

CHAPTER 8

RECOMMENDED PARK, OPEN SPACE AND TRAIL CONCEPTUAL PLANS, PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS AND FUTURE PARK AND OPEN SPACE AREAS

The following recommendations are based on the Village projected growth rates and distributional service area deficiencies identified in the preceding chapters of this Plan. In total, this Plan recommends adding 14 new parks throughout the Village and making improvements to 10 existing parks over the next approximate 25 years, which reflects the timing of the Village's 2035 Comprehensive Plan. Maps 8.1 and 8.2 as reference in this Chapter on found at the end of this Chapter.

Future Parks are shown on Map 8.1 and Table 8.1 below. Based upon the 2035 population projections, these recommendations, which would likely occur incrementally over time, would satisfy SEWRPC's and the Village's park and recreation standards. The timing of park land acquisitions and park development should coincide with the actual demand for park and recreational facilities to address current needs and the needs for the newly developing areas of the community.

**TABLE 8.1
PROPOSED NEW PARKS**

Future Park
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
Carol Beach Unit W Park
Creekside Park (North) Park
Pleasant Farms Park
Pleasant Homes Park
Sheridan Woods/Prairie Trails East Park
Sheridan Woods Park
Green Hill Farms Park
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL/PARKS
Barnes Creek Neighborhood Elementary School
Pleasant Homes Neighborhood Elementary School
Village Green Neighborhood Elementary School
Tobin Road Neighborhood Elementary School
COMMUNITY SCHOOL/PARKS
Prairie Lane Neighborhood Elementary and Middle School
Highpoint Neighborhood Middle School

As reflected in the Village's 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Map 8.2 in this chapter shows by means of concentric rings the planned park and recreational facilities service areas based upon the existing, recently acquired and proposed future Neighborhood Parks, Neighborhood Schools/Parks, Community parks and Regional Park areas in the Village. As new park areas are acquired by the Village through donations, dedications or land purchases, detailed Conceptual Plans are prepared for their eventual development.

PROPOSED PARK CONCEPTUAL PLAN DEVELOPMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

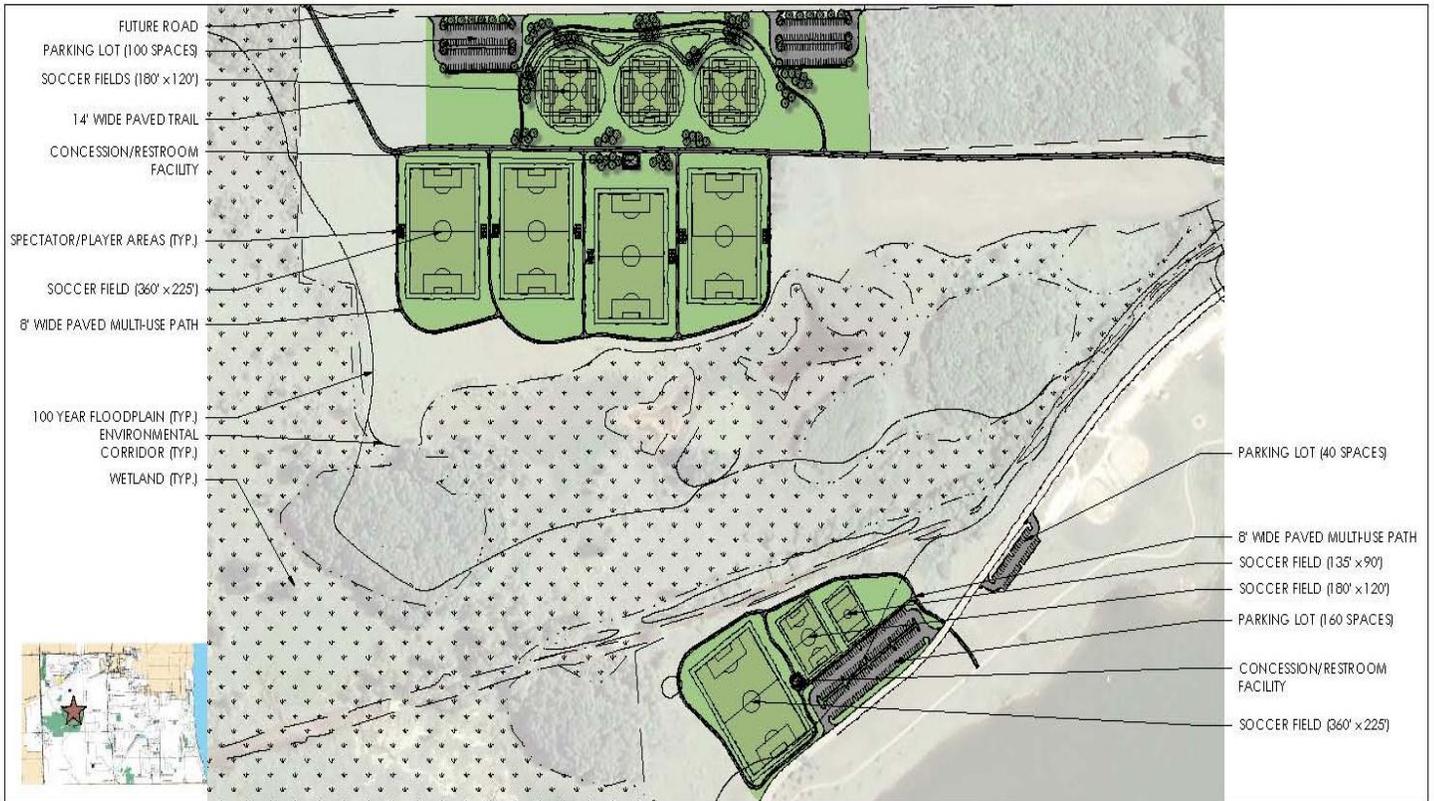
As a part of this and previous park planning processes, there have been numerous Park Conceptual Plans prepared to further guide the development and enhancement of the Village's park, recreation and trails system. The Conceptual Plans include an analysis of the capital improvements needed to construct improvements in the parks at the Regional, Community and Neighborhood levels. The implementation of these Conceptual Plans will be the Village's priority over the next five (5) years as the budgetary means will allow for their development. General descriptions of the park recommendations are listed below. In addition see Appendix D for larger Conceptual Plans described below.

Existing Regional Park: It is recommended that the Village work with other public agencies to expand recreational and parking facilities that would benefit not only the users of Prairie Springs Park but also the larger community. Both outdoor recreational improvements such as new soccer fields and the expansion of parking through a proposed Park and Ride parking lot across from the Village RecPlex would benefit the IH-94 traveling public, local commuters as well as the recreational users of the Park.

Prairie Springs Park:

- Acquire and develop ten (10) new, outdoor soccer fields on the northwest corner of Prairie Springs Park west of 88th Avenue (CTH H) and north of Park Drive. One (1) soccer area would be adjacent to a future proposed public High School site that has been identified on the Village's and KUSD's Comprehensive Plans and one (1) soccer area adjacent to the existing Park Drive in Prairie Springs Park. A portion of the land is currently privately owned by a local land owner farmer, with a portion of the site located with the Village's existing regional park. The development would specifically include four (5) 360' x 225' soccer fields; (4) 128' x 120' soccer fields; and one (1) 135' x 90' soccer field; two (2) 100 space parking lots and one (1) 160 space parking lot; and two concession/restroom facilities; and a 14 foot wide paved walking trail which wraps around the soccer fields. The Conceptual Plan for the proposed soccer complex is shown in Figure 8.1.
- Work with the State and Kenosha County to construct a 300-car, paved Park and Ride commuter parking lot on the south side of Terwall Terrace, adjacent to STH 165 in Prairie Springs Park.
- Obtain grant funding to assess the condition of natural resources within the park and develop a natural resources/woodland restoration management plan for the Park.
- Extend the trail system within the park and create interpretive exhibits that highlight the natural resources.
- Create a monument signage tribute to Phil Sander at Park entrance.
- Design trails and firebreaks to accommodate 5K and 10K triathlons.

Figure 8.1
Conceptual Plan for additional improvements at Prairie Springs Park

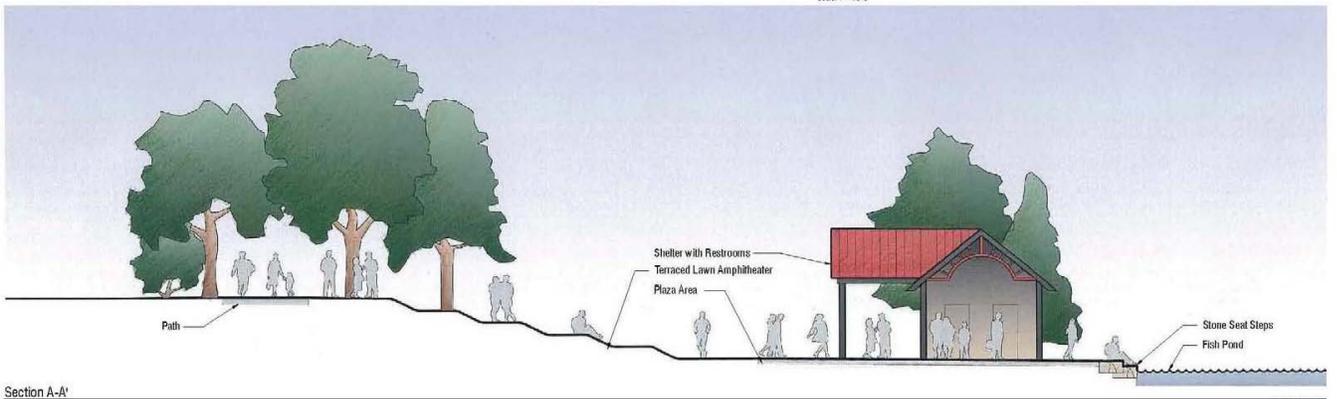


Existing Community Parks: It is recommended that the Village continue to develop or re-develop four (4) existing Village-owned community parks over the next 5-10 year time frame—Ingram Park, Village Green Park, Pleasant Prairie Park, and Mompers Woods. The land for both Ingram Park and Mompers Woods were recently donated to the Village in 2010 and 2000, respectively. Both the Highpoint and Stahl Community Parks are proposed to be developed in coordination with KUSD. These developments may occur over the next 10-20 years, depending upon community growth. These parks are generally located on Map 8.1.

Ingram Park – The Village just recently completed a pond, sledding hill and gravel parking lot for this park located in the 5700 block of 95th Street. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.2)

- Construct a handicapped accessible fishing ramp/dock.
- Design/develop a dog run/park.
- Add other passive amenities such as picnic and play areas.
- Pave the parking lot and entrance roadway.
- Connect walking path from west end of 89th Street into the park.

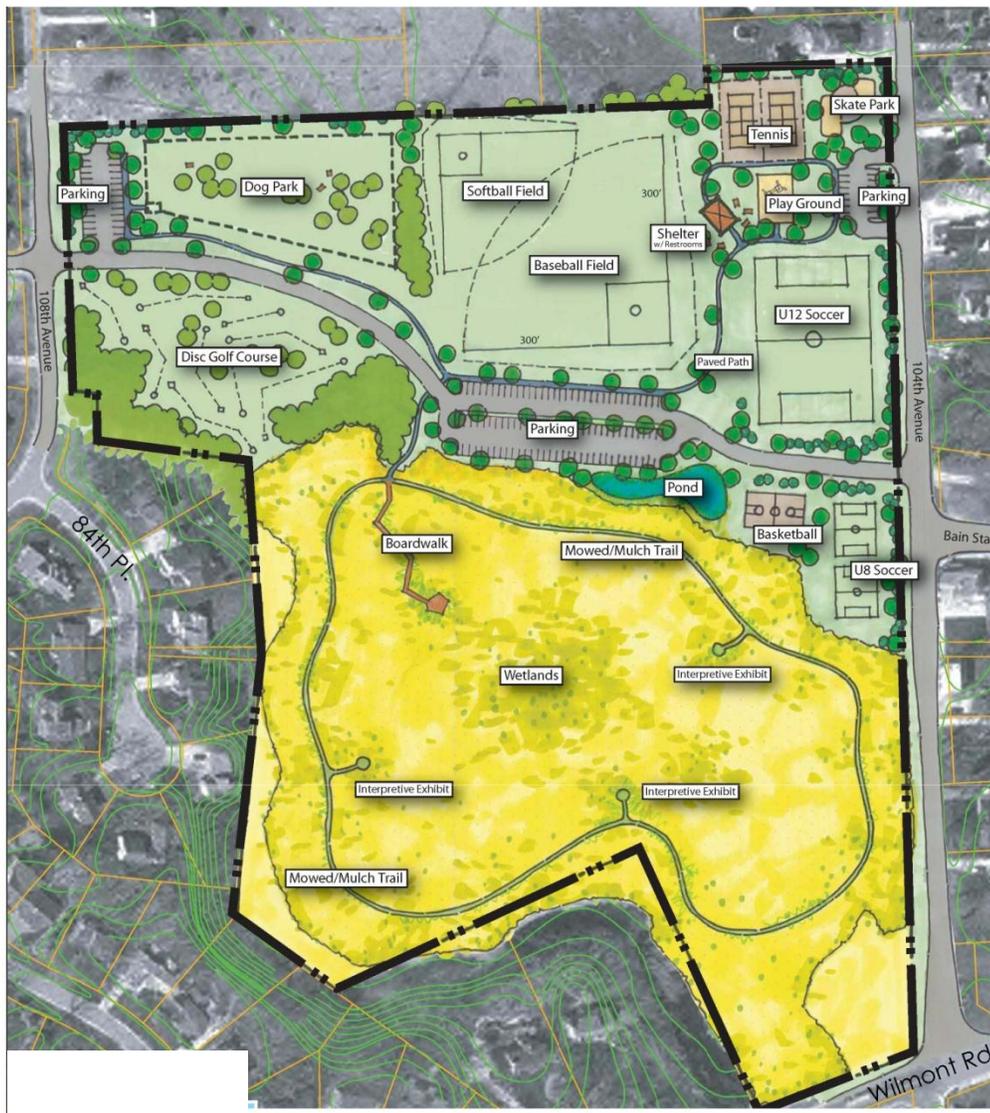
**Figure 8.2
Ingram Park Conceptual Plan**



Pleasant Prairie Park - This 22-acre park is located at the intersection of 104th Avenue and Bain Station Road on the western edge of the Village about three-fourths of a mile east of the Des Plaines River. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.3).

- Acquire additional parcels of land abutting 104th Avenue and abutting to 108th Avenue for park expansion purposes.
- Expand the existing activities recreational amenities by improving the baseball/softball facilities and add soccer fields and basketball court.
- Explore opportunities to develop more unique outdoor facilities such as a dog park, disc golf course and a skate park.
- Develop and incorporate a system of boardwalks and interpretive exhibits into the park's adjacent wetland areas. Interpretive displays could include information of the surrounding environment such as details of plant and wildlife that may be observed along a trail or within the park or the history of the land.

Figure 8.3
Concept Plan for Pleasant Prairie Park



Village Green Park – This 29-acre park is located south of 97th Street and east of Cooper Road on land that was dedicated by the adjacent residential subdivisions. The park is directly northwest of the Village’s planned mix-use commercial/retail area referred to as the Village Green Center. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.4).

- Install basketball and tennis courts.
- Create a volleyball court.
- Develop a baseball field, soccer field,
- Design a shelter/restrooms facility.
- Connect existing park pedestrian/walking trails to adjacent trails and establish a trailhead.
- Construct a parking lot.
- Utilize open land areas for playfields or picnic areas.

Figure 8.4
Conceptual Plan for Village Green Park



Existing Neighborhood Parks: It is recommended that the Village make modifications or improvements to the following Neighborhood Parks over the next five (5) year time frame. These parks are generally located on Map 4.1.

Becker Park - This small 1.5-acre park is located at the intersection of 76th Street and 48th Avenue within the Mid-West Highlands Subdivision along the northern perimeter of Pleasant Prairie. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.5).

- Re-grade the land to improve storm water drainage and to prevent collection of water in the middle of the park.
- Improve the condition of the softball field.

- Trim the trees on the perimeter of the park for traffic visibility.
- Upgrade the playground equipment to be handicapped accessible.

Figure 8.5
Conceptual Plan for Becker Park



Carol Beach Park - This 2.9-acre park is located at the intersection of 111th Street and 9th Avenue on the eastern side of Pleasant Prairie near the coast of Lake Michigan. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.6).

- Replace the basketball goals.
- Upgrade the playground equipment to be handicapped accessible.
- Improve the condition of the softball field.
- Upgrade the pavilion.

Figure 8.6
Conceptual Plan for Carol Beach Park



Creekside Park (South) - This small 1.69-acre Park is located on the west side of Creekside Circle just north of 93rd Street at 62nd Court in the Creekside Crossing Development. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.7).

- Acquire land for Creekside North Park a future park as shown in Figure 8.7 as discussed below
- Construct a walking/pedestrian trail that will link the northern and southern Creekside Parks.

Lake Michigan Park - This 4.5-acre linear park site area is located on Lakeshore Drive along the coast of Lake Michigan between 102nd and 113th Streets. Lake Michigan Park has one designated picnic area, a total of 550 feet of beach along the water's edge, and public access to the Lake. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.8).

- Acquire additional land adjacent to the park.
- Explore alternatives for providing controlled and monitored swimming areas and restricting motor boat and jet-ski access through the park.
- Develop permanent restroom facilities.

Figure 8.7
Conceptual Plan for Creekside Park

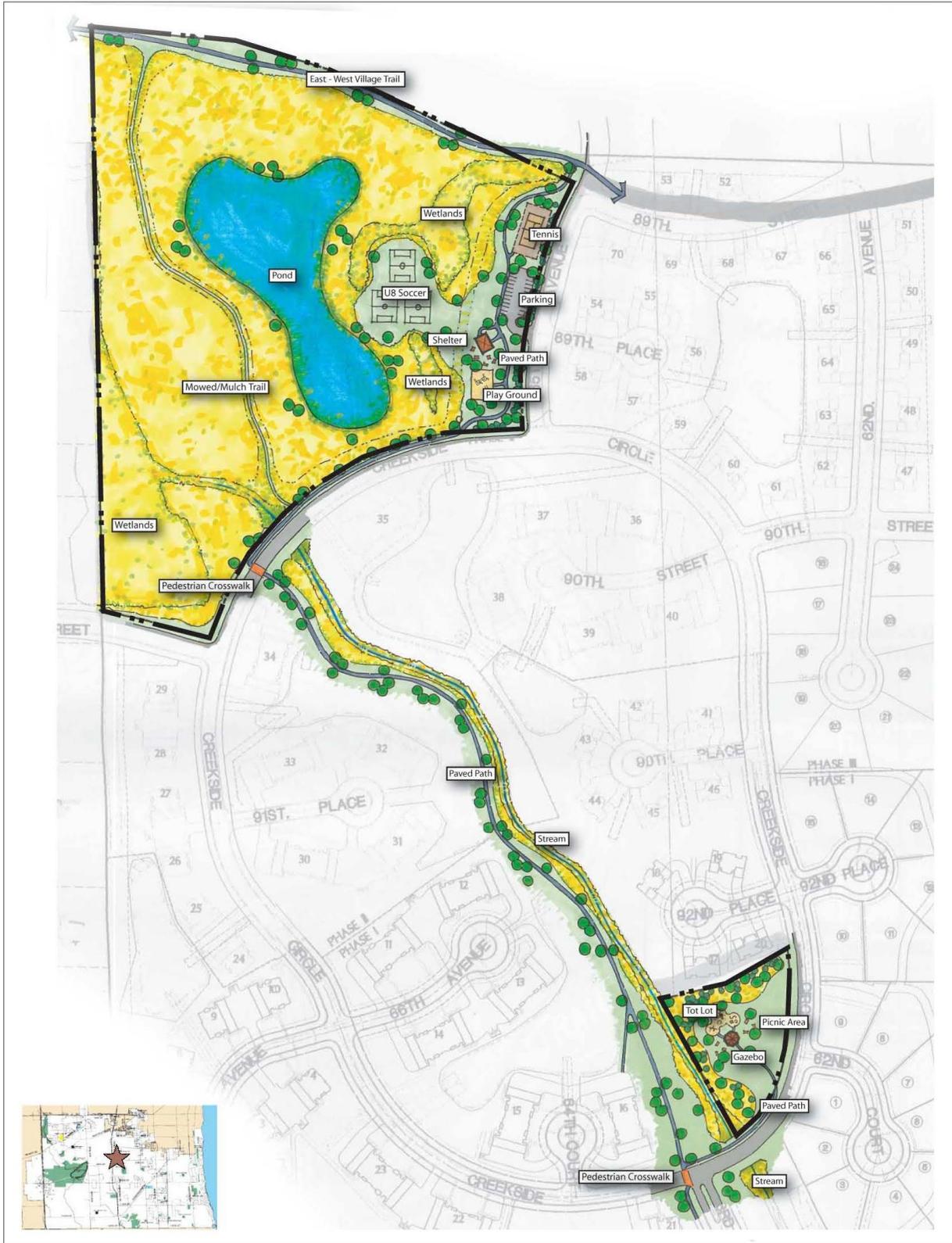
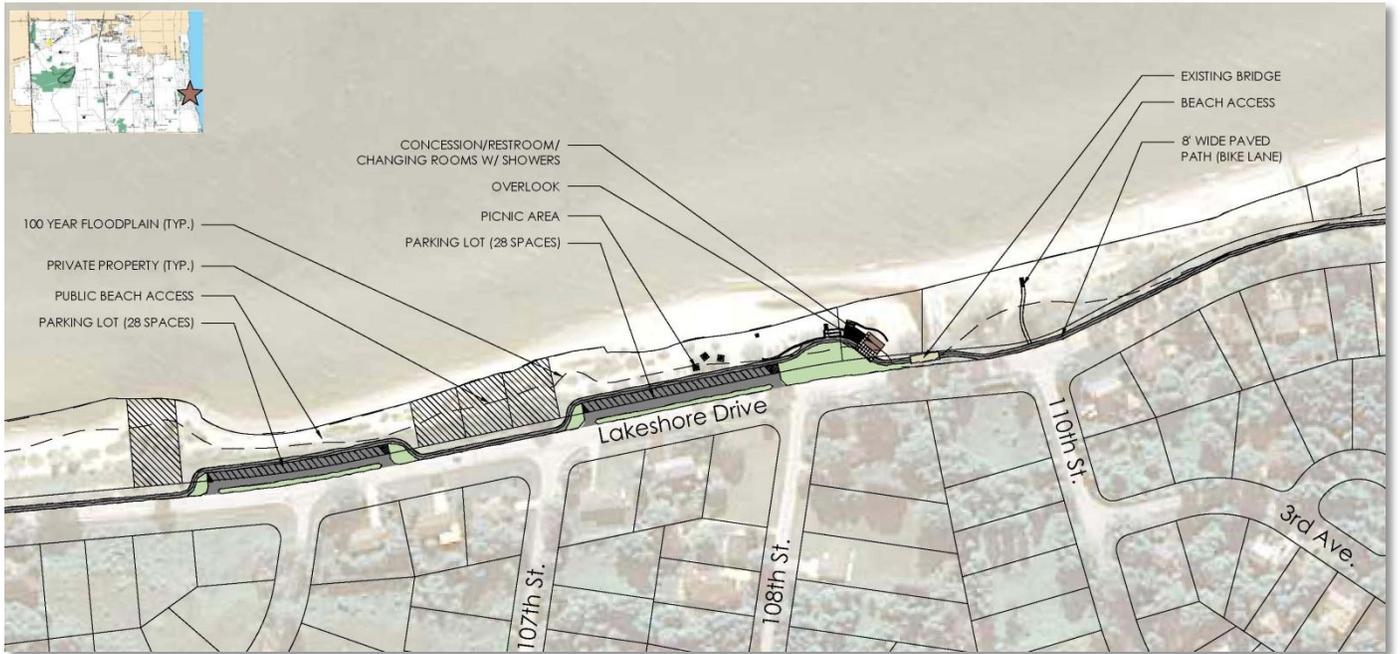


Figure 8.8
Conceptual Plan for Lake Michigan Park



Rolling Meadows Park - This 3.5-acre Park is located at the intersection of 100th Street and 32nd Avenue in the eastern portion of the Village. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.9).

- Create a trailhead for the Kenosha County Bike Trail.

Figure 8.9
Conceptual Plan for Rolling Meadows Park



Woodlawn (Harrison Road) Park - This very small, 0.14-acre Park is located within a residential neighborhood on the northern edge of the Village at the intersection of Harrison Road and 50th Avenue (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.10).

- Modify park signage consistent with other Village parks.
- Upgrade the playground equipment to be handicapped accessible.

Figure 8.10
Conceptual Plan for Woodlawn Park

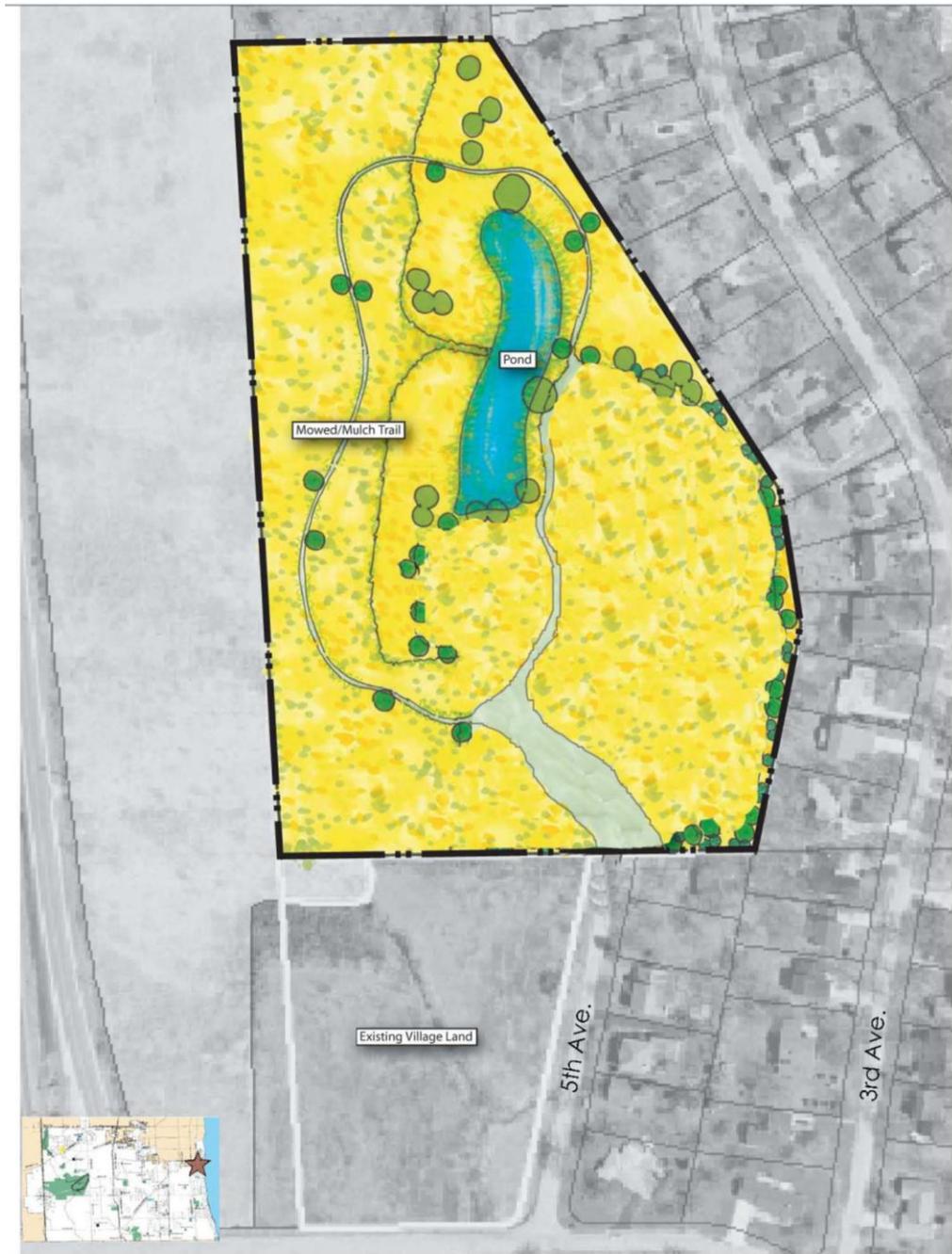


Proposed Future Village Neighborhood Parks: It is recommended that the Village develop five (5) proposed future neighborhood parks over the next 25-year time frame as referenced in the 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan as new areas are platted for residential land use development purposes. These parks are generally depicted on Map 8.2.

Carol Beach Unit W Neighborhood Park - As shown on the Village's 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan this proposed park is generally located north end of 5th Avenue just north of 90th Street in the Carol Beach Estates Unit W Subdivision. This is primarily a wooded area proposed for some active amenities. The future park land is currently under private ownership. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.11).

Creekside Park (North) - As shown on the Village's 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan this proposed park is located north of Creekside Circle in the 6400 block within the Creekside Crossing Development. The future park land is currently under private ownership however, shows the development of soccer fields, tennis courts, a playground and parking with the construction of a walking/pedestrian trail that will link the northern and southern Creekside Parks. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.7).

Figure 8.11
Conceptual Plan for Carol Beach Unit W Neighborhood Park



Pleasant Farms Neighborhood Park – As shown on the Village’s 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan this proposed park is generally located south of Bain Station Road/east of 88th Avenue. This is primarily a wooded area proposed for some active amenities. The future park land is currently under private ownership and is anticipated that this land would be dedicated to the Village as the surrounding land develops for residential purposes.

Pleasant Homes Neighborhood Park – As shown on the Village’s 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan this proposed park is generally located west of 47th Avenue/south of 123rd Street. This is primarily a wooded area proposed for some active amenities. The future park land is currently under private ownership and is anticipated that this land would be dedicated to the Village as the surrounding land develops for residential purposes.

Sheridan Woods/Prairie Trails East Neighborhood Park – As shown on the Village’s 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan this his proposed park is generally located east of the County Bike Trail at the south end of existing 26th Avenue. This is primarily a wooded area that is proposed for more passive recreational amenities. The future park land is currently under private ownership and is anticipated that this land would be dedicated to the Village as the surrounding land develops for residential purposes.

Sheridan Woods Neighborhood Park - As shown on the Village’s 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan this proposed park is generally located east of the Tobin Woods Subdivision and south of 116th Street. This park area is proposed for both active and passive recreational amenities. The future park land is currently under private ownership and is anticipated that this land would be dedicated to the Village as the surrounding land develops for residential purposes.

Green Hill Farms Neighborhood Park. As shown on the Village’s 2035 Comprehensive Land Use Plan this proposed park is generally located east and north of Green Hill Farms Subdivision. This park area is proposed for both active and passive recreational amenities. The future park land is currently under private ownership and is anticipated that this land would be dedicated to the Village as the surrounding land develops for residential purposes.

Proposed Future Neighborhood School/Parks: There are three existing Neighborhood School/Parks in the Village developed in cooperation with the community. These facilities include: Pleasant Prairie Elementary School, 9208 Wilmot Road; Prairie Lane Elementary School, 10717 47th Avenue and Whittier Elementary School, 8542 Cooper Road.

It is recommended that the Village continue to work with the KUSD in the development of future elementary schools and related parks to serve the growing community. A total of five (5) new Neighborhood School/Parks have been identified on the 2035 Comprehensive land Use Plan. These Neighborhood School/Parks would provide for a 15-acre minimum elementary school/neighborhood park. Each park would identify outdoor amenities to serve not only the school but the surrounding neighborhood. Amenities for the parks would include: basketball goals, baseball/softball and soccer fields, tetherball poles, playgrounds and picnic areas. The existing and proposed future neighborhood school/parks in the Village are shown on Map 8-2 include:

Elementary School/Neighborhood Parks:

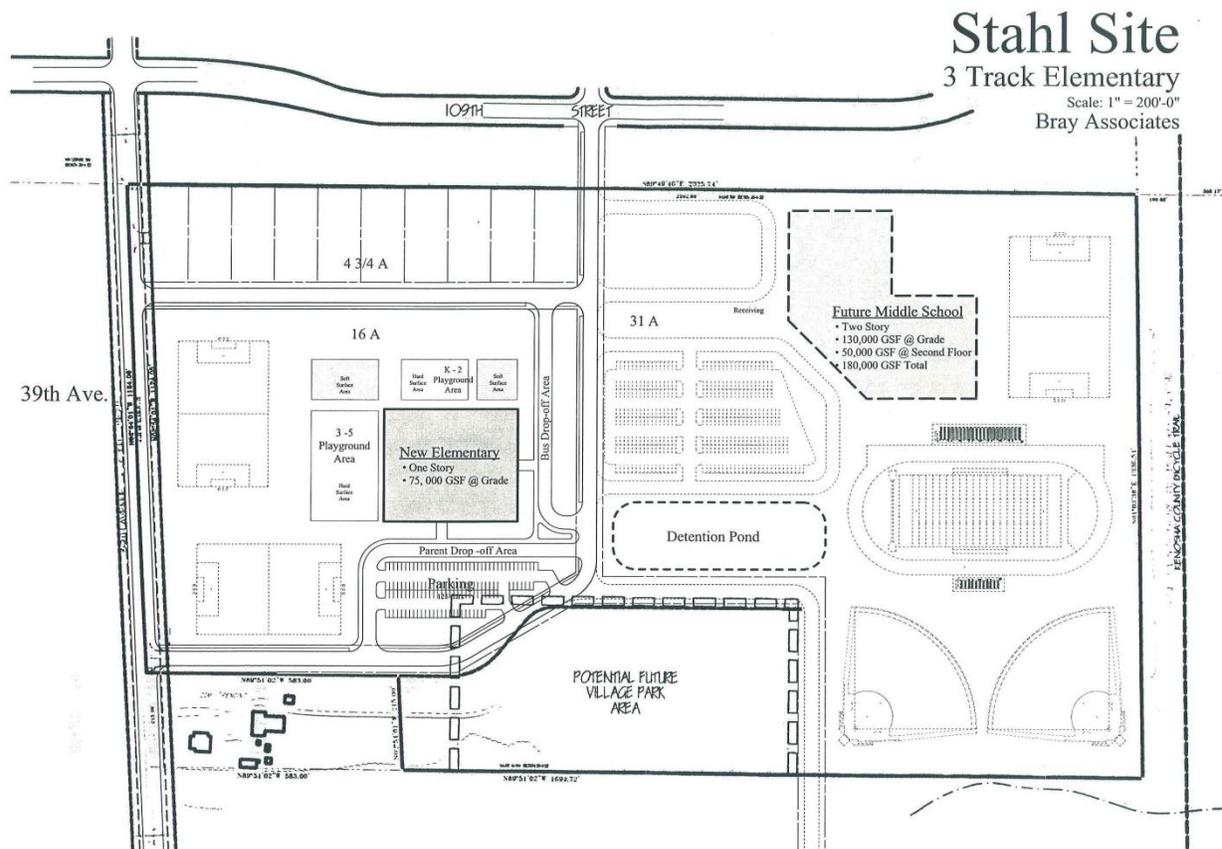
1. Barnes Creek Neighborhood Elementary School/Park to be located generally west of Sheridan Road, north of 104th Street.

2. Pleasant Homes Neighborhood Elementary School/Park to be located generally southeast of Springbrook Road and 116th Street.
3. Village Green Neighborhood East Elementary School/Park to be generally located east of 39th Avenue and south of 93rd Street.
4. Tobin Road Neighborhood Elementary School/Park to be generally located west of Sheridan Road and north of 116th Street.

Middle School/Community Parks:

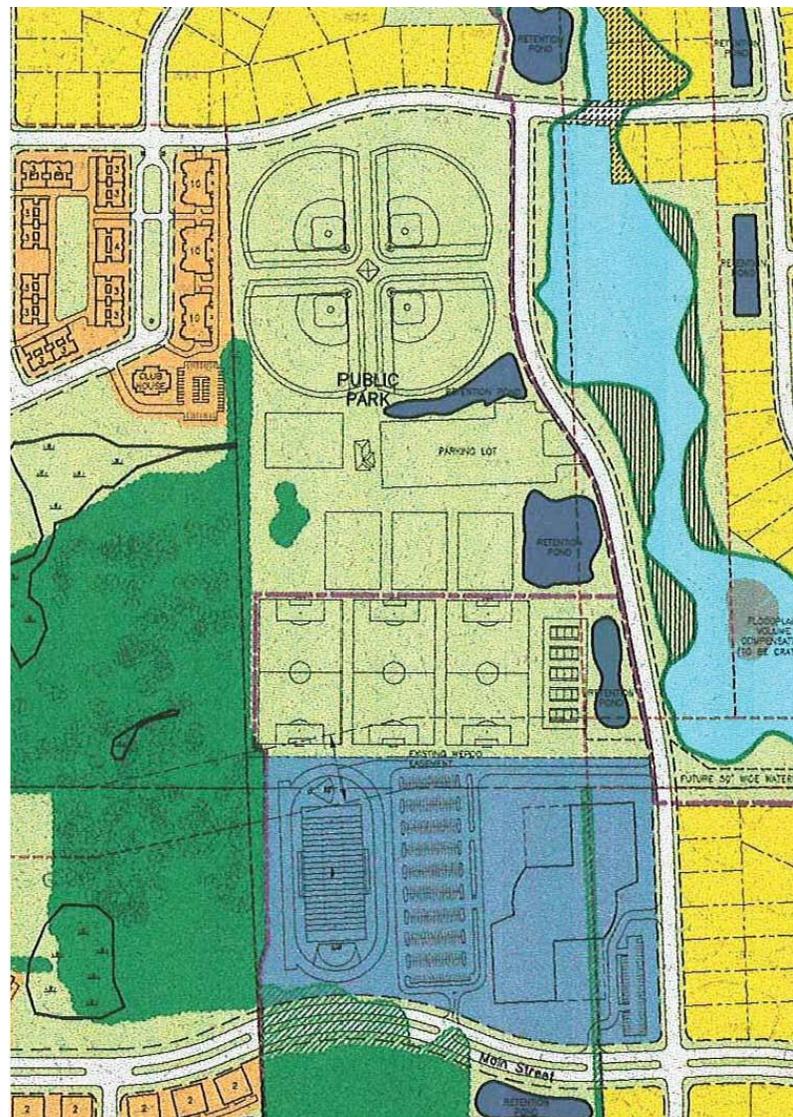
1. Prairie Lane Neighborhood School/Community Park – This proposed park would be located south of 110th Street and east of 39th Avenue (CTH EZ) and would be developed in coordination with the KUSD. This development may occur over the next 15-25 years with the development of a future public Elementary School and Middle School. The total size of the park is recommended to be approximately 10-acres of Village owned land. An additional approximately 47-acres of adjacent land would be owned and maintained by KUSD for school events and recreational purposes. Stahl Park is proposed to serve as one (1) of the Village’s primary outdoor active recreational facilities, potentially providing baseball/softball and soccer fields, basketball goals, tennis courts, and ample parking. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.12).

**Figure 8.12
Conceptual Plan for Prairie Lane Neighborhood School/Community Park**



2. Highpoint Neighborhood School/Community Park – This proposed park would be located east of Old Green Bay Road mid-way between 95th and 104th Streets and would be developed in coordination with the KUSD. This development may occur over the next 15-25 years with the development of a future public Middle School. The total size of the park is recommended to be 65-acres of Village owned land. An additional 22.5 acres of adjacent land will be owned and maintained by KUSD for school events and recreational purposes. Highpoint Park is proposed to serve as one (1) of the Village’s primary outdoor active recreational facilities, potentially providing baseball/softball and soccer fields, basketball goals, tennis courts, and ample parking to accommodate large crowds of spectators and athletes. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.13).

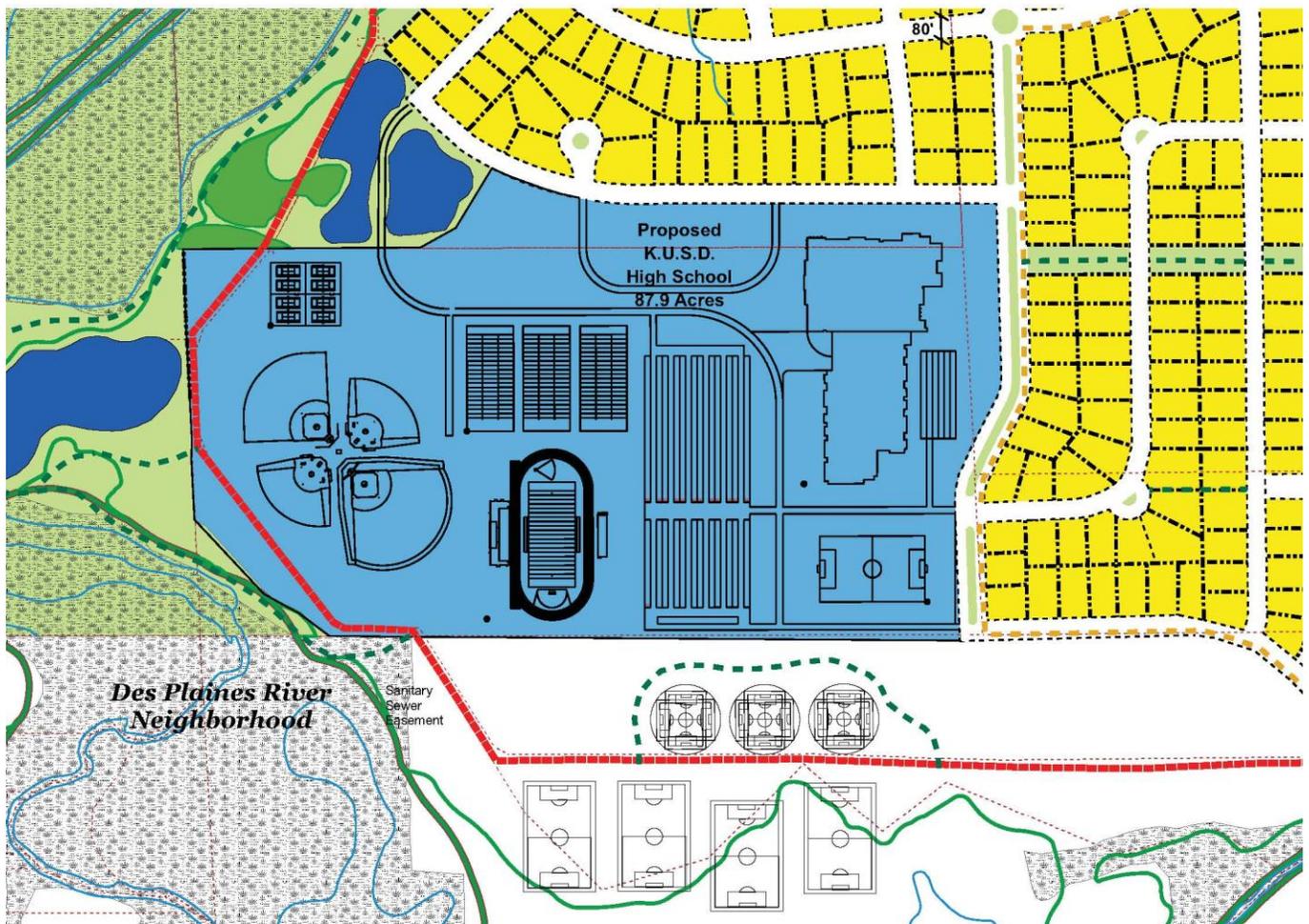
Figure 8.13
Conceptual Plan for Highpoint Neighborhood School/Community Park



High School/Regional Park:

1. Prairie Farms Neighborhood High School/Regional Park – This proposed park area would be located immediately north of Prairie Springs Park and west of 88th Avenue (CTH H). In a cooperative planning effort between the Village and the Kenosha Unified School District it is proposed that outdoor sports fields and other amenities would be available to the public through the development of a future 90-acre high school site located in the southern portion of the Prairie Farms Neighborhood. This site is immediately adjacent to proposed soccer fields shown on the conceptual plan for Prairie Springs Park. While this site has been identified in the long range planning reports for both the Village and KUSD, it is likely that this high school development will not occur for at least 15-20 years. (See Neighborhood Plan Figure 8.14).

**Figure 8.14
Conceptual Plan for Prairie Farms Neighborhood High School/Regional Park**



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIAL OPEN SPACE AREAS

In addition to developing community and neighborhood parks, the Village will continue to acquire environmentally, scientifically, historically and archeologically significant lands as donations and dedications are made and as funding becomes available. The Village will also support other federal, State, county, regional and non-profit agencies in such acquisitions. These acquisitions should focus, in particular, on the lands surrounding the Des Plaines River corridor and the Chiwaukee Prairie preservation areas. As such, the Village should work with other public, private and non-profit entities to develop a coordinated lands acquisition plan for the permanent preservation of the corridors adjacent to the Des Plaines and as may be needed with an amendment, expansion or modification of the Land Use Management Plan for the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach Area.

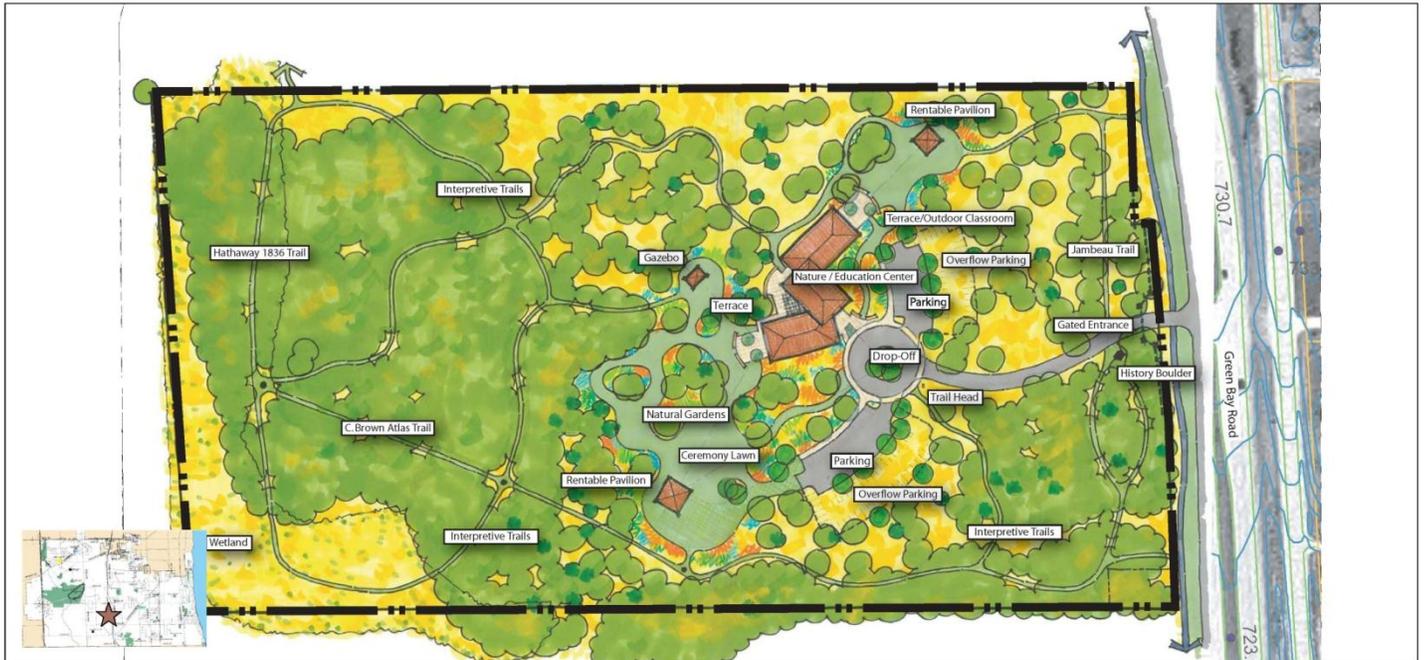
- Work collaboratively with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, UW-Parkside, WI DNR, and the Lake County Forest Preserve to establish uniform interpretive signage and exhibits throughout the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach area, including the Kenosha Sand Dunes.
- Support The Nature Conservancy's efforts to transfer TNC-owned parcels within the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach Area to the WI DNR for long term preservation and management.
- Work collaboratively with The Nature Conservancy, Kenosha-Racine Land Trust and WI DNR and other non-profit groups to establish uniform interpretive signage, trails and exhibits throughout the Des Plaines River corridor.

In addition, two areas currently owned by the Village are proposed to be improved as discussed below.

Mompers Woods – The land for the 26-acre Mompers Woods was acquired by donation in 2000. This special open space, passive community park is located in the central portion of the Village on the west side of STH 31, just south of 108th Street. (See Conceptual Plan Figure 8.15).

- Add park signage that identifies Mompers Woods as a Village park.
- Remove decayed materials and preserve this park as a special open space area.
- Continue to solicit input from local environmentalists, historians and archeologists on how to appropriately manage the park site.
- Prepare more detailed development plans focusing on creating a trail system and establishing parking on the site.
- Create interpretive exhibits to begin the process of transforming the property into a working outdoor classroom and nature study area and showcase the historical significance of the site.
- Explore opportunities to construct a nature center or indoor classroom space on the tree-cleared space on the park site.
- Provide outdoor meeting and reception areas in the park.
- Examine funding opportunities to implement the Conceptual Plan.

Figure 8.15
Conceptual Plan for Mompers Woods



Sorensen Woods at Kildeer Farms Park – This recently acquired 6.56-acre Park land is located west of 47th Avenue and north of 116th Street.

- Create a public-private partnership and work with the local university to create enthusiasm and possible funding source for the restoration of Sorensen’s Woods.
- Prepare and adopt woodland oak savanna restoration, preservation and trail plan.
- Establish a small, off-street parking area.
- Add park signage that identifies Sorensen’s Woods as a Village Park.
- Start management efforts to restore the woodlands.

One additional area that will function as a special open space area for the community is the future Village Green Center special space and park areas. The Village Green Center, which is proposed to be located north of STH 165 and east of 39th Avenue (CTH EZ), is the future downtown area of the community. Proposed special or green spaces will serve to compliment the planned mixed use commercial/retail and residential area proposed to be located in the Village Green Center. The green spaces will be interconnected by a series of walkways, paths and trails and the open areas will serve as civic gathering spaces for future Village-sponsored or other private-group sponsored events, performances and activities.

PROPOSED RECREATION TRAILS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Village should make use of the existing and future utility, railroad and conservation easements to accommodate future trails whenever possible. The trail system should follow the Village adopted "*Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails Plan*" adopted by the community in April, 2010 (See Appendix E). The trail system, as noted in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails Plan, was strategically developed so that the system of trails, provide a link between the existing and future parks and open space areas of the community. The trail system also provides proposed interconnections to the commercial and industrial areas of the Village.

IMPLEMENTATION

The recommendations presented in this Plan will be phased in over time. The phasing will be dictated by several factors, including private landowner decisions to develop their property for residential use, the availability of grants and donations, and by the availability Village budgetary resources to make the necessary acquisitions or improvements.

There are a number of potential funding sources available to help finance the implementation of the programs identified in this Plan. These funding sources include Village impact fees, donations and those sources listed in Appendix C. It should be noted that funds from many of these programs are subject to change due to fluctuations with current federal, State and local budgets. The park and open space improvements recommended in this Plan should be incorporated incrementally into the regular capital plans and programs of the Village as the budgets allow. This Plan must be updated every five (5) years to ensure that it reflects the evolving needs of the community and retains its WI DNR certification.

The Village should continue to see intergovernmental cooperation with the State, Kenosha County, KUSD, WI DNR, and other public agencies and private and non-profit agencies (The Nature Conservancy) to help fund and implement the recommendations presented in this Plan.

Pleasant Prairie should continue to utilize its existing planning framework and regulations to implement the recommendations in this Plan. In particular, the Village's Land Division and Development Control Ordinance and development review process, in particular, provide opportunities for the Village to secure parklands as new development occurs. The Village Board, Commissions and the various Village Departments should all be involved in the Plan implementation, depending upon the specific activity or program event.