



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 Park 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 Park 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 Park 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.

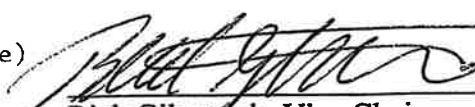
Resolution introduced by Plan Commission member Kaluva,
who moved its adoption. Seconded by Plan Commission member Stone.

AYES: Kaluva, Stone, Coburn (Alternate)
Zaballos, Gilpatrick.

NOES: Miller, Kienbaum.

ABSENT: Wiedenhoeft.

ADOPTED: February 25, 2008


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2-25-08


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2-25-08

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Addenda (Available from City Upon Request)

- A: City of Whitewater Comprehensive Bikeway Plan; Adopted June 26, 2000**
- B: City of Whitewater Subdivision Ordinance; Amended March 2003**
- C: City of Whitewater East Neighborhood Development Plan; Adopted April 12, 1999**
- D: City of Whitewater West Neighborhood Development Plan; Adopted December 10, 2001**
- E: City of Whitewater North Neighborhood Development Plan; Adopted January 8, 2007**

Introduction

Parks and open spaces are key components of high quality living environments. Parks and open spaces meet a community's needs for recreation, protect and enhance the natural environment and aesthetics, create gathering spots and focal points, and help shape patterns of development. Proper park, recreation, and open space planning requires a focus on both the types of facilities needed to meet the diverse needs of the community and the geographic distribution of those facilities in relation to the persons who will use them.

The City of Whitewater continues to experience new development activity that will have a direct impact on the community for years to come. It is vital for the City to proactively plan for future park and recreational needs to make sure that the quality-of-life that residents value is maintained and enhanced into the future.

The primary purpose of the Park and Open Space Plan, 2008 – 2013 is to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land for park, outdoor recreation and related open space uses in Whitewater to satisfy the recreational needs of the current and future City population, and to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base in our community. Although the plan addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the community (through the year 2025), it focuses more directly on recreational development needs over the next five-year period. This plan identifies *conceptual* locations and recommendations for different types of parks, natural areas, and recreational facilities. In nearly every case, more detailed planning, engineering, study, budgeting, and/or discussion will be necessary **before** decisions are made to actually acquire land or construct recreational facilities.

The plan has been prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and qualify the City of Whitewater for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund. The Park and Open Space Plan should be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its DNR certification.

This plan has also been prepared as a component of the City's master plan, under Section 62.23 of Wisconsin Statutes. The Park and Open Space Plan, 2008 – 2013 is intended to update previous findings contained in the City's previous Park and Open Space Plans. The City's Comprehensive Bikeway Plan, East Whitewater Neighborhood Development Plan, West Whitewater Neighborhood Development Plan, North Whitewater Neighborhood Development Plan, and South Whitewater Neighborhood Development Plan (in progress) will serve as addenda to the Park and Open Space Plan, 2008 – 2013. In instances between the recommendations and assessments of the Park and Open Space Plan 2008 – 2013 and previous City plans occur, the recommendations of the Park and Open Space Plan, 2008 – 2013 shall take precedence.

The Vital Role of Parks and Recreation in the Community

While providing parks and recreation facilities and programs to citizens each year becomes more difficult due to changes in available resources, and the available land for these uses becomes increasingly scarce, it is important to remember the many benefits that are brought to the community.

As our nation experiences dramatic rises in both obesity rates and diabetes, a growing emphasis is being placed on increasing the physical activity levels of individuals, especially children. Parks and recreation systems play a central role in this effort. By providing places for play and positive active recreational experiences, parks and recreation systems can help to instill a healthy lifestyle that will provide a lifetime of benefits.

Parks and recreation facilities and programs are often some of the most visible of community services. They can be an indicator to residents and visitors of the overall quality-of-life within the community. A cohesive, visible, and high-quality parks system offers opportunities for community gatherings and activities that bring neighbors together and form strong community pride. Economic benefits can also be realized for the community as parks and recreation facilities are often regarded as a very important aspect of attracting and retaining new families and businesses to Whitewater.

Finally, the development of a parks system that includes a mixture of active and passive recreation areas, open space and greenways, can perform a vital role in Whitewater's long term ecological health. Just as road, sewer and utility infrastructures need to be continually expanded and upgraded, Whitewater's "green" infrastructure needs constant improvement in order to keep pace with other physical developments. By maintaining an interconnected system of recreation areas and open spaces, many essential ecological functions can be preserved, biodiversity can be maintained, and initiatives such as flood control and stormwater management can be undertaken.

Background Information

The City of Whitewater is located in southeastern Wisconsin along the border of Jefferson and Walworth Counties. The City's estimated January 2007 population was 13,967. The city has an estimated land area of about 9 Square Miles.

Table 1: Population Trends

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

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

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

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

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

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

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

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

Park and Open Space Objectives and Policies:

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Objective 5.** Provide good pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular access to parks and recreation facilities.
- 5.1 Provide multiple access points of sufficient width from surrounding neighborhoods.
 - 5.2 Follow the recommendations of the *Comprehensive Bikeway Plan* and the updated bike and pedestrian facility map in this *Park and Open Space Plan* when reviewing private development proposals, completing road projects, and planning for bike paths.
 - 5.3 Require sidewalks in new developments per the City's Land Division and Subdivision regulations, and follow the recommendations of the Citywide Sidewalk Plan map (within the *Central Area Plan*) when making sidewalk decisions on existing streets.
- Objective 6.** Acquire and develop new recreational facilities where City growth creates a need for additional facilities and where existing residents are underserved by City parks.
- 6.1 Direct new park and open space facilities to current and future population needs.
 - 6.2 Acquire park and open space lands in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate coordinated neighborhood and park development.
 - 6.3 Coordinate land acquisition, planning, and transportation programs of all federal, state, county and local agencies concerned with parks and conservation.
 - 6.4 Cooperate with other governmental bodies, including the Whitewater Unified School District and the University to provide joint recreation service wherever possible.
 - 6.5 Review and update the City's *Park and Open Space Plan* every five years.

Park and Open Space Standards

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

- **Gross Recreational Acreage Standard:** The first standard is expressed as a population ratio; that is, the minimum number of usable park and recreation acres recommended per 1,000 residents of the City. Generally, NRPA recommends a gross acreage standard of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed outdoor recreational space per 1,000 persons. This standard does not consider environmentally sensitive or

significant lands acquired by the public primarily for conservancy purposes, because the type and amount of such conservancy lands varies so significantly in different communities. Conservancy acquisitions would, therefore, be in addition to the 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 standard.

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

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

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

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

Desirable size: 2 acres or less.

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

Service area: Less than 1/4 mile radius.

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

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

Desirable size: 3 - 7 acres.

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

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

3. **Community Park:** An area of diverse recreational opportunities and environmental quality designed to serve several neighborhoods, quadrants of the City, or the community as a whole. Should be located on or near major

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

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

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

Acres per 1,000 population: 5 to 8 acres.

Service area: Several neighborhoods. 1½ mile radius.

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



- **Active Recreation**

Area: these areas offer a mix of uses that may include, for example: athletic fields, buildings or structures for recreational activities, concessions, community gardens, courses or courts, children's play areas, dog play areas, or a bike path.



- **Passive Recreation Area:** these areas offer a mix of uses, undeveloped land, or minimally improved lands which may include, for example: landscaped areas, natural areas, ornamental gardens, non-landscaped greenspace, stairways, decorative fountains, picnic areas, water bodies, or trails without recreational staffing.
- **Special Use Area:** these are areas of special recreational activities such as marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain and interpret buildings, historical

sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also, special use areas may contain plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, and parkways. Most parts of Special Use Areas are not included in the overall community calculation of park and recreation space per 1,000 persons.

- **Conservancy Area:** these are permanently protected areas of environmental significance or sensitivity, generally with limited opportunities for recreational use. Acquisition of conservancy areas often has secondary benefits such as flood control or enhancement of adjacent private property values. Conservancy areas may include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and shoreland setback areas, drainageways stormwater management basins and conveyance routes, environmental corridors and isolated natural areas as mapped by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, wildlife habitat, areas of rare or endangered plant or animal species, prairie remnants or restoration areas, scenic vistas, or environmentally constrained lands or open spaces as recommended in other adopted components of the City's master plan. May also be appropriate for utilities and secondary recreational uses, such as trails.

Existing Park and Open Space System

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

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

Description of Existing Public Park and School Recreation Facilities

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

A. Archaeological Park

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

B. Community Parks

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

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

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

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

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

C. Neighborhood Parks



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

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

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

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

D. Mini Parks

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

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

E. Public School Facilities

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

Analysis of Existing Facilities

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

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

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

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

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

¹Active Recreation Area: playgrounds, athletic fields, etc.
²Passive Recreation Area: walking trails, picnic groves, etc.

³Special Facilities Area: arboreta, scenic views, cemeteries, etc.
⁴Conservancy Area: generally non-accessible areas for conservation; wetlands, etc.

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

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

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

Table 3: Active and Passive Recreation Acres in City and School 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 Whitewater 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 Event – Usually a one-day event or drop-in activity to provide entertainment.
5. Tournament – Usually an event or contest used to determine a winner.

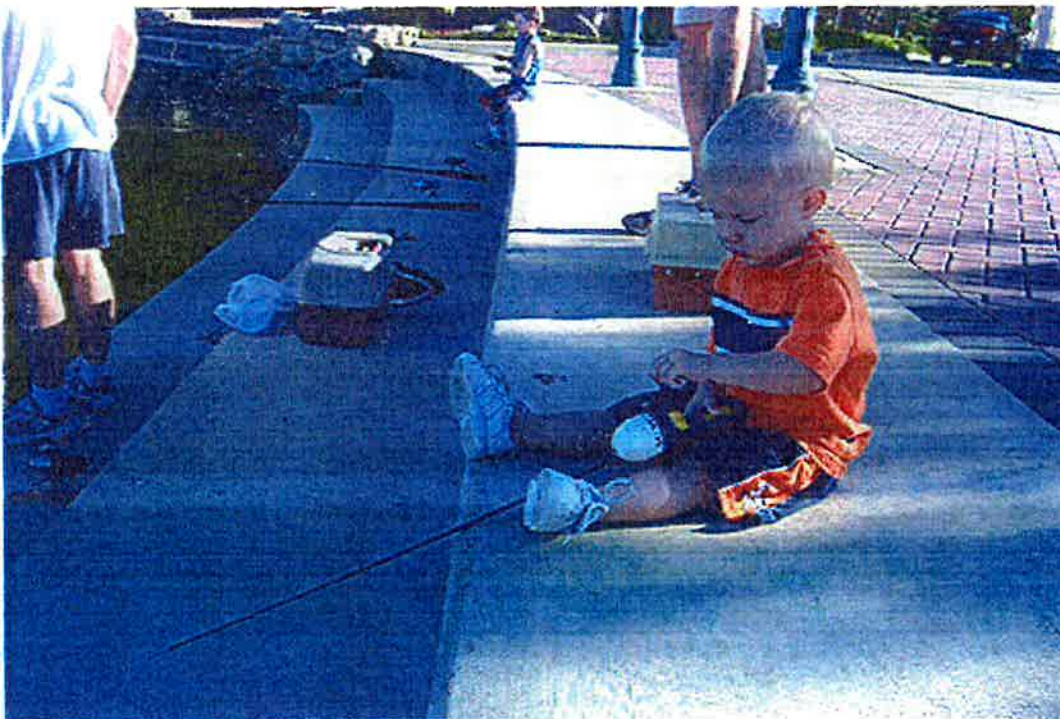


Table 4: Existing Recreation Programs (2008)

KEY	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	Cardio 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	1	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

KEY

- 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, in-line 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 U.S. Department of Agriculture Forestry Report R8-FR 71)

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

Space Needs and Recommendations by Park Type

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

A. Undesignated Park Space

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

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

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

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

B. Recommended City Community Parks

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

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

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

C. Recommended City Neighborhood Parks and Mini-Parks

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

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

- Two active and passive use parks within the proposed Tripp Lake Open Space Area (#4 & 5 on Map 5). The Water's Edge South Upland Park (#5) could potentially merge with 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 UW-LAWCON lands, which may also accommodate additional trails and native area restoration.

D. Recommended Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

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

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

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

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

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

A. General Recommendations:

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

B. Department Recommendations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix A: National Recreation and Park Association Recreation and Open Space Standards

COMPONENT	USE	SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE SIZE	ACRES / 1,000 POPULATION	DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS
LOCAL OR CLOSE-TO-HOME SPACE					
Mini-park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tot or senior citizen	Less than 1/4 mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5	Within neighborhoods and close to apartment complexes, townhouse development, or housing for the elderly
Neighborhood Park	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, skating, and picnicking; also for walking pool and playground apparatus areas	1/4 to 1/2 mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (if neighborhood)	5-10 acres	1.0 to 2.0	Sited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhood population; geographically centered with safe walking and bike access; may be developed as a school-park facility
Community Park	Area of diverse environmental quality; may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools, may be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking, may be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need	Several neighborhood roads, 1 to 2 mile radius	as needed to accommodate desired uses (typically 30-50 acres)	5.0 to 8.0	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development easily accessible to neighborhood served
Total Close-to-Home Space = 6.25 to 10.5 acres of recreational space within above parks per 1,000 population					
REGIONAL SPACE					
Regional / Metropolitan Park	Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas	Several communities, 1 hour driving time	200+ acres	5.0 to 10.0	Contiguous w/ or encompassing natural resources
Regional Park Reserve	Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, boating, camping, and trail uses; may include active play areas; generally 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation	Several communities, 1 hour driving time	1,000+ acres, sufficient area to encompass the resources to be preserved and managed	Variable	Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, fauna, and topography
Total Regional Space = 15.20 acres per 1,000 population					
SPACE THAT MAY BE LOCAL OR REGIONAL AND IS UNIQUE TO EACH COMMUNITY					
Linear Park	Area developed for use or use-varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross country skiing, canoeing, and pleasure driving; may include active play areas. (Note: Any activities included for the preceding components may occur in the linear park.)	No applicable standards	Sufficient width to protect the resources and provide maximum use	Variable	Built on natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads, that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities, such as schools, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas
Special Use Area	Areas for specialized or single-purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, trails, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance; also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, ballfields, and parkways	No applicable standard	Variable depending on desired use	Variable	Within communities
Conservancy Area	Protection and management of the natural and cultural environment with recreational use a secondary objective	No applicable standard	Sufficient to protect the resource	Variable	Variable, depending on the resource being protected

Appendix B: Recreation Amenities in Public Parks - 2008

	Acres	Picnic Area	Enclosed Shelter	Open Shelter	Grills	Drinking Water	Restrooms	Playground Equipment	Boat Ramp	Fishing	Trails/Hiking	Ball Diamonds	Sand Volleyball Court	Tennis	Swimming	Camping	Cross-Country Skiing	Snowshoeing	Multi-purpose Area	Water Features	Ice Skating	Disc Golf	Swimming	Skate Park	Pet Exercise Area
Community Parks																									
Whitewater Creek Nature Area	59.8	•								•	•									•					•
Moraine View	45.0	•				•					•	•							•						
Starin	34.2	•	•	•		•	•	•			•	•							•						
Trippe Lake	24.2	•	•	•		•	•	•			•	•							•						
Cravath Lakefront	6.1	•	•	•		•	•	•			•	•							•						
Archeological Park																									
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	•						•											•						
Blige Fountain	0.7																								
Trailhead	0.7																								
Clay Street Nature Park	0.6	•								•															
Mill Place	0.6	•								•															
Main Street Shoppes Courtyard	0.1																								

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

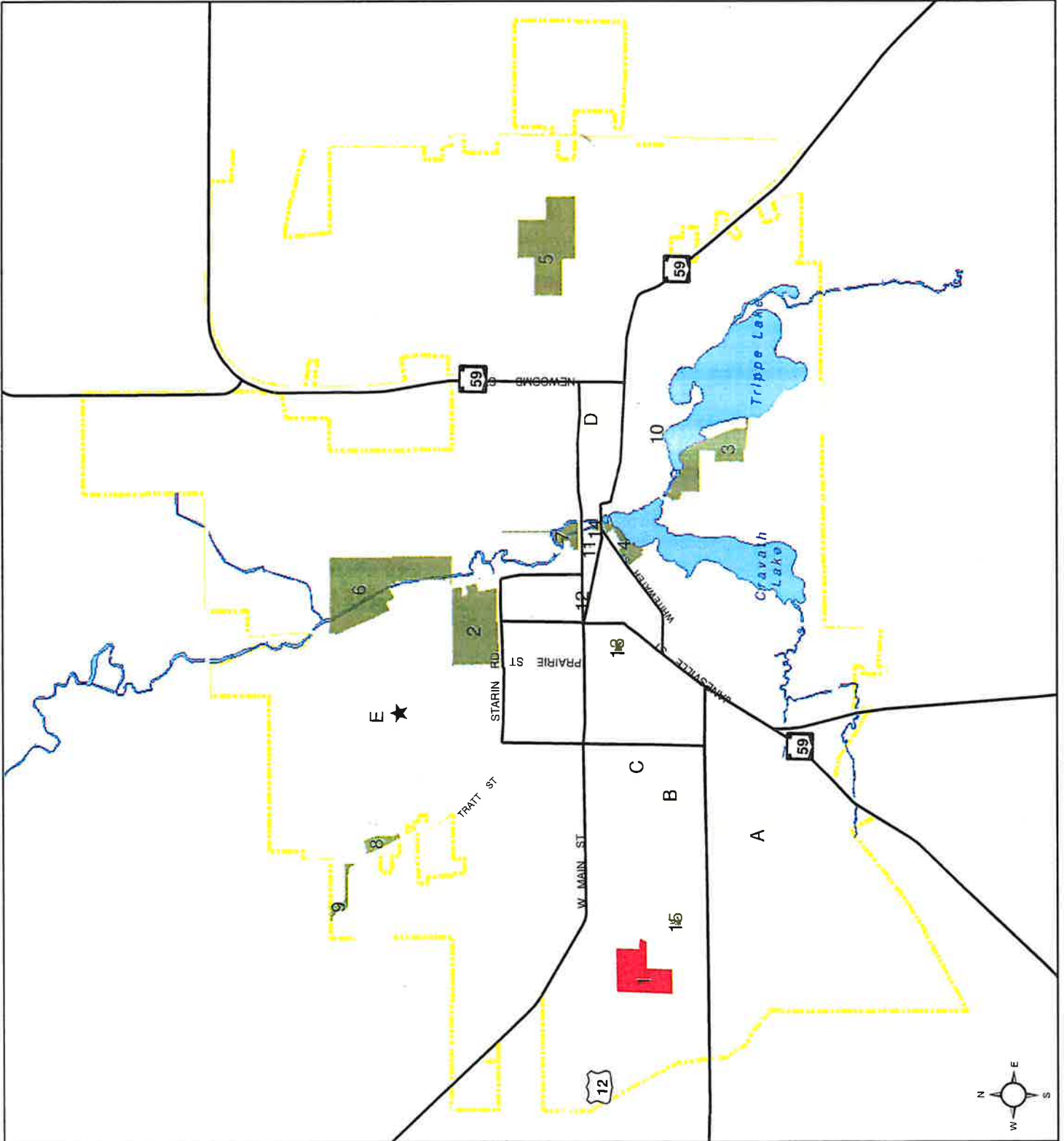
Park	Acreage by Type of Recreation Use Within Specific City Parks							Total
	Active Recreation Area	Passive Recreation Area	Special Facilities Area	Conservancy Area				
Archaeological Park								
1. Indian Mounds		2	19.5					21.5
Community Parks	39.1	54.2	0.3	75.7				169.3
2. Starin	15	19.2						34.2
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							1
Total Public Parks	41.6	57.4	1.6	87.2				188
Public School Facilities								
A. Whitewater High School (CP)	98.1	11.8	2.2				1	113.1
B. Whitewater Middle School (CP)	54.5	11.8	2				1	69.3
C. Lincoln Elementary (NP)	25.1							25.1
D. Washington Elementary (NP)	10.3		0.2					10.5
University Facilities								8.2
E. UW LAWCON Fields	22	92.4					7.6	122
Grand Total	161.9	161.6	3.8	95.8				423.1

Map 1: Existing Public Park & School Facilities

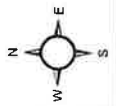
LEGEND

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

1. Indian Mounds
2. Starin
3. Trippe Lake
4. Cravath 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 not to scale.

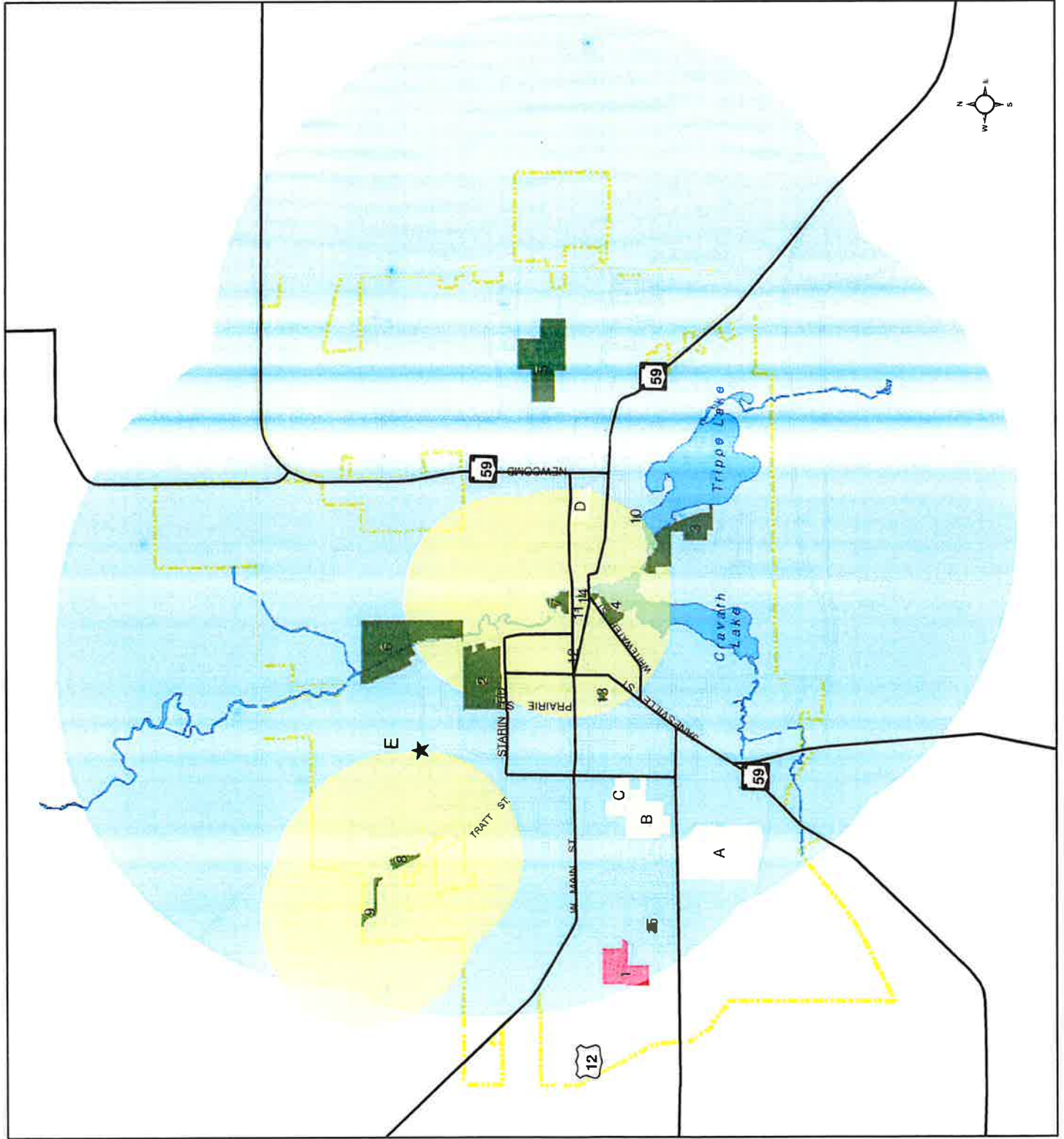


Map 2: Existing Park Service Areas

LEGEND

- ★ University Facility
- Major Road
- Public Park
- Public School
- 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

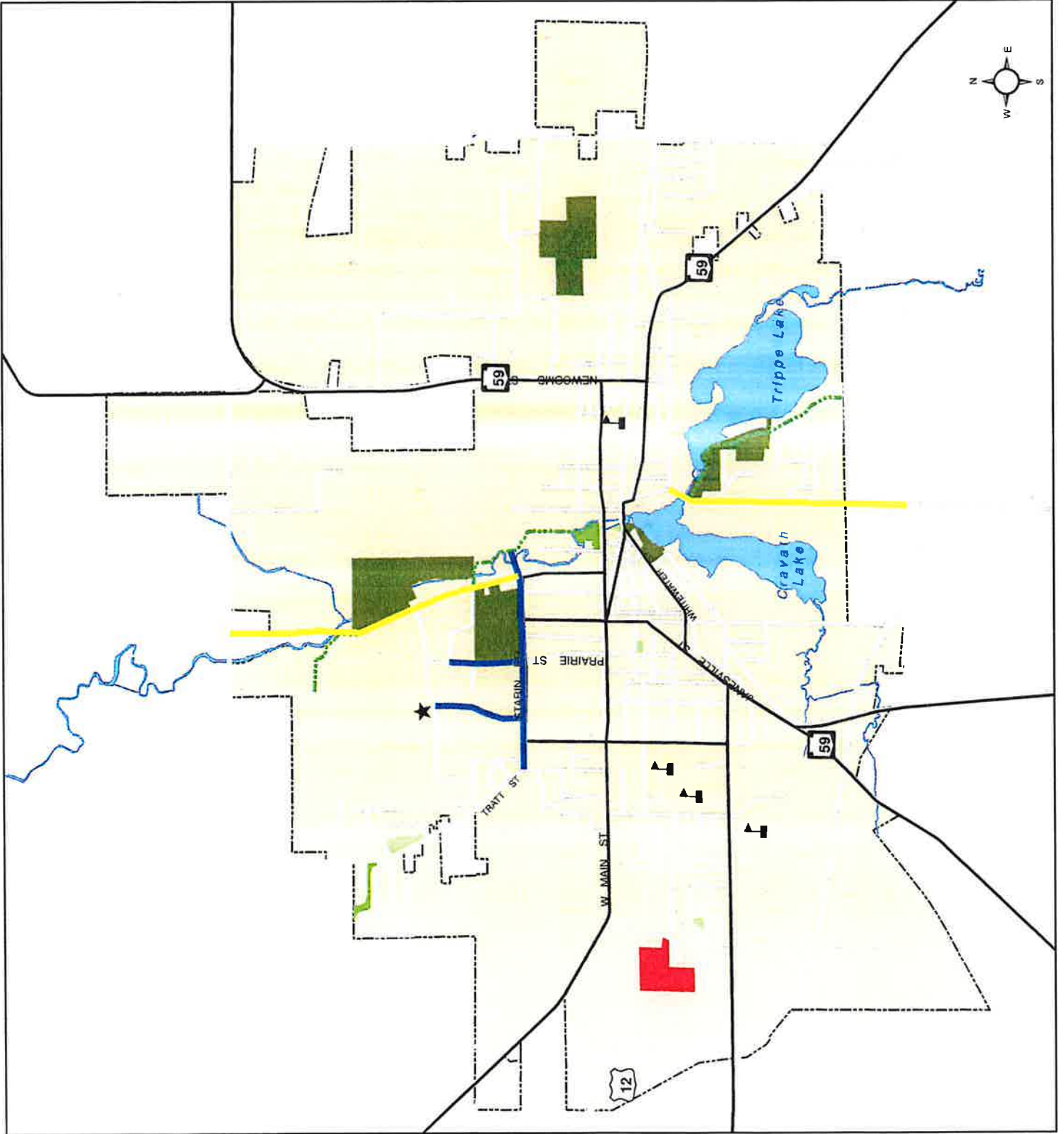


Park & Open Space Plan:
2008 - 2013
Map not to scale

Map 3: Existing Recreational Trails and Routes

LEGEND

- ★ University Facility
- 🏫 School
- Existing System**
 - ⋯⋯⋯ Off-street Multi-Use Path
 - On-street Bike Lane
 - Unmarked On-street Route
- Major Road
- 🌳 Neighborhood Park
- 🌳 Mini-park
- 🌳 Community Park
- 🏛️ Archaeological Park
- ⬜ City Limits



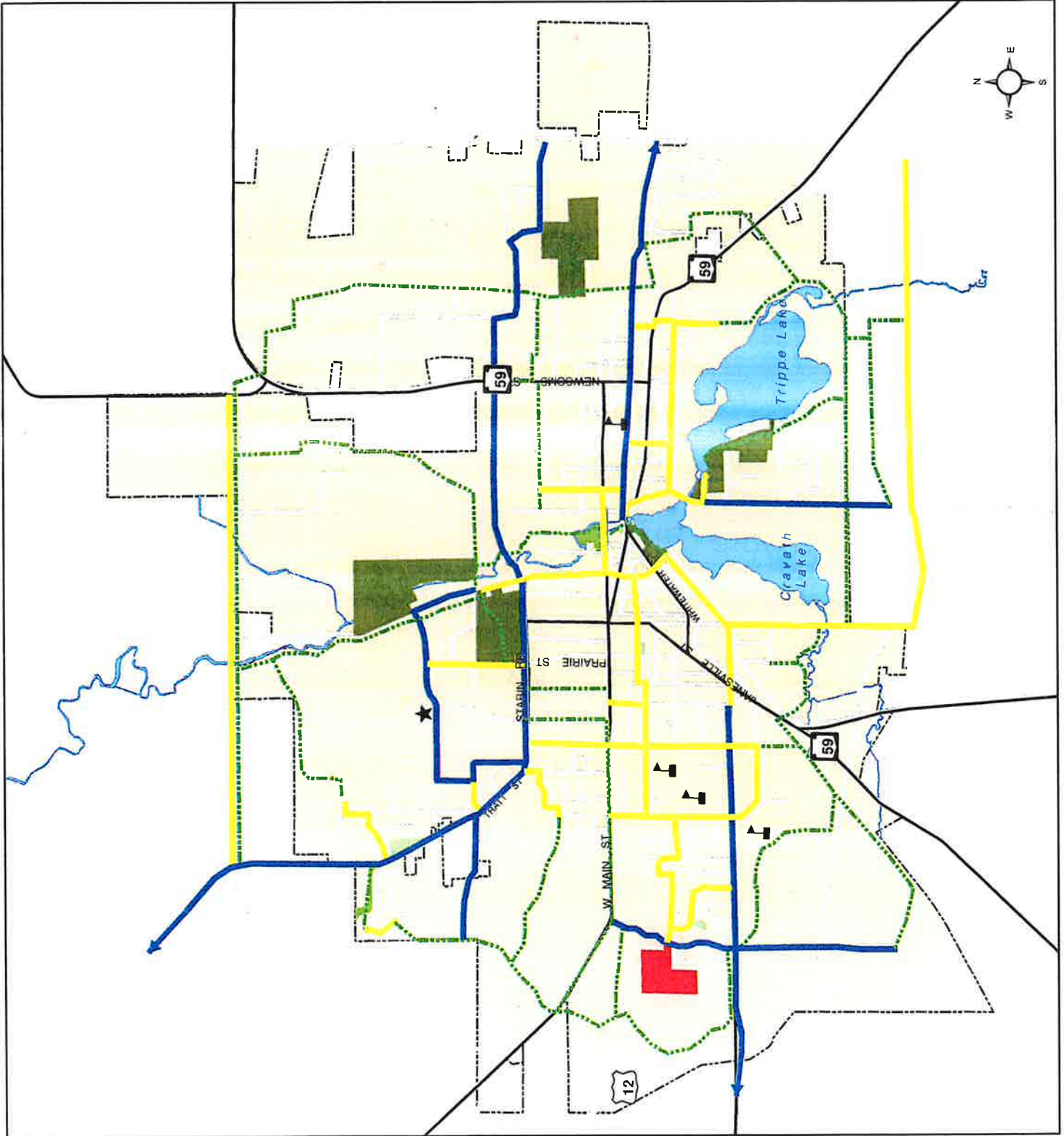
Park & Open Space Plan:
2008 - 2013

Map 4: Comprehensive Bicycle & Trail System Plan

(Intended to be general only.)

LEGEND

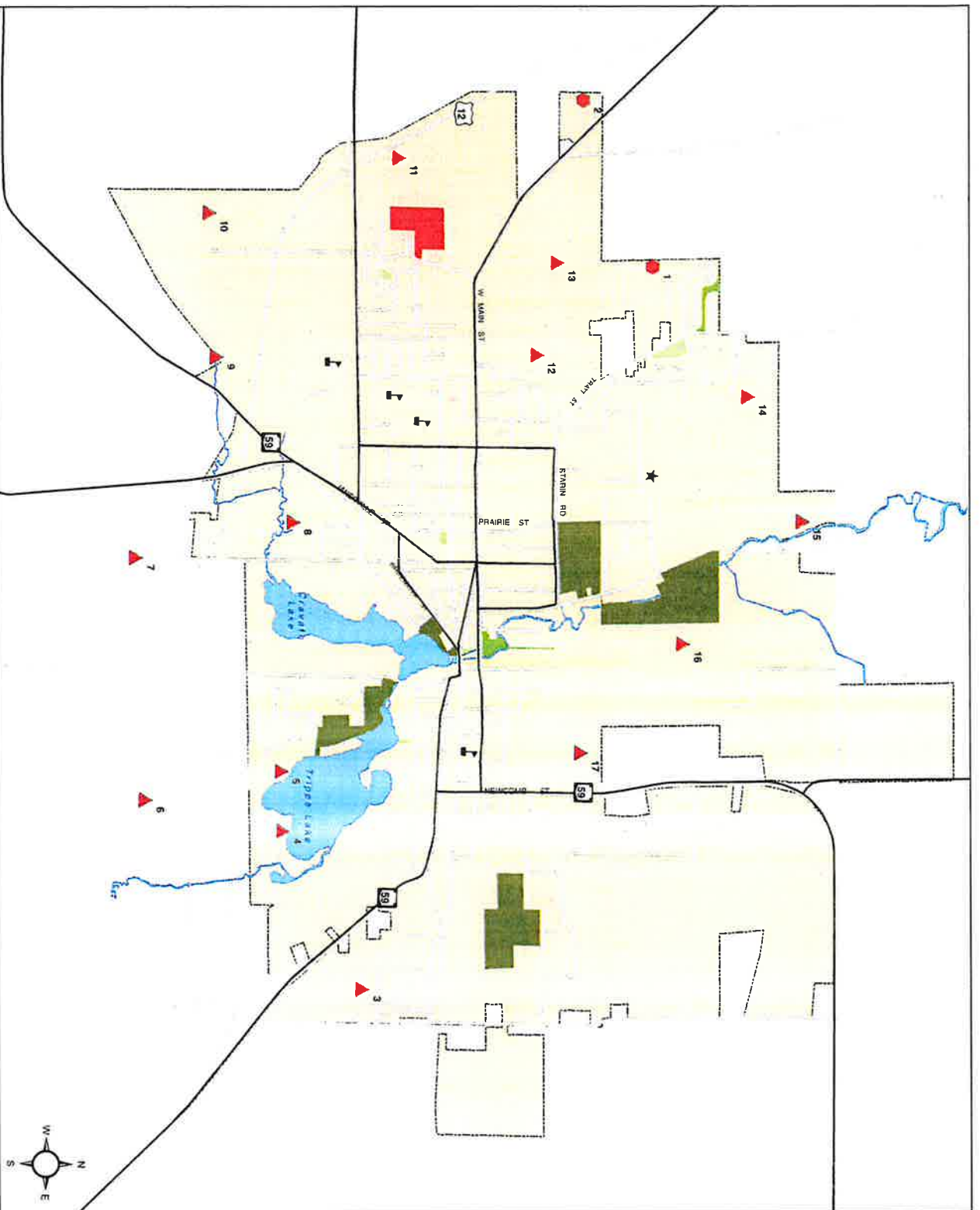
- ★ University Facility
- 🏫 School
- Major Road
- Trail System
 - ⋯ Off-street Multi-use Path
 - ▬ Unmarked On-street Route
 - ▬ On-street Bike Lane
 - ▬ Connect to County System
 - ▬ Connect to County System
 - 🌳 Neighborhood Park
 - 🌳 Mini-park
 - 🌳 Community Park
 - 🏛️ Archaeological Park
 - ▭ City Limits



Park & Open Space Plan:
2008 - 2013

Map 5: Recommended Park & Open Space Facilities

(intended to be general only)



LEGEND

- ★ University Facility
- ⌚ School
- Community
- ▲ Neighborhood
- Major Road
- Undesignated Park Space
- Neighborhood Park
- Mini-park
- Community Park
- Archaeological Park
- City Limits

1. Northwest Community Park
2. West Gateway Community Park
3. East Gateway Neighborhood Park
4. South Shore Community Park
5. Waters' 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
15. Prairie Village Neighborhood Park
16. Whitewater Creek Nature Park Expansion
17. Eastside Neighborhood Park



