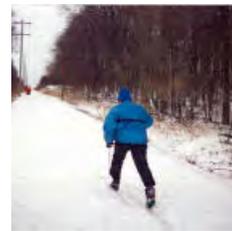
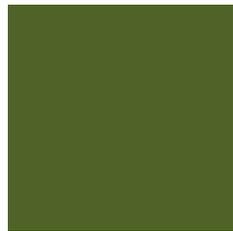


Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

City of Mequon, Wisconsin

January 2014



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11333 N. Cedarburg Rd
Mequon, WI 53092-1930
Phone: 262/236-2918
Fax: 262/242-9655

www.ci.mequon.wi.us

Office of the Parks & Operations Director

January 13, 2014

Dan Abendroth, Mayor
Mequon Common Council
11333 North Cedarburg Road
Mequon, WI 53092

Dear Mayor Abendroth & Common Council,

The City of Mequon Park Board submits for your review the 2013 Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

In 1991 the Park Board prepared the first Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan which was adopted by the Common Council and used as a guide for acquisition and development of needed park space in the City of Mequon.

Every five years since the first Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan was submitted the Park Board has provided updated versions that were adopted by the Common Council. All of the recent plans have been a valuable resource for planning and guiding park acquisition and development.

The adoption and implementation of the following document will qualify the City of Mequon for funding assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. More importantly this plan will insure completion of an integrated park system that will provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for Mequon residents, while enhancing the overall quality of life in our Community.

The Mequon Park Board is pleased to have been of assistance to the City of Mequon in preparation of the new Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Sincerely,

Mequon Park Board

January 2014

Acknowledgements

MAYOR

Dan Abendroth

CITY COUNCIL

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| Don Curran | Director of Parks and Operations |
| Pam Szymanski | Administrative Assistant |

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Executive Summary

The preparation, adoption and subsequent Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) review and acceptance of a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or in this case a Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, is a prerequisite to participating in the outdoor recreation grant programs. The City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan is the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan equivalent.

The City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan is used to provide guidance in acquiring, improving and maintaining the City of Mequon's park and open spaces that provide active and passive recreational activity opportunities, land and water preservation and restoration, and environmental education for the City of Mequon residents.

This Plan consists of a number of general vision statements as well as specific statements regarding: Community Enhancement, Rivers and Lake Michigan, the Town Center and the functions of the Park Board, as well as statements, principles, values, goals and objectives pertinent to park, recreation and open space. The Plan's goals include:

1. To incorporate the active and passive recreational uses in our park system to create a balance of the built environment with the natural environment
2. To educate our community about the park system, advertise its amenities and features, and promote usage
3. To engage our citizenry in sustaining and maintaining our park system
4. To address a changing population and its recreational needs
5. To provide river access to our connected system of parks, nature preserves, and open spaces along our Milwaukee River primary environmental corridor
6. To identify every park, nature preserve, and open space in our system through signage, boundary markers, and access
7. To develop a linear park system along the Little Menomonee River environmental corridor
8. To provide access to Lake Michigan
9. To support the Interurban Bike Trail and other bike trails in the city as an opportunity to identify our parks as destinations
10. To advocate the use of the city's financial resources and encourage a diversity of financing options to accomplish these goals and objectives

The City of Mequon currently has 1,181.7 acres of park, recreation and open space sites distributed among 25 parks. A number of Key Issues regarding Mequon's park, recreation and open space have been recognized as well as strengths, opportunities and threats to the City's parks and community as a whole, as they relate to park, recreation and open space were incorporated into the Plan.

The City's existing park, recreation and open space sites were compared to the National Recreation and Park Association standards. According to these standards, the City has an adequate number of park, recreation and open space sites and facilities except for what they describe as Mini-Parks. The City of Mequon Park Board has determined that the development of Mini-Parks is not a priority, due to the number of large lot residential properties in the community. The proposed Riverwalk and River Front Park that is part of the Town Center concept is an obvious Linear Park opportunity. The actual number and variety of recreational facilities located in the City's parks have also been assessed and compared to the National Recreation and Park Association standards.

The Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan recommends a number of implementation strategies. These strategies consist of a Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Map as well as prioritized Mequon park improvement projects. The Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Map is a decision making tool that assists the City Park Board, City Council and City Staff to determine how and if properties relate to the entire potential citywide open space system. The Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Map consists of the existing City of Mequon Parks and Ozaukee County Park and recreation facilities; proposed open space that includes the recognized environmental corridors and privately owned and operated open space as well as the linear systems such as the Riverwalk and bicycle facilities found throughout the City.

During the park, recreation & open space planning process, the Mequon Park Board and City Staff identified a number of projects distributed among the City's parks. Over the term of this five year plan and beyond, a number of these tasks or projects have been selected as high priorities by the Mequon Park Board and City Staff, including:

- Lemke Park- develop restrooms as an addition to the shelter constructed in 2010
- Complete identification signs for all sites that currently do not have a sign
- Establish stewardship groups
- Upgrade trails at Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park
- Expand bike trail system
- Improve riverwalk at River Barn Park
- Restore riverbank at Villa Grove Park
- Identify location for disc golf
- Identify location for a west side dog park

To ensure success in the Town Center finalization of plans, it is recommended that the Mequon Park Board be included in the planning and implementation that occur in the Civic Campus and Southern Arrival Corridor and Gateway since the Park Department may ultimately become responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the individual design elements. Further, it is recommended that the Mequon Park Board support and participate when and wherever possible to ensure that the Town Center is successful and well received as are the City's Parks.

The Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan concludes with the appendices that includes a glossary; park, recreation and open space stake holders, outdoor recreation grant information, summary of previously completed plans, City social and economic characteristics, the economic benefits of parks and open space, a Park Board motion, a Plan Commission motion and a City Council adoption resolution.

In order to complete the recommended projects listed in this Plan, the City will need to budget approximately \$180,000 per year over five years. These funds can be secured and allocated through the annual budget, grants, donations and the parkland acquisition account.

Introduction

The preparation, adoption and subsequent Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) review and acceptance of a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a prerequisite to participating in the outdoor recreation grant programs. At the City of Mequon, the City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan is the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan equivalent. The current specific recreation grant programs requiring a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan are:

- Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF)
- Federal Recreational Trails Act (RTA)
- Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

The Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is an umbrella for a number of subprograms which consists of the following:

- Aids for Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)
- Urban Green Space Program (UGS)
- Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)
- Acquisition of Development Rights

The City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan has been prepared to assist the City in acquiring and developing outdoor recreation sites as well as satisfying the requirements for participation in various state and federal recreational programs.

In Wisconsin, comprehensive outdoor recreation plans are required to consist of a few basic components. These components are:

- Statement of need and parameters that the plan will establish – the Plan's Mission Statement
- Goals and Objectives
- Summary of past comprehensive outdoor recreation plans as well as the outdoor recreation plan's planning process
- Description of the planning area's social and physical characteristics
- Outdoor recreation inventory
- Outdoor recreation needs assessment
- Recommendations for outdoor recreation
- Reference to the adopted resolution or minutes approving the comprehensive outdoor recreation plan

The City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan follows the basic outline and components required by the comprehensive outdoor recreation plans.

Mission & Vision, Goals & Objectives, Park Board Principles & Values

MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan is to provide guidance in acquiring, improving and maintaining the City of Mequon's park and open spaces providing active and passive recreational activities, land and water preservation and restoration, and environmental education for the City of Mequon residents.

MEQUON PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE VISION STATEMENTS

Mequon's system of parks, nature preserves, and open spaces will provide greenbelts, greenways, green corridors, and environmental protection that help balance the built environment with the natural environment. Wherever possible, this natural environment will be connected, continuous, and/or contiguous supporting the rural character and cultural heritage of our community.

Mequon's park system will continue to provide a lively and diverse system of gathering areas and destination points that create a sense of community. Our parks, nature preserves, and open spaces will offer a variety of uses and activities, be venues for a variety of users and recreational opportunities, and have compelling features to attract park enthusiasts and visitors.

Mequon's parks, nature preserves, and open spaces will continue to be welcoming, identifiable, and known to its residents and visitors.

Mequon's park system will continue to have an appropriate level of accessibility tailored to the desired level of service and activities.

Community Enhancement

Mequon's park system will continue to have well-placed community parks that provide active recreational facilities responsive to the community's needs, with sufficient natural resources for passive use and environmental enhancement. The types of active recreation facilities will be determined on a park-by-park basis. Recreational opportunities as well as active and passive uses will "fit" the park with neighborhood parks offering features conducive to smaller gatherings and less intense use, and community parks offering more permanent structures for scheduled use.

Mequon's park system contains an integrated system of multi-purpose recreational trails that both connect neighborhoods and enhance use and nature appreciation along environmental corridors. Expanding bike trails will provide improved connectivity between different destinations throughout the City. The trails in our nature preserves and woodlands will provide educational opportunities for the users as well as trails that vary in length, difficulty, and interest. These internal trails will maximize the aesthetic, educational, and environmental experiences of nature appreciation.

Mequon's park system will continue to reflect changing community demographics and provide a level of flexibility to adjust to the population and its needs.

Rivers and Lake Michigan

The Milwaukee River, as a primary environmental corridor, has a continuous system of identified parks and nature preserves with river access provided through signage and canoe launches which connect people to the trails and features in each. This system will continue to be enhanced and grow to provide a recreational corridor along the Milwaukee River system.

The Little Menomonee River will provide a linear system of trails connecting destination points along it. These trails will provide access to the river edge for walking, jogging, biking and cross-country skiing.

Lake Michigan will have public access to its shore and beach whether through acquisition or partnerships.

Town Center

The Mequon Park Board will continue to support and assist in the planning of the Mequon Town Center, recognizing that Community Park, Rennie Field, the swimming pool and Settler's park and its riverfront are assets to the Town Center and gathering places for the community.

Park Board Function

The Mequon Park Board and City Park Department will continue to partner with community organizations, active user groups and private citizens to sustain and maintain our park system.

The Mequon Park Board will continue to educate the public about our natural environment and its stewardship and provide educational opportunities for our park users and residents.

The Mequon Park Board will partner with other government entities (Village of Thiensville, Ozaukee County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for example) to promote and enhance our park system.

Goals & Objectives

GOAL 1: TO INCORPORATE THE ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATIONAL USES IN OUR PARK SYSTEM TO CREATE A BALANCE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BY:

- Objective 1.1: Evaluating our park system and each individual park plan
- Objective 1.2: Providing a variety of appropriate uses within each park
- Objective 1.3: Protecting the natural environment through appropriate trail systems and stewardship

GOAL 2: TO EDUCATE OUR COMMUNITY ABOUT THE PARK SYSTEM, ADVERTISE ITS AMENITIES AND FEATURES, AND PROMOTE USAGE BY:

- Objective 2.1: Updating and distributing Park brochures
- Objective 2.2: Encouraging Friends of the Parks donations in time, talent, and treasure
- Objective 2.3: Developing trail maps and trail guides
- Objective 2.4: Providing virtual tours and links to photos of our park system on the city's website
- Objective 2.5: Installing park identification/location signs throughout our community
- Objective 2.6: Partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to highlight and promote our park system
- Objective 2.7: Promoting usage and activities within the parks through local media outlets

GOAL 3: TO ENGAGE OUR CITIZENRY IN SUSTAINING AND MAINTAINING OUR PARK SYSTEM BY:

- Objective 3.1: Continuing to educate the public about opportunities within our park system
- Objective 3.2: Supporting and facilitating stewardship of our parks through organized stewardship groups and the general community by:
 - Objective 3.2.1: Encouraging partnerships with neighborhood associations, art groups, scout troops, businesses, youth groups, community clubs and organizations to maintain and steward our parks
 - Objective 3.2.2: Offering stewardship days – e.g. Garlic Mustard day, river clean-up day, park clean-up day, etc.
 - Objective 3.2.3: Providing education and stewardship materials in our park system
 - Objective 3.2.4: Offering park tours and educational walks

GOAL 4: TO ADDRESS A CHANGING POPULATION AND ITS RECREATIONAL NEEDS BY:

- Objective 4.1: Providing opportunities and encouraging the public to present their ideas for different recreational opportunities and venues throughout our system.
- Objective 4.2: Providing open spaces within our parks for flexibility in activities
- Objective 4.3: Enhancements to Logemann Community Center

GOAL 5: TO PROVIDE RIVER ACCESS TO OUR CONNECTED SYSTEM OF PARKS, NATURE PRESERVES, AND OPEN SPACES ALONG OUR MILWAUKEE RIVER PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR BY:

- Objective 5.1: Providing canoe launches and landing sites
- Objective 5.2: Evaluating and improving our boat launches
- Objective 5.3: Cleaning up the river fronts of our system
- Objective 5.4: Improving and maintaining existing trails and adding to the trail systems for destination points
- Objective 5.5: Providing a pedestrian bridge over the Milwaukee River at Donges Bay Road
- Objective 5.6: Using signage along the river to highlight park features
- Objective 5.7: Partnering with the River Advisory Committee

GOAL 6: TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO LAKE MICHIGAN BY:

- Objective 6.1: Partnering with entities that have Lake Michigan access to create and maintain public access
- Objective 6.2: Acquiring land that allows for public access

GOAL 7: TO SUPPORT THE INTERURBAN BIKE TRAIL AND OTHER BIKE TRAILS IN THE CITY AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY OUR PARKS AS DESTINATIONS BY:

- Objective 7.1: Providing signs along the trail indicating location and distance to nearby parks
- Objective 7.2: Providing educational literature at its kiosks
- Objective 7.3: Partnering with the City's Bikeway Commission
- Objective 7.4: Increase neighborhood bike connectivity

GOAL 8: TO IDENTIFY EVERY PARK, NATURE PRESERVE, AND OPEN SPACE IN OUR SYSTEM THROUGH SIGNAGE, BOUNDARY MARKERS, AND ACCESS BY:

- Objective 8.1: Completing site inventories and analyses for all properties
- Objective 8.2: Following our policies and procedures in creating park plans all properties

GOAL 9: TO DEVELOP A LINEAR PARK SYSTEM ALONG THE LITTLE MENOMONEE RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR BY:

- Objective 9.1: Acquiring land for public access through direct purchase or easement
- Objective 9.2: Creating a continuous recreational trail system along this corridor
- Objective 9.3: Continue with neighborhood connectivity effort

GOAL 10: TO ADVOCATE THE USE OF THE CITY'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND ENCOURAGE A DIVERSITY OF FINANCING OPTIONS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES BY:

- Objective 10.1: Using impact fees as allowed by law
- Objective 10.2: Developing project plans that always present a fiscal analysis including projections for the cost of long-term maintenance
- Objective 10.3: Exploring as many financial sources as possible including municipal, other governmental agencies, grants, as well as private and foundation funding sources

MEQUON PARK BOARD MISSION STATEMENT, PRINCIPLES & VALUES

The Mequon Park Board mission statement closely reflects the City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan mission statement stated in an earlier section. Likewise, the Mequon Park Board has a number of guiding principles and values that lend support to the City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan mission statement as well as the goals and objectives. These guiding principles and values are:

1. Individual park and nature preserve decisions will be made within the context of overall vision statements for the park system.
2. Individual park and nature preserve area recommendations will be based on an assessment of site strengths and limitations along with a determination of desired hopes and opportunities for site enhancement.
3. The planning and operation of the park system will be premised on the principle of being responsive to the park, recreation and open space needs of all residents, including young people, families, park and nature preserve enthusiasts, the elderly, and those with special physical challenges.
4. Existing park and nature preserves will have as high a degree of maintenance as possible within available resources (including financing, staff resources, park steward capacity, and volunteer assistance). The Mequon Park Board encourages the creation of neighborhood stewardship groups to assist in the maintenance and care of these preserves, and other City owned park parcels.
5. Park planning and development will coordinate efforts with transportation planning and other land use initiatives.
6. The Mequon Park Board will use sound park planning practices in moving from land acquisition through park improvement. The planning process will include:
 - Establish possible Scope of Services for park planning of site
 - Request Site Analysis Proposal from two or more consultants
 - Review proposals and select consultant for site analysis
 - Notify neighbors
 - Conduct a review of Site Analysis
 - Develop Preliminary Park Plans with Public Input
 - Create a Final Park Plan
 - Implement Park Plan/Establish stewardship committee when applicable
 - Continue implementation and improvements as determined by Park Board
 - Conduct ongoing review/evaluation
7. The Mequon Park Board will involve key partners and stakeholders and maintain these relationships in planning, operations, and promotion.
8. The Mequon Park Board will continue to be responsive to the recreational needs of the community.

MEQUON-THIENSVILLE TOWN CENTER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Mequon-Thiensville Town Center goal is to strengthen the historic center of the two communities. The Town Center Plan is to build upon the attributes of the existing area to create a unique character that has safe walkable streets, human-scale architecture, public spaces and common design features to establish a sense of place for the Town Center. A strong sense of place makes the Town Center an attractive location for shopping, working, visiting and living, thereby, increasing the likelihood for an economically viable commercial business district. Public spaces, whether they be privately developed by a local service organization such as the Thiensville-Mequon Rotary or publicly developed and maintained such as the Mequon Community Park or Settlers Park, play an important role in establishing an environment that is attractive and provides a sense of place.

Of the eleven objectives outlined in the Mequon-Thiensville Town Center Design Guidelines and Phase I Concept Design Plans, four objectives are authenticating the City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan. These specific objectives are:

- Provide visual and physical access to the Milwaukee River
- Create gateway features at the entranceways into the Town Center
- Improve the aesthetics and recreational aspects of the Mequon Civic Campus
- Make streetscape improvements to enhance the aesthetic character of the area

RELEVANT CITY OF MEQUON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The draft Comprehensive Plan for the City of Mequon has a number of goals and objectives that lend support to City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan. These specific goals and objectives are as follow:

Goal: Preserve and enhance Mequon's rural and small town character

Objective: Require the preservation of open space and natural features as part of development proposals

Objective: Promote and preserve agricultural activity in areas outside the sewer service area

Goal: Maintain and enhance Mequon's public services

Objective: Continue our investment in the City's Park System

Goal: Foster Mequon's Cultural Spirit

Objective: Invest in facilities, programs and services that support the development of a strong and healthy community, including the support for cultural diversity

Objective: Nurture our families and children through community building activities

Goal: Preserve and enhance Mequon's natural resources including Lake Michigan, rivers, open space and agricultural land

Objective: require protection of Lake Michigan's water quality and shoreline, including bluffs

Objectives: Enhance existing and develop new methods to protect and preserve agricultural lands

Objective: Enhance existing and develop new methods to protect and preserve natural areas including wetlands, wildlife habitat, lakes, rivers, woodlands, specimen trees, groundwater resources, floodplain and other open spaces

Objective: Preserve and enhance the existing system of parks and open space within the City

Objective: Aggressively pursue the preservation, enhancement and creation of green space and installation of new trees

Objective: Require an integrated water resource management approach to surface water, ground water and water dependent natural resources

Goal: Maintain and enhance our transportation infrastructure.

Objective: Promote a balanced approach to transportation that results in a healthier, more sustainable society.

Goal: Maintain and enhance public infrastructure

Objective: Devote resources to maintain high standards for the aesthetic quality for public infrastructure in an effort to bolster property values and enhance the sense of community and identity

Park, Recreation, & Open Space Planning Process

In February 2008, the City of Mequon completed the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. This plan was an update of the 2002 park, recreation, and open space plan. In October of 2002 the City of Mequon prepared the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, which was an update of the 1997 park, recreation, and open space plan and identifies progress towards completing priorities identified by the 1997 plan, and the 1997 plan was an update of the 1991 park, recreation, and open space plan. The 1991 park, recreation, and open space plan was the first plan adopted by the City for acquisition and development of park space. As of October 2013 the top two priorities identified by the 2008 plan, construction of a shelter at Lemke Park and drive, parking, walking trails and canoe launch at Garrison's Glen Park have been completed. Other priority projects that were mentioned in the 2008 Plan are either underway or have been carried over to the 2013 Plan update.

As a part of the Public Input Session, the Park Board prepared and distributed two different Parks Surveys in Summer 2013. One of the surveys was directed toward residents and it consisted of five questions on background information, seven questions on future development and maintenance, and five questions related to the Community Swimming Pool, as follows:

- A. Background Information
 - 1. How are you involved in the Mequon parks system?
 - 2. How long have you lived or owned property in Mequon?
 - 3. Why did you locate or buy property in Mequon?
 - 4. Which parks do you use in Mequon, and why?
 - 5. Which is your favorite park in Mequon, and why?

- B. Future Development and Maintenance
 - 1. What kinds of park amenities are desirable to you?
 - 2. What kinds of uses do you find to be undesirable and will not improve the area?
 - 3. What type of transportation improvements are needed to reach the parks?
 - 4. What kinds of actions do you recommend the City of Mequon and community partners/stakeholders take to improve or maintain the parks?
 - 5. Are there any specific problem areas that need addressing?
 - 6. What do you feel are the park assets in Mequon that should be protected the most?
 - 7. Do you feel there should be a separate fundraising or stewardship group (e.g. "Friends of" group) to support the Parks Department? If so, are you interested in being involved?Other comments?

- C. Community Swimming Pool Section
 - 1. Do you utilize the community pool?
 - 2. How many times per year?
 - 3. What improvements would you like to see at the pool?
 - 4. What do you dislike at the pool?
 - 5. Would you support improvements through increased taxes?Other comments?

Five residents provided survey responses. Among the five, all respondents used Highland Woods, while four utilized the Mequon Nature Preserve. Four of the five stated that bike racks were an important amenity to them, while three stated that restrooms were important. Four of the five stated that 'improved on-street bike lanes or biking paths' were an important transportation improvement related to the parks.

A compilation of recommendations derived from the resident survey follows:

| Resident comments | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------|
| 1 | Improve on-street bike lanes and bike paths | Respondent A |
| 2 | Improve on-street bike lanes and bike paths | Respondent B |
| 3 | Continue off road bike paths at Donges Bay Road | |
| 4 | Provide space for community garden | Respondent C |
| 5 | Provide stairs to the Lake at Vermont Co. Park | |
| 6 | Improve access to Lake Michigan; provide a beach on the Lake | |
| 7 | Provide new pool building, changing rooms, and bathrooms | |
| 8 | Provide high dive at the pool | Respondent D |
| 9 | Improve on-street bike lanes and bike paths | |
| 10 | Work to interconnect green space and bike paths | |
| 11 | Public opinion at Lemke Park planning meetings favored passive use, but park has been used for sports facilities | Respondent E |
| 12 | Improve on-street bike lanes and bike paths (to Highland Woods from Thiensville) | |
| 13 | Improve parking location and amount | |
| 14 | Provide canoe access in Shoreland Nature Preserve | |
| 15 | Provide fill in trails at Willow Bay, River Forest, Garrison Glen, and Scout Park as trails are wet in spring | |
| 16 | Invasive species removal is required at Highland Woods | |
| 17 | Add limestone at Garrison Glen canoe launch (too muddy) | |
| 18 | Make better use of Mequon Foundation and community groups | |
| 19 | Create 'Friends' groups for parks; groups can adopt parks and conduct projects | |

Residents were also asked whether certain park amenities would be desirable or undesirable. A compilation of those results follows:

| DESIRABILITY OF AMENITIES - RESIDENTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|
| | Gravel trails | Lighting | Native plants | On-site maps | Playgrounds | Sports facilities | Paved trails | Restrooms | Bike racks | Sidewalks | Benches | Pavilions | Vending machines | Community gardens | Wayfinding signage | Swimming Pool | Other |
| Desirable | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Undesirable | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

The other survey was directed toward stakeholders. Questions on the stakeholder survey were as follows:

- A. Background Information
 1. How are you involved in the Mequon parks system?
 2. How long have you lived or owned property in Mequon?
 3. Why did you locate or buy property in Mequon?
 4. Which parks do you use in Mequon, and why?
 5. Have you or your organization previously provided a monetary donation to the Parks Department? If so, for what purpose?
 6. Have you or your organization previously provided an in-kind donation to the Parks Department? If so, for what purpose?
 7. What is your favorite park in the City of Mequon, and why?

- B. Future Development and Maintenance
 1. What kinds of park amenities are desirable to you?
 2. What kinds of uses do you find to be undesirable and will not improve the area?
 3. What type of transportation improvements are needed to reach the parks?
 4. What kinds of actions do you recommend the City of Mequon and community partners/stakeholders take to improve or maintain the parks?
 5. Are there any specific problem areas that need addressing?
 6. What do you feel are the park assets in Mequon that should be protected the most?
 7. Do you feel there should be a separate fundraising or stewardship group (e.g. "Friends of" group) to support the Parks Department? If so, are you interested in being involved?
 8. How would you like to see donors and partners recognized by the City of Mequon?
 9. Should donors require a match (monetary or in-kind) from the City of Mequon?
 10. With which organizations, institutions, individuals, or families would you suggest the City of Mequon Parks Department build a relationship for monetary donations or support?

Among stakeholders, nine of ten respondents stated they utilized the Rotary Park. No other single park was used by more than four stakeholder respondents. However, Lemke and River Barn Parks received extensive use for sporting events and team practices.

Nine of ten respondents replied that restrooms were an important amenity to them. Eight favored sports facilities, six were interested in gravel trails, and playgrounds and pavilions were each favored by six of the nine respondents. Bike lanes and bike paths were an important transportation improvement for six of the nine respondents.

A compilation of recommendations from the stakeholder surveys follows:

| Stakeholder comments | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | Improvements at Lemke Park – restrooms, paved drive | Respondent A |
| 2 | Improve backstop at Rennie Field | |
| 3 | Improve on-street bike lanes and bike paths | Respondent B |
| 4 | Improve parking location or amount | |
| 5 | Keep amenities simple (lighting, restrooms, sports facilities, pavilions) | Respondent C |
| 6 | Parking at Lemke Park should be paved | |
| 7 | Provide additional parking at River Barn Park | |
| 8 | Provide restrooms at Lemke Park | |
| 9 | Move unused soccer goals | |
| 10 | Improve access to city help (equipment, etc.) for volunteers | Respondent D |
| 11 | Improve on-street bike lanes and bike paths | |
| 12 | Establish Friends of Parks organization for education, maintenance, and fundraising | |
| 13 | Protect woodland and plant diversity | Respondent E |
| 14 | Improve on-street bike lanes and bike paths | |
| 15 | Build backstop for Rennie Field | |

| | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 16 | Baseball fields and sports facilities should be protected | Respondent F |
| 17 | Improve on-street bike lanes and bike paths | |
| 18 | Enhance sidewalk conditions and new sidewalks | |
| 19 | Provide connections to parks via bike lanes | |
| 20 | Improve safety in parks | |
| 21 | Improve parking location or amount | Respondent G |
| 22 | There is not enough readily accessible parking for Gathering on the Green | |
| 23 | Past experience fundraising for the parks has been negative | |
| 24 | Park staff has been helpful for weekend set up | |
| 25 | Increasingly difficult to hold Gathering on the Green in Rotary Park | |
| 26 | Electrical improvements were not well coordinated | |
| 27 | Gathering on the Green does not feel adequately supported or valued by the City | Respondent H |
| 28 | Add fencing to Carpenter Park | |
| 29 | Add water fountain to Carpenter Park to fill water bowls for dogs | |
| 30 | Improve on-street bike lanes and bike paths | |
| 31 | Enhance sidewalk conditions or new sidewalks | |
| 32 | Improve parking location or amount | |
| 33 | Provide pedestrian/bike bridge over river at Donges Bay Road | |
| 34 | Provide alternate bike route east from Port Washington Road (possible joint project with Village of Bayside & Milwaukee County Oak Leaf Trail) | Respondent I |
| 35 | Provide a paved or gravel running/walking trail at Rotary Park | |
| 36 | Improve on-street bike lanes and bike paths | Respondent J |
| 37 | Enhance sidewalk conditions and new sidewalks | |
| 38 | Improve parking location or amount | |
| 39 | Improve roadway condition | |
| 40 | Require park using athletic organizations to aid in maintaining sports field space | |
| 41 | Rennicke Field backstop, storage shed, and bleachers need replacement | |
| 42 | All soccer fields used by Mequon in very poor condition | |

Stakeholders were also asked whether the same set of park amenities would be desirable or undesirable. A compilation of results follows:

| DESIRABILITY OF AMENITIES - STAKEHOLDERS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|
| | Gravel trails | Lighting | Native plants | On-site maps | Playgrounds | Sports facilities | Paved trails | Restrooms | Bike racks | Sidewalks | Benches | Pavilions | Vending machines | Community gardens | Wayfinding signage | Swimming Pool | Other |
| Desirable | 6 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Undesirable | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

It is worth noting that some discrepancies exist between the resident and stakeholder surveys. The stakeholders tended to support active use amenities such as sporting facilities, while the residents surveyed tended to support passive uses and natural features. Yet another source of feedback was a public open house held on July 25, 2013. The comments received from this meeting are incorporated into the detailed recommendations of this Plan.

Park, Recreation, & Open Space Inventory

CITY'S PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

The City of Mequon 1,181.7 acres of park, recreation and open space are examined in detail by site in the following pages. A brief synopsis of these 25 parks is shown in the table below, City of Mequon Named Parks.

| CITY OF MEQUON NAMED PARKS | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------|
| Name | Size | Type |
| Garrison's Glen | 22 acres | Neighborhood Park |
| Grasslyn Nature Preserve | 15 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Highland Woods | 85 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park | 35 acres | Special Use Park |
| Lemke Park | 41 acres | Community Park |
| Lilly Lane Nature Preserve | 12 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Little Menomonee Nature Preserve | 20 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Mequon Community Park | 16 acres | Community Park |
| Mequon Nature Preserve | 438 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Prinz Nature Preserve | 10 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Pukaite Woods | 18 acres | Nature Preserve |
| River Barn Park | 37 acres | Community Park |
| River Forest Nature Preserve | 62 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Riverview Park | 20 acres | Neighborhood Park |
| Rotary Park | 75 acres | Community Park |
| Scout Park | 7 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Settlers Park | 1 acre | Special Use Park |
| Shoreland Nature Preserve | 19 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Swan Road Prairie | 20 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Trinity Creek Wetland Habitat | 35 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Villa Grove Park | 9 acres | Community Park |
| Willow Bay Nature Preserve | 22 acres | Nature Preserve |
| Ozaukee County Interurban Trail Parks | | Linear Park |
| MMSD Site – Babiaz | 29 acres | Not Established |
| MMSD Site – Burcyk | 62 acres | Not Established |
| MMSD Site – Hoerig | 72 acres | Not Established |
| <i>Subtotal</i> | 1,182 acres | |
| Source: City of Mequon Parks Department | | |

Garrison's Glen

2231 W. Pioneer Road

(22 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- River Access
- Park ID Sign
- Canoe Launch
- Parking Areas
- Walking Trails

PARCEL HISTORY

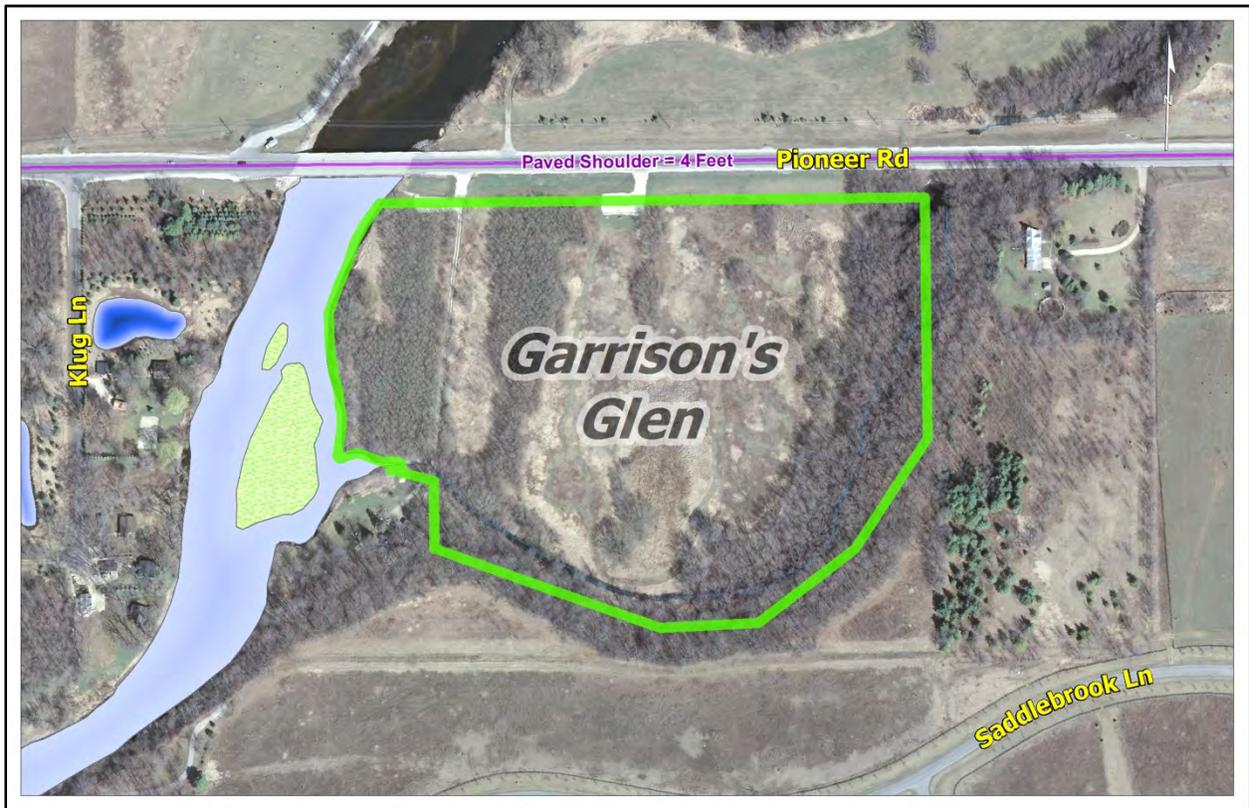
Acquired in 2006 in lieu of Park and Open Space Fees. Named in memory of Garrison Adams, a former student of the Donges Bay School. The school has offered support for the park and planned improvements.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Neighborhood Park
Stewardship Group.....No
Stewardship Plan.....No
Site Analysis.....Complete
Park Plan on File.....Pending

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Site Plan
- Establish a Stewardship Plan
- Canoe Rack
- Disc Golf
- Add benches along walking path



Grasslyn Nature Preserve

9949 N. Grasslyn Road 20W

(15 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Gravel Walking Trails & Boardwalk
- Park ID Sign
- Small Parking Area
- Prairie Area

PARCEL HISTORY

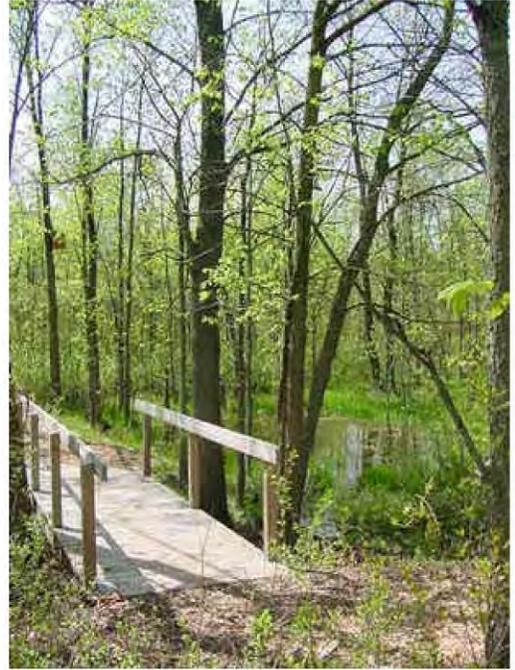
This site was donated to the City in the early 1970's by the developer of Whitman Place in lieu of Park and Open Space Fees. A detailed management and stewardship plan governs the site.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group..... Active
Stewardship Plan.....In Place, 1996
Site AnalysisComplete
Park Plan on File.....Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Make future improvements as required by stewardship plan
- Support existing stewardship
- Educational Signage



Highland Woods

12701 N. Green Bay Road 59W

(85 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Parking Area
- Park ID Sign
- Walking Trail (Wilmeth Way)
- Veterans Memorial
- Oak Reforestation Project

PARCEL HISTORY

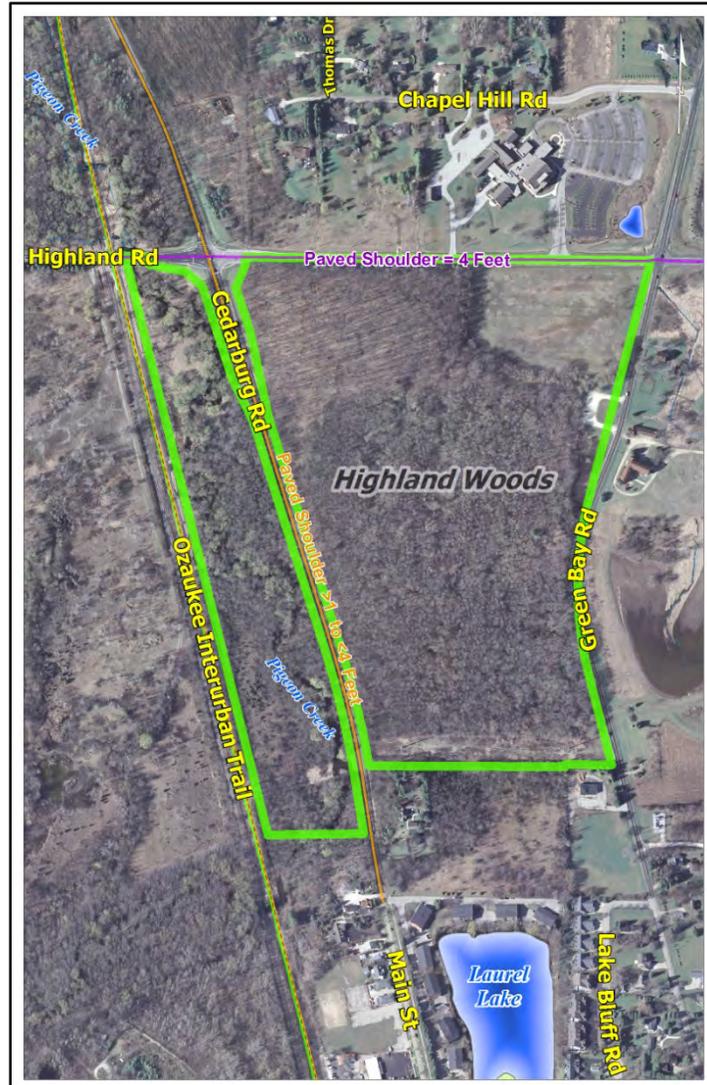
The parcel was purchased by the Ozaukee Land Trust with private donations, City of Mequon funds from the land acquisition account, and a grant from the DNR. The Ozaukee Land Trust turned the property over to the City in 1996 as a passive use nature and educational study area. An agreement between the OLT, City of Mequon, and the DNR governs the site.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....In Place, Oct. 1996
Site Analysis.....Complete, 1997
Park Plan on File.....Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Educational signs and brochure
- Prepare vegetation management plan for Highland Woods and adjacent Pigeon Creek Site
- Create meadow area and reseed northeast section of site
- Continue trail plan to create loop to the south and develop a historical viewing area
- Possible stewardship projects/coordinate with MATC, local schools and stewardship volunteers
- Focus on student groups through MATC
- Remove invasive species
- Continue oak tree planting



Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park

801 W. Zedler Lane 100N

(35 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Walking Trails & Bridge
- Park ID Sign
- Information Kiosk
- Parking Lots
- Little Free Libraries

PARCEL HISTORY

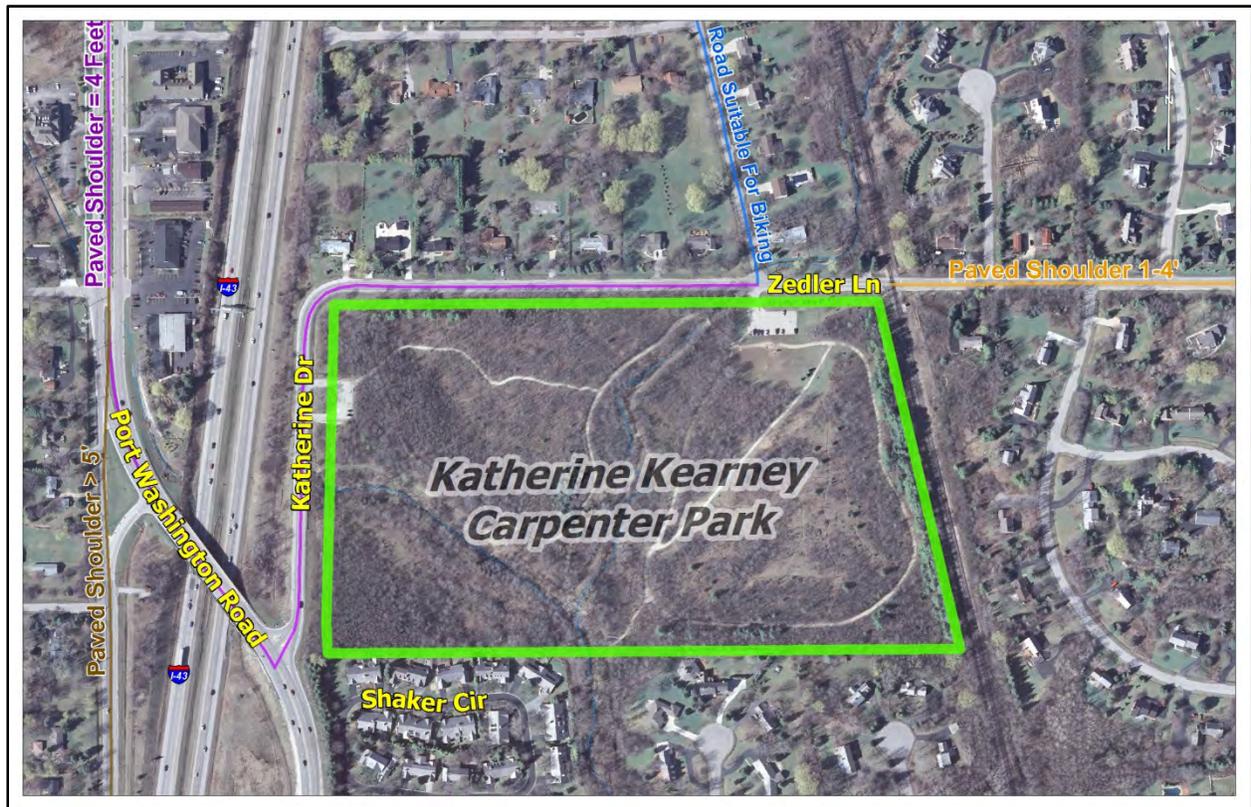
The site was donated by O. W. Carpenter to the City in 1967 subject only to the conditions that it is used for public park purposes and children and pets are given unrestricted access. Off leash dog facility is the primary use.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Special Use
Stewardship GroupNone
Stewardship Plan.....Pending
Site AnalysisComplete
Park Plan on File.....Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Additional parking and parking lot repairs
- Continue with plan for park improvements
- Create a priority list from the plan
- Trail upgrades and landscaping
- Stewardship group needed
- Running water for dogs
- Move sign (kiosk)
- Regrade paths and improve drainage



Lemke Park

10301 W. Donges Bay Road

(41 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Bicycle Link to Donges Bay Road
- Open Air Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Grill
- Woodland Trail
- Baseball Fields & Scoreboard
- Playground
- Archery Range
- Volleyball Courts
- Sports Fields
- Picnic Area
- Parking Lot
- Seasonal Toilets
- Butterfly Garden
- Horseshoe Pits

PARCEL HISTORY

The parcel was purchased by the City of Mequon in 1999. A master plan and site analysis was prepared in the year 2000.

STATUS

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Parkland Classification | Community Park |
| Stewardship Group..... | Active |
| Stewardship Plan..... | In Progress |
| Site Analysis..... | Complete |
| Park Plan on File..... | Yes |

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue with the Lemke Park Master Plan
- Restrooms
- Native landscaping and Little Menomonee over-look
- First phase of the linear park system along the Little Menomonee River Corridor



Lilly Lane Nature Preserve

6300 W. Lilly Lane 98N

(12 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- None

PARCEL HISTORY

The site was donated to the City in 1987. Access is presently available only by means of a private drive off Baehr Road which passes by five existing residences before reaching the site.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....None
Park Plan on File.....No

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Install a park identification sign
- Parking area and access
- Walking trail
- Coordinate with any future development in the area for a possible link to the site



Little Menomonee Nature Preserve

9101 W. Freistadt Road 120 N

(20 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Park ID Sign
- Parking Lot

PARCEL HISTORY

The site was purchased by the City in 1992 with funds from the land acquisition account as part of a plan to acquire property or easements along the Little Menomonee River for expansion of passive outdoor recreational activities and to implement non-point source pollution control.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....Complete
Park Plan on File.....No

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Trail system & educational signage
- First phase of the linear park system along the Little Menomonee River corridor
- Create bike trail connection



Mequon Community Park

11335 N. Cedarburg Road 60W

(16 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Rennie Field (Lighted Ball Diamond with Dugouts)
- Batting Cage
- Lighted Outdoor Pool
- Play Equipment
- Picnic Areas
- Tot Lot Equipment
- Restrooms
- Park ID Signs
- Parking Areas
- Adjacent to Ozaukee County Interurban Bike Trail
- Adjacent to Town Center featuring Benches, Bike Racks, Trash Receptacles, Riverwalk

PARCEL HISTORY

The site was acquired by the City, then Town, in the 1900's.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Community Park
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....None
Park Plan on File.....No

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Integrate into Town Center Plan and with bike trail to the west.
- Upgrades to Rennie Field
 - backstop/safety net
- Upgrades to the Municipal Pool
- Bath House improvements
- Equipment shed
- Concession stand/announcement booth
- Gazebo
- Ice rink
- Replace playground chips with foam
- Donation bricks



Mequon Nature Preserve

8200 West County Line Road

(438 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Pieper Power Education Center
- Woodland
- Parking
- Walking Trails (ADA Accessible)
- Wind Generator
- Observation Tower
- Cross country ski trails

PARCEL HISTORY

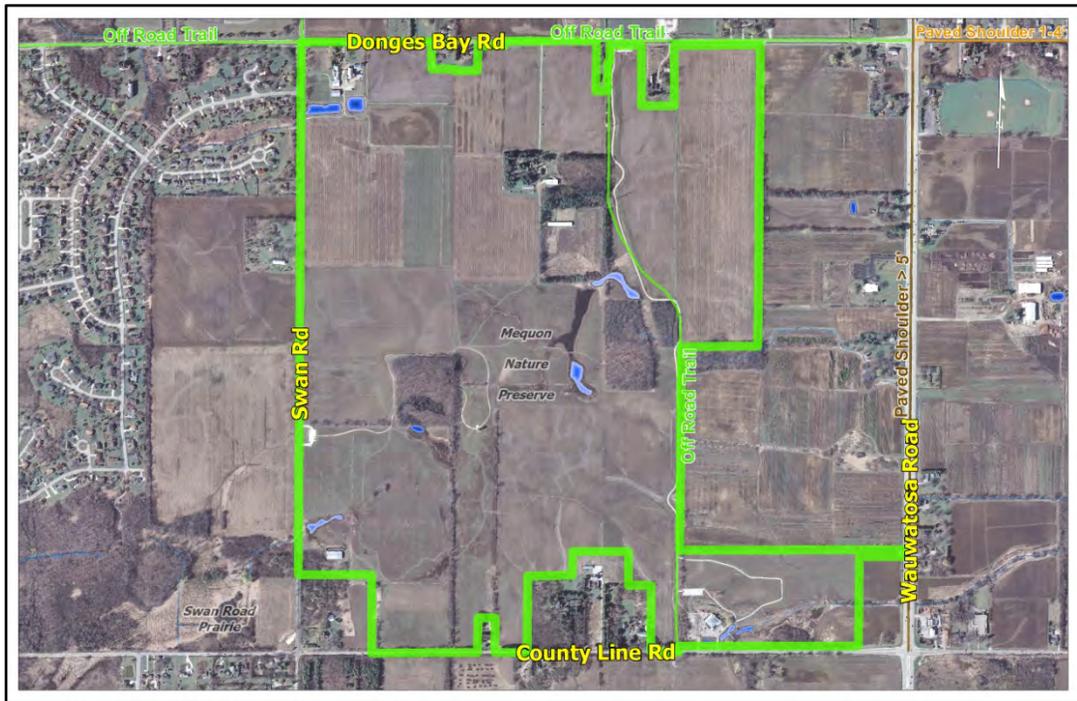
The site represents 438 acres of the City of Mequon in partnership with the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to ultimately create a 640-acre nature preserve.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group.....Active
Stewardship Plan.....In Place, 2006
Site Analysis.....Complete
Park Plan on File.....Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support efforts and goals of the Mequon Nature Preserve
- Outdoor nature education
- Hiking
- Bird-watching
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-country skiing
- Bacher House & Stauss Farm rehabilitation
- Restore natural woods and vegetation



Prinz Nature Preserve

12401 N. River Road

(10 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- None

PARCEL HISTORY

The site was dedicated to the City in 1989 in lieu of paying park and open space fees. Several lots were split off around the site's perimeter. At the time of dedication, though no legal restrictions were actually imposed, the landowner expressed the desire for this to be a neighborhood natural area for wildlife preservation and pedestrian enjoyment.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....On File
Park Plan on File.....No

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Install a park identification sign
- Roadside parking and access
- Trail



Pukaite Woods at Rotary Park

4100 W. Highland Road 128N

(18 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Loyal Wells Nature Trail (Handicapped Accessible) & Bridge
- Donald Roensch Observation Deck
- ID Sign
- Self- Guided Nature Trail
- Bench
- Trail Brochure
- Meadow Area
- Oak Savannah Area

PARCEL HISTORY

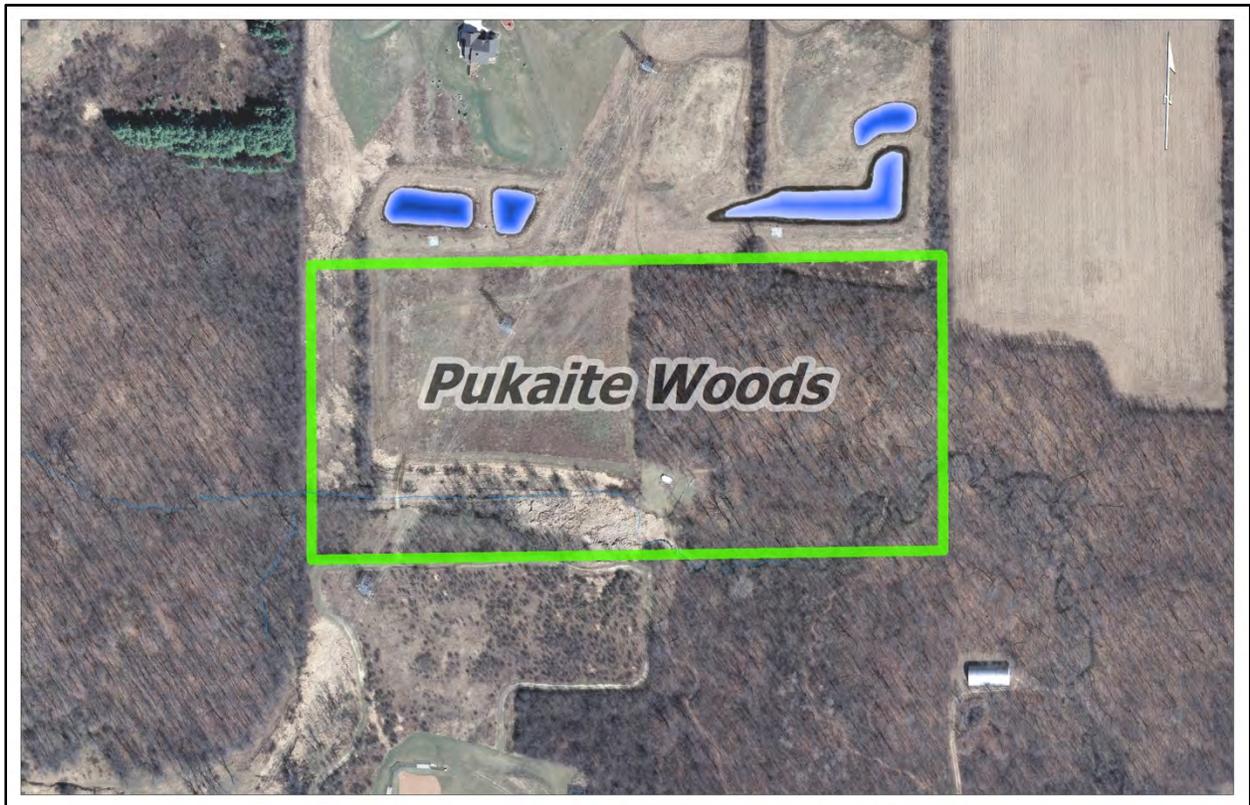
The site was donated to the City in 1992 with the stipulation that a handicap accessible trail be provided. An additional trail was added in 2007

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group..... Active
Stewardship Plan.....In Place, January 1998 and April 2002
Site Analysis.....Complete
Park Plan on File.....See Rotary Park

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support the efforts of the Sunrise Rotary Stewardship group
- Continue implementing the Site Plan prepared by Tom Aranow. This includes removal of invasive species, creation of oak savannah and establishment of native plantings.



River Barn Park

9808 N. Cedarburg Road 45W

(37 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Softball/Baseball Fields with Batting Cage
- Soccer Fields
- Football Field
- Playground
- Canoe Launch
- Sommer Pavilion
- Parking Lots
- Park ID Sign

PARCEL HISTORY

The site was purchased by the City in 1993 with funds from the land acquisition account and a grant from the DNR for the specific purpose of multi-use active recreation while preserving the river frontage for passive use and pedestrian enjoyment.

STATUS

Parkland Classification..... Community Park
Stewardship Group..... None
Stewardship Plan..... None
Site Analysis..... None
Park Plan on File..... Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Riverwalk improvements
- Park trail system & Riverwalk
- Add air-conditioning to pavilion
- Improve signage to river
- Remove invasive species
- Consider site for future disc golf course location



River Forest Nature Preserve

2122 W. Glen Oaks Lane 120N

(62 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Walking Trail (Hiking and X-Country Skiing)
- Park ID Sign
- Parking Area

PARCEL HISTORY

The site was purchased from the Riveredge Nature Center in 1987. An additional five acres was added in 2002 in lieu of Impact Fees.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....In Place, May 1997
Site Analysis.....Complete
Park Plan on File.....Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Make trail improvements including boardwalk at the entrance
- Prepare trails in the upland for cross-country
- Invasive species control



Riverview Park

4200 W. Grace Avenue 117N

(20 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Baseball Field
- Campbell Memorial Garden
- Riverwalk
- Connecting subdivision bike trail
- Park ID Sign
- Play Equipment
- Parking Lot
- Walking Trails
- Canoe launch
- Signage

PARCEL HISTORY

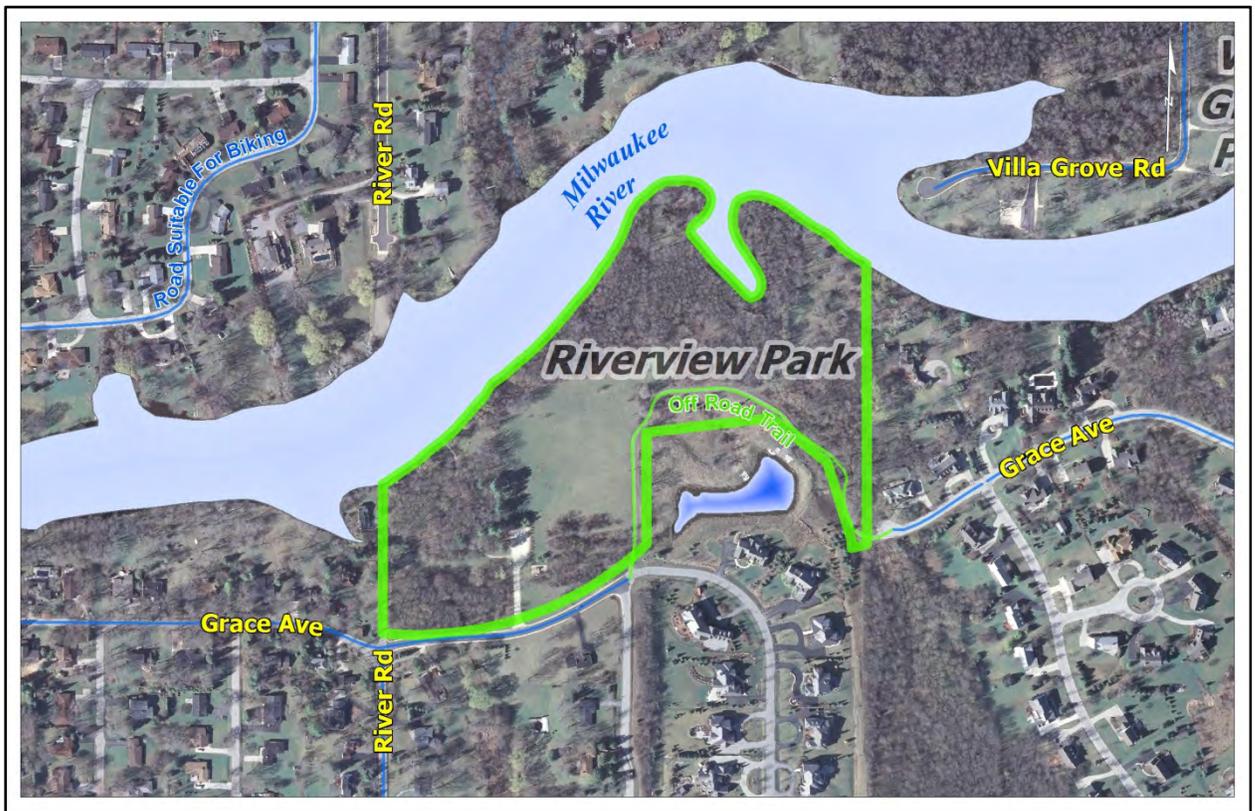
The site was donated to the City in pieces beginning in 1969 and with a four-acre donation occurring in 1983, and 10.2 acres in lieu of Open Space Fees in 2001.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Neighborhood Park
Stewardship Group.....Pending
Stewardship PlanComplete
Site Analysis.....Complete
Park Plan on File.....Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- None



Rotary Park

4100 W. Highland Road 128N

(75 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Parking Lots
- Park ID Signs
- 4 Baseball Diamonds with batting cage
- Soccer Fields
- Basketball Court
- Gazebo
- Rotary and Reuter Pavilions
- Fishing Ponds
- Play Equipment Areas
- Walking Paths
- Memory Garden

PARCEL HISTORY

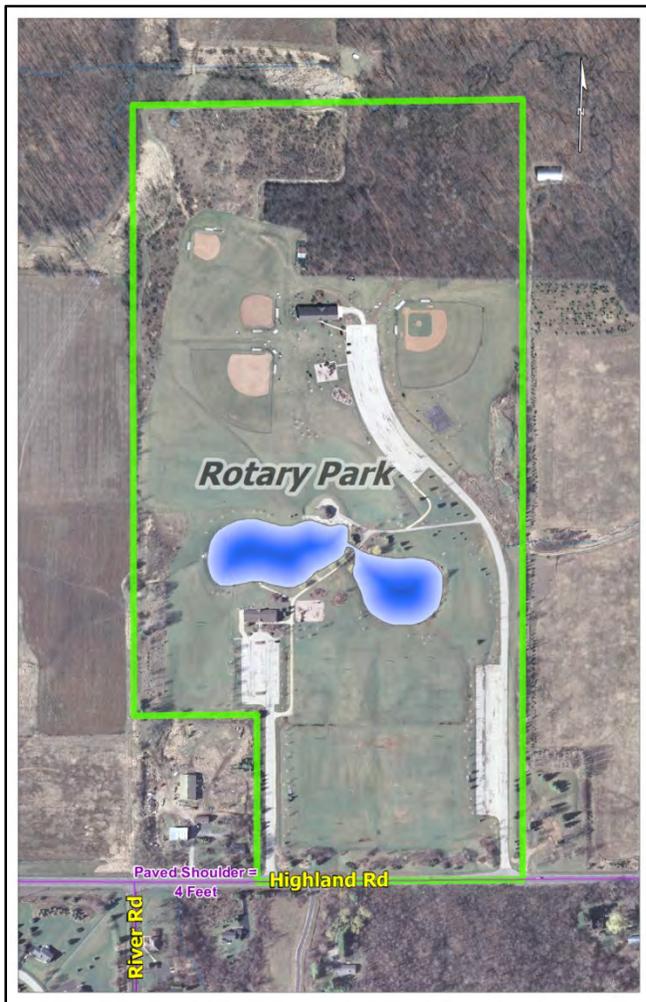
The site was purchased by the City in 1989 with generous donations from the Rotary Club for the specific purpose of creating a multiple use community park. An approved landscaping and phased development plan governs the site.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Community Park
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....Complete
Park Plan on File.....Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue support of Park functions, activities and improvements
- Revisit the existing plans, compare to current use and finalize remaining plans
- Pond water quality improvements – replace/improve fountains/aeration
- Terrace audience area and gazebo
- Replace Rueter Pavilion tables and chairs
- Move gazebo audience area, add concrete
- Electric improvements
- Fencing for GOG
- Repave parking lots



Scout Park

11949 N. La Porte Road 30W

(6.8 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- River Access
- Walking Trail
- Park ID Sign
- Signage
- Canoe Launch and Landing Area

PARCEL HISTORY

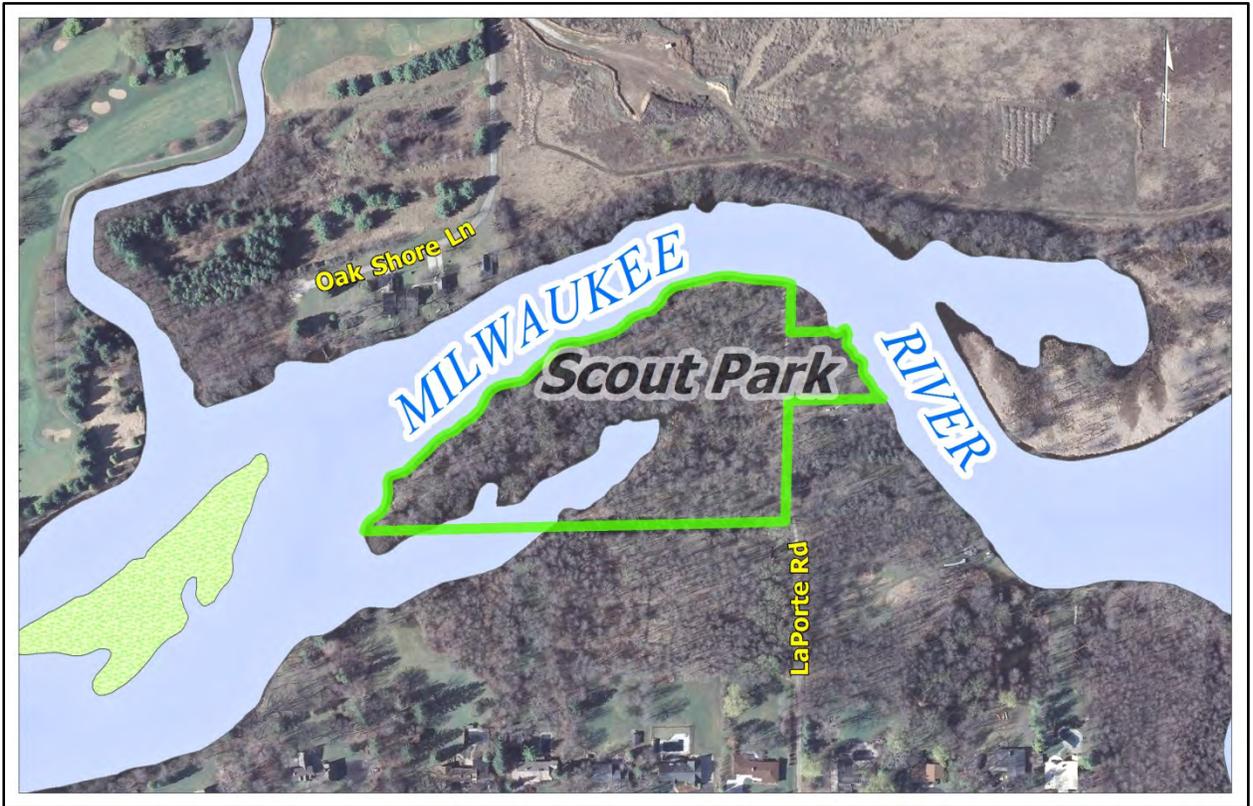
The site was purchased from the Boy Scouts of America, Bay Lakes Council of Menasha, by the City in 1994 with funds from the land acquisition account for passive use. A management/stewardship plan governs the site.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group.....Active
Stewardship Plan.....In Place, 1996
Site Analysis.....Complete
Park Plan on File.....Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- None



Settlers Park

11312 N. Cedarburg Road 60W

(1.4 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Historic Residence, Isham Day House
- Walking Trail
- Signage
- Link to Rotary Riverwalk/Boardwalk

PARCEL HISTORY

Also known as the Vacheron Site, this was acquired by the City in 1990. It is the site of the Isham Day House, a structure with historical significance.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Special Use
Stewardship Group.....Cooperative effort with Historical Society
and Landmarks Commission
Stewardship Plan.....In Place
Site Analysis.....Complete
Park Plan on FileYes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Integrate into Town Center Plan
- Acquire additional land for public access
- Continue riverwalk improvements



Shoreland Nature Preserve

12500 N. Shoreland Parkway

(19 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Walking Trails
- Property Survey and Boundary Marked

PARCEL HISTORY

The site was dedicated to the City in 1984 by the developer of the Ville Du Parc subdivision in exchange for a nearby publicly owned gravel pit which the developer now utilizes as a lake amenity in his subdivision. While much of the site does not directly abut the Milwaukee River, a part of the land transfer agreement specifically affords public access upon the strip of land, still owned by Ville Du Parc, which separates this site from the river.

STATUS

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Parkland Classification..... | Nature Preserve |
| Stewardship Group | None |
| Stewardship Plan..... | Complete, 1996 |
| Site Analysis..... | Complete |
| Park Plan on File..... | No |

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Update site plan
- Acquire land (last house on shoreland) for access and to create parking
- Upgrade walking trails
- Park ID Sign at Highland Road
- Create canoe launch and landing area
- River Signage
- Parking



Swan Road Prairie

9625 N. Swan Road

(20 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Park ID Sign
- Parking Lot
- Walking Trails

PARCEL HISTORY

Land was donated to the City by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). The property was acquired for the conservation and flood water management. An Intergovernmental Agreement exists for the property.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....None
Park Plan on File.....No

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prepare Site Analysis
- Complete Park Plan
- Identify Stewardship



Trinity Creek Wetland Habitat

9855 N. Riebs Lane

(35 acres 2012, additional acreage added in 2013 (exact amount pending))

EXISTING FEATURES

- Aquatic habitat for northern pike spawning
- Education and information facility
- Flood Control
- Parking Area
- Walking Trails
- Interpretive Signs

PARCEL HISTORY

Acquired in 2002 as part of the Storm Water Management Plan in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....None
Park Plan on File.....Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replace signage at County Line Road
- Create link from Interurban Trail



Villa Grove Park

1900 N. Villa Grove Road 36W

(8.9 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Boat Launch with Pier
- Park ID Sign
- Picnic Tables
- Grill
- Seasonal Toilet

PARCEL HISTORY

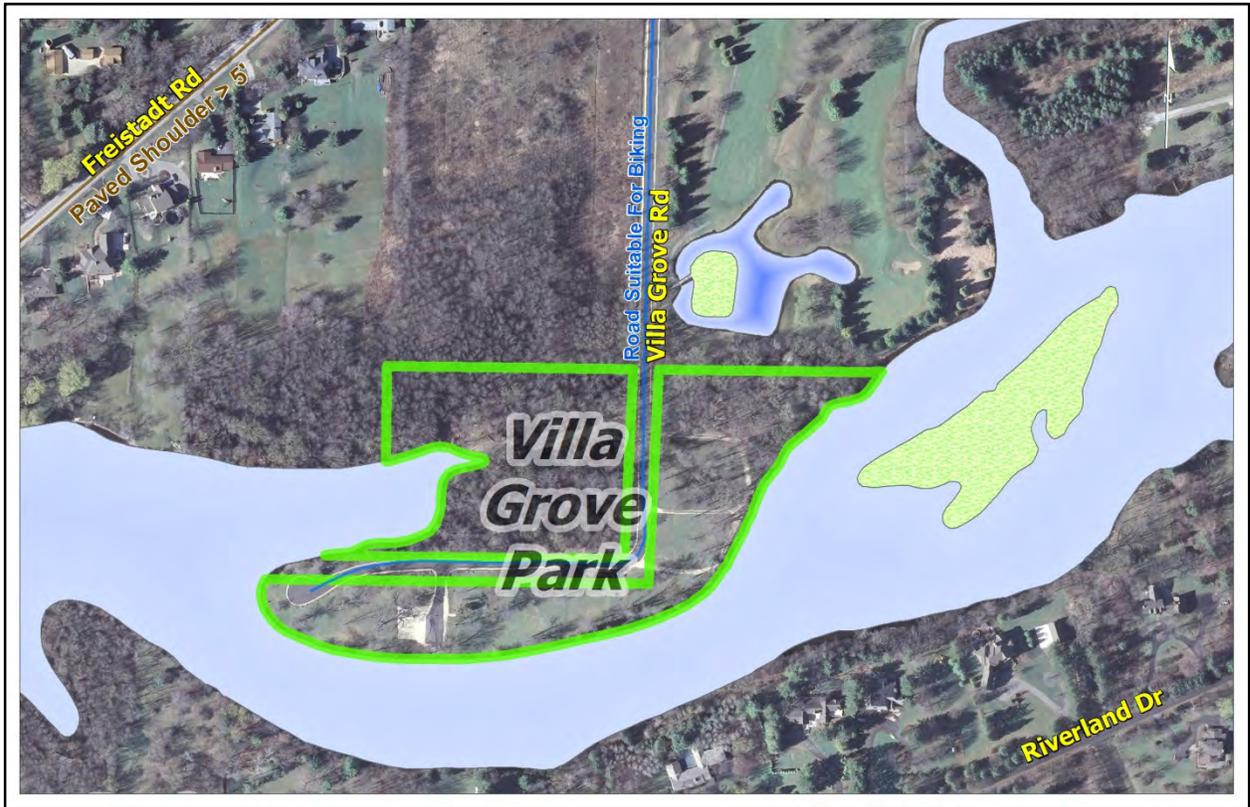
The land was acquired by the City of Mequon in 1969 with the assistance of Federal funds that were dedicated to acquiring land that was in the floodplain. Homes and properties were acquired as they became available. Land was then used for park purposes.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Community Park
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....None
Park Plan on File.....Yes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Engage River Advisory Committee in discussion of improvement plan
- Apply for riverbank restoration grant for gabion walls
- Complete riverwalk and fishing platforms
- Remove steel pilings & rubble
- Additional parking



Willow Bay Nature Preserve

12621 N. River Forest Drive 15W

(22 Acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

- Walking Trail & Access Steps
- Parking Area
- Park ID Sign

PARCEL HISTORY

The land was donated to the City of Mequon in 1998 by Ralph Wrezic in exchange for developing two 1.5-acre lots.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Nature Preserve
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....In Place
Site Analysis.....Complete
Park Plan on FileYes

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Future improvements as recommended in the Site Plan
- Trails



Ozaukee Interurban Trail

From County Line Road to Pioneer Road in Mequon

EXISTING FEATURES

- 30 Miles of Trail
- Mile Markers
- Trail Kiosks
- Parking at Logemann Community Center, Mequon

PARCEL HISTORY

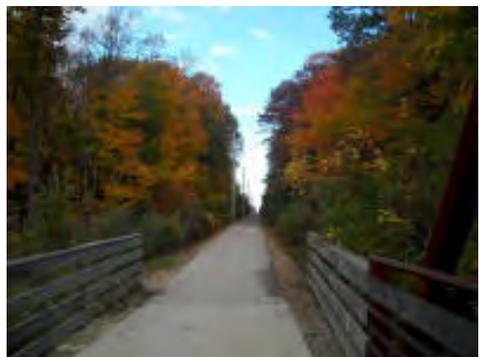
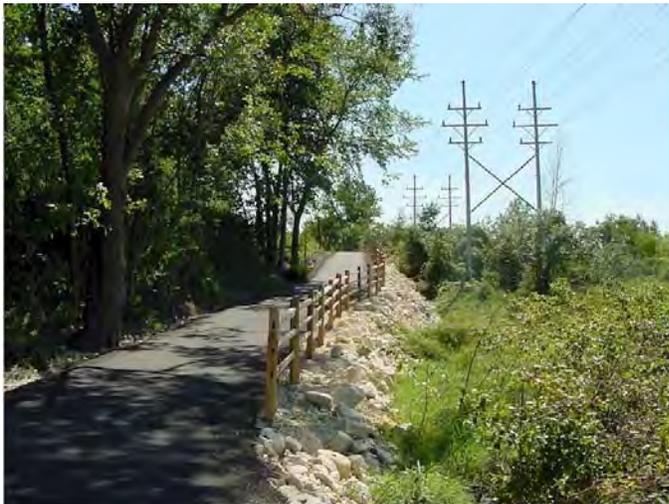
The route of the Ozaukee Interurban Trail is based on the Interurban railway that connected Ozaukee County to the City of Milwaukee and Sheboygan.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Linear Park
Stewardship Group.....In Place
Stewardship Plan.....In Place
Site Analysis.....Not Applicable
Park Plan on File.....See Ozaukee County

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Evaluate asphalt and plan for repairs
- Create link to Trinity Creek
- Install park directional signs

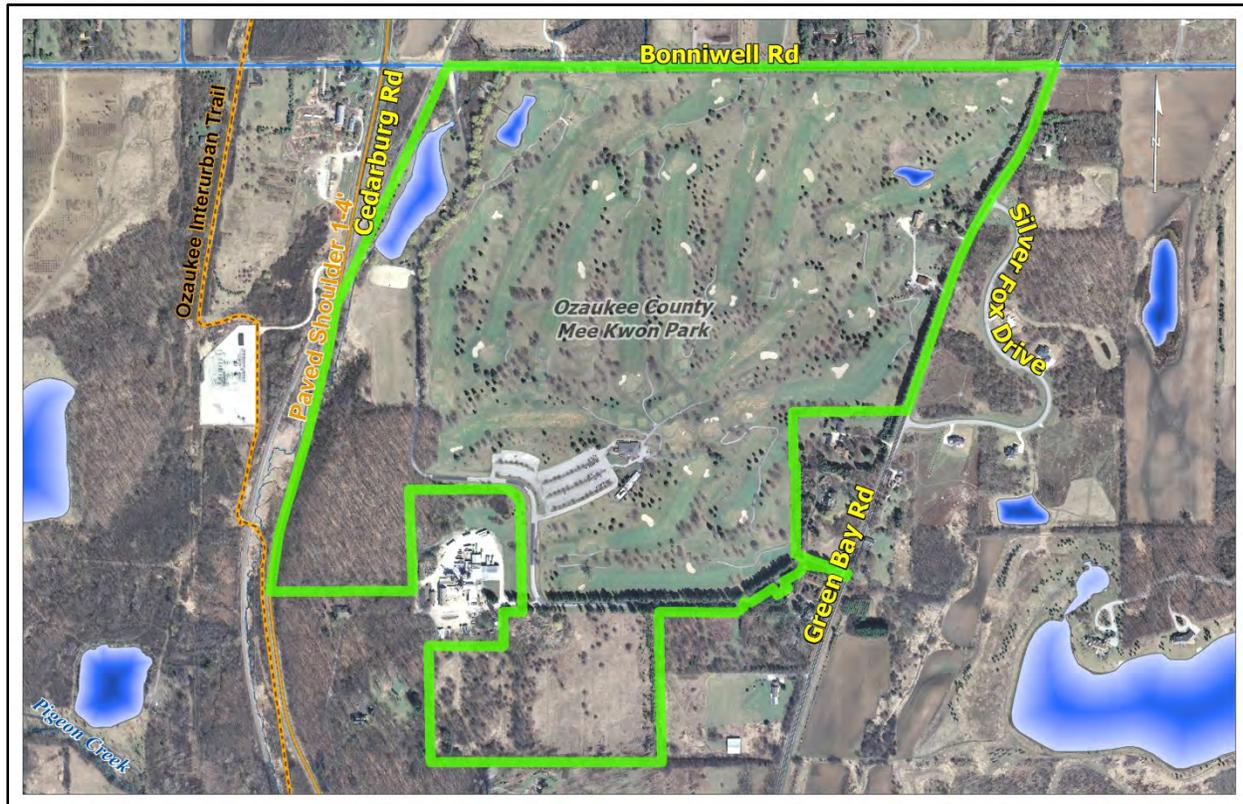


Ozaukee County Mee-Kwon Park

6333 W Bonniwell Road

EXISTING FEATURES

- Golf Course
- Parking Area
- Golf Clubhouse
- Cross-country Skiing
- Sledding Hill
- Fishing Pond



Ozaukee County Virmond Park

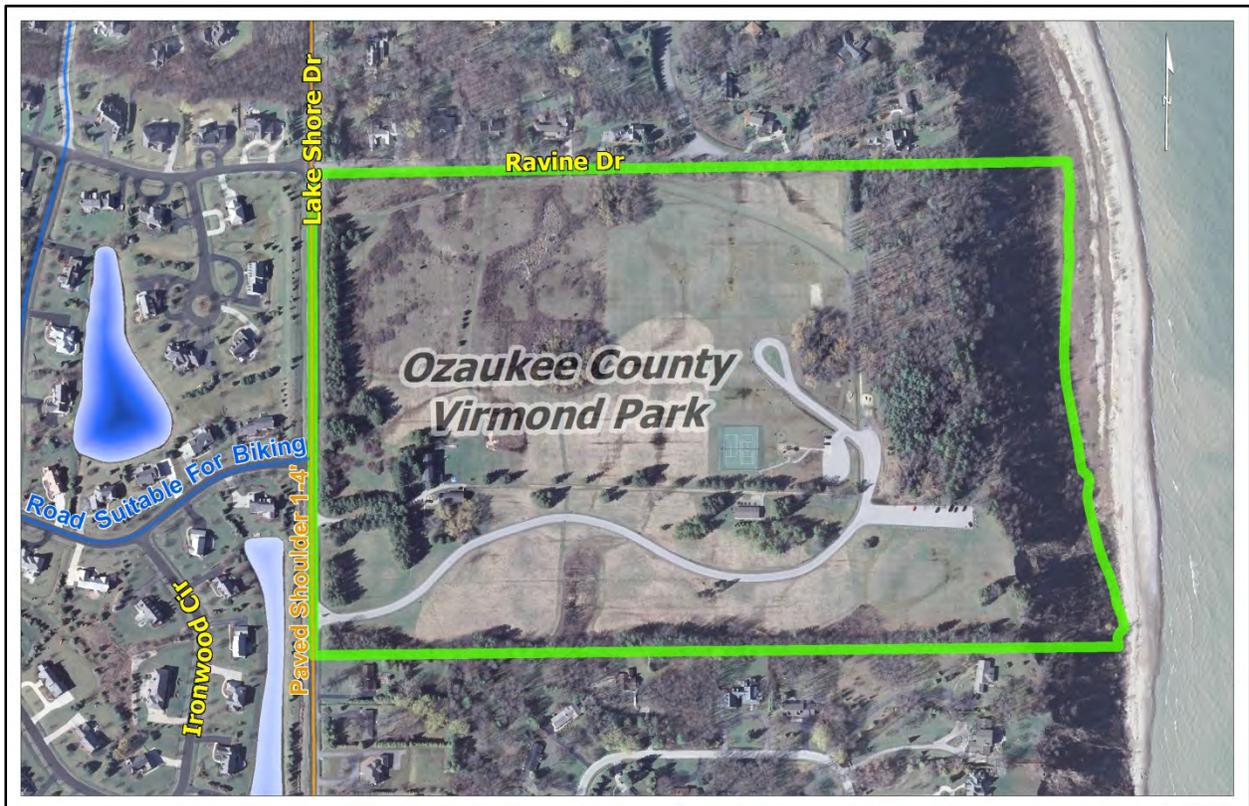
10606 N. Lakeshore Drive

EXISTING FEATURES

- Picnicking
- Parking Area
- Playground
- Shelter
- Athletic Fields
- Tennis Courts
- Lake Michigan Overlook

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Partner with Ozaukee County to improve park facilities



MMSD Site - Babiaz

Donges Bay Road

(29 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

PARCEL HISTORY

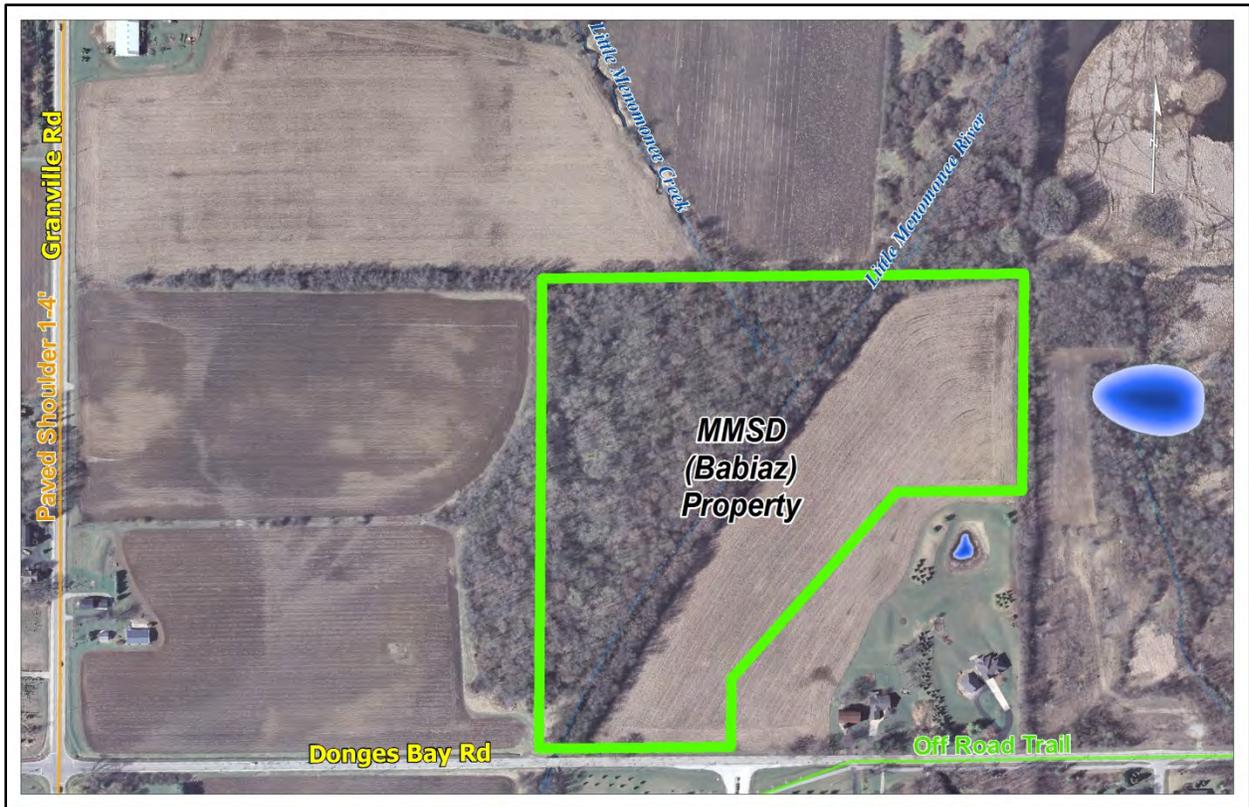
Land was donated to the City by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). The property was acquired for the conservation and flood water management. An Intergovernmental Agreement exists limiting the area to passive functions.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Unclassified
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....None
Park Plan on File.....No

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identification signs
- Prepare Site Analysis
- Complete Park Plan
- Identify Stewardship
- First phase of the linear park system along the Little Menomonee River Corridor



MMSD Site - Burcyk

11655 W Donges Bay Road

(62 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

PARCEL HISTORY

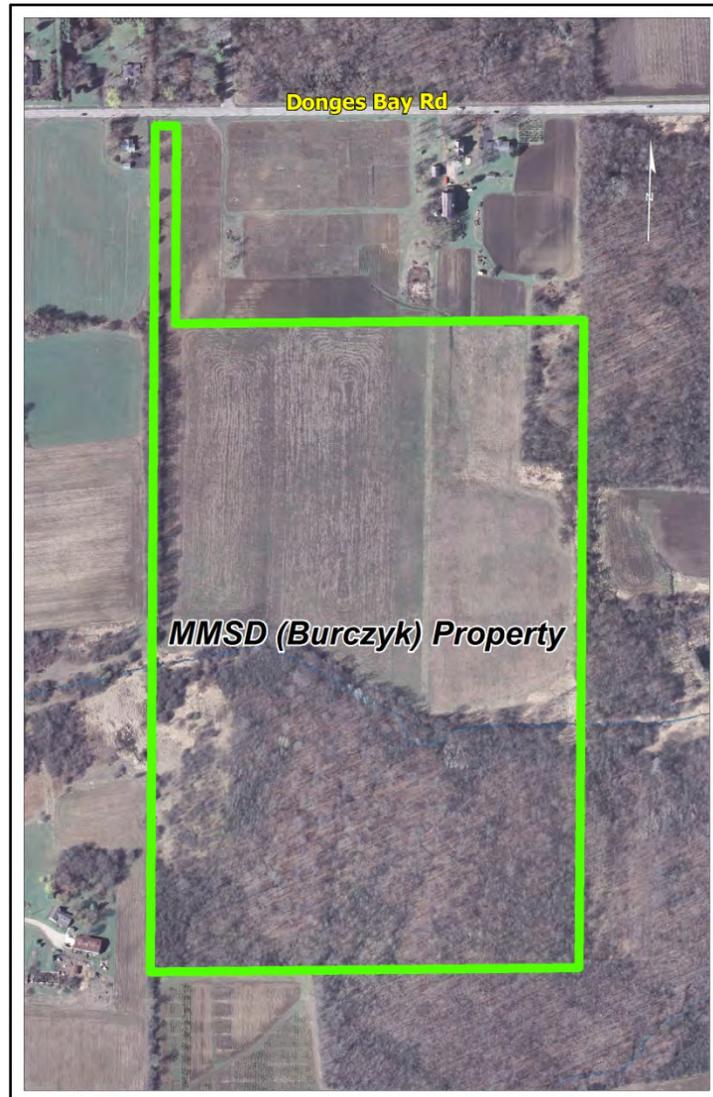
Land was donated to the City by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). The property was acquired for the conservation and flood water management. An Intergovernmental Agreement exists limiting the area to passive functions.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Unclassified
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....None
Park Plan on File.....No

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rename Park
- Identification signs
- Prepare Site Analysis
- Complete Park Plan
- Identify Stewardship



MMSD Site - Hoerig

Granville Road

(72 acres)

EXISTING FEATURES

PARCEL HISTORY

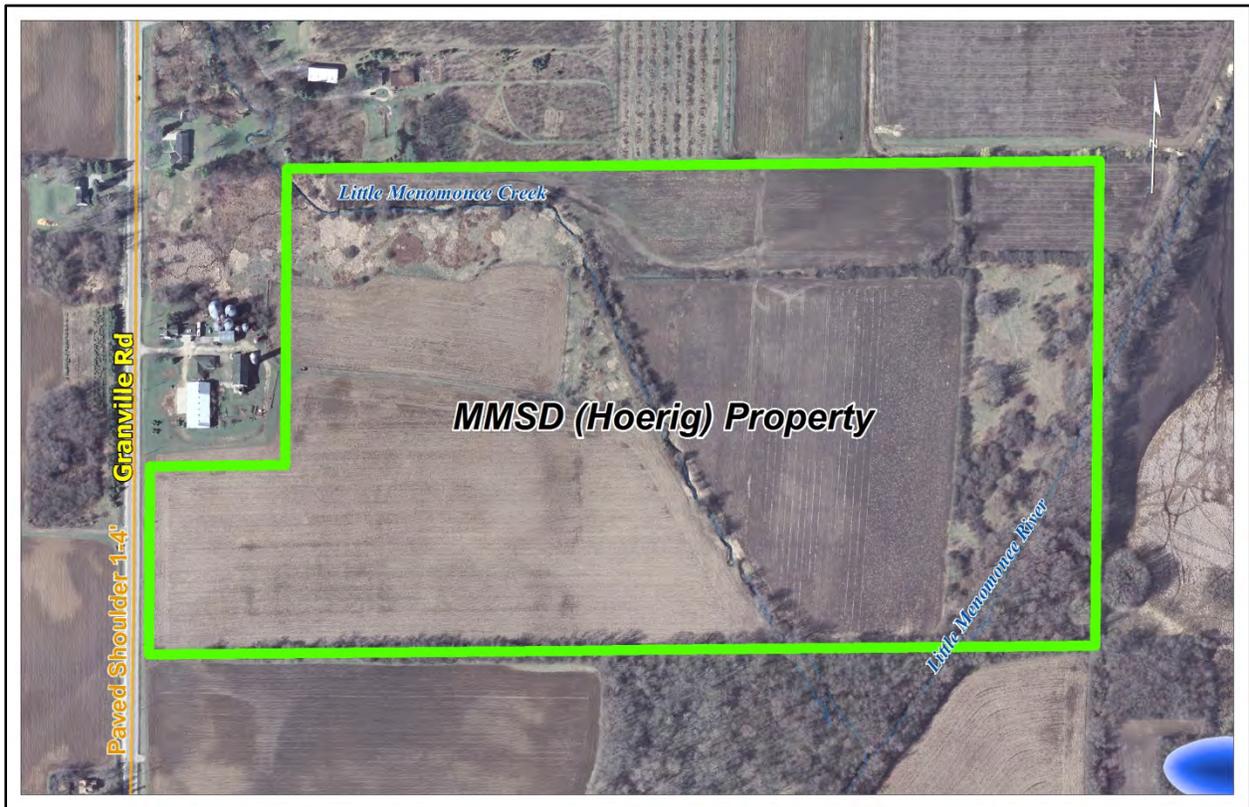
Land was donated to the City by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). The property was acquired for the conservation and flood water management. An Intergovernmental Agreement exists limiting the area to passive functions.

STATUS

Parkland Classification.....Unclassified
Stewardship Group.....None
Stewardship Plan.....None
Site Analysis.....None
Park Plan on File.....No

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identification signs
- Prepare Site Analysis
- Complete Park Plan
- Identify Stewardship
- First phase of linear park system along the Little Menomonee River Corridor



Mequon Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Recommendations and Implementation

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

Funding and Maintenance:

- Link donations to a fund for maintenance
- Consider a donor/fund raising committee for pool and other big items
- Rehabilitate pool building
- Create guidelines for sustainable maintenance
- The Mequon Park Board should remain included in the planning and implementation that occurs in the Civic Campus and Southern Arrival Corridor and Gateway since the Park Department may ultimately become responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the individual design elements

Environmental Corridors, Conservation Areas and Open Space:

- Identify opportunities to better connect parks located along Milwaukee River
- Create separate policies for “river edge” parks
- Explore the possibility of new access points for canoes and kayaks along waterways
- Work collaboratively with the Joint Mequon-Thiensville Bike & Pedestrian Way Commission on increasing bike and trail connections to different attractions
- Create a pedestrian crossing across the Milwaukee River at Donges Bay Road and/or Town Center
- Create an overall community open space management system for conservation uses
- Link conservation subdivisions to nature preserves

Programming and Other:

- Maintain community events, such as “Gathering on the Green” and explore additional programmed events within the parks (e.g. beer garden, outdoor movies, music)
- Look for opportunities to create better public access to the Lakefront
- Identify additional dog park location on the west side of the City
- Identify a suitable location for a disc/Frisbee golf course
- Consider the addition of a pocket park or some type of recreational facility along the development occurring on North Port Washington Road
- Identify possible locations for a mountain bike facility
- Promote the usage and activities within the parks through local media outlets (eg. Channel 25)

COMPREHENSIVE PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE MAP

The Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Map (see appendix) is a decision making tool that assists the City Park Board, City Council and City Staff determine how and if properties relate to the entire potential citywide open space system. The Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Map consists of the existing City of Mequon Parks and Ozaukee County park and recreation facilities; primary and secondary environmental corridors, privately owned and operated open space as well as the linear systems such as the Riverwalk and bicycle facilities throughout the City.

City of Mequon Parks

One of the most important of the city-wide systems is the park, recreation & open space system. This category reflects property owned and managed by the City or Ozaukee County. These existing open space areas provide a framework for the provision of additional open space linkages.

The open space areas relate directly to the various functions of open space. They range in size and function from Settler's Park to over four hundred acres for the Mequon Nature Preserve. Examples of these properties are: the 25 City of Mequon Park properties.

Ozaukee County Facilities

The City of Mequon has three Ozaukee County facilities located within its corporate limits. These three facilities are the Mee Kwon Park, Virmond Park and the Ice Arena. While in some ways these facilities provide recreational activities that are duplicitous to other City parks, they do provide open space, public visual access to Lake Michigan, and environmental linkages within the overall system.

Environmental Corridor, Conservancy Zoning, Private and Proposed Open Space

This category includes areas recommended for both private and public open space uses. The provision of open space is considered a major priority of the City's planning program. The areas indicated could become either major additions to existing open space or serve as linear connections between large areas of open space, such as the significant areas along the Milwaukee River and the Little Menomonee River and their major tributaries. While many of these areas mimic the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's Environmental Corridors located along the Milwaukee River, the Little Menomonee River, Ulao Creek and Lake Michigan as well as the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's Isolated Resource Natural Areas, others indicate properties that should be acquired to realize the Town Center Plan.

This category also includes a number of private land holdings. Examples of these properties are: Ozaukee Country Club, the Ozaukee-Washington County Land Trust parcels, the North Shore Country Club, the Mequon River Club, Missing Links Golf Course, Concordia University and most of the City's subdivision's open space or out lots. Although these areas may not be generally accessible to the public, they do provide a number of open space functions and the plan recommends connecting them to other open space areas when feasible. The Environmental Corridor, Conservancy Zoning, Private and Proposed Open Space include one publicly managed property, the Mequon Campus of the Milwaukee Area Technical College.

These lands include areas providing visual open space and community separation, preserving important woodlands and wetlands, protecting critical wildlife habitats, and offering important scientific, cultural, and educational opportunities to the residents of the City of Mequon. It is important that the City cooperate with the various owners of these lands in their proper maintenance and management whenever feasible and practical.

The plan recognizes that the City may not need to acquire additional park lands, other than those properties necessary to achieve the spirit and intent of the Town Center concept. However, it does recommended the open space system be preserved as homeowner association properties and out-lots; as conservation easements, or if appropriate, as private open space. The areas indicated are important open space linkages, especially in the rural areas and often have development limitations, such as flooding or poor soils, so these lands can often be preserved if development occurs.

The Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Map indicates areas for potential future open space in the form of large tracts linear greenways. While the areas indicated are a significant increase in the City's existing open space, it is not intended to limit the locations or amount of open space that could be achieved within the City. This proposed open space armature can easily be expanded as additional natural, recreational, or natural resource management sites and connecting greenways become available.

Riverwalk, Bicycle Facilities & Rustic Roads

Completed in 2012, the City worked with the Village of Thiensville and the Thiensville-Mequon Rotary in the development of a Riverwalk along the Milwaukee River. This project is a wonderful example of a cooperative project between a service organization and two units of local government and should look to be replicated with future project endeavors.

The City's Bicycle Plan, SEWRPC's Proposed System of Off-Street Bicycle Paths and Surface Arterial Street and Highway System Bicycle Accommodations from the Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035, the Ozaukee Interurban Trail and the Little Menomonee River Bicycle & Pedestrian Facility have been shown on the Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Map to indicate where in the future the City envisions bicycle routes and the interconnections these routes provide between the City's park properties.

MEQUON PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

As was previously listed in the Park, Recreation, & Open Space Inventory section of this Plan, the Mequon Park Board and City Staff indicated a number of improvement tasks or projects distributed amongst the City's parks. Table 1 assigns a priority level for each task. The following costs include pricing based upon 2013 conditions and should be adjusted annually for budgetary purposes and some force account labor and materials. The estimated costs may be offset by funding grant assistance and donated services and each project should be reviewed annually for inclusion of any related permitting, approval and design costs. The individual Park Board tasks or projects are described in the following table.

Table 1
City of Mequon Park, Recreation & Open Space Projects and Priorities

| Garrison's Glen | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Establish Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Implement Improvements | | |
| a | Site Plan | MEDIUM | |
| b | Canoe Rack | MEDIUM | \$1,500 |
| c | Disc Golf | MEDIUM | \$10,000 |
| | | | |
| | Garrison's Glen Cost | | \$11,500 |

| Grasslyn Nature Preserve | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Implement Improvements | | |
| a | Make future improvements as required by stewardship plan | HIGH | |
| b | Educational Signage | MEDIUM | \$2,000 |
| | | | |
| | Grasslyn Nature Preserve Cost | | \$2,000 |

| Highland Woods | | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Implement Improvements | | |
| a | Prepare vegetation management plan for Highland Woods & adjacent Pigeon Creek site | LOW | \$2,000 |
| b | Educational signs | HIGH | \$2,000 |
| c | Brochure | MEDIUM | \$1,000 |
| d | Establish meadow area | LOW | \$2,500 |
| e | Reseed Northeast section of site | LOW | |
| f | South walking trail | HIGH | |
| g | Park stewardship project | LOW | |
| | | | |
| | Highland Woods Cost | | \$7,500 |

| Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Implement Improvements | | |
| a | Create a priority list from the plan | HIGH | |
| b | Parking | MEDIUM | \$15,000 |
| c | Upgrade trails | HIGH | \$3,000 |
| d | Regrade paths and improve drainage | HIGH | |
| e | Reseed Northeast section of site | LOW | \$1,000 |
| f | Stewardship group needed | MEDIUM | |
| g | Running water | MEDIUM | TBD |
| h | Move sign (kiosk) | LOW | In house |
| | | | |
| | Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park Cost | | \$19,000 |

| Lemke Park | | | |
|-------------------|--|----------|-----------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Implement Improvements | | |
| a | Continue park improvements as set forth in master plan | HIGH | |
| b | Restrooms | HIGH | \$200,000 |
| c | Native landscaping | MEDIUM | |
| d | Little Menomonee River overlook | LOW | \$2,500 |
| e | First phase of linear park system in Little Menomonee River Corridor | MEDIUM | TBD |
| | | | |
| | Lemke Park Cost | | \$202,500 |

| Lilly Lane Nature Preserve | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | Prepare Site Analysis | MEDIUM | \$1,000 |
| 4 | File Park Plan | MEDIUM | \$1,000 |
| 5 | Implement Improvements | | |
| a | Park identification sign | LOW | \$1,000 |
| b | Access drive and parking* | LOW | \$5,000 |
| c | Walking trails | LOW | \$3,000 |
| | | | |
| | Lilly Lane Nature Preserve Cost | | \$11,000 |

*May be part of future subdivision project

| Little Menomonee Nature Preserve | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | File Park Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 4 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Walking trails and educational signage | MEDIUM | \$5,000 |
| | b First phase of linear park system in Little Menomonee River corridor | LOW | TBD |
| | | | |
| | Little Menomonee Nature Preserve Cost | | \$5,000 |

| Mequon Community Park | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------|-----------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | Prepare Site Analysis | MEDIUM | |
| 4 | File Park Plan | | |
| | a Integrate into Town Center Plan | HIGH | |
| 5 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Rennie Field updates | MEDIUM | \$105,000 |
| | b Upgrades to municipal pool | MEDIUM | TBD |
| | c Bath house improvements | MEDIUM | TBD |
| | d Equipment shed | LOW | \$20,000 |
| | e Concession stand and announcement booth | MEDIUM | |
| | f Gazebo | MEDIUM | \$25,000 |
| | g Ice rink | LOW | \$8,000 |
| | h Replace playground chips with foam | MEDIUM | \$50,000 |
| | i Donation bricks | LOW | |
| | | | |
| | Mequon Community Park Cost | | \$208,000 |

| Mequon Nature Preserve | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | File Park Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Outdoor Nature Education Center | MEDIUM | |
| | b Year-round walking trails | MEDIUM | |
| | | | |
| | Mequon Nature Preserve Cost | | \$0* |

*Cost details are on file within the Mequon Nature Preserve 2011 Management and Restoration Plan

| Prinz Site | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | HIGH | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | HIGH | |
| 3 | File Park Plan | HIGH | |
| 4 | Implement Improvements | | |
| a | Park identification sign | MEDIUM | \$800 |
| b | Parking (on shoulder) | MEDIUM | \$2,500 |
| c | Walking trails | MEDIUM | \$5,000 |
| | | | |
| | Prinz Site Cost | | \$8,300 |

| Pukaite Woods at Rotary Park | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------|----------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Implement Improvements | | |
| a | Support the efforts of the Sunrise Rotary stewardship group | HIGH | |
| b | Continue implementing the site plan prepared by Tom Aranow | MEDIUM | \$50,000 |
| | | | |
| | Pukaite Woods at Rotary Park Cost | | \$50,000 |

| River Barn Park | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | Prepare Site Analysis | MEDIUM | |
| 4 | Implement Improvements | | |
| a | Riverwalk and trail improvements | MEDIUM | \$12,500 |
| b | Add A/C to pavilion | HIGH | \$8,000 |
| c | Improve signage to river | MEDIUM | \$500 |
| d | Remove invasive species | LOW | Volunteer effort |
| | | | |
| | River Barn Park Cost | | \$21,000 |

| River Forest Nature Preserve | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------|----------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | File Park Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | Implement Improvements | | |
| a | Year-round walking trails | MEDIUM | |
| b | Invasive species control | MEDIUM | |
| c | Make trail system including boardwalk at entrances | MEDIUM | |
| d | Prepare trails in upland for cross country | LOW | |
| | | | |
| | River Forest Nature Preserve Cost | | \$12,600 |

| Riverview Park | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | | | |
| | Riverview Park Cost | | \$0 |

| Rotary Park | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------|-----------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Continue support of park functions and activities | HIGH | |
| | b Revisit existing plans, compare to current use, and finalize remaining plans | MEDIUM | |
| | c Water quality pond and aeration fountains | MEDIUM | \$7,500 |
| | d Terrace audience area and gazebo | MEDIUM | TBD |
| | e Replace Rueter Pavilion tables and chairs | LOW | \$5,000 |
| | f Move gazebo audience area and add concrete | LOW | TBD |
| | g Electric improvements | MEDIUM | TBD |
| | h Fencing for Gathering on the Green | MEDIUM | TBD |
| | i Repave parking lots | LOW | \$100,000 |
| | | | |
| | Rotary Park Cost | | \$112,500 |

| Scout Park | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------|------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | | | |
| | Scout Park Cost | | \$0 |

| Settlers Park | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Integrate into Town Center Plan | HIGH | |
| | b Acquire additional land | MEDIUM | TBD |
| | c Riverwalk improvements | MEDIUM | \$5,000 |
| | | | |
| | Settlers Park Cost | | \$5,000 |

| Shoreland Nature Preserve | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----------|----------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | File Park Plan | MEDIUM | \$1,000 |
| 3 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Revisit site plan and update | HIGH | |
| | b Acquire additional land for access and create parking | MEDIUM | TBD |
| | c River signage | LOW | \$800 |
| | d Parking | LOW | \$7,500 |
| | e Park identification sign | MEDIUM | \$800 |
| | f Upgrade walking trails | MEDIUM | \$2,500 |
| | g Canoe launch (Scout project) | MEDIUM | \$1,000 |
| | | | |
| | Shoreland Nature Preserve Cost | | \$13,600 |

| Trinity Creek Area Wetland Habitat | | | |
|---|---|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | Prepare Site Analysis | MEDIUM | \$1,000 |
| 4 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Replace signage at County Line Road | LOW | \$250 |
| | | | |
| | Trinity Creek Area Wetland Habitat Cost | | \$1,250 |

| Villa Grove Park | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Revisit MATC plan, make changes if necessary and approve | MEDIUM | |
| | b Engage River Advisory Committee in discussion of improvement plan | HIGH | |
| | c Apply for riverbank restoration grant | MEDIUM | TBD |
| | d Remove steel pilings and rubble | MEDIUM | |
| | e Add gabion wall | LOW | TBD |
| | f Riverwalk/platform | LOW | \$2,500 |
| | g Canoe launch | LOW | \$1,000 |
| | | | |
| | Villa Grove Park Cost | | \$3,500 |

| Willow Bay Nature Preserve | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Future improvements as required by stewardship plan | LOW | |
| | b Trails | LOW | \$3,500 |
| | | | |
| | Willow Bay Nature Preserve Cost | | \$3,500 |

| MMSD Site - Babiasz | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | Prepare Site Analysis | MEDIUM | |
| 4 | Determine Park Classification | MEDIUM | |
| 5 | File Park Plan | | |
| | a Prepare park plan | LOW | |
| 6 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Park identification sign | LOW | |
| | | | |
| | MMSD Site - Babiasz Cost | | \$6,000 |

| MMSD Site - Burcyk | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | Prepare Site Analysis | MEDIUM | |
| 4 | Determine Park Classification | MEDIUM | |
| 5 | File Park Plan | | |
| | a Prepare park plan | LOW | |
| 6 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Park identification sign | LOW | |
| | | | |
| | MMSD Site - Burcyk Cost | | \$6,000 |

| MMSD Site - Hoerig | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | Prepare Site Analysis | MEDIUM | |
| 4 | Determine Park Classification | MEDIUM | |
| 5 | File Park Plan | | |
| | a Prepare park plan | LOW | |
| 6 | Implement Improvements | | |
| | a Park identification sign | LOW | |
| | | | |
| | MMSD Site - Hoerig Cost | | \$6,000 |

| MMSD Site – Swan Road Prairie | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | Implementation Task | Priority | Cost |
| 1 | Assign Stewardship Group | MEDIUM | |
| 2 | Prepare Stewardship Plan | MEDIUM | |
| 3 | Prepare Site Analysis | MEDIUM | |
| 4 | File Park Plan | | |
| | a Prepare park plan | LOW | |
| | | | |
| | MMSD Site – Swan Road Prairie Cost | | \$2,500 |

The total project costs outlined in Table 1, City of Mequon Park, Recreation & Open Space Projects and Priorities is \$921,150. This total equates to approximately \$184,000 per year.

Appendices

GLOSSARY

ACTIVE USE AREA

An area designed primarily for organized or non-organized active recreation by one or more age groups. This type of facility may have, as its primary feature, play fields, playground apparatus, ball fields, active trail use (e.g., bicycle use, and cross country skiing), tennis, and other court games

BICYCLE LANE

A portion of a roadway that has been designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This term refers to any land that has been improved with the construction of structures, parking lots, and other facilities

COMMUNITY PARKS

This type of park is designed to serve several neighborhoods while minimizing travel distance. Community parks are designed to accommodate all age groups. Although size is not always a sound criterion for classifying parks, it is generally recognized that community parks are more spacious than neighborhood parks. The average size of a community park is between 30 and 50 acres. Appropriate development includes baseball/softball diamonds, soccer fields, shelter/restrooms, bike/pedestrian paths, tennis, and other court games, parking lots, and open play areas

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

A defined area, usually oriented in a linear pattern, often along a river or drainage area that contains a high concentration of environmentally significant features such as plant species, wildlife, landforms, water features. Environmental corridors are essential for maintaining native plant and animal species diversity

GOAL

A goal is a broad statement of direction and purpose. A goal should be based on the stated needs of the community. A goal should be long-range, timeless, and a goal should be idealistic

ISSUES

A fundamental challenge often stated as a question to be addressed

MISSION STATEMENT

The overall purpose of the outdoor recreation system and reason for the recreation provision

NATURE BASED OUTDOOR RECREATION

Nature based outdoor recreation include activities where the primary focus or purpose is the appreciation or enjoyment of nature. These activities may include, but are not limited to, hiking, bicycling, wildlife or nature observation, camping, nature study, fishing, hunting, picnicking, cross-country skiing, canoeing and multi-use trail activities

NATURE PRESERVE

This type of park is for passive use. It focuses on the preservation of the plant and animal life within the park, and the provision of education opportunities. Appropriate improvements include restoring ecological communities, creating hiking trails, erecting park identification signs, and establishing a small parking area

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are designed to provide both active and/or passive short-term recreation activities. Appropriate development includes play equipment, informal ball diamonds, picnic tables, walking paths, and small parking areas. Informal recreation opportunities cater to groups of all ages. Neighborhood parks have a service radius of one mile, and commonly range from 5 to 10 acres in size

OBJECTIVE

An objective is defined as a quantifiable aim within a limited time frame. Objectives should be derived from stated goals, be quantifiable and specific, and be achievable within a limited time frame

PASSIVE USE AREA

An area primarily designed for passive trail use (e.g., hiking and cross-country skiing), bird watching, plant identification, and other non-organized recreation activities. This type of facility emphasizes the natural setting

PRINCIPLES

A fixed or predetermined policy or mode of action

SHARED ROADWAY

A roadway that bicyclists and motorist share the same travel lanes (Wisconsin Department of Transportation Facilities Development Manual)

SHARE USE PATH

Referred to as a Bicycle Way in the Wisconsin Statutes, is any path or sidewalk or portion thereof designated for the use of bicycles and electric personal assistive mobility devices by Ozaukee County (Section 340.01(5s) Wisconsin Statutes and Annotation) and serves usually two-way traffic as well as pedestrians (Wisconsin Department of Transportation Facilities Development Manual)

SPECIAL USE PARKS

This type of park facility emphasizes a chief feature or features which are unique to the municipality. Examples include aquatic centers, nature education facilities, and historical features. Due to the range of features these parks offer, the age group of users is often widespread. Often the service area includes the entire municipality and sometimes has regional use. No average park size or service area standard exists

SPONSOR

The organization that provides the supports of an outdoor recreation facility or activity financially or through the provision of services such as maintenance, management and other necessary support services

STAKEHOLDERS

These are persons or organizations with an ongoing stake in the development, preservation, and use of an existing or future outdoor recreation or open space

STEWARDS

Stewards are neighbors or interested citizens who work to preserve, restore, and maintain an existing park or nature preserve

STEWARDSHIP PLAN

A stewardship plan is a road map for guiding the stewards. Stewardship plans may include the following:

- Inventory of plant communities, water resources, soil conditions, and wildlife habitat
- Analysis of existing plant communities
- Management plan for restoration and preservation activities
- Master plan for improvements if required

STRATEGY

A pattern of practical initiatives, policies, programs, and actions

USER GROUPS

An organization created and managed for a specific sport such as youth baseball and soccer or recreational activity such as birding or mushroom hunting

VISION STATEMENT

A view of the type of outdoor recreation system that community's outdoor recreation and open space will become through the vivid idealized description of a desired outcome that inspires, energizes and helps create a mental image of the targeted outcome.

PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders are defined as individuals or organizations that stand to gain or lose from the success or failure of a system. For park, recreation and open space providing organization, this can include other local governmental agencies; organizations that manage other park, recreation and open space systems and users of the park, recreation and open space. Since, by definition, stakeholders are those who are impacted by (or have an impact on) the site or park, recreation and open space project, their perspectives need to be taken into account in order for a project to be successful. Stakeholders can have positive or negative views regarding a given site or park, recreation and open space project, and often don't agree with one another, making it a challenge to reconcile their varied viewpoints. Stakeholders typically are either internal or external. The stakeholders for the City of Mequon park, recreation and open space are as follows.

Internal Stakeholders

- Mayor & Common Council
- Planning Commission
- Open Space Preservation Commission
- Bikeway Commission
- Landmarks Commission
- Mequon Park Board
- Tree Board
- River Advisory Board
- City Staff
- Stewards

External Stakeholders

- Active user Groups
- Sports teams
- Public Schools
- Recreation Department
- Mequon Thiensville Chamber of Commerce
- Civic Organizations
- Mequon Community Foundation
- Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
- Ozaukee County Parks
- Ozaukee County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Milwaukee County Parks
- Milwaukee Area Technical College
- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Concordia University
- University of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT INFORMATION

The grant guidelines and application procedures for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Recreational Trails Act and the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship programs have had slight adjustments over the years. Therefore, the most current Grant Guidelines and Application prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) should be obtained and consulted. The following discussions are from the 2007 Grant Guidelines and Application and are meant to provide general information on a few key points. More detailed information regarding the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Recreational Trails Act and the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship programs grant guidelines and application procedures is available in the current year WDNR Grant Guidelines and Application.

SYNOPSIS OF THE FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND, FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAILS ACT AND THE WISCONSIN KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS GRANT PROCESS

1. Local sponsors or their agents work with the WDNR regional community services specialist to finalize plan projects, follow program requirements and complete grant applications.
2. Grant applications are submitted by May 1 each year. The application booklets are available each year in late January, early February.
3. The grant applications are reviewed and rated by WDNR regional staff the separate submitted projects within each program are combined in a statewide listing and prioritized according to rating score. However, acquisition and development of local park projects are prioritized by WDNR region rather than statewide.
4. Projects ranking the highest are awarded a grant to the extent that funds are available. Grant awards greater than \$250,000 must also receive the Governor of Wisconsin's approval.
5. Project sponsors may not incur costs for their projects until the grant agreement is signed by all parties, no work can be started or land acquired until an agreement is signed with the DNR.
6. Local sponsors sign an agreement to accept the grant and assume the responsibility of complying with program requirements and conditions of the grant award in perpetuity with project payment taken place on a reimbursement basis.
7. The project sponsor incurs costs for work actually completed or lands purchased; documents expenditures and then files a claim for reimbursement.
8. The reimbursement claim and documentation of expenditures are reviewed by WDNR staff and the payment is processed.
9. Once the grant project has been completed, the project sponsor must meet post project completion obligations such as keeping the land acquired in outdoor recreation permanently.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Five types of organizations are eligible applicants for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Recreational Trails Act and the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship programs. These organizations are:

1. Local governments and tribal governments are eligible for all grant programs. Eligible local governments are those villages, cities, counties, towns and tribal governments that have a WDNR accepted comprehensive outdoor recreation plan or master plan which has been approved by resolution by the local governing unit. In the City, the City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan is this document
2. Nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs) are eligible to apply to the Stewardship programs for land acquisition and conservation easements. In the City of Mequon Comprehensive park, recreation & Open Space Plan, these NCOs are referred to as non-governmental organizations. An eligible NCO, or non-governmental organization, must be a nonprofit corporation, charitable trust or other nonprofit association as described in § 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It must also have as part of its mission “the acquisition of property for conservation purposes”. This mission should be reflected in the bylaws, charter, or incorporation papers of the organization. In addition to these basic eligibility requirements, an NCO, or non-governmental organization, must also be able to demonstrate that it has the financial capacity to carry out a project, as well as the ability to maintain and manage property over time. This determination is made when a NCO, or non-governmental organization, applies for a grant for a specific project
3. School districts are eligible to apply for the federal programs for certain types of projects
4. Lake sanitary districts and public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts are eligible for the Stewardship Urban Green Space Program, which is part of the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
5. Organizations incorporated under §181.32, Wisconsin Statutes whose primary purpose is promoting, encouraging or engaging in outdoor

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Recreational Trails Act and the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant programs require that all land acquisition and development projects must be for nature-based outdoor recreation. WDNR decides whether or not a particular project activity is nature-based outdoor recreation are made on a case-by-case basis. Nature based outdoor recreation includes activities where the primary focus or purpose is the appreciation or enjoyment of nature. These activities may include, but are not limited to, hiking, bicycling, wildlife or nature observation, camping, nature study, fishing, hunting, picnicking, cross-country skiing, canoeing and multi-use trail activities. Support facilities for these activities may include, but are not limited to, access roads, parking areas, camping facilities, support facilities for swimming in a natural waterbody, habitat restoration, utility and sanitation systems, sanitary and shelter buildings, signs, interpretive items, fencing and lighting for the protection of users, and other features that enhance nature-based outdoor recreation and/or improve disabled accessibility. Lands that playground areas are planned for are eligible. Sports that require extensively developed open space such as dedicated sports fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, skateboard parks, hockey rinks, indoor horse arenas, motorized trails, and golf courses are not eligible.

1. Land purchases for public outdoor park and recreation area purposes
2. Land purchases that preserve:
 - Scenic or natural areas of physical or biological importance as well as wildlife areas. Once acquired, these areas must be made available for general public for outdoor recreation use to the extent that the natural attributes of the areas will not be seriously impaired or lost
 - Open natural space, play areas, bicycling trails, walking and horseback riding trails, and day-use picnic areas in urbanized areas

- Urban rivers or riverfronts or restore them for the purposes of economic revitalization and nature based outdoor recreation activities
- 3. Acquisition of a conservation easement, including the acquisition of development rights that enhances or provides nature-based outdoor recreation is eligible for funding in the Stewardship Local Assistance Programs. Because of the complexity of easements, the WDNR has developed separate guidelines and requirements for eligibility for Stewardship funding.
- 4. Development and renovation of nature-based outdoor recreation projects such as trails, camping areas, picnic areas, playground areas, water recreation areas, and educational facilities where there is a permanent professional naturalist staff and the facilities are for nature interpretation, to list a few examples
- 5. Trails, using the Federal Recreational Trails Act Program for the:
 - Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
 - Development and rehabilitation of trail side and trailhead facilities and trail linkages
 - Construction of new trails
 - Acquisition of easement or property for trails
- 6. Development and renovation of support facilities for the above - e.g., access roads, parking areas, restroom facilities, utility and sanitation systems, permanent landscaping, park signs, fences and lighting for the protection of park users, etc.
- 7. River shoreline habitat restoration, river riparian buffer rehabilitation, shoreland enhancements following dam removal and shoreline stabilization as part of an overall urban rivers outdoor recreation project
- 8. Purchase of land for noncommercial gardening in urbanized areas using the Urban Green Space Program, which is part of the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

A number of projects are currently considered ineligible for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Recreational Trails Act and the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship programs grants. These types of projects are discussed below. The ineligible projects list helps establish the parameters of what is and isn't an eligible project for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Recreational Trails Act and the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship programs grants.

1. Land acquired through condemnation; land where landowners were not treated fairly and negotiations were not conducted on a willing seller or willing buyer basis; development of facilities on lands that were acquired through condemnation
2. For the Stewardship programs, purchasing land for and development of recreation areas that are not related to nature-based outdoor recreation such as sports that require extensively developed open space such as dedicated sports fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, skateboard parks, hockey rinks, indoor horse arenas, motorized trails, and golf courses
3. Lands dedicated through a local park land dedication ordinance
4. Restoration or preservation of historic structures
5. Buildings used primarily for operation and maintenance purposes
6. Lands that have restrictions or other covenants that prevent or limit the property from being managed for public outdoor recreation purposes
7. Indoor recreation facilities
8. Construction or repair of seawalls, dams and lagoons

9. Construction of lodges, motels, luxury cabins or similar facilities
10. Environmental remediation or clean-up of site contamination

CRITICAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The critical program requirements are organized by those requirements related to the process of the grant program and complying with the grant program after the project is completed. The grant program agreement is a legal contract containing very specific program requirements and project conditions, some of which are permanent. It is important to understand that all obligations, terms, conditions, and restrictions of the grant agreement are limitations on the use of the property in perpetuity. Following is a list of some of the major grant program provisions.

No land can be purchased and no development project started before you have been awarded a grant - However, if the City needs to purchase the property before receiving a grant award, a "letter of retroactivity" from WDNR must be secured before the purchase is made to protect the project's eligibility. If the project is being considered for Federal Land & Water Conservation funding, the WDNR will also request a letter of retroactivity from the National Park Service. For development projects, you may only incur costs prior to the grant award for pre-engineering and project design activities.

Public access is fundamental to the grant programs - Reasonable public access is required to and upon properties purchased or developed with program funds. Land-locked property must include "protected" access to the property by permanent easement. Hours of operation should be determined according to the type of area or facility being operated and in relation to the seasons of the year.

Land and Easement Acquisition Guidelines - Land acquisition projects must comply with WDNR land acquisition and appraisal requirements.

Public use should begin ASAP - The public should get their money's worth in the expenditure of Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Recreational Trails Act and the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds. When public moneys are used to acquire land for outdoor recreation use; that use should begin as soon as possible - within a few months of its acquisition. Therefore, development projects on land being acquired with Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Recreational Trails Act and the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds should begin as soon as possible. Prior to development, it is important that the property be open to the public to the greatest extent possible for those recreation uses that the land is capable of supporting with a minimum of public investment. Likewise, it is allowable to limit public access during times of project construction.

Development projects bidding & contracts - Grant recipients must comply with State and Federal requirements for bidding and contracts for development projects.

Selling structures or improvements - If structures or improvements that were included in the acquisition cost and sold, one half of all receipts shall be reimbursed to the WDNR or deducted from the reimbursement amount provided by the WDNR.

All projects must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as other federal civil rights regulations- ADA requires that all aspects of each project be accessible or "barrier free". There are fundamental differences in how accessibility in the outdoors is accommodated compared with indoors or the built environment. While restrooms, shelters, interpretive centers, and parking lots, for example, need to follow detailed ADA guidelines, other improvements such as trails, boat landings and swimming beach areas, for example, do not necessarily need to follow indoor or built environment ramp grades or surfacing requirements. Anything constructed must not make the outdoor experience any more difficult than what occurs naturally.

Historic Preservation Requirements - State and Federal regulations require that all assisted projects comply with historic preservation requirements. Federally funded projects must be reviewed by the Wisconsin State Historic

Preservation Officer and applicable Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. State funded projects are subject to initial review by the WDNR. In some cases, an archeological survey prior to receiving a grant award may be required.

Federal Program Requirements - Grant projects funded with Federal funds require sponsors to comply with Federal guidelines, some of which are more stringent than requirements for State funded programs such as the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Retention of records - All required documents used to substantiate the City's financial claims for reimbursement must be retained for four years from the time of project completion. Examples of these records include invoices, canceled checks, contracts, bid specifications, construction plans, and time sheets.

Overhead power lines - All electrical or communication lines must be installed underground. Existing lines must be buried, removed, or relocated as necessary (an eligible grant cost). Future lines must be underground.

Compliance with other laws - The grant sponsor must comply with all applicable local, State, and Federal statutes, regulations, administrative rules, and ordinances in fulfilling the terms and conditions of the grant agreement, including but not limited to, land use permit requirements, accessibility for people with disabilities, Endangered Species, Water Regulatory Permits, Farmland Preservation, State or National Environmental Policy Act, Wetland Preservation, and Construction Erosion Control.

Signage - Project sponsors must post signs on the property acknowledging the particular grant program's assistance in acquiring fee title ownership, or developing the property, notifying the public that the lands are open for public use. These signs should also indicate what activities are permitted or not permitted on the property.

Brownfield Site Properties - The City may be able to obtain financial assistance for acquisition or development of contaminated property for recreation purposes. However, because of the complex nature of contaminated property in relation to the grant program requirements, discussions with the local WDNR Community Services Specialist should occur to determine the feasibility of grant assistance for the project. The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Recreational Trails Act and the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant programs do not reimburse clean up costs.

Conditions complying with the grant program after the project is completed are listed below.

Grant recipients have obligations in perpetuity- Accepting a grant for a project means that the grantee is agreeing to the conditions and requirements that are a part of the grant programs and have the obligation to keep the land purchased or site developed for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. For the Land & Water Conservation Fund Program, a compliance boundary for the project is certified to the National Park Service for permanent protection of the property.

Project Income - Income received from a property receiving a grant must be used to further the objectives of the project as stated in the grant agreement. Income must be kept in a segregated account, may not be commingled with other funds, and must be used for purposes compatible with the goals and objectives of the grant program.

Inspections - Inspections to monitor compliance with the grant program requirements rests must be completed by the sponsor. The sponsor is responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the area or facility and, therefore, should make inspections as needed to ensure compliance.

Easements - For easement grant awards, the sponsor must complete a baseline report by the closing date and monitor the easement once a year to ensure that the conditions of the easement are being satisfied.

Only outdoor recreation uses are allowed - This means no construction of structures such as fire stations, streets/highways, civic centers, libraries, museums, water towers, indoor recreation facilities, and communication towers, or non-recreation use of sites such as for a landfill.

Grant recipients must maintain legal control and oversight of the property - Grant recipients need to retain control and oversight of the grant property to be capable of complying with grant program obligations and requirements. This applies to both development projects on leased land and in the case of executing agreements with a third party for the development and operation of recreation facilities.

Selling or leasing a part of the grant property, or executing an easement on a portion of or all of the property is generally prohibited. The WDNR or Federal government, for federally assisted projects, may approve the following exceptions depending on the details of the situation and whether the impact of the use to the property is outweighed by the future recreation benefit to the public.

- Short term, typically less than a year, continuation of an existing lease if sale of the property is contingent on this lease
- Leasing a part of the property for agricultural purposes for five years or less during the interim when development must be delayed or when it is a contingency of the sale
- Granting control or partial control of land for utility rights-of way. Underground utilities such as power- lines, pipelines, sewer and water lines may be allowed depending on the impact of the action on the recreation resource with the appropriate approval. Land lost to outdoor recreation for any of these reasons must be replaced with property of equal or greater recreational value and utility
- Leasing the property to the private sector for development and/or operation of an outdoor recreation facility requires approval prior to executing any land use agreement by the WDNR

Site maintenance - All areas acquired or developed with State or Federal funds must receive adequate maintenance to ensure continuing public use in a safe and sanitary manner.

User Fees - Reasonable user fees may be charged by the sponsor to offset operation and maintenance costs. Different user fees may be charged to nonresidents as long as the nonresident fee does not preclude use by the nonresidents or exceed 1.5 times the amount of the resident user fee.

CITY OF MEQUON FACTS AND PLANNING BACKGROUND

CITY PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The City of Mequon is self characterized as a “rural city” located on the western shores of Lake Michigan, in Ozaukee County, just 16 miles, 20 minutes, north of Milwaukee the City consists of expansive open space, Lake Michigan lakeshore bluffs, attractive neighborhoods, and farmland. Mequon has many parks and nature preserves, five golf courses, the winding Milwaukee River and fifty percent of the land within the City is undeveloped and still mostly farmed. The City’s neighboring municipalities include the Cities of Cedarburg and Milwaukee; the Villages of Thiensville, Bayside, River Hills, Brown Deer, Menomonee Falls and, and Germantown; and the Towns of Jackson, Cedarburg and Grafton.

Mequon incorporated most of the old Town of Mequon when it became a City in 1957. The City limits extend from the shores of Lake Michigan on the east to the Wausaukee Road (County Trunk Highway M) on the west, a full 8 miles wide. The northern limit is Pioneer Road and the southern limit is County Line Road. The City occupies a full 46.5 square miles of land. In the center of the City is the Village of Thiensville.

The City is accessed via Interstate 43 (State Trunk Highway 32) and Wauwatosa Road (State Trunk Highway 181) which runs through the City from north to south; Cedarburg Road (State Trunk Highway 57)/Green Bay Road as well as Port Washington Road (County Trunk Highway W) are major north-south arterials; and Mequon Road (State Trunk Highway 167 & 57) and Highland Road act as major east-west arterials. Currently the majority of land uses within the City are low density residential and agricultural with some commercial land uses along Port Washington Road and industrial land uses located in the Mequon Industrial Park near Donges Bay Road. The densities of the low density residential land uses range from two acres to five acres per dwelling unit.

The topography of the City was formed by glacial deposits superimposed on underlying bedrock, ranging from 922 feet above sea level 450 south of the intersection of Wausaukee Road and Cedar Lane on the City’s western boundary to 580 above sea level feet at Lake Michigan’s shoreline. The surface slopes downward from the northwest to the southeast. The City’s physiography is typical of a rolling ground moraine where surface drainage networks are generally well connected with relatively few areas of that are internally draining.

NATURAL RESOURCE BASE

The natural resource base of the City has long been recognized as being a major aspect of its capacity to provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all life forms. The natural resource base plays a key role in locating outdoor recreation facilities that meet the needs of the City residents. Usually, outdoor recreation areas act as effective protection to the natural resource base and the enhancement of the overall quality of life within the City.

Outstanding natural features and recreational resources in the City of Mequon are generally associated with the glacial land forms and water resources within the City. Of particular significance is the Lake Michigan shoreline with its high bluffs and sandy beaches, and the major watercourses including the Milwaukee River and Little Menomonee River which form outstanding scenic corridors particularly suited to outdoor recreation and open space uses. In addition, the climate within the City, with its extreme variation in both temperature and precipitation, provides opportunities for a diverse variety of seasonal recreation activities. Other elements of the natural resource base in the City including the wildlife habitat, woodlands, surface water, and wetlands, are described below. Other contributing factors of the natural resource base of the City include the primary environmental corridors, as well as the hydric soils; FEMA floodplain; prime agricultural lands; existing land use focusing on the passive and active recreation facilities, natural features and converted land; planned environmental corridors; and planned future land use.

WILDLIFE HABITAT & NATURAL AREAS

Wildlife in Ozaukee County and the City of Mequon is composed primarily of small upland game and non-game such as rabbit and squirrel, some predators such as coyotes, fox and raccoon, and game and non-game birds including waterfowl. Deer are also found in some areas but the herds are small when compared to other counties in the State. Wildlife habitat areas must furnish food, cover, and protection. Consequently, areas of the County having large proportions of forests, wetlands, pasture land, and cropland and small proportions of land devoted to urban development have the largest areas and highest quality of remaining wildlife habitat.

The destruction of wildlife habitat areas is primarily a result of urbanization. While some wildlife habitat areas are lost to widening or new construction of transportation facilities, such as roads, most of such areas are lost as a result of residential development. If the remaining wildlife habitat in the City is to be preserved, the woodlands, wetlands, and related surface water together with the adjacent crop and pasture lands must be protected from mismanagement and continued urban encroachment.

In the City of Mequon, there are 17 natural areas and critical species habitat sites currently recognized by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. These sites include the following:

- Fairy Chasm State Natural Area
- Pigeon Creek Low and Mesic Woods
- Donges Bay Gorge Natural Area
- Highland Road Woods
- Pigeon Creek Maple Woods
- Solar Heights Low Woods
- Triple Woods
- Ville du Parc Riverine
- Forest
- Mequon Wetland
- Strauss Woods
- Pecard Sedge Meadow
- Eastbrook Road Woods
- Pigeon Creek
- North Branch of the Menomonee River upstream from State Trunk
- Highway 145
- Fish Creek
- Milwaukee River downstream from County Trunk Highway C to Mequon Road
- Milwaukee River downstream from Mequon Road to Brown Deer Road

Also located in the City are four significant geologic sites, these sites are the:

- Thiensville Road-cut and Quarry
- Ozaukee Buried Forest
- Virmond Park Clay Banks
- Little Menomonee River Reef District

The Southeastern Regional Planning Commission recommends in A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin (SEWRPC Planning Report 42) that these sites be acquired by either Ozaukee County or by a private conservancy organization like the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust.

Lake Michigan's shoreline is acknowledged as one of the most important flyways for migrant songbirds in the United States by ornithologists and bird watchers worldwide. Many other families of migrating birds - hawks and falcons, owls, waterfowl, gulls, terns and shorebirds - also follow Lake Michigan's shore line or winter just offshore. In all, more than 300 species of birds have been recorded in the area since 1970.

The City of Mequon Lakefront is a prime example of an important Migrant Stopover Site. The stretch of land in the City along Lake Michigan act as a haven for the thousands of birds that migrate up and down the Lake Michigan Flyway each year.

Ornithologists at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History estimate that on average, more than five million migrating songbirds pass up and down the coast of Lake Michigan. This veritable river of birds flowing through lake front areas from south to north represents a noticeable fraction of the total number of migrant songbirds moving through the entire North American continent.

Many migratory bird species are threatened by habitat destruction both at their wintering grounds in Central and South America and their breeding areas in the northern part of the U.S. and in Canada. In addition, these birds must pass twice yearly above a continent suffering huge development pressures and thus, offering birds fewer and fewer productive stop-over sites.

While traveling these great distances, migrants make daily stop-over to feed and rest. Exhausted and hungry birds need to find the right kind of high calorie, high protein food such as seeds, fruit and insects and shelter sufficient to protect them from predators and extremes of weather. Unless these provisions are readily along the flyway, the long-distance journey becomes more arduous and even fatal.

WOODLANDS

Woodlands have both economic and ecologic value and under good management can serve a variety of uses providing multiple benefits. The quality of life within an area is greatly influenced by the overall condition of the environment as measured by clean air, clean water, scenic beauty, and ecological diversity. Primarily located along ridges and slopes, lakes, ponds and streams as well as in wetlands, woodlands provide an attractive natural resource of immeasurable value. Not only is the beauty of lakes, streams, and glacial land forms accentuated by woodlands but woodlands are essential to the maintenance of the overall quality of the environment.

In addition to contributing to clean air and water, woodlands can contribute to the preservation of a diverse plant and animal ecosystem interconnected with human activity through recreational activities. Existing woodlands which required a century or more to grow can be destroyed through ill-conceived decisions and mismanagement within a comparatively short time. The deforestation of hillsides contributes to the silting of lakes, ponds and streams and the destruction of wildlife habitat.

Woodlands can and should be maintained for their total value: scenic, wildlife, educational, recreational, and watershed protection as well as for their forest products. Under balanced use and sustained yield management, woodlands can serve many of these benefits simultaneously. It should be noted that existing natural stands of trees within the City often consist largely of mature or nearly mature specimens with insufficient reproduction and saplings to maintain the stands when the old trees are harvested or die off of disease or age. This lack of young growth is an unnatural condition brought about by mismanagement and is associated with many years of excessive livestock grazing.

SURFACE WATER

Surface water provides a striking feature of the City's landscape and enhances the overall setting of nearby uses. Surface water, such as lakes, ponds and streams, is the focal point for water-related recreational activities popular with the citizens of the City. Lakes, ponds rivers and streams provide very attractive sites for properly planned residential development and, when viewed as open space, greatly enhance the aesthetic quality of the environment. The recreational value of surface water, however, is highly susceptible to deterioration from human activities. Water quality can be degraded as the result of excessive nutrient loads from malfunctioning or improperly placed septic tank systems, inadequate waste treatment facilities, careless agricultural practices, and inadequate soil conservation practices. Lakes, ponds and streams may also be adversely affected by the excessive development of the shoreline

in combination with the filling of sometimes adjacent wetlands, both which remove valuable nutrient and sediment traps.

In the City, there are eight major surface water bodies. These surface water bodies are: Lake Michigan, the Milwaukee River, Ulao Creek, Pit Lake, Pigeon Creek, Lac du Cours, Trinity Creek and the Little Menomonee River.

Lake Michigan is the second largest of the Great Lakes and is the only one wholly inside the United States. Lake Michigan supports many beneficial uses such as providing drinking water for 10 million people; supporting food production by supplying fish for food, sport and culture; providing viable recreational and commercial uses as well as being an internationally significant habitat and natural feature.

The Milwaukee River with its headwaters in Fond du Lac County is approximately 75 miles long, 9.8 miles in the City, flows south through Ozaukee County and the City of Mequon to downtown City Milwaukee, where it empties into Lake Michigan. The Milwaukee River watershed drains over 900 square miles in southeastern Wisconsin, of which nearly 35 square miles are located in the City of Mequon.

WETLANDS

Only a few decades ago, wetlands were seen as wastelands, only useful when drained or filled. Within recent decades, wetlands began to be considered a benefit to both the natural environment and people. Wetlands provide critical habitat for wildlife; storage flood water and provide water quality protection; and recreational opportunities for wildlife watchers, anglers, hunters, and boaters. Together, these activities are known as "wetland functional values."

Different wetlands perform different functions: even two wetlands that at first may appear similar. In Wisconsin, wetlands were defined by the State Legislature in 1978. According to this definition, a wetland is: "an area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or water loving (hydrophytic) vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions."

Also in 1978, the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory was established and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was directed to map the state's wetlands and the initial inventory was completed in 1984.

PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

The primary environmental corridors in the City of Mequon generally lie along the major river and stream courses, along the Lake Michigan shoreline, and in certain unique natural feature areas such as the Milwaukee River and the Little Menomonee River. These primary environmental corridors contain almost all of the remaining high value woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas in the City and all of the major bodies of surface water and related undeveloped floodlands and shorelands. These corridors also contain many of the best remaining potential outdoor recreation sites. The primary environmental corridors are in effect a composite of the best individual elements of the natural resource base in the City and have truly immeasurable environmental and recreational value. The preservation of the primary environmental corridors from degradation should be one of the principal objectives of any comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. Their preservation in an essentially natural state serves to maintain a high level of environmental quality along with protecting its unique natural beauty and providing valuable potential recreational opportunities.

Primary environmental corridors identify and delineate those areas of the City in which concentrations of scenic, recreational, historic resources and educational occur that should be preserved and protected in order to maintain the overall quality of the environment. The identification and delineation of primary environmental corridors consists of categorizing land according to the natural resources as well as the recreational, historic and educational resources.

The seven natural resources are:

1. Lakes, rivers, and streams and the associated undeveloped shorelands and floodlands
2. Wetlands
3. Woodlands
4. Wildlife habitat areas
5. Rugged terrain and high relief topography
6. Significant geological formations and physiographic features
7. Wet, poorly drained, and organic soils

The four natural resource-related, recreational, historic and educational elements are:

1. Existing outdoor recreation sites
2. Potential outdoor recreation and related open space sites
3. Historic sites and structures
4. Significant scenic areas and vistas

The delineation of these 11 natural resource and natural resource-related elements on a map results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow elongated areas which have been termed "environmental corridors" by the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission. Primary environmental corridors are defined as those areas which encompass three or more of the 11 natural resource and natural resource-related elements while secondary environmental corridors are contiguous areas encompassing one or two of the 11 elements.

It is important to point out that because of the many interlocking and interacting relationships existing between living organisms and their environment, the destruction or deterioration of one element of the total environment may lead to a chain reaction of deterioration and destruction. The drainage of wetlands, for example, may have far-reaching effects since such drainage may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge areas, and natural filtration and floodwater storage areas of interconnecting lake and stream systems. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to a deterioration of the quality of the groundwater which serves as a source of domestic, municipal, and industrial water supply and on which low flows in rivers and streams may depend. Similarly, the destruction of woodland cover, which may have taken a century or more to develop, may result in soil erosion and stream silting and a more rapid runoff and increased flooding as well as destruction of wildlife habitat. Although the effects of any one of these environmental changes may not in and of itself be overwhelming, the combined effects must lead eventually to serious deterioration of the underlying and supporting natural resource base and of the overall quality of the environment for life. The need to maintain the integrity of the remaining environmental corridors within the City becomes apparent.

HYDRIC SOILS

The definition of a hydric soil is a soil that was formed under conditions of saturation, either flooding or ponding, long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic (without air) conditions in the upper part. Hydric soils support the growth and regeneration of water-loving (hydrophytic) vegetation – such as cattails and sedges.

Drainage of potential agricultural lands was quite common as agriculture moved into the wet forests and grass of southeastern Wisconsin. Typically farm tile lines and open drains were installed to remove excess water from fields intended for the production of an agricultural product. Unfortunately, wetlands also were drained. Occasionally, concerns have been expressed regarding the restoration of these former wetlands for environmental and wildlife purposes.

Soils saturated with water often cause wetness in basements and dysfunctional septic tank absorption fields. The excess soil wetness also restricts the growth of most landscaping plants and trees around houses.

Soils that are saturated with water or that have a water table near the surface have significant limitations for most construction purposes. Excess water in a soil negatively affects developed land uses while naturally wet soil areas have special value as catchments or as wetland habitat.

FEMA FLOODPLAIN

A floodplain is the wide, generally sloping areas contiguous to, and usually lying on both sides of, the river or stream channel. Rivers and streams occupy their channels most of the time. However, during periods of rainfall, stream discharges increase markedly, and the channel may not be able to contain and convey the increase in stormwater flow. As a result, the river or stream spreads laterally into the floodplain area.

The periodic flow of a river onto its floodplains is a normal phenomenon and, in the absence of costly structural flood control works, will occur regardless of whether exurban, suburban or urban development exists within the watershed.

For planning and regulatory purposes, floodplains are normally defined as the areas, excluding the channel, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event.

This is the event that would be reached or exceeded in severity once every 100 years on average or, stated another way, there is a 1 percent chance of this event being reached or exceeded in severity in any given year. Floodplain areas are generally not well suited for development, not only because of the flood hazard, but also because of the presence of high water tables and of soils poorly suited to urban use. The floodplain areas, however, generally contain such important elements of the natural resource base as woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat and, therefore, constitute prime locations for needed open space areas. Therefore, every effort should be made to discourage indiscriminate and incompatible development on floodplains, while encouraging compatible recreational and open space use.

Portions of the City of Mequon, along the Milwaukee River, Ulao Creek, Pigeon Creek, Trinity Creek and the Little Menomonee River are designated as FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Floodplain.

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Prime agricultural lands are designated by lands that consist of parcels sized for agricultural practices; are adjacent to other properties in agriculture; compatible with adjacent land uses as well as those lands in close proximity; located in areas with favorable population densities away from Interstate 43 interchanges; not in a planned sewer service area; and near Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Primary Environmental Corridors, lands in conservation trusts, historic and or cultural resources. The preservation of these prime agricultural lands is necessary for economic reasons as well as to maintain the natural beauty and unique cultural heritage of the City of Mequon.

Table 2
City of Mequon 2000 Existing Land Uses

| Existing Land Use | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| Agriculture | 47% |
| Residential | 29% |
| Wetlands | 8% |
| Woodlands | 6% |
| Institutional, Commercial & Industrial | 4% |
| Recreation | 4% |
| Water | 2% |
| Land Fill, Utilities & Mining | 0% |

Source: Southeastern Regional Planning Commission
Digital 2000 Existing Land Use Survey

EXISTING LAND USE

The City of Mequon's existing land use primarily consists of agriculture and residential. These two existing land use categories together comprise 76 percent of the City's existing land use. The recreation, woodlands, wetlands and water existing land uses comprise 20 percent of the City's existing land uses. The percentage of the different existing land uses are tabulated in Table 2, City of Mequon 2000 Existing Land Uses. With those land uses most likely used for parks, recreation and open space listed first.

Some of the tabulated existing land uses represent areas designated for outdoor recreation. A few examples include: Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park, Virmond Park, Scout Park, Ozaukee County Club, North Shore County Club, Mequon County Club, Mee-kwon Park & Country Club, Missing Link Golf Club, and Rotary Park.

PLANNED ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

The Planned Environmental Corridors consist of both Planned Environmental Corridors and Planned Isolated Natural Resource Areas.

Planned Environmental Corridors and Planned Isolated Natural Resource Areas consist of the following 12 natural resource and natural resource-related elements:

1. Lakes, rivers, and streams and their associated shorelands and floodplains
2. Wetlands
3. Woodlands
4. Prairies
5. Wildlife habitat areas
6. Wet, poorly drained, or organic soils
7. Rugged terrain and high-relief topography
8. Existing park and open space sites
9. Potential park and open space sites
10. Historic sites
11. Significant scenic areas and vistas
12. Natural and scientific areas

Planned Primary Environmental Corridors include a wide variety of these resource and resource-related elements and are at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Planned Secondary Environmental Corridors generally connect with primary environmental corridors, and are at least 100 acres in size and one mile in length. Planned Isolated Natural Resource Areas which are at least five acres in size and contain some of the resource and resource-related elements but are physically separated from environmental corridors by intensive urban or agricultural land uses.

The City has examples of each of the three Planned Environmental Corridors. Examples of the Planned Primary Environmental Corridors include those areas that comprise the areas along the Milwaukee River. Planned Secondary Environmental Corridors are found along the reaches of Little Menomonee River. The isolated areas scattered throughout the City are the Planned Isolated Natural Resource Areas examples include the woods located within Gazebo Hills, the wetlands located at the northeast corner of Mequon Road and Port Washington Road and the woods located in Vintage Estates.

PLANNED FUTURE LAND USE

The City of Mequon has a number of planned future land uses that are relevant to park, recreation and open space planning. These planned future land uses are Parks, Critical Environment, Institutional as well as the six residential and five commercial/business land uses. These planned future land uses are shown on the City of Mequon Land Use Plan Map and are discussed in greater detail in the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Mequon.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED PLANS

Summaries of the most recent outdoor recreation or park and recreation plans were reviewed for the City of Mequon.

CITY OF MEQUON

In February 2008, the City of Mequon completed the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. This plan was an update of the 2002 Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. In October of 2002 the City of Mequon prepared the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, which was an update of the 1997 park, recreation, and open space plan and identifies progress towards completing priorities identified by the 1997 plan, and the 1997 plan was an update of the 1991 park, recreation, and open space plan. The 1991 park, recreation, and open space plan was the first plan adopted by the City for acquisition and development of park space. As of October 2013 the top two priorities identified by the 2008 plan, construction of a shelter at Lemke Park and drive, parking, walking trails and canoe launch at Garrison's Glen Park have been completed. Other priority projects that were mentioned in the 2008 Plan are either underway or have been carried over to the 2013 Plan update.

OZAUKEE COUNTY

In 1998, the Ozaukee County Park and Planning Commission again requested that the Regional Planning Commission again request that the Regional Planning Commission assist the County in refining and updating the Regional Park and Open Space Plan as it applied to Ozaukee County. The resulting plan is documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 133 (2nd Edition), A Park and Open Space Plan for Ozaukee County, June 2001. The plan incorporates recommendations for the preservation of natural areas growing out of a regional natural areas plan completed by the Regional Planning Commission in 1997. The updated park and open space plan, which has a design year of 2020, was adopted by the Ozaukee County Board of Supervisors on June 6, 2001, and by the Regional Planning Commission on September 12, 2001.

Since 2001, Ozaukee County has taken steps to implement the currently adopted park and open space plan. Major progress includes the development of Tendick Nature Park in the Town of Saukville; the acquisition and passive use development of the Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve in the Town of Grafton, which includes a portion of a natural area of local significance; and the completion of the 30 mile long Ozaukee Interurban Trail.

MEQUON PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE KEY ISSUES

Mequon's park, recreation and open space key issues were derived from a variety of sources. These sources include hold over key issues from the 2008 Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan that were either unresolved or continuing; discussions with the Mequon Park Board, the Director of the Mequon Parks Department and the Director of the Mequon Department of Community Development as well as the findings and results of the City of Mequon Vision 2010 Report and the 2035 Comprehensive Plan for the City of Mequon. These Key Issues are listed and discussed on the following pages.

1. How to respond to growth pressures
2. How to provide a system of parks and open space that addresses:
 - Preservation of rural and open spaces
 - Community park needs
 - Trail needs
 - i. Little Menomonee River
 - ii. Milwaukee River
 - iii. Ozaukee InterUrban Trail
 - Community links
 - Challenges of community building and providing a "sense of place"
3. How parks and open space contribute to the new "Town Center" idea/concept
4. How to leverage or assist Ozaukee County and other agencies/organizations in protecting recognized natural areas and critical species habitat through public acquisition
5. How to leverage or assist Ozaukee County and other agencies/organizations in acquiring specific geological areas located in the City
6. How to incorporate Mee-Kwon County Park and Carlson Park/Ozaukee County Ice Center into the City's overall park, recreation and open space system
7. How does the City of Mequon effectively fund the desired park, recreation and open space outcomes
8. How to equitably distribute park facilities and resources among the different areas of the City
9. How to respond to special use requests and to specific park user groups, such as access to Lake Michigan, dog park, park events and sports groups
10. How to define and implement maintenance requirements

As part of the City of Mequon Vision 2010 Report, a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat (SWOT) analysis was created listing the strengths, opportunities and threats to the City. The listed strengths, opportunities and threats that are germane to the City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan are as follows:

Strengths

- Open Space Preservation Plan
- Strong Volunteer Organizations
- Green Space
- Good Drainage
- Bikeway Plan
- Almost Built Out
- Number of Golf Courses
- Park Land

Opportunities

- Preserve Open Space
- Riverwalk/ River Front Enhancements
- Strengthen Bicycle Facilities
- Protect Environment
- Connect River with Parks
- Lake Michigan Access
- Year-round Active Parks
- Horse Trails
- Beautification Plan & Program

Threats

- Population Growth
- Tax Growth
- Aging Population
- Crime Overspill
- Invasive Species
- Too Much Commercialization

Also included in the City of Mequon Vision 2010 Report, a number of questions were asked regarding the City's parks, environment, community and development environment that have been augmented with information provided by the City of Mequon's professional staff from both the Parks Department as well as the Department of Community Development.

Parks

1. As a service, the Parks rate and rank very high with only snow removal and police services rating and ranking higher
2. Surveyed Mequon citizens have indicated that they are somewhat interested in bicycle facilities; mildly interested in additional hiking trails, river access, installing lights at ball fields and cross-country ski trails and less than enthusiastic about an additional indoor pool, tennis courts, water slide, dog parks, baseball diamonds, play equipment, Frisbee golf areas, basketball courts, soccer fields and volleyball courts.

Environment

1. The City of Mequon considers the protection of and visual and physical access to the natural resources and its critical environmental features as important.
2. Open space preservation is considered to be at an acceptable level or could be increased
3. A minority of Mequon Citizens support using City taxes to preserve additional open space. Of these Citizens, the overwhelming response is that they are willing to spend \$100 per year to accomplish this

Community

1. The current population size of Mequon is ideal
2. Increasing the Sewer Service Area is undesirable
3. Development policies are either considered as acceptable or should be more restrictive
4. If a Riverwalk, river front gathering place, swimming area or parking for the Mequon Pool and Mequon Community Park are included in the Town Center, these projects should be privately funded
5. Mequon Citizens have a strong desire to finance passive and active recreation through the use of user fees or a combination of user fees and property taxes

6. Of the most important items to Mequon resident's quality of life are police protection and low crime as well as keeping taxes low rank very high. Likewise, additional pedestrian, bicycle facilities and recreation opportunities and the development of parks rank very low.

Development

1. Land mass within the sewer service boundary is nearly built out
2. The City is allowing "market forces" to direct where development occurs outside of the sewer service boundary as compared to taking a more proactive role

The Comprehensive Plan for the City of Mequon prepared by the City as well as the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission and Ozaukee County also lists a number of Issues and Opportunities that reflect the purpose of the City of Mequon Comprehensive Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan and also mirror the results of the City of Mequon Vision 2010 Report. These details can be found in the following Issues and Opportunities sections of the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Mequon.

MEQUON PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Parks, recreation and open space in the City of Mequon can be organized into five types of managing entities. These entities include, the City of Mequon, the Mequon-Thiensville School District, Parochial Schools, Commercial Sites and Private Sites. These 56 parks, recreation and open space sites managed by the City of Mequon, the Mequon-Thiensville School District, the Parochial Schools, as well as a variety of Commercial and Private entities are listed in Table 3, City of Mequon Public and Private Parks, Recreation and Open Space Sites.

Table 3
City of Mequon Public and Private Parks, Recreation and Open Space Sites

| Name | Size | Type |
|---|----------|-------------------|
| City of Mequon | | |
| Donges Bay Gorge Natural Area (pending) | 23 ac | Unclassified |
| Garrison's Glen | 22 ac | Neighborhood Park |
| Grasslyn Nature Preserve | 15 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Highland Woods | 85 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Katherine Keamey Carpenter Park | 35 ac | Special Use Park |
| Lemke Park | 41 ac | Community Park |
| Lilly Lane Nature Preserve | 12 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Little Menomonee Nature Preserve | 20 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Mequon Community Park | 16 ac | Community Park |
| Mequon Nature Preserve | 438 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Prinz Site | 10 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Pukaite Woods | 18 ac | Nature Preserve |
| River Barn Park | 37 ac | Community Park |
| River Forest Nature Preserve | 62 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Riverview Park | 20 ac | Neighborhood Park |
| Rotary Park | 75 ac | Community Park |
| Scout Park | 7 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Settlers Park | 1 ac | Special Use Park |
| Shoreland Nature Preserve | 19 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Swan Road Prairie | 20 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Trinity Creek Wetland Habitat | 35 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Villa Grove Park | 9 ac | Community Park |
| Willow Bay Nature Preserve | 22 ac | Nature Preserve |
| Subtotal - 22 City of Mequon Sites | 1,119 ac | |

| Name | Size | Type |
|-------------------------|--------|--------------|
| MMSD Sites | | |
| Babiaz | 29 ac | Unclassified |
| Burcyk | 62 ac | Unclassified |
| Hoering | 72 ac | Unclassified |
| Subtotal – 3 MMSD Sites | 163 ac | |

Table 3
City of Mequon Public and Private Parks, Recreation and Open Space Sites

| Name | Size | Type |
|---|--------|------------------|
| Mequon-Thiensville School District Sites | | |
| Donges Bay School | 7 ac | Special Use Park |
| H.C. Steffen and Wilson Avenue School | 14 ac | Special Use Park |
| Homestead High School | 44 ac | Special Use Park |
| Lakeshore Middle School and Range Line Schools | 14 ac | Special Use Park |
| Oriole Lane School | 15 ac | Special Use Park |
| School District Site | 110 ac | Special Use Park |
| Subtotal - 6 Mequon-Thiensville School District Sites | 204 ac | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------|
| Parochial Schools | | |
| Concordia University | 30 ac | Special Use Park |
| Lumen Christi School | 6 ac | Special Use Park |
| St. John's Lutheran | 4 ac | Special Use Park |
| Trinity School | 14 ac | Special Use Park |
| Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary | 35 ac | Special Use Park |
| Subtotal - 5 Parochial School Sites | 89 ac | |

Table 3
City of Mequon Public and Private Parks, Recreation and Open Space Sites

| Name | Size | Type |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| Commercial Sites | | |
| Fox Hills Stables | 28 ac | Special Use Park |
| Highland Hunters Stables | 9 ac | Special Use Park |
| Kartar Singh Dhaliwal Soccer Park | 25 ac | Special Use Park |
| Missing Links Golf | 38 ac | Special Use Park |
| Patton Stables | 29 ac | Special Use Park |
| Subtotal - 5 Commercial Sites | 129 ac | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Private Sites | | |
| Columbia/St. Mary's | 80 ac | Special Use Park |
| Hickory Hollow Subdivision | 2 ac | Special Use Park |
| Huntington Subdivision Park | 59 ac | Special Use Park |
| Mequon Colony Estates | 1 ac | Special Use Park |
| Mequon Country Club | 376 ac | Special Use Park |
| Milwaukee Area Technical College | 172 ac | Special Use Park |
| North Shore Country Club | 161 ac | Special Use Park |
| Ozaukee Bank Soccer Fields | 12 ac | Special Use Park |
| Ozaukee Country Club | 152 ac | Special Use Park |
| Range Line Valley | 27 ac | Special Use Park |
| Riverdale | 11 ac | Special Use Park |
| River Oaks Park | 1 ac | Special Use Park |
| Subdivision Park 1 | 19 ac | Special Use Park |
| Whittman Place Subdivision Park No. 2 | 3 ac | Special Use Park |
| Subtotal - 14 Private Sites | 1,076 ac | |

| | | |
|------------------|------------|--|
| Total - 56 Sites | 2,698.8 ac | |
|------------------|------------|--|

Source: Southeastern Regional Planning Commission and the City of Mequon Parks Department

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS STANDARDS

The National Recreation and Park Association standards are typically used by communities such as the City of Mequon when establishing outdoor recreation rule of thumb needs for its citizenry. While not every type of facility is suitable for the City at this time based on current forecasts and projections, future planners may identify needs based on changing demographics.

NATIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

The park and open space planning process begins with the definition and understanding of minimum standards for park and open space facilities. These standards enable a community to determine how well its existing recreational facilities meet the needs of its residents at the present time, as well as to project the future need for such facilities. These standards are usually expressed as a population ratio in terms of the minimum number of acres recommended per 1,000 persons. For example, a community may choose a standard of five acres of "neighborhood park" for each 1,000 residents or select a number of acres that best meets its particular needs.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) have developed a set of recommended park and open space planning standards. It should be pointed out that these standards should be used as a flexible guideline and adapted to the specific needs of the community.

The following is a list of various types of park and open space facilities and their recommended NRPA standards. This list includes a hierarchy of parks and open space facilities based on an area to population ratio and a recommended minimum service area for each type of facility. Generally, NRPA recommends a minimum of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. Some communities add additional acreage per 1,000 in population for additional open space preservation, buffers, and multi-use trail corridors.

MINI-PARK

These parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

These are the basic units of a park system and typically provide for both active and passive recreation activities. The service area should include the entire adjoining neighborhood. In addition to play apparatus for pre-school and school age children, facilities are likely to include open lawn and paved court areas, shelters, wading pools, outdoor ice rinks, and some off-street parking. Trees, open fields, and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks.

COMMUNITY PARK

A community park is an area of diverse environmental quality. Community Parks may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools as well as having natural qualities suitable for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. Desirable facilities in community parks included those listed above in neighborhood parks, along with swimming facilities, lighted ball fields, and tennis courts, a community center, and adequate off-street parking. It is important that community parks be located on or near major thoroughfares, and also be easily accessible by pedestrian and bicyclist. Landscaping and natural areas are desirable in a community park.

Table 4
National Recreation and Park Association Open Space Standards

| Component | Use | Service Area | Desirable Size | Acres per 1,000 Population | Desirable Site Characteristics |
|--|---|---|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| LOCAL OR CLOSE TO HOME SPACE | | | | | |
| Mini-Park | Specialized Facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens | Less than ¼ mile radius | 1 acre or less | 0.25 to 0.5 acres | Within neighborhoods and close to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing for the elderly. |
| Neighborhood Park/Playground | Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, skating and picnicking; also for wading pools and playground apparatus | ¼ to ½ mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood) | 15 or more acres | 1.0 to 2.0 acres | Suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhood population; geographically centered with safe walking and biking access; may be developed as a school park facility. |
| Community Park | Area for diverse environmental quality; may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities; may be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking, may be combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need. | Several neighborhoods, 1 to 2 mile radius | 25 or acres | 5.0 to 8.0 acres | May include natural features, such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhoods served. |
| (Total Close to Home Space = 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 in population) | | | | | |

Table 4
National Recreation and Park Association Open Space Standards

| Component | Use | Service Area | Desirable Size | Acres per 1,000 Population | Desirable Site Characteristics |
|--|---|--|--|----------------------------|--|
| REGIONAL SPACE | | | | | |
| Regional/ Metropolitan Park | Areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail uses; may include play areas. | Several communities, 1 hour driving time | 200 or more acres | 5 to 10 acres | Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources. |
| Regional Park Reserve | Areas of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail uses; may include active play areas; generally 80 percent of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20 percent used for recreation. | Several communities, 1 hour driving time | 1,000 or more acres, sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed | Variable | Diverse or unique resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, fauna and topography. |
| (Total Regional Space = 15.20 acres per 1,000 in population) | | | | | |

Table 4
National Recreation and Park Association Open Space Standards

| Component | Use | Service Area | Desirable Size | Acres per 1,000 Population | Desirable Site Characteristics |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| SPACE THAT MAY BE LOCAL OR REGIONAL AND IS UNIQUE TO EACH COMMUNITY | | | | | |
| Linear Park | Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving; may include active play areas (Note: Any activities included for the preceding components may occur in the linear park.) | No applicable standards | Sufficient width to protect the resources and provide maximum use | Variable | Built on natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns and roads that link other components of the recreational system or community facilities, such as schools, libraries, commercial areas and other park areas. |
| Special Use | Areas for specialized or single-purpose recreational activities such as golf-courses, nature centers, marina, zoo, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges or downhill ski areas or areas that preserve, maintain and interpret building, sites and objects of archeological significance; also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards and parkways. | No applicable standards | Variable depending on desired size | Variable | Within communities. |
| Conservancy | Protection and management for the natural and cultural environment with recreational use a secondary objective. | No applicable standards | Sufficient to protect the resource | Variable | Variable, depending on the resource being protected. |

Source: National Recreation and Park Association, 2002

SPECIAL USE AREA

Areas for single-purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, curling, arenas, dog parks, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain and interpret buildings, sites and objects of archeological significance, and non-motorized trail corridors. Also, plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways fall under the Special Use Area category. Special Use Areas are further divided into the following four sub-categories:

Passive-Use Area

An area primarily designed for picnicking, passive trail use such as hiking, sightseeing, and fishing and other non-organized recreation activities. This type of facility often emphasizes natural settings.

Active-Use Area

An area designed primarily for organized or non-organized active recreation of one or more age groups. This type of design may include as its primary feature playfields, playground apparatus, ball fields, active trail use such as snowmobiling, cross country skiing, tennis and/or basketball courts and skate parks to mention a few examples.

Land-Based Recreation

Camping, hiking, picnicking and field sports would be examples of these.

Water-Based Recreation

Activities requiring the availability of a recreational water supply such as swimming, fishing, boating, waterskiing, and ice-skating are examples of these.

More details are provided in the previous Table 4, National Recreation and Park Association Open Space Standards.

PARK SERVICE AREAS

A park service area is the zone of influence of a park or recreation area. Service areas are usually determined by the average distance users are willing to travel to reach a facility. Although usually expressed in terms of service radius, things such as major traffic arteries and rivers can influence the distance users must travel. A park or recreation area may be unique in the county or region. Where services are not influenced by the other factors, the zone of influence is generally considered as follows:

Table 5
Park Service Areas

| Classification | Coverage Area |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Play Lot | 0 to 1/8 mile radius |
| Mini-Parks (tot lots) | 0 to 1/4 mile radius |
| Neighborhood Parks | 1/2 mile radius |
| Community Parks | 1-1/2 mile radius |
| Community Playfields | Entire community |
| Municipal Special-Purpose Park | Entire community |
| Conservancy Park | Entire community |

Source: National Recreation and Park Association, 2002

ADDITIONAL TYPES OF PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

Besides the National Recreation and Park Association standards, a number of types of parks, recreation facilities and open space are commonly used.

PLAY STRUCTURE

A play system which incorporates a variety of functions such as slides, climbing bars, suspended platforms, and railings interconnected in one unit. Structures are usually sized for preschool and elementary users with height and apparatus complexity being the determining criteria.

URBAN FORESTRY

Urban forestry, which is also referred to as a community forest, is the establishment, monitoring, and management of trees on publicly owned land within the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

A defined area, usually oriented in a linear pattern along a river or drainage pattern that contains a high concentration of environmentally-significant features such as plant species, wildlife, land forms, and water features.

MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL SYSTEM

A recreational system of trails in a community that affords a variety of year-round uses to a wide segment of the population such as hiking, bicycling, jogging, and cross-country skiing. Multi-purpose trail systems typically contain barrier-free, hard-surface segments that are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

OPEN PLAY AREA

A large, turf area usable for a variety of unorganized field sports and leisure activities such as softball, soccer, football and Frisbee and so forth.

MUNICIPAL PARKS

Municipal parks are designed primarily to serve residents within the boundaries of the municipality. There are five specific municipal park types.

PLAY LOT

The area requirements for a play lot usually vary between 2,000 to 5,000 square feet depending upon space available and number of children served. The ideal location for a play lot is the center of a block or apartment area so that small children will not have to cross busy thoroughfares. The service area will depend on the density and character of the area in which the play lot is located, but the service area should generally not exceed a one or two block radius.

MINI-PARKS

Mini-parks provide open space for passive and some active recreation opportunities within a limited walking distance of primary users. The service area is confined to a sub-neighborhood level from 250-1,250 persons within a one quarter-mile radius. Average area size ranges from 1,000 square feet to one (1) acre. The type of facilities provided should be safe and simple and may include benches, patios, landscaping with trees and shrubs, lighting for a business district, and tot-lot equipment for subdivision areas.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are designed to provide both active and passive short-term recreation activities. The primary user ranges from five (5) to fifteen (15) years of age. However, informal recreation opportunities cater to groups of all ages. The service area of one quarter to one half-mile radius includes the entire neighborhood, with some neighborhood overflow if features are unique. The average neighborhood park serves from 500 to 2,500 people, or one (1) park for every elementary school. Neighborhood parks commonly range from five (5) to ten (10) acres in size.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUNDS

The neighborhood playground is the basic unit in a city's active recreational system. The playground primarily serves the needs of elementary school children and adolescents in the five (5) to fifteen (15) year age group. It may also offer limited use potential for older age groups in a neighborhood. The desirable facilities in a neighborhood playground include play apparatus for school-age children, open space for free play and informal games, areas for field games, multiple-use paved area for court games, and a landscaped buffer strip to protect surrounding areas from playground noise. Optional facilities may include handicraft and quiet game areas, a wading or swimming pool, a shelter house or recreation building with game and clubrooms, an area for lawn games, a picnic area, off-street parking, and lighting for evening use. A playground for preschool children may be provided in a corner of the neighborhood playground site.

The size of a neighborhood playground and its service area vary according to residential densities, existing, and expected future population characteristics of a neighborhood, and the amount of space available. The size of a playground should generally vary between three (3) to eight (8) acres, with five (5) acres as a desirable size. The service area of a playground should not exceed a radius of one-half mile and, it should serve a population of about 3,000 to 5,000 people.

Several preferred locations and desirable access provisions should be considered in locating a neighborhood playground. A playground should adjoin an elementary school, or be located near the center of the neighborhood it serves. The location of, and access to, a playground should not require children to cross major thoroughfares, railroads, industrial or business areas, or other potentially hazardous conditions. Ideally, playgrounds should be accessible by pedestrian paths.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The community park is designed and developed for diversified use and contains facilities not found in a neighborhood park. It serves several neighborhoods or in the case of small communities, it may serve the entire community. The community park should take advantage of natural areas such as lakes, ravines, cliffs, hills, views, woods or undisturbed natural areas. It commonly includes picnic areas, boating, and swimming facilities, winter sports areas, areas for active play, shelters, day-camps, and hiking and nature trails. Specialized uses often found in a community park are a golf course, zoo, botanical garden, amphitheater, museum, and indoor recreational- cultural center. Prime consideration should be given to maintain the passive and natural features of the site when planning and developing active recreation areas within a community park.

The community park should contain a minimum of 25 to 50 acres, with a service radius not exceeding one and one-half (1-1/2) miles. An overall guideline of five (5) acres per 1,000 persons, excluding such special areas as golf courses and athletic stadiums should be followed in providing community parkland in a community.

URBAN GREEN SPACE

These types of parks provide passive recreational opportunities and can protect environmental quality and act as land-use buffers. They also help break up development congestion and provide aesthetic quality. Most urban Green space parks contain natural areas such as environmental corridors, woodlands, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat areas, and scenic views. Though no set standard exists, several communities use a ratio of one (1) to two (2) acres per 1,000 in population as a basis to project community demand.

SPECIAL-PURPOSE PARKS

This type of park facility emphasizes a chief feature or features, which are unique to the municipality. Examples of this type of facility include children's zoos, marinas, fairgrounds, and historical features to mention a few. Due to the varying degree of features these types of parks offer, the age group of users is often widespread. Often the service area of this type of park includes the entire municipality and is sometimes regional as well. No average park size or service area standard exists.

PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The City of Mequon National Recreation and Park Association Open Space Standards Conformance table, below, indicates that the City has 20 different parks distributed among the National Recreation and Park Association park classification along with 30 other park facilities managed by other units of government or provided privately.

Table 6
City of Mequon National Recreation and
Park Association Open Space Conformance with Standards

| Component | City Parks (acres/number) | Other Facilities (acres/number) | Total Parks & Open Space (acres/number) |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Neighborhood Parks | 42 ac / 2 | 0 ac / 0 | 32 ac / 2 |
| Community Parks | 174 ac / 5 | 0 ac / 0 | 133 ac / 4 |
| Special Use Parks | 36 ac / 2 | 1,416 ac / 29 | 1,452 ac / 31 |
| Nature Preserves | 763 ac / 13 | 15 ac / 1 | 654 ac / 10 |
| Unclassified Lands | 163 ac / 3 | 0 ac / 0 | 45 ac / 2 |
| Total | 1,178 ac / 25 | 1,431 ac / 30 | 2,316 ac / 50 |

Source: City of Mequon, GRAEF

PARK, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE ADEQUACIES AND DEFICIENCIES

Applying the standards set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association standards, the City of Mequon should have 136 to 229 acres of mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks and 332 acres of a regional/metropolitan park and a proportional share of a regional park reserve. The number of parks and acreage by type are shown in detail in Table 7, City of Mequon National Recreation and Park Associate Open Space Standards Conformance.

Table 7
City of Mequon National Recreation and
Park Association Open Space Standards Conformance

| Component | 2000 Compliance | 2010 Compliance | 2030 Compliance |
|---|--|--|--|
| Population | 21,823 | 23,132 | 28,859 |
| LOCAL OR CLOSE TO HOME SPACE | | | |
| Mini-Park (total acres) | 6 to 11 parks (5.5-11 ac.) | 6 to 12 parks (5.8-11.6 ac.) | 7 to 14 parks (7.2-14.4 ac.) |
| Neighborhood Park (total acres) | 1 to 3 parks (21.8-43.6 ac.) | 2 or 3 parks (23.1-46.3 ac.) | 2 to 4 parks (28.9-57.7 ac.) |
| Community Park (total acres) | 4 to 7 parks (109.1-174.6 ac.) | 5 to 9 parks (115.7-185.1 ac.) | 6 to 9 parks (144.3-230.9 ac.) |
| REGIONAL SPACE | | | |
| Regional/ Metropolitan Park | 1 park (200 acres or more) | 1 park (200 acres or more) | 1 park (200 acres or more) |
| Regional Park Reserve | 1 park within 1 hour drive time | 1 park within 1 hour drive time | 1 park within 1 hour drive time |
| SPACE THAT MAY BE LOCAL OR REGIONAL AND IS UNIQUE TO EACH COMMUNITY | | | |
| Linear Park | Dependent upon available opportunities | Dependent upon available opportunities | Dependent upon available opportunities |
| Special Use Park | Dependent upon available opportunities | Dependent upon available opportunities | Dependent upon available opportunities |
| Conservancy Park | Dependent upon available opportunities | Dependent upon available opportunities | Dependent upon available opportunities |

Source: GRAEF; City of Mequon

Using the National Recreation and Park Association standards, the City of Mequon has an adequate amount of some outdoor recreational sites while the City is deficient in others. Further, when considering the results of the City of Mequon Vision 2010, there appears to be community support for these four National Recreation and Park Association facilities. The types of National Recreation and Park Association facilities that exist or are needed in the City are tabulated in Table 8, City of Mequon Park, Recreation & Open Space Adequacies and Deficiencies.

Table 8
City of Mequon Park, Recreation & Open Space
Adequacies and Deficiencies

| Component | Adequate or Deficient | Details |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| LOCAL OR CLOSE TO HOME SPACE | | |
| Mini-Park | Deficient | City of Mequon Parks Board and the Parks Department have had a long standing policy not to develop Mini- Parks. |
| Neighborhood Park | Adequate | Currently in the City, there are 2 parks, with a total of 42 acres, classified as Neighborhood Parks. |
| Community Park | Adequate | Currently in the City, there are 5 parks, with a total of 174 acres, classified as Community Parks. |
| REGIONAL SPACE | | |
| Regional/Metropolitan Park | Adequate | There are a number of regional facilities and parks that are accessible within the recommended 1 hour driving time of the City of Mequon. A few of these Regional/Metropolitan Parks include Milwaukee County's Oak Leaf Trail system, Lake Michigan with lake access at Port Washington, Ozaukee County's Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve in the Town of Grafton and McKinley Marina in Milwaukee and the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest and Pike Lake State Park in Washington County. |
| Regional Park Reserve | Adequate | The 1,600 acre Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area is within 1 hour driving time of the City of Mequon. |
| SPACE THAT MAY BE LOCAL OR REGIONAL AND IS UNIQUE TO EACH COMMUNITY | | |
| Linear Park | Opportunity | The proposed Riverwalk/River Front Park that is part of the Town Center concept when completed should be classified as a Linear Park. |
| Special Use Park | Adequate | Currently in the City, there are 2 parks, with a total of 36 acres, classified as Special Use Parks. |
| Conservancy Park (Nature Preserve) | Adequate | Currently in the City, there are 13 parks, with a total of 763 acres, classified as Nature Preserve or Conservancy Park. |

Source: GRAEF; City of Mequon

Another National Recreation and Park Association standard that should be applied to the City of Mequon is the National Recreation and Park Association Facility Development Standards as shown in Table 10. In Table 10, a number of park & recreation facilities with specific activities are shown with detailed information regarding any space, size and location requirements, number of recreation facilities per population, service radius and location notes. Of the information shown, the numbers of recreation facilities per population as well as service radius are most dependent upon local demand in determining the satisfactory mix of facilities.

Table 9 displays the City's park and recreation facility comparison to the National Recreation and Park Association Facility Development Standards presented in Table 10.

Table 9
City of Mequon Park & Recreation Facilities

| Activity Facility | Current Number | 2000 Compliance | 2010 Compliance | 2035 Compliance |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Archery Range | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Badminton | 0 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Little League/ Youth Baseball & Softball Field | 1 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| High School Basketball | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Field Hockey | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Football | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Par 3 (18-Hole) Golf | Available at a wide variety of public and private golf and driving ranges | | | |
| 9-Hole Standard Golf | | | | |
| 18-Hole Standard Golf | | | | |
| Golf-Driving Range | | | | |
| Ice Hockey | Available at the Ozaukee County Ice Area | | | |
| Soccer | 15 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Swimming Pools | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Tennis | 0 | 11 | 12 | 14 |
| Trails | | | | |
| Volleyball | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 |

Source: National Recreation and Park Association; GRAEF; City of Mequon

Table 10
National Recreation and Park Association Facility Development Standards

| Activity/Facility | Recommended Space Requirements | Recommended Size and Dimensions | Recommended Orientation | Number of Recreation Facilities per Population | Service Radius | Location Notes |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------|---|
| Archery Range | Minimum 0.65 acre | 300' length x minimum 10' between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range. Minimum of 30' clear space behind targets. Minimum of 90' x 45' with bunker. | Archer facing north+/- 45 degrees. | 1 per 50,000 | 30 minutes travel time | Typically part of a regional and or metro park complex. |
| Badminton | 1,620 square feet | Singles - 17' x 44' Doubles - 20' x 44'; 5' unobstructed area on all sides. | Long axis north-south. | 1 per 5,000 | ¼ to ½ mile | Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking access. |
| Little League Baseball | 1.2 acres minimum | Baselines - 60' Pitching distance -46' Foul lines - 200' Center field - 200' -250' | Locate home plate so that the pitcher is throwing across the sun and batter is not facing the sun. The line from home plate through pitcher's | 1 per 5,000; 1 per 30,000 if lighted | ¼ to ½ mile | Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields may be part of community complex. |

Table 10
National Recreation and Park Association Facility Development Standards

| Activity/Facility | Recommended Space Requirements | Recommended Size and Dimensions | Recommended Orientation | Number of Recreation Facilities per Population | Service Radius | Location Notes |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Official Baseball | 3.0 - 3.85 acres minimum | Baselines - 90' Pitching distance -60.5'; Foul lines – minimum 320' Center field - 400'+ | mound to run east- northeast. | | | |
| Youth Basketball | 2,400 to 3,036 square feet | 46' - 50' x 84' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides. | Long axis north-south. | 1 per 5,000 | ¼ to ½ mile | Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking access. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings. |
| High School Basketball | 5,040 to 7,280 square feet | 50' x 84' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides. | | | | |
| Collegiate Basketball | 5,600 to 7,980 square feet | 50' x 94' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides. | | | | |
| Beach Areas | N/A | Beach area should have 50 square feet of land and 50 square feet of water per user. There should be 3 to 4 acres supporting land per acre of beach. | N/A | N/A | ½ to 1 hour travel time | Should have sand bottom with slope a maximum of 5% (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas. In regional/metro parks. |

Table 10
National Recreation and Park Association Facility Development Standards

| Activity/Facility | Recommended Space Requirements | Recommended Size and Dimensions | Recommended Orientation | Number of Recreation Facilities per Population | Service Radius | Location Notes |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Station) | Minimum 30 acres | All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within two superimposed segments with 100- yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within two superimposed segments with 300 yard radii (36 acres). | Center line of length runs northeast/southwest with shooter facing northeast. | 1 per 50,000 | 30 minutes travel time | Part of a regional and or metro park complex. |
| Field Hockey | Minimum 1.5 acres | 180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides. | Fall season - long axis northwest to southeast. For longer periods, north to south. | 1 per 20,000 | 15 to 30 minutes travel time | Usually part of baseball, football, or soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school. |
| Football | Minimum 1.5 acres | 160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides. | Fall season - long axis northwest to southeast. For longer periods, north to south. | 1 per 20,000 | 15 to 30 minutes travel | Usually part of baseball, football, or soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school. |

Table 10
National Recreation and Park Association Facility Development Standards

| Activity/Facility | Recommended Space Requirements | Recommended Size and Dimensions | Recommended Orientation | Number of Recreation Facilities per Population | Service Radius | Location Notes |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------|--|
| Par 3 (18-Hole) Golf | 50 to 60 acres | 600-2,700 yards, average length varies | Majority of holes on north-south axis. | 1/25000; 1/50000 | 1/2 to 1 hour travel time | A 9 hole course can accommodate 350 people per day. An 18 hole course can accommodate 500 - 550 people a day. Golf courses may be located in community, district, or regional and or metro park. |
| 9-Hole Standard Golf | Minimum 50 acres | 2,250 yards, average length | | | | |
| 18-Hole Standard Golf | Minimum 110 acres | 6,500 yards, average length | | | | |
| Golf-Driving Range | 13.5 acres for minimum of 25 tees | 900' x 690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee. | Long axis southwest/northeast with golfer driving toward northeast. | 1 per 50,000 | 30 minute travel time | May be part of golf course complex as a separate unit. May be privately operated. |

Table 10
National Recreation and Park Association Facility Development Standards

| Activity/Facility | Recommended Space Requirements | Recommended Size and Dimensions | Recommended Orientation | Number of Recreation Facilities per Population | Service Radius | Location Notes |
|--|---|--|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| Handball (3-4 Wall) | 800 square feet for 4 wall and 1,000 square feet for 3 wall | 20' x 40' - Minimum of 10' to rear of 3- wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance. | Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end. | 1 per 20,000 | 15 to 30 minute travel time | 3 wall handball is usually outdoor in park or school setting. 4 wall handball is usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. |
| Ice Hockey | 22,000 square feet including support area. | Rink 85' x 200' (minimum 85' X 185'. Additional 5,000 square feet support area). | Long axis north-south if outdoors. | Indoor-1 per 100,000. Outdoor-depends on climate | ½ to 1 hour travel time | Climate is an important consideration affecting the number of facilities. Best as part of multi-purpose facility. |
| Multiple Recreation Court (Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis) | 9,840 square feet | 120' x 80' | Long axis of courts with primary use north-south. | 1 per 10,000 | 1 to 2 miles | Usually part of a neighborhood or community park. |
| 1/4-Mile Running Track | 4.3 acres | Overall width-276' length-600' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'. | Long axis in sector from north to south and northwest to southeast with finish line at northerly end. | 1 per 20,000 | 15 to 30 minutes travel time | Usually part of a high school or community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc. |
| Soccer | 1.7 to 2.1 acres | 195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with a 10' minimum clearance on all sides. | Same as field hockey. | 1 per 10,000 | 1 to 2 miles | Number of facilities depends upon the popularity, youth soccer; smaller fields can be adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks. |

Table 10
National Recreation and Park Association Facility Development Standards

| Activity/Facility | Recommended Space Requirements | Recommended Size and Dimensions | Recommended Orientation | Number of Recreation Facilities per Population | Service Radius | Location Notes |
|-------------------|--|---|--|---|------------------------------|--|
| Softball | 1.5 to 2.0 acres | Baselines-60' Pitching distance - 45' (men) - 40' (women). Fast pitch field radius from plate - 225' between foul lines. Slow pitch - 275' (men) - 250' (women). | Same as baseball. | 1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball) | ¼- to ½- mile | Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball. |
| Swimming Pools | Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually 1 to 2 acre site. | Teaching- minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 feet. Competitive- minimum of 25m x 16m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2:1 deck vs. water. | None - although care must be taken in locating lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun | 1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3% to 5% of the total population at a time.) | 15 to 30 minutes travel time | Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive, and recreational purposes with enough depth to accommodate 1 and 3 meter diving boards. Located in community park or school site. |
| Tennis | Minimum of 7,200 square feet single court (2 acres for complex). | 36' x 78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends. | Long axis north- south. | 1 court per 2,000 | ¼ to ½ mile | Best in batteries of 2 or 4. Located in neighborhood and or community parks or near school sites. |
| Trails | N/A | Well defined head. Capacity - Rural trails 40 hikers/day/ mile. Urban trails-90 hikers/ day/mile. | N/A | 1 system per region | N/A | |

Table 10
National Recreation and Park Association Facility Development Standards

| Activity/Facility | Recommended Space Requirements | Recommended Size and Dimensions | Recommended Orientation | Number of Recreation Facilities per Population | Service Radius | Location Notes |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| Volleyball | Minimum of 4,000 square feet | 30' x 60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides. | Long axis north - south. | 1 court per 5,000 | ½ to 1 mile | Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking access. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings. |

Source: Mertes, J. D. & Hall, J. R. 1983 and 1996. Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association.

CITY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Social and economic characteristics are import parameters when planning for outdoor recreation. The City of Mequon's population has increased over the past 60 years from 3,068 persons in 1940, 17 years before the City was incorporated, to 23,132 persons in 2010. SEWRPC has forecasted the next 25 years and the City population is forecasted to grow to 27,350 by the year 2030. This information is tabulated in Table 11, City of Mequon Historic and Projected Population.

Table 11
City of Mequon Historic and Projected Population
(as approximated by whole U.S. Public Land Survey Quarter Sections)

| | Population |
|------|------------|
| 1970 | 15,150 |
| 1980 | 16,193 |
| 1990 | 18,885 |
| 2000 | 22,694 |
| 2010 | 23,132 |
| | |
| 2035 | 27,350 |

Source: SEWRPC

Table 12
City of Mequon Population by Age

| Age Group | 2000 | 2010 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Under 5 years | 1,202 | 989 |
| 5 to 9 years | 1,716 | 1,454 |
| 10 to 14 years | 2,030 | 1,704 |
| 15 to 19 years | 1,587 | 2,116 |
| 20 to 24 years | 502 | 1,211 |
| 25 to 29 years | 483 | 589 |
| 30 to 34 years | 820 | 630 |
| 35 to 39 years | 1,573 | 1,067 |
| 40 to 44 years | 2,121 | 1,492 |
| 45 to 49 years | 2,226 | 1,935 |
| 50 to 54 years | 1,991 | 2,186 |
| 55 to 59 years | 1,553 | 2,059 |
| 60 to 64 years | 1,046 | 1,697 |
| 65 to 69 years | 832 | 1,241 |
| 70 to 74 years | 867 | 852 |
| 75 to 79 years | 609 | 708 |
| 80 to 84 years | 400 | 616 |
| 85 to 89 years | 178 | 387 |
| 90 years and over | 87 | 199 |
| Total | 21,823 | 23,132 |

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

Along with total population, the population broken into age cohorts is extremely valuable in determining what types of outdoor recreation programming may be necessary for the population. Table 12, City of Mequon Population Composition shows the population of the City in 2000 and 2010 by age cohort.

Table 13
City of Mequon Race and Ethnicity Composition

| Race and Ethnicity | | 2000 | 2010 |
|------------------------|--|--------|--------|
| Not Hispanic or Latino | | | |
| | White alone | 20,360 | 20,905 |
| | Black or African American alone | 490 | 630 |
| | American Indian and Alaska Native alone | 17 | 23 |
| | Asian alone | 520 | 823 |
| | Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone | 3 | 7 |
| | Some Other Race alone | 14 | 16 |
| | Two or More Races | 158 | 261 |
| Hispanic or Latino | | 261 | 467 |
| Total | | 21,823 | 23,132 |

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

Table 14
City of Mequon Household and Income Composition

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2010-2012 |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|-----------|
| Households | 7,861 | 8,598 | 9,164 |
| Families | 6,404 | 6,561 | 6,596 |
| | | | |
| Average Household Size | 2.75 | 2.56 | 2.48 |
| Average Family Size | 3.09 | 2.97 | 2.95 |
| | | | |
| Median Household Income | 90,733 | -- | 107,382 |
| Per Capita Income | 48,333 | -- | 63,209 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census decennial census and American Community Survey, and SEWRPC.

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTION RESOLUTION

(to be added when adopted)

