



**PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, June 14, 2021 at 5:30 PM  
Caledonia Village Hall – 5043 Chester Lane**

**THIS WILL BE AN IN-PERSON MEETING – MAX NUMBER OF ATTENDEES 16**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Public Comment (2 minutes/person)
4. Maintenance Report Update
5. Pickleball at Crawford Park
6. Park & Open Space Plan Recommendations
7. 2021 Capital Projects Discussion
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Dated this June 11, 2021

Joslyn Hoeffert  
Village Clerk

Only committee members are expected to attend. However, attendance by all Board members (including non-members of the committee) is permitted. If additional (non-committee) Board members attend, three or more Board members may be in attendance. Section 19.82(2), Wisconsin Statutes, states as follows:

If one-half or more of the members of a governmental body are present, the meeting is rebuttably presumed to be for the purposes of exercising the responsibilities, authority, power or duties delegated to or vested in the body.

To the extent that three or more members of the Caledonia Village Board actually attend, this meeting may be rebuttably presumed to be a “meeting” within the meaning of Wisconsin’s open meeting law. Nevertheless, only the committee’s agenda will be discussed. Only committee members will vote. Board members who attend the committee meeting do so for the purpose of gathering information and possible discussion regarding the agenda. No votes or other action will be taken by the Village Board at this meeting.

## Parks Committee meeting Monday April 12

In attendance: Tom Weatherston, Lee Wishau, Pete Wagner, Mike Lambrecht, Mark Leskowicz, Andrew Kallenbach, Sandy DeWalt, Ken Michel

Meeting called to order by Tom Weatherston @ 4:30 p.m.

Motion to approve minutes by Lee Wishau, seconded by Mark Leskowicz. Motion approved unanimously.

1. Citizens comments: None
2. Lee Wishau motioned to move agenda item #7 (Caledonia Conservancy presentation by Sandy Dewalt) to agenda item 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Lambrecht, motion approved unanimously.
3. Sandy Dewalt provided an overview of the Caledonia Conservancy (CC).
  - Organized in 1994
  - 10 board members, 5 committee's, 285 acres protected.
  - CC was one of the 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation to start a land trust.
  - UW-Parkside has listed CC properties on their "Web Map".

A presentation of the CC property "Kings Corner " parcel (5 mile and Hwy 31) was provided by Sandy. This parcel was donated to the CC by King Ehrlich. The conservancy is reviewing a number of options for potential enhancements to the property. In 2019 a team of UW-Milwaukee students produced an ecology study of the parcel. The CC will review reviewing strategic plans at an April 19 CC meeting. Sandy invited all park members to attend and provide input. Mike Lambrecht inquired about recommendations regarding noxious weeds.

4. Pete Wagner provided an update on the maintenance list. This list is a combination of lists compiled by park staff and Lee Wishau.

### Franksville joint park

- storage shed and railroad ties have been removed via 2 dumpsters
  - new tables and chairs for the hall installed
  - rest rooms floors have been restored
  - electric service install is scheduled for shelter 6
  - attempts are being made to remove the 53 foot storage trailer located on the north side of the maintenance/equipment building formerly owned by Old timers for storage of athletic equipment. Randall indicated that he might have located someone to remove the trailer.
  - volleyball courts are scheduled for maintenance
  - approximately 30 dead tree's in the park were not removed this winter by the highway department due to deep snow, Randall is going to book a 3rd party contractor to remove these trees
  - Racine County is considering taking over control of the park and has asked that we don't replace the asphalt parking lot at this time
  - Andrew Kallenbach asked about the baseball/softball diamonds, will they be groomed. Per Randall the diamonds are scheduled for regular maintenance/grooming. The Caledonia Youth baseball group has equipment and does most of the grooming.
5. Tom Weatherston & Pete Wagner provided a status update of the agreement with Caledonia Youth Baseball . The agreement was reviewed and approved by the board, no further action needed by the committee. Two changes of note were made to this agreement from past agreements; a) new price structure b) The new agreement term is 5 years

6. Joint Park Special events . Ken Michel from Craft Beer Garden was in attendance and discussed ideas he has for this season's seasons activities at the Joint Park. Ken discussed ideas on how to better manage outflow traffic by modifying hours of operation. Ken requested that he be allowed to operate all special events until 10PM. Ken asked permission to have the park streets closed during "food truck festival" and allow parking on the outfield of the north baseball diamond. Ken would like to increase the number of business vendors from 16 to 24 during the "Night Market" event. No action was taken by the committee.

Per Randall a "flower" event is scheduled for May 22.

7. New business. Lee Wishau stated that he had 1 "park volunteer" inquiry, specifically for Chapla park. Sandy indicated that we might contact the National Honor society ad they have been involved in the past with "one time" volunteer projects. Lee will follow up with the Chapla volunteer after agreement with staff of what tasks are ok for a volunteer to do. Tom Weatherston inquired on the status of the trail grants. Lee is working on this, it's a very long and arduous process and won't be ready for this spring's submission deadline. Lee will continue to work on it and plans to submit in spring 2022.
8. Adjournment: motion to adjourn by Mike Lambrecht, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Leskowicz. Meeting adjourned @ 5:45PM.



Meeting Date: June 14, 2021

## PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Item No. 4

Agenda Item: Maintenance Update

**Background:** The following items are the remaining items that were identified by Village Staff and Trustee Wishau as maintenance matters.

I –	Issue	Work by	Maintenance	Capital	Status	In
Crawford	STORAGE GARAGE & CONCESSION STAND RAKE EDGE PAINTING	PARKS	X	I		
Crawford	TENNIS COURTS NEEDED ROUNDUP, FILL CRACKS & SECURE NET ALONG BOTTOM EDGE	PARKS	X	I		
Crawford	REPAIR AND REPAINT MAINT BUILDING GARAGE DOORS	PARKS	X	N		
Crawford	VOLLEYBALL COURTS S/B USABLE WITH NETS - OR ELIMINATE. NEED GRADING!	PARKS	X	I		
Crawford	REPLACE PARTY GRILLS, SWITCH TO SURFACE MOUNT	PARKS		X	N	
Ncholson	STORMWATER SUSPECTED FAILURE - DRAINAGE	UTILITY	X	N		
	DEAD TREES ON EAST SIDE OF POND/BY PLAYGROUND - MEMORIAL TREE NEED REMOVAL AND					
Gorney	MEMORIAL TREE REPLACED	HWY	X	I		
Gorney	REPLACE PARTY GRILLS, SWITCH TO SURFACE MOUNT	PARKS		X	N	
Gorney	MAKE LEVEL AND STRAIGHTEN INFORMATION SIGN	HWY	X	I		
Gorney	REPLACE BROKEN PIECE BY BURKE PG EQUIPMENT	PARKS	X	N		
Gorney	FIND SOLUTION FOR AGED COVERING ON STAIRS	PARKS	X	I		
Linwood	REPLACE PARTY GRILLS, SWITCH TO SURFACE MOUNT	HWY		X	N	
Linwood	REMOVE KIDS SANDBOX BEHIND BUSHES IN BACK	PARKS	X	N		
Linwood	HORSESHOE PIT CLEAN UP, ADD SAND, SQUARE OFF BETTER (Historical Society Responsible)	PARKS	X	N		
Linwood	Identify dead trees & stumps that need to be removed throughout park	PARKS	X	C		
Joint	Remove hose & hose cart near Shelter 2	PARKS		N		
Joint	Dispose of jet ski	PARKS		I		
Joint	Dispose of Route 20 trailer	PARKS		I		
Joint	Dispose of trailer behind garage	PARKS		C		
Joint	Pressure wash & seal inside roof of the Ocatogon	PARKS	X	I		
Joint	Repair or remove fencing	PARKS	X	N		
Joint	Install new playground mulch for playgrounds	PARKS		X	N	
Joint	Paint Shelters	PARKS	X	N		
Joint	Replace Rope Bridge	PARKS	X	C		
Joint	Restain Kids Connection	PARKS	X	N		

Progress

N – Not Started

C- Completed

**Joint Park:** Park staff continues to groom and prep the baseball diamonds for Mt. Pleasant & Forceout baseball leagues. Forceout has two leagues this year (U11 & U14) for a total of 16 games. The Mt. Pleasant league is scheduled for a 10-game season starting the first week in June and ends the second week in August along with practices. Staff has installed new 70' base anchors on the big diamond. J.I. Case girls' soccer team practiced at the park in May. Since both boys' and girls' soccer teams were running concurrently and required an additional playfield to practice.

Twenty-four dead trees have been cut down and stumps ground out. Stump grindings and tree branch mulch will be spread out around the trees in the park. Our new grass cutting contractor



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has begun mowing the park. This contractor can cut the entire park in one day. Last year, it took multiple days to complete. Hopefully, this will reduce conflicts with the beer garden operation.

Staff worked with the Highway Department and replaced the rope bridge at Kids Connection. The previous rope bridge had fraying ropes with some of them completely broken apart. In addition, staff removed a dead tree abutting the playground in addition to the 24 trees taken down by the tree service. Additional repairs to Kids Connection are required. One key maintenance issue is the re-staining of all the wood at the playground. There is not enough staff to re-stain the entire playground at once and may require the hiring of a contractor to do the work. Prior staining efforts were organized and conducted by volunteers organized by the Kids Connection sponsors. That group no longer exists.

Picnic tables at Shelter 2 & 4 have been sanded and repainted. As time permits, broken tables will be scheduled for repair and repainted throughout the summer.

The Beer Garden is open for the summer and seems to be off to a great start. A new amenity this year are two propane fire tables to sit around.

Staff walked the park with Racine County staff showing the various amenities in the park. Racine County is still in the process of determining to acquire the Joint Park. It is unknown at this time, if or when the County would proceed with the acquisition.

**Crawford Park:** Staff is dealing with various vandalism matters with the shelter. Someone has been taking the toilet tank covers and smashing them in the park. Also, someone decided to spread feces throughout the restroom. Staff reported the incidents with the police department and is in the process of setting up trail cameras to photograph the vandals. Caledonia Youth Baseball has begun and is utilizing the ballfields. Staff has repaired the bubbler which was inoperable at the beginning of the baseball season.

**Gorney Park:** Staff has dragged the ballfields and is spraying for weeds. Shelters are open and the port-o-potties have been set out for the season. The start of the baseball season has shown that the baseball base anchors were in need of maintenance and has since been completed to ensure safe play.

**Linwood Park:** Eight dead trees and their stumps have been removed from the park.

#### **General Park System:**

The Park's Department has two vehicles, a pickup truck, and a dump truck. Both vehicles are ready to be replaced. Last month we researched and received a quote to replace the dump truck. The quote we received exceeded what was budgeted (\$35,000), so staff decided to replace the pickup truck. We received a quote for \$30,339. Trading in the old truck reduces the price to \$26,523. Next year staff is proposing a CIP item to replace the department's dump truck.

The department Kubota (tractor) and utility trailer required repairs. Thanks to the Highway Department, the repairs were addressed.

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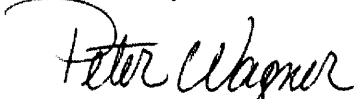
Seasonal help is here. Last year's seasonal position filled by Stephanie is coming back on weekends to assist with hall rentals and will be back full time in summer when school is over. Our second seasonal position has been filled and has been working with Randall learning about all the maintenance work a park system has.

Recently the Highway Department regraded and seeded portions of the area surrounding parking lot at Village Hall due to snowplow damage and rutting of the ground by vehicles. Park staff has been tasked with watering these areas and controlling at Village Hall.

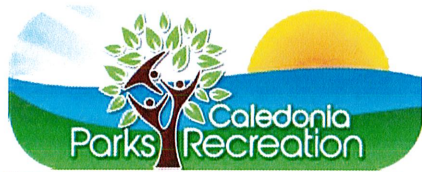
**Upcoming Projects:** Once seasonal help is on board, staff will partner with the Highway Department to install the playground equipment at Linwood Park.

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Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Wagner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P".

Peter Wagner, ACP  
Development Director



## Franksville Park

# 2021

### January

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### December

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-  Lacrosse
-  RASA
-  FCBG

Car Show September 12?  
April Event ? On which weekend



A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, there is a large, leafy green tree on the left. To its right is a small pond with some reeds and grasses growing along its edge. The background is filled with more trees and a grassy area. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

## PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

# 4

*Credit: SEWRPC Staff*

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

A high-quality parks system provides cultural, environmental, recreational, and aesthetic benefits that directly contribute to the Village's quality of life. The primary purposes of this park and open space plan are to provide a sound and workable plan to guide the acquisition of land and the development of recreational facilities to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents, to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base, and to contribute to the economic value and development of the community. The recommended park and open space plan is presented in this chapter.

This plan provides a long-range vision to the year 2035 and guides and assists Village officials and staff in making the day-to-day decisions needed for the continued development of the Village's park and open space system. To assist in implementing the plan, both long-term recommendations for the next 17 years, and an "action plan" for the next five years, are presented in this chapter. The plan includes recommendations to acquire additional land for new Village parks and for open space preservation purposes; develop recreational facilities at existing and proposed parks; update, improve, or maintain recreational facilities at existing parks; continue to develop a Village-wide system of recreational trails and bikeways; and continue to protect areas with important natural resources.

Important preliminary steps in developing this plan included 1) reviewing the current status of park acquisition and development activities recommended under the SEWRPC-prepared park plan adopted in 2000 and 2) collecting updated information regarding land use, population, natural resources, and park and open space sites and recreational facilities within the Village. New or changed conditions affecting park and open space sites and recreational facilities, including pertinent recommendations from the 2035 Village of Caledonia comprehensive land use plan map, the Root River Watershed Restoration Plan, the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County, the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan, and the updated natural areas plan for Southeastern Wisconsin were also identified and incorporated into this plan update, as appropriate.

The responsibility for implementing recommendations to meet park and open space objectives is shared by several levels of government. Resource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives for large parks, areawide

trail facilities, and facilities for such activities as golfing, camping, and boating, are typically the responsibility of the State and County levels of government, although larger cities and villages sometimes provide large parks and associated recreational facilities and segments of areawide trails. Nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation objectives for community and neighborhood parks for activities such as softball, tennis, soccer, and children's playground activities are typically the responsibility of the local (city, village, or town) level of government. Objectives intended to protect important natural resource features, including environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, are the responsibility of all levels of government.

The first section of this chapter summarizes the areawide park and open space plan recommendations for the Village, which are presented in the Racine County Park and Open Space Plan.<sup>21</sup> The County plan includes recommendations to provide resource-oriented outdoor recreation sites and facilities and protect primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas in Racine County, including the Village of Caledonia. The second section of this chapter sets forth recommendations for providing Village park and open space sites and facilities. A third section describes actions needed to implement the plan. A summary of the chapter is included in the last section.

## **4.2 AREAWIDE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The park and open space plan for Racine County contains recommendations which, if implemented, would provide residents of the County with opportunities to participate in a wide range of resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities. Those recommendations, which have been incorporated into this Village plan, are concerned with providing major parks, which provide opportunities for resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, and recreation corridors, which provide opportunities for various trail-oriented activities. In addition, the plan contains recommendations for protecting and preserving open space lands, including natural resource features such as woodlands, wetlands, and floodplains, located within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. The County park and open space plan is summarized in Chapter 3. Recommendations from that plan that are pertinent to this Village park plan are described in this section.

In addition to the County park and open space plan, an areawide plan has been prepared for the Root River watershed. The Root River watershed restoration plan<sup>22</sup> is also summarized in Chapter 3. Recommendations from the watershed plan pertinent to this Village park and open space plan are included in the "Open Space Preservation" section of this chapter.

### **Racine County Park and Open Space Plan Recommendations**

#### **Major Parks**

The outdoor recreation element of the Racine County park and open space plan is shown in Chapter 3 on Map 3.3.<sup>23</sup> The plan recommends a total of 10 major public outdoor recreation sites in the County.

- One major park, Cliffside Park, currently exists within the Village and would continue to be maintained by Racine County. The County plan recommends developing additional picnic facilities and trails and developing a nature study center at the park. The plan also recommends that the County consider developing a disc golf course at the park if a public-private partnership could be established to fund the development.
- The plan recommends that the County continue to maintain other County-owned sites within the Village, including the River Bend Nature Center, Tabor Sokol Memorial Park, and Root River Parkway lands.

<sup>21</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 134, 3rd Edition, A Park and Open Space Plan for Racine County, Wisconsin, February 2013.

<sup>22</sup> Documented in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 316, A Restoration Plan for the Root River Watershed, July 2014.

<sup>23</sup> Some of the proposed recreation trails shown on Map 3.3 have been developed, including the Lake Michigan Trail through the City of Racine. Map 4.3 shows existing trails in 2016.



- The plan recommends that the City of Racine continue to maintain and provide additional facilities for resource-oriented activities at Johnson Park and Golf Course. Johnson Park and Golf Course is a 335-acre major park located in the City of Racine and maintained by the City, which is surrounded by the Village.
- The plan recommends that Racine County continue to maintain and provide additional facilities at other County parks located near the Village, including the 39-acre Quarry Lake Park and the 15-acre Horlick Park, both located just south of the Village in the City of Racine and the Village of Mount Pleasant, respectively.

### ***Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities***

The County plan recommends that about 88 miles of bicycle and pedestrian trails be provided in the County as part of the regionwide trail system, including trails within the Pike River, Root River, Fox River, and Lake Michigan corridors and a trail along a railway right-of-way, which has been partially abandoned, extending from the City of Racine to Walworth County. Recommended bicycle and pedestrian trails include:

- A trail within the Root River corridor. The County plan recommends that the County continue to acquire lands associated with the Root River Parkway system and develop those portions of the Root River trail within the Village. The trail is proposed to extend northward from the City of Racine to the Racine-Milwaukee County line. Currently, the City of Racine has developed that portion of the trail, known as the Root River Pathway, within the City. Root River Pathway on-street connections are also provided to the County's Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha (MRK) Trail, which is also located in the Village and described below.
- A trail within the Fox River corridor on the west side of the County, to be developed by the County.
- A trail along the Lake Michigan shoreline, which has been substantially completed. The City of Racine developed the Lake Michigan Pathway within the City, which fully implements the trail within Racine County. The MRK Trail, the portion of the Lake Michigan Trail located in the Village, exists on a combination of off-street and on-street segments with the majority of the trail located within a WE Energies utility corridor or on WE Energies property. The MRK Trail currently runs from Layard Avenue in the City of Racine north to Elm Road in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. A gap exists between Six Mile Road and Seven Mile Road,<sup>24</sup> before the trail resumes north of Seven Mile Road and extends into Milwaukee County. The plan recommends that Racine County continue to maintain the MRK Trail outside the City of Racine, including within the Village.
- A trail within the Pike River corridor. Portions of the trail have been developed by the Village of Mount Pleasant. Additional development of the Pike River Trail is planned to be carried out by the Village of Mount Pleasant.
- The Racine-Kansasville Trail, developed by Racine County. The trail currently extends from West Boulevard in the City of Racine to 96th Street in the Village of Sturtevant. The County park plan recommends that the County develop the remaining portions of the trail, west of 96th Street. The remaining portion of the trail is proposed to be developed on local, low-volume traffic streets, or within an abandoned railway right-of-way.

In 2014, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company abandoned the railway right-of-way from Sturtevant to Kansasville. The County is currently planning to develop the remainder of the Racine-Kansasville Trail in the abandoned right-of-way, which will connect to existing trail segments in the eastern and western portions of the County. Additional abandoned railway right-of-way from Kansasville westward to the City of Burlington was acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and a trail was developed by Racine County. The trail is referred to as the White River Trail. The trail is proposed to be extended to the west by approximately three miles to connect to the White River Trail in Walworth County.

<sup>24</sup> Map 3.3 shows the gap in the off-road trail between Six Mile Road and Seven Mile Road as an on-street trail segment.



- The County park plan recommends the County continue to maintain signage and other route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route, which includes about 10 miles within the Village's planning area.

### **Water Trails**

The County plan recommends developing water trails for canoeing and kayaking. The plan proposes developing water trails on the Root River and along the Lake Michigan shoreline within and adjacent to the Village. In July 2017, the WDNR designated the Lake Michigan Water Trail<sup>25</sup> as a State trail. It is recommended that the Village work with the WDNR, Racine County, and the City of Racine to provide accessibility to Lake Michigan. It is also recommended that each governmental entity continue to maintain all existing access sites and develop new access sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline for water trail users within the Village and environs. Currently, there are no access sites located along Lake Michigan within the Village. Existing access sites in the environs are located in the City of Racine and the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. The water trails recommended in the County plan would connect with water trails in adjacent counties.

The County plan also recommends that public canoe/kayak access points with parking be provided at 10-mile intervals on major streams in Racine County. Existing public canoe access sites are currently located at River Bend Nature Center in the Village and at Horlick Park, which is located adjacent to the Village in the Village of Mount Pleasant. Both sites are located along the Root River.

The Root River watershed restoration plan recommends developing formal canoe/kayak access points along the Root River within the Village. Potential locations include the west side of STH 31 and south of Four Mile Road on County right-of-way land; at Linwood Park; and at Four Mile Road east of STH 38. The plan recommends developing one of these access sites to meet the requirement for access points along a major river, and identifies the STH 31 site as the most practicable location; however, the other sites should be thoroughly reviewed as additional or alternative access points.

## **4.3 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION**

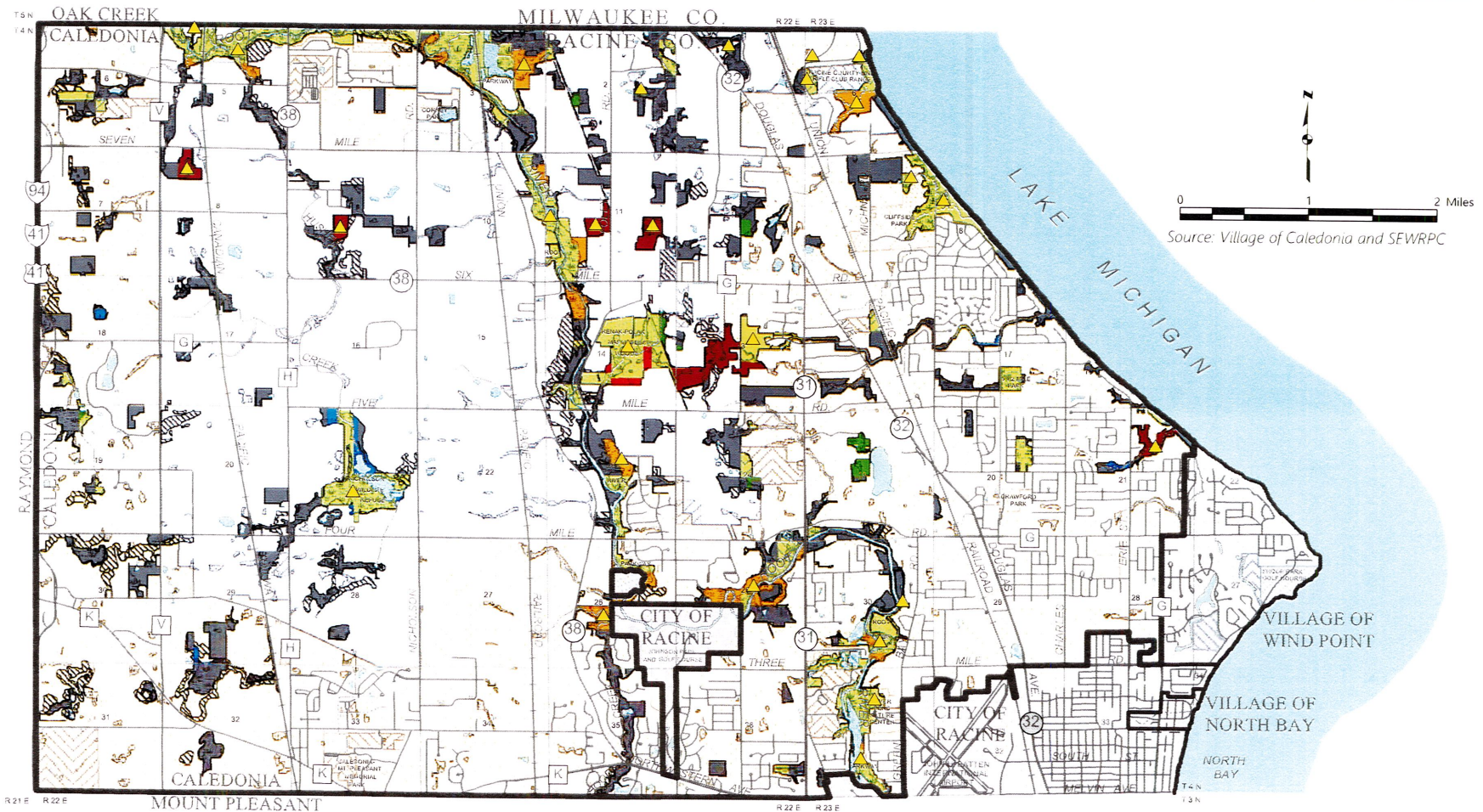
The location and extent of the important open space lands in the Village of Caledonia, including wetlands, floodplains, woodlands, surface water, natural and geological areas, and critical species habitat sites are described in Chapter 2. Many of these important natural resources are located within environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, which are also described in Chapter 2. Preserving these open space lands in essentially natural, open uses would serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality in the Village and protect the Village's natural beauty. Preserving open space lands also provides valuable recreational opportunities for residents and helps to avoid critical and costly environmental and developmental problems. The open space preservation plan for the Village is shown on Map 4.1.

The Root River watershed restoration plan recommends that riparian buffers be expanded and/or continue to be protected along all streams and tributaries within the Root River watershed, which includes those portions of the Root River, Hoods Creek, Husher Creek, Crayfish Creek, and the Kilbournville tributary that are located in the Village. A 75-foot stream setback is recommended as the minimum for establishing a riparian buffer; however, when development plans are submitted to the Village for review, it is recommended that the Village consider providing a connection between open space and habitat areas within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Establishing a minimum 75-foot setback provides quality in-stream habitats and reduces pollution, while establishing larger setback requirements provides these in-stream benefits, but also provides essential habitats for a variety of wildlife populations.

The Root River watershed restoration plan also recommends efforts to restore farmland and other open space land to more natural conditions, such as wetlands or prairies. The restoration of farmland to natural conditions should be considered in areas no longer being utilized for agricultural production. In addition, restoring areas that would revert to resource features such as wetlands should be considered when planning to convert farmland to urban development. Selected potential wetland/prairie restoration areas in the Root River watershed area within the Village are noted with a hatch on Map 4.1. These selected areas are within or adjacent to planned environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas and existing farmed wetlands larger than five acres.

<sup>25</sup> Information is located at [dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakemichigan](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakemichigan).

Map 4.1  
Open Space Preservation Element for the Village of Caledonia: 2035



#### LEGEND

##### EXISTING PUBLIC INTEREST

##### OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS

- STATE, COUNTY, VILLAGE, SCHOOL DISTRICT, SANITARY DISTRICT, COMPATIBLE PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION OR OPEN SPACE SITE, OR COMMON OPEN SPACE AREAS IN CONSERVATION SUBDIVISIONS
- LANDS UNDER CONSERVATION EASEMENT
- OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- VILLAGE SEWER SERVICE AREA

##### PROPOSED PUBLIC INTEREST

##### OWNERSHIP OF OPEN SPACE LANDS

- STATE OF WISCONSIN
- RACINE COUNTY
- VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA
- NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
- OPEN SPACE LANDS TO BE PROTECTED THROUGH PROPER ZONING

- NATURAL AREA OR CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE
- POTENTIAL RESTORATION AREA - ROOT RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PLAN
- EXISTING WETLAND (INCLUDES FARMED WETLANDS)

- SURFACE WATER
- PUBLICLY-OWNED OUTDOOR RECREATION LANDS
- PRIVATELY-OWNED OUTDOOR RECREATION LANDS



**Table 4.1**  
**Existing and Proposed Ownership of Open Space Land<sup>a</sup> in the Village of Caledonia: 2035**

<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Existing<sup>b</sup> (Acres)</b>	<b>Plan (Acres)</b>	<b>Planned Change (Acres)</b>
Village of Caledonia	199	246	47
State of Wisconsin	243	260	17
Racine County	648	892	244
Other Public	9 <sup>c</sup>	9	--
Nonprofit Conservation Organization	104	277	173
Private Recreation <sup>d</sup>	97	97	--
Private – Common Open Space Land in Conservation Subdivisions	35	35	--
Private – Protect Through Zoning <sup>e</sup>	--	1,857	1,857
Conservation Easement	74	74	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>3,747</b>	<b>2,338</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes land and water associated with planned primary environmental corridors, planned secondary environmental corridors, and planned isolated natural resource areas.

<sup>b</sup> Existing ownership as of 2017.

<sup>c</sup> Includes lands owned by the Caddy Vista Sanitary District (two acres) and the Racine Unified School District (seven acres).

<sup>d</sup> Includes private open space lands held in private ownership for recreational use (for example, shooting ranges, private parks, and driving ranges).

<sup>e</sup> Includes private open space lands proposed to be protected through Village zoning.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC

### Open Space Preservation Recommendations

About 29 percent, or 1,099 acres, of the total amount of open space preservation areas (3,747 acres) within the Village, are publicly owned. About 236 acres of existing open space preservation areas are privately owned, including lands owned by nonprofit conservation organizations and lands within a shooting range, private parks, a driving range, and common open space areas in conservation subdivisions. About 74 acres of existing open space preservation areas are protected by conservation easements. As shown in Table 4.1, about 199 acres of open space preservation areas are owned by the Village and 648 acres are owned by Racine County. The State of Wisconsin owns 243 acres of open space preservation areas, all associated with the Renak-Polak Beech-Maple Woods State Natural Area and the Root River. All publicly-owned open space preservation areas should be maintained in public ownership and preserved in open space.

It is recommended that the Village acquire about 47 acres of open space preservation areas associated with the Caledonia Wildlife Refuge and with the acquisition of parklands for new park sites or for natural resource protection. It is recommended that Racine County acquire about 244 acres of open space preservation areas associated with four natural areas, four critical species habitat sites, and a geological area, which are mainly located along the Root River. It is also recommended that nonprofit conservation organizations, possibly the Caledonia Conservancy, acquire about 173 acres of open space preservation areas associated with six natural areas. Acquisition of these areas could be through fee-simple purchase, dedication, or through conservation easements. If public acquisition is not possible or practical, it is recommended that such areas be maintained in open space for resource preservation purposes and protected through conservancy zoning and, where appropriate, deed restrictions, including conservation easements.

Protecting 1,857 acres of open space preservation areas through the appropriate Village conservancy zoning district is recommended for areas that are not recommended for public ownership or are not acquired by a private conservancy organization district. These regulations will limit development in wetland and floodplain areas to open space uses, and limit development in upland wooded areas to very low density residential use (minimum of five acres of upland areas per dwelling unit) or compatible recreational uses.

The open space preservation areas may change over time due to updated floodplain and wetland mapping, natural changes in wetland boundaries, and field surveys that precisely identify the boundaries of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas. In addition, floodplain areas adjacent to open space preservation

areas that are not developed for urban or recreational uses may revert to natural vegetation and be added to the environmental corridor network. Public acquisition or conservancy zoning of wetlands and environmental corridors/isolated natural resource areas should, therefore, be based on a field delineation of such areas prior to acquisition.

### ***Primary Environmental Corridors***

The primary environmental corridors, shown on Map 4.1, encompass approximately 2,010 acres of land, and are located along the Lake Michigan shoreline, the Root River, and a portion of Husher Creek within the Village. Under the park and open space plan, all remaining primary environmental corridors would be preserved in essentially natural, open uses. Of the approximately 2,010 acres of primary environmental corridor, 906 acres are currently in existing public ownership, including 127 acres associated with the Root River, and are proposed to be retained in such ownership for resource protection purposes. Approximately 173 acres are located within private recreational areas, resource protection areas, or common open space areas within conservation subdivisions.

It is recommended that the Village acquire about three acres of primary environmental corridor associated with the acquisition of a proposed new Village park and that Racine County acquire about 244 acres associated with the proposed acquisition of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and a geological area. It is also recommended that the State of Wisconsin acquire about 17 acres associated with the Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods and that nonprofit conservation organizations acquire about 96 acres associated with the proposed acquisition of natural areas. The other 571 acres are privately owned, and are recommended to be protected through conservancy zoning or zoning for compatible recreational uses.

### ***Secondary Environmental Corridors***

The secondary environmental corridors, shown on Map 4.1, encompass approximately 317 acres of land. Secondary environmental corridors are located along a portion of Hoods Creek, along an intermittent stream in the eastern portion of the Village, and in the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge area within the Village. The Village of Caledonia currently owns about 129 acres within the Caledonia Wildlife Refuge. An additional 16 acres are within existing private ownership through outdoor recreation or resource protection purposes. It is recommended that the Village acquire about 35 acres of secondary environmental corridor, including 33 additional acres associated with the Caledonia Wildlife Refuge and two acres associated with a proposed new Village park. It is recommended that the Village consider protecting the remaining 137 acres through conservancy zoning or zoning for compatible recreational uses.

### ***Isolated Natural Resource Areas***

The isolated natural resource areas, shown on Map 4.1, encompass about 1,420 acres. Isolated natural resource areas are scattered throughout the Village, with a significant amount located in the northern portion of the Village.

Of the approximately 1,420 acres of isolated natural resource area, 66 acres are currently in existing public protective ownership, including 48 acres owned by the Village and 18 acres owned by Racine County, and are proposed to be retained in such ownership for resource protection purposes. About 120 acres of isolated natural resource area are located within existing private ownership through private outdoor recreation areas, lands within conservation easements, lands owned by nonprofit conservation organizations, or common open space lands within conservation subdivisions.

It is recommended that the Village acquire about eight acres of isolated natural resource area associated with the development of two proposed new Village parks and that a nonprofit conservation organization acquire 77 acres associated with the proposed acquisition of four natural areas. The remaining 1,149 acres of isolated natural resource area are recommended to be maintained in essentially natural, open uses to the extent practicable. Consideration should be given to protecting privately-owned isolated natural resource areas through conservancy zoning.

### ***Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat Sites, and Geological Sites***

The regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan, as documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management*

*Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*,<sup>26</sup> sets forth a number of recommendations related to preserving identified natural areas and critical species habitat sites within the Village of Caledonia.

As noted in Chapter 2, there are 14 natural areas, 13 critical species habitat sites, three aquatic areas, and two geological sites partially or wholly located in the Village. The regional natural areas plan recommends that the Village of Caledonia continue to protect and acquire the remaining lands associated with the Caledonia Wildlife Area natural area. The Village should acquire the remaining 33 acres of the natural area, primarily wetlands within a secondary environmental corridor, by fee-simple purchase, dedication, or through a conservation easement. It is also recommended that the Village continue to retain other Village parks, open space, or conservancy areas that contain natural areas or geological sites for resource protection purposes.

Specific aquatic habitat area plan recommendations were not formulated under the natural areas planning effort since such habitats are under the direct management authority of the WDNR. The natural areas plan update recommends that the WDNR implement management and regulatory efforts necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the aquatic habitats and their critical species. The plan recommends that the State of Wisconsin/UW-Parkside continue to protect the lands associated with the Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area and acquire the remaining 17 acres of the site for resource protection purposes.

The regional natural areas plan update and this park and open space plan recommend that Racine County continue to retain and maintain lands associated with five natural areas and acquire the remaining lands associated with four natural areas within the Village. The natural areas plan recommends that Racine County continue to retain and maintain lands associated with six critical species habitat sites and acquire the remaining lands associated with four critical species habitat sites within the Village. The plan also recommends that Racine County continue to retain and maintain lands associated with the Cliffside Park Clay Banks and Root River Outcrops geological sites and acquire the remaining lands associated with the Root River Outcrops site within the Village.

The above recommendations are reflected on Map 4.1 and summarized in Table 4.2. In all, the natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological sites recommended for preservation encompass 1,186 acres within the Village.

#### **4.4 VILLAGE PARK AND OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The results of the analysis of outdoor recreation needs based on the regional park and open space standards, presented in Chapter 3, indicate that there is a need in the Village of Caledonia for an additional community park, additional neighborhood parks, and additional recreational facilities, including baseball diamonds, softball diamonds, soccer fields, playfields, playgrounds, tennis courts, and basketball goals. Such recreational facilities are intended to meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents and are recommended to be provided by the Village. All proposed facility development must comply with the accessibility requirements set forth under Federal law in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The recommended park and open space plan for the Village is shown on Map 4.2 and described in the following sections. Upon full implementation of this plan, the Village would provide a variety of parks and related outdoor recreation facilities; a system of recreation trails; and a system of on-street bikeways. This includes four community parks (Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park, Crawford Park, Gorney Park, and a proposed new community park); 17 neighborhood parks (Chapla Park, Linwood Park, Maple Park, and 14 proposed new neighborhood parks); three conservancy/nature areas (5 ½ Mile Park, County Line Park, and the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge); and six Village-owned lands (three stormwater detention basins and three open space sites).

Under the recommended plan, the Village would further provide five miles of recreational trails consisting of off-street trails that can be utilized for jogging, walking, biking, rollerblading, and related activities. This

<sup>26</sup> An update to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat plan is documented in *SEWRPC Amendment to Planning Report No. 42, Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*, December 2010.

Table 4.2

## Recommended Protection of Natural Areas, Critical Species Habitat, and Geological Sites in the Village of Caledonia

Number on Map 2.9	Site Identification		Site Area (acres)			Proposed Acquisition Agency
	Site Type <sup>a</sup>	Area Name	Existing Protective Ownership	Proposed to Be Acquired	Total	
1	NA-1 (SNA)	Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods State Natural Area	121 <sup>b</sup>	17	138	State of Wisconsin/UW-Parkside
2	NA-2	Caledonia Wildlife Area	127	39	166	Village of Caledonia
3	NA-2	Cliffside Park Woods and Clay Banks	55 <sup>c</sup>	--	55	Racine County
4	NA-2	Hunts Woods	6	30	36	Racine County
5	NA-2	Root River Wet-Mesic Woods – East	2	--	2 <sup>d</sup>	Racine County
6	NA-3	Caledonia Low Woods	72	35	107	Racine County
7	NA-3	Dominican Ravine	--	18	18	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
8	NA-3	Foley Road Woods – East	--	24	24	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
9	NA-3	Foley Road Woods – West	--	19	19	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
10	NA-3	Power Plant Ravine Woods	--	32	32 <sup>e</sup>	Racine County
11	NA-3	Root River Riverine Forest	155	30	185 <sup>f</sup>	Racine County
12	NA-3	Seven Mile Road Woods	--	20	20	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
13	NA-3	Tabor Woods	36 <sup>g</sup>	70	106	Caledonia Conservancy
14	NA-3	Zirbes Woods	--	13	13	Nonprofit Conservation Organization
15	CSH	Caledonia Low Woods – South	24 <sup>h</sup>	6	30	Racine County
16	CSH	Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way	22	52	74 <sup>i</sup>	Racine County
17	CSH	Cliffside Park Old Field	55	--	55	Caledonia Conservancy
18	CSH	Forked Aster Site	1	17	18	Racine County
19	CSH	Lakeside Woods	--	--	-- <sup>e</sup>	-- <sup>j</sup>
20	CSH	River Bend Upland Woods	14	--	14	Racine County
21	CSH	Root River Bluff	2	37	39 <sup>k</sup>	Racine County
22	CSH	Root River Ravine Woods	--	--	--	-- <sup>j</sup>
23	CSH	Root River Strip Woods	2 <sup>l</sup>	--	2	Racine County
24	CSH	Sherwood Property	--	--	--	-- <sup>j</sup>
25	CSH	WEPCO Oak Woods	--	--	-- <sup>m</sup>	-- <sup>j</sup>
26	CSH	WEPCO Woods	--	--	-- <sup>e</sup>	-- <sup>j</sup>
27	CSH	Wood Duck Woods	--	--	-- <sup>e</sup>	-- <sup>j</sup>
28	GA-3	Cliffside Park Clay Banks	14	--	14	Racine County
29	GA-3	Root River Outcrops	7	12	19 <sup>n</sup>	Racine County
30	AQ-3	Husher Creek	--	--	1.9 miles	State of Wisconsin <sup>o</sup>
31	AQ-3 (RSH)	Root River downstream from County Line Road to Nicholson Road	--	--	1.9 miles <sup>p</sup>	State of Wisconsin <sup>o</sup>
32	AQ-3 (RSH)	Root River downstream from Nicholson Road to STH 38	--	--	10.0 miles <sup>p</sup>	State of Wisconsin <sup>o</sup>
Total – 32 Sites			715	471	1,186	--

Table continued on next page.



## Table 4.2 (Continued)

<sup>a</sup> Site types are classified as follows:

NA-1 indicates Natural Areas of statewide or greater significance

NA-2 indicates Natural Areas of countywide or regional significance

NA-3 indicates Natural Areas of local significance

CSH indicates Critical Species Habitat sites

GA-3 indicates Geological Areas of local significance

AQ-3 indicates Aquatic Areas of local significance.

SNA, or State Natural Area, indicates those sites designated as State Natural Areas by the State of Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council

RSH, or Rare Species Habitat, indicates those Aquatic Areas which support habitat for endangered, threatened, or "special concern" species designated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

<sup>b</sup> Currently, 110 acres are owned by UW-Parkside and 11 acres are owned by the Caledonia Conservancy.

<sup>c</sup> Currently, 54 acres are owned by Racine County (Cliffside Park) and one acre is owned by the Village of Caledonia (Chapla Park).

<sup>d</sup> Includes only the area located in the Village. Total area is 52 acres. The two acres located within the Village are owned by Racine County. The remaining 50 acres are located in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County and are owned by Milwaukee County.

<sup>e</sup> Currently, the entire site is located on WE Energies property.

<sup>f</sup> Includes only the area located in the Village. Total area is 331 acres. Of the 185 acres located within the Village, 123 acres are owned by Racine County; 31 acres are owned by Milwaukee County; one acre is owned by the Caddy Vista Sanitary District; and 30 acres are located on private property. The remaining 146 acres of the entire site are located in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County, and of those lands located in Milwaukee County, 143 acres are owned by Milwaukee County, two acres are owned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and one acre is located on private property.

<sup>g</sup> Currently, 29 acres are owned by the Caledonia Conservancy and seven acres are located on Wooded Valley Estates South subdivision outlots or residential lots.

<sup>h</sup> Currently, 18 acres are owned by Racine County and six acres are located on a Quarry Springs subdivision outlot.

<sup>i</sup> Includes only the area located in the Village. Total area is 94 acres. Of the 74 acres located within the Village, five acres are owned by Racine County; 17 acres are owned by the Caledonia Conservancy; and 52 acres are located on private property. The remaining 20 acres of the entire site are located in the City of Racine as part of the City-owned Johnson Park and Golf Course.

<sup>j</sup> This site is not proposed to be acquired for protective ownership and is recommended to be protected through appropriate zoning.

<sup>k</sup> Includes only the area located in the Village. Total area is 50 acres. Of the 39 acres located within the Village, two acres are owned by Racine County and 37 acres are located on private property. The remaining 11 acres of the entire site are located in the City of Racine as part of two City-owned parks, Johnson Park and Golf Course and Johnson Park Dog Run.

<sup>l</sup> The majority of the site is located on lands owned by Racine County. One-quarter of an acre of the site is located on private property.

<sup>m</sup> Currently, 10 acres are located within the Racine County Line Rifle Club Range and four acres are located on WE Energies property.

<sup>n</sup> Includes only the area located in the Village. Total area is 25 acres. Of the 19 acres located within the Village, seven acres are owned by Racine County and 12 acres are located on private property. The remaining six acres of the entire site is located in the City of Racine as part of the Johnson Park Dog Run.

<sup>o</sup> Navigable waterway owned by the State and managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

<sup>p</sup> A portion of the site extends outside of the Village and the length given is entirely within the Village.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC





plan also recommends that the Village develop about 32 miles of on-street bikeways that would consist of bike lanes, bike paths, and bike routes.

It is recommended that the Village develop on-street bikeways and off-street trails for bicycle and pedestrian use to provide residents a connection to Village and County parks, City of Racine parks, regional trails, schools, and local destination points. In addition, the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, the Racine County park plan, and the Root River watershed restoration plan recommend that the Village, in cooperation with Racine County, develop access sites with appropriate support facilities associated with the existing Lake Michigan Water Trail and develop a water trail with appropriate support facilities on the Root River.

### **Parks and Related Recreational Facilities**

This section presents recommendations related to existing and proposed Village parks, including the acquisition and development of new parks and the development of recreational facilities at existing parks. Table 4.3 lists all proposed Village park improvements and additional land acquisitions from 2018 to 2035. Table 4.4 lists all parks-related development and improvement projects anticipated to be implemented between 2018 and 2022. Projects implemented between 2018 and 2022 are based on input from the Village's Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission and Village staff provided estimated development costs for each project. Estimated costs for projects proposed to be provided after 2022 will be developed as part of future capital improvements programming (CIP). The CIP is updated on an annual basis, and projects currently identified for implementation may be removed or reprioritized and new projects may be added during each annual update.

#### ***Proposed New Parks***

This plan recommends that the Village acquire land for a new community park and 14 new neighborhood parks and develop needed outdoor recreational facilities at these sites, as well as develop additional recreational facilities on Village land adjacent to Crawford Park, which will ultimately become an expansion to the park. A portion of the expansion area is the location of the existing Village Hall, which was completed in the summer of 2017. Additional land is also recommended to be acquired to expand Gorney Park and the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge. The locations of the 15 proposed new parks are shown on Map 4.2. It is anticipated that the acquisition and development of these proposed new park sites will likely occur after the year 2022. The recommendations regarding facility development at each proposed new park are listed in Table 4.3 and are also described below.

Recommendations for new parks include the acquisition of lands by the Village for recreational and open space purposes. The red symbols on Map 4.2 indicate a need for additional parklands in the area designated. The location of the symbol represents a generalized location and should not be construed as definitive. There may be other sites in the area that are also suitable for park development.

1. *Park Site 1:* Park Site 1 is a proposed community park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the western portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 35 acres, including four acres of isolated natural resource area consisting of wetlands. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a baseball diamond with lights, a league softball diamond with lights, two soccer fields, a basketball full-court/futsal court, a tennis court/pickleball court, a playfield, a playground, a hiking trail, picnic shelters with restrooms, all-season shelter/biergarten with restrooms, picnic shelters, dog park with pavilions, camping area, disc golf course, sand volleyball courts, areas for picnicking and other passive outdoor recreation use, and appropriate support facilities. The Village plans to acquire the land between 2018 and 2022.
2. *Park Site 2:* Park Site 2 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northwestern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 15 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities.
3. *Park Site 3:* Park Site 3 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the western portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately



**Table 4.3**  
**Recommended Acquisition and Development at Existing and**  
**Proposed Park Sites in the Village of Caledonia: 2023-2035**

Site Name	Proposed Acquisition (acres)	Proposed Facility Development
Proposed Site 1 (Community Park)	22.3	Baseball Diamond with Lights League Softball Diamonds with Lights Two Soccer Fields Full Court Basketball/Futsal Court Tennis Court/Pickleball Court Playground Playfield Hiking Trail Picnic Shelters with Restrooms All-Season Shelter/Biergarten with Restrooms Picnic Shelters Picnic Areas Dog Park with Pavilions Camping Area Disc Golf Course Sand Volleyball Courts General Development
Proposed Site 2 (Neighborhood Park)	15	Sandlot Softball Diamond One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield Picnic Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 3 (Neighborhood Park)	5	Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 4 (Neighborhood Park)	10	League Softball Diamond with Lights One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Tennis Court Playground Soccer Field/Playfield Picnic Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 5 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Sandlot Softball Diamond Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 6 (Neighborhood Park)	15	Sandlot Softball Diamond One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 7 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Baseball Diamond with Lights League Softball Diamond with Lights Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Tennis Court Playground Playfield Picnic Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 8 (Neighborhood Park)	5	Sandlot Softball Diamond One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development

**Table continued on next page.**

**Table 4.3 (Continued)**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Proposed Acquisition (acres)</b>	<b>Proposed Facility Development</b>
Proposed Site 9 (Neighborhood Park)	5	Sandlot Softball Diamond Tennis Court One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 10 (Neighborhood Park)	10	League Softball Diamond with Lights Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Playground Soccer Field/Playfield Picnic Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 11 (Neighborhood Park)	5	Sandlot Softball Diamond One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 12 (Neighborhood Park)	20	League Softball Diamond with Lights Two Basketball Goals (Full Court) Tennis Court Playground Soccer Field/Playfield Picnic Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Proposed Site 13 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Sandlot Softball Diamond One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 14 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Sandlot Softball Diamond Tennis Court One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
Proposed Site 15 (Neighborhood Park)	10	Sandlot Softball Diamond Tennis Court One Basketball Goal (Half Court) Playground Playfield General Development
5 ½ Mile Park	--	Hiking Trails Develop Shelter with Restrooms Develop Parking Area Develop Disc Golf Course General Development
Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park	--	Repave Roads and Parking Areas Resurface Tennis Courts
Chapla Park	--	Develop Permanent Benches and Picnic Tables Develop Shelter/Gazebo Develop Outdoor Fitness Area Develop Boardwalk to and near Beach Area Develop Beach Volleyball Court
County Line Park	--	Develop Shelter with Restrooms General Development
Crawford Park Expansion/Village Land	-- <sup>b</sup>	Develop Additional League Softball Diamonds with Lights Develop Community Center Develop Additional Shelter Add Lighting to Ball Diamonds and Tennis and Volleyball Courts

**Table continued on next page.**

**Table 4.3 (Continued)**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Proposed Acquisition (acres)</b>	<b>Proposed Facility Development</b>
Crawford Park Expansion/Village Land (continued)		Develop Walking Trail Develop Additional Picnic Areas Develop Outdoor Fitness Area Develop Amphitheater Develop Full-Court Basketball Court/Futsal Court Develop Pickleball Court Develop Splash Pad/Water Park General Development
Gorney Park	15	Develop Additional Shelter with Restrooms near Seven-Mile Road Access Develop Concessions Building with Restrooms Develop Sand Volleyball Courts Develop Full-Court Basketball Court Add Lights to Ball Diamonds Develop Fishing Areas/Piers around Pond General Development
Linwood Park	--	Develop Canoe/Kayak Launch Develop Restrooms Hiking Trails General Development
Maple Park	--	Develop Full Court Basketball Court Develop Sand Volleyball Courts Two Pickleball Courts Develop New Playground Equipment General Development
Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	49 <sup>c</sup>	Expand Parking Area <sup>d</sup> Develop Picnic Area Develop Play Area with Play Equipment
Village Land – Markay Stormwater Basin	--	Develop Dog Park General Development
Heritage Trail	--	Multi-Use Trail System
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>--</b>

Notes: "General Development" includes such activities and facilities as grading, landscaping, signs, lighting, picnic tables, benches, parking lots, access drives, and walkways. "General Development" items that are considered a capital expense are specifically listed in this table and in Table 4.4.

Although not included in this table, this plan also recommends that the Village continue routine maintenance activities at all existing Village-owned park and open space sites and recreational facilities.

<sup>a</sup> The Village plans to acquire the land for the new Village park between 2018 and 2022.

<sup>a</sup> The Village currently owns about 24 acres of open space land adjacent to Crawford Park. A portion of the site encompasses the new Village Hall.

<sup>c</sup> Includes 39 acres proposed to be acquired by the Village as part of the Caledonia Wildlife Area natural area.

<sup>d</sup> To be completed after the boardwalk and outdoor classrooms are fully developed at the site.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC



**Table 4.4**  
**Proposed Acquisition, Development, and Improvements at**  
**Existing Parks in the Village of Caledonia: 2018-2022**

		Estimated Development or Acquisition Cost (\$)
Site Name	Proposed Improvement	
Chapla Park	Develop Playground Equipment	50,000
	Develop Canoe/Kayak Access Site	160,000
	Subtotal	210,000
County Line Park	Develop Parking Area	150,000
	Develop Disc Golf Course	150,000
	Develop Hiking Trail	45,000
	Subtotal	345,000
Crawford Park	Develop Additional Shelter with Restrooms	140,000
	Develop Dugouts at Both Ball Diamonds	20,000
	Repair Playground Near Ball Diamonds	25,000
	Acquire 10 Acres of Land Adjacent to Park for Expansion	150,000
	Develop Park Design Plan	10,000
	Grade and Seed Park Expansion Area	75,000
	Develop Service Road and Parking Area(s)	450,000
	Develop Sledding Hill	100,000
	Develop Soccer Fields/Ice Skating Area	60,000
	Install Outdoor Lighting	150,000
	Develop All-Season Shelter/Biergarten and Restrooms	250,000
	Develop Dog Park with Pavilions	90,000
		Subtotal
Gorney Park	Develop Soccer Fields	80,000
	Develop Additional Parking Area(s)	300,000
	Develop Playground by Lower Shelter	75,000
	Develop Maintenance Garage	150,000
	Install Additional Outdoor Lighting	150,000
	Repair/Relocate Portions of Access Road Through Park, Seal Coat Road and Parking Lot, and Re-Stripe Parking Lot	350,000
	Subtotal	1,105,000
Linwood Park	Develop Playground Equipment	75,000
	Subtotal	75,000
Maple Park	Develop Picnic Area with Shelter	150,000
	Subtotal	150,000
Nicholson Wildlife Refuge	Develop Boardwalk to Rear of Site	25,000
	Develop Shelter/Outdoor Classroom Area with Restrooms	250,000
	Develop Observation Area	100,000
	Subtotal	375,000
New Village Park	Acquire 35 Acres of Land for a Park in the Western Portion of the Village	600,000
	Subtotal	600,000
Total – 8 Sites		4,380,000 <sup>a</sup>

Note: Although not included in this table, this plan also recommends that the Village continue routine maintenance activities at all existing Village-owned park and open space sites and recreational facilities.

<sup>a</sup> The total cost to the Village may be reduced through donations and grants for park facilities.

Source: Village of Caledonia and SEWRPC

five acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.

4. *Park Site 4:* Park Site 4 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southwestern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres, including four acres of isolated natural resource area consisting of wetlands and woodlands. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a league softball diamond with lights, a basketball goal, a tennis court, a playground, a soccer/playfield, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities.
5. *Park Site 5:* Park Site 5 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southwestern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a playground, a playfield, and appropriate support facilities.
6. *Park Site 6:* Park Site 6 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the south-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 15 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, an area for picnicking and other passive outdoor recreation use, and appropriate support facilities.
7. *Park Site 7:* Park Site 7 is also a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the south-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a baseball diamond with lights, a league softball diamond with lights, two basketball goals, a tennis court, a playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities.
8. *Park Site 8:* Park Site 8 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the south-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately five acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a playground, a playfield, and appropriate support facilities.
9. *Park Site 9:* Park Site 9 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southeastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately five acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a tennis court, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
10. *Park Site 10:* Park Site 10 is also a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the southeastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a league softball diamond with lights, two basketball goals, a soccer/playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter with restrooms, and appropriate support facilities.
11. *Park Site 11:* Park Site 11 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately five acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
12. *Park Site 12:* Park Site 12 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the east-central portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 20 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a league softball diamond with lights, two basketball goals, a tennis court, a soccer/playfield, a playground, a picnic shelter with restrooms, an area for picnicking and other passive outdoor recreation use, and appropriate support facilities.

13. *Park Site 13:* Park Site 13 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the eastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres, including three acres of primary environmental corridor consisting of wetlands and woodlands. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
14. *Park Site 14:* Park Site 14 is also a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the eastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres, including three acres of secondary environmental corridor consisting of wetlands. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a tennis court, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.
15. *Park Site 15:* Park Site 15 is a proposed neighborhood park intended to serve the existing and future residential areas in the northeastern portion of the Village. This site would encompass approximately 10 acres. Recreational facilities proposed to be developed at this site include a sandlot softball diamond, a tennis court, a basketball goal, a playfield, a playground, and appropriate support facilities.

### ***Development and Improvements at Existing Village Parks: 2018-2022***

It is recommended that the Village develop additional recreational facilities or make improvements to facilities at seven existing parks and conservancy areas during the five-year period from 2018 through 2022, as described below. The estimated development and improvement costs are included in Table 4.4.

- *Chapla Park:* Chapla Park is a nine-acre neighborhood park located in the northeastern portion of the Village along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Park is a passive use site that provides a scenic overlook of Lake Michigan. It is recommended that playground equipment and a canoe/kayak access site be developed.
- *County Line Park:* County Line Park is an 18-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the northeastern portion of the Village. It is recommended that a parking area, hiking trail, and disc golf course be developed.
- *Crawford Park:* Crawford Park is a 21-acre community park located in the southeastern portion of the Village. Existing facilities include two baseball diamonds, two tennis courts, two basketball goals, a playfield, a playground, sand volleyball courts, restrooms, concessions, pathways, and picnic shelters. The Village is planning to expand the Park to the east adjacent to existing Village-owned land in the next five years. The adjacent existing Village land encompasses 24 acres. Part of the development includes the new Village Hall, which was completed in the summer of 2017. The Village also plans to acquire an additional 10 acres of land adjacent to the park and provide additional access at Sunshine Lane. The plan recommends developing an additional shelter with restrooms and dugouts at both ball diamonds, repairing the playground near the ball diamonds, developing a park design plan for the park expansion, grading and seeding the park expansion area, developing a service road and parking area(s), developing a sledding hill, developing soccer fields/skating area, developing an all-season shelter/biergarten and restrooms, developing a dog park with pavilions, and installing outdoor lighting.
- *Gorney Park:* Gorney Park is a 41-acre community park located in the north-central portion of the Village. Existing facilities include a baseball diamond, a league softball diamond, two soccer fields, a playfield, a playground, a hiking trail, shelters, picnic areas, and restrooms. The Park also has a pond with a pier that provides opportunities for fishing and launching nonmotorized watercraft. The plan recommends developing two soccer fields, repairing and relocating portions of the access road, seal coating<sup>27</sup> the access road and the parking lot, restriping the parking lot, developing additional

<sup>27</sup> It is recommended that any pavement resealing be accomplished using a non-coal tar-based sealant. According to a 2012 paper by B.J. Mahler, P.C. Van Metre, J.L. Crane, M. Scoggins, and E.S. Williams, "Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat and PAHs-Implications for the Environment, Human Health, and Stormwater Management," published in *Environment Science and Technology*, v. 56, pages 3,039 to 3,045: "Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), academic institutions, and State and local agencies have identified coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat as a major source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in urban and suburban areas and a potential concern for human health and aquatic life."

parking areas, developing a playground by the lower shelter, developing a maintenance garage, and installing additional outdoor lighting.

- *Linwood Park*: Linwood Park is a 12-acre neighborhood park centrally located in the Village along the Root River. Existing facilities include a playfield, horseshoe pits, a shelter, picnic areas, fishing, and an informal canoe launch. The plan recommends developing playground equipment.
- *Maple Park*: Maple Park is a two-acre neighborhood park located in the southeastern portion of the Village. Existing facilities include a playfield and a playground. The plan recommends developing a picnic area with a shelter.
- *Nicholson Wildlife Refuge*: Nicholson Wildlife Refuge is a 127-acre conservancy area centrally located in the Village. The site encompasses the Caledonia Wildlife Area, a natural area of countywide or regional significance. Existing facilities include nature trails and a boardwalk and the Refuge also serves as a site for educational purposes. The plan recommends continuing to develop the boardwalk, including an observation deck. The plan also recommends developing an outdoor classroom structure and a shelter with restrooms.

A new Village Hall was developed on Village land adjacent to Crawford Park in the summer of June 2017. All Village staff are housed at the site and all Village meetings are held at the site. Developing the new Village Hall in the southeastern portion of the Village improves access for Village residents, most of whom live in the eastern and southern portions of the Village. The previous Village Hall was located in the northwestern portion of the Village near the southwest intersection of STH 38 and Nicholson Road.

In the fall of 2017, the Village sold the property associated with the one-acre Village-owned Caledonia Community Center located on Douglas Avenue to a private business located adjacent to the property. The business plans to use the site for business expansion purposes. The Community Center held some Village and other governmental meetings, educational and exercise classes, and was a polling station for Village residents. The Village also sold the four-acre Woodland Park, which is located west of, and adjacent to, the Caledonia Community Center to the same private business. Since the majority of Woodland Park is an isolated natural resource area consisting of forested wetlands, the park will remain a natural resource area and will not be developed.

In April 2017, Village of Mount Pleasant officials communicated with Village of Caledonia officials inquiring if Caledonia would be interested in taking sole ownership of the 52-acre Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park located in Franksville. Currently, the park, which is located in the Village of Caledonia, is jointly maintained and managed and equally funded by both Villages. Caledonia officials are interested in sole ownership of the park and have determined that covering Mount Pleasant's portion of the cost is financially feasible, but Village officials will continue to seek more detailed information before a formal decision is approved.

### ***Development at Existing Village Parks: 2023-2035***

This section describes recommended facility development at existing Village parks after 2022. The development of recreational facilities recommended at each park is listed in Table 4.3. Implementing the recommendations is subject to the availability of funding for land acquisition and facility development, operation, and maintenance.

- *5 ½ Mile Park*: 5 ½ Mile Park is a 21-acre undeveloped neighborhood park located in the eastern portion of the Village. The park encompasses forested wetlands within an isolated natural resource area. The plan recommends developing hiking trails, a shelter with restrooms, a parking area, and a disc golf course.
- *Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park*: Caledonia-Mt. Pleasant Memorial Park is a 52-acre community park located in the southern portion of the Village in the Franksville area. Existing facilities include a league softball diamond, two basketball goals, five soccer fields, a playfield, a playground, two sandlot softball diamonds, two tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, a Kids Connection Playground, horseshoe pits, informal and group picnic areas and shelters, and restrooms. The league softball diamond at the Park may also serve as a baseball diamond. The plan recommends repaving the roads and parking areas and resurfacing the tennis courts.

- *Chapla Park*: The plan recommends developing permanent benches and picnic tables, a shelter/gazebo, an outdoor fitness area, a boardwalk, and a beach volleyball court, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022.
- *County Line Park*: The plan recommends developing a shelter with restrooms, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022.
- *Crawford Park*: It is recommended that the Village expand the park and develop additional recreational facilities on 24 acres of Village-owned land located east of and adjacent to the existing park. A portion of the existing Village-owned land will be the location of the new Village Hall. The plan recommends developing additional league softball diamonds with lights, a walking trail, additional picnic areas, an outdoor fitness area, an amphitheater, a full court basketball court/futsal court, a pickleball court, a splash pad/water park, an additional picnic shelter, and a community center, and installing lighting for the existing ball diamonds, tennis courts, and volleyball courts, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022.
- *Gorney Park*: The plan recommends developing an additional shelter with restrooms, a concessions building with restrooms, sand volleyball courts, a full court basketball court, and fishing areas/piers around the pond, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022. The plan also recommends installing lights on the ball diamonds. It is also recommended that the Village acquire about 15 acres for park expansion.
- *Linwood Park*: The plan recommends developing a canoe/kayak launch, restrooms, and hiking trails, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022.
- *Maple Park*: The plan recommends developing two basketball goals, two sand volleyball courts, two pickleball courts, and new playground equipment, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022. Developing new playground equipment will provide opportunities for children of a variety of ages to use the equipment.
- *Nicholson Wildlife Area*: The plan recommends expanding and replacing the parking area and developing a play area with play equipment and a picnic area, in addition to the improvements recommended during 2018-2022. It is also recommended that the Village acquire about 49 acres for resource protection purposes and park expansion.

Based on recommendations from the Nicholson Wildlife Area Management Plan,<sup>28</sup> it is recommended that water control methods be used at the site to enhance and diversify wildlife habitat features, especially for migratory waterfowl and other wetland species, and to improve wetland function. Other habitat enhancements include creating a variety of potholes or ponds, which would allow the site to potentially store permanent areas of water for a sustained wildlife area; prairie restorations in upland areas; developing native vegetative buffers around the site; providing brushpiles; and constructing nesting platforms for birds.

Potential recreational opportunities at the site should include hiking trails and wildlife observation. If water control levels are applied and effective, there may be opportunities to expand or enhance the existing trail network at the site.

- *Village Land – Markay Stormwater Basin*: The stormwater detention basin is a 22-acre open space site located in the southeastern portion of the Village. It is recommended that a dog park/exercise area be developed at a portion of the site. It is recommended that the Village implement measures to avoid potential runoff of pet waste. Such measures may include posting signage encouraging the public to pick up pet waste, providing pet waste bags and anchored waste bins, and providing

<sup>28</sup> Documented in a report prepared by Hey and Associates, Inc. entitled, *Nicholson Wildlife Area Management Plan, Town of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, March 2005*. This plan is an update to the *SEWRPC plan, Community Assistance Planning Report No. 146, A Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for the Nicholson Wildlife Center, Town of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin, May 1986*.

anchored seating on the upper slope of the basin. Materials that can float, such as wood chips, should not be used when developing or maintaining the site as these materials may block or clog the basin outlet or downstream storm sewers.

- *Heritage Trail:* It is recommended that the Village develop a multi-use trail system throughout the Village that will provide a connection with existing and proposed parks and other notable sites and existing trails. It is recommended that the Village develop 37 miles of the trail system.

### ***Maintenance of Other Existing Village Parks***

This plan also recommends that the Village continue to maintain all existing Village-owned park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities. The maintenance activities at these sites may include, as necessary, providing, paving, and resurfacing parking lots and trails or walkways; resurfacing volleyball, basketball, and tennis court areas; making existing facilities accessible to people with disabilities; providing, repairing, or replacing support facilities such as sportsfield lighting, park benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains; providing, repairing, or replacing foot bridges, restroom facilities, water supply facilities, maintenance buildings, and picnic shelters; and maintaining lawns, gardens, and other landscape plantings. Such maintenance activities may also include providing additional, or replacement of, playground equipment, playfield areas, and areas for passive recreational use.

### **Open Space Preservation**

As shown on Map 4.1, it is recommended that the Village acquire 47 acres of open space preservation areas for the development of parks or trails or for resource-protection purposes. The Village currently owns 199 acres of open space preservation areas. It is recommended that these lands be maintained in Village ownership and preserved in essentially natural, open space uses. Preserving these lands will serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality and natural beauty in the Village, as well as help to avoid serious and costly environmental and developmental problems. It is also recommended that the Village continue to enforce conservancy zoning regulations and apply those regulations to open space preservation areas that are privately owned.

### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities**

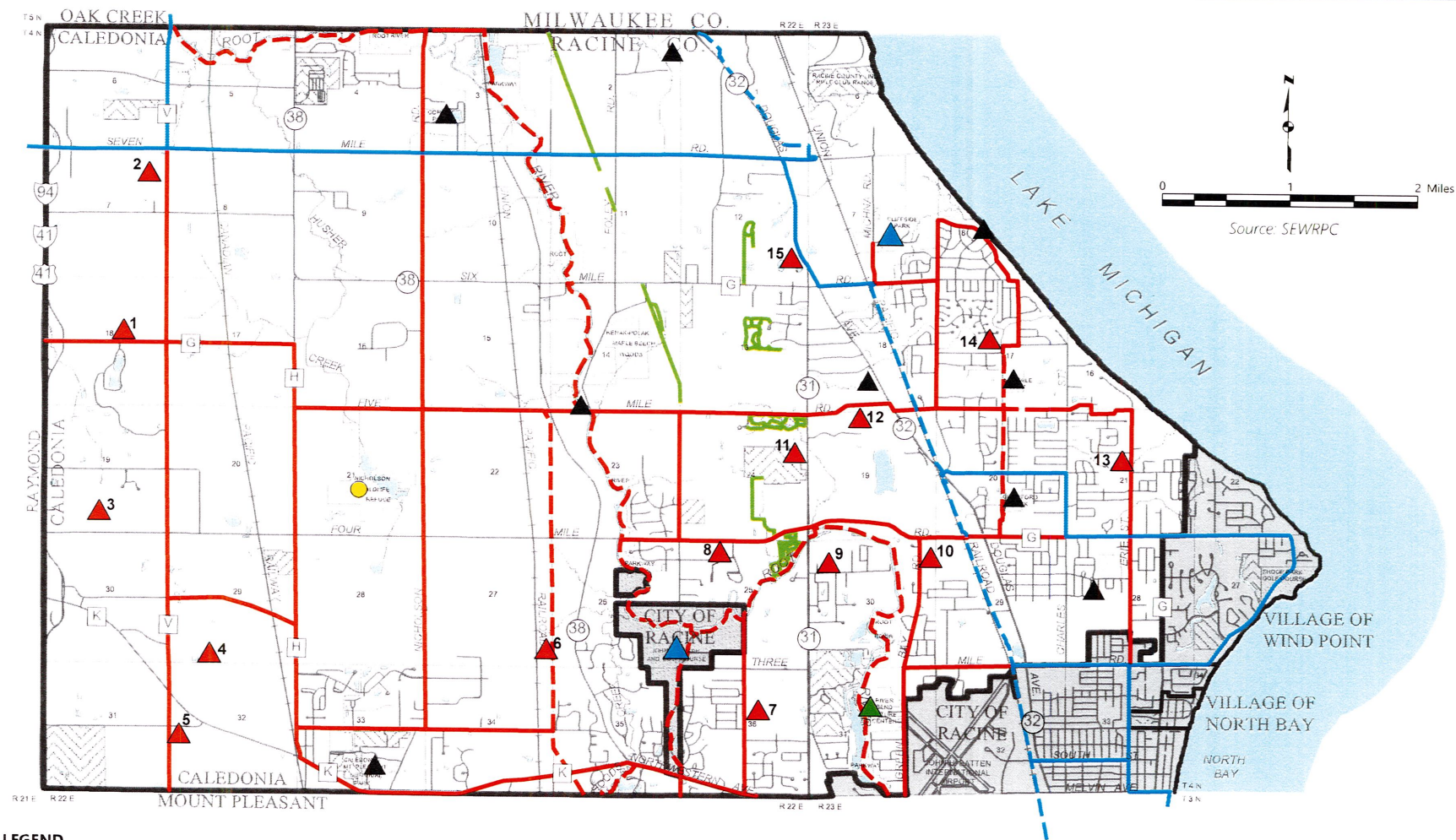
It is recommended that a Village-wide system of recreation trails and bicycle routes continue to be developed to connect existing parks to the regional, county, and adjacent local government trail systems and other parks and destination points, in cooperation with Racine County, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), and adjoining local governments. Recommended bike and pedestrian facilities for the Village and environs is shown on Map 4.3.

Racine County has developed 18 miles of trails or bike routes within the Village of Caledonia planning area. The County-owned MRK Trail is eight linear miles within the planning area and runs from Layard Avenue in the City of Racine north to Elm Road in the City of Oak Creek in Milwaukee County. The portion of the trail from Layard Avenue to Six Mile Road is primarily located within a WE Energies utility corridor, which is east of and adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad. The trail then transitions to an on-street segment at Six Mile Road and runs west to Douglas Avenue (STH 32) and then north to Seven Mile Road. From Seven Mile Road north to the County line, the trail is located off-street on WE Energies property. Portions of the MRK Trail are also connected to City of Racine Lake Michigan and Root River Pathways. The remaining 10 miles within the Village planning area consists of the Racine County signed, on-street bike route.

The entire system of bike and pedestrian facilities within the Village is proposed to include 55 miles of bike routes associated with street rights-of-way and 22 miles of trails associated with environmentally significant areas, utility corridors, or other open space lands. The development of on-street bikeways within the Village is proposed to be undertaken by WisDOT (portions of Douglas Avenue (STH 32), portions of Northwestern Avenue (STH 38), and portions of CTH K); Racine County (portions of CTH G, portions of CTH H, portions of Four Mile Road, Seven Mile Road, and Three Mile Road); and the Village of Caledonia (streets under Village jurisdiction). The development of off-street trails within the Village is proposed to be accomplished by Racine County (Root River Recreation Corridor) and the Village (Hoods Creek Trail, Klema Ditch, a linear corridor between STH 38 and the Union Pacific Railroad between CTH K and Five Mile Road, and trails providing links to other Village or County trails or parks).



**Map 4.3**  
**Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities for the Village of Caledonia and Environs: 2035**



The year 2035 regional transportation plan<sup>29</sup> recommended a network of on- and off-street bicycle ways within Racine County, which were refined through the Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan.<sup>30</sup> Existing and planned bikeways recommended by the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan are shown on Map 4.3. It should be noted that an update to the regional land use and transportation plan (VISION 2050) was adopted by the Regional Planning Commission in 2016. Updates from the bike element may be incorporated into future updates to the Racine County multi-jurisdictional plan.

One of the VISION 2050 recommendations is to develop a network of enhanced bicycle facility corridors in urbanized areas of Racine County, including the Villages of Caledonia and Mount Pleasant and the City of Racine. These corridors would connect the communities, serve important regional destination points, and link segments of the off-street bicycle path system. Enhanced bicycle facilities are protected, buffered, or raised bike lanes and separate paths within a road's right-of-way. These facilities are either located on or along an arterial street and go beyond the standard bike lane to improve safety, but they also define bicycle space on roadways and provide clear corridors for bicycle usage. If an enhanced bicycle facility is not feasible on an arterial street, a parallel local road could be utilized for bicycle traffic.

The Caledonia Conservancy also provides trails at numerous conservancy-owned sites within the Village. All of the sites owned by the Caledonia Conservancy in the Village are privately owned, but some of the sites are open to the public. These sites typically provide horse trails that can also be used as hiking or cross-country skiing trails. The Village contains numerous horse farms with outdoor and/or indoor equestrian facilities. Opportunities at these sites may include horse riding lessons, boarding lessons, dressage lessons, horse maintenance and education, day camps, and training programs for finishing and showing horses.

To encourage new equestrian owners and support existing equestrian owners, it is recommended that the Conservancy continue to develop additional equine trails, where feasible, and maintain the existing trails. The Village should continue to support the Conservancy when the organization acquires lands for resource protection purposes and develops multi-use trails that are accessible for public use.

### **Potential Water Trails**

The Racine County multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan, the County park and open space plan, and the Root River watershed restoration plan recommend that the Village of Caledonia and Racine County work together to develop a water trail<sup>31</sup> on the Root River and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Water trails, sometimes referred to as a paddling trail or canoe/kayaking trail, would identify parts of the Root River that could accommodate low-impact, non-motorized watercraft such as a canoes and kayaks. Important factors for establishing water trails include safe and convenient access to a waterway with unobstructed passageways, adequate support facilities, and safe portaging areas. Identifying and providing signs indicating scenic, historic, and natural view points along the waterway should also be considered. The establishment of a water trail would promote the responsible use and enjoyment of the Root River and would further serve as a place for solitude and respite from the urban environment, while providing educational and recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Developing a water trail in Lake Michigan would provide opportunities for non-motorized boating along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The proposed Root River Water Trail would be approximately 12 miles and the Lake Michigan Water Trail<sup>32</sup> would be approximately eight miles within the Village and environs. It is recommended that canoe access and support facilities be maintained and/or developed at regular intervals along the Root River and the Lake

<sup>29</sup> Documented in SEWPRC Planning Report No. 49, A Regional Transportation System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035, June 2006. A reaffirmation and amendment of the plan was adopted in April 2010 and is documented in SEWPRC Memorandum Report No. 197, Review, Update, and Reaffirmation of the Year 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, June 2010.

<sup>30</sup> Documented in SEWPRC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 301, A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Racine County: 2035, November 2009.

<sup>31</sup> A "water trail" is a designated trail on a lake or stream that regularly contains sufficient water level to navigate small watercraft such as a canoe or kayak with unobstructed passageways while providing safe and convenient access points, and may contain support facilities such as parking areas, restrooms, and picnic areas.

<sup>32</sup> In July 2017, the Department of Natural Resources designated the Lake Michigan Water Trail as a State trail.

Michigan shoreline. Currently, informal canoe/kayak launches are located at the County-owned River Bend Nature Center, the Village-owned Linwood Park, and along some street rights-of-way that intersect the River within the Village. A formal boat/canoe launch along the Root River is located at the Racine County-owned Horlick Park, which is located just south of the Village in the Village of Mount Pleasant. Additional launches are also located downstream in the City of Racine at the City-owned 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park South, Clayton Park, Island Park, and Lincoln Park.

Existing public access sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline are located at the City of Racine-owned Pershing Park, Rooney Recreation Area, and Samuel Myers Park.

Racine County and local governments which the water features traverse or abut should consider preparing user-friendly maps for water trail users to identify support facilities and points of interest along the water trail. Nonprofit conservation organizations, such as the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network or the Lake Michigan Water Trail Association, may consider assisting with these efforts.

### **Village Impact Fees**

#### ***Public Facilities Needs Assessment and Impact Fee Ordinance***

A public facilities needs assessment<sup>33</sup> for Caledonia was prepared in May 2002. A needs assessment is required by Section 66.0617 of the *Wisconsin Statutes* to demonstrate a need for and determine the amount of impact fees that may be placed on new development to cover the cost of providing public sites and facilities to serve that development. Impact fees for Village park facilities are only assessed for residential developments, because park facilities are generally used only by the residential portion of Village, while other types of facilities, such as fire and rescue, law enforcement, and transportation, are used by residential and nonresidential entities.

Currently, the Village charges a parks-related impact fee of \$1,000.00 for each residential dwelling unit constructed, created, or relocated within Caledonia. Collecting these fees helps offset the costs associated with acquiring parklands, developing additional park facilities, and acquiring and developing bicycle routes provided by the Village to serve new residential development. As of November 30, 2017, the Village has collected, with interest, about \$360,000.

In 2007, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted Wisconsin Act 44, which made some changes to the impact fee law, including deadlines for using impact fees. For fees collected after April 11, 2006, those fees that were collected within seven years of the effective date of the local impact fee ordinance must be used within 10 years after the effective date of the ordinance, with the possibility of a three-year extension in the event of extenuating circumstances. Impact fees not used within the statutory time limit must be refunded to the current owner of the property on which the fee was assessed, plus interest. Any fees collected more than seven years after the effective date of the impact fee ordinance must be used within a reasonable period of time.

#### ***Public Input***

In June 2018, the Village held a public open house/informational meeting to allow the public to review and comment on the Village park plan. The following comments were submitted as part of the public open house/informational meeting:

- Develop permanent restrooms with running water at Gorney Park.
- Develop additional bike/hike trails and sidewalks and provide more access to sidewalks and trails.
- Update playground equipment.
- Develop recreational facilities for teenagers such as zip lines, skate parks, etc.
- Acquire or develop land that would accommodate fishing/ice skating.

<sup>33</sup> The impact fee ordinance is documented in Title 15 (Building Code), Section 15-1-26 of the Village Code of Ordinances.

- Make sure there is a need for additional tennis and basketball courts when future parks development occurs. Currently, tennis and basketball courts are routinely underutilized. Village should continually evaluate the need for court sports and possibly provide an alternative recreational facility in place of a court sport when a park is developed.
- Communicate with the Caledonia Conservancy with likely partnership when land acquisition is considered.
- Make sure the Village budget annually addresses new land acquisition and facility equipment.
- Need more Village personnel to endorse and implement the plan.
- Increase maintenance and improvements at Nicholson Wildlife Refuge, particularly removing invasive plant species; completing the boardwalk; reducing the flooding issues, which may or may not have occurred due to the installation of a culvert pipe; hunting regulations and safety for residents visiting the park during hunting season; surveying the site and installing boundary markers; constructing a birding tower and Heron perches; and focusing on natural resource knowledge, best practices and procedures, and diligent attention is needed and outweighs increased recreational efforts such as tennis courts, baseball diamonds, and playgrounds.
- Maintain Linwood Park by emptying trash receptacles routinely and adding a recycling receptacle.
- Provide trash receptacles along bike trails.
- Improve the coordination between government and private nonprofit conservancy organizations for public recreation needs.
- Preserve primary environmental corridors for habitat and developing recreation trails.
- Village taking oversight of open space development in conservation subdivisions to be sure homeowners associations make responsible plans with expertise and carry them out or be fined.
- Village should work with grass roots programs such as River Bend, Caledonia Conservancy, Kenosha Racine Land Trust, and private and public athletic programs, and include them as part of the planning process for park and open space acquisition and development.
- Recategorize “undeveloped land” as passive recreation or open space. Any publicly-owned land doesn’t have to be developed and can be undisturbed as open space or minimally disturbed for passive recreation.
- Comments to Table 2.3 on Page 11 relating to Caledonia Conservancy lands:
  - #35 Caledonia Conservancy Section 24 is called Trout Ponds Prairie
  - #36 Caledonia Conservancy Sections 13 and 14 could be strip of the old train right-of-way because of the low acreage
  - #42 Caledonia Conservancy (Hwy 31 and 5 Mile Road) should be 36 acres with additions to the two acres
  - New property: Short Trail Trailhead at the end of Short Road, just north of 5 Mile Road (Maybe Section 14)
  - New Property: Cameron/Erlandsson Tabor Woods attached south of other Tabor Woods
- Protect natural resources.

- Increase maintenance, especially at the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge.
- Do not develop more baseball/softball fields or soccer fields.
- Provide more publication on Village website or other ways to promote existing public parks and natural resource areas in the Village.
- Crawford Park – Increase maintenance (including weed control, trimming, and painting); eliminate volleyball, extend basketball court, and redo and maintain tennis courts; redo Village Hall/park entrance and walkway; provide uniform and decorative waste cans similar to Greentree Shopping Center; provide uniform building colors and roofing; provide new playground equipment for younger children and a better playing surface; add a small shelter (not to be rented for groups); add a walking path around the entire park; add small “Crawford Park” sign at path from Sunshine Lane; resurface existing paths and redo areas where puddles collect; add trees, shrubs, and flowering plants/planters; and remove brown poles at Sunshine Lane leading to the park.
- Develop pickleball courts.
- Develop a Biergarten.
- Develop more playgrounds.
- Develop more walking paths.
- Develop more restrooms.
- Develop outdoor fitness areas.
- Develop a walking path at Crawford Park to the Parkview Senior Apartments.
- Install baseball/softball batting cages (for skills and techniques).
- Develop more sand volleyball courts.
- Develop areas for horseshoe pits.
- Do not develop more tennis courts (City courts are not being used).
- Develop an ice skating rink and hockey rink.
- Develop more adult and youth ball diamonds.

## 4.5 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The recommended park and open space plan is not complete until the steps required to implement the plan have been specified. This section includes a description of the actions required by the Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources and Transportation, Racine County, and the Village of Caledonia to implement the recommended park and open space plan for the Village.

### **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has authority and responsibility for developing parks, protecting natural resources, managing water quality, and regulating use of waters of the State. Certain WDNR functions are particularly important in implementing county and local park and open space plans. The Department has the obligation to prepare a comprehensive Statewide outdoor recreation plan and to develop long-range water resource management plans; the authority to protect, develop, and regulate the use of State parks, forests, fish and game, lakes and streams, certain plant life, and other natural resources; and the authority to administer, within the State, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund



(LWCF) program and the Wisconsin Stewardship Program. The LWCF and Wisconsin Stewardship programs are intended to assist in acquiring and developing local parks and urban green spaces.

More specifically, in relation to implementing the Village park and open space plan, it is important that the WDNR endorse the plan, thus qualifying the Village for available State and Federal outdoor recreation grants to support implementing the plan.

### **Wisconsin Department of Transportation**

It is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) construct the bicycle ways (bicycle lanes, paved shoulders, widened outside travel lanes, and enhanced bicycle facilities) recommended by this park and open space plan to be provided within the right-of-way of a State trunk highway or connecting highway at the time the street or highway is constructed, reconstructed, or resurfaced. It is recognized that major bicycle-related improvements, such as the addition of bicycle lanes, may not be able to be accommodated at the time a street is resurfaced. However, consideration should be given to restriping the street or making other improvements to better accommodate bicycle travel. It is anticipated that paving highway shoulders to accommodate bicycle travel may be accomplished at the time a street or highway is resurfaced. The State should make proper arrangements to maintain bicycle facilities, including, if necessary, entering into operating or maintenance agreements with other units or agencies of government.

It is also recommended that WisDOT continue to make transportation grants available for the construction of the recommended bikeways, including those recommended to be located off-street and on County and local streets.

It is further recommended that WisDOT promptly notify the WDNR, the County surveyor, the Village of Caledonia, and the Regional Planning Commission of any railway abandonment proposed within the Village. The Department should work with the aforementioned agencies to evaluate the feasibility of acquiring the railway right-of-way proposed to be abandoned for trail development and/or other recreational purposes.

### **Racine County**

The Racine County Park and Open Space Plan sets forth the following implementation responsibilities for Racine County.

#### ***Parks***

With respect to parks and facilities located within the Village, it is recommended that the County provide additional recreational facilities at Cliffside Park. Racine County is also responsible for maintaining other County-owned park and open space sites within the Village and environs, including the River Bend Nature Center, Tabor Sokol Memorial Park, Quarry Lake Park, and Horlick Park. Racine County should also acquire environmentally-sensitive lands for resource protection purposes, especially along the Root River.

#### ***Trail Facilities***

Racine County is responsible for maintaining the Lake Michigan Trail and developing the Root River Trail within the Village. The County is also responsible for maintaining bicycle routes within the Village associated with the Racine County Route System. Racine County should also continue to acquire lands along the Root River as part of the parkway system for natural resource protection, where feasible, and develop appropriate recreational facilities associated with the Root River and other resource-oriented activities in these areas.

#### ***Water Trails***

The County plan recommends developing a water trail along the Root River and providing access sites and associated support facilities with the existing Lake Michigan Water Trail within and adjacent to the Village. These trails would connect with water trails in adjacent counties.

### **Village of Caledonia**

Under the park and open plan for the Village, shown on Maps 4.1 and 4.2, the Village of Caledonia would have responsibility for providing a variety of outdoor recreation sites and facilities, including the acquisition and development of 15 new park sites and associated recreational facilities; the development of new recreational facilities at 10 existing Village park and open space sites; the acquisition of land for

park expansion at Crawford Park, Gorney Park, and the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge; the development or improvement of recreational facilities at seven existing park sites; the acquisition of land and development for off-street trails; the development of on-street bikeways; and the continued improvement and maintenance of all existing Village parks and recreational facilities. Implementing these recommendations would meet the outdoor recreation needs of Village residents, and protect areas having important natural resources. It is also recommended that any existing outdoor recreation facility not meeting the accessibility requirements set forth in the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act be brought into compliance in a timely fashion.

It is recommended the Village of Caledonia develop a system of bike and pedestrian facilities, including about 22 miles of off-street pathways and about 55 miles of on-street bikeways. It is also recommended that the Village work with Racine County to develop the Root River Water Trail and maintain and enhance the Lake Michigan Water Trail.

### **Plan Costs**

Implementing the park and open space plan for the Village of Caledonia, as presented herein and summarized in Table 4.4, would entail a total cost to the Village of \$4,380,000 over the five-year plan implementation period from 2018 through 2022. This includes park-related improvements based on input from the Village's Parks and Recreation Commission. Costs associated with the general maintenance of existing park facilities are not included in that total.

The cost to the Village for acquiring parks and open spaces, or developing recreational facilities, could be reduced through the use of alternative methods of land acquisition, such as dedication and conservation easements. State, Federal, and private grants for park or open space acquisition and facility development may also help reduce the cost to the Village of implementing this plan. Donations from the public and/or private businesses or organizations may also be used to develop park facilities.

## **4.6 SUMMARY**

The recommended park and open space plan consists of both areawide park and open space recommendations and Village park and open space recommendations. The areawide park and open space recommendations are based on the Racine County park and open space plan.

The key components of the plan are as follows:

- The WDNR should endorse the plan, thereby making the Village eligible to apply for and receive State and Federal grants for acquiring park and open space lands and developing outdoor recreation facilities. It is also recommended that the State of Wisconsin, and more specifically, the University of Wisconsin (UW) – Parkside, continue to manage and maintain the Renak-Polak Maple-Beech Woods, a State Natural Area, and acquire additional lands associated with the natural area for resource protection purposes.
- The park and open space plan recommends that the Village of Caledonia continue to cooperate with WisDOT and Racine County to develop on-street bikeways. The proposed Village of Caledonia bike and pedestrian system is 77 miles in length, including about 22 miles of off-street trails and about 55 miles of on-street bikeways. The Village should also work with Racine County and, as appropriate, nonprofit conservation organizations to develop the Root River Water Trail and develop and maintain the Lake Michigan Water Trail.
- WisDOT should give consideration to bicyclists when constructing or reconstructing State trunk highways or connecting highways and notify interested parties of any railway abandonment proposed within the Village of Caledonia.
- Racine County should continue to provide and maintain one major park, Cliffside Park, within the Village, and provide additional picnic facilities and trails and develop a nature study center at the park. The County may also consider developing a disc golf course at the park if a public-private partnership were established to fund the development. The County should continue to maintain

the River Bend Nature Center, Tabor Sokol Memorial Park, and Root River Parkway lands, which are County-owned sites located within the Village.

The County should continue to maintain the MRK Trail and the bicycle route amenities associated with the Racine County Bicycle Route within the Village. It is recommended that the County continue to acquire lands associated with the Root River Parkway system and develop the Root River Trail within the Village. It is further recommended that the County consider developing a water trail and appropriate support facilities on the Root River and develop access sites and the appropriate support facilities associated with the existing Lake Michigan Water Trail. The County should also continue to protect County-owned lands and acquire an additional 258 acres of important natural resource areas associated with natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and geological sites within the Village as recommended in the regional natural areas plan.

- The plan recommends that the Village acquire 47 acres of open space preservation areas for resource-protection or recreation purposes. The Village currently owns 199 acres of open space preservation areas. It is recommended that the Village also acquire 200 acres of land for new community and neighborhood parks or for expansion of existing parks, including eight acres within open space preservation areas. The Village should also acquire and protect the Caledonia Wildlife Area natural area as called for under the regional natural areas plan.
- The park and open space plan recommends developing or improving seven existing Village-owned parks to upgrade and modernize facilities and equipment. These developments or improvements are likely to occur from 2018 to 2022.
- The park and open space plan recommends acquiring and developing recreational facilities for 15 new Village community or neighborhood parks to help ensure that parks and recreational facilities are well-distributed throughout the Village and, thereby, convenient to all residents. The plan recommends acquiring lands for expansion at Crawford Park, Gorney Park, and the Nicholson Wildlife Refuge. The plan also recommends developing new recreational facilities and improving existing recreational facilities at 10 existing Village parks and open space sites. The park expansions to Gorney Park and Nicholson Wildlife Refuge and the developments are likely to occur after 2022.
- The cost to the Village to implement the park and open space plan would be \$4,380,000 over the five-year period from 2018 through 2022. Costs for additional park acquisition or facility development recommended by the plan beyond 2022 will be determined through capital improvements programming by the Village.