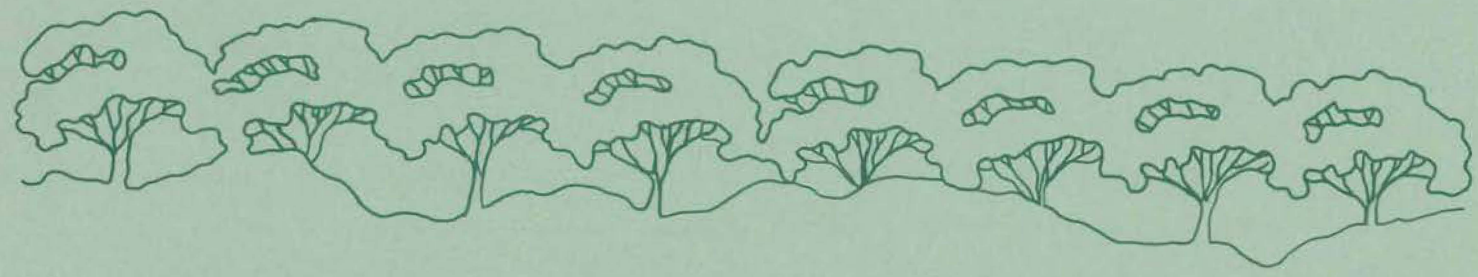
# Parks & Open Space Plan
## for
## Dane County, Wisconsin
## 1990–1995



# Parks and Open Space Plan

for

# Dane County, Wisconsin

1990–1995

**ADOPTED BY THE DANE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**JUNE 21, 1990**

Prepared by Dane County Parks Commission with assistance from
Dane County Regional Planning Commission

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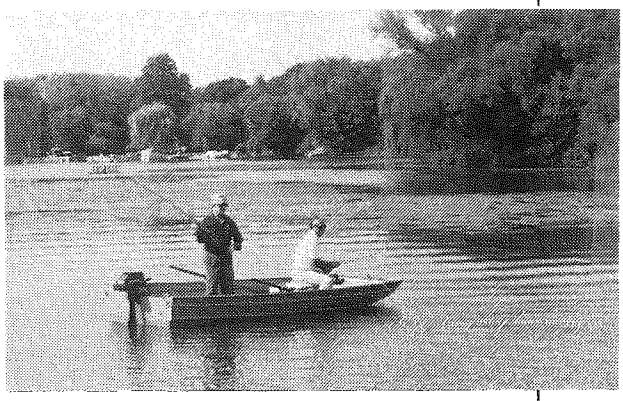

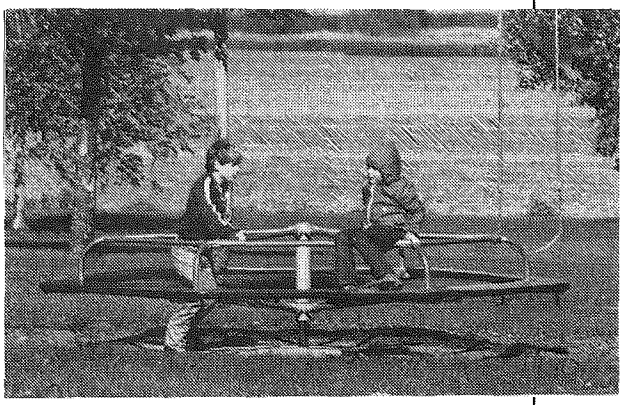

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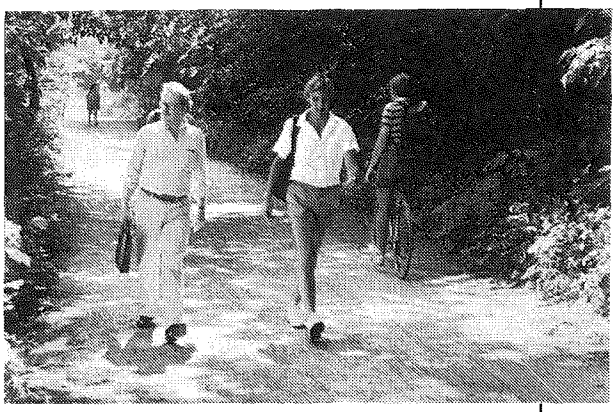


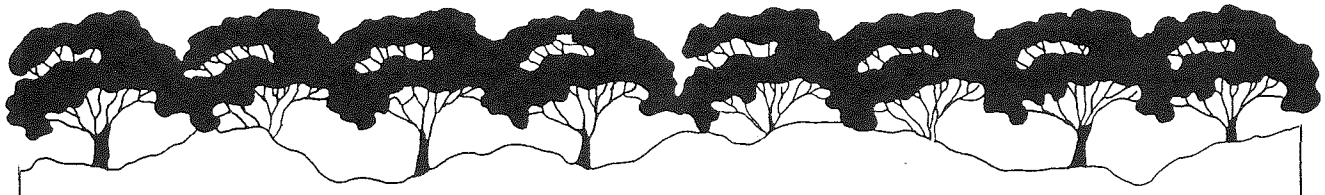
# Purpose

The primary purpose of this plan is to identify the parks and open space needs for the county and guide the county's actions in fulfilling those needs during the period from 1990-1995. The most significant aspect of the county role is in acquisition of land and improvement to park facilities. Since 1970, the county has acquired 2,900 acres of land and developed a number of major park facilities. This plan sets priorities for continuation of these activities.

Another purpose for preparing this plan is to enable the county to qualify for matching funds from state and federal programs. During the term of this plan, the county will be in position to receive grants for the acquisition of land from several programs, including an expanded state initiative under the Stewardship Fund.

A third purpose for this plan is to help identify roles for other governmental units and for private organizations in producing a coordinated effort on parks and resource protection. Each level of government should have a recreational "niche" so that a wide range of activities are provided conveniently, without duplication, and at a cost which is spread over an appropriately-sized taxing district. This plan also recognizes the opportunity for partnerships between governmental agencies and private organizations to work on the same projects.

Finally, this plan is intended to serve as a means for evaluating progress in providing parks and open space. It measures gains made in parks and facilities since the previous plan. And, in five years, there will be an opportunity to see whether the recommendations in this plan have been met.



# Institutional Framework

Federal, state, county and local governments have complementary roles in providing parks and resource areas. Each level of government has responsibility for a specific scale and type of park facility, ranging from large national parks down to local playgrounds. The county targets its efforts toward large area-wide recreational and resource areas. As long as each level of government is mindful of its role, a full range of opportunities will result without duplicating facilities.

**The Role of the Federal Government** is to manage outstanding natural, cultural and historic resources of national significance. A second role is to financially assist programs of state and local units.

**The Role of the State** is to provide large-scale recreation areas for its citizens. These areas may be utilized for camping, fishing, and enjoyment of scenic and historic sites, as well as the conservation of various natural resources and the management of wildlife. State parks with such a range of opportunities and uses will attract people from wide distances, including tourists from out of state. A long, one-day round trip or an overnight trip are often required. State parks are generally resource-oriented, and extensive recreation facilities are usually limited. In addition, the state also has the responsibility of providing financial assistance to localities.

**The Role of Dane County** is to provide large recreation areas and facilities and to preserve important environmental features. The park areas are designed to primarily serve an areawide population. Facilities such as picnic areas, boat launches, nature trails, and water access sites are in order. While county parks may provide more specific recreational facilities than their state counterparts, they are also resource preservation-oriented. Resource protection areas compose a major portion of the county's open space program.

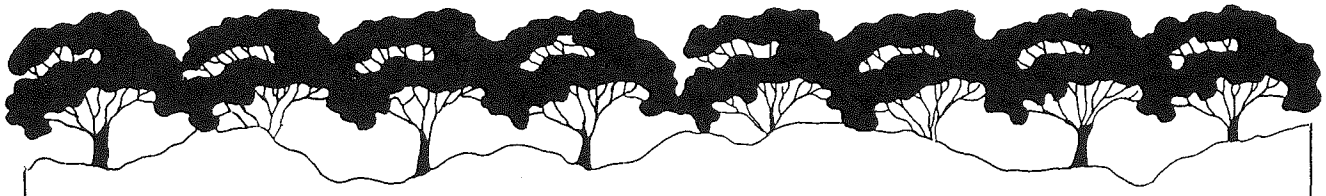
**The Role of Local Government** is to provide for the establishment and maintenance of recreation areas designed for frequent short term use by local residents. These parks may vary in size from several thousand square feet to a size exceeding one hundred acres and should be within walking or short driving distance of the intended local user population. Organized recreational programs can easily be a common feature of local parks. Playgrounds, playfields, tennis courts, and skating rinks are among the facilities provided in local recreation areas. A number of municipalities have also taken a strong role in resource protection within and adjacent to their borders. Preservation of wetlands, waterways, and environmental corridors are examples of local efforts in this regard.

**The Role of the Private Sector** is to help meet the total recreation needs of the citizens of the county. Both of these groups should be encouraged to provide facilities that meet acceptable standards and wisely use natural resources. As noted in the State Outdoor Recreation Plan: "Through properly designed and responsibly operated recreation businesses, the public can receive the widest range of recreational opportunities, the local and state economies can be significantly strengthened, and the operator can realize both a profit and a sense of satisfaction in meeting the public need."

Private, non-profit conservation groups have a key new role in resource protection because the Stewardship Fund will provide matching funds for the acquisition of land for urban green space, habitat restoration, streambank easements, state trails, natural areas and the natural heritage program. This program should increase the participation of private groups in resource conservation.

## Need for Coordination

This plan recognizes that the opportunity for joint funding of projects among communities and private groups will increase in the future. The cost-sharing policies of the Stewardship Fund will be responsible for some mutual acquisition programs. There are also other projects developing, such as the proposed trail system, which will require more coordinated planning and funding between different levels of government than has been necessary in the past. Parks, trails and natural resource areas will all see some levels of joint participation.



# Dane County
# Parks and Open Space Planning

| Master Plans | Parks and Open Space Plans | Project Plans |
|---|---|---|
| Land Use Plan (1973) | Park and Open Space (1970) | Nine Springs E-Way (1975) |
| Regional Development Guide (1985) | Short Range Open Space Program (1975) | Cherokee Marsh (1981) |
| Water Quality Plan (1979) | Park, Open Space and Outdoor Recreation (1983) | Environmental Corridors (1988) |
| | Parks and Open Space Plan (1990) | |

## Past Planning Efforts

In Dane County, policies for park and open space were first set in 1970 as part of the Park and Open Space Plan--the first countywide plan adopted by Dane County. Since then, the policies and actions have evolved in the context of subsequent efforts including the Dane County Land Use Plan (1973), the Nine Springs E-Way Plan (1975), the Short-Range Open Space Program (1975), the Cherokee Marsh Plan (1981), the Water Quality Plan (1979), the Regional Development Guide (1985), the Environmental Corridors (1984), and the updated Park, Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Plan (1983).

## Dane County Regional Development Guide (1985)

This document presents the overall county land use policies for all development issues, including parks, open space and outdoor recreation, and environmental protection. The relevant policies have been incorporated into the goals and policies chapter of this plan.

The Regional Development Guide establishes the system of open space corridors as the backbone of open space and environmental planning for the county. The corridors have been identified as the most crucial natural resource areas and deserving of the greatest degree of environmental protection. The open space corridors include the three following components:

Rural Resource Protection Areas (shown on Dane County Regional Development Guide Map), which are continuous open space systems based on streams, lakes, shorelands, floodplains, wetlands, steep slopes, and woodlands. Primary protection is through zoning, with need for acquisition in areas of distinct development threats.

Urban Environmental Corridors (also shown on the Regional Development Guide Map) are the portions of open space corridors which lie within urban service areas. These are in subject to pressures of development and impact from adjoining land uses. They are also valuable because of the relative scarcity of natural resources and scenic beauty in urban areas. For these reasons, public ownership, control, and access are important.

Isolated Resource Features lie outside of open space corridors, but need protection because of their great scientific, scenic, or ecological importance.

The recommendations included in this plan build upon the open space corridor concept. Proposals for new resource protection initiatives and acquisition priorities follow the groundwork laid down in open space corridor planning.

The Regional Development Guide plan map on page 7 shows the open space corridor system as it has been adopted by the County Board of Supervisors and is reflected in local and regional planning.

The specific criteria used in mapping the open space corridors include:

1. Perennial Streams
2. Intermittent Streams and Drainageways
3. Open Channel (Constructed) Drainageways
4. Buffer Strips Adjacent to Streams
5. Lakes and Other Water Bodies
6. Wetlands
7. Floodplains
8. Soils with Limitation for Development
9. Woodlands
10. Steep Slopes
11. Prairie and Other Unique Vegetation
12. Existing Parks, Greenways, Conservancy Land
13. Proposed Parks, Greenways, Conservancy Land

## 1970 Parks and Open Space Plan

The county's first park plan addressed long-term needs for recreational land as well as natural resources. Its policies recognized both the recreational and non-recreational functions of open space and placed a strong emphasis on environmental protection. In addition, the policies called for open space to help carry out the general development policies of the region.

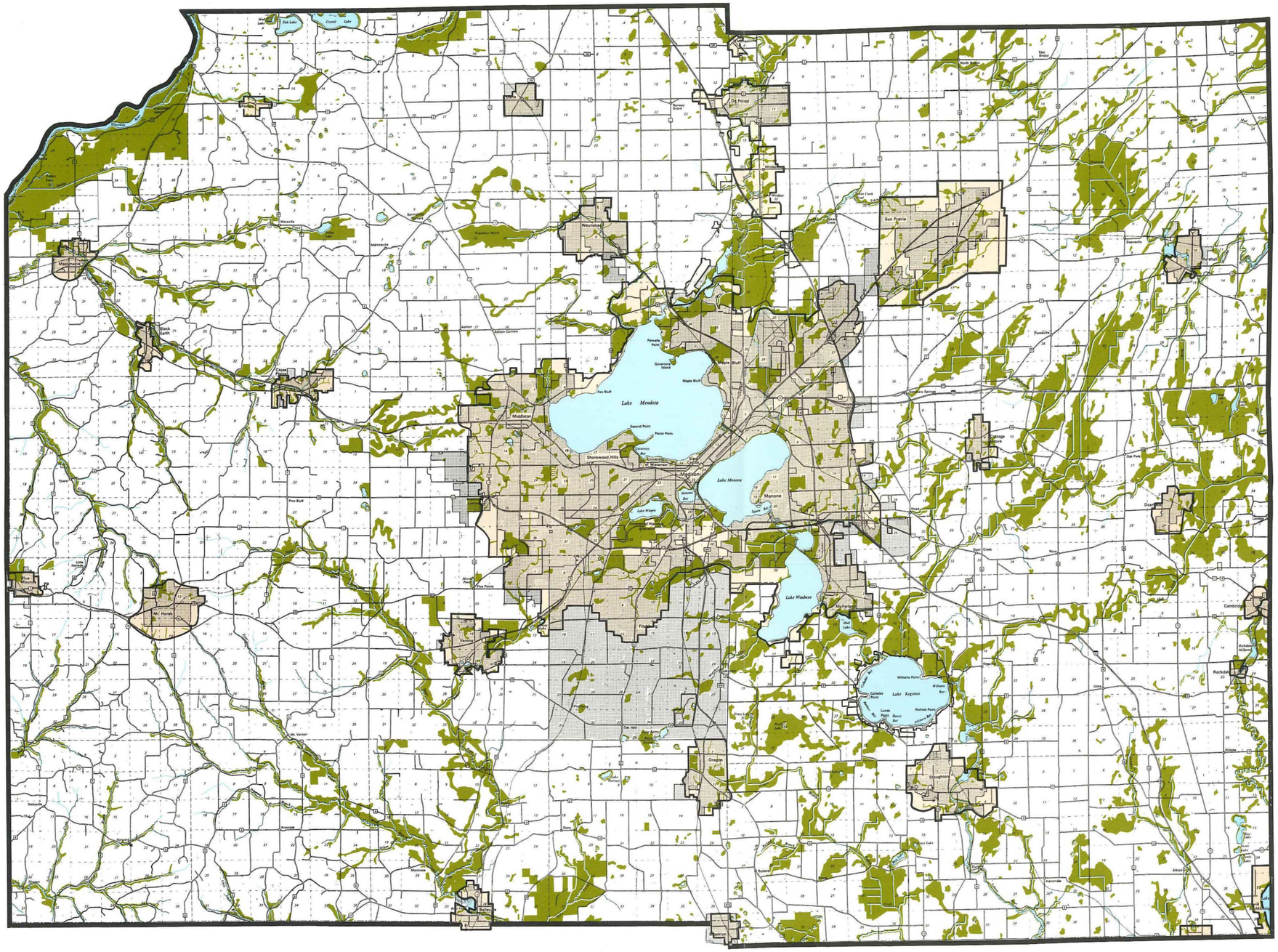
With generous funding available through the federal Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) fund and state Outdoor Recreation Act Program (ORAP), the plan recommended an ambitious acquisition program. Recommendations included 2,090 acres of new county park land, 430 acres of additions to existing parks, and 4,690 acres of resource protection acres to be acquired by various units of government.

The top priorities were: establishment of a large park on the northwest shore of Lake Mendota; a park along Lake Waubesa; a park in the Mount Vernon area; expansion to Brigham, Festge and Stewart Parks; and major resource acquisition along Sixmile Creek, Nine Springs Creek, the Yahara River and Cherokee Marsh, and Token Creek.

## 1973 Land Use Plan

Adoption of the Dane County Land Use Plan put park and open space policies into the context of overall county development policies. The plan articulated broad objectives and detailed polices in six areas: population growth and distribution, environmental protection, regional development, public services, agricultural land, and open space.

The major open space recommendation of the land use plan was establishment of a countywide open space corridor system.




LAMBERT CONFORMAL PROJECTION 4000 FOOT GRID BASED ON WISCONSIN COORDINATE SYSTEM, SOUTHERN ZONE

BASE BY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CARTOGRAPHIC LABORATORY, 1973
Municipal Boundaries Updated, 10/92

# REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE PLAN MAP

## DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

- OPEN SPACE CORRIDOR
- INCORPORATED AREA
- URBAN SERVICE AREA
- RURAL AREA
- LIMITED SERVICE AREA

10/92

0 1/4 1/2 1 2 3
Scale in miles

Prepared by: THE DANE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Land with open space characteristics tends to be concentrated in identifiable patterns, which are most often linear because they reflect stream, drainage, and ridge patterns. The open space corridor concept uses this fact to delineate a continuous linear system whose component parts are interrelated. The Dane County Land Use Plan included a generalized corridor map, to be detailed in later plans.

## Nine Springs E-Way

The Nine Springs E-Way was developed concurrently with the land use plan. It was identified as a first priority acquisition recommendation in the 1970 Park and Open Space Plan.

The project was coordinated by Philip Lewis and the UW-Madison Environmental Awareness Center staff, who obtained Madison and Dane County endorsement of the concept in 1972. An immediate goal was set to delineate at least a minimal contiguous linkage through the southern portion of the Nine Springs Creek corridor. An intergovernmental committee assisted by the Madison City Planning Department, the Dane County Regional Planning Commission, and the Dane County Parks Department prepared a detailed plan for acquisition of all lands needed to complete the Nine Springs portion of the E-Way.

Land acquired in the corridor is intended for resource protection and trail-oriented recreation. Because public access is desired, all of the area is scheduled for acquisition instead of regulatory protection.

## Short Range Open Space Program (1975)

The 1973 Dane County Land Use Plan called for a five-year action plan to place priorities on proposals first laid out in the 1970 long-range park plan. Considerable public support was indicated for open space acquisition and the Short Range Open Space Program was written in 1975 to meet that need. It recorded substantial progress made toward the acquisition goals of the long-range plan. Sixty-three percent of the acreage proposed for new parks had been acquired by 1975, and 27 percent of the acreage intended for resource protection.

Among the resource protection projects, continued acquisition of the Nine Springs E-Way was given first priority, with an emphasis on the Dunn's Marsh area. Among the park proposals, creation of a park on Lake Mendota received top priority as a state-county cooperative effort. In addition, the short-range program called for purchase, whenever possible, of parcels contributing toward the open space corridors as outlined in the Dane County Land Use Plan. The short-range program urged an "opportunities approach" to acquisition rather than detailed capital improvement programming. While the county and other units of government were advised to buy the highest priority sites first, buying lower priority parcels was encouraged if they became available.

## Water Quality Plan (1979)

The Water Quality Plan made a strong connection between open space land uses and water quality benefits. In particular, the plan recommended aggressive wetland, shoreland, and floodplain protection programs. The plan recommended that water-related resource protection areas should have priority for acquisition.

## Cherokee Marsh Long Range Open Space Plan (1981)

Like the Nine Springs E-Way, the Cherokee Marsh Plan is a detailed proposal for one portion of the county open space system. Protection of the marsh, Dane County's largest remaining wetland, has been a public concern since the 1950s. While the City of Madison, Dane County and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have all acquired portions of the area, coordination of long-term plans among these units of government was needed.

The City of Madison Parks Commission initiated an intergovernmental planning program in 1977 (as part of its own Park and Open Space Plan, adopted that year). A Cherokee Marsh Advisory Committee was established, representing Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin DNR, the Towns of Westport, Windsor and Burke, and coordinated by the Dane County RPC.

The Madison Parks Department staff analyzed the marsh area, and produced three types of recommendations. First, a "preservation boundary" was delineated, to identify a clear demarcation of land intended to remain as permanent open space. Second, the plan included proposals regarding public access to and use of land within the open space boundary. The recommendation called for controlled public use, providing limited facilities as needed to meet population pressures, and directing activities to those facilities. Finally, the plan made recommendations to reach the protection goals for the marsh, calling for a combination of land-use controls, easements, and fee simple acquisition. General responsibilities of each unit of government were also outlined.

In the past two decades, over 3,000 acres of land have been acquired for public use in the marsh area. The Long Range Open Space Plan proposes that 2,700 additional acres be protected in coming decades to preserve Cherokee Marsh as a major open space corridor.

## Other Local Plans

Numerous other units of government have prepared and adopted open space and/or recreation plans. It is, however, beyond the scope of this report to analyze each of these plans except to note that they have been reviewed in terms of their consistency with regional policies and objectives. For the most part, the proposed facilities detailed in the plans are of a local nature, and are not intended to serve a regional population. Nevertheless, the location and development of local facilities are part of the system and thus are of regional interest.

## Summary of County Acquisitions and Plans

The following tables summarize the history of park land and natural resource area acquisitions since the 1970 Parks and Open Space Plan was adopted. The tables also indicate the recommendations included in each plan for acquiring or expanding the sites. The tables show that park land goals originally established in 1970 have largely been met. The tables also show that most of the natural resource acquisitions have been confined to the Nine Springs E-Way.

**PARK ACQUISITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN PREVIOUS DANE COUNTY PARKS PLANS**
**Acres**

| | 1970 Park Plan | | 1975 Park Plan | | 1983 Park Plan | | 1989 Park |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sites | Status | Proposal | Status | Proposal | Status | Proposal | Status |
| Babcock | 40 | | 40 | | 40 | | 40 |
| Badger Prairie | | | | | | | 339[1] |
| Brigham | 56 | + 60 | 56 | expand | 94 | +20 | 112 |
| Cam-Rock | 197 | +100 | 260 | | 300 | | 300 |
| Chapel Wayside | 1 | | | | | | --[2] |
| Eighmy | 2 | | | | | | --[3] |
| Festge | 47 | + 70 | 70 | | 70 | +30 | 70 |
| Fish Camp Launch | | | | | 19 | | 19[4] |
| Fish Lake | 3 | | 3 | | 3 | | 3 |
| Goodland | 15 | + 20 | 15 | | 15 | | 15 |
| Halfway Prairie | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Indian Lake | | +500 | 400 | | 442 | | 442 |
| LaFollette | 35 | | 35 | | 35 | | 35 |
| Lake Farm | | +190 | 135 | | 295 | | 328 |
| Lake Mendota | | +200 | -- | | -- | | --[5] |
| McCarthy | | | | | 180 | | 180[6] |
| Mendota | 20 | | 20 | | 20 | | 20 |
| Mt.Vernon/Deer Cr. | | +250 | -- | acquire | -- | acquire | -- |
| Richardson Cave | | +250 | -- | | -- | | --[7] |
| Riley-Deppe | 34 | | 34 | | 34 | | 34 |
| Salmo Pond | | | | | 6 | | 6 |
| Stewart | 50 | + 80 | 105 | | 105 | expand | 125 |
| Token Creek | 147 | +200 | 387 | | 387 | | 387 |
| Viking | | +150 | 100 | | 100 | | 100 |
| Walking Iron | ___ | +550 | 240 | | 240 | | 240[8] |
| Total | 647 acres | | 1900 acres | | 2386 acres | | 2796 acres |

[1]County owned land was transferred to the Park system in 1978 and 1985.

[2]Combined with Indian Lake.

[3]Transferred to Gov. Nelson State Park.

[4]Owned by Department of Natural Resources, managed by Dane County.

[5]Site purchased by State for Gov. Nelson State Park.

[6]Donation pending as part of owner's estate plans.

[7]Determined to be unfeasible.

[8]Northwest county park site originally targeted for Fish Lake was changed to Walking Iron when land became available.

## RESOURCE AREA ACQUISITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN PREVIOUS DANE COUNTY PARKS PLANS

**Acres**

| Resource Sites | 1970 Park Plan Status | 1970 Park Plan Proposal | 1975 Park Plan Status | 1975 Park Plan Proposal | 1983 Park Plan Status | 1983 Park Plan Proposal | 1989 Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lower Black Earth Creek | +1000 | -- | acquire | -- | | -- | |
| Eisner | 53 | + 80 | 53 | | 53 | | --[9] |
| Holtzman | | | | | 64 | | 64[10] |
| Door Creek Wetlands | | +1100 | -- | | -- | | -- |
| Lakeview Woods | 27 | | 27 | | 27 | | 27 |
| Marshall Millpond | | + 140 | -- | | -- | | --[11] |
| Nine Springs E-Way | | acquire | 20 | | 289 | | 598 |
| Pheasant Branch | | + 350 | -- | | -- | acquire | -- |
| Phil's Woods | | | | | 37 | | 37[12] |
| Schumacher Farm | | | | | 38 | | 38[13] |
| Sixmile Creek | | acquire | -- | | -- | acquire | -- |
| Token Creek Wetlands | | acquire | -- | | -- | | -- |
| Yahara Heights/ Cherokee Marsh | | | | acquire | 65 | expand | 65 |
| Total | 80 acres | | 100 acres | | 573 acres | | 829 acres |

## TOTAL PARK AND RESOURCE AREA ACQUISITIONS

| | 1970 | 1975 | 1983 | 1989 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Parks | 647 | 1900 | 2386 | 2796 |
| Resource Areas | 80 | 100 | 573 | 829 |
| Total | 727 acres | 2000 acres | 2959 acres | 3625 acres |

[9]To be sold as surplus property.

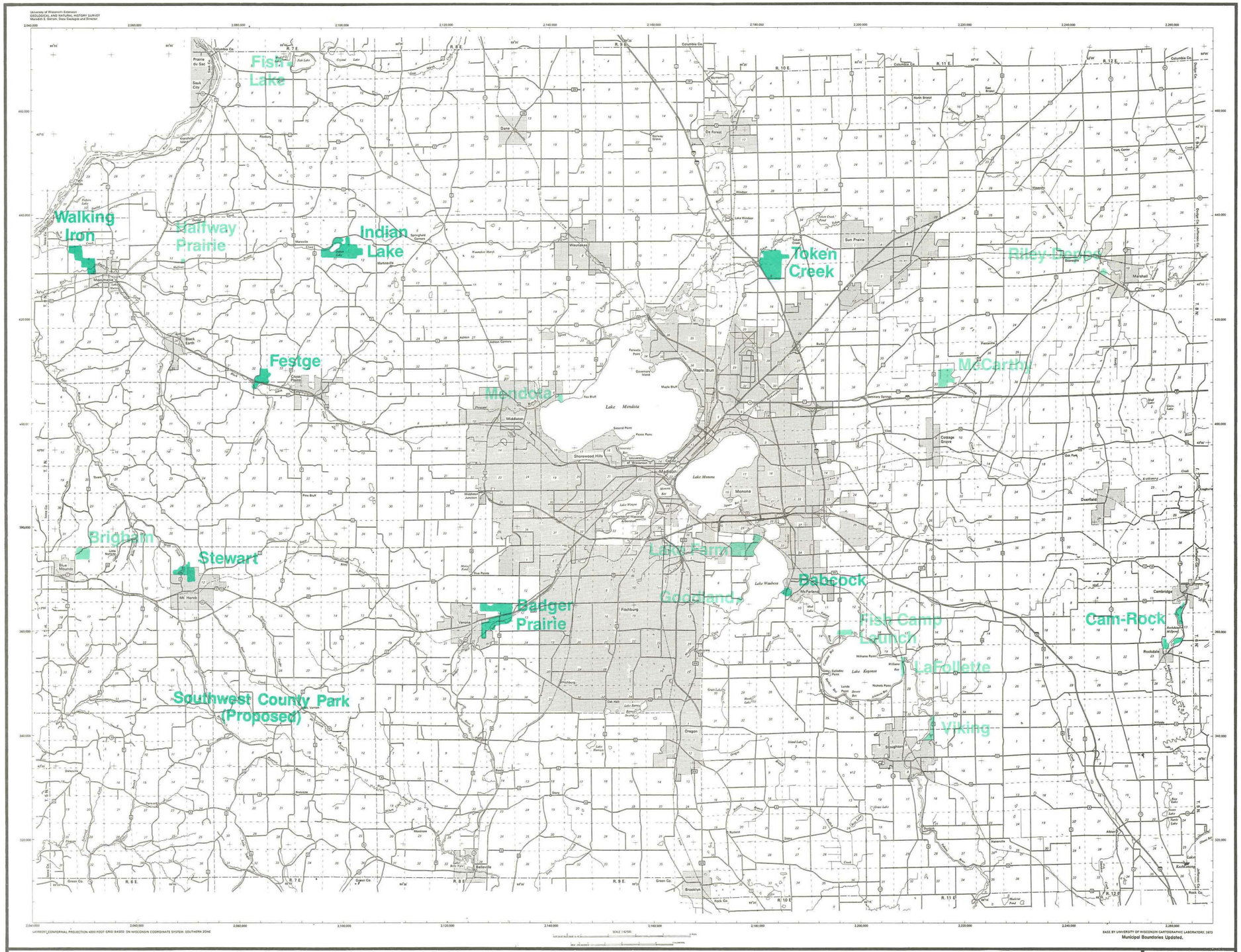
[10]Donation.

[11]Desired land was obtained by Village of Marshall for park purposes.

[12]Donation.

[13]Donation.

University of Wisconsin–Extension
GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
Meredith E. Ostrom, State Geologist and Director

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SCALE 1:62500

BASE BY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CARTOGRAPHIC LABORATORY, 1973
Municipal Boundaries Updated.

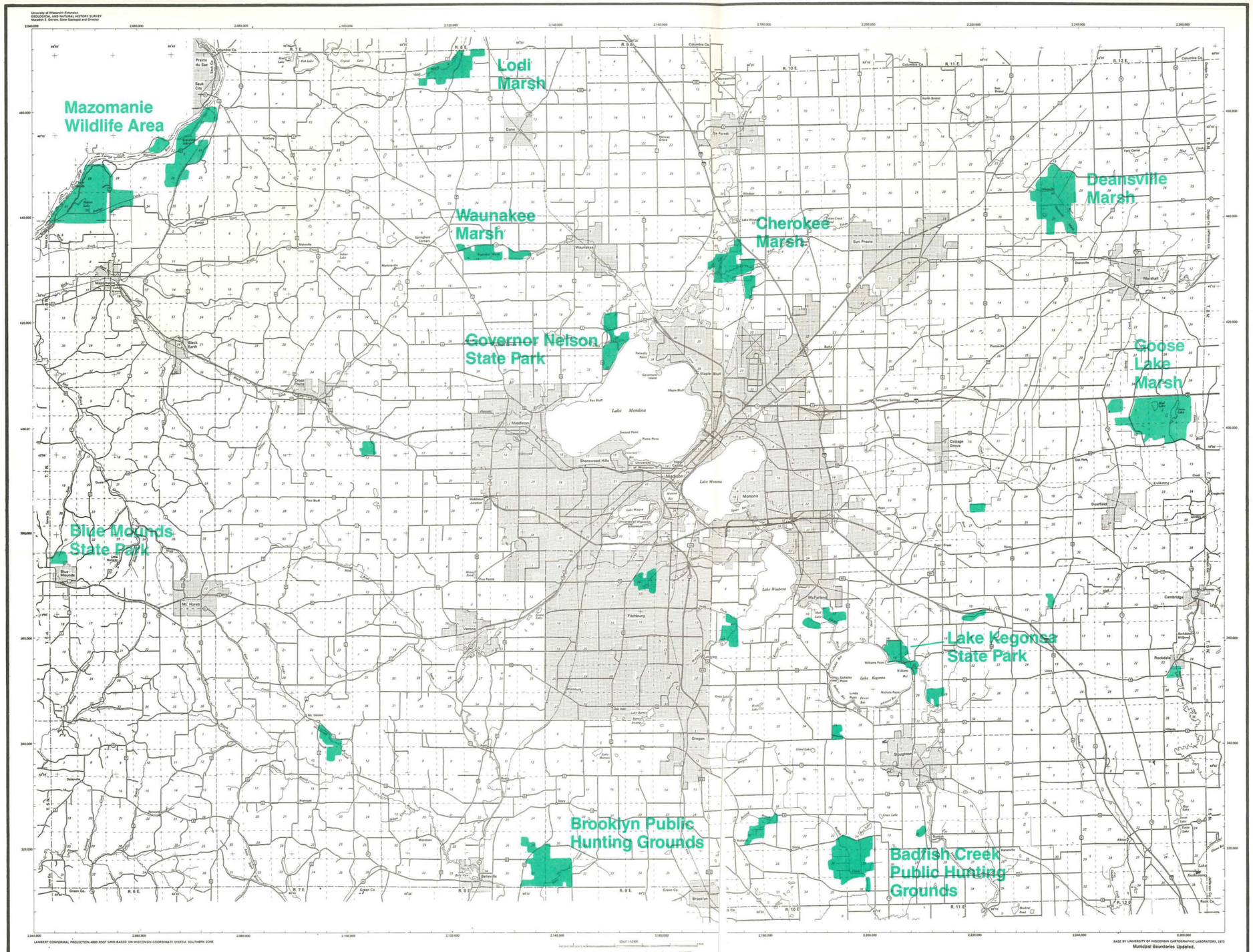
# PARKS
# DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

EXISTING PARKS

EXISTING PARKS WITH PROPOSED ADDITIONS

0 1/4 1/2 1 2 3
Scale in miles

Prepared by: THE DANE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

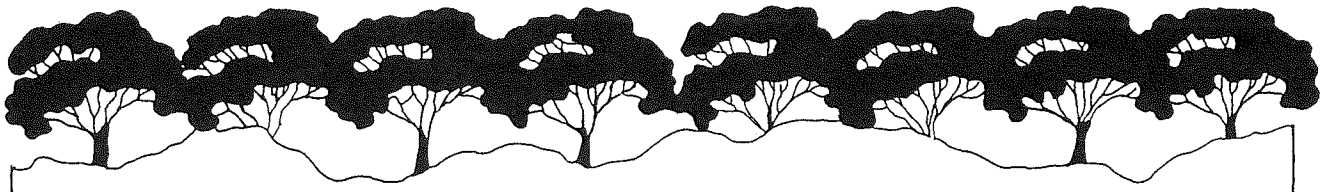



# STATE OWNED LANDS
# DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

PARKS AND WIL LIFE AREAS

Scale in miles

Prepared by: THE DANE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



# Goals and Policies

## A. Overall Goals

The Parks and Open Space Plan has four main goals:

1. To preserve key natural resources of the county in permanent open space.
2. To provide sufficient parks and recreation areas to meet the needs of the people of Dane County.
3. To preserve for posterity some of the heritage of Dane County.
4. To use open space to achieve separation of communities and help guide urban growth when the land is appropriate for park purposes.

## B. Policies for Natural Resource Protection

1. Continue preservation of the resources within the countywide open space corridor system as adopted in the Regional Development Guide.
2. Support the detailed delineation and implementation of the system of environmental corridors within urban service areas.
3. Protect natural resources and linkages outside the open space corridors such as scientific areas, glacial features, and other isolated, environmentally-sensitive areas.
4. Emphasize continued implementation of the Nine Springs E-Way and Cherokee Marsh Long Range Plans.
5. Include any additional green space preservation plans that are adopted by Dane County.
6. Acquire and preserve lands along rivers, streams, lakes, and in wetlands as well as areas of significant topography and woodlands.
7. Assist in implementing the Dane County Water Quality Plan.
8. Allow for only low-impact recreational uses of natural resource protection areas.

## C. Policies for Parks and Recreation

1. Provide recreational opportunities that are consistent with the county's role in the overall system of parks for the region.
    - The state provides regionally significant parks and open spaces.
    - The county should continue to provide intermediate, resource-based parks that demonstrate a regional clientele.

- Cities, villages and towns should provide parks and playgrounds to meet local community needs, including intensive recreational uses.

2. Priority in siting parks should be given to areas which:

   - provide for year-round multiple uses, particularly trail-oriented activities.
   - are close to large concentrations of people
   - are likely to be otherwise lost through urbanization
   - are in delineated open space corridors to provide for high-demand, trail-oriented activities.

3. Priorities for facilities and improvements should be given to:

   - less intensive development to control maintenance and operation costs
   - trail-oriented activities
   - trails to accommodate wheelchairs
   - picnic areas, recreation equipment and toilet facilities equipped for people in wheelchairs
   - activities which fulfill present and projected demands for recreation where these have been quantified.

4. The development of any off-road vehicle park facilities shall require the prior concurrent approval of the affected local governments and the County Board.

5. The county may provide mountain biking trails if a suitable site can be found which will prevent environmental damage and avoid conflict with other users.

6. The county should consider a role in the recreational activity of golf to meet the recreational and open space needs of the county.

## D. Policies for Cultural and Historic Resources

1. Acquire areas to protect the historic, aesthetic, and cultural heritage of Dane County.

2. Plan for the greatest protection and appreciation of the resources of each site, including archaeological studies prior to development of park land.

3. Interpret the significance of sites to add greater interest and meaning to park visitation.

4. Require the preservation of Indian mounds on public and private lands.

5. Consider acquisition of sites which can be included in existing parks and resource areas.

6. Support planning efforts aimed at preserving Indian mounds, including:

   - identification and classification of mounds and historic sites in accordance with the Dane County Ordinance
   - assist in preparing a cultural overview for Dane County
   - assist in updating a specific cultural context for the Dane County archaeological region
   - assist in developing and implementing a cultural resource management plan for the county.

- assist in updating a specific cultural context for the Dane County archaeological region
- assist in developing and implementing a cultural resource management plan for the county.

## E. Policies for Urban Green Spaces

1. To implement the policies of Dane County Regional Development Guide with regard to preserving a system of open space corridors.

2. To achieve separation of communities to preserve individual community identities.

3. To cooperate with other units of government in establishing a permanent network of open space around the central urban area of the county.

4. To implement other green space initiatives which are adopted by the County Board.

## F. Policies for Implementation

1. Develop a full range of programs for the preservation of open space corridors, including: purchase, dedication, zoning, easement, acquisition and other equitable means.

2. Encourage greater state and federal allocation of financial resources for parks and open space to metropolitan areas such as Dane County.

3. Encourage greater private sector action in the preservation of park and open space lands.

4. Seek new and innovative methods of using private sources of funding such as land donation, labor donation, and in-kind goods and services.

5. Maintain a volunteer program which identifies tasks and provides supervision, support, incentives, and recognition.

6. Relinquishment of county-owned park land for purposes other than preservation of recreation shall be dependent upon:

    - an equal exchange of land
    - revenues go to additional park lands or improvements
    - action is consistent with local and regional plans
    - determining that the land is surplus.

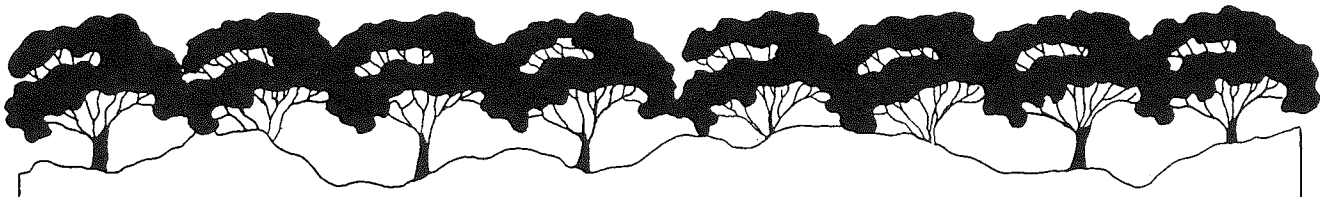
7. Donations of land to the county parks system should be evaluated in terms of:

    - consistency with needs identified in Parks and Open Space Plan
    - proximity to existing parks
    - maintenance and development costs
    - any special environmental or cultural qualities.
    - allowing the county to accept donation for resale of land with the proceeds used for purchasing other park and resource land.

8. The county should cooperate with private groups and with all other units of government in financing and in sharing management of recreation resources where appropriate.

9. The county should pursue assuming responsibility for areas and facilities that demonstrate a regional clientele, and consider turning over to local governments parks and facilities which do not meet county standards, provided that the lands are kept as parks.

10. The county should prepare project plans for specific parks or resource areas prior to acquisition.



# Needs Analysis

## How Need is Established

This section analyzes the need for acquiring more land and for making improvements to the county park system. How much land is needed and what types of park facilities are required is calculated by examining the resource base of the county, the demand for recreational activities, and by comparing county park acreages to a recognized standard for park requirements.

Park land and recreation area needs are measured by the standards approach. The National Recreation and Park Association has developed a standard of 15 acres of recreational open space per 1,000 people. This standard is only a guide and should not be taken as the sole determinant of park land needs. However, the standard has been used as a target goal for land acquisition since the 1970 Parks and Open Space Plan. It continues to provide a good gauge of how the county has progressed in meeting the need for recreational land.

Natural resource protection needs are determined by a resource-based approach. In this case, it is the amount of critical resources needing protection that defines the need, rather than the size of the population. Some areas have more sensitive resources than other places do, so the need for protection varies accordingly.

Cultural and historic resources needs are also determined by the amount and type of the resources in the area.

Urban green space needs are calculated by combining the standards approach with the resource-based approach. Some land acquired for urban green space may be recreational in character and will be counted toward the goal of 15 acres per 1,000 residents. Other land will serve non-recreational uses, such as a community separation zone for example. The need in this case is determined by the resources available to accomplish the objective. As a plan for urban green space is developed, the need for land acquisition will be determined.

Improvements to facilities are needed according to demand. Trends in recreational activities are tracked and used as a basis for providing improvements that meet the demand.

## A. Acquisition Needs: Recreational Park Land

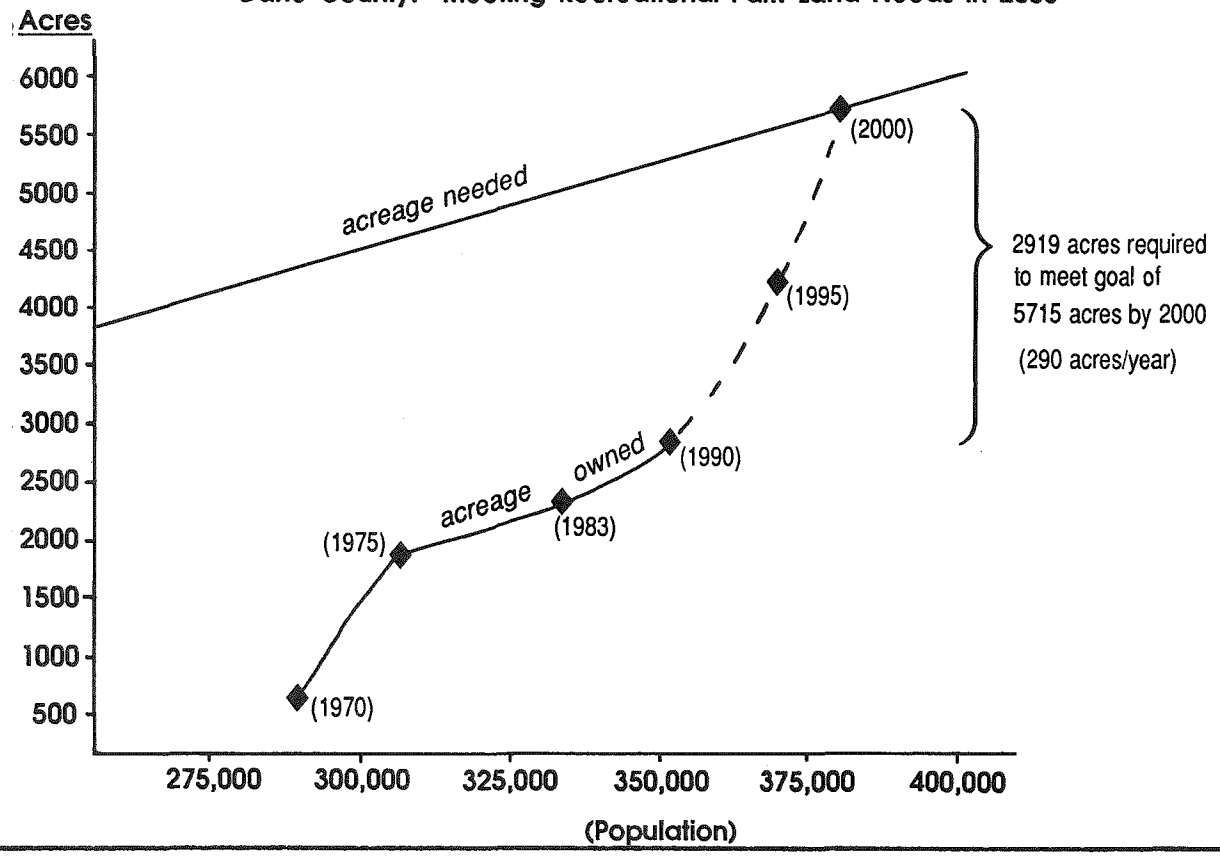
The following table and graph show how the county has progressed toward meeting the target recreational land goal of 15 acres per 1,000 residents.

**Dane County: Recreational Park Land Needs 1970-2000**

| | 1970 | 1975 | 1983 | 1989[1] | 1995[2] | 2000[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population | 290,272 | 306,500 | 332,000 | 352,999 | 367,200 | 381,401 |
| Recreational Acreage Required | 4,353 | 4,597 | 4,980 | 5,295 | 5,508 | 5,715 |
| Acreage Owned | 647 | 1,900 | 2,386 | 2,796 | 4,255* | 5,715* |
| Deficit | (3,706) | (2,697) | (2,594) | (2,499) | (1,459) | -0- |

*Proposed
[1]Wisconsin Dept. of Administration Estimate, 1989.
[2]Dane County Regional Planning Commission Projection, 1988.

**Dane County: Meeting Recreational Park Land Needs in 2000**



The figures show that the county has made significant progress in meeting the target goal for recreational land. The graph shows that 2,919 acres of land will be needed if the goal is to be met by the year 2000. Meeting the goal will require the county to purchase an average of 292 acres of land per year for the next decade. Purchasing 1,460 acres by 1995 is recommended as an intermediate goal. Acquisition of the proposed new parks, additions to existing parks, and Ice Age Trail access nodes listed in the following sections would account for the 1,460 acres. See the map on page 13 for the locations of existing and proposed parks.

## 1. Need for New Parks

a. A park of 250-400 acres is needed for the southwestern portion of the county. The driftless area topography is a resource which would provide a scenic recreational area to serve the population of the entire county. This need was originally identified in the 1970 Parks and Open Space Plan, which sought a geographic distribution of parks throughout the county. The recommendation for a park in the Deer Creek area has been carried forward in all subsequent plans, but so far no suitable site has been found.

b. The county supports the restoration and preservation of the Brazee Lake area adjacent to the City of Sun Prairie, including the creation of a park for passive recreation use along the east side of the basin. The county should consider participation in this effort. As plans are developed and coordinated with the city and state agencies, Dane County may want to recognize this as a future county park site.

## 2. Need for Additions to Existing Parks

Additional land is required in order to realize the full potential of some existing parks. The new acreage will serve to complete initial acquisition plans and to allow for full development of park facilities. Specifically, eight parks are in need of expansion.

| Park | Current Acreage | Minimum Additional Acreage Needed | Purpose |
|---|---|---|---|
| Babcock | 40 | 4 | Boat launch parking |
| Badger Prairie | 339 | 50 | Trail connection to Elver Park |
| Cam-Rock | 300 | 45 | Trail connection |
| Festge | 70 | 50 | Trail loop connection |
| Indian Lake | 442 | 25 | Resource protection |
| Stewart | 125 | 40 | Resource protection and trail connection |
| Token Creek | 387 | 80 | Resource protection, trail connection |
| Walking Iron | 240 | 160 | Trail development |

## 3. New Trails

This plan recognizes the need to identify an overall trail system for the county. All levels of government from the local to the state have responded to the popularity of trail activities by creating trail segments within their jurisdictions. The purpose of this plan is to propose links between parks, trail segments, resource areas and population centers to initiate a coordinated countywide trail system.

The trail segments and links proposed in the plan would be provided by any number of governmental units. In some cases joint action will be required for planning and acquisition. The map on page 25 shows the proposed network.

Specific county activities needed to create the trail network include:

a. Work to achieve state designation for trail segments which link state trail corridors together. Such a designation makes the segments eligible for state funding A key segment of trail which could be eligible for state designation is the proposed link between the Military Ridge and Glacial Drumlin State Trails. The link would run through or adjacent to the E-Way.

b. Work with local communities to plan and acquire trail links between county parks and the population centers of the county. A number of communities, including Monona, Fitchburg, Middleton, Madison, Sun Prairie and Waunakee, have expressed interest in completing these inter-community links.

c. Participate in the development and management of the Ice Age Trail, including:

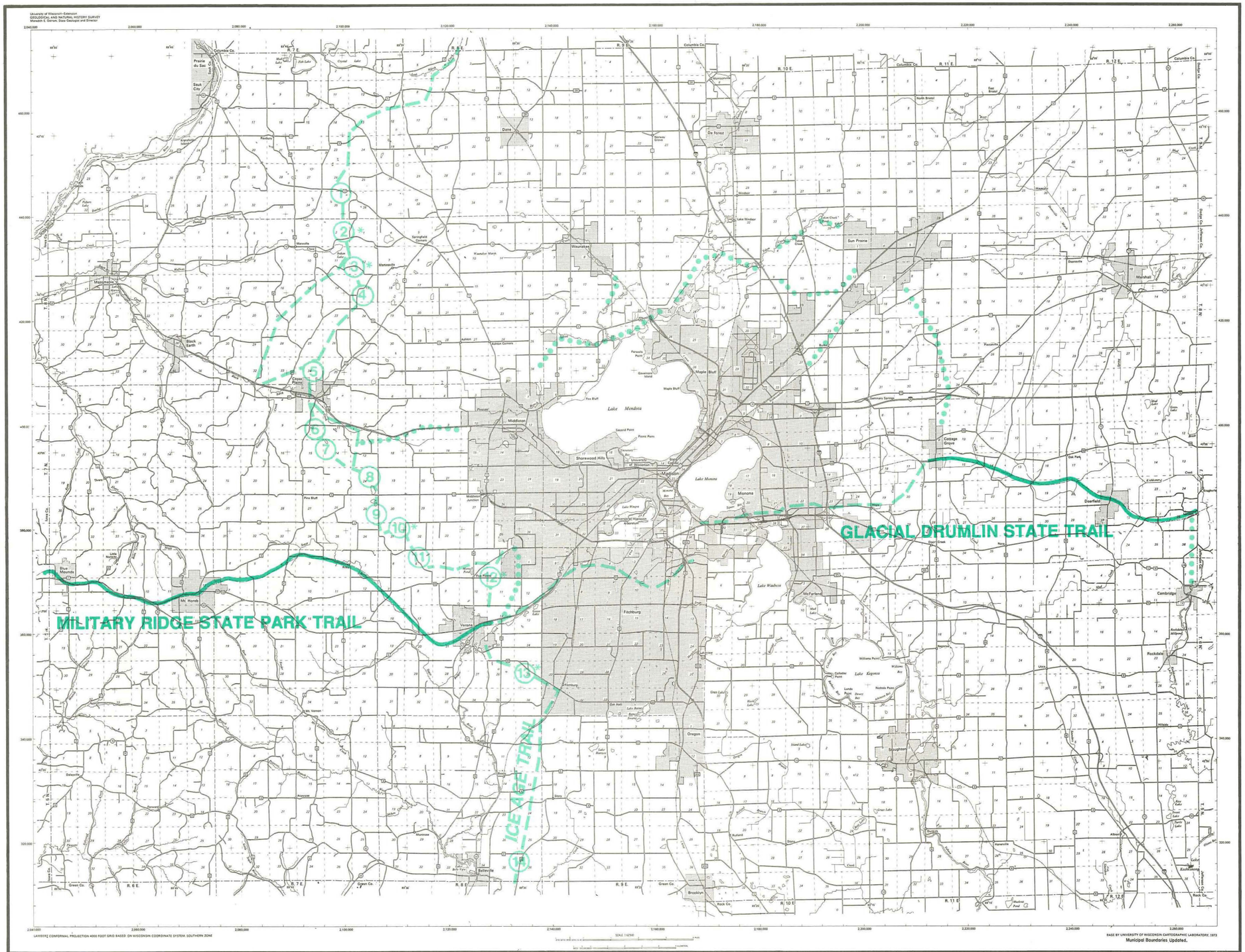
- Forming a working partnership with the National Park Service, the Department of Natural Resources, the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, and other private sources in the acquisition of Ice Age Trail lands that become available for purchase in Dane County.

- Developing and maintaining portions of the trail in Dane County.

- Developing, through acquisition or easement, a loop system of trails which connect to points along the Ice Age Trail. An example of a loop is an alternative connective between Festge Park and Indian Lake Park, which would parallel the main corridor of the Ice Age Trail and provide the opportunity to link the Village of Cross Plains with the loop system.

- Developing and maintaining access nodes along the Ice Age Trail. There are 14 proposed access nodes along the Dane County portion of the trail, as shown on the map on page 25. The nodes will include sites for parking, picnic shelters, scenic lookouts and short trail loops. The size of each node will vary with the facilities to be provided. Acquisitions or easements would be used to provide the nodes. The county would be responsible for six of the access nodes. The locations include:

- across from Indian Lake Park on the north side of STH 19.
- adjacent to the south boundary of Indian Lake Park.
- near the junction of Mid-Town and Mound View Roads in the Town of Middleton.
- along the trail link between Badger Prairie Park and Elver Park.
- south of Verona, in the area of the Sheriff's Department communication tower.




# TRAILS
# DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

EXISTING TRAILS

PROPOSED TRAILS

PROPOSED CONNECTORS

ACCESS NODES
(* County responsibility to aquire)

0 1/4 1/2 1 2 3
Scale in miles

Prepared by: THE DANE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## B. Acquisition Needs: Natural Resource Protection

The county has put increasing emphasis on natural resource protection, especially since the 1983 Parks and Open Space Plan was adopted. Prior to that time, park land was the key priority.

The need for natural resource protection has been magnified by the great increase in urbanization that has occurred in the past several decades. The growth of the central urban area of this county has focused attention on the resource areas which contribute to vital natural functions, particularly those which are water quality related.

Areas acquired for natural resource protection can also serve some important recreational needs, such as trails and nature study opportunities. This dual function should be implemented whenever possible.

The overall county need for resource protection has been identified in the Regional Development Guide. The most important resource areas in the county, in terms of location, water features, topography, vegetation, threat of development, and ability to meet regional planning goals are included in open space corridors.

### 1. Need for Additions to Existing Natural Resource Areas

a. Cherokee Marsh. The Cherokee Marsh Long Range Open Space Plan outlines joint responsibilities for the City of Madison, Dane County, and the State of Wisconsin to acquire and protect land within the planning area. The County Parks Commission has an area of responsibility along the marsh encompassing 850 acres. At present county ownership consists of the Yahara Heights Park at 65 acres and Token Creek Park at 387 acres. Therefore, there is a need for 398 more acres of land acquisition and protection by the county in the Cherokee Marsh. Acquisition will include some land with recreational potential as well as land for natural resource protection (see map on page 31).

b. Nine Springs E-Way. The plan for the Nine Springs Corridor is the responsibility of the county and has been part of the Parks and Open Space Plan since 1974. Land within the corridor is held by a number of public jurisdictions and commissions, but it is the task of the county to complete acquisition. Presently 2,647 acres out of a total planning area of 3,267 acres are in public ownership. In addition, this plan proposes to add 326 acres to the E-Way project area (see map on page 33), bringing the total of land yet to be acquired to 946 acres.

   The E-Way is both a recreational and resource protection project. Most of the remaining acquisitions will be part of an extensive trail development project. In some cases this trail development will be led by local communities with county assistance.

c. Holtzman Park is the only other existing resource area in need of expansion. Five acres are required to allow for public access to the 64 acre site.

### 2. New Natural Resource Areas

Certain portions of the county open space corridor system have been identified for special attention in planning and preservation. For these areas a program of acquisition, easements, and land use regulation is needed to preserve the valuable environmental features. The Cherokee Marsh and the Nine Springs Corridor are examples of existing preservation efforts. The six other sites identified in this plan are listed below.

Note: All acreages listed below are approximate. The first task in initiating projects in these areas will be to establish a true project boundary. Fee simple purchase of the entire area is not anticipated.

a. Upper Black Earth Creek; Town of Middleton; 1500 acres. This area of steep slopes, wetlands, floodplains, and adjacent upland is an important contributor of base flow to Black Earth Creek. Environmental preservation of the area has crucial water quality and water quantity related benefits for the entire length of the creek. In addition to water quality concerns, the area has significant aesthetic, habitat and vegetative values, and potential for passive recreational activities.

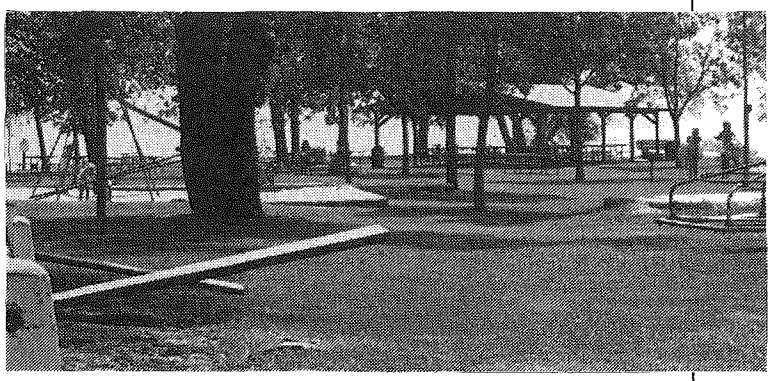
b. Door Creek Wetlands, Towns of Dunn and Pleasant Springs; 700 acres. The marsh rests on one of the major peat deposits of the Yahara River System. Disturbance of the peat has a major nutrient impact on the Yahara River. The major cause of disturbance is drying of the peat due to changing the water course of Door Creek for agricultural purposes. The plan for Door Creek should include restoration of the natural stream drainage.

c. Pheasant Branch Creek; City of Middleton, Town of Springfield; 400 acres. The creek drains a watershed of 1,400 acres including a portion of the urban area of Middleton. This area is a concern for water quality because of the combination of urban and agricultural impacts on the marsh, and its discharge into Lake Mendota. The City of Middleton has already undertaken a major acquisition effort. The study area outlined in this plan includes some of the upland area around the marsh.

d. Sixmile and Dorn Creeks; Town of Westport; 750 acres. These creeks merge near Governor Nelson State Park to form an important source of water flow into Lake Mendota. Sixmile Creek receives urban run-off from Waunakee. Preservation of the wetlands along the streams and management of runoff from surrounding lands will have water quality benefits for the Yahara River System.

e. South Waubesa Marsh; Town of Dunn; 700 acres. This marsh is a deep peat deposit with major springs and seepages contributing water to Lake Waubesa. It is also an area of outstanding vegetation and habitat types. The Department of Natural Resources and private conservation groups have made a substantial effort toward preservation.

f. Sugar River Wetlands; Town of Verona; 640 acres. This is one of the largest wetlands along the border of the driftless area in western Dane County. The sedge-meadow wetland is susceptible to agricultural land use impacts in the Sugar River Valley. The wetlands are a key component in the long-term rehabilitation program along the river undertaken by the Dane County Conservation League.



University of Wisconsin–Extension
GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
Meredith E. Ostrom, State Geologist and Director

Phil's Woods

Schumacher Farm

Cherokee Marsh

Sixmile-Dorn Creeks

Lakeview Woods

Pheasant Branch Creek

Upper Black Earth Creek

Nine Springs E-Way

Holtzman

Lower Waubesa Marsh

Door Creek Wetlands

Sugar River Wetlands

# RESOURCE AREAS
# DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

EXISTING RESOURCE AREAS

PROPOSED RESOURCE AREAS

0 1/4 1/2 1 2 3
Scale in miles

Prepared by: THE DANE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

LAMBERT CONFORMAL PROJECTION 4000 FOOT GRID BASED ON WISCONSIN COORDINATE SYSTEM, SOUTHERN ZONE

BASE BY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CARTOGRAPHIC LABORATORY, 1973
Municipal Boundaries Updated.

AREA OF COUNTY
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACQUISITION

AREA OF COUNTY
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACQUISITION

CHEROKEE MARSH ACQUISITION AREA

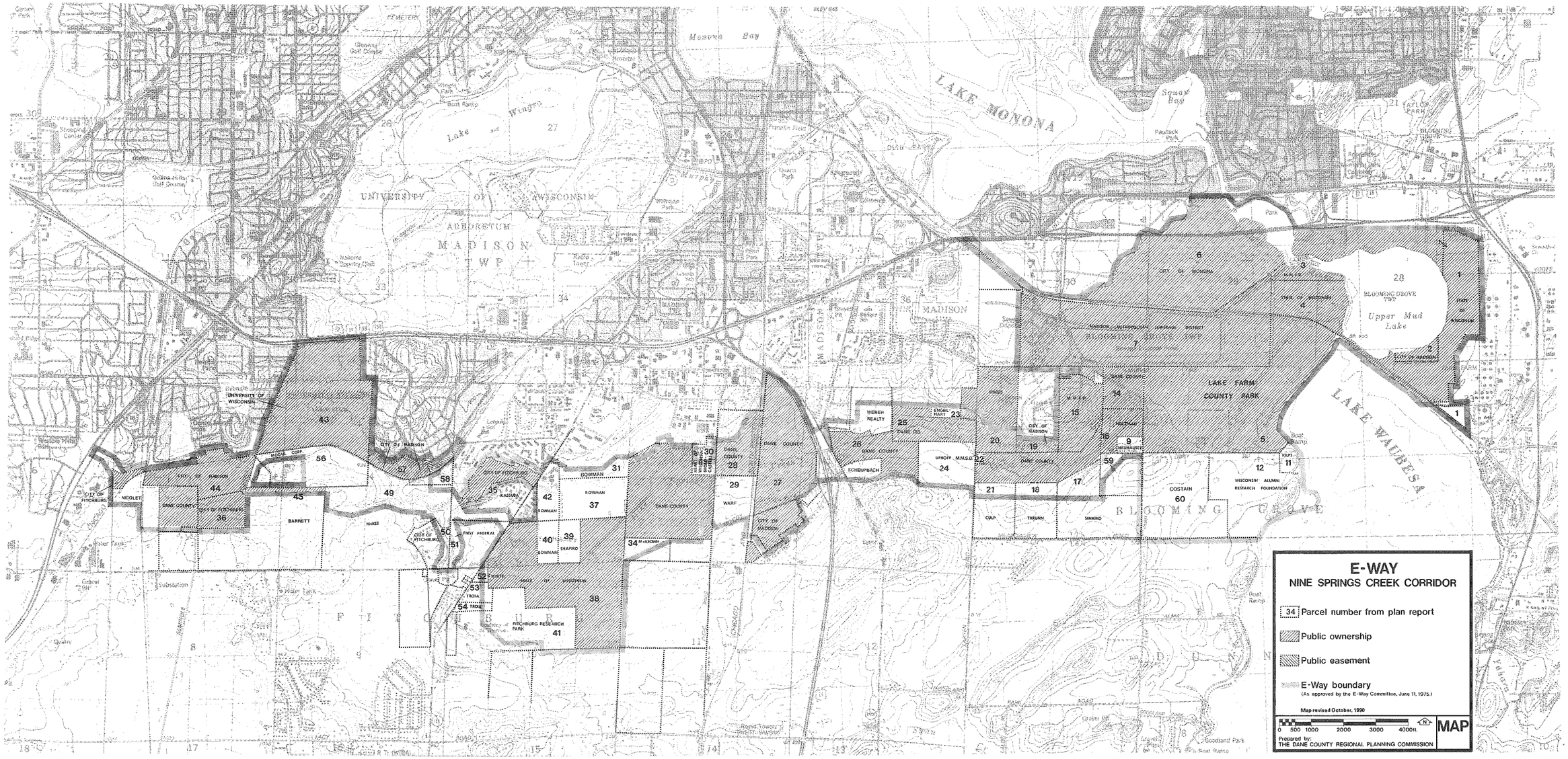
PROPOSED ADDITION TO ACQUISITION AREA

FLOODPLAIN

# CHEROKEE MARSH

## OWNERSHIP MAP

Map Source: City of Madison Parks Department
Prepared by: Dane County Regional Planning Commission, 3/90


E-WAY
NINE SPRINGS CREEK CORRIDOR
34 Parcel number from plan report
Public ownership
Public easement
E-Way boundary
(As approved by the E-Way Committee, June 11, 1975.)
Map revised October, 1990
0 500 1000 2000 3000 4000ft.
MAP
Prepared by:
THE DANE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
LAKE MONONA
Upper Mud Lake
LAKE WAUBESA
LAKE FARM COUNTY PARK
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN ARBORETUM
MADISON TWP
BLOOMING GROVE
CITY OF MADISON
CITY OF FITCHBURG
DANE COUNTY
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
FITCHBURG RESEARCH PARK
WISCONSIN ALUMNI RESEARCH FOUNDATION
COSTAIN
FIRST FEDERAL
WEBER REALTY
SCHUBPBACH
WARF
BARRETT
NICOLET
BOWMAN
SHAPIRO
THEUNN
SIMAIKO
CVLP
UPROFF M.M.S.D.

## C. Acquisition Needs: Cultural and Historical Resources

At present, very little county owned land is used for preserving cultural and historical resources. The future need for acquisitions in this area will be driven by efforts to identify and preserve potential sites, including Indian burial mounds. A county ordinance requires the preservation of mounds and dictates that acquisition might be necessary in some cases.

1. Need for additions to existing sites: None identified.

2. Need for new cultural and historical sites: Sites to be identified; acreage unknown. It is a Parks Commission policy to consider acquisition only if the proposed site can be incorporated into an existing park or resource area.

## D. Acquisition Needs: Urban Green Spaces

Land acquired for urban green space will help protect the identities of individual communities, provide open natural space in proximity to urban development, protect area with scenic, ecological or other natural value from urban development, and to provide land for non-commercial gardening to be used by residents of an urban area. Land included in this category will be eligible for funding under the Urban Green Spaces section of the Stewardship Fund.

**Note:** The specific needs and locations are under study by the County Board of Supervisors. Possible areas of acquisition are to be amended into the Parks and Open Space Plan.

## E. Park Improvement and Facility Needs

Improvements are largely based upon demand-driven needs. Improvements are also related to the recreational niche the county parks serve, which are land extensive rather than use intensive. Therefore, the county does not attempt to provide facilities for all recreational activities for which there is a demand.

Demand for activities has been calculated in two ways. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 1986-1991 measured need for the Madison area. The measurement took three factors into account: population and participation rate, activity trends, and a survey of park managers to determine the most needed facilities. The following activities were rated as highest priority: bicycling, camping, canoeing, cross-country skiing, hiking, organized sports; picnicking, and walking/jogging.

A second means of gauging demand was to examine county park usage and identify increasingly popular activities. Key activities for which county records exist illustrate the following:

| Activity | Increase 1984-88 |
|---|---|
| Camping | + 25% |
| Shelter rentals | + 15% |
| Daily boat launches | + 46% |
| Trail donations | +341% |

## 1. New Activity and Facility Needs

The following table lists recreational activities provided for in the parks in the county. Major recreational activities are listed, followed by an assessment of the current level of use of county parks for that activity. Activities which are ranked as low or none are not provided for in the county park system, although some incidental use may occur.

The second column lists the current trend in the activity within the county park system. These rankings were obtained by examining data, where available, and using park manager's estimates. The third column identifies the state's priority for new facilities for the Madison area. The final column lists specific county improvements needed to provide for the activities.

**DANE COUNTY PARKS: ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES NEEDS**

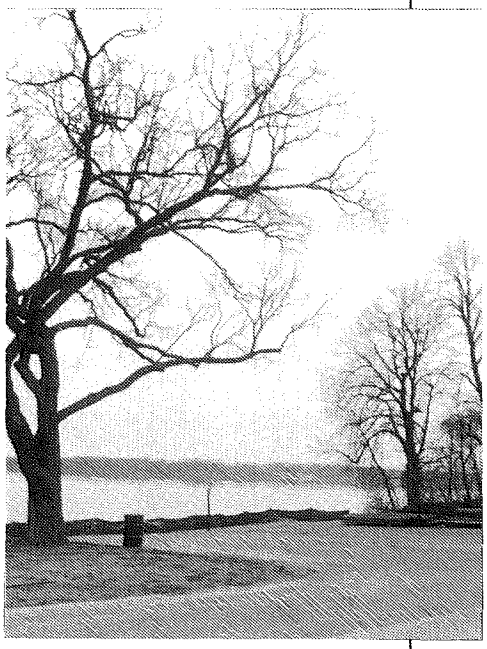
| Activities | Current[1] Level of Use | Recent[2] Trend in Increased Use | SCORP[3] Priority | Specific Need |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bicycling (Road Shoulders) | High | High | High | Continue road improvements |
| Camping | High | High | High | Add sites at existing parks |
| X-country skiing | High | High | High | Trail acquisition & development |
| Hiking | High | High | High | Trail acquisition & development |
| Picnicking | High | Med. | High | Shelters |
| Playgrounds | High | Med. | Med. | Shelters |
| Swimming beaches | High | Med. | Med. | Develop at existing parks |
| Snowmobiling | Med. | Low | Low | Maintain present trails |
| Canoeing | Med. | High | High | Improve access |
| Fishing | Med. | High | Low | Improve access |
| Motor boating | Med. | High | Low | Improve access |
| Tennis | Med. | Low | Low | No additions planned |
| Horseback riding | Med. | Low | Low | No additions planned |
| Organized sports | Low or none | --- | Low | * |
| Jogging paths | Low or none | --- | Low | * |
| Sailing | Low or none | Low | Low | Maintain access |
| Downhill skiing | Low or none | --- | Low | * |
| Ice skating | Low or none | --- | Low | * |
| Off-Road Vehicles | None | --- | Low | None planned |
| Golf | None | --- | Low | Possible county role |
| Swimming pools | None | --- | Low | * |

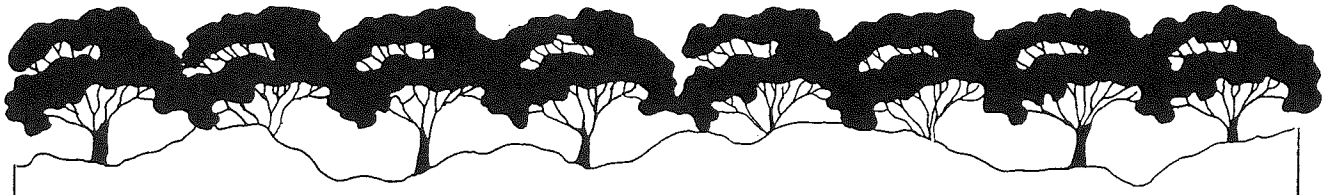
*No county role.
[1]Dane County Parks Estimate, 1989.
[2]Dane County Parks, 1984-1988 User and Fee Records.
[3]Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment, 1986-1991.

## 2. Specific Park Needs

The facility needs listed in the previous table can also be stated in terms of improvements required at each park. The following table summarizes the park improvements. Details for the improvements are contained in the Capital Improvement Program for the Dane County Park Commission.

| Park | Facility Improvements Needed |
|---|---|
| Babcock | Boat launch improvements |
| Badger Prairie | Shelters, camping |
| Brigham | Parking, ball fields, group camp |
| Cam-Rock | Play area, group camp, bike trail, shelter |
| Goodland | Play area, pier access |
| Indian Lake | Shelters, camping |
| Lake Farm | Shelter, swimming beach, parking, camping, canoe launch, interpretation center |
| Nine Springs E-Way | Hiking trail, skiing, observation deck |
| Schumacher Farm | Site interpretation |
| Stewart | Parking, shelters |
| Token Creek | Shelter, camping, swimming, trail development |
| Viking | Shelters, boat launch |
| Walking Iron | Shelters, camping |





# Recommendation—Existing Parks Natural Areas

## A. Existing Dane County Parks

In previous parts of this plan, publicly owned parks and open spaces have been briefly analyzed, with emphasis on proposed recreational facilities. Since the main emphasis of the Park and Open Space Plan focuses on county owned lands, this section takes a special look at these areas. Existing Dane County parks, undeveloped park land and natural resource areas are examined. The detailed descriptions of these areas are intended to be a constructive evaluation of the existing facilities. Acquisition and development proposals for the county will be addressed in the following section. The maps on pages 12 and 27 show the locations of Dane County's park and open space lands.

Babcock - 40 Acres (Town of Dunn, Village of McFarland)

This park is located on the east side of Lake Waubesa where the Yahara River flows from the lake. Although it is 40 acres in size, only 26 areas are developed with recreational facilities. Included are a small shelter facility, 25-unit campground with electrical hookups and trailer dumping station, a boat launch with a fish cleaning facility, and a boat mooring lagoon.

Recommendation: The overflow parking lot for the boat launch be relocated on the lake side of USH 51. This project would include additional land acquisition and improvements to the existing boat launch.

Badger Prairie - 339 Acres (Town of Verona)

The park, located just east of the City of Verona, is one of Dane County's largest. The park provides parking and access to one end of the Military Ridge State Trail and to a segment of the National Ice Age Hiking Trail. A hill within the park offers a splendid view of surrounding areas. The park has shelter facilities, softball fields and play equipment. The entrance to the park is at the intersection of CTH PB and USH 151.

Recommendation: Over the next five years continued facility improvements are planned. Land acquisition or easements will be needed to complete a planned trail connector between Badger Prairie Park and the City of Madison's Elver Park.

Brigham - 112 Acres (Town of Blue Mounds)

This 112-acre park, with a panoramic view toward the Wisconsin River Valley, is just northeast of the Village of Blue Mounds on County Highway F. Named after Ebenezer Brigham, one of the first white settlers in this area, the park offers both the cultural and natural heritage of Dane County. Facilities include two shelter houses, picnic areas, a self-guiding nature trail, play equipment, a 25-unit campground and group camp area.

Recommendation: Planned improvements for this park include the development of additional parking and play fields on recently acquired land south of the park.

Cam-Rock - 300 Acres (Town of Christiana)

The 300-acre park site was purchased through the initial efforts of the Cambridge Foundation and Dane County Park Commission. Cam-Rock Park is located in eastern Dane County along two miles of Koshkonong Creek between the Village of Cambridge and the Village of Rockdale. At the present time, facilities include three shelter houses, picnic areas, play equipment, a softball field, bike and nature trail, canoe launch, group camp area, sledding-toboggan hill, and cross-country ski trails.

Recommendation: A continued effort should be made to protect or acquire land on the west side of Koshkonong Creek. Future development should include a bridge for a trail connector for trails on the east and west side of the creek within the park. Cooperation with state and other government agencies for the improvement of Koshkonong Creek should be considered over the next several decades. The Rockdale Dam should be considered in that cooperative improvement program.

Festge - 70 Acres (Town of Berry)

Festge Park, located in the driftless area, provides a commanding view of the Black Earth Creek Valley. This 70-acre park contains a mature stand of hickory, oak, and cedar woods with some exceptional burr oaks on the edges. Salmo Pond and land adjacent to Black Earth Creek are an extension of Festge Park. Recreational facilities include three shelter houses, stone fireplaces, picnic areas, play equipment, nature trails, softball field and group camp areas. The entrance to the park is located on Scherbel Road one and one-half miles west of the Village of Cross Plains on USH 14.

Recommendation: Additional land is needed to the north and east of the park for both resource protection and development of trails and recreational facilities. Possible trail development could include the extension of the Ice Age Trail into a loop system connecting Festge Park with the Village of Cross Plains to the east and Indian Lake Park to the north. Also emphasis should be placed on the maintenance and renovation of the existing facilities in the park.

Fish Camp Launch - 19 Acres (Town of Dunn)

The park is located at the end of Fish Camp Road off CTH B, approximately one mile northeast of intersection USH 51 and CTH AB. Fish Camp Launch is a 10-acre site located on the north end of Lake Kegonsa at the inlet of the Yahara River. It offers one of the best boat launching sites on Lake Kegonsa with its protected launching area and large car-trailer parking lot.

Recommendation: Due to overcrowding of this launch site, future consideration should be given to the upgrading of the existing facilities.

Fish Lake - 3 Acres (Town of Roxbury)

The park can be reached via USH 12, north to CTH KP, right onto CTH Y, left on Mack Road and right on Fish Lake Road. It is located on the west side of Fish Lake in the far northwestern corner of Dane County. Recreational facilities at this 3-acre site include a shelter house, play equipment, picnic areas and boat launch. The lake itself is 252 acres in size with a depth of

62 feet and is reported to contain northern pike, large-mouth bass and pan fish. Boats with motors are prohibited.

Recommendation: Long range plans should include the conversion of this park into a local town park.

Goodland Park - 15 Acres (Town of Dunn)

Located on the west shore of Lake Waubesa, Goodland is a partially wooded park containing 600 feet of shoreline. Since the 15-acre park is situated near large urban populations, the demand for the use of its recreational facilities is great. The park offers two shelter houses, picnic areas, tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, softball field, play equipment, an unsupervised swimming beach and a boat launch.

Recommendation: Emphasis should be placed on maintenance of existing facilities and long range planned improvements related to parking, shelter facilities and play areas. Long range plans should include the conversion of this park into a local town park.

Halfway Prairie School - .75 Acre (Town of Mazomanie)

On this three-quarter acre site is located the oldest existing rural elementary school in Dane County. The one-room school was operated from 1844 until it closed as a result of consolidation in 1961. Visitors may view the inside of the school in its original restored condition on holidays and Sunday afternoons, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Halfway Prairie School is located at the junction of CTH F and STH 19, two and one-half miles north of the Village of Black Earth.

Recommendation: Although the site is small and no additional facilities are planned, the school does have historical significance and emphasis should be on on-site maintenance.

Indian Lake Park - 442 Acres (Town of Berry)

Indian Lake Park is one of Dane County's largest. The park has outstanding natural and historic resources. A winding trail leads to a historic chapel built in 1857 on a hilltop which commands a beautiful view of the lake and surrounding valley. Miles of cross-country ski and natural trails in the wooded hills provide, among other recreational opportunities, access to a log cabin warming house. A launch for small, non-motorized boats is located off STH 19 and a trail has been developed around the entire lake including 900 feet of elevated boardwalk which meanders along the shallow end of the lake.

Recommendation: The master plan for this park should be completed and constructed, phased recreational facilities should be completed over the next five years. The land northeast of the existing park containing much of the wetland and springs draining into Indian Lake should be acquired or protected. Additional acquisition should reflect the long range plan of the Ice Age Trail.

LaFollette - 34.75 Acres (Town of Pleasant Springs)

This 35-acre park is a narrow strip of land along the eastern shore of Lake Kegonsa adjacent to Kegonsa State Park. A high voltage line and a railroad traverse the park. Recreational facilities include a shelter house, picnic area, and play equipment. The unsupervised swimming area on the east side of the railroad tracks is not part of the park. The land is low and during

the rainy season tends to be very wet. The land is not attractive for intensive recreation, and its potential usefulness is extremely limited, especially since it is adjacent to a large and well-planned state park.

Recommendation: Consideration should be given to the transfer of LaFollette Park to Lake Kegonsa State Park or to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to be managed as conservation lands. Another alternative that should be considered is the conversion to a local town park. The locks and dam should remain in county ownership.

Lake Farm - 328 Acres (City of Madison, Town of Blooming Grove)

Lake Farm Park is located on the northwest shore of Lake Waubesa. At the present time the 328 acre park is under improvement. Recreational facilities currently available include two shelter houses, a boat launch, an overlook tower, group camp area, wildlife pond, nature and interpretive trails, and ski trails.

Recommendation: Development plans for the next five years should include an additional shelter house, a canoe launch, swimming beach and bath house, play fields, campground, and interpretive center.

McCarthy Youth and Conservation Park - 180 Acres (Town of Sun Prairie)

This park is a proposed recreational conservancy park for the young people of Dane County. Eventual construction could include a shelter, group camping areas, a day camp, hiking and nature trails, council rings,and activity areas. The 180-acre parcel is located approximately six miles east of the City of Madison on CTH TT.

Recommendation: A master plan should be completed for this park within the next five years.

Mendota

This 20-acre park with approximately 300 feet of lake frontage is located on the northwest shore of Lake Mendota. Due to its close proximity to the City of Middleton, the recreational facilities receive very intense usage. Facilities include three shelter houses, picnic areas, unsupervised swimming beach, tennis and basketball courts, softball field, boat mooring lagoon and a 25-unit campground with showers, electricity, and trailer dumping station.

Recommendation: Overcrowding is a problem in this small park. Consequently, the elimination of camping within the next ten to fifteen years has been suggested to ease space pressure, or whenever an alternative camping site is established in the area.

Riley-Deppe - 33.5 Acres (Town of Medina)

Riley-Deppe Park is 34 acres in size and is located just west of the Village of Marshall on STH 19. The park fronts on a mill pond formed by the impoundment of the Maunesha River. Some fishing is done along the shore. Facilities include one shelter house, picnic area, play equipment, and boat launch.

Recommendation: Consideration should be given to the possible long term lease of this county park to the Village of Marshall within the coming years.

Stewart - 125.5 Acres (Town of Blue Mounds)

Stewart Park is a 125.5-acre site located north of the Village of Mount Horeb. It includes a 7-acre, spring-fed lake that offers a challenge to the trout fisherman. The park is known for its scenic beauty and quiet surroundings. Recreation facilities include two shelter houses, pavilion, a picnic area, play equipment, group camp area, and cross-country ski trails.

Recommendation: Over the past several years Stewart Lake has deteriorated. A coordinated and cooperative effort by all those involved in the Stewart Lake Watershed should be made to clean up the lake. Consideration should be given to additional land acquisition to the south and east of the park.

Token Creek - 387 Acres (Town of Burke)

This 387-acre park is located northeast of the City of Madison adjacent to I-90 and is well known for its shelter facilities and ample open spaces for large group picnics and outings. Although not fully developed, the park offers a variety of recreational facilities including four shelter houses, picnic areas, softball fields, play equipment, 38-unit campground with showers and electricity, trailer dumping station, group camp area, snowmobile and nature trails, and cross-country ski trails. Many of the facilities are accessible to the handicapped. Examples are paved pathways, campsites, and a specially designed boardwalk through a marsh.

Recommendation: Additional land acquisition should be given priority over the next five years. Land northeast of the park along Token Creek should be acquired or protected. A connector between the City of Sun Prairie and Token Creek Park should be pursued over the next several years through a cooperative effort by Dane County and the City of Sun Prairie.

Viking Park - 100 Acres (Town of Dunkirk, Town of Pleasant Springs)

Viking Park is located on the Yahara River north of Stoughton on CTH N. The 100-acre park is undeveloped; however, it is currently used for fishing and picnicking during the summer.

Recommendation: Although no additional land acquisition is anticipated, a plan for park improvements should be completed in the next five years with emphasis on a trail connector with the City of Stoughton.

Walking Iron Park - 240 Acres (Town of Mazomanie)

Walking Iron Park is in northwestern Dane County adjacent to the Village of Mazomanie. The northwestern portion of this park's 240 acres contains a native sand prairie and nature trail along Marsh Creek. Black Earth Creek flows through the southeastern portion of the park and contains an access road and parking area for the village park.

Recommendation: Additional land should be acquired to the northeast for resource protection, trail recreation, and to establish a more substantial tie between the two existing portions of the park. Possible recreational facilities over the next five years could include a group camping area with shelter and sanitary facilities and additional nature, hiking and cross-country ski trails. All planning should be coordinated with the Village of Mazomanie as they have leased and developed portions of Walking Iron Park.

## B. Natural Resource Areas

Natural resource areas represent sites that have been acquired for the inherent value of the land and its natural features. The following is a list of these areas and their location.

Holtzman Park - 64 Acres (Town of Dunn)

Holtzman Park is located north off of Goodland Park Road to Larsen Road to Noraview. No recreational facilities are planned for this area.

Recommendation: Consideration should be given to the acquisition of a small addition for public access and parking.

Lakeview Woods - 27 Acres (City of Madison)

Lakeview Woods is located north of Madison at the entrance to Dane County Lakeview Annex Building on Northport Drive.

Recommendation: No plan has been formulated for the area, but consideration should be given to adding the remaining county owned land to the park.

Nine Springs E-Way - 562 Acres (City of Madison, City of Fitchburg, Town of Blooming Grove)

The Nine Springs E-Way Corridor extends from Dunn's Marsh near Seminole Highway east to Lake Farm Park on Lake Waubesa, a distance of seven miles. The corridor includes many points of interest. Natural features include large areas of wetlands and sedge meadows, native forests, and many large springs which flow into Nine Springs Creek. These features provide ideal habitat for a wide variety of vegetation and wildlife in the corridor.

A system of trails is being developed for year round public use and enjoyment. The trail system provides opportunities for jogging, hiking, nature study, photography, cross-country skiing, and leads to scenic overlooks and vistas of surrounding areas. The corridor and trails provide an excellent outdoor classroom for nature studies, science projects, and school field trips.

At present, six miles of trail have been established on the eastern end of the E-Way corridor.

Recommendation: Amend the Nine Springs E-Way Map to include areas shown on the E-Way Map on page 33.

Completion of the land acquisition and additional trail development, including the use of the E-Way as a trail connector between the Military Ridge and Glacial Drumlin State Bike Trails, should be a priority over the next five years. See Nine Springs E-Way Corridor Report, September 1981.

Phil's Woods - 37 Acres (Town of Roxbury)

Phil's Woods is located one and one-half miles south of USH 12 on Dunlap Road.

Recommendation: Projected facilities include a small parking lot and trail construction.

Schumacher Farm - 37.5 Acres (Town of Westport)

Schumacher Farm is located one-half mile east of the Village of Waunakee on State Highway 19.

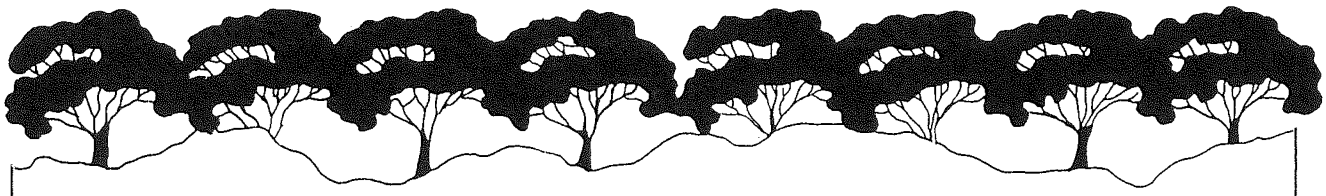
Recommendation: Long range plans for this study area include prairie restoration, nature trail construction, reforestation, and parking lot construction.

Yahara Heights (Cherokee Marsh) - 65.3 Acres (Town of Westport and City of Madison)

Yahara Heights is three-quarters of a mile east of STH 113 on River Road.

Recommendation: Plans include trail construction coordinated with facilities provided by other units of government in implementing the Cherokee Marsh Long Range Plan. See Cherokee Marsh Revised Long Range Open Space Plan, September 1981.

This plan also proposes to extend the acquisition boundary to include the area shown on the map on page 31. The additions will be part of the county's area of responsibility for acquisition.



# Recommendation—Priorities and Action

## Existing Parks

1. Acquisitions (See previous section for specific need.)

| First Priority | Second Priority |
|---|---|
| Babcock | Badger Prairie |
| Festge | Cam-Rock |
| Indian Lake | Stewart |
| Token Creek | |
| Walking Iron | |

2. Actions

   a. Proceed with acquisitions.

   b. Initiate facility improvements detailed in the Capital Improvement Program of the Park Commission.

   c. Create a data collection system to monitor use and activity needs at each park.

## Proposed Parks and Trails

1. Acquisitions

| First Priority | Second Priority |
|---|---|
| Ice Age Trail | Ice Age Trail Loop System |
| E-Way to Glacial Drumlin Connection | Ice Age Trial Nodes |
| E-Way to Military Ridge Connection | Southwest County Area Park |
| Elver-Badger Prairie Connection | |
| Local Community Links and Connections | |

2. Actions

   a. Prepare plans for each project prior to starting acquisition programs.

   b. Obtain an agreement with the DNR and/or any private group(s) to coordinate development of the Ice Age Trail.

   c. Work with the state to identify corridors for the connection between the Military Ridge and Glacial Drumlin State Trails.

d. Start planning with communities to designate and acquire trail system links.

e. Coordinate efforts with Madison to develop a trail link between Badger Prairie and Elver Parks.

## Existing Natural Resource Areas

1. Acquisitions

First Priority

Nine Springs E-Way
Cherokee Marsh (Yahara Heights)
Holtzman Park

2. Actions

a. Amend Nine Springs E-Way Plan to include more land in the arboretum area and the Lake Farm area.

b. Amend and update Cherokee Marsh Plan and property ownership boundaries to prepare for acquisition.

c. Make improvements in accordance with the Capital Improvement Program.

## Proposed Natural Resource Areas

1. Acquisitions

| First Priority | Second Priority |
|---|---|
| Pheasant Branch Creek | Sixmile Creek & Dorn Creek |
| Upper Black Earth Creek | Sugar River |
| Door Creek Wetlands | |
| Lower Waubesa Marsh | |

2. Actions

a. Prepare project plans for each site.

b. Coordinate with other units of government on joint planning and funding.

c. Coordinate with private groups on acquisition and cost sharing.

## Cultural and Historical Sites

1. Acquisitions

(Note: to be identified)

2. Actions

a. Help fund a countywide survey of burial mounds and historic sites.

b. Identify possible acquisition sites.

c. Prepare a project plan to prepare for acquisitions.

d. Initiate or support other survey and planning activities which identify or seek to preserve cultural sites.

## Urban Green Spaces

1. Acquisitions

   (Note: to be identified)

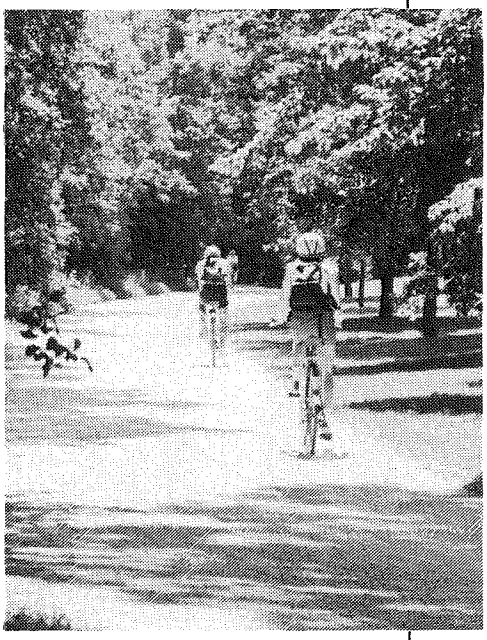
2. Actions

   a. Implement the recommendations of the county green space plan as adopted by the County Board.

   b. Prepare project plans for green space areas which are identified as high priority by the county.

**Funding Priorities**

The county should make use of Stewardship Funds or other state or federal funding assistance to implement all acquisition goals or projects in this plan.



# APPENDIX A

# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTY

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTY

An examination of the natural resource base of Dane County provides a basic setting for park and open space planning. The identification of major physical features that could have a potential for park location is essential. Also, the identification of features that may have limitation for park development is equally important. Finally, a knowledge of the natural setting provides direction in designating resource areas to be protected.

### The Natural Setting[1]

Dane County encompasses about 1,230 square miles in the south central part of Wisconsin. It is an area of geographic contrasts. The eastern part of the county is a slightly rolling plain of low hills interspersed with wetlands drained by sluggish streams or man-made ditches. The western part of the county has steep valleys and ridges drained by fast-flowing, spring-fed streams. In the center of the county is the Yahara River with its large scenic lakes and adjacent marshes. These geographical differences may be explained by the county's geological history.

The bedrock which serves as Dane County's foundation is many layers of sandstone and limestone formed from sediments deposited by an ancient sea 430 to 600 million years ago. Under these layers of sedimentary rock is an even older crystalline rock, mostly rhyolite, granite and basalt. The crystalline rock allows little water penetration and forms a floor under the water-bearing sedimentary rocks or aquifers. The lowest layer of sandstone holds a larger amount of ground water and is the most important aquifer. The layers of sandstone and limestone above it are younger, usually less permeable and less water saturated. The ancient sea which deposited the sedimentary rocks disappeared years ago when geological forces raised the land in Wisconsin above sea level.

A well-developed drainage pattern had been cut into the sedimentary rock when the climate changed about 70,000 years ago and glaciers began to form in Canada. At least four glaciers moved across Wisconsin. The last one reached Dane County from 18,000 to 20,000 years ago.

The western third of Dane County is part of the driftless area--an area which was not covered by the last glacier but may have been covered by a much earlier glacier. The forces of wind and water have eroded the bedrock of this area into steep ridges and valleys drained by fast-flowing streams, generally within lakes or impoundments. Most of the streams are fed by springs and seeps, which flow from water-bearing layers of sandstone or dolomite exposed along the hillsides. The hills are covered by an irregular layer of soil formed from the disintegration of the bedrock or blown from the western plains. In many places there is only a thin layer of soil with moderate to moderately slow permeability over fractured dolomite or sandstone.

The large valley of the Wisconsin River has deep alluvial deposits of sand and gravel with some organic material. The soil along the river valley is mostly poorly-drained sand with organic inclusions. This area is subject to seasonal high water tables and frequent flooding. Poorly-drained silty soils with mineral and organic material are also found in lowlands along some of the smaller streams. The benches and outwash terraces along the streams have well-drained silty soils underlain by sand and gravel.

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[1]Material on the natural setting is extracted from Chapter 1 of the Dane County Water Quality Plan prepared by the DCRPC, 1979.

On the eastern edge of the driftless area are moraines--made up of debris which was scraped up by the glacier and left behind when it melted. There are two moraines in Dane County: the terminal moraine or Johnstown moraine at the far edge of the glaciated area and the recessional or Milton moraine which formed when the glacier stopped retreating and dumped unstratified and unsorted clay, silt and boulders with sand and lenses. In addition, the moraines once included blocks of ice left behind by the glacier. These blocks melted leaving pot or kettle holes, some of which later filled with water to form small ponds, marshes or bogs. The moraines are a drainage divide where the headwaters of many streams of the Yahara, Sugar and Wisconsin drainage systems are located.

East of the moraines, in the center of the county, is the Yahara River Valley. Here glacial deposits (over 350 feet deep in some places) dammed up large preglacial valleys forming a chain of large lakes and wetlands. The formation of peat in these wetlands apparently was rapid and today the peat deposits are extensive and deep--reportedly over 90 feet deep in one spot. In many places aquifers in the bedrock of adjacent hills provide spring or discharge areas that maintain high water levels in the peat and assist peat formation. The streams of this area are slower flowing than the streams of the driftless area, and fewer are spring-fed.

Farther east the glacier filled the flatter watersheds of smaller preglacial streams, and the resulting lakes and wetlands were much shallower. Between the wetlands in this part of the county are drumlins--long, low, whaleback-shaped parallel hills which formed as the glacier advanced and retreated, flowing over piles of material, which it had deposited earlier. In addition to creating drumlins, the glacier deposited a sheet of debris generally 25 to 100 feet deep over most of the landscape when it retreated. The glacial deposits blocked old drainageways creating an extensive system of interconnected wetlands with a poorly-defined drainage pattern. Small streams wind slowly through the lowlands. Since the groundwater contribution from the glacial deposits is minimal, there are few springs or seeps, and stream flow is very dependent on overland runoff. During the summer months the water level in these streams may be very low. The only lakes in this part of the county are small stream impoundments or shallow marshy lakes.

In the moraines, the Yahara River Valley and the drumlin-marsh area, the lowland soils are poorly-drained silts with mineral and organic material underlain by alluvial deposits. The adjacent benches and terraces are covered by well-drained silty soils underlain by sand and gravel. On most of the surrounding uplands, moderately permeable, medium-textured soils cover the glacial till.

## Vegetation

The vegetation of Dane County has been influenced by topography, drainage and fires. When the early settlers first viewed the glaciated section of Dane County, the predominant prairie was confined to the broad areas of level and rolling land not crossed by major streams or marshes. This was probably because the fires which periodically swept across the midwest encountered few natural barriers and thus eliminated or prevented the invasion of woody plants. The oak openings were composed essentially of white and burr oak and grasses with a few red and black oak. The oak woods were predominantly white and black oak plus aspen, hickory, cherry, white ash, black walnut and basswood. Tamarack found growing next to some oak woods owed their presence and survival to an adjoining marsh where, because of the soil type and poor drainage, the ground remained wet throughout the year and thus stopped the advancement of fires.

The maple-basswood climax forest that is known today was present in the early 1800s on only three small tracts northeast and east of the Madison chain of lakes. They were protected on

the southwest (the side of the prevailing winds) by bodies of water broad enough to extinguish the flying embers of the periodic fires. The maple and basswood, therefore, had a chance of asserting total dominance with their superior shade tolerance and heavy canopy that prevents further regeneration of other species.

The vegetation of the driftless area conforms very closely with its topography. The steep hillsides and narrow ridges, protected from fire, were oak savanna-land occupied by grasses, shrubs and a few tall trees of a single species, as in this case, the oak. The broad windswept uplands were prairie, and the bottomlands were either prairie or marsh. Essentially all of the remaining forest in Dane County is in scattered woodlots. According to the most recent Agricultural Summary (1968), there are approximately 74,300 acres of woodland (9.75% of the total county area) with oak, elm and aspen the predominant species.

## Water Resources

Of Dane County's 789,100 acres, 22,651 acres, or 2.87% of the area, are under water. This includes 28 fish and 42 duck (small and marshy) lakes and 435.4 miles of streams and rivers. In addition, there are 14 miles of the Wisconsin River forming the northwest boundary of the county. A summary description of the lakes and streams is given in Tables 1 and 2 at the end of this section.

In 1938 the Wisconsin Land Economic Inventory showed 67,277 acres of wetland and by the 1955-60 period, one-third of this, most of it in the eastern half of the county, had been drained. Although the precise and ultimate effect of such a large and drastic change in the county's physiography is not known, it is clear and imperative that the remaining wetland resources be preserved.

Wetlands are important for the survival of fish as well as game resources. Pike seek out the flooded lands for spring spawning. Wildlife uses the marshes not only for feeding and reproduction but also for nesting and winter cover protection. Also, marshes help maintain water quality of downstream lakes by reducing the velocity of water flowing through and thus causing the settling of silt that would otherwise flow into the lakes. In addition, wetlands have the ability to act like sponges during times of heavy rain, allowing the water to percolate down and recharge and stabilize the ground water reservoir. In addition, the many living organisms present in the wetlands have the ability to retain a great deal of the excess nitrogen and prevent it from further enriching the lakes. An extensive study of the wetlands of Dane County was completed in 1974.[2] The study classified all the wetlands in the county by type and condition utilizing data gathered in the field. The study included numerous management proposals for the remaining wetlands.

## Climate

Dane County's climate is typical of interior North America. The annual temperature range is large, and short-period temperature changes are frequent. Winters tend to be long, cold and snowy, while summers are warm and occasionally humid. Spring and fall are sometimes short. The mean annual temperature in Dane County is about 45 degrees F. January is the coldest month averaging about 17 degrees F, while July is the warmest averaging about 70 degrees F. Typically, 20 days per year have temperatures of 0 degrees F or less.

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[2]Wetlands of Dane County Wisconsin, 1974, Bedford, Zim's.

Average annual precipitation is about 31 inches. About 59% of this precipitation falls during the five summer months from May through September. June is the wettest month with over four inches of precipitation on the average and February is the driest with about one inch. Half an inch or more of precipitation falls on 21 days in an average year. Severe storms often occur from late fall through mid-spring. Snowfall averages 40 inches per year and ranges from a low of about 13 inches to a high of 67 inches.

## The Social and Economic Setting[3]

Dane County is the second most populous county in Wisconsin. In 1989, 352,999 people lived in the county. Of these, 180,636 (51%) lived in Madison; 105,673 (30%) lived in smaller cities and villages; and 66,690 (19%) lived in unincorporated areas.

Nearly 80% of the county's work force hold jobs in government, trade or service industries. These jobs are less subject to fluctuations in the economy than manufacturing or construction jobs; therefore, the county's unemployment rate is consistently below state and national averages.

Manufacturing is less important in Dane County than in the state as a whole, providing only 12% of the jobs in the county as compared to 28% statewide. A variety of products are manufactured in Dane County including packaged meat, surgical instruments, dairy equipment, batteries, rubber hose, drapery and curtain rods, grey iron castings and plastic parts.

Agriculture provides only 3% of the jobs in Dane County; but, like manufacturing, it is a vital part of the economy. In 1988, Dane County was second in the state in farm income with $198 million in cash receipts for farm commodities. The county ranked first in cash receipts for field crops and third in receipts for dairy products and for meat animals. The major crop grown in Dane County is corn for grain. Other important crops are hay, oats, peas and sweet corn for processing, tobacco and wheat. In most of the county 50 to 75% of the cropland is devoted to corn, but in the hillier western part of the county dairy farming is more important and hay and rotation pasture predominate.

## Population Trends and Projections[4]

Dane County's population has grown rapidly in recent years. During the 1960s, the county was the fastest growing metropolitan area in the northeastern quarter of the country. The county's population grew about 31% between 1960 and 1970, but the rate of growth has slowed since 1970. Between 1970 and 1980, the county's population has increased 11.5%, and increased another 9.1% between 1980 and 1989.

The population forecast for 2000 is 405,000, which has been revised downward over time due to the slower growth rates. At one time a 1990 population of 500,000 was forecast.

Despite the slower rate of growth in recent years, the county remains the fastest growing urban county in the state.

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[3]From Chapter 1, Dane County Water Quality Plan, DCRPC, 1979; and Wisconsin Dept. of Administration population estimates for 1989.

[4]From the Dane County Water Quality Plan, DCRPC, 1979.

## POPULATION CHANGE IN DANE COUNTY[5]
## 1980-1989

| MUNICIPALITY | 1980 CENSUS | 1989 ESTIMATE | CHANGE | PERCENT CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| T. Albion | 1,918 | 1,854 | -64 | -3.34 |
| T. Berry | 1,116 | 1,119 | 3 | 0.27 |
| T. Black Earth | 406 | 449 | 43 | 10.59 |
| T. Blooming Grove | 1,965 | 2,174 | 209 | 10.64 |
| T. Blue Mounds | 637 | 664 | 27 | 4.24 |
| T. Bristol | 1,723 | 1,827 | 104 | 6.04 |
| T. Burke | 2,967 | 3,206 | 239 | 8.06 |
| T. Christiana | 1,209 | 1,186 | -23 | -1.09 |
| T. Cottage Grove | 2,952 | 3,454 | 502 | 17.01 |
| T. Cross Plains | 1,003 | 1,137 | 134 | 13.36 |
| T. Dane | 945 | 985 | 40 | 4.23 |
| T. Deerfield | 1,111 | 1,158 | 47 | 4.23 |
| T. Dunkirk | 2,098 | 1,844 | -254 | -12.11 |
| T. Dunn | 4,966 | 5,206 | 240 | 4.83 |
| T. Madison | 6,162 | 6,518 | 356 | 5.78 |
| T. Mazomanie | 1,007 | 1,038 | 31 | 3.08 |
| T. Medina | 1,019 | 1,051 | 32 | 3.14 |
| T. Middleton | 2,598 | 3,404 | 806 | 31.02 |
| T. Montrose | 1,024 | 1,037 | 13 | 1.27 |
| T. Oregon | 1,798 | 2,256 | 458 | 25.47 |
| T. Perry | 632 | 595 | -37 | -5.85 |
| T. Pleasant Springs | 2,529 | 2,633 | 104 | 4.11 |
| T. Primrose | 654 | 625 | -29 | -4.43 |
| T. Roxbury | 1,491 | 1,582 | 91 | 6.10 |
| T. Rutland | 1,393 | 1,479 | 86 | 6.17 |
| T. Springdale | 1,279 | 1,369 | 90 | 7.04 |
| T. Springfield | 2,379 | 2,510 | 131 | 5.51 |
| T. Sun Prairie | 1,990 | 2,050 | 60 | 3.02 |
| T. Vermont | 634 | 707 | 73 | 11.51 |
| T. Verona | 2,259 | 2,148 | -111 | -4.91 |
| T. Vienna | 1,365 | 1,439 | 74 | 5.42 |
| T. Westport | 2,748 | 2,974 | 226 | 8.22 |
| T. Windsor | 3,812 | 4,341 | 529 | 13.88 |
| T. York | 714 | 671 | -43 | -6.02 |
| V. Belleville | 1,203 | 1,353 | 150 | 12.47 |
| V. Black Earth | 1,145 | 1,240 | 95 | 8.30 |
| V. Blue Mounds | 387 | 423 | 36 | 9.30 |
| V. Brooklyn | 250 | 348 | 98 | 39.20 |
| V. Cambridge | 785 | 827 | 42 | 5.35 |
| V. Cottage Grove | 888 | 1,121 | 233 | 26.24 |
| V. Cross Plains | 2,156 | 2,428 | 272 | 12.62 |
| V. Dane | 518 | 600 | 82 | 15.83 |
| V. Deerfield | 1,466 | 1,652 | 186 | 12.69 |
| V. De Forest | 3,367 | 4,710 | 1,343 | 39.89 |
| V. Maple Bluff | 1,351 | 1,310 | -41 | -3.03 |
| V. Marshall | 2,363 | 2,650 | 287 | 12.15 |
| V. Mazomanie | 1,248 | 1,320 | 72 | 5.77 |
| V. McFarland | 3,783 | 4,818 | 1,035 | 27.36 |
| V. Mount Horeb | 3,251 | 4,014 | 763 | 23.47 |
| V. Oregon | 3,876 | 4,551 | 675 | 17.41 |
| V. Rockdale | 200 | 204 | 4 | 2.00 |
| V. Shorewood Hills | 1,837 | 1,858 | 21 | 1.14 |
| V. Waunakee | 3,866 | 5,501 | 1,635 | 42.29 |
| C. Fitchburg | 11,973 | 14,360 | 2,387 | 19.94 |
| C. Madison | 170,616 | 180,636 | 10,020 | 5.87 |
| C. Middleton | 11,848 | 13,585 | 1,737 | 14.66 |
| C. Monona | 8,809 | 8,748 | -61 | -0.69 |
| C. Stoughton | 7,589 | 8,802 | 1,213 | 15.98 |
| C. Sun Prairie | 12,931 | 14,663 | 1,732 | 13.39 |
| C. Verona | 3,336 | 4,587 | 1,251 | 37.50 |
| COUNTY | 323,545 | 352,999 | 29,454 | 9.10 |

[5]Source: U.S. Census 1980, Wisconsin Department of Administration Estimate, 1989.

Dane County also continues to be a rapidly urbanizing place. The suburban cities and villages around Madison have experienced the highest growth rates of any of the county's municipalities. The City of Madison, after a slight loss in population during the 1970s, added over 10,000 residents in the 1980s.

An important aspect of urbanization is the high rate of residential growth. The number of dwelling units increased 18% during the 1980s, a rate which is double the population increase of 9% during the same period. Fewer residents per house is the trend, which also means a continued high rate of urban expansion.

The pressures of urbanization and changes in the farm market have affected the use of agricultural land in Dane County. Higher taxes on land combined with the greater profits to be reaped from raising corn or beef cattle rather than dairying have encouraged farmers to devote more land to corn and less to oats, hay and pasture. Land which was once planted with oats or hay is now planted with corn. Pasture land has been converted to oats or hay. The number of dairy herds has decreased and many beef cattle are now raised in confined feeding operations.

Summary

Dane County is a very productive agricultural area. It is also the second most populous county in Wisconsin, the location of the state capital and the main campus of the state university.

Two-thirds of the county was glaciated and consequently is a rolling plain of glacial drift with low hills, many wetlands and sluggish streams. The Yahara River Valley marks a deep, ancient river valley which was blocked by glacial drift forming the Madison chain of lakes and extensive adjacent wetlands. The western one-third of the county may have been affected by a very early glacier but appears in many ways to be unglaciated. Here there are steep ridges and valleys cut by fast-flowing, spring-fed streams with no natural impoundments.

Land use varies from one part of the county to another. In the hillier western part, where a shallow layer of soil covers the bedrock in many places, dairy farming is more important and over half the cropland is in hay or rotation pasture. In the eastern part, where the land is flatter and the soil is a deeper layer of silty loams over glacial drift, more than half of the cropland is devoted to corn, and livestock fattening operations are common. In the center of the county, around the largest lakes, is the Madison metropolitan area. Over 60% of the people in the county live in Madison or the adjoining cities and villages.

Despite a decrease in the rate of population growth, the demand for land for urban uses may not diminish. Average household size has been decreasing throughout Dane County; therefore, residential construction is proceeding at a strong rate. One out of four new single family houses is constructed in an unsewered area.

## TABLE 1

## DANE COUNTY LAKES*

| Lake | Surface Area | Maximum Depth | Public Access | Location in County | Species of Fish | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Muskie | N. Pike | Walleye | Bass | Panfish | Trout | Cisco |
| Barney Lake | 31 | 6 | | SC | | | | | X | | |
| Bass Lake | 91 | 8 | W | S | | | | | X | | |
| Belleville Millpond | 112 | 7 | BR | SC | | | X | X | X | | |
| Brandenburg Lake | 43 | 6 | BR | NW | | | X | | | | |
| Cherokee Marsh | 379 | 23 | T | NC | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Crystal Lake | 571 | 9 | | NW | | | | X | X | | |
| Fish Lake | 252 | 62 | BR | NW | | X | | X | X | | X |
| Goose Lake | 133 | 12 | W | E | | | | X | | | |
| Goose Pond | 17 | 10 | T | SC | | | | | X | | |
| Harriet Lake | 33 | 12 | | SC | | | | | X | | |
| Hook Lake | 125 | 4 | W | SC | | | | | X | | |
| Indian Lake | 66 | 6 | T | NW | | | | X | X | | |
| Kegonsa Lake | 2,716 | 31 | BR | SE | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Krutchen Pond | 80 | 4 | | NW | | | | | X | | |
| Marshall Millpond | 194 | 5 | BR | NE | | X | | X | X | | |
| Marx Pond | 61 | 5 | | NW | | X | | | X | | |
| Mendota Lake | 9,730 | 82 | BR | C | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| Monona Lake | 3,335 | 64 | BR | C | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| Morse Pond | 10 | 6 | | WC | | | | | X | | |
| Mud Lake | 34 | 8 | BR | EC | | | | X | X | | |
| Mud Lake, Lower | 195 | 15 | W | SE | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Mud Lake, Upper | 265 | 8 | T | C | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Raemisch Pond | 4 | 15 | T | WC | | | | X | X | | |
| Rice Lake | 170 | 8 | | SE | | | | | X | | |
| Rockdale Millpond | 104 | 5 | BR | SE | | X | | X | X | | |
| Salmo Pond | 1 | 20 | T | WC | | | | X | X | X | |
| Stewart Lake | 7 | 13 | T | WC | | | | | X | X | |
| Stoughton Millpond | 82 | 5 | BR | SE | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Sweet Lake | 12 | 4 | | SE | | | | | X | | |
| Token Creek Millpond | 23 | 6 | T | NC | | X | | X | X | | |
| Turtle Lake | 15 | 4 | | SE | | | | | X | | |
| Verona Gravel Pit No. 12 | 8 | 20 | T | SC | | | | X | X | | |
| Waubesa Lake | 2,113 | 34 | BR | C | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Windsor Lake | 9 | 6 | | NC | | | | | X | | |
| Wingra Lake | 345 | 21 | BR | C | | X | X | X | X | | |

*Source: Wisconsin Lakes, Department of Natural Resources, Pub. 7-3600(78).

## TABLE 2

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF STREAMS IN DANE COUNTY

| | Name | Town | Sec. | Drainage Area (Sq.Mi) | Surface Area (Acres) | Length (Miles) | Width Avg. (Feet) | Gradient (Ft/Mile) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Anthony Branch* | Rutland | 16 | 6 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 6 | 25.6 |
| 2. | Badfish Creek | Rutland | 36 | 78 | 34.8 | 14.5 | 20 | 4.1 |
| 3. | Badger Mill Creek | Verona | 28 | 34 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 11 | 10.7 |
| 4. | Big Spring Creek* | Blue Mounds | 8 | 8 | 4.1 | 6.8 | 5 | 26.5 |
| 5. | Black Earth Creek | Blue Mounds | 9 | 43 | 20.1 | 16.6 | 10 | 24.7 |
| 7. | Door Creek | Burke | 36 | 30 | 12.3 | 12.7 | 8 | 2.4 |
| 8. | Dunlap Creek* | Mazomanie | 33 | 14 | 6.8 | 9.4 | 6 | 25.2 |
| 9. | Elvers Creek* | Blue Mounds | 11 | 6 | 5.2 | 7.2 | 6 | 21.0 |
| 10. | Flynn Creek* | Montrose | 18 | 5 | 1.7 | 3.5 | 4 | 21.8 |
| 11. | Frogpond Creek* | Rutland | 36 | 4 | 1.4 | 2.5 | 5 | 11.0 |
| 12. | Garfoot Creek* | Cross Plains | 5 | 6 | 2.8 | 3.8 | 6 | 32.0 |
| 13. | German Valley Creek* | Blue Mounds | 5 | 10 | 3.6 | 5.0 | 6 | 36.0 |
| 14. | Halfway Prairie Creek | Black Earth | 16 | 30 | 6.6 | 9.0 | 8 | 15.7 |
| 15. | Henry Creek | Montrose | 12 | 2 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 6 | 27.8 |
| 16. | Keenans Creek | Dunn | 10 | 5 | 2.1 | 4.4 | 4 | 25.0 |
| 17. | Koshkonong Creek | Albion | 12 | 138 | 45.2 | 31.8 | 12 | 3.8 |
| 18. | Leuten Creek | Pleasant | 11 | 10 | 2.2 | 3.1 | 7 | 9.7 |
| | Little Door Creek | Cottage Grove | 32 | 8 | 2.8 | 3.8 | 6 | 11.8 |
| 19. | Marsh Creek | Black Earth | 4 | 4 | 1.9 | 4.0 | 4 | 5.0 |
| 20. | Maunesha (Waterloo Cr.) | Medina | 12 | 88 | 93.1 | 24.0 | 32 | 5.8 |
| 21. | Milum Creek | Montrose | 20 | 2 | 0.7 | 2.0 | 3 | 15.0 |
| 22. | Mt. Vernon Creek (Deer)* | Primrose | 13 | 17 | 13.1 | 9.0 | 12 | 18.5 |
| 23. | Mud Creek | Pleasant Sprgs. | 24 | 22 | 5.5 | 7.6 | 6 | |
| 24. | Mud Creek | York | 16 | 6 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 5 | 5.0 |
| 25. | Nine Springs | Blooming Grove | 29 | 10 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 8 | 3.3 |
| 26. | Pheasant Branch (Picture Rock Branch) | Middleton | 1 | 22 | 4.5 | 7.5 | 5 | 19.6 |
| 27. | Fryes Feeder * | Springdale | 33 | 5 | 2.5 | 3.4 | 6 | 38.10 |
| 28. | Pleasant Valley Branch* | Perry | 30 | 49 | 7.7 | 9.1 | 7 | 27.0 |
| 29. | Primrose Branch | Primrose | 14 | 10 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 4 | 19.4 |
| 30. | Roxbury Creek | Mazomanie | 23 | 14 | 6.0 | 5.0 | 10 | 26.10 |
| 31. | Saunders Creek | Christiana | 20 | 38 | 11.1 | 10.2 | 9 | 5.1 |
| 32. | Schlapback Creek* | Blue Mounds | 12 | 5 | 2.0 | 4.1 | 4 | 24.10 |
| 33. | Schumacher Creek | Medina | 20 | 11 | 2.9 | 4.0 | 6 | 5.0 |
| 34. | Sixmile Creek | Westport | 28 | 43 | 12.9 | 8.9 | 12 | 7.2 |
| 35. | Spring (Dorn Creek)* | Westport | 28 | 13 | 3.6 | 6.0 | 5 | 21.6 |
| 36. | Spring (Lodi Creek)* | Dane | 4 | 23 | 4.4 | 4.0 | 9 | 41.3 |
| 37. | Spring Creek | Deerfield | 4 | 6 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 6 | 5.0 |
| 38. | Starkweather Creek | Blooming Grove | 8 | 22 | 7.8 | 4.0 | 16 | 5.0) |
| 39. | Story Creek * | Montrose | 36 | 27 | 1.6 | 2.6 | 5 | 9.6 |
| 40. | Stransky Creek | Medina | 4 | 3 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 9 | 16.1 |
| 41. | Sugar River* | Vermont | 36 | 200 | 65.3 | 24.5 | 22 | 4.1 |
| 42. | Swan Creek | Dunn | 7 | 7 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 7 | 16.1 |
| 43. | Syftestad*(Daleyville Br.) | Perry | 9 | 6 | 1.9 | 4.0 | 4 | 28.2 |
| 44. | Token Creek* | Burke | 7 | 22 | 16.9 | 8.7 | 16 | 8.7 |
| | Tyvan School Branch | Perry | 28 | 7 | 3.1 | 4.2 | 6 | 45.2 |
| 45. | Vermont Creek* | Berry | 26 | 20 | 11.6 | 12.0 | 8 | 19.2 |
| 46. | Wendt Creek | Berry | 16 | 10 | 3.6 | 6.0 | 5 | 23.3 |
| 47. | West Branch-Sugar River | Blue Mounds | 11 | 67 | 38.8 | 20.0 | 16 | 13.6 |
| 48. | Wingra (Murphy Creek) | Madison | 24 | 2 | 12.1 | 2.5 | 40 | 2.0 |
| 49. | "Wisconsin River" | Mazomanie | | 225 | 1,358.0 | 14.0 | 800 | 1.4 |
| 50. | Yahara River | Dunkirk | 35 | 473 | 126.1 | 40.0 | 26 | 3.6 |

*Trout present

Totals (Excluding Wisconsin River) - 688.7 acres - 421.4 miles
Totals (Including Wisconsin River) - 2,046.7 acres - 435.4 miles

Source: Surface Water Resources of Dane County, Wisconsin Conservation Dept., 1961.

# APPENDIX B

# INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

## INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

| | Total Acres Parks | Total Acres Natural Areas |
|---|---|---|
| T. Albion | 7 | 0 |
| T. Berry | 0 | 0 |
| T. Black Earth | 0 | 0 |
| T. Blooming Grove | 9 | 0 |
| T. Blue Mounds | 0 | 0 |
| T. Bristol | 3 | 0 |
| T. Burke | 34 | 0 |
| T. Christiana | 0 | 0 |
| T. Cottage Grove | 24 | 0 |
| T. Cross Plains | 0 | 0 |
| T. Dane | 0 | 0 |
| T. Deerfield | 2 | 0 |
| T. Dunkirk | 0 | 0 |
| T. Dunn | 34 | 0 |
| T. Madison | 12 | 5 |
| T. Mazomanie | 0 | 0 |
| T. Medina | 2 | 2 |
| T. Middleton | 17 | 59 |
| T. Montrose | 3 | 15 |
| T. Oregon | 2 | 36 |
| T. Perry | 0 | 0 |
| T. Pleasant Springs | 16 | 0 |
| T. Primrose | 0 | 0 |
| T. Roxbury | 0 | 0 |
| T. Rutland | 2 | 0 |
| T. Springdale | 2 | 0 |
| T. Springfield | 0 | 5 |
| T. Sun Prairie | 0 | 0 |
| T. Vermont | 0 | 0 |
| T. Verona | 0 | 0 |
| T. Vienna | 5 | 0 |
| T. Westport | 9 | 0 |
| T. Windsor | 34 | 0 |
| T. York | 0 | 0 |
| SUBTOTAL - TOWNS | 215 | 122 |
| V. Belleville | 13 | 15 |
| V. Black Earth | 1 | 0 |
| V. Blue Mounds | 1 | 0 |
| V. Brooklyn | 2 | 0 |
| V. Cambridge | 3 | 3 |
| V. Cottage Grove | 2 | 2 |
| V. Cross Plains | 31 | 0 |
| V. Dane | 12 | 0 |
| V. Deerfield | 18 | 0 |
| V. De Forest | 40 | 40 |
| V. Maple Bluff | 12 | 0 |
| V. Marshall | 16 | 111 |
| V. Mazomanie | 33 | 8 |
| V. McFarland | 66 | 34 |
| V. Mount Horeb | 28 | 0 |
| V. Oregon | 85 | 48 |
| V. Rockdale | 0 | 0 |
| V. Shorewood Hills | 16 | 4 |
| V. Waunakee | 44 | 37 |
| SUBTOTAL - VILLAGES | 411 | 298 |
| C. Fitchburg | 266 | 58 |
| C. Madison | 3502 | 1458 |
| C. Middleton | 113 | 388 |
| C. Monona | 67 | 8 |
| C. Stoughton | 140 | 0 |
| C. Sun Prairie | 239 | 0 |
| C. Verona | 70 | 5 |
| SUBTOTAL - CITIES | 4397 | 1917 |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **5023** | **2337** |

# APPENDIX C

## STATE NATURAL AREAS

### Dane County

## NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

| Area Name | Location | Classification | Acres | Ownership | Description and Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Town of Albion<br>T5N, R12E (Stoughton Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Town of Berry<br>T8N, R7E (Cross Plains Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Marx Prairie | SE 1 N. of road | NA-3 | 35 | Private | South facing hill, thin black soil, over limestone, xeric forest, cedar glade, prairie |
| Indian Lake Oak Opening and Prairie | NE NW 11 | NA-3 | 4 | Private | Dry bluff prairie with open grown oaks |
| Indian Lake | N-1/4 11, NW 12 | NA-3 | 66 | County | Glacial pothole, shallow springs |
| Town of Black Earth<br>T8N, R6E (Blue Mounds Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Black Earth Prairie | SW 27 | SNA | 16 | T.N.C. | Rich dry mesic prairie between County F and Fensenfeld Road |
| Black Earth Road Cut | SW SW 25 | GEO-2 | | | A complete section of the Cambrian formation; worms stone fossils |
| Town of Blooming Grove<br>T7N, R10E (Madison Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Upper Mud Lake | 29, 5-1/2,28 | NA-2 | 300 | DNR/City | Cattail marsh, aquatics, waterfowl |
| Heritage Heights Woods | 10 | NA-2 | 10 | City | Oak woods within city limits |
| Town of Blue Mounds<br>T6N, R6E (Blue Mounds and Blanchardville Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Thousand Rocks Point Prairie | NW NW 19 | | 20 | T.N.C. | Dry prairie on thin soil over limestone |
| Cave of the Mounds | SW 5 | GEO-1 | | Private | Driftless area cave; limestone capped with silica |

## NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

| Area Name | Location | Classification | Acres | Ownership | Description and Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cave of the Mounds | SW 5 | GEO-1 | | Private | Driftless area cave; limestone capped with silica |
| Brigham Park | N-1/2 NW 5 | NA-2 | 30 | County | Red oak woods- rich understory |
| Bigler Maple Woods | NE NE 5 | NA-2 | 40 | Private | Mesic woods; Jeffersonia diphylla |
| Quisling Property | NW 6 | NA-2 | 40 | DNR | Maple woods and stream ravines |
| Town of Bristol<br>T9N, R11E (Sun Prairie and Columbus Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Deansville Fen | SE SE 25 NE 26 | NA-1, NA-2 | 80 | Private | Prairie fen |
| Town of Burke<br>T8N, R10E (Madison Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Cherokee Marsh | 6,7,8,13,23,24 (T8N, R9E) | NA-2 | 1,600 | DNR/City/ County | Deep marsh along Yahara River, calcareous marsh, low prairie, shrub thickets. |
| Cherokee Sedge Meadow | 7,8,17,18 | SNA | 400 | City/County/ Private | Includes City of Madison's Cherokee Marsh Interpretive Center. |
| Burke Prairie | 27, 34 along R.R. | NA-3 | | C.M.ST.P&P.RR | Deep soil prairie adjacent to oak opening |
| Airport Woods | W10A of NW SW 16 | NA-3 | 10 | Private | Rich association of spring flowers with oak woods |
| Town of Christiana<br>T6N, R12E (Sun Prairie and Stoughton Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Hanson Prairie | SE NW 15 | NA-3 | 3 | Private | Dry to dry mesic, small and needs management. Best dry prairie in eastern Dane County. |

## NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

| Area Name | Location | Classification | Acres | Ownership | Description and Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Town of Cottage Grove<br>T7N, R11E (Sun Prairie Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Town of Cross Plains<br>T7N, R7E (Cross Plains Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Camel's Back Hill and Johnstown Terminal Moraine | E-1/4 24, W-1/4 19 (7N, 8E) SW SW 19 | GEO-1 | | C. Middleton/ Private | Cut through terminal moraine and adjacent sandstone-limestone swamp hard wood, forest, springs, open marsh |
| Red Pine Bluff and Hardwoods | NW NW 34 | NA-3 | 30 | Private | Sandstone outcrop with red pine, birch red oak |
| Ice Age Reserve--Cross Plains Unit | SW NE 13 | GEO-1 | 40 | Public/Private | Edge of driftless and glacial regions preglacial erosional features |
| Festge Springs | NW 11 | NA-3 | | Private | Springs into Black Earth |
| New Observatory Woods | E-1/2 SW 16 | SNA | 53 | U.W. | Dry oak woods. |
| Town of Dane<br>T9N, R8E (Baraboo and Cross Plains Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Lodi Marsh | E-1/2 SE 5, 4 | NA-2 | 250 | DNR | Springs, marsh, shrub; Carrand Creek |
| Fellows Woods | SE 9, E-1/2 16 | NA-1 | 40 | Private | Dry mesic oak woods; best part SE SE 9 and SW SE 16 |
| Eden Glen Woods | SW SE NE 12<br>NE NE 12 | NA-1 | 40 | Private | Dry mesic oak woods: north part where oak, elm, basswood, balance red and white oak |
| Hawk Hill Prairie | NW SE 5<br>SW NE 5 | NA-1, NA-2 | 20 | Private | Dry limey prairie with south and north exposures; north portion partially grazed |

## NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

| Area Name | Location | Classification | Acres | Ownership | Description and Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Town of Deerfield**<br>T7N, R12E (Sun Prairie Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Goose Lake and Bog | NE 11<br>W-1/2 1 | NA-1 | 250 | DNR/Private | Deep marsh, habitat for variety of birds |
| Mud Lake | W-1/2 2 | NA-1 | 150 | DNR | Red oak forest on drumlin, tamarack swamp, small shallow lake--undeveloped |
| **Town of Dunkirk**<br>T5N, R11E (Stoughton and Evansville Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Grass Lake | SW-1/4 18 | NA-2 | 70 | Private | Deep marsh, habitat for variety of birds |
| **Town of Dunn**<br>T6N, R10E (Madison and Evansville Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Grass Lake-Northern | E-1/2 30 | NA-2 | 80 | Private | Shallow lake marsh |
| Hook Lake | N-1/2 32<br>W-1/2 SW 28 | NA-1, NA-2 | 400 | Private | Tamarack bog and marsh |
| Mud Lake | E-1/2 10<br>W-1/4 11 | NA-2 | 400 | Private | Large cattail-sedge marsh with waterfowl concentrations |
| Lake Waubesa Wetlands | NE 18, SE 7 | SNA | 500 | DNR/TNC/Private | Part of an extensive marshland with springs. Additional marsh to north and south. |
| **Town of Fitchburg**<br>T6N, R9E (Madison and Evansville Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Vroman Woods | SW NW 20 | NA-3 | 26 | Private | Red oak, cherry hardwoods |

## NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

| Area Name | Location | Classification | Acres | Ownership | Description and Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dunn's Marsh | SW NW 5 | NA-2 | | Fitchburg | Pond, marsh and very good bird sanctuary |
| Nine Springs Creek | N-1/2 NE 10 | NA-2 | 80 | DNR | Springs and cold water stream |
| Town of Madison<br>T7N, R10E (Madison Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Second Point Woods | NW NE 16, NE 17 | NA-2 | 20 | UW | Red oak woods |
| Lake Mendota Woods and Indian Mounds | SW 6 | NA-3 | 20 | Private | Oak Woods with a good understory, also contains Indian mounds |
| U.W. Arboretum | | | | | |
| Green Prairie & Oak Opening | S of Beltline | | 70 | UW | Sandy soil, prairie, different gradients restored from farmland |
| Curtis Prairie | Adjacent to Beltine North Side | | 60 | UW | Silt loam prairie, different gradients restored from farmland |
| Wingra Fen | SW corner of Lake Wingra | | 25 | UW | Alkaline from limestone seepage |
| Wingra Marsh | SW corner of Lake Wingra | | 70 | UW | Emergent vegetation, sedge meadows |
| Gardner Marsh | SE corner of Lake Wingra | | 100 | UW | Emergent vegetation, sedge meadows |
| Noe Oak Woods | South of Golf Course | | 30 | UW | Black and white oaks on silt loam, butternut trees |
| Gallstel Woods | South of Golf Course | | 35 | UW | Oak woods underplanted |
| Wingra Woods | South of Golf Course | | 45 | UW | Different gradients of oaks, Indian effigy mounds |
| Turville Point | E-1/2 25 | NA-3 | | City | Oak woods, Lake Monona |

## NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

| Area Name | Location | Classification | Acres | Ownership | Description and Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Town of Mazomanie**<br>T9N, R6E (Blue Mounds Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Rieble Prairie | NW NE 24<br>West of RR | NA-3 | 6 | Private | Moist sand prairie with scattered black oaks, easy access |
| Blums Creek Lowland Forest | SW 13 | NA-3 | 80 | DNR | River bottom woods |
| Mazomanie Oak Barrens and Sand Prairie | S-1/2 SE 23<br>W-1/2 SW 24 | SNA (Pend) | 100 | DNR | Sand prairie and oak barrens |
| Shackleford Woods | SE NE 26 | NA-3 | 20 | DNR | Oak forest along Wisconsin River |
| Dunlap Hollow Fen and Marsh | NW-1/4 1 | NA-2 | 200 | Private | Cattail and grass sedge marsh with several small springs, beaver dams |
| Mazomanie Bottoms | 31 - W of dike | SNA | 160 | DNR | Southern wet mesic forest, wet forest |
| Mazomanie Prairie | SE-1/4 8 | NA-2 | 3 | County | |
| Duhr Prairie-Glade | W-1/2 SE 15 | NA-3 | 15 | Private | Dry prairie on bluffs, red cedar |
| Marsh Creek Alders | S-1/2 6 | NA-2 | | Private | Alder thicket and shrub-carr along creek |
| **Town of Medina**<br>T8N, R12E (Sun Prairie Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Marshall Prairie | SE SW 4<br>NE NW 9<br>North of RR<br>South of River | NA-2 | 7 | Private | Low prairie and woods along RR r.o.w. |
| **Town of Middleton** | | | | | |
| Johnstown Terminal Moraine and Camel's Back Hill - refer to Town of Cross Plains | | | | | |

## NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

| Area Name | Location | Classification | Acres | Ownership | Description and Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pheasant Branch Creek | Mostly E-1/2 1 | NA-2 | 200 | C.Middleton/ Private | Swamp hardwood, forest, springs, open marsh |
| Middleton/Black Earth R.R. Prairie | Along RR between Black Earth and Middleton | | | | Remnant prairie vegetation |
| Owen (Kiekhoffer) Woods | NE 24 | NA-2 | 50 | City | Dry mesic oak woods on mordinal deposits |
| Town of Montrose<br>T5N, R8E (New Glarus Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Saytes Woods | N-1/2 NE 1 | NA-3 | 35 | Private | Xeric oak woods, burr, white black and red oak mixture, medium age |
| Paoli Woods | NW SE 6 | NA-3 | 45 | Private | Xeric oak woods some cutting, small sandstone outcrops |
| R.R. Prairie | SE SE 22 | NA-3 | | R.R. | Low prairie |
| Legler Woods | NW NW 4 | NA-3 | 10 | Private | Closed canopy oak woods |
| Town of Oregon<br>T5N, R9E (Evansville Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Story Creek | NE 31 | NA-3 | 30 | DNR | One quarter mile fair trout stream |
| Lake Barney Area | N-1/4 3, 5-1/2 34 | NA-2 | 500 | Public | Wetlands complex, endangered species site |
| Town of Perry<br>T5N, R6E (New Glarus Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Stennan Pines | SW 6 | NA-3 | 60 | Private | White pine on sandstone, maple, grazed |

## NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

| Area Name | Location | Classification | Acres | Ownership | Description and Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bergum's Cliff | NW 6 | NA-3 | 10 | Private | Shaded sandstone cliff along Blue Mounds branch-ferns, oaks, prairie |
| Jelle Woods | NW NW 35 | NA-3 | 15 | Private | Ash, maple, basswood, red elm |
| Jeglum Woods | SW SW 33 | NA-3 | 20 | Private | Maple, red and white oak, some cutting |
| Town of Pleasant Springs<br>T6N, R11E (Sun Prairie and Stoughton Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Town of Primrose<br>T6N, R7E (New Glarus Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Witwer Woods | N-1/2 NW 24 | NA-3 | 50 | Private | Dry oak woods, cherry, elm, moderate age, some cutting 15 years ago, rich understory |
| Haag Woods | N-1/2 8 | NA-3 | 130 | Private | Red oak, maple, mixed hardwoods, branch of Sugar River across road |
| Mt. Vernon Creek | 2, 3 | NA-2 | | Private | High quality trout stream, rainbow, brown, brook trout |
| Town of Roxbury<br>T9N, R4E (Baraboo and Cross Plains Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Carlson Cedar Forest | NE 6 | NA-3 | 20 | Private | River bluffs, vertical cliffs, steep southwesterly facing slopes covered with juniper, red cedar and few prairie species |

## NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

| Area Name | Location | Classification | Acres | Ownership | Description and Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Marx Pond | NE 4 | NA-2 | 80 | Private | Shallow wetland, emergent vegetation, shorebird habitats, grazing history |
| Fish Lake, Southwest Shore | NW SW 3 | NA-2 | | Private | A glacial kettle lake with high quality submerged and emergent vegetation |
| Town of Rutland<br>T5N, R11E (Evansville Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Harvey's Marsh & Wetland | E-1/4 32, 33 | NA-2 | 150 | Private | Waterfowl-marsh bird habitat-scattered potholes, all cropped, wetland gone |
| Town of Springdale<br>T6N, R7E (Cross Plains and New Glarus Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Klevenville Quarry | NW 3 | GEO-2 | 10 | Private | Massive St. Peter sandstone quarry for industrial quality sand |
| Springdale Fossil Area | SE SW 9 | GEO-2 | Road Cut | Private | Highway 18 & 9 complete fossils in Platteville-limestone |
| Mt. Vernon Sandstone Butte | SE 33 | NA-3 | 60 | Private | Wooded outcrop-northern species |
| Mt. Vernon Springs | SE NE 33 | NA-3 | 5 | DNR | Springs, 3,300 minute discharge, tributary to Sugar River |
| Painted (Donald) Rock and Woods | NW 28<br>NE 29 | NA-3 | | State | An ungrazed dry oak woods with sandstone tower outcrop |
| Town of Springfield<br>T8N, R8E (Cross Plains Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Bolz Prairie | SW SE 14 | NA-2 | 5 | UW | Dry prairie remnant on knoll |

## NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

| Area Name | Location | Classification | Acres | Ownership | Description and Comment |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Waunakee Marsh | 10, 11 | NA-3 | 1000 | DNR/Private | Shallow marsh, springs |
| Meinholz Woods | SW NE 30 | NA-2 | 20 | Private | Red oak woods |
| Springfield Dry Prairie | E-1/2 SE SW 15 | NA-3 | 15 | Private | Dry lime prairie |
| Koch Prairie | North of K at Ashton Corner | NA-1 | 10 | Private | Dry mesic prairie |
| **Town of Vermont** T7N, R6N (Blue Mounds Quadrangle) | | | | | |
| Vermont Red Pine Relic | NW SE SW NE 20 | NA-3 | 10 | Private | Red pine relic with a sandstone outcrop-xeric cliff community--moderately grazed |
| **Town of Verona** T5N/T6N, R8E | | | | | |
| Olson Oak Woods | 6 in 5N 31, 32 in 6N | 8NA | 90 | C. Madison | Southern dry forest |
| **Town of Westport** T8N, R9E | | | | | |
| Westport Drumlin Prairie | NE SW 11 NW SE 11 | SNA | 14 | DNR | Dry to dry-mesic prairie and oak opening on drumlin |

# APPENDIX D

# CORRESPONDENCE

# OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Corporation Counsel
Cal W. Kornstedt

June 4, 1990

James Mueller
Dane County Parks Department
4318 Robertson Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Dear Mr. Mueller:

You ask whether the county's Parks & Opens Space Plan has any legal effect, especially on the rights of landowners whose lands are subject to the plan. In my opinion the only legal effect of the Parks & Opens Space Plan is to enable the procurement of state and federal dollars when and if purchases are made of lands described in the Plan. It has no other legal effect and it specifically does not affect the rights of an affected landowner to sell the lands to whomever he or she chooses and at whatever price can be obtained. It also does not affect a landowner's right to develop or otherwise use his or her land as and to the extent permitted by law.

You have informed me that the Dane County Parks & Opens Space Plan is a "comprehensive outdoor recreation plan" as that term is used by the Department of Natural Resources. NR 50.06(4), Wis. Admin. Code, provides that in order to obtain funding under the land and water conservation fund act of 1965 (LAWCON), a municipality must have a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan which has been formally approved by the municipality's governing body. NR 50.16(5)(b), Wis. Admin. Code, also requires that in order to be eligible for aids for the acquisition or development of local parks under sec. 23.09(20), stats., the municipality must first have adopted a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. Similarly, NR 50.18(4)(d), Wis. Admin. Code, requires an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan in order to apply for funding under the local park aid program created under sec. 23.09(25)(e), stats.

The term "comprehensive outdoor recreation plan" is not mentioned in state statutes.



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It is clear that since the only usage of the term is in reference to eligibility for state and federal funding and since no other power or purpose whatsoever is attached to such a plan, "comprehensive outdoor recreation plan" has no legal effect on a landowner's ability to sell, develop or use his or her property as he or she sees fit. It operates solely as an enabling device for municipalities, to assist in obtaining state and federal park development dollars.

Sincerely,

Cal W. Kornstedt
Corporation Counsel

**SUMMARY:** The Dane County Parks & Opens Space Plan does not affect a landowner's right of disposition, use or development; it operates solely as a device to capture state and federal park development funding.

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