

Park and Open Space Plan Update 2008 -2013



Document completed by:

City of Whitewater **Park** and Recreation Board
City of Whitewater Plan and Architectural Review Commission
City of Whitewater **Parks** and Recreation Department
City of Whitewater Planning Department

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PARK & OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE
2008-2013 AS A COMPONENT OF THE CITY OF WHITEWATER MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater Plan Commission has adopted a Master Plan for the purpose of aiding the Plan Commission and the Common Council of the City of Whitewater in the performance of their duties, and

WHEREAS, a component of the Master Plan is a Parle and Open Space Plan, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 62.23 the Plan Commission has the power to amend, extend, add to, or extend into greater detail the Master Plan, or any component of said Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, by the passage of this resolution the Plan Commission intends to address, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 66.1001(2)(e) objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for the effective management of parks and open spaces in the City of Whitewater, and

WHEREAS, it is in the City of Whitewater and the general public's best interest to amend, extend, add to, and extend into greater detail the Parle and Open Space component of the City of Whitewater Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Park and Open Space Plan Update 2008 - 2013 pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 62.23(3) will promote the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of the City of Whitewater, which will, in accordance with future needs, best promote public health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy in the development of the City of Whitewater and surrounding areas.

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plan Commission of the City of Whitewater hereby approves and adopts the attached Parle and Open Space Plan Update 2008-2013.

Upon adoption by the Plan Commission, the Park and Open Space Plan Update 2008 - 2013 shall be certified to the Common Council.

Resolution introduced by Plan Commission member --'K=a=l=u:.....va=-----
who moved its adoption. Seconded by Plan Commission member _St_o_n_e_____

AYES: Kaluva, Stone, Coburn
Zaballos, Gilpatrick.
NOES: Miller, Kienbaum.

(Alternate _____ 2-25-DB
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ABSENT: Wiedenhoeft.

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ADOPTED: February 25, 2008

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Introduction

Parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities are vital elements of a thriving, livable community. They support physical and mental well-being, provide opportunities for social interaction, protect environmental resources, and contribute to the community's identity and character. Parks also help shape development patterns and serve as public assets that enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

As the City of Whitewater continues to grow and evolve, thoughtful, proactive planning is essential to ensure that future generations have access to safe, inclusive, and high-quality recreational spaces. New development and shifting demographics present both opportunities and challenges that require strategic planning aligned with community values.

The 2025 Whitewater Parks and Open Space Plan, serves as a comprehensive and forward-looking guide for the preservation, enhancement, and expansion of parks, trails, natural areas, and recreational amenities. It outlines both immediate priorities and long-term goals to meet the current and future needs of Whitewater's diverse population. While the plan identifies strategies through 2035, it is designed to guide investment and development over the next five years (2025-2030).

This plan includes conceptual recommendations for various types of parks, natural areas, and recreational facilities, with a focus on equitable access, operational sustainability, and environmental stewardship. It also supports broader community goals related to public health, inclusion, climate resilience, and the creation of a connected and walkable public realm. In many cases, further detailed design, public engagement, engineering, and budgeting will be required prior to implementation.

The plan has been prepared in accordance with guidelines from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources(DNR) to maintain eligibility for grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Wisconsin Stewardship Program. Maintaining DNR certification requires updating this plan at least every five years to reflect changing community needs.

In addition, this Open Space Plan functions as an adopted of the City's master plan, as authorized under Wisconsin Statutes §62.23. It builds on the findings of previous Park and Open Space Plans and integrates with related documents, including the City's Comprehensive Bikeway Plan, and various Neighborhood Development Plans—A separate Strategic Plan will complement this document by identifying specific needs, priorities, and improvement recommendations for each individual park and facility. Where inconsistencies occur, the recommendations of the 2025 Park and Open Space Plan shall take precedence.

The Vital Role of Parks and Recreation in the Community

As financial and land resources become increasingly limited, it is important to recognize the critical value that parks, open spaces, and recreation services bring to the community. In Whitewater, these assets are essential components of our public infrastructure – equally vital to our long-term well-being as roads, utilities, and housing.

In addition to their health benefits, parks and recreation facilities are among the most visible and valued services a community provides. A well-maintained and vibrant park system reflects a strong sense of civic pride and quality of life. Parks are places where neighbors connect, celebrations are held, and community bonds are strengthened.

Parks also serve as an important economic driver. High-Quality public spaces help attract and retain new families, students, and businesses. They enhance property values, support tourism and events, and contribute to the city’s appeal as a place to live, learn, work, and play.

Equally important is the environmental role of parks. An interconnected system of active and passive recreation areas, greenways and open spaces helps preserve biodiversity, protect sensitive ecosystems, and support stormwater and flood management. As climate-related pressures increase, these “green infrastructure” elements will play a vital role in enhancing Whitewater’s resilience and environmental sustainability.

Ultimately, the park system is a reflection of the community’s values—supporting health, equity, sustainability, and quality of life for all. As we invest in and improve these spaces, we ensure that current and future generations can continue to benefit from the vital role parks and recreation play in the heart of Whitewater.

Background Information

The City of Whitewater is located in southeastern Wisconsin, straddling the border of Jefferson and Walworth Counties. As of 2019, the estimated population was 13,967. Whitewater covers roughly nine square miles and is bordered by the Town of Cold Spring to the north (Jefferson County) and by the Town of Whitewater to the south, east, and west (Walworth County).

Table 1: Population Trends

Year	City of Whitewater	University Residence Halls	City (less Residence Halls)	Jefferson County	Walworth County	B
2007 (est.)	13,967	3,700	10,267	80,411	100,672	5,647,000
2000	13,512	3,450	10,062	75,767	92,013	5,363,715
1990	12,636	-	-	67,783	75,000	4,891,769
1980	11,520	-	-	66,152	71,507	4,705,642
2010 (Projected)	13,891	3,750	10,141	82,161	100,634	5,751,470
2015 (Projected)	14,312	3,850	10,462	85,178	106,588	5,931,386
2025 (Projected)	14,668	3,850	10,818	91,464	113,506	6,274,876

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Final Population Estimates (2007) and Official Population Projections for State (2005); UW-Whitewater-Residence Hall occupancy and projections

The Whitewater Unified School District (WWUSD) encompasses the entire city and extends into surrounding lands in Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth Counties. This regional connection reinforces the City's role as a central hub for education and community life in the area.

Since 1980, Whitewater has experienced modest but steady population growth, averaging approximately 0.8% per year. While growth rates have varied – typically lower than the state average and Walworth County but comparable to Jefferson County – Whitewater remains a dynamic community shaped by both permanent residents and a large student population. See Table 1 on the previous page for population data for the City of Whitewater.

The presence of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater significantly influences the character of the community. Although many of the recreational needs of university students are served by on-campus facilities the City recognizes the importance of ensuring off-campus parks and programs are welcoming, accessible, and inclusive of students. Continued collaboration between the City and the University is essential to meeting the recreation needs of all residents – long term and temporary alike.

Effective park and open space planning requires thoughtful consideration of population trends. Estimating future population growth is challenging due to numerous variables, including regional economic development, housing trends, and broader urban expansion from nearby metropolitan areas such as Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago. However based on existing projections, the City of Whitewater is expected to reach a population of 14,668 in the year 2025. These projections do not necessarily account for broader demographic factors, particularly the expansion of urbanized greater Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago, which could produce more development and population growth in the City. With this in mind, the City should use this plan to focus on the "high" end of standards for park and open space planning.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

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

are summarized in the following section.

Improved interconnectivity and visibility of City parks and open spaces throughout the community

- o Parks connected by trail system
- o Multi-use trail uninterrupted within and throughout the city
- o "Safe Routes" to school as a grant program to enhance trail development
- o Maintain/improve access and use for disabled
- o Maintain/enhance access and use for Senior population
- o Improved signage

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

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

Park and Open Space Objectives and Policies:

- Objective 1.** Preserve natural features and amenities and conserve natural resources for the benefit of the community and society as a whole, realizing that these resources are finite and, for the most part, irreplaceable.
- 1.1 Encourage public awareness of the City's environmental and cultural resources by promoting appropriate educational programs.
 - 1.2 Work to preserve conservancy lands that can be adequately and appropriately protected, without public expenditure. Direct public funds to acquire conservancy lands that cannot be protected through other means, or where public access is a priority.
 - 1.3 Pay special attention to preserving pristine lowlands, waterways, marshes, and adjacent contributing uplands in their natural state to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, areas for passive recreation, and reservoirs for stormwater.
- Objective 2.** Provide quality recreation and open space lands and facilities for each neighborhood.
- 2.1 Site and design neighborhood parks to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide common neighborhood gathering places. All residents should be within a 10 minute walk (1/2 mile) of a neighborhood park or community park with active recreational facilities.

- 2.2 Working with the School District, provide community parks for more intensive and specialized recreational needs. All new residents should be within 1 ½ miles of a community park.
- 2.3 Provide or require smaller parks and recreational facilities within intensive development areas, such as in or near multi-family residential developments.

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

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

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

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

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

- S.1 Provide multiple access points of sufficient width from surrounding neighborhoods.
- S.2 Follow the recommendations of the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* and the updated bike and pedestrian facility map in this *Park and Open Space Plan* when reviewing private development proposals, completing road projects, and planning for bike paths.
- S.3 Require sidewalks in new developments per the City's Land Division and Subdivision regulations, and follow the recommendations of the Citywide Sidewalk Plan map (within the *Central Area Plan*) when making sidewalk decisions on existing streets.

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

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

6. Park and Recreation System Overview

Park Classification and Standards

To ensure that the City of Whitewater's parks and recreational system continues to meet the diverse and evolving needs of the community, a clear and consistent classification of park types is essential. This plan uses the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), classification system, adapted to local context and planning goals. Two key planning standards are used:

1. **Gross Acreage Standard:** This standard identifies the recommended number of usable acres of park and recreation land per 1,000 residents. The NRPA generally recommends 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed recreational land per 1,000 people. This figure excludes environmentally

sensitive lands acquired for conservation purposes, which are measured separately.

2. Service Area Standard:

Each park classification is assigned a service radius, ensuring that residents have access to appropriate facilities within walking or biking distance. This helps identify geographic gaps and ensures equitable park distribution across the city.

Park Classifications

Whitewater's park system includes 15 distinct parks, classified into the following categories. Each classification includes a description, typical size, population served, and intended recreational intensity.

A. Mini Park:

Small parks designed for concentrated or specific populations such as preschoolers, seniors, or apartment-dwelling families.

- **Size:** 2 acres or less
- **Service Radius:** < ¼ mile
- **Acreage Standard:** 0.25–0.5 acres per 1,000 residents
- **Typical Features:** Tot lots, seating, garden plots, shade structures

1. B. Neighborhood Park

Small parks designed for concentrated or specific populations such as preschoolers, seniors, or apartment-dwelling families.

- **Size:** 2 acres or less
- **Service Radius:** < ¼ mile
- **Acreage Standard:** 0.25–0.5 acres per 1,000 residents
- **Typical Features:** Tot lots, seating, garden plots, shade structures

C. Community Park

Larger parks that serve multiple neighborhoods and accommodate a wide variety of uses, both active and passive.

- **Size:** 15–40 acres
- **Service Radius:** 1.5 miles

- **Acreage Standard:** 5–8 acres per 1,000 residents
- **Typical Features:** Ball fields, aquatic centers, event space, natural areas, trails, ample parking

Recreation Area Classifications

To better understand the functional use of spaces within parks, this plan also categorizes areas by recreational intensity:

1. Active Recreation Areas

Designed for structured and high-use activities, including:

- Athletic fields, playgrounds, sport courts, skateparks, splash pads, dog parks, and community gardens

2. Passive Recreation Areas

Characterized by open space or light improvements for informal use:

- Natural areas, walking trails, picnic areas, scenic overlooks, native plantings

3. Special Use Areas

Uniquely programmed or historic spaces with specialized facilities:

- Memorial parks, amphitheaters, historical sites, cultural plazas

4. Conservancy Areas

Permanently protected lands of environmental or ecological significance:

- Floodplains, wetlands, shorelines, stormwater basins, environmental corridors, and wildlife habitat areas
- May offer secondary trail access or environmental education opportunities, but are not counted toward developed acreage standards.

Note: The Whitewater Effigy Mounds Preserve is classified as a Special Use Area due to its sacred cultural significance, interpretive and educational value, and its preservation function. The site may also be considered a Conservancy Area due to its sensitive landscape and emphasis on protection over programmed recreational use. It is managed with care and respect in collaboration with Native American communities, and is not included in the developed park acreage total to preserve its integrity and honor its historical context.

Existing Park and Open Space System

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

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

Description of Existing Public Park and School Recreation Facilities

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

A. Archaeological Park

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

B. Community Parks

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

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

4. Cravath Lake Waterfront Park: This 6.1 acre urban park is located along the north side of Cravath Lake and the south side of the commercial center of Downtown Whitewater. This park includes the Lakefront Center community building, restrooms, picnic shelter, open performance stage, boat launch, fire pit, lakefront promenade with rail underpass to Main Street, gazebo, extensive landscaping, and a 50+ stall parking lot. Additionally, the facilities are available for rent, and a summertime paddleboat rental program has become increasingly popular.

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

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

C. Neighborhood Parks



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

8. Meadowsweet Park: This 4+ acre neighborhood park with an additional stormwater detention area is associated with new residential development on the far

northwest corner of the City. There are not any recreational facilities within this park at the present time.

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

D. Mini Parks

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

- 11. Main Street Shoppes Courtyard:** This approximate 0.1 acre downtown site is located adjacent to a municipal parking lot and behind retail and professional buildings.
- 12. Birge Fountain Park:** This 0.7 acre triangular park is located at the intersection of Main Street and North Street. It contains Birge Fountain (circa 1900) and a Tar Memorial.
- 13. Big Brick Park:** This 1.1 acre park is located in the central portion of the City on Center Street. This park has an enclosed shelter with restrooms, as well as ice skating, a playfield, a basketball court, playground equipment, and a picnic area.
- 14. Mill Race Park:** This 0.6 acre park is located in downtown on the north side of Main Street along Manitowater Creek. This park serves primarily as an observation area.
- 15. Optimist Turtle Mound Park:** This 1 acre park is located in the southwest quadrant of the City in the Mound Park Acres Subdivision. It contains a playfield, play equipment, and a picnic area.

E. Public School Facilities

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

Analysis of Existing Facilities

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

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

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

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

Type of Park	Active Recreation Area	Passive Recreation Area	Special Facilities Area	Conservancy Area	Total
City Parks and Open Spaces					
Community Parks	39.1	54.2	0.3	75.7	169.3
Neighborhood Parks	0.6	2.5	0	11.5	14.6
Mini-parks	2.1	0.7	1.3	0	4.1
Total Public Parks	41.8	57.4	1.6	87.2	188
School Parks and Open Spaces					
Public School Facilities	9a.1 i	11.aj	2.2i	1i	113.1
University Facilities	22i	92.4i	i	7.6i	122
Total School Facilities	120.1 i	104.2i	2.2i	8.6i	235.1
Grand Total	161.9i	161.6i	3.8f	95.8j	423.1

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

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

Specifically, Table 3 indicates that Whitewater meets the NRPA total park acreage standards with an aggregate 99.2 useable City acres for recreational activity, which breaks down to 7.1 acres per 1,000 persons. In terms of the provisions of specific park types, the City is currently meeting the NRPA suggested standards only for community parks at 6.68 acres per 1,000 persons. The City is lacking, however, in acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 persons according to the NRPA Standard- only 0.22 acres per 1,000 persons are currently accessible for recreation in the City's neighborhood parks. With only 2.3 total acres devoted to recreational uses in neighborhood parks currently in the City, 10 or more additional acres of such facilities would be needed to meet the standard. Additionally, there are only 0.2 acres per 1,000 persons currently accessible in the City's mini-parks. Again, this falls below the NRPA standard. An additional 2 acre to one acre of accessible recreation space in mini-parks is all that would be necessary to meet the standard.

When the community's school recreational facilities are included in the calculation, the community has a total of 209 acres of park and open space land in active and accessible passive use. This breaks down to 13.0 acres per 1,000 persons. However, these school facilities serve a larger geographic area and population than just the City-proper and are not under the jurisdiction of the City. Of course, including school recreational facilities in the analysis provides a more complete depiction of areas that are most and least well-connected to the City's park, recreation, and open space system and therefore allows more informed planning decisions to be made.

Table 3: Active and Passive Recreation Acres in City and School Facilities¹

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

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

Existing Recreation Programs

Overview

An examination of current recreation programming offerings shows that social and instructional programs account for over half of all programming. Recent efforts to partner and work with local youth sports groups indicate that the department will be more responsible for offering both instructional and league style programs for youth sports. The Chitewater Parks and Recreation Department provides a variety of leisure programs as shown on Table 4. The programs can be classified into five program types:

1. Instruction - Programs designed to offer instructional information to enhance skills.
2. League - Play that occurs for registered players or teams during scheduled season or time to enhance levels of fitness, instruction, and social involvement. League play typically includes a spectator element to the program for families and/or friends of participants.
3. Social- An event designed to create socialization for the participants. This event can be family-based or designed towards a group with similar interests. It also can include reservation of a facility for private recreational use.
4. Special E,-enc - Csually a one-day event or drop-in activity to provide entertainment.
5. Tournament - Usually an event or comest used to determine a winner.

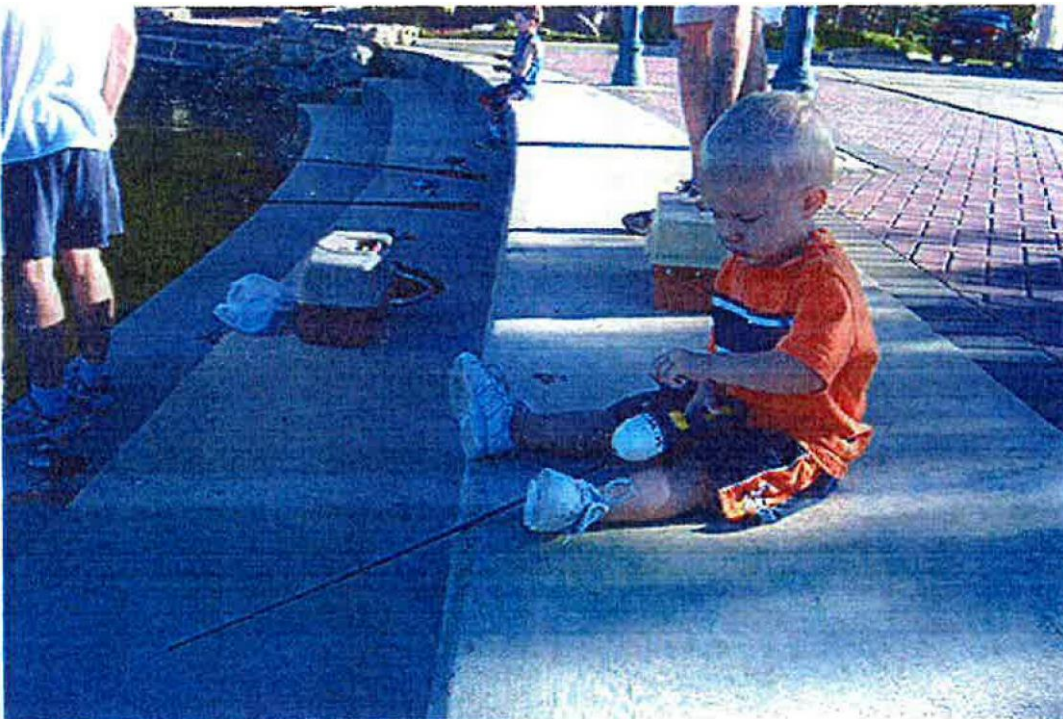


Table 4: Existing Recreation Programs (2008)

KEV	PROGRAM	Number of Registrations	Hours/ Use	Times Met	Hours Used	Time of Year	Program Type
Y	American Girl Mystery Party	3	2	1	6	Summer	Social
Y	American Girl Tea Party	7	2	1	14	Summer	Social
C	ARC Babysitting Course	13	7	1	91	Summer	Instructional
A	Baking Class	2	2	4	16	Summer	Instructional
A	Ballroom Dancing	16	2	2	64	Summer	Instructional
A	Beginning Watercolor	3	2	12	72	Summer	Instructional
A	Belly Dancing	19	1	5	95	Fall/Spring	Instructional
P	Big Rig Gig	25	2	1	50	Summer	Special Event
P	Bilingual Storytime	13	1	3	39	All	Instructional
A	Gardie Blast	108	2	8	1728	All	Instructional
A	Conversational Spanish	4	2	8	64	Spring	Instructional
B	Disc Golf	2	1	1	2	Summer	Instructional
Y	Drama Classes	15	2	5	150	All	Instructional
Y	Youth Dance	197	17	8	26792	All	Instructional
A	Dance -adult Tap & Ballet	91	2	5	910	All	Instructional
B	Explore the Kettle Moraine	13	3	1	39	Summer	Special Event
Y	Funky Kitchen	2	3	2	12	Summer	Instructional
A	Garden Gathering Basket	1	8	1	8	Summer	Instructional
P	Gymnastics Tots	77	1	4	308	All	Instructional
Y	Gymnastics 1/2	117	1	8	936	All	Instructional
Y	Gymnastics 4/5	63	3	8	1512	All	Instructional
Y	Gymnastics 2/3	99	2	8	1584	All	Instructional
Y	Horse Camps	28	6	4	672	Summer	Instructional
Y	Horse Riding Lessons	25	1	4	100	Summer	Instructional
A	Kickball Teams - adult	5	1	8	40	Fall/Summer	League
Y	Kids Escape	24	3	45	3240	Summer	Social
Y	Kids in the Kitchen	14		2	28	Summer	Instructional
Y	Little Dribblers	57	1	5	285	Fall	Instructional
B	Mallard's Game	15	5	1	75	Summer	Special Event
Y	Messy Fest	19	2	1	38	Summer	Special Event
P	Musik on the Move	13	1	3	39	Summer	Instructional
A	Paint and Water Do Mix	8	3	5	120	Summer	Instructional
A	Pilates	113	1	5	565	All	Instructional
A	Restorative Yoga	68	1	5	340	All	Instructional
Y	Rockclimbing- youth	127	4	4	2032	All	Instructional
A	Rockclimbing -adult	20	2	5	200	All	Instructional
Y	Shooting Stars Bball	38	1	5	190	Spring	Instructional
A	Softball Teams- adult	24	18	10	4320	Summer	League
A	Tai Chi	7	1	4	28	Spring	Instructional
A	Total Body Fitness	93	3	8	2232	All	Instructional
P	Totally Terrific Toddler Time	3	1	8	24	Spring	Social
P	Tots on the Run	6	1	10	60	Summer	Social
P	Tots/Tunes/Tumbling	44	1	8	352	All	Instructional
A	Volleyball teams -adult	30	3	10	900	Fall/Spring	League
B	Welcome to Whitewater Tour	1	1	1	1	Summer	Special Event
Y	Windy Day	1	2	3	6	Summer	Special Event
Y	Youthball - Girls fastpitch	37	1	14	518	Summer	League
Y	Youthball - Girls softball	22	1	14	308	Summer	League
Y	Youthball - Rookie boys	48	1	14	672	Summer	League
Y	Youthball - T-ball boys & girls	46	1	14	644	Summer	Instructional

KEV

A-Adult

B - Both Youth and Adult

C - Certification

P - Preschool

Y- Youth

Current National Parks and Recreation Trends Being Considered and Implemented in Whitewater

Parks and recreation departments across the country are under constant pressure to meet the ever-changing recreational desires of community residents. Nationally, several common challenges are being faced by parks and recreation departments including:

- Deteriorating park and recreation infrastructure.
- Declining park and recreation budgets relative to costs.
- Increasing competition for shrinking federal, state and local tax resources.
- Greater cultural diversity.
- Greater difficulty in providing equal opportunity for leisure to all people.

Many of Whitewater's parks and recreation facilities are already in step with current trends. Facilities such as the Bark Park in Moraine View Park, the Skate Park at Brewery Hill Park and the on-going expansion of Whitewater's multi-use trails are all examples of facilities reflected in national trends that the city is already providing its citizens.

Following is a summary of current recreational trends. As many of the trends have overlapping user groups or are similar in nature, they have been grouped into several themes.

Passive Recreational Facilities

Passive recreational activities such as **Walking Facilities** and **Multi-Use Pathways** are increasingly popular. These facilities provide varied loops of paved and unpaved linked systems that provide linear recreation for a variety of users including runners, bicyclists, inline skaters and pet owners. Creating interconnected systems both within the community and regionally is a key goal of most communities. Wayfinding and user amenities are provided such as trail heads with parking, restrooms, benches, maps and linkages to user origins and destinations. These facilities also provide vital links to residential areas, commercial zones and workplaces to encourage walkable community initiatives and safe alternatives to automobile commuting.

Environmental Education and Ecological Preservation

Parks and recreation facilities that highlight environmental or ecological processes and have a focus on education are being developed throughout the nation. **Natural Areas and Preservation Parks** include passive use areas intended for natural resource preservation and minimal access. **Environmental Education Centers** are often tied to parks that include significant natural resources and these parks seek to provide education on the ecosystems of the area through hands-on learning.

Arboretums and Public Gardens can foster harmony with nature by developing an understanding of the rich and varied assortment of plants which are grown in Wisconsin. These types of facilities can identify a variety of trees and shrubs, develop gardens to offer a changing pattern of natural beauty throughout the year, provide an aesthetically pleasing setting for community education and enjoyment, and serve as a resource center to learn about horticulture, the environment, and our ecological responsibilities.

The use of **Storm Water Management as an Amenity** is being pursued by several communities as a means of securing funding for demonstration projects and as a means to educate the public about water quality and conservation issues.

Active street tree and urban forest programs

Trees and urban forests are major capital assets in America's cities and towns. Just as streets, sidewalks, sewers, public buildings and recreational facilities are a part of a community's infrastructure, so are publicly owned trees. Trees and the urban forest are important assets that require care and maintenance, the same as other public property.

Trees can:

- Add natural character to our city
- Screen harsh scenery
- Soften the outline of masonry, metal and glass
- Can be used architecturally to provide space definition and landscape continuity
- Create feelings of relaxation and well-being
- Provide privacy and a sense of solitude and security
- Shorten post-operative hospital stays when patients are placed in rooms with a view of trees and open spaces
- Contribute to a sense of community pride and ownership

(Excerpts taken from The C.S. Department of Agriculture Forestry Report R8-FR 71)

Special or Unique Recreation Activities

Aquatic Facilities and facilities that provide for a range of water activities are being developed in many communities. These include exercise, team swimming, and recreational water play for children such as water slides and spraygrounds.

Dog Parks and Dog Runs are parks or portions of parks dedicated to exercising dogs. These can be fenced off-leash parks for dogs, or multi-use pathways that allow pet usage.

Community-wide **Indoor Wellness/Fitness Facilities** offer programs and services that are designed to provide a broad range of fitness facilities as well as wellness education and services to a broad range of age groups and user abilities.

Disc golf courses can provide outdoor recreational opportunities for a variety of age groups and individuals with a wide range of skill levels. This activity can be a relatively low cost if suitable lands are available and there are not conflicts with other user groups.

Creative Partnering is also an important trend as communities look to adjacent municipalities, hospitals, corporations and State agencies to share facilities, programs, staff, or infrastructure as a means of raising funds and attracting users. These partnerships also

include the involvement of community members and groups in portions of the maintenance of park areas and in the development of facilities such as community gardens and playgrounds.

As suitable lands for parks become scarce, especially in dense urban areas, **Creative Re-use** of existing facilities becomes an option for many communities. Efforts to find ways to re-use existing facilities for new uses (e.g. tennis courts to multi-use sport courts) or incorporating new facility development within existing sites can produce very successful and cost effective results. Related to these efforts are the initiatives to **Redevelop Brownfield Sites**. Funding sources for the redevelopment of contaminated sites are increasing. In many cases these lands are ideally suited for recreational facilities. Many of these parks serve as demonstration projects and enjoy positive public participation and become community showpieces.

Facilities for Targeted Age Groups

As the population in many communities grows older, **Facilities for Seniors** are commonly being developed as part of a community's parks and recreation system. These facilities often include senior-focused community centers, extended care facilities, and recreational activities within neighborhood parks that are targeted toward seniors.

To target outdoor recreation activities for youths, "X-Games" Parks are being developed. These are facilities that often provide a variety of "extreme" sport activities. Many of the activities include:

- In-line hockey rinks
- "Dirt Jump" parks
- Climbing walls
- Single-track mountain biking trails
- Skateboard parks
- Competitive whitewater kayak/raft courses

Park and Open Space Needs Assessment and Recommendations

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

Gross Recreational Acreage Requirements

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

Space Needs and Recommendations by Park Type

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

A. Undesignated Park Space

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

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

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

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

B. Recommended City Community Parks

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

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

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

C. Recommended City Neighborhood Parks and Village-Parks

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

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

- Two active and passive use parks within the proposed Tripp Lake Open Space Area (#4 & 5 on Map 5). The Water's Edge South Upland Park (#5) could potentially merge with Tripp Lake Park to the north to expand that community park. The "South Shore" park lies in an upland area with distinct natural amenities on all sides, and may be a desirable place for a combination recreation and conservancy area. Access to the site, however, presents a challenge. Both of these new parks will likely include significant conservancy areas within or adjacent to them.
- A park adjacent to Spring Brook, north of the bypass and west of Franklin Street (#8 on Map 5). This area may serve predominantly as a conservancy area, with small-scale recreational use areas (e.g., playground, open field).
- A park in the area south of the High School (#9) may be more of a conservancy area in public ownership or permanently protected private ownership as the property surrounds it develops.
- A park in the southwest part of the city (#10), that could be incorporated as a passive recreational space to serve proposed mixed-use development in the area.
- A new neighborhood park (#11) in the proposed residential development west of Mound Park Acres subdivision. There may be additional dedication or acquisition of conservancy areas in this vicinity as well.
- A "Near West" park (#12), which could actually be implemented as an extension or greater definition of Ward Park west of Tratt Street.
- A neighborhood park north of Main Street in the northwest quadrant of the City, which could be combined with a future school site (#13 on Map 5). There may be additional dedication or acquisition of conservancy areas as well, because of the large area of wetlands and other low-lying lands in this vicinity.
- Two parks north of the University (#14 & #15 on Map 5). The Prairie Village subdivision includes the dedication of nearly 10 acres as public parkland (#15), which consists mostly of wetland areas.
- A future expansion of the Whitewater Creek Nature Area (#16 on Map 5), mainly between the existing area boundaries and the Wastewater Treatment Plant site. These very low areas could provide for additional wildlife habitat, low-impact trails, and interpretive opportunities. The boundaries of this area could extend west to include the University lands, which may also accommodate additional trails and native area restoration.

D. Recommended Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

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

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

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

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

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

A. General Recommendations:

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

B. Department Recommendations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix B: Recreation Amenities in Public Parks - 2008

Community Parks	
Whitewater Creek Nature Area	59.8
Moraine View	45.0
Triece Lake	242
Cravath Lakefront	6.1
Archaeological Parks	
Indian Mounds	21.5
Neighborhood Parks	
Brewery Hill/Armory	7.3
Meadowsweet	4.0
Mini Parks	
Park Crest	2.6
Big Brick	1.1
Optimist Turtle Mound	1.0
Birge Fountain	0.7
Mill racehead	0.7
Clay Street Nature Park	0.6
Mill Race	0.6
Main Street Shoppes Courtyard	0.1

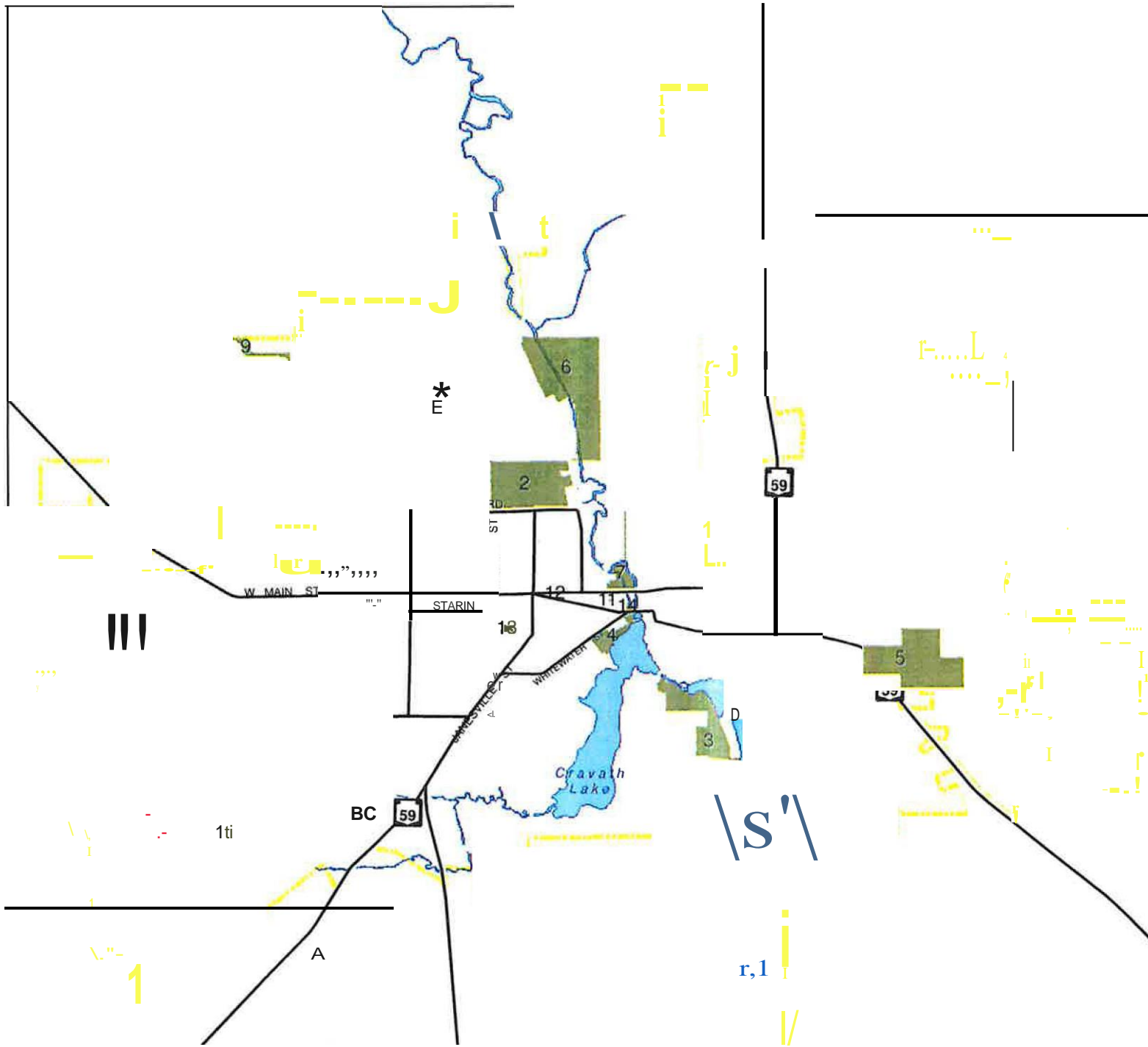
Appendix C: Acreage of Land Devoloted to Park and Recreation Uses by Park and School - 2008

	Acreage by Type of Recreation Use Within Specific City Parks				
	Active Recreation Area	Passive Recreation Area	Special Facilities Area	Conservancy Area	Total
Archaeological Park					
1. Indian Mounds		2	19.5		21.5
Community Parks	39.1	54.2	0.3	75.7	169.3
2. Starn	15	19.2			34.2
3. Trippe Lake	8.1	15.9	0.2		24.2
4. Cravath Lakefront	6		0.1		6.1
5. Moraine View	10	15		20	45
6. Whitewater Creek Nature Area		4.1		55.7	59.8
Neighborhood Parks	0.6	2.5	0	11.5	14.6
7. Brewery Hill/Armory	0.4	1.9		5	7.3
8. Meadowsweet				4	4
9. Park Crest	0.2	0.6		2.5	3.3
Mini-parks	2.1	0.7	1.3	0	4.1
10. Clay Street Nature Park			0.6		0.6
11. Main Street Shoppes Courtyard		0.1			0.1
12. Birge Fountain			0.7		0.7
13. Big Brick	1.1				1.1
14. Mill Race		0.6			0.6
15. Optimist Turtle Mound					1
Total Public Parks	41.8	57.4	1.6	87.2	188
Public School Facilities	98.1	11.8	2.2	1	113.1
A. Whitewater High School (CP)	54.5	11.8	2	1	69.3
B. Whitewater Middle School (CP)	25.1				25.1
C. Lincoln Elementary (NP)	10.3		0.2		10.5
D. Washington Elementary (NP)	8.2				8.2
University Facilities	22	92.4		7.6	122
E. UW LAWCON Fields	22	92.4		7.6	122
Grand Total	161.5	161.6	3	95.8	423.1

Map 1: Existing Public Park & School Facilities

LEGEND

- Major Road
- Public Park
- Public School
- * Archaeological Park
- University Facility
- City Limits



1. Indian Mounds
2. Starin
3. Trippe Lake
4. Cravath Laketront
5. Moraine View
6. Whitewater Creek Nature Area
7. Brewery Hill/Armory
8. Meadowsweet
9. Park Crest
10. Clay Street Nature Park
11. Main Street Shoppes Courtyard
12. Birge Fountain
13. Big Brick
14. Mill Race

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- 15. Optimist Turtle Mound
 - A. Whitewater High School (CP)
 - B. Whitewater Middle School (CP)
 - C. Lincoln Elementary (NP)
 - D. Washington Elementary (NP)
 - E. UW LAWCON Fields

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*Park & Open Space
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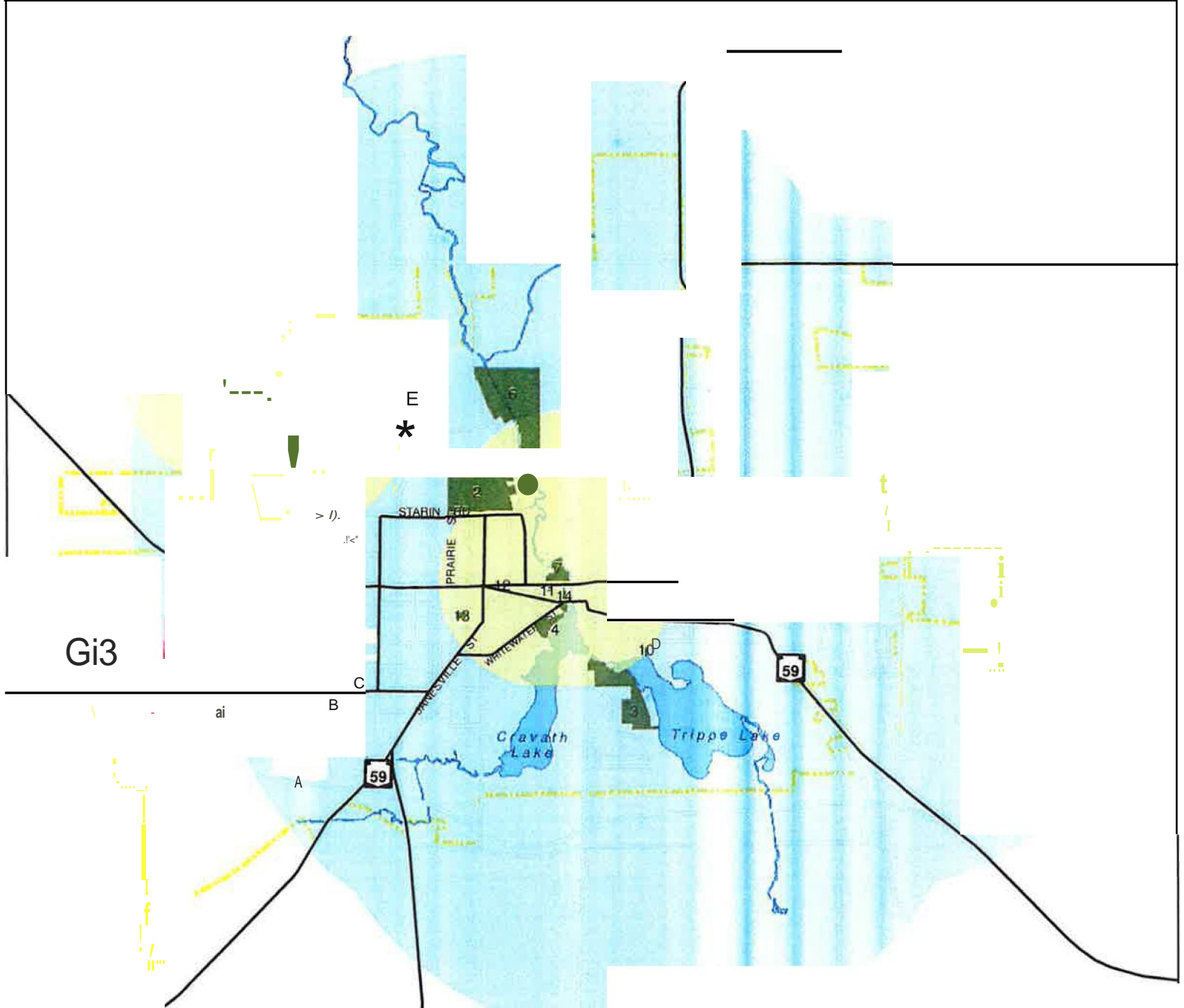


Map 2: Existing Park Service Areas

LEGEND

- University Facility
- Major Road
- Public Park
- Neighborhood Park Service Area (1/2 Mile)
- Community Park Service Area (1 1/2 Miles)
- Archaeological Park
- City Limits

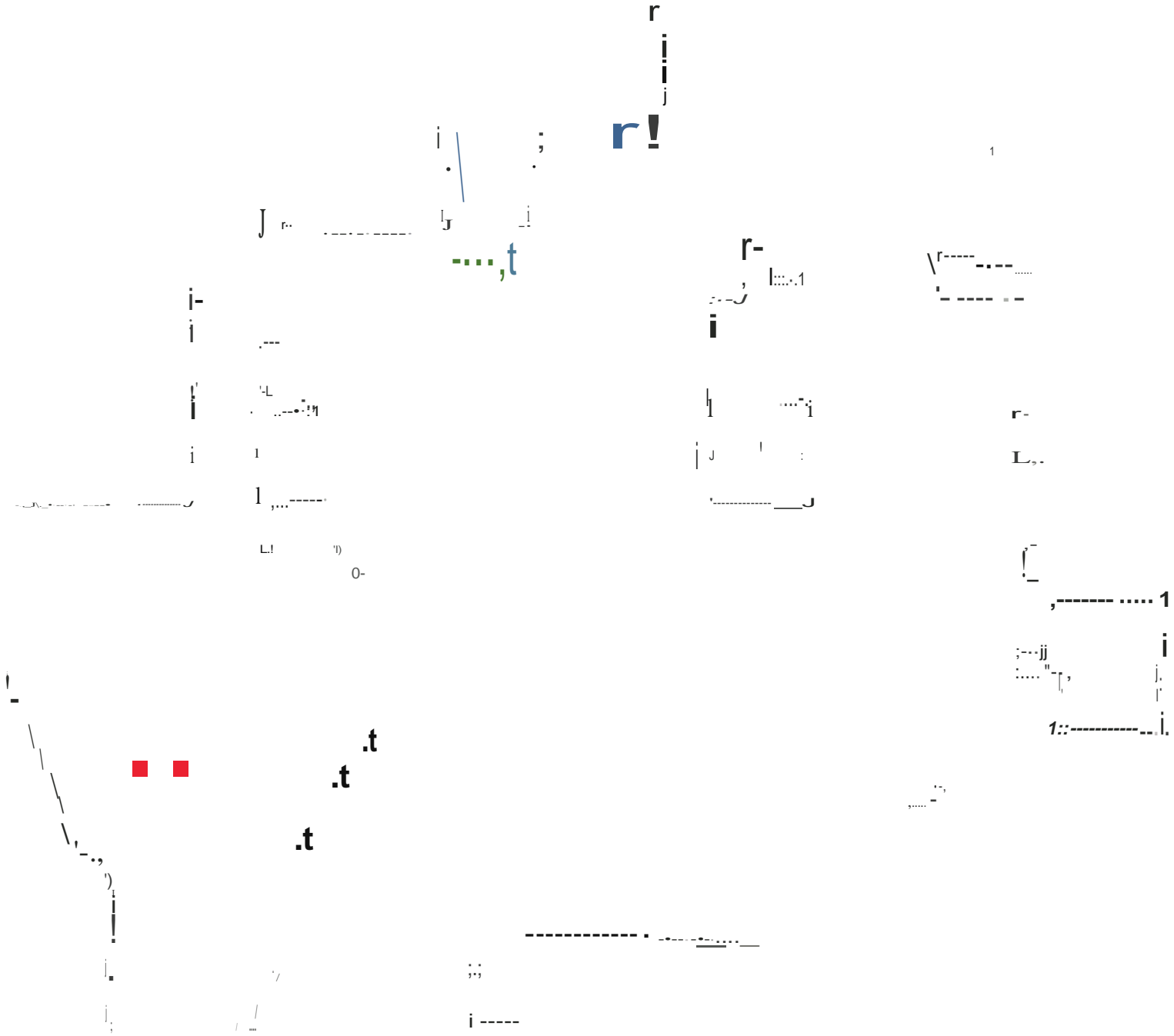
1. Indian Mounds
 2. Starin
 3. Trippe Lake
 4. Cravath Lakefront
 5. Moraine View
 6. Whitewater Creek Nature Area
 7. Brewery Hill/Armory
 8. Meadowsweet
 9. Park Crest
 10. Clay Street Nature Park
 11. Main Street Shoppes Courtyard
 12. Birge Fountain
 13. Big Brick
 14. Mill Race
 15. Optimist Turtle Mound
- A. Whitewater High School (CP)
 B. Whitewater Middle School (CP)
 C. Lincoln Elementary (NP)
 D. Washington Elementary (NP)
 E. UW LAWCON Fields













Park & Open Space Plan: 2008-2013
Map no1to scale

Map 3: Existing Recreational Trails and Routes



LEGEND
 University Facility School

- Existing System**
-  OU-street Multi-Use Path
 -  On-Sheet Bike Lane
 -  Unmarked On-street Route
 -  Major Road
 -  Neighborhood Park
 -  Mini-park
 -  Community Park
 -  Archaeological Park

 City Limits

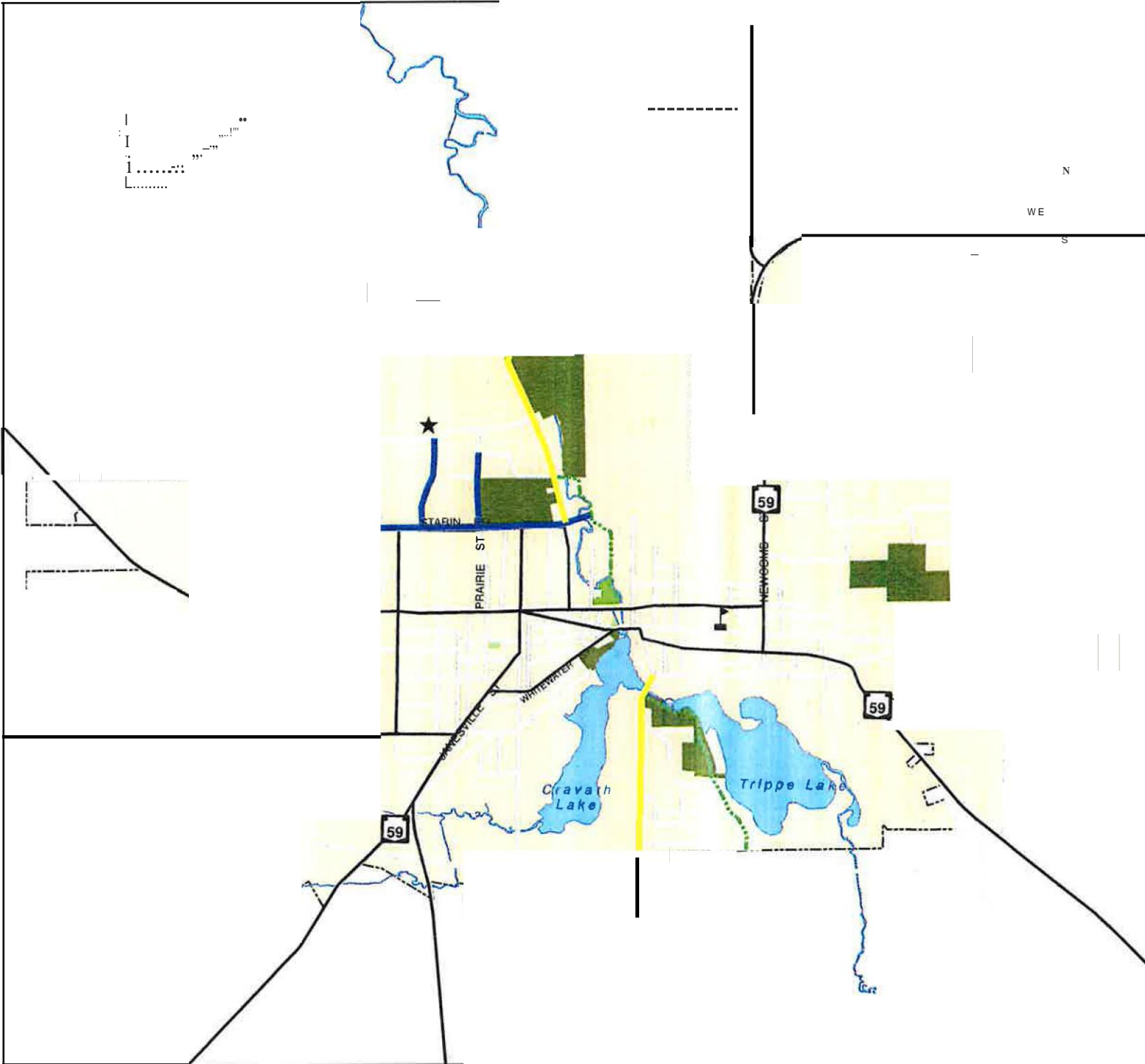


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Park & Open Space Plan:
2008-2013














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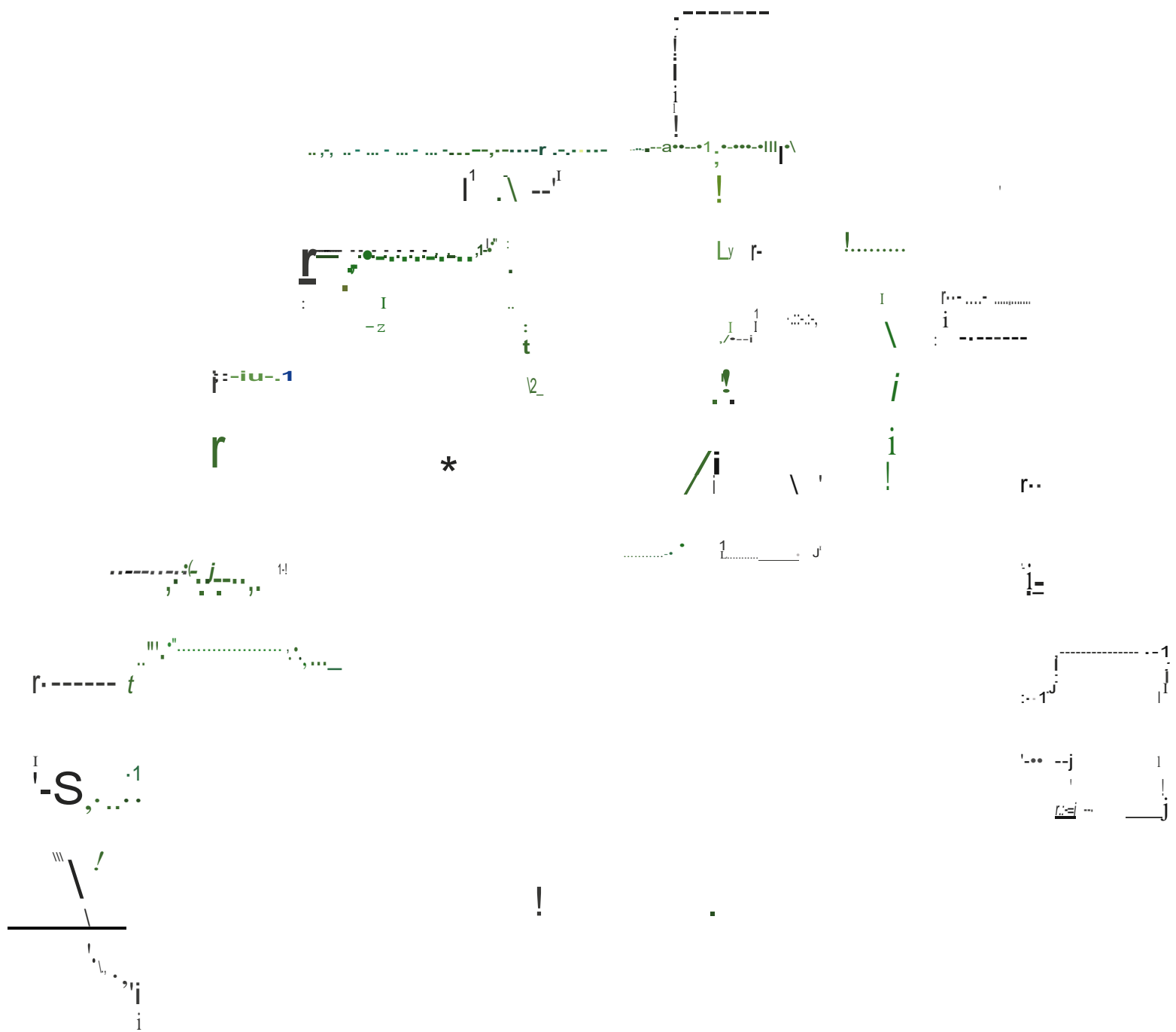


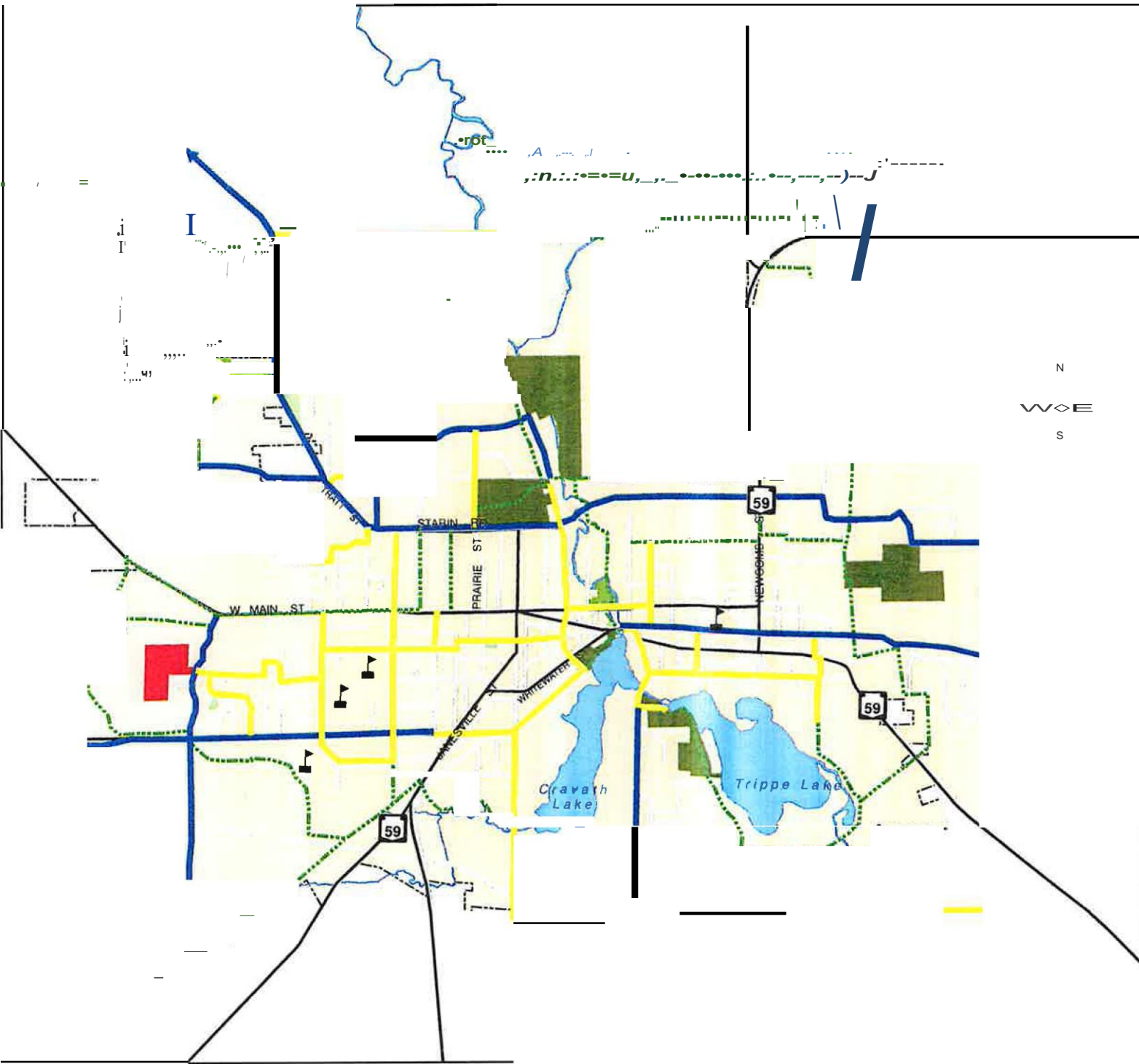
Map 4: Comprehensive Bicycle & Trail System Plan

(Intended to be general only.)

LEGEND

-  University Facility
-  School
-  Major Road
- Trail System**
 -  OU-street Multi-use Path
 -  Unmarked On-street Route
 -  On-street Bike Lane
 -  Connect to County System
 -  Connect to County System
 -  Neighborhood Park
 -  Mini-park
 -  Community Park
 -  Archaeological Park
 -  City Limits





*Park & Open Space Plan:
2008 - 2013*



Map 5: Recommended Park & Open Space Facilities

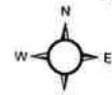
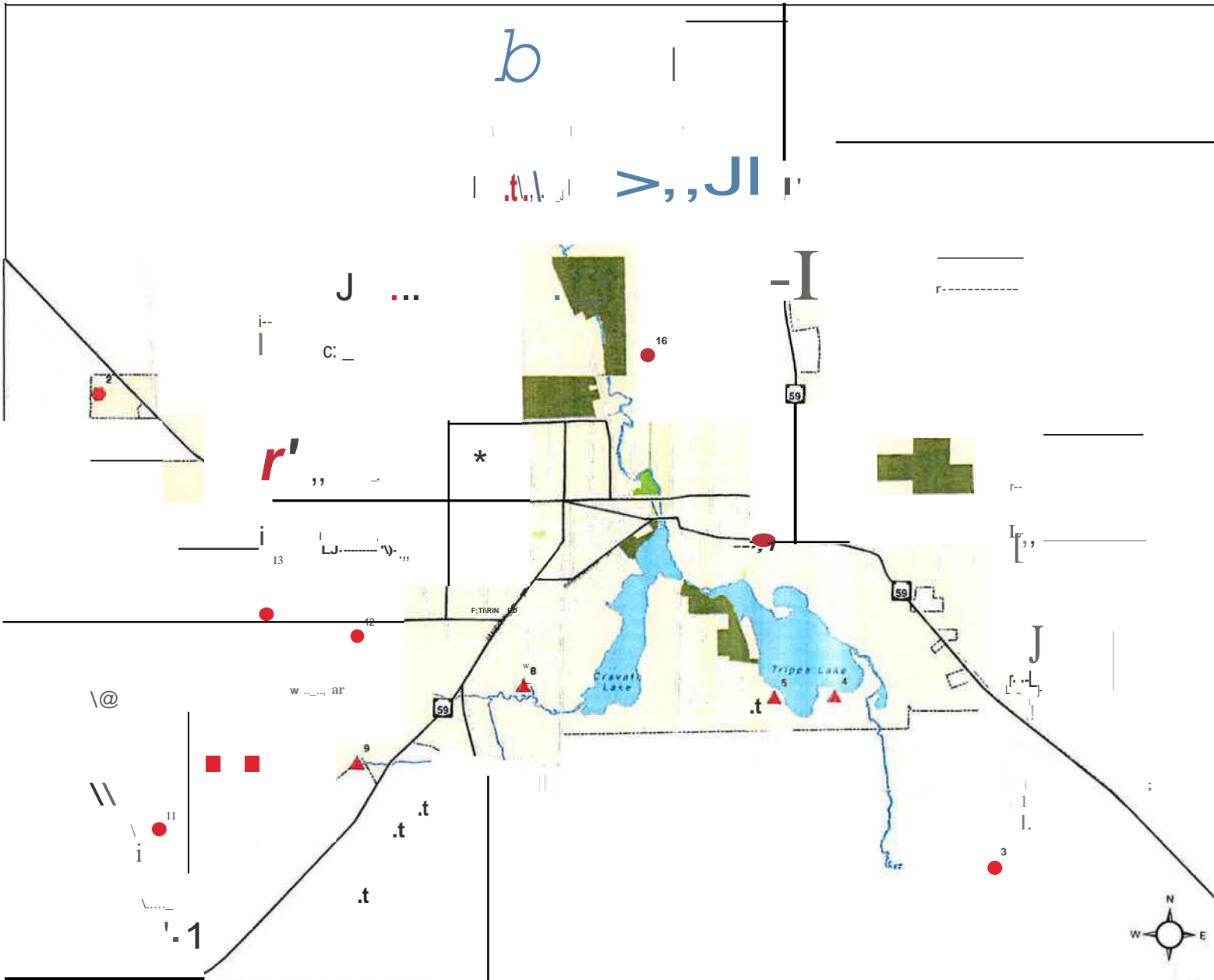
(Intended to be general only)

LEGEND

- *** University Facility
- .t** School
- e** Community
- A** Neighborhood

- Major Road
- Undesignated Park Space
- Neighborhood Park
- Mini-park
- Community Park
- Archaeological Park
- [_ J City Limits

1. Northwest Community Park
2. West Gateway Community Park
3. East Gateway Neighborhood Park
4. South Shore Community Park
5. Water's Edge South Upland Park
6. Far Southeast Park
7. South Franklin Park
8. Spring Brook Park
9. South Campus Neighborhood Park
10. Southwest Neighborhood Park
11. Emerald Ridge Neighborhood Park
12. Near West Neighborhood Park
13. Northwest Neighborhood Park
14. Northwest Campus Neighborhood Park



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*Park & Open
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2008-2013

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