



Town of Dunn



Parks and Open Space Plan 2015-2020



Adopted December 2014

THE TOWN OF DUNN'S PLAN FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

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Town of Dunn Park Commission. 4156 Hwy. B, McFarland, WI 53558

PREFACE

The basis for this Plan for Parks and Open Spaces is the belief that we, the townspeople, have the ability and obligation to plan for ourselves and for future generations. Our Town is rich in human history, natural resources, and agricultural lands. This rich heritage, which has been left for us, is one, which we believe should be undiminished as we transfer our heritage to future generations. This heritage should be wisely used in the care and enhancement of human life and of plant and animal life as well. This Plan for Parks and Open Spaces is dedicated to the preservation and wise use of the Town's resources by present and future generations.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Town of Dunn has planning and development authority and responsibility under the Wisconsin State Statutes. This authority is summarized as follows:

PARKS: Section 27.13 of the Wisconsin Statutes declares that towns may provide and maintain parks, parkways, boulevards, or pleasure drives pursuant to the provisions, which grant park authority to cities. Section 60.181 further provides that a town may provide for a park commission of seven members appointed by the town board. The powers of the commission will be to lay out, maintain and improve parks and open spaces, and to accept or acquire property for park purposes.

FORESTS: Towns are allowed to acquire land and engage in forestry practices for purposes of initiating or acquiring a community forest. Such forests must be located within town limits.

RECREATION AUTHORITY: Pursuant to Sections 66.527 and 60.18(18n) of the Wisconsin Statutes, towns are given the authority to establish a recreation authority. Such a department of recreation will consist of three members appointed by the town chairman. In addition, two or more towns and/or school districts may jointly form such a recreation authority. This recreation board is "authorized to conduct the activities of such public recreation department, to expend funds therefore, to employ a supervisor or recreation, to employ assistants, to purchase equipment and supplies, and generally to supervise the administration, maintenance, and operation of such department and recreation activities authorized by the board." (Wisconsin Statutes Sec. 66.527(2)(d) (1975)). In addition, the recreation board is authorized to accept gifts and bequests of land and use the same.

INLAND LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION: Towns are eligible to establish by resolution a public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district if the town encompasses all the frontage of the lake within its boundaries. The town is also empowered by Section 33.23 of the Wisconsin Statutes to approve the formation of a public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district which is coterminous with the boundaries of the town sanitary district and which also encompasses all the frontage of a lake within its boundaries. A major policy reason for the creation of these districts was the preservation and enhancement of recreational lake activities.

TOWN PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING: The town park commission is given authority to: "Make a thorough study with reference to making reservation of lands therein for public uses and laying out ample open spaces, parks, highways, roads, boulevards; make plans and maps of a comprehensive town highway and park system; gather such information in relation thereto as it may deem expedient; and report the same to the town meeting. . . ." (Wis. Stats. Sec. 60.183(1975))

TOWN PARK AND RECREATION AIDS: Towns are eligible to apply for state aids for the acquisition of recreational lands pursuant to Sections 66.36 and 23.09(20). Such a request must contain a comprehensive plan not in conflict with the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, must be for acquisition and development of recreation lands, and is limited to 50 percent funding. The town board must also adopt the required resolution. Towns are eligible to apply through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for federal land and water conservation fund (LAWCON) grants.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Purpose of the Plan**
- II. Planning Process**
 - Description of Process and Previous Planning Efforts
 - Amending the Plan
- III. Goals & Policies**
- IV. Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory**
 - Description of the Existing Park and Open Space System
 - Population and Development Trends Summary
 - Limitations of the Existing System
 - Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities
- V. Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment**
 - Public Input Assessment
 - Need Standards

 - Discussion of Trail and Bikeway System
- VI. Recommendations for Outdoor Recreation Provision**
 - Action Program – Capital Improvement Schedule (CIS)
 - Parkland Dedication Ordinance
 - Cooperation with the Town Plan Commission
 - Areas Outside of the Parks and Open Space System
 - Operation and Maintenance
 - Funding Programs

Parks Map

Bike Routes Map

Appendices

- A. Terms & Classifications
- B. Description of the Planning Region
- C. Town of Dunn Park and Open Space Inventory Table
- D. Grant Information Matrix
- E. Population & Development Trends

I. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Statement of Purpose

The Town of Dunn's *Parks and Open Space Plan* is intended to serve three major functions:

- Provide space and opportunities for recreation;
- Preserve and protect the natural, cultural, and historic resources; and
- Shape community development

In serving these functions it promotes and assures the health and well-being of individual persons, families, communities, and ecosystems, now and in the future. It is directed at the following three levels.

- 1. Human health and well being.** Promoting physical and mental health of individuals and families includes providing opportunities for the physical exercise necessary for bodily health and for the esthetics and spiritual enrichment needed for mental health.
- 2. Community health and well-being.** Assuring the health and well-being of the community includes promoting a sense of community within the Town and region, and maintaining the quality of the community that has its roots in a cultural, biological, and geophysical past, which extends forward into future generations.

This component of the *Plan* includes community recreation. It promotes the health of the Town, community, and neighborhoods. In doing so, it provides group opportunities for the physical exercise and aesthetics and spiritual enrichment.

- 3. Ecosystem health and well-being.** Assuring the perpetual health and functioning of the community natural and agricultural ecosystems includes conservation of its water resources; preservation and restoration of the wetlands, prairies and woodlands; maintenance of its native species; and the preservation of the land, soil, and stewardly agricultural practice. The plan goes beyond protecting the systems that have been degraded through our own lack of awareness and understanding.

To assure the perpetual environmental health of the Town, awareness of individuals and of the community of the Town's natural and cultural resource base is essential. The *Plan* thus is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the natural, agricultural, and cultural systems that sustain us. The *Plan* provides for cultivation and nourishment of our understanding and appropriate use and enjoyment of these systems to the benefit of the health and well-being of neighborhoods, our community, and us.

II. PLANNING PROCESS

Description of Process and Previous Planning Efforts

The Town of Dunn has a long history of thoughtful, proactive planning. In response to intense development pressures and a clear public mandate, the Dunn Town Board initiated a major planning effort that began in May 1977 with the creation of the Town Plan Commission. This Commission in turn was served by an Agricultural Committee and Open Space Committee. Following a two year moratorium on the division and subdivision of land ending on June 14, 1979, the *Town of Dunn Open Space Preservation Handbook* was published and a Town Plan was completed and adopted by vote of the Town residents in August 1979.

As a further development of the planning process, a Town Park Commission was appointed by the Town Board in response to action by Town residents at the Annual Meeting in April 1979. This Commission prepared and presented a Summary Plan at the Annual Town Meeting in April 1981 in the form of an annotated map. This was followed by work of the Commission resulting in drafts of this *Parks and Open Space Plan*, which was adopted in 2006. This *Plan* builds upon, incorporates, and is consistent with the analysis, plans, and policies presented in both the Town Open Space Handbook and the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

The Town of Dunn has a long history of sound land use planning and it gratefully acknowledges the efforts of those who participated in the creation of this *Plan*, as well as the hard work of those who set the foundations for the Town's land use planning in the 1970s with the adoption of the Town's first land use plan in 1979, and the subsequent updates to that plan. The Town adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2006, which was updated most recently in 2008. Another update is in process at the time of the writing of this document.

Amending the Plan

The *Parks and Open Space Plan* should be a growing, changing, and living document. As more information is gathered, and as public values change, the *Plan* will be updated. As a means of assuring this, a formal yearly period for review is included as a part of the *Plan*. Each year from January 1 through January 31, a formal notice on amendments in this *Plan* will be prominently posted at the Town Hall and two other public places in the Town. Petitions to amend the *Plan* should be submitted to the Park Commission on or before January 31.

At a minimum, this *Plan* should be updated every five (5) years to ensure that it continues to meet the expectations of Town residents for protecting open spaces and providing nature-based park and recreation experiences. Also, it is important to ensure that the *Plan* remains current so the Town is eligible to apply for grants that require a community to have a current comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The adoption of this *Plan* and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will also enable the Town to participate in outdoor recreation grant programs. The DNR has adopted requirements for local comprehensive outdoor recreation plans that must be met in order to qualify for participation in state and federal grant programs. This *Plan* meets those requirements.

III. GOALS & POLICIES

The Town of Dunn's long-range goals and policies for the *Parks and Open Space Plan* are based upon a continuing concern for the quality of life and environmental health of the Town and its inhabitants. The task of formulating goals and policies to be used in plan design and evaluation is a difficult but necessary part of the planning process. The purpose of this section is to identify basic goals concerning parks and open spaces in the Town of Dunn. The establishment of goals and objectives is based on the following assumptions:

1. A ratio of 15 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons is optimal;
2. The demand for recreational facilities can be determined by studying how people use their leisure time;
3. There will be competition for the best land suitable for park and open space;
4. The Town of Dunn Comprehensive Plan policies and goals will be upheld and maintained;
5. We expect an increased demand for recreational pursuits within the Town community;
6. Concern for the environment will continue, resulting in increased efforts to protect natural resources and environmentally sensitive or valuable lands;
7. Federal, state, and private funds for parks and open spaces will be available to the Town of Dunn;
8. The state and Dane County may increase their interest and ownership of park and open space lands in the Town;
9. Alternative transportation opportunities should be encouraged, including carpooling and development of commuter bike trails; and
10. Citizen interest and participation in local government will continue at a high level.

Overall Goal

DEVELOP A UNIFIED AND CONTINUOUS SYSTEM OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES WHICH PROVIDE FOR THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF HAPPINESS, HEALTH, SAFETY, EFFICIENCY, AND WELL-BEING OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, DEMOGRAPHIC, CULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL.

Goals

The goals adopted by the Town of Dunn Park Commission directly related to Parks and Open Space are:

1. Recognize and respect the natural environment as a finite and irreplaceable resource and insure that its use does not impair its value to future generations.
2. Protect and improve the quality of the surface and groundwater within the Town.

3. Provide adequate park, recreation, and open space facilities to meet the active and passive recreation needs for families and individuals, from childhood to old age.
4. Provide residents and visitors of the broader region with opportunities to benefit from the unique regional resources and open spaces of the Town in ways that do not threaten or diminish those resources.
5. Provide by passive and active means educational experiences that maintain and develop an appreciative and stewardly understanding of the Town's cultural and natural heritage upon which continued respect for the land and its appropriate use depends.
6. Utilize open space, whether for active or non-recreational purposes, as a major device for directing growth and influencing the overall environment of the region.
7. Minimize the proportion of the costs for acquisition, maintenance, and development of parks and open space facilities borne by the public.
8. Preserve and enhance existing valuable natural areas such as marshes, woods, and prairies.
9. Create and restore potential natural areas and habitats along railroad and highway rights-of way.
10. Create, restore, and maintain vital natural functions of ecosystems, such as floodwater control, nutrient filtering, groundwater recharge, groundwater discharge, and fish production.
11. Locate parks and open spaces in such a way as to assist in water pollution abatement, water quality improvement, flood control, regional drainage, and environmental enhancement.
12. Understand that the environment consists of many interlocking life-support recycling systems, and that all living things have behavioral as well as physiological responses to changes in either the natural or manmade systems.
13. Ensure that the use of lakes and lakeshores for recreational purposes occurs in a manner consistent with the objective of preserving the visual and aesthetic quality of the lake setting.
14. Maintain and where possible increase access to the Town's lakes and lakeshores.
15. Establish both on-road and off-road trails connecting the Town with neighboring municipalities.
16. Work with Dane County, WI-DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and others to provide high quality park and recreation areas.

Policies

To ensure a definite course of action to guide and determine present and future decisions the following policies for meeting the stated goals are:

1. Review all development plans in or adjacent to important natural features with the intent of preserving the feature.
2. Encourage the preservation of areas needed to support local and migratory wildlife.
3. Require all plans for resource extraction activities to be accompanied by a suitable reclamation plan that provides for the activity to be conducted in a way that minimizes its impact and restores the natural environment and its functions.
4. Identify disturbed or degraded lakeshore and wetland areas that are important to water quality and support all levels of government in efforts to restore and improve such areas.
5. Request rezoning of important wetlands and appropriate buffer areas for conservation and protection.
6. Discourage filling or developing of floodplains and areas within 300 feet of them.
7. Support all other levels of government in acquiring natural features, especially those within the identified environmental corridors, for public use and protection consistent with the goals and policies of the Town.
8. Identify buildings or sites of historic or scenic value and encourage their preservation.
9. Require that agencies and bodies responsible for the location of public improvements such as highways, pipelines or power lines recognize and not violate the intent of the goals and policies for parks and open spaces.
10. Scale the type of park, recreation, and open space facilities to the needs of the population (both present and future) in the service area.
11. Promote the development of those parks where the benefited people donate time or money to develop and maintain the facility.
12. Consider joint public-private support efforts for acquisition and maintenance of very small park facilities or programs whose high costs of limited potential usage make full public support not feasible.
13. Cooperate with other units of government and other agencies to provide complementary park, recreation, and open space facilities.
14. Make maximum use of non-local funds to acquire and develop facilities, when appropriate.
15. Encourage the county and state to provide park and open space facilities near urban areas, especially when a number of political jurisdictions would make use of the facilities.
16. Place emphasis on developing passive recreation areas in parks where appropriate.
17. Identify naturally valuable lands prior to the preparation of plans for development. Further, publicize these areas through publications, oral and graphic presentations, and other media. Finally, work with owners and their planners as well as the Town Plan Commission in the planning process to protect significant natural environments.

18. Preserve from development stream valleys, marshes, prairies, woodlands, scenic, and historic areas by including these areas in the park and open space system when possible.
19. Explore and support innovative methods of preserving open space.
20. Acquire or control through Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) or by other means land within the Town having significant natural values, functions, or habitats. Further, protect those lands adjacent to the lands described above which, if developed, could have a diminishing effect on those lands held or controlled.
21. Increase the amount of lake shoreline under public control through purchase, easement, zoning, or other means as the property becomes available.
22. Provide opportunity for year-round use of the lakes.
23. Use natural open space features as a framework for enhancing other land uses, and linking all parks and open spaces to the maximum extent possible including hiking and biking trails.
24. Maximize the use of a greenway system to provide open space and recreation areas as well as to carry stormwater.
25. Encourage other governmental agencies to acquire or control lands of significant value in outlying areas.
26. Cooperate with other governmental agencies to acquire or control valuable environments.
27. Encourage the return of unused lands, both public and private, to a natural state.
28. Discourage alterations of natural areas, which would adversely affect the character of the site.
29. Encourage the restoration of indigenous plant communities and wildlife habitat in all private and public developments.
30. Encourage the dissemination of environmental information via reports, lectures, graphic displays, and multi-media presentations examining, explaining or demonstrating various areas of environmental importance and awarding the Town Stewardship Award for residents deserving this honor.
31. Encourage in-the-field environmental interpretation programs emphasizing the theme of man in nature.
32. Create a single source for coordinating information collection and dispersal of special events such as the Fall Harvest Festival and Parade of Prairies. The Town Newsletter and website are two potential locations for this information.
33. If the Town purchases conservation easements in the No Annexation Buffer Area (as defined in the Town of Dunn/Village of McFarland Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement), it will allow passive recreation uses per the agreement with a willing landowner.
34. Make all reasonable accommodations possible within Town Parks for people with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
35. Work with the Department of Natural Resources and Dane County to manage lake levels in the Town.
36. Continue to protect the Town's important archaeological resources, including the effigy mounds.

37. Support local festivals, picnics, farm tours, markets and other gatherings that celebrate the Town's farming heritage and rural character.
38. Recognize that many of the Town's recreational activities focus on or around the Town's lakes and participate in local and regional efforts to improve water quality in the Yahara Lakes system.
39. Support Dane County and the DNR in their efforts to maintain public safety and enjoyment on Town lakes while protecting the lake and riparian resources. This may include the numbering of piers, expanding boater training and safety programs and other similar efforts.

IV. OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY INVENTORY

Description of the Existing Park and Open Space System

A variety of park and open spaces exist throughout the Town of Dunn. Public open space areas include large parcels of conservancy, small mini-parks, minimally developed neighborhood parks, active use County parks, several lake access and boat launch sites, a few greenways in between residential housing, and sizeable areas of open water. The Town owns 36 sites; Dane County owns several sites; the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin, Inc. also own land in the Town. Additionally, other privately owned lands contribute to the recreational opportunities of the community.

The Town's existing park and open space resources are identified in the Park and Open Space Inventory Table in the Appendix. These resources are also depicted on the Town's Park and Open Spaces Map.

The unique location of the Town of Dunn around two large lakes with a connecting waterway and small lake-marsh areas makes considerable open space available to the public in the form of water resources. Lakes Kegonsa and Waubesa, the Yahara River, and Hook Lake add value to adjacent and nearby property and offer remarkable scenic vistas and recreational opportunities.

A large percentage of park and open space lands within the Town contribute to the use and protection of these valuable open water areas. Many of the Wisconsin DNR open space lands are contiguous with water areas and two Dane County Parks facilitate active recreational pursuits on or along the large lakes. Several Town-owned lands, though largely unimproved, offer access to the lakes for boating, fishing, swimming, snowmobiling, skating, cross-country skiing, and ice boating. In addition, the Oregon Sportsman's Club and the Madison Retriever Club utilize open space along Hook Lake in the southwestern corner of the Town and provide private recreation facilities.

The 36 Town-owned lands listed in the Park and Open Space Inventory Table are predominantly small in size with a total area of 80.09 acres. There are 17 sites that are less than one acre in size; twelve sites are between one and four acres; three sites are between four and 10 acres; and just one site, Dunn Heritage Park, is over 10 acres. There are three other Town-owned sites that are not technically parks or open spaces: the parcel on which the Town Hall is located, the transfer station site, and the Town Cemetery.

The Town of Dunn recognizes and accepts that, for the most part, active use parks are and will continue to be provided by the three school districts that serve the Town (Stoughton, McFarland, and Oregon) and also by the surrounding municipalities, the Cities of Fitchburg, Madison, and Stoughton, and the Villages of McFarland and Oregon. In addition, these agencies and municipalities provide recreation programs that currently meet the Town's needs, and are expected to continue to meet their needs in the future.

Population and Development Trends Summary

Population and residential development patterns affect park and recreation demand and location. Residences in the Town can be classified into three categories based on housing density: 1) Residential Subdivisions with homes clustered on lots usually one acre or less; 2) Rural Homes with houses widely spaced throughout the countryside without associated farm buildings, generally located

on two acre lots, as well as some on larger lots; and 3) Farmsteads with houses associated with farm buildings located on 35 acres or more. Much of the residential development surrounds the lakes in the Town. This establishes a predominantly linear housing pattern, which is in contrast to the denser housing development trends characteristically found in cities and villages.

These linear population distribution areas present unique problems in the location of park and open spaces. The commonly practiced planning process for establishing a park and open space service area is to construct a circle of known radius around the particular site. While this practice is suitable for more densely developed subdivisions, it presents a unique planning challenge for the Town's linear development areas.

A part of the planning process has been to predict the Town's future population growth and distribution. When the Town began working on early drafts of this Plan in the 1980's, they had initially anticipated a population increase of between 7,600 and nearly 9,500 people by the year 2000. However, the actual number of residents in 2000 was 5,270 according to the U.S. Census. Careful land use planning, implementation of the Land Use Plan adopted in 1979, and factors outside of the Town's control likely attenuated the projected demand.

The 2010 population census puts the Town's population at 4,931, a decline of 6.4% since 2000. While the population may have declined somewhat, the number of households continues to grow, albeit at a slow rate. The 2010 census cites the number of housing units at 2,291, which is an increase of 32 (1.4%) since 2000, and 319 (16.2%) since 1980. The WI DOA population estimates expect the Town's overall population to continue to decline in the future, to 4,870 in 2020 and 4,525 by 2040.

Any additional household growth is anticipated to be located largely within the four established sewer districts within the Town. However, most of the vacant lots within these districts are not developable because of environmental constraints. The potential capacity of the sanitary districts, and expansion of these districts, is an area that needs to be addressed by future plan and sanitary commissions. Also, because much of the Town is under exclusive agricultural zoning, other growth will be located at a density of approximately one home per 35 acres since this is the density allowed in this zoning category, though many of the allocated development rights in the Town are no longer available, whether due to use for building sites or retirement through the Purchase of Development Rights Program.

Limitations of the Existing System

While the list of Town-owned park and open space system has many strong points, upon further analysis, the system does have shortcomings in some areas. The Dunn Heritage Park is an excellent park facility and community resource that has been developed recently with trails and native prairie plantings. However, considerations of size, location, physical condition, suitability for improvement, and overall usability of other parcels reveals the following:

1. Some populated residential areas have no Town parkland suitable for family recreation. While neighborhoods such as Colladay Point, Raylen Meadows, and Oregon Heights do have some Town property, these parcels are limited by size or physical condition for open play fields.
2. Some mini-parks and neighborhood parks are not currently suitable for active recreational activities because of their physical condition. Parkland in Burmester Woods, Dunnwood Heights, and

Waubesa Heights needs physical improvement before their full potential recreation use is realized.

3. Some park properties have out-of-date equipment for family activities. Rock Elm Park, Spartan Hills, and Sterna Parks are all exceptions to this and have recently updated playground equipment with funds contributed by the neighborhood and the Town.
4. Dunn Heritage Park and Colladay Point Stormwater Lot are Dunn's larger community parks. Other Town park properties are too small, poorly located, or have certain physical attributes that are not conducive to community park purposes.
5. Presently, small boat launch and lake access areas exist but parking facilities are extremely limited or unsuitable. This poses problems for lake users as well as neighbors of the particular lake access property. Launch sites such as McConnell Boat Launch and Amundson Boat Landing are popular, but congestion of vehicles and trailers can be a problem.
6. Lake access and boat launch areas of the Town are not well-distributed with regard to the residential community and other publicly owned lake access sites. Presently some populated areas of Dunn along Lake Waubesa or Lake Kegonsa are without access sites while places like the west Waubesa area around Goodland Park have an abundance of access points.
7. The Town has extremely fine examples of drumlins and glacial moraine and excellent marshes and woodlands, however, the Town of Dunn does not own land that will preserve these special natural areas for the public to appreciate and enjoy. Their preservation also enhances the quality of the Town's valuable lakes and waterways. Fortunately, other agencies including the DNR and Dane County do own valuable marsh and wetland areas that help protect the water quality in the area.
8. No park or open space land in the Town protects any remaining Indian mound groups, or significant historical sites. While a number of Indian mounds exist, residential development continues to be a threat to these truly unique burial sites of past Dunn inhabitants. However, the Lower Mud Lake Archaeological Complex was recently added to the Historical Register and is owned by Dane County. The Complex protects one of the most significant archaeological sites in the upper Midwest.
9. With the notable exception of the 30 acre Dunn Heritage Park, no sizeable Town-owned park or open space land borders the two lake areas. There are several lakeshore properties that are Town-owned, most are less than one-half acre in size. The possibility of the Town acquiring a large, unimproved lakeshore open space is extremely limited, but if one were acquired it would help protect the Town's valuable water resources and would also allow recreational opportunities for a beach facility.
10. In general, current park and open space lands throughout the Town are compact and afford limited trail recreation opportunities for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing. Railway corridors, Town roads, and open space areas are not well-connected.

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

The Town of Dunn has few physical park facilities; there are no shelters, bathrooms, or similar elements in the park system, other than playground equipment and trails. In general, the parks are accessible to persons with disabilities. This Plan recommends that any physical improvements that are made to new or existing parks are accessible, to the extent possible.

V. OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

There are two basic methods for conducting an outdoor recreation needs assessment: public input and recreation standards. When the two methods are combined, the most accurate picture of a community's needs can be derived. This section of the *Plan* provides a summary of public input in the Town of Dunn, an assessment of the current facilities based on the NRPA standards, a discussion of the Town's bikeway system and the importance of connecting this system within the Town and to regional destinations, a summary of the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan, and a summary of the recreational activity findings outlined in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Public Input Assessment

The Town conducted a survey and public meetings as part of its Parks Plan update in 2014 to determine residents' wishes for the Park System's future. The results of the survey and public input sessions revealed a great deal about the residents' desire to protect open spaces and natural resources in the Town, and to expand opportunities for passive outdoor experiences, including walking and bicycling trails. Overall, residents are very satisfied with the Town's park system.

Community Survey

Using input from past surveys, the Parks Commission, and town staff, the Town developed a community survey that was sent to its residents. Surveys were sent out with tax bills, and 374 surveys were returned. The survey asked about current park usage, access, and about residents' opinions regarding the priorities for the parks system as a whole as well as for the specific park they use the most. A copy of the full survey results can be obtained from the Town's Land Use Manager. A summary of the primary findings is included below.

- Residents identified maintaining existing parks, refurbishing existing park facilities, and creating new amenities in existing parks to be the top three priorities for the Town
- If the Town were to create a new park or facility, respondents strongly preferred a nature preserve with walking trails. The next most preferred new park/facility types were separate bike/walking trails and a lake or river access trail.
- Many respondents found lake access to be adequate. For Lake Kegonsa, 46% of respondents found access to be adequate, compared to 17% who did not. For Lake Waubesa, 53% of respondents agreed lake access is adequate, while 15% did not. 29 and 22 %, respectively, had no opinion.
- 41% of respondents visited a park at least once per month, while 32% visit once every few months or once per year, and 27% have never visited a Town Park
- When asked why they didn't use Town parks more often, the largest responses were not enough time, followed by not being aware of the location of Town parks. Other common reasons included parks facilities not meeting the respondents' needs and not being able to walk to bike to a park.
- Respondents were asked to name the park their household uses most often. Not including residents who didn't answer (more than half), and those who chose "other" (often naming a county park), Dunn Heritage Park was the most popular park. Spartan Hills Park was the second most popular, and Simpson and Sterna Park tied for the third most popular, closely followed by Colladay Point Park, Amundson Boat Landing, and Orvold Park Conservancy.

In summary, Town residents overwhelmingly support the maintenance and enhancement of parks, open spaces, and expanding natural resource-based recreation opportunities. Town residents also support initiatives aimed at developing the following outdoor recreation opportunities: parks, cross-country ski trails, biking trails, walking trails, and a nature sanctuary. Of these, the most overwhelmingly supported were walking trails (68%) and biking trails and nature sanctuary (both 57%). Residents did not support initiatives aimed at developing snowmobile trails in the Town.

Implementation of some changes began immediately upon receiving the survey results. For example, an article and map was published in the newsletter and on the website identifying the location of Town Parks based on the common response that respondents weren't aware of their whereabouts. In addition, Dunn Heritage being the most commonly identified most-used park supported the application for and awarding of grant funds for improvements to that park, which include hiking trails and lake access, two other items which were prioritized due to the survey results.

In addition, the updated Parks Plan including the overall goals was presented at the Budget Hearing/Special Town meeting on November 18, 2014. Staff was on hand to receive comments, and written public input sheets were available. Residents were encouraged to review the plan (available on the website and at the Town Hall) and provide comments by contacting staff or using a comment form. The resolution to adopt the Parks Plan was introduced at the November 17th Town Board meeting, announcing the beginning of a month-long public review and input opportunity. The Parks Commission held a public hearing at their December 10, 2014 meeting, and also had written comment forms available. Finally, the Town Board held a public hearing at their December 15, 2014 Town Board meeting before formally adopting the updated Parks Plan by adopting Resolution 2014-7.

Needs Standards

The second part of a recreation assessment is an evaluation of need. It is important when developing a community park and recreation system that recognition is given to the provision of space for basic open space recreational needs. The classification system identified in Appendix A and in Table 1 strives to achieve equitable distribution of park and recreation facilities throughout a community.

The standard approach to recreation planning relates the quantity of facilities provided to the number of persons to be served. Adopted standards are frequently those compiled by a nationally recognized organization such as the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). Inclusion of the standards approach as part of the open space planning process recognizes that the implementing agencies may encounter problems in meeting the standard fully. Resources may be insufficient to meet aggregate demand, or funds may be too limited to acquire all of the desired sites. Nevertheless, the standards approach provides a guide for allocating available resources.

There are a number of acceptable standards that relate park acreage for each 1,000 persons in the community. Standards of 10, 12, and 15 acres per thousand population are commonly used for local units of government. For the purposes of this *Plan*, a standard of 15 acres per thousand population is used as a basis for evaluating the Town's park acreages.

A parkland classification system is a useful tool to determine if an existing park system serves the needs of a community. Total acreage alone does not guarantee that the Town's park needs are being met. A number of different types of parks are needed to serve the various needs of the residents. A community may have "met the standard" in acreage through the creation of one large park, but the community's needs have not truly been met in terms of accessibility and recreational activity variety. Table 1 explains the seven park classifications in the Town of Dunn, the associated use, service areas, desirable size, and desired acres per 1,000 population. A well-rounded park system offers at least one park in each classification. It should be noted that this is a national standard for municipalities; however, the Town of Dunn is a unique community in that it has a large land area and a small population. It should not be expected that Dunn will meet the same national standards as a larger municipality, such as the City of Madison, would meet. This table and discussion should simply be used as a reference as the Town considers parks and park needs in the future.

Table 1 National Recreation and Park Association Parkland Classification System

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population
A. Local/Close-to-Home Space				
Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than 1/4 mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5A
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Areas for active recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	1/4 to 1/2 mile radius to serve a neighborhood	1+ acres	1.0 to 2.0A

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population
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Community Park	Areas of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A
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Total Space in Dunn = 2.14 AC/1,000

B. Regional Space

Regional/ Metropolitan Park	Areas of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas.	Several communities. 1 hour driving time	50+ acres	5.0 to 10.0A
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Total Space in Dunn = 21.5 AC/1,000 (note – this land is owned by Dane County and DNR)

C. Space that may be Local or Regional and is Unique to Each Community

Special Use	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, skateparks, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, parkways.	No applicable standard	Variable	Variable
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective.	No applicable standard	Sufficient to protect the resource	Variable

Total Space in Dunn = 12.9AC/1,000

Table from Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, NRPA, 1983, pages 56, 57. (modified slightly for the Town of Dunn)

The Town of Dunn currently has approximately 84 acres of Town-owned land in the above park classifications or 17 acres/1,000 residents (based on the 2010 census population of 4,931). The national standard is 10.5 acres/1,000 residents and the Town of Dunn is currently higher than the national standard. A more careful analysis is necessary to determine where deficiencies exist and to see which park classification needs are being met.

Table 2 Town of Dunn Recreation Areas by Park Classification

Mini-Parks		Neighborhood Parks		Conservancy		Special Use	
	Acres		Acres		Acres		Acres
L. Kegonsa Manor	6.02	Rock Elm Park	0.50	Babock Conservancy	1.73	Colladay Point Drive (Lot 29)	0.38
Lally's Oakview	0.90	Simpson Park	2.00	Berkan Street Greenway	0.29	Colladay Point (Zor Court)	0.12
Lincoln Park	0.37	Spartan Hills Park	3.22	Colladay Point Stormwater Lot	7.24	Drainageway (between 1924 Barber Drive)	0.43
Raylen Meadows Park	0.43	Sterna Park	2.07	Dunn Heritage Park	29.47	Exchange St./ Yahara River Access	0.30
Ridge Court	0.20 (approx.)			Dunnwood Heights Park	2.25	Lake Street Greenway	0.10
				Greenridge Conservancy	1.66	McConnell St. Boat Launch	1.69
				Oregon Heights Conservancy	2.31	Shaw Park	0.38
				Orvold Park & Nature Conservancy	7.59	Spartan Hills Greenway	2.75
				Segebrecht Property	0.42	Third Street Retention Lot	3.34
				Sinaiko Park	3.00	Town Cemetery	
						Town Hall	
						Transfer Site	
						Watercress Greenway	0.24
						Waubesa Beach Greenway	0.20
						Waubesa Beach Lake Access	0.21
						Waubesa Heights Greenway	1.88
						Willow Court Greenway	0.18
TOTALS	7.92		7.79		55.96		12.2

Table 2 shows that there are many small conservancy and special use parks in the Town, and few mini-parks and neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks were not a high priority for survey respondents.

It may be beneficial to acquire and develop a community park in the future, which would help provide more useable park space for Town residents. Currently, many of the Town's parklands are less than 1 acre in size, which, in some cases, makes them unsuitable for certain types of recreational uses. In the future, parkland and open space should be acquired adjacent to existing park or open space areas to provide more useable space.

Table 3 Recreational Facilities Owned by Other Agencies

Conservancy Use	Acres	Special Regional/	Acres	Metropolitan Park	Acres
Door Creek Wildlife Area	707			Goodland Park	15.0
Holtzman County	64.0	Ole J Quam Park & Amundson Boat	0.2	Fish Camp Launch	99.0
Waubesa Wetlands State Natural Area	538.0			Babcock Park	29.84
Hook Lake Bog – Grass Lake Wildlife and Natural Area	1,096				
US Fish & Wildlife Area	69.38				
Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area	345.0				
Lower Mud Lake Fishery Area	269.09				
TOTALS	3088.47		0.2		143.84

Table 3 shows that there are over 3,500 acres of park, recreation and open space land in the Town of Dunn that are not owned by the Town. This benefits Town residents since outstanding park and open space areas are easily accessible, but are owned and managed by entities other than the Town, which does not have the resources or capacity to manage these facilities. Also, the Town of Dunn is located in an area with significant natural resources and fortunately, many of these outstanding resources are protected through local, County, State, Federal, and non-profit ownership.

In summary, with the 2010 Town Population of 4,931 and an estimated population of 4,870 by the year 2020, Dunn is fairly well prepared with its existing park and open spaces areas. However, existing facilities could be upgraded or expanded to better serve Town needs. The Town technically meets the standard of 15 acres per 1,000 people, but emphasis should be placed on improving the existing small park areas. Another recreation resource the Town should focus on expanding in the future is a pedestrian and bicycle trail network. Town residents expressed their desire for trail facilities and the next section discusses the Town’s existing trail network and opportunities for expanding the network.

Discussion of Trail and Bikeway System

Park Trails

Generally, park trails are multipurpose trails that are usually located within parks, natural resource areas, and greenways. The focus is on recreational value with limited impact on the environment. Park trails can provide relatively safe and uninterrupted movement of pedestrians to and within the

Town's park system, and link various parks and other recreational areas together as comprehensive system. The Dunn Heritage Park trails are an example of this type of trail.

There are generally three types of trails included in this classification, they are:

- Type I Trail – Have separate, hard surfaced path areas for pedestrians (walkers, joggers), and bicyclists / skaters.
- Type II Trail - Have shared, hard surfaced path areas for pedestrians and bicyclists / skaters.
- Type III Trail - Are soft surfaced pedestrian only path areas with minimal impact to the site.

Trails in the Town should be planned and designed in accordance with adopted local, state and federal standards. Park trails could also serve to accommodate bicycle commuting purposes, although the type of trail should reflect the anticipated commuter use.

Connector Trails

Connector trails are multipurpose trails that focus on and emphasize the safe travel of pedestrians to and from parks, and throughout the Town. Trails can be located within street or road right of way, utility easements or along artificial drainage systems. These trails can be designed for bicycle commuting purpose.

Generally, two types of trails are included in this classification, they are:

- Type I - Trails which are usually located within the street/road right-of way are intended to accommodate heavy use patterns. They can be developed for multi-use or separate use on one or both sides of the street/road
- Type II - Trails which are usually located within street/road right-of-way and are intended to accommodate lighter use patterns. They are typically developed for multi-purpose use.

Bikeways

Bikeways are considered "any road, path or way which in some manner is specifically designated as being open to bicycle travel, regardless of whether such facilities are designated for the exclusive use of bicycles to be shared with other transportation modes", as defined by AASHTO, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. In general terms bikeways are paved portions of streets and roadways or separate hard surfaced paths that assist in the safe separation of bicyclists from traffic. There are several forms of bikeways, they include bike routes, bike lanes, and bike paths.

Bike Route - A bike route according to AASHTO standards is "a segment of a system of bikeways designated by the jurisdiction having authority with appropriate directional and informational markers, with or without specific bicycle route number". In general they are basically paved shoulders or portions of the roadway that help to separate bicyclists from traffic.

Bike Lane - According to AASHTO standards is " a portion of the roadway that has been designated by striping, signing and pavement marking for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists".

Bike Path - According to AASHTO standards is " a bikeway physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent right-of-way". The Capital City Trail is an example of a bike path.

The user groups of bike routes and bike lanes have distinctly different needs than the users of bike paths, park trails and connector trails, that being speed for commuting, fitness and competition. It is important in the planning and designing of a trail and bikeway system that the inherent differences in user groups be recognized and taken into consideration, so that one is not used as a direct substitute for another. Bike routes and bike lanes typically have more significant role in bicycle commuter networks than bike paths.

Town's Bike Route Network

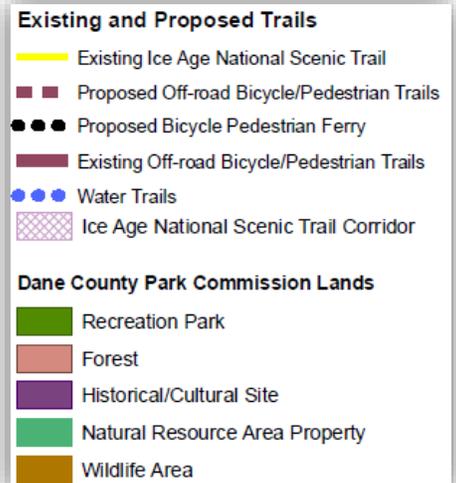
Most of the bicycle facilities in the Town of Dunn are on-road bike routes. The Town has a well-connected network of local roads with low traffic volumes that can safely accommodate bicyclists. However, it is important to adequately maintain and upgrade these facilities to ensure safe, comfortable bicycle travel. The Town of Dunn Parks Commission would like to connect the Town to the Dane County Capital City Trail, Village of McFarland's Bike Pathway, the Village of Oregon, the Town of Pleasant Springs, and the Stoughton Bike path system. The regional bike paths map is shown below; local bike routes are shown on the Bike Routes Map.

The Bicycle Transportation Plan for the Madison Urban Area and Dane County (2000) provides the planning and policy framework and serves as the guide for development of bicycle facilities and programs in the region. The plan outlines a prioritized set of recommended facility improvements and proposed bicycle routes for both the Madison area and the rest of the County. Specifically the plan recommends widening the paved shoulders along USH 51, CTH MN and CTH AB to better accommodate on-road bicycle traffic. At the time of writing, The Bicycle Transportation Plan for the Madison Urban Area and Dane County is undergoing an update and is expected to be completed in 2015. Town Staff is serving on the Technical Advisory Committee. Once this new, updated plan is in place, it should be consulted in making decisions regarding bicycling facilities in the Town of Dunn.

WisDOT identifies CTH B and CTH AB south of CTH MN as exhibiting Best conditions for bicycling. In the Town of Dunn, WisDOT maps show that bicyclists are not recommended on USH 51 and CTH MN due to high traffic volume.



Regional Bike Paths near Dunn



Source: Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan

The Madison Urban Area and Bicycle Transportation Plan recommends providing a paved shoulder at least four (4) feet in width on rural roads. It recommends five (5) to six (6) feet on roads with an average daily traffic count of at least 5,000 vehicles. This extra width makes roads more convenient and safer for motorists, increases highway capacity, facilitates maintenance and snow removal, and helps extend roadway life by reducing edge deterioration. The plan also recommends adding or widening paved shoulders in conjunction with road resurfacing and reconstruction.

Water Trails

In addition to the opportunity for bicycle and pedestrian trails and connections throughout the Town, there is an abundance of water resources in Dunn that provide opportunities for the creation of water trails. Water trails allow for travel along a connecting waterway system. Opportunities for such trails exist at the following locations:

- Yahara River/Badfish Creek/Door Creek
- Centennial Park/Lake Farm to Kegonsa State Park
- Waubesa/Yahara/Mud Lake/Kegonsa
- Door Creek/Hook Lake/Grass Lake

The Town should work with Dane County and neighboring jurisdictions to explore these opportunities.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION PROVISION

Overall Recommendations

The definitions of the various categories of parks are discussed in Appendix A. The following guidelines should be applied to all Town parks:

- Accommodate wide range of activities in both existing and new parks and facilities, with emphasis on high demand activities such as hiking, biking, winter activities including cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and ice fishing; water access for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and swimming; and quiet nature observation and enjoyment.
- Maintain and improve existing parks and facilities and add new amenities in well used parks, or where there is high neighborhood interest in new amenities.
- Right-size parks and facilities to meet the needs of parks users while considering maintenance needs and capacity.
- Prioritize opportunities to partner with Dane County, DNR, local land conservation organizations, friends groups, and neighborhood associations to provide funding and strategic support for acquiring and developing parks and recreation opportunities in the Town.
- Locate and develop new parks and facilities so that no part of the Town will be left unserved in terms of outdoor recreational facilities, while also accommodating largest number of people conveniently. Emphasis should be placed on areas where facilities can be reached by bicycle or walking.

Opportunities may also arise to acquire alternate sites or lands, which have not previously been considered. In such cases, each area should be studied in terms of how it fits into the total park and open space system.

In addition, the Town should identify resource protection areas to be preserved for the inherent value of the land or features their present or natural condition, not for how the land or features could be utilized in a developed state. Establishment of quantitative guidelines for identification of resource protection areas is not appropriate due to the character of the resource.

Resource protection areas should contribute towards one or more of the following:

1. Preserving areas of significant scenic beauty, scientific, geological, biological, or historical interest. Resources such as historic buildings, archeological sites, wetlands and undisturbed natural areas can *never* be replaced. Hence, their preservation is of the utmost importance.
2. Maintaining the high quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of the Town and the thousands of visitors that frequent the area by protecting the Town's natural ecosystems.
3. Guiding whatever residential development may occur. Strategically located areas can provide community separation and definition, and help reduce undesirable dispersed development. The open space corridors are intended, in part, to serve this end.
4. Providing a diversity of environments for Town residents and visitors.
5. Implementing the preservation of the outstanding high priority wetlands delineated and discussed in the *Dane County Wetlands Resource Management Guide*
6. Establish cohesive parks and parkway systems

Guidelines for Priority Park Lands

In the next five years the Park Commission will place high priority on improving the Town's existing parks. Mini-parks and neighborhood parks are intended to be improved and maintained at least in part by the area residents they serve. Signage should be maintained and upgraded as necessary. Priority for Town assistance will be determined using the following criteria.

The Park Commission will support the development and maintenance of those parks where:

1. The current and future needs of the people in the park vicinity are served by the function of the space and facilities provided.
2. A variety of recreational activities are promoted by the development of the area, including opportunities for year-round use.
3. The cost of development and maintenance to the Town is minimal.
4. The benefited people donate time and/or money to improve and maintain the facility.
5. The cost/benefit ratio is most reasonable.
6. The area is appropriately planned to use safe and creative play devices, such as sandboxes, rubber tires and wood form equipment and/or active recreational facilities for school age children and families such as basketball, ball fields and open play fields.
7. The area is appropriately landscaped by the planting of native trees, shrubs, ground cover, and possible prairie restoration.
8. The area is planned to protect some important natural or historic feature and serves the passive recreational needs of young and old alike.
9. The families served are within walking or bicycling distance.
10. The community served prepares an effective and reasonable park development timetable.

Residents of neighborhoods of Dunn where mini-parks and neighborhood parks exist can pursue the following list of ideas to improve their parklands and facilities:

1. Foster community involvement
2. Establish inventory of needs of park participants
3. Prepare suitable maps, plans and timetable for development
4. Determine costs and how costs are to be met
5. Participate in writing of funding proposals
6. Establish plans for park maintenance

Bike Facility Recommendations

The Town would like to maintain and improve bicycling conditions in the Town of Dunn and would like to provide connections to regional bicycle systems. The following recommendations should be followed to ensure an improved bicycling network.

1. Designate the roads depicted on the Bike Routes Map as official Bike Routes and install Bike Route signage.
2. Post the Bike Routes map on the website and distribute the map at the Town Hall.

3. Work with Dane County to provide safe bicycle access on CTH B between Lalor Road and Sandhill Road. A minimum of four (4) foot paved shoulders should be provided with a white fog line that is maintained as needed. Bike route signage should be installed along this segment.
4. Work with landowners to provide a long-term off-road solution to bicycling on CTH B. Possibilities include an east/west connection along the utility easement north of CTH B or a north/south connection from Lalor Road to Schneider Drive.
5. Improve the Highway 51/CTH B/CTH AB intersections for bicyclists.

Action Program – Capital Improvement Schedule (CIS)

The surveys and analysis of inventories of existing park and open space land in the Town of Dunn shows adequate park acreages, but a lack of town-owned open space. The County, State, federal, and non-profit lands subsidize the Town owned lands and therefore, Town residents have a healthy park and recreation system overall. In the future, a list of general objectives to address the gaps in the park system include:

1. Acquire parkland in populated residential areas for use as neighborhood parks.
2. Physically improve existing mini-parks and neighborhood parks.
3. Obtain and install desired play equipment and ball facilities for physically improved mini-parks and neighborhood parks.
4. Obtain and/or improve land for suitable parking facilities near boat launch and lake access areas.
5. Obtain open space, which protects significant geologic features, water quality, and high quality natural communities.
6. Protect Indian mounds and other historic sites to preserve the story of the Town.
7. Obtain lakeshore property suitable for a Town beach facility if the opportunity arises.
8. Obtain park and open space lands along the Yahara River and/or Lower Mud Lake to provide suitable picnic areas for residents using canoes or other small watercraft.
9. Develop an interconnecting system of hiking; biking and cross-country ski trails using open space areas, railroad corridors, and roads.

Parkland Dedication Ordinance

Many communities have developer exaction ordinances for parkland acquisition and recreational facilities development. These exactions are designed to help a community develop new park or open space facilities to keep pace with the needs of new residents. As new residents arrive in the Town, they place a burden on the Town's existing park, open space, and recreation resources. Developer exactions, agreed upon during the land division process, provide land or cash, or a combination of both, to the Town to be used for the provision of park facilities for new residents. It should be noted that the Town of Dunn's Comprehensive Plan does not allow any new subdivisions. Therefore, any new land divisions will likely be on a small scale. Parkland dedication fees are not currently used as of the time of writing of the plan. The issue of parkland dedication fees is under discussion and may be implemented in the future after further study.

Cooperation with Town Plan Commission

Land use changes in or adjacent to the Open Space System shown on these maps can have a major impact on the functions that they serve. Consequently, these adjacent areas also receive close attention when the Town Plan Commission reviews land use changes. As a part of their review process, special measures may be taken such as buffer strips and graded density development adjacent to the Open Space System in order to preserve open space functions. It is an objective of the Park and Open Space Plan to cooperate with and assist the Plan Commission in this and other areas of their work that affects the ecological integrity and environmental quality of the Parks and Open Space System. Incorporate these maps/guidance in updates to the comp plan.

Areas Outside of the Parks and Open Space System

Not all resources worthy of protection, preservation, and enhancement are contained within the designated Open Space System. Included outside the boundaries of the Open Space System are archaeological, historic and cultural resources, hedgerows, and small groups of trees, roadside vegetation, scenic overlooks and scenic resources, which are not shown on these maps. It is an objective of this Open Space Plan to give careful attention to such areas and to identify, foster and implement means for their continued maintenance and preservation. The Town's Comprehensive Plan should be adhered to in order to ensure protection of these resources.

Operation and Maintenance

The Town has about 74 miles of roads and highways including 6.4 miles of state highways, 9.7 miles of county highways and 57.5 miles of Town roads. The roads are presently in excellent condition. The Park Commission's primary concern is for the protection and improvement of the adjoining roadside areas.

As part of its responsibility, the Park Commission has established programs and policies for the maintenance and protection of these travel corridors. These include the designation of two Rustic Roads, development of a mowing policy guideline, the promotion of an annual spring roadside cleanup, and the propagation of native plants.

In addition to automobile transportation, the Town would like to encourage and promote bicycle and pedestrian travel within the Town, and connected to surrounding regional destinations. The Town also supports increased bus service and commuter rail programs that would provide Town residents with a transportation alternative to the automobile.

Rustic Roads - Created in 1973 by the State Legislature, the Rustic Road system seeks to preserve what remains of Wisconsin's scenic, low-volume country roads for the leisurely enjoyment of bikers, hikers and motorists.

After nomination by the Park Commission and Town Board, Lalor Road and Dyreson Road were officially designated as Rustic Road 19 and 20 respectively by the State Department of Transportation.

Mowing Policy - With an interest in preserving and enhancing the native vegetation of Town roads, and saving money and energy by efficient maintenance, a mowing policy was established. Currently most roadsides are cut one swath width in early summer and again in late summer to curb ragweed. Lalor Road and part of Lake Kegonsa Road are left undisturbed. The complete mowing policy is on file at the Town Hall.

Spring Cleanup - Since 1980 a spring cleanup has been organized to pick up all litter along Town roads. Cleanup efforts have been coordinated with the Village of McFarland Park Committee and are usually held on the third Saturday in April. Residents are made aware of the campaign by a variety of publicity and encouraged to sign up for a road and pick up trash bags when they vote. Pictures and refreshments end the event at the Town Transfer Site.

Prairie Restoration - Many areas of Dunn have remnants of prairie or scattered prairie vegetation, adding beauty and interest to its roadsides. The mowing policy provides for the protection of some of these plants. In 1981 a volunteer group of residents started a planting area along Dyreson Road. The gathering of seed, working the soil, planting and transplanting of prairie grasses and forbs, and weeding the area are all tasks related to the restoration of these prairie species. Current efforts are focused on prairie restoration at Kegonsa Manor and Dunn Heritage Park. More should be done to help the public become aware of and appreciate the beauty of the prairie communities, which greeted Dunn's early pioneer families.

Funding Programs

The state and federal governments provide money to local governments for the acquisition and development of parks. It is important to note that most of the programs require that a local government submit to the WI-DNR a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan or master plan which has been approved by resolution by the submitting local government. By adopting the *Parks and Open Space Plan* with a resolution, the Town of Dunn has met the eligibility requirement for these grant programs until the year 2020, pending review and approval. This section provides general information for grant programs that may be used to acquire and develop local park facilities. The Grant Information Matrix (Appendix D) includes detailed information about available grants.

The main grant program that is available to assist in acquisition of parkland is the Stewardship Program, which was created by the 1989 Wisconsin Legislature. It originally provided for a 10-year program/\$250 million fund to enhance Wisconsin's outdoor recreational resources and protect environmentally sensitive lands. Since this time, the program has been revised on multiple occasions. The program contains funds for state and local governments, as well as nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs). To encourage partnerships and cooperation between the WisDNR, local governments and NCOs, the Stewardship Program provides a matching grant that is available to non-profit organizations for the acquisition of land or land rights for a variety of land conservation and recreational purposes. The Grant Information Matrix contains only those specific Stewardship funds for which local governments or NCOs are eligible to apply.

Another important program is the Dane County Partners for Recreation and Conservation Program (PARC). The PARC Grant Program provides capital finance assistance to local units of government or nonprofits for outdoor recreation and conservation projects that have the potential to generate significant regional benefits.

Other grant programs listed in the grant information matrix include the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal grant program for the acquisition and development of local parks and the Urban Forestry

Program, which contains state and federal funds for the development and preservation of urban forests, including park trees and a program to fund boat launching facilities. Additional grant programs for bicycle and pedestrian trails and facilities are discussed below.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) (part of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) – Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives and replaces the Transportation Enhancements program and Safe Routes to School program.

Eligible bicycle/pedestrian projects include:

- On-road and off-road trail facilities for bicycles and pedestrians
- Safe Routes to School projects and activities

Surface Transportation Program

STP allocates federal funds to complete a variety of improvements to federal-aid-eligible roads and streets in urban areas and rural highways (primarily county highways) in rural areas. Communities are eligible for funding on roads functionally classified as major collector or higher. Projects with STP funding must follow the requirements of Trans 75, Wisconsin's Complete Streets law.

Eligible bicycle/pedestrian projects include:

- On road bicycle lanes, separated bicycle lanes and paved shoulders
- Shared-use paths
- Underpasses or bridges for bicycles and pedestrians
- Bicycle/pedestrian plans
- Bike parking, bike storage or service centers
- Bike racks on transit
- Capital costs for bike sharing
- Bicycle/pedestrian coordinator positions
- Data collection and monitoring for bicyclists and/or pedestrians
- Maps for bicyclists/pedestrians

Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP)

LRIP assists local governments in improving seriously deteriorating county highways, town roads, and city and village streets. Projects with the LRIP program must follow the requirements of Trans 75, Wisconsin's Complete Streets law.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds highway safety projects at sites that have experienced a high crash history. Emphasis is on low-cost options that can be implemented quickly. Bicycle and pedestrian projects are eligible for this program.

People for Bikes Grants

The People for Bikes Community Grant Program provides funding for important projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the U.S. These projects include bike paths and rail trails, as well as mountain bike trails, bike parks, BMX facilities, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives.

Dane County Bicycle Association (DCBA)

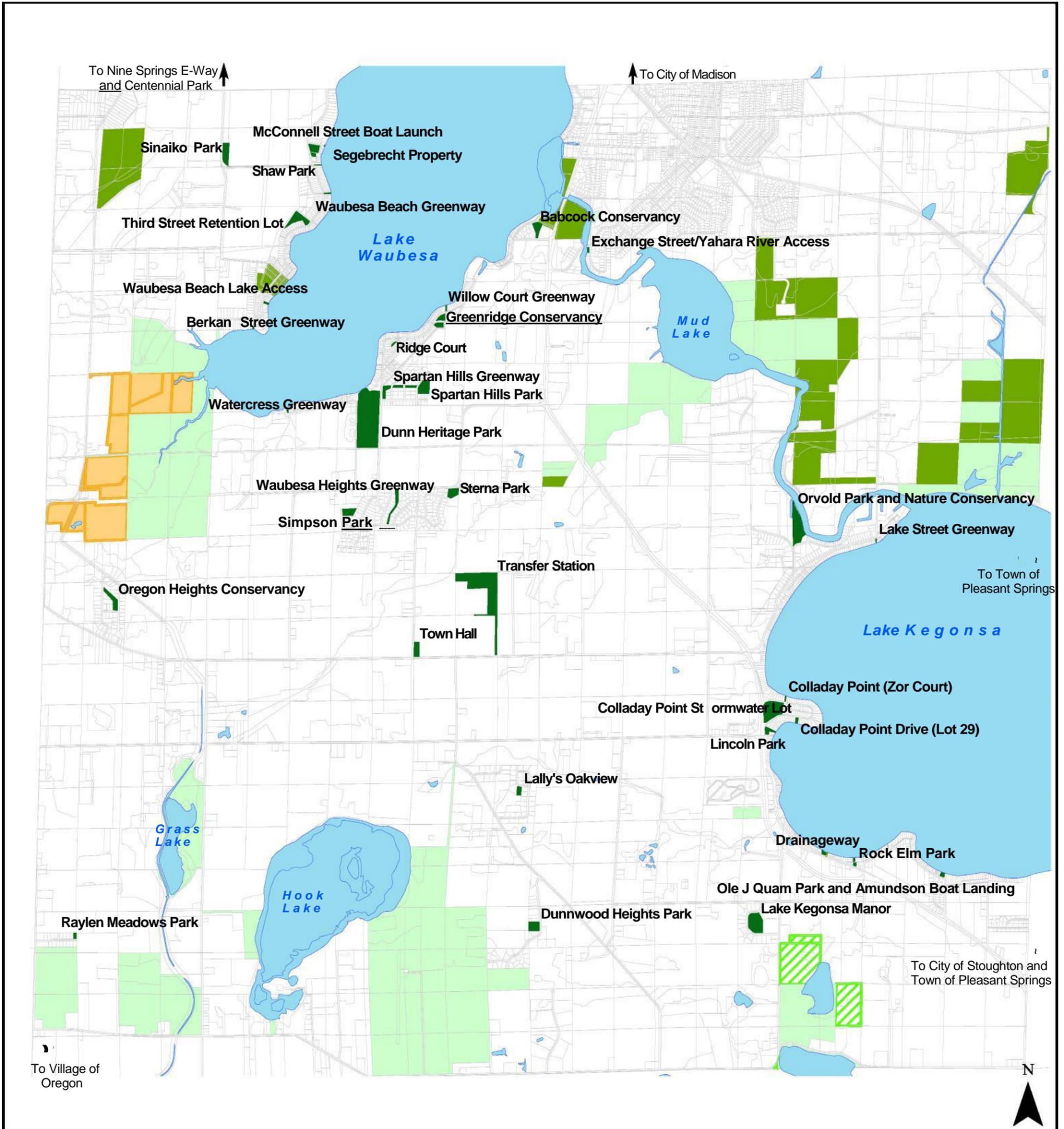
DCBA has provided funding for a variety of bicycling projects, ranging from bicycle facilities, to bicycle advocacy efforts, to programs that promote bicycling among children as a healthy and rewarding activity, to books of popular bicycle touring routes. The grants are small and intended to help kick start programs and projects.

Center for Disease Control and Other Health Grants

A number of initiatives related to active living have been funded through CDC grants or other health initiatives.

Incidental Improvements - Bicycle and pedestrian projects are broadly eligible for funding from most of the major federal-aid programs. One of the most cost-effective ways of accommodating bicycle and pedestrian accommodations is to incorporate them as part of larger reconstruction, new construction, and some repaving projects. Generally, the same source of funding can be used for the bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as is used for the larger highway improvement, if the bike/ped accommodation is "incidental" in scope and cost to the overall project. Overall, most bicycle and pedestrian accommodations within the state are made as incidental improvements.

Town of Dunn Parks and Open Spaces Map



Source:

Town of Dunn
Dane County
State of Wisconsin DNR

Date:

December 1, 2014

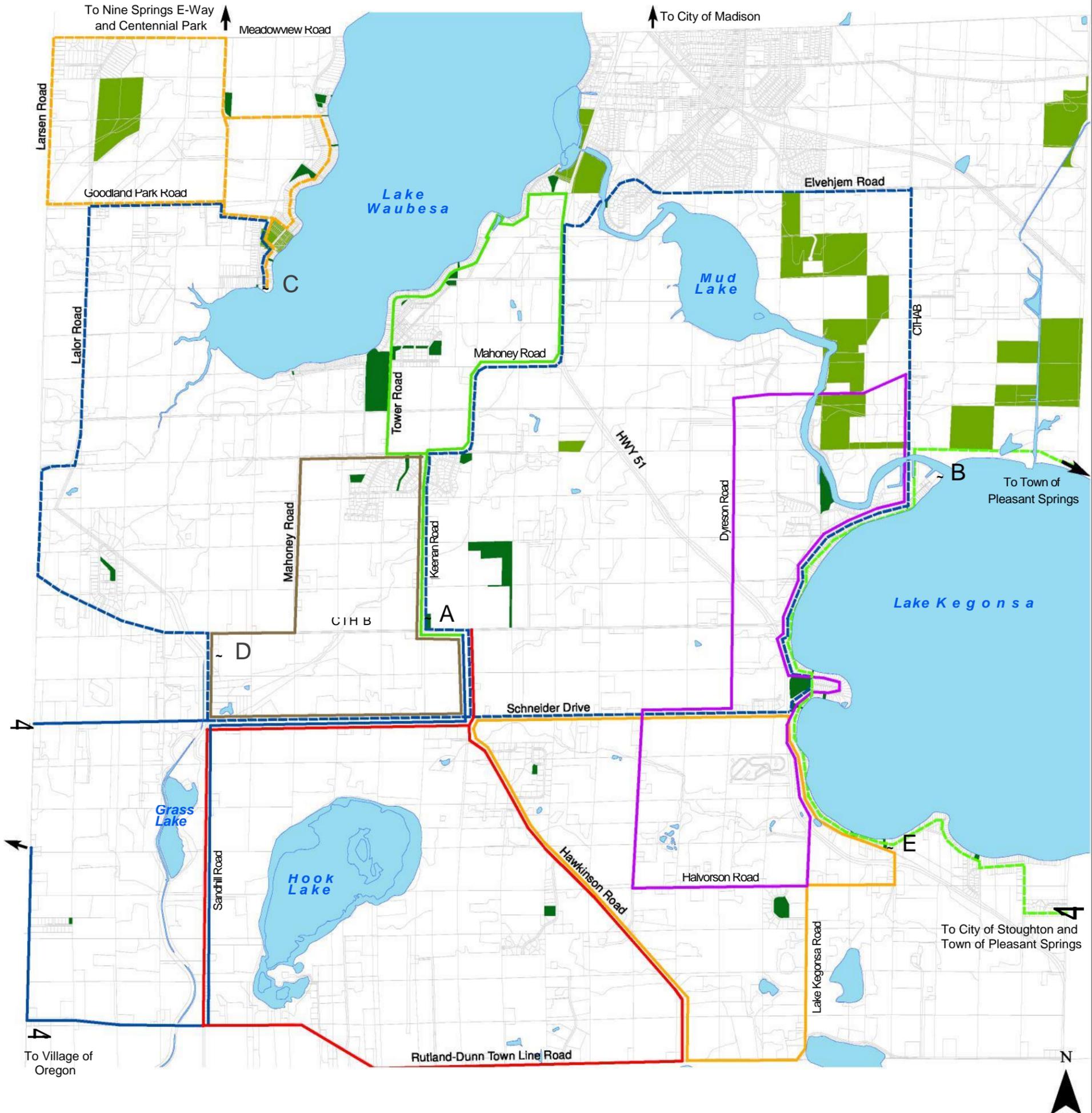
Legend

- Town of Dunn Park
- Dane County Park
- WI DNR
- US Fish & Wildlife
- Nature Conservancy
- Parcel



Schreiber/Anderson
Associates, Inc
717 John Nolen Drive
Madison, WI 53713
608.255.0800
www.saa-madison.com

Town of Dunn Existing Bike Routes Map



Source:
Town of Dunn
Dane County
State of Wisconsin DNR

Legend

- Town of Dunn Park
- Dane County Park

Existing Bike Routes
Bike_Route

- Goodland to Fish Camp - 18.3 mi
- Town Hall to Village of McFarland - 6.1 mi
- mi Goodland Park Loop - 6.2 mi
- Fish Camp/Dyrsen Rd Loop - 9.2 mi
- Town and Country Loop/Hook Lake Loop - 9.0 mi
- Quick Stop Loop - 7.7 mi
- Town Hall to Village of Oregon - 6.8 mi
- mi* Central Dunn Loop - 5.8 mi
- Lake Kegonsa Loop - 5.6 mi*

Hot Spots

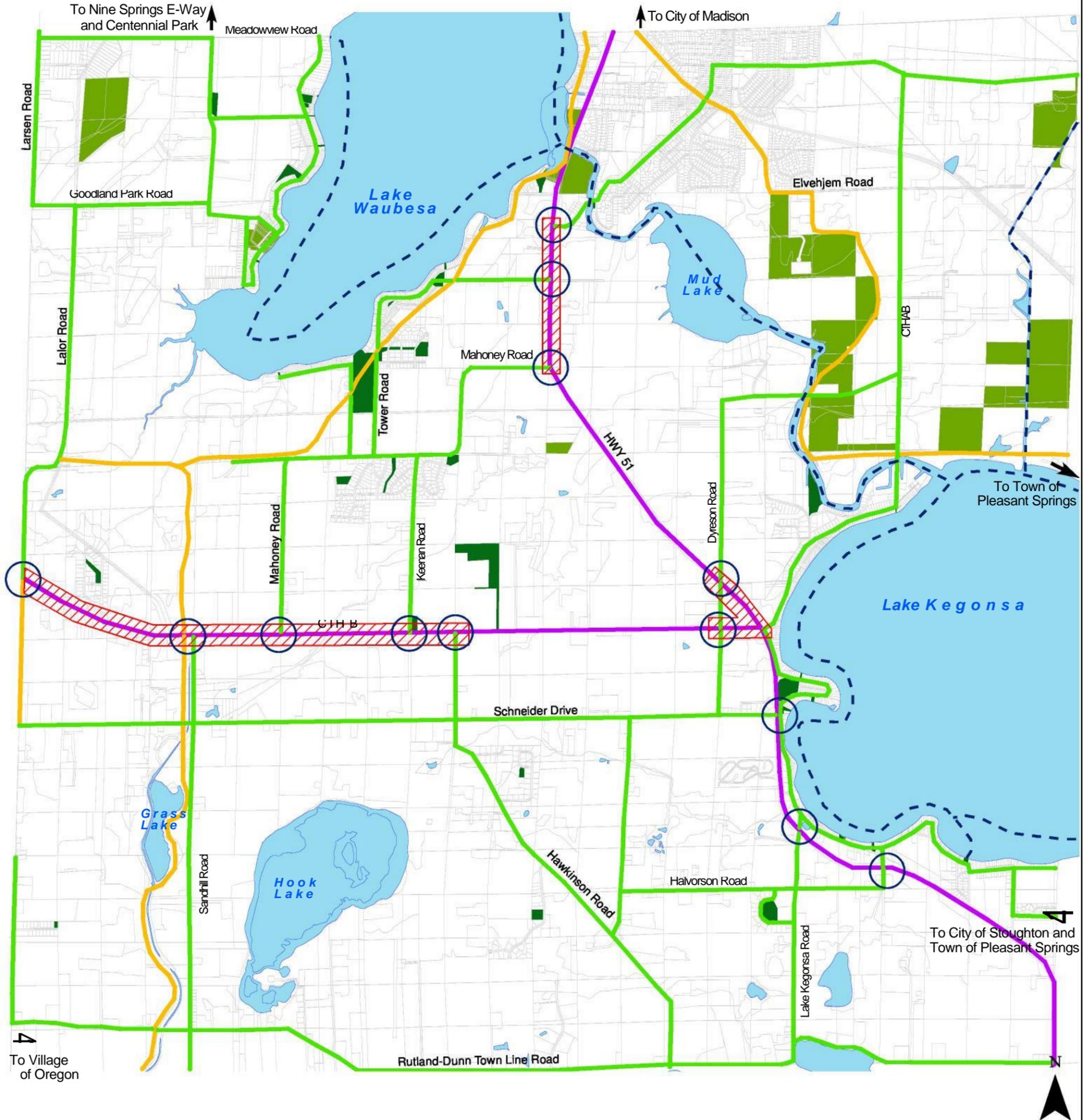
- ~ A Town Hall
- ~ B Fish Camp
- ~ C Goodland Park
- ~ D Cemetery
- ~ E Quick Stop

* Distance within the Town of Dunn



SAA
Schreiber/Anderson
Associates, Inc
717 John Nolen Drive
Madison, WI 53713
608.255.0800
www.saa-madison.com

Town of Dunn Alternative Transportation Plan



Legend

- Dane County Park
- Town of Dunn Park
- Proposed Multi-Use Trail
- Water Trail
- Most Suitable Bike Route
- Least Suitable Bike Route / High Traffic
- Key Intersections
- Priority Improvements to Provide Connections



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Appendix A: TERMS & CLASSIFICATIONS

Definitions and Standards for Parkland and Recreation Areas

The following classifications are suggested goals and concepts for providing recreational opportunities in the community. The standards should not be applied inflexibly to all neighborhoods, due to unique physical conditions, particular recreational demands and other conditions that are specific to each neighborhood. The standards do provide guidelines for meeting the Town's basic recreational and open space needs.

Mini-Park

The mini-park classification represents the smallest of parks in the park system. These types of parks are usually developed to address the recreational needs of isolated residential developments or unique recreational opportunities. Examples of these parks include neighborhood playgrounds, scenic overlooks, or landscaped public use areas at a historic site.

Service Area

Given the potential uniqueness of the mini-park the service area will vary. However, in a residential setting the service area is usually less than one-quarter (1/4) mile in radius. Accessibility is an important consideration in the location of the park and should be provided by sidewalks, low volume residential streets, or pathways.

Site Size

The size of a mini-park is typically one (1) acre or less.

Site Characteristics

The site should exhibit the desired physical characteristics for which it is intended to be used. The site should be well-drained or contain suitable soils to provide adequate drainage.

Desirable Features

The desirable features will vary depending on the specific development parameters.

Acres/1,000 Population

It is recommended that communities generally have .25 to .5 acres of Mini-Park per 1,000 population.

Population Served: Varies dependent upon intended use. However, with a playground the emphasis is on the preschool to twelve-year age group.

Service Area: Varies dependent upon intended use. However, with a playground usually less than one-quarter (1/4) radius (within safe and easy walking or biking distance). This generally occurs within a subdivision in the Town of Dunn.

Site Size: Less than one (1) acre in size.

Acres/1,000: 0.25 to 0.5 acres

Neighborhood Park

The purpose of the neighborhood park is to serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhoods that it is intended to serve. The park is intended to be an area for recreational activities, such as field games, court games, playground apparatus, skating, picnicking, etc. The park should be an imaginatively landscaped natural environment for passive and cultural activities that serve the designated neighborhood primarily during daylight hours.

Service Area

A neighborhood park should be centrally located, with a service area that encompasses a one-quarter (1/4) to one-half (1/2) mile radius. The park should be easily accessible within walking and biking distance by the way of sidewalks, interconnecting trails, or low volume residential streets. Often a person's desire to use a neighborhood park is influenced by the perceived distance and accessibility.

Site Size

Generally, these parks are larger than one (1) acre in size. Parcels of land that are unsuitable for development are usually undesirable for neighborhood parks and should be avoided unless there are extenuating qualities (historic, aesthetic, and/or environmental) that may warrant consideration. It is generally advantageous, given the importance of site location, to determine neighborhood park locations prior to a subdivision being platted.

Site Characteristics

The development of a neighborhood park will be dependent upon the uniqueness of the neighborhood and potential site. Ideally, the park should be connected with other components of the park system such as natural resources areas, ponds, and greenways. In addition, neighborhood parks can serve the passive recreation needs of old and young alike. If possible, these parks should be associated with a unique natural feature.

Desirable Features

The development of a neighborhood park should strive to acquire a balance between the active and passive recreation elements of the park. The active recreation elements should be intended for informal non-organized recreational activities. The use of facilities for structured, organized programs or activities, with the exception of limited use by youth teams, is not generally recommended due to problems associated with noise, parking, and overuse.

Potential features for a neighborhood park may include play structures, open space for informal activities, court areas (which may include basketball, volleyball, horseshoes, tennis), shelter or gazebo, restrooms, skating rink, pathways (hard or soft surfaced), picnic sites, passive viewing areas, landscaping (trees, shrubbery, ornamental plantings), border and buffer strips, water supply for drinking and irrigation, lighting for security and safety, and off-street parking.

Acres/1,000 Population

It is recommended that there are 1.0 to 2.0 acres per 1,000 persons.

Population Served: For all ages.

Service Area: One- Quarter (1/4) to on half (1/2) mile in radius, within safe and easy walking and biking distance along sidewalks, interconnecting trails, or low volume residential streets.

Site Size: Greater than one (1) acre

Acres/1,000: 1.0 to 2.0

Regional Park

Regional parks are large parks under jurisdiction of a municipality or government agency, such as the DNR. Regional parks provide for a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities and may contain the following facilities: picnic areas; shelter houses; tennis courts; swimming areas; camping sites; boating areas; toilets; nature study trails; hiking trails; band shells; skating rinks; and ball fields for organized adult recreational activities. These parks should provide activities for the entire family as well as individual activities.

Service Area

A regional park should serve several communities and the radius for driving time to the park is approximately one (1) hour.

Site Size

Generally, these parks are larger than 50 acres in size; however, some parks are smaller in size but still serve a regional area because of their outstanding resources or amenities.

Site Characteristics

It is desirable that regional parks are contiguous to or encompass natural resources.

Acres/1,000 Population

It is recommended that there are 5.0 to 10.0 acres per 1,000 persons.

Population Served: For all ages.

Service Area: One (1) hour driving time

Site Size: Typically greater than 50 acres

Acres/1,000:

5.0 to 10.0

Special Use Areas

Special use areas are designated for a specialized or single purpose activity, such as boat launches, detention areas, lake access, etc. There is no applicable standard for service area, size, acres per 1,000 population, or desirable site characteristics.

Conservancy Areas

Conservancy areas are those areas set aside to preserve significant natural resources, open space, remaining native landscapes, and sites with visual aesthetics. These areas may include land with steep slopes, drainage ways, water management areas (retention / detention ponds), utility easements, prairies, wetlands, shorelines, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, historical, and archaeological sites, and similar areas. Some of these resources are privately owned; therefore the use of the resource may be limited. Other areas, however, are publicly owned and therefore are regarded as a community resource for the use and enjoyment of all citizens. The primary objectives of preserving conservancy areas are to enhance the quality of life and character of the community, as well as to protect these sensitive resource areas.

Because of the variety in types and sizes, there is not a recommended service area or size for a conservancy area. Its location in the community will be determined by the availability and opportunity of the resource while its size will be dependent upon availability, quality, acquisition costs, and development considerations. The resource quality will primarily influence the selection of a site. Preservation of unique natural resources and remaining native landscapes should be given a high priority when considering sites. Generally, conservancy areas can provide low impact, passive recreational opportunities; however, development should be kept to an appropriate level so that the integrity of the resource is not compromised.

Private Recreation Facilities

Private recreation facilities consist of private parks that are within residential areas developed and maintained for the exclusive use by its residents, and private facilities. A private facility may be entirely private (for exclusive use by members or residents) or a public-private partnership in which residents may receive special privileges. Examples of private recreation facilities in the Town of Dunn include MaHunt properties, the Madison Retriever Club, the Oregon Sportsmen's Club, and the Stoughton Country Club (the club house is located in the Town). When considering a public-private partnership, consideration should be given to establishing a well-defined joint use agreement amongst all parties. The size, location, and characteristics of private recreational facilities vary and no standards are set for these types of facilities. However, the Town does not support the creation of private recreational facilities. Allowable conditional uses for private recreation facilities are identified in Chapter 8 of the Town's Land Use Plan.

Appendix B: DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING REGION

Social Characteristics of the Town of Dunn

The Town's Natural and Cultural Heritage

The rich natural and cultural diversity of the Town is rooted in diverse landforms and soils resulting from its location on the boundary between two topographic regions -- the lower drumlin and marsh region once covered and shaped by glaciers, and the hilly moraine region marking the farthest reach of the glaciers that occupied this land. The consequent diversity of land, wetland, and water types in turn has, over centuries and millennia, attracted a diversity of human, animal, and plant life. The richness of Dunn in woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife not only are known in the present; it also was well known by Native Americans who located villages, campgrounds, and effigy mounds here with vistas over the lakes, bogs, and marshes. Signs of the early cultural past remain in effigy mounds as flying goose, panther, and conical and linear mounds. The physical, biotic, and cultural characteristics, past and present, are interwoven and strongly interrelated; they constitute an integrated system, which we call the Town's Park and Open Space System.

A Brief History

Memories and knowledge of the past lend meaning to the present. Preserving visible signs of the past remind us of our heritage. The Town of Dunn is fortunate to be rich in historic resources.

Some three to four thousand years ago, plant cultivation, pottery, and effigy mound building first appeared in the area. The effigy mounds are today the most visible landmarks of the Town's pre-settlement past. These mounds take forms of animals, birds, lines, and cones. Among the largest are a bird effigy with a wingspread of 135 feet and a linear mound that measures 305 feet. These mounds, as well as cemeteries, campsites, and villages represent a valuable part of the Town's history. In fact, a look at the distribution of archaeological features in Dane County reveals that, just as with its wetlands, the Town of Dunn has a greater concentration of archaeological sites than any other town in the county. Native Americans inhabiting the area following the mound builders include the Winnebago. Their name for Lake Kegonsa, inspired by maple woodlands, was "hard maple lake": No-sa-koochs-tel-a.

The Town's first European settler, Alvin W. Wetherby, arrived with his family in 1843 and settled near the present Town Hall. The Town's richness was recorded 10 years earlier by Lorin Miller, the deputy surveyor who reported: "This is a good township of land, and is watered with First (Kegonsa) and Second (Waubesa) Lakes and two ponds, with Catfish Creek (Yahara River) and a number of small streams and has few marshes. Its waters abound with different kinds of fish, such as catfish, pike, black bass, and rock bass. Geese and ducks are found in abundance. The land is rolling and has many artificial mounds in different parts of the township." Also present were extensive areas of prairie in the Town and, for the most part, oak savannah.

As farms prospered, settlers built many fine homes some of which remain and provide numerous fine examples of Greek revival and other architectural styles. The booklet entitled

Rural America Revisited, developed by the Town's American Bicentennial Committee, contains more information about many of these sites, as well as information about the Town's archaeological and natural heritage.

Early settlers farmed and built log cabins beginning in the mid-1880s. These homes were often replaced with spacious frame structures or sturdy dwellings made from brick or stone of local origin. Fine examples of Victorian and Early Picturesque architecture, Gothic, and Greek revival styling are found throughout the Town.

One special farmhouse was the birthplace and home of Conrad Elvehjem, former president of the University of Wisconsin (1958-1962) and world famous researcher in nutrition and biochemistry. Other unique structures also remain, such as the parachute-folding factory. The Town's Comprehensive Plan provides a complete list of these historic resources, as well as additional information about the Town's history and cultural resources.

Population and Development Trends

Data sources: US Census Bureau, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

The growth rate of the Town is influenced greatly by the Madison metropolitan area, which lies to the northwest of the Town. During the 1970s the Town of Dunn grew much faster than Dane County as a whole. However, after the Town's two-year lot creation moratorium from 1977 to 1979 and the adoption of the Land Use Plan in 1979, population stabilized and has held steady until the present at an estimated 4,931 (2010), a decline of 0.6 percent from the 1980 population of 4,966. The county as a whole grew by 50.9 percent from 1980-2010 and average growth in Dane County towns during the same period averaged 26.2 percent. According to the U.S. Census, Dunn's total population dropped somewhat from 5,270 people to 4,931 people from 2000-2010, a drop of 6.4 %.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 98.0 percent of the Town's population is of White racial heritage, with the largest minority group being Hispanic or Latino at 2.0 percent. These percentages are almost identical to 2000 census figures, though the Town's white population decreased 0.3 % while the Hispanic or Latino population increased 0.3%. The town's Black population has increased from 0.5% in 2000 to 1.0% in 2010, and the Asian population has increased from 0.7% to 1.2%. It is notable that these increases, while small, occurred in a decade (2000-2010), where the Town's total population decreased 6.4% , indicating that while the population declines, it is also becoming slightly more diverse.

Age & Gender

In 2010, the median age in the Town of Dunn was 42.1 years. This is older than Dane County's median age of 34.5 years. Both the Town and county populations have seen increases in their median ages over the last decade. The Town's 2000 median age was 40.4 years, compared with 33.2 years for the county.

In 2000, nearly 50 percent of the Town was between the ages of 25 and 54. In 2010, the majority (54.7%) of the population was between 40 and 70 . This has implications for the types of park and recreation facilities that are desired by Town residents.

The gender breakdown in the town continues to be approximately equal, with males comprising 50.6 percent of the population and females comprising 49.4 percent.

Population Forecasts

The Wisconsin Department of Administration projects that population in Dunn will continue to slowly decrease: by 1.2% from 2010-2020. By comparison, the Dane County population is projected to increase by 8.7% from 2010-2020.

Physical Characteristics of the Region

Geology and Water Resources

The Town's geology and water resources are an important part of the Park and Open Space System. Glacial hills and moraines and the interspersed lakes and wetlands provide much of the Town's visual quality. Dunn lies in two topographic regions -- the glacial moraine area, which lies in the southern one-third of the Town, and the Yahara River Valley area, which makes up the remaining northern two-thirds of the Town. The moraine area, which cuts through the Town, is part of the Milton Moraine. Knobby hills and ridges that consist of rounded rock fragments ranging in size from clay particles to boulders characterize Dunn's moraine area. Kettle-holes, developed from melted ice blocks, dent this area. One large one contains Hook Lake and several other glacial kettles contain marshes.

Subsurface geology and ground water - Groundwater in the Town originates as precipitation, percolates downward and becomes part of the groundwater. Movement of groundwater is from recharge areas of higher elevation to points of discharge ditches. The groundwater reservoirs, or aquifers, in the Town are found at two levels: (1) an upper aquifer composed of fine wind-blown soil (loess) and glacial deposits and (2) a lower aquifer composed of various rock types, including sandstone and dolomite.

Surface water resources - The Yahara River Valley within the Town includes Lake Waubesa, Lake Kegonsa, and Mud Lake. The lowlands adjacent to these lakes and the Yahara contain very expansive wetlands. The wetlands located in the Yahara River watershed and in the Town of Dunn are among the largest in Dane County. They include Waubesa Wetlands, Lower Mud Lake Marsh, and Door Creek Marsh.

Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa were formed when glacial moraines dammed the Yahara River Valley. Lake Waubesa attains a depth of 34 feet and is 2,113 acres in area. Lake Kegonsa has a maximum depth of 31 feet and covers an area of 2,716 acres.

Mud Lake, a natural widening of the Yahara River, is located between Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa. It is a shallow lake with a maximum depth of five feet and is 196 acres in area. It is encircled by extensive wetlands and is accessible only from the Yahara River.

Woodlands, Wetlands, Wildlife and Fisheries

The Town of Dunn has a long and rich natural heritage. Since the last glacier receded some 12 thousand years ago, the Town has possessed a mixture of prairie, woodlands, and wetlands, all teeming with game and fish. About 125 years ago, human settlers replaced prairie grasses with rows of cultivated grain, and domesticated animals began to share the town with their wild antecedents. Although the new agricultural pattern was, perhaps, the greatest change to occur in the town since the last glacial period, the change was not altogether out of harmony with what had already existed. Plants were replacing plants, and animals were replacing animals. But the prairie, which lay over rich soil, was almost completely obliterated.

In the past several decades, a second great change has been taking place. With the growth of the Madison metropolitan area, subdivisions and roads have been displacing crops and livestock. The Town of Dunn's Comprehensive Plan affects and guides the process to ensure this development has the least possible impact on the Town's resources.

Scattered prairie plants along some roadsides and on the railroad right-of-way represent the one part of the Town's natural heritage, which has almost disappeared, the prairie. Only two small plots remain where plants grow as a natural community. One of these prairie remnants contains one of the only existing populations of wild hyacinth in the county. The Park Commission has sponsored roadside prairie restoration projects with citizen participation. This *Plan* calls for continued sponsoring of such projects for prairie restoration.

Woodlands

Wooded areas are an important part of the Town's natural environment. Ranging from small hedgerows to woodlots over 80 acres in size, these areas provide wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, firewood, and wood products. Some contain rare wildflowers while Indian mounds can be found in others. Woodland ecosystems are also very important aesthetically to the Town's scenic landscape.

In the summer and fall of 1978, all of the woods of Dunn were located and evaluated. For each of the 78 woodlands identified, data were recorded on types and qualities of trees, shrubs and forbs; woodland quality; surface topography and slope; and relationship to adjacent ecosystems in the landscape. The surveyed woodlots were classified according to predominate tree and shrub varieties present. Approximately four-fifths of the woodlots were found to be a xeric dry hardwood type, containing white oak, red oak, and black oak, shagbark hickory and black cherry.

Common shrub types found in the understory of Dunn's woodlands include dogwood, sumac, gooseberry, and high bush cranberry. Honeysuckle, a weedy Eurasian invader of Wisconsin woodlands, is the dominant shrub in some of the woodlots. Common ground cover plants are strawberry, woodbine, wild grape, wild rose, Virginia creeper, Solomon seal, sweet cicely and violets. Plants, which occur in undisturbed woodlands, include Dutchman's breeches, jack-in-the-pulpit, Jacobs ladder, lady slipper, various orchids, trillium, and the trout lily.

After the Town's woodlots were surveyed, each was assigned a quality rank of excellent, good, or fair. These ratings were assigned to give an overall indication of the quality of the woodlot itself and its importance as part of the Town's Park and Open Space System. The individual woodlot field survey sheets, containing detailed information describing each surveyed woodlot, are published in a volume that serves as the Appendix to the *Town of Dunn Open Space Preservation Handbook*. Of the woodlots surveyed, about 30 percent were ranked excellent. Most with excellent quality rank adjoined or were near a wetland, stream, or lake, thereby providing wildlife habitat and an aesthetic quality. Some contained archaeological features, primarily Indian mounds. The formation of the Town of Dunn Tree Board in 2012 ensures the preservation and management of the town's urban forest.

Wetlands

The Town of Dunn has a greater concentration of high quality wetland areas than any other township in Dane County. The five major wetlands systems and several smaller ones in the Town are an important part of the Town's open space system because:

1. They provide habitat or food for a majority of fish and wildlife species in the Town.
2. They store floodwaters and release them slowly.
3. They filter sediments and pollutants from runoff entering lakes and streams.
4. They serve as groundwater recharge and discharge areas.
5. They are an important part of the Town's scenic landscape.

Waubesa Wetlands - This large wetland complex lies at the southwest corner of Lake Waubesa and is comprised of more than 400 acres of a variety of wetland types, including elevated peat mounds, fens, sedge meadows, shallow-water marsh, deep-water marsh, and shrub carr. Underlying these wetlands are lake and wetland peats, which formed the wetland by filling a shallow bay of Lake Waubesa, peats that reach depths of 95 feet at the wetland/lake edge. These peats contain a record of past life, records that have been read and interpreted by paleontologist Marjorie Winkler in describing the life and climate of Dunn through the 6500 years recorded in these deposits. One objective of this *Parks and Open Space Plan* is to preserve this and other valuable natural historical records contained in the peats of this and other Dunn wetlands.

Waubesa Wetlands provide the habitat for a wide variety of wetland plants and animals, as well as upland species that feed and seek shelter in these wild expanses. The calcium-rich waters in the area support biotic communities, such as the Southern Sedge Meadow and the Fen. Fens are sedge lands located on a waterlogged alkaline peat soil and are composed of characteristic sedges, forbs, and grasses. Waubesa Fen at the west edge of Waubesa Wetlands provides extensive habitat for the rare Lesser Fringed Gentian, a species that blooms in October.

The sedge meadows that border the marsh along the upland edge also are located on waterlogged wet soils, and consist of sedges, blue-joint grass, the marsh fern, and turtle head, to name a few.

Both Murphys Creek and Swan Creek flow through the wetland. Nine large springs and seepages maintain high water quality in the wetland and in Murphys Creek, which in turn contributes to the water quality in Lake Waubesa. The Bogholt Deep Spring is the largest, giving rise to a stream 50 feet wide. The next largest spring produces 3000 gallons per minute. The springs of Waubesa Wetlands and the seepages, which underlie Waubesa Fen, are sites of groundwater discharge.

Waubesa Wetlands also provides excellent habitat for waterfowl, small marsh birds, sand hill cranes, hawks, and owls. Cooper's hawks, rough-legged hawks, red-tailed hawks, and harriers are found in the area. The large springs keep water open and provide an over-wintering area for several hundred ducks.

Lower Mud Lake Wetlands - Lower Mud Lake Wetlands, surrounding the natural widening of the Yahara River (Lower Mud Lake) is a part of the many large peat deposits along the Yahara River. A large peat bed underlies the marsh on the west side of the lake. The oldest recorded peat here has been dated at 11.5 thousand years. This expansive marsh is fed both by springs and partially from important spring resting areas for migrating waterfowl in the county. Ducks, geese, herons, and swans stop here to rest and feed. Since the water opens early because of the flowing water, the area provides one of very few sites for early migrating waterfowl.

The east side of the wetlands is primary sedge meadow lying upon peat. Woodcock and Wilson's snipe use breeding and feeding habitat areas present here.

Door Creek Marsh - Door Creek Marsh, a shallow marsh with extensive stands of cattail, also rests on a major peat deposit of the Yahara River Valley. The north end of the peat deposit is drier than the southern area, and is covered with sedge meadow and shrubs. Further north, Door Creek's ditched watercourse is lined with sedge meadow and disturbance vegetation. The upper reaches of Door Creek have been channelized and can no longer act as a filter protecting Lake Kegonsa from nutrient and sediment input. An objective of this *Parks and Open Space Plan* is, in cooperation with other agencies, to restore the functioning of this wetland filter for the enhancement of water quality of Lake Kegonsa.

Hook Lake - This cranberry bog lake, extremely rare for southern Wisconsin, is high on the Milton moraine in the moraine region of the town and covers an area of several hundred acres. This bog, like those in northern Wisconsin, includes cranberries, Sphagnum mosses, tamarack trees, cotton grass, and many other species characteristic of acidic organic soil. Its high elevation serves to separate it from the alkaline groundwater, making nutrient-poor rainwater its only water source. The resultant soft-water condition and the unusual species this supports, makes this remarkably undisturbed wetland one of the most unusual wetlands in Dane County and a rare type for anywhere in southern Wisconsin.

Only a small area of open water exists in Hook Lake. A well-developed tamarack stand is in the southwest corner and an extensive leather leaf bog exists between the tamarack and open water. A large variety of cover and habitat is available in the bog due to the diversity of its vegetation, which includes sedge mats, weed beds, cattails, shrubs, broad-leaved, and coniferous woods. Common nesting birds include the snipe, woodcock, sora, green heron, wood duck, and mallard. The red-tailed hawk and great blue heron use the area for feeding. Muskrat and mink inhabit the area and are trapped here.

Grass Lake - This deep-water marsh is located in the moraine region, and is one of the few deep-water marshes found in Dane County. It contains characteristic emergent, floating, and submerged aquatic plants. The water in this marsh usually is permanent except during extreme drought. Grass Lake, with its irregular edge between open water and cattails, provides good nesting sites for marsh birds. Surface feeding and diving ducks heavily uses the marsh, with open water in the central area, during migration periods. Birds, which use the area for nesting, include wood ducks, pied-billed grebes, green herons, black terns, and occasionally the gallinule. The yellow-headed blackbird sometimes is seen here.

Other Marshes - Several smaller kettle-hole marshes are common in the southern third of the town, which provide additional feeding and nesting areas for waterfowl. Also, other lake-edge and extensive river-edge wetlands are abundant in the town. Some of these are of particular importance as filters of upland run-off (such as Wick's Marsh along Waubesa Avenue along the western Lake Waubesa shore) and spawning ground for Northern Pike (such as Esox Marsh west of the Waubesa Bible Camp on the western shore of Lake Waubesa. It is part of this *Parks and Open Space Plan* to protect and restore wetlands such as these for the protection and enhancement of surface water quality and for the natural production of fishes and other animal life.

Destruction of Wetland Functions - Two types of activities can destroy the functions served by wetlands. The first types include direct alteration of wetlands by dredging, ditching, tiling, filling, or road and utility construction. The second activity type includes land uses in the uplands around wetlands which create increased runoff and sedimentation, prevent wildlife movement to other parts, motion, lights, or other activities which drive wildlife from the nearby wetland areas.

In the past, the destruction of wetland functions resulted primarily from activity of the first type. For example, wetlands around the lakes have been filled for housing development. Door Creek Marsh has been extensively ditched and tiled. Today, the greatest threat to the Town's wetlands comes from the second type of activity: uplands land use. As cash cropping and the size of farm machinery has increased in recent years, more runoff from increased residential development has had much the same effect. New roads and utilities, if improperly located, will destroy or separate wildlife from necessary uplands habitat.

Therefore, it is an objective of this plan to engage in protection and to cooperate in protection of wetlands, as well as to work with the Plan Commission, private citizens, and others to give appropriate attention to proper uplands land use management.

Fisheries

The quality of the Town's fisheries attracted people to the area long before European settlers arrived. Since the turn of this century, walleye, northern pike, and other fish have drawn people from throughout southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. The good quality of the fishing in the Town, along with other opportunities offered by Lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa, make the Town an important regional and state recreational area.

Lake Waubesa - Lake Waubesa provides good and consistent fish production with periodic stocking of walleye. Other fish species will successfully reproduce. The Waubesa Wetland area provides a major spawning area for the northern pike population. Pike also spawn in the wetland area near the radio towers. Fish found in the lake include the large-mouth bass, blue gill, black crappie, white crappie, perch, walleye, northern pike, muskellunge, and pumpkin seed. The rough fish in Lake Waubesa include channel catfish, white sucker, carp, freshwater drum, the Blake bullhead, brown bullhead, and yellow bullhead. Low populations of white bass and yellow bass and an assortment of minor species are also found in the lake.

Mud Lake - Mud Lake is predominantly a pan fish and bass lake. Blue gill, crappie, perch, bullhead, carp, some northern pike, large-mouth bass, and mud minnows reproduce here. Walleye fishing, however, is negligible.

Lake Kegonsa - Lake Kegonsa supports a diverse warm fishery, and contains similar kinds of fish as found in Lake Waubesa. However, because it also supports a large population of rough and forage fish, the quality of fishing in Kegonsa is not as high. However, it does provide for better walleye spawning than Lake Waubesa. Door Creek Marsh, just north of the lake, is used by northern pike for spawning.

The Yahara River - The Yahara River fishery supports warm water fish species due to the natural conditions in the area, especially the high summer temperatures. The river provides a rocky gravel substrate and a good flow of water required by walleye for spawning grounds. Crappie, sucker, and northern pike also spawn in the river to some extent.

The Town's Creeks - Swan Creek primarily supports forage fish, although some pan fish, northern pike, and walleye use the creek during the spawning season. Murphy's Creek also supports forage fish, where the spring flow increases and water quality improves. Pan fish and northern pike use the creek for a spawning area. Door Creek in its channelized condition only supports a limited warm water fishery, consisting predominantly of forage fish. Limiting further ditching and wetland drainage can protect northern pike spawning areas in Door Creek Marsh.

Fisheries and Wetlands

It is important to note the relationship between wetlands and fisheries management. To begin with, wetlands provide integrity to the lakes by stabilizing water levels. In addition, when associated with an incoming stream, the wetlands maintain or improve water quality levels. The wetland acts as a filter, and intercepts nutrient loads through the uptake of nutrients by aquatic plants, which reduces the problems of over-enrichment (high nutrient supply to plants and algae) in the lake. Wetlands also provide spawning areas for northern pike and some pan fish and will act as a nursery for young fish of several species. Finally, wetlands are important food production areas for both small and mature fish.

Appendix C
Town of Dunn Park and Open Space Inventory
Updated December 2014

Facility	Use	Designation	Ownership	Acres owned by Dunn	Acres owned by other entities	Equipment/Structures	Recommended Improvements/ Comments
Babcock Conservancy	Conservation, drainage	CON	Dunn	1.73	No	No	
Berkan Street Greenway	Empty lot providing limited lake access	CON	Dunn	0.29	No	No	
Colladay Point Drive (lot 29)	Lake access	SU	Dunn	0.38		Wooden fence about 15-20 feet from road helps define area	Could add a picnic table; too many trees to be a good playlot
Colladay Point (Zor Court)	Lake access for neighborhood	SU	Dunn	0.12	No	No	
Colladay Point Stormwater Lot	Water drainage, prairie, trails	CON	Dunn	7.24	No	No	Could potentially developed as a park in the future
Drainageway (between 1924 Barber Drive)	Water collection, basin for Lake Kegonsa	SU	Dunn	0.43	No	No	
Dunn Heritage Park	Prairie restoration, walking trails and bridges, ponds	CON	Dunn	29.47	No	No	
Dunnwood Heights Park	Hiking trails, bird area	CON	Dunn	2.25	No	No	
Exchange Street/Yahara River Access	Fishing	SU	Dunn	0.30	No	No	Continue to maintain trash situation and encourage clean-ups of the site along the river
Greenridge Conservancy	Water retention area, some trash	CON	Dunn	1.66	No	No	Enforce trash situation to clean up site - especially in spring
Lake Kegonsa Manor	Open play area	MPK	Dunn	6.02		Backstop, picnic table	Could be developed as a neighborhood park - 1 potential sledding hill
Lake Street Greenway (off of CTH AB)	Lake access, fishing	SU	Dunn	0.10	No	No	Clean up storage of logs and steel frames along west border
Lally's Oakview	Neighborhood play lot	MPK	Dunn	0.90		2 picnic tables, bike rack, woodframe backstop, park sign	
Lincoln Park (Barber Drive)	Lake access	MPK	Dunn	0.37	No	No	Problems with standing water in lawn area/neighbors' yards
McConnell Street Boat Launch	Parking and drainage ditch, lake access	SU	Dunn	1.69	No	No	
Oregon Heights Conservancy	Drainage, bird area	CON	Dunn	2.31	No	No	Consider taking action on eroded slope if necessary - preserve as natural area for birds and vegetation
Orvold Park and Nature Conservancy	Hiking trails, river access, canoe launch	CON	Dunn	7.59		Hiking path through the site	
Raylen Meadows Park	Open play area	MPK	Dunn	0.43	No	No	Could be developed as a playground with equipment
Ridge Court	May be a play area, storage of neighborhood property	MPK	Dunn				May be used for a turn-around in the future
Rock Elm Park	Playground, lake access	NPK	Dunn	0.50		Playground equipment, picnic table, wooden fence, park sign	Lawn not in great shape, dirt/mud areas and tire tracks to water
Segebrecht Property	Vacant lot	CON	Dunn	0.42	No	No	Recommended this area be used for nature conservancy; some of the property used by neighboring residents for campfires, etc, which needs to be enforced
Shaw Park	Lake access	SU	Dunn	0.38	No	No	Clean up brush piles by lake (may be done)
Simpson Park	Playground	NPK	Dunn	2.00		Playground equipment, bike rack, picnic table, backstop	Improve access for other residents of the subdivision through signage, etc.
Sinaiko Park	Oak savanna, conservancy, prairie restoration	CON	Dunn	3.00	No	No	
Spartan Hills Greenway	Lawn walkways, some drainage	SU	Dunn	2.75	No	No	
Spartan Hills Park	Neighborhood Park	NPK	Dunn	3.22		Wood play structure, swingset, picnic table, bike rack, volleyball net	
Sterna Park	Playground	NPK	Dunn	2.07		Jungle gym, picnic table, backstop, park sign	

Facility	Use	Designation	Ownership	Acres owned by Dunn	Acres owned by other entities	Equipment/Structures	Recommended Improvements/ Comments
Third Street Retention Lot	Retention pond	SU	Dunn	3.34		No	
Town Cemetery	Cemetery	SU	Dunn			No	
Town Hall	Government, community	SU	Dunn			Yes	
Transfer Site	Recycling center	SU	Dunn			Yes	
Watercress Greenway	Water retention, drainage area	SU	Dunn	0.24		Small bridge	
Waubesa Beach Greenway (Gannon Street)	Lake access	SU	Dunn	0.20		No	
Waubesa Beach Lake Access - Lot 8 Goodland Park Road	Lake access	SU	Dunn	0.21		No	
Waubesa Heights Greenway	Lawn, walkway, drainage	SU	Dunn	2.06		No	
Willow Court Greenway	Lawn, lake access, drainage area	SU	Dunn	0.18		No	
Babcock Park	Multi-use park	REG	Dane County		33.0	Boat launch, fish cleaning facility, accessible fishing pier, campground, bathroom, shower, sanitary dump station	Approximate acreage per Dane County Parks Staff; includes acreage in McFarland, Dunn, and Pleasant Springs.
Door Creek Wetlands	Conservancy area	CON	Dane County		1600.0		
Fish Camp Launch	Multi-use park	REG	Dane County		99.0	Boat launch, bathrooms, fish cleaning facility, parking area, picnic area, canoe launch	
Goodland Park	Multi-use park	REG	Dane County		15.0	Shelters (2), picnic areas, volleyball court, tennis and basketball courts, softball field, playground equipment, bathrooms, unsupervised swimming area, boat	The County's Parks and Open Space Plan recommends acquiring a small addition for public access and parking AND turning this site over to the Town of Dunn
Holtzman County Resource Area	Conservancy area	CON	Dane County		64.0		Approximate acreage per Dane County Parks Staff; includes acreage in Dunn and Pleasant Springs.
Lower Mud Lake	Conservancy area	CON	Dane County		1700.0		Some litter, overflow parking is a problem. The Town leases this from County.
Ole J Quam Park and Amundson Boat Landing	Lake access, boat launch	SU	Dane County		0.2	Boat launch, signage, pier	
TOTAL ACRES				83.87	3511.2		

MPK = Mini-Park

NPK = Neighborhood Park

SU = Special Use

CON = Conservancy Area

REG = Regional Park

Appendix D. Grant Information Matrix		Contact							
	Match required	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
	Local Non-profit Conservation Org.	X	X		X				
	Local Government	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Habitat Restoration	X	X						
	Land Practice							X	
	Facilities	X	X	X		X	X		X
	Easement				X		X		
	Fee Simple Purchase	X	X	X		X	X		
GRANT PROGRAM	Stewardship Program Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)	Local government contact Cheryl Housley 608-275-3218 Cheryl.Housley@Wisconsin.Gov	See above	Olivia Shanahan Urban Forestry grant specialist 608-267-3775 olivia.shanahan@wisconsin.gov	Department of Natural Resources Kathleen Wolski 414-263-8670 kathleen.wolski@wisconsin.gov				
	Stewardship Program Urban Rivers								
	Stewardship Program Urban Greenspace								
	Stewardship Program Acquisition of Development Rights								
	Federal Programs Land and Water Conservation								
	Federal Programs Recreational Trails Act								
	Other State Programs Urban Forestry								
	Sport Fish Restoration								