

SHEBOYGAN



2024-2028 COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 FINAL DRAFT

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CONSULTANT TEAM

GRāEF



Thank you to everyone in the public, the elected officials, City staff, and the steering committee that contributed to this plan throughout the engagement process of this project. Without your valuable input this plan would not be possible.
Cheers to Sheboygan Parks!

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INTRODUCTION



SHEBOYGAN PARKS TODAY

The goal of this Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is to provide a vision, framework, and resource for the City of Sheboygan to guide parks, recreation, and open spaces over a five-year time horizon.

City parks can increase property values, add to community beautification, support the local economy, and help promote a healthy, active lifestyle. Parks are a platform for expression, play, and fun for residents and visitors of all ages, from sparkling seasonal holiday celebrations to competitive displays of passion, skill, and practice. This Plan was created in close partnership with the Staff, elected officials, residents, and visitors of Sheboygan to understand the community's challenges and reflect the community's priorities. The feedback from this robust engagement process was combined

with a review of peer communities to provide comparisons and benchmarks.

This Plan can be used to guide park management and recreational programming for the next five-year period. In addition, this adopted Plan makes the City eligible to receive grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Stewardship Program for park development projects, the preservation of land and water-based natural assets, and recreational boating and access projects on Lake Michigan.



▲ Sheboygan is known as the “Spirit on The Lake.”

Welcome to

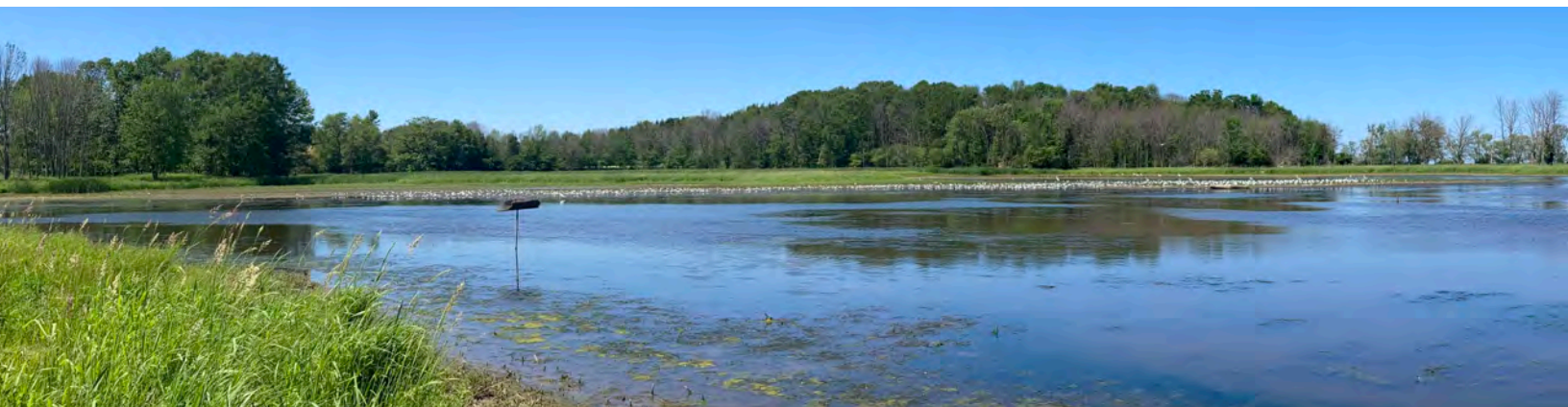
SHEBOYGAN PARKS!

Sheboygan's first city parks were acquired over a hundred years ago in 1917. First, Vollrath Park was deeded to the City, and next, the City purchased Cole Woods, soon renamed as Evergreen Park, both of which still stand proudly today. In a little over a century, the City of Sheboygan has nourished a thriving and popular system of parks.

The City's previous Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), adopted in 2016, has facilitated a park system that brings enjoyment of both land and water to residents and visitors. This Plan (2024-2028) serves as an update to unify the community's vision for the park and recreation system and outline challenges and opportunities for the next five years.

What began as land identified as "Sheboygan," a Chippewa Indian word translating roughly to "passageway or waterway between the lakes," has now grown to encompass over 700 acres of City parks.

▼ Pigeon River Estuary.





▲ Shelter with picnic tables at Cleveland Park.



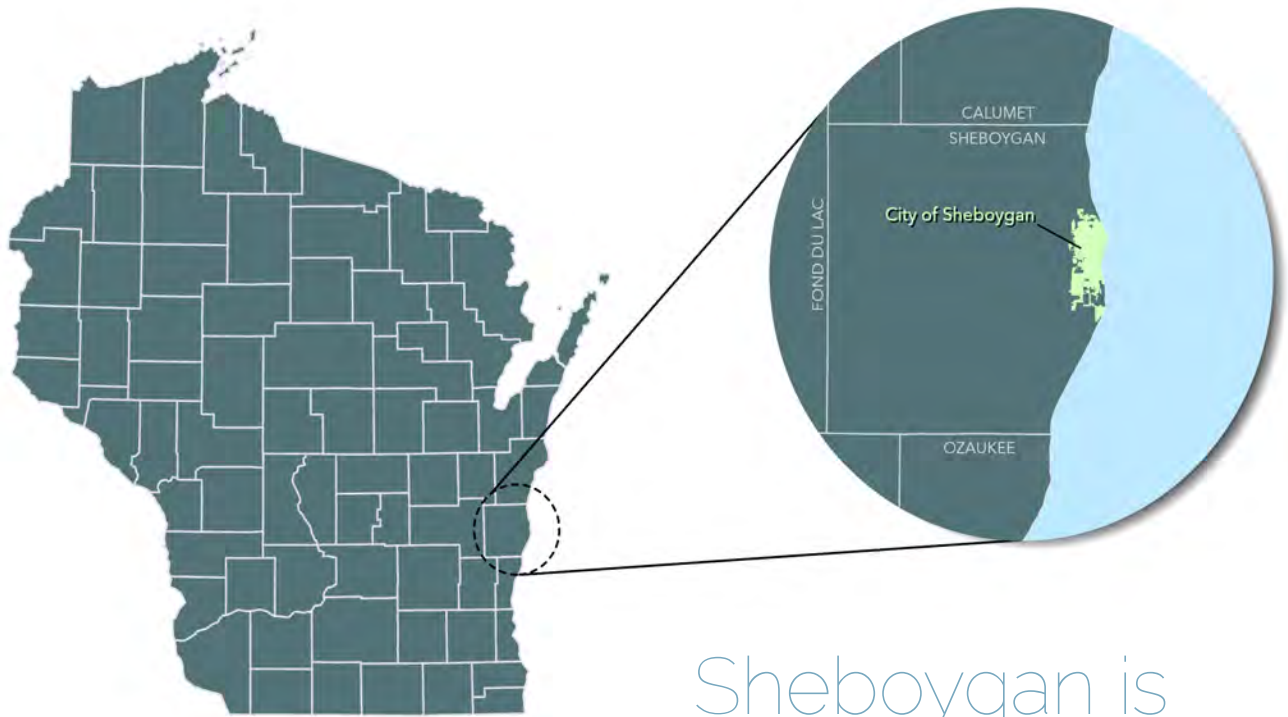
▲ Fountain Park.



▲ Jaycee Quarry Park water inflatables.



Loving the Lakeside



Sheboygan is known as the “Malibu of the Midwest!”



The City of Sheboygan boasts two miles of public beaches along the Lake Michigan waterfront. The City's sandy beaches are prime for kite-flying and enjoying the view from shore. Watersports like surfing, kitesurfing, and stand-up paddle boarding are popular. In fact, surfing here is so popular, the crowd has dubbed Sheboygan the "Malibu of the Midwest!" Surf and sand share visitors' attraction with the Lottie Cooper, an 1800's shipwreck preserved and displayed near the waterfront, and the picturesque lighthouse. Sheboygan's lakeside parks are a draw for both residents and visitors throughout the year, offering rich recreational opportunities.

- ▶ Deland Park is a popular spot for various sports and activities.



▲ Lottie Cooper Shipwreck at Deland Park.

Convergence of History & Modern Amenities



SHEBOYGAN'S PARKS ARE A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY'S RICH TALES OF THE PAST AND DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS OF ITS RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

▲ Sign welcoming visitors to Indian Mound Park.



▲ Sheboygan Dog Park welcomes furry friends

Kiwanis Park showcases the original Fieldhouse with its familiar wood-paneled walls and towering stone fireplace. Simultaneously, wheels are always welcome at the neighboring Kiwanis Skate Park, which welcomed its first skateboarders, bike riders, and scooter owners in 2018. Remains of the seating ring structures built by the Works Progress Administration of the 1930's "New Deal" provide a lens

to the past in Evergreen Park, while in the winter season, technology shines through with the City's annual "Making Spirits Bright" Christmas lights show in the same park. The interactive splash pad at Worker's Water Street Park keeps smiles blooming for the whole family, the hike/bike/ski trails at Jaycee Quarry Park keeps hearts pumping, and the Sheboygan Dog Park keeps tails wagging.

Sheboygan Parks Management

It takes a team to operate and maintain the City's park system.

The City of Sheboygan Parks and Forestry Division plays a crucial role in the City's park system. The Division is part of the Department of Public Works, and oversees the ongoing maintenance and management of the parks, grounds and green spaces, buildings, and shelters across the City. The Parks and Forestry Division's staff of 16 employees is overseen by the Superintendent of Parks and Forestry.

Recreational facilities on school property including soccer, baseball, and softball fields, are maintained by the Community Recreation Department of the Sheboygan Area School District (SASD). Recreation programs offered throughout the City are planned, managed, and staffed by the SASD. These programs include everything from youth sports, adult recreational leagues, adult enrichment, and childcare for school-aged children. The Department consists of a staff of ten members including the Director, three supervisors, three secretaries, one childcare coordinator, one aquatic coordinator, and one maintenance staffer. The Community Recreation Department's mission is described to the right. The City of Sheboygan also offers an "Adopt a Park or Trail Program" to provide volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups to take an active role that contributes to the beautification of local parks and trails." These combined efforts from City and School District departments and community volunteers are instrumental in creating vibrant opportunities for residents and visitors to recreate and enjoy all the amenities Sheboygan has to offer.

"In the interest of life-long enrichment, the Sheboygan Area School District-Community Recreation Department serves and supports the community through development, initiation, coordination, and support of a variety of recreational activities and facilities for people of all ages."



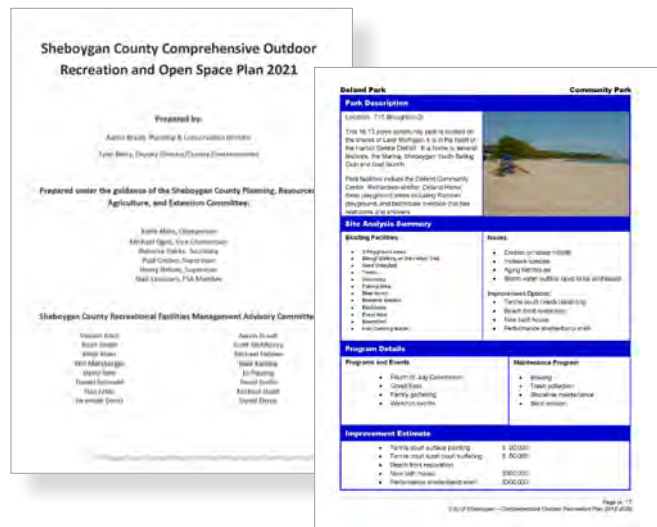
▲ General King Park

Planning Context & Process



The 2023 City of Sheboygan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan incorporates relevant past and ongoing planning efforts at the City and County level to ensure priorities, goals, and action items are aligned where possible. Some of the plans, studies, and reports that were consulted and referenced for inclusion in this Plan include:

- » City of Sheboygan Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2016-2020)
- » City of Sheboygan Capital Improvement Plan (2022-2026)
- » Sheboygan County Park and Open Space Plan (2021)
- » Wisconsin Statewide CORP (SCORP, 2019-2023)



This Plan builds upon previously established goals, objectives, and recommendations with the inclusion of new considerations and updated application of updated national best practices for parks and recreation planning. Some past goals may be familiar and have been reaffirmed, while new ones have been identified. In order to maintain eligibility for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Stewardship Funds, a community must have a current Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan that has been adopted within the past five years. The planning process for this Plan began in November of 2021 and continued through its adoption in 2023. The Plan was adopted June 5, 2023.

The planning process centered community engagement to understand the needs and priorities of park users and stakeholders in the City of Sheboygan. Feedback was solicited via a project website, online survey, and focus groups from residents, visitors, public officials, and City Staff. In order to reach stakeholders in a variety of ways, a combination of virtual (online) and in-person activities enabled respondents ample opportunities to respond in a manner that worked with their schedule and made them

feel safe and valued. The planning team, consisting of City Staff and the planning consultant GRAEF, analyzed all feedback according to what is working well, what needs improvement, and where there are opportunities. The community engagement process is further described in the next chapter of this Plan.

This CORP was designed to be updated in five years, as designated by DNR requirements. The update process should begin with a review of the Implementation Plan to identify the status of each action item. Action items that have been accomplished should be noted and success celebrated! Action items in progress or those that have yet to be undertaken should be reviewed for relevance and incorporated into the CORP update.

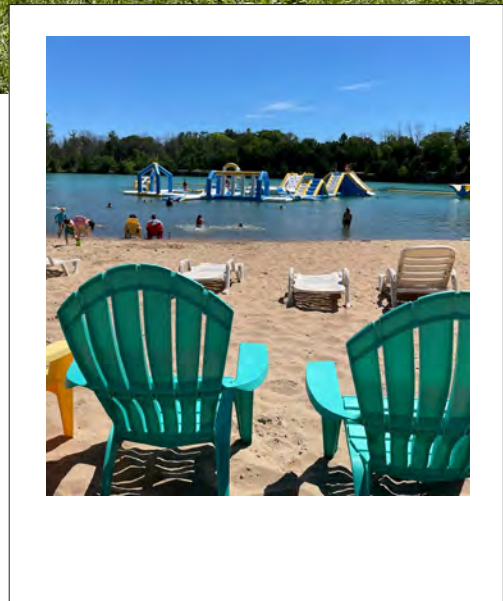
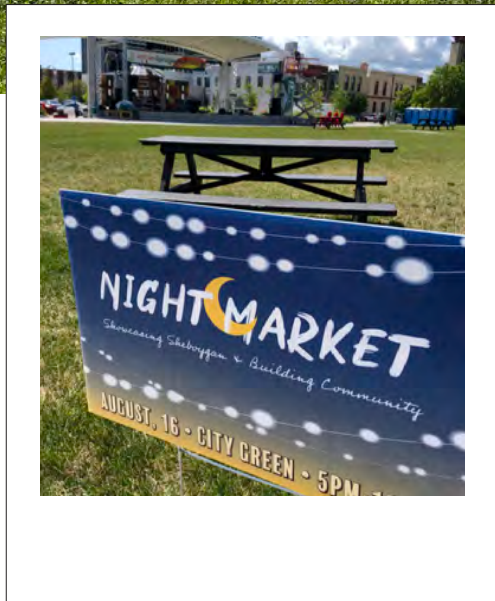
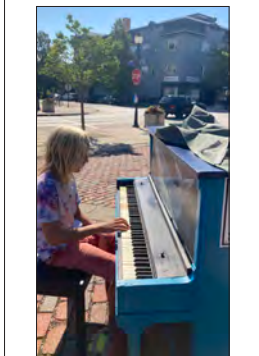
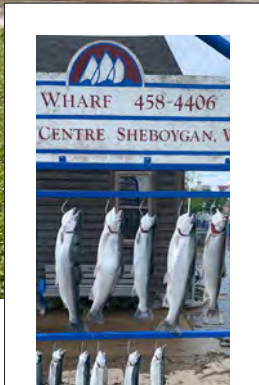
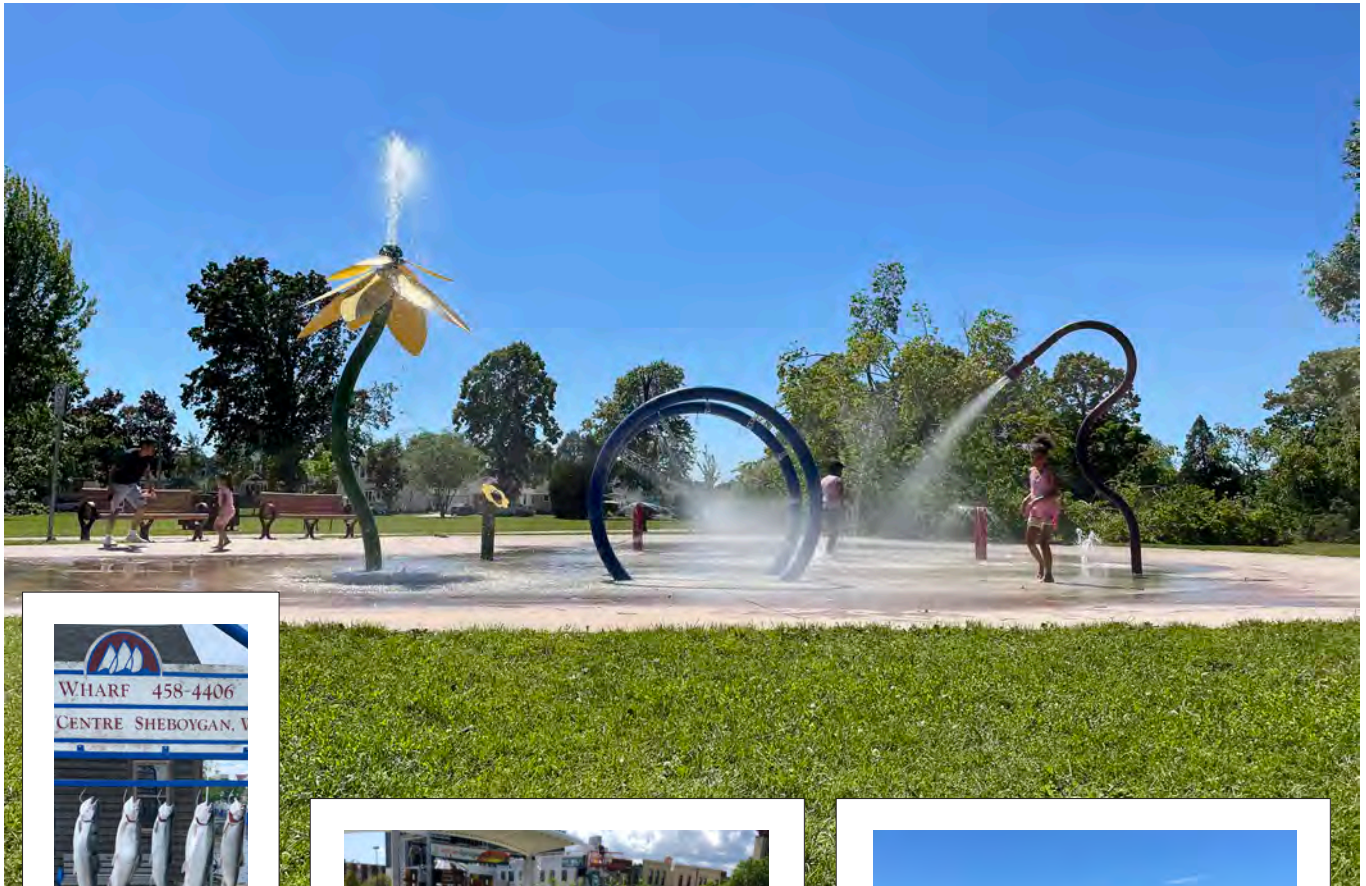


DISCOVERY & ENGAGEMENT



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

"Spirit on the Lake"



Spirit of the Lake: Sheboygan’s History, Population, & Location

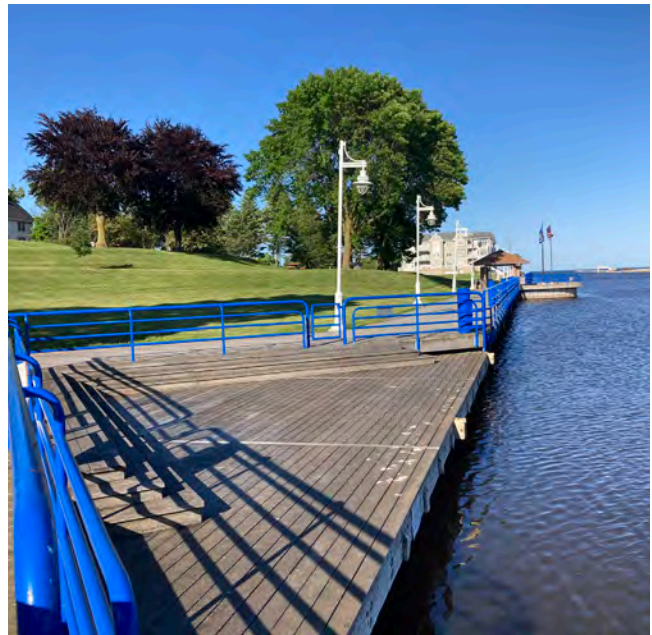
The City of Sheboygan, proudly known as “Spirit on the Lake,” is a community home to 49,929 people as of the 2020 U.S. Census.

Residents have been attracted to the coastal community on the water’s edge for centuries, beginning with a Pottawatomie Village at the mouth of the Sheboygan River, followed by the establishment of the first fur trading post in 1818. Nearly twenty years later in 1836, Sheboygan’s first hotel and post office were built. Due to the growing population, Sheboygan County was officially established, splitting from Brown County. As stores and ships began to crop up, Sheboygan incorporated into a Village in 1846. The City was officially founded and chartered seven years later in 1853.

Primely located along the western shore of Lake Michigan and at the mouth of the Sheboygan River, the City has a rich culture that celebrates its connections to the coast. Now serving as the County Seat of the aptly named Sheboygan County, the City has a land area of 15.38 square miles of land area, or approximately 9,800 acres. The City is bordered by the Town of Sheboygan to the north, the Village of Kohler to the west, and the Town of Wilson to the South. Interstate 43 forms the western boundary of the City and serves as the primary north-south transportation route into Sheboygan. Highway 23 serves as the main western route into the City. Sheboygan is located approximately 1 hour north of Milwaukee and 1 hour south of Green Bay, Wisconsin’s first and third largest cities, respectively, representing a catchment of potential visitors for outdoor recreation.

Lake Michigan encompasses the entire eastern border of the City of Sheboygan. Sheboygan’s Harbor Center Marina was named one of the Marinas.com “Boaters’ Choice Elite Fleet” recipient in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. The City also ranked in the Top 10 of the Chicago Tribune’s “Best of the Midwest: 10 Places to Go in 2020” and #2 in the TripSavvy.com “20 Awesome Spring Break Getaways with Kids” ranking. These accolades showcase the City’s popularity among residents and visitors alike.

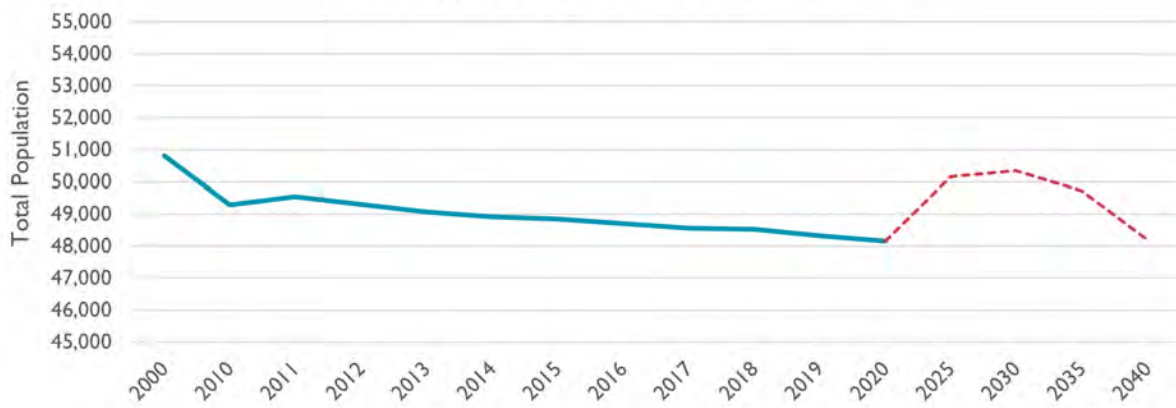
▼ Riverwalk along Rotary Park.



▲ Children play near the water feature at Fountain Park in downtown on N. 8th Street.

Social Characteristics

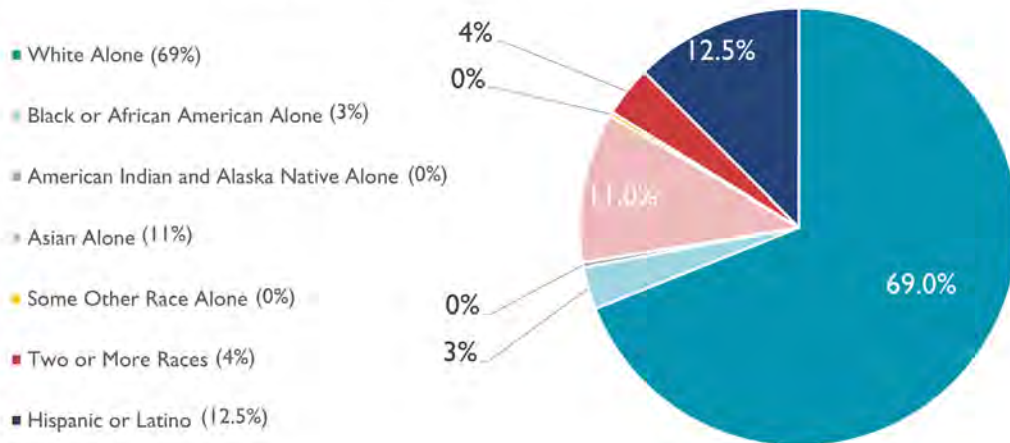
Sheboygan Population Projection



▲ Sheboygan’s population is projected to remain relatively steady. Note that projections from the DOW are calculated in 2013 and do not account for 2014-2022 population counts. Source: Wisconsin Dept. of Administration, US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The City of Sheboygan’s population has remained relatively steady over the past twenty years, hovering around 50,000 residents. Just shy of half of the total population of Sheboygan County lives within the City. The City’s population is not predicted to dramatically increase or decrease over the next twenty years according to the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), signaling the importance of a focus on improving and maintaining existing parks rather than expanding to meet new demand.

City of Sheboygan - Population Race/Ethnicity



▲ The City’s residents are predominantly White (69%). Asian residents represent 11% of the City’s population and Black or African American residents compose 3.7%. Source: US Census Bureau - 2020 Decennial Census Counts

City of Sheboygan vs. Sheboygan County Age and Sex



▲ The division of male and female residents is relatively even within the City, with males representing approximately 53% of the population and females 47%. US Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Compared to the County, Sheboygan has a higher proportion of males and females under the age of five and a higher proportion of males aged 10-14. Approximately one quarter of Sheboygan’s total population is under 18 years of age. However, the City has less of a concentration of males and females aged 15-19 than witnessed in the County as a whole.

The largest population clusters within the City are adults aged 35-44. It is likely that a significant portion of these residents are parents with young and teenage children. This demographic is likely to utilize a variety of park-based amenities such as playgrounds and splash pads for younger children and competitive sports-based fields and spaces for teenage children. However, not all children and teens play sports, so a variety of other engaging amenities should be provided such as nature walks, cycling trails, or skate parks, to name a few. The City has a smaller population currently in retirement age (65+) than the County, with the exception of adults aged 85+. This age group likely favors more passive park amenities, such as walking or wildlife watching.

It is important to consider the different ages of children and teens within the community to understand age-based needs for parks and recreation services. Over the next five years, children aged 5-9 and 15-19 are likely to remain a significant proportion of the City’s overall population, signaling a need to ensure park amenities are available and attractive to their needs. Similarly, the proportion of adults aged 25-44 is predicted to form the largest population sector within Sheboygan over the time horizon of this Plan. This population may utilize parks in three ways: first, by engaging with their children in active recreation activities; second, by engaging individually in hobby or athletic activities such as bird-watching or bicycling; and third, by engaging with small or larger groups of friends or acquaintances in organized activities such as disc-golf, pickleball, tennis, or similar sports-based activities. Ensuring adequate capacity for these varied uses over the next five years is an important goal for this CORP.

Members of the 25-44 age demographic are also likely to own pets such as dogs. Dog ownership has increased across the country since the COVID-19 pandemic first struck in 2020. An [ASPCA survey](#) revealed 1 in 5 households across the nation acquired a dog or cat during the pandemic. The desire to bring a pet along for companionship or exercise has also grown, and the City should pay special attention to opportunities for pet access and amenities in parks. To date, the City has been active in recognizing the needs of dog owners: in 2021, Sheboygan was the first City in Wisconsin to receive a “Pet Friendly Certification” from [Better Cities for Pets](#), recognizing the programs and policies that enable pets and pet owners to live a healthy, happy life together.



▲ A dog plays in the grass at the Sheboygan Dog Park.

“We are excited to be a pet-friendly community. Making our community more accessible to pets and pet owners helps improve the quality of life for our city. We are so lucky to have many community partners that we are working with to make this happen. So many residents across Sheboygan include their pets in their families.”

– Mayor Ryan Sorenson



The median household income in the City of Sheboygan has increased steadily over the past five years to \$52,088. However, this median household income still remains over \$10,000 less than the median household income in Sheboygan County of \$62,101, and less than the State of Wisconsin’s median household income of \$63,293. The sector employing the most in Sheboygan is manufacturing, followed by educational services, healthcare and social assistance, and retail trade. As of January 2022, 2.6% of the City’s population in the labor force was unemployed. This is similar to the County unemployment rate of 2.5%.

Residents’ income can affect the amount they are able and willing to spend on recreational activities. For example, a lower degree of disposable income may cause residents to rely more heavily on free amenities open to the general public rather than acquiring a private gym membership for exercise. Residents may also look for low-cost amenities to cool off in the summer at the City’s parks near the water to reduce the cost of personal air conditioning. Residents with lower incomes may also choose to walk or ride a bicycle to parks instead of driving to reduce transportation costs, making safe access and secure bicycle parking and storage important.



▲ View from South Side Municipal Beach.

Median Household Income

\$52,088

median income in
City of Sheboygan

\$62,101

median income in
Sheboygan County

\$63,293

median income in
State of WI

Top 4 Employment Sectors in City of Sheboygan



Manufacturing



Educational Services



Healthcare & Social Assistance



Retail Trade

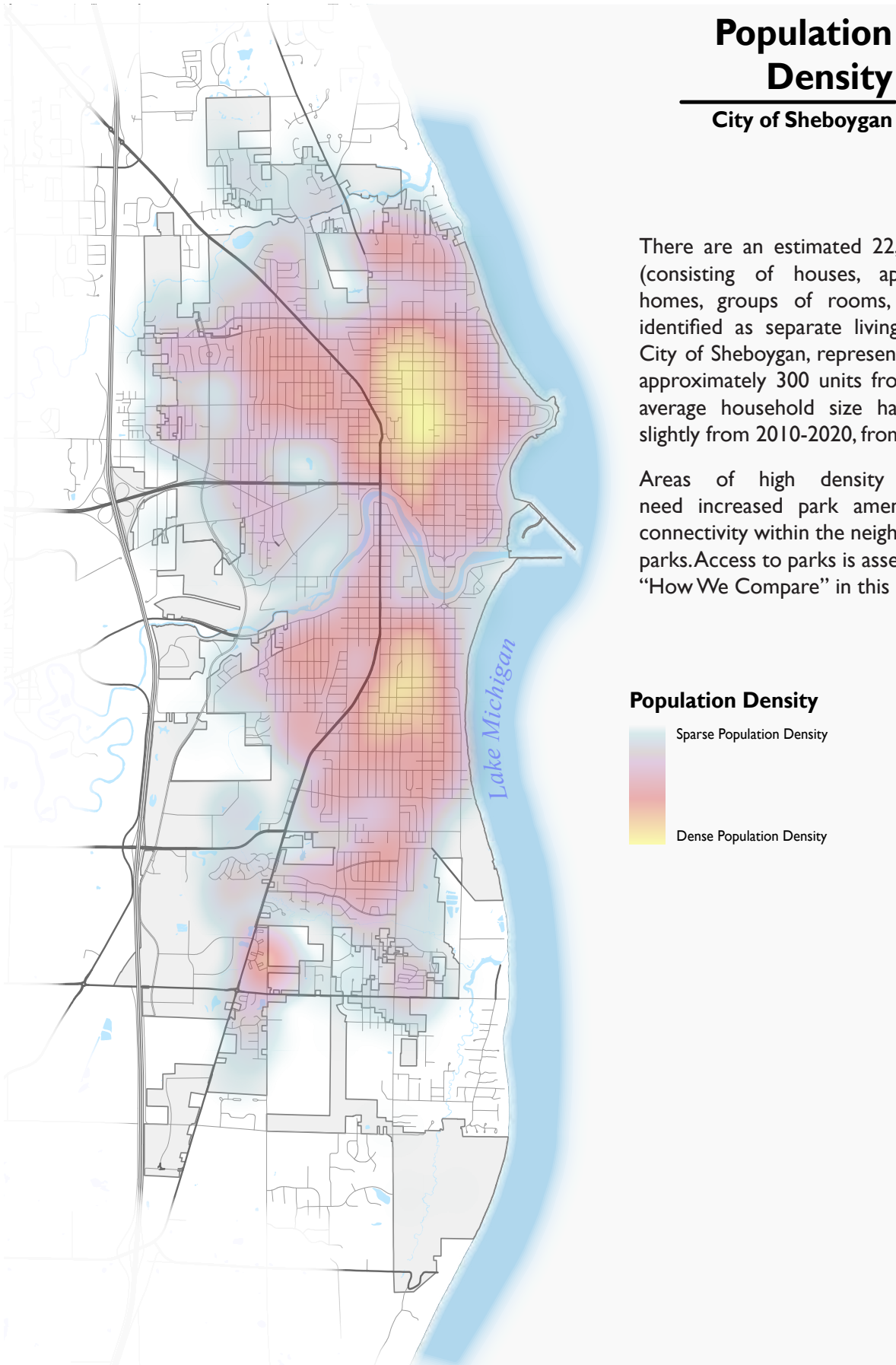
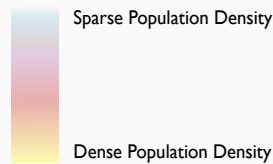
Population Density

City of Sheboygan

There are an estimated 22,605 housing units (consisting of houses, apartments, mobile homes, groups of rooms, or single rooms identified as separate living quarters) in the City of Sheboygan, representing an increase of approximately 300 units from 2010-2020. The average household size has decreased very slightly from 2010-2020, from 2.38 to 2.34

Areas of high density population may need increased park amenities and greater connectivity within the neighborhood to access parks. Access to parks is assessed in the section “How We Compare” in this chapter.

Population Density



INVENTORY

Overview of Existing Outdoor Recreation Areas

715

TOTAL ACRES

ACRES OF
ACTIVE
RECREATION

325

ACRES OF
LOW-IMPACT
RECREATION

390



Sheboygan’s parks serve different uses depending on their size, location, and amenities. Ideally, a community will provide a system of parks that are well-distributed in terms of size, location, and appeal to residents and visitors alike.



Mini-Parks or “Pocket Parks”

The smallest of the City’s park types are Mini-Parks, also known as “pocket parks.” These are typically very small in size and tend to be focused on serving a small population. Sheboygan has one Mini- Park: Grace Park, which offers playground equipment and picnic tables.



Neighborhood Parks

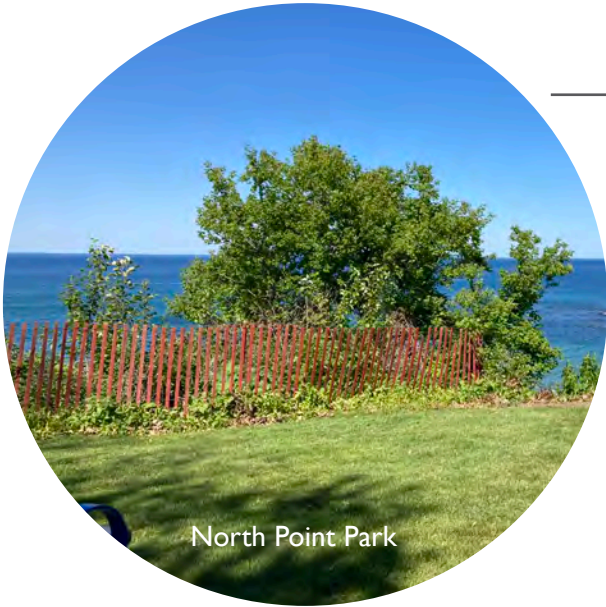
Neighborhood Parks generally serve small service areas within ¼ mile and are often accessed by walking and biking from home to the park. Sheboygan has 9 parks classified as Neighborhood Parks that range in size from 1-7 acres. Sheboygan’s Neighborhood Parks include amenities such as playgrounds, picnic tables and small shelters, portable restroom facilities, full or half-court basketball, tennis courts, greenspace, and softball/baseball diamonds. Neighborhood Parks may or may not offer on-site parking. These parks are key to the overall fabric of a neighborhood and serve as important gathering spaces for families and friends to enjoy the outdoors together.

Community Parks

Community Parks are slightly larger than neighborhood parks and generally serve users from a geographic area that exceeds the neighborhood level. Community Parks serve to meet broader, community-level recreational needs rather than purely neighborhood level needs. Sheboygan has 11 parks classified as Community Parks. Sheboygan’s Community Parks include rentable park shelters, gazebos, picnic areas, tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts, baseball and soccer fields, disc-golf course, restrooms, splash pad, playground equipment, beaches, as well as the only dog-friendly beach in the City. Many Community Parks offer on-site parking, as residents may need to travel further from home to access these amenities.



Collectively, Mini-Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Community Parks are classified in this CORP as “Local/Close-to-Home Parks.” These park areas generally serve residents from within Sheboygan.



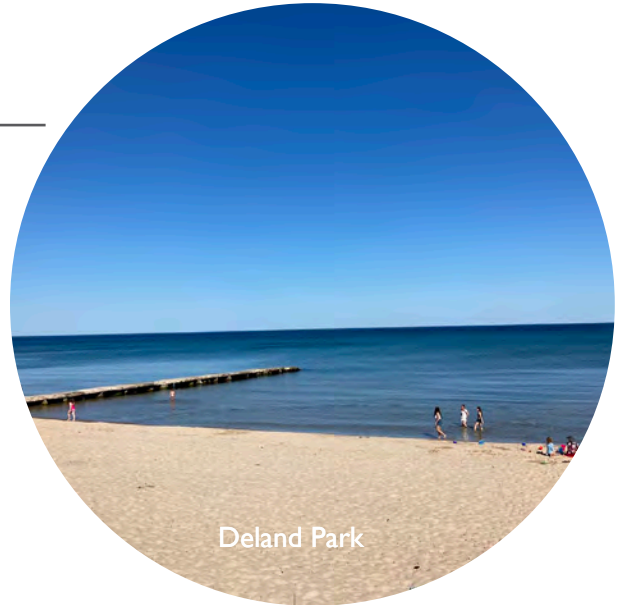
North Point Park

Conservancy & Special Use Parks

Sheboygan boasts some park areas that are designated in this CORP as “Conservancy” and “Special Use.” There are 8 parks designated as Conservancy including Indian Mound Park. This site contains an effigy burial grounds, unique in the world. The park has a walking path for free self-guided tours. The park also features a nature-centric boardwalk trail through the wetlands. The City also has 4 dog parks/dog runs, a fish cleaning station, and boat landing classified as “Special Use.”

Metropolitan Parks

The City also hosts parks classified as “Metropolitan.” These parks serve residents from across the city and certain parks, such as the parks on Lake Michigan, may attract visitors about an hour’s drive away. The City has 7 parks designated as Metropolitan Parks. These include Deland Park in the heart of the Harbor Center District, popular for its beach access, marina, and several festivals; Fountain Park, which draws crowds for the fresh produce at the farmer’s market and weekly musical performances in the summer; riverfront Kiwanis Park; and Jaycee Park Quarry, known for its swimming area, 23-hole disc golf course, and mountain biking trails.



Deland Park

Regional Park Preserves

There are also 5 parks designated under this CORP as “Regional Park Preserves.” These areas are classified as such due to their environmental significance and/or natural features, and their uses focus on more passive-based recreation such as nature walks and bird-watching. These parks also serve residents as well as attract visitors from out of town. Arguably the most well-known of these parks is the Ellwood H May Environmental Park along the Pigeon Riverfront referred to as Maywood Park.



Maywood Park

The land now known as Maywood was gifted to the City of Sheboygan in 1973 after previously being used for cattle raising throughout the 1950’s. In 1983, that park became the Ellwood H. May Environmental Park. Throughout the following decades, the land and habitats were restored and native species introduced. Today, Maywood is 135 acres of forests, wetlands, prairie, and ponds and welcomes school groups from around the region, hosts summer camps, and special events.

City of Sheboygan Parks

Local / Close-to-Home Parks

Mini-Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park
Grace Park	Worker's Water Street Park (Sheboygan riverfront)	Lake View Park
	Charles Voigt Park	Vollrath Park
	Cole Park	Riverside Park (Sheboygan riverfront)
	Franklin Park	Rotary Riverview Park (Sheboygan riverfront)
	Moose Park	Butzen Athletic Campus
	Sheridan Park	End Park
	Veterans Memorial Park	Optimist Park
		Wildwood Hardball Complex
		Wildwood Softball Complex
		Cleveland Park
		Roosevelt Park

Conservancy	Special Use
North Point Park	Camelot Dog Run
Northeast Park	City Center Dog Park
South Shore Park	Sheboygan Dog Park
Southside Beach	
Julson Park (Sheboygan riverfront)	
Indian Mound Park	
Arrowhead Park	
Stonebrook Crossing	
Creekside Park	



City of Sheboygan Parks

Regional or Metropolitan Parks

Metropolitan Park	Regional Park Preserve
Deland Park & Peace Park	Ellwood H May Environmental Park (Pigeon riverfront)
General King Park	Evergreen Park (Pigeon riverfront)
South Pier Turnaround (Sheboygan riverfront & lakefront)	Pigeon River Estuary (Pigeon riverfront)
Kiwanis Park (Sheboygan riverfront)	Manor Heights (Pigeon riverfront)
Jaycee Quarry Park (Pigeon riverfront)	
Fountain Park	
City Green	

Special Use

- 8th Street Boat Landing (Sheboygan riverfront)
- South Pier Fish Cleaning Station (Sheboygan riverfront)

Key:

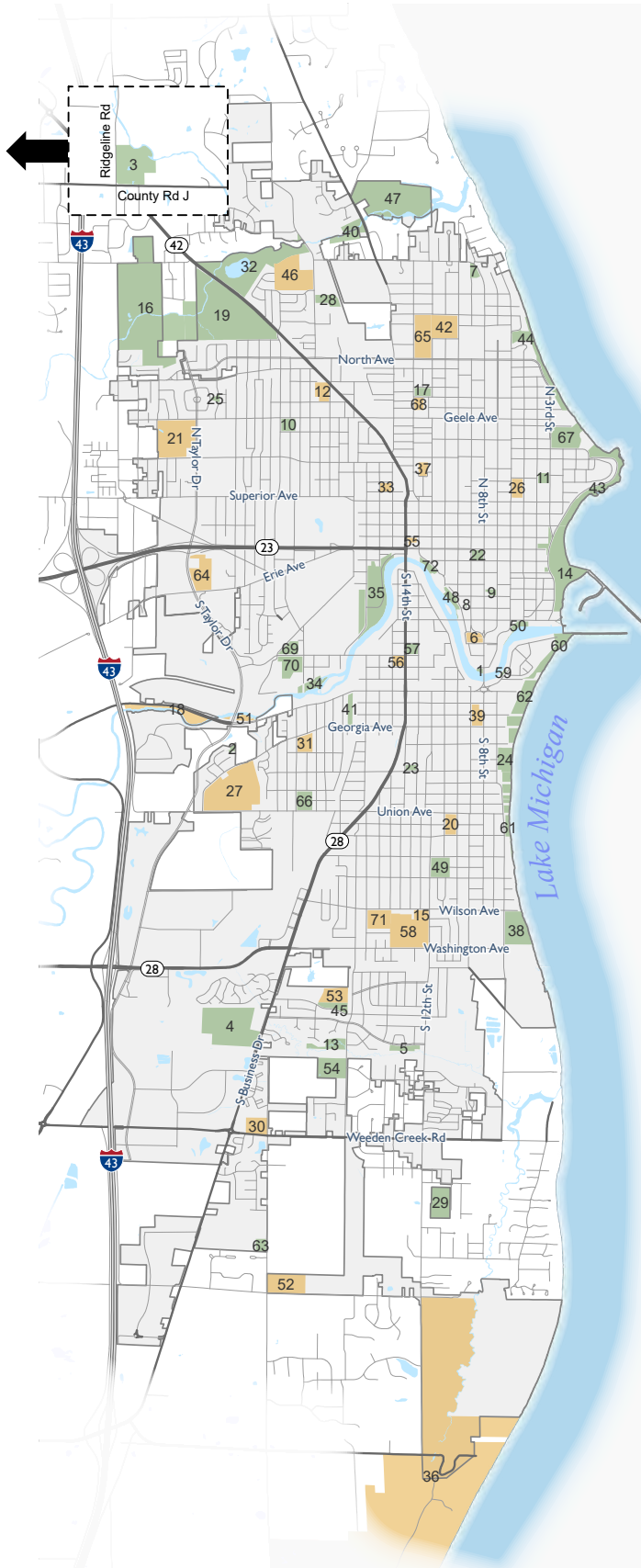
Lakefront Park
Riverfront Park
No Waterfront



▲ Cleveland Park

Park Facilities

City of Sheboygan



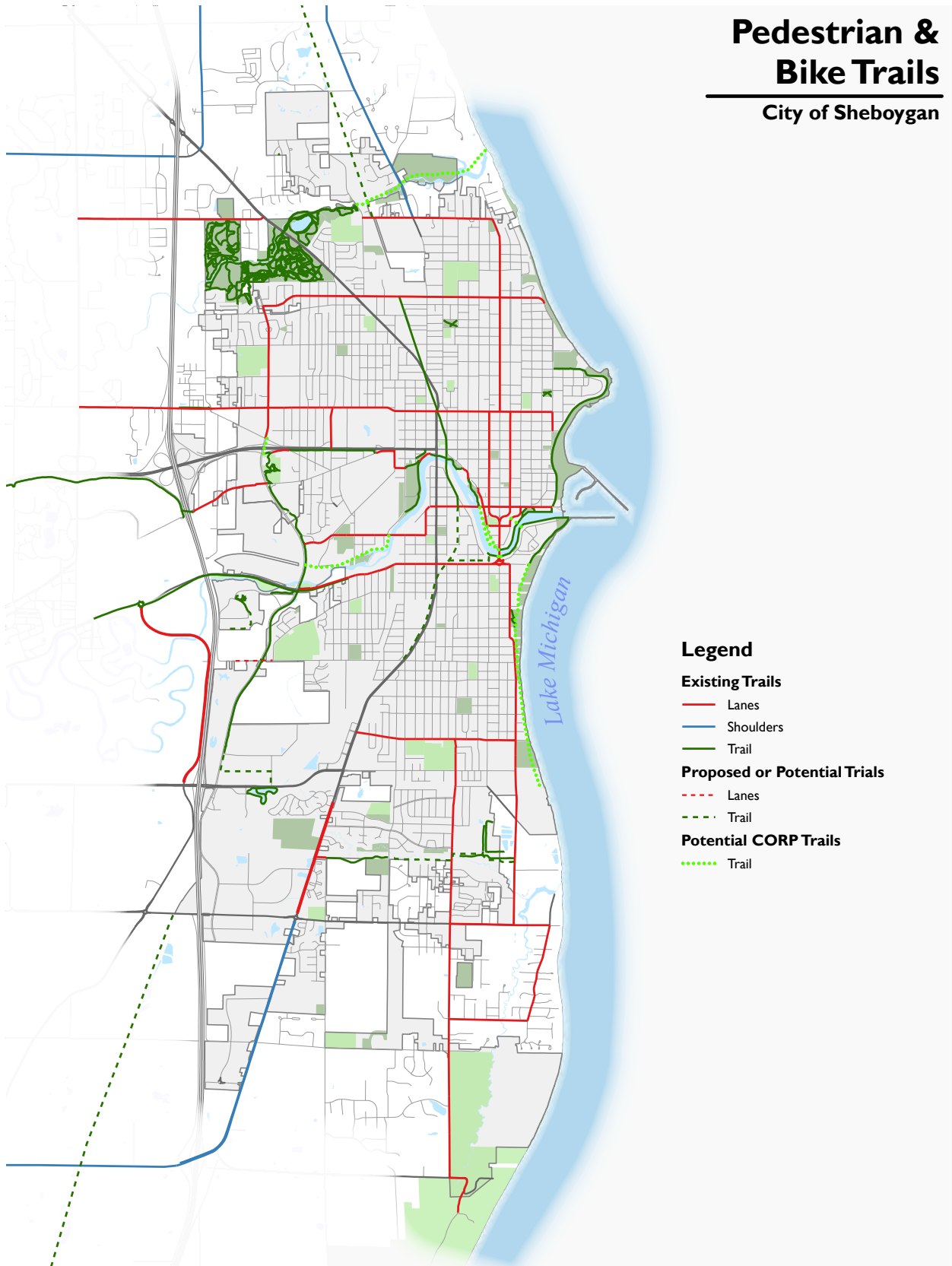
Parks

- County, State & School
- Municipal

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 8th Street Boat Launch 2. Arrowhead Park 3. Bur Oak 4. Butzen Athletic Campus 5. Camelot Dog Run 6. Central High 7. Charles Voigt Park 8. City Center Dog Park 9. City Green 10. Cleveland Park 11. Cole Park 12. Cooper Elementary School 13. Creekside Park 14. Deland Park & Peace Park 15. Early Learning Center 16. Ellwood H May Environmental Park 17. End Park 18. Esslingen Park 19. Evergreen Park 20. Farnsworth Middle School 21. Field of Dreams North 22. Fountain Park 23. Franklin Park 24. General King Park 25. Grace Park 26. Grant Elementary School 27. Horace Mann Middle School 28. Humane Society Dog Park 29. Indian Mound Park 30. Jackson Elementary School 31. James Madison Elementary School 32. Jaycee Quarry Park 33. Jefferson Elementary School 34. Julson Park 35. Kiwanis Park 36. Kohler Andrae State Park 37. Kuehne Court Playground 38. Lake View Park 39. Longfellow Elementary School | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 40. Manor Heights 41. Moose Park 42. North High School 43. North Point Park 44. Northeast Park 45. Optimist Park 46. Pigeon River Elementary School 47. Pigeon River Estuary 48. Riverside Park 49. Roosevelt Park 50. Rotary Riverview Park 51. Roy Sebald Park Sheboygan River Natural Area 52. SASD Administrative Services Building 53. SASD Hmong Community Gardens 54. Sheboygan Dog Park 55. Sheboygan Leadership Academy 56. Sheridan Elementary School 57. Sheridan Park 58. South High School 59. South Pier Fish Cleaning Station 60. South Pier Turn Around 61. South Shore Park 62. Southside Beach 63. Stonebrook Crossing 64. Taylor Park 65. Urban Middle School 66. Veterans Memorial Park 67. Vollrath Park 68. Washington Playground 69. Wildwood Hardball Complex 70. Wildwood Softball Complex 71. Wilson Elementary School 72. Workers Water Street Park |
|--|--|

Pedestrian & Bike Trails

City of Sheboygan



Programming at City Parks

The Sheboygan Area School District provides programming at City parks and facilities, and generally City staff does not plan or facilitate activities and programs. City staff is involved in park-related activities for:

Uptown Social. Uptown Social is a community center located just north of downtown, and provides activities and programming for active adults. Primarily geared to adults 55 and older, Uptown Social welcomes all ages. Uptown Social programming is staffed from the City Senior Services Group. The Senior Services Department is separate from the Parks & Forestry Division of the Public Works Department, and has its own staff and annual budget.

City Green. City Green is a special use area in the heart of downtown. Featuring a large grassy area and stage, it is used primarily for outdoor concerts and outdoor events. City Green programming is staffed from the City Public Works Department, Administration Division.

City Staffing

The Parks & Forestry Division is within the Department of Public Works and is headed by a Superintendent, responsible for the operations of the division. The City Forester is also a part of this Division. Additional staff for maintenance of facilities is staffed from the Department of Public Works.

County Park Facilities

Sheboygan County maintains park areas located within the City of Sheboygan. These areas are managed by the County but are accessible to residents and visitors of Sheboygan. The County manages Taylor Park, featuring a rentable park pavilion, playground, and gazebo, and Esslingen Park and Roy Sebald Sheboygan River Natural Area, both of which feature a canoe launch and fishing access along the Sheboygan River.

State Park Facilities

There are no state parks wholly within the City limits, but Kohler-Andrae State Park is located at the City's southern boundary along the shores of Lake Michigan. Approximately 218 acres of the state park fall within the City. This park is owned and operated by the State of Wisconsin. A paid state park pass is required to visit this park.

Privately Owned Recreation Facilities

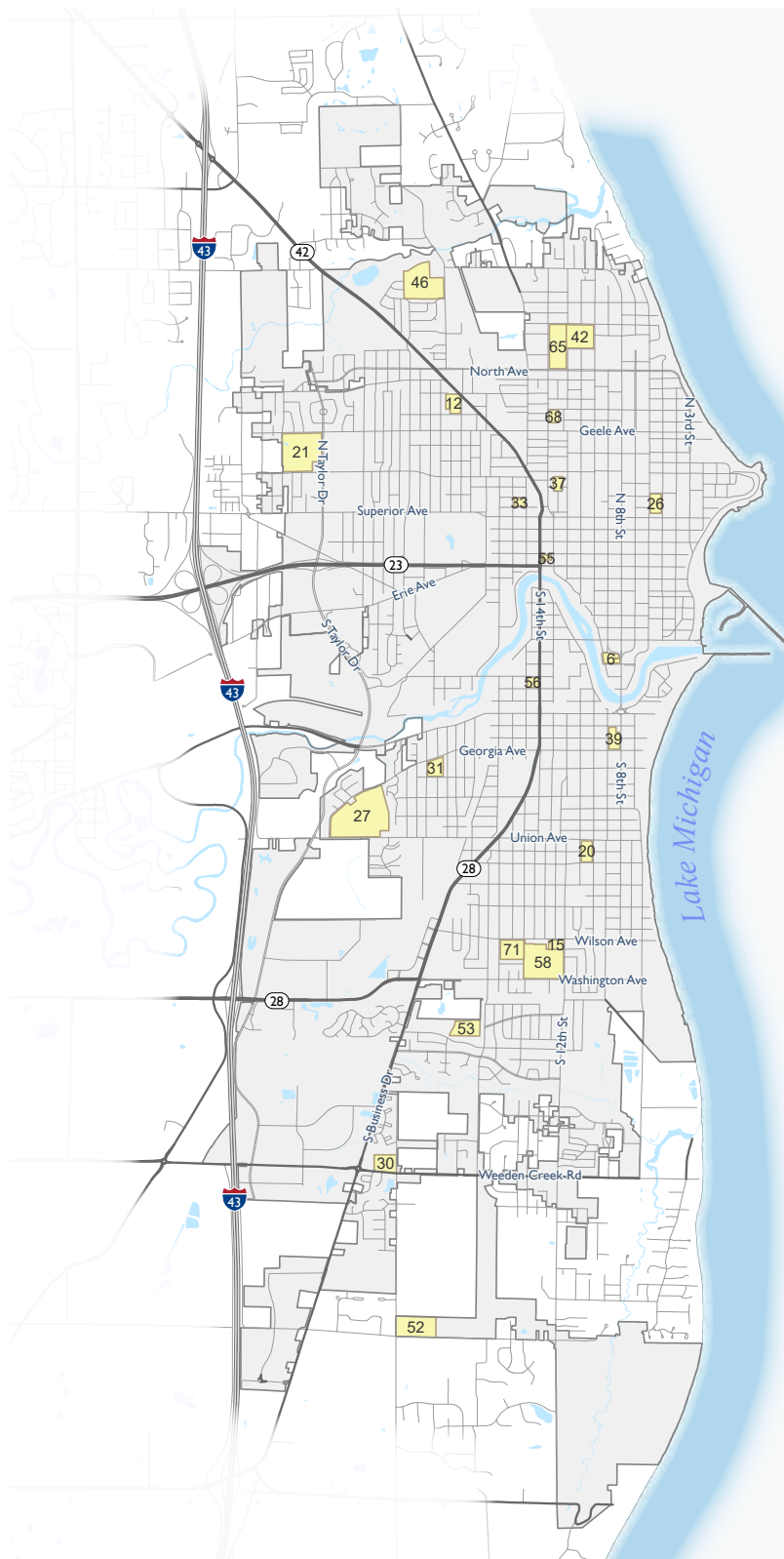
There are several privately-owned recreational facilities within the City of Sheboygan. The Sheboygan YMCA Lakeview Center is a non-profit, membership-based facility offering a full fitness center, indoor pool, and recreational programming for adults and children. The Above and Beyond Children's Center offers three floors of fun and summer camp programming for children. Sheboygan's Lakeshore United FC runs and maintains the indoor soccer KCU Fit Center, and the Lakers Hockey runs and maintains the Sheboygan Lakers Ice Center, which offers public skating and hockey leagues. The Riverdale Country Club, located just outside the City limits across South 12th Street from Indian Mound Park, is a privately-owned facility that offers a picturesque and challenging 18-hole golf course, a full practice facility, and a casual restaurant.



▲ Kohler-Andrae State Park is a county-maintained facility.

SASD Park Facilities

City of Sheboygan



Sheboygan Area School District Parks

SASD Park

- 6. Central High
- 12. Cooper Elementary School
- 15. Early Learning Center
- 20. Farnsworth Middle School
- 21. Field of Dreams North
- 26. Grant Elementary School
- 27. Horace Mann Middle School
- 30. Jackson Elementary School
- 31. James Madison Elementary School
- 33. Jefferson Elementary School
- 37. Kuehne Court Playground
- 39. Longfellow Elementary School
- 42. North High School
- 46. Pigeon River Elementary School
- 52. SASD Administrative Services Building
- 53. SASD Hmong Community Gardens
- 55. Sheboygan Leadership Academy
- 56. Sheridan Elementary School
- 58. South High School
- 65. Urban Middle School
- 68. Washington Playground
- 71. Wilson Elementary School

Public School Facilities

The Sheboygan Area School District (SASD) owns and manages a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities at 22 school facilities across the City. These facilities are utilized by the SASD Community Recreation Department for programming. The Department supports the community by providing recreation for people of all ages. In addition to the programming provided, some of the SASD facilities are open to the public for public use at certain times.



▲ Lakeview Park

HOW WE COMPARE

Needs Standards

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) is the nationally recognized, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting strong parks and recreation policies, programs, and facilities across the United States. The NRPA conducts research that enables communities to evaluate their performance compared to peer communities. Sheboygan’s parks and recreation was evaluated as part of this CORP based on the NRPA’s metrics.



▲ The NRPA provides best practice standards for parks and recreation needs assessments. Source: NRPA.org

Comparable Communities Assessment

NRPA provides agency data for park systems across the United States. This allows communities to better understand how their individual park system compares to other similar communities across the country. The following analysis selected communities with the following characteristics:

- Population between 25,000-75,000
- Manage between 30 and 50 parks

With a current population hovering just under 50,000 people and predictions for this population to remain relatively steady over the planning horizon of this CORP (5 years), Sheboygan is projected to remain within this category for the foreseeable future.



▲ Pickleball is a racket/paddle sport rapidly growing in popularity.



Open Space Metrics

The data below illustrates how Sheboygan’s park system performs compared to its peers (communities of a similar size and similar number of parks).

Acres of Parks per 1,000 Residents: This metric is used to assess the total amount of park space available per resident, used to assess whether there is enough park space overall. While it is useful as a baseline, details such as how well parks are utilized and distributed are also important for assessing park space needs.

Compared to NRPA comparable communities, Sheboygan has a similar amount of park space compared to the median peer community. For every 1,000 residents, Sheboygan has about 14 acres of park space. The median peer community has about 12 acres.

Residents per Park: This metric is helpful for assessing the distribution of parks based on the population. The fewer residents per park a community has, the better they perform in this metric. This is helpful for understanding whether some parks are needed to support larger numbers of residents.

Compared to NRPA comparable communities, Sheboygan has fewer residents per park. Sheboygan has about 1,135 residents per park. The median peer community has 1,699 residents per park.

Number of Acres per Park: This metric provides a lens with which to compare the size of parks within Sheboygan compared to peer communities. While park size is not necessarily an indication of park quality or level of amenities, park size can contribute to the overall amount of green and recreational space dispersed within a community.

For each open space metric, Sheboygan outperforms the median peer communities, and no obvious needs for more park space are identified.

Further analysis was conducted to determine whether parks are equitably distributed throughout Sheboygan and if adequate connectivity exists to connect residents to a close-to-home park.

Sheboygan outperforms comparable communities for park acres, size, and per capita ratios



Parkland Data	Comparable Communities Median	Sheboygan
Acres of parks per 1,000 residents	12	14
Number of residents per park	1,699	1,135
Number of acres per park	14	16



▲ NRPA data for comparable communities to Sheboygan with populations between 25,000 - 75,000 and ranging between 30 - 50 parks. Source: NRPA Park Metrics, Condensed Agency Performance Report, 2022.

Facility and Amenities Metrics

The table below shows recreational facilities and amenities, and how many Sheboygan offers to residents and visitors compared to peer communities. This data can provide appropriate targets for specific amenities for Sheboygan’s park system. Sheboygan performs very well with the number of playgrounds and diamond fields (baseball and softball), outpacing other comparable communities. The city is on-par with skate parks and the number of dog parks. On the other hand, there may be a need in the community to add soccer fields and racquet courts.

Looking at facilities, the city is on pace for senior centers, but compared to other peer communities may lack a teen center facility. This is something that may be added at some point in the future. Compared to its peers, Sheboygan boasts two performance venues, compared to one in similar communities. Additionally, the city has three outdoor event spaces at other parks. Adding in the biergarten at Kiwanis Park, the city is positioned with ample outdoor performance and event spaces for friends and neighbors to gather and enjoy the spring, summer, and fall outside.

Outdoor ice facilities appear to be lagging behind peer communities, with median comparable numbers at 3.6 for outdoor. With the desire for winter activities echoed in the community engagement, there may be an opportunity to look for skating sites within the city.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES METRICS			
Amenities	Comparable Communities Median Quantity	Sheboygan Quantity	Difference
Playgrounds	18.6	25	6.4
Basketball Courts	7.7	6.5	-1.2
Diamond Fields (Baseball and Softball)	2.7-9.5	10	7.3-0.5
Skate Park	1.1	1	-0.1
Dog Park	1.6	3	1.4
Ice Rink (Outdoor)	3.6	0	-3.6
Soccer Fields (Youth)	14.8	3	-11.8
Soccer Fields (Adult)	3.7	0	-3.7
Tennis Courts	10.1	0	-10.1
Pickleball	5.6	3	-2.6
Multi-use Tennis/Pickleball	3.7	6	2.3

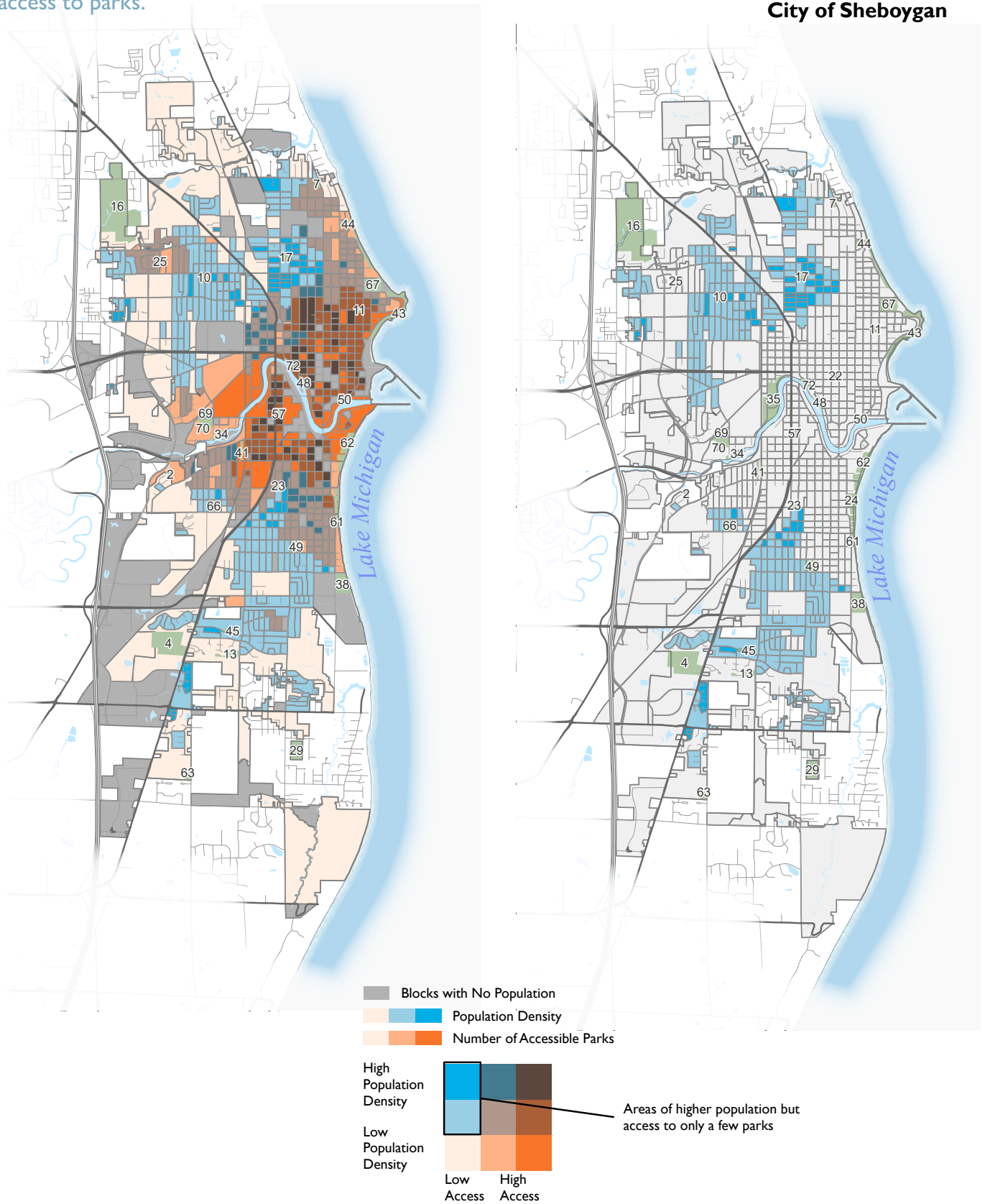
Facilities	Comparable Communities Median Quantity	Sheboygan Quantity	Difference
Senior Centers	1.1	1	-0.1
Teen Centers	1.0	0	-1.0
Indoor Ice Rink	1.4	1	-0.4
Performance Amphitheater	1.0	2	1.0

▲ The above table compares the number of amenities and facilities in Sheboygan with the median number of facilities in the identified peer communities. The difference between them illustrates how Sheboygan’s park facilities compare to its peers. A ratio was calculated using the initial data (median population per facility) and Sheboygan’s population, to develop the number of facilities for a community the size of Sheboygan. Source: NRPA Park Metrics, Condensed Agency Performance Report, 2022; Criteria: population 25,000-75,000 and 30-50 parks managed.

The map below displays park facilities accessibility according to population density. The map to the right highlights areas shaded dark blue, which have higher population density but lower access to parks.

Park Facilities Accessibility

City of Sheboygan



Park Service Area Assessment

Accessibility

Analysis of the areas of Sheboygan with varying access to parks shows that certain areas outside the core of the downtown, especially on the north side of the City - but also in pockets of the south side - have slightly less access to parks. In addition to having lower access, the darker blue areas shown in the Local Park Facilities Accessibility map (left) have higher populations with less access to parks. Park access was defined as walking distance, somewhere between 1/4 and 3/4 mile away from a park, depending on park size as recommended by the NRPA. Regional parks were excluded as they serve the entire community, and special parks like dog parks and boat launches are excluded because they serve a subset of the population (those with dogs and/or boats).

Low Access: 0-3 parks in walking distance

Moderate Access: 3-6 parks in walking distance

High Access: 7-12 parks in walking distance

Low Density: >3,821 residents/sq. mile

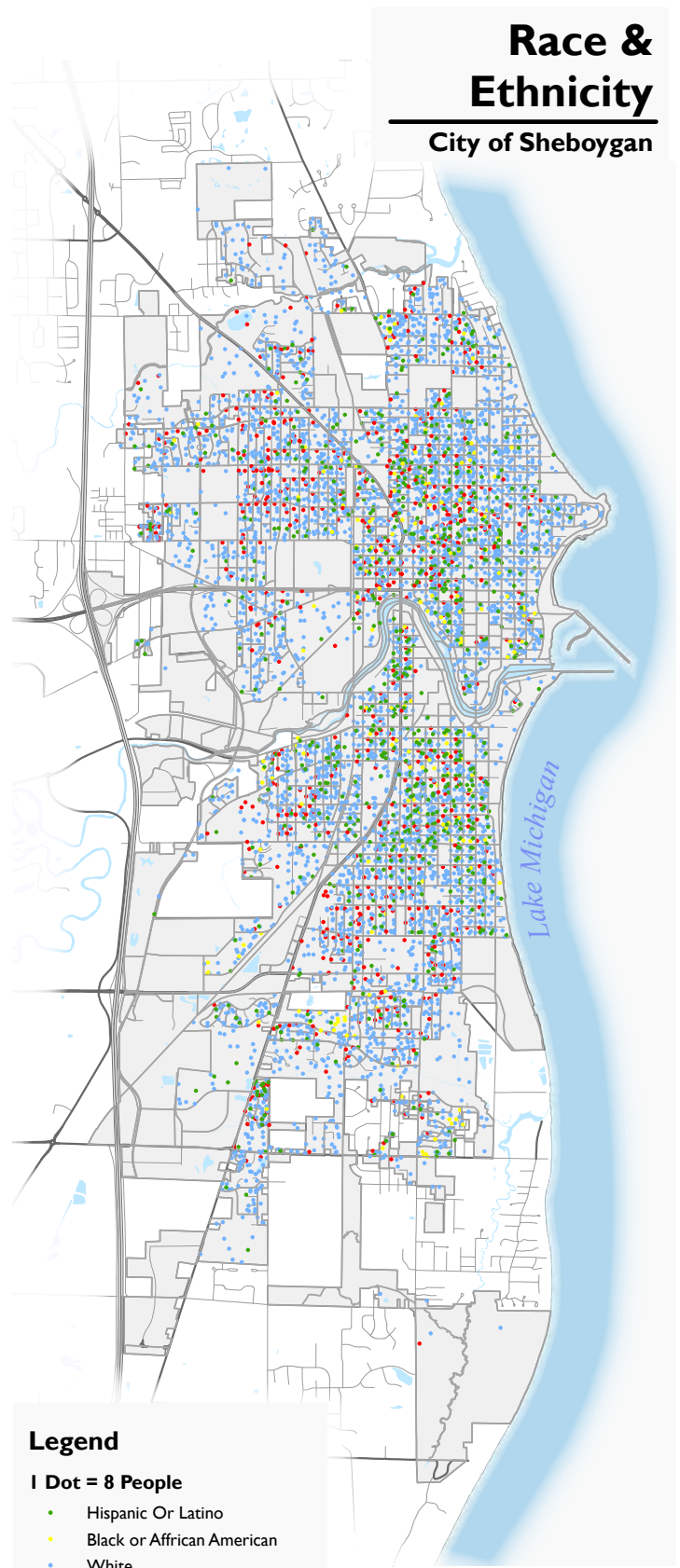
Medium Density: 3,822-9,729 residents/sq. mile

High Density: 9,730+ residents/sq. mile

While the overall makeup of Sheboygan's park inventory is fairly good, the distribution of areas shaded darker blue on the map on the previous page shows areas of inequity in portions of the city. High quality pedestrian facilities and safe crossings can increase accessibility and connectivity to park spaces. As an added measure, where feasible, additional park space may be considered to increase access to parks in some of the city's highest density neighborhoods.

Race and Ethnicity

To determine whether there is disparate access to facilities along lines of race and ethnicity, a detailed look at the racial and ethnic distribution of the population was performed. While much of Sheboygan shows strong racial diversity, a closer look shows that areas which were less white than the city overall were 3.5% more likely to have low access to parks compared to areas which contained a greater proportion of white residents.





▲ A stroll along the Riverwalk.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Sheboygan Says!



I love the walking path along North Point and the beach, and so appreciate that it facilitates public access to the lake.

Grateful for the people who put time and effort into Peace Park.

The City should purchase or obtain a conservation easement along the entire Pigeon River corridor to protect the river and provide a corridor for wildlife and recreation.

Any development to this land once the power plant is shut down should include park land and Lake Michigan access. A park with a clean energy theme (utilizing clean energy practices) would be great for an old coal fired plant site.

This area would protect the Pigeon River corridor and provide excellent recreation possibilities.

A canoe and kayak launch is needed on this side of the river (at Riverside Park).

It would be cool if there were more bike racks at Vollrath. With food truck nights and the disc golf course parking is usually at a premium, would be great if there was somewhere to lock up bikes while playing or waiting in line

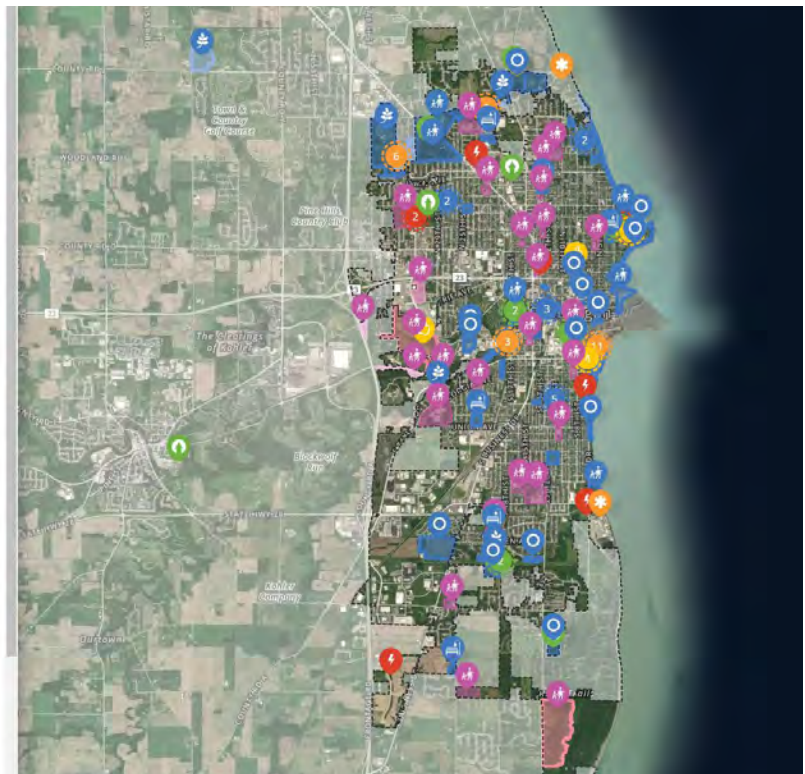
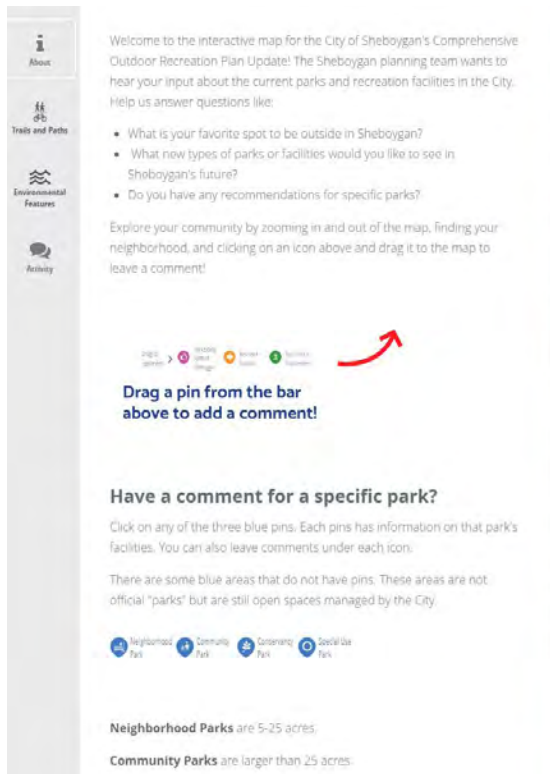
LOVE the new pickleball courts!



This planning process included an online engagement platform via an interactive project website.

The website allowed participants to give feedback about the Plan process from any device on their own schedules. Data was captured over the length of the online engagement process from January 26, 2022, to March 1st, 2022 (approximately 4 weeks). The website featured an interactive comment map where users could leave comments for specific park and recreation facilities, as well as a parks and recreation survey.

The website received 1,445 unique visitors and most responses occurred in early February. This engagement is likely due to the City promoting the Social Pinpoint website alongside the Strategic Plan survey in the city-wide February newsletter and the posters included in 6,000 water billings. The City also promoted the website via the City website and social media platforms (including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Nextdoor), Sheboygan County EDC newsletter, Visit Sheboygan Facebook page, and the Harbor Center BID newsletter and Facebook page, and the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce. A press release and poster advertising the website was sent to 32 churches and places of worship across the City. 25 posters were displayed in the Shoreline Metro fleet buses and digital displays were showcased at the Fountain Park and Lakefront Digital Reader Boards.



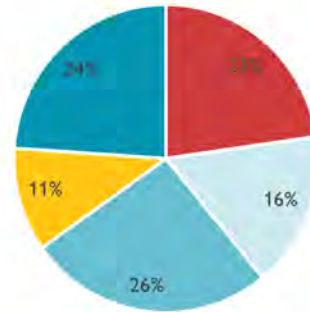
▲ The comment map enabled website visitors to place icons around Sheboygan.

Interactive Map Comments

The interactive map on the website allowed residents to place comments on a virtual map to relate comments to specific locations. The map included the locations of all the park lands in the City of Sheboygan as well as roads, trails, and neighborhoods. Comment types were split relatively evenly across the five comment types with the exception of “Trail or Path Improvement” (10.9%) and “My Favorite Spots in Sheboygan” (22.8%).

Interactive Map Comment Types

- Hazards (23%)
- New Park Location (26%)
- Trail and Park Improvement (24%)
- My Favorite Spots in Sheboygan (16%)
- Trail or Path Improvement (11%)



▲ Survey respondents identified living in a variety of neighborhoods, given the neighborhood map shared on the survey. Approximately 100 respondents did not indicate where they live or lived outside Sheboygan.

The most popular comments in South Side Municipal Beach promoted green space conservation and recommend this area near the beach for a new park location. The most popular comments in Vollrath Park pertained to the grass spraying and insecticides.



▲ Friends and family gather for a celebration at Vollrath Park.

What we heard: trails & paths

- » Martin Ave & Rail Trail: “Please better mark the crossing of the trail here.”
- » “I’m new to town and was out riding this awesome trail southbound and it was great until it abruptly ended and dumped me on to South Taylor with NO bike infrastructure. I can ride in-the-lane and often do, but this was a bit of a strain even on my comfort level. Hopefully in the next plan, this multi-use path will extend at least to the next major intersection.”
- » Kiwanis Park: “Continue trimming bushes near downhill bike path.”
- » Lake View Park: “Another view of hazardous feature located on the eastern edge of the Lake View woods path.”
- » Lake View Park: “Now, semi navigable trail remains on the east side which has gaping holes/ditch on the north side that appear to be from ancient sewer/drainage pipe. Very dangerous.”
- » Lake View Park: “Serenity Farm cleared the woods at Lake View Park of its ash trees leaving behind a tremendous amount of debris. There used to be many trails lined with woodland flowers. It was a great place to explore. How difficult would it have been to use wood chipper to clean up some the debris and line the existing trails with chips?”
- » General King Park to Lake View Park: “The land stretching from King Park to Lake View Park was acquired from lake front property owners in the 1970’s. The sewer was improved, reinforced and the land there is considered park property. With new construction slated for 2022, this strip could be a great trail connecting the south side all the way to the Edgewater property.”
- » “Southward extension of the Shoreland 400 Rail Trail needs to be developed sooner, rather than later.”
- » Grace Park: “Would be a nice place for a park with a large walking path for people with pets. Maybe include a water feature.”



- » Pigeon River Estuary: “This is a great park and I don’t want to change much, but some added hiking trails would be great. I want to keep it natural, but just add a few undeveloped hiking trails to be able to see more of the park.”
- » Creekside Park: “Finish the bike path from south 18 to 12th along the alliant right of way.”
- » Evergreen Park: “There’s no safe way to ride your bike to evergreen park. Bike lane ends before the park and there’s not really a good crossing.”
- » “Shoreland 400 doesn’t connect to North Ave. bike lanes, especially if you’re riding westbound. You have to make a u-turn and ride on the sidewalks or railroad tracks.”
- » “Could the future shoreland 400 trail continue past Union Ave? These tracks are abandoned, and there’s really no safe way to bike or walk to Piggly Wiggly or the other stores along here. If the trail could extend to KwikTrip and then just widen the sidewalk for people and bikes, that would work.”
- » Sheboygan Dog Park: “Why don’t we finish the bike/walk trail by the Wilson [Sheboygan] Dog Park, from south 18th Street to Lakeshore Drive along the electric towers?”
- » North Point Park: “I love the walking path along North Point and the beach, and so appreciate that it facilitates public access to the lake.”
- » N. 25th Street: “I love the walking path along North Point and the beach, and so appreciate that it facilitates public access to the lake.”
- » N. 25th Street & Kohler Memorial Drive intersection: “The bike lane ends one block before the intersection. You either have to cross the right turn lane and cross in car traffic, then make a turn onto the pathway, or get on the sidewalk and cross as a pedestrian.”
- » Wilgus Avenue & N. Taylor Drive intersection: “There is no safe connection of these bike paths. You get dumped into 4-5 lanes of heavy traffic with no bike lanes or protection. There aren’t even sidewalks on the east side.”

WHAT WE HEARD: TRAILS & PATHS

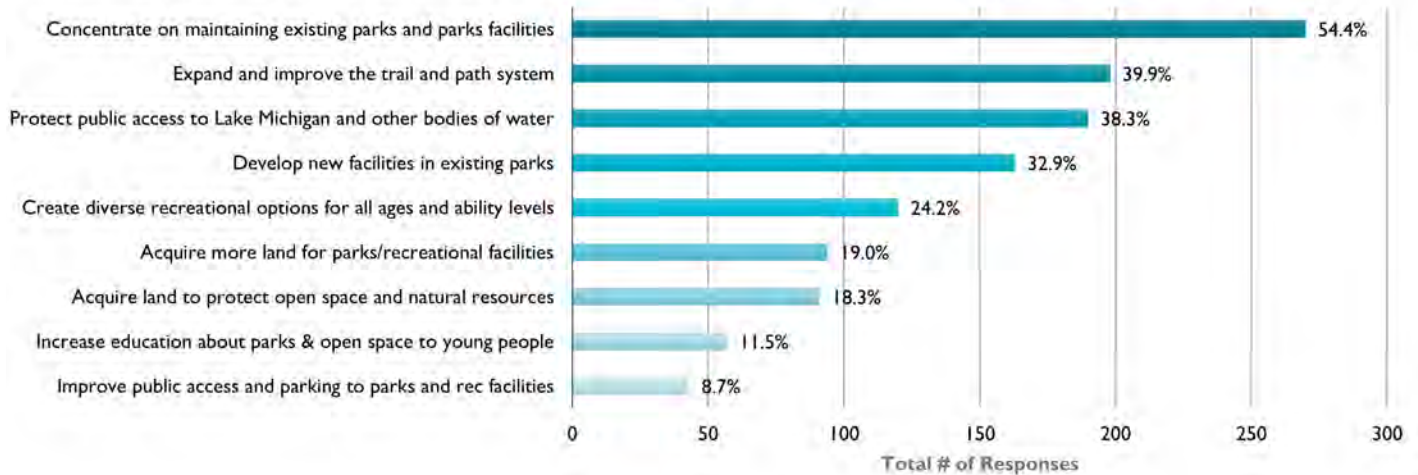
Pedestrian & Bike Trails City of Sheboygan



▲ Comments above were received during two public open houses.

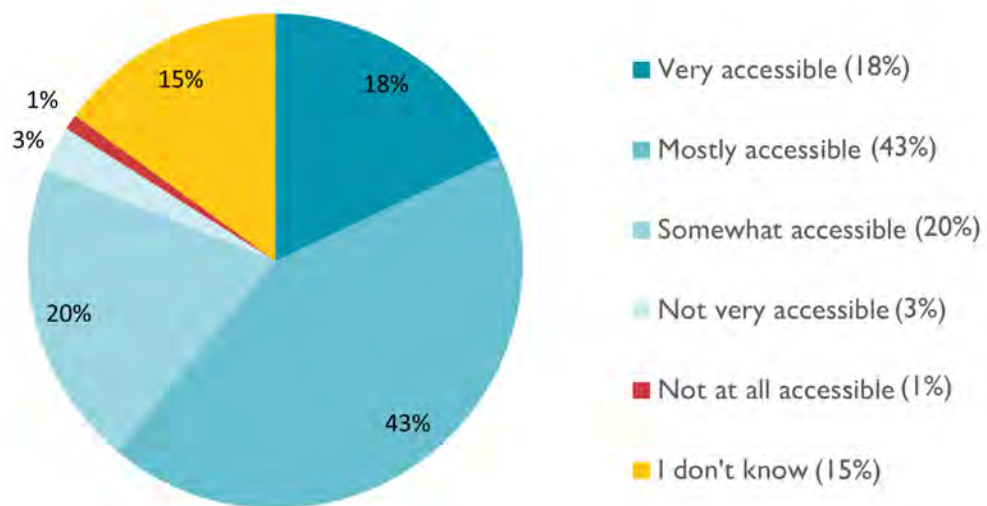


What park initiatives are most needed to better serve Sheboygan? (Select up to 3)



As depicted in the diagram above, most participants were interested in linear parks along natural corridors with smaller neighborhood parks being a second priority. 54% of participants believed that concentrating on maintaining existing parks and park facilities is needed to better serve Sheboygan. 40% believed that Sheboygan should concentrate on expanding and improving the trail and path system. The third priority was identified as protecting public access to Lake Michigan at 38%. Finally, acquiring land for either parks/recreational facilities or open space/natural resources were the sixth and seventh priorities, respectively.

61% of respondents reported accessibility and quality of Sheboygan's parks are mostly or very accessible for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and others.



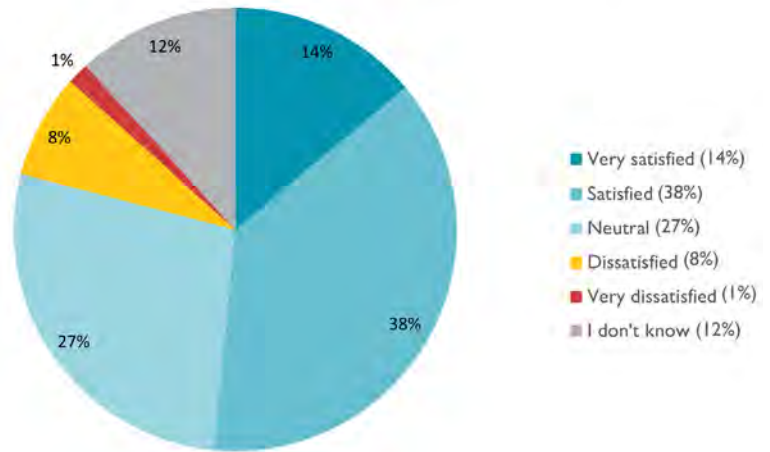
The Community Parks Survey showcased age-based priorities for active recreation, defined as leisure time and physical activity undertaken outside of structured, competitive sports. Ice skating facilities were identified as a consistent need across age categories. For participants ages 14-35, ice skating, sledding hills, playground equipment, and outdoor fitness equipment were identified as priorities. Participants aged 26-66+ agreed with ice skating facilities and outdoor fitness equipment as top needs, in addition to pickleball courts and sledding hills.

The Survey also showcased age-based priorities for passive recreation, defined as lower impact, non-consumptive uses such as wildlife observation, walking, and canoeing. Most participants prioritized trails for hiking, walking, and biking. For participants ages 14-35, hiking/nature trails, trails between parks for walking/biking, restrooms, and kayaking/canoeing access points were priorities. Participants aged 26-65 agreed but also stressed the importance of shade trees and landscaping, while participants aged 66+ also prioritized the need for seating areas and benches.

Participants had differing opinions when it came to biking and walking as seen in the diagram to the right.

- » “Senior center is phenomenal”
- » “Would like parks to have more room for dogs”
- » “A trail along the river is more fun”
- » “Slow down drivers at parks”

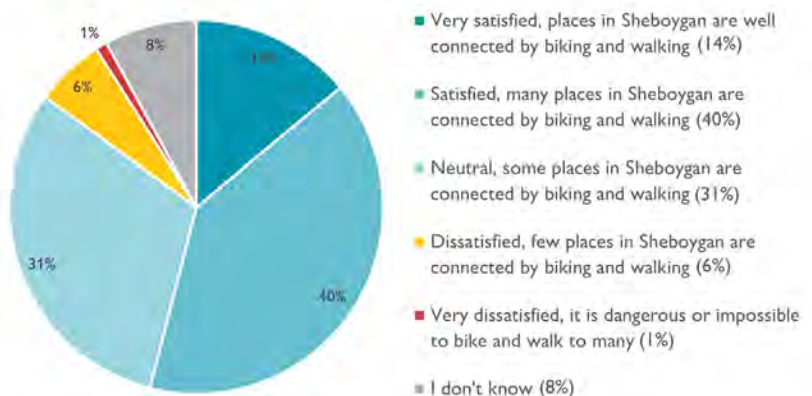
52% of respondents reported they were satisfied or very satisfied with the amount of sports facilities.



53% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the availability of shelter and pavilion rental facilities.



54% of respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the connections between parks and places of interest in Sheboygan.



Public Open House

Three Public Open House events were hosted on September 14, September 15, and September 22, 2022 at Kiwanis Park, King Park, and the City Council Chambers, respectively. These meetings followed a traditional open house format where attendees could drop in and stay as long as they were available. The Open Houses were structured to provide an opportunity for the public to review and provide feedback on the draft recommendations for the CORP and help identify additional ideas for planning and implementation to be included in the Plan.

Park users at the Open House provided helpful feedback for the Plan. An increased trail and path network can also ensure that an even larger majority of park users find the park locations accessible.

Park users highlighted the importance of maintaining public access to beaches and the lakefront. Ideas relating to lakefront parks included adding more benches facing out towards the lake and preserving green space and natural areas with native vegetation.

Multiple park users expressed concern about the use of pesticides/chemical in the Vollrath Park area. The City's grant with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program could support research into health and environmental impacts of this activity as well as alternatives. Community garden spaces were also identified as a need.

One user emphasized the usefulness of the online map for showing trails and paths. Adding these digital files to the City's website can not only show current routes, but also where future routes are planned.

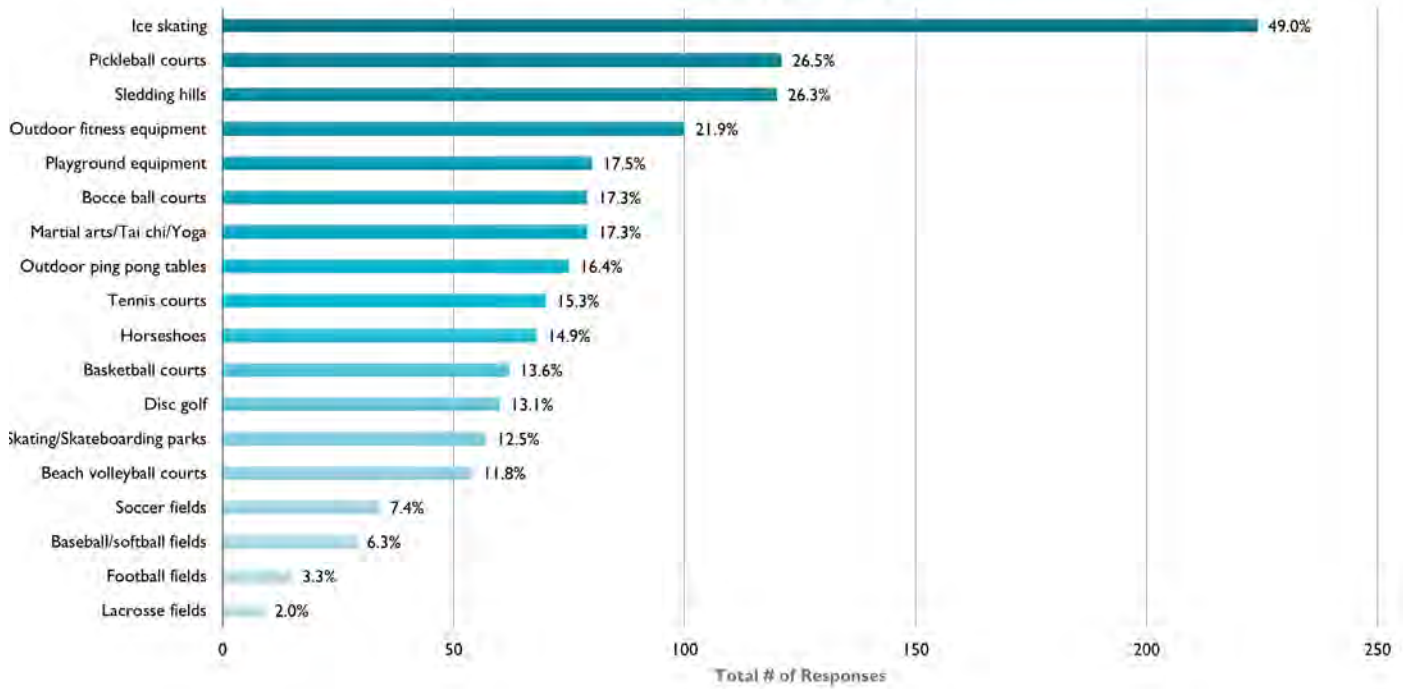
Overall, users stated they were glad that the City was making an effort to become more bike friendly.

Users called for a more robust trail and path network and recommended trail and path improvements all across the City.



◀ A trail leading to the water at Northeast Park.

What sports facilities (activities/amenities/facilities) do you feel Sheboygan's parks need more of?



ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS, THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SHEBOYGAN TO MANAGE MORE WINTER ACTIVITIES (I.E., ICE SKATING AND SLEDDING).



While maintaining an ice rink can be expensive and both activities are weather-dependent, the City can begin to explore alternative options to meet this expressed need. Special thought should be given to the risk of higher average winter temperatures and lower annual snowfall due to the impacts of climate change.

THE VISION

To best support the community, this plan is driven by public input and dedication to the values and goals of the community. The vision for this plan is derived from information gathered in the community profile, demographic trends, and community growth patterns, combined with the public engagement and feedback from City leaders, staff and the residents. This vision drives the goals for the next five years of the park system in Sheboygan.

Each section below contains information that takes the concepts uncovered during the first phase of the project and creates a framework for development into a series of implementation items.

The following sections are meant to inspire and provide direction for the future of Sheboygan's parks.



▲ Steps lead down a trail at Indian Mound Park.



**Trails,
Sidewalks, &
Connections**



**All Season
Amenities**



**Inclusivity &
Community**



**Facilities,
Maintenance, &
Management**



▲ A cyclist rides by Evergreen Park.



Trails, Sidewalks, & Connections

Trails, sidewalks, and connections provide important links between places of residence and commerce and spaces for recreation. This aspect of the Vision focuses on strengthening these methods of connection so that everyone has equitable access to park spaces and healthy recreation, regardless of their means of mobility. Bike trails, road safety, and trail conditions were identified as priorities to expand and maintain by community members. Opportunities to create Safe Routes to School and Safe Routes to Parks align with this Vision.



▲ A runner takes a route along the sidewalk by the lake in Deland Park.



Inclusivity & Community

This aspect of the Vision focuses on providing space and amenities that reflect the needs of the community and diverse interests. Opportunities should be provided for a diversity of ages and ability levels. These opportunities should also be equitable and accessible to all members of the community. This aspect also emphasizes the importance of creating park spaces that provide for social interaction as well as physical exercise and mental enrichment.



▲ Community members enjoying a swing set.

▼ Disc golf station.



▲ Community gathering space in Deland Park.



- ▼ Life jackets ready for beachgoers at Jaycee Quarry Park.



- ▼ Tennis courts can be open spring, summer, and fall.



- ▲ Community members playing in the splash pad.

- ▲ Sledding and tubing are popular during the winter.

All Season Amenities



The “All Season Amenities” aspect of the Vision focuses on ensuring the parks and recreation offerings are available for residents to enjoy the outdoors year-round. Sheboygan residents particularly emphasized a desire for more winter recreation opportunities, given the area’s cold climate during the winter months.

Consideration should also be given to amenities during spring and fall, particularly those that might pair well with nature and environmental activities.



Facilities, Maintenance, & Management

As the majority of Sheboygan’s park facilities are well-established, this aspect of the Vision focuses on maintaining the quality of existing facilities as well as identifying opportunities for enhancements. Partnerships between the different organizations that have a hand in parks and recreation offerings will be crucial to the parks system. Philanthropy and volunteering opportunities also provide a way for the public to invest in the community’s park system.

THE CITY OF SHEBOYGAN OFFERS NUMEROUS PARK SHELTERS AND ENCLOSED BUILDINGS FOR RESIDENTS TO RENT.



▲ End Park facility with benches.



▲ Kiwanis Park Field House.



▲ Jaycee Quarry Park main entrance.

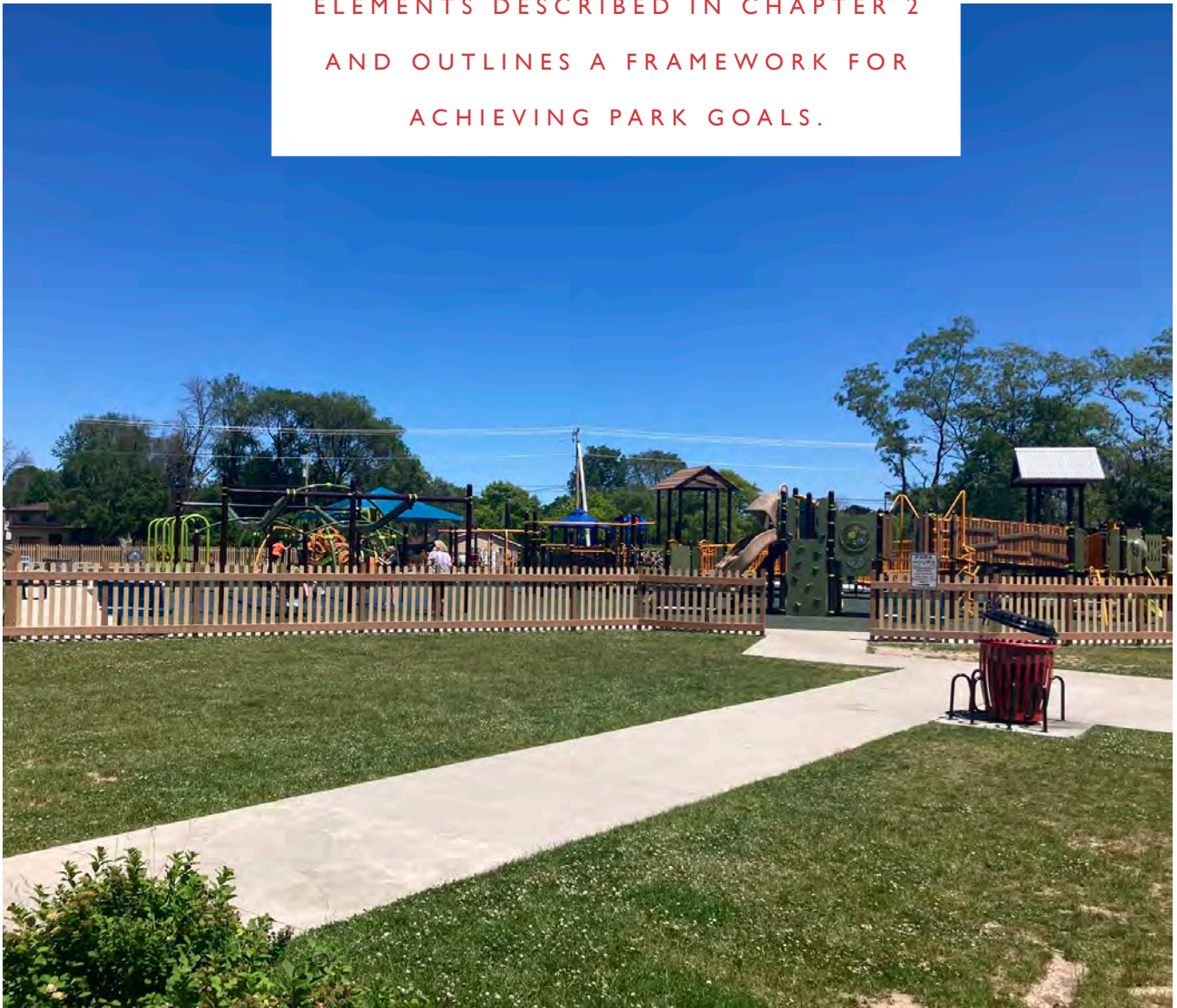


PARKS OPPORTUNITIES



3

THIS CHAPTER TAKES THE VISION
ELEMENTS DESCRIBED IN CHAPTER 2
AND OUTLINES A FRAMEWORK FOR
ACHIEVING PARK GOALS.



▲ Playground facility.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

Implementation of Goals & Objectives

The parks system consists of a wide range of facilities. Parks and public places represent the larger areas where recreation occurs. The maintenance, quality, and accessibility of these parks and places is paramount to supporting community needs. Below is a list of Goals and Objectives aimed to supporting the park system's facilities.

FACILITIES, AMENITIES, MAINTENANCE, & MANAGEMENT

- 1. Continue to maintain high-quality, well-maintained, safe park spaces geographically located and accessible to all residents.**
 - a. Assess residential density changes in neighborhoods where redevelopment occurs, reviewing the demographic makeup of the neighborhood for park and recreation updates needed to serve shifts in demographics related to lifestyle, age, family structure. Integrate trails or sidewalks with redevelopment projects where needed.
 - b. Focus on maintenance of current facilities by maximizing the value of existing parks.
 - c. Work towards compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act within existing parks and park facilities.
 - d. Provide for barrier-free access in all new park facility construction and play areas. Identify opportunities to include “Universal Design” recommendations during the development of new facilities.

- 2. Maintain an adequate amount of active and passive recreational lands to meet current and future recreational needs as subdivisions are developed and lands are annexed for residential uses.**
 - a. Coordinate subdivision review and regulations with all departments responsible for providing or maintaining adequate park facilities.
 - b. Evaluate land dedicated for parks to differentiate between land appropriate for active park use, land appropriate for open space only, and land requiring protection from development. Land requiring protection from development should be protected via the zoning ordinance.
 - c. Ensure everyone in the community has access to parks and recreational areas designed for both free play activity and structured programming.

ACCESS

As our communities change, our neighbors grow, and our needs evolve, so too must the park system.

This plan identifies whether aging park and recreation facilities just need to be maintained or whether they need to be modernized.

Part of this community evolution is about making sure all of our neighbors from different backgrounds have a place at the table to have discussions about park needs.



▲ Playground equipment at Charles Voigt Park.

QUALITY

“Quality over quantity” was the attitude expressed in the engagement survey. Rather than focusing on growth, this plan targets the enhancement and continued development of the existing parks system.



▲ Stage at Fountain Park.

FIT

Like any community, Sheboygan is unique. Weather, geography, demographics, and culture all drive the plan for the park system.

It is important to ensure the system meets the needs of our residents by understanding who they are. Further, it is important that the park system gives people a chance to express themselves and feel included.

- ▶ Family members ready for swimming at Deland Park.



FACILITIES & AMENITIES

Continued...

“ DELAND PARK IS SUCH A
WONDERFUL PLACE FOR ME TO
GO AND TAKE WALKS ALONG
THE LAKE. ”

▲ Resident feedback.

FACILITIES, AMENITIES, MAINTENANCE, & MANAGEMENT

3. Explore all available funding resources to further enhance the quality of the City’s park system.

- a. Continually pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase and/or development of desired park system improvements.
- b. Nurture the existing positive relationships with public and private organizations for donations and volunteer help to aid in park system development.
- c. Update the City’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan every 5 years to maintain grant eligibility.
- d. Pursue the development of revenue generating recreational facilities and activities, which can aid in the development of new facilities and/or the maintenance of existing facilities.
- e. Use the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan’s Capital Improvements Program as a guide to establish yearly park budgets.
- f. Invest funds for the development of facilities that will maximize existing park and recreation areas and provide exciting recreational programs, with the intention of increasing park use.

4. Coordinate actions and collaborate with area health-related organizations (such as schools, health care organizations, and non-profits) to promote physical and mental wellness through park district offerings.

- a. Continue cooperative City/School/Sport Association development projects to help improve and expand recreational opportunities throughout the community in a cost-effective manner.
- b. Develop formal use/revenue/maintenance agreements between the City, school district, and public recreation associations to help operate and maintain public recreation facilities in the City.

SUPPORT

The resources for maintaining the park system come from a variety of places. Federal, state, and other grant funding sources are essential.

Community members, institutions, businesses, and foundations have always played a foundational role in supporting our parks.



▲ Rocky lakeshore at North Point Park.

PLAN

Effective use of resources requires careful planning. It is important to make sure park plans stay up to date and reflect the most critical needs of the community.

Planning is how we represent our values. Opportunities are always coming and going, and good planning ensures that our values influence decision making on a day-to-day basis.



▲ Resident at the garden by Optimist Park.

INVEST

Treat spending like an investment that provides more value than it costs. Investments in the park system should be targeted to increasing its use and making more effective use of what already exists.

Investing in parks is also an investment in the health, well being, and social vitality of our community.

- ▶ Ecology Center at Maywood Environmental Park.



TRAILS & CONNECTIONS



▲ Sheboygan Riverwalk.



▲ Trail runner exercising.



▲ Trail connection parallel to the road.

TRAILS & CONNECTIONS

5. Continue to expand multi-modal opportunities where feasible and connect recreation amenities with trails or sidewalks. Strive to be an all-ages bicycle-friendly city.

- a. Develop a city-wide park and trail map that illustrates in-park trails and trails within the city. Coordinate with the County to illustrate both County and City trails. Provide information for both walking and biking.
- b. Create active transportation by creating connected networks of sidewalks, trails, bicycle lanes and other infrastructure and policy supports that allow users to travel safely between destinations. Example programs include Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School, Recreational Trails Act, and Transportation Enhancement.
- c. Continue to acquire land to provide trails and greenway connections throughout Sheboygan.
- d. Prioritize high-quality infrastructure to reach park and recreation destinations in the community via foot, bike, wheelchair and /or transit.

ALL-SEASON AMENITIES



▲ Child sledding down a hill.



▲ Holiday lights are popular during the winter season.



▲ A fat-tire biker enjoys a trail in the winter.



▲ Park space to enjoy the snow.

ALL-SEASON AMENITIES

6. Promote healthy, social, and active lifestyles among residents all year.

- a. Develop all-season facilities and amenities, with a focus on developing a range of new winter recreation opportunities.
- b. Identify opportunities for the location and operation of an ice-skating rink.
- c. Promote and publicize the locations of safe sledding, fat tire bike trails, and cross country ski trails.
- d. Identify multi-use trails suitable for fat tire biking and cross country skiing during winter months, either groomed or ungroomed.
- e. Identify and expand the winter recreation offerings from Making Spirits Bright throughout the winter season. Collaborate with area organizations for enhanced winter programming.

INCLUSIVITY & COMMUNITY

Part of increasing the use of our park system includes ensuring that the system is inclusive of all residents. Age, race, ethnicity, disability, and socio-economic background should not prohibit Sheboygan community members from accessing and using the facilities and amenities in the system.

This plan assesses the geographic distribution of the park system, the changing age makeup of the community, the racial and ethnic diversity of the community, and input from residents via community engagement. Additionally, this plan explores opportunities for more recreational assets which are accessible to people with disabilities, such as “Universal Design” in playgrounds. Increasingly, the needs for these types of facilities is identified in park planning and represents an exciting way we can continue to strengthen our community and build social ties with one another.

Increasing recreation opportunities for older adults and designing parks with offerings for all ages can help ensure that families and households from all backgrounds are welcome. Ensuring that park communications are available in multiple languages in addition to English such as Spanish and Hmong, among others, will further increase park access.

Integrating even more culture into parks, such as through public art, programming, and events that represent different cultural backgrounds is another exciting opportunity to enhance our parks as public places. Cultural expression of our diverse community will hopefully lead to increased civic pride and stewardship of our shared places.

INCLUSIVITY & COMMUNITY

7. Have the park system reflect the diversity and identity of the city.

- a. Enhance existing parks with inclusive amenities, considering all ages and abilities.
- b. Expand placement of culturally and locally significant art into parks across the city.
- c. Encourage participation of residents from diverse backgrounds at park and recreational meetings and in recreational programs, especially seniors, disabled, and those who identify as a racial minority.
- d. Focus on development of active and passive recreation opportunities.

ENVIRONMENTAL & WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT



▲ Wildlife at North Point Park.

Critically, the park system represents the majority of vegetation and therefore biodiversity of land and water. Parks can act as critical habitats for local wildlife and plant life, but it is important to protect and steward these places to ensure their quality. With intensive human development, vegetated areas are fragmented and require careful maintenance to ensure their protection from invasive, harmful species and degradation. Additionally, the quality of our environment contributes to the quality of the water we drink and the air we breathe. Although not for recreation purposes, environmental management activities are a crucial element of this CORP to ensure the park system supports the natural environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL & WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

8. Improve environmental quality using best management practices to improve water quality, promote biodiversity, and strengthen local ecosystems for the benefit of Sheboygan residents and the health of Lake Michigan and local watersheds.

- a. Maintain Sheboygan's status as a TREE CITY USA.
- b. Follow the City's tree and EAB Management Plan to provide a healthy urban forest.
- c. Focus maintenance efforts on invasive species such as phragmites (Common Reed Grass) as well as promoting the use of native plant species in city-owned facilities.
- d. Work with Public Works to have the parks serve as storm water management tools (i.e., green infrastructure) while not compromising the recreational opportunities offered by the parks.
- e. Practice excellent erosion prevention along the river and lake shorelines to protect the park land and serve as demonstrations for other shoreland owners.



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS & THE SHEBOYGAN WATERFRONT



▲ PICTURED: SOUTHSIDE PARK BEACH ON A SUMMER DAY IN 2022, WITH BLUE HARBOR RESORT IN THE DISTANCE.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Sheboygan's Geography and Natural Features

TOPOGRAPHY

The City of Sheboygan's topography generally consists of a gently rolling landscape interjected with a few areas of steep slope. The areas of steep slope are especially concentrated in the northern portion of the City bordering the Pigeon River and in the central-western portion of the City, bordering the Sheboygan River.



▲ Lakeview Park

WATER RESOURCES

The City of Sheboygan is situated along Lake Michigan's western coastline. Lake Michigan is the second largest Great Lake by volume. The Milwaukee River Basin and Sheboygan River Basins flow through Sheboygan and drain into Lake Michigan. In addition, Lake Michigan provides an important source of fresh drinking water, cooling for industry, and water for agriculture. Of particular significance to this Plan, the Lake is a treasured setting for active and passive recreation both on and off the water. As the climate changes, more frequent and intense storms could cause higher waves and flooding to the coastal parks bordering Lake Michigan.

The Sheboygan River, flowing through the heart of the City, was cleaned up in 2012 and 2013 with the removal of PCB-contaminated sediment from the lower river and harbor. The cleanup has led to a reduction of pollution in the food chain, and it is hoped that, over time, to lessen restrictions on fish consumption. The river now acts as a thoroughfare for recreational boaters to access Lake Michigan without worry of boat damage from contaminated sediment deposits. Although perceptions of pollution are slow to change, the City is working to promote the river as a recreational asset to residents and visitors.

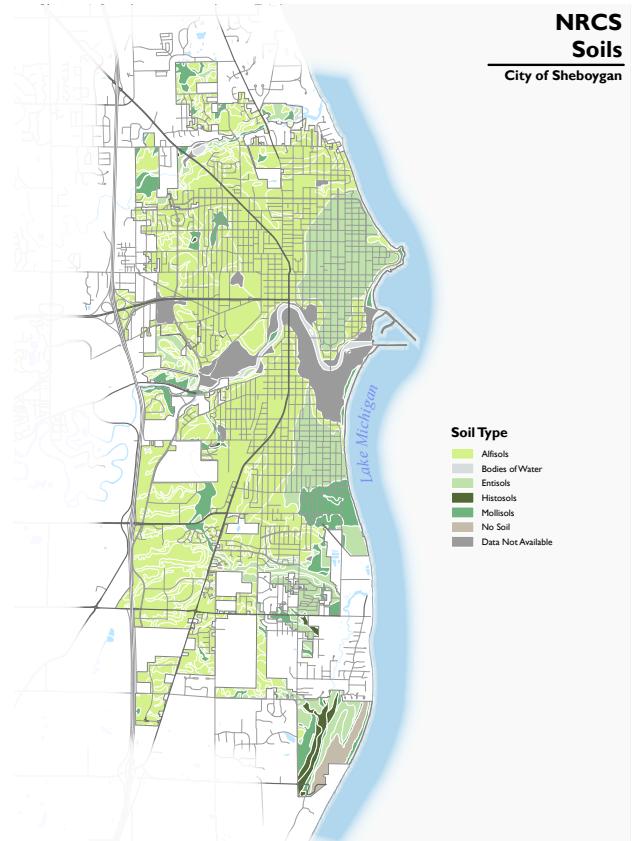
CLIMATE

Sheboygan's climate is generally continental, characterized by warm to cool summers and cold winters. The City's climate is impacted by its proximity to Lake Michigan. When warm, the lake water can delay autumn frosts and extend the enjoyment of water-based recreation and outdoor activities without winter coats and boots. In addition, the proximity to water helps keep summers mild by mitigating daily temperature extremes.

Over the past five years, precipitation has been increasing in Sheboygan County. Climate change points to warming trends and more frequent and intense precipitation events in the near future. Shaded park areas and water-based recreation like splash pads and pools can provide an important source of escape from extreme heat, especially if residents have limited access to indoor air conditioning, which can be cost prohibitive. If temperatures continue to increase, park-goers face risks such as heat stroke during unshaded outdoor activities. If extreme precipitation events continue to increase in frequency and severity, parks may be threatened by flooding.

SOILS

Soil qualities can affect the use of different parks. Areas with poorly drained soil are restricted in their ability to host different park structures such as restrooms and gathering spaces. Poorly drained soils are also not conducive to hosting sports fields due to the likelihood they will maintain standing water, resulting in puddles and mud. On the opposite spectrum, climate change can also cause more severe periods of droughts, which can cause grass and plants in parks to die, resulting in a reduced landscape. The City is not anticipated to create any new parks in the next five years, so soils at existing park sites should be evaluated for any modifications or improvements.



FLORA AND FAUNA

The coastal ecosystem in Sheboygan supports sand dunes, coastal marshes, and tallgrass prairie plant and animal species. As the climate changes, it is likely that the City's plants and animals will be affected by the changes in extreme heat, drought, and precipitation. Invasive species also present a threat. Invasive species already present, such as Phragmites and Japanese knotweed, may become more prevalent and difficult to control. New invasive species may appear and create new threats to local ecosystems. Over the next five years, the City should carefully consider the threats climate change poses to the local flora and fauna and how park system maintenance or special projects could help protect or mitigate harm, especially to the Lake Michigan ecosystem. Already, invasive species such as dreissenid mussels have covered the lake bottom in some communities in southeastern Wisconsin, resulting in clearer water which in turn has led to algae growth.



▲ The Hummingbird Garden in Maywood Park

SHEBOYGAN

WATERFRONT PARKS

▲ The Waterfront Parks section of this document refers to parks located on a navigable waterway.

22

Total Waterfront Parks

13

Riverfront Parks

9

Lakefront Parks

Sheboygan’s waterfront parks are an integral part of the beauty and experience of life in the city. Known by many as the “freshwater surf capital” of the world, Sheboygan’s coastline is an important recreational and environmental resource for swimming, boating and many other water activities. The rivers and streams that flow through Sheboygan’s parks provide places to kayak, fish, or simply enjoy a drink with friends next to the water on a pleasant evening.

Parks also serve important function in public health and engineering to mitigate impacts from overburdened urban infrastructure. Waterfront parks are a place to absorb and clean rain water and protect the city from excess flooding and pollution. Vegetation and the diverse ecological systems along the waterfront clean the air we breath and serve to moderate temperature and humidity within the city. This includes offsetting

the urban heat island effect associated with negative public health impacts during the summer months.

As a lifeline of water that threads its way through the city, the river and lake side parks connect Sheboygan and improve the quality of life for residents. At the same time, these parks bolster the health of ecological communities within the city and maintain important natural resources.

Waterfront parks often bear the brunt of damage during extreme weather events such as storms. The increases of such events, along with greater volatility in storms and cyclical water level change, mean that these parks require special attention to protect and maintain. Designing for resilient waterfront parks will ensure a high quality park experience both today and in the future.



The recommendations in this section address the following goals:

» IMPROVE ACCESS

Create and expand opportunities for enjoyment and recreation next to the water. Allow public use to coexist with ecological function and quality.

» ADAPT WATER EDGES FOR FLUCTUATION

Develop waterfront areas to accommodate both seasonal and long term changes in water level. Program areas to allow use across a range of acceptable conditions. Design with plant communities that are well suited to varying microclimates.

» CONTRIBUTE TO COASTAL RESILIENCY

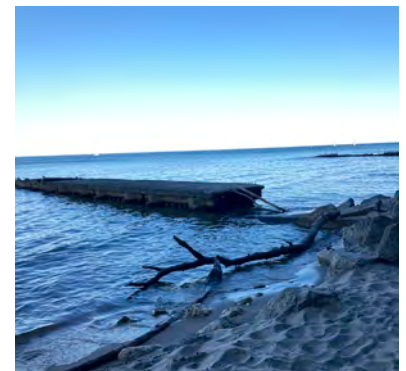
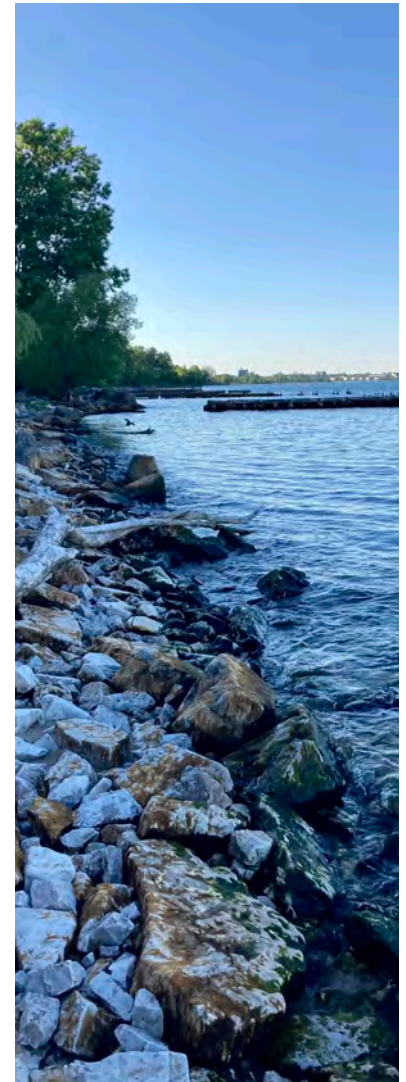
Protect coastal areas from hydrologic change and foster resilient land use practices.

» PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Design parks to filter and clean contaminants from runoff before entering the lake and stream system to improve water quality for drinking and recreation.

» ENHANCE URBAN ECOSYSTEMS

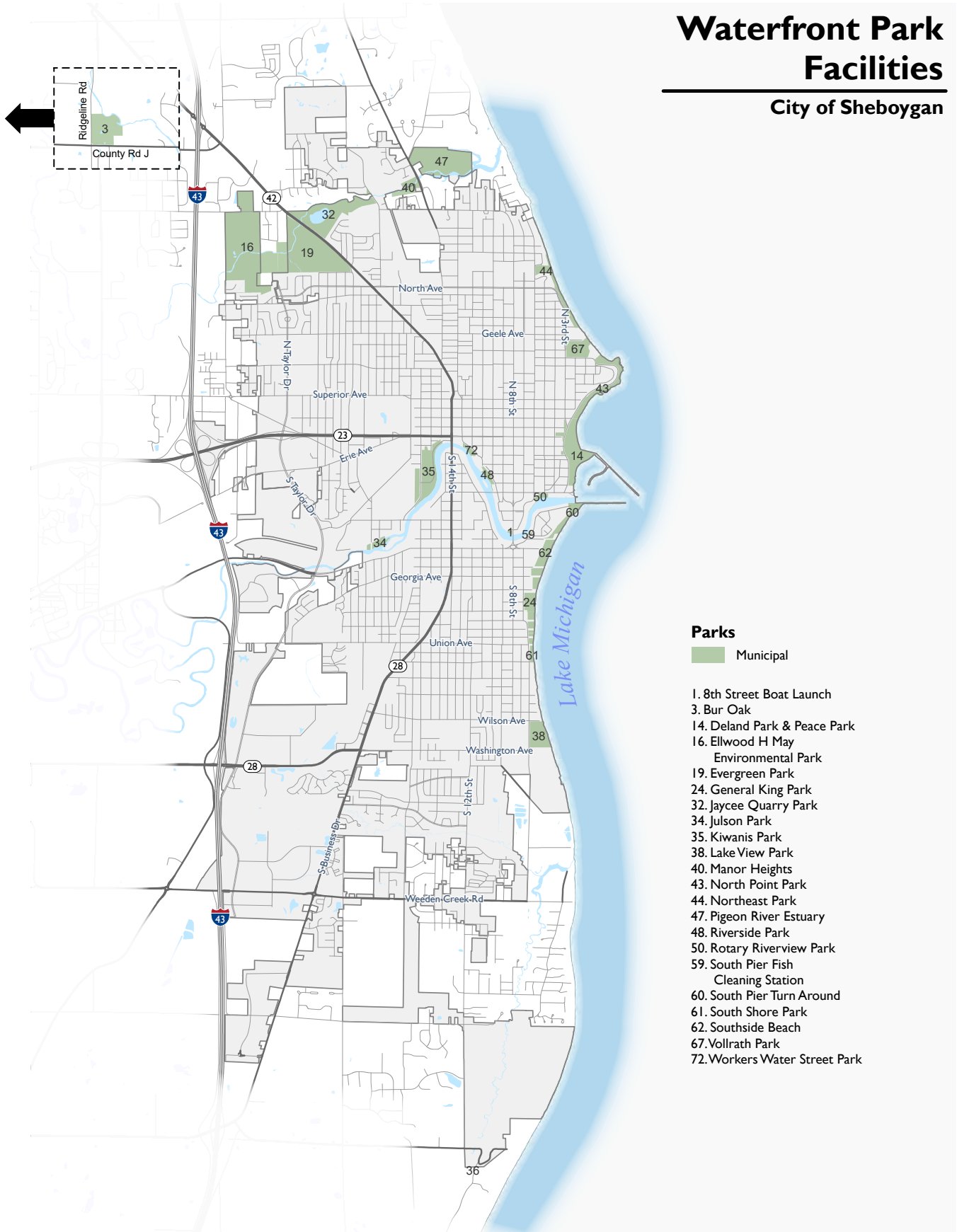
Maintain and create healthy, functional and connected natural systems throughout the city.



▲ So much to discover in Lakeview Park

Waterfront Park Facilities

City of Sheboygan



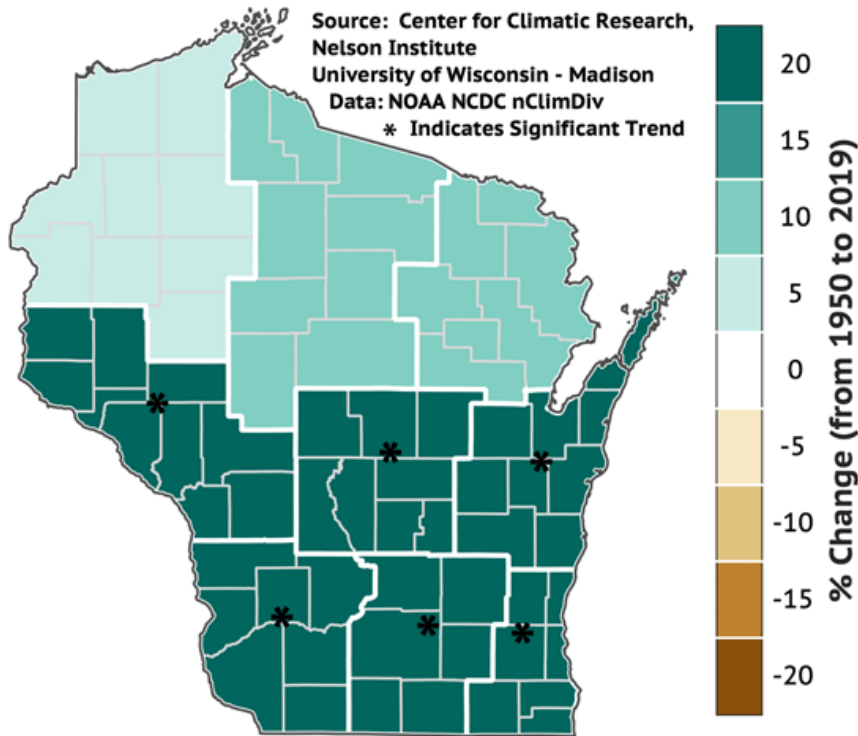
Parks

Municipal

- 1. 8th Street Boat Launch
- 3. Bur Oak
- 14. Deland Park & Peace Park
- 16. Ellwood H May Environmental Park
- 19. Evergreen Park
- 24. General King Park
- 32. Jaycee Quarry Park
- 34. Julson Park
- 35. Kiwanis Park
- 38. Lake View Park
- 40. Manor Heights
- 43. North Point Park
- 44. Northeast Park
- 47. Pigeon River Estuary
- 48. Riverside Park
- 50. Rotary Riverview Park
- 59. South Pier Fish Cleaning Station
- 60. South Pier Turn Around
- 61. South Shore Park
- 62. Southside Beach
- 67. Vollrath Park
- 72. Workers Water Street Park

FLOOD ZONES

Historical Change in Annual PRECIP (%) from 1950 to 2019



The 100
year flood
zone will
likely
change

Flood Zones are areas defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) according to varying levels of flood risk. While the term flood zone is related to the term floodplain, they apply to different geographic boundaries. A floodplain is a low lying area of land next to a water body that is subject to flooding. Floodplains are defined by geology and ongoing fluvial process over time, such as erosion and deposition. Waterfront parks in Sheboygan, both riverside and coastal, are contained within the floodplain. Flood Zones, however, while they contain parts of the floodplain, take into consideration other factors which contribute to flooding, such as a future storm’s projected severity and its probability of occurring during a certain time frame.

Flood zones are categorized as the 10-year flood zone, 50-year flood zone, 100-year flood zone, and 500-year flood zone. The geographic extent of the 10-year flood zone is smaller than that of the 100-year flood zone, and it is anticipated that it will flood with greater frequency. The 100-year flood zone is typically the zone used for planning and design purposes in the Midwest region. A 100-year flood is one that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. FEMA uses the 100-year flood event (also called 1 percent annual flood, or base flood) as their benchmark when identifying flood-prone locations. The area susceptible to flooding during the base flood is called the Special Flood Hazard Area, or floodplain. The elevation of the water for a flood event of a given probability is determined by engineers studying rainfall intensities, stream and river cross-sections, and topography. The 100-year flood zone affects new construction building codes, flood insurance needs, and land use restrictions.



▲ At Kiwanis Park, most facilities are located above the 100 year flood zone. However, one of the picnic shelters and the Biergarten would be inundated during a 100 year flood event.

Since the 100-year flood level is statistically computed using past and existing data, as more data comes in, the level of the 100-year flood will change. As rainfall rates in Wisconsin have increased in recent years, so too has the frequency of flood events (see precipitation map on page 43). Therefore the correlating Flood Zone designations will likely change to reflect this. It's important to recognize that even though a 100-year flood was originally calculated to have only a 1% chance of occurring in a given year, these storms can, and do, occur far more frequently than once every 100 years. It is not uncommon for 100-year floods to occur in several consecutive years.

The 100-year flood event is important to consider when planning and designing parks. These parks will experience flooding more frequently, increasing the risk of harm to their facilities. Flood Zones, particularly the 100 year and 10 year designations, are important to consider when choosing where to site facilities and determining material choices and programming. FEMA released updated future mapping of flood zones along the Lake Michigan shoreline in 2021. FEMA has created a website to help communities and residents understand the flood zone mapping and its impact, more information is available here:

www.greatlakescoast.org



▶ Mallard ducks waddle their way through flooded parts of Kiwanis Park



▲ Flooded area near recreation spot at Kiwanis Park

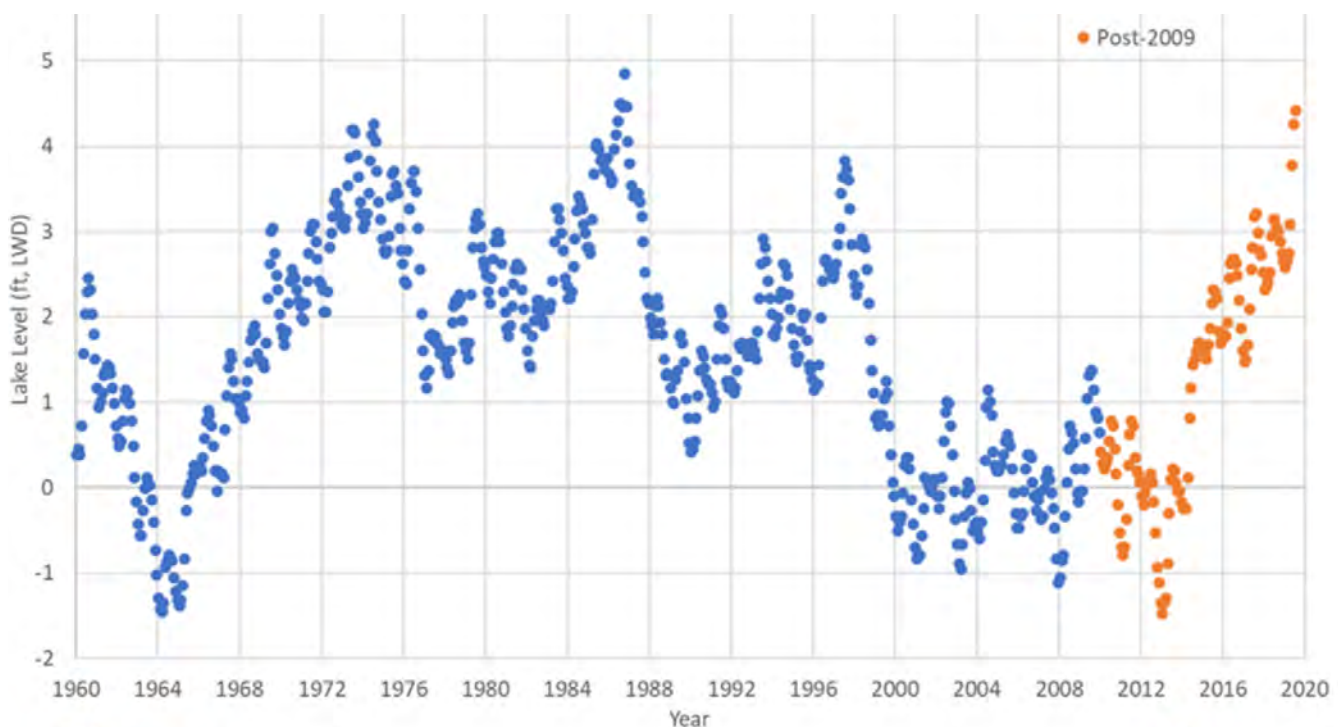
LAKEFRONT PARKS

Like other coastal Great Lakes cities, Sheboygan has experienced rapid lake level change and unprecedented high water levels in recent years. Sheboygan can expect the pattern of cyclical lake level fluctuation to continue and should adjust shoreline management practices accordingly. The greatest erosion and damage to infrastructure occurs during the high water periods. Therefore planning and management should focus on the needs of high water conditions.

The Great Lakes have a large surface area and are strongly impacted by evaporation, even a slight warming trend can increase the rate of evaporation and cause levels to decline. Less ice cover during winter can also increase evaporation. At the same

time, heavier precipitation in recent years and associated runoff, has caused lake levels to rise. Weather patterns such as La Nina and the polar vortex that bring colder, wetter weather, can also contribute to higher lake levels.

The Great Lakes have seen extensive periods of high water, record highs, flooding, and coastline erosion in recent years. This started in 2014, a year marked by an outbreak of cold air, chilly conditions, thick ice covers, and significant rates of precipitation (see FEMA chart of Lake Michigan water levels below). Water levels are still above average today as a result of these rises, which persisted over the subsequent several years on all five lakes.

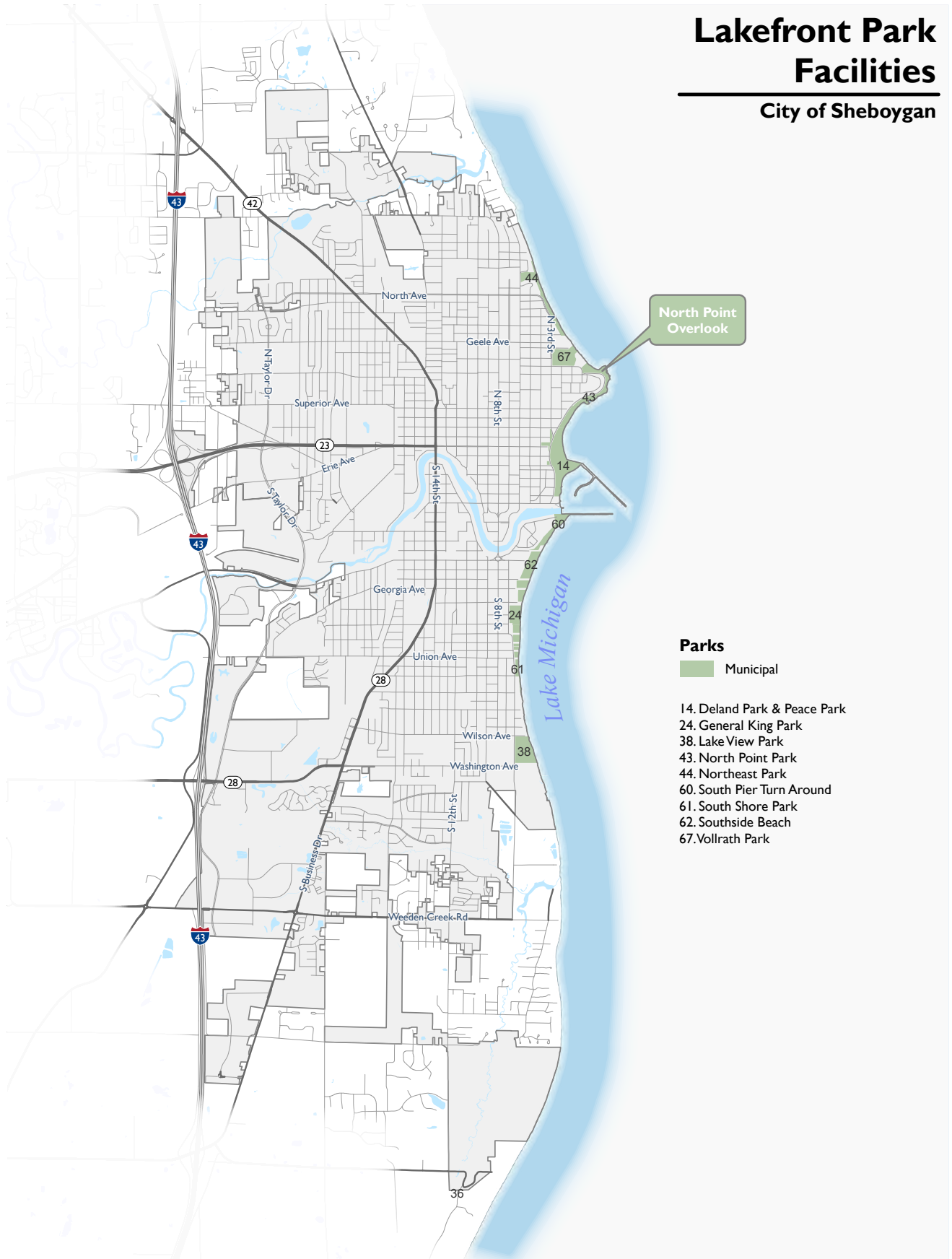


- ▲ The Great Lakes have seen extensive periods of high water since 2014, a year marked by an outbreak of cold air, chilly conditions, thick ice covers, and significant rates of precipitation.

For more information see: Gronewold, D., J. Bruxer, D. Durnford, J. Smith, A. Clites, F. Seglenieks, S. Quian, T. Hunter, V. Fortin, 2016: Hydrological drivers of record-setting water level rise on Earth's largest lake system. *Water Resources Research*, 52(5), 4026-4042. doi: 10.1002/2015WR018209) <https://glisa.umich.edu/resources-tools/leading-by-example/>

Lakefront Park Facilities

City of Sheboygan

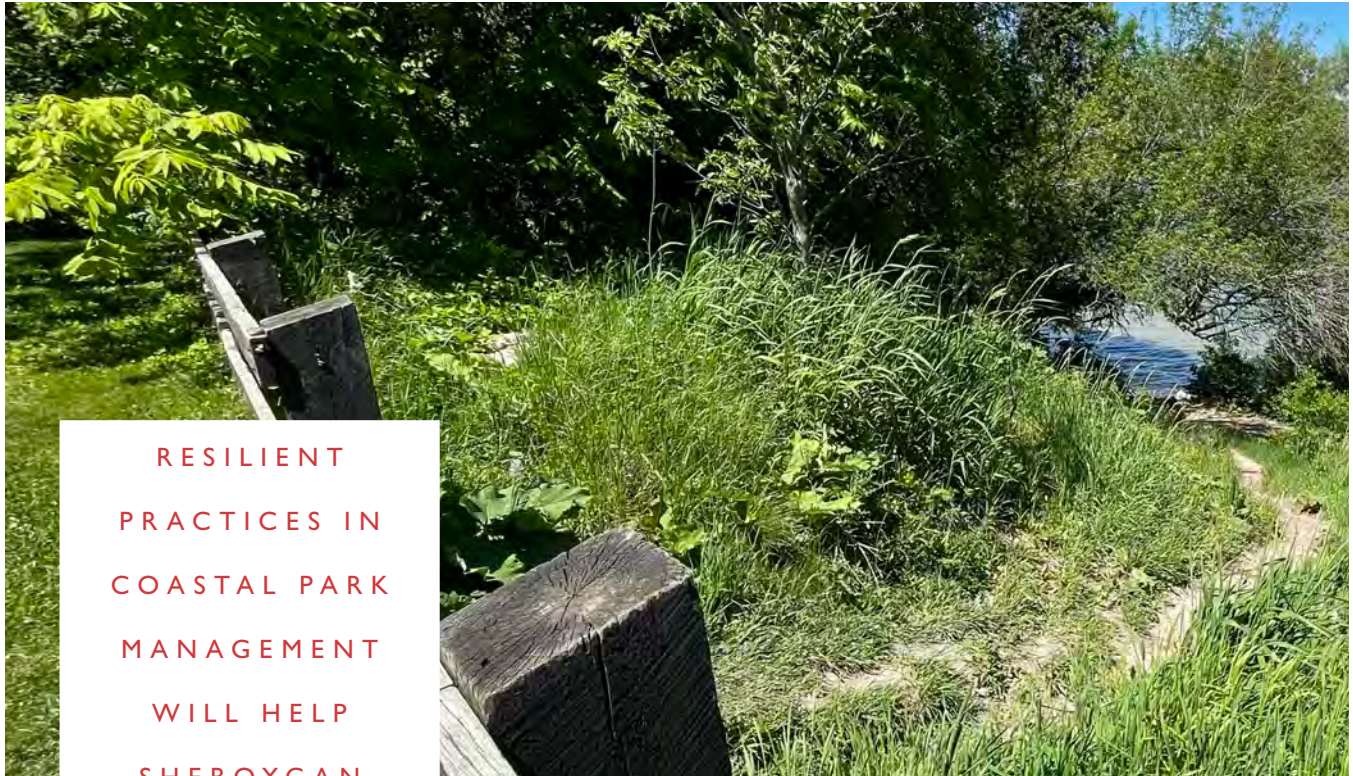


Parks

Municipal

- 14. Deland Park & Peace Park
- 24. General King Park
- 38. Lake View Park
- 43. North Point Park
- 44. Northeast Park
- 60. South Pier Turn Around
- 61. South Shore Park
- 62. Southside Beach
- 67. Vollrath Park

COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES



RESILIENT
PRACTICES IN
COASTAL PARK
MANAGEMENT
WILL HELP
SHEBOYGAN
PREPARE FOR
A RANGE OF
POSSIBLE
CONDITIONS IN
THE FUTURE.

▲ View of Lake Michigan from Vollrath Park on the City's north side. A user-made narrow pathway extends from the end of Vollrath Boulevard along the bluff and down to the lake.

Maintaining development and infrastructure at a distance that accommodates the highest expected water levels will protect priority investments and cultural spaces. Dune grasses and other natural erosion control measures act as a buffer to reduce deterioration of beaches and lakefront amenities. Programming and future planning can consider how lakefront activities can be enjoyed during both high and low lake levels.

Design for Fluctuation

Site constructed features to withstand high water levels. The particular park features' resilience to flooding depends significantly on the elevation. Even a small degree of elevation can determine whether a feature is washed away or damaged.

Choose resilient materials and ensure subsurface construction is adequate. The type and finish of materials should be chosen for durability. The subsurface footings and base materials should offer adequate support to survive the impacts of erosion and scour during storm events, it should be designed and built with the right materials, depth, and reinforcement.



▼ Dune grasses at Deland Park.

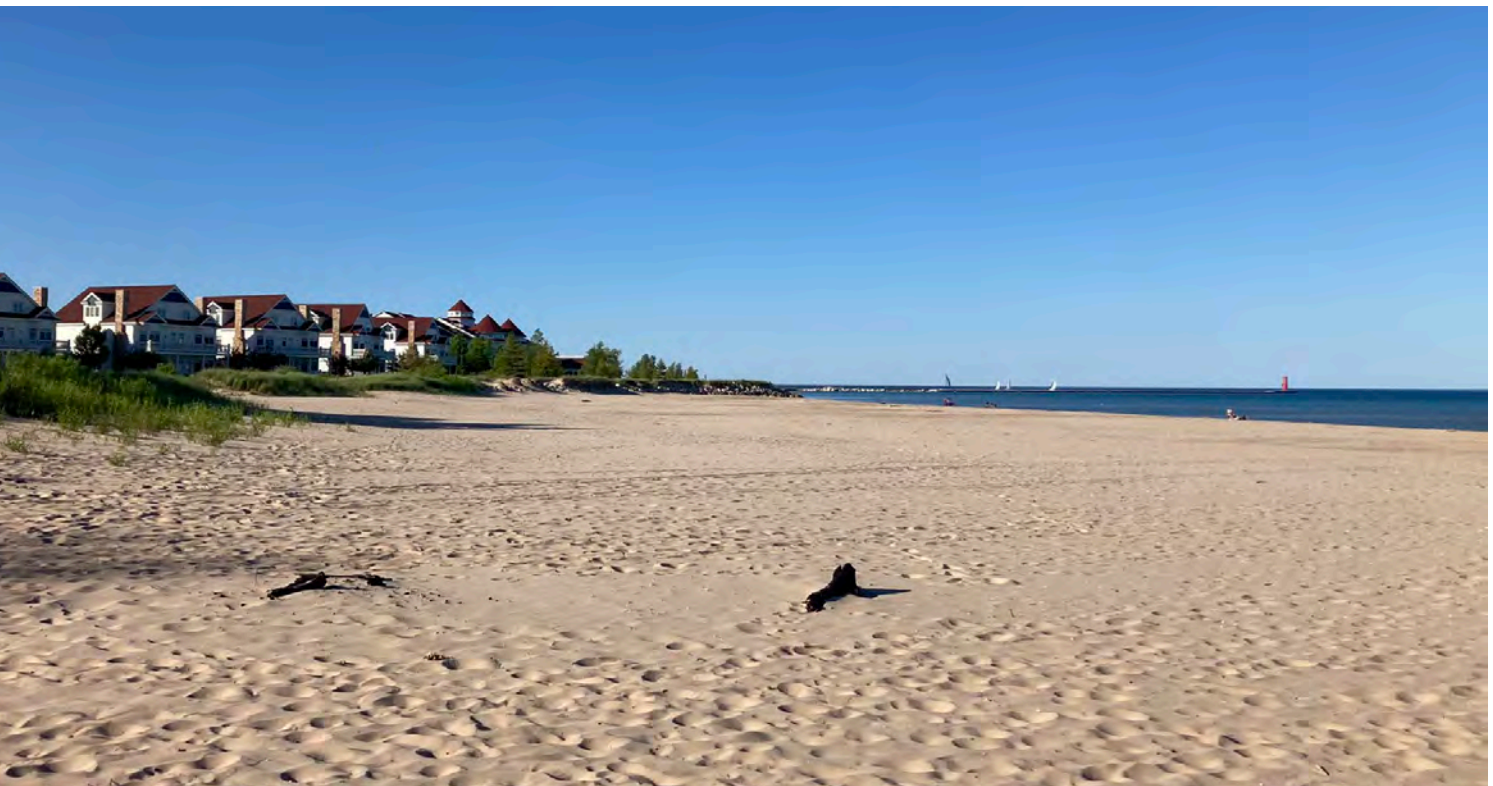


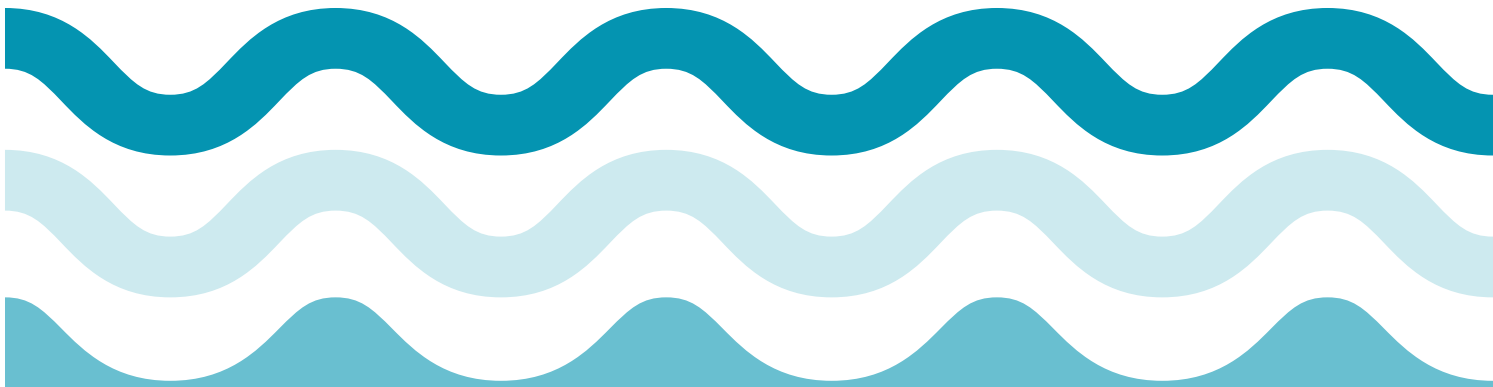
Natural Systems Based Strategies

Coastal habitats are adaptable and can provide protection against erosion and storm damage. Established coastal ecosystems can withstand a storm or, if they are harmed, regrow and self-heal. Maintaining coastal ecosystems including dune grasses, estuaries, coastal wetlands and other conservation areas, not only protects the immediate area, but provides a buffer and to nearby development. Long-term, affordable, robust, and sustainable coastal preservation will be made possible by preserving and creating new ecosystems that are adapted for coastal areas.

- » Beach nourishment and dunes
- » Wetlands
- » Living shorelines
- » Connections with nursery habitat and estuaries

▼ Southside Beach





▲ Recreational diving provides one way to explore the shipwrecks and offshore habitat of Lake Michigan. Pictured is the Alger Underwater Preserve off the Michigan coastline of Lake Superior.



OFFSHORE HABITAT:

Sheboygan is an ecologically important area for fish and smallmouth bass in particular. UWM faculty members Kim Beckmann and John Janssen have mapped fish populations in the Milwaukee harbor and expanded research to include Sheboygan and other regions on coastal Lake Michigan. Sheboygan Harbor demonstrated the highest numbers of Smallmouth bass in the study area of Southeast Wisconsin, which suggests that protecting and expanding subsurface and offshore habitat could be an area of interest for Sheboygan in the future . Offshore habitat and spawning reefs are one way for Sheboygan to support local fish populations and enhance favorable breeding conditions.

For more information about constructing artificial reefs in the Great Lakes see: Gannon, J. E. (ed.). 1990. International position statement and evaluation guidelines for artificial reefs in the Great Lakes. Great Lakes Fishery Commission Special Publication 90-2.

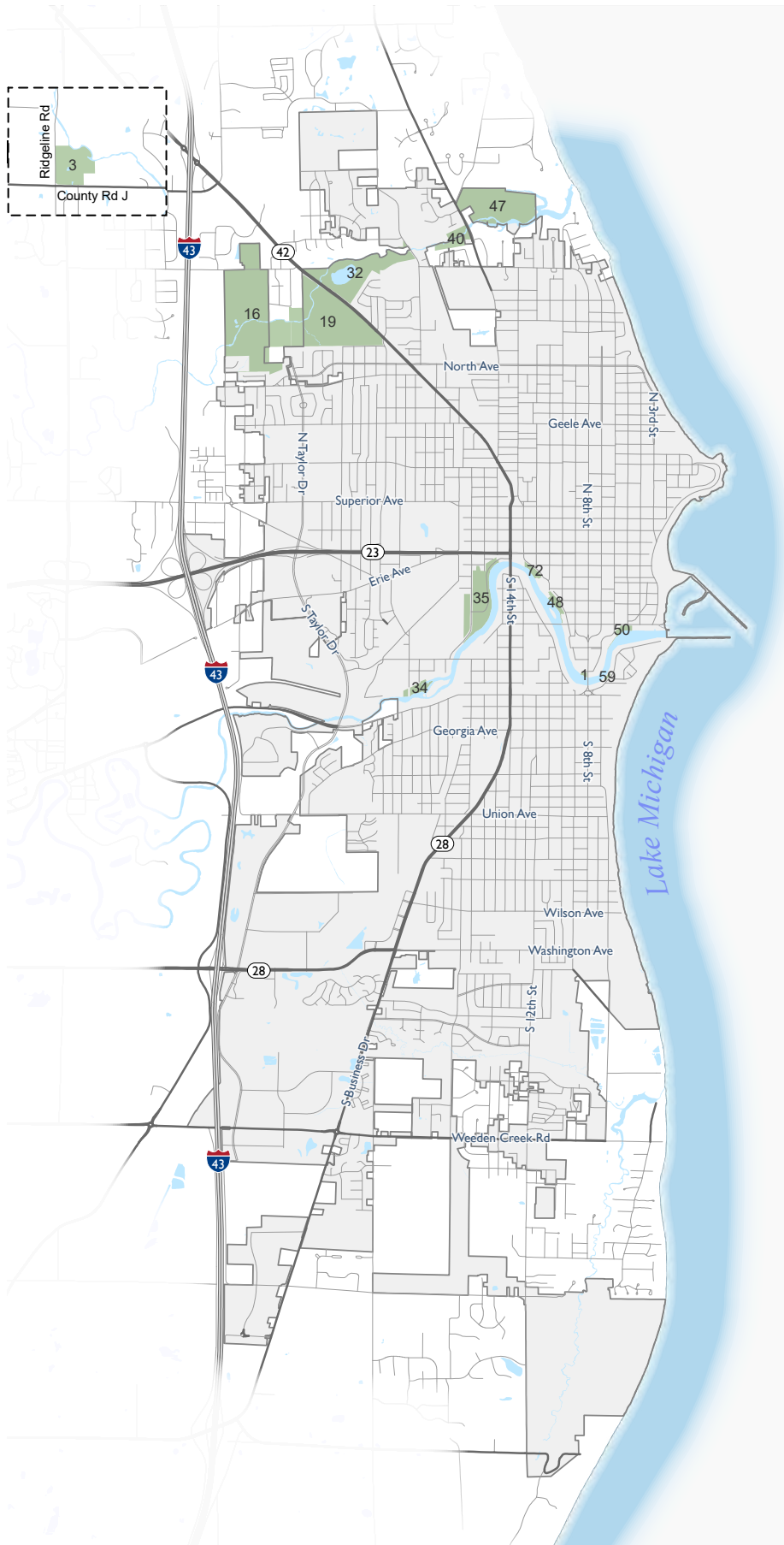


uwm.edu/harbormaps/future-maps

www.glfsc.org/pubs/SpecialPubs/Sp90_2.pdf

Riverfront Park Facilities

City of Sheboygan



Parks

Municipal

- 1. 8th Street Boat Launch
- 3. Bur Oak
- 16. Ellwood H May Environmental Park
- 19. Evergreen Park
- 32. Jaycee Quarry Park
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- 50. Rotary Riverview Park
- 59. South Pier Fish Cleaning Station
- 72. Workers Water Street Park

STREAMS AND RIVERS

Recreation next to water reduces stress and improves health. In urban environments, waterfront parks and open spaces are especially important to provide much needed access to the water. Streams and rivers are shaped by urban development in consistent ways, with negative impacts on flood management and water quality. The approach to streamside park planning can respond to these known conditions to offset and alleviate the associated negative impact on stream quality.

Urban development has a direct impact on stream structure and shape. As vegetated ground is replaced with impervious cover, such as parking lots and roofs, more water is directed into small stream and tributaries as runoff and at high velocities during storms. This causes an increase in erosion and a scouring out of the stream bed from sediment carried by faster moving water during large rains. The effect of increased development and corresponding runoff on stream morphology is a stream channel that is straighter and wider, with a smoother riverbed.

Urban streams become straighter, smoother and wider as a result of erosion and scour from increased runoff.



▲ Pigeon River as it flows through Unknown Park, #66.

Erosion can be observed in many small streams in Sheboygan’s parks. As Sheboygan continues to expand, development will have an impact on streams and rivers. Development patterns that reduce impervious cover such as directing runoff into vegetated areas are the best way to protect Sheboygan’s streams and overall water quality. Within the Park system there are many measures which can help to protect and sustain Sheboygan’s beautiful streamside parks.

The future will bring greater variability and more extreme variations in precipitation and water levels. Rivers are always in motion – and river parks are subject to constant transformation due to natural process. This is both a challenge and an opportunity for spaces alongside the river to reflect the ongoing process that shape them. **Riverfront parks are opportunities to intersect ecology, flood protection, water quality protection and social amenity.** When designed to accommodate multiple states, riverside parks can bring ongoing enjoyment throughout the year.

PARK HIGHLIGHT: PIGEON RIVER ESTUARY



WETLAND ZONE

HYDROLOGIC CONNECTION

Freshwater estuaries are an important coastal habitat that connect inland water systems with the Great Lakes. They are unique, chemically distinct systems containing a mix of lake and river water. Water fluctuations in the system are regulated by storm surges and seiches (vertical oscillations in lake water caused by atmospheric pressure including wind and storms). The warmer, more protected water of the river and the chilly, occasionally severe conditions of the lake overlap as a result of this mixing and create valuable ecosystems. Both river and lake locations can be used by many types of plants and animals for various aspects of life, creating the perfect environment for a wide variety of plants and animals to flourish.

The Pigeon River Estuary is a remnant wetland ecosystem that is critical habitat for migratory shorebirds, hawks, waterfowl and songbirds. It supports a warm water fishery with seasonal runs of salmon and trout. However, invasive species and over a century of human impacts have degraded the ecosystem. Recently the wetlands area has been part of the Pigeon River Estuary Restoration Project in conjunction with Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership. The project included removal of invasive phragmites (reeds) and planting of native trees and shrubs.



Freshwater estuaries are an important coastal habitat that connect inland water systems with the Great Lakes.

- ▲ To establish a beneficial system for wildlife throughout cyclical changes in water levels, periodic connections between the estuary wetland and river should be maintained in trail development.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

In keeping with the objective to improve trails and public access in Pigeon River Estuary, developing trails is a priority. The main trail in Pigeon River Estuary runs along the north bank of the Pigeon River. The trail is mostly dry, however there are many points where wetland connections to the river cross the trail. It is important to maintain the hydrologic connection between inland estuary wetlands and river. The seiche effect influence and seasonal flooding create ongoing, cyclical fluctuation which benefit the lifecycle of wildlife and sustain this valuable ecosystem.

Culverts and Boardwalks

Using culverts and boardwalks in select locations where wetland connections are desired will allow passage of wildlife and aquatic organisms. This is preferable over fill, which severs the connection and may trigger permit requirements in wetland areas according to Wisconsin DNR. Using fill for trails in wetlands and low areas is also difficult to maintain and subject to erosion during frequent flooding.

From an ecological standpoint, boardwalks and raised crossings are considerably less impactful since there is less area physically in the wetland versus above it. They are subject to less restriction as well, for example, limited excavation and filling required for walkways built on pilings in wetland areas are not subject to a Shoreland Zoning Permit by Sheboygan County. Boardwalks withstand wet environments better, with typically less maintenance and upkeep once completed. Crossing may be constructed without railing if there is little danger of falling, particularly if there is only a few inches of water and less than a foot drop from the deck to the wetland.



▲ Boardwalk in Indian Mound Park

Signage and Accessibility

A key element to include in a trails network is a signing system for marking the trail and points of interest. This should include a map at the trailhead and explanatory materials. Pigeon River Estuary is a wide and diverse park full of opportunities for wildlife observation. Winding and rustic trails would facilitate this kind of immersive experience and clearly marked trails would ensure that users are comfortable and can easily navigate and make informed decisions about their time in the park.

Another consideration is ADA accessibility, it may be of interest to create a hierarchy of trails that includes a shorter, accessible trail along with longer trails that extend into harder to navigate terrain. Boardwalks are a means of creating accessibility within wetland areas. An ADA accessible trail might include a boardwalk that parallels the river with lookout points and resting areas. A secondary network of trails might encourage

exploration in the back areas of the estuary further from the main course of the Pigeon River. As restoration continues, signage and trails can reflect the diversity of plant communities visitors can experience, such as sedge meadow communities or scrub communities that exist within the estuary.

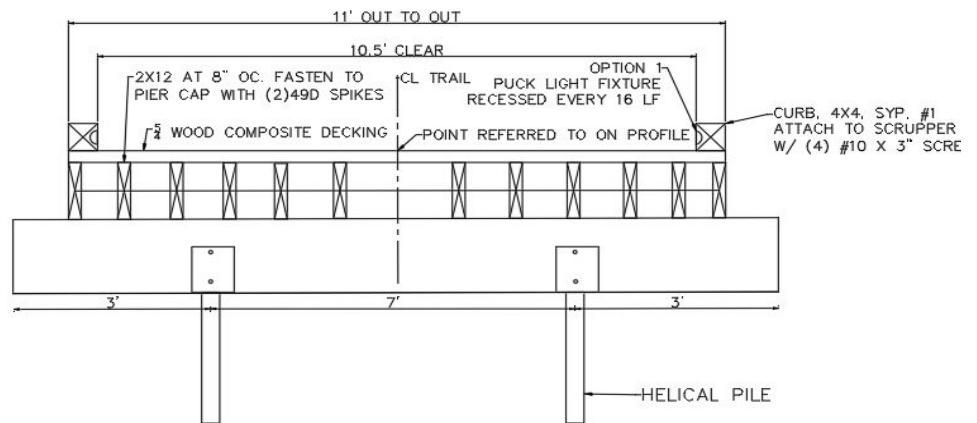
Construction

Construction in muddy, hard to access areas can be difficult. Floating materials on the river may be preferable for areas that cannot accommodate a vehicle. Additionally, sections of decking can be assembled on site and carried or floated to the location. Frozen conditions can make it easier to move materials in wet areas, but accessibility needs to be weighed against the colder working conditions for staff.

- ▶ Wetland trail crossing in Pigeon River Estuary

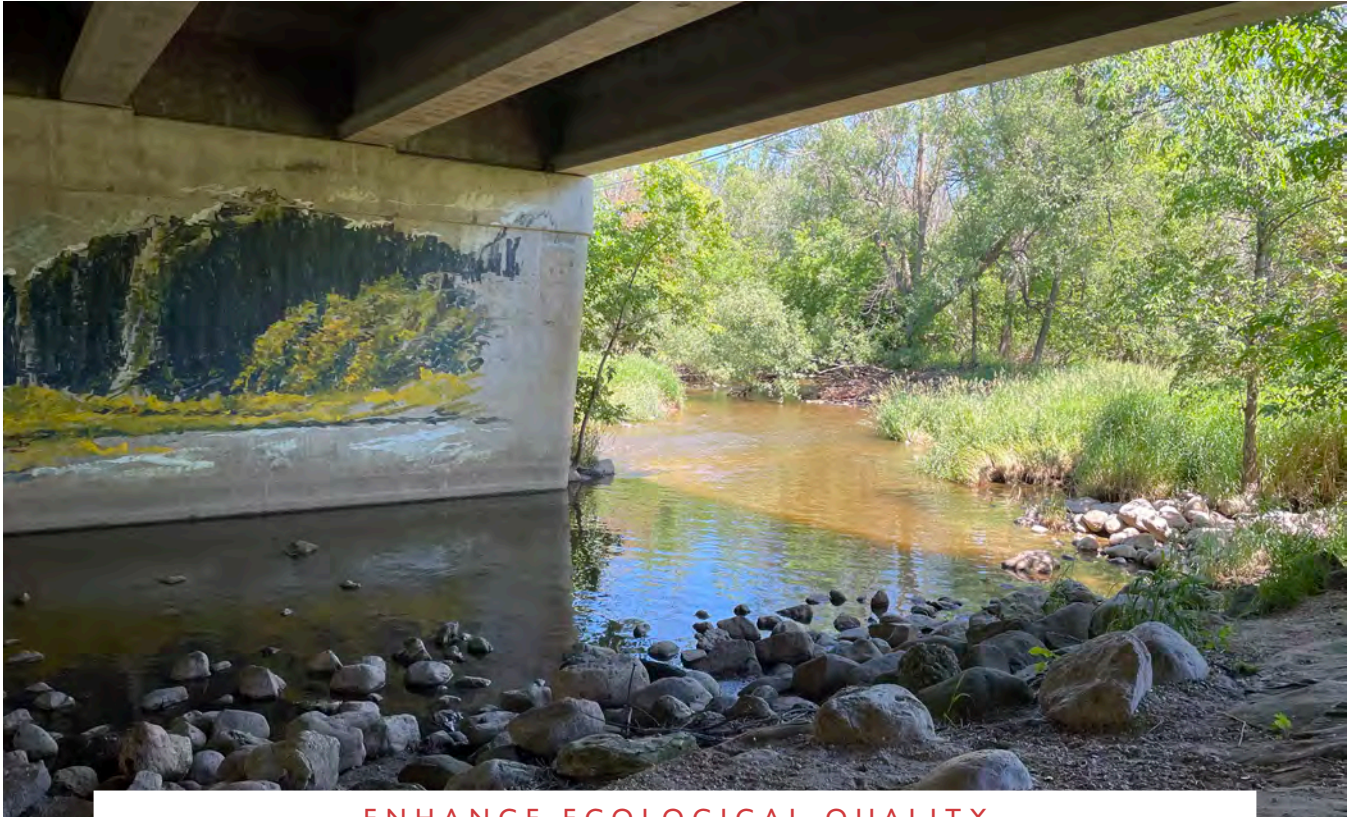


- ▶ A low profile boardwalk is a means to cross wetlands and small streams while maintaining a hydrologic connection to the Pigeon River. No railing is required and it could be used in conjunction with crush gravel or woodchip trails. An edge curb provides additional safety for strollers or wheelchairs. Depending on the water depth, a raised boardwalk may be desired as an alternative in some locations.



RIVERFRONT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The riverfront management strategies discussed in this document emphasize enhancing ecological quality and expanding public access to fully utilize the many benefits that rivers provide for urban living.



ENHANCE ECOLOGICAL QUALITY

Install and maintain a vegetated riparian buffer at least 35' along all stream banks. Exceptions may be made for public access points and high pedestrian traffic areas. Develop water edges with vegetation to absorb and slow runoff and withstand flooding.

Prioritize green engineering by using erosion control measures that rely on vegetated and hybrid techniques instead of hard engineering methods to avoid exacerbating downstream erosion. Employ practices to restore channel roughness lost through erosion to slow further erosion and enhance riparian habitat.

Locate facilities and active uses above 100 year floodplain, retain 100 year floodplain for uses that are floodable.

Retain frequently flooded areas for naturalized plantings and habitat.

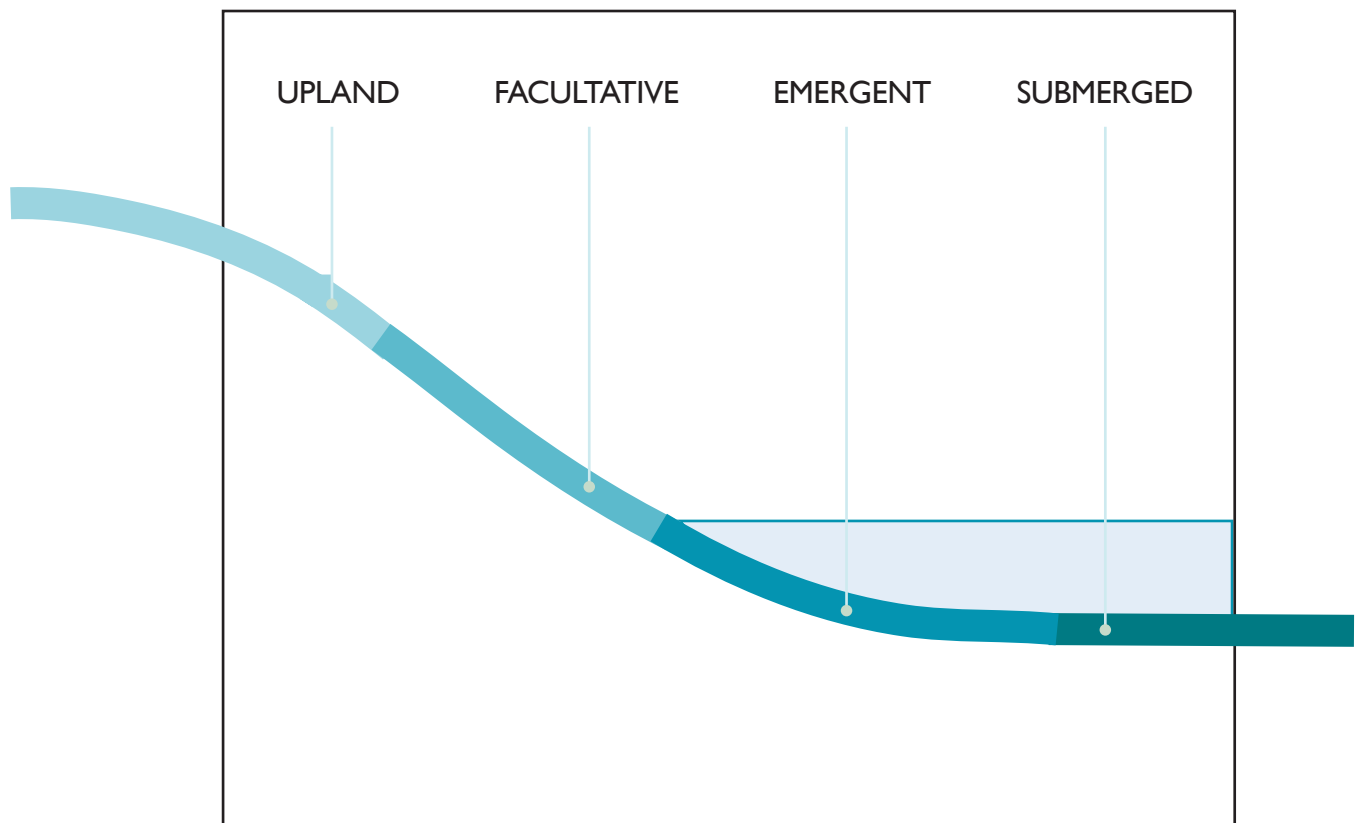
Prioritize wildlife by creating and expanding habitat with a focus on enhancing the riparian and emergent landscapes. Create dog amenities away from habitat areas.

Connect people with nature by coordinating cultural and recreational programming that leverages ecological resources. Provide opportunities for immersive experiences in nature that facilitate the regenerative and educational benefits of natural areas.

Encourage surfacing of urban hydrology by daylighting streams and creeks and managing stormwater on site. Allow water systems to exist alongside cultural uses and programming so that water dynamics are visible to park users.

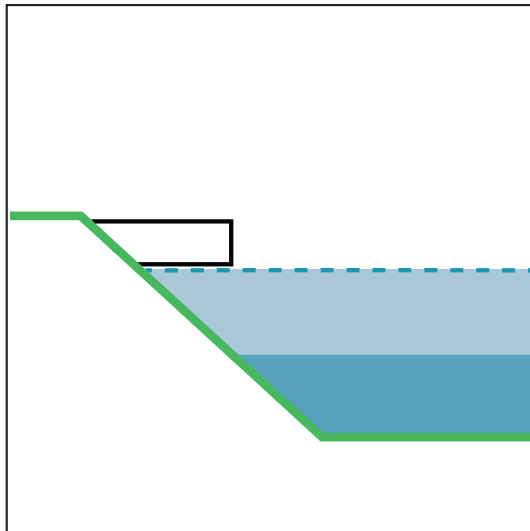
A sloped bank protects against hydrologic change and provides varying conditions that are good for habitat. Where possible, pull back shoreline with shallow grading to create diverse habitat and deter erosion.

Habitat Zones

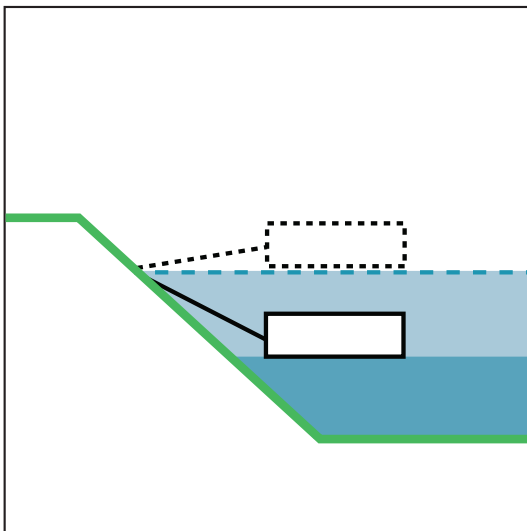


- » UPLAND (self seeding annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs)
- » FACULTATIVE (tolerate both wet and dry conditions, suitable for river edge and periodic flooding)
- » EMERGENT (roots in water, leaves above)
- » SUBMERGED (aquatic plants, underwater)

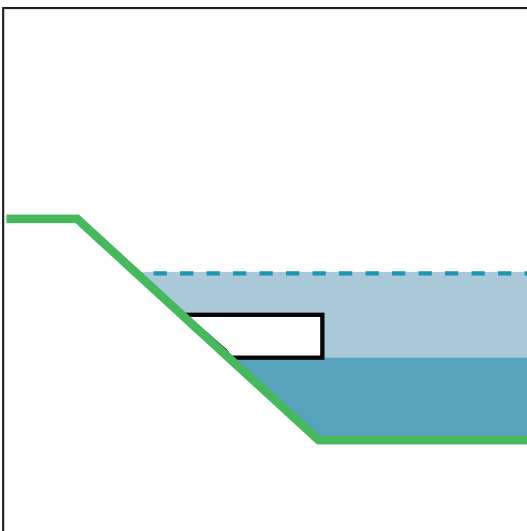
Adapting social spaces to fluctuating water levels



▲ Elevated Space



▲ Floating Space



▲ Flood Tolerant Space

Expand Public Access

Sheboygan's waterfront parks provide an amazing resource for residents to access quality landscapes close to their home. Enjoyment of natural areas are not only beneficial for the health and wellness of residents, they also provide opportunities to gain appreciation and knowledge of local flora and fauna and the rich natural legacy of the area.

Within riverfront parks, providing safe opportunities to get close to the water is one way to increase enjoyment of these parks. A view of a river from a distance is beautiful, but getting close to the water is often where you'll find the most interesting experience. It is close to the water that allows seeing and hearing the movement of water or observing birds, fish and other wildlife.

Social spaces that adapt to fluctuating water levels might take the form of an elevated space, a floating space or a flood tolerance space. The following section provides options for developing access points close to the water, while still maintaining ecological and hydrological flexibility.

Design for continuity between waterfront parks

Waterways are perfect locations for recreational paths. The linear nature of streams means that they are already useful corridors for navigating the city and provide a wealth of amenities for people and wildlife alike. Continuous paths for hiking, biking strolling and recreation are a highly desired feature for Sheboygan residents. Riverfront parks can also help wildlife navigate through inhospitable urban terrain and find the resources they need to thrive.

The proposed pedestrian bridge across the Sheboygan River is a substantial step toward improving connectivity along Sheboygan's waterfront. Connectivity will increase use of the waterfront and related businesses in the downtown area. Activity from the lakefront can move into the neighborhood via the Sheboygan River and open up waterfront access to greater portion of the population. The bridge supports connection between south and northside beaches and lakefront amenities with enhanced connection into the communities.



▲ Views from the Kiwanis Park Biergarten on the Sheboygan River, looking south. Access to water is restricted, turf runs all the way to the water's edge and the gravel surface would be washed away in a flood.



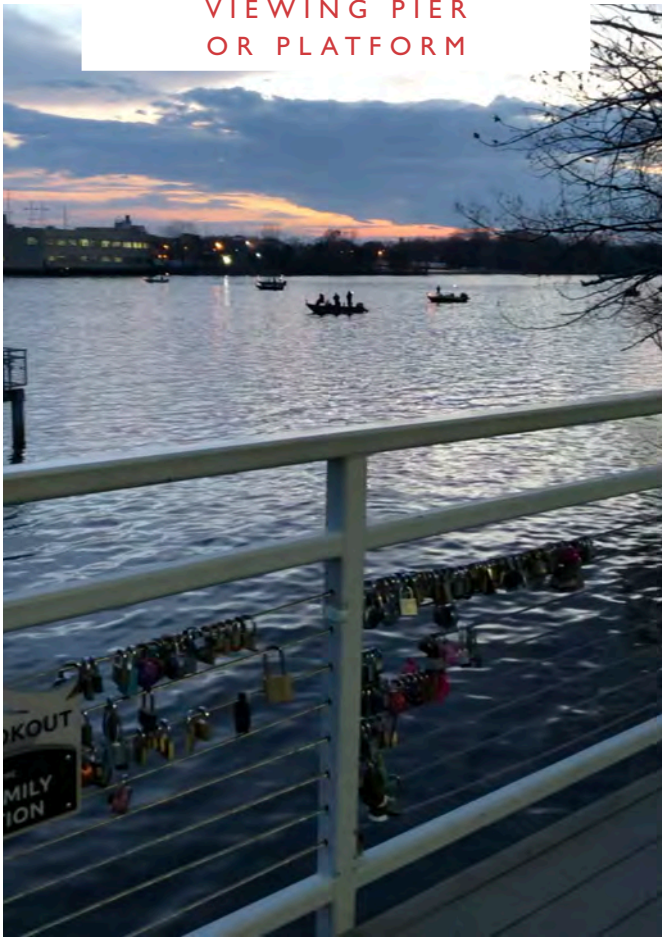
▲ Views from the Kiwanis Park Biergarten on the Sheboygan River looking north.

Strategies for access:

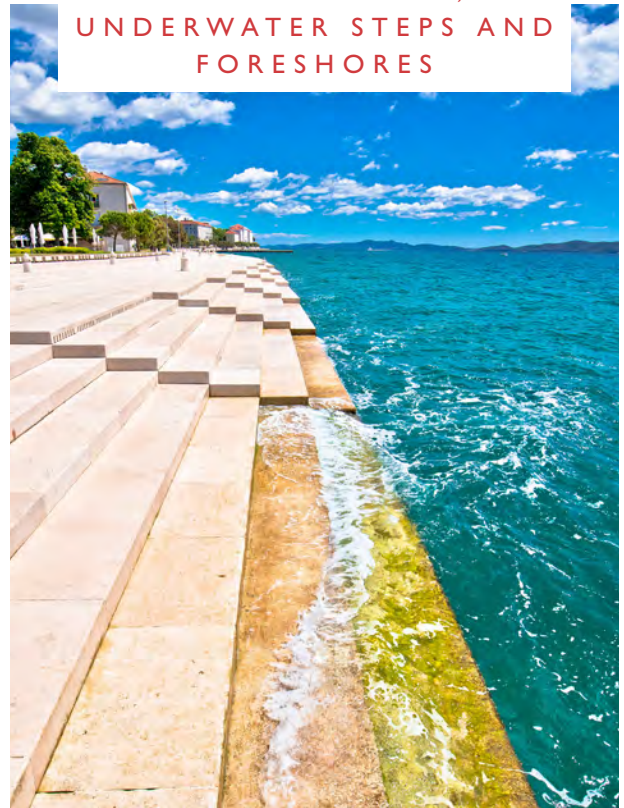
- » Improve and create additional access points.
- » Integrate access inclusive of all Sheboygan residents and for a range of ages and abilities, including ADA accessible points of access.
- » Maximize water dependent recreation such as kayaking, stand up paddle boarding (SUP) and fishing.
- » Create tiered access for both flood and drought conditions.
- » Consider all seasons use by providing a variety of spaces open to the public year-round.

Create selective access points that are flood adapted.

VIEWING PIER OR PLATFORM



SEATING STEPS, UNDERWATER STEPS AND FORESHORES



FLOATING BOARDWALK OR PLATFORM



INTEGRATED FLOOD PROTECTION (LIKE SEATING WALLS)



OVERLOOK, BALCONY OR SUSPENDED WALKWAY



Provide spaces for a variety of activities types.

WINTER USES



OBSERVING AND RELAXING



FOOD, ART, GATHERING AND PERFORMANCE



OUTDOOR RECREATION AND LEARNING



There are 37 shipwrecks located in Lake Michigan near Sheboygan. One historic Great Lakes schooner, the Lottie Cooper, is on display at the lakefront at Deland Park, just north of downtown and the Sheboygan Yacht Club. The Lottie Cooper sank during a storm in 1894 and was later brought onto shore when rediscovered during the construction of the marina in the 1990's. (Shipwreck data from wisconsinshipwrecks.org)

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

All stormwater management systems are designed to convey stormwater away from critical infrastructure, such as homes and business. Systems that rely solely on non-vegetated or “gray” infrastructure methods, such as pipes and concrete detention basins, can manage water volumes, but do nothing for water quality or ecosystem health. Green infrastructure benefits range from environmental benefits to quality of life benefits and more.

Additionally, green infrastructure has a wide variety of types or “best management practices” (BMPs) that can be used in many different scenarios. Small, distributed uses of green infrastructure can present more flexibility and customization than gray infrastructure as they are able to be installed in small amounts across a variety of locations. As a supplement to “gray” systems, green infrastructure can improve existing systems without undergoing massive capital investments and construction projects.

Green infrastructure includes a wide range of added benefits not provided by “gray” infrastructure.





IMPROVE HABITAT
 INCREASE GREEN SPACE
 REDUCE FLOODING
 FILTER CONTAMINANTS
 PROTECT WATER BODIES



How Green Infrastructure Works

Water is constantly in motion as it travels through the hydrologic cycle. Once rainwater falls to the earth as precipitation it can either be absorbed into the ground or flow along the surface until it gets collected in streams and rivers. Water that infiltrates into the ground still moves below the earth’s surface. Subsurface flow of ground water is important for maintaining aquifers and baseline flow of surface water like rivers, streams and lakes.

When rainwater falls on a vegetated surface, it flows over plants and soil toward the discharge point. Along the way much of that water is absorbed by plant roots or soaks into the ground. This means that far less precipitation leaves the site as runoff and water is slowed as it enters streams following a typical rain event.

When rainwater falls on pavement or rooftops, it travels very quickly to the discharge point and enters the stream system at high volumes, which can lead to flooding and damaging velocities. In addition, water traveling over pavement picks up contaminants, such as oils and residue from cars, and washes it into the streams. Water traveling over treated lawns and agricultural land can also wash pesticides and fertilizers into the water system leading to degradation of aquatic environments and lower water quality.

When water is allowed to soak into the ground through green infrastructure, the water is naturally cleansed of pollution through filtration and biodegradation of organic contaminants. This means that water flowing through green infrastructure enters the stream system cleaner, recharges aquifers and maintains stream base flow.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIES

Landscape standards for Sheboygan Parks are focused on infiltrating stormwater where it falls, or as close as to the source as possible. This focus on infiltration improves water quality in Lake Michigan by reducing harmful contaminants entering the lake or stream system through runoff. Most precipitation happens during small rainfalls of under 1". Even during larger rainfalls most of the contaminants on a surface will be washed off during the first 1" of rainfall, sometimes referred to as the "first flush." Stormwater management practices should focus on managing water from small rain events and the "first flush" which contain most surface pollution. Runoff from hard surfaces such as streets, parking lots, pathways and rooftops should be directed to landscaped areas whenever possible.

» Use rain gardens and bioretention

Rain gardens and bioretention should be installed to infiltrate runoff from parking lots, roads, plazas and other impervious surfaces. Rain gardens are shallow planted areas that retain stormwater and allow infiltration and uptake by plant roots. They are not meant to hold large amounts of water, soils should have an infiltration rate of at least 0.5 inches per hour or more to ensure adequate drainage of the system. A typical soil mix for well drained rain garden is 50% sand, 20-30% topsoil, and 20-30% compost. An optional gravel bed of 6" – 10" underneath the topsoil will allow additional storage capacity. An underdrain system may also be used to take overflow to the stormwater system already in place or to another BMP. A typical area for rain gardens follows a 5:1 ration of drainage area to rain garden area. Plant with a mix of upland and facultative plants that can withstand both wet and dry conditions.

Rain gardens near buildings should be located 10' from the building and may be designed alongside rain harvesting or storage systems.

» Improve soil porosity and infiltration rates of existing planting beds

Test percolation rates and amend with compost to improve water retention and drainage. Mulch beds as needed. Use vertical mulch and stakes to restore compacted soil without as much disturbance of existing plants. Select deep rooted plants to increase water retention. Native plant perennial landscapes should replace turf grass where possible and be very diverse. They should be placed lower than walkways, not mounded up.



▲ Rain garden with educational signage

For more information see:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stormwater/documents/RainGardenManual.pdf>, <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/documents/1009RainGarden.pdf>

» **Install stormwater tree islands in parking areas**

Allow tree islands in parking area to be depressed rather than mounded in order allow infiltration. Allow ribbon and slotted curb types to facilitate the movement of runoff from the parking surface into tree islands and vegetated areas. Parking should be designed with regularly spaced tree islands to provide shading and reduce the urban heat island effect. Maintain target goal of 30% tree canopy cover in parking lots. Trees should be planted below the grade of the sidewalk and the street in structural cells with enough root space. Optimal minimum coverage for the bioretention areas is five percent of the entire paved surface (IL ext).

» **Use native and adapted plants instead of turf**

Maximize performance of recreational and high use areas landscapes by planting native vegetation around programed areas instead of turf. Enhance dune restoration using dune adapted plant communities. Use native and adapted planting in areas that are inhospitable to turf such as low lying, wet, sandy or clayey areas.

» **Preserve and protect existing healthy vegetation**

Protect ecological areas and habitat which provide infiltration buffers for surface and ground water. Design for riparian corridors with minimum 35' vegetated riparian buffers. Match planting to preservation goals, ie: woodland, wildlife, etc. Connect depressions to manage excess runoff during heavy rains.

» **Disconnect downspouts from existing buildings**

Disconnected downspouts should not discharge onto sidewalks or impervious area as this could lead to icy conditions in winter. In new buildings, design with site in mind and consider opportunities for rainwater storage

» **Use subsurface infiltration**

Consider opportunities for infiltration under recreation fields and under pavement. In built up areas a dry well or “seep away” can provide additional stormwater management for building or paved surface runoff.

» **Use permeable or porous paving in parking and other low traffic areas**

Where vegetative solutions are not feasible, porous concrete or porous asphalt should be specified for sidewalks, parking lots, parking lanes, plazas and access roads to infiltrate stormwater.

» **Maintenance**

Make sure new plantings are cared for during the establishment period, which includes regular watering and weeding.

Confirm standing water soaks into the ground within two days.

Confirm overflow piping is not clogged.

Remove debris and weeds from rain gardens as needed and debris after large rain events.

Mulch planting beds.

Develop a management plan that leaves leaf litter in place or adds organic matter on an annual basis to maintain high organic content.






Use water retaining maintenance on turf (mow higher, leave cuttings, reduce fertilizer)

WATERFRONT LANDSCAPE STANDARDS

The following 5 topic suggestions are imperative to achieving sustainable parks now and into the future!

1

Hard Surfaces:

-  Reduce surface temperature by using high albedo and permeable paving.
-  Use environmentally benign, non-toxic materials.
-  Use porous paving and design to reduce sediment deposition onto porous surfaces.
-  Design on existing contours to avoid erosion.
-  Pave less. Reduce impervious parking and driving lane widths and opt for porous paving and vegetated surfaces where possible.

2

Planning and Design:



Preserve and restore natural hydrology (flow paths). Natural topography can be mapped or simply observed during rain events by noticing where small streams develop. Consult with maintenance staff to identify natural flow paths.



Decrease compaction and uniform grading.



Identify recharge areas. Protect recharge areas and incorporate into plans and maintenance.



Identify sensitive areas (steep slopes, mature or valuable vegetation, wetlands, springs, etc.).

Natural landscapes should be preserved and protected because they protect the city's water quality, absorb and clean runoff and recharge groundwater. Vegetation moderates temperatures and humidity levels and reduces the urban heat island effect.

Small headwater streams and drainage areas are extremely important to the health of larger streams and coastal ecosystems, therefore special attention should be paid to these areas during planning and design.



▲ General King Park

3

Plantings:



Designate consistent tree planting along sidewalks and parking areas. ie: every 30 feet.



Actively replace trees that are lost due to disease or damage.



Increase tree diversity.



Provide adequate soil volume to allow trees to reach maturity. A growing tree requires adequate soil to provide nutrition and water. Soil provides structural support which prevents trees from being damaged or falling in high winds. Soil must be uncompacted to allow root growth. Soil volumes may be provided beneath paving if methods are used to prevent compaction. These can include structural soil, soil cells and root paths. Most of a tree's root mass exists in the top 12" of soil and soil depth should be at least this deep. Soil does not need to be more than 3 feet deep for most trees.

Maintain
tree canopy
coverage

For more information see: Urban, James. Up By Roots: Health Soil and Trees in the Built Environment (2008). International Society of Arboriculture Books, Champaign, IL.

- ✓ Specify native plants, adapted to local conditions.
- ✓ Provide a diversity of plants.
- ✓ Provide a diversity of landscape types ie: meadow, forest, marsh, butterfly garden, fragrance garden, shade garden.

Use an ecological approach to planting

Plant water efficient landscapes

- Plant according to micro climates to maintain full vegetation cover. ✓
- Place naturalized vegetation in low use areas, using drought tolerant plants and limit turf to those areas that require for active use. ✓
- Reduce turf and use alternative turfgrass species, such as low mow and drought tolerant grasses. ✓
- Use water retaining maintenance on turf (mow higher, leave cuttings, reduce fertilizer). ✓
- Use cover crops and nurse crops during installation of planted areas to suppress weeds. ✓
- Emphasis seasonal beauty by including plants that provide aesthetic and environmental benefits in winter and fall in addition to spring and summer. ✓
- Understand existing microclimates and create new microclimates to extend use into colder seasons. ✓

4

Active Use Areas:



Incorporate nature into active use areas by using trees and vegetated buffers around playing fields, playgrounds and other active use areas.



Decrease compaction and uniform grading.



Incorporate opportunities for free play, nature play and science based play using landscape features that highlight natural functions such as wind, water, sound and light.



Provide multigenerational amenities in all locations that can be enjoyed by a wide range of ages.



▲ Residents of all ages enjoying time in General King Park

5

Water and Drainage:



Look for opportunities to remove pipes and daylight small streams. Replace pipes with vegetated swales.



Look for opportunities to dissipate concentrated discharge such as spreaders, check dams and vegetation.



Use culverts at crossings to allow passage of water and aquatic organisms.



Intercept discharge from the storm sewer before it enters the stream system or lake using green infrastructure.



Use buffers around high use areas to filter and absorb runoff.



Apply measures upstream to reduce flow velocities and erosion.



Identify areas where water naturally pools during wet periods and consider planting these areas.

Use visible stormwater management and signage to increase awareness

Because green infrastructure is a distributive type of management, it works better the more it is practiced. Visibility and awareness of green infrastructure applications, such as rain gardens, show people how such practices could be applied on their own property or elsewhere in the city. As more green infrastructure is added to private property, its efficacy increases overall. Visibility also heightens awareness of natural cycles and fluctuations, heightening a sense place and connection to local conditions. For children, such interventions can create small moments for learning, exploration and wonder in the everyday landscape.



▲ Children study water flowing through a vegetated swale at a park in Portland, OR



▲ Highly visible green infrastructure at General King Park.

IMPLEMENTATION & FUNDING





Projects envisioned in this CORP can be funded in several ways:

- General Fund Allocations
- Park Impact Fees
- Tax Incremental District (TID) Funding, if eligible
- Fundraising
- Grant Funding, with or without matching or contributing local funds
- Fund for Lake Michigan

Operations and maintenance costs are incorporated into the annual budgeting process. All items within the action program are within the capabilities of the existing operations and maintenance organization for the Sheboygan Parks.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

General Fund

General fund dollars are allocated annually during the City budgeting process. To date, maintenance projects are completed by City Department of Public Works staff. General Fund allocations are described in more detail in the Capital Improvement Fund section of this CORP.

Park Impact Fees

Over the past several years, Sheboygan has been experiencing increased interest from residential developers. When more development occurs, demand for public facilities such as parks can increase. Park Impact Fees can be used to fund park development to help the City meet this increased demand, without increasing costs for current residents. At the time of development, several fees are collected from a developer, including park impact fees. These fees are held in reserve until needed for design and construction of the park. Sheboygan has used Park Impact Fees in the past to help fund capital costs for a recreational trail.

TID

The City currently has eleven active Tax Incremental Districts (TID). A municipality can fund public infrastructure and other eligible costs for projects within a TID so long as the costs are eligible and included with the TID project plan.

Fundraising

Working with local community organizations or businesses, particularly ones with a mission related to youth, parks, recreation, or environment/sustainability are great partners for advancing Sheboygan's CORP. Capital campaigns can be organized and structured to complement an organization's established events within park spaces to raise money for small or large structures or amenities. Another strategy would be for the City to actively request donations to help improve or expand amenities within parks. Donations could be organized for:

- New infrastructure such as benches, picnic tables, fire pits, etc.
- Trees and native plantings
- Community gardens and/or pollinator gardens
- Trail signage and branding
- Ice rink set-up/takedown
- Beach clean-ups



Grants

The Wisconsin DNR administers four Stewardship grant programs with applications currently due annually on May 1. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant programs support nature-based outdoor recreation activities and include the following focus areas:

- Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)
- Urban Green Space (UGS) grants
- Urban Rivers (UR) grants
- Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR)

Additionally, Wisconsin DNR administers two federal programs:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants support land acquisition and development of high-quality outdoor recreation amenities in local communities
- Recreation Trails Program (RTP) funds are used to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

Wisconsin DNR also manages the Municipal Flood Control Grant Program. Eligible projects under this program include: property acquisition and removal of structures for permanent open space or flood water storage, acquisition of vacant land or flood water flowage easement to facilitate more efficient flood flows to the water body, and floodproofing and flood elevation of public and private structures in the 100-year floodplain

WisDOT administers the Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ). CMAQ encourages transportation alternatives in non-attainment and maintenance counties in Wisconsin that improve air quality. Transportation alternatives include public transit enhancements, bicycle/ pedestrian facilities, ride sharing programs and facilities, and technologies that improve traffic flow and decrease vehicle emissions. Sheboygan is eligible to apply for the CMAQ Program. Applications are solicited every other year.

Two additional grant programs the City could be eligible for include the National Coastal Resilience Fund (administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Federation), and PeopleforBikes, which supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride.



Fund for Lake Michigan

The Fund for Lake Michigan is a non-profit organization that supports projects that have near-term, direct and quantifiable impacts on water quality in the Lake Michigan watershed. Eligible projects include wetland restoration, stormwater management, stream bank repair, and general water quality improvements.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

YEAR

2024

Maintenance/Retrofits		
ADA Improvements (Deland Home)	\$250,000	
ADA Improvements (General)		
Play Equipment Inventory Management	\$50,000	
Urban Forestry Management	\$200,000	
Parking & Roads		
Evergreen Park Road Reconstruction		
Kiwannis Park Road Redevelopment		
Ellwood H. May Environmental Park Road		
Wildwood Softball Complex Repave Parking Lot off New Jersey Avenue		
Facilities & Amenities		
Butzen Sports Complex Development	\$100,000	
Cleveland Park Dog Park Fence	\$35,000	
Evergreen Park Bike Trail Development		
Kiwannis Dog Park Fence	\$35,000	
Kiwannis Park Splash Pad		
Ellwood H. May Environmental Park Building Repairs		
Moose Park Dog Park Fence		
Optimist Park Basketball Court	\$25,000	
Stonebrook Park Development		
Veteran's Park Basketball/Pickleball Courts	\$222,000	
Veteran's Park New Splash Pad		

2025

2026

2027

2028

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		\$250,000		\$250,000
\$50,000		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
\$150,000		\$200,000	\$150,000	\$200,000

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		\$400,000		
\$250,000				
			\$75,000	
\$225,000				

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\$100,000	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
\$50,000	\$50,000		\$50,000
			\$500,000
		\$100,000	\$50,000
\$35,000			
		\$50,000	
		\$300,000	

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

These items have been identified as potential improvements in the future and will be undertaken on an annual basis as time and funding allows.

		Funding Allocated	Work Commenced	Work Completed
Security				
	Install Security Cameras by All Park Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signage/Branding				
	Cole Park Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Indian Mound Park Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Northeast Park Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Acquisition				
	Maywood Land Acquisition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscaping				
	Grace Park Landscape Buffers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	General King Park Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Indian Mound Park Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Peace Park Landscaping and Art Additions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintenance/Retrofits				
	Cole Park Walkway Resurfacing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deland Park Bathhouse Replacement & Refurbishment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Rammer Playground Accessibility Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Maywood Driveway Resurfacing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	End Park Walkway Resurfacing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Evergreen Park Shelter/Restroom Refurbishment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Maintenance/Retrofits (continued)					Funding Allocated	Work Commenced	Work Completed
	Evergreen Park	Roadway	Pedestrian	Safety Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Fountain Park Turf Restoration				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Fountain Park Performance Shelter and Restroom Refurbishment				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Franklin Park Fence Repair & Replacement				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Franklin Park Backstop Relocation				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	General King Park Entrance and Flagpole Restoration				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Indian Park Trail Restoration/Debris Removal				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vollrath Park Lighting Repairs & Replacement				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vollrath Park Retaining Wall Repair, Rebuild				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental & Water Quality Management							
	Sheboygan Riverbank Restoration & Stabilization				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lake Michigan	Shoreline	Stabilization/Erosion Protection		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Creekside Park Creek Restoration				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deland Park Invasive Species Removal				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Maywood Invasive Species Removal				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	End Park Drain Tile				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Evergreen Park Trail Erosion Prevention				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Jaycee Quarry Park Riverbank Erosion Prevention				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	General King Park Stormwater Outfall Improvements				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lakeview Park Stormwater Drainage Improvements				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Northeast Park Invasive Species Removal				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Northeast Park Stormwater Outfall Improvements				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vollrath Park Trail Erosion Prevention				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Waterfront Improvements		Funding Allocated	Work Commenced	Work Completed
	8th Street Boat Launch Dock Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Creekside Park Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deland Park Beachfront Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	General King Park Cordwalk and Mobimat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Kiwanis Park Launch Accessibility Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Pigeon River Estuary Trail Additions & Waterfront Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking				
	Roosevelt Park Off-Street Parking Lot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Veteran's Park Off-Street Parking Expansion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilities & Amenities				
	Cleveland Park Grass Volleyball Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cole Park Grills and Picnic Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deland Park Concessions Facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deland Park Performance Shelter & Bandshell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Rammer Playground Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	End Park Swingset Replacement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Jaycee Quarry Park Rentable Park Building with Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Jaycee Quarry Park Storage Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Julson Park Trail Additions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lakeview Park Shelter Addition/Relocation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Manor Heights Trail Additions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Northeast Park Picnic Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



APPENDIX: INDIVIDUAL PARK SHEETS

SHEBOYGAN



**2024-2028
COMPREHENSIVE
OUTDOOR
RECREATION PLAN**

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 FINAL DRAFT

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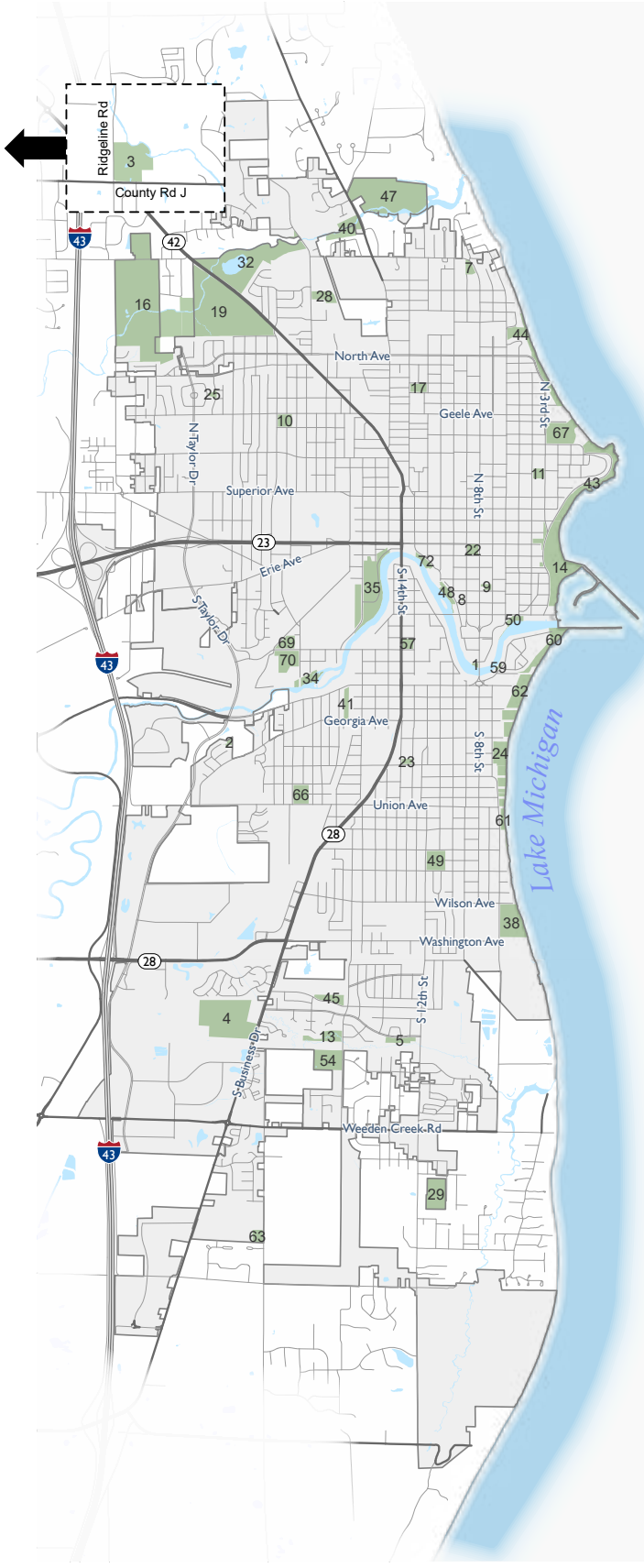
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OVERALL PARK MAPS



Municipal Park Facilities

City of Sheboygan

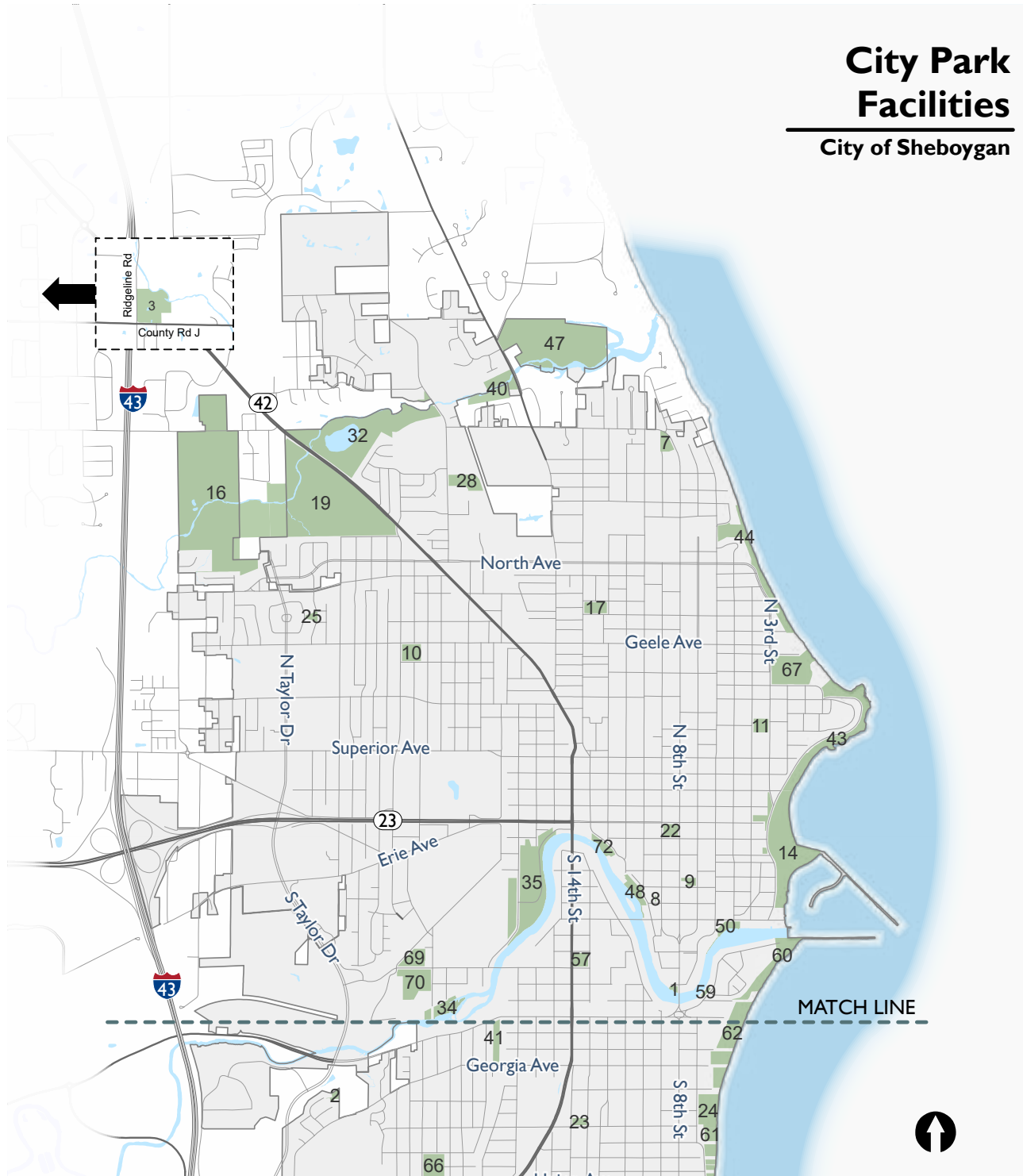


Parks

- 1. 8th Street Boat Launch
- 2. Arrowhead Park
- 3. Bur Oak
- 4. Butzen Athletic Campus
- 5. Camelot Dog Run
- 7. Charles Voigt Park
- 8. City Center Dog Park
- 9. City Green
- 10. Cleveland Park
- 11. Cole Park
- 13. Creekside Park
- 14. Deland Park & Peace Park
- 16. Ellwood H May Environmental Park
- 17. End Park
- 19. Evergreen Park
- 22. Fountain Park
- 23. Franklin Park
- 24. General King Park
- 25. Grace Park
- 28. Humane Society Dog Park
- 29. Indian Mound Park
- 32. Jaycee Quarry Park
- 34. Julson Park
- 35. Kiwanis Park
- 38. Lake View Park
- 40. Manor Heights
- 41. Moose Park
- 43. North Point Park
- 44. Northeast Park
- 45. Optimist Park
- 47. Pigeon River Estuary
- 48. Riverside Park
- 49. Roosevelt Park
- 50. Rotary Riverview Park
- 54. Sheboygan Dog Park
- 57. Sheridan Park
- 59. South Pier Fish Cleaning Station
- 60. South Pier Turn Around
- 61. South Shore Park
- 62. Southside Beach
- 63. Stonebrook Crossing
- 66. Veterans Memorial Park
- 67. Vollrath Park
- 69. Wildwood Hardball Complex
- 70. Wildwood Softball Complex
- 72. Workers Water Street Park

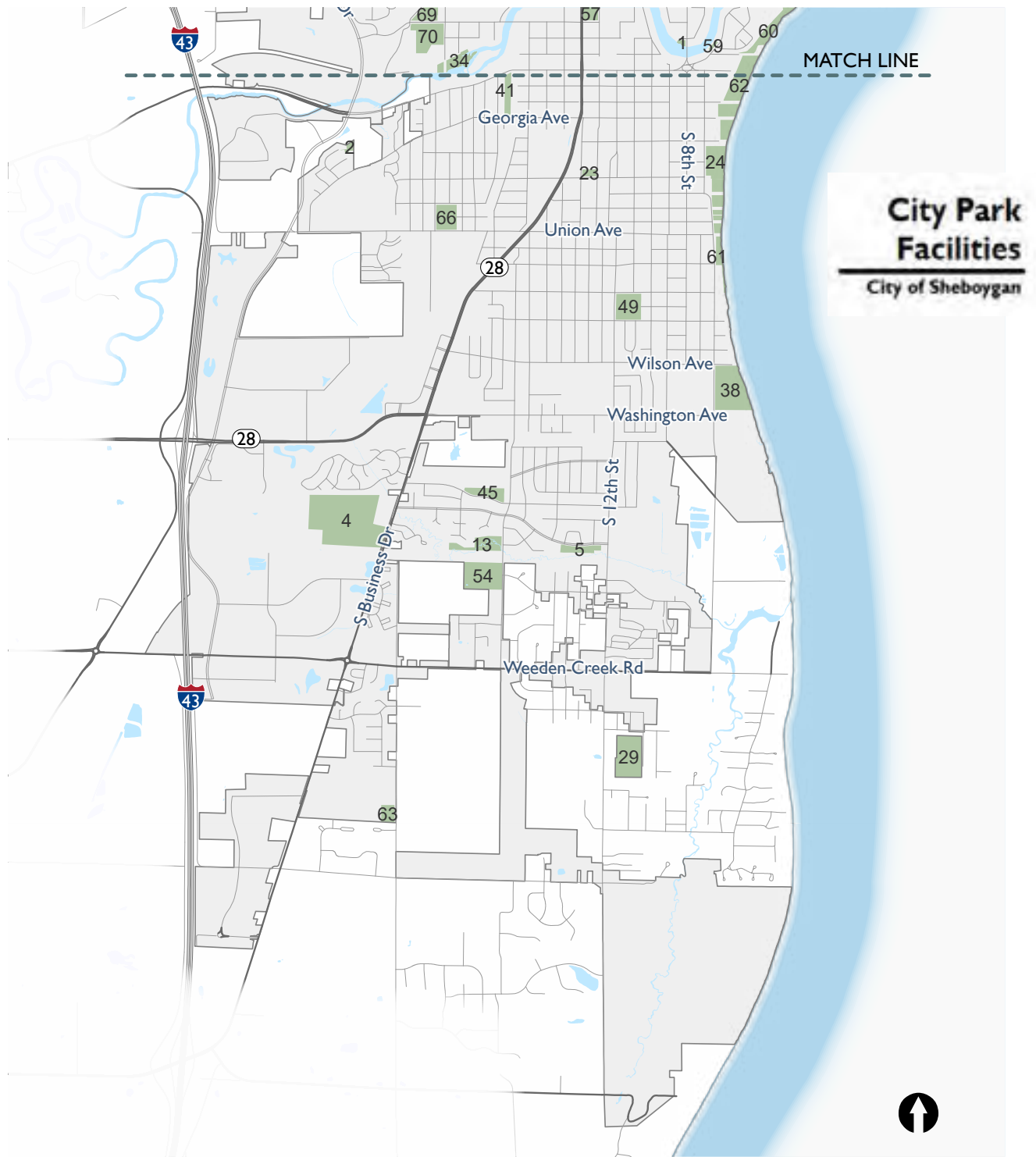
City Park Facilities

City of Sheboygan



North Side Parks

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. 8th Street Boat Launch | Environmental Park | 40. Manor Heights | 60. South Pier Turn Around |
| 3. Bur Oak | 17. End Park | 43. North Point Park | 67. Vollrath Park |
| 7. Charles Voigt Park | 19. Evergreen Park | 44. Northeast Park | 69. Wildwood Hardball Complex |
| 8. City Center Dog Park | 22. Fountain Park | 47. Pigeon River Estuary | 70. Wildwood Softball Complex |
| 9. City Green | 25. Grace Park | 48. Riverside Park | 72. Workers Water Street Park |
| 10. Cleveland Park | 28. Humane Society Dog Park | 50. Rotary Riverview Park | |
| 11. Cole Park | 32. Jaycee Quarry Park | 57. Sheridan Park | |
| 14. Deland Park & Peace Park | 34. Julson Park | 59. South Pier Fish Cleaning Station | |
| 16. Ellwood H May | 35. Kiwanis Park | | |

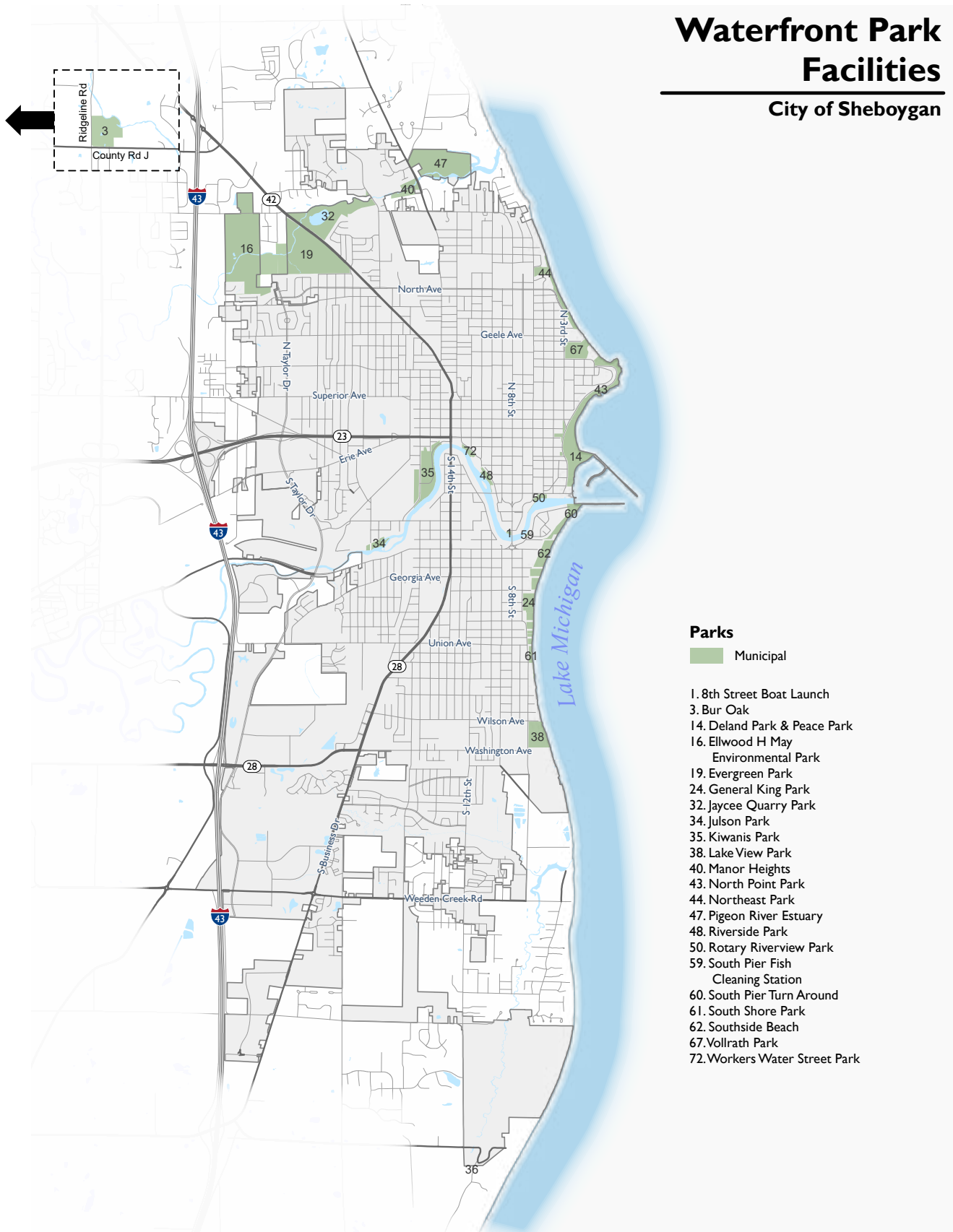


South Side Parks

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. Arrowhead Park | 41. Moose Park |
| 4. Butzen Athletic Campus | 45. Optimist Park |
| 5. Camelot Dog Run | 49. Roosevelt Park |
| 13. Creekside Park | 54. Sheboygan Dog Park |
| 23. Franklin Park | 61. South Shore Park |
| 24. General King Park | 62. Southside Beach |
| 29. Indian Mound Park | 63. Stonebrook Crossing |
| 38. Lake View Park | 66. Veterans Memorial Park |

Waterfront Park Facilities

City of Sheboygan



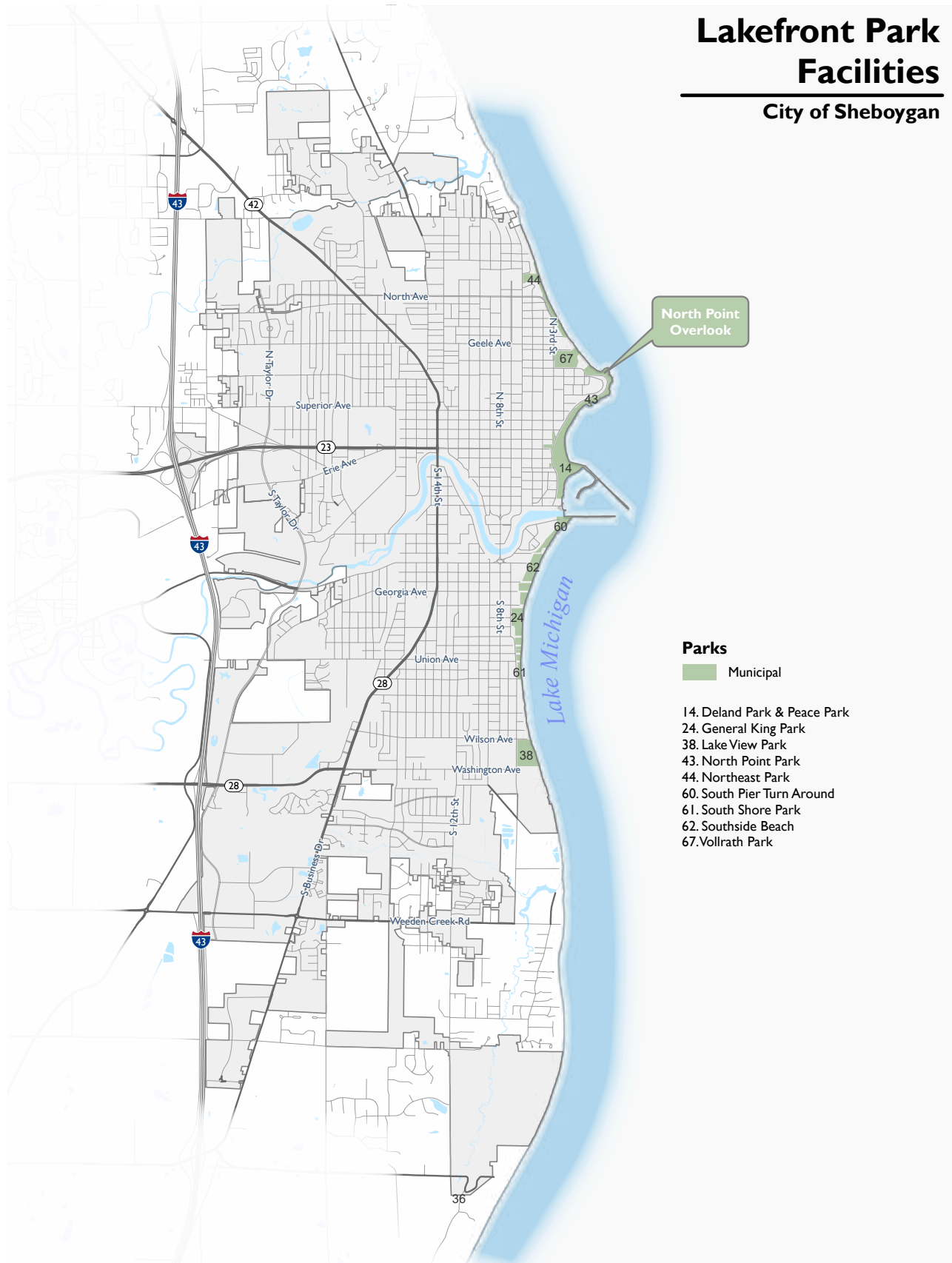
Parks

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- 72. Workers Water Street Park

Lakefront Park Facilities

City of Sheboygan



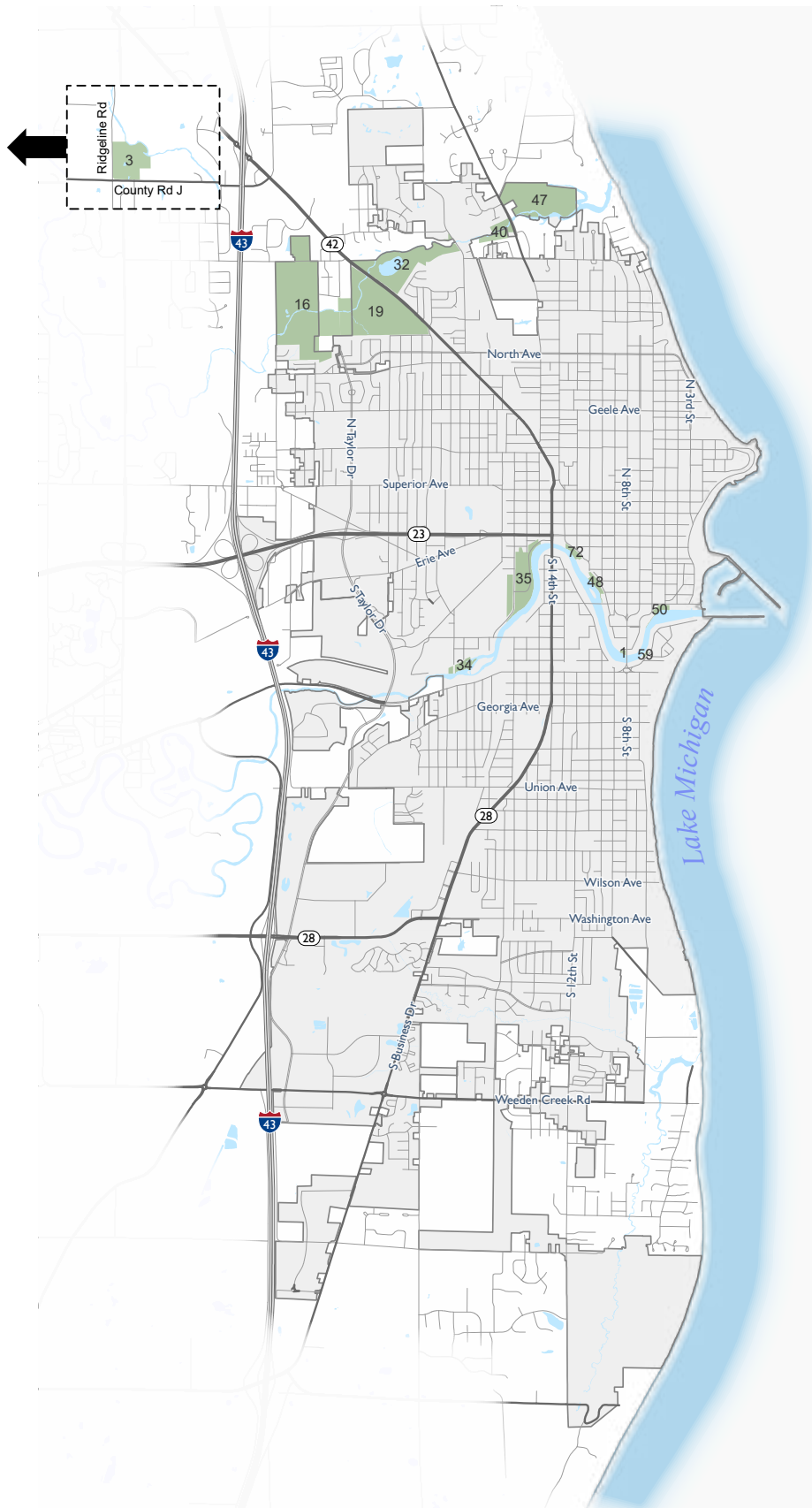
Parks

■ Municipal

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- 24. General King Park
- 38. Lake View Park
- 43. North Point Park
- 44. Northeast Park
- 60. South Pier Turn Around
- 61. South Shore Park
- 62. Southside Beach
- 67. Vollrath Park

Riverfront Park Facilities

City of Sheboygan



Parks

Municipal

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- 3. Bur Oak
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- 32. Jaycee Quarry Park
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- 48. Riverside Park
- 50. Rotary Riverview Park
- 59. South Pier Fish Cleaning Station
- 72. Workers Water Street Park

INDIVIDUAL PARK SHEETS



8TH STREET BOAT LAUNCH

Park Description

Location: 807 Riverfront Drive

This facility provides public access to the Sheboygan River for small watercraft. The Visitor's Center provides amenities and a gift shop.

Opportunities

- River edge restoration
- Riverwalk connection from Riverside Park
- Development of adjacent city property
- Dock improvements

Existing Facilities

- Boat launch
- Visitor's Center
- Riverfront
- Fishing



Arrowhead Park

Park ID: 2

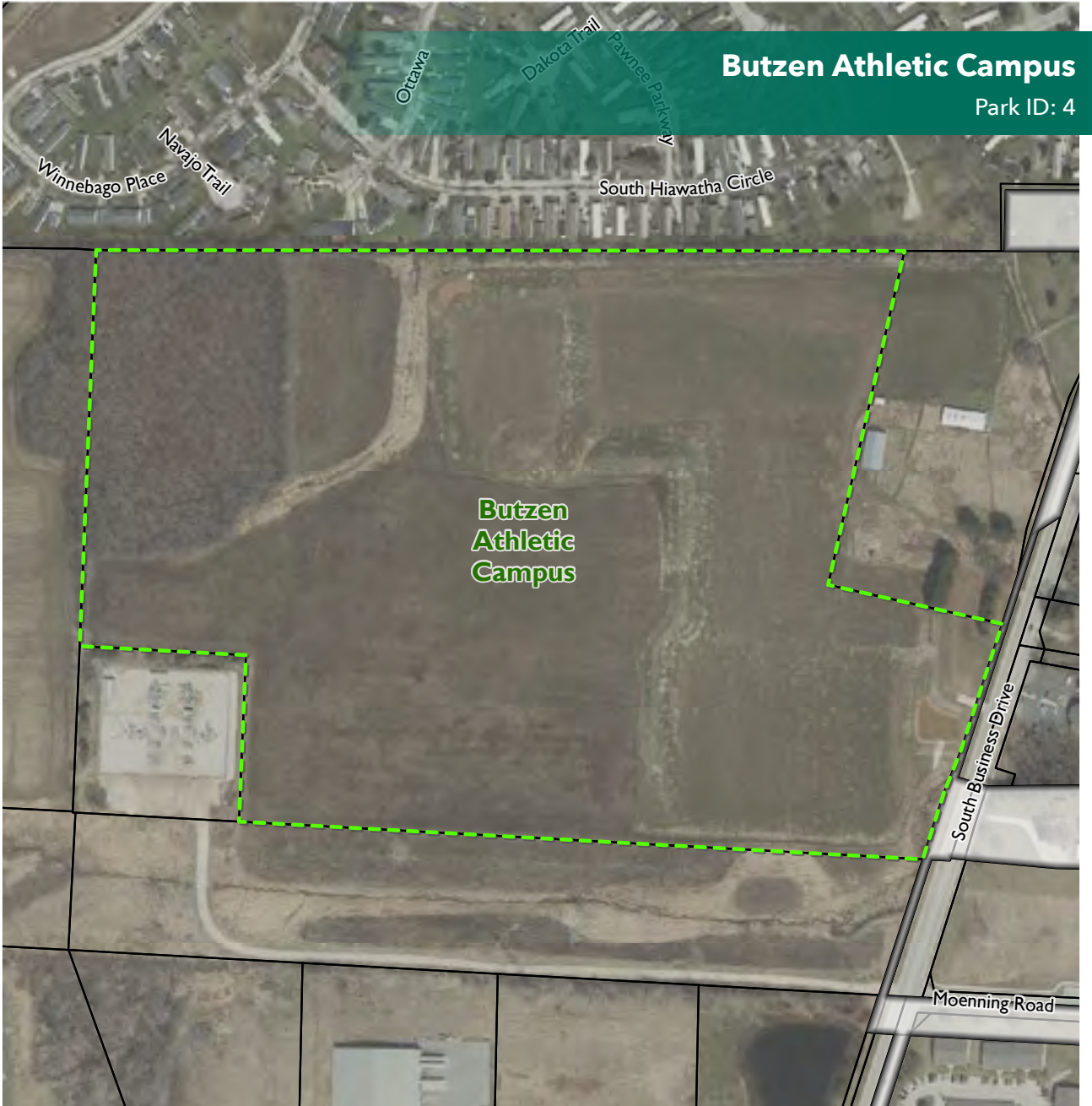


ARROWHEAD PARK

Park Description

Location: 2833 Ashby Court

This park consists of wooded greenspace with natural vegetation.



BUTZEN SPORTS COMPLEX

Park Description

Location: 3936 South Business Drive

This park is planned for development to support the activities of the Lakeshore United Football Club (LUFC) as well as activities for the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County. At this time the plan includes soccer fields, dome/permanent structures, indoor facilities and parking. The park will serve as a community asset that enhances the sense of place and quality of life for local residents. It will create a significant driver of economic impact that supports existing local businesses and functions as a catalyst for attracting and retaining employees, as well as major events, within the region.

Opportunities

- Developing partnerships within the County
- Working with possible Stakeholders
- Fundraising for the development of the park
- Grant opportunities for the development

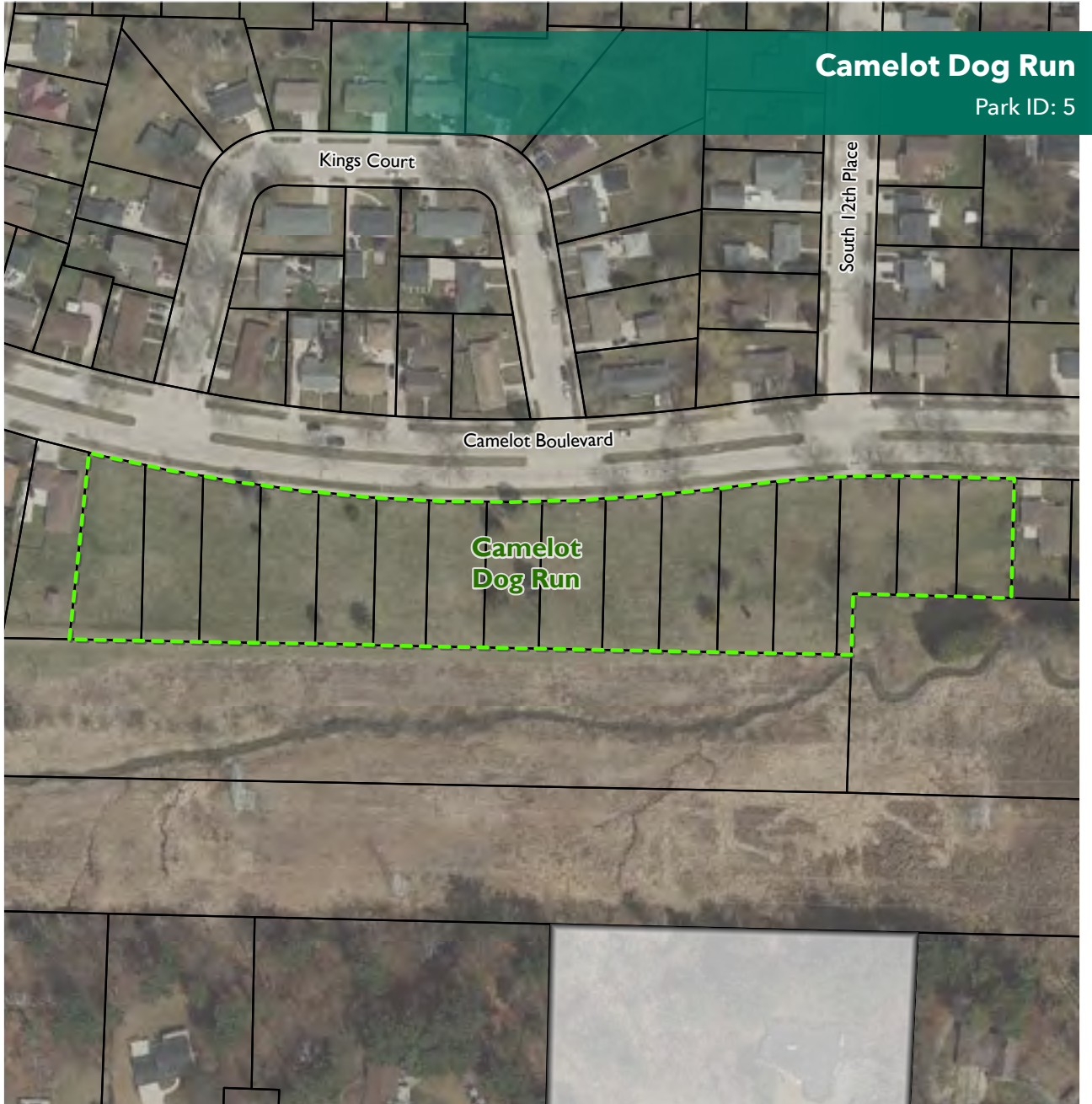
Existing Facilities

- None



◀ Athletic complex planned phases.





Camelot Dog Run

Park ID: 5

Kings Court

South 12th Place

Camelot Boulevard

**Camelot
Dog Run**

CAMELOT DOG RUN

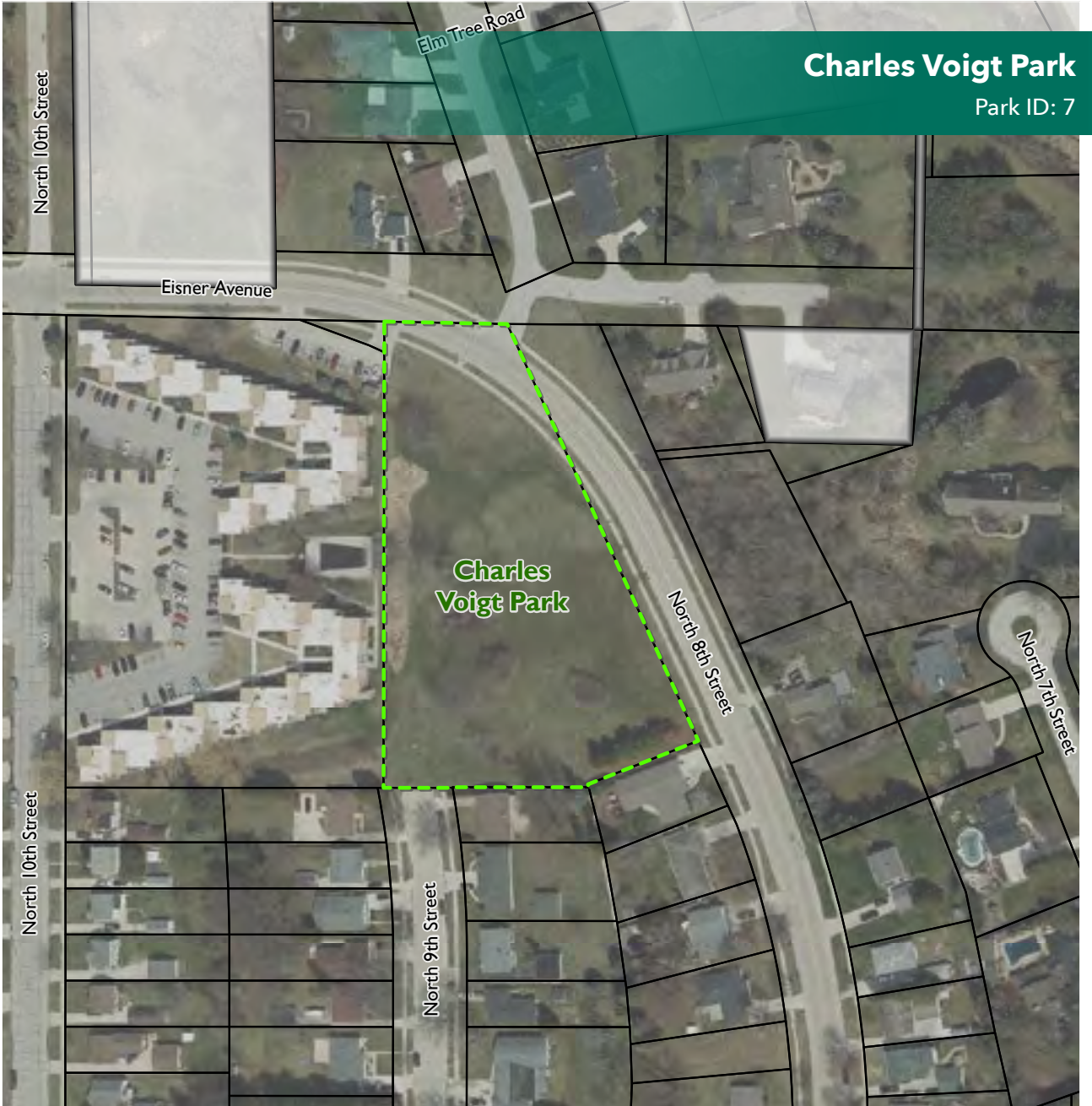
Park Description

Location: 1311 Camelot Boulevard

This park is a pet friendly facility with open play areas. As the site is unfenced, pets must be leashed.

Existing Facilities

- Open space
- Dog-friendly (on-leash)



CHARLES VOIGT PARK

Park Description

Location: 3500 North 8th Street

This 2.86 acre north side park offers playground equipment and plenty of open space.

Opportunities

- Accessibility to play equipment
- Small shelter

Existing Facilities

- Playground equipment
- Open space





CITY CENTER DOG PARK

Park Description

Location: 998 Center Avenue

This new dog park is located east of Riverside Park on Center Avenue and 9th Street.

Opportunities

- Shade, benches, and tables
- Water fountain for dogs

Existing Facilities

- Fenced dog park



CITY GREEN

Park Description

Location: 710 New York Avenue

This public space offers a performance space integrated with unique public art. Regular musical performances are held at this location. Food trucks are often present during events. The unique space is overlooked by the John Michael Kohler Arts Center.

Existing Facilities

- Stage/amphitheater
- Greenspace

Opportunities

- Restrooms



▲ Image credit: Visit Sheboygan



CLEVELAND PARK

Park Description

Location: 2331 Geele Avenue

This 4.41 acre park is part of the Cooper-Cleveland Neighborhood. The park contains two playgrounds for children age 2-5 years old and 5-12 years old respectively. There are restrooms and a rentable shelter in the park.

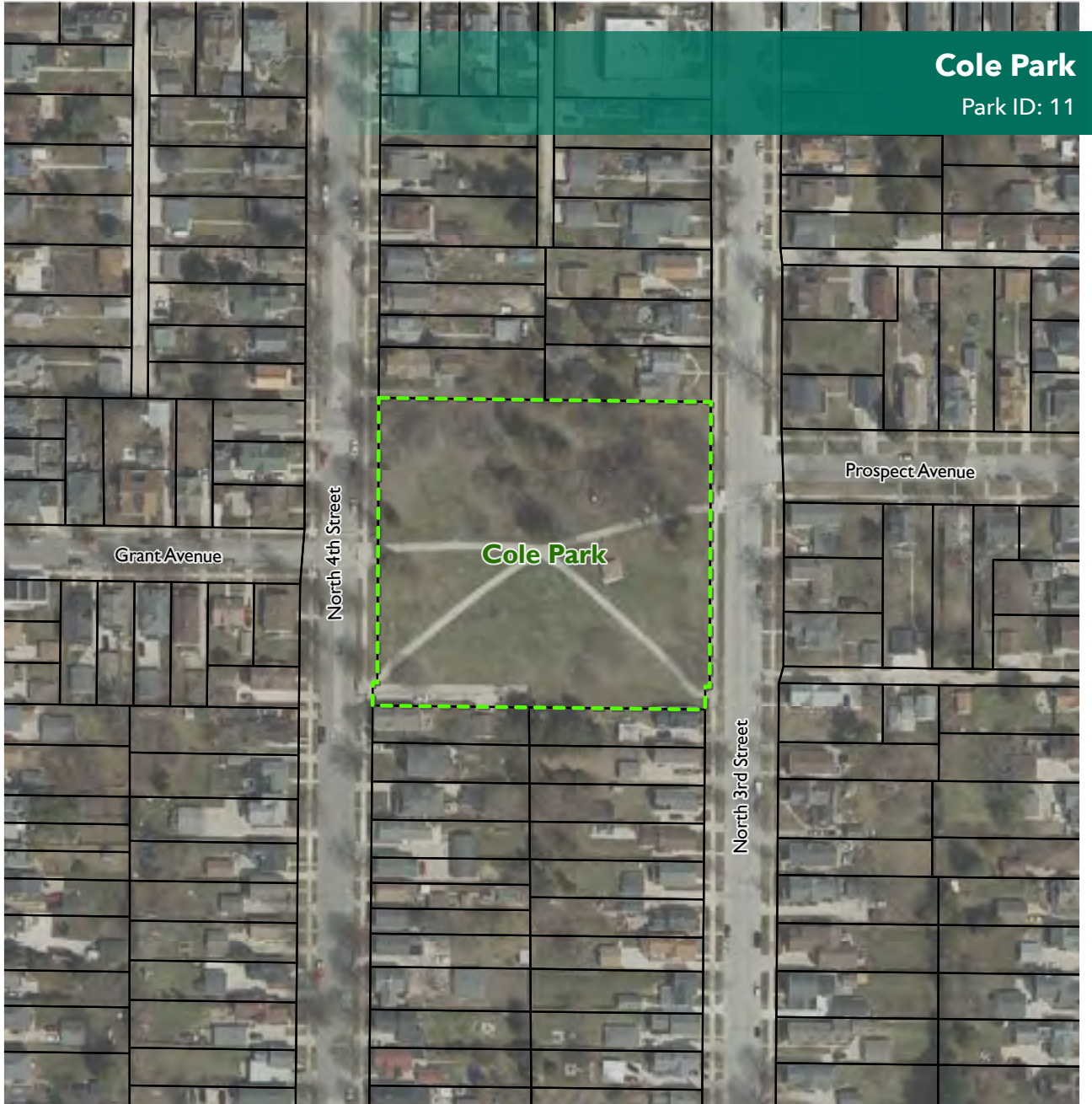
Existing Facilities

- Shelter available for rental
- Restrooms
- Basketball court
- Playground equipment (ages 2-5; 5-12)
- Grills
- Picnic tables
- Open space
- Splash pad
- Dog friendly (on-leash)

Opportunities

- Off-street parking
- Grass volleyball courts
- Small fenced-in dog park





COLE PARK

Park Description

Location: 1700 North 3rd Street

This 2.5 acre park is located on the north side of Sheboygan as part of the North Point Neighborhood. The park includes a small non-rentable picnic shelter.

Opportunities

- Resurface walkways
- Accessibility improvements to walkways
- Additional grills and picnic tables
- Playground border
- Park signage

Existing Facilities

- Playground equipment
- Small picnic shelter
- Picnic tables
- Port-a-potty





Creekside Park

Park ID: 13

Brookfield Court

South 22nd Street

Creekside Court

Greenwood Court

Creekside Park

South 18th Street

CREEKSIDE PARK

Park Description

Location: South 18th Street

This undeveloped park property is located on South 18th Street south of Camelot Boulevard just north of Sheboygan Dog Park. The site is heavily wooded.

Opportunities

- Trail and nature access
- Sightseeing
- Creek restoration

Existing Facilities

- Greenspace with natural vegetation including trees and wetlands



Deland Park & Peace Park

Park ID: 14

Deland Park & Peace Park

DELAND PARK & PEACE PARK

Park Description

Location: 715 Broughton Drive

This 16.13 acre community park is located on the shores of Lake Michigan; it is in the heart of the Harbor Centre District. It is home to several festivals, the Marina, Sheboygan Youth Sailing Club, and a boat launch.

The park includes the Deland Community Center, Richardson Shelter, Deland Home, three playground areas including the Rammer playground, and bathhouse overlook that has restrooms and showers.

The City worked with Veterans for Peace to install a Peace Pole in a portion of Deland Park, known as the Michigan/Broughton triangle. A site plan created by a group of volunteers includes plans for the park to include benches, plantings, a walking path, art pieces, and other items that will complement the peace pole.

Existing Facilities

- 3 playground areas (including 1 accessible/inclusive playground)
- Biking/Walking on the Harbor Trail
- Sand volleyball
- Tennis/pickleball
- Swimming
- Fishing area
- Boat launch
- Rentable shelters
- Restrooms
- Event area
- Beachfront
- Fish cleaning station
- Marina

Opportunities

- Bluff stabilization, erosion protection
- Invasive species removal
- Bathhouse refurbishment/replacement
- Bathhouse concessions
- Beachfront restoration
- Performance shelter/bandshell
- Accessibility improvements such as cord walk and mobimat for access to the water.
- Accessibility improvements to Rammer Playground
- Restrooms at Rammer Playground



ELLWOOD H MAY ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

Park Description

Location: 3516 Mueller Road

Ellwood H May Environmental Park (Maywood) is Sheboygan's natural jewel. It offers an Environmental Learning Center, several trails through wetlands, prairie, and maple forest and along the pigeon river. The city partners with the Maywood Trust & Association and Cap Y-Koda to promote environmental stewardship through real life experiences.

A master plan was completed for the park in 2020.

Opportunities

- Follow Master Plan
- Invasive species removal on land and in ponds
- Resurface/restore park driveway
- Land acquisition for expansion
- New restrooms
- New sugar shack
- Outdoor classrooms
- Additional solar panels

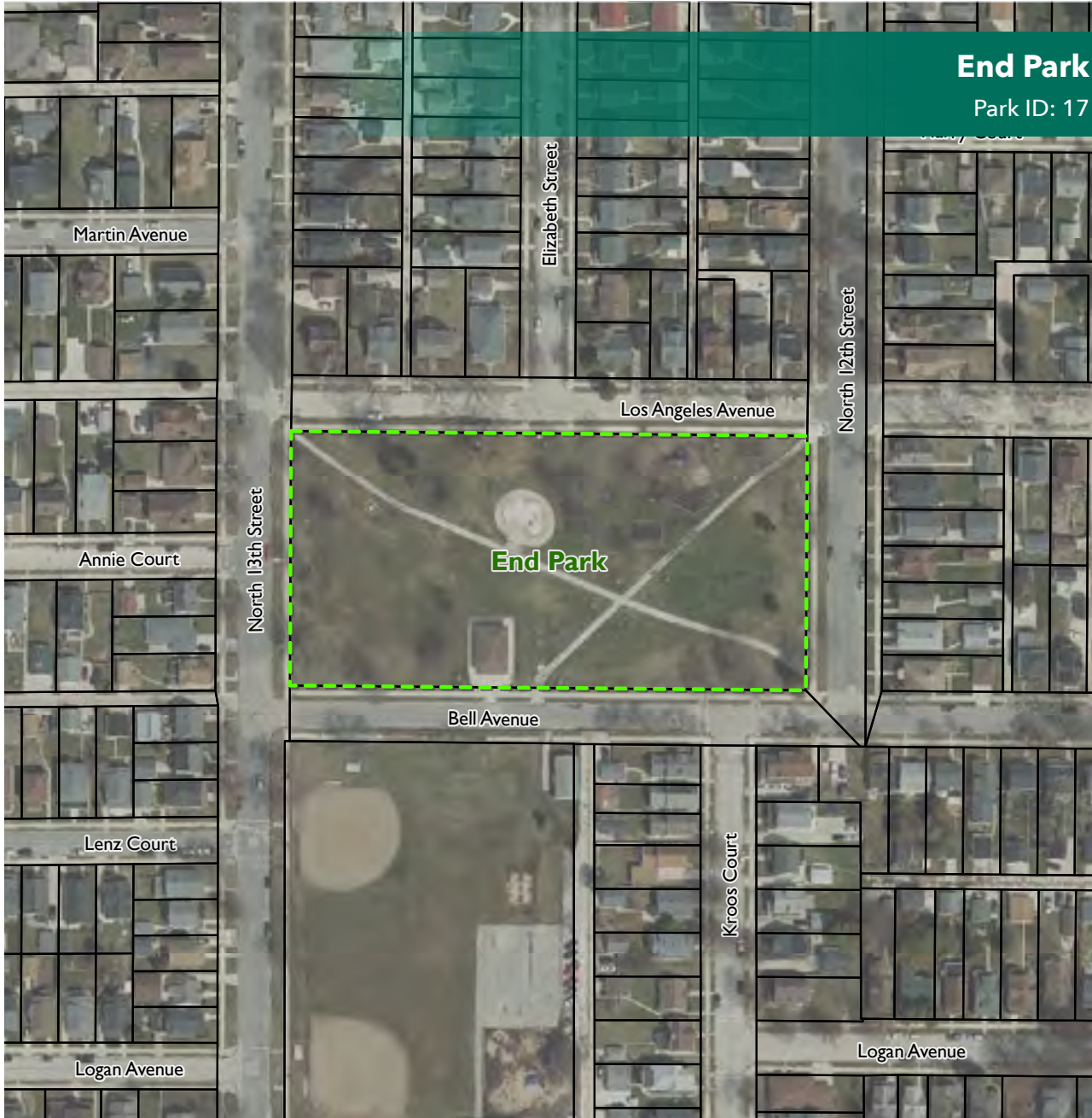
Existing Facilities

- Nature walking/hiking trails
- Cross country ski trails
- Environmental Learning Center
- Two spring-fed ponds
- Prairie overlook platform
- Arboretum
- Maple sugaring



▼ 2020 Master Plan. Source: Maywood





END PARK

Park Description

Location: 1236 Bell Avenue

This 3.47 acre park is part of the End Park Neighborhood on the north side of Sheboygan. The park includes a rentable shelter, restrooms, playground equipment and splashpad. The park is a great place for family gatherings.

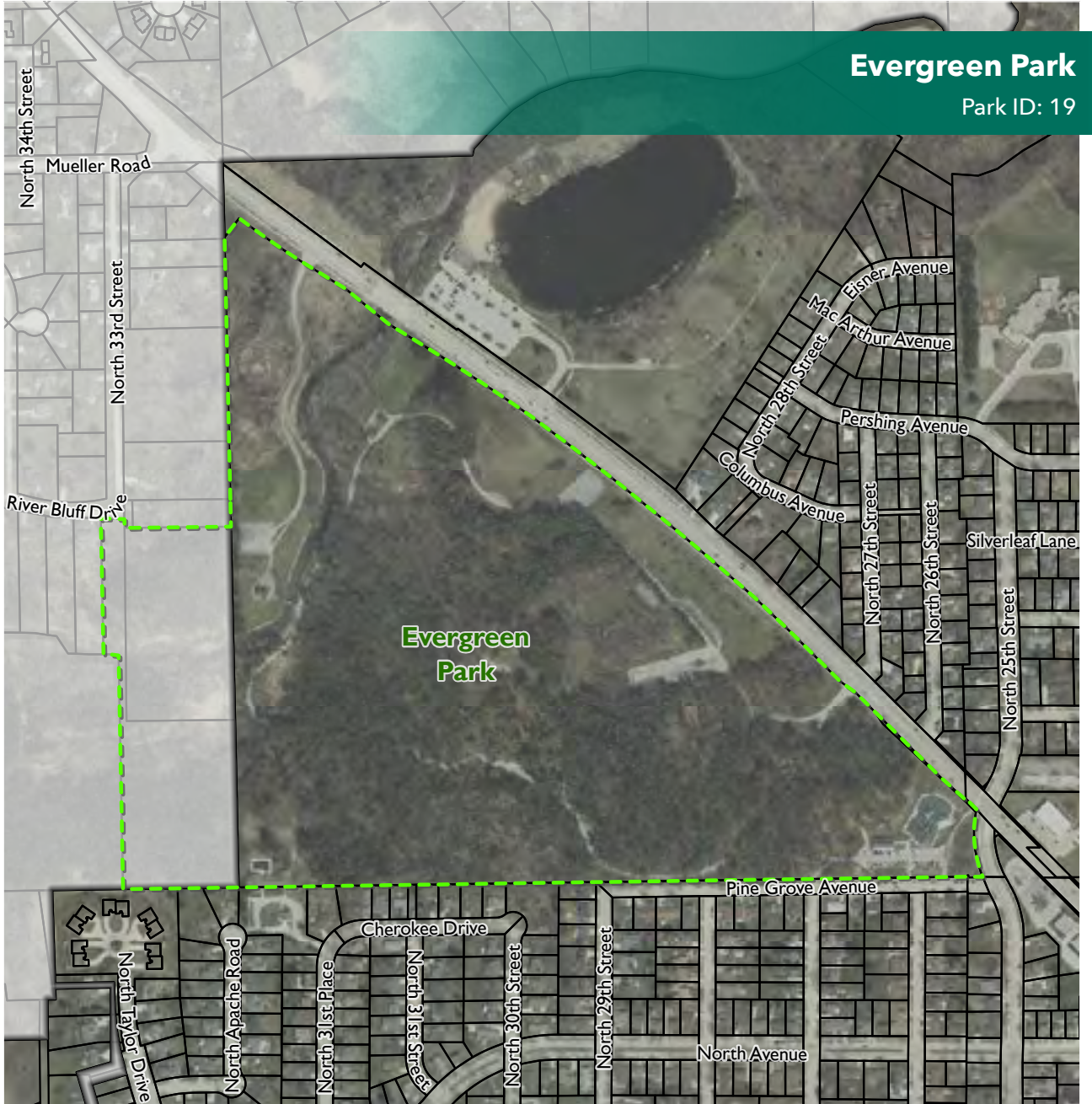
Opportunities

- Off-street parking
- Small parking lot
- Address stormwater drainage problems
- Resurface walkways
- Accessibility improvements to all facilities
- Install drain tile

Existing Facilities

- Rentable shelter
- Restrooms
- Playground equipment
- Splashpad
- Picnic areas





EVERGREEN PARK

Park Description

Location: 3000 Calumet Drive

Evergreen Park has 98.2 acres of towering white pines and hardwoods with spots of open spaces, all along the Pigeon River. The park offers miles of hiking, mountain biking and ski trails. This is a favorite spot for family picnics with several rental areas. It is also home to the Making Spirits Bright Christmas light show.

Opportunities

- Trail erosion prevention
- Additional trail connections
- Mountain biking trail plan including pump track
- Refurbish/construct new shelters and restrooms
- Lighting installations
- Pedestrian safety improvements along roadway
- Storm damage cleanup
- Repave park road

Existing Facilities

- 3 rentable shelters
- Shaw Family Playground
- Grace Pavilion
- Restrooms
- Playground equipment
- Biking/Walking/Hiking/Skiing
- Fishing
- Wooded open space
- Dog friendly (on-leash)





Fountain Park

Park ID: 22

Erie Avenue

Fountain Park

North 9th Street

North 8th Street

Ontario Avenue

FOUNTAIN PARK

Park Description

Location: 1010 North 8th Street

This downtown park hosts numerous activities throughout the summer. The Farmers Market is very popular, providing fresh vegetables for purchase every Wednesday and Saturday. The performance shelter is used to provide music for many events and concerts in the park on Tuesdays. Housing insecurity has been documented in the park.

Opportunities

- Turf restoration and management plan
- Refurbish performance shelter and restrooms
- Staging areas for Farmer's Market
- Repair of fountain or replacement

Existing Facilities

- Performance shelter
- Fountain
- Historical memorials
- Restrooms
- Picnic tables and benches



Franklin Park

Park ID: 23



FRANKLIN PARK

Park Description

Location: 1300 Broadway Avenue

This 1.4 acre park is located on the south side of Sheboygan and is part of the Franklin Park Neighborhood.

Opportunities

- Fence repair/replacement
- Move backstop
- Accessibility improvements to walkways

Existing Facilities

- Playground equipment
- Basketball half court
- Backstop
- Open space





GENERAL KING PARK

Park Description

Location: 1611 South 7th Street

This 6.5 acre lakefront park is located on the south side of Sheboygan in the King Park Neighborhood. Built in 2009, a rentable park building, restrooms and outdoor showers overlooking Lake Michigan make this a hotspot for family reunions, weddings and all other gatherings.

Opportunities

- Off-street parking
- Improve storm sewer outfall
- Restore historic entrance and flagpole
- Accessible walkways to all facilities including lake such as cord walk and Mobimat material
- Lakeshore restoration

Existing Facilities

- Park building available for rental
- Lakefront/Beach
- Outdoor showers
- Restrooms
- Playground equipment (ages 2-5; 5-12)
- Picnic tables/benches
- Grills



Grace Park

Park ID: 25



GRACE PARK

Park Description

Location: 1611 South 7th Street

This 1.13 acre park is located on the north side of Sheboygan in the Fellowship Neighborhood.

Opportunities

- Accessible walkway to play equipment
- Improved landscaping buffer along adjacent residential uses

Existing Facilities

- Playground equipment
- Picnic tables





INDIAN MOUND PARK

Park Description

Location: 5000 South 9th Street

This park includes the preserved mounds first known as the Kletzien Mound Group. The group originally consisted of 33 conical and effigy mounds. Today about 18 mounds remain in animal and geometric forms. A walking path for free self-guided tours provides easy viewing. A boardwalk trail traverses the site's wetlands.

Existing Facilities

- Historic mounds
- Nature trails
- Elevated boardwalk
- Educational signage
- Wooded greenspace with natural vegetation

Opportunities

- Landscaping
- Trail restoration/boardwalk





Jaycee Quarry Park

Park ID: 32

Jaycee
Quarry Park

JAYCEE QUARRY PARK

Park Description

Location: 3401 Calumet Drive

This park was the site of a former limestone quarry that now offers an excellent spring-fed swimming area and a sand beach. In the summer the Quarry View shelter and beachfront is known as the Quarry Beach Adventure Park and offers swimming, boat rentals and other aquatic activities. The park also has a popular 23-hole disc golf course that is open year-round.

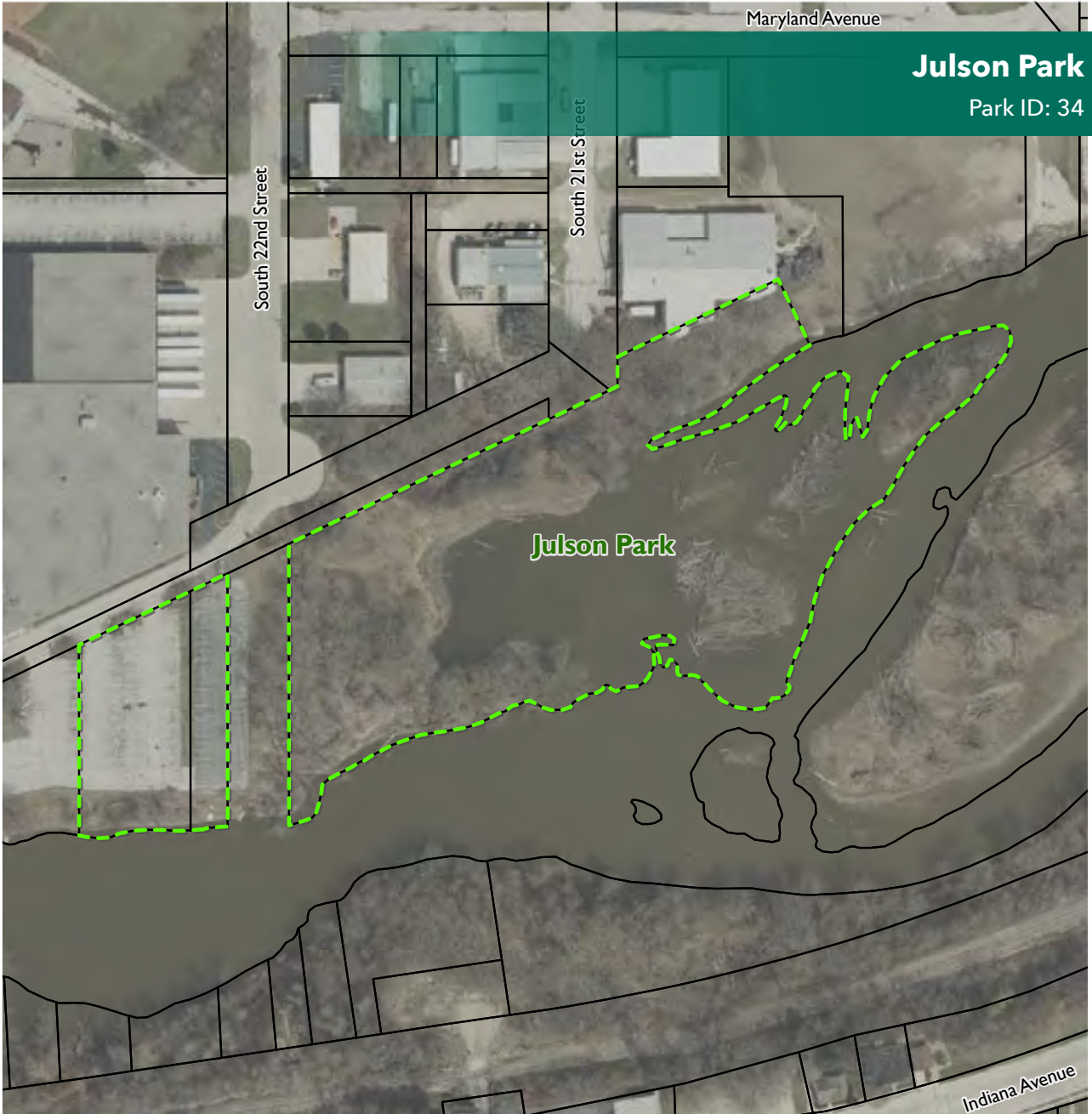
Existing Facilities

- Mountain biking/hiking trails
- Quarry View Center, rentable building
- Riverfront along the Pigeon River
- Disc golf (23 holes)
- Beach/Swimming
- Dog friendly (on-leash)

Opportunities

- Severe storm damage to wooded areas
- Riverbank erosion stabilization
- New rentable park building with restrooms
- New playground equipment
- New storage building
- New master plan
- Restroom improvements needed





JULSON PARK

Park Description

Location: Julson Court

This undeveloped natural area is located on the Sheboygan River. It includes off-street parking and supports the nearby business park.

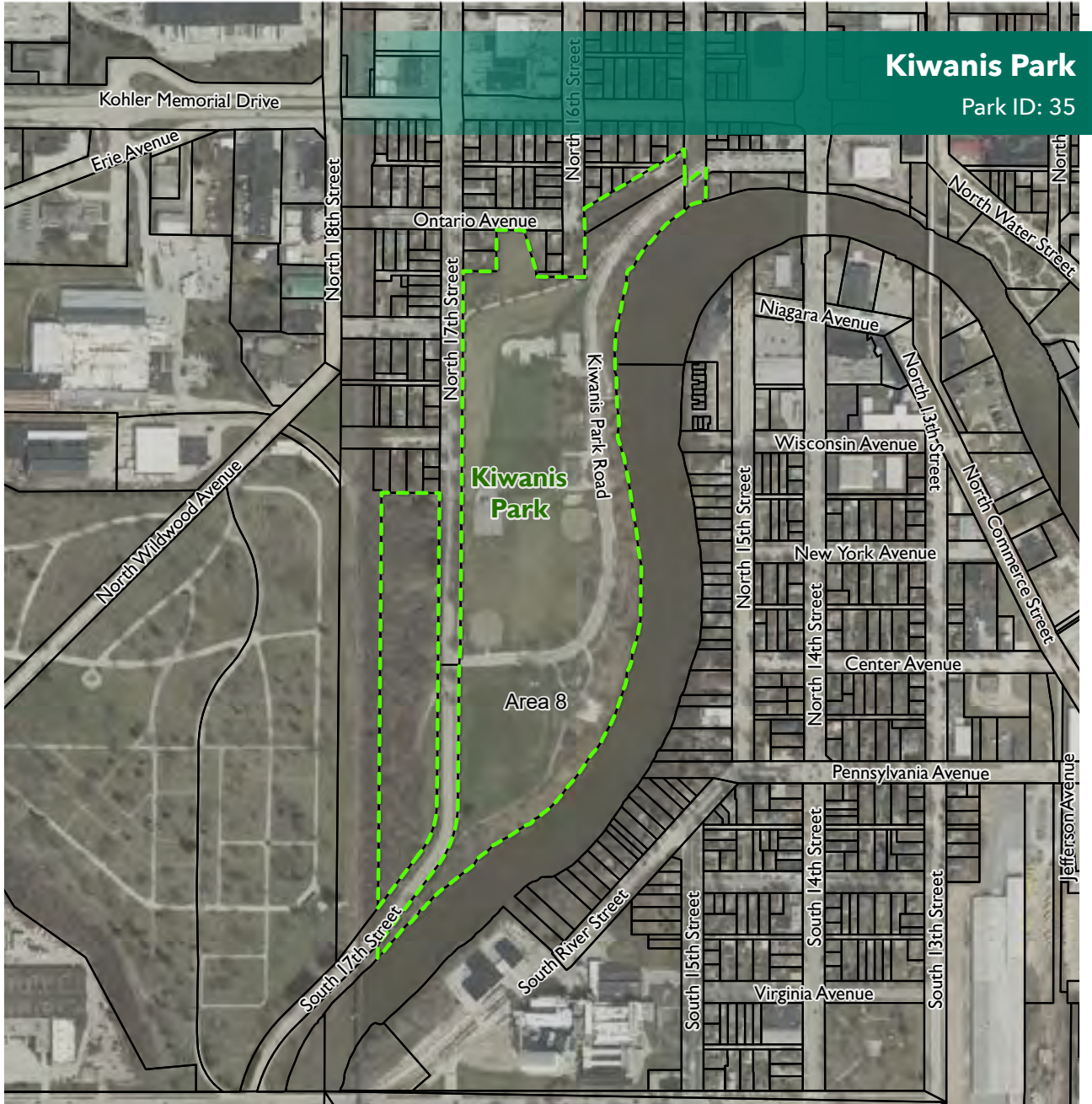
Opportunities

- Trails
- Fishing areas
- Riverbank restoration

Existing Facilities

- Off-street parking
- Picnic tables
- Wooded greenspace with natural vegetation





KIWANIS PARK

Park Description

Location: 726 Kiwanis Park Drive

Kiwanis Park is located along the Sheboygan River. It is home to several festivals during the summer including the well-known Brat Days event. Kiwanis Park includes open spaces, baseball and softball fields, and youth football. There is a beautiful rentable enclosed park shelter and two open shelters.

Existing Facilities

- Open space
- Riverfront
- Playground equipment
- Softball fields
- Basketball court
- Fishing area
- Event area
- Restrooms
- Kiwanis Fieldhouse
- Skatepark
- Sheboygan Biergarten
- Kayak launch
- Riverfront trail
- Area 8 is dog friendly (on-leash)

Opportunities

- Security to manage vandalism
- Follow new Master Plan
- Fishing/viewing areas



Lake View Park

Park ID: 38



LAKE VIEW PARK

Park Description

Location: 3201 Lakeshore Drive

This south side park is located along the shores of Lake Michigan. It is a popular family picnicking site and offers great views and access to the beach. The park has the only dog-friendly beach in the city.

Existing Facilities

- Rentable park shelter
- Dog-friendly beach area
- Playground equipment
- Restrooms
- Off-street parking
- Wooded area
- Dog friendly (on-leash)

Opportunities

- Follow park design plan
- New park shelter placed closer to the lake overlook
- Parking area to better utilize the view of the lake
- Improve stormwater drainage of property
- Possible camp sites
- Accessibility improvements
- Log the wooded area of the park





MANOR HEIGHTS

Park Description

Location: Lakeshore Road

This undeveloped park property is on Lakeshore Road along the Pigeon River between Pine Bluff Drive and Koehler Drive.

Opportunities

- Improve trails and connect to Jaycee Quarry Park
- Riverbank restoration

Existing Facilities

- Wooded and riverside greenspace with natural vegetation



Moose Park

Park ID: 41



MOOSE PARK

Park Description

Location: 1801 Indiana Avenue

This 3.9 acre long narrow park stretches between Indiana Avenue and Georgia Avenue on the south side of Sheboygan. Moose Park is part of the Indiana Corridor Neighborhood.

Opportunities

- Improved parking area
- Potential for bike park amenities
- Small fenced dog park
- Hardscape surfacing

Existing Facilities

- Playground equipment
- Basketball
- Open space
- Dog friendly (on-leash)



North Point Park

Park ID: 43



NORTH POINT PARK

Park Description

Location: Broughton Drive

This park provides lake access and walking paths circling the city's north point. The trail includes access to the historical marker for Wisconsin's Maritime Trails, marking the location of the historic Schooner Gallinipper Shipwreck.

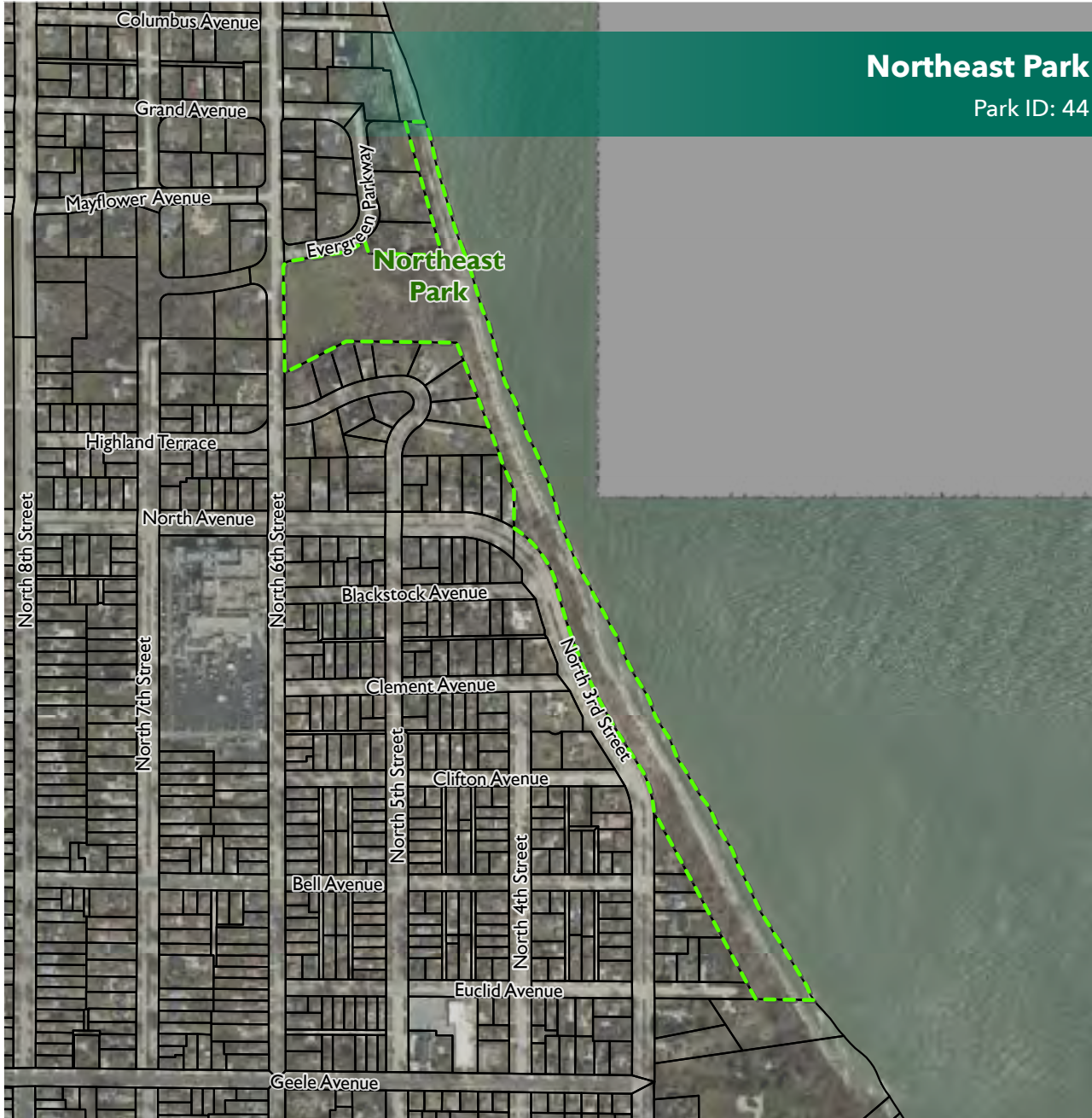
Existing Facilities

- Walking paths
- Overlook
- Seating/benches
- Pet-friendly area (on-leash)
- Small shelter
- Off-street parking with lake view

Opportunities

- Bluff restoration/stabilization





Northeast Park

Park ID: 44

NORTHEAST PARK

Park Description

Location: 2901 North 6th Street

This 12 acre lakefront park is located on the north side of Sheboygan in the North Lake Neighborhood.

Existing Facilities

- Youth soccer
- Lakefront access
- Beach
- Benches
- Open space

Opportunities

- Off-street parking
- Invasive species removal
- Lakeshore restoration
- Storm sewer outfall improvements
- Additional picnic areas
- Park signage



Optimist Park

Park ID: 45



OPTIMIST PARK

Park Description

Location: 2010 Carmen Avenue

This 5 acre park is located on the south side of Sheboygan. With a rentable shelter, restrooms and playground equipment, the park is great for family and neighborhood gatherings. Soccer and youth baseball are also held in the park. Optimist Park is adjacent to the Hmong garden rental lots.

Opportunities

- Off-street parking
- Basketball court

Existing Facilities

- Rentable shelter
- Restrooms
- Playground equipment
- Youth soccer
- Youth baseball
- Open space
- Splashpad





PIGEON RIVER ESTUARY

Park Description

Location: 4001 Lakeshore Road

This environmental area sits near the mouth of the Pigeon River into Lake Michigan. The park contains a nature trail with views of the Pigeon River.

Opportunities

- Signage
- Develop additional trails
- Accessibility improvements to walkways
- Removal of invasive species
- Boardwalks over wet areas

Existing Facilities

- Seating
- Nature/Walking trails
- Off-street parking
- New tree and shrub planting





RIVERSIDE PARK

Park Description

Location: 640 North Water Street

This park sits on the banks of the Sheboygan River and provides downtown riverfront access and views. The park has several walking trails directing people to gathering spaces and amenities, making it a dynamic space for different groups of people.

Existing Facilities

- Seating
- Walking paths
- Riverfront
- Half-court basketball

Opportunities

- Low maintenance landscaping





ROOSEVELT PARK

Park Description

Location: 1103 Mead Avenue

This 6.5 acre park on the south side of Sheboygan has a rentable park building, playground equipment, two baseball/softball fields, tennis, and basketball courts with plenty of open space.

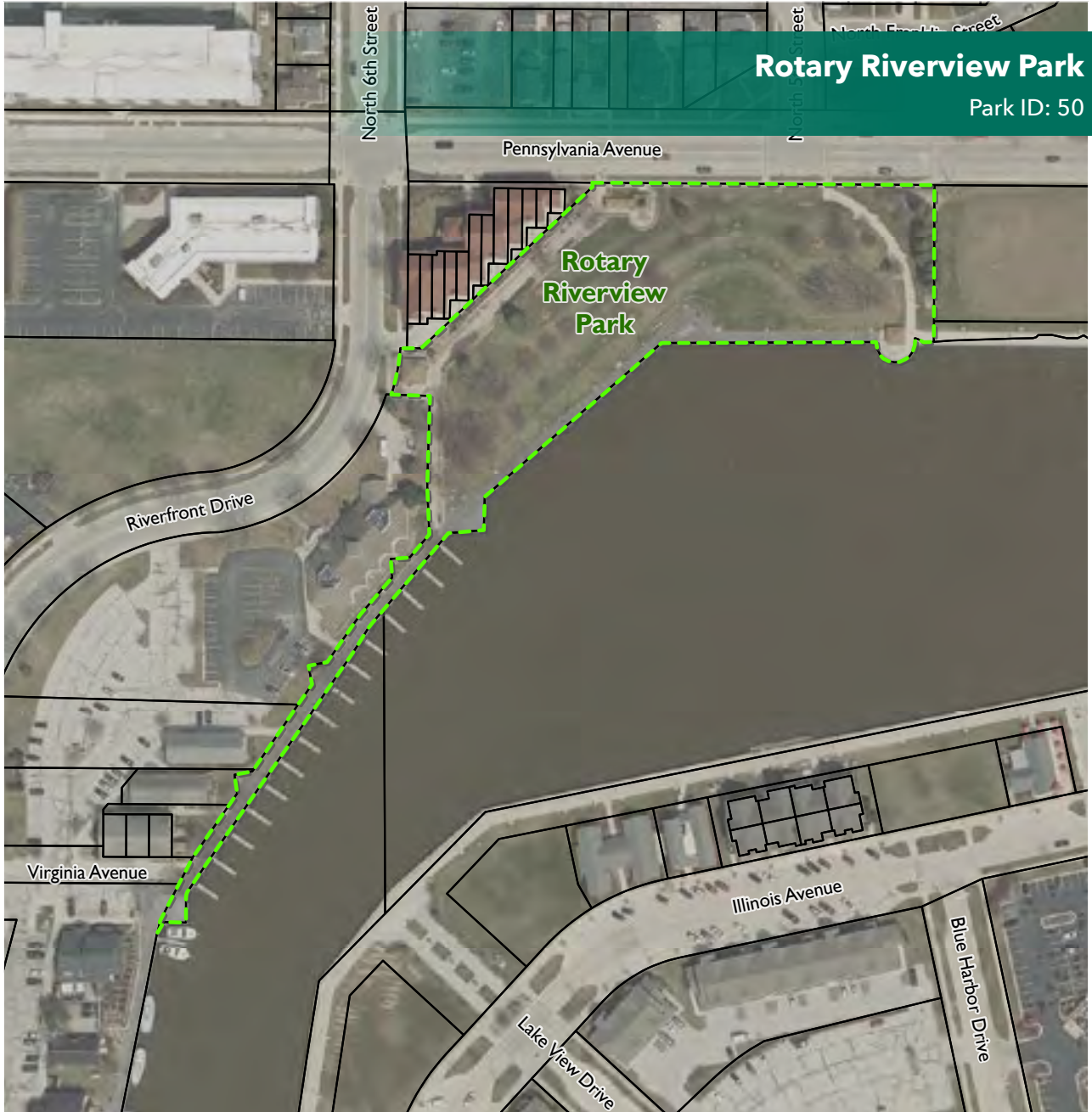
Opportunities

- Off-street parking

Existing Facilities

- Playground equipment
- 2 softball/baseball fields
- Basketball (full-court)
- Rentable Roosevelt Fieldhouse
- 2 tennis courts/pickleball
- Restrooms
- Open space





ROTARY RIVERVIEW PARK

Park Description

Location: 517 Riverfront Drive

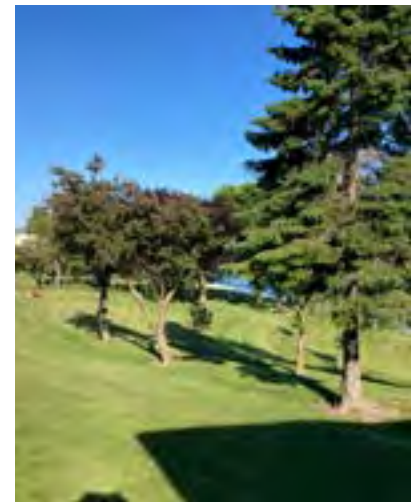
This riverfront park features a boardwalk along the Sheboygan River and plenty of open space.

Existing Facilities

- Walking paths
- Restrooms
- Boardwalk
- Open Space
- Shelters
- Seating
- Picnic tables

Opportunities

- Riverbank erosion stabilization





SHEBOYGAN DOG PARK

Park Description

Location: 4108 South 18th Street

This park, shared with the Town of Wilson, offers dog-friendly amenities and plenty of open space for dogs to play. The park perimeter is fenced for security.

Opportunities

- Signage
- Bring water into the park
- Shade structures
- Trail improvement
- Dog amenities

Existing Facilities

- Dog run
- Open space
- Wetlands
- Fencing





Sheridan Park

Park ID: 57

Virginia Avenue

Sheridan Park

South 14th Street

South 13th Street

New Jersey Avenue

SHERIDAN PARK

Park Description

Location: 701 South 14th Street

This 2.62 acre park features playground equipment, basketball court, picnic areas, and a small shelter along with many trees for shade.

Existing Facilities

- Seating
- Picnic tables
- Basketball
- Small shelter
- Temporary restrooms



South Pier Fish Cleaning Station

Park ID: 59



SOUTH PIER FISH CLEANING STATION

Park Description

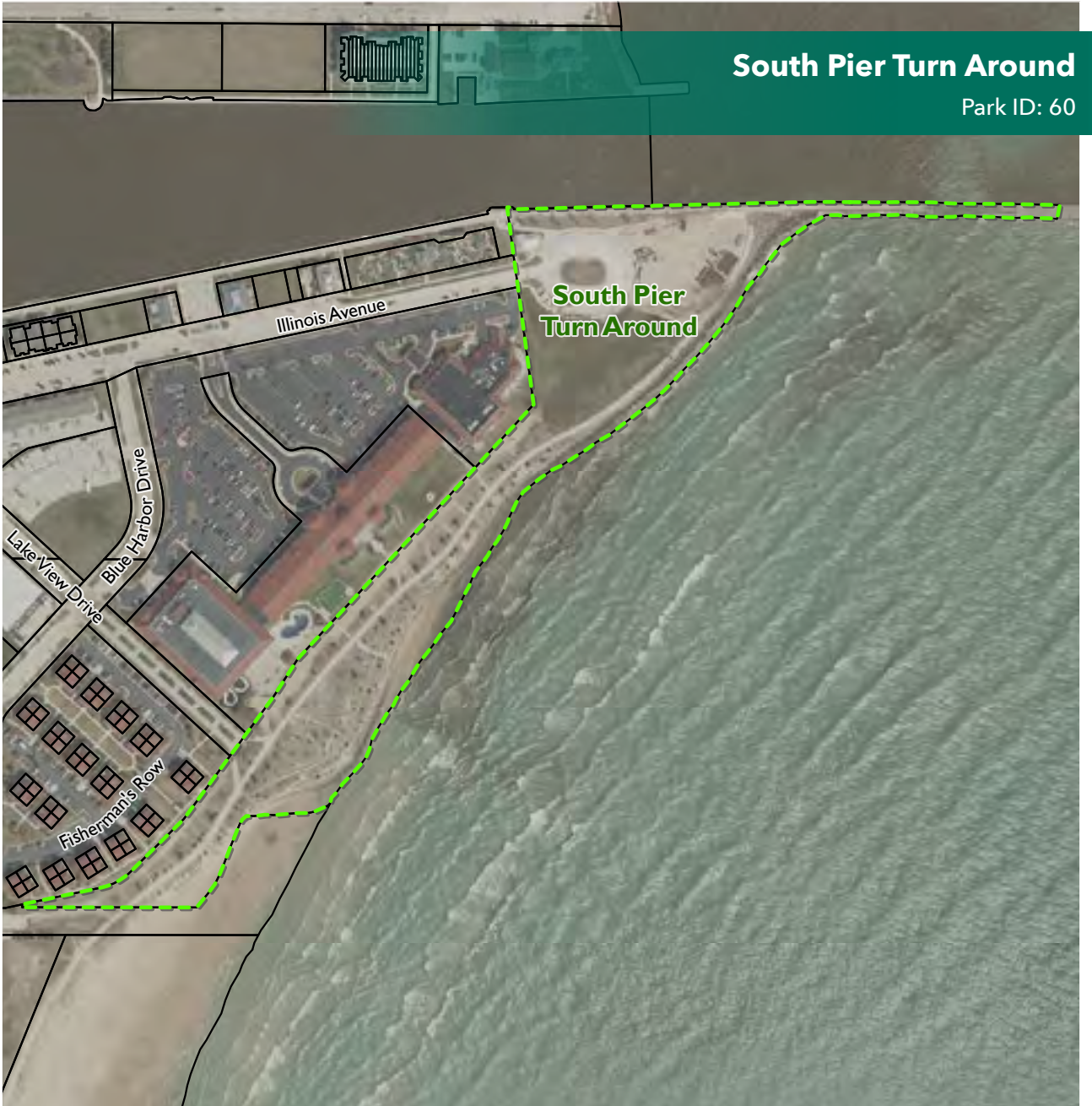
Location: 689 South Pier Drive

This space offers a location to clean freshly caught fish nearby the river with a shaded overhang.

Existing Facilities

- Fish cleaning station
- Restrooms
- Parking lot





SOUTH PIER TURNAROUND

Park Description

Location: 226 South Pier Drive

A public space located just north of Southside Beach, South Pier Turnaround offers a wonderful view of Lake Michigan with ample grassy space and parking.

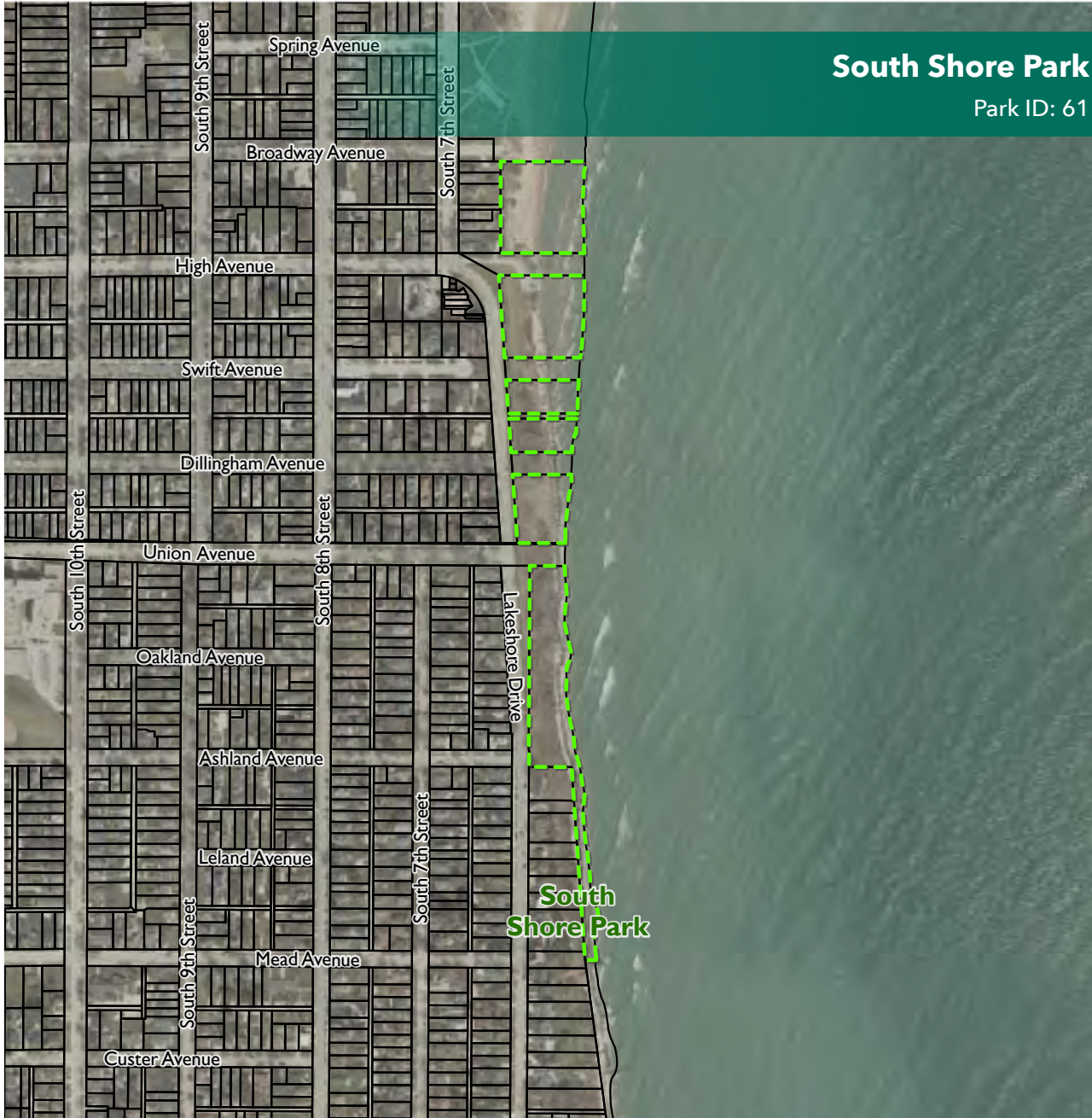
Opportunities

- Rentable shelter

Existing Facilities

- Seating
- Picnic tables
- Open space
- Walking path
- Restrooms
- Pier access
- Pier fishing





South Shore Park

Park ID: 61

**South
Shore Park**

SOUTH SHORE PARK

Park Description

Location: Lakeshore Drive & S. 7th Street

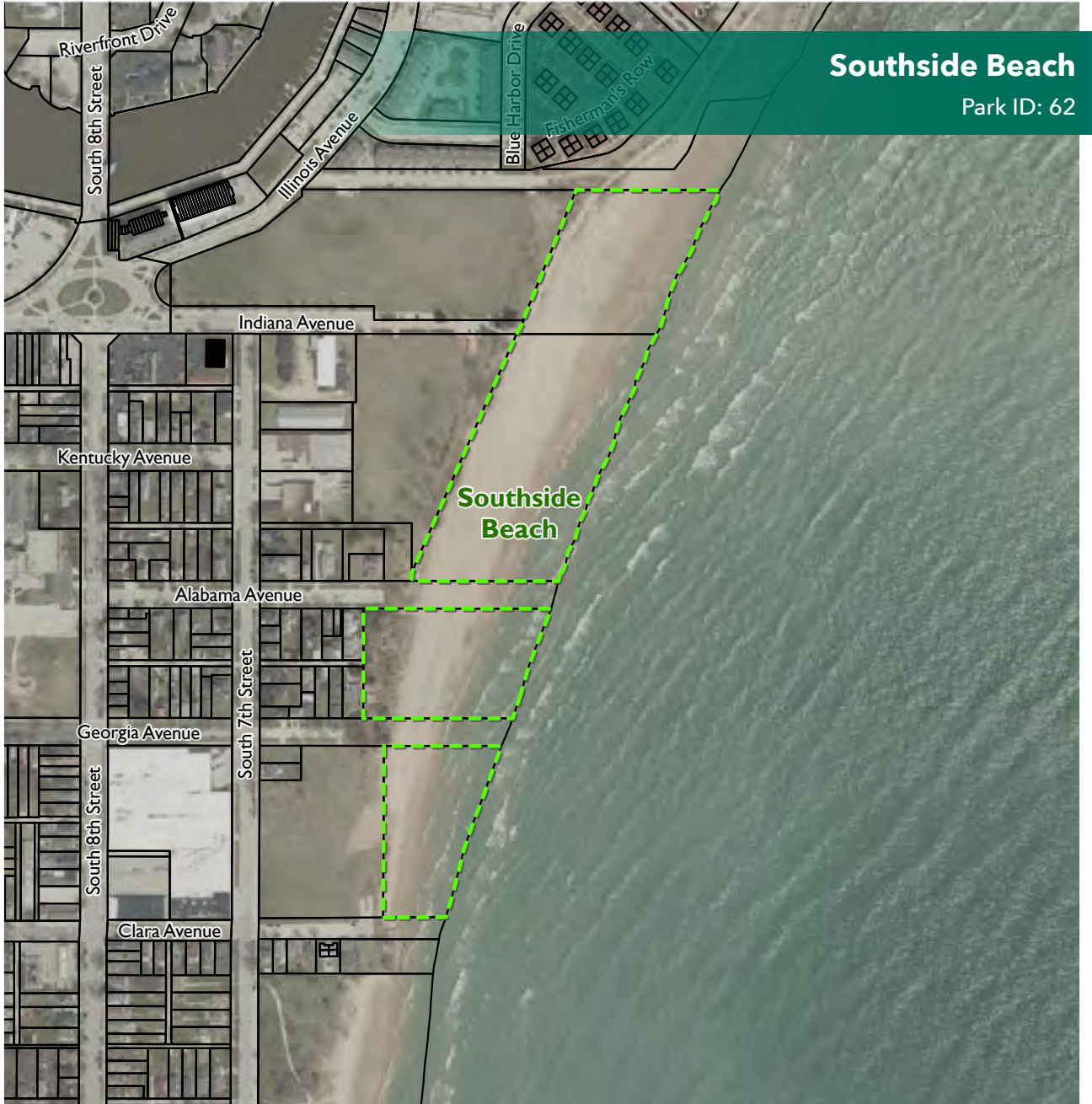
South Shore Park offers beachfront access with limited parking.

Existing Facilities

- Beach access
- Open space

Opportunities

- Seating and viewing areas
- Multi-purpose pathway
- Dog-friendly on-leash beach area



SOUTHSIDE BEACH

Park Description

Location: 501 Indiana Avenue

Southside Beach offers an expansive beachfront with access to a recreational trail along the shore.

Existing Facilities

- Beach access
- Open space
- Walking path

Opportunities

- Dog friendly on-leash beach area
- Trail from Indiana Avenue south to Clara Avenue, along western border of beach



Stonebrook Crossing

Park ID: 63



STONEBROOK CROSSING

Park Description

Location: 5509 Moenning Road

Stonebrook Crossing is a forested area adjacent to a recent residential subdivision.

Existing Facilities

- Undeveloped 0.5-acre lot
- Wooded lot

Opportunities

- Trail on wooded property
- Playground equipment
- Pathways
- Shade structure



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Park Description

Location: 2220 Union Avenue

This 7.45 acre south side park offers a rentable shelter and restrooms, playground equipment, tennis courts, picnic areas, sports fields, and a Vietnam Veterans of Sheboygan Tank Memorial.

Existing Facilities

- Playground equipment
- 2 Softball/baseball fields
- Tennis courts
- Restrooms
- Rentable shelter
- Picnic areas/tables
- Open space

Opportunities

- Basketball court improvements
- Accessible walkways
- Add splashpad
- Improve tennis/pickleball courts
- Off-street parking



Vollrath Park

Park ID: 67



VOLLRATH PARK

Park Description

Location: 2001 N. 3rd Street

This 16.13 acre lakeside park is home to Wisconsin's largest disc golf course as well as many other amenities including "The Shack," which offers refreshments and disc golf gear.

Existing Facilities

- Disc golf course
- Rentable shelter
- Restrooms
- 2 Tennis courts
- 3 pickleball courts
- Playground equipment
- Basketball court
- Picnic areas/tables

Opportunities

- Update lighting
- Off-street parking
- Disc golf course improvements
- Rebuild retaining walls
- Erosion control



Wildwood Hardball Complex

Park ID: 69



WILDWOOD HARDBALL COMPLEX

Park Description

Location: 2276 New Jersey Avenue

This park is home to the Sheboygan A's baseball, one of the top semi-pro baseball organizations in the Midwest.

Opportunities

- Follow Park Plan

Existing Facilities

- Baseball field
- Seating
- Bleachers
- Concessions
- Covered shelter

▼ Image credit: Wildwood Baseball Park via Facebook



Wildwood Softball Complex

Park ID: 70



WILDWOOD SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Park Description

Location: 1030 S. 22nd Street

This park is home to three softball fields used for adult softball.

Existing Facilities

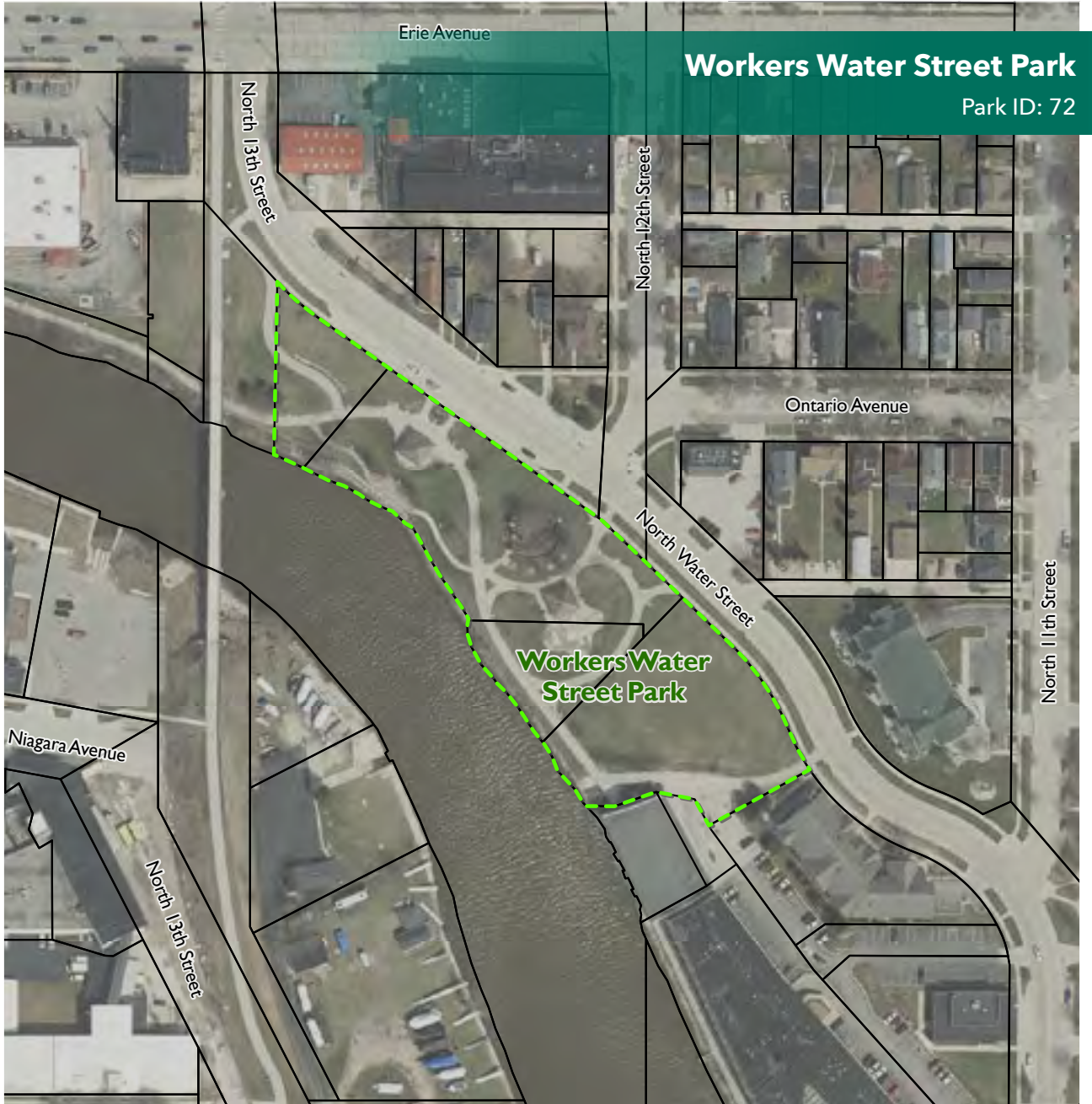
- Softball fields
- Seating
- Bleachers
- Playground equipment
- Concession stand
- Shelter
- Restrooms

Opportunities

- New concession stand, restroom, and meeting room
- New hardscape areas

▼ Image credits: Mid-Lake Softball via Facebook





WORKERS WATER STREET PARK

Park Description

Location: 938 N. Water Street

This park features a family-friendly interactive splash pad along the river as well as seating and picnic areas, a rentable shelter, and playground.

Opportunities

- Outdated playground equipment
- Riverbank erosion stabilization

Existing Facilities

- Interactive splash pad
- Seating
- Walking path
- Restrooms
- Playground equipment
- Riverfront
- Picnic tables
- Non-rentable shelter



▲ Image credit: City of Sheboygan

SHEBOYGAN PARKS INVENTORY

Map ID	Park Name	Undeveloped Park		Dogs (number of parks)			Community Buildings					Picnic Amenities						
		Natural Areas	Open Grassy Area	Dog-Friendly (on leash)	Dog Park	Dog-Friendly Beach	Community Center	Stage / Amphitheater	Nature Center	Outdoor Event Space	Off-Street Parking (number of parks)	Park Building w/interior space	Shelter w/Kitchen	Shelter Only	Picnic Tables (number of parks)	Grills (number of parks)	Seasonal Port-a-Potty (number of parks)	Restrooms
		11	18	10	3	1	0	2	1	3	14	2	4	20	22	13	7	23
1	8th Street Boat Launch									Y								
2	Arrowhead Park	X																
4	Butzen Athletic Campus	X	Y															
5	Camelot Dog Run		Y	Y														
7	Charles Voigt Park			Y														
8	City Center Dog Park				Y													
9	City Green			Y			1											
10	Cleveland Park			Y	Y								1	Y	Y		1	
11	Cole Park												1	Y		Y		
13	Creekside Park		Y															
14	Deland Park			Y					1	Y	1	1	3	Y	Y		1	
16	Ellwood H May Environmental Park		Y					1		Y						Y	1	
17	End Park												1	Y			1	
19	Evergreen Park		Y		Y					Y			3	Y	Y		4	
22	Fountain Park						1							Y			1	
23	Franklin Park			Y														
24	General King Park										1			Y	Y		1	
25	Grace Park													Y				
29	Indian Mound Park		Y							Y								
32	Jaycee Quarry Park				Y					Y		1				Y	1	
34	Julson Park		Y							Y				Y				
35	Kiwanis Park			Y	Y						1	1					1	

Bur Oak, map ID 3, is omitted from this inventory matrix

SHEBOYGAN PARKS INVENTORY

Map ID	Park Name	Play						Fields						Hard Surfaced Courts							
		Playground (2-5 years)	Playground (5-12 years)	Inclusive / Accessible Playground	Splash Pad	Disc Golf	Skatepark	Soccer, youth	Soccer, adult	Softball, youth	Softball, adult	Baseball, youth	Baseball, adult	Baseball, backstop only	Football	Sand Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis	Pickleball	Multiuse Tennis/Pickleball	Skateboard Area
1	8th Street Boat Launch																				
2	Arrowhead Park																				
4	Butzen Athletic Campus																				
5	Camelot Dog Run																				
7	Charles Voigt Park		1																		
8	City Center Dog Park																				
9	City Green																				
10	Cleveland Park	1	1		1											1					
11	Cole Park		1																		
13	Creekside Park																				
14	Deland Park		2	1											4				2		
16	Ellwood H May Environmental Park																				
17	End Park		1		1								1								
19	Evergreen Park	1	2	1																	
22	Fountain Park																				
23	Franklin Park		1										1			0.5					
24	General King Park	1	1																		
25	Grace Park		1																		
29	Indian Mound Park																				
32	Jaycee Quarry Park					1															
34	Julson Park																				
35	Kiwanis Park		1				1				2					1					1

SHEBOYGAN PARKS INVENTORY

Map ID	Park Name	Waterfront (number of parks)							Trails (number of parks)			Aesthetic Features (number of parks)				
		Waterfront	Beach	Boat Launch / Access	Fishing Access	Fish Cleaning Amenities	Swimming (outdoor)	Outdoor Showers	Marina	Trails (paved)	Walking/Hiking Trails (unpaved)	Mountain Bike Trails	Cross Country Ski Trails	Pond	Fountain	Historic or Cultural Memorials
		21	7	2	13	2	6	3	1	8	5	2	1	1	1	4
1	8th Street Boat Launch	Y		1	1											
2	Arrowhead Park															
4	Butzen Athletic Campus															
5	Camelot Dog Run															
7	Charles Voigt Park															
8	City Center Dog Park															
9	City Green															
10	Cleveland Park															
11	Cole Park															
13	Creekside Park				Y											
14	Deland Park	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						Y
16	Ellwood H May Environmental Park	Y			Y						Y		Y	Y		
17	End Park															
19	Evergreen Park	Y			Y						Y	Y				
22	Fountain Park													Y	Y	
23	Franklin Park															
24	General King Park	Y	Y				Y	Y								
25	Grace Park															
29	Indian Mound Park										Y					Y
32	Jaycee Quarry Park	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y			Y	Y				
34	Julson Park	Y			Y											
35	Kiwanis Park	Y		Y	Y					Y						

SHEBOYGAN PARKS INVENTORY

Map ID	Park Name	Dogs (number of parks)		Community Buildings					Picnic Amenities										
		Undeveloped Park	Natural Areas	Open Grassy Area	Dog-Friendly (on leash)	Dog Park	Dog-Friendly Beach	Community Center	Stage / Amphitheater	Nature Center	Outdoor Event Space	Off-Street Parking (number of parks)	Park Building w/interior space	Shelter w/Kitchen	Shelter Only	Picnic Tables (number of parks)	Grills (number of parks)	Seasonal Port-a-Potty (number of parks)	Restrooms
			11	18	10	3	1	0	2	1	3	14	2	4	20	22	13	7	23
38	Lake View Park		Y		Y	Y					Y			1	Y	Y		1	
40	Manor Heights	X	Y																
41	Moose Park			Y	Y														
43	North Point Park				Y						Y			1					
44	Northeast Park			Y															
45	Optimist Park			Y										1	Y	Y		1	
47	Pigeon River Estuary		Y		Y	Y					Y								
48	Riverside Park			Y						1									
49	Roosevelt Park			Y									1		Y	Y	Y	1	
50	Rotary Riverview Park			Y										1	Y	Y		1	
54	Sheboygan Dog Park			Y		Y									Y		Y		
57	Sheridan Park													1	Y	Y	Y		
59	South Pier Fish Cleaning Station										Y				Y			1	
60	South Pier Turnaround			Y	Y						Y			1	Y	Y		1	
61	South Shore Park		Y	Y							Y								
62	Southside Beach																		
63	Stonebrook Crossing	X	Y																
66	Veterans Memorial Park			Y							Y			1	Y	Y		1	
67	Vollrath Park			Y										1	Y	Y	Y	1	
69	Wildwood Hardball Complex													1	Y			1	
70	Wildwood Softball Complex													1	Y			1	
72	Workers Water Street Park													1	Y	Y		1	

SHEBOYGAN PARKS INVENTORY

Map ID	Park Name	Play					Fields								Hard Surfaced Courts						
		Playground (2-5 years)	Playground (5-12 years)	Inclusive / Accessible Playground	Splash Pad	Disc Golf	Skatepark	Soccer, youth	Soccer, adult	Softball, youth	Softball, adult	Baseball, youth	Baseball, adult	Baseball, backstop only	Football	Sand Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis	Pickleball	Multiuse Tennis/Pickleball	Skateboard Area
		3	20	2	4	2	1	3	0	0	9	0	1	2	0	4	6.5	0	3	6	1
38	Lake View Park		1																		
40	Manor Heights																				
41	Moose Park		1														0.5				
43	North Point Park																				
44	Northeast Park							1													
45	Optimist Park		1		1			2									1				
47	Pigeon River Estuary																				
48	Riverside Park																0.5				
49	Roosevelt Park		1							2							1		2		
50	Rotary Riverview Park																				
54	Sheboygan Dog Park																				
57	Sheridan Park																1				
59	South Pier Fish Cleaning Station																				
60	South Pier Turnaround																				
61	South Shore Park																				
62	Southside Beach																				
63	Stonebrook Crossing																				
66	Veterans Memorial Park		1							2											
67	Vollrath Park		1			1												3	2		
69	Wildwood Hardball Complex											1									
70	Wildwood Softball Complex		1							3											
72	Workers Water Street Park		1		1																

SHEBOYGAN PARKS INVENTORY

Map ID	Park Name	Waterfront (number of parks)							Trails (number of parks)			Aesthetic Features (number of parks)				
		Waterfront	Beach	Boat Launch / Access	Fishing Access	Fish Cleaning Amenities	Swimming (outdoor)	Outdoor Showers	Marina	Trails (paved)	Walking/Hiking Trails (unpaved)	Mountain Bike Trails	Cross Country Ski Trails	Pond	Fountain	Historic or Cultural Memorials
		21	7	2	13	2	6	3	1	8	5	2	1	1	1	4
38	Lake View Park	Y	Y		Y											
40	Manor Heights	Y			Y											
41	Moose Park															
43	North Point Park	Y								Y						
44	Northeast Park	Y	Y				Y									
45	Optimist Park															
47	Pigeon River Estuary	Y			Y						Y					
48	Riverside Park	Y								Y						
49	Roosevelt Park															
50	Rotary Riverview Park	Y			Y					Y						
54	Sheboygan Dog Park															
57	Sheridan Park															
59	South Pier Fish Cleaning Station	Y				Y				Y						
60	South Pier Turnaround	Y			Y					Y						
61	South Shore Park	Y	Y				Y									
62	Southside Beach	Y	Y				Y									
63	Stonebrook Crossing															
66	Veterans Memorial Park															Y
67	Vollrath Park	Y														
69	Wildwood Hardball Complex															
70	Wildwood Softball Complex															
72	Workers Water Street Park	Y			Y					Y						