

Village of Williams Bay: Community Outdoor Recreation Plan  
Adopted November 7, 2011



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Village Clerk:	Jacqueline Hopkins, 262-245-2700
Building Inspector:	Jerry Anderson, 262-245-2704
Director of Public Works:	Jerry Mehring, 262-245-2706
Village Attorney:	Mr. Mark Schroeder Consigny Law Firm, S.C. Janesville, WI 53545 608-755-5050
Village Engineer:	Mr. Douglas Snyder Baxter & Woodman, Inc. Burlington, WI 53105 262.763.7834

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# Community Outdoor Recreation Plan OUTLINE

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION



Broadly defined, recreation is an activity or experience undertaken solely for the pleasure or satisfaction derived from it. Recreation can be experienced indoors or outdoors. It encompasses a wide variety of human activities ranging from rest and reflection to learning and teaching; from development of personal and social skills, to meeting challenges and recovering from failures. Recreation should be enjoyable and includes both mental and physical exercise, personal and interpersonal experience, and self provided and socially observed entertainment. Although recreational preferences may vary from individual to individual, recreation should occupy a significant place in every person's life. This Community Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) will encompass the greater picture of recreational activities in our community and build on the solid foundation laid by earlier planners and visionaries.

A variety of parks and recreational facilities, including open space lands, must be provided to offer opportunities for participation in a wide range of active (exercise oriented) and passive (mental enjoyment) recreational pursuits. The primary purpose of the CORP for the Village of Williams Bay is to guide the preservation, acquisition and development of lands in significant percentages for parks, outdoor recreation activities, and related open space purposes to satisfy the recreational needs of the resident population of the Village and to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base.

It is envisioned that the adoption and update of this plan will continue the Village's eligibility to apply for and receive Federal and State aids. Such grants will be used to partially support the acquisition and development of needed park and open space sites and facilities.

The findings and recommendations of the *Community Outdoor Recreation Plan* for the Village of Williams Bay are drafted by the Parks & Lakefront Committee of the Village Board of Trustees. Review of the updated plan has been completed by the Village Board.

The following community partners were provided copies of the initial plan for review and input: Williams Bay Plan Commission, Williams Bay Master Plan Committee, Williams Bay School District, Cedar Point Park Association, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), Aurora University George Williams Campus, Norman B. Barr, Holiday Home Camp, Wesley Woods, Conference Point Center, University of Chicago Yerkes Observatory and the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy. The completed revised plan will be shared with SEWRPC with the expectation of its inclusion in the "Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County".

This plan is organized as follows:

**Chapter II** presents information about the Village pertinent to Community Outdoor Recreation planning, including information on the population, land use patterns, the natural resource base and the existing park sites and open space lands within the Village.

**Chapter III** presents the Community Outdoor Recreation Plan for preservation, acquisition and development objectives, which will serve as the basis for the continuing work required to meet the needs of our residents and goals of our plan for the Village.

**Chapter IV** presents a description of park and open space needs in the Village, sets forth the recommended Community Outdoor Recreation plan and identifies actions required to carry out the recommended plan.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THE VILLAGE OF WILLIAMS BAY'S LAND USE, POPULATION, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCE FEATURES**



An understanding of the man-made and natural resource features of the Village of Williams Bay is essential to the preparation of a sound Community Outdoor Recreation Plan. This Chapter presents information on the existing population, land use patterns, park and open space sites and natural resource base of the Village. The first part of this chapter presents a description of pertinent characteristics of the Village, including land use patterns, a description of the resident population size and projected growth. The second part presents pertinent information on the existing park and open space sites, facilities and their needs. The third part presents a description of the environmental corridors and other important natural resource features.

#### **Williams Bay Land Use**

The Village of Williams Bay is located on the shores of Geneva Lake in all or part of Sections 1, 11 and 12 Township 1 North Range 16 East; Sections 5, 6 and 17 in Township 1 North Range 17 East; Section 36 Township 2 North Range 16 East and Section 31, Township 1 North, Range 17 East in the South Central portion of Walworth County, Wisconsin. The Village encompasses about 10% of the Geneva Lake watershed and about 20% of its shoreline.

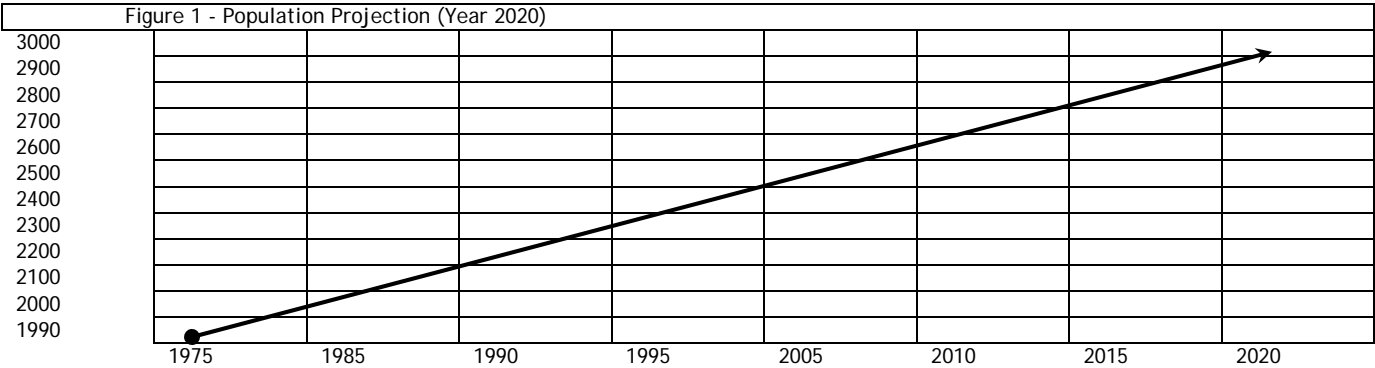
Table 1 summarizes Williams Bay's land use patterns. Williams Bay is approximately 2.65 sq miles in size. In 1980, approximately 40% of Williams Bay was in a low density residential land use. Subsequently, this residential land use category has increased and contains approximately 1,785 improved parcels served by municipal water and sewer.

**Table 1 Approximate Williams Bay Land Use, 2011**

<u>District</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>No.Parcels</u>	<u>Percent</u>
AH	Agricultural Holding	3	0.14
ER	Estate Residential	17	0.80
SF-1	Low Density Residential	16	0.75
SF-2	Large Lot Residential	117	5.55
SF-3	Suburban Residential	667	31.64
SF-6	Village Residential	660	31.30
TF	Two-Family Residential	83	3.93
MF-12	Small Multi-Family Residential	3	0.14
MF-18	Large Multi-Family Residential	133	6.30
SB	Small Business	4	0.18
VC	Village Center	112	5.31
LSB	Lakeshore Business	39	1.85
EC	Overlay	17	0.80
LI	Light Industrial	4	0.18
PDO	Overlay	175	8.30
PI	Public Instruction	44	2.08
PR	Parks and Recreation	14	0.66
Total			<u>2,108</u>

Williams Bay Population

Figure 1 graphically represents Williams Bay's permanent residential population and projected growth. Based on past trends, this Plan envisions the population to reach about 2,700 by the year 2015. According to the State of Wisconsin, the 2010 census figure of the year-round resident population is 2,700.



Williams Bay is a resort community, whose seasonal residents are not accounted for in this year 2015 projection. About 40% of the Village homes are owned by seasonal residents. When the seasonal residents are added in, the year 2015 summer population of 3,500 people may reside in the Village.

This seasonal group tends to be recreationally oriented and has made deliberate decisions to locate in our village because of the availability of those recreational opportunities. In addition to the year around and summer populations, we experience an additional 1,700 transient visitors who occupy the motels and four recreational camps within the Village limits. It is expected that the recreational camp population will remain stable, as it has since this report was originally prepared in 2005.

The Plan envisions the anticipated 2015 growth will occur within the existing Village limits and by annexation. New residential growth is anticipated in the boundaries of the Village's extraterritorial zone.

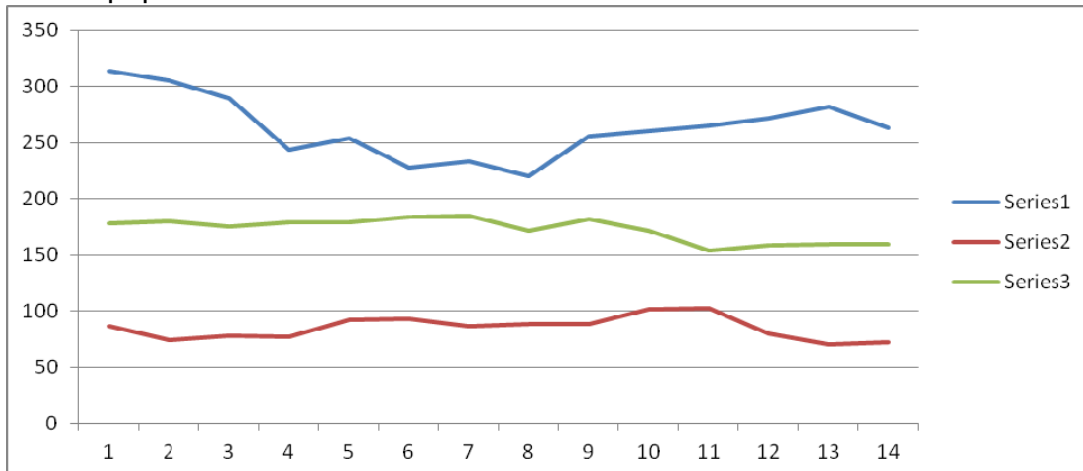
When reviewing past United States census figures, the plan finds that the Village resident's median age has increased to over 41 years and family size has decreased. This older population requires special recreational consideration in the area of passive recreation. Historically, Williams Bay has experienced a large senior population. A recent influx of residents from the surrounding area and northern Illinois has increased our school age population over the last 15 years.

School population 1997-2010:



	Elementary (K-5)	Jr. High (6,7,8)	Sr. High (9,10,11,12)
2010	314	87	178
2009	305	75	180
2008	289	78	175
2007	244	77	179
2006	254	92	179
2005	228	93	184
2004	233	87	185
2003	220	89	172
2002	256	89	182
2001	260	102	172
2000	265	103	154
1999	272	80	159
1998	282	71	160
1997	263	73	160

School population- 15 Year Trend



## Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities

### Private Facilities

Williams Bay's private recreational facilities offer extensive recreational opportunities to its visitors. This opportunity is vested in four large recreation areas located in the southwestern portion of the community adjacent to Geneva Lake. In total, Aurora University- George Williams Campus, Conference Point Camp, Wesley Woods Camp, Holiday Home, and Norman B. Barr (See Appendix 1) possess a maximum daily population in excess of 1,000 visitors.

These facilities provide active and passive outdoor recreational facilities for their patrons and are felt to be recreationally self-sufficient and self-serving. In general, these facilities provide limited active recreational opportunities, such as golf or baseball, to the community and only rarely use community recreational facilities. It is important to note that these camps offer a considerable amount of open space that is in a natural and undisturbed state. As such, this district offers passive recreational and natural resource base protection to the community.

Figure 2 (below) summarizes these private facilities' recreational amenities. In general, it is felt that the camp recreational facility meets or exceeds the needs of the camps.

**Figure 2**

Facility	<u>Aurora University</u>	<u>Conference Point Camp</u>	<u>Wesley Woods</u>	<u>Holiday Home</u>	<u>Norman B. Barr</u>
Baseball fields	yes (4)	yes (1)	yes (1)	yes (1)	no
Basketball courts	yes (2)	yes (2)	No	yes (1)	no
other courts*	V,B	V	V	no	no
supervised swimming	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
supervised boating	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
cross country skiing	yes	yes	yes	No	no
toboggan run	yes	no	No	No	no
fitness trail	yes	no	No	No	no
tot lot	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
camp fire area	yes (5)	yes	yes (3)	yes (4)	yes
nature trail	yes (1)	no	No	yes	no
music pavilion	yes				
walking tour	yes				

\* V = volleyball, S = shuffleboard, T = tetherball, B = badminton

Yerkes Observatory- University of Chicago, provides unique historic, aesthetic and natural resource charm to the Village of Williams Bay. The grounds and woodlands encompass approximately 80 acres. This architecturally significant building was constructed prior to the turn of the century in order to house the world's largest refracting telescope. The famous landscape architect, Henry Olmstead, designed the grounds in 1914. The property now contains numerous excellent specimen trees, some of which are the largest in the state. Although people walk and drive around the grounds, the property is private.

Saturday tours of the observatory are offered by the University of Chicago staff. The woods on this property and adjoining camp district woodlands exhibit some of the best remaining examples of mesic woodlands in southeastern Wisconsin.

We must note that the University of Chicago expressed an interest in changing the structure, ownership and significant land usage of the Observatory grounds. This was met with well planned and considerable deliberation on the part of the Village board and residents. The response and work resulted in nothing being changed or more positively the response and work resulted in this historic, aesthetic and natural resource continuing to be a significant resource for our community and residents.

## **Subdivision Parks**

In total, private & public subdivision parks in Williams Bay encompass about 12.5 acres.

### **Private Parks**

Many small subdivision parks exist in numerous west shore subdivisions such as Loch Vista Club, Summer Haven and Oakwood Estates as well as Cedar Point Park subdivision (See Appendix 2) on the east side of the shore. In general, they provide park and lake related (swimming and boating) recreational opportunities for over 800+ subdivision residents.

### **Public Parks**

#### **Baywood Heights Park - 2 Acres**

This park contains two tennis courts, a basketball court, tot lot and parking. It is a neighborhood park to service the general area of this subdivision (See Appendix 3).

No further recommendations are felt necessary for this site, other than to maintain appropriate playground surfacing material as required by standards for fall zones under park playground equipment.

#### **Prairie View Park - 1 Acre**

This park contains a tot lot and street parking. It is a neighborhood park to service the general area of this subdivision. No further recommendations are felt necessary for this site, other than to maintain appropriate playground surfacing material as required by standards for fall zones under equipment.

This park contains a tot lot and retention pond with surrounding parking. It is a neighborhood park to service the general area of this subdivision (See Appendix 4).

No further recommendations are felt necessary for this site, other than to maintain appropriate playground surfacing material as required by standards for fall zones under equipment.

## **Frost Park - 3/4 Acre**

Frost Park provides passive recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Its greatest contribution to Williams Bay is its visual attractiveness. Recently installed landscaping and a large corner flower box compliment this area. No further recommendations are felt necessary. This park became a focal point for the collaboration with the High School History club, club members and the village (See Appendix 5).

The History Club researched the site and development of Frost Park, found original stone paths, held fund raisers for plantings and worked with a local landscape architect to renew Frost Park to its previous status nearly 100 years ago. This was clearly not a "passive recreational opportunity" as the undertaking was hours and hours of research and hard work. The payoff continues and will continue for all residents and visitors alike. Additionally, the resident directly east of the park is donating approximately 13 feet of the mutual lot line to the Village to ensure that the original fence and park are maintained as one parcel. The transfer of that parcel to the community should be completed by early 2012.

## **Publically Owned Parks**

### **Williams Bay Elementary School - 2 Acres**

This school serves students pre-k through 8th grade. Its acreage is small and is capable of meeting the recreational needs of the current school population. The school playground serves adequately as a neighborhood playground for the close-by neighbors. Facilities include playground apparatus, two basketball courts or just standards, two soccer goals and a ball field with backstop. Open space is available for other field games, such as football and soccer. The playground is fenced. No further recommendations are felt necessary for this site, other than to maintain appropriate playground surfacing material as required by standards for fall zones under equipment (See Appendix 6).

### **Middle and High School - 78 acres**

Constructed in 1996, the school lies west of the Village center. One football field with lights and stands, practice field and a softball field have been completed. A two acre prairie was planted and four basketball standards have been installed. The parking lots and surrounding sidewalks are used for walking, skateboarding and rollerblading. An indoor swimming pool would be a welcome addition for the school aged population and the community at large (See Appendix 7).

### **Theater Road (Public School) Athletic Field - 13 3/4 Acres**

This facility presently is used for soccer and baseball and contains a parking lot with an adjoining shower and locker building (See Appendix 8).

This facility was built on a 99 year land lease from the Village for the purpose of playing and practicing numerous team sports and is maintained by the school district. Because of its remote location, access to this site is difficult for the non-driving public.

The Plan recommends that a bike trail be developed along the sewer force main from the Grandview Hill to this area. This path, in its current form is available but very rough.

Since the adoption of this plan, this field has developed into a much greater part of the Villages total recreation program. Numerous skill building activities are held here and residents now see this as a very viable area for recreation purposes.

The trail from Grandview Hill leading to Theater Road fields has been completed. Signage is up during winter snowmobile and snowshoeing use. When Theater Road was resurfaced in 2010, the village insisted the work include widening the east side to create a safe and dedicated bicycle and walking path that now runs from Geneva Street north to Bailey Road.

Work will be completed by December of 2011 which will widen Geneva Street from highway 67 east to the village limits which will create a safe and dedicated bicycle and walking path for residents and visitors to access the lakefront, parks, conservancy and connected to paths already in place.

### **Lakefront Park Area - 10 Acres**

Facilities provided at Williams Bay's most heavily used park include park benches, picnic tables, playground apparatus, brick walking path, shelter building, swimming beach and bathhouse, event area and a boat launch area with an adjacent washroom facilities. Restroom facilities are provided in the beach and shelter building. Three municipal piers offer extensive fishing opportunities and slips for ninety boats. East Park, the beach, and the boat launch area are each about one acre in size. Edgewater Park and the parking areas are about two acres each and the area located between Edgewater and East Park is four and one-half acres (See Appendix 9).

For the current completed season, 6,500 used the boat launch in 2011, 273 bought season passes and used them 1,800 times. About 6,100 nonresidents pay to use the beach annually with about one-third under the age of 12. 6,000 residents entered the beach with use of their resident tag and 1,600 entered the beach as a guest of a resident. One could include resident usage as well and season passes and season pass boat usage numbers. The Village has an extensive swim and lifesaving instruction program in conjunction with and run by the Water Safety Patrol. On many weekends throughout the year, Edgewater Park is utilized for specific community events.

The Plan envisions more planned recreation activities for the community including age specific for our seniors, minor landscaping at Edgewater Park has been completed at no Village cost, minor landscaping and rip-rap at East Park has been completed and will be updated as necessary for continued enjoyment.

Extension of the shore path between the beach and East Park along with the construction of a foot bridge has provided our "walkers as well as runners" a secure and comfortable shore path.

The beach house has been totally rebuilt and is a welcoming facility for all of our lakefront recreational visitors. The boat launch pad was reconstructed in 1998 and is now having resurfacing as well as installation of an underground collection system for surface run off and separation of gas, oil and other contaminants before going into the lake.

In keeping with the Village's desire to improve and grow, the existing policies for use of the entire lakefront were reviewed in the spring of 2011. This review resulted in changes which have demonstrated a much greater "ease of use" for those wishing to launch at the harbor area as well as accessing the beach area.

The Plan envisions a thorough review of all playgrounds and/or tot lots to insure they are appropriate for our children as well as meeting A.S.T.M federal standards for surface cover and fall zones.

A multi-seasonal bicycle path is planned to connect all village parks, schools, Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy, the lakefront beach, Yerkes Observatory, and Aurora University. This bicycle path will provide safe passage through the village without entering the intersection of Highway 67 and Geneva Street. The planned path will be a combination of roadside and off road trails.

#### **Wetland Complex: Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy(KNC) - 231 Acres**

North of Geneva Street, the Village owns about 231 acres of wetlands and uplands which is zoned conservancy. This tract is of significant value with threatened and endangered plant species. The wetland is the second largest wetland remaining in the Geneva Lake watershed and by far the most intact. Kishwauketoe offers a unique educational opportunity for children and adults. The Conservancy has an entrance garden with a shelter, a two-story viewing tower, acres of wildflowers, an arboretum with over 100 native trees and a 1,000 foot wetland boardwalk. The area has 4 miles of trails used for walking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Two small ponds attract amphibians and a variety of birds. The goal is to restore the land to represent the area in pre-settlement times (See **Appendix 10**).

#### **Lions Field - 10 Acres**

Two tennis courts, a basketball court, three baseball fields, three soccer fields, tot playground and an asphalt ice skating area, which is used for parking in summer, constitute the whole of the active outdoor recreation facilities provided here. The Lions Field House, a component of the overall Village recreation program, is located adjacent to the park but is not evaluated in this inventory because of being an indoor facility. The Lions Club donated an extensive reworking and re-seeding of the soccer and baseball fields. The Plan envisions a volleyball court and two additional tennis courts with lighting (See **Appendix 11**).

## **Grandview Hill - 15 Acres**

Grandview Hill lies west of Lions Field. It features the newly constructed Village Hall, a rare fen, woods and a scenic overview of Geneva Lake. In the past, the area included an organized downhill ski facility, toboggan slide and ski jump (See **Appendix 12**).

Currently, a snowmobile (See **Appendix 15**) and snowshoeing trail traverses the hill with the remaining area used for occasional sledding and tobogganing. The Plan recommends greater summer and winter recreational usage by establishing a connecting bicycle trail, picnic area, nature trails, improved natural areas, toboggan run and cross country skiing, walking and jogging trails.

## **Lake Related Activities**

Lake related activities are probably some of the most important recreational uses in the Village. Simply viewing Geneva Lake's waters is an important passive recreational activity. Many people swim at the numerous private subdivision beaches. Some use the lake for fishing and ice boating.

A substantial Village seasonal and year around population use the lake for boating purposes, in addition to those who launch at the municipal launch site. Approximately 900 boats were moored along Williams Bay's shoreline in 2011. About one fourth of these craft are moored on buoys with the remainder on piers or on the shore. About one half of these craft are larger power boats and one-third are sail boats and personal watercraft. The number of craft in the Village represents 21% of the total Geneva Resident boat population.

## **Public Recreation, Park Facilities and Programs**

An important step in the planning for Williams Bay's recreational needs is to inventory existing parks and recreation areas. This inventory includes an accurate measure of the acreage of publicly owned properties developed or designated for recreational use.

The inventory also includes an analysis of the number, condition, and perceived deficits of existing facilities and of land development potential for parks within the community. A discussion and recommendations of each existing area follows.

## **Walking Paths, Bicycle, Snowshoeing and Snowmobile Trails**

A perpetual easement allows for a continuous 26 mile lake shore walking path. Williams Bay's portion encompasses four miles that parallels Geneva Lake's shoreline. This shore path walk highlights some of Geneva Lake's finest homes and goes through several of the camp districts. Williams Bay's section is in good condition.

Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy offers about four miles of walking trails (See **Appendix 13**).

A walking trail is proposed that would circle the Village to the north connecting the Camp District and exhibiting most of the Village's best natural resource features and would complement the lakeshore trail. GWC - Aurora University has a well developed walking "tour" of the entire campus. Although not "public" property, the walking paths and grounds are generally available to the public. Confirmation should be made directly with GWC - Aurora University.

A bicycle trail is proposed in the Grandview Hill area that doubles as a walking trail. This would allow access to this public school athletic field without traversing Geneva Street. A community bicycle trail is also warranted (See **Appendix 14**).

There are approximately two miles of snowshoeing and snowmobile trails through the Village, most of which crosses public land. No improvements are felt necessary for this trail system.

## **Aurora University Golf Course and Play Field - 79 Acres**

Although privately owned, the 18-hole golf course is open to the public at very reasonable rates. The course is readily accessible to all golfers in Williams Bay and is so near to the Village as to be considered a contributor to the community beauty, open space, and recreational needs. The course doubles as a cross country ski and toboggan area in the winter.

The University owns an eight acre parcel located adjacent to the golf course. This area contains play fields used for various public sporting activities. No further recommendations are felt necessary for these sites.

## **Recreational Program**

The Village board has approved the staffing of two 25 hour per week professionals to manage the Village recreational program and will be developing a recreation plan that encompasses programs and opportunities for residents and participants of all ages.

The recreation department will continue to work with Aurora University as well as the University of Wisconsin Whitewater and others that will allow us to be building for the recreational needs of our community year round and for the future.



Examples of program plans and currently offered opportunities can be found through the Village website at <http://www.williamsbay.org> or the recreation department at <http://www.wbreccenter.org>

## Environmental Corridors

A description of the environmental corridors in the Village of Williams Bay is presented below. Ecological balance and natural beauty provide a pleasant and habitable environment for all forms of life. Preservation of the most significant aspects of the natural resource base, including environmental corridors, is essential to the social and economic well-being of an area.

Environmental corridors are areas in which concentrations of recreational, aesthetic, ecological and cultural resources occur which are essential to the maintenance of both the ecological balance and natural beauty. They should be preserved and protected in essentially natural, open uses. Such areas normally include one or more of the following elements of the natural resource base:

- Lakes, Rivers, Streams
- Wetlands
- Woodlands
- Prairies
- Wildlife habitat areas
- Rugged terrain and high-relief topography

There are five additional elements, which, although not part of the natural resource base as such, are closely related to that base. They are a determining factor in identifying recreational, aesthetic, ecological and cultural values. These elements are:

- Existing park and open space sites
- Potential park and open space sites
- Historic sites
- Significant scenic areas and vistas
- Natural and scientific areas

The delineation of the eleven natural resource and natural resource-related elements results in an essentially linear pattern of relatively narrow, elongated areas which have been termed "environmental corridors" by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Primary environmental corridors are at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural areas are smaller in size but equally important as primary environmental corridors.

It is important to point out that an environmental corridor and isolated natural areas can assist in pollution abatement and favorably modify our natural and social environment. In addition, the destruction or deterioration of important elements of the total environment may lead to unwanted chain reactions. The drainage of wetlands may have far reaching effects, since such drainage may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge areas and natural infiltration and floodwater storage areas. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to a deterioration of the quality of the groundwater which serves as a source of municipal water supply, and upon which flows of rivers and streams may depend.

### **Primary Environmental Corridors**

About 400 acres, or 25% of the community, meets the primary environmental corridor criteria as set forth by Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. About one third of the Village was designated as an environmental corridor in 1991.

The corridor encompasses all of Geneva Lake's shoreline, most all of the private and public parks, the private recreational camps and Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy.

The primary environmental corridors include the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat areas. They are, in effect, a composite of the best remaining elements of the natural resource base of the Village. These corridors have truly immeasurable environmental and recreational value. The protection of the primary environmental corridors from intrusion by incompatible uses should be one of the principal objectives of the Village park and open space plan. Their preservation in an essentially open and natural state including park and open space uses, and country estate type residential uses will serve to maintain a high level of environmental quality, protect its natural beauty and provide valuable recreation opportunities.

### **Isolated Natural Areas**

In addition to the primary environmental corridors, other small concentrations of natural resource base elements exist within the Village limits. These pockets are isolated from the primary environmental corridors by urban development.

They may provide the only available wildlife habitat in an area, provide good locations for local parks and natural areas, and lend unique and aesthetic character and natural diversity. Approximately 40 acres or 0.2% of the community is considered as isolated natural areas. This represents about the same amount of the isolated natural area as reported in 1991. About one half of this small acreage features woodlands in private ownership. This acreage is slated for development at a density that will cause this land to be removed from the isolated natural area category.

The Village owns about 20 acres of isolated natural area. This is located in the Grandview Hill area and encompasses wetland, woodland, and a fen (a rare wetland/prairie community). The fen is considered worthy of local protection by the Wisconsin DNR.



### CHAPTER III

#### PARK AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION, ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The following six park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives were formulated under the guidance of Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and are adapted and utilized in the development of the Community Outdoor Recreation plan for the Village of Williams Bay.

The Village of Williams Bay adopts the following objectives:

1. To provide and maintain integrated, sufficient, and high quality recreation sites and open space areas which will give year round and seasonal residents greater and more adequate opportunities to participate in.
2. To insure a wide range of outdoor recreation activities, as well as intensive resource and non-resource oriented outdoor recreation activities and safe land and water based activities.
3. To provide active and passive outdoor recreational activities for all ages of the Village's year around and seasonal residents.
4. To preserve sufficient lands in essentially open and natural uses to ensure the protection of the natural resource base, the environmental quality and the enhancement of social and economic well-being for all residents.
5. To efficiently and economically satisfy outdoor recreation and open space needs at the lowest possible cost.
6. To provide parks and open space on the basis of need, with each facility properly located and containing proper site amenities to satisfy the needs of all residents. Realizing that:

Private recreation sites such as the recreational camps and private parks will not provide for Village needs except for open space purposes or perhaps with a Village initiated joint venture participation with facility resources within or near our community.

Recreation is the key to Williams Bay's charm and economy and important to its tourist industry. Therefore, active and passive recreational demands are greater than normally required for a village of its size. The responsibility of providing large regional resource-oriented parks are delegated to the state and county government, other than our commitment to KNC.

## CHAPTER IV

### RECOMMENDED PLAN



The primary purpose of the park and open space planning program for the Village of Williams Bay is the preparation of a sound and workable plan. This Plan shall guide the acquisition and development of lands and facilities needed to satisfy the outdoor recreation demands of the year round and seasonal resident population and shall protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base. The Plan has determined the probable size and distribution of our population and the quantity and type of outdoor recreation site facilities.

To be determined in this chapter is the quantity and type of outdoor recreation sites, the facilities and open space needs to satisfy future recreation demands and the enhancement of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base.

Williams Bay has a large seasonal population, a resident population with a large percentage of senior citizens and a younger population; is a tourist oriented community and possesses a community commitment to resource based protection.

As such, the following recommendations generally exceed the minimum standards as proposed by Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Rather than using their standards, the following recommendations were arrived at by a community consensus approach.

The following are recommendations taken from Chapter II and a number of additional previously unmentioned items. These 17 recommendations are mentioned without priority.

1. The Lakefront Park is intensively used by the community. The Plan envisions the following improvements:

- The sailboat rigging area located north of Edgewater Park has been repurposed to allow for rigging as well as harbor waiting area and trailer completion tasks in 2011.
- Minor landscaping improvements, Edgewater Park completed 2011
- Landscaping and rip rap in East Park completed 2009
- A foot bridge and connecting trail from the beach to East Park completed 2006
- Replacement of some tot lot equipment and minor location adjustment, Edgewater Park completed in 2006.
- Replacement or major renovation for the beach house completed in 2006

2. Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy has become the crown jewel of the Williams Bay outdoor recreation plan. To this end, the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy District has been formed to assist in raising funds and restoration efforts. Additionally, this summer the Village board approved an overlay of additional protection of the conservancy with the Geneva Lake Conservancy. The Plan recommends the Conservancy implement a management plan including the following items:

- Fish habitat improvement
- Stream bank stabilization
- Forest management
- Nesting cover planting
- Prairie restoration
- Additional trails and wetland boardwalk
- Additional land acquisition (see #15 below)
- Sedge Meadow Restoration
- Arboretum Plant Nursery completed 2009

3. Lions field has recently experienced many improvements, thanks to the Williams Bay Lions Club. The Plan envisions the installation of the following items in order to complete the project:

- Ongoing softball field renovation plan
- Update of all bathrooms including ADA compliance will be completed by spring 2012
- Update of indoor facility with window coverings, general paint, etc. will be completed by spring 2012
- Move Lions Club storage items to available storage space and build out Recreation Program offices will be completed by winter 2011

4. Grandview Hill offers a wide variety of topographic features including a scenic view of Geneva Lake, winter sports potential, summer hiking and a wide variety of vegetation including a rare fen community. This plan recommends the implementation of the following recreational improvements:

- Toboggan run construction and an improved sledding area
- Cross country skiing and hiking trails
- Fen and low prairie improvement
- Picnic area development
- Connecting bicycle and walking trail to access the football field

5. The Village should construct a neighborhood park in the Willabay Woods subdivision area. The park would service the east end residents and children. At a minimum, a small play field and tot lot are proposed. This park would involve land acquisition or dedication, landscaping and equipment.

6. A bicycle trail is needed through the Village. A multi-seasonal bicycle path is planned to connect all village parks, schools, Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy, the lakefront beach, Yerkes Observatory, and Aurora University. This bicycle path will provide safe passage through the village without entering the intersection of Highway 67 and Geneva Street. The planned path will be a combination of roadside and off road trails.

In addition, the Village should create an unpaved bicycle and walking trail along the sewer force main line from the old seepage cell to the high school athletic field. This would create a recreational corridor from the Lions Field/Grandview Hill area to the athletic field. This will allow the community's youth to access the athletic field property without traversing along State Trunk Highway 67. Currently this trail is in place but needs some work with fill and leveling.

7. An interconnecting walking trail system is proposed to connect Williams Bay's best natural resource features. This proposed 3+ mile trail would connect the existing shore path to large woodlands on the eastern end of the Village, KNC, Grandview Hill, the Observatory and the camp district on the west. The establishment of such a trail would depend on voluntary co-operation and permission from all affected property owners.

8. Williams Bay possesses many buildings of architectural and historical significance especially in the camp district and Yerkes Observatory. These buildings and areas offer a unique passive recreational opportunity. A Williams Bay historical tour booklet listing location and significance should be generated and a historic preservation district should be established in order to protect, enhance and preserve our Village's cultural heritage.

9. An overlay zoning district should be created on all lands now designated as primary environmental corridor. Such an overlay district should be similar to Fontana's corridor overlay district and be operational in a similar manner as the Village's flood plain and fringe overlay districts. This is especially important due to the recent loss of the Village's corridor area. The cornerstone of this district would be the establishment of a five acre minimum lot size with homes clustered together in order to keep the corridor best protected. NOTE: According to SEWRPC: five acre parcel size can maintain adequate environmental integrity with regard to such sensitive and important lands.

10. Room tax revenues should be earmarked exclusively for Community Outdoor Recreation purposes. This is clearly the case in the village as yearly budgets demonstrate significantly more spent on community recreation programs than the amount collected from room taxes.

11. The Plan recommends that the developer's donation for park purposes should be raised to \$750 per lot. The developer should meet the recreational needs of the development in that recreational acreage should be commensurate with the size of the development. For example, any development in excess of 100 lots should be required to donate one acre for neighborhood park purposes. The per-lot fee is now \$750 and the remaining language is currently being improved and should be completed this calendar year (2011).

12. A park capital improvement program needs to be developed and implemented. A Village committee needs to implement this program and the Village of Williams Bay: Community Outdoor Recreation Plan.
13. As Geneva Lake is overcrowded from a boating standpoint, the Village should continue its joint effort with the other Geneva Lake communities to reduce boating pressure.
14. The Plan recommends an indoor swimming pool to be constructed jointly by the Village, School and Aurora University on the University's recently acquired parcel.
15. The following parcel should be considered for acquisition: The lower portion of the Odling gravel pit lying due north of the Village corporate limits on Hwy 67, north of Lions Field for community entrance and park and open space purposes.
16. The following parcels should be considered for acquisition: Two tracts north of Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy and one between Willabay Shores and Harris Road for park, open space and natural area purposes.
17. Purchase, lease or shared usage of a parcel in the village for development of an appropriately fenced area to serve as a Bark Park (a park for owners to bring their pet dog). Our community has a significant number of residents that own dogs and have demonstrated the need for an outdoor recreation area that can meet the entire "families." Additionally, it would draw a transient population to the village giving them the exposure to our lakefront, business community, conservancy and other amenities that makes the Village of Williams Bay the destination on Geneva Lake.

## CHAPTER V

### Summary



The findings of this *Community Outdoor Recreation Plan* for the Village of Williams Bay were reviewed by numerous private and governmental groups and adopted by the Village Board. The update of what is now the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has been reviewed and approved and adopted by the Village Board.

Williams Bay is about 2.65 sq. miles in size, with about 40% in low density urban land use. The Village's environmental corridors, concentrations of ecological, recreational, cultural or aesthetic resources encompass approximately one fourth of the community. The environmental corridor acreage and percent of the total Village lands has decreased significantly since 1991.

The Village's population is envisioned to grow to over 2,770 by the year 2015. When the seasonal residents are added, the 2015 population is anticipated to be 4,800. This growth will be by in filling and annexation.

About 400 private and public acres are available for outdoor passive and active recreation, most of which is in public ownership. Many private recreation facilities occur, mostly located in the camp district.

The camps are felt to be recreationally self sufficient and at this time, are not envisioned to assist in this program.

The plan's objectives are to provide a wide range of high quality active and passive recreational opportunities in its existing and proposed recreational and open space sites.

This shall be done with regard to all of the Village's year around and seasonal residents at the lowest possible cost and the greatest safety.

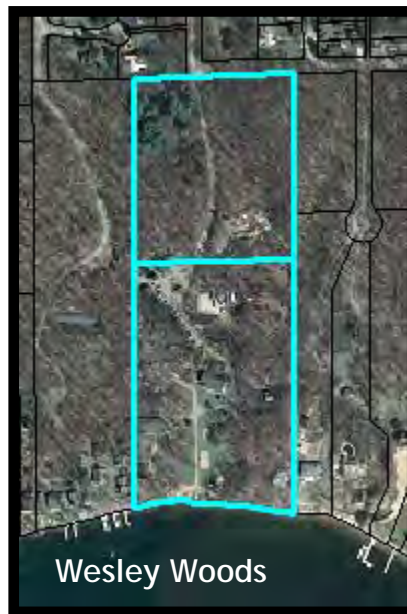
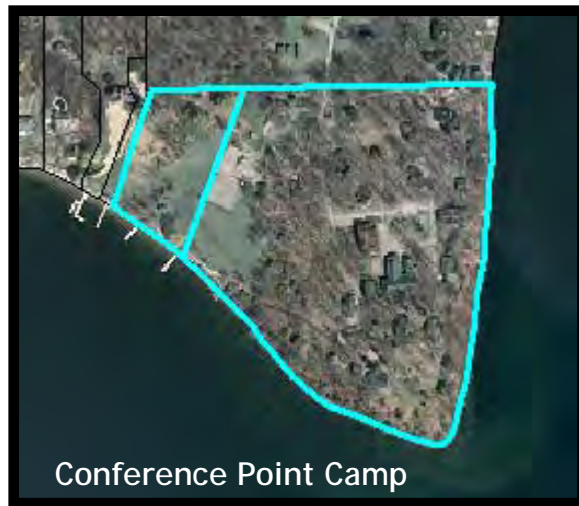
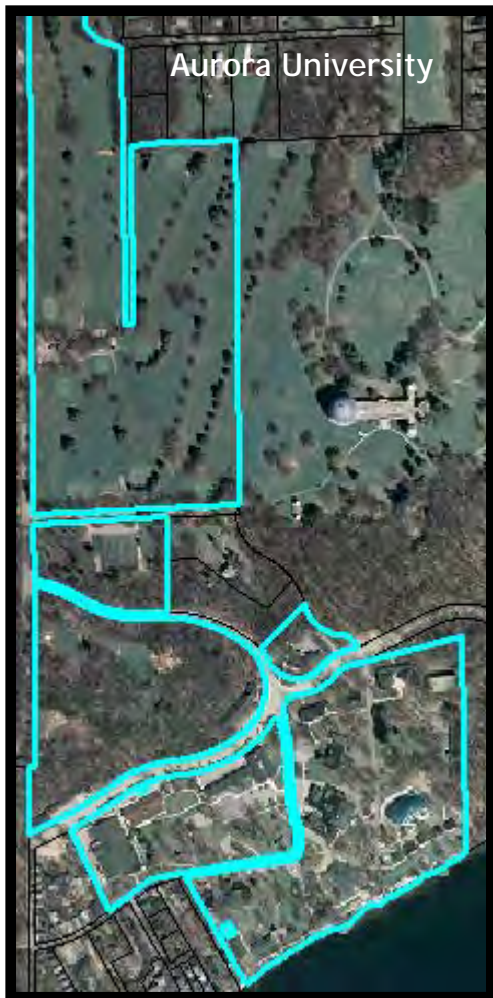
The plan goes beyond minimum standards because of Williams Bay's recreationally oriented population, shrinking natural areas and many other unique needs. The recommended 17 point plan calls for the upgrading of the Lakefront Park system, upgrading of Lions field, the installation of bicycle and walking trails and a community swimming pool. The Village's architectural and historical heritage should be identified and preserved. In addition a capital improvement program, developer's park dedication and land acquisition are mentioned as needing attention.

Originally adopted April 17, 2006  
Revised and adopted November 7, 2011  
Board of Trustees  
Village of Williams Bay

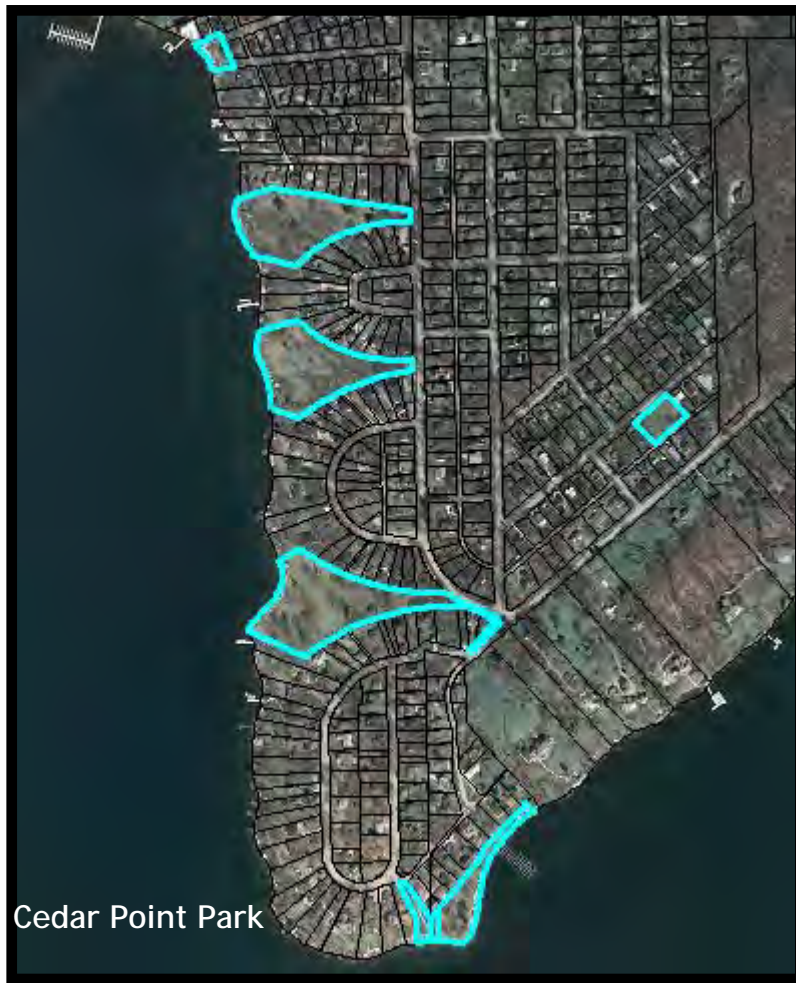


## APPENDICES (1 through 15)

## Appendix 1



## Appendix 2



## Appendix 3





## Appendix 4



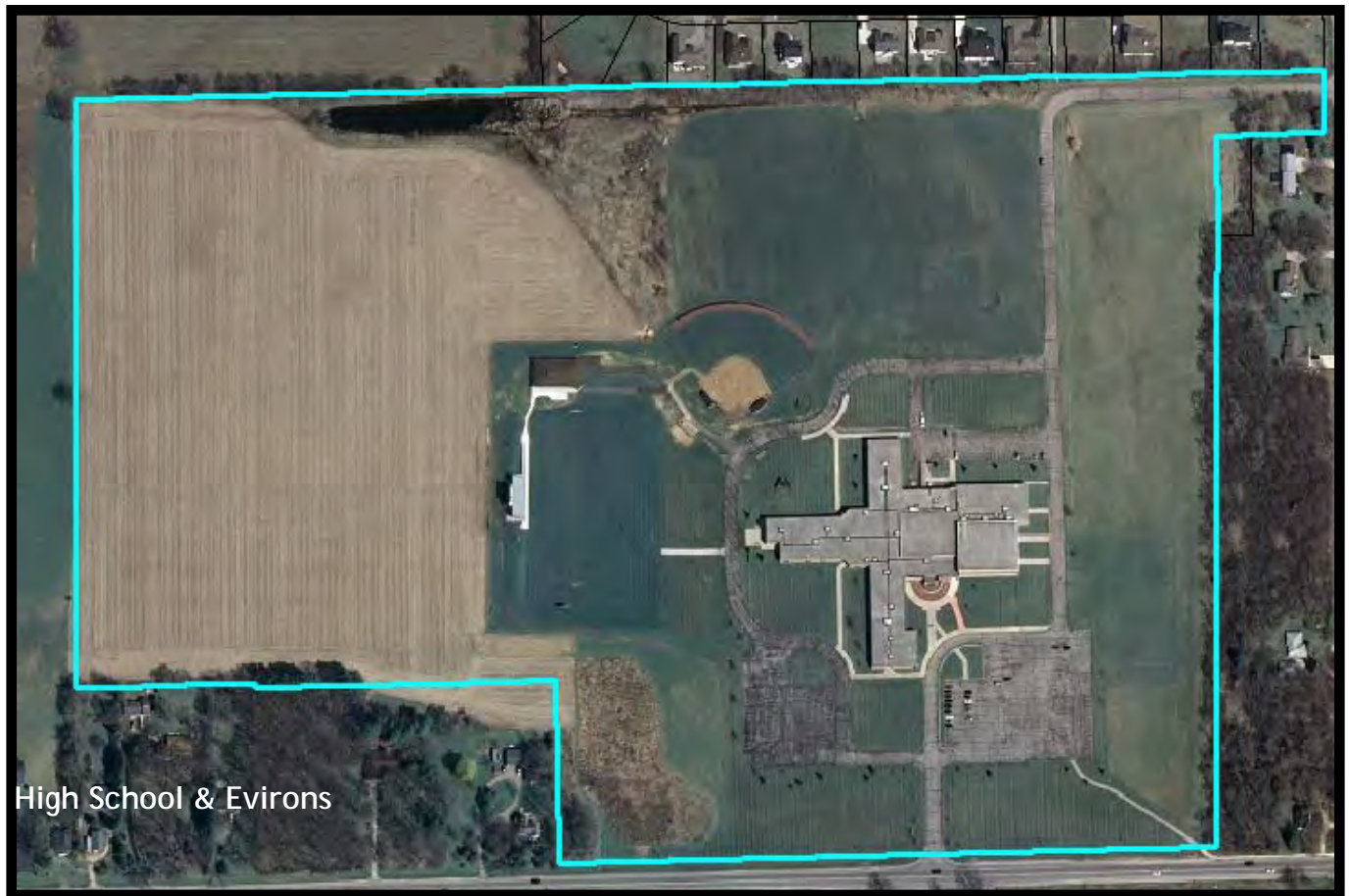
## Appendix 5



## Appendix 6



## Appendix 7





## Appendix 8



## Appendix 9



## Appendix 10



## Appendix 11

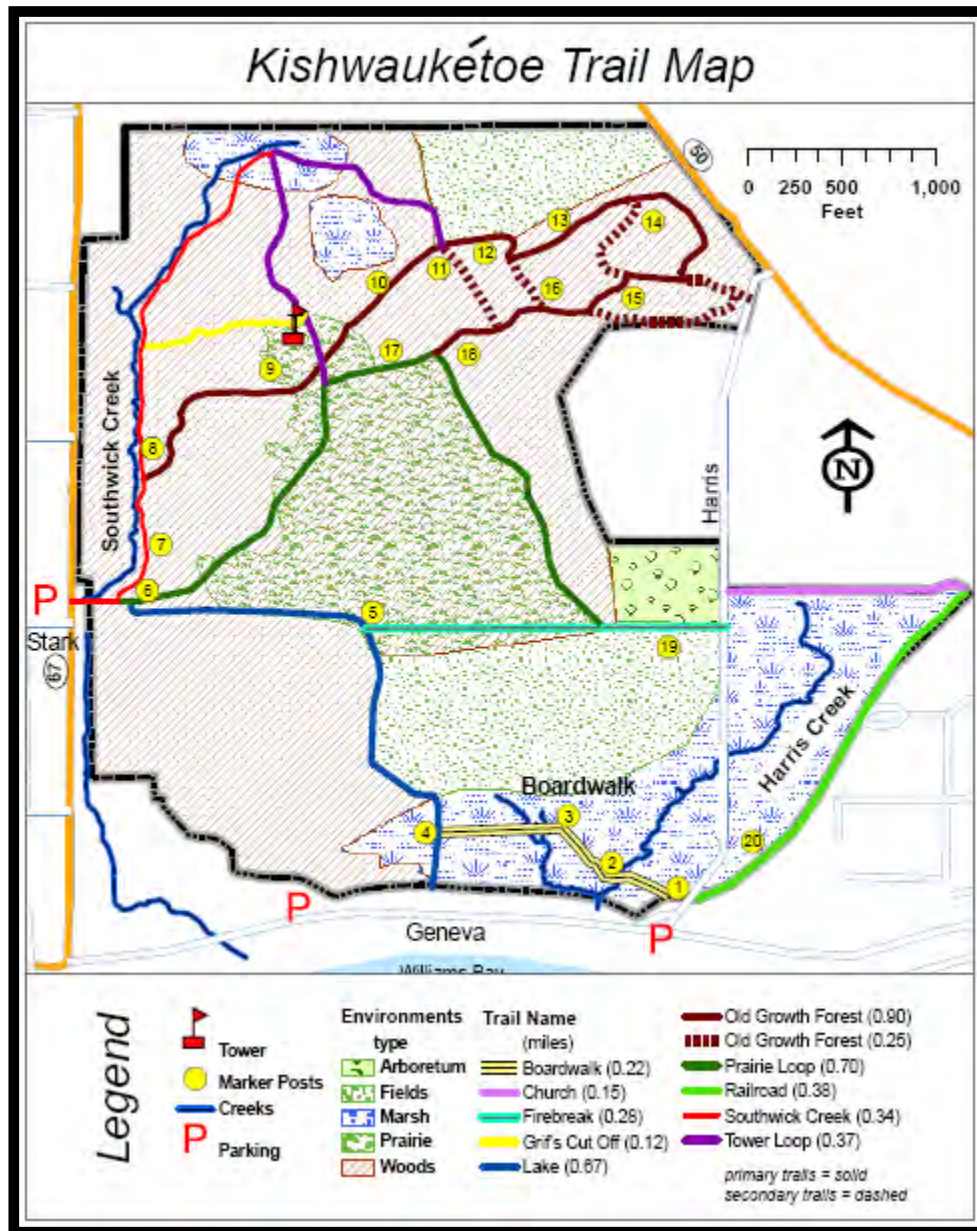


## Appendix 12

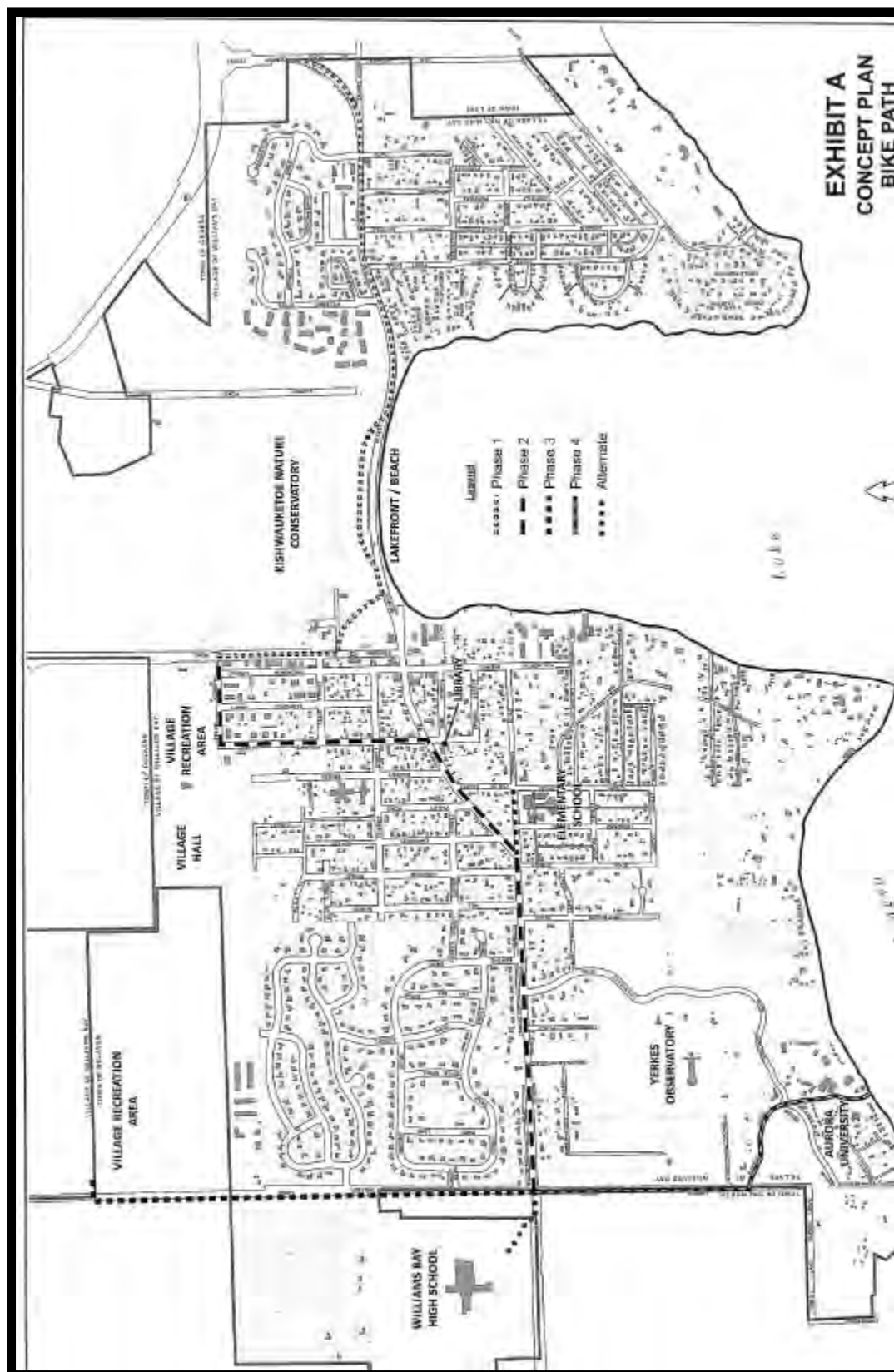




## Appendix 13



## Appendix 14



## Appendix 15

