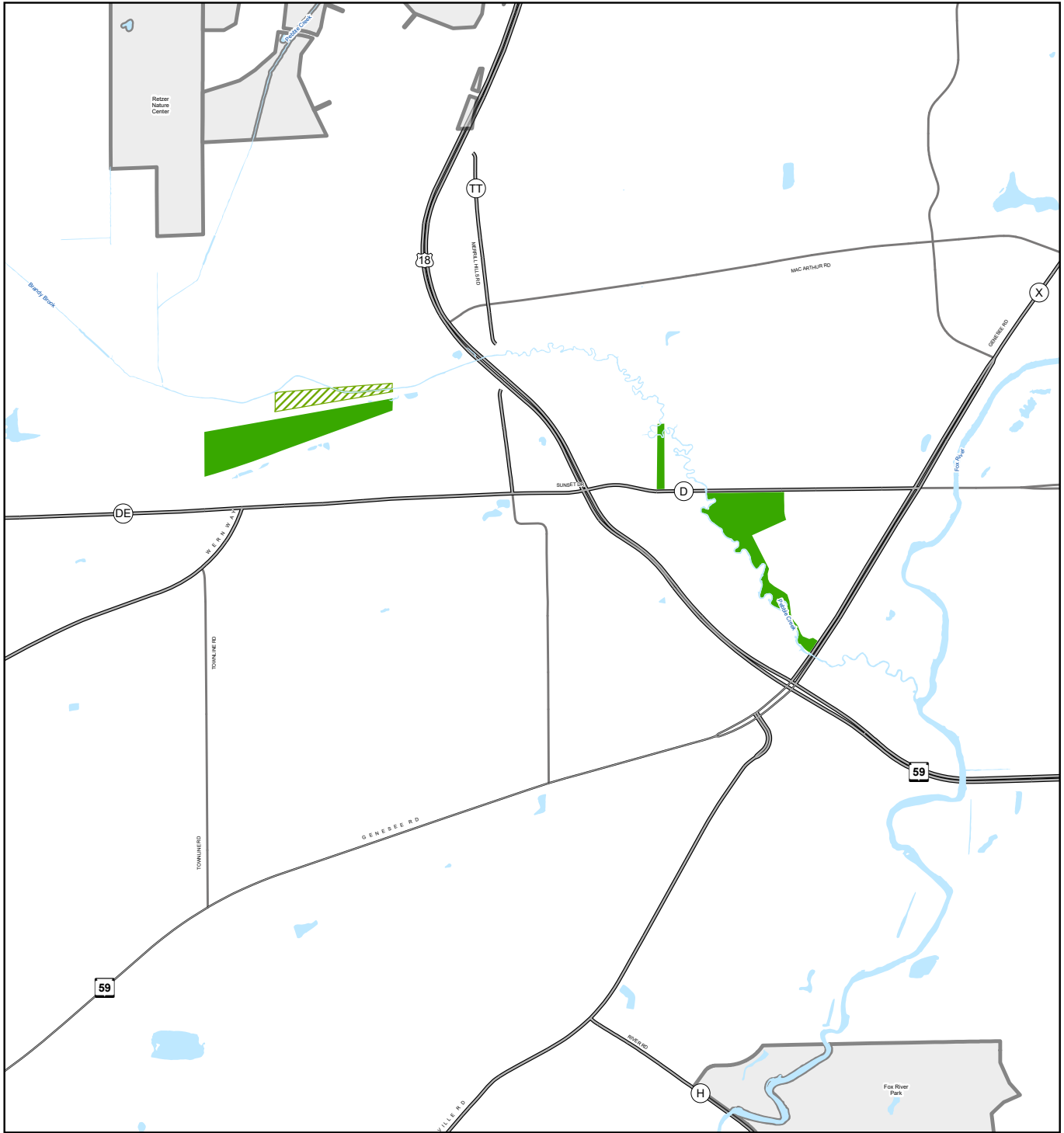
Land Management Overview:

Pebble Creek, and its major tributary Brandy Brook, drain approximately 18 square miles located in the extreme southwest corner of the Upper Fox River watershed.

Healthy populations of mottled sculpin, a cold-water indicator species, have been recorded in the headwaters of this stream system meaning that Pebble Creek could have the potential to support a cold-water Class I and II brook and brown trout fishery.

The lower portions of Pebble Creek extending from CTH D to the confluence with the Fox River contain northern pike among several other high-quality warm water species. There is limited additional data available for the Pebble Creek Greenway.

The completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory is required in order to establish baseline conditions and identify specific natural land management needs for the Pebble Creek Greenway.



Pebble Creek Greenway

Waukesha County Park System



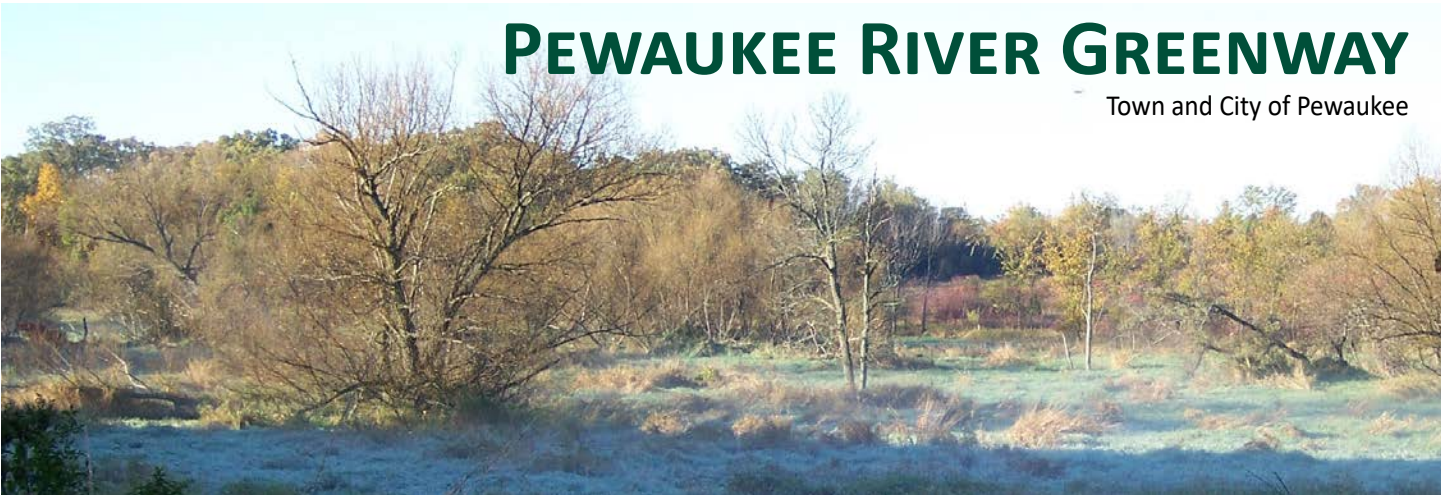
- County Greenway
- Proposed Acquisition
- County Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LJS
July 2023

PEWAUKEE RIVER GREENWAY

Town and City of Pewaukee



Greenway Basics:

Major Basin

- Fox River

Watershed

- Middle Fox River

Size

- 432 Acres

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Hunting & Trapping
- Snowshoeing

Proposed Preservation:

- 1,151 targeted acres to be evaluated for cooperative opportunities for protection with other government and non-profit partners as land becomes available.

Valuable Species:

Birds

- American Bittern
- Blue-winged Teal
- Field Sparrow
- Least Bittern
- Osprey
- Purple Martin
- Rusty Blackbird
- Sedge Wren
- Solitary Sandpiper

- Willow Flycatcher
- Wood Thrush

Plants

- Riddell's Golderod
- Turk's Cap Lily
- Other:
- Blanding's Turtle
- Butler's Gartersnake
- Prairie Crayfish

Site Characteristics:

The Pewaukee River Greenway begins in the Town of Pewaukee and is fueled by waters from Pewaukee Lake. It flows south/southeast into the Fox River near I-94 and Redford Blvd.

Land Management Overview:

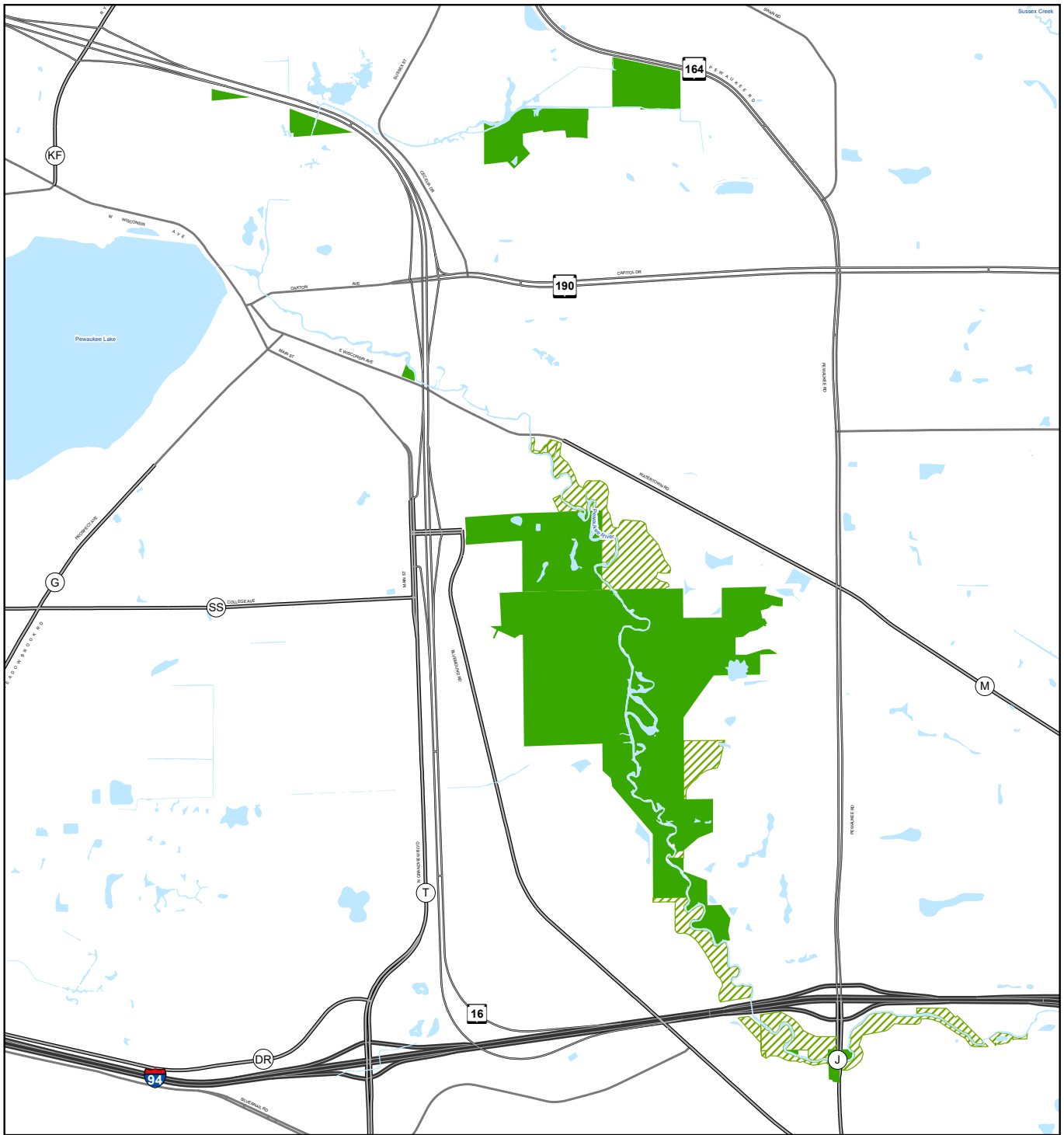
The Pewaukee River system is a headwater tributary to the Fox River and includes the 2,493-acre Pewaukee Lake and several other tributaries.

The system supports a variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, including seven State-listed threatened and endangered species and 13 species of special concern of mussels, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and plants. T

The Pewaukee River Greenway falls within an urbanizing watershed and, according to SEWRPC, under planned land use conditions about 64% of the watershed is anticipated to be in urban land uses by 2035. The Pewaukee River Greenway contains existing county-owned land which falls within the Primary Environmental Corridor consisting of mostly wetland communities. The two forested blocks are the highest overall quality.

Natural land management priorities include the following:

- Completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory.
- Selective control of invasive species within the known high-quality habitats and/or remnants.
- Preservation of the existing forest canopy and restoration of mature hardwood tree canopy within the lowland forest areas impact by Emerald Ash Borer.
- Phased restoration of sections of the agricultural fields to increase natural buffer zones surrounding delineated wetlands and critical species habitats.
- Extension of natural areas within the watershed via targeted acquisitions.



Pewaukee River Greenway

Waukesha County Park System



County Greenway



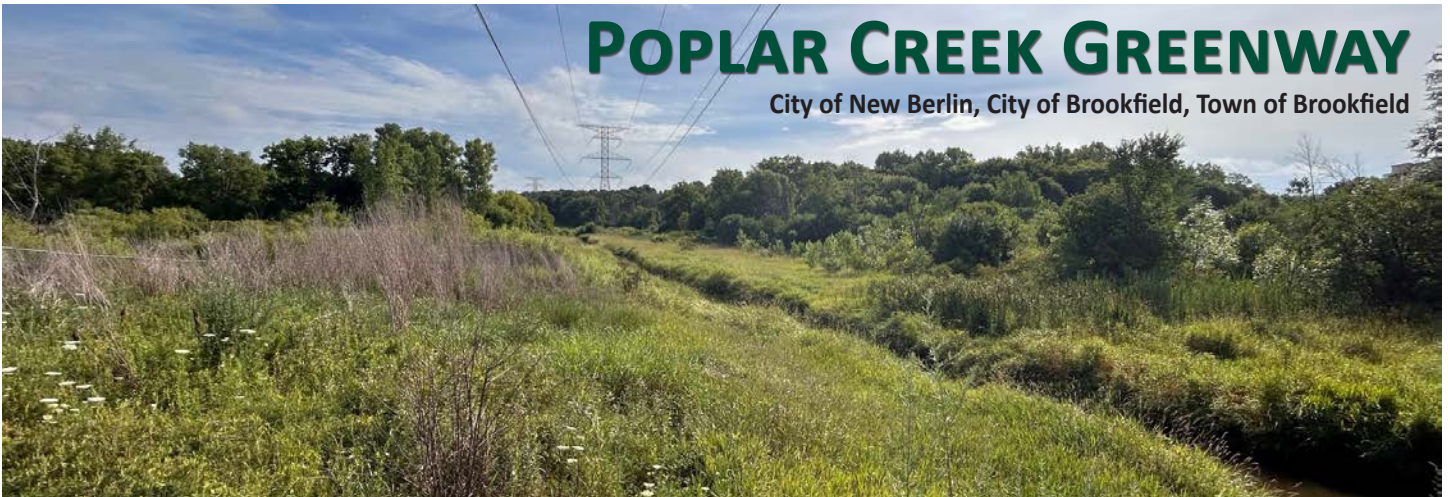
Proposed Acquisition



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

POPLAR CREEK GREENWAY

City of New Berlin, City of Brookfield, Town of Brookfield



Greenway Basics:

Major Basin

- Fox River

Watershed

- Middle Fox River

Size

- 9 Acres

Activities

- Bird-watching
- Hiking
- Geocaching
- Snowshoeing

Proposed Preservation:

- Explore opportunity for transferring current acreage to adjacent municipal and non-profit entities that currently own large tracts of the greenway.

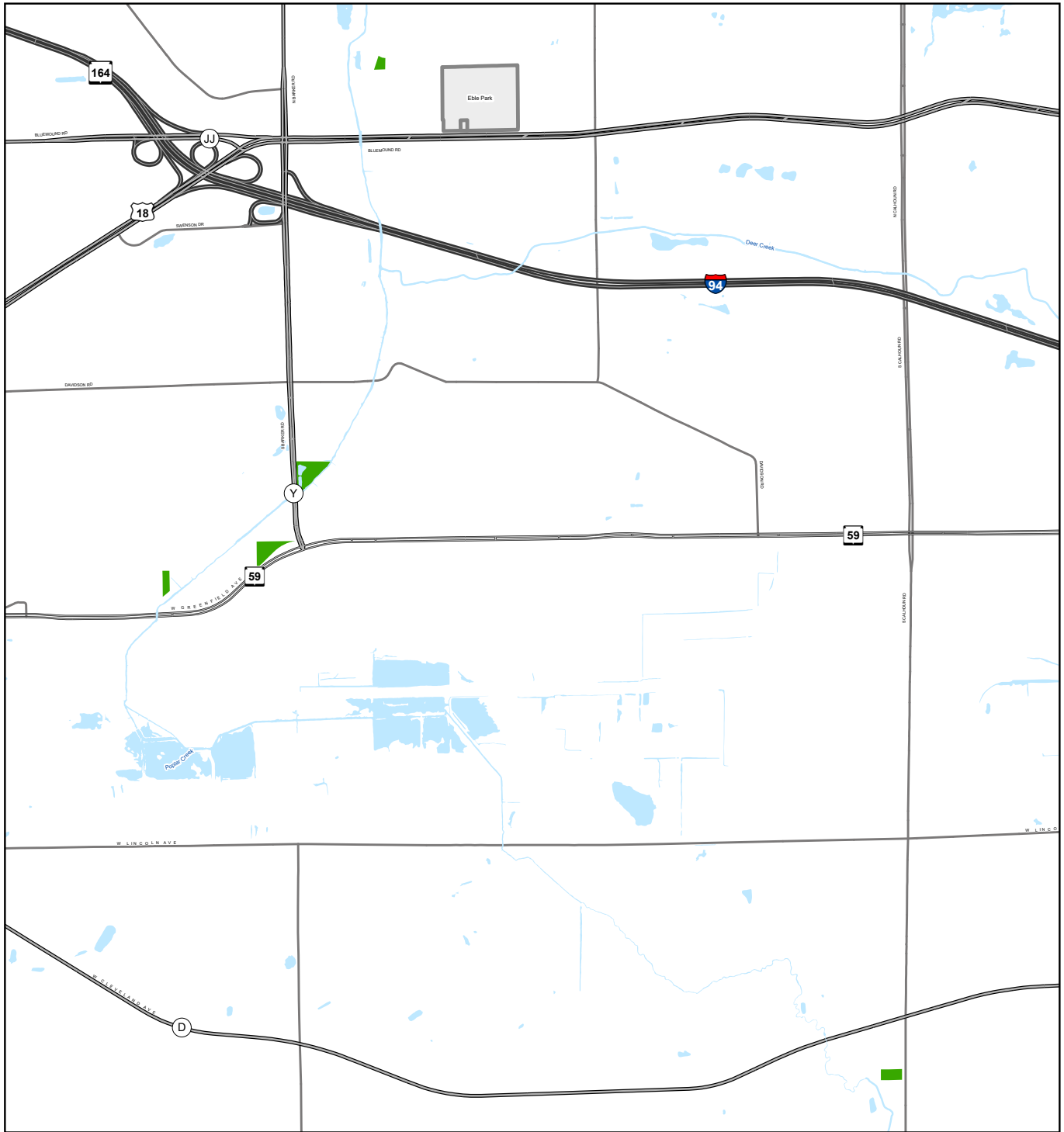
Site Characteristics:

Poplar Creek begins in the City of New Berlin and flows West/Northwest until it joins the Fox River in the City of Brookfield.

The creek runs parallel to and crosses a portion of the New Berlin Trail in the City of New Berlin, east of Springdale Road. For more information on the trail, please refer to the Recreational Trail section of this update.

Land Management Overview:

The completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory is required in order to establish baseline conditions and identify specific natural land management needs for the Poplar Creek Greenway.



Poplar Creek Greenway

Waukesha County Park System



- County Greenway
- County Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023



SCUPPERNONG GREENWAY

Town of Genesee, Town of Delafield, Town of Ottawa, Village of Summit, Town of Wales

Greenway Basics:

<p>Major Basin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock River <p>Watershed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bark River <p>Size</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 262 Acres 	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird-watching • Canoeing/Kayaking • Fishing • Geocaching • Hiking • Hunting & Trapping • Snowshoeing
--	---

Proposed Preservation:

- 770 targeted acres to be evaluated for cooperative opportunities for protection with other government and non-profit partners as land becomes available.

Valuable Species:

<p>Birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Bittern • Grasshopper Sparrow • Great Egret • Osprey • Purple Martin • Veery • Virginia Rail 	<p>Plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large yellow lady's-slipper • Lead Plant • Oval-leaved Milkweed • Prairie Indian Plantain <p>Reptiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanding's Turtle • Eastern Musk Turtle
---	---

Site Characteristics:

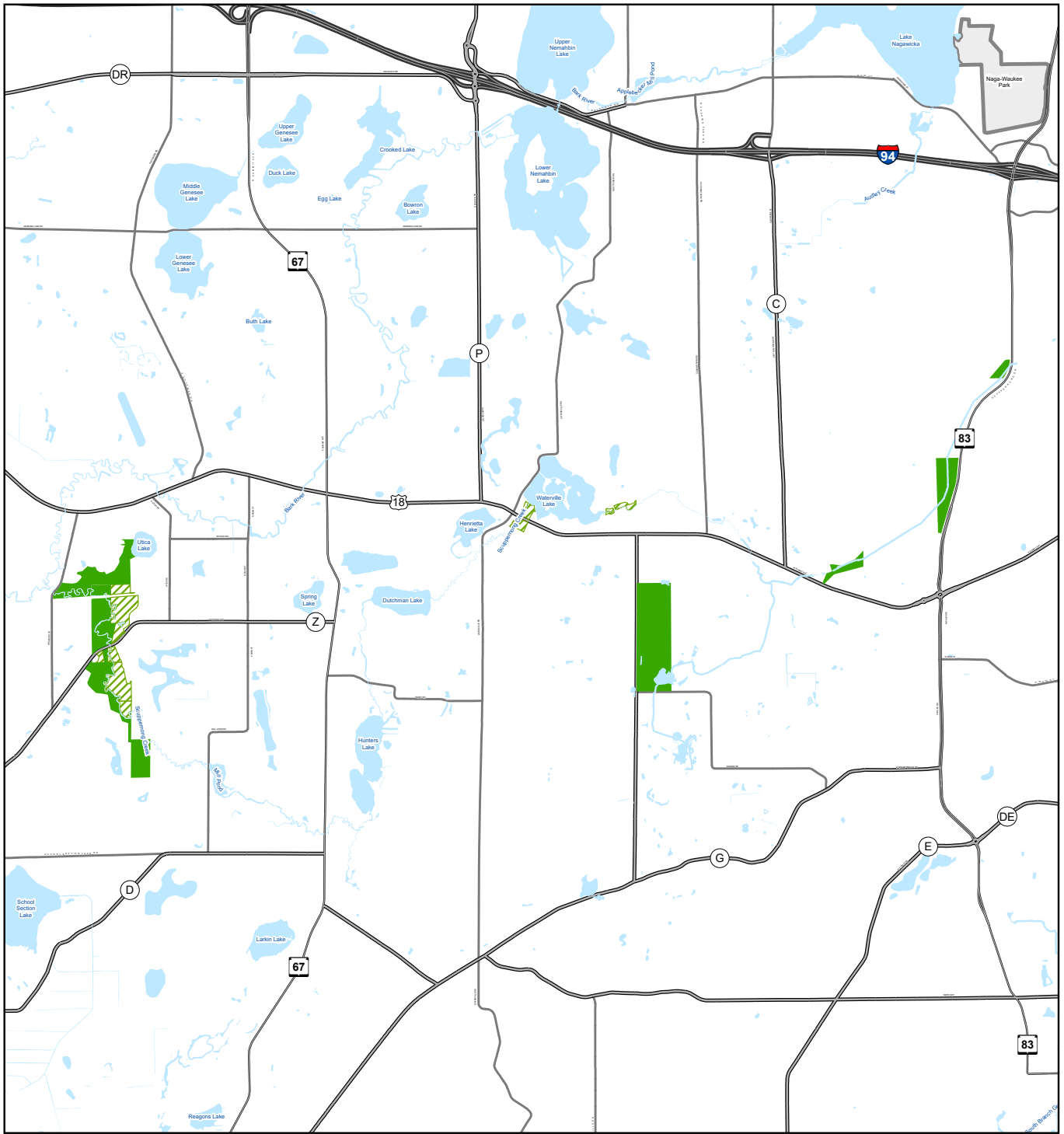
Scuppernong Creek headwaters is located in the Town of Delafield. The creek flows throughout west/central Waukesha County until it joins the Bark River west of the Village of Dousman.

The creek flows through Waterville, Henrietta, Dutchman's and Hunter Lakes. It also runs through the southern edge of Lapham Peak. The Glacial Drumlin Trail crosses Scuppernong Creek at several locations.

Land Management Overview:

The Scuppernong River is a tributary of the Bark River and feeds into a variety of bodies of other water including the Rock River and Spring Lake. The watershed containing the Scuppernong River contains the largest wet prairie east of the Mississippi River. Both the Kettle Moraine Low Prairie State Natural Area and Scuppernong Prairie State Natural Area are located within its boundaries in Waukesha County. Many rare plants, birds and invertebrates are located here.

- Natural land management priorities include the following:
- Completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory.
 - Selective control of invasive species within the known high-quality habitats and/or remnants.
 - Reintroduction of prescribed fire.
 - Maintenance of the existing forest structure.
 - Extension of natural areas within the watershed via targeted acquisitions.



Scuppernong Creek Greenway

Waukesha County Park System



- County Greenway
- Proposed Acquisition
- County Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIC
July 2023



SPRING BROOK GREENWAY

Town of Mukwonago to Town of Genesee

Greenway Basics:

<p>Major Basin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fox River <p>Watershed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Fox River <p>Size</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 175 Acres 	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird-watching • Fishing • Geocaching • Hiking • Snowshoeing
---	--

Valuable Species:

<p>Birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bald Eagle • Osprey 	<p>Plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittenails • Stiff Sandwort <p>Reptiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanding’s Turtle
--	--

Site Characteristics:

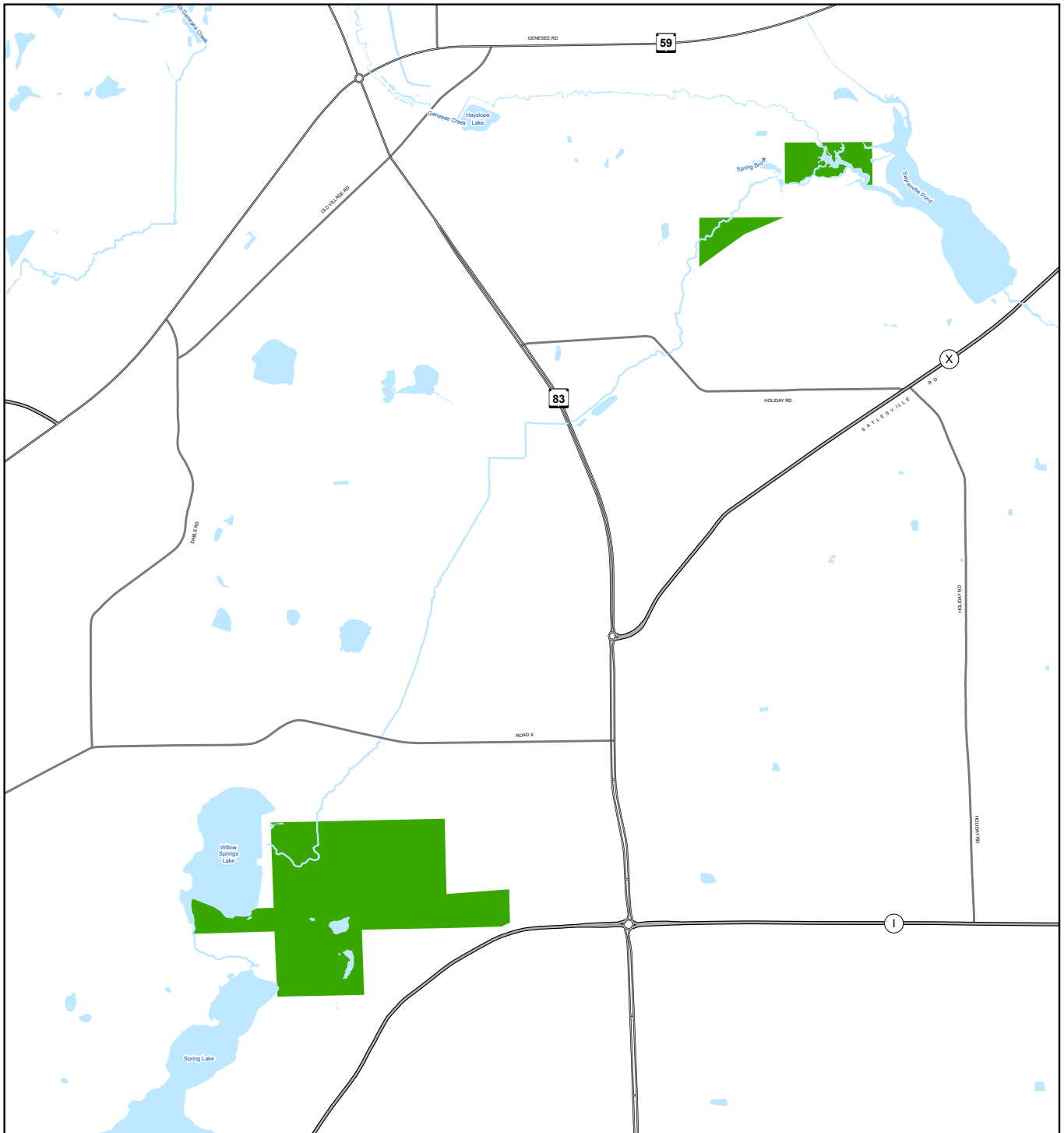
Beginning in the Town of Mukwonago Spring Brook flows east/northeast through Spring Lake to Willow Springs Lake and into Saylesville Pond in the Town of Genesee.

Land Management Overview:

The Spring Brook Greenway contains the county-owned natural area referred to as the Dunlop Property encompassing approximately 152 acres of mainly dry-mesic forest, emergent marsh, old field, and pine plantation. Much of the upland was farmed and grazed, but the higher-quality forest was mostly intact back in 1941.

Natural land management priorities include the following:

- Completion of a thorough plant and wildlife inventory.
- Selective control of invasive species within the known high-quality habitats and/or remnants.
- Reintroduction of prescribed fire.
- Maintenance of the existing forest structure.
- Extension of natural areas within the watershed via targeted acquisitions.



Spring Brook Greenway

Waukesha County Park System



 County Greenway



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LUS
July 2023

Specialty Areas

Specialty Areas provide facilities that meet educational or recreational needs that are not generally found within the County's parks, greenways, and trail corridors.

Within this section of park facilities are the golf courses, ice arenas, nature centers and exposition center. Some of these areas are located within park areas or greenways but most are stand-alone facilities.

Retzer Nature Center

Retzer Nature Center, located in central Waukesha County, is currently the only nature center in Waukesha County open to the public without an entrance fee. The Hausmann Nature Center at the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest falls under the auspices of the WDNR and provides facility rentals and outdoor education programs.

Exposition Center

With 40,000 square feet of exposition space, this building and property serves the area in hosting large events. Music events, ethnic festivals, corporate and club meetings, family celebrations, public markets and the County Fair all make use of the grounds.

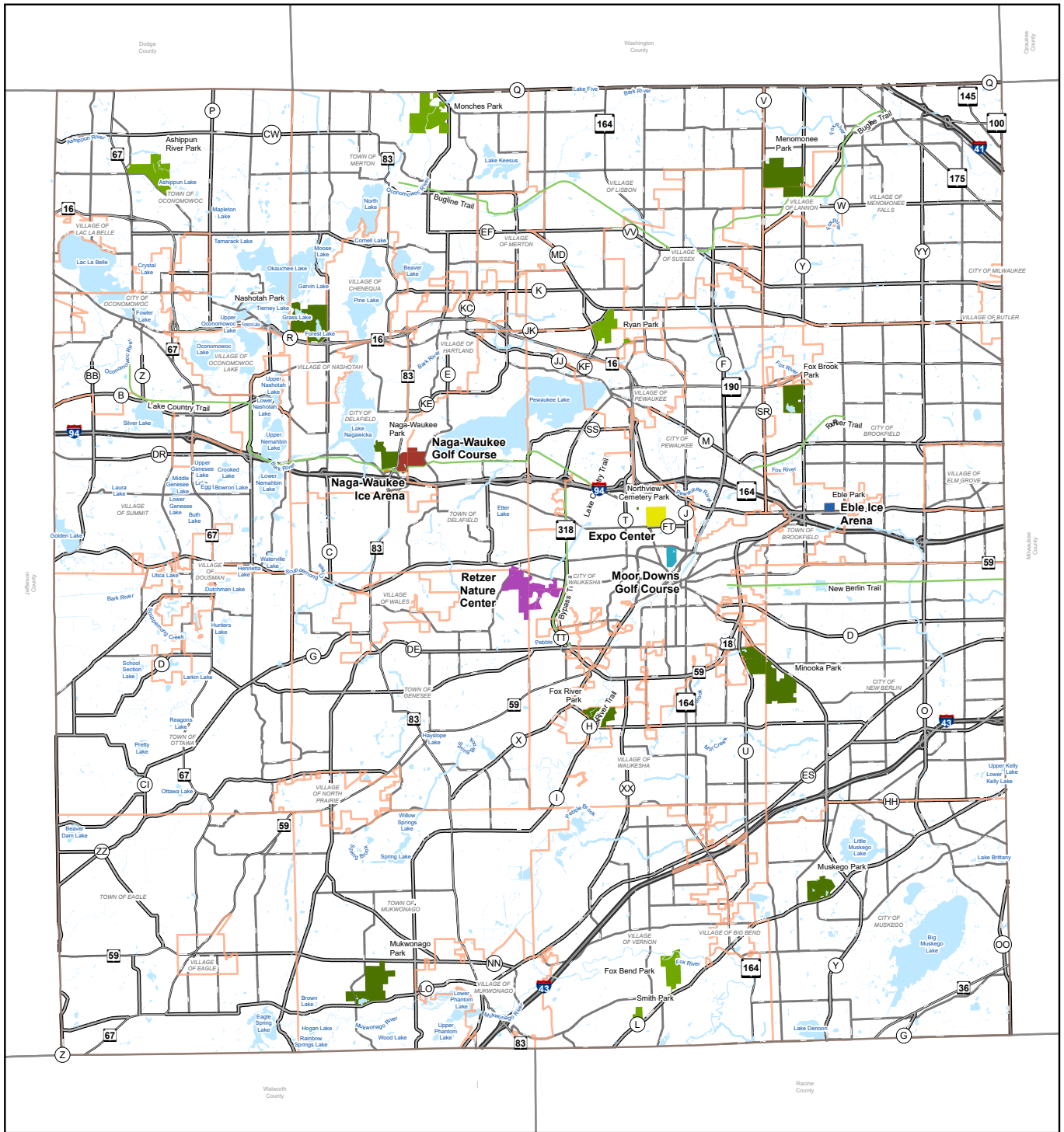
Golf Courses

Waukesha County golfers have many choices when it comes to golf courses. There are twenty-six golf courses located within the County's boundary: 19 public and seven private courses. Waukesha County's two golf courses provide a venue for golfers of all levels.

Ice Arenas

There are four ice arenas located within Waukesha County. Waukesha County operates two ice arenas, Eble Ice Arena in Brookfield, and Naga-Waukee Ice Arena in Delafield. The Ponds is privately-owned and located in Brookfield. The Mullet Center is associated with the Arrowhead School District in Hartland.





Waukesha County Parks - Specialty Areas



- | | |
|---|---|
|  Retzer Nature Center |  Developed County Park |
|  Expo Center |  Undeveloped County Park |
|  Moor Downs Golf Course |  Municipal Boundary |
|  Naga-Waukee Golf Course |  County Regional Trails |
|  Naga-Waukee Ice Arena | |
|  Eble Ice Arena | |



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

RETZER NATURE CENTER

514 W28167 Madison Street, Waukesha WI, 53188

483 Acres



Facility Basics:

Amenities

- 700-gallon Fresh-water Native Gamefish Aquarium
- Boardwalks
- Children's Garden
- Discovery Trail: Accessible trail with Nature Play Area and Educational Nodes
- Educational Exhibit Areas & Signage
- Geothermal System
- Gift Shop
- Hiking/Nature Trails
- Learning Center
- Legacy Forest
- Modern Restrooms
- Pollinator Garden
- Rain Gardens

- Rentable Rooms with Kitchen Facilities
- Water Education Resource Center
- Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium

Activities

- Agriculture Land Rental
- Bird Watching
- Education
- Hiking/Running/Walking
- Natural Land Management
- Nature Play
- Picnicking
- Room Rentals
- Seasonal Events
- Snowshoeing
- Snowshoe Rentals
- Specialty Workshops
- Citizen Science

Site Characteristics:

This is a 483-acre educational facility with rolling hills, open fields, woodlands, and wetlands, including Brown's Fen, a locally significant natural area. Retzer Nature Center is located near the center of Waukesha County. The natural landscape has been accented here by management of quality natural lands and re-establishment of other areas. Planting or re-establishment examples of mesic prairie, dry mesic prairie, mid-grass prairie, xeric prairie, and old-field areas are found within the Retzer property. The land also has examples of oak woodland, oak opening, pine plantations, meadows, thickets, wet forests, shallow/deep marsh, and a fen.

The Nature Center focuses on environmental education, natural land management, plant community restoration, and wildlife habitat improvement. A colorful pollinator garden, a rain garden, a compost demonstration area, a children's garden, and an oak opening demonstration area greet visitors and complements the education center. The Waukesha School District operates the Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium in conjunction with Retzer's Learning Center.

Acquisition:

History

- 1973- Donation Florence Horn Retzer Estate
- 1980- Purchased August Sigurdson
- 1984- Donation Bryce Styza Kames Terrace
- 1999- Purchase Owen Williams
- Land dedication from the Howell Farms Estate Subdivision

Proposed

- Land west of current property- 130.7 Acres

Land Management Overview:

The core zone for Retzer covers 110.4 acres of sedge meadow, fen, prairie, oak savanna, and hayfield, which serves as nesting ground for several rare species of grassland birds. The sedge meadows and fens are remnant areas with Brown's Fen being the largest high-quality remnant wetland on site. The savannas have some ground layer left but most succumbed to livestock grazing and invasive brush. The Retzer family began to reclaim the land by planting pine trees and wildflowers to help add diversity and cover to the site. The acreage of existing contiguous, restored grassland and actively managed hay fields make Retzer a unique site for preservation of grassland bird species. Grassland birds have suffered the biggest bird declines of any terrestrial biome since 1970 (Cornell Lab of Ornithology).

Natural land management priorities for the site include selective control of invasive species within the core zone, maintenance of fire-dependent ecosystems with prescribed fire, enhancement of species diversity through inter-seeding, and adaptive management of the grassland habitat for wildlife.

Valuable Species:

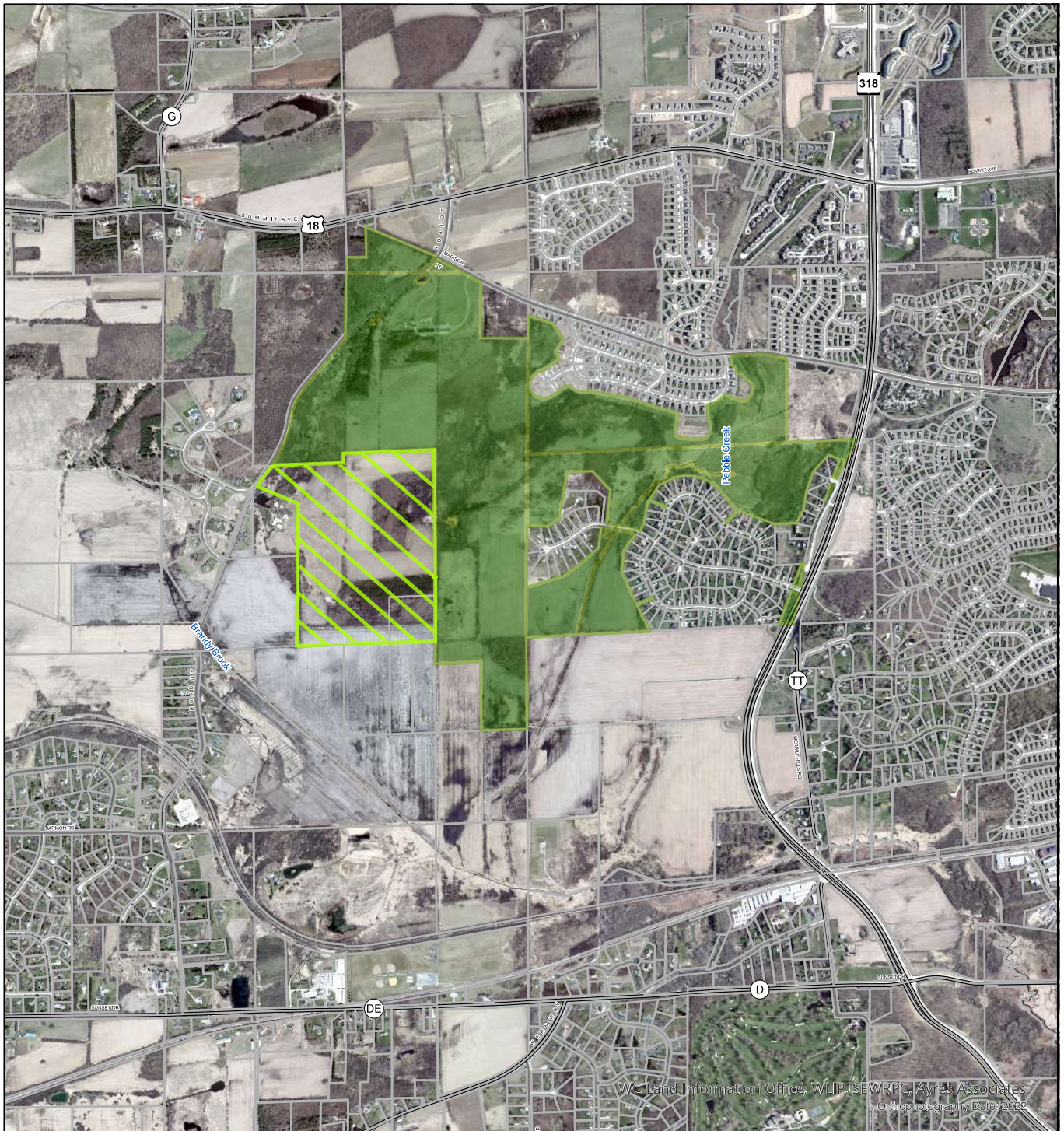
Plants

- Bog Goldenrod
- Butler's Garter Snake
- Cream Gentian
- Fringed Loosestrife
- Grass of Parnassus
- Pale Purple Coneflower
- Robin's Plantain

- Wild Timothy Grass

Other

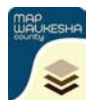
- Baltimore Checkerspot
- Bobolink
- Butler's Garter Snake
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Prairie Deer Mouse



Retzer Nature Center

Waukesha County Park System

- Park Boundary
- Proposed Acquisition



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LRS
 July 2023



EXPOSITION CENTER

1000 Northview Road, Waukesha WI 53188

135 Acres

Facility Basics:

Amenities

- 21,000 SF Arena
- 22,500 SF Forum
- Horse barn
- Show ring with announcer stand
- Dairy barn
- Beef barn
- Swine barn
- Tractor pull area
- Outdoor exhibit areas
- Water and electricity is available for venues, vendors and camping activities
- RV dump station

Site Characteristics:

With over 40,000 SF of meeting and exhibit space and 135 acres of grounds, the Waukesha County Expo property hosts a wide variety of indoor and outdoor events year-round, including fairs and festivals, trade shows, concerts, banquets and galas, corporate events, political gatherings, and family celebrations.

The grounds feature several paved and gravel walkways, numerous electrical stations, and a natural area that can be converted to an off-road driving course, a clay tractor-pull course, and large expanses of open land adaptable to many uses.

EXPO ARENA

The Arena has a total of 21,000 SF of meeting and exhibit space. This unique air-conditioned, circular building features a domed roof, stage, three meeting rooms, kitchen, balcony and box office. Adjacent paved lots provide parking for over 850 vehicles. The ground level has over 12,000 SF of usable free span floor space with high load bearing concrete floors and two large overhead doors. The balconies provide an additional 4,000 SF of display space. Three side-meeting rooms, a back storage area, and a 1,825 SF stage provide additional rentable space for events

FORUM BUILDING

The Forum Building consists of three halls, a kitchen, office, restrooms, shower facilities, and a storage room that may be used for additional meeting or exhibit space. The Forum is divided into three main exhibit halls and is heated for year-round use. The Forum features

high load-bearing concrete floors, overhead lighting, 3-phase 220-volt, 50-amp electrical service, and 115-volt 20-amp service. All three halls interconnect to provide 22,500 SF of floor space with the flexibility to hold one large or three separate events. There is parking for over 800 cars adjacent to this building.

NORTH HALL

This versatile room provides 6,600 SF of usable free-span floor space, with a 10 x 12 foot overhead door adjoining the South Hall. The attached 625 SF kitchen features a walk-in cooler, two ovens, commercial sinks, and an abundance of cabinet and counter space. Side doors open to a spacious patio area.

SOUTH AND EAST HALLS

These identical halls built in early 1980 each have 7,200 SF of usable free-span floor space. 10 x 12 foot overhead doors provide for easy move-in/move-out service. The halls are connected by an interior overhead door, which facilitates traffic-flow through the events.

SOUTHEAST ROOM

The 1,500 SF Southeast Room is accessible from both the South and East halls. Generally used for equipment storage, this space is available for additional seminar or exhibit space.

HORSE COMPLEX

The Expo Horse Complex features three barns with stables for up to 50 horses, and two show rings. The 2-story announcers' stand is air-conditioned and has a registration area, private office on the first floor, and a judges viewing room on the second floor. Restrooms and showers are included in this building. A camper/trailer parking area adjacent to the horse complex has water and electrical hook-ups and a sanitary dump station.




Waukesha County Land Information Office, WLIP, SEWRPC, Ayres Associates
 Orthophotography Date: 2022



Exposition Center

Waukesha County Park System

 Park Boundary

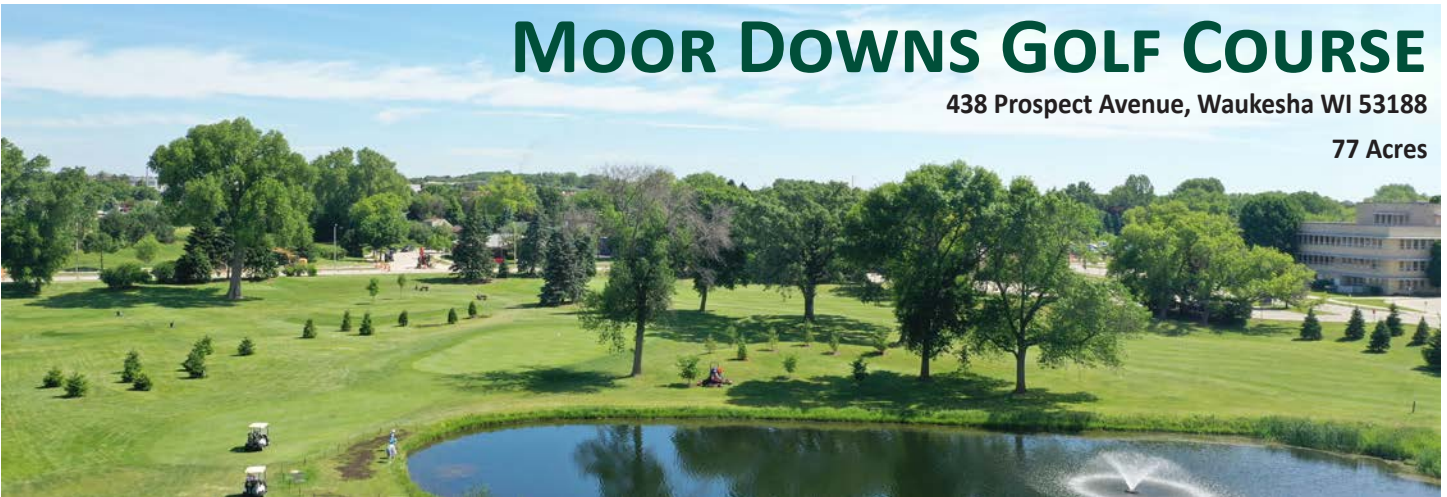


Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LIS
 July 2023

MOOR DOWNS GOLF COURSE

438 Prospect Avenue, Waukesha WI 53188

77 Acres



Facility Basics:

Amenities

- 9-hole Golf Course
- Clubhouse (City of Waukesha historical building)
- Pro Shop
- Putting Green

Activities

- Golfing
- Walking

Site Characteristics:

This 9-hole golf course was constructed in 1915 as part of the Moor Bath Hotel and Spa property.

The clubhouse includes a pro shop, a meeting room, a porch, a fireplace, restrooms, and locker facilities. Food and beverage service as well as club and cart rentals are available. There is a separate cart storage building.

Acquisition:

History


- 1972 Tax deed from Mount St. Paul College





Moor Downs Golf Course

Waukesha County Park System

 Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023

NAGA-WAUKEE WAR MEMORIAL GOLF COURSE

W307 N1897 Maple Avenue, Pewaukee, WI 53702

208 Acres



Facility Basics:

Amenities

- 9-18-hole Championship Golf Course
- Clubhouse and Patio
- Driving Range
- Pro Shop
- Putting Green
- Lake Country Trail Connection

Activities

- Dining
- Golfing
- Golf Leagues
- Golf Lessons
- Golf Tournaments

Acquisition:

History

- 1960 Acquired with lands purchased for Naga-Waukee Park

Site Characteristics:

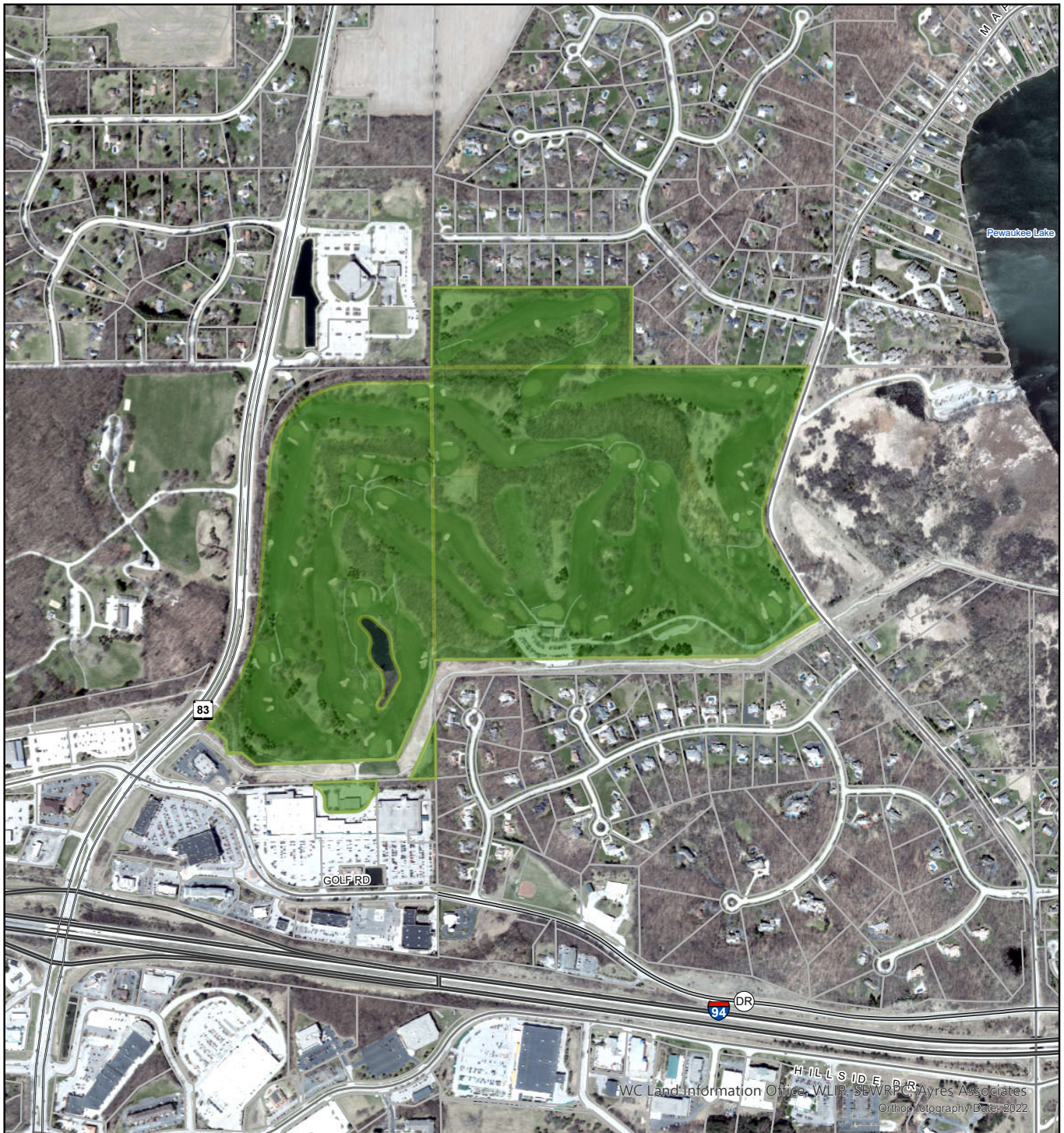
The 208-acre course is located in the Town and City of Delafield between STH 83 and Maple Avenue. Golf course construction started in 1964, and it opened June 1, 1966.

Designed by golf course architect Lawrence Packard, it is an 18-hole championship golf course laid-out in the hills of the mid-Kettle Moraine. Large, undulating, well-bunkered greens, wide irrigated fairways, and a well-drained course with unforgettable views of Pewaukee Lake make for an enjoyable round of golf for all skill levels.

The course also includes a driving range and a putting green. Services provided include food and beverage service, club and cart rental, and golf lessons.


The Lake Country Recreation Trail runs along the south border of the property and there is a connection to the main clubhouse and parking lot.





Naga-Waukee Golf Course

Waukesha County Park System

 Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023



EBLE ICE ARENA

19400 W Bluemound Road, Brookfield, WI 53045

35,400 SF

Facility Basics:

Amenities

- 1,200 Spectator Capacity
- Concession Area with Arcade
- National Hockey League-size Rink
- Team Locker Rooms (4)

Activities

- Figure Skating
- Ice Hockey (co-ed youth and adult leagues)
- Ice Skating Lessons
- Public Skating
- Skate Rental and Sharpening
- Synchronized Skating

Acquisition:

History

- 32- acre parcel donated by the Eble Family.

Site Characteristics & Development:

The Eble Ice Arena is a 35,400 square foot facility located within Eble Park that offers public ice skating, hockey, figure skating and other special ice skating events.

Eble Ice Arena is located on a 32-acre parcel donated by the Eble family for park and recreation purposes.


An organized fundraising effort for one-third of the construction cost received donations by individuals and businesses resulting in over \$680,000 collected to help fund the construction. Hockey associations, figure skating enthusiasts, individual and family donors, and businesses donated the funds. The doors opened in December 1988.





Eble Park & Eble Ice Arena

Waukesha County Park System

 Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
July 2023



Facility Basics:

Amenities

- 1,100 Spectator Capacity
- Concession Area with Arcade
- Olympic-size Rink
- Team Locker Rooms (5)

Activities

- Curling
- Figure Skating
- Ice Hockey (co-ed youth and adult leagues)
- Ice Skating Lessons
- Public Skating
- Skate Rental and Sharpening
- Synchronized Skating

Acquisition:

History

- Purchased as part of Naga-Waukee Park.

Site Characteristics & Development:

The Arena is located adjacent to Naga-Waukee Park and the Lake Country Trail. Features an Olympic-size rink, team locker rooms, 1,100 spectator capacity, meeting rooms, and concessions with arcade.

The parking lot is shared with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Naga-Waukee Park and Ride. The east-half of the Park and Ride lot is to be dedicated as an Ice Age National Scenic Trail Trailhead with a trailhead sign to be visible from Highway 83 and a kiosk to be located near the trail access at the northeast corner of the parking lot.

A public-private partnership formed between the Lakes Area Ice Association Limited, Waukesha County and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Lakes Area Ice Association Limited generated over \$670,000 through fund raising efforts that went towards the construction cost. The balance of the construction costs were funded with Waukesha County Capital Improvement funds and Eble Ice Arena revenue funds. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation donated one-half of the current parking lot for use by the Ice Arena. Groundbreaking was on June 29, 1995, with the dedication ceremony on January 12, 1996.





WC Land Information Office, WLIP, SEWRPC, Ayres Associates
 Aerial Photography Date: 2022



Naga-Waukee Ice Arena

Waukesha County Park System



Park Boundary



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
 Land Resources Division - LIS
 July 2023

PARK & OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The County residents' needs for park and recreation facilities and services are dependent upon demographic characteristics, use trends, and the availability of land to accommodate preservation and recreation facilities required to meet those needs. Together, these factors formulate the area's recreation needs profile. A recreation needs profile describes which activities are increasing or decreasing in demand, which facilities need further development and issues that may hinder outdoor recreation.

Demographic and natural resource characteristics, which influence the needs for park and recreation facilities and services, are identified in the Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County. Generally, Waukesha County will experience moderate (17%) population growth until 2040. Another notable demographic characteristic is that the average household size is approximately 2.5 persons and is expected to decrease slightly over the next several decades. The population composition trend will also continue to reflect the aging demographic. The high-quality natural resource base plays a significant role in the accommodation of the residents' recreation demands.

To determine the recreation needs of residents, recreation trends will be examined, and per capita and service area standards will be reviewed. The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a useful reference for Waukesha County to assess outdoor recreation in the County against needs and trends throughout the State.

Standards

A wide variety of standards, plans, and input are utilized in developing facilities within Park systems. The main components are listed below.

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-23 (SCORP)

Since passage of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, preparation of a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has been required for states to be eligible for LWCF acquisition and development assistance. In the State of Wisconsin, LWCF grants are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin SCORP is a comprehensive evaluation of the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation in the State. Statewide outdoor recreation resources, needs and trends can change greatly in a five-year period, and to ensure the currency of the SCORP data that is analyzed in the creation of the Waukesha County CORP, it is critical that a current and relevant version of the State Plan be used as a reference. The State of Wisconsin's most recent published SCORP is the 2019 – 2023 Plan.

There is a strong emphasis in this Plan to gather detailed information about Wisconsin residents' participation in 65 specific outdoor recreation activities. Data gathering included questionnaire data obtained from two survey modes: a statewide postal survey of randomly selected Wisconsin households and an online survey of panelists recruited by a third-party firm to represent the state adult population (>18 years old). These surveys focused on assessing recreation demand and local recreation needs, measuring public attitudes about funding the management of state properties for fish and wildlife recreation, and identifying issues of concern regarding outdoor recreation.

“The combination of people who use trails for hiking, biking, running, and dog walking exceed all other recreation activities in the state.”

The summary of findings from the survey states the following:

“Outdoor recreation remains a vital component to the lifestyle of Wisconsin residents. Taking a walk outside, cooking out, and driving for pleasure are enjoyed by millions of state residents on a regular basis according to these findings. Ninety-five percent of Wisconsin adults participate in at least one outdoor recreation activity. Trails clearly play a vital role in the state's recreational infrastructure playing host to variety of motorized and non-motorized recreation activities. The combination of people who use trails for hiking, biking, running, and dog walking exceed all other recreation activities in the state. Walking and hiking trails is enjoyed by two out of three state residents

on an annual basis. The need for more hiking and biking trails were the two most frequently identified local needs among survey respondents. Fishing and hunting rank near the top of resident's favorite outdoor activities."

The summary concluded with:

"A majority of state residents are concerned about clean air and water and that concern cuts across geographic regions and is widely shared across recreational interests. Likewise, there is near universal agreement among survey respondents that public lands benefit the state, regardless of an individual's own use of them for recreation. Finally, most survey respondents support the notion that the general public should pay at least half the cost of managing fish, wildlife, and their habitats on public lands."

Waukesha County Park System Customer Feedback Process

Waukesha County Park System uses several methods to encourage customer feedback both for inquiry and for providing valuable feedback. The Department website offers customer email inquiries that are responded to within a 24-hour period. In addition, the morning after each facility reservation or registered program customers are sent a satisfaction survey to gauge how we are viewed by our users. Also, a general customer service satisfaction survey is sent out with all email correspondence and is available at kiosks located at public service counters. Finally, an annual park system user survey is sent to all customers that have purchased an annual membership or daily permit which collects demographic, use and amenity data. Satisfaction survey customer feedback is available to the public and team members via the website and all survey data is reviewed, documented, and incorporated into the Department of Parks & Land Use's continuous improvement processes, which are in place to enhance the customer experience.

Accessibility Recreation Consideration

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. The 2010 update to the Federal ADA law suggests if determined accessibility improvements are needed, then a plan should be made to work toward improvement or determination that alternative opportunities exist in the park or park system.

According to the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NRSE), 15 recreation uses were determined to have average to above average participation rates among mobility-disabled individuals. For the most part, these activities are nature based, requiring a more natural undeveloped setting. These uses are, listed in alphabetical order:

The top constraints to recreation participation among mobility disabled individuals were:

- Attending concerts
- Backpacking
- Bird watching
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Driving off-road
- Fishing
- Horseback riding
- Nature study
- Sightseeing
- Sledding
- Viewing fish
- Visiting historical sites
- Visiting nature centers
- Wildlife viewing

For the most part, these barriers are the same as the non-disabled citizen whose recreation participation constraints are time, money, and outdoor pests.

- No companions
- Not enough money
- Not enough time
- Outdoor pests
- Personal health

Per Capita and Service Radius Standards

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Planning Objectives, Principles and Standards and the Waukesha County Park System Standard can be translated into spatial requirements for land and water outdoor recreation resources. Through the budget, ordinances, cooperative or joint public-private efforts, these objectives, principles, and standards are translated into a system for acquisition, development and management of park and recreation resources.

Two types of standards, *per capita* and *service radius* standards are used to help estimate the number, size, and distribution of outdoor recreation sites needed to serve the anticipated future population of the County.

- **Per capita standards** estimate the total number of acres of land needed to satisfy requirements for park and recreational land based on the anticipated future resident population of the County.
- **Service radius standards** ensure that public parks are spatially distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are intended to serve (See “Waukesha County Park- Service Areas” Map).

It should be recognized that, in some situations, while per capita standards may be met, a need might still exist for additional sites or facilities because of the relative inaccessibility or distance of an existing facility to some residents of the County.

These standards are a useful guide in determining minimum per capita and/or service radius park and open space requirements; however, it is recommended that all Waukesha County local municipalities determine their own park and recreation needs and service requirements through the preparation and adoption of a park and open space plan. It is highly recommended that the local municipal park and open space plans be developed within the context of the Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan.

Waukesha County has adopted a service area and preservation of the natural resource base standards for the location of parks, greenways, trails, and special use facilities. The recreation needs are based upon the level of services requested by the County residents, which are consistent with the standards established for the Waukesha County natural resource-based park system.

Public Involvement with the POSP Updates

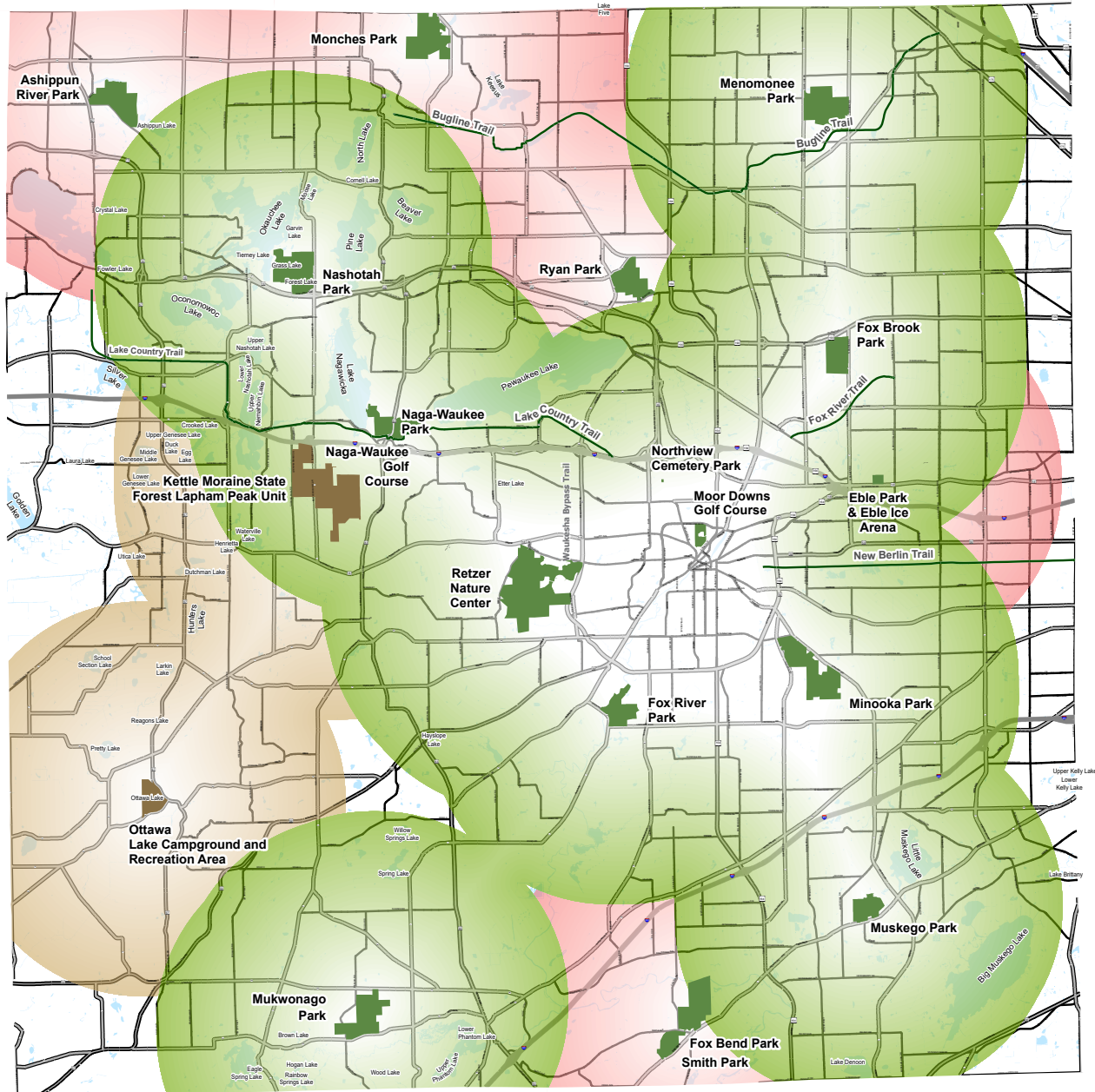
In order to collect current and pertinent feedback in terms of regional recreational perspectives, Waukesha County residents have been included in the process for the Park and Open Space Plan update. Recent public survey data from Waukesha County residents, collected in 2022, reflects and supports the goals listed above. Additional specific areas of interest at the time of the survey included:

- Trail development, maintenance, and supporting infrastructure for hiking, biking, and off-road biking facilities.
- Improved communication on resources, availability, and instruction/guidance on proper use of facilities.
- Consideration for all ages and abilities in planning and development of facilities.

In August of 2023, the Waukesha County citizens were offered an opportunity to provide input, in the form of a Public Information Meeting (PIM) regarding the Park and Open Space Plan Update. Residents were invited to attend the PIM on August 15, 2023 at the Waukesha County Expo Center to review draft updates and mapping, and to talk with Parks and Land Use staff about their communities, user groups, and planning efforts currently underway for both short and long-term goals. In addition to the meeting itself, all materials were also on-line for public review.

Below is a summary of the information grouped by topic. The public comments supported the goals and objectives listed within the **Planning Process** section and the items identified for future consideration within the **Plan Implementation Recommendations** section. The following summarizes comments submitted by the public during the Public Information Meeting and post-meeting review period:

- Encourage continued communication and application of County guidelines and regulations as they pertain to development, preservation, and uses within the park system.
- Support enhancement to community outreach and partnerships in development, preservation, and uses within the Park System.
- Support trail-related items such as continued exploration for connection of the County’s regional trail system with local trails, parks, and community destinations.
- Encourage the continual investigation of additional opportunities for trail routing/maintenance within the existing trail system.
- Investigate the expansion of nature play areas within the Park System.



Waukesha County Parks - Service Areas

- 4 Mile Radius for Developed Waukesha County Major Parks
- 4 Mile Radius for Undeveloped Waukesha County Major Parks
- 4 Mile Radius for Wisconsin State Forest Recreation Areas

County Regional Trails



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use June 2023

Partner Providers

A comprehensive inventory and mapping of all known existing or proposed public and private parks and recreation and open space sites in Waukesha County was completed in September 2008. This information provides a baseline of existing park and recreation facilities that, when compared to the park and recreation needs, will indicate the adequacy of park, recreation, and open space lands in the county. In 2017 and again in 2023, Waukesha County requested information from communities in order to confirm and update existing mapping. Feedback received from these communities is included within this update.

Waukesha County has three primary providers of public parks and recreation. They are the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Waukesha County, and local municipalities/School Districts. There are also several other community partners and stakeholders that provide a variety of opportunities for recreation in the county. This section presents a discussion of their roles in the provision of park and recreation services.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

By definition, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) provides space for outdoor recreation and nature and conservation education. State parks aim to preserve, protect, interpret, and enhance the scenic and cultural resources of the state. The size of a state park typically varies between 500 to 3000 acres but can be smaller than 20 acres or larger than 10,000 acres. The service area of state parks is generally 100 miles. The WDNR park sites offer a diverse range of outdoor resource-oriented land and water-based recreation activities including camping, hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, cross-county skiing, bird watching, horseback riding and boating.

The WDNR has acquired large areas of park and open space lands in Waukesha County. These sites were generally acquired for natural resource preservation and management purposes. Major sites owned by the Department include the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Vernon Marsh, Big Muskego Lake Wildlife Area, Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, The Mukwonago River Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, the Ottawa Lake Recreation Area, and the Pine Woods Campground, both of which are located within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The Department also owns one special regional recreational site, Old World Wisconsin, which is also located within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The State of Wisconsin owns 20,907 acres or 5.6 percent of the County area.

Local Municipalities and School Districts

In addition to meeting natural resource-oriented outdoor recreation needs, a park plan must seek to provide sites and facilities for non-nature-based activities, such as baseball, soccer, skateboarding, tennis, and playground activities. Sites and facilities for non-nature-based active recreation rely less heavily on natural resource amenities, generally meet neighborhood and community needs, and have a relatively small service radius. For these reasons, responsibility for providing such sites and facilities generally rests with local units of governments. Local municipality park classifications and standards will vary based upon the municipality's adopted park and open space plan. Local municipalities and private and public school districts own 17,236 acres or 4.6 percent of the total area of the County.

Private Preservation and Recreation Providers

There are numerous private providers of outdoor recreation. These include non-profit organizations and businesses operated for profit. They can provide a full range of outdoor recreation opportunities including golf, water parks, horseback riding, camping, tennis, health clubs and youth camps. They often provide specialized recreation activities and cater to niche markets. Some private recreation sites are only open to members and their guests and therefore are not considered in an inventory of private preservation and recreation providers.

Non-Profit Organizations

Non-profit providers in Waukesha County include, but are not limited to, the Waukesha County Land Conservancy, Ice Age Trail Alliance, the Nature Conservancy, Izaak Walton League, Tall Pines Conservancy, various YMCA's and religious institutions. The mission of the Waukesha County Land Conservancy is to protect environmentally significant lands in Waukesha County. The Nature Conservancy, through its mission, seeks to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The mission of the Izaak Walton League is to restore watersheds, reduce air pollution, fight litter, protect wildlife habitat and open spaces and instill conservation ethics in outdoor recreationists. The Tall Pines Conservancy's mission is to preserve our rural heritage by protecting remaining farmland, water resources, natural areas and open spaces impacting Northwestern Waukesha County. The non-profit conservation organization sites consist of 3,441 acres or 0.9 percent of the County area.

Lake Districts and Associations

Lake Districts and Management Associations have become increasingly active as partners in the development and acquisition of parks and open space lands in Waukesha County. Several have acquired property to use in the management of natural resources, to access lakes and waterways and to promote the health of their community and surrounding environment.

The Pewaukee Lake Sanitary District's mission is to preserve, protect, promote, and enhance Pewaukee Lake and its watershed. The District provides lake management services including aquatic plant harvesting and shoreline cleanup for the Town of Delafield and the City of Pewaukee. The District owns and maintains the sanitary sewer around Pewaukee Lake.

The School Section Lake Management District was formed as a means to collect, coordinate and share information regarding the lake and its watershed. It continues to grow and has assisted in completing a large dredging project as well as several aquatic plant management plans. The district recently purchased property to support their annual maintenance and management practices.

Waukesha County Snowmobile Association

Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department has an agreement with the Waukesha County Snowmobile Association (WCSA) to maintain over 100 miles of public snowmobile trails within County boundaries. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant funding is applied for by the County and distributed to the WCSA for reimbursement of trail maintenance and equipment costs. Safe riding conditions are provided through maintenance done by WCSA, which includes required safety signage, deck protection on bridges, and regular grooming of the trails. The WCSA is also responsible for securing land use agreements from landowners to allow snowmobile trails through their property, and those agreements are kept by the County. Liability insurance coverage is provided by the County for landowners who have agreed to allow the trail to pass through their property. The WCSA also keeps a trail condition hotline updated as to opening/closing of trails, and coordinates the publication of a county wide snowmobile trail map in cooperation with County Parks and Land Use – Land Information Systems Division.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

As of December 31, 2021, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation owns two wetland mitigation sites totaling 68 acres within the County. Both sites are located within, or adjacent to, primary environmental corridors. In each case, restoration or creation of wetland or prairie vegetation is expected to result in an expansion of the corridor to include the mitigation sites.

University of Wisconsin

The University of Wisconsin owns the Waterville Field Station, encompassing about 96 acres, located in the Town of Ottawa. Both the Ice Age Trail and the Glacial Drumlin Trail traverse the Field Station.



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview

Recreation needs are dependent on demographic characteristics of Waukesha County, recreation trends, and the application of outdoor recreation standards. Satisfaction of recreation needs is also dependent on the availability of suitable land to accommodate the recreation facility needs. These outdoor recreation need elements should be considered and evaluated to determine if the expressed needs are consistent with the long-term vision and purpose of Waukesha County. Ownership of public land presented in this plan shall be open for adjustment dependent on the interests of non-profit organizations, public policy, and other units of government that may provide the more reasonable option for the desired natural resource protection. The County will continue to meet the minimum per capita service radius standards. Local municipalities should determine the level and type of services they provide to their residents through the development of their independent park and recreation plans. No single recreation provider can meet all of the County resident recreation needs, therefore cooperation and coordination between the public and private outdoor recreation providers is needed to ensure that all of the outdoor recreation needs of Waukesha County residents are satisfied.

Recommended Park Development

The existing Waukesha County Facilities Chapter provides a detailed description of each existing park, greenway, trail, or specialty facility. One of Waukesha County's historical guidelines is to maintain a ratio of 30% programmed use areas and 70% natural resource-based areas in the development of park areas. It is recommended that Waukesha County implement the resource management, natural land management, and facility improvements as prioritized per annual evaluation of existing use, maintenance requirements, user needs, staffing availability, and budget restrictions allow. These management and facility improvements will be accomplished through annual operating, maintenance, and capital improvement projects.

Capital Improvement Plan (2024-2028)

When appropriate, Capital Improvement Projects will be accomplished with grant aid administered by the State of Wisconsin or other entities. Expenditures for the following Park System Capital Improvement projects have been submitted for the 2024-28 Budget Cycle:

- **Pavement Management Plan (2023-2027):** \$2,247,300 to perform pavement maintenance repairs throughout the County's government facilities. This includes the New Berlin Trail Rehabilitation project.
- **Golf Course Infrastructure Plan:** \$3,040,000 to address major infrastructure maintenance needed at Naga-Waukee War Memorial Golf Course and Moor Downs Golf Course.
- **Lake Country Trail Phase 5-- Connection to Jefferson County Interurban Trail:** \$1,915,000 will expand the current Lake Country Trail an additional 2.25-miles to link the current terminus of the Lake Country Trail at Roosevelt Park with the Jefferson County Interurban Trail at the Waukesha-Jefferson County line.
- **Fox Bend Park Wetland Restoration Project:** \$122,400 to restore the ~20 acres to their natural, historic condition of the floodplain area along the Fox River.
- **Ice Arena Facility Improvement Plan:** \$2,394,400 to perform high-priority maintenance at Naga-Waukee and Eble Ice Arenas.

It should be noted that this is a 5-year look-ahead and projects may vary in timing based on revised priorities and final costs. The current Capital Improvement Plan can be found online here: www.waukeshacounty.gov/budget

3-year Maintenance Plan

While larger expenditures are reviewed and budgeted within the Capital Improvement Plan, the County also budgets improvements, maintenance, and repair of facilities through the 3-year Maintenance Plan. Annually, the Department reviews the needs of their facilities, including everything from HVAC systems, plumbing, and roofs within facilities to shoreline restoration and fishing dock repair.

Continuous Improvement

Finite budgets and staff cause challenges to maintaining facilities -- much less expanding them. Through user and staff input, facility use/demand data, and facility condition evaluations, there are a number of elements that offer opportunities for continuous improvement within our park facilities.

When evaluating improvement opportunities, it is noted that current staffing, capital outlay, future operating/maintenance costs, potential revenue, and overall benefit analysis all play a role in prioritization. With consideration

of each of these elements, the following items have been identified for future consideration in planning efforts.

- **Continue to:**

- ◇ Explore private partnerships for funding of Park System projects and programs.
- ◇ Expand utilities at campgrounds as practical.
- ◇ Improve shorelines at parks for reduced maintenance, better user experience, and natural resource protection.
- ◇ Secure alternative government grant funding for both new development and redevelopment of existing facilities as possible.
- ◇ Invest in the maintenance and upgrade of existing facilities to maintain a high-quality user experience.
- ◇ Expand accessible facilities within the Park System.
- ◇ Provide strong access to high-quality parks, natural areas, water access, trails, and specialty areas.
- ◇ Connect the County's regional trail system with local trails, parks, and community destinations.
- ◇ Prioritize natural land management at facilities as identified in the Natural Land Management Plan.
- ◇ Expand volunteer opportunities.

- **Investigate:**

- ◇ Expansion of natural play areas.
- ◇ Expansion of rentable spaces and private partnerships.
- ◇ Application of sustainable practices that will reduce the maintenance on high-use areas such as Dog Exercise Areas and Trails.
- ◇ Additional opportunities for trail routing and maintenance of existing trails within the Park System (paved, unpaved, mountain bike, etc.).
- ◇ Use of sustainable energy within the parks and revenue potential/operating costs offset.
- ◇ Expansion of heavily used areas that are currently degrading based on over-use (e.g Dog Swimming Areas).
- ◇ Partnerships in greenway protection.

Bike & Pedestrian Plan

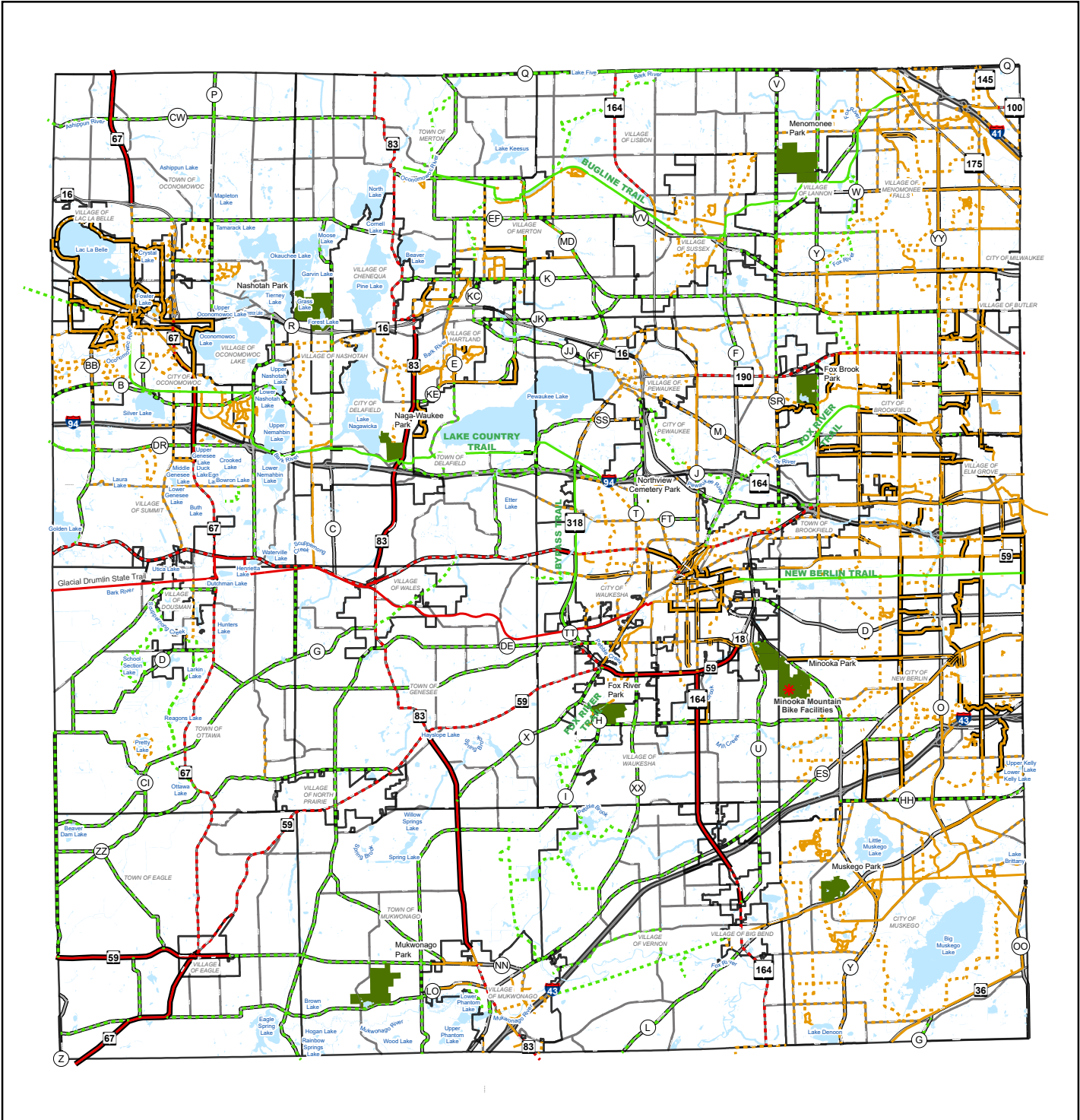
Along with new development of trails, communities are also looking forward to scheduling maintenance of these corridors, understanding that similar to roadways, cyclical maintenance is required in order to best extend the life of the facility.

Based on the high demand for multi-modal transportation today, it is recommended that the current Waukesha County Bicycle Plan be updated in the near future. This updated planning document may guide off-road and on-road bicycle travel improvements in the County. The plan should continue to be used to integrate bike way accommodations into planning for additions, upgrades and modifications to the County Trunk Highway system. Strong consideration should be made for the County and local municipalities to work in collaboration with WDNR to work to connect the State Glacial Drumlin Trail and the County's existing regional trails through a combination of off-street paths and on-street routes. It is further recommended that the County continue to promote regional connections by participating in the statewide Route of the Badger trail planning effort.

The goal of the 2012 Waukesha County Bicycle Plan was to implement safe accommodations for bicycle travel throughout Waukesha County and to encourage bicycle travel as an alternative to personal vehicle travel. The plan recommends a system of off-road and on-road accommodations for safe bicycle travel throughout Waukesha County and identifies which jurisdiction is responsible for existing or planned accommodations.

The County will continue working with local units of government to coordinate bicycle and pedestrian plans to supplement the County Bicycle Plan and SEWRPC's VISION 2050 Plan. SEWRPC recommends sidewalks on at least one side of the street for new developments to encourage connectively and safe pedestrian facilities through neighborhoods. Local plans should provide for facilities to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian travel within neighborhoods, providing for convenient travel between residential areas and shopping centers, schools, parks, and transit stops within or adjacent to the neighborhood.

The standards, guidelines, and system plans set forth in the regional plan should be the basis for the preparation of community and neighborhood plans. It is also recommended that local units of government consider the preparation and implementation of land use plans that encourage more compact and dense development patterns, in order to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel. Local municipalities within Waukesha County as well as adjacent counties may also have numerous parks and recreation plans that incorporate bicycle and pedestrian pathways, and several have already developed bicycle and pedestrian plans. These plans should also recognize what jurisdiction is responsible for said trails. Since many trails cross municipal boundaries, Waukesha County should work with local municipalities and adjoining counties to coordinate trail planning.



Waukesha County Bike Facilities

Existing Facilities

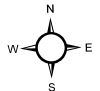
- Local Off-Road Bike Accommodations
- Local On-Road Bike Accommodations
- Local On-Road w/ Bike Lane Accommodations
- County Off-Road Bike Accommodations
- County On-Road Bike Accommodations
- County On-Road w/ Bike Lane Accommodations
- State Off-Road Bike Accommodations
- State On-Road Bike Accommodations

Note: Color indicates authority of existing facility.

Proposed Facilities

- ⋯ Local Municipality
- ⋯ County
- ⋯ State

Note: Proposed facilities do not include a specific type of accommodation and are identified for consideration purposes only.



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
September 2023

Lake & River Access

Lakes and rivers constitute a particularly valuable component of the natural resource base of Waukesha County. Lakes and rivers enhance the aesthetic quality of the County and are focal points for water-related recreational activities, including active uses such as boating and fishing, and passive uses such as walking, wildlife-viewing, or sitting along the water's edge. The open space element of this Waukesha County Development plan provides for the protection, through zoning or public acquisition, of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. Generally, such corridors include the area within 75 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of rivers and major lakes.

Public acquisition or regulation of such corridors is recommended in areas of the County-proposed urban use development, or if the corridors encompass an identified natural area or a proposed park or trail facility. The open space element of this plan further recommends the acquisition or protection of corridor lands along eight rivers and major streams in the County as part of proposed greenways. Such greenways are intended to protect river and stream corridors, and to provide facilities for such recreational activities as hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing, and wildlife viewing. Access to the rivers for canoeing and kayaking should be coordinated and planned with other municipalities within the County and neighboring Counties. One example is through continued participation in the development of a water (blueway) trail of the Wisconsin-Illinois--Fabulous Fox Water Trail. This was recently initiated by the Southeast Fox River Partnership (Wisconsin), and the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (Illinois).

Waukesha County will assist the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with compliance with State Statutes that seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters. 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 an appropriate number of parking spaces varying depending on the size of the lake.

Natural Areas

Preservation

As per the 2010 adopted amendment to the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan, it is recommended that all SEWRPC-designated natural area sites within Waukesha County be preserved. Waukesha County Parks will continue to prioritize and protect, via Natural Land Management Plans, all SEWRPC designated Natural Areas within the Waukesha County Park System. Throughout the entire County, natural area sites recommended for preservation encompass about 17,144 acres and 118 sites.

SEWRPC further recommended that those critical species habitat sites located within the primary environmental corridor--which encompass about 7,076 acres and 71 sites---also be preserved. To insure such preservation, it is recommended that critical species habitat sites and all natural areas be acquired by public agencies or by non-profit conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the Waukesha Land Conservancy, Tall Pines Conservancy or the Izaak Walton League. However, this preservation may be attained through both regulation and acquisition by local agencies.

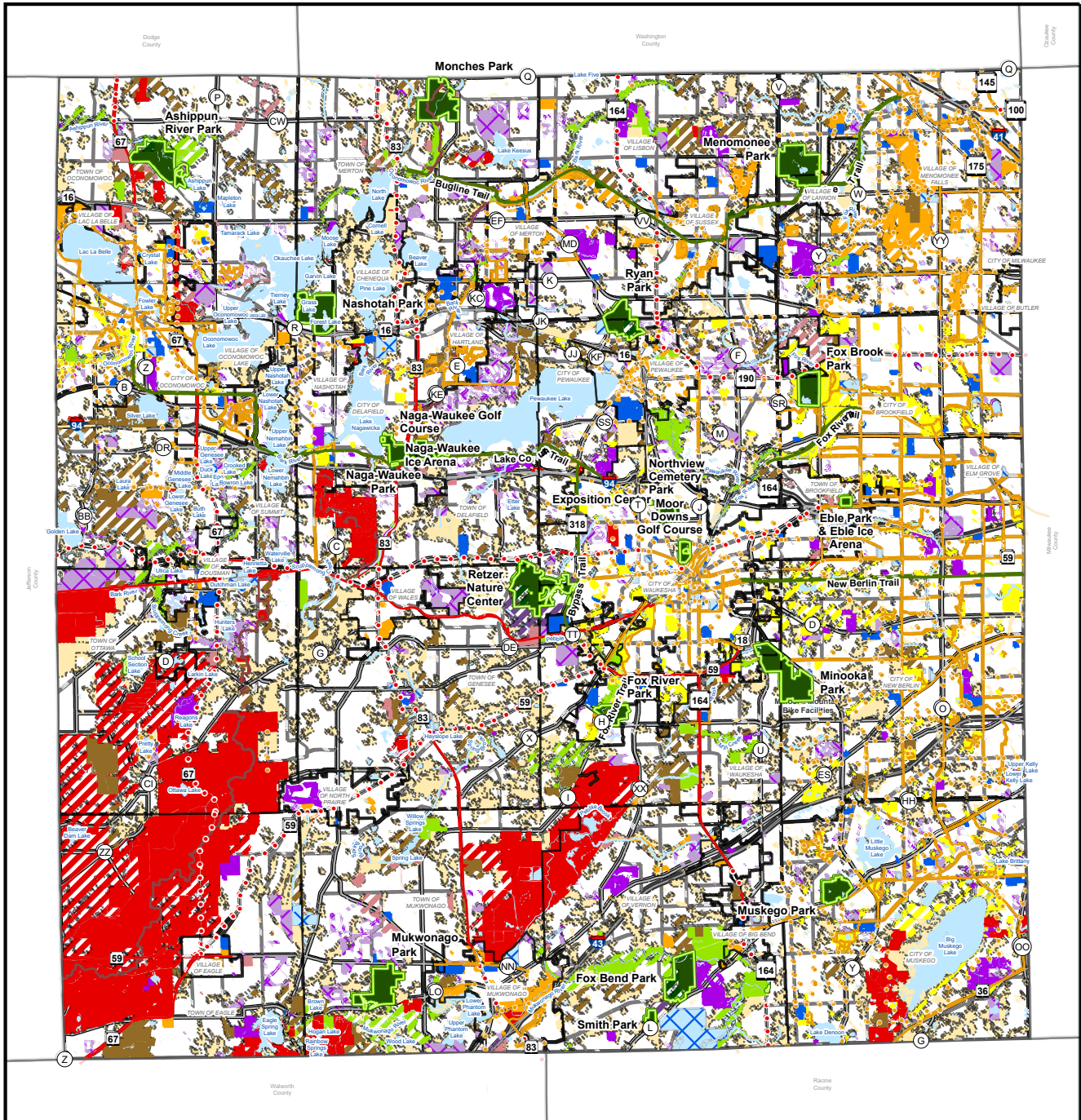
Exceptions would be made where lands within such sites that have already been developed. This occurs in some instances where large-lot residential or outdoor recreational development has occurred while still maintaining protection for natural areas or critical species habitat. In these cases, it is recommended that the areas be protected from additional development through protective zoning, through conservation easements, or management agreements between the landowner and public agencies or non-profit conservation groups.

Waukesha County Parks Natural Land Management

Waukesha County developed parks incorporate a vision that 70% of each park will be managed in a natural condition, while 30% of each Regional Park is potentially developed to accommodate needed recreational facilities and activities. The greenways and undeveloped parks are closer to 100% management in natural condition. As previously noted, the Parks System Division has developed Natural Land Management goals for each of the facilities. These goals should be prioritized as County resources allow.

Open Space Lands to be Protected by Land Use Regulation

The Park and Open Space Plan also identifies lands that should be protected through public land use regulation. These lands contain natural resource features such as environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, floodplains, and wetlands that have not been identified for acquisition by the County, WDNR, local municipalities, or non-profit conservation organizations. As a result, these lands should be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible use. In addition, land use regulation may include actions such as dedications, conservation easements, and preservation statements. However, should such open space lands---particularly lands within primary environmental corridors---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.



Waukesha County Park & Open Space Plan Map

Current Ownership

- County Parks
- County Greenway
- State
- City
- Village
- Town
- Non-Profits/Lake Dist or Assoc
- Public School
- Private School
- Private - Open to the Public
- Private - Not Open to the Public

Proposed Ownership

- County Parks
- County Greenway
- State
- City
- Village
- Town
- Non-Profits/Lake Dist or Assoc
- Local or Non-Profit

County, Local, and State Trails

- County Regional Trails
- County Proposed
- Local Existing
- Local Proposed
- State Existing
- State Proposed
- Ice Age Trail Existing
- Ice Age Trail Proposed

Other Lands

- Municipal Boundary
- Ultimate Park Boundary
- Environmental Corridor (SEWRPC 2015)
- Open Space Lands to be Protected by Public Land Regulation

(Public Land Regulation refers to Primary and Secondary Environmental Corridors, Isolated Natural Resource Areas, Wetland and Floodplain zoning/land use regulations)



Note: If designated entity declines ownership, designation should be transferred to another entity identified on this plan or default to "Open Space Lands to be Protected by Public Land Regulation"



Prepared by Waukesha Co. Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division - LIS
September 2023

Waukesha County Park Land Acquisition

The Park and Open Space Acquisition Plan for Waukesha County identifies proposed land ownership entities (State, County, City, etc.). If the designated proposed owner is unable to or declines to take ownership of lands planned for acquisition, the lands shall remain in the Park & Open Space Plan and may, through a plan update or amendment, be acquired by another unit of government or non-profit agency with the consent of the proposed ownership entity. Lands can only be removed from the Park and Open Space Acquisition Plan through a formal plan amendment process.

Acreage proposed for ownership in the Park and Open Space Plan is intended for preservation of the high-quality environmental corridors. Therefore, if ownership is not achievable or desired by a public entity, the option of preservation by other means such as preservation/conservation easement, land use regulations, or primary environmental corridor restrictions recorded on a subdivision plat or Certified Survey Map (CSM) could be an alternative to ownership.

Waukesha County will continue to prioritize strategic land acquisitions for recreational, open space, and preservation purposes. The County will also continue to work collaboratively with other agencies to partner on the protection. Land acquisition is important as the County continues to develop.

A priority for land acquisition is acquisition of lands to complete the major regional parks within the County. The County still has approximately 449.9 acres to complete the planned acquisition of land for the park system. Waukesha County has placed a priority on the acquisition of lands to complete the following two facilities (243.5 acres):

- Ryan Park (112.8 acres)
- Retzer Nature Center (130.7 acres)

Greenways

The County shall continue to acquire land and establish Greenways along 12 of the major rivers or streams in accordance with the greenway preservation standards presented in this plan. Most acquisition will be through planned development dedication. Some properties along the greenway will be protected through land use regulation and remain in private ownership. Open lands to be protected through land use regulation will leave riparian lands in private holding but will be preserved and protected. The major rivers and streams are:

- Ashippun River
- Bark River
- Fox River
- Mill Creek
- Mukwonago River
- Oconomowoc River
- Pebble Brook
- Pebble Creek
- Pewaukee River
- Poplar Creek
- Scuppernong Creek
- Spring Creek

All other County riparian lands are proposed for state, local, or not-for-profit ownership or preservation as called for in the Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan (i.e. Menomonee River riparian land proposed for Village of Menomonee Falls ownership).



Budgeting for Acquisition

Walter J. Tarmann Legacy Parkland Acquisition Fund provides a separate fund used for the acquisition of Parkland and unique natural areas either directly by the County or in partnership with local municipalities, government units, or non-profit conservation organizations as identified in the Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan and Greenway Plans. The County Board approves all acquisitions requesting program funds as ordinances for consideration. The County Board appropriates funding annually for purposes of acquiring lands; requests over the \$500,000 budget require additional expenditure authority. In addition to Walter J. Tarmann Funds, acquisitions will be accomplished with grant aid administered by the State of Wisconsin.

Land Acquisition by Others

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Open Space Sites

The outdoor preservation element of this Plan includes lands that have been acquired, or which are proposed to be acquired, by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) within their project boundaries. Project boundaries have been developed by the WDNR and approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. It is recommended that the WDNR continue to acquire additional land within the approved project boundaries for open space or outdoor recreation purposes. It is further recommended that Waukesha County continue to coordinate with the WDNR to adequately provide nature-based recreational activities while minimizing duplication of services. Provisions contained in the Waukesha County Development Codes require that landowners who propose development of lands within a WDNR project boundary contact the WDNR to discuss and negotiate a land purchase where appropriate.

Non-profit Conservation Organization, Lake District, or Association Sites

The Park and Open Space Plan also identifies lands that should be acquired by non-profit conservation organizations. Primarily, these lands are isolated natural areas or critical species habitat sites that are not part of a WDNR project boundary, that are not parcels to be acquired as a major park for Waukesha County, and that are not part of a property identified for local municipal park purposes. The County will continue using its Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites Acquisition Partnership Funding Program established under enrolled Ordinance 152-101 to collaborate with non-profit conservation organizations in the acquisition of these sites.

Active Recreation

In addition to meeting natural resource-based recreation needs, a park and open space plan seeks to provide sites and facilities for non-natural resource-based activities, such as baseball, tennis, and playground activities.

In comparison to the natural resource-based recreation site and facilities, sites and facilities for non-natural resource-based 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, it is recommended that the responsibility for providing such sites and facilities rest with local units of governments in Waukesha 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 local adoption of comprehensive local municipal park and open space plan.

Summary

Waukesha County Parks is dedicated to continuing to provide high-quality nature-based recreation opportunities and contributing to the protection of the County's natural resources. Waukesha County will continue to partner with their governmental, non-profit, and private entities to provide a park and open space network that provides access to a wide variety of outdoor experiences and protection.

OUTDOOR RECREATION & CONSERVATION FUNDING

Waukesha County Local Funding

Waukesha County funds park maintenance, redevelopment and development projects through a variety of sources. Larger expenditures are reviewed and budgeted within the Capital Improvement Plan. The County also budgets improvements, maintenance, and repair of their facilities through the 3- year Maintenance Plan.

Partnerships

In addition to County funds, park and open space projects can sometimes qualify for supplemental funding through a variety of public and private partnerships. The various programs have a wide variety of eligibility, funding sources, and local matches. Many of the programs are reimbursement programs where the project sponsor is required to directly spend the funds and then request reimbursement to the allocated amount. The more common programs are listed below.

Recreation Grant Programs

Acquisition & Development of Local Parks (WDNR Stewardship)

Funding: 50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access and park support facilities). Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis.

Grant Timing: Annually, applications due May 1st.

Habitat Area (WDNR Stewardship)

Funding: 50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: Protects and restores important wildlife habitat in Wisconsin in order to expand opportunities for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, trapping, hiking, bird watching, fishing, nature appreciation and wildlife viewing.

Grant Timing: Annually, applications due May 1st.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Funding: Up to 100%, depending on request and locally available funds.

Eligibility & Purpose: The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program supports community development activities to build stronger and more resilient communities. Activities may address needs such as infrastructure, economic development projects, public facilities installation, community centers, housing rehabilitation, public services, clearance/acquisition, micro-enterprise assistance, code enforcement, homeowner assistance, etc. For Park & Open Space projects, in order to qualify for these funds, the proposed projects will create/ modify facilities to allow for greater accessibility to the recreational resources.

Grant Timing: Annually, applications due in April.

Urban Green Space (WDNR Stewardship)

Funding: 50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants help buy land or easements in urban areas to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening.

Grant Timing: Annually, applications due May 1st.



Urban Rivers (WDNR Stewardship)

Funding: 50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants help buy land on rivers flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation.

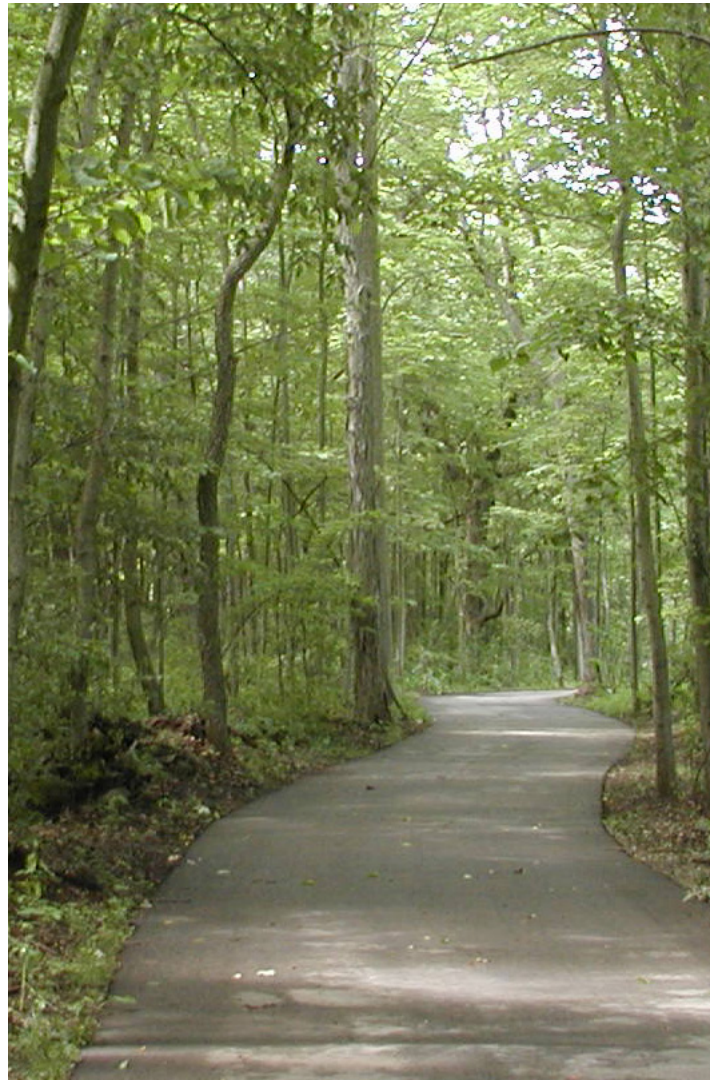
Grant Timing: Annually, Applications due May 1st.

Shooting Range Grant Program

Funding: 50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & purpose: Counties, cities, villages, townships, other governmental agencies or units, clubs or organizations, businesses or corporations and educational institutions can apply for assistance in outdoor & indoor shooting range construction, including: backstops and berms, target holders, shooting benches, baffles, protective fencing, signs, trenches, gun racks, platforms, restrooms and other items considered essential for the project by the department.

Grant Timing: Annually with applications due in July. Administered through WDNR.



State Trails (WDNR Stewardship)

Funding: 50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: Applications for grants under this subprogram must be for properties identified as part of the State Trail system. It is possible for sponsors to nominate additional trails for state trail designation.

Grant Timing: Annually, Applications due May 1st.

Recreational Trail Aids (RTA)

Funding: 50% to 20% local/ 50% to 80% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: These federal grants administered by WDNR can help in the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with the state snowmobile or ATV programs and Stewardship development projects. Maximum grant amount: \$45,000 (\$200,000 every third calendar year).

Grant Timing: May 1 each year (application included with Stewardship Local Assistance application booklet)

Transportation Trail Grants

Wisconsin Transportation Alternative Programs (TAP) & Safe-Routes-To-School (SRTS) Program

Funding: 20% local/ 80% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: These federal grants assist local communities in funding feasibility studies, design, and construction of non-motorized multi-modal facilities. It can also fund historic preservation of transportation-related facilities and activities related to Safe-Routes-To-School programs or improvements.

Grant Timing: Every other year, timing varies, but typically are due end of January.

Wisconsin Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)

Funding: 20% local/ 80% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: These federal grants administered by WisDOT assist local communities in the development of transportation projects that improve air quality. It includes efforts to enhance public transit, bicycle/ pedestrian facilities, ridesharing programs and facilities, and technologies that improve traffic flow and vehicle emission. CMAQ funds are only available in these southeastern and northeastern Wisconsin non-attainment and maintenance counties: Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee, Walworth, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Door.

Grant Timing: Every other year, timing varies, but typically opposite years than the TAP grant.

Land Management & Wildlife Grants

Acquisition of Development Rights (WDNR Stewardship)

Funding: 50% local/50% grant

Eligibility & purpose: Helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural or forestry values that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis.

Grant Timing: Annually, Applications due May 1st.

County Conservation Aids

Funding: 50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: To provide counties and WI tribes with financial assistance to enhance fish and wildlife programs.

Grant Timing: Varies

Streambank Protection (WDNR Stewardship)

Funding: 50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants protect water quality and fish habitat in Wisconsin by establishing buffers along high-priority waterways.

Grant Timing: Annually, applications due May 1st.

Targeted Runoff Management Grant Program (TRM)

Funding: 30-50% local/70-50% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: This federal grant offers competitive grants for local governments for controlling nonpoint source pollution. Grants reimburse costs for agriculture or urban runoff management practices in targeted, critical geographic areas with surface water or groundwater quality concerns. Grant monies may fund the construction of best management practices (BMPs) to control nonpoint source pollution. They can also fund BMP design as part of a construction project. The cost-share rate for TRM projects is up to 70 percent of eligible costs.

Grant Timing: Annually, applications due in April. Administered through DNR.

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Funding: 50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: This federal program encourages creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the DNR for this program are split between DNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities.

Grant Timing: Annually, applications due May 1st.

Landowner Incentive Program

Funding: 25-50% local/ 75%- 50% grant,\$2,500 - \$25,00 grant awards

Eligibility & purpose: To help private landowners create and manage habitat for species that are rare or declining by providing management advice, assistance with management plans and cost-share funding to individuals and organizations proposing projects on private lands throughout Wisconsin. The program provides management advice, assistance with management plans and cost-share funding to individuals and organizations on private lands — with a focus on the Driftless Area of Wisconsin.

Grant Timing: Available and Spring & Fall. There two steps in the application process for new applicants: a pre-proposal and a full proposal. Administered through WDNR.

Stamp Funds - Wild Turkey, Pheasant and Waterfowl

Funding: Local match varies up to 50%. Annual wildlife stamp revenue averages \$650,000 for pheasant, \$750,000 for wild turkey and \$900,000 for waterfowl.

Eligibility & purpose: To provide funding to support the development, maintenance, preservation, restoration and maintenance of each species and its associated habitat in Wisconsin. All non-profit conservation organizations and units of government are eligible to apply.

Grant Timing: Applications due every other year in February. Administered through WDNR.





Wisconsin Wetland Conservation Trust in Lieu Fee Mitigation Program (WWCT)

Funding: No local match required.

Eligibility & Purpose: Land trusts, conservation groups, government organizations, or Wisconsin landowners may apply for a WWCT grant to preserve, enhance, and restore wetland resources in Wisconsin. The WWCT is an in-lieu fee wetland mitigation program that utilizes revenue generated from the sale of wetland mitigation credits to fund wetland restoration projects.

Grant Timing: Annually due in July. Administered through WDNR.

contract. Documentation of farm conservation activities is used to determine eligibility and ranking. **Eligibility:** Must include the entire agricultural operation (land for which you are the operator in the Farm Service Agency farm records management system).

Grant Timing: Annual applications, due in March. Administered through the federal NRCS.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Funding: Up to 75% of eligible costs.

Eligibility & Purpose: What is EQIP? The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers technical and financial assistance for working lands, including field crops, specialty crops, organic, confined livestock and grazing, and non-industrial private forest land. Rather than take land out of production, EQIP helps farmers maintain or improve production while conserving natural resources on working landscapes. Any farmer engaged in livestock or crop production on eligible land is eligible for the program. The County Farmland Preservation Plan designates portions of the Towns of Oconomowoc, Ottawa, Eagle and Merton as Farmland Preservation areas.

Grant Timing: Open review. Administered through the federal NRCS.

WI Working Lands Initiative (Farmland Preservation Program)

Funding: Income tax credits via Farmland Preservation.

Eligibility & Purpose: Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program helps farmers and local governments preserve farmland, protect soil and water, and minimize land use conflicts. To claim a tax credit, landowners must be located in an area zoned and certified for Farmland Preservation or have a Farmland Preservation Agreement and be located in an Agricultural Enterprise Area(AEA). Landowners must be residents of Wisconsin and must meet other eligibility criteria to claim the credit, including compliance with state soil and water conservation standards. As of March 2022, there are no areas within Waukesha County which are eligible. This can vary in the future.

Grant Timing: Administered through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. AEA petition designation is due in July.

Agricultural Land Conservation Grants

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Funding: Up to 50% grant with annual rental payments.

Eligibility & Purpose: This federal project is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are from 10 to 15 years in length. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat.

Grant Timing: Varies, based on subprogram. Administered through the federal Farm Service Agency.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Funding: Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance. Payments may range from about \$10 - \$40 per acre.

Eligibility & Purpose: Voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities, and improving, maintaining and managing existing conservation activities; involves a five-year contract in which the farmer agrees to maintain existing conservation and to do more over the life of the

Forestry Grants

County Forest Acquisition (WDNR Stewardship)

Funding: 50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & purpose: To expand nature-based recreational opportunities by adding to lands in the county forest system.

Grant Timing: Annually, applications due May 1st.

Weed Management Area - Private Forest Grant Program (WMA-PFGP)

Funding: up to 75% grant

Eligibility & purpose: Local governments and Weed Management Groups (WMA) interested in good stewardship of natural resources and meeting specific requirements may apply for grants to address invasive plants, both by dealing directly with the invasives and by providing education, information and outreach to others.

Grant timing: Annually, applications due April 1st. granted: July 1



Scale) is a prevention program targeted on control activities. When an established population of aquatic invasive Managing aquatic invasive species can be challenging, but adaptive and integrated pest management can help. Participation in the large- or small-scale control program requires an approved recommendation in an aquatic plant or aquatic invasive species management plan.

- *Early Detection & Response* projects should focus on education, population monitoring and early planning steps for any population of ch. NR40 classified prohibited species [PDF], or pioneering populations of ch. NR40 restricted species [PDF]. Because projects occur without the guidance of a management plan, projects must be conducted in coordination with the department.
- *AIS Research & Demonstration* projects focus on increasing scientific understanding of the ecological and economic implications of AIS and management, and to assess innovative techniques for prevention, containment and control. Projects should be cooperative activities between a grantee and the department.

Grant Timing: Annual applications. Pre-application due in September. Final application deadline in November.

Education & Planning Grants (WDNR Surface Water)

Funding: 25% local/75% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: Multiple subcategories:

- *Surface Water Education* projects reach people with information about how surface waters work, their importance, and how we can protect them. Eligible projects might focus on the quality of aquatic ecosystems, their beneficial uses, ecological condition, and the threats or challenges they face.
- *Surface water planning grants can be used to assess surface water quality or to create a plan outlining future management actions for the benefit of surface water.* Planning projects must lay the groundwork to protect or improve surface water, prevent pollution, prevent aquatic invasive species, or protect or improve aquatic ecosystems, including biological populations and habitat.
- *A comprehensive management planning project* will take a hard look at a waterbody or watershed to determine condition and quality. It will identify threats, problems and causes, while providing strategic direction and timeline for implementation of management objectives. The plan will strive to understand your community, its goals, and suggest actions to accomplish them.
- **Grant Timing:** Annual applications. Pre-application due in September. Final application deadline in November.

Water Grant Programs

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Management Grants (WDNR Surface Water)

Funding: 25% local/75% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: Multiple subcategories:

- *Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention* grants further reduce the spread or risk of introduction of AIS.
- *Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)* is an aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention subprogram through which volunteer or paid staff conduct boat and trailer inspections and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of AIS at boat landings.
- *AIS Population Management (Small- or Large-*

Surface Water Restoration & Management Grants (WDNR Surface Water)

Funding: 25% local/75% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: Multiple subcategories:

- *Healthy Lakes & Rivers* grants support five simple and inexpensive best practices that may be installed in the littoral, transition/buffer, and upland zones of shoreland properties. Practices must follow department guidelines published in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Action Plan and supporting technical guidance.
- *Surface Water Restoration* grants support implementation. Choose from a set of best practices to implement directly. Unlike plan implementation grants, these projects don't require a comprehensive management plan.
- *Management Plan Implementation* projects will implement an approved recommendation found in a surface water management plan. Projects will improve or protect surface water or aquatic ecosystems. Eligible activities include the actions necessary to implement the recommendation.
- *Ordinance Development* projects help a grantee develop local regulations to support water quality, aquatic life, and habitat. Ordinances include lake use, boating, conservancy, wetland, shoreland, floodplain, construction erosion control and others.
- *Fee Simple Land Easement & Acquisition* grants provide funding for permanent protection of land associated with lakes and rivers. Grants may be used for the acquisition of property or some property rights (also called easements) to protect lakes, rivers, and their ecosystems in perpetuity.
- *Wetland Incentives* are available for grantees that have completed a comprehensive land use plan that includes a recommendation for wetland enhancement or restoration. Incentive grants are \$10,000 each with no cost-sharing required.
- **Grant Timing:** Annual applications. Pre-application due in September. Final application deadline in November.

Municipal Dam Grant Program

Funding: Varies with grant subprograms from 25% to 100% grant funding

Eligibility & Purpose: The Municipal Dam grant program provides a cost-sharing opportunity for eligible engineering and construction costs for dam maintenance, repair, modification or abandonment and removal up to a maximum of \$1,000,000.00

Grant Timing: Annually, applications due in March.

Motorized Recreational Grants

ATV/UTV Trail Aid Trails

Funding: Varies with grant subprograms from 25% to 100% grant funding.

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants can assist in acquisition, maintenance, and development of ATV/UTV trails, areas and routes.

Grant Timing: Applications are due April 15. Administered by the WDNR.

Recreational Boating Facilities

Funding: up to 50% grant funds with residual match by local.

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants can cover channel dredging, construction projects of lake access facilities and parking, repair of locks, cost of navigation aids, rehabilitation of recreational boating facilities, trash skimming equipment, aquatic plant harvesting equipment. Construction & rehabilitation projects must have all permits in place prior to applying.

Grant Timing: Applications are accepted at any time. Grant reviews occur twice a year. Administered by the WDNR.

Snowmobile Trail Aids

Funding: Varies based on subprogram

Eligibility & Purpose: Grants can be utilized for new construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of snowmobile facilities.

Grant timing: April 15 each year for new projects and August 1st annually for maintenance. Administered by the WDNR.

Sport Fish Restoration- Boat Access(SFR)

Funding:50% local/ 50% grant

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants may be used to construct boat access projects. Eligible components include boat ramp construction and renovation, along with related amenities such as parking lots, accessible paths, lighting and restroom facilities

Grant Timing: Annually, applications due February 1st.. Administered by the WDNR.

Private Grants

Friends of Retzer Nature Center

The Friends of Retzer Nature Center, Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging, perpetuating, and promoting the work of conservation and natural resource education. Our team of volunteers seek the involvement of the community in the form of financial and volunteer support to work toward the continued growth and improvement of Retzer Nature Center.

PLAN MONITORING & UPDATES

It is intended that the Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan meet State planning requirements for outdoor recreation aids programs, thereby making the County eligible to apply for and receive available State and Federal funds to assist in the acquisition and development of recommended park and open space sites and facilities.

It is not the intent of the Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan to serve as the park and open space plan for the individual units of government within the County, the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) or non-profit conservation organizations, but it may serve as an overall guide for local planning purposes. Recommendations for the provision of state and local park sites and facilities should be identified in the Park and Open Space Plan specific to those entities, and referenced in the County plan. However, the County plan should assist towns that adopt the County plan to qualify for available Federal and State funding in support of the development of town park and associated recreation facilities.

Amendments

To ensure that the Plan continues to properly reflect the changing priorities of State, County, local, or non-profit conservation organization plans, it is recommended that coordination with all stakeholders be conducted to review and update the Park and Open Space Plan. Amendments to the Park and Open Space Plan will be made along with amendments to the Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County. The Department of Parks and Land Use will make available a Plan amendment request form for property owners and towns wishing to propose a change to the Plan. The deadline for plan amendment request forms will be the end of the workday on January 15th. If that date falls on a weekend, the submittal deadline will be extended to the end of work on the following Monday. All applications for Plan amendment will be scheduled for a public hearing and advertised according to statutory procedures. A review and recommendation for each request will be prepared and submitted to the Park and Planning Commission, Land Use, Parks and Environment Committee and County Board for consideration. Under special circumstances, the Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission may authorize Plan amendments to be processed, in addition, to the schedule outlined herein.

Countywide, Regional, or State Plan Refinements

Due to the complexity of comprehensive planning, it is very difficult to complete all detailed planning initiatives in advance of comprehensive amendments to the Park and Open Space Plan or Development Plan. It is anticipated that countywide, regional, and/or state planning initiatives will be implemented or updated following the adoption of this Plan. In addition, it is anticipated that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will also periodically be amending their project acquisition boundaries. The products of such countywide, regional, and/or state planning initiatives will be evaluated and appropriate amendments to this Park and Open Space Plan will be proposed.

Comprehensive Amendment

In anticipation of the continued development of Waukesha County, it is recommended that a comprehensive re-evaluation, update, and revision, as appropriate, of this Plan be conducted. In conformance with State and Federal outdoor recreation grant eligibility planning requirements, a comprehensive re-evaluation and revision of the Plan shall be conducted every five years. It is further recommended that the comprehensive re-evaluation use a similar inter-municipal cooperative approach used in the preparation of this Plan.

APPROVED ORDINANCE

ENROLLED ORDINANCE 178-64

YEAR 2023 AMENDMENT TO THE
COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WAUKESHA COUNTY
(4 – WAUKESHA COUNTY PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION/PARK AND OPEN
SPACE PLAN, WAUKESHA COUNTY)

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2009, the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors in Enrolled Ordinance 163-81, approved a Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County; and

WHEREAS, said Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County provides for annual updates and amendment procedures; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2023, the Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission held a Public Hearing to receive testimony on proposed changes to the Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County; and

WHEREAS, the staff has identified in a “Staff Report and Recommendation” dated October 19, 2023, a Staff Recommendation for a proposed change to the Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County; and

WHEREAS, the “Staff Report and Recommendation” has been reviewed by the Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission on October 19, 2023, and a recommendation was reported to the Land Use, Parks and Environment Committee and the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors as required in the Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County.

THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF WAUKESHA ORDAINS that the following amendment is hereby **approved** to the Year 2035 Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County:

4. ***The Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission***, 515 W. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI 53188, requests a comprehensive amendment to the Waukesha County Park and Open Space Plan, which is Appendix A of the Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County. The proposed updated Park and Open Space Plan, associated maps, and a summary of the proposed amendments can be viewed online at <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/ParksandOpenSpace>.

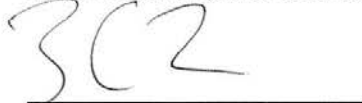
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a more detailed description and map of the aforementioned amendment is on file in the office of the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use.

File Number: 178-O-064

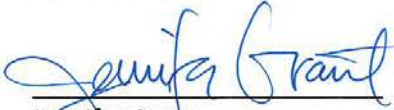
YEAR 2023 AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WAUKESHA COUNTY (4 – WAUKESHA COUNTY PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION/PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN, WAUKESHA COUNTY)

Presented by:


Land Use, Parks, and Environment Committee



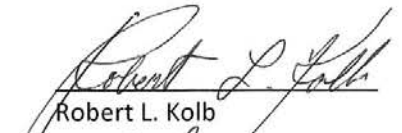
Tyler J. Foti, Chair



Jennifer Grant



Christine M. Howard



Robert L. Kolb



Brian Meier

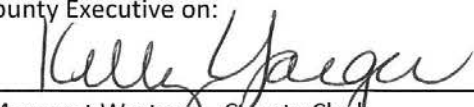
Absent

Chris Mommaerts



Gary J. Szpara

The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of Waukesha County, Wisconsin, was presented to the County Executive on:

Date: 12/1/23, 
Margaret Wartman, County Clerk

The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of Waukesha County, Wisconsin, is hereby:

Approved: X

Vetoed: _____

Date: 12/4/2023, 
Paul Farrow, County Executive


COMMISSION ACTION

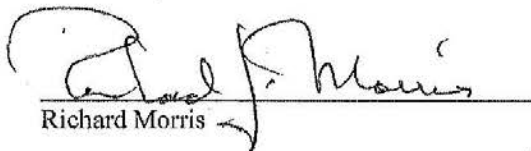
The Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission after giving consideration to the subject matter of the Ordinance entitled "Year 2023 Amendment to the Comprehensive Development Plan for Waukesha County, (4 – Waukesha County Park and Planning Commission/Park and Open Space Plan) hereby recommends approval.

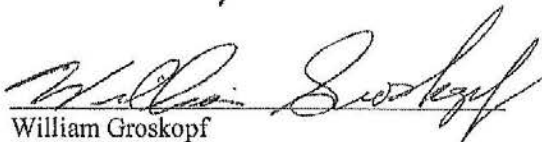
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

October 19, 2023


James Siepmann, Chairperson


Robert Peregrine


Richard Morris


William Groskopf


Gary Szpara