

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

Park land, recreation trails and natural areas are key components of high quality living environments. Such open spaces provide a community with many benefits. These include helping to meet human needs for outdoor recreation, promoting and accommodating a healthy lifestyle for residents, enhancing the aesthetic quality of a community, increasing property values, attracting visitors and tourists, shaping development patterns, and protecting the natural environment.

Over the years, the Village of Pleasant Prairie has planned for and developed a park and recreation system that is designed to meet the needs of the people who live in the community. Along the way, the Village has not only accounted for its own park and open space needs, but has also maintained a regional perspective, taking measures to preserve critical ecosystems and watersheds, and providing parks and recreational facilities that serve the surrounding communities in Wisconsin and Illinois. This Park and Open Space Plan update was prepared to further this tradition of park and recreation planning in Pleasant Prairie.

The primary purpose of this Plan is to proactively plan for the Village's future park and recreation needs. Furthermore, the policy recommendations and programs presented in the Plan will guide the acquisition, preservation, and development of land for parks, recreation trails, and other open spaces in the Village to meet the needs of a growing and changing population, including those with special needs and handicapped. Such recommendations will also serve to protect and enhance the community's natural needs of the community (through the year 2035), it also focuses on policy recommendations and programs to be implemented over the next five-year period.

This Plan is also intended to incorporate and refine the previous findings and recommendations presented in the Village Park and Open Space Plan (2006-2011) and the Village of Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

This Plan was prepared in accordance with guidelines that will make it certifiable by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and qualify the Village for matching grant funds through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) and the State of Wisconsin Stewardship Fund. The Plan must be updated every five years to ensure that it reflects the current needs of the community and retains its DNR certification. This Plan was also prepared as a component of the Village's 2035 Comprehensive Plan.



*Park path connection to Kenosha County Bike Trail from Rolling Meadows Park*

## CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### GENERAL REGIONAL CONTEXT AND VILLAGE HISTORY

Pleasant Prairie is a growing community located in Southeastern Wisconsin's Kenosha County. Situated on the southwest coast of Lake Michigan, the Village is bordered by the City of Kenosha on the north and Lake County, Illinois on the south. Interstate Highway 94 is in proximity to the western jurisdictional boundary of the Village. The Village is approximately 40 miles south of Milwaukee and 70 miles north of downtown Chicago. Positioned between two Midwestern metropolises and located directly off of a major interstate, Pleasant Prairie has an opportunity to provide a unique park and recreation system that may draw visitors from all over the region.



The Village was incorporated in 1989 from the former Town of Pleasant Prairie. Prior to the Village's incorporation, development originated from nine separate settlement areas, many of which still exist today. Therefore, unlike more traditional urban development patterns that radiate outward from a central location, Pleasant Prairie does not have a distinguishable core, and development is dispersed throughout the Village. This characteristic has important implications for park and trail systems planning. As of January 1, 2012, the Village encompassed approximately 34 square miles of land area and had a Village-estimated population of 19,850 residents.

Following the Village's incorporation and the creation of the Tax Increment Finance District #1, WisPark Corporation began development of the 2,391-acre LakeView Corporate Park that is now situated in the central western portion of the Village. In addition to the development of LakeView Corporate Park east of I-94, in 2008 construction began on the first development within PrairieWood Corporate Park west of I-94. PrairieWood Corporate Park is a 270 acres business/office park designed to accommodate office, industrial and warehousing uses. When fully built out, PrairieWood Corporate Park could support approximately 600,000-square-foot of office development and 2 million square-foot of warehouse and/or manufacturing space with employment at full build-out estimated at 2,500 to 3,500 jobs.



*LakeView Corporate Park*

In 1996, approximately 221 acres was developed for commercial development within the Prairie Ridge development area generally located south of STH 50 (75<sup>th</sup> Street) between 88<sup>th</sup> and 104<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Today the Prairie Ridge Commercial Development contains a number of multi-tenant buildings including, Prairie Ridge Market Place, which includes three (3)

buildings; Prairie Ridge Commons which includes three (3) buildings; and the Shoppes at Prairie Ridge which includes eight (8) buildings. In addition, a number of standalone buildings and developments exist within the development including St Catherine’s Hospital and Medical Office building, a hospice facility, a nursing home, a hotel, a bank, a child care facility, a church and several restaurants.

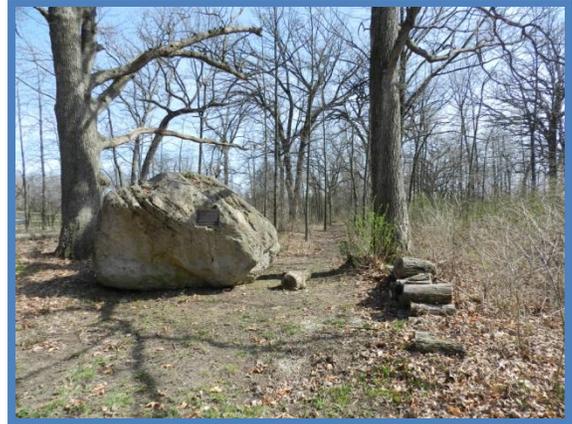


*Prairie Ridge Commercial Area*

Due in large part to the over 8,000 jobs created within the LakeView and PrairieWood Corporate Parks and the Prairie Ridge Commercial Development, the Village’s daytime population is estimated to be between 40 and 50% higher than its Census population. Moreover, industrial and residential land uses are separated from one another, suggesting a need for additional connections between job centers, residential neighborhoods, and Village park and recreational facilities.

## NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

A survey of Pleasant Prairie’s natural and cultural resources provides an important framework for guiding the park and open space planning process. The term cultural resource encompasses historic buildings, structures and sites; archaeological sites; and museums. Cultural resources in Village have important recreational and educational value and help to provide the Village with a sense of heritage, identity, and civic pride. Resources such as historical and archaeological sites and historic districts can also provide economic opportunities through tourism. There are several unique natural and cultural characteristics of the Village that will direct the development of future park, open space and recreational facilities. These include:



*Jambeau Trail glacial boulder in Mompers Woods*

- 4-season recreational opportunities;
- Significant water resources, such as the Des Plaines River and Lake Michigan; and
- Concentrations of high quality wildlife and vegetative habitat in the Chiwaukee Prairie – Carol Beach area and Des Plaines River watershed.
- Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites such as the Barnes Creek, Chesrow, and Lucas, Scott, WisPark XXX1, Cabbage Patch, the Hasting Sites and the Jambeau Trail.

Detail description and discussion of the Natural and Cultural Resources in the Village can be found in Chapter 6 of the Village 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

**Climate:** Southeastern Wisconsin’s climate is characterized by four distinct seasons. Warm summers generally span the months of June through August. The winter months of December, January, and February are cold, with average temperatures below freezing. The region is characterized by temperate conditions in spring and autumn. Because of its proximity to Lake Michigan, the climate in Pleasant Prairie is slightly modified by winds coming off of the Lake. These lake effects are most pronounced in the spring and early summer when the prevailing winds are easterly.

**Soils:** The Village is within the glacial drift region of Wisconsin. Blanketed with over 100 feet of silts, sand, and clay, a large proportion of Village land (42%) is classified as National Prime Farmland. That is, the soil is well suited for the production of food and has the capacity to sustain high yields of crops when properly managed. Furthermore, 9% of land in the Village has been identified as Farmland of Statewide Importance. Currently, 24% of Village land is being farmed.

**Surface Water and Watersheds:** Situated on the coast of Lake Michigan, Pleasant Prairie is located within the Des Plaines River watershed and the Lake Michigan direct drainage watershed. Bisecting the Village from north to south is the sub continental divide, which separates the region into two major drainage areas. The Des Plaines watershed, encompassing the western two-thirds of the Village, drains to the south and southwest and is part of the Mississippi River drainage system. The Lake Michigan direct drainage watershed encompasses the eastern one-third of the Village.

The Des Plaines River flows from the northwestern portion of the Village south into Illinois, eventually contributing to the Illinois River. There are several small streams in the eastern portion of the Village that flow perpendicular to Lake Michigan. Barnes Creek and Tobin Creek are short perennial streams that have their origins in the Village and empty into Lake Michigan. There are three lakes in Pleasant Prairie. Lake Andrea is a 110-acre spring-fed



*Des Plaines River*



*Lake Michigan*

lake that was created from an old sand and gravel pit operation. The lake is located within Prairie Springs Park and is used primarily for recreation. Lake Russo is a privately-owned 21-acre lake located in the northwest corner of the Village in the River Oaks subdivision, and Paradise Lake is an approximately 39-acre lake located in the southeastern portion of the Village.



*Lake Andrea*

**Vegetation:** At the time of European settlement, much of southeastern Wisconsin was covered with prairie and oak savannah, oak woods, and lowlands. Since that time, most of the land has been converted to agricultural and urban uses. Currently, woodland areas mostly exist in isolated patches less than 40 acres in size. Most of the remaining prairie lands in the region are located in the Chiwaukee Prairie – Carol Beach area along the eastern-most portion of the Village and along Lake Michigan. Some native prairie habitat also still exists along the Des Plaines River.

**Wildlife Habitat:** Species of wildlife that are common to the southeastern Wisconsin region are rabbits, squirrels, woodchucks, raccoons, muskrats, and beavers. Larger mammals such as white-tailed deer, coyotes, and foxes also inhabit the region. Common bird species include: pheasants, cardinals, robins, wood thrushes, great blue herons, and killdeer. The most significant concentrations of high quality wildlife habitat are located in the Chiwaukee Prairie – Carol Beach area and surrounding the Des Plaines River.

**Wetlands:** Wetlands perform an important set of natural functions which include support of a wide variety of desirable, and sometimes unique, forms of plant and animal life; water quality protection; stabilization of lake levels and stream flows; reduction in stormwater runoff by providing areas for floodwater impoundment and storage; and protection of shorelines from erosion. Wetlands and their boundaries are continuously changing in response to changes in drainage patterns and climatic conditions. While wetland inventory maps provide a basis for area wide planning, detailed field investigations are necessary to precisely identify wetland boundaries on individual parcels. Field investigations are required at the time a parcel is proposed to be developed or subdivided.



*Chiwaukee Prairie area*

**Floodplains:** The natural floodplain of a river is a wide, flat-to-gently sloping area contiguous with, and usually lying on both sides of the river channel and the channel itself. The floodplain, which is normally bounded on its outer edges by higher topography, is gradually formed over a long period of time by the river during flood stage as that river meanders in the floodplain, continuously eroding material from concave banks of meandering loops while depositing it on the convex banks. The flow of a river onto its floodplain is a normal phenomenon and, in the absence of flood control works, can be expected to occur periodically. For planning and regulatory purposes, floodplains are defined as those areas subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This event has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Floodplains are generally not well suited for urban development because of the flood hazard, the presence of high water tables, and/or the presence of wet soils.



*Des Plaines River Floodplain area*

**Shorelands:** Shorelands are defined by the *Wisconsin Statutes* as lands within the following distances from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of navigable waters: 1,000 feet from a lake, pond, or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream, or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater. In accordance with state requirements, the Village shoreland and floodplain zoning requirements restricts uses in wetlands located in the shorelands, and limits the uses allowed in the 100-year floodplain to prevent damage to structures and property and to protect floodwater conveyance areas and the storage capacity of floodplains.

**Woodlands:** With sound management, woodlands can serve a variety of beneficial functions. In addition to contributing to clean air and water and regulating surface water runoff, woodlands help maintain a diversity of plant and animal life. The destruction of woodlands, particularly on hillsides, can contribute to excessive stormwater runoff, siltation of lakes and streams, and loss of wildlife habitat. Woodlands are defined as upland areas of one acre or more in area, having 17 or more trees per acre, each deciduous tree measuring at least four inches in diameter 4.5 feet above the ground, and having canopy coverage of 50% or greater. Coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects are also classified as woodlands.



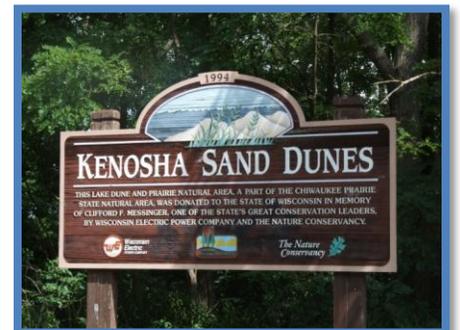
*Primary Environmental Corridor in Prairie Springs Park*

**Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Sites:**

A comprehensive inventory of important plant and animal habitats was conducted by SEWRPC in 1994 as part of the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan. The inventory systematically identified all remaining high-quality natural areas, critical species habitat, and sites having geological significance within the Region. Ownership of identified natural areas and critical species habitat sites and the size of each were reviewed and updated in 2006.

**Natural Areas:** Natural areas are tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement. Natural areas are classified into one (1) of three (3) categories:

- NA-1: Natural areas of statewide or greater significance which includes over 400 acres within the Carol Beach and Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Areas and the Kenosha Sand Dunes
- NA-2: Natural areas of countywide or regional significance which includes over 100 areas within Carol Beach Prairie areas and Tobin Road Prairie
- NA-3: Natural areas of local significance which includes over 400 acres within the Village, Lake Russo Prairie, Des Plaines River, Bain Station Railroad Prairie, Pleasant Prairie Railroad Prairie and Carol Beach Estates Prairie.



Specific details related to the above noted Natural Areas and Critical Habitat Sites in the Village can be found in Chapter 6 of the Village 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

The Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach, which draws visitors from all over the Midwest, the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach area represents one of the Village’s significant natural resource areas. The Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach area is located along the Lake Michigan coast and east of Sheridan Road in the Village. The land area is approximately 1,825 acres, or roughly 8% of the Village’s total acreage. The Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol



Beach lands are worth special mention because they comprise one of the outstanding natural resource areas in southeastern Wisconsin and in the upper Midwest. The land is characterized by a beach dune ridge and swale complex, high quality wetland and prairies, and two natural areas of statewide significance. Furthermore, Chiwaukee Prairie is classified as a National Natural Landmark and is recognized as one of the best remaining examples of Lake Michigan prairie land in the upper Midwest. Because of wet soils and other environmental limitations, development in the area is scattered, leaving much of this ecosystem preserved. The Village, County, State, and non-profit organizations such as The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin and the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund have continued to extend their efforts to purchase and protect remaining private parcels of land on a willing seller-willing buyer basis. The DNR managed lands north of this area are fragmented by roads and homes.

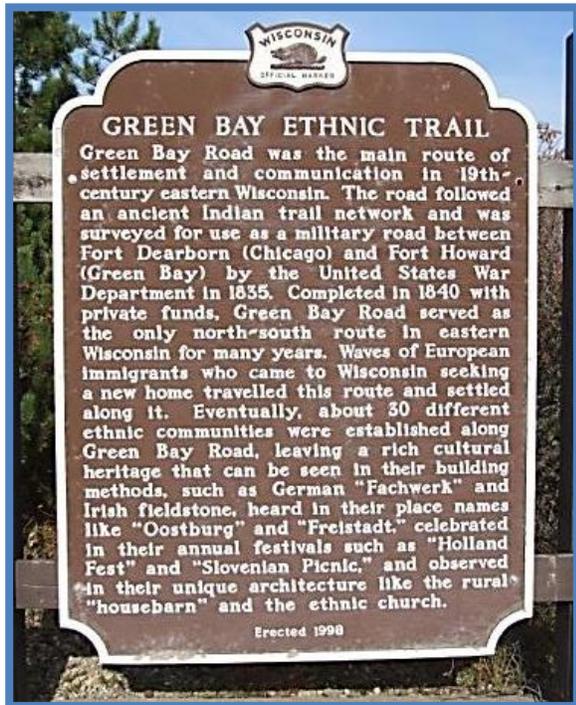
There are a number of conservation organizations active in the Village, including the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust, Des Plaines Wetlands Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin, and other non-profit conservation organizations including the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund. These organizations acquire lands for resource protection purposes. The Des Plaines Wetlands Conservancy owns approximately 644 acres for resource protection purposes. The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin owns two (2) sites in portions of Chiwaukee Prairie and Barnes Prairie, together encompassing 159 acres.

Several open space and environmentally sensitive sites in the Village are also protected under conservation easements. These easements are typically voluntary contracts between a private landowner and a land trust or governmental body that limit, or in some cases prohibit, future development of the parcel. With the establishment of a conservation easement, the property owner sells or donates the development rights for the property to a land trust or governmental agency, but retains ownership. The owner is not prohibited from selling the property, but future owners must also abide by the terms of the conservation easement. The purchaser of the easement is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the easement agreement for the property. Conservation easements do not require public access to the property, although public access is generally required if Wisconsin stewardship funds or other DNR grant funds are used to acquire the property. There are three conservation easements located in the Pleasant Prairie including an easement on 445 acres held by The Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin as part of Prairie Springs Park in the Village

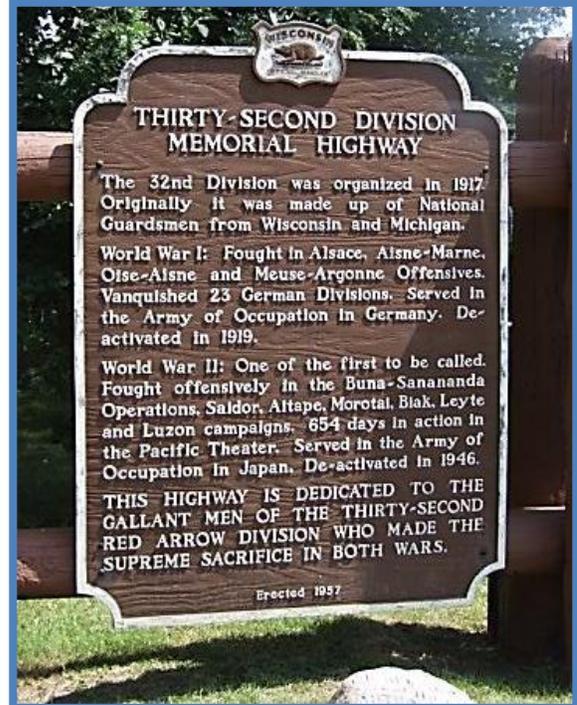


*U.S. ACOE easement south of CTH C and west of I-94*

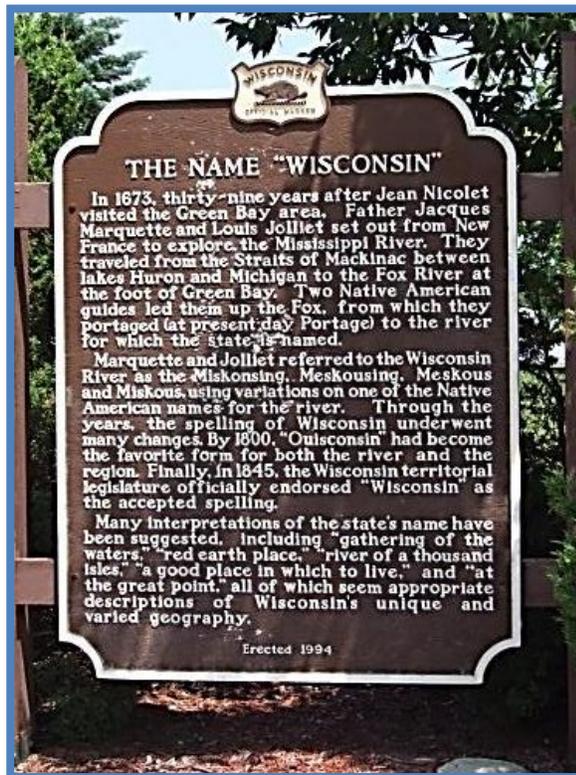
**Historical Resources:** In 2009 there were three (3) historic places and districts in the Village listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All three (3) historic places and districts in the Village are prehistoric archeological sites and include the Barnes Creek Site, the Chesrow Site, and the Lucas Site. The Village is also home to four (4) Wisconsin State Historical Markers through a program administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation. These historical markers are intended to identify, commemorate, and honor the important people, places, and events that have contributed to the State's rich heritage. The program serves as a vital educational tool, informing people about the most significant aspects of Wisconsin's past.



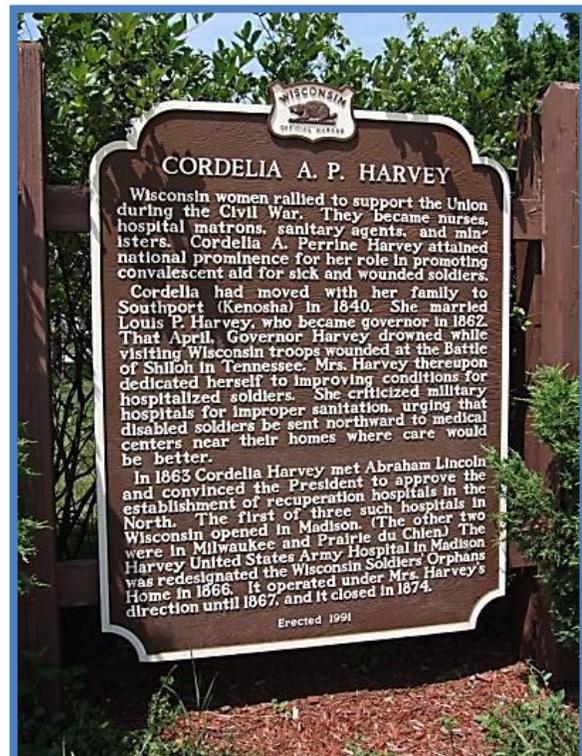
Green Bay Ethnic Trail Marker



32<sup>nd</sup> Division Memorial Highway Marker

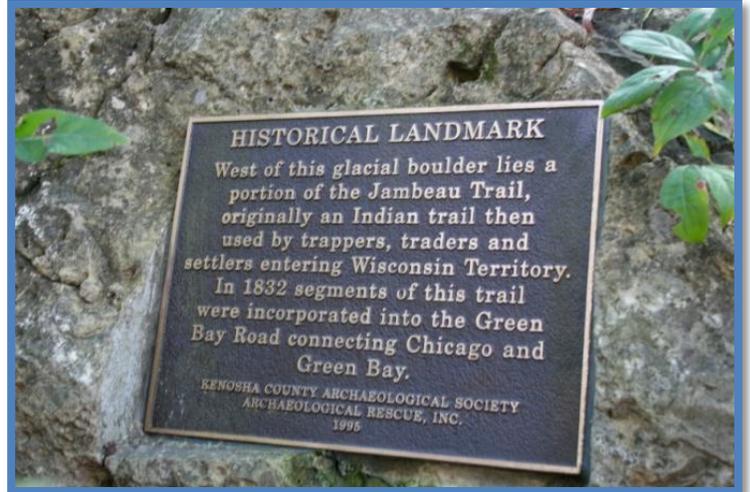


History of the Word "Wisconsin" Marker



Cordelia A.P. Harvey Marker

**Archeological Resources:** Preservation of archaeological resources is also important in preserving the cultural heritage of the Village. Like historical sites and districts, significant prehistoric and historic archaeological sites provide the Village with a sense of heritage and identity, which can provide for economic opportunities through tourism if properly identified and preserved. Archaeological sites fall under two categories: prehistoric sites and historic sites. Prehistoric sites are defined as those sites which date from before written history. Historic sites are sites established after history began to be recorded in written form (the State Historical Society of Wisconsin defines this date as A.D. 1650)



*Jambeau Trail glacial boulder historical landmark in Mompers Woods*

The Barnes Creek, Chesrow, and Lucas Sites as discussed above are prehistoric archaeological sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the Village. Other known archeological sites in the Village but not listed on the State or National Register include the Scott Site, WisPark XXX1 Site, Cabbage Patch Site, the Hasting Site and the Jambeau Trail.

## POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographic characteristics help to determine the types of park and recreational facilities that the Village will use now and in the future. Important demographic trends for Pleasant Prairie are as follows:

- Park and recreational facilities will need to accommodate approximately 31% population growth over the next 15 years (2025);
- Over the next 10-20 years 30.6% of village local residents will be moving into the 65-and-older age bracket.

**Population:** The Village has experienced a significant increase in population in recent years as shown in Table 2.1. From 1990 to 2010, the Village’s population grew approximately 63.8% (34.1% between 1990 and 2000 and 22.2% between 2000 and 2010). This compares with a 30% increase in Kenosha County. The Village’s daytime population is estimated to be between 40% and 50% higher due to the large number of people that commute into the Village for jobs, shopping, recreational events, and schools.

**TABLE 2.1  
POPULATION TRENDS LEVELS: 1970-2010**

Year	Pleasant Prairie			Kenosha County		
	Population <sup>a</sup>	Change From Preceding Census		Population	Change From Preceding Census	
		Number	%		Number	%
1970	12,019	--	--	117,917	--	--
1980	12,703	684	5.7	123,137	5,220	4.4
1990	12,037	-666	-5.2	128,181	5,044	4.1
2000	16,136	4,099	34.1	149,577	21,396	16.7
2010	19,719	3,583	22.2	166,671	17,094	11.4

<sup>a</sup>

*In 1989 the entire Town of Pleasant Prairie was incorporated as the Village of Pleasant Prairie and the Town of Pleasant Prairie ceased to exist. In addition, the decrease in population is attributed to the 1,500 acres of land detached from Pleasant Prairie and added to the City of Kenosha and the Town of Somers as part of the Village’s incorporation. Figures for the period between 1970 and 1980 represent population in the former Town of Pleasant Prairie.*

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census.

The 2035 Village population projection of 31,205 was prepared as part of the multi-jurisdictional plan with the 2010 population adjusted based on U.S. Census data. Estimated population for each five (5) year interval from 2005 to 2030 are based upon estimated projections from the DOA. (The methodology used by the Wisconsin Department of Administration are developed after a well-known cohort-component method using fertility, mortality, and migration rates of population change.)

As shown in Table 2.2, from 2000 until 2035 the Village’s population is expected to nearly double from 16,136 to 31,204 which represents approximately 9.9% growth every five years and slightly less than 2% growth per year.

**TABLE 2.2  
PLEASANT PRAIRIE POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

Year	Population <sup>a</sup>	Change From Preceding Five Years	
		Number	%
2000	16,136	--	--
2005	18,701	2,565	15.9%
2010	20,628	1,927	10.3%
2015	22,721	2,093	10.1%
2020	24,870	2,149	9.5%
2025	26,952	2,082	8.4%
2030	28,911	1,959	7.3%
2035	31,205	2,294	7.9%

<sup>a</sup> Population for year 2000 and 2010 is based on the U.S. Census. Population for the years 2005 through 2030 are estimates and projections from the Wisconsin Department of Administration and adjusted for Census 2010 data. The 2035 population projection was derived by the Village based on trend data and analysis completed by SEWRPC as part of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County as discussed in Appendix 2-3 of the Village 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration and Village of Pleasant Prairie.

**Age:** In 2010, the residents of Pleasant Prairie had a median age of 41 years, which is older than Kenosha County (36 years). According to the 2010 Census, as shown in Table 2.3, the Village had 5,480 residents under the age of 20, comprising 27.9% of the total population. This proportion of younger residents in the Village has been very consistent since 1990 and 2000, (28.3% and 29.5% respectively). In 2010, there were 2,185 residents age 65 or older, or 11.1% of the population. In 1990 and 2010 this proportion of older residents was only slightly less at 10.5% and 10.6%, respectively of the population. This data depicts that the Village has maintained a relatively stable proportion of younger and older residents over the last 20 years. While there are significantly more young residents than older residents in the Village, 30.6% of the population will be moving into the 65-and-older age bracket within the next 15-20 years as the “baby boom” generation will move into this age group.

**TABLE 2.3  
POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND MEDIAN AGE: 1990 AND 2010**

Pleasant Prairie						
Age Group	1990 <sup>a</sup>		2000		2010	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Under 5</b>	803	6.6	1,002	6.2	1,019	5.2
<b>5 through 9</b>	877	7.3	1,241	7.7	1,413	7.2
<b>10 through 14</b>	887	7.4	1,396	8.7	1,617	8.2
<b>15 through 19</b>	834	7.0	1,106	6.9	1,431	7.3
<b>20 through 44</b>	4,569	38.1	5,764	35.7	4773	20.2
<b>45 through 54</b>	1,642	13.7	2,457	15.2	3,545	18.0
<b>55 through 64</b>	1,132	9.4	1,455	9.0	2498	12.6
<b>65 and older</b>	1,254	10.5	1,715	10.6	2185	11.1
<b>Total</b>	11,998	100	16,136	100.0	19,719	100.0
<b>Median Age</b>			37		41	

Kenosha County						
Age Group	1990 <sup>a</sup>		2000		2010	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Under 5</b>	10,124	7.9	10,367	6.9	10,995	6.6
<b>5 through 9</b>	9,785	7.6	11,640	7.8	11,850	7.1
<b>10 through 14</b>	9,172	7.2	11,826	7.9	12,310	7.4
<b>15 through 19</b>	9,260	3.9	11,106	7.4	13,029	7.8
<b>20 through 44</b>	49,955	38.8	56,444	37.7	55,387	33.3
<b>45 through 54</b>	13,087	10.2	19,257	12.9	26,161	15.7
<b>55 through 64</b>	10,605	8.3	11,768	7.9	18,014	10.9
<b>65 and older</b>	16,193	12.6	17,169	11.5	18,679	11.3
<b>Total</b>	128,181	100.0	149,577	100.0	166,671	100.0
<b>Median Age</b>			35		36	

<sup>a</sup> Population data by area from the 1990 Federal Census presented in this table are slightly different from the final 1990 population level of the Village presented in Table 2.2. The population levels presented in Table 2.2 represents final population counts from the 1990 Census. The Census Bureau is not expected to reconcile the data regarding population by area with the final total population counts.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

**Racial Distribution:** According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, in 2010, Pleasant Prairie was characterized by a predominately “White” population (91.1%), as compared with 83.8% for Kenosha County as shown in Table 2.4. Furthermore, the proportion of “Black or African American” residents in Pleasant Prairie was considerably lower (2.5%) than the County (6.6%). The proportion of “Asian” residents was comparable to the rest of the County( 1.7% in the Village and 1.4% in the County). This data depicts a relatively homogeneous population.

**TABLE 2.4  
RACIAL COMPOSITION: 2010**

Race <sup>a</sup>	Pleasant Prairie		Kenosha County	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>White Alone</b>	17,964	91.1	139,416	83.8
<b>Black or African American Alone</b>	488	2.5	11,052	6.6
<b>American Indian &amp; Alaska Native Alone</b>	75	0.4	814	0.5
<b>Asian Alone</b>	333	1.7	2,393	1.4
<b>Native Hawaiian &amp; Other Pacific Islander Alone</b>	12	0.1	89	0.1
<b>Some Other Race Alone</b>	469	2.4	7,880	4.7
<b>Two Or More Races</b>	378	1.9	4,782	2.9
<b>Total</b>	19,719	100	166,429	100.0

<sup>a</sup> The Federal government does not consider Hispanic origin to be a race, but rather an ethnic group.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

**Employment:** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2010, 73.5 % of Pleasant Prairie’s population age 16 and older was in the labor force which has increase from 70.4% in 2000. Of the 73.5% in the labor force in 2010, 73.4% were employed in the civilian labor force and 0.1% were employed in the armed forces. As compared to 2000 wherein 69.8% were employed in the civilian labor force and 0.6% were employed in the armed forces. Table 2.5 shows the occupational distribution for the Village.

**TABLE 2.5  
Occupation Distribution: 2010**

Occupation Group	Percentage of Employed Labor Force	
	2000	2010
<b>Management or Professional</b>	33.6	36.9
<b>Service Occupations</b>	12.9	12.1
<b>Sales and Office</b>	26.2	27.6
<b>Farming, Fishing, Forestry<sup>a</sup></b>	0.0	0.0
<b>Construction, Extraction and Maintenance</b>	10.4	8.7
<b>Production, Transportation</b>	16.9	14.7

<sup>a</sup> Although there are active farmers currently living in the Village, the number is too small to represent as a percentage of population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

In 2010, the average household size in Pleasant Prairie was 2.68 persons per household, a decrease since the 1990 and 2000 Census count of 2.83 persons and 2.73 person, respectively. A household includes all persons who occupy a housing unit, which is defined by the Census Bureau as a house, apartment, mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied, or intended for occupancy, as separate living quarters. As shown in Table 2.6, the average household size in the Village was slightly higher than that of the County. A total of 83.6% of the households were owner-occupied in the Village in 2010 as compared to 68.0% in Kenosha County. While the number of households has increased steadily, the average number of persons per household has decreased in the Village since 1960 as shown in Table 2.6. This trend, which has occurred throughout Kenosha County, reflects the fact that family sizes (average number of children per family) have decreased and unmarried persons have increasingly tended to establish their own households rather than live with family.

**TABLE 2.6  
HISTORICAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND  
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE**

Pleasant Prairie					
Year	Number of Households	Household Population <sup>a</sup>	Average Household Size	% Occupied	% owner Occupied <sup>a</sup>
1990	4,207	11,897	2.83		
2000	5,819	15,904	2.73	96.2	82.6
2010	7,272	19,493	2.68	93.8	83.6

Kenosha County					
Year	Number of Households	Household Population <sup>a</sup>	Average Household Size	% Occupied	% owner Occupied <sup>a</sup>
1990	47,029	125,577	2.67		
2000	56,057	145,553	2.60	93.4	69.1
2010	69,288	161,825	2.58	90.4	68.0

<sup>a</sup> Excludes persons living in group quarters.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and Wisconsin Department of Administration.

The number of households projected for the Village of Pleasant Prairie in 2035 is 11,889, as estimated by the Village as part of the multi-jurisdictional plan as described in Appendix 2.3 of the Village 2035 Comprehensive Plan. It is anticipated that the average household size will decrease slightly to 2.52 persons in 2035 from the 2.68 persons per household in 2010. Table 2.7 provides estimated projections for the Village in five year intervals between 2000 and 2035 based on projections the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) (The methodology used by the Wisconsin Department of Administration was developed after a well-known cohort-component method using fertility, mortality, and migration rates of population change.)

Between 2000 and 2035 the number of households in the Village is expected to more than double from 5,819 to 11,889 which represents approximately a 10.8% growth every five (5) years and approximately a 2.2% growth per year to accommodate for the increase in population from 16,136 in 2000 to a projected 31,205 persons in 2035.

**TABLE 2.7  
PLEASANT PRAIRIE HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS<sup>a</sup>**

Year	Total Population	Household Population <sup>b</sup>	Average Household size	Households		
				Number	Change From Preceding Five Years	
					Number	%
2000	16,136	15,904	2.73	5,819	--	--
2005	18,701	18,367	2.68	6,842	1,023	17.6
2010	19,719	19,493	2.68	7,272	490	6.3
2015	22,721	22,355	2.60	8,212	940	12.9
2020	24,870	24,495	2.56	9,252	1040	12.7
2025	26,952	26,535	2.54	10,231	979	10.6
2030	28,911	28,427	2.52	11,085	854	8.3
2035	31,205	29,901	2.52	11,889	804	7.3

<sup>a</sup> Data for the year 2000 is based on the U.S. Census. Data for the years 2005 through 2030 are estimates and projections from the Wisconsin Department of Administration and adjusted for Census 2010 data. 2035 data was derived by the Village based on trend data and analysis completed by SEWRPC as part of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Kenosha County as discussed in Appendix 2-3.

<sup>b</sup> Excludes persons living in group quarters as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, includes all people not living in households. Two general categories of people in group quarters are recognized: (1) the institutionalized population, which includes people under formally authorized, supervised care or custody in institutions at the time of enumeration (such as correctional institutions, nursing homes, and juvenile institutions), and (2) the non-institutionalized population, which includes all people who live in group quarters other than institutions (such as college dormitories, military quarters, and group homes).

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration and Village of Pleasant Prairie.

## REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS

Another critical step in the park planning process is an examination of relevant planning efforts in the Village. A comprehensive understanding of how the Village has evolved over time and how it has been planning for the future establishes guidelines for the recommendations presented in this Plan. Moreover, a review of existing plans helps identify ways that this Plan should be adapted so that it is consistent with the Village's ongoing goals, objectives, and policies, and coordinated with regional planning efforts.

***A Park and Open Space Plan for the Kenosha Planning District (1980):*** In 1980, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) prepared the first Park and Open Space Plan for the City of Kenosha, the Town of Pleasant Prairie, and the Town of Somers. This Plan, which was subsequently updated in 1987, presented recommendations regarding the preservation, acquisition, and development of lands for parks and outdoor recreation. Based on community needs and projected population growth, SEWRPC recommended that the former Town of Pleasant Prairie:

- acquire and develop one regional park and seven community or neighborhood parks;
- provide additional facilities, such as baseball fields and playgrounds in three existing parks; and
- take additional measures to preserve important open space lands in the Town.

A 425-acre site along the Des Plaines River was identified as a potential location for the regional park. This site has since been acquired by Pleasant Prairie and is currently known as Prairie Springs Park. The sand and gravel pit operation that was formerly located on the site was transformed into the 110-acre spring-fed Lake Andrea and surrounding park land.

***A Land Use Management Plan for the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach Area of the Town of Pleasant Prairie (1985):*** The Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach area is located along the coast of Lake Michigan within the Village (formerly Town) of Pleasant Prairie. Home to a variety of ecosystems, including wetlands, beach dunes, and upland prairies, these lands have been characterized as one of the outstanding resource areas in southeastern Wisconsin. However, despite their ecological importance to the region, the future of these habitats has not always been clear. The land has faced substantial development pressures over the last several decades. Therefore, in the hopes of establishing a land use plan that would address the ongoing conflicts between development and preservation, SEWRPC completed a multi-year land use management plan under the direction of the Town of Pleasant Prairie and Kenosha County for the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach area.

This Plan proposed the following:

- The maintenance of a preservation corridor that connects the Kenosha Sand Dunes on the north end of the study area with Chiwaukee Prairie on the south end;
- The housing stock in the area should increase from 512 housing units in 1980 to about 1,460 units upon full development;
- The Town of Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and The Nature Conservancy should acquire platted, unimproved lots east of Sheridan Road for preservation under a willing seller-willing buyer basis;
- Appropriate land use and zoning controls should be implemented to preserve and protect lands that have been acquired in the public's interest.

***A Park and Open Space Plan for the Kenosha Planning District (1987):*** In 1987, SEWRPC updated the 1980 Kenosha County Park and Open Space Plan. This effort was initiated primarily to ensure that the County would maintain its eligibility for federal and state grant monies. Updated recommendations for this Plan included:

- Continue to acquire land along Lake Michigan as it becomes available, and provide improved access to the Lake for boating and other water-based activities;
- DNR and The Nature Conservancy should continue to acquire lands within identified environmental corridors and designated natural resource areas;
- Local units of government should plan for and provide park and open space sites located within their area of jurisdiction;
- The County should acquire about 1,273 acres of land along the Des Plaines River. This corridor should serve as the location for a variety of resource-oriented outdoor recreational facilities, including trails, picnic areas, river access points, and support facilities such as parking lots and restrooms.

***A Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2010 (1994):*** The Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan was completed in 1994 by SEWRPC. The intent of the Plan was to encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation by planning for the provision of facilities that accommodate bicycle and pedestrian travel. In cooperation with a Technical and Citizen Advisory Committee, SEWRPC proposed a total of approximately 113 miles of bicycle ways within Kenosha County. Roughly 27% of the proposed trails are located in off-street natural resource corridors. In addition, the bicycle ways are designed to link up major activity centers, including Pleasant Prairie parks.

***A Comprehensive Plan for the Kenosha Urban Planning District (1995):*** In 1996, the Village adopted the Comprehensive Plan for the Kenosha Urban Planning District, prepared by SEWRPC and the represented communities. The Plan includes a park and open space chapter, which served as an update to the 1987 Park and Open Space Plan for the Kenosha Planning District. The chapter is divided into two components: one for the area-wide planning of regional and multi-community parks, and a second for the local planning of community and neighborhood parks.

***Prospectus for the Preparation of a Multi-Use Trail System Plan for the Village of Pleasant Prairie (1995):*** Shortly after the completion of the Prairie Springs Park along the Des Plaines River, Pleasant Prairie citizens and officials recognized the need to begin to interconnect their Village park system by developing a long-range, multi-use trail system. In order to provide a framework for a future Multi-Use Trail Plan and a basis for park and recreational budgetary decision making, the Village established an advisory committee comprised of members of the Village Board, the Plan Commission, the Park Commission, SEWRPC, and other technical and professional individuals. The prospectus that resulted from the advisory committee's research addressed the need for, as well as the scope, content, organization, budget, and timeline of the work that would be necessary to prepare the Multi-Use Trail Plan.

The Village has since completed a preliminary bike trail system map for the purposes of conducting an impact fee assessment. Additional trail planning has been conducted as part of the 2006 Park and Open Space Plan and Village Pedestrian Trail Plan (2010).

***A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin (1997):*** Beginning in 1991, SEWRPC staff conducted a natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management study to guide the preservation of the most crucial remaining natural areas and critical species habitats in

Southeastern Wisconsin. The 1997 Plan that resulted from the study presented the locations of 12 natural area sites and four critical species habitat sites in the Village. None of the identified sites were under protective ownership at the time of the report. However, because these sites make significant contributions to the biodiversity, scenic beauty, and overall integrity of the region, it was recommended by SEWRPC that they be preserved, protected, and managed into the future (See Maps 1a and 1b).

***Kenosha County Park and Open Space Plan (1999):*** This 1999 amendment added one full paragraph to the 1987 Park and Open Space Plan, which recommended the development of an additional county park in the western portion of Kenosha County (outside Pleasant Prairie). The amendment also included an updated outdoor recreation map for the year 2020. The map depicts the location of a proposed trail within Pleasant Prairie running from the Wisconsin/Illinois border northward to Prairie Springs Park, around the eastern perimeter of the Park, and continuing north to meet up with the CTH C on-street bike route.

***A Comprehensive Plan for the Des Plaines River Watershed (2003):*** The purpose of the Des Plaines Watershed planning program and the resulting report was to help mitigate water resource-related problems by developing a plan that would guide water resource conservation and management into the future. Ultimately the Plan included four elements: a land use and park and open space element, a floodland and stormwater management plan element, a water quality management plan element, and a fisheries management plan element. The land use and park and open space element reflected the recommendations included in both the Comprehensive Plan for the Kenosha Urban Planning District and the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2010.

The Plan positions the Village within the context of its larger bioregion (an area characterized by a particular ecological community and bounded by natural rather than artificial borders) and defines the connection between park and open space areas and the overall health of the Des Plaines watershed.

***A Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County: 2000-2004:*** Directed by the Kenosha County Land and Water Conservation Committee, the Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Kenosha County was intended to guide future natural resource-related programs in the County, particularly with respect to nonpoint source water pollution. The Plan seeks to identify and prioritize land and water-resource related problems, establish goals and objectives to address the problems, develop an implementation plan to meet the goals and objectives, and design public informational and educational programs to incorporate County residents. The Plan presents recommendations and priority actions by watershed. Some of the recommendations and priority actions that may relate to this Park and Open Space Plan are as follows:

- Support implementation of the Land Use Management Plan for the Chiwaukee Prairie—Carol Beach Area and the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Plan;
- Establish conservation buffers around riparian corridors, shorelands, and wetlands; and
- Track the level of protection for environmentally significant lands, such as those identified in the regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Plan.

***Park and Open Space Plan 2006-2011:*** Adopted in 2006 and in 2009 as a component of the Village Comprehensive Plan, this plan was used to proactively plan for the Village's future park and recreation needs and set forth specific goals, objective and recommendations to guide the acquisition, preservation, and development of land for parks, recreation trails, and other open spaces to meet the needs of a growing and changing population. Although, the Plan addresses the long-range park and open space needs of the

community it also focuses on recommendations for development over the five year time frame (2006 and 2011).

**Village of Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin 2035 Comprehensive Plan:** The Village of Pleasant Prairie 2035 Comprehensive Plan approved in December of 2009 provides a long-range guide for the Village officials, staff, and citizens to effectively address future development and while protecting natural resource in the Village through the year 2035, and sets forth Village planning goals and objectives. The 2035 Comprehensive Plan is an update to the 2010 Comprehensive Plan completed in 1996. In preparing this Comprehensive Plan update, the Village reviewed the existing land use and related plans, updated those plans as necessary to comply with the comprehensive planning law to reflect changes that have occurred since the plans were adopted.

The 2035 Comprehensive Plan, which meets the requirements of the *Smart Growth* laws in the State of Wisconsin, serves as a master or comprehensive plan for the Village and will continue to be used to guide development decision making and projecting the direction of future growth in the Village. This Comprehensive Plan provides information related to existing and planned land uses, protecting and guiding the existing and proposed population and housing growth, protecting the natural resource base, planning for future residential, commercial, industrial uses, and transportation facilities, public parks, recreational facilities, and other community facilities and utilities, and protecting and guiding the economic viability of the Village. The Plan strives to continue to achieve a well-balanced, quality of life for the community while promoting the Village as a "Great Place to Live, Work and Play".

The Village Board and affected Commissions and Committees of the Village shall refer to the Comprehensive Plan as a matter of course in their deliberations on planning issues and give the Plan due weight when making decisions on such matters, particularly with regard to the Statutory requirements for consistency between the Village Comprehensive Plan and the Village Zoning and Land Division and Development Control Ordinances. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan is intended to provide general awareness and understanding of Village planning goals and objectives by residents, landowners, developers, business community, and other private interests, and among the many government departments with land use related responsibilities within the Village.

**Village of Pleasant Prairie 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails Plan:** The 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails plan was adopted on April 19, 2010 to guide the development of shared-use paths, demarcate on-street facilities, provide design guidelines and policies for facilities and highlight funding opportunities for the Village to pursue. The Plan builds on the past bicycle and pedestrian planning, including that in the Village's *2006 Park and Open Space Plan* and the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's (SEWRPC) *Regional Transportation Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035, A Regional Land Use Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035, and Amendment to the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian System Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2020*. The Plan adopted as a component of the Village 2035 Comprehensive Plan should be updated every five years to reflect the needs of the community and progress that has been made in implementing new facilities.