City of Whitewater
Parks and Recreation Board Agenda
Tuesday, August 13, 2013 - 5:30pm
Community Room (1st Floor)
Whitewater Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190

Call to Order and Roll Call

Consent Agenda:

CA-A	Approval of Parks and Recreation Board minutes of July 29, 2013

Hearing of Citizen Comments:
No formal action will be taken during this meeting, although issues raised may become part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a 3 minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however, citizens are invited to speak to those issues as designated in the agenda.

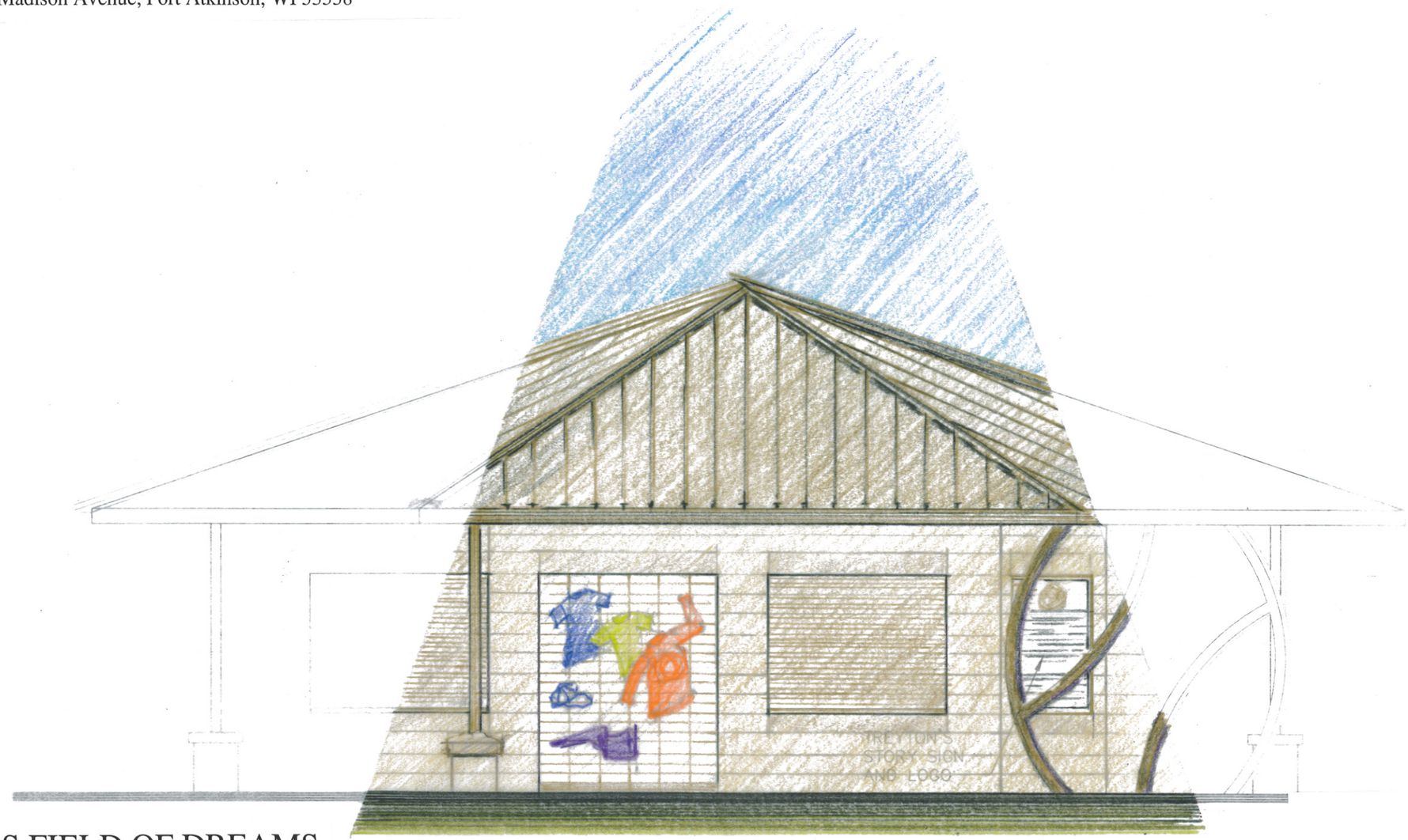
Staff Reports:

Sports Coordinator	Youth Baseball & Softball; Flag Football
Parks & Recreation Director	Treyton's Field of Dreams, Turtle Mound Park Playground

Considerations:

C-1	Discussion and review of site plan, floor plan, elevations, and a rendering for the proposed pavilion at Starin Park related to Treyton's Field of Dreams
C-2	Discussion and work session related to the Park & Open Space Plan / Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan • Background & Goals of Plan • Review Existing Park & Open Space System • Review Existing Park Improvement Plans • Recommended Park Improvements (5, 10, & 15 Year) • Goals, Objectives, & Policies
C-3	Request for future agenda items
C-4	Adjourn

the Design Alliance Architects, Inc.
One Thousand One Madison Avenue, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538



TREYTON'S FIELD OF DREAMS
COLOR RENDERING

A-3

SCALE: 1/4"=1'-0"
DATE: JUNE 6, 2013

0 1' 2' 5' 10'

Existing Park and Open Space System

The Whitewater park and open space system consists of 188 total acres of park and open space land. This system includes a range of facilities including community parks, neighborhood parks, and mini-parks; each of these facilities are characterized by a mix of active and passive recreational uses, special uses areas, and conservancy areas. An additional 235 acres of recreation and open space is found at the City's public schools and the UW-Whitewater Campus. In prior planning efforts, these totals were calculated along with the city-owned park space to determine future need. For this *plan*, however, all calculations are based solely on the 188 acres in city ownership.

The existing facilities serve most of the community's needs well at this time; however, additional neighborhood parks, community parks, and conservancy areas will be needed as areas throughout the City continue to develop. There are also a few gaps in developed areas, particularly with respect to ease of access to parks. Finally, some older parks are in need of rehabilitation. This section of this *Plan* is divided into two parts. The first includes descriptions of existing parks and recreational facilities in the City. Appendices B and C are comprehensive lists of the amenities and sizes of each park and open space area. The second part is an analysis of the existing facilities' ability to satisfy the current needs of the City's residents and a facility needs assessment for future park land.

Description of Existing Public Park and School Recreation Facilities

Map 1: Existing Public Park and School Facilities shows the locations of public parks and school recreation facilities in the City. Parks and schools are labeled on the map by the corresponding number/letter listed below.

A. Archaeological Park

1. Indian Mounds Park: This 21.5 acre nature study area is located in the far southwest portion of the City. It features an intact collection of Native American mounds and hiking trails. Around 5 acres were added to the park in 2006, and the possibility for further expansion exists with future development to the west and north.

B. Community Parks:

2. Starin Park: This 34.2 acre park is located in the north central portion of the City adjacent to the University. It includes a variety of recreational areas including areas for basketball, baseball, horseshoes, softball, sledding, and hiking/cross-country ski trails. This park also includes play equipment, a picnic area, two open shelters, the Starin Community building (available for rental), restroom facilities, a Veteran's Memorial, and a historic water tower. Recent changes to the park – which were recommended through the Starin Park Master Plan in the mid 1990s - include new landscaping, improved circulation patterns, sidewalks, and more parking.

3. Trippe Lake Park: This 24.2 acre park is located in the southeast quadrant of the City along the shore of Tripp Lake. Activities available include volleyball, ice skating, boating, fishing, cross country skiing, and swimming. This park also includes an open shelter, a bath house, a picnic area, a small orchard, play equipment, and restroom facilities.

4. Cravath Lake Waterfront Park: This 6.1 acre urban park is located along the north side of Cravath Lake and the south side of the commercial center of Downtown

Whitewater. This park includes the Lakefront Center community building, restrooms, picnic shelter, open performance stage, boat launch, fire pit, lakefront promenade with rail underpass to Main Street, gazebo, extensive landscaping, and a 50+ stall parking lot. Additionally, the facilities are available for rent, and a summertime paddleboat rental program has become increasingly popular.

5. Moraine View Park: This 45 acre park is located within the Whitewater Business Park, in the northeast quadrant of the City. Currently, the park includes a pet exercise area, mostly passive recreational features, and prairie and wetland restoration conservancy areas.

6. Whitewater Creek Nature Area: This 59.8 acre nature area is located between Fremont Street and Whitewater Creek on the far north side of the City. This park has a picnic area, hiking/cross-country ski trails, fishing, and a wildflower/prairie planting area.

C. Neighborhood Parks:

7. Brewery Hill Park/Armory: This 7.3 acre indoor and outdoor recreation area is located along the Whitewater Creek on North Street. Brewery Hill Park contains a skate park, a segment of the Whitewater Creek Path, and provides green space for leisure and nature viewing. The adjacent Armory building houses a gym for basketball and volleyball, a dance studio, a ceramics workshop, and community meeting rooms. It is programmed to assist community "self-help" programs and non-profit groups, and the facilities are available for rent as well.

8. Meadowsweet Park: This 4+ acre neighborhood park with an additional stormwater detention area is associated with new residential development on the far northwest corner of the City. There are not any recreational facilities within this park at the present time.

9. Park Crest Park: This 3.3 acre park is located on the City's far northwest side within the Park Crest subdivision. It includes playground equipment, open space, and environmental corridor areas.

D. Mini Parks:

10. Clay Street Nature Park: This 0.6 acre park with canoe launch is located on the north shore of Tripp Lake, with public access from Clay Street.

11. Main Street Shoppes Courtyard: This approximate 0.1 acre downtown site is located adjacent to a municipal parking lot and behind retail and professional buildings.

12. Birge Fountain Park: This 0.7 acre triangular park is located at the intersection of Main Street and North Street. It contains Birge Fountain (circa 1900) and a War Memorial.

13. Big Brick Park: This 1.1 acre park is located in the central portion of the City on Center Street. This park has an enclosed shelter with restrooms, as well as ice skating, a playfield, a basketball court, playground equipment, and a picnic area.

14. Mill Race Park: This 0.6 acre park is located in downtown on the north side of Main Street along Whitewater Creek. This park serves primarily as an observation area.

15. Optimist Turtle Mound Park: This 1 acre park is located in the southwest quadrant of the City in the Mound Park Acres Subdivision. It contains a playfield, play equipment, and a picnic area.

E. Public School Facilities:

A. Whitewater High School/Steward Park: This school site is located in the southwest quadrant of the City and includes 69.3 acres, of which 66 acres are used for active and passive recreation, including lighted ball fields. The High School grounds also contain the Whitewater Aquatic Center indoor pool and water recreation area.
B. Whitewater Middle School: This 25.1 acre middle school site is located in the southwest quadrant of the City and includes recreational facilities geared to students.
C. Lincoln Elementary School: This 10.3 acre elementary school site is located adjacent to the middle school and contains recreational facilities geared to young children.
D. Washington Elementary School: This elementary school is located on the City's east side along East Main Street. The 8.2 acre site contains recreational facilities geared to young children.
E. University of Wisconsin-Whitewater LAWCON Fields: The University's athletic facilities and conservancy areas are located on the University campus in the northwest portion of the City. These facilities are available to the general public on a limited basis. The fields contain approximately 122 acres.

WHITEWATER UNIVERSITY
TECHNOLOGY PARK
1. Whitewater Innovation Center Phase 1
2. Innovation Center Phase 2, 24,000 gsf (2 Floors)
3. Available Site 40,000 gsf Building (2 floors)
4. Available Site 40,000 gsf Building (2 Floors)
5. Available Site 50,000 gsf Building (2 Floors)
6. Available Site 40,000 gsf Building (2 Floors)
7. Available Site 52,000 gsf Building (2 Floors)
8. Available Site 88,000 gsf Building (2 Floors)
9. Available Site 58,000 gsf Building (2 Floors)
10. Available Site 58,000 gsf Building (2 Floors)
11. Available Site 40,000 gsf Building (2 Floors)
12. Available Site 40,000 gsf Building (2 Floors)
13. Available Site 56,000 gsf Building(2 Floors)
14. Available Site 40,000 gsf Building (1 Floor)
15. Soccer Fields
16. Walking Path
Parking shown indicates 3.0 spaces per 1,000 gsf
For more information contact:
Kevin Brunner City Manager 262-473-0500
eu:a
eppstein uhen : architects
222 W. Washington Ave.
Suite 650
Madison, WI
608-442-5350
0 75 150 300'
INNOVATION DRIVE
MORAINE VIEW PARK
HOWARD ROAD
EAST MAIN STREET
EAST BLUFF
© eppstein uhen architects 2010

PLAYGROUND

OPEN AIR SHELTER

TRAIL - APPROXIMATELY 5500 L.F.

NOTE: PARKING AREA - CAPACITY APPROXIMATELY 200 SPACES

0 200' 400'

NORTH

City of WHITEWATER

REVISION	DATE	DRAWN	DESIGNED	APPROVED
ORIGINAL	2008-06-16	JKT	DPB	DPB
REVISION 1	2008-07-01			
REVISION 2	2008-08-01			

SURVEY: -
DATE: 07/01/08
PROJ. NO. 2640800

Mequon Office
12075 Corporate Parkway, Suite 200
Mequon, WI 53092
Phone: 262-241-4466
Fax: 262-241-4901

©BONESTROO2008
www.bonestroo.com

Bonestroo

FINAL CONCEPT
MORAINE VIEW PARK
WALWORTH COUNTY
CITY OF WHITEWATER

CONCEPT3-mod1

SHEET NUMBER
1/1

DRAWING=N:\2164\2164080001\CAD\dwg\CONCEPT3-mod1.dwg TAB=Layout1 USER=1478 Aug 1, 2008 6:4 PM

Trippe Lake Park

PROPOSED MASTER PLAN

CITY OF WHITEWATER

Maintenance Plan

Introduction

Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve (formerly Indian Mounds Park) contains one of the largest collections of effigy mounds in the country. The mounds were built sometime in between 800 – 1200 A.D., and consist of both geometric and animal shapes. This preserve is listed on the National Registry of Historical Places (1991), and was identified as a local landmark in 1994. Because the mounds are a burial site, the site is protected under Wisconsin's State Burial Law.

The primary objective of this land management plan is to provide recommendations that preserve the cultural and natural diversity at Effigy Mounds Preserve while providing public access for recreational and educational activities. Like many other natural areas and parks in Wisconsin, Effigy Mounds Preserve exhibits signs of past human disturbances such as invasive plant species and habitat fragmentation by roads, agricultural use and residential development. However, due to past stewardship and restoration activities conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of the Mounds group, Effigy Mounds Preserve remains as a high quality natural area. The natural plant communities at Effigy Mounds are identified on the Plant Communities Map, and specifically include an Oak Savanna remnant (which contains the effigy mound sites), a Silver maple/Bur oak stand, and a fresh (wet) meadow wetland. These communities, along with management and restoration recommendations, are discussed below.

I. Existing Habitat Types

Oak Savanna

In Wisconsin, savanna once constituted one of the most widespread communities in presettlement times. The term "savanna" was credited to the native Carib Indians, defined by an area with widely spaced tall trees, but at a density so low that it allows grasses and other herbaceous vegetation to become dominant (Curtis, 1971).

Today, the oak savanna is beyond question the rarest plant community in Wisconsin (Curtis, 1971). This has been mainly due to the absence of fire, conversion to agriculture (e.g., wheat) and urban/residential development. Therefore, the oak savanna remnant at Effigy Mounds preserve is especially important to protect and maintain as one of the last remaining stands of oak savanna.

According to the Parks and Recreation Department, various stewardship activities have been occurring within the oak savanna over the recent years, including periodic mowing, weed pulling and trail maintenance. There exists a healthy stand of bur oak, with some white oak, black cherry, shagbark hickory and black walnut in the oak savanna. Many remnant native species are also present in the herbaceous layer, including bottlebrush grass, Indian grass, bee balm, little bluestem, cup plant, and figwort. However, a number of invasive, weedy species are currently dominating the herbaceous understory, including garlic mustard, burdock, thistles (bull and Canada), and mulberry shrubs.

For purposes of this maintenance plan, the oak savanna area includes the oak savanna remnant itself (including the effigy mounds), a stand of black cherry near the preserve entrance, and the majority of the fallow field currently referred to as the DOT "strip".

Silver maple/Bur oak stand

The silver maple/bur oak stand is located to the north of the oak savanna remnant (Figure 1), and consists of a slightly moister soil type. This community type wraps around the northern portion of the preserve, extending eastward towards the entrance. Other native tree species are present within this area, including black cherry and green ash. The herbaceous layer is primarily dominated by weeds and blackberry vines (Rubus spp.). The abundant weeds include garlic mustard, burdock, and bull thistle.

Fresh (wet) meadow wetland

Fresh (wet) meadows are wetlands that are dominated by grasses, such as redtop grass and reed canary grass, and by forbs such as giant goldenrod, growing on saturated soils (Eggers and Reed, 1997). The fresh (wet) meadow wetland (Figure 1) area at Effigy Mounds Preserve currently consists of a monoculture of reed canary grass. Reed canary grass can be almost impossible to control (costly, labor intensive, and a long term effort), and in the future the wetland will continue to receive nutrient laden water carrying reed canary grass seed from the existing wetland complex to the northeast, which receives runoff from Main Street. As such, we do not recommend reed canary grass removal and native vegetation establishment activities at this time unless ample funding becomes available.

II. Restoration & Management Recommendations (including Effigy Mounds)

Based on the fall 2010 site visit and stakeholder meeting in December 2010, the following stewardship recommendations are provided and discussed below:

1) Begin a burning regime (potential spring 2011 burn planned) to encourage native vegetation establishment and help control weeds
2) Remove turf cover on each mound and restore with a short-stature, native seed mix
3) Plant native tree saplings in the larger open areas to encourage reestablishment of oak savanna, including the DOT “strip”
4) Begin invasive species control regimen at appropriate times of the year
5) Sow (by hand) native seed collected on-site at appropriate times of the year
6) Add additional oak savanna westward into the DOT prairie (Figure 1)

Begin a burning regime to encourage native vegetation establishment

Prior to European settlement, wildfires and human-caused fires traversed prairies, wetlands and oak savannas. Native Americans often burned grasslands to flush out game when hunting. Lightning strikes were known to ignite dry prairies that could build up and traverse across miles of prairie. Although the precise frequency of these fires was not well documented, it is thought that fires burned through an area every 2-5 years.

The goal of prescribed burning is to mimic the natural disturbance of fire as much as possible. A burn frequency of 2-5 years, 2 years for “younger” prairies/oak savannas and 5 years for more established areas is recommended. The mound sites should be burned as well.

Burn seasons in Wisconsin generally occur each spring (April – May) and fall (late October - December). The season of burn can affect growth and development of many amphibian, insect and plant species. For example, a spring burn can stimulate late flowering forbs, while a fall burn may open ground for early spring sunlight and encourage growth of cool season grasses such as Junegrass. Some species take 2 to 3 years to flower and set seed after a burn, some species will flower within months following a burn. It is important then to stagger frequencies and seasons for the benefit of the entire plant and animal community.

An example burning regime for Effigy Mounds Preserve is provided in Table 1 below. Due to the small nature of the park, the entire preserve could be burned during one event or could be divided into smaller units and burned separately. At this time, it is likely most cost efficient and effective to burn the entire preserve at once.

It is understood that a land management company who specializes in prescribed burning would carry out the burn(s) and provide the necessary equipment and permits.

Table 1. Example burning schedule for Effigy Mounds Preserve.

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Spring** burn	--	Fall* burn	--	Fall burn	--	-	Spring burn

* Fall: Early November through mid-December.
** Spring: Early April through early May.

Remove turf cover on each mound and restore with a short-stature, native seed mix

The Parks and Recreation Board agreed to consider this option at a later date. The turf cover will remain on the mounds with hand mowing of the mounds to be completed by volunteers. (8-1-11)

The Parks and Recreation Board has amended the plan to begin the process of removing the turf cover and to restore with a short-stature, native seed mix. City staff will identify two mounds to convert in this manner in 2012. (7-2-12)

The effigy mounds are currently vegetated with Kentucky bluegrass and maintained by periodic mowing. While this vegetative cover allows for good visibility of the mounds, it is maintenance intensive and invites pedestrian traffic, causing compaction. In addition, compaction has occurred from mowing and brushcutting activities. To convey a more cultural and natural appearance of the mounds, we are recommending that the mounds be re-vegetated with a short stature, native seed mix. The species that are recommended below are native to this area of Wisconsin. After the seed mix becomes established, the shorter height of this mix compared to the taller vegetation in the surrounding oak savanna will help to delineate each mound. We are also recommending that the base of each mound be mowed to help delineate the shapes for visitors.

To remove the existing turf over the mounds, treat with a glyphosate-based herbicide (e.g., Roundup™) per label requirements. The turfgrass will die off after 1 – 2 herbicide treatments (two treatments is ideal). When the turfgrass has died off, burn the surface of each mound to get rid of the dead thatch. After the mounds have been removed of turf and bare soil is exposed, hand-sow the native seed mix per the instructions in Table 2.

Table 5. Oak savanna species suitable for seed collection and hand sowing

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bee balm	*Monarda fistulosa*
Bottlebrush grass	*Elymus hystrix*
Cup-plant	*Silphium perfoliatum*
Figwort	*Scrophularia lanceolata*
Indian grass	*Sorghastrum nutans*
Little bluestem	*Schizachyrium scoparium*

Master Plan

Based on input from the public and additional research we then prepared two preliminary options for the preserve. These options were presented to the public for review and revisions. Those revisions were made and a draft master plan was prepared. It plan includes a number of recommendations in addition to those described in the maintenance plan. They are:

MOUND VIEWING trail to be located in field after the first burn. The trail will be a mowed grass surface laid out in a continuous loop taking visitors past all mounds. It will be 4' wide and at least 5' from the mounds.

REMOVE PRIVATE FENCES ON PUBLIC LAND. Work with neighbors to remove fences that are have been built on the mounds preserve.

ENTRY KIOSK Explore new information signage for the site working with the Friends of the Mounds, Landmarks Commission, and Parks and Recreation Board. New information on the site should include advanced technological options and connections to Hoard Museum.

MANAGE TOWARD OAK SAVANNA. Plant Oaks as openings develop. Burning will promote the establishment of savanna ground cover.

PROPOSED VISITOR CENTER maps, brochures, links to self guided mobile applications and connections to Hoard Museum.

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN
Demonstrate shrubs trees and forbes native to soils and climate.

CONSERVATION NEIGHBORHOOD
Modern residential development could create adverse pressure on the Effigy Mounds and rare Oak Savanna remnant on the site. It is recommended that adjacent development be designed using conservation neighborhood planning techniques that would protect views from the site and reduce harm to the mounds.

PROTECTION ZONE
The effigy mounds are of world-wide importance and a key part of Whitewater's cultural, historic, It is strongly recommended that a 250 foot scenic easement or park buffer be created adjacent to the preserve in any future residential development adjacent to the site.

WHITEWATER EFFIGY MOUNDS PRESERVE BUDGET				
Revised June 3, 2011				
Item	**Qnty.**	**Unit**	**Unit Cost**	**Total Cost**
Begin Burn Regime Spring 2011				
Burn	1.00	Lump Sum	3,500.00	$ 3,000.00
Subtotal				$ 3,000.00
15% Contingency				$ 450.00
Total				$ 3,450.00
Remove turf cover on each mound and restore with a short-stature, native seed mix				
Round-up Treatments (City Staff)	2.00	Lump Sum	2,000.00	na
Prep and seed mounds (City Staff)	1.00	Lump Sum	1,250.00	na
Special Seed Mix for Mounds 35,000 sf	35.00	1000sf	80.00	$ 2,800.00
Subtotal				$ 2,800.00
10% Contingency				$ 280.00
Total				$ 3,080.00
Training and Volunteer Assistance				
Training	10.00	Hrs.	110.00	$ 1,100.00
Volunteer Assistance	1.00	Lump Sum	1,000.00	$ 1,000.00
Miscelaneous supplies and contractor expense	1.00	Lump Sum	2,500.00	$ 2,500.00
Subtotal				$ 4,600.00
10% Contingency				$ 460.00
Total				$ 5,060.00
Native Plant Garden at Entrance				
Savanna Trees	5.00	ea	250.00	$ 1,250.00
Native Shrubs	20.00	ea	75.00	$ 1,500.00
Native grasses and perennials	300.00	ea	12.00	$ 3,600.00
Stone Path	150.00	lf	18.00	$ 2,700.00
Soil Amendments	100.00	cy	12.00	$ 1,200.00
Miscelaneous	1.00	Lump Sum	5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
Subtotal				$ 15,250.00
10% Contingency				$ 1,525.00
Total				$ 16,775.00
Planting in Preserve Area				
Savanna Trees	45.00	ea	250.00	$ 11,250.00
Native Shrubs	80.00	ea	75.00	$ 6,000.00
Native grasses and perennials	300.00	ea	12.00	$ 3,600.00
Subtotal				$ 20,850.00
10% Contingency				$ 2,085.00
Total				$ 22,935.00
Structures, Signs, Benches				
Visitor Center	1.00	Lump Sum	30,000.00	$ 30,000.00
Displays in Visitor Center	1.00	Lump Sum	5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
Entry Kiosk	1.00	Lump Sum	10,000.00	$ 10,000.00
Benches	5.00	ea	600.00	$ 3,000.00
Boundary Markers	10.00	ea	200.00	$ 2,000.00
Subtotal				$ 50,000.00
Professional Fees (8% of building cost)				$ 4,000.00
10% Contingency				$ 5,000.00
Total				$ 59,000.00
Archeological Research				
Archeological Consultant Fee	1.00	Lump Sum	10,000.00	$ 10,000.00
Subtotal				$ 10,000.00
Professional Fees (5% of building cost)				$ 500.00
10% Contingency				$ 1,000.00
Total				$ 11,500.00

Item		Qnty.	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Tree Inventory & Detailed Survey					
	Tree Inventory	1.00	Lump Sum	2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
	Detailed Survy	1.00	Lump Sum	5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
	Subtotal				$ 7,000.00
	Professional Fees (5% of building cost)				$ 350.00
	10% Contingency				$ 700.00
	Total				$ 8,050.00

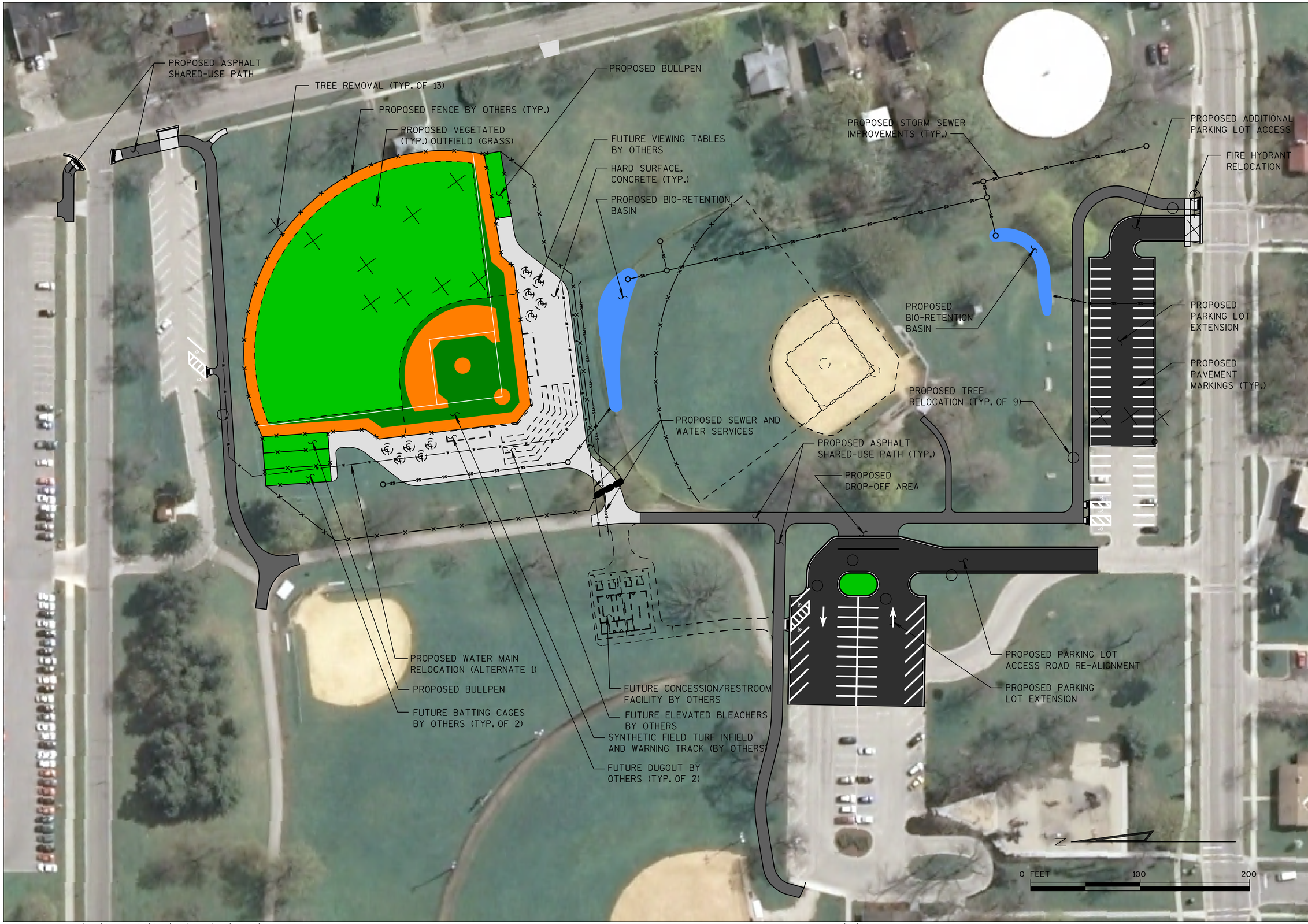
STARIN PARK IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Whitewater, Wisconsin

Created: June 14, 2000
Revised: December 5, 2000
September 21, 2001

North
1"=100'
0 25 50 100 200

Vandewalle & Associates
Madison, Wisconsin
©Vandewalle & Associates 2001



NO.	REVISIONS	DATE:

FINAL PARK LAYOUT

TREYTON'S FIELD OF DREAMS

CITY OF WHITEWATER
WALWORTH COUNTY, WISCONSIN

JOB NO.
1407070

PROJECT MGR.
ZRS

STRAND ASSOCIATES®

SHEET
4

Analysis of Existing Facilities

The adequacy of a community's park and recreational system is evaluated by:

1. Comparing the number of people that parks should serve with the City's standards,
2. Analyzing the geographic distribution and accessibility of recreational space, and
3. Identifying the location and extent of environmentally sensitive areas.

The first part of the analysis is done by assigning a minimum acreage standard to each type of park available for recreational purposes and to the system as a whole. Table 2 (below) shows the total acreage of land devoted to each type of park in the City (Appendix C provides additional detail). The table also breaks down the aggregate acreage into four categories of open space. This breakdown more clearly indicates how much public open space in Whitewater is devoted to both active and accessible passive recreational activity (included in minimum acreage standards) and how much serve specialized recreation purposes or provide environmental or aesthetic benefits (not included in minimum acreage standards). Of critical interest are the 99.2 acres of active and accessible passive public park facilities currently provided by the City (highlighted in the lighter shaded area). The 88.8 acre balance of the City's 188 total acres is comprised of other open space areas that do not satisfy recreational demands according to the standards.

Table 2: Total Developed Acreage of Parkland by Type or Recreational Use Per Specific Type of Park

Type of Park	Active Recreation Area	Passive Recreation Area	Special Facilities Area	Conservancy Area	Total
City Parks and Open Spaces					
Community Parks	**39.1**	**54.2**	**0.3**	**75.7**	**169.3**
Neighborhood Parks	**0.6**	**2.5**	**0**	**11.5**	**14.6**
Mini-parks	**2.1**	**0.7**	**1.3**	**0**	**4.1**
Total Public Parks	**41.8**	**57.4**	**1.6**	**87.2**	**188**
School Parks and Open Spaces					
Public School Facilities	98.1	11.8	2.2	1	**113.1**
University Facilities	22	92.4		7.6	**122**
Total School Facilities	120.1	104.2	2.2	8.6	235.1
Grand Total	**161.9**	**161.6**	**3.8**	**95.8**	**423.1**

[1]Active Recreation Area: playgrounds, athletic fields, etc.
[2]Passive Recreation Area: walking trails, picnic groves, etc.
[3]Special Facilities Area: arboreta, scenic views, cemeteries, etc.
[4]Conservancy Area: generally non-accessible areas for conservation; wetlands, etc.

Table 3 includes the NRPA recommended acreage standards for each type of park per 1,000 persons and the existing active and accessible passive acreages per park category in Whitewater. The information in this table indicates that the City of Whitewater is currently satisfying the recreational needs of its residents in terms of the ratio of ***total*** acreage of active and accessible passive recreation parkland to persons.

Specifically, Table 3 indicates that Whitewater meets the NRPA total park acreage standards with an aggregate 99.2 useable City acres for recreational activity, which breaks down to 7.1 acres per 1,000 persons. In terms of the provisions of specific park types, the City is currently meeting the NRPA suggested standards only for community parks at 6.68 acres per 1,000 persons. The City is lacking, however, in acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 persons according to the NRPA Standard – only 0.22 acres per 1,000 persons are currently accessible for recreation in the City's neighborhood parks. With only 2.3 total acres devoted to recreational uses in neighborhood parks currently in the City, 10 or more additional acres of such facilities would be needed to meet the standard. Additionally, there are only 0.2 acres per 1,000 persons currently accessible in the City's mini-parks. Again, this falls below the NRPA standard. An additional ½ acre to one acre of accessible recreation space in mini-parks is all that would be necessary to meet the standard.

When the community's school recreational facilities are included in the calculation, the community has a total of 209 acres of park and open space land in active and accessible passive use. This breaks down to 15.0 acres per 1,000 persons. However, these school facilities serve a larger geographic area and population than just the City-proper and are not under the jurisdiction of the City. Of course, including school recreational facilities in the analysis provides a more complete depiction of areas that are most and least well-connected to the City's park, recreation, and open space system and therefore allows more informed planning decisions to be made.

Table 3: Active and Passive Recreation Acres in City and School Facilities[1]

Type of Park or Open Space Facility	NRPA Standard	Provided in City Park Facilities		Provided in School Facilities		Total City and School
	Rec Acres per 1,000 persons	Total Rec Acres	Acres per 1,000 persons	Total Rec Acres	Acres per 1,000 persons	Acres per 1,000 persons
Mini-park	0.25 - 0.5	2.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Neighborhood park	1 - 2	3.1	0.2	18.5	1.3	1.5
Community park	5 - 8	93.3	6.7	91.4	6.5	13.2
Total	6.25 to 10.5	99.2	7.1	109.9	7.9	15.0

[1] Based on 2007 estimated total population of the City of Whitewater (see table 1)

Park and Open Space Needs Assessment and Recommendations

The future needs assessment is a critical component of the *Park and Open Space Plan*. This analysis is included to assist the City with planning and budgeting for the acquisition and development of future parks. The future park, open space, and recreation needs of the City are determined by applying the recommended minimum acreage standards to a reasonable population projection for the City of Whitewater in the year 2025, by examining how well the City meets the activity-related standards, by examining how well the locations of existing facilities serve the City's population, and by identifying additional conservancy areas that serve environmental, aesthetic, or property value enhancement functions over recreational needs. No one aspect of this analysis is more important than others.

Gross Recreational Acreage Requirements
This *Plan* advises that the City provide active and passive recreational space at an overall rate of 10.5 acres per 1,000 persons for the City to meet the demand created by population growth in accordance with the upper-end NRPA standard. (At 7.1 acres per 1,000, the City is presently not meeting this upper-end standard.) As was indicated in Table I of this *Plan*, the City of Whitewater is expected to grow to a population of approximately 14,668 persons by the year 2025. The City should therefore plan for at least 154 acres of active and accessible passive recreational space (10.5 acres/1000 x 14,668), or an additional 55 acres of recreational space from the 99.2 acres provided in 2007. This additional 55 acres does not include generally inaccessible conservancy areas that may be separately acquired, or acquired in conjunction with adjoining accessible recreational space. This total also does not consider the needs for recreational space generated by new residential development in different quadrants of the City, which may lead to the dedication or acquisition of more than 55 acres of recreational space over this period.

Space Needs and Recommendations by Park Type
Moving beyond gross acreage standards, the *location* of park and open space facilities in relation to the City's residents is an important indicator of how well existing facilities meet the needs of the community. To illustrate how well the City of Whitewater's existing park lands serve the various areas of the City, Map 2: Existing Park Service Areas has been prepared. Specific recommendations for future park and recreation facility locations are described below and are indicated on Map 4: Recommended Park and Open Space Facilities.

A. *Undesignated Park Space*
In addition to illustrating the location of existing community and neighborhood park space and service areas, Map 2 also depicts "undesignated" park space in the city. These spaces are lands that are currently in City ownership with the intention of being park space, but are currently unused and/or undesignated publically. One of the priorities of this plan should be to integrate these lands into the City's park and open space system if deemed appropriate for park and open space use.

- **"Walton Oaks" Conservancy Area** - This undeveloped 2.6 acre park is located on the City's far northwest side within the Park Crest subdivision. It includes environmental corridor areas, and should be incorporated as an area for conservation

into the detailed planning for a larger community park planned for this area in the City's *West Whitewater Neighborhood Development Plan (2001).*

- **Ward Park** - This 3 acre natural area is located in the northwest quadrant of the City. It is currently unmarked and mostly inaccessible for citizens.
- **"Minneiska" Park (Trippe Lake southwest shore)** – This approximately 20 acre undeveloped park is envisioned as a prominent amenity in the "Water's Edge South" subdivision. Upon completion, this park would serve active recreational facility needs of the adjacent residential neighborhood as well as environmental buffering benefits between the neighborhood development and the lake. Potentially, this park could be incorporated with Trippe Lake Park to expand that community park.
- **Trailhead Park** - This 0.7 acre undeveloped and unmarked park is located along Bluff Road, near the Bluff Ridge Apartments.
- **"Jake's Way" Park** – This roughly 2 acre undeveloped area was dedicated as a public park as part of the "Pine Bluff" subdivision.

B. Recommended City Community Parks

Based upon a service area of 1½ miles, most of the City is adequately served by community park space. Map 2 shows areas that are not served by a community park. Notable among these is the City's northwest quadrant growth area, planned for residential use most recently in the 2001 *West Whitewater Neighborhood Development Plan*.

Map 5 suggests the placement of a future Northwest Community Park in this area, which could be built adjacent to or otherwise connected to the aforementioned conservancy area in the Park Crest subdivision. Given low-lying lands in the vicinity, this park would be combination recreation space and conservancy area. The City should work with property owners to identify park boundaries, prepare a park development master plan, and continue to acquire land for this community park. Actual development of this community park likely will not be within the 5- year planning period.

Also on Map 5, a "Northwest Gateway" community park is also suggested. This suggestion is for a more intensive recreational use, such as an adult sporting facility, which may be more appropriate with the commercial and highway-oriented uses planned for this area.

C. Recommended City Neighborhood Parks and Mini-Parks

Map 2 indicates that there are areas of the City that are not currently served by neighborhood parks; that is, they do not fall within the ½ mile recommended service area of any neighborhood park, or the service area is broken by a pedestrian barrier, such as a major street. Within developed areas of the City, however, there is usually another type of park or school facility within ½ mile. New neighborhood park facilities are recommended to be acquired and developed as other fringe areas develop, including the following future recommended parks:

- The "Gateway East" Neighborhood Park (#3 on Map 5) south of the Pine Bluff subdivision. The City's *1999 East Whitewater Neighborhood Development Plan* first identified this area as appropriate for a neighborhood park, and the planned park space south of Jakes Way could be expanded or designed to meet the needs of this neighborhood.

- ·Two active and passive use parks within the proposed Tripp Lake Open Space Area (#4 & 5 on Map 5). The Water's Edge South Upland Park (#5) could potentially merge with Trippe Lake Park to the north to expand that community park. The "South Shore" park lies in an upland area with distinct natural amenities on all sides, and may be a desirable place for a combination recreation and conservancy area. Access to the site, however, presents a challenge. Both of these new parks will likely include significant conservancy areas within or adjacent to them.
- Two parks south of Willis Ray Road (#6 & #7 on Map 5) in long-range growth areas.
- A park adjacent to Spring Brook, north of the bypass and west of Franklin Street (#8 on Map 5). This area may serve predominantly as a conservancy area, with small-scale recreational use areas (e.g., playground, open field).
- A park in the area south of the High School (#9) may be more of a conservancy area in public ownership or permanently protected private ownership as the property surrounds it develops.
- A new neighborhood park (#10) in the proposed residential development west of Mound Park Acres subdivision. There may be additional dedication or acquisition of conservancy areas in this vicinity as well.
- A "Near West" park (#11), which could actually be implemented as an extension or greater definition of Ward Park west of Tratt Street.
- A neighborhood park north of Main Street in the northwest quadrant of the City, which could be combined with a future school site (#12 on Map 5). There may be additional dedication or acquisition of conservancy areas as well, because of the large area of wetlands and other low-lying lands in this vicinity.
- Two parks north of the University (#13 & #14 on Map 5). The Prairie Village subdivision includes the dedication of nearly 10 acres as public parkland (#14), which consists mostly of wetland areas.
- A future expansion of the Whitewater Creek Nature Area (#15 on Map 5), mainly between the existing area boundaries and the Wastewater Treatment Plant site. These very low areas could provide for additional wildlife habitat, low-impact trails, and interpretive opportunities. The boundaries of this area could extend west to include the UW-LAWCON lands, which may also accommodate additional trails and native area restoration.

D. Recommended Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

In 2000, the City adopted the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* as a component of its master plan. The recommendations of the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* are included by reference within this *Park and Open Space Plan*. The City should follow that *Plan*'s recommendations for design and location of facilities to promote bicycle accessibility. As Map 3: Existing Recreational Trails and Routes depicts, the City has made progress in recent years in implementing some of the recommendations of previous plans. Map 4: Comprehensive Bicycle & Trail System Plan mainly echoes but also updates the recommendations of the primary map within the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan*. Where differences occur, Map 4 should control. The on-street and off-street bicycle route system depicted on Map 4 is intended to connect parks, neighborhoods, schools, and commercial and job centers. Key ideas advanced by the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* are a recreational loop and central "spine" off-street bike paths.

Much of the central bike path along Whitewater Creek was constructed in 2002. The City should work with the University and private land owners to complete the central spine and circumferential routes in mutually acceptable locations. In general, the City should work to acquire land and easements and make improvements to implement the recommendations of the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* and Map 5.

The following types of bicycle facilities are shown on Maps 3 & 4, with definitions included:

1. **Off Road Multi-Use Trails**: Paths separated from the street system and designated for multiple use by pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles such as bicycles and in-line skates. Such trails typically have a paved surface of 10 feet wide with 2 foot wide shoulders. A good local example is the Whitewater Creek path. In rural areas, such trails may be 8 feet wide and surfaced with limestone screenings or similar materials. Trails do not include sidewalks except where no other alternative is available.
2. **On Street Bike Routes**: Local streets where bicyclists share a travel lane with automobiles, generally with no special pavement markings or designated lanes for bikes. Traffic volumes on such streets should generally be less than 2000 cars per day and speed limits 30 mph or less. Along designated routes, all basic hazards to bike travel should be eliminated (e.g., parallel stormwater inlet grates, debris) and bicycle route signage with directions to major destinations should be considered.
3. **On Street Bicycle Lanes**: Busier streets with signed and striped bicycle lanes or paved shoulders, with a recommended minimum lane width of 4 feet (not including gutter pan). Perhaps the best local example is Starin Road in the University area. Streets with bicycle lanes may become part of a signed bicycle route system.

In addition to the recommendations in the previous section, which mainly focus on the acquisition of additional parks in the City, recommendations for improvements to existing park and open space facilities are as follows:

A. General Recommendations:
1. Continue to implement applicable recommendations of previously adopted city plans, such as the *Whitewater Street Corridor Redevelopment Plan* and the *West Whitewater Neighborhood Plan*.
2. Implement the recommendations of the 2000 *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* (see also Map 4). The City's updated Subdivision Ordinance also contains requirements related to sidewalks, bicycle/pedestrian trails, and on-street bicycle routes.
3. Promote civic group "adoption" of parks to assist in acquisition, development, and maintenance of park facilities. Past examples include Whitewater Creek Nature Area and Turtle Mound Park, adopted by the University Optimists and Optimists respectively.
4. Coordinate maintenance and upkeep of ice rink with the University to provide for demand of University students and other citizens.
5. Develop a coordinated system of park and bikeway signage, including both way-finding and park identification signage.
6. Provide sites for non-organized recreation, including arts, crafts, native plantings, and interpretation of natural, archaeological, and geologic forms.
7. Continue to work with the school district and UW-W to explore opportunities for shared facilities, including appropriate circumferential trail routes through University land.
8. Consider offering recreational programming for youths during times when school is not in session, such as after-school and "early release" days.
9. Set up a youth services committee of students from the middle school and high school to explore recreational programming opportunities for that age group, and implement appropriate recommendations.

B. Department Recommendations

- *Parks and Recreation Participation Survey* - A new Parks and Recreation Facility and Programming Survey is recommended to be conducted prior to 2013. This survey process should include both a traditional survey that addresses both facility and programming needs as well as focus groups and work sessions. Consideration should be given to create a format that would expand data collection to include qualitative and experiential information. Efforts should also be directed toward identifying future facility and program needs.
- *Capital Improvements Program* - Each year, the city develops a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that sets budgets for overall community expenditures for the coming three to five years. The Whitewater Parks and Recreation Department and its staff need to be involved in this process as it is developed by contributing budget requests for park development or improvement projects. As this CIP is reviewed and revised yearly it is able to incorporate new initiatives, planning goals such as those included in this Master Plan, and unforeseen maintenance needs.
- *Whitewater Unified School District* - The city should review the viability of formalizing land management agreements with the Whitewater Unified School District. These

agreements would be intended to build upon recent successful partnerships between both agencies and to redistribute responsibilities related to facilities maintenance in order to draw upon the strengths of each agency and to reduce redundant services.

- *System-wide ADA upgrades* - For several years the City has been systematically upgrading its park shelters and restroom facilities to be compliant with ADA regulations. These upgrades should continue, and, as recreation facilities are added or renovated, care should be taken that these facilities, especially playgrounds, are universally accessible to the greatest extent practicable.

C. Recommendations for Specific Existing Parks (See Map 1 for Number References) :

These park-specific recommendations were developed through the planning process and are recommended as targeted improvements to the City's parks within the planning period (between 2008 – 2013).

1. Indian Mounds Park
   - Provide safer and more accessible surfacing of trails
   - Continue to work with Native American cultural groups to protect park
   - Historic sensitivity and restoration
   - Designation as archaeological park
2. Starin Park
   - Address maintenance needs
     - Turf management
     - Playground equipment
     - Improve accessibility for physically disabled and small children
   - Assure that restrooms are accessible and open during park hours
   - Explore feasibility of hosting special events at park
3. Trippe Lake Park (North)
   - Construct shelter, restrooms, and trailhead in area where existing building stands
   - Improve maintenance of creek and dam – including erosion control measures
   - Establish swimming prohibition until feasibility of using park as public swimming facility and potential health risks are addressed
   - Continue to work towards more comprehensive lakes management opportunities
4. Cravath Lake Waterfront Park
   - Assure that restrooms are accessible and open during park hours
   - Involve diverse users and needs in Whitewater Street redesign and plaza concept
   - Implement and maintain Lakefront Arch
   - Explore options for permanent buffer between railroad tracks and park
   - Improve signage
5. Moraine View Park
   - Complete master planning for park with consultant
     - Establish athletic facilities, possibly to include youth soccer fields
     - Identify need for picnic area or shelter
     - Incorporate other necessary improvements (restrooms, parking)
   - Identify areas for trail development

- Relocate and/or improve facilities for Bark Park to accommodate additional amenities

6. Whitewater Creek Nature Area
   - With assistance from the University Optimists, develop:
     - parking area
     - picnic area with shelter, grills, tables, etc.
     - nature trails
     - fishing areas
     - canoe launch site
7. Brewery Hill Park/Armory
   - Providing electricity to skate park
8. Meadowsweet Park
   - Explore possibility of modest enhancements for passive recreational use
9. Park Crest Park
   - Improve accessibility for disabled persons and small children
   - Improve definition and surfacing of playground
   - Explore name change and incorporate signage
10. Clay Street Nature Park
    - More clearly define boundaries of park
    - Identify opportunities for park expansion
    - Improve signage/public awareness of the park
11. Main Street Shoppes Courtyard
    - Improve signage/public awareness of the park
    - Coordinate park improvement with redesign of adjacent streets and parking lot
    - Explore feasibility of incorporating with proposed rooftop green space at Main Street Shoppes
12. Birge Fountain Park – *no recommended improvements during this planning period*
13. Big Brick Park
    - Improve safety and cost-effectiveness of winter ice skating opportunities in the park
    - Work with University and other interested parties on opportunities for resurfacing to accommodate all-season sports and recreation
14. Mill Race Park
    - Improve visibility and public knowledge of the park
15. Optimists Turtle Mound Park
    - In partnership with the Optimists Club, explore feasibility of small park pavillion

The City is bordered by the Town of Cold Spring in Jefferson County to the north and by the Town of Whitewater in Walworth County to the south, east, and west. The Whitewater Unified School District (WWUSD) encompasses the entire City of Whitewater and surrounding lands in Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth counties.

Whitewater has experienced growth since 1980. Over that period City population has grown by about 0.8% per year (while the state averaged around 1% per year, Jefferson County averaged 1% per year, and Walworth County averaged 1.5% per year). See Table 1 on the previous page for population data for the City of Whitewater. The presence of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and a diverse student population contributes significantly to the community's character. Although the recreational needs of students are addressed by the University's recreational facilities (especially for those students living in on-campus housing), it is important that the City accommodate and work cooperatively with the University to serve these residents as well as more "permanent" City residents.

Sound park and open space planning requires a reasonable estimation of future population levels so that recreational facilities needed to meet future needs can be planned accordingly. Developing reasonable population projections for communities such as Whitewater is difficult due to a number of uncertainties. Based on projected state, county, and local growth rates, the City of Whitewater is expected to have a population of 14,668 in the year 2025. These projections do not necessarily account for broader demographic factors, particularly the expansion of urbanized greater Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago, which could produce more development and population growth in the City. With this in mind, the City should use this plan to focus on the "high" end of standards for park and open space planning.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

An early step in the park and open space planning process is to establish goals, objectives, and policies that serve as the base for all subsequent planning efforts. The terms goals, objectives, and policies are frequently used interchangeably even though each has its own distinct definition. For the City of Whitewater Park and Open Space Plan, 2008 – 2013, considerable attention was given to identifying the community's priorities with respect to planning for future Park and Open Space needs. These priorities point out the critical themes that the goals, objectives, policies, programs, and recommendations of this plan should be based upon. The "highest" priorities identified in the public participation process are summarized in the following section.

- Improved interconnectivity and visibility of City parks and open spaces throughout the community
    - Parks connected by trail system
    - Multi-use trail uninterrupted within and throughout the city
    - "Safe Routes" to school as a grant program to enhance trail development
    - Maintain/improve access and use for disabled
    - Maintain/enhance access and use for Senior population
    - Improved signage
    - Improved and/or updated park maintenance
    - Continue to build on publicity (mapping, brochures, outreach, etc.)

- Focus on new "Comfort Spots" – beautification with natural enhancements as well as limited physical improvements to encourage passive use
    - Incorporate into new residential and commercial developments
    - Establish as more well-defined components of larger neighborhood and community parks
- Greater diversity of sports facilities
    - Youth soccer fields
    - Adult outdoor sports (e.g., softball)
    - Winter sports
- Lakes and water-centered activities and uses
    - Improved water-quality
    - Potential for outdoor swimming opportunities – address potential health risks

Park and Open Space Goal: Ensure provision and stewardship of sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and natural areas to satisfy the health, safety, and welfare needs of citizens and visitors - including special groups such as the elderly, the disabled, and pre-school age children - and to enrich the aesthetic and scenic quality of the City's neighborhoods, gathering spots, and entry points.

Park and Open Space Objectives and Policies:

Objective 1. Preserve natural features and amenities and conserve natural resources for the benefit of the community and society as a whole, realizing that these resources are finite and, for the most part, irreplaceable.

1.1 Encourage public awareness of the City's environmental and cultural resources by promoting appropriate educational programs.

1.2 Work to preserve conservancy lands that can be adequately and appropriately protected without public expenditure. Direct public funds to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a priority.

1.3 Pay special attention to preserving pristine lowlands, waterways, marshes, and adjacent contributing uplands in their natural state to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, areas for passive recreation, and reservoirs for stormwater.

Objective 2. Provide quality recreation and open space lands and facilities for each neighborhood.

2.1 Site and design neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide common neighborhood gathering places. All residents should be within a 10 minute walk (1/2 mile) of a neighborhood park or community park with active recreational facilities.

2.2 Working with the School District, provide community parks for more intensive and specialized recreational needs. All new residents should be within 1 ½ miles of a community park.

2.3 Provide or require smaller parks and recreational facilities within intensive development areas, such as in or near multi-family residential developments.

Objective 3. Coordinate public park and open space lands with private developments and other uses of land.

3.1 Work with the development community, property owners, and environmental interests to site and design parks and other open spaces to meet multiple objectives.
3.2 Site and design parks and associated facilities to avoid nuisance situations between neighbors and park users.
3.3 Combine parks and recreational facilities with school facilities where appropriate and feasible. Continue to coordinate recreation service provision with the Whitewater Unified School District and the University.
3.4 Whenever possible, require that residential developments dedicate parkland, provide recreational facilities, and dedicate or otherwise preserve conservancy areas like wetlands and floodplains. In such special cases that this is not possible, the City will require that residential developments provide fees-in-lieu of parkland dedication and fees-in-lieu of park development.

Objective 4. Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities so that residents of all ages and abilities have an equitable opportunity to enjoy parks and open spaces.

4.1 Provide supervised and coordinated recreational activities for all City residents on a year round basis. This may include offering recreational programming for youth after school and in the hours and days that school is not in session.
4.2 Encourage active citizen participation in developing recreational programs and parks. This may include setting up a youth services committee of students from 6th to 12th grades to explore recreational programming opportunities for that age group, and implementing appropriate recommendations.
4.3 Encourage educational opportunities in park and recreation activities and work with county extension, 4-H, and the School District to assist with developing and operating programs such as community gardens, nature center(s), arboreta, botanical gardens, and lake and stream testing.
4.4 Maintain all parks to ensure the safety of users and replace worn or damaged equipment.
4.5 Provide special use areas and unique recreational facilities where necessary to protect an exceptional resource or supply a community demand.
4.6 Maintain all facilities in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. Operate all services, programs, and activities so they are accessible to persons with disabilities in accordance with ADA guidelines.

Objective 5. Provide good pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to parks and recreation facilities.

5.1 Provide multiple access points of sufficient width from surrounding neighborhoods.
5.2 Follow the recommendations of the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* and the updated bike and pedestrian facility map in this *Park and Open Space Plan* when reviewing private development proposals, completing road projects, and planning for bike paths.
5.3 Require sidewalks in new developments per the City's Land Division and Subdivision regulations, and follow the recommendations of the Citywide Sidewalk Plan map (within the *Central Area Plan*) when making sidewalk decisions on existing streets.

Objective 6. Acquire and develop new recreational facilities where City growth creates a need for additional facilities and where existing residents are underserved by City parks.

6.1 Direct new park and open space facilities to current and future population needs.
6.2 Acquire park and open space lands in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate coordinated neighborhood and park development.
6.3 Coordinate land acquisition, planning, and transportation programs of all federal, state, county and local agencies concerned with parks and conservation.
6.4 Cooperate with other governmental bodies, including the Whitewater Unified School District and the University to provide joint recreation service wherever possible.
6.5 Review and update the City's *Park and Open Space Plan* every five years.

Park and Open Space Standards

An important step in the park and open space planning process is to define a set of minimum standards for park and recreational facilities. These standards enable a community to determine how well its existing recreational facilities meet the needs of its residents at the present time and project the future need for such facilities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed a set of recommended park and recreational space standards which can be used by local communities as a general guide to planning for usable park and recreation space. This *Plan* uses two types of standards—both are equally important:

- Gross Recreational Acreage Standard: The first standard is expressed as a population ratio; that is, the minimum number of usable park and recreation acres recommended per 1,000 residents of the City. Generally, NRPA recommends a gross acreage standard of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed outdoor recreational space per 1,000 persons. This standard does not consider environmentally sensitive or significant lands acquired by the public primarily for conservancy purposes, because the type and amount of such conservancy lands varies so significantly in different

communities. Conservancy acquisitions would, therefore, be in addition to the 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 standard.

- Service Area Standard: The second standard is expressed as a desired maximum service radius around parks, with the radius length differing by park type. For example, NRPA recommends a service radius of ¼ mile to ½ mile for neighborhood parks. A supplementary table of these standards has been included as Appendix A.

The following is a list of various types of parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces applicable to Whitewater. The desired park functions, sizes, and service areas have been customized for the City based on the NRPA standards.

1. **Mini-park:** These active-use parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as pre-school children or senior citizens.

Desirable site characteristics: Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse developments, or housing for the elderly, or at the edge of a larger conservancy area.

Desirable size: 2 acres or less.

Acres per 1,000 population: 0.25 to 0.5 acres.

Service area: Less than 1/4 mile radius.

2. **Neighborhood Park:** An area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, ball fields, adult areas with benches, shelter and game tables. Trees, open fields and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks, where available.

Desirable site characteristics: Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to the neighborhood population. Geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a combination school-park facility, or at the edge of a larger conservancy area.

Desirable size: 3 - 7 acres.

Acres per 1,000 population: 1 to 2 acres.

Service area: 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius to serve a population of 1,000 to 5,000 persons.

3. **Community Park:** An area of diverse recreational opportunities and environmental quality designed to serve several neighborhoods, quadrants of the City, or the community as a whole. Should be located on or near major thoroughfares and also be easily accessible by foot. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large

swimming pools. May be or include an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking, and bicycling. May be any combination of the above, depending on the site and community need. Desirable facilities include those listed above for neighborhood parks, along with swimming facilities, picnicking, lighted ball fields and tennis courts, community center buildings, and adequate off-street parking. Landscaping and natural areas are desirable in a community park, if available.

Desirable site characteristics: May include or be attached to conservancy areas such as water bodies, but should also include areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

Desirable size: 7 or more acres with 15 to 40 acres being most common.

Acres per 1,000 population: 5 to 8 acres.
Service area: Several neighborhoods. 1½ mile radius.

Currently, Whitewater's parks and recreation system provides 15 parks as classified by the above standards, including one "Archaeological" Park (Indian Mounds Park) not intended for recreational use. Within each of these parks, the intensity of "recreational" use varies substantially. For this Plan, four classifications of recreational use are identified: Active, Passive, Special Use, and Conservancy. As alluded to above, conservancy lands are not included in the calculation of recreational space within the city.

- **Active Recreation Area:** these areas offer a mix of uses that may include, for example: athletic fields, buildings or structures for recreational activities, concessions, community gardens, courses or courts, children's play areas, dog play areas, or a bike path.
- **Passive Recreation Area:** these areas offer a mix of uses, undeveloped land, or minimally improved lands which may include, for example: landscaped areas, natural areas, ornamental gardens, non-landscaped greenspace, stairways, decorative fountains, picnic areas, water bodies, or trails without recreational staffing.
- **Special Use Area:** these are areas of special recreational activities such as marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain and interpret buildings, historical sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also, special use areas may contain plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, and parkways. Most parts of Special Use Areas are not included in the overall community calculation of park and recreation space per 1,000 persons.
- **Conservancy Area:** these are permanently protected areas of environmental significance or sensitivity, generally with limited opportunities for recreational use. Acquisition of conservancy areas often has secondary benefits such as flood control or enhancement of adjacent private property values. Conservancy areas may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and shoreland setback areas, drainageways stormwater management basins and conveyance routes, environmental corridors and isolated natural areas as mapped by the Southeastern Wisconsin

Regional Planning Commission, wildlife habitat, areas of rare or endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants or restoration areas, scenic vistas, or environmentally constrained lands or open spaces as recommended in other adopted components of the City's master plan. May also be appropriate for utilities and secondary recreational uses, such as trails.