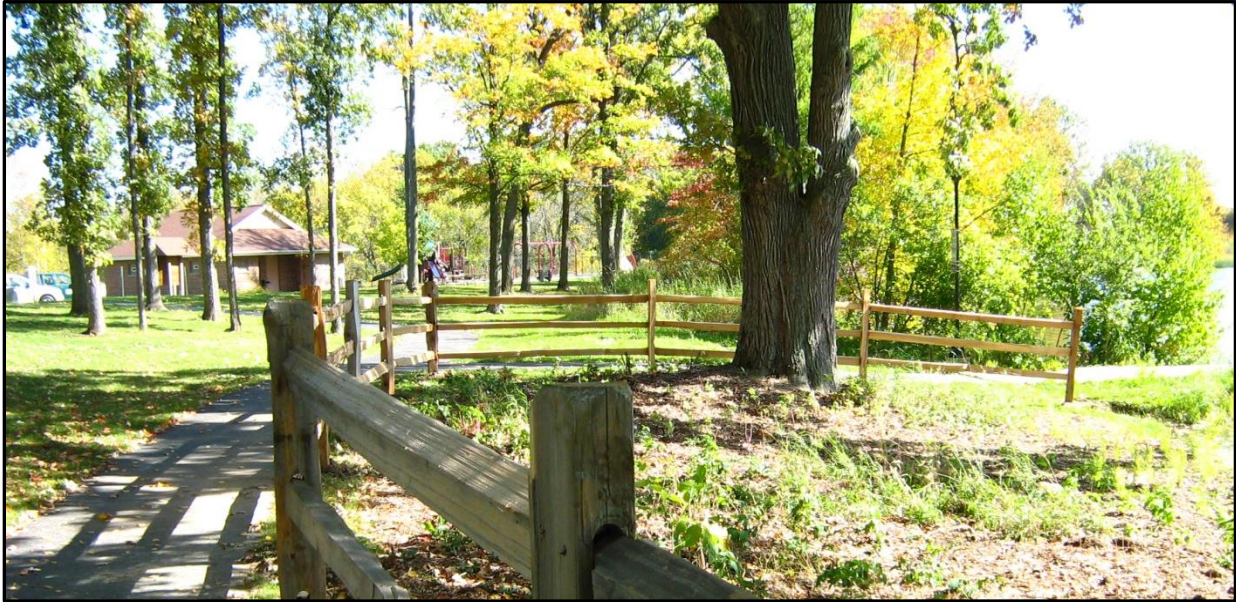


# Chapter 5 –Park and Open Space Needs Analysis



---

## Introduction

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

This chapter sets forth the objectives, principles, and standards used in the preparation of this park and open space plan for Washington County, and applies the standards to the anticipated year 2035 population to help determine the need for major park sites and such outdoor recreation facilities as golf courses, campgrounds, swimming beaches, lake access sites, and hiking and biking trails. Needs identified through the application of the standards are addressed in Chapter 6, which sets forth the recommended park and open space plan for Washington County.

## Objectives, Principles, and Standards

The Commission Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee on Regional Park and Open Space Planning, as part of the regional park and open space planning program completed in 1977, formulated a set of park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives and

accompanying principles and standards. The regional standards were based on standards previously developed by the National Recreation and Park Association. The Advisory Committee compared the national standards to recreational preferences and demands of the Region as determined by surveys of recreation site managers and users, and modified the standards as necessary to meet park and open space demands within the Region.

The regional park and open space preservation objectives, principles, and standards were incorporated directly into the year 2000 Washington County park and open space plan. Those objectives, principles, and standards were reaffirmed in the year 2010 Washington County park and open space plan, the 2020 Washington County park and open space plan and again in this year 2035 Washington County park and open space plan. The Plan objectives are set forth below.

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

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

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

## Park and Open Space Needs

---

### Existing and Forecasted Population Size and Distribution

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

As noted in Chapter 2 of this report, the 2016 County population was 134,137 persons, as estimated by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. The number of County residents anticipated by the year 2035 based upon forecasts developed by the Regional Planning Commission for the year 2035 would range from 157,265 persons under the adopted Washington County comprehensive plan to as high as 176,100 under the high-growth alternative in the 2035 regional land use plan.

In addition to information on the overall size of the anticipated future population of the County, information on future population distribution is important to a determination of existing and probable future outdoor recreation needs. The regional park and outdoor recreation standards call for a major park to be provided within four miles of residents of urban areas having a population of 40,000 or greater and within ten miles of residents of smaller urban areas and rural areas. In order to provide an increased distribution of major parks, the 2020 County park and open space plan applied the four-mile service radius to all planned urban areas in Washington County regardless of population size. In order to be consistent, the same application of service radii was used in the development of this plan. The planned urban service areas delineated in the adopted year 2035 Washington County comprehensive plan are associated with the Cities of Hartford and West Bend; and the Villages of Germantown, Jackson, Kewaskum, Newburg, and Slinger. The unincorporated community of Allenton in the Town of Addison is also a planned urban service area under the year 2035 land use plan.

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

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

For purposes of analyzing future park site and future park facility needs, the population level anticipated under the high-growth scenario (176,100 persons) was considered. This recognizes the need to identify and reserve sufficient high-quality sites which may be required under conditions of more rapid population growth through the year 2035, as well as the need to serve the County population beyond the year 2035.

The accessibility, or service radius, standards are intended to ensure that public parks are spatially distributed in a manner that is convenient and efficient for the population they are intended to serve. It should be recognized that in some situations, while per capita standards may be met, a need may still exist for additional sites or facilities because of the relative inaccessibility or distance of an existing site or facility to some residents of the County. It should also be noted that for certain facilities, the accessibility standard for some residents of the County may be met by facilities located in adjacent counties.

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

Per capita and service area standards for major parks are set forth under Objective No. 1 in Appendix D. As indicated in Chapter 2, major parks are defined as large, publicly owned outdoor recreation sites containing significant natural resource amenities which provide opportunities for resource-oriented activities and which are generally 100 acres or more in size. Application of the per capita standards for major park sites to the existing 2016 and anticipated year 2035 County population levels<sup>1</sup> indicates that no additional park land in major park sites is needed. This calculation is based on the acreage and amenities of the following major parks: Multi-community parks include: Ackerman's Grove County Park, Glacier Hills Park, Heritage Trails Park, Homestead Hollow Park, and Regner Park, Glacial Blue Hills Recreation Area, Ridge Run Park and Riverside Park, owned by the City of West Bend. Though Regner Park (90.8 acres) and Ackermans Grove Park (75 acres) did not fit the acreage requirements of a major park, their level of facilities and amenities align more with a multi-community park instead of a community park. Regional parks include: The Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Family Park/Washington County Golf Course and Sandy Knoll Park owned by Washington County.

---

<sup>1</sup>*In the balance of this chapter, the determination of future per capita park site and facility needs is based upon the application of the per capita standards to the 176,100 persons anticipated for the year 2035 under the regional land use plan's high growth scenario.*



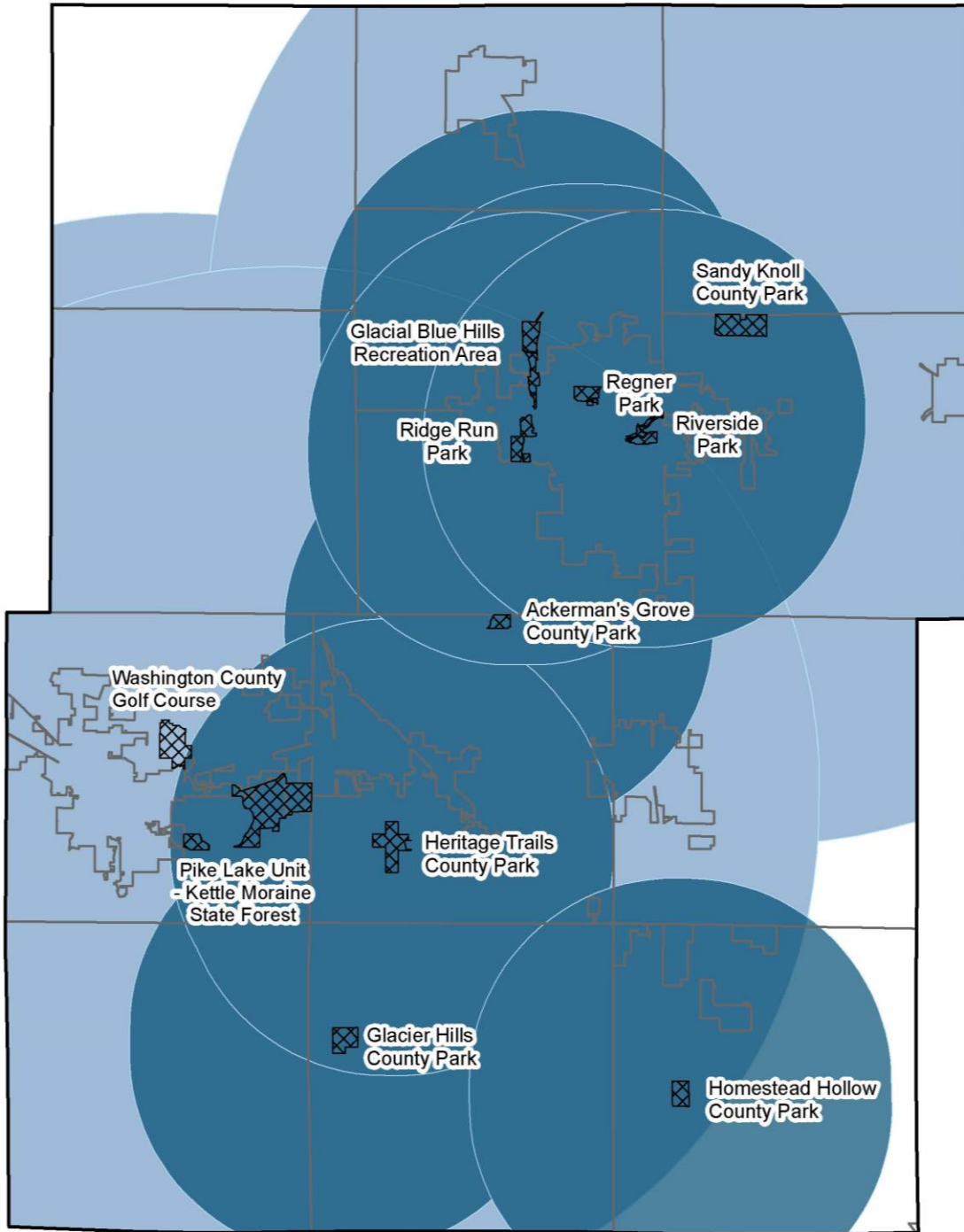
Application of the service radius standard indicates that most residents of rural areas in Washington County are within the recommended service area of a major park, with the exception of the northwest portion of the Town of Wayne and small portions of the Town of Jackson and easternmost Village of Germantown. However, the northwest portion of the Town of Wayne is within the service area of the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest in Fond du Lac County. See Map 5.1.



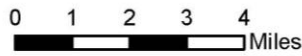
### **Standards for Intensive Resource Oriented-Recreation Facilities**

The standards in Objective No. 3 set forth per capita and service area standards for the provision of such intensive resource-oriented recreational facilities as camping, golfing, picnicking, downhill skiing and beach swimming. Separate per capita standards have been established for public and nonpublic facilities. The per capita standards were applied to both the 2016 and anticipated year 2035 County population levels, and need estimates were generally prepared for both public and nonpublic facilities. This recognizes that, even though many nonpublic facilities are not available to the general population, the continued provision of such facilities is important because they do meet a significant portion of the overall demand for these recreation facilities which would otherwise have to be met by the public sector.

**Map 5.1**  
**ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS FOR MAJOR PARKS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY**



MultiCommunityParks (4 Miles)  
RegionalParks (10 Miles)



Map created March 2020, by the GIS Division of Washington County

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

### ***Campsites***

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

Application of the per capita standards for campsites indicates that there is a need for 30 additional publicly owned campsites to serve the anticipated 2035 population. The number of existing privately owned sites exceeds the need for such campsites under the standard for both the existing and anticipated 2035 population. The standards call for public campsites to be located within 25 miles of each County resident. This standard is met by the existing public campground in the County.

### ***Golf Courses***

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

Application of the per capita standard for golf courses indicates a need for two additional public golf courses in the County to serve the anticipated year 2035 population. The need for privately owned golf courses is met by the seven existing 18-hole private courses open to the public. Together, the total number of public and private 18-hole courses, meets the County's need to serve the anticipated 2035 population. Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius to the existing public golf course shows that residents of the eastern, and far northwestern portions of the County are located beyond the recommended service area for a public golf course. The eastern portion of the County does fall within the service area of Hawthorne Hills County Park and Mee-Kwon County Park in Ozaukee County, and Wanaki Golf Course in Waukesha County, which provide public golf courses. It should also be noted that the need for public golf courses in the northwestern portion of the County could be met by existing private golf courses open to the public.

### ***Picnicking***

Public picnic areas in the County are currently provided at ten of the eleven major parks, Ackerman's Grove County Park, Family Park/Washington County Golf Course, Glacier Hills Park, Heritage Trails Park, Homestead Hollow Park, the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine

State Forest, Regner Park, Ridge Run Park, Riverside Park, and Sandy Knoll Park. Glacial Blue Hills Recreation Area is the only major park without public picnic areas.

Application of the per capita standard for picnicking facilities at major parks indicates that a need exists for approximately 111 additional picnic tables at major parks to serve the anticipated year 2035 population. It should be noted, however that picnicking is available at three other County parks: Cedar Lake Wayside, Goeden Park, and Lizard Mound Park. These facilities may serve to meet some of the needs identified in the application of this standard. Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius standard for public picnicking facilities indicates that only residents in the extreme northwestern portion of the County are not adequately served by picnicking facilities within a major park. Part of this portion of the County does fall within the service area of Mauthe Lake Recreation Area within the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit in Fond du Lac County and Ledge County Park in Dodge County, which provide public picnic areas.

### ***Downhill Skiing***

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

Application of the per capita standard for downhill ski areas to both the existing and year 2035 County population indicates the need for one public ski hill. The need for private downhill skiing facilities is met by the existing facilities. Provision of one public ski hill would satisfy the public ski hill accessibility standard throughout the County, given the 25-mile service radius attendant to public ski hills. The provision of a public ski hill was deemed unnecessary since existing private downhill skiing facilities adequately serve the County.

### ***Swimming Beaches***

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

Application of the per capita standards for inland swimming beaches indicates that existing publicly and privately owned beaches are adequate to serve both the existing and the anticipated year 2035 population. Application of the recommended 10-mile service radius for public swimming beaches indicates that residents in the extreme southeastern portion of the County are not served by a public swimming beach. This portion of the County does fall within the service area of Menomonee Park in Waukesha County, which provides a public swimming beach.

### **Standards for Trail Facilities**

Objective No. 1 sets forth a standard for the provision by the public sector of sufficient open space lands to accommodate a system of resource-oriented recreation corridors to meet the resident



demand for trail-oriented recreation activities. For the purposes of this report, recreation corridors are defined as publicly owned, continuous, linear expanses of land at least 15 miles in length which are located within scenic areas or areas of natural, cultural, or historic interest, and which provide trails marked and maintained for such activities as hiking, biking, riding all-terrain vehicles, horseback riding, nature trails, and cross-country skiing.



Objective No. 4 sets forth recommended per capita standards for the aforementioned trail activities with a standard of at least 28 miles of each biking and hiking trails, to be provided within the County. In 2014, about 35 miles of Ice Age Trail were available for hiking in Washington County, plus approximately 9 miles of connecting trails. The Eisenbahn State Trail, beginning on the south side of the City of West Bend, runs north 12 miles within the County and a total of 24 miles to the Village of Eden in Fond du Lac County. The standard for biking is not being met in the County. Consequently, trails for the various activities should be provided in conjunction with the acquisition and development of a county-wide multiuse trail system.

In some cases, particularly in urban areas where they are subject to more intensive use, the trail facilities may be paved. Where they are paved, the trails may also provide opportunities for rollerblading and rollerskiing, as well as opportunities for use by individuals in wheelchairs.

The standards under Objective No. 4 also contain a recommendation for the provision of trails for snowmobiling. Approximately 300 miles of designated trails exist on public lands and on private lands open to the public. This adequately serves both the existing and anticipated 2035 population.

Objective No. 4 also contains a recommendation that each county have a public nature study center. A public nature study center does not currently exist in Washington County. However, a private nature study center, the Riveredge Nature Center, located in Ozaukee County, is open for public use. It should also be noted that Lac Lawrann Conservancy in the City of West Bend is a 137-acre nature preserve that provides a place for nature study, but does not function as an interpretive nature study center.

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

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in keeping with State Statutes which seek to assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to publicly owned inland waters, has adopted rules regarding lake access. Those rules, set forth in Chapter NR 1.91 of the Wisconsin *Administrative Code*, require public boating access sites, including boat launching and parking facilities, to be provided on inland lakes, with the number of parking spaces varying depending on the size of the lake. Minimum public boating access requirements must be met for the Department to provide natural resource enhancement services for a body of water. For example, the *Administrative Code* requires that launch facilities and at least one car-trailer parking space, and a combined total of five car-trailer and automobile parking spaces, be provided at boating access sites on lakes 50 acres to 99 acres in size. The required number of car-trailer parking spaces increases as the size of the lake increases. One additional parking space, in addition to the minimum specified in the *Administrative Code*, must also be provided for use by disabled persons. The regulations also specify a maximum number of parking spaces to be provided, which also varies according to the size of the lake, in recognition that too many boats on a lake may threaten both the safety of lake users and the environmental quality of the lake. Table 5.1 sets forth the requirements for public boating access for major lakes in Washington County under the Department rules. Public boating access fails to meet State requirements at Barton Pond, Lake Five, and Lucas Lake.



The *Administrative Code* also requires that public canoeing access points with parking should be provided on major streams every 10 miles. Major streams in Washington County are the Ashippun River, Cedar Creek, Little Cedar Creek, North Branch Cedar Creek, Coney River, Evergreen Creek, Kewaskum Creek, Kohlsville River, Limestone Creek, Mason Creek, Menomonee River, Milwaukee River, East Branch Milwaukee River, North Branch Milwaukee River, Oconomowoc River, Little Oconomowoc River, Quass Creek, East Branch Rock River, Rubicon River, Silver Creek, Stony Creek, and Wallace Creek. Public canoe access is currently provided at Goeden County Park, Newburg Fireman’s Park, River Hill Park, and Riverside Park, along the Milwaukee River. Public canoe access is also provided at the West Bend Canoe Launch in the Milwaukee Riverfront Parkway on Barton Pond, which is already listed in Table 5.1, and Centennial Park-Mill Pond on the Rubicon River.





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

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

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

**Table 5.1**

**BOAT ACCESS SITE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE<sup>a</sup>  
FOR MAJOR LAKES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY: 2017**

Major Lake <sup>b</sup>	Minimum Number of Parking Spaces <sup>c</sup>	Maximum Number of Parking Spaces	Comment
Bark Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (3 car-trailer spaces and 2 car only spaces)
Barton Pond	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Inadequate public access (Carry-in access and 6 car spaces are currently provided by the City of West Bend)
Big Cedar Laked	27 car-trailer spaces	37 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (37 car-trailer spaces at Big Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District/WDNR access site, and three car trailer spaces at Town of West Bend access site)
Little Cedar Lake	Eight car-trailer spaces	16 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (16 car-trailer spaces and 35 car only spaces at Washington County access site)
Druid Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Eight car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (5 car-trailer spaces at Town of Erin access site)
Lake Five	Five car-trailer spaces	Seven car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Friess Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Nine car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (5 car-trailer spaces and 4 car only spaces)
Green Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (5 car-trailer spaces)
Lucas Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	No access provided which meets NR 1.91 requirements
Pike Laked	17 car-trailer spaces	33 car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (18 car-trailer spaces at private access site with WDNR lease agreement and 100 car only spaces)
Silver Lake	Five car-trailer spaces	Eight car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (6 car-trailer spaces and 2 car only spaces)
Smith Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (2 car-trailer spaces and 5 car only spaces)
Lake Twelve	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (5 car only spaces)
Wallace Lake	Combination of five car and car-trailer spaces	Five car-trailer spaces	Adequate public access (5 car-trailer spaces)

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

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

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

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

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.



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

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

Every 5 years, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources prepares a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for the State of Wisconsin. The plan identifies existing conditions and current issues regarding recreation in the state, and provides goals and recommendations based on data and projected trends.

The Plan outlines five overarching goals for outdoor recreation:



**Boost Participation** - Increase residents' participation and frequency of participation in outdoor recreation.



**Grow Partnerships** – Continue to strengthen connections and partnerships across the spectrum of agencies, organizations, and businesses with a vested interest in outdoor recreation.



**Provide High - Quality Experiences** – Provide opportunities and settings – across the full range of public and private recreation lands – that, collectively, meet the state's recreational needs.



**Improve Data to Enhance Visitor Experiences and Benefits** – On an ongoing basis, gather, analyze and distribute data on recreation participation in Wisconsin and associated economic, health and social benefits.



**Enhance Funding and Financial Stability** – Broaden and strengthen the funding sources for developing and managing outdoor recreation facilities and lands.

SCORP is divided into eight regions based on similarities in recreational attributes, visitation patterns, natural resources and general features. Washington County is identified within the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region. The Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region is the most urban and populous of the eight regions. The urban influence of Milwaukee and its surrounding suburbs has led to an extensive network of trails and associated recreation facilities such as dog parks, athletic fields and sport courts. Despite this urban influence, some areas of the region offer opportunities for undeveloped outdoor recreation. The five units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest are easily accessible not only to the region's residents but also the greater Chicago metropolitan area and are some of the most heavily used public lands in the state.

SCORP provided a description of the Millennial Generation to assist in anticipating the activities and experiences that may be popular in the future as these groups age.

**FIGURE 5.1**  
**THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION: THE COUNTRY’S LARGEST AGE GROUP**



Table 5.2 from the SCORP considers the trends in recreation participation at county park properties. The responses of trends in participation over the last five years at county park properties where opportunities are available.

**Table 5.2  
SCORP PROJECTED TRENDS IN WISCONSIN OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES**

Activity	REGION								STATE
	Great Northwest	Northwoods	Upper Lake MI Coastal	Lake Winnebago Waters	Western Sands	Miss. River Corridor	Southern Gateways	Lower Lake MI Coastal	
Bicycling - winter/fat tire biking	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑
Camping - RV/pop-up	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑	↑↑↑
Bicycling - mountain biking	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑
Riding ATVs or UTVs	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	*	↑↑↑
Canoeing/kayaking	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
Bicycling - recreational/rail-trail biking	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
Use of picnic areas/day use areas/beach areas	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
Paddle boarding	↑↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑
Dog walking on trails	↔	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑	↑↑
Hiking/walking/running on trails	↑	↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑↑	↑	↑↑
Fishing	↑	↔	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↑	↑↑
Motor boating (including pontoon boats)	↑	↔	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↔	↑
Snowshoeing	↔	↑↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↔	↑
Target firearm shooting at designated ranges	↑↑	↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↑↑	*	*	↑
Target archery at designated ranges	↑	↑	↑	↑↑	↔	↔	*	↑↑	↑
Bird/wildlife watching	↑	↔	↔	↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↑↑	↑
Nature photography	↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↑	↑
Swimming in lakes/ponds/rivers	↑	↔	↑	↑↑	↔	↔	↑↑	↑	↑
Cross-country skiing - on groomed trails	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↔	↑	↑	*	↓	↑
Driving 4WD vehicles	↔	↔	↑	*	↑	↑	*	*	↔
Horseback riding	↑	↑↑	↑	↔	↑	↑	*	↓↓	↔
Gathering berries, mushrooms, etc.	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑↑	↔	↔
Hunting - turkey	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑↑	↓	↔
Camping - tent	↑	↔	↓↓	↑	↓	↓	↑↑↑	↑	↔
Hunting - small game	↔	↔	↓	↓	↔	↔	↑↑	↓	↔
Hunting - migratory birds	↔	↔	↑	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔
Riding dual-sport motorcycles	↑	↑	↔	*	↓	↓	*	*	↔
Hunting - big game	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↔	↑↑	↓	↔
Cross-country skiing - on ungroomed trails	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↓↓	↓↓	↓
Trapping	↔	↓	↔	↓	↔	↔	↓↓	↓↓	↓
Snowmobiling	↔	↑	↓	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓

Table 5.3 from the SCORP considers the top recreation needs at county park properties. The values are the percent of counties identifying the reaction activities as a top 5 need on their properties.

**TABLE 5.3  
SCORP TOP RECREATION NEEDS AT COUNTY PARK PROPERTIES**

Activity	REGION								STATE average
	Great Northwest	Northwoods	Upper Lake MI Coastal	Lake Winnebago Waters	Western Sands	Mississippi River Corridor	Southern Gateways	Lower Lake MI Coastal	
Campsites	57%	67%	50%	50%	57%	100%	71%	29%	58%
Hiking/walking/running trails	43%	44%	50%	80%	57%	50%	29%	57%	53%
Bicycling trails - mountain biking	57%	56%	67%	50%	43%	50%	29%	57%	51%
Bicycling trails - recreational/rail-trail	29%	33%	50%	50%	29%	50%	57%	71%	46%
Motorized recreation trails	86%	89%	17%	50%	43%	0%	0%	14%	42%
Public shore access	29%	11%	67%	60%	43%	50%	14%	71%	42%
Dog parks	0%	0%	17%	30%	29%	75%	57%	71%	32%
Boat launches	43%	22%	33%	30%	14%	50%	14%	14%	26%
Playgrounds	29%	22%	50%	10%	43%	25%	29%	0%	25%
Hunting opportunities	0%	22%	0%	40%	57%	0%	14%	14%	21%
Picnic areas	29%	0%	17%	10%	14%	25%	29%	43%	19%
Disc golf courses	14%	11%	0%	0%	14%	25%	43%	29%	16%
Equestrian trails	14%	22%	33%	0%	14%	0%	14%	0%	12%
Shooting ranges	14%	11%	0%	10%	14%	0%	0%	0%	7%
Sports fields	0%	0%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%	29%	5%
Sports courts	0%	11%	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	4%
Number of counties providing input	7	9	6	10	7	4	7	7	

Percent of responding counties that identified the activity as being a top need on their properties	
High demand in the region	67% to 100%
Moderate demand in the region	33% to 66%
Low demand in the region	0% to 32%



**Washington County Parks – Fiscal Sustainability Plan**

In an effort to achieve financial independence and fiscal sustainability of the County Parks and Trails System, on June 13, 2017, Washington County Board of Supervisors adopted the Washington County Parks and Trails Fiscal Sustainability Plan. The Washington County Board’s 2017-2019 *Strategic Priorities for the Quality of Life of the Citizens of Washington County* named Parks Fiscal Sustainability a priority and included the goal of making the County Parks and Trails System independent of the property tax levy, offering access to unique amenities and natural resources and fostering fiscal responsibility, sustainable services, operational excellence, trust and transparency by ensuring accountability, integrity, efficiency and innovation. The plan is intended to guide the future direction of the County Parks and Trails operations to reduce the property tax levy funding by over \$600,000 by the start of the 2021 budget. The Sustainability Plan is updated annually. The 2020 – 2022 Parks and Trails Sustainability Plan was reviewed and approved by the Public Works Committee on June 26, 2019.

A key component of the Parks Fiscal Sustainability Plan is the identification and establishment of a hierarchy of County park properties. The designation as a priority park, special use park, or non-priority park property helps determine the future of each property as it relates to development, maintenance allocation, planning, amenity replacement schedules, etc. These designations also assist with determining whether a park property is best suited to remain within the Washington County Parks and Trails System, be sold/transferred to a different public or private entity for continued use as a park or natural area, sold for private use, or considered for strategic expansion given the right circumstances.

**Figure 5.2  
2019 PARK, TRAIL AND PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION WITH UPDATES**

	Park/Property/Trail	Status
Priority Parks	Eisenbahn State Trails	
	Ackerman’s Grove Park	User Fee ‘18
	Glacier Hills Park	User Fee ‘18
	Heritage Trails Park	User Fee ‘18
	Homestead Hollow Park	User Fee ‘18
	Leonard J. Yahr Park	User Fee ‘18
	Sandy Knoll Park	User Fee ‘18
Special Use Parks	Family Park	Pending Approval to Sell ‘19
	Goeden Park	Reduced Maintenance ‘19
	Henschke Hillside Lake Access	Launch Fee ‘01
	Lizard Mound Park	Evaluating Transfer ‘19
	Spaeth Park	Reduced Maintenance ‘19
Non-Priority Parks	Cedar Lake Wayside	Divested Interest ‘19
	Marx Woods Nature Preserve	For Sale ‘18
	Undeveloped Erin Property	Sold ‘18
	Undeveloped Tomah Property	Sold ‘18

The current park, trail, and property designations can be seen in Figure 5.2. Priority parks were initially identified through public participation and outreach events held in early 2017. A designation as a priority park will determine the level of financial and operational resources that will be committed for ongoing maintenance and park improvements. The special use park designation highlights the important role a park provides in protecting historical sites or providing water access. These special use parks may be considered for possible transfer to a willing public or non-profit entity. The non-priority park designation indicates properties that are being considered for future sale.

The Parks and Trails Fiscal Sustainability Plan also contains numerous recommendations that are updated annually. The main components of the Plan are the Annual Sustainability Goals and Objectives.

