

NOTICE OF MEETING

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, February 22nd, 2021

5:30 PM

The SCFRMAC Committee will be meeting remotely until further notice. If you would like remote access to the meeting, please use the below information.

Join Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92651080068?pwd=bEdDemU0SWNBVNyYvcjN6NjF5bXA5UT09>

Meeting ID: 926 5108 0068

Passcode: 920096

Number: 1-312-626-6799

AGENDA

Call Meeting to Order

Certification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law

1. Approval of the June 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes
2. Review and Consideration of 2021 Park & Open Space Plan Update
3. Review and Consideration of the 2021 Stewardship Application
4. Discussion on Potential Marsh Project Grant Opportunity
5. Other County Recreational Properties Update
6. Set Next Meeting Date
7. Adjourn

Prepared by:
Tyler Betry, Deputy Director

Approved by:
Aaron Brault, Director

NOTE: The Committee welcomes all visitors to listen & observe, but only Committee members & those invited to speak will be permitted to do so. Person with disabilities needing assistance to attend or participate should contact the County Planning & Conservation Department at 920/459-3060 prior to the meeting so that accommodations may be arranged.

NOTE: A majority of the members of the County Board of Supervisors or any of its committees may be present at this meeting to listen, observe and participate. If a majority of any such body is present, their presence constitutes a "meeting" under the Open Meeting Law as interpreted in *State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board*, Wis. 2d 553 (1993), even though the visiting body will take no action at this meeting.

Posted: 2/17/2021 10:05 AM

Sheboygan County Recreation Facilities Management Advisory Committee Minutes

Sheboygan County Administration Building
508 New York Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Room 302

Monday, June 15, 2020

Called to Order: 6:01 PM

Adjourned: 7:30 PM

Members Present: Aaron Brault, Planning and Conservation Department; Dan Schmal, Town of Russell; Brian Smith, Property Committee; Michael Holden, Northern Kettle Moraine Snowmobile Ass. President; Phil Mersberger Sheboygan County Conservation Association; Mike Heidt, Lil Pipping, Dale Katsma (via phone), Dave Smith, Members-at-large.

Others Present: Tyler Betry, Anthony Fessler (via phone), Greg Weggeman, Brian DePies (via phone), Jim Kettler (via phone), Allison Thompson (via phone), Abby Block (via phone)

Aaron Brault called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Mr. Brault reported the meeting notice had been posted June 3, 2020, at 11:00 AM, and the meeting was in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Mr. Brault welcomed the group.

Approval of the May 14, 2019 meeting minutes – Mr. Smith motioned and Mr. Holden seconded to approve the May 14, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation of 2020 Stewardship Applications – Mr. Brault provided an overview of the County Stewardship applications that were submitted for the 2020 cycle. He explained that of the \$75,740 available, \$199,800 in funding was requested from seven applicants. He then provided a brief overview of each project and a few representatives for several of the applicants answered questions from the committee or shared insight to their respected projects.

Staff independently reviewed and scored each application. The scores were then averaged between two staff members which resulted into three tiers of scores. Staff recommendation of funding corresponds to the different tiers. The breakdowns of the three tiers are as follows: The first tier of applications were the highest ranked projects and consisted of the Village of Random Lake and the City of Sheboygan. The first tier projects were recommended to receive 80% of their asked funding minus a few exclusions. The second tier of applications ranked very similar and consists of the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) Watershed Project, Meals on Wheels, and City of Sheboygan Falls. Staff recommended funding the second tier applicants at a percentage that worked out to be 46% based on available funds minus any other exclusions. The last tier of applications scored the lowest and staff recommended not to fund these applicants for a variety of reasons. The last tier consisted of the LNRP and Village of Oostburg applicants. Both projects were encouraged to come back at a later application date once more information was

gathered. After Mr. Brault gave an overview of all the applications and staff funding recommendations the committee went through each of the applications individually.

Below are the recommended funding levels for each project along with the recommended conditions.

Village of Random Lake Park Plan – \$21,600, 50% acquired and DNR concurrence on proposed dredging

City of Sheboygan Trail Development - \$24,640, 50% match acquired, soil suitability, and dollars not to be used for program delivery or trash receptacles

LNRP Watershed Planning - \$12,420, 50% match acquired, and dollars not to be used for administration and agency coordination

Meals on Wheels Park Development - \$9,200, 50% match acquired, project does not move forward in phases

City of Sheboygan Falls EAB Mitigation - \$6,900, 50% match acquired

LNRP Waldo Dam Project - \$0

Village of Oostburg Parkland Acquisition - \$0

Ms. Pipping motioned and Mr. Mersberger seconded to approve the recommended funding levels and conditions for the submitted applications listed above. Motion passed unanimously.

Update on the Various Sheboygan Marsh Projects – Mr. Brault gave an overall update of projects happening at the Sheboygan County Marsh.

Update on the Various Amsterdam Dunes Project– Mr. Brault provided an overview of advancements that have recently taken place at Amsterdam Dunes.

Set Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will tentatively be held September 28th 2020, at 6:00 PM.

Adjourn – Ms. Pipping motioned and Mr. Mersberger seconded to adjourn. Motion carried with adjournment at 7:30 PM.

Tyler Betry
Recording Secretary

Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan 2021

Prepared by:

Aaron Brault, Planning & Conservation Director

Tyler Betry, Deputy Director

Prepared under the guidance of the Sheboygan County Planning, Resources, Agriculture, and Extension Committee:

Keith Abler, Chairperson

Michael Ogea, Vice Chairperson

Rebecca Clarke, Secretary

Paul Gruber, Supervisor

Henry Nelson, Supervisor

Stan Lammers, FSA Member

Sheboygan County Recreational Facilities Management Advisory Committee

Vernon Koch
Brian Smith
Keith Abler
Phil Mersberger
David Nett
Daniel Schmahl
Dan Lekie
Jeremiah Dentz

Aaron Brault
Scott McMurray
Michael Holden
Dale Katsma
Lil Pipping
David Smith
Michael Heidt
David Derus

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Executive Summary

The Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan (Plan), first developed in 1975, has been updated approximately every five years. These updates allow the County and participating communities to react to changing recreational demands and to be re-certified for State and Federal aid eligibility. Since 1975, over \$5 million has been awarded to the County and its communities for both the development and enhancement of recreational opportunities.

This Plan is intended to serve as a guide to the County and its local communities in the development and maintenance of outdoor recreational facilities; its guidance is meant to cultivate a quality outdoor recreational experience for both residents and non-residents alike. This update explores the recreational needs and project needs for coming years. In addition to offering guidance, this Plan provides eligibility for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) outdoor recreation grants when adopted by Sheboygan County.

Vision Statement

Sheboygan County will offer its residents the best possible system of outdoor recreation and open space sites and activities in a manner which is responsive to the needs of the public, fiscally responsible, and which promotes the preservation and sustainability of the County's outstanding environmental, archeological, historical, and cultural resources.

Goals

The goals of the Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan are:

- To ensure provision and protection of sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and open areas to satisfy the health, safety, and welfare needs of citizens and visitors, including underserved populations.
- To ensure that the acquisition of park and open spaces lands occurs in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning for development. Alternative means of reserving lands required for open space should be fully explored to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public.
- To promote the involvement and cooperation of all of the County's communities in park and recreation planning and development.
- To develop tools to protect open space.

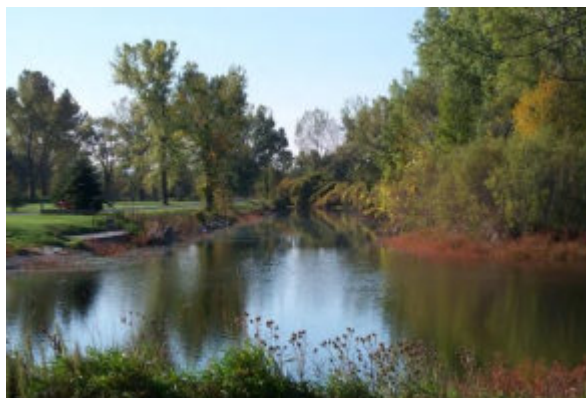
Plan Recommendations

This Plan recommends the incorporation of outdoor recreation and open space planning in development and preservation projects that are undertaken in Sheboygan County. It also offers priorities in all corners of the County that can be used when allocating funds from the Sheboygan County Stewardship Grant Program.

Introduction

Outdoor recreation opportunities, whether active, passive, utilitarian or strictly recreational, have increasingly become a signature of their communities, directing everything from how leisure time is spent to how valuable homes are. These trails, parks, campgrounds, playgrounds, rivers and lakes, or hunting lands define the County, and make it a better place in which to live or to visit. Although they are obvious assets, their provision is not as simple. Outdoor recreation facilities may make the area more livable and create a better quality of life, but they are not directly revenue-producing as residential or commercial development are. At the same time, desire for outdoor recreation facilities, added to an improving appreciation for preservation of open space, is rising.

Because of this, it is crucial that the decisions made concerning outdoor recreation carefully balance both this increasing demand and conservation of the County's unique and pristine natural resources that are so important for future generations.



This Plan aims to guide such decisions, and has offered direction since its initial development in 1975. In updating the Plan at approximately five-year intervals, the County and its participating communities can be proactive in addressing different recreational demands (the City of Sheboygan does not participate as it has its own similar plan; however, County-owned facilities within the City of Sheboygan are discussed in Chapter 5 and shown on Map 3.0. Also, local municipalities are re-certified for state and federal aid upon approval of this Plan. In particular, the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources administers the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant. Specific programs under the grant include:

- Urban Green Space;
- Urban Rivers;
- Acquisition of Local Parks;
- Acquisition of Development Rights;
- Land & Water Conservation Fund;
- Recreational Trails Act;
- Natural Areas;
- Habitat Areas;
- Streambank Protection; and
- State Trails

In addition to opening up grant opportunities at the State level, adoption of this Plan also allows local communities to be eligible for local grant funding. In November of 2000, over 70% of voters in Sheboygan County voted in favor of establishing a County Stewardship Fund Grant. Goals of the grant include:

- Ensure citizen involvement in the County's Stewardship process
- Cultivate environmental stewardship within individuals, organizations, and government entities
- Help implement projects identified in the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan, and other relevant plans
- Provide matching funds by the County for leveraging dollars from federal, state, local, and private entities for conservation activities
- Coordinate County stewardship activities to be in harmony with other conservation and recreational activities already occurring in or planned for the County
- Initiate only those stewardship activities that cannot be accomplished by current or upcoming regulatory tools, such as land use planning, zoning, land division ordinances, and shoreland-wetland-floodplain regulations
- Preserve the County's natural resources while minimizing the loss of property tax revenues
- Form green space and wildlife habitat corridors by linking existing natural areas together
- Acquire, protect, and restore only those resources than can adequately be maintained by specific public or private custodians in the future
- Preserve the natural resources of the County while continuing to promote wise growth and economic development
- Promote beautiful, healthy, and thriving cities, villages, and towns so that new and existing County residents will always have attractive and useful quality of life amenities
- Provide higher priority for Stewardship funding to those municipalities that have adopted Smart Growth-compliant comprehensive plans

County Stewardship Grant funds are distributed by the Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department following internal ranking, review by a citizen's advisory committee, and, ultimately, Planning, Resources, Agriculture, and Extension Committee ranking and approval. To be eligible for these funds, potential projects must be related to natural resources conservation or outdoor recreational activities. They fall into two categories: land acquisition (such as conservation easements, property acquisition of significant lands, or acquisition of lands for future recreational purposes) and project development (such as park or trail development, creation of public access to significant water features, wetland restoration, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, Lake Michigan bluff protection, or resource-related planning activities). Additionally, discretionary projects that do not fall into either of these categories will be considered on a case-by-case basis where the project has significant merit to promote the program's goals.

Applications for Stewardship funding oftentimes rely on this Plan for support, especially since the projects are given higher ranking for having been identified in the Plan.

Chapter 1: Sheboygan County Planning Area

Climate

Sheboygan County typically experiences continental weather with some modification by Lake Michigan. The cool waters of the Lake delay spring, while relatively warm water in fall delays early frost. Summers, on average, are mild due to the region's proximity to water that moderates daily extremes.

About two-thirds of the annual precipitation falls during the growing season. It is normally adequate for vegetation, although drought is occasionally reported. The climate is most favorable for dairy farming; primary crops include corn, small grains, hay, and vegetables.

The growing season averages 126 to 165 days. The average date of the last spring freeze varies from the first week of May to the last week of May, with a median date of last frost of May 11. The first autumn freezes occur in early- to mid-October, with a median date of first frost at October 6.

The long-term mean annual precipitation ranges from 31 to 32 inches throughout Sheboygan County. Average daily temperatures range from a low of 9.2°F in January to a high of 82.2°F in July. Although, higher rain totals have been the new norm for the state. Four of the top five wettest years have taken place in the last decade, three of them in the last five years. The top three wettest years ever recorded for the state are 2016, 2018, 2019.

The average seasonal snowfall is typically around 48 inches. The mean date of first snowfall of consequence – an inch or more – occurs in early November. The snow cover acts as protective insulation for grasses, autumn seeded grains, and other vegetation.

The approximate humidity conditions for the County in winter range from an average nighttime maximum of about 80% to a daytime minimum of about 70%. Relative humidity in the summer averages 85% at night and 60% in the daytime.

Though the cause of climate change may be debatable, there is no debating things are changing. Statistics show a warming trend and more frequent and more intense precipitation events. When proposing a project, these types of situations should be considered.



Ecological Landscapes

The Wisconsin DNR has mapped the state into areas of similar ecological potential and geography into units known as Ecological Landscapes. Each of the sixteen holds different management opportunities, and may be used as a means of identifying the best areas to manage for different natural communities,

aquatic features, key habitats, and native plants and animals from an ecosystem management perspective.¹

Sheboygan County falls into two of these Ecological Landscapes as discussed below.

Central Lake Michigan Coastal

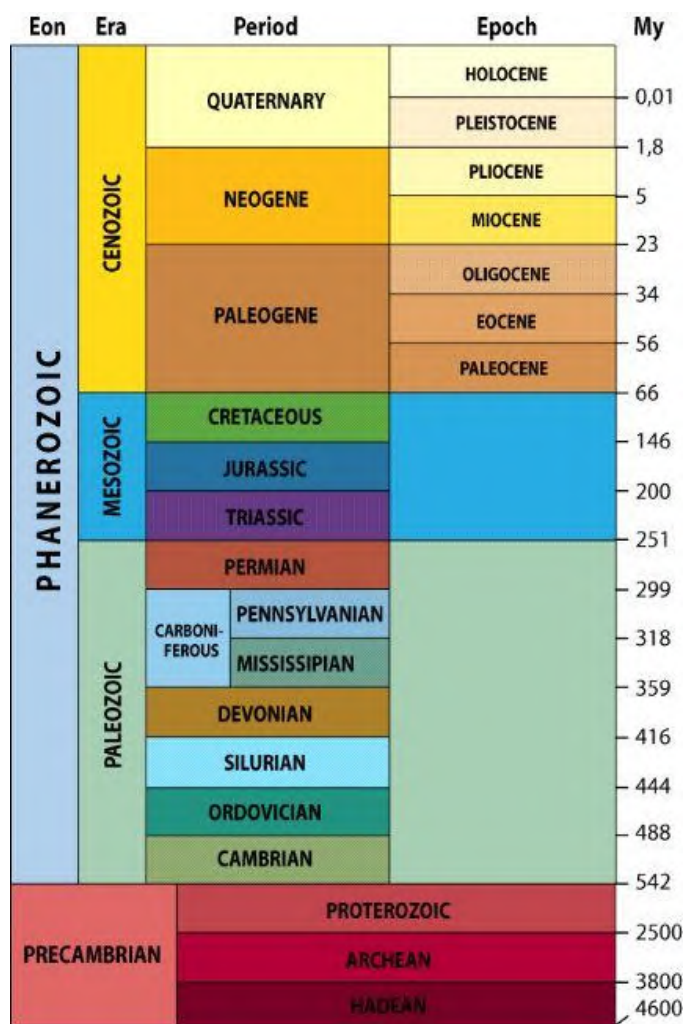
This landscape stretches from southern Door County west across Green Bay to the Wolf River drainage, then southward in a narrowing strip along the Lake Michigan shore to central Milwaukee County. Summers are cooler, winters are warmer, and precipitation levels are greater in the eastern part of this landscape than at locations farther inland, owing to the influence of Lake Michigan. Dolomites and shales underlie the glacial deposits that blanket virtually all of the Central Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape.

The dolomite Niagara Escarpment is the major bedrock feature, running across the entire landscape from northeast to southwest. Series of dolomite bluffs provide critical habitat for rare terrestrial snails, bats, and specialized plants. The primary glacial landforms are ground moraine, outwash, and lake plain. The topography is generally rolling where the surface is underlain by ground moraine, variable over areas of outwash, and nearly level where lacustrine deposits are present. Important soils include clays, loams, sands, and gravels. Certain landforms, such as sand spits, clay bluffs, beach and dune complexes, and ridge and swale systems are associated only with the shorelines of Lake Michigan and Green Bay. Today, approximately 84% of this Ecological Landscape is non-forested. The remaining forest consists mainly of mesic maple-basswood or maple-beech types, or lowland hardwoods composed of soft maples, ashes, and elms.

Southeast Glacial Plains

This landscape makes up the bulk of the non-coastal area in southeast Wisconsin. It is composed of glacial till plains and moraines comprised of glacial materials, although agricultural and residential uses have significantly altered this historical vegetation. Most of the rare natural communities are associated with the Niagara Escarpment or large moraines. Agricultural and urban land uses dominate, with forested areas occupying about 10% of this area.

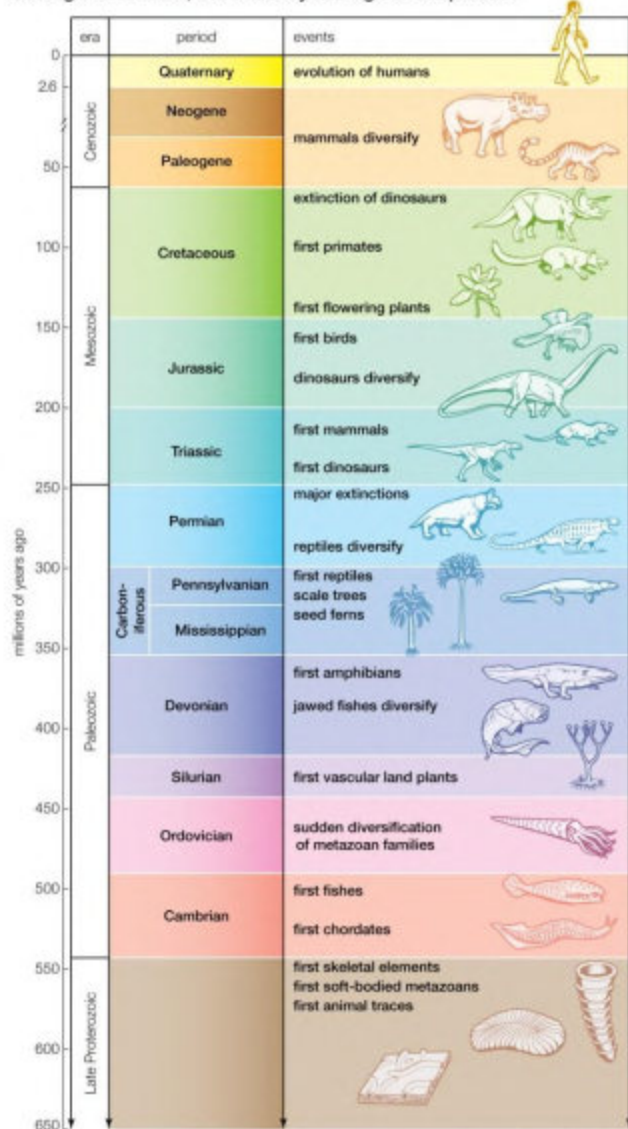
Figure 1.1: Geologic Time Scale



Source: Miguasha National Park

Figure 1.2: Geologic Eras

Geologic time scale, 650 million years ago to the present



Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

Geology

Two different types of geologic settings, Quaternary geology and bedrock geology, characterize Sheboygan County. The former refers to the effects that continental glaciations have had on the region, and to the surface effects of more recent erosion and deposition. Conversely, bedrock geology refers to the much older, solid rock layers that lie beneath Quaternary sediments. Figures 1.1 and 1.2 illustrate the time span for each of these geologic time periods.

Bedrock Geology

Silurian dolomite, often referred to as Niagara, is the uppermost bedrock in Sheboygan County and reaches thicknesses up to 580 feet. Rocks underlying the Niagara dolomite are not visible in the County. Below this is a shale formation known as Maquoketa, which reaches a maximum thickness of 450 feet. The Maquoketa Shale overlies a dolomite formation, termed Platteville-Galena, which is approximately 500 feet in thickness. The rock formation, in turn, overlies Cambrian sandstones, which are 450 feet thick. Map 1.1 in Appendix A shows the bedrock geology of Sheboygan County.

Quaternary Geology

The last glacial ice of Quaternary glaciation modified the bedrock surface by scouring highlands and depositing material in lowlands created by pre-glacial erosion. Four types of Quaternary deposits are recognized within the region, including till, glaciofluvial sediments, shoreline deposits, and organic deposits.

Till or unstratified drift is a mixture of unsorted, angular- or round-shaped sediments ranging in size from clay to boulders. Till are ice-contact deposits originating directly from glacial ice. Unlike till, glaciofluvial sediments were deposited in a fluvio-glacial environment involving glacial meltwater flow. Each individual layer of glaciofluvial sediments are characterized by a given grain size, ranging from pebbles and cobbles to sand or finer.

At least one type of topographic landform consisting of glaciofluvial sediments occurs in some areas of the planning area. This type of topographic feature is an outwash plain, which is an apron of well-sorted, stratified sand and gravel deposited by glacial meltwater. Glaciofluvial deposits, which contained large ice blocks that eventually melted, were pitted with depressions known as kettles. Glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel surround many drumlins, but these are often covered with a thin silt cap. Map 1.2 in Appendix A shows the Pleistocene Geology of Sheboygan County.

The most prominent ancient shoreline in the area is that of the Nipissing Great Lakes phase, which usually occurs at an elevation of 600 to 605 feet above sea level. The highest ancient shoreline in the area is that of the Algonquin phase, which occurs at elevations between 620 and 658 feet above sea level. A perfect example of this ancient shoreline is found at the County's Amsterdam Dunes Preservation Area property which has elevations of approximately 620-630 feet above sea level.

Soils

Soil is composed of varying proportions of sand, gravel, silt, clay, and organic material. Since the composition of a soil affects its specific properties, building sites must be evaluated for soil suitability prior to any development.

General Soils Description

The general characteristics of soils in Sheboygan County are largely the result of various glacial depositional processes. Outwash soils were formed from glacial deposits that were derived from local bedrock formations. Organic soils developed under a forest cover consisting mainly of conifers and hardwoods in the north in a cool and relatively moist climate. Sandy soils were formed from parent materials derived from sandstone bedrock pulverized by glacial ice.



Soils, in part, determine how much rainfall or snowmelt directly flows into the rivers, lakes, and wetlands, and how much infiltrates the ground. Water that infiltrates the ground replenishes soil moisture and recharges the groundwater system. Soils are grouped into general soil associations that have similar patterns of relief and drainage; they typically consist of one or more major soils and some minor soils. The general soil types can be divided into three broad categories: areas dominated by soils formed in glacial till, areas dominated by soils formed in glacial outwash and till, and areas dominated by organic soils.

The soils in Sheboygan County are diverse, ranging from sandy loam to shallow silt loam, and from poorly-drained to well-drained. In some areas, lacustrine sands are found overlying clays or bedrock within only a few feet of the surface. Poorly-drained sands are common in the lake plain or in depressions between dunes and beach ridges. Important soils in the County include clays, loams, sands, and gravels. Map 1.3

in Appendix A shows the general soils in Sheboygan County. The dominant associations found in Sheboygan County include the Boots, Casco, Oakville, Theresa, Kewaunee, and Hochheim soils.

The Boots series soils are nearly level, poorly-drained soils that were formed in herbaceous organic matter greater than 51 inches thick. These soils are typically found in depressions of old glacial lake areas. The native vegetation of these soils includes ground cover of marsh grasses, sedges, and cattails, and trees include tamarack, white cedar, and alders. The organic layer of these soils is typically very thick, measuring 60 inches or greater, with the top 14 inches usually being black muck. Permeability of these soils is moderately rapid and available water capacity is very high; natural fertility is very low. The root zone of these soils is limited by the water table, which is frequently at or near the surface in areas that have not been drained by artificial means.

The Casco soils are found in nearly even to very steep areas. Casco soils are well-drained and are underlain by stratified sand and gravel outwash. These soils are typically found on outwash plains, stream terraces, and the convex side of slopes of glacial moraines. Areas containing Casco soils have complex slopes. Native vegetation on these soils consisted mainly of oak and hickory trees. Permeability of these soils is moderate until approximately 17 inches below the surface, where permeability becomes rapid. Available water capacity is low in Casco soils, and organic matter content is moderate and natural fertility is low. The root zone of vegetation is limited by underlying sand and gravel. Areas where slopes are not too steep typically support corn, small grain, legumes, and other crops commonly grown in Sheboygan County.

Oakville soils are found along the coast of Lake Michigan, typically in the areas south of the City of Sheboygan. These are very well-drained soils located on nearly level to sloping areas of old glacial lake plains, old beach ridges, and stabilized sand dunes. The native vegetation consisted of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees. The surface layer of the Oakville soils is dark brown, loamy fine sand approximately 8 inches thick. Permeability of these soils is very rapid and available water capacity, as well as organic matter content and natural fertility, are very low. Most of the acreage consisting of these soils is used for woodlands, although some areas are used for pasturing and crops.

Theresa soils are nearly level to sloping, well-drained soils that are underlain by gravelly sandy loam or gravelly loam glacial till and are typically found on glacial till plains. The native vegetation in the area of these soils includes deciduous forest mainly of maple, oak, basswood, beach, and hickory trees. Permeability of these soils is moderate and available water capacity is high. Organic matter content and fertility is moderate. The majority of acreage consisting of these soils is used for crops, but some of the acreage is used for pasture and woodlands in areas where slopes are steeper.

Kewaunee soils are found on nearly level to moderately steep slopes, are well-drained to moderately well-drained, and are often formed in silty clay loam glacial till. These soils are found on glacial till plains. The native vegetation on these soils was forest consisting mainly of oak, maple, beech, basswood, and white pine. Permeability of Kewaunee soils is moderately slow and available water capacity is moderate. The organic matter content of these soils is moderately low and natural fertility is medium. Areas with these soils typically are used for crops and pasture, but frequently remain woodlands.

Hochheim soils are found on nearly level to steep slopes, are well-drained, and are underlain by gravelly sandy loam or gravelly loam glacial till. These soils are found on glacial till plains and on the sides and tops of drumlins that were formed during the last glaciation process. Permeability and available water capacity are moderate and organic matter content is moderately low; natural fertility is medium. Areas with these soils on slopes less than 15% are typically used for crops, and areas where slopes are steeper are frequently used for pasture and woodlands.

Topography

The attractiveness of Sheboygan County is due in part to a variety of topographic features. The general topography of the County is characterized by a gently rolling landscape broken by areas of steep slope along various river valleys. Map 1.4 in Appendix A shows the areas with steep slopes in Sheboygan County.

Within the Kettle Moraine area, located in the western portion of the County, the surface is very irregular and has many kames, eskers, and potholes. The highest points are more than 200 feet above the surrounding landscape, while the elevation ranges from about 600 feet above mean sea level in the eastern portion of the County to more than 1,200 feet at the highest point in the Kettle Moraine area. The shore of Lake Michigan is very steep in the northern half of the county with bluffs reaching over 50 feet in many areas

Coastal Resources

The Great Lakes were formed during the Wisconsin Glaciation, with the Laurentide Ice Sheet entering Lake Michigan during that same time period. During the time at which the Ice Sheet had reached its maximum extent, it carved its way across the northern portion of North America. When the ice receded, runoff from the melting glacier was captured in the basins that were formed by the gouging ice of the glacier, thereby forming the Great Lakes.



Lake Michigan is the second largest Great Lake when measured by volume. It is 307 miles long, 118 miles wide, 925 at its maximum depth, with an average depth of 279 feet, and it consists of approximately 1,660 miles of mostly sand and pebble beaches.

The Lake Michigan basin is the area of land where rivers and streams all drain into Lake Michigan. It covers more than 45,000 square miles and drains part of four states, including Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. In Sheboygan County, the Milwaukee River and Sheboygan River Basins make up the majority of the land area within the County, and both drain into Lake Michigan.

Lake Michigan has unique conditions that can support a wide variety of species, including plants and animals that are not found anywhere else in the world. The sand dunes, coastal marshes, tallgrass prairies, savannas, forests, and fens provide essential habitat for numerous wildlife. Agricultural and industrial products such as iron ore, coal, limestone, metals, petroleum, coke, and chemicals are derived from the resources within the Lake Michigan Basin. The lake area serves the commercial and sport fishing industries. Lake Michigan provides a source of fresh drinking water, cooling water for industries, and water for agricultural practices in the region. Additionally, the Lake provides a scenic setting for recreational activities such as camping, swimming, fishing, and bird watching.

Threats to Lake Michigan and Its Coastal Resources

The quality of Lake Michigan is a concern to a number of organizations that study its health. Pollutants, rising water levels that cause shoreline erosion, habitat loss, and shifts in species composition in the Lake in the coastal areas are important factors that continue to contribute to the degradation of the Lake Michigan ecosystem. Even though reductions have been made in pollutant levels over the past 20 years, data still shows that toxic pollutants continue to create harmful impacts on the physical and biological elements of the ecosystem.

In 1972, the United States and Canada signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) that was subsequently renewed in 1978. This agreement expressed the commitment of both countries to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. In 2012, the US and Canada amended the agreement, which addressed new provisions for aquatic invasive species, habitat degradation, the nearshore environment, and the effects of climate change. Additionally, the amendment supports the work on existing threats to people's health and the environment, which include toxic chemicals and harmful algae. The agreement also forbids the removal of water from the basin into other basins unless all seven states and the participating Canadian provinces approve the diversion.

The GLWQA created the International Joint Commission, which monitors and assesses progress under the Agreement and advises governments on matters related to the quality of the boundary waters of the Great Lakes system. The Agreement also calls upon the Commission to assist the governments with joint programs under it, and provides for two bi-national boards to advise the Commission: the Great Lakes Water Quality Board and the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board.

The 2012 amendment to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement commits the United States and Canada to cooperate and coordinate efforts on issues such as:

- Preventing environmental threats before they turn into actual problems;
- Updating phosphorus targets for open waters and nearshore areas of each lake and taking actions to reduce phosphorus levels that contribute to harmful algae;
- Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species;
- Developing plans to protect and restore nearshore areas, the primary source of drinking water for Great Lakes communities and where most commerce and recreation occurs;

- Reaffirming actions necessary to restore and delist Areas of Concern;
- Identifying new toxic substances, and implementing pollution prevention and control strategies.
- Preventing and controlling harmful discharges from ships and other vessels;
- Developing conservation strategies to protect native species and restore habitat;
- Identifying and helping coastal communities understand the impacts of climate change on water quality;
- Developing water quality and ecosystem health objectives;
- Reviewing Great Lakes science and establishing binational priorities for future work;
- Providing notification of activities that could impact the Great Lakes; and
- Reporting progress to the public regularly.²

Pollutants

To accomplish the goals of the Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan (LAMP), a Critical Pollutants Work Group was formed, consisting of technical staff from the EPA, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Geological Survey, and experts from the four states adjacent to Lake Michigan. Together, this group developed a process for listing and de-listing substances as pollutants of concern and identified pollutants that were currently impacting Lake Michigan. The group categorized pollutants of concern into three levels based on the degree of association with known impairments in the Lake, their distribution, and their frequency of occurrence.

Critical pollutants are the most harmful to the ecosystem, and programs to mitigate their persistence in the environment are top priorities. Pollutants in the category impair beneficial uses due to their presence in open lake waters, their ability to cause or contribute to failures to meet objectives set by the GLWQA, or their ability to bioaccumulate. Critical pollutants for Lake Michigan identified by the work group include:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| • Total PCBs | • Mercury |
| • Chlordane | • DDT and metabolites |
| • Dioxin | • Pathogens (E. coli, salmonella, giardia) |

Substances identified as “pollutants of concern” are those that cause or contribute to use impairments on a local or regional basis, or for which there is evidence that loads to, or ambient concentrations in, the Lake Michigan Basin are increasing. Such pollutants for Lake Michigan identified by the work group are listed on the following page:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| • Siltation | • Copper |
| • Sediments | • Chromium |
| • Phosphorus | • Lead |
| • Metals | • Zinc |
| • Arsenic | • Nitrogen |
| • Cadmium | • TDS (conductivity) |

The work group identified one last group of substances which are placed in the “watch list” category. These pollutants are toxic substances that do not knowingly contribute to impairments of Lake Michigan at the present time; however, they are showing increasing loadings of concentrations within the Lake. These pollutants include:

- PAHs
- Selenium
- Radioactive material
- Toxaphene
- Sulfur
- Atrazine & degradation products
- Metolachlor & degradation products
- Acetochlor & degradation products
- Glyphosate & degradation products
- PFAs
- Asbestos³

Based on the recommendations of the work group, the LAMP focuses on addressing these pollutants according to priority level.

Areas of Concern

The Sheboygan River has been designated as one of 43 Great Lakes Areas of Concern, which are defined as being severely degraded and have an inability to support aquatic life that is beneficial for human use, such as by providing fish that is healthy to eat. The Sheboygan Harbor and the lower 14 miles of the Sheboygan River are included in the Sheboygan River Area of Concern, primarily due to contamination from industrial waste, such as PCBs, and also PAHs.⁴

Other criteria contributing to the designation as an Area of Concern are beneficial use impairments. Nine of the fourteen beneficial uses for the Sheboygan River are or were considered impaired. These include(d):

- *Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations.* The lower Sheboygan River currently supports a diverse fish population. Recent surveys show smallmouth bass are abundant in the Sheboygan River system. Populations of trout and salmon are dependent on stocking. However, bioaccumulating contaminants in the food chain and sedimentation are negatively affecting the fish populations and their forage base.
- *Fish Tumors or Other Deformities.* Fish health assessments were conducted by the Wisconsin DNR on white suckers in the AOC in 1994. This research concluded that white suckers residing in the lower Sheboygan River were exposed to and absorbed significant amount of PCBs and PAHs, and exhibited biochemical, histological, and hematological alterations, suggesting impaired fish condition.
- *Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems.* Reproductive problems are suspected with certain animals because of their low population levels in relationship to available high quality habitat. A study that examined four species of birds collected along the Sheboygan River

concluded that reproductive impairments were suspected because of the PCB tissue concentrations found.

- *Degradation of Benthos (organisms that live on or in the bottom of a body of water).* Benthic surveys on the Sheboygan River identified the AOC as having degraded populations. The community shows low species diversity and is dominated by pollution tolerant species compared to reference conditions.
- *Eutrophication (the process by which a body of water becomes enriched in dissolved nutrients such as phosphates that stimulate the growth of aquatic plant life usually resulting in the depletion of dissolved oxygen) or Undesirable Algae.* Nutrient concentrations in the lower Sheboygan River and Harbor routinely exceed water quality criteria. Blooms of nuisance algae are often seen in summer months. The major cause of eutrophication is nonpoint source pollution from developing urban areas and upstream agricultural areas.
- *Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations.* The species found in the AOC are indicative of disturbed conditions. The periphyton (organisms like algae that live attached to underwater surfaces) community downstream of the Village of Kohler is highly productive. The community shifts toward greater tolerance of high nutrient conditions. Biomass and density in the AOC are the highest found in the Sheboygan River. High concentrations of nutrients from point and nonpoint sources are considered responsible.
- *Restrictions on dredging activities.* Defined as the condition where contaminants in sediments exceed standards, criteria, or guidelines such that there are restrictions on dredging or disposal activities.⁵ The WDNR, with the support of the County and City of Sheboygan, are petitioning the USEPA to have this BUI restriction lifted in 2015 due to the dredging of polluted material that took place in 2011 and 2012.
- *Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat.* Although historic loss of habitat has occurred through development, the quality of wildlife habitat along the river is good, considering its proximity to urban areas. Ongoing loss of instream habitat for fish and wildlife is occurring through sedimentation from streambank, farmland, and construction site erosion. Dams on the river also contribute to degraded habitat in several ways. They alter river flow, increase water temperature, cause the loss of important riffle areas, inhibit fish migration, and cause sediment build up, which buries much of the fish cover and invertebrate habitat.

Currently, two of the nine BUIs have been removed on the Sheboygan River, “*Restrictions on Dredging Activities and Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations.*” One additional BUI is also currently under review and consideration for removal, “*Degradation of Benthos.*” It is expected this removal will take place in 2021.

The GLWQA required Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for all Areas of Concern. The RAP process is conducted in three phases. Stage I identifies and assesses use impairments in the AOC, and identifies sources of stress from all sources; Stage II identifies proposed remedial action methods for implementation; and Stage III documents progress on implementation.

Having been updated several times since its inception in 1989, the Sheboygan River Remedial Action Plan was most recently updated in 2014 and will likely be updated again in 2021. The first plan was the result of a two year cooperative effort of the Wisconsin DNR, other agencies, researchers, and citizens of the Sheboygan area. All of these groups worked together to identify management goals for the River and specific management strategies to control existing sources of pollution, abate environmental contamination, and restore beneficial uses. The RAP goals and objectives describe the “desired future state” of the Sheboygan River ecosystem. The Sheboygan County Water Quality Task Force served as the citizens’ advisory committee for Stage I development, which included representatives from industry, government, fishing and conservation groups, and others, and was instrumental in facilitating information exchange between environmental agencies and the public. An Intergovernmental Technical Advisory Committee was utilized for review purposes.

Together, the work groups have established 29 recommendations in three categories for the RAP Implementation Committee to carry out, which are identified in the table below.⁶

Table 1: Summary of RAP Recommendations

Assessment & Monitoring	Specific Actions	Information and Education
Conduct Water Quality Monitoring	Expedite Implementation of Superfund Records of Decision	Install Environmental Awareness Signs
Conduct Fish Community Analysis	Develop Protective Zoning for Shoreland Wetlands	Increase Awareness of Fish Consumption Advisory
Conduct Fish Community Assessment	Evaluate / Implement Removal of River Bend and Walderhaus Dams	Establish a Water Quality Awards Program
Assess Fish Tissue Contamination	Develop / Implement / Enforce Erosion Control Ordinances	Strengthen Community Participation in the Sheboygan River Priority Watershed Project
Assess Wildlife Tissue Contamination	Implement a Stormwater Management Plan for the City of Sheboygan	Conduct Stormsewer Stenciling Program
Conduct Wildlife Health Assessment	Clean Up Contaminated Sediment	Encourage Responsible Vehicle Waste Oil and Antifreeze Disposal
Monitor Bioaccumulative Toxicants	Protect and Restore Critical Wetlands Tributary to the Sheboygan River	Develop Sheboygan River Basin Awareness Program
Develop a Sediment GIS	Pursue Additional Funding for Nonpoint Project on the Onion River	Continue Testing the Waters Program
Assess PCB Congener and PAH Contamination and Toxicity in the Sheboygan AOC	Recommend the Mullet River as a Large Scale Priority Watershed Project	
Conduct Phytoplankton / Zooplankton Degradation Assessment	Recommend the Pigeon River as a Large Scale Priority Watershed Project	

Sheboygan River Basin Partnership

In 1998, a partnership was formed by the DNR and UW-Extension Basic Educator and named Sheboygan Land and Water Partners. Four years later, the group was re-named the Sheboygan River Basin Partnership (SRBP), and consisted of professionals from several organizations and agencies in Sheboygan County, with goals including:

- Increase the visibility of current environmental issues facing the basin
- Encourage more effective organization collaboration and community involvement in the resolution of environmental problems occurring within the basin
- Increase the number of organizations or individuals participating in conservation efforts
- Expand the public's level of understanding and involvement in natural resource stewardship

Although members of the Partnership are responsible for facilitating a number of water quality-related community involvement events around the County every year, and the SRPB was the voice of the Sheboygan River Area of Concern since 2003, the group focuses heavily on projects throughout the watershed. Below are a few of their most successful projects.

- *Fisherman's Creek Restoration Plan*: The Fisherman's Creek corridor is a unique 2 ½ mile long natural area situated between the City of Sheboygan and the Town of Wilson, both increasingly developing areas. Fisherman's Creek has been severely degraded by urbanization and stormwater inputs along the stream and in its watershed. As a result, aquatic and terrestrial habitat has been degraded, the stream channel has been straightened and is incised, the banks are eroded, sediment smothers aquatic life, invasive species have taken over along the stream and associated wetlands, it is often riddled with trash, and flooding of the area and homes has occurred. SRBP has created a master plan for the Fisherman's Creek corridor for the purpose of creating a master plan for physical and biological restoration of the stream and riparian area, as well as creating public access within the stream corridor. The concept plan includes several recommendations: over 77 acres of habitat and 10,000 linear feet of stream would be made accessible and restored or protected, several types of habitats would be protected or restored (upland bluffs, meadows, wetlands, stream, etc.), and 1 ½ miles of vegetative buffer would be created. The concept plan also calls for a trail to be created in the corridor that would contain environmental educational signage specific to the corridor. The trail plan in this area is harmonious with the County's Pedestrian & Bicycle Comprehensive Plan, and in fact, a portion was completed in 2018.
- *Annual Spring & Fall Beach Cleanups*: Every spring and fall the partnership organizes a shoreline cleanup on the beaches surrounding the City of Sheboygan. Between local volunteers and groups such as the King Park Neighborhood Association, Friends of North Point, and the Friends of Peace Park they can pick up close to 400 pounds of trash annually.

- *Willow Creek Watershed Project*: Willow Creek is a 5-mile tributary to the Sheboygan River and considered a remnant coastal resource that supports reproducing anadromous salmonid populations within a rapidly urbanizing region of east-central Wisconsin. The watershed consists of a mix of agricultural, urban, and undeveloped land uses within multi-jurisdictional municipal boundaries. The Glacial Lakes Conservancy, our area's local land trust, now owns a large portion of property adjacent to the creek. Their intent is to rehabilitate the area in their control. Purposes of the overall project include the following:
 - Analyze sections of the stream to see if they support a trout population;
 - Determine if trout in this stream are naturally occurring and reproducing within the stream;
 - Identify areas of critical habitat within the stream that provide a quality fishery;
 - Educate the public and community leaders regarding the uniqueness of Willow Creek; and
 - Partner with communities to improve stormwater runoff.

US Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

In 2010, President Obama and the US EPA launched the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), an 11-agency cooperative effort to address environmental issues in the Great Lakes region. He programmed over \$475M to the EPA for projects that could collectively tackle the most serious problems facing the Great Lakes ecosystem, with a promise to leave them in a better condition for the next generation.⁷

According to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative 2012 Report to Congress, the program has five focal areas:⁸

- *Focus Area 1: Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern* — includes pollution prevention and cleanup of the most polluted areas in the Great Lakes
- *Focus Area 2: Invasive Species* — includes instituting a "zero tolerance policy" toward new invasions, including preventing the establishment of self-sustaining populations of invasive species such as Asian carp
- *Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution* — includes a targeted geographic focus on high-priority watersheds and polluted runoff reductions from urban, suburban and agricultural sources
- *Focus Area 4: Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration* — includes bringing wetlands and other habitat back to life, and the first comprehensive assessment of the entire 530,000 acres of Great Lakes coastal wetlands to target restoration and protection efforts using the best science available
- *Focus Area 5: Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication and Partnerships* — includes the implementation of goal- and results-based accountability measures, learning initiatives, outreach and strategic partnerships

One of the cornerstones of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is to cleanup Areas of Concern, of which the Sheboygan River is a prominent one. Fortunately, Sheboygan County was able to leverage GLRI funds to aid in its efforts to create a better, cleaner, and more enjoyable River and has received a number of other grants funded through GLRI funding.

The GLRI program has been re-enumerated multiple times since its inception. Over 5,400 projects have been funded thus far amounting to over a \$2.7 billion investment, of which over \$40 million has been invested in Sheboygan County. Most recently, Action Plan III was developed with input from states, tribes, local governments, universities, business and others. It outlines priorities and goals for the GLRI for fiscal years 2020-2024, working to accelerate environmental progress in five Focus Areas:

- Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern
- Invasive Species
- Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health
- Habitats and Species
- Foundations for Future Restoration Actions

Sheboygan River/Harbor Dredging Projects

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared the lower 14 mile section of the Sheboygan River a hazardous waste site under the EPA Superfund legislation in 1986. A Sheboygan River Dredging Workgroup was established in August of 2009 to assist in coordinating these projects, and was represented by officials from the EPA Region 5, Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), United States Army Corps of Engineers, City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, Pollution Risk Services (PRS), and Tecumseh Corporation.

The dredging projects were part of a multi-phase cleanup project located in the Sheboygan River Area of Concern (AOC), and were coordinated by the Great Lakes Program Office of the EPA. They include:

- *2006/2007 Superfund Upper River Tecumseh Dredging Project* - Approximately 20,728 cubic yards of contaminated polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) sediment was removed at a cost of \$20 million by Tecumseh Corporation and PRS. This Upper River project began in the City of Sheboygan Falls and extended to the Village of Kohler. Dredging materials were shipped to an out-of-state licensed landfill.
- *Lower River Superfund Dredging Project* –Approximately 44,972 cubic yards of contaminated PCB sediment were removed at a projected cost of \$12 - \$14 million, paid for by Tecumseh. Tecumseh and PRS were considered the Principal Responsible Parties. PRS is the contractor performing the dredging work. The Lower River project area was between the Chicago & Northwestern railroad bridge and the 8th Street Bridge in the City of Sheboygan. Dredging materials shipped to an out-of-state licensed landfill. Over 204 million gallons of water were treated. There will be continued follow-up sampling of the wildlife in the area every five years until pollution levels drop.

- *Camp Marina Superfund Dredging Project* - Approximately 24,000 cubic yards of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon contaminated sediment was removed at an estimated cost of \$10 million, and was paid by Wisconsin Public Service, the Principal Responsible Party. This project was located within the Superfund Lower River section in the City of Sheboygan adjacent to what is commonly known as Boat Island. Dredging materials were shipped to an in-state licensed landfill.
- *The Legacy Act Dredging Project Feasibility Study & Design* – The project initiated the additional dredging in the Lower River project area at a cost of \$1,142,857.
- *Legacy Act Dredging Project* –Dredging began in August, 2012. Approximately 147,460 cubic yards of PCB and PAH contaminated sediment were removed from the Lower River. The match or non-federal share of the project (40-50%) is the work being performed by Superfund and Camp Marina projects, which generates a Legacy project of \$30 - \$35 million. The federal cost share funds available for this project came entirely from the Great Lakes Legacy Act GLRI Program of the EPA. This project was primarily located in the Lower River from the 14th Street Bridge downriver to the 8th Street Bridge. Dredging materials have been shipped to in-state licensed landfills in Menomonee Falls and Whitelaw. Demobilization activities occurred into 2013.
- *Sheboygan Harbor Improvement Project* –Dredging began in August 2012. Approximately 153,500 cubic yards of sediment were removed at a projected cost of \$17 - \$20 million. The project was funded through the GLRI, DNR, WisDOT, and City/County. The project utilizes the Army Corp’s Strategic Navigation Dredging Authority within the navigation channel of the Sheboygan Harbor. This section is located from the 8th Street Bridge east to the Sheboygan Harbor. The City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County were responsible for providing a local cost share in order to move forward. Each entity contributed \$250,000. Dredging materials were shipped to in-state licensed landfills in Menomonee Falls and Whitelaw. Dredging was completed January of 2013 with some demobilization activities occurring into the spring of 2013.
- *Sheboygan River AOC Fish & Wildlife Restoration Projects* - Approximately \$6.4 million was allocated for Sheboygan River shoreline restoration stabilization projects, fish and wildlife restoration and assessment, Wildwood Island restoration, eroding river bank stabilization and invasive species control in the Sheboygan River. These projects are located throughout the entire lower 14 mile section of the Sheboygan River AOC.



Sheboygan River Harbor During Dredging Period

- The total cost of all projects was approximately \$107 million. Approximately 400,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment were removed from the Sheboygan River, which amounts to approximately 20,000 truckloads of material.

These activities have helped contribute to the eventual successful achievement of alleviating the beneficial use impairments, of which a number have or will soon be removed. However, to improve the quality of the Sheboygan River Basin ecosystem and achieve the “desired future state,” a long term commitment from all levels of government will be needed, as well as local interest groups and citizens.

Erosion

Coastal erosion occurs throughout all of the Great Lakes and is a concern because of the potential for property loss and damage, loss of infrastructure, public health and safety issues, water quality degradation, and loss of habitat. Coastal erosion is characterized by the landward retreat of the shoreline or the bluff edge and includes the narrowing loss of beaches, dunes, coastal barriers, and associated wetlands and lakebed down cutting in the nearshore area. Coastal erosion rates in Sheboygan County range from 8 – 20 inches per year.



Typically, one of three types of erosion processes affects coastal areas. These include wave attack, mass-wasting, or surface water. Wave attack (or toe erosion) degrades bluff and beach areas through the constant motion of the water. Waves are generated by wind and storms. The impact of wave action is a function of the climate and is dictated by wave direction, magnitude, and frequency. Waves remove material from the base of the bluff areas, making them unstable. As the bluffs are eroded by wave action, sediment is transported along the shore creating or destroying beaches and dunes. When Lake Michigan experiences highwater levels it causes more wave related erosion.

Mass wasting occurs as soils creep or debris flows, slides, and slumps, or some other process takes place that will transport materials down a slope; these processes are driven by gravity and frequently occur on steep, unstable slopes. Depending upon whether the materials are consolidated or unconsolidated, the rates and types of bluff failure will vary. Groundwater is often a major contributing factor to the mass wasting process.

Frequently, wave attack on a shoreline will lead to a mass-wasting event. As time proceeds, the process begins again and eventually a major mass-wasting event occurs again.

Surface water, including that from precipitation and groundwater, as well as septic tanks (climate driven) and lawn sprinklers (human driven) washes material away. Sheet and rill erosion often occur on un-vegetated slopes. Ravine and gully erosion can also undermine a bluff or dune area. The freeze/thaw cycle also contributes to failure of bluff areas.

The erosion rate in a coastal area is dependent upon the width and elevation of a beach area; the available sediment supply; the slope of the coastline; shoreland protection (natural and artificial); climate, such as storms, precipitation, surface water, groundwater, and lake levels; and vegetation. Other impacts to shoreland areas of the Great Lakes include lakebed down cutting and beach alterations, such as barriers, including piers and improperly installed erosion protection structures.

Two “regions,” the bluff areas north of the City of Sheboygan and the dune areas south of the City, characterize the coastal landscape of Sheboygan County. The bluffs north of the City average approximately 50 feet in height. This area is composed of cohesive glacial till, lacustrine clays, unconsolidated clays, silts, sands, and outwash deposits. The soils in this area tend to become easily saturated by high groundwater levels. This soil saturation is a major contributor to bluff erosion along the coast. Upon saturation, the soils become heavy, weakening the structure of the bluff. Coupled with the dynamic wave action of Lake Michigan at the base of the bluff area, erosion and slumping is an ongoing hazard that must be continually mitigated through shoreline regulation and erosion control projects.

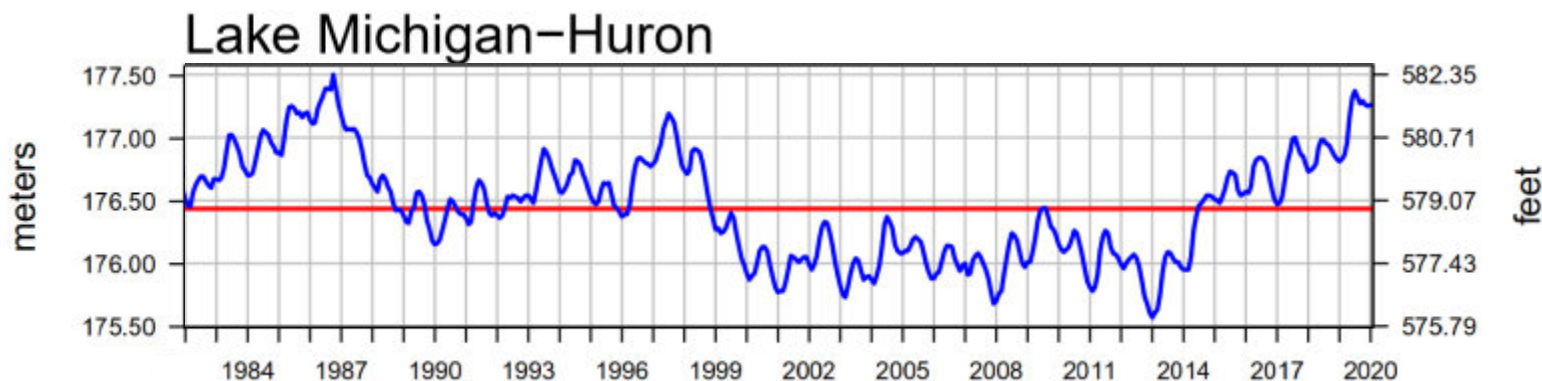


The areas south of the City of Sheboygan are made up of a ridge and swale complex with numerous pockets of coastal wetlands, gaining protection from Lake Michigan by a series of dune areas. Quartz sand beaches and dunes are underlain by cohesive clays (glacial till) or bedrock. This area is subjected to impacts from development due to the high value of real estate along the shores of Lake Michigan. Perhaps one of the greatest potential impacts of the quality of Lake Michigan and the dune areas is the placement of septic systems in coastal dunes. Frequently, the dune area is sited as the only suitable area for a septic system. Currently, state law does not prohibit placement of septic systems in these areas, nor are counties allowed to restrict placement here.

Water Levels

Within the last decade Lake Michigan has seen some drastic changes when it comes to its water level. Lake levels of Lake Michigan in conjunction with Lake Huron, have been on the rise since reaching a record low in 2013. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers measured that in December of 2019 the lake reached an average daily mean of 581.52 feet, just short of 1986’s record of 581.56 feet. The future forecast predicts that the water levels could surpass the 1986 record.

Figure 1.3: Lake Michigan and Huron Historical Water Levels



High water levels are detrimental to the shorelines and public safety. The heavy rains throughout the Midwest within the last five years is to blame for the increase in water level. The wettest 5-year period on record is 2015-2020. Higher water levels mean more wave action above the Ordinary High Water Mark which can cause an increase in shoreline erosion. Within the Department there has been an increase in shoreline rip-rap projects to help armor the banks so that further erosion will not take place and to protect developed lots that are close to the water's edge.

Natural Resources

Watersheds

A watershed can be defined as an interconnected area of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point, such as a lake or stream confluence with a neighboring watershed. All lands and waterways contribute drainage to one watershed or another. Each watershed is comprised of one main stem of a river, while a river basin is made up of a number of watersheds that drain into one larger river. The majority of Sheboygan County lies within the Sheboygan or Milwaukee River Basins.

Sheboygan County encompasses some of the most scenic and critical watersheds within Wisconsin. All of the watersheds in Sheboygan County drain into the Lake Michigan watershed, either through major rivers or direct drainage to the Lake. The Wisconsin DNR classifies them all as either priority or non-priority watersheds, while the International Joint Commission has designated the Sheboygan River Watershed a Great



Source: Wisconsin DNR

Lakes Area of Concern (AOC). The Sheboygan River Watershed encompasses 615 square miles, five counties, and 45,000 acres of wetlands.⁹ The priority watersheds, including the Sheboygan River Watershed, have had Remedial Action Plans completed to address contamination concerns. They have also been the target of a tremendous investment over the years to eliminate the Area of Concern status for the River. Map 1.5 in Appendix A shows the watersheds in Sheboygan County. On the following page is a table indicating the impaired water bodies in Sheboygan County, both current and proposed, that are part of the 2018 Impaired Waters List.¹⁰

Table 2: Waterbody Impairment

Waterbody Name	Pollutant	Impairment Indicator	Status
Adell Tributary	Sediment/Total Suspended Solids	Degraded Habitat	303(d) Listed
Batavia Creek	Total Phosphorus	Impairment Unknown	303d Listed
Black River	Total Phosphorus	Degraded Biological Community	Proposed for List
Crystal Lake	Mercury	Contaminated Fish Tissue	303(d) Listed
Elkhart Lake	Mercury	Contaminated Fish Tissue	303(d) Listed
Grandma Creek	Total Phosphorus	Low DO	303(d) Listed
Grandma Creek	Sediment/Total Suspended Solids	Low DO, Degraded Habitat	303(d) Listed
Jetzers Creek Tributary	Unknown Pollutant	Degraded Biological Community	303(d) Listed
Mink Creek	Total Phosphorus	Impairment Unknown	Proposed for List
Mullet River	Total Phosphorus	Impairment Unknown	303(d) Listed
Nichols Creek (N. B. Milw R)	Unknown Pollutant	Elevated Water Temperature	303(d) Listed
Onion River	Total Phosphorus	Degraded Biological Community	303(d) Listed
Otter Creek	E. coli	Recreational Restrictions - Pathogens	EAP Project
Sheboygan River	PCBs	Contaminated Fish Tissue, Contaminated Sediment	303(d) Listed
Sheboygan River	Total Phosphorus	Impairment Unknown	303(d) Listed
Un. Trib. To Onion River via Waldo Impoundment	Sediment/Total Suspended Solids	Degraded Habitat	303(d) Listed
Long Lake	Mercury	Contaminated Fish Tissue	303(d) Listed
Unnamed Trib. to Fourmile Creek	Total Phosphorus	Impairment Unknown	303 (d) Listed

Priority Watersheds

The Wisconsin Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement Program (NPS Program) was created in 1978 by the State legislature. This program selected priority watersheds based on numerous factors including, but not limited to, unique species, potential to respond positively to nonpoint source controls, and sensitivity to phosphorus loading. The program has provided financial and technical assistance to landowners and local governments to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Six watersheds within Sheboygan County were designated as Priority Watersheds through the NPS Program.

The North, East, and West Branch Milwaukee River Priority Watershed was designated in 1984. The Milwaukee River North Watershed is located in portions of Sheboygan, Ozaukee, and Washington counties, and has a drainage area of 150 square miles. Land cover is primarily rural with agriculture dominant. Sources of nonpoint pollutants included runoff from animal waste, sedimentation from crop fields, urban construction sites, streambank erosion, and manure. There are many known occurrences of rare species and natural communities in the Milwaukee River Watershed, according to the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory. The Milwaukee River East-West Watershed covers 266 square miles and is located in portions of Dodge, Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Washington counties. Land cover is primarily rural with agriculture dominating. Sources of nonpoint pollutants include wetland drainage, urban runoff, and agricultural runoff contributing nutrients and sediment. Focus is now back on the Milwaukee River watershed in Sheboygan County. Sheboygan County joined a consortium of entities in 2019 to combat pollutants in the waterbody. The consortium was awarded a \$7.5 million award in 2020 through the USDA-NRCS' Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Work on the award will begin in 2020 and last at least through 2023.

The Onion River Priority Watershed was designated in 1980. It was one of the first watersheds targeted under the Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement Program. The watershed covers about 100 square miles, and has over 124 miles of streams. It flows southerly for about half its length before turning northward, entering the Sheboygan River in the City of Sheboygan Falls. Belgium Creek is the only major tributary to the Onion River. Land use in the watershed is primarily agricultural. The entire Village of Waldo and small portions of the Village of Cedar Grove and the City of Sheboygan Falls comprise the urban areas of the watershed. Sources of nonpoint pollutants include sedimentation, agricultural and urban runoff, pasturing practices, and streambank erosion.

The Pigeon River Priority Watershed was designated in 1995. The Pigeon River is a 30 mile long tributary of Lake Michigan that lies within the Sheboygan River Basin. It forms at the confluence of the Pigeon and Meeme River Branches near the Sheboygan/Manitowoc County line. Sources of nonpoint pollutants include sedimentation, streambank erosion, construction, and feedlot runoff.

The Sheboygan River Priority Watershed was designated in 1985. The Sheboygan River originates in east-central Wisconsin and drains an area of land situated between Lake Winnebago and Lake Michigan. The watershed is a sub-basin of the larger Sheboygan River drainage basin that includes the Sheboygan River, the Pigeon River, the Mullet River, the Onion River, Black River, and direct tributaries to Lake Michigan. The Sheboygan River Watershed drains approximately 245 square miles. The watershed lies in portions

of four counties: Sheboygan, having the largest contributing drainage area with 52 percent of the watershed (127 square mile); Fond du Lac, containing 30 percent of the watershed (74 square miles); Calumet, with 7 percent (17 square miles); and Manitowoc, making up 11 percent of the watershed (27 square miles). The majority of the population living in the watershed resides in incorporated areas, primarily concentrated in the metropolitan area of Sheboygan, Sheboygan Falls, Kiel, and the Village of Kohler. Land uses in the watershed are primarily rural. Most of the land is used for agricultural purposes, with milk production and dairy products being the predominant industry in all four counties. Sources of rural nonpoint pollutants most commonly found in this watershed include sediment from crop and streambank erosion, polluted runoff from barnyards and feedlots, and runoff from winter-spread with livestock manure. Sources of urban nonpoint pollutants include construction sites, freeways, industrial areas, commercial areas, and residential areas.

The Sheboygan River Watershed is the most studied watershed in the Sheboygan River Basin. Many researchers have conducted studies to determine the effects of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) uptake in fish and wildlife in the lower 14 miles of the Sheboygan River. This section of the River is listed as a federal Superfund site, although that is in the process of being de-listing as a result of the River/Harbor Dredging project.

Non-Priority Watersheds

The Black River Watershed is located entirely within Sheboygan County and contains the 11.4 mile Black River. It is characterized primarily as natural lowlands with adjacent agricultural areas. Sources of rural and urban nonpoint source pollutants include channel modification, construction site erosion, and increased imperviousness, which contributes to flash flows, increased nutrients, bacteria, and sedimentation.

The Mullet River Watershed is about 98 square miles and originates at the outlet of Mullet Lake in Fond du Lac County, running northeast into Sheboygan County. The river then runs east and drains into the Sheboygan River near Sheboygan Falls. Land use in the Mullet River Watershed is primarily agricultural. Sources of rural and urban nonpoint pollutants include runoff from barnyards, eroding agricultural lands, and streambank erosion.

The Sauk and Sucker Creeks Watershed includes a small portion of Sheboygan County, but is predominately located in Ozaukee County. Sauk and Sucker Creeks flow southward, entering into Lake Michigan near Port Washington. Agriculture is the dominant land use in the Sauk and Sucker Creeks Watershed; however, it is an urbanizing watershed. Sources of nonpoint pollutants include erosion from construction sites, runoff from impervious surfaces, agricultural runoff, streambank erosion, and sedimentation.

Groundwater

Sheboygan County's groundwater reserves are being held in two principal aquifers: the Eastern Dolomite Aquifer, and the Sandstone and Dolomite Aquifer.

The Eastern Dolomite Aquifer occurs from Door County to the Wisconsin/Illinois border. It consists of Niagara dolomite underlain by Maquoketa shale. In areas where fractured dolomite bedrock occurs at or near the land surface, the groundwater in shallow portions of the western dolomite aquifer can easily become contaminated.

The Sandstone and Dolomite Aquifer consists of layers of sandstone and dolomite bedrock that vary greatly in their water-yielding properties. In eastern Wisconsin, this aquifer lies below the eastern dolomite aquifer and the Maquoketa shale layer. These rock types dip slightly to the east, south, and west, away from north-central Wisconsin, becoming much thicker and extending to greater depths below the land surface in the southern part of the state. In eastern Wisconsin, most users of substantial quantities of groundwater tap this deep aquifer to obtain a sufficient amount of water.

In Wisconsin, the primary sources of groundwater contamination are agricultural activities, municipal landfills, leaking underground storage tanks, abandoned hazardous waste sites, and hazardous or toxic spills. Septic tanks and land application of wastewater are also sources for possible contamination. The most common groundwater contaminant is nitrate-nitrogen, which comes from fertilizers, animal waste storage sites and feedlots, municipal and industrial wastewater and sludge disposal, refuse disposal areas, and leaking septic systems. It is estimated that over 70% of phosphorus pollution in our waterways can be contributed to agricultural practices.

Surface Waters

There are numerous lakes and rivers in Sheboygan County. The most significant surface water feature is Lake Michigan. Map 1.6 in Appendix A shows the surface water features in Sheboygan County.

Lakes

Lake Michigan borders on the eastern edge of Sheboygan County. Bottom type consists mainly of bedrock on exposed shores, and sand within the bays and shallow shores. Coho and Chinook salmon, lake trout, northern pike, and yellow perch are the dominant sport fish, with the occasional smallmouth bass, walleye, and rainbow trout. Lake trout numbers are expected to increase with the improved control of lampreys. Access of the larger pleasure crafts is restricted to harbor sites because of the rocky and shallow, sandy shores. This area of Lake Michigan averages slightly more than 400 foot deep waters within two miles of shore.



Elkhart Lake Pier

Sheboygan Lake is a drainage lake located within the Broughton Sheboygan County Marsh. It covers more than 674 acres (this figure changes based on the extent of cattail vegetation) within the 14,000 acre Marsh, but averages no more than three feet in depth.

(Big) Elkhart Lake in Sheboygan County has approximately 300 surface acres and a maximum depth of 119 feet. It is the largest kettle moraine in the County and the fourth deepest lake in the State, second deepest natural lake. The fishery of the Lake includes walleye, panfish, muskie and smallmouth bass. Public access is provided.

Crystal Lake is located in the Town of Rhine near the Village of Elkhart Lake. The Lake is 113 acres and is heavily used for fishing and boating.

Little Elkhart Lake is known for fishing. The size of motors allowed on the Lake is limited. The Lake covers 47 acres and has a maximum depth of 21 feet.

Gerber Lake consists of two contiguous basins covering approximately 22 acres in the Town of Rhine. The basins are spring-fed and are known for largemouth bass and bluegill fishing. No motorboats are allowed on the Lake.

Jetzers Lake is a small lake located in the Town of Herman covering about 14 acres. The Lake is spring-fed and has an outlet to the Pigeon River.

Random Lake is the second largest lake in Sheboygan County, with 213 acres in area. It is one of the first large lakes north of Milwaukee and has a public fishing pier, boat landing, docking piers, public beach, picnic area, and swimming.

Other Sheboygan County lakes located primarily in the southern portion of the County include:

- Lake Ellen
- Waldo Mill Pond
- Crooked Lake
- Lake Seven

Rivers, Streams, and Creeks

Nichols Creek is the only stream or river to have been designated as outstanding water resource by the State of Wisconsin in Sheboygan County, with those designated as exceptional water resources listed in Table 3 below.¹¹ This designation under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 102 establishes water quality standards for different classes of surface waters in the State.

Table 3: Sheboygan County Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters Report

Official Waterbody Name	Local Waterbody Name	Outstanding / Exceptional	Mileage	Counties
Chambers Creek	Chambers Creek	Exceptional Water Resource	2.59	Sheboygan
Gooseville Creek	Gooseville Creek	Exceptional Water Resource	0.88	Sheboygan

La Budde Creek	Labudde Creek	Exceptional Water Resource	3.91	Sheboygan
Millhome Creek	Millhome Creek	Exceptional Water Resource	1.97	Manitowoc, Sheboygan
North Branch Milwaukee River	Nichols Creek (N. Branch Milwaukee River)	Outstanding Water Resource	4.32	Sheboygan
Onion River	Ben Nutt Creek	Exceptional Water Resource	9.99	Sheboygan
Schuett Creek	Schuett Creek	Exceptional Water Resource	0.63	Sheboygan

Sheboygan County is characterized by a number of major river systems that flow from west to east across the County. Major rivers in the County include:

- The *Mullet River* originates at the outlet of Mullet Lake in Fond du Lac County and runs generally east before joining the Sheboygan River in the City of Sheboygan Falls. The two named tributaries to the Mullet River are La Budde Creek and Jackson Creek. The watershed contains nearly two miles of Class I trout water and nearly 35 miles of streams supporting a warm water sport fish community. In 2015, the dam located on the Manitou Girl Scout Camp site was removed.
- The *Sheboygan River* originates in east-central Fond du Lac County and flows generally southeastward into the City of Sheboygan, where it enters Lake Michigan. The major tributaries to the Sheboygan River are the Onion and Mullet Rivers. Other named warm water tributaries to the Sheboygan River include Otter and Weeden Creeks. Millhome, Schuett, and Feldner's Creeks are trout streams located in the Sheboygan River Basin. There are also nine dams in the watershed: Sheboygan Marsh, Kiel, Rockville, Millhome, Johnsonville, Sheboygan Falls, Waelderhaus, Riverbend, and Mischo's.
- The *Onion River* flows southerly for about half of its length before turning northward, entering the Sheboygan River in Rochester Park in the City of Sheboygan Falls. Belguim Creek is the only major tributary to the Onion River. There are two dams on the Onion River, which form the Waldo and Hingham impoundments. The Hingham Dam was replaced in 2018.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) along with its partners including Sheboygan County, began a study in 2011 focusing on water quality in the Sheboygan River and Otter Creek watersheds, thanks to a six year, \$1.6 million, grant from the Kohler Trust for Preservation. Focusing primarily on phosphorus levels in the local waterways, the project conducted water sampling and analysis to determine the effect of best management practices on farm runoff and water quality, and continued to do so until the end of 2016. The results have allowed partners to identify problem areas, consider the causes, and recommend remediation or avoidance techniques for the future.

Table 4 indicates the results of the Sheboygan River 2013-2014 Phosphorus Study conducted by TNC. A total of 336 water samples were collected from 28 different sites in the Sheboygan River watershed; the samples were then analyzed for both total phosphorus and dissolved phosphorus. Although some discoveries were expected, others were not. For instance, TNC researchers were surprised to discover

very low total phosphorus at most of the sites on a specific day in May of 2013. Although water levels were high, researchers consider the possibility that high water levels already had flushed downstream much of the total phosphorus load.

Implementation in the test watershed was positive, as indicated quantitatively:

- 2, 2127 acres in Nutrient Management Plans that were not prior (60%)
- 56 acres in conservation tillage
- 19 acres in cover crops
- 3 grassed waterways, totaling 3,380 linear feet
- 5 grassed buffers totaling 4.4 acres
- 6,000 feet of permanent pasture/lane fencing
- 6,000 feet of cattle water pipeline
- 1,380 feet of cattle lane
- 1 denitrifying bioreactor (1st in the State of Wisconsin)

Table 4: Total and Dissolved Phosphorus Levels

Average Total and Dissolved Phosphorus Sheboygan River Watershed Sites 2013-2014			
Location	Total Phosphorus	Dissolved Phosphorus	Site #
Poplar Road	0.109	0.0706	1
Hwy W Main branch	0.1112	0.0843	2
Hwy W Tributary south of Mt. Calvary	0.468	0.2428	3
Hwy ccc Tributary east of Mt. Calvary	1.3588	1.2145	4
Feldners Creek	0.0189	0.0045	5
Hwy G Main - St. Cloud	0.172	0.0971	6
Hwy Q north of Marsh	0.2403	0.08	7
Sheboygan Marsh Dam	0.117	0.0621	8
Kiel Dam	0.066	0.0351	9
CTH XX tributary	0.0909	0.05	10
Hwy 57 below Millhome	0.0513	0.0185	11
Otter Creek - Willow Rd.	0.0625	0.0388	12
Hwy O - Sheboygan Falls	0.0589	0.0222	13
Taylor Drive	0.0959	0.0621	14
Mullet - Hwy G	0.3735	0.1653	15
Mullet - Hwy CJ	0.0812	0.0528	16
LaBudde – Highview	0.0384	0.0171	17
Hwy 23	0.0533	0.0318	18
Blueberry	0.1217	0.0783	19

Below Richardson Lumber	0.109	0.0689	20
Tributary on PP near M	0.1693	0.0917	21
Onion - Hwy E	0.0369	0.0215	22
Onion Hwy 57	0.1384	0.0107	23
Brookcrest Tributary	0.3275	0.2573	24
Tributary on D	0.3685	0.3465	25
Hwy G	0.192	0.1086	26
Sheboygan Falls	0.1935	0.1502	27
Tributary south of Miley Rd	0.253	0.2113	28

Trout Streams

Since 1990, a category system has been used to manage a variety of fishing opportunities that anglers desire. Size and limits on the number of fish vary by category to match the productivity of the stream, the fishing pressure, and the local fishing community. Class I trout streams are those considered to be high quality trout waters that have sufficient natural reproduction to sustain populations of wild trout, at or near the limits of the waterway. They tend to be small and may contain small or slow-growing trout, especially in the headwaters area. Class II trout streams may have some natural, in-stream reproduction, but not enough to use all of the available food and habitat in the stream. As a result, stocking is required to maintain a strong sport-fishing population in these streams. They have a good survival rate and often produce some fish larger than average. Sheboygan County has 37 miles of trout streams, of which 8.9 miles are Class I and 28.1 miles are Class II. Table 5 shows the trout streams in Sheboygan County.

Table 5: Trout Streams in Sheboygan County

Stream Name	Start Mile	End Mile	Class Type
Chambers Creek	0	2.9	Class I
Gooseville Creek	0	0.88	Class I
Goosville Creek (South Branch)	0.88	2.36	Class II
Jackson Creek	0	1.8	Class II
La Budde Creek	0	3.05	Class II
Labudde Creek	3.05	6.97	Class I
Melius Creek	0	3.3	Class II
Mill Creek	0	1.8	Class I
Millhome Creek	0	1.97	Class I
Mullet River	17.76	23.67	Class II
Nichols Creek (N. B. Milw R)	23.48	27.8	Class I
Ben Nutt Creek	31.81	41.88	Class I
Schuett Creek	0	0.63	Class I
Glenbeulah Springs	0	0	Class II
North Branch Gooseville Creek	0	1.07	Class I
Willow Creek	0	1.95	Class II
Watercress Creek	0	5	Class II

Shoreland Corridors

Shorelands are often viewed as valuable recreation and environmental resources, both in urbanized and rural areas. Development in shoreland areas is generally permitted, but specific design techniques must be considered. The development is strictly regulated and in some instances, it may not be permitted. The authority to enact and enforce shoreland zoning provisions in counties is set forth in Chapter 59.692 of the Wisconsin Statutes, Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115, and Chapter 72 of the Sheboygan County Code.

Floodplains

Floodplains are often viewed as valuable recreational and environmental resources. These areas provide for stormwater retention, groundwater recharge, and habitat for various kinds of wildlife unique to the water.

Development permitted to take place in these areas is susceptible to storm drainage and can have an adverse effect on water quality and wildlife habitat. In addition, it can also result in increased development and maintenance costs such as providing flood proofing, repairing damage associated with flooding and high water, increased flood insurance premiums, extensive site preparation, and repairing water-related damage to roads, sewers, and water mains. Communities have special ordinances for buildings within the floodplain for remodeling and expanding. New expansions may need to be in compliance with the rules of floodplain construction.

As a result, the State of Wisconsin requires that counties, cities, and villages adopt shoreland and floodplain zoning ordinances to address the problems associated with development in floodplain areas. Development in floodplain areas is strictly regulated and in some instances not permitted. For planning and regulatory purposes, the floodplain is normally defined as those areas, excluding stream channel, that are subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This event has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. Because of this chance of flooding, development in the floodplain should be discouraged, and the development of park and open space in these areas should be encouraged. Map 1.7 in Appendix A shows the floodplain areas as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Those portions in the unincorporated areas of Sheboygan County fall under the jurisdiction of the Planning & Conservation Department. Floodplain maps are available for viewing on FEMA's website and paper copies of the maps are available for viewing at the Planning & Conservation Department.

Wetlands

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, wetlands are areas where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophilic vegetation. Other common names for wetlands include swamps, bogs, or marshes. Wetlands serve as valuable natural resources as they provide scenic open spaces in both urban and rural areas.

Wetland also act a natural pollution filters, making many lakes and streams cleaner and drinking water safer. They act as groundwater recharge/discharge areas and retain floodwaters. Filling or draining of wetlands is costly, destroys the productive capacity of the ecosystem, and can adversely affect surface water quality and drainage. Finally, they provide valuable and irreplaceable habitat for many plants and animals.

Because of their importance, strict regulations exist regarding wetlands. Wisconsin Administrative Codes NR 115 and NR 117 fall under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and mandate that shoreland wetlands be protected in both the rural and urban areas of the State. In the unincorporated areas, NR 115 provides the legislation to protect wetlands that are within the jurisdiction of county shoreland zoning ordinances. Wetlands not in the shoreland zone are protected from development by the federal government and the WDNR through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and NR 103, respectively. It should be noted that all wetlands, no matter how small, are subject to WDNR and possibly federal regulations if they meet the State definition.



Flooded Farm Field at the Amsterdam Dunes Preservation Area

Sheboygan Marsh

The Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park & Wildlife Area lies in northwestern Sheboygan County, near the Village of Elkhart Lake. It encompasses over half of the Town of Russell and Greenbush-north. It includes about 14,000 acres of land and surface water; 8,335 acres are publicly owned, of which 7,462 acres are owned by Sheboygan County and 873 acres are owned by the State of Wisconsin. The remainder is privately owned, some of which is publicly accessible. The Sheboygan River flows easterly through the Marsh. Map 6.0 shows the Sheboygan Marsh area.

The Wildlife Area is an ecologically diverse system comprised of expansive cedar and tamarack swamps, shrub marshes, lowland hardwoods, and large areas of marshes and open water. The Marsh lies in a 133 square mile watershed and is bisected by the Sheboygan River, which is impounded by a dam at the northeast corner of the property. The open waters and adjoining wetlands are a restored flowage of the Sheboygan River where the dam is set at the level of the natural impoundment destroyed when the Marsh was drained.

The Sheboygan Marsh is particularly popular during the hunting and fishing seasons. Prime habitat exists for migratory waterfowl, small and big game animals, fish, furbearers, and various species of non-game animals. Common wildlife species include white-tailed deer, turkey, Sandhill crane, great blue heron, raccoon, fox, muskrat, and mink. Less common species include otter, osprey, coyote, great egret (State threatened), northern harrier, ruffed grouse, yellow-headed blackbird, black-crowned night heron, American bittern, and black tern (State endangered). Bald eagle nesting nearby and migrating utilize the open waters of the marsh and river. As such, the Marsh is especially attractive to hunters, fishers, and nature observers alike. The Marsh adjoins the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve. As the Marsh is such a valuable treasure, if adjacent private property becomes available, Sheboygan County will actively consider obtaining additional property to protect if financing and partnerships become available.



Sheboygan Marsh Tower

A major County park located on approximately 30 acres at the northeast corner of the property at the site of the Sheboygan River dam has been developed by Sheboygan County. This popular facility offers amenities including:

- Three Guys and a Grill (full service restaurant and tavern)
- Broughton Lodge (multi-purpose facility)
- State wildlife viewing area
- 64 developed campsites
- Large picnic area with contemporary shelter
- Playground
- Launching ramps
- Fishing piers
- Public snowmobile trails
- Large open areas

A Marsh Park Plan was developed in 2015 to guide the future of the developed portion of the Sheboygan Marsh. The public was invited to respond to an online survey, and an additional 500 surveys were mailed to random addresses in the County. A total of 214 people responded to the surveys, answering a variety of questions on their use of the Marsh Park and vision towards its future. The Sheboygan County Recreational Facilities Management Advisory Committee oversaw the creation of the Marsh Park Plan, with the Plan itself developed by the Planning & Conservation Department. It provides an excellent framework for local municipal leaders, committees, volunteers, and users of the park to collaborate towards making the Marsh Park even better for the next generation.

Management activities at the Sheboygan Marsh are primarily directed at habitat improvements for migratory waterfowl, small and big game animals, fish, and development of facilities for other compatible outdoor recreational pursuits. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources professional staff, in accordance with a formal Management Agreement re-executed with Sheboygan in 2002 following the adoption of the Marsh Management Plan, provides wildlife, fish, and forestry management. The Marsh Management Plan was most recently updated in 2013 to reflect the changing needs and best interests of Sheboygan County and its residents.



Since 2005, the local non-profit group, the Friends of the Sheboygan Marsh, have played a large role in the development of the Marsh Park. In 2009, after successfully raising over \$400,000, they constructed and donated the State's tallest wooden observation tower to Sheboygan County. Soon after, they began fundraising to build a state-of-art multi-purposed educational facility to house the ever-growing two-day Outdoor Education Program that takes place at the Marsh. Nearly every school district in the area sends middle school aged children to gather specimens and learning about the scientific method. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new building took place in June of 2020 and is expected to provide a learning space (as well as new bathrooms for the campground) for generations to come.

Kiel Marsh

The Kiel Marsh Wildlife Area is located in north central Sheboygan County, north of the Sheboygan Marsh on the Sheboygan River in portions of the Town of Rhine and Town of Russell. Portions of the Kiel Marsh lie in southwest Manitowoc County and southeast Calumet County. The property borders on the City of Kiel in Manitowoc County.

The Kiel Marsh was formed during the Ice Age. Early inhabitants of the area include the Fox, Sac, and Menominee Tribes of Native Americans. In 1963, the Conservation Commission approved the State acquisition of the property.

The Kiel Marsh consists of 822 acres of land. Future expansion to include a total of 1,072 acres of land is the goal of the Department of Natural Resources. Carp, yellow perch, northern pike, black crappie, and bullhead species dominate the fish population in the Kiel Marsh. Species such as pumpkinseed, bluegill, and largemouth bass are less common and do not contribute significantly to the fishery. Muskrat and mink are the principal fur-bearing mammals on the Marsh. While mallard and wood duck are the most abundant waterfowl, the Marsh also has sizable populations of blue-winged teal, Canada geese, the State endangered black tern, sora, green herons, great blue herons, great horned owls, barred owls, marsh wrens, red-winged black birds, tree swallows, and a variety of other song birds and small mammals. Deer and turkey are common residents of the wooded and brush areas; pheasants are found on the upland fringes. Osprey, which is a statewide species of concern, successfully nest on the Sheboygan Marsh and

hunt on the Kiel Marsh. Blandings turtles, another species of concern, have been noted on the Sheboygan River in this area.

Forests and Woodlands

Woodlands throughout Sheboygan County are comprised primarily of sugar maple, yellow birch, American beech, basswood, red oak, red pine, hemlock, sugar maple, paper birch, aspen, white cedar, and small stands of the northern hardwood species. Also seen in the County are balsam firs, white spruce, black spruce, and tamarack. These woodlands provide an aesthetic and natural purpose, providing habitat to a number of animals. Maps 1.9 and 1.10 show the original vegetative cover and the wooded areas of Sheboygan County.

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit

The northern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest contains approximately 30,000 acres of forestlands. Outdoor recreation is an important use of this forest; however, it is also the largest block of contiguous forest in Wisconsin east of the Baraboo range. The State Forest is important for sensitive wildlife in the area, such as Neotropical migrants, several endangered and threatened species, and red-shouldered hawks (State-threatened). Species interest areas include Dundee Mountain, the Henry S. Ruesch Ice Age Visitor Center, Parnell Tower, and Esker, among others. Spruce Lake Bog and Jersey Flats Prairie are also areas that are excellent for viewing wildlife. Wildlife species found throughout the forest include white-tailed deer, turkeys, Cooper’s hawks, red squirrels, bobolink, meadowlarks, bluebirds, and red-winged blackbirds. State Natural Areas found within the State Forest include Butler Lake and Flynn’s Spring, Crooked Lake Wetlands, Johnson Hill Kame, Kettle Hole Woods, and Kettle Moraine Red Oaks. Recreational opportunities include cross-country skiing, hiking, mountain biking, and hunting among others.

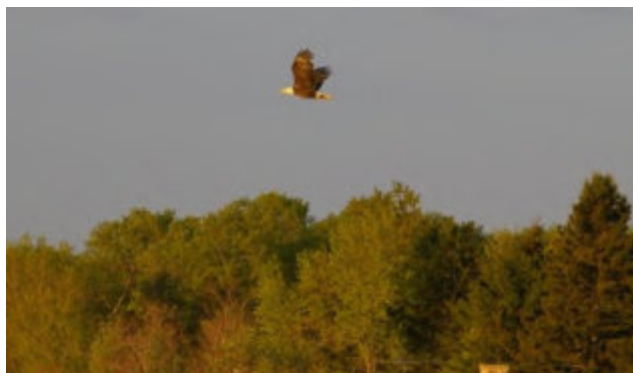
Air Quality

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses six “criteria pollutants” as indicators of air quality: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and lead. For each of these, the EPA has established “primary” standards to protect public health, and “secondary” standards to protect other aspects of public welfare, such as preventing materials damage, preventing crop and vegetation damage, or assuring visibility. These standards are known as the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Areas of the country where air pollution levels persistently exceed these standards may be designated as “non-attainment.”

Sheboygan County was considered a nonattainment area for the 8 hour ozone standard (NAAQS). However, in 2020 a portion of the County saw the removal of the designation. Nonetheless, it should be noted, however, that approximately 70 percent of Sheboygan County’s air pollution is from other areas, such as the Chicago and Milwaukee metropolitan areas.

Wildlife Habitat

Fish and wildlife habitat areas have been categorized according to their level of quality and importance in many of the coastal areas of Sheboygan County as part of a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Study that was prepared by the Wisconsin DNR. In this study, habitat areas were identified as having top, medium, or low quality capabilities of supporting various types of wildlife habitat.



Migratory Pathway at Amsterdam Dunes

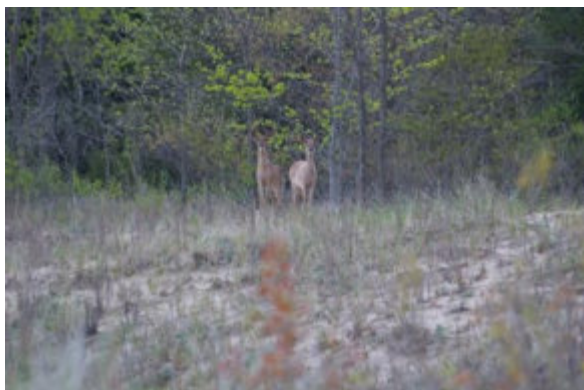
A majority of the large remaining wooded and wetland areas within the County were designated as Class I (most desirable) wildlife habitats by the Wisconsin DNR.

Major wildlife species using these habitats include songbirds, deer, turkey, and squirrels. Other common species include coyote, gray and red fox, skunk, and raccoon. Muskrat, mink, beaver, and otter have been identified in the wetland areas. Some of the old fields provide habitat for pheasants. Woodchuck, meadow vole, American toad, snapping turtle, and Canada goose can also be found throughout the County.

Sheboygan County lies within an important migratory corridor for songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors. These birds, possibly including some threatened or endangered species, use wooded and wetland areas for food and shelter during migration.

Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Areas

Environmental corridors serve many purposes. They protect local water quality and wildlife habitat through identification and preservation of environmentally sensitive areas. They can be used as a means of controlling, moderating, and storing floodwaters while providing nutrient and sediment filtration. Additionally, environmental corridors can provide fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and



Deer Habitat at Amsterdam Dunes

serve as buffers between land uses, while improving the aesthetics of a community. The environmental corridor process is also used as part of the planning process for making planning and zoning decisions at the local level.

The concept of a corridor is based on the delineation of environmental features adjacent to waterways and water-related resources. The Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission has defined environmental corridors to include the following set of uniformly available information: Wisconsin DNR wetlands,

Federal Emergency Management Agency’s 100-year floodplains, areas with slopes greater than or equal to twelve percent, lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, a 75-foot lake and river setback, and a 25-foot buffer of wetlands. Many planning activities require delineation of environmental corridors (comprehensive plans, watershed plans, sewer service area plans, etc.).

Other features that are considered as part of the environmental corridor definition on an area-by-area basis include designated scientific and natural areas, unique and isolated woodland areas, scenic viewsheds, historic and archaeological sites, unique geology, wetland mitigation sites, isolated wooded areas, unique wildlife habitats, parks and recreation areas, and other locally identified features. Designated State Natural Areas include Rhine Center Bog, Muehl Springs, and the Cedar Grove Ornithological Raptor Research Station. The Commission and the Department defined environmental corridors for Sheboygan County to help in identifying areas that have the greatest need for protection, which are shown in Map 1.11 in Appendix A.

Historical, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources

History of the County

Native American people, following their trail from Milwaukee to Green Bay, could always tell where they were when they reached the mouth of the Sheboygan River. They called this Schwab-we-way-kum, Native American terminology for “great noise underground.” The theory is that the rushing sounds of the falls upstream prompted this description; this is a more generally accepted version of the way Sheboygan got its name.

When the first European settlers came to the area, there were approximately 1,000 Native Americans living in the County, composed mainly of the Pottawatomi, Chippewa, Ottawa, Winnebago, and Menominee tribes. Their villages and camps were clustered on the bank or shore of practically every lake or stream, with the largest villages situated along the shores of Lake Michigan. After this territory began to interest the European settlers, treaties were made with the Native Americans. On September 26, 1833, in a treaty made at Chicago, the Native American tribes relinquished all claim to the land on the west shore of Lake Michigan, including what is now Sheboygan County, though many Native Americans remained there for many years.

On December 7, 1836, an act of the territorial legislature detached the area from Brown County. This was less than a year after Wisconsin became a territory, and nearly twelve years before it became a state. It was not until two years later, on December 17, 1838, that the legislature passed a law organizing the county government and providing for the first election of officers, which was held on March 4, 1839.

Sheboygan County’s boundaries have never changed from its original organization. The Town of Sheboygan was the first to organize, on March 8, 1839, with its boundaries extending to those of the County. As new towns were formed, they were set off from the Town of Sheboygan.

A study of names of the first European settlers established them to have been of English ancestry from New England. First here were the trappers, then surveyors, followed by the businessmen. They were followed in the 1840's and 50's by large migrations of Germans, Dutch, and Irish, who came directly from Europe.

The settlers started clearing the land and raising crops. With the increased interest in agriculture, dairy farming emerged as a principal industry in the County. Cheese making moved from the farmhouse and dairy barn in 1887 to the first cheese factory located on the Fond du Lac Plank Road, two miles west of Sheboygan Falls. By 1875, there were 45 factories producing over two million pounds of cheese. At one time, there were about 116 factories in the County. Today, the number of operating factories has dwindled and the bulk of the dairy products are produced in cooperative and corporate dairies. A large concentration of dairying continues in Sheboygan County. While the number of dairy farms is decreasing, herd sizes are becoming larger.



Sheboygan Falls Chamber of Commerce

Many factories contributed in making Sheboygan County a prosperous manufacturing center almost from the beginning. A wealth of natural waterpower from lakes and streams flowing generally southeasterly into Lake Michigan attracted numerous sawmills and flourmills. Many of the immigrants were artisans with skilled trades and with the abundant supply of raw materials; it was natural that early manufacturing utilized the abundant forest resources. In the 1850's, implements and engines were being made in the City of Sheboygan, and a tannery prospered. Up to the Civil War, the City of Sheboygan Falls outranked the City of Sheboygan as a manufacturing center.

Two outstanding developments characterized the era between 1880 and 1890. The first was a phenomenal growth in population, with the other being the development of large-scale industry. In 1875, Sheboygan County had a population of less than 7,000, which mushroomed to 16,300 by 1890. In 2018, according to the US Census, Sheboygan County had an estimated population of 115,456.

Woodworking continued to dominate the economy, producing such products as lathes, windmills, spokes, sashes, door and window blinds, clothes, reels, rakes, carriages, wagons, and barrels. The manufacturing of enamelware emerged as an industry of great importance in the 1880's in the form of small kitchen cooking utensils and large kitchen and bathroom fixtures. The latter industry has become a very large employer in Sheboygan County, with outlets throughout the world.

Various immigrants had their cultural and economic effect on the community. Thrifty and industrious, they earned and saved money with which to build homes and thriving communities. Great music lovers,

they also formed singing societies and still conduct festivals and dances today. Slavonic Catholics and Lithuanians arrived on the Sheboygan scene early in the twentieth century, and these ethnic groups have added to the heritage of the County.

Historical Sites

Portions of Sheboygan County have been settled by the Europeans since the 1700's. Subsequently, there are many buildings and sites of historical importance within the region. For this Plan, historic properties on the State or national registry, exclusive of the City of Sheboygan, have been listed on the following page.¹²

Table 6: State or National Register Historic Places

Address	Community	Historic Name
W4651 County Road J, Town of Plymouth, WI 53083	Plymouth	Lueder, Rudolph, 13-Sided Barn
Silver Creek-Cascade Rd.	Sherman	Gooseville Mill/Grist Mill
Old Wade House State Park	Greenbush	Robinson-Herrling Sawmill
Roughly bounded by Broadway, Monroe, Pine, and Buffalo Sts., and the Sheboygan River	Sheboygan Falls	Downtown Historic District
(No address)	Sherman	St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church
Lower Falls Rd.	Kohler	Riverbend
Hwy 57	Waldo	Onion River Flouring Mill/Grist Mill
High St.	Kohler	American Club
Gardner St.	Glenbeulah	Glenbeulah Mill/Grist Mill
Franklin Rd.	Herman	Franklin Feed Mill
Four miles south of Kohler-Andrae State Park, Lake Michigan	Oostburg	Byron Shipwreck
CTH Y, N of CTH O	Sheboygan (Town of)	Windway
County Trunk M	Herman	Mission House Historic District
County highways J, P, JP, A, and Lake Street	Rhine	Elkhart Lake Road Race Circuits
Center St., Old Wade House State Park	Greenbush	Robinson, Charles, House
At jct. of WI 23 and Kettle Maraine Dr. in Old Wade House State Park	Greenbush	Wade, Sylvanus, House
754 Elkhart Lake Dr.	Elkhart Lake	Villa Von Baumbach
7 miles northeast of Sheboygan in Lake Michigan	Mosel	Silver Lake Shipwreck (Scow-schooner)
7 miles northeast of Sheboygan in Lake Michigan	Mosel	Walter B. Allen Shipwreck (Canaller)
52 Stafford St.	Plymouth	Hotel Laack
501 and 517 Monroe St. and 504, 508, and 516-518 Water St.	Sheboygan Falls	Cole Historic District
444 Highland Drive	Kohler	Kohler Company Factory Complex
405 Collins St.	Plymouth	Huson, Henry H., House and Water Tower
402 Lake Side Park Dr.	Rhine	Villa Laun
302 East Main St.	Plymouth	Plymouth Post Office

The Sheboygan County Cultural Resources Committee identified the following as important cultural resources in the County:

- Archaeological sites
- Arts (such as galleries, murals, Tellen carvings)
- Barns
- Bridges
- Cemeteries
- Century farms
- Churches
- Ethnic events
- Feed mills
- Forests
- Geographic features (such as the Kettles)
- Government buildings
- Historical events and/or people
- Ice industry
- Industrial sites
- Interurban rail line
- Libraries
- Lighthouses
- Old-fashioned meat markets
- Native sites
- Hotels
- Railroad depots
- Restaurants
- Road America
- Settlement patterns
- Schools and/or parks (such as the Sheboygan Marsh)
- Brick streets
- Stores
- Wade House

State Historical Markers located in Sheboygan County are identified in Table 7 below (the table includes sites within the City of Sheboygan).¹³

Table 7: State Historic Markers in Sheboygan County

Name	Address
Dutch Settlement	Sauk Trail (old WI-141), 3.75 miles north of Cedar Grove
Sheboygan Indian Mound Park	Junction of 9th St and Panther Ave, Sheboygan
Seils-Sterling Circus	Junction of Center Ave and N Water St, Sheboygan
Early Dutch Settlers in Wisconsin	South 300 Main St, Cedar Grove
Historic Oostburg	Heritage House Triangle Park, junction of Center St and N 10th St, Oostburg
Downtown Sheboygan Falls Historic District	Sheboygan River Dam, Broadway St, Sheboygan Falls
Cole Historic District	Rochester Inn, 504 Water St, Sheboygan Falls
The "Phoenix" Tragedy	Sheboygan North Point Park, N Point Dr, Sheboygan
Elkhart Lake – Road Race Circuits	Lake Street Café Beer Garden, 21 Lake St, Elkhart Lake
Nowack House	Greenleaf Historic Park, 900 Short St, Random Lake
Revolutionary War Veteran David Waldo	Wildwood Cemetery, 2026 New Jersey Ave, Sheboygan
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1230	1138 Union Ave, Sheboygan

Care should be taken when excavation is performed within Sheboygan County since the possibility of disturbing a historical or archaeological site exists. The State of Wisconsin requires any findings of human

bones to be reported, enabling the State Historical Society to investigate (Wis. Stat. sec. 157.70). Land developers trying to obtain State permits from the Wisconsin DNR on any development involving federal monies are required to be in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties.

Historic Districts

Cole Historic District, City of Sheboygan Falls was listed in the State and national register on December 1, 1988. It is situated on ten acres and consists of five commercial and domestic dwellings in Greek Revival and other styles from the period between 1837 and 1867.

Downtown Historic District, City of Sheboygan Falls was listed in the State and national register on December 27, 1984. It is situated on 65 acres and consists of over 30 buildings in late Victorian, 19th and 20th Century Revivals, and other styles from the period between 1835 and 1928.

Mission House Historic District, Lakeland College, Town of Herman was listed in the State and national register on December 20, 1984. It is situated on 100 acres and consists of five buildings in Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, and late Gothic Revival from the period between 1879 and 1934.

Downtown Churches Historic District, City of Sheboygan was added to the register in 2010. The district is composed of four churches and five other associated buildings. The first of the churches was built in 1871 and the most recent in 1968, and the style of each church is reflective of its unique faith and style of the time.

Downtown Plymouth Historic District, City of Plymouth was added to the register in 2016. Downtown Plymouth, centered on E. Mill Street, has been the historic commercial core of the community for over 160 years. The prevalence and variety of stores: hardware, dry goods and groceries, pharmacy, farm supplies, furniture, and shoes to name some, reflects that this was the center of commerce. Joined in the mix were a Post Office, theater, doctors' offices, an automobile service garage, hotel, bank, and professional offices which provided additional services or amenities to the community. The buildings reflect the architectural styles that were popular between the late nineteenth and mid twentieth centuries and include the Italianate, German Renaissance Revival, Classical Revival, 20th Century Commercial and Contemporary styles, as well as vernacular Front Gabled and Commercial Vernacular forms. The Downtown Plymouth Historic District with its various restaurants, shops and amenities, is a thriving commercial district which continues to be an important part of the community.

Community Profile

Economic Development

The economy in Sheboygan County was seriously affected by the Great Recession of 2008, partly due to the effect that was felt by the County's prominent manufacturing sector. Nationally, people are employed in the manufacturing sector at a rate of 10.4% in 2018, according to the US Census. In Sheboygan County,

manufacturing makes up 30.20% of the jobs. This figure typically ranks 2nd or 3rd in the entire country. Table 8 shows the industry of people employed in Sheboygan County.

Table 8: Industry of People Employed in Sheboygan County

Industry	Sheboygan County, Wisconsin			
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	59,637	+/-651	59,637	(X)
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1,094	+/-177	1.80%	+/-0.3
Construction	3,050	+/-340	5.10%	+/-0.6
Manufacturing	19,500	+/-708	32.70%	+/-1.1
Wholesale trade	1,151	+/-193	1.90%	+/-0.3
Retail trade	6,645	+/-390	11.10%	+/-0.6
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	2,146	+/-258	3.60%	+/-0.4
Information	627	+/-146	1.10%	+/-0.2
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	2,776	+/-287	4.70%	+/-0.5
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	3,475	+/-325	5.80%	+/-0.5
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	10,993	+/-554	18.40%	+/-0.9
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	4,609	+/-465	7.70%	+/-0.8
Other services, except public administration	2,231	+/-259	3.70%	+/-0.4
Public administration	1,340	+/-193	2.20%	+/-0.3

Source: US Censuses American Community Survey

The remainder of the employment in the County centers on providing services to those living in the community, such as in the education, health care, and retail industries. The manufacturing jobs in the County tend to be lower-skilled, high-wage, high-benefit jobs. However, as is becoming the case nationwide, a new form of manufacturing jobs requiring a technical degree is becoming increasingly prominent. The economy of Sheboygan County has steadily improved after the Great Recession and has been one of the strongest performing counties in the entire State for many years.

Table 9 shows the median household income in Sheboygan compared to that of the State of Wisconsin. In 2010, the median household income in Sheboygan County (\$51,763) was nearly identical to that of Wisconsin (\$51,340). Also, at 8.8%, Sheboygan County has fewer persons living below the poverty level between 2008 and 2012 than the State of Wisconsin, at 12.5%. In 2017, the City of Sheboygan was ranked first in the nation as having the lowest poverty rate in metro areas and as having the 3rd highest

concentration of middle-class households in the nation. The County also ranks as the community having the smallest gap between the rich and poor in the nation.

Table 9: Median Household Income in Sheboygan County

Income & Benefits	Wisconsin				Sheboygan County, WI			
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
Total households	2,343,129	+/-6,471	2,343,129	(X)	47,303	+/-418	47,303	(X)
Less than \$10,000	115,992	+/-2,100	0	+/-0.1	1,546	+/-226	0	+/-0.5
\$10,000 to \$14,999	106,603	+/-1,874	4.50%	+/-0.1	1,937	+/-266	4.10%	+/-0.6
\$15,000 to \$24,999	221,665	+/-2,900	9.50%	+/-0.1	4,819	+/-432	10.20%	+/-0.9
\$25,000 to \$34,999	228,062	+/-2,673	9.70%	+/-0.1	4,856	+/-415	10.30%	+/-0.9
\$35,000 to \$49,999	319,732	+/-2,816	13.60%	+/-0.1	6,662	+/-405	14.10%	+/-0.9
\$50,000 to \$74,999	447,485	+/-4,040	19.10%	+/-0.2	10,084	+/-418	21.30%	+/-0.9
\$75,000 to \$99,999	326,010	+/-2,945	13.90%	+/-0.1	6,871	+/-477	14.50%	+/-1.0
\$100,000 to \$149,999	352,887	+/-3,439	15.10%	+/-0.1	7,027	+/-395	14.90%	+/-0.8
\$150,000 to \$199,999	121,032	+/-1,805	5.20%	+/-0.1	2,095	+/-221	4.40%	+/-0.5
\$200,000 or more	103,661	+/-1,439	4.40%	+/-0.1	1,406	+/-167	3.00%	+/-0.4
Mean household income	77,687	+/-267	(X)	(X)	72,900	+/-1,405	(X)	(X)

Source: US Censuses American Community Survey

Table 10, illustrates the property assessed values in Sheboygan County.¹⁴ The total assessed value for real estate for the County increased by approximately 80% between 2005 and 2013, not accounting for inflation. Between 2013 and 2018 the increase was 35%. This smaller increase likely due to the large dip during the Great Recession and the lag time thereafter for values to increase.

Table 10: Sheboygan County Property Assessment Totals

Real Property Class	Sheboygan County		
	2005	2013	2018
Agricultural Forest	\$13,201,100	\$23,140,000	\$24,041,200
Forest	\$17,077,400	\$22,508,300	\$22,166,200
Undeveloped	\$15,282,075	\$24,877,800	\$29,521,700
Agricultural	\$25,049,384	\$27,257,800	\$27,259,600
Manufacturing	\$324,920,400	\$443,892,700	\$468,204,800
Commercial	\$1,054,271,360	\$1,416,001,100	\$1,598,815,100
Residential	\$4,929,056,880	\$6,567,565,700	\$6,474,485,600
Other	\$158,609,350	\$173,585,300	\$184,748,100
Real Estate Totals	\$6,378,858,599	\$8,525,243,400	\$8,644,494,200

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) – Division of Research and Policy also offers forecasts for the Sheboygan MSA, consisting of the cities of Sheboygan, Sheboygan Falls, and Plymouth. The Wisconsin DOR offers the following information and forecasts for the area:¹⁵

- Employment in the Sheboygan MSA saw a 4.9% rise between 2014 and 2019.
- Unemployment rate in 2019 was 2.6%. Only two counties in the State had better figures.
- Though the Sheboygan MSA ranks 12th in population only eight MSA's have higher per capita personal income levels, and compared to the entire State, Sheboygan County is in the top quartile
- Although housing permits have fluctuated over recent years, they are expected to continue a slight rise as the housing market continues to improve.

According to the American Community Survey 2011-2013 3-Year Estimates for the 513 square mile County-wide planning area, the average age is 41 years old. Also, the table below illustrates the ethnic composition of Sheboygan County, also according to the ACS.

Table 11: Ethnic Composition

Ethnic Group	Percentage 2013	Percentage 2019	Percent Change
One race	97.90%	98.3%	0.4%
Two or more races	2.10%	1.7%	-19.0%
White	89.20%	89.6%	0.4%
Black or African American	1.80%	2.3%	28%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.20%	0.6%	200%
Asian	5.60%	5.8%	3.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0.1%	100%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	6.20%	6.7%	8.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	93.80%	83.5%	-10.9%

Chapter 2: Public Participation

Sheboygan County Community Outdoor Recreation Online Survey

Purpose

The purpose of the Sheboygan County Community Outdoor Recreation Online Survey for the 2020 update was to gather public input for the update of the Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan. The results can assist in identifying the outdoor recreation activities that are valuable to the public. The results of this analysis help determine if there are enough facilities, which facilities are of the highest priority, and what facilities the County is lacking.

The online survey used Google Docs to accept and analyze responses. The service is free, and information from survey respondents can be directly translated into a spreadsheet.

Survey Methodology

Several outlets were used to advertise the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Trails Survey, including the following:

- The information regarding the survey was placed on the Sheboygan County website (www.sheboygancounty.com) under the 'In the Spotlight' section on the homepage, as well as on the Planning & Conservation Department's page.
- In early March, the survey was mailed to approximately 500 randomly chosen households in Sheboygan County.
- The survey link was sent to the Sheboygan County Conservation Association and asked to be spread amongst its membership.
- The survey link was to the members of the Sheboygan County Recreational Facilities Management Advisory Committee and asked to be spread.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the normal public input open houses were not held. However, in past planning efforts, the attendance at these events is quite minimal.

Each online and paper survey was given a time stamp after being submitted and transferred to the spreadsheet. The data was aggregated and responses tabulated, some of which were multiple choice and two of which were entirely open-ended.

Sample Size

The survey measured the responses of about 186 individuals that completed it, including both the online and hard copy versions. Of that, the mailed hard copy held a return rate of about 35% which is a very good response rate.

The sample size is adequate for a County-level analysis of outdoor recreation activities, but does not allow for a local-level analysis. The solution to this was to engage local community leaders of each of the municipalities (Town, Village, City (excluding City of Sheboygan)) by mailing a more specific survey that was geared to their community. The input that was received was then added to the community maps which are within the Appendix A of the plan and their notes were added to their corresponding section of Chapter 4: Inventory, Analysis, and Recommendations by Community.



Summary of 2020 Surveyed Results

The activity in which respondents or their households participated most frequently was walking, followed by hiking and bicycling. Additionally, they engaged in these activities on a mostly weekly basis, and used a relatively equal balance of State, private, and locally-owned land to do so.

According to the 2007 Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan, a majority of survey respondents from a 2003 survey were in favor of a user fee for the development of additional recreational facilities. In 2011, the County Board officially adopted the implementation of a user fee for the six County--maintained boat landings. Although it is not primarily intended for the development of new facilities, the fee (currently set at \$4 per day for County residents and \$6 per day for non-County residents; also, set at \$16 per year for County residents and \$24 per year for non-County residents) is used for upgrades and maintenance to the County's existing boat landing amenities. The 2020 survey shows that the majority of the public responders still believe that user fees should be utilized for paying for the maintenance of existing facilities and for purchasing new recreational facilities.

Respondents and Analysis

Overall, the 2020 survey respondents were more likely to be men than women, and most fell into the age group of 66 and older, followed by the age group of 56-65. Also, and not surprisingly, most respondents were from the City of Sheboygan zip code areas (which includes Howards Grove) followed by the cities of Plymouth and Sheboygan Falls.

The final question on the survey offered an open-ended response and asked respondents what recreational facilities that they would like to see in Sheboygan County. The results, along with a more detailed summary of survey responses, can be found in Appendix A.

Chapter 3: Vision, Goals, and Objectives

Vision for the Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan

Sheboygan County will offer its residents the best possible system of outdoor recreation and open space sites and activities in a manner which is responsive to the needs of the public, is fiscally responsible, and which promotes the preservation and sustainability of the County's outstanding environmental, archaeological, historical, and cultural resources.

Goal 1: Ensure provision and protection of sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and open areas to satisfy the health, safety, and welfare needs of citizens and visitors, including the under-served population.

Objective 1.1: Strive for a park and outdoor recreation system that satisfies the basic outdoor recreation needs of County residents in an economical and environmentally sensitive manner.

Objective 1.2: Develop a park and recreation system that provides for the year-round recreation needs of the people in Sheboygan County.

Objective 1.3: Utilize other publicly-owned land for open space needs whenever possible, and cooperate with private landowners in providing public access to recreation on privately-owned land.

Objective 1.4: Provide coordinate of public park and open space lands with other uses of land in order that each may enhance the other.

Objective 1.5: Develop a park and recreation system that provide sites with equal accessibility for all.

Objective 1.6: Develop a plan of action to meet the recreation demands of the public where demands are not currently being met.

Object 1.7: Locate future parks so that they are accessible to the population in all parts of the County.

Objective 1.8: Develop park and open space facilities scaled to the future needs of the area and the populations served.

Objective 1.9: Aggressively seek permanent sources of funding that are adequate to provide high quality park and recreation opportunities for the County.

Objective 1.10: Maximize public access to the County's inland waters and Lake Michigan shoreline.

Goal 2: Acquisition of park and open space lands should occur in coordination with development to provide for reasonable acquisition costs and facilitate site planning for development. Alternative means of reserving lands required for open space should be fully explored to ensure that lands are obtained at the lowest cost to the public.

Objective 2.1: Parks and public areas should be linked to neighborhoods and each other by a system of nonmotorized facilities.

Objective 2.2: Park development should be planned to avoid creating nuisance situations between neighbors and park users.

Objective 2.3: All parks should have multiple access points from surrounding neighborhoods.

Objective 2.4: Particular attention should be given to the coordination of land acquisition, land use control, and planning programs of all federal, state, county, and local agencies concerned with parks and conservation.

Objective 2.5: Parks and recreation facilities should be combined with school facilities where appropriate and feasible.

Objective 2.6: Preservation of lowlands, natural waterways, marshes, and adjacent contributing uplands in their natural state should receive special attention to ensure their maintenance as wildlife and fish habitats, as natural drainage areas, as areas for passive recreation and outdoor recreation, and as reservoirs for sediment, where appropriate.

Objective 2.7: Neighborhood parks should be sited and designed to enhance neighborhood cohesion and provide a common neighborhood gathering place.

Objective 2.8: The County should investigate all regulatory and acquisition tools available to preserve conservancy lands or other open space.

Objective 2.9: Parklands in undeveloped areas should be acquired through land developer dedications, where feasible.

Goal 3: Promote the involvement and cooperation of all of the County's communities in park and recreation planning and development.

Objective 3.1: Promote cooperative efforts between communities for the development of recreational facilities.

Objective 3.2: Promote cooperation and coordination of Sheboygan County's recreational programs between municipalities, school districts, the Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin Department of Tourism, private sector recreational business and service programs to produce maximum public benefit and avoid duplication of recreational services and administration in meeting the recreational needs of County residents and visitors.

Objective 3.3: Support the active participation of local civic groups, organizations, and citizens in identifying and meeting the recreational needs of the community.

Objective 3.4: Encourage cooperative community and school projects to improve and expand recreational facilities.

Objective 3.5: Encourage and assist local communities in official mapping of recreational facilities, including greenways and trails.

Goal 4: Develop tools to protect open space.

Objective 4.1: Develop guidelines for protecting scenic roads.

Objective 4.2: Develop guidelines for protecting riparian corridors.

Objective 4.3: Develop guidelines for development on terminal moraines and other areas with scenic vistas.

Objective 4.4: Ensure that County subdivision ordinances discuss open space and nonmotorized facilities.

Objective 4.5: Establish guidelines for green enhancements along major highways.

Objective 4.6: Develop examples of contracts and guidelines for conservation easements and purchase of development rights agreements.

Chapter 4: Inventory, Analysis, and Recommendations by Community

The City of Sheboygan is not included in Chapter 4 of this Plan as it already has its own planning staff, who has prepared a similar plan.

An inventory of individual open space and recreational opportunities is listed below for each of Sheboygan County's communities, aside from the City of Sheboygan. A brief description of each facility is provided, and the



Elkhart Lake Boat Landing Signage

community’s respective map illustrates whether the space is publicly- or privately-owned. Whether the open space is ADA-compliant and specifically what amenities it offers are shown at the Parks and Recreation Finder page of the sheboygancounty.com site.

Town of Greenbush

The Town of Greenbush contains a mix of farmland and government-owned land. The Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit, the Sheboygan Marsh, and the Kettle Moraine Correctional Institute (KMCI) compose the great part of the nearly 30% of land that is held by governmental units. The Town’s location in the Kettle Moraine area makes it desirable for recreational opportunities such as hiking, cross country skiing, and horseback riding. Excluding the population of more than 1,000 at KMCI, the Town of Greenbush had a population of 2,605 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$230,000 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor’s degree have a median income of \$53,333.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park and Wildlife Area. This County- and State-owned area, located in both the towns of Greenbush and Russell, consists of 14,000 acres, of which 9,498 are publicly-owned. The active Park area consists of thirty acres of developed area, including 64 campsites, a large playground, picnic areas, a boat launch, a full-service restaurant and tavern, and the ever-popular Marsh Tower, claiming the title of the tallest wooden observation tower in the State of Wisconsin. The remaining area of the Marsh is used for hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, and nature observing. To note, the Friends of the Sheboygan Marsh raised over \$1.7 million in an effort to construct a new multi-purpose educational facility (aptly named the Kohler Center for Marsh Education in honor of the largest donor) in the southern end of the Park. Construction on this facility began in August 2020. This facility will also contain a wing of new bathroom facilities for campers and other park users.

Greenbush Ballpark and Play Area. The 4.5 acre site includes a ballfield, and a picnic area.

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit. Overall, the State Forest is composed of about 30,000 acres, with 6,749 acres being located in the towns of Greenbush and Plymouth. The site includes hiking and bridle trails, areas for nature study, picnic areas, camping, cross-county ski trails, snowmobile trails, boating, fishing, hunting, dog training, and shelters.

Koenig’s Conservation Club. Located on River Lane, this is a private sportsman’s hunting and trap shooting area.

Greenbush Trailhead. Rest area for the Old Plank Road Trail, which travels alongside STH 23. A small new hiking trail system was completed in 2020 on a portion of this property (1/2 mile loop of varied terrain). Other amenities include a pit toilet, picnic areas, ample parking, and a well.

Riverside Hunting and Fishing Club. Private hunting club.

Smerkes Sportsmen's Club. Private hunting club.

State of Wisconsin DNR Lands. State habitat and public hunting areas are located at Towner Lane (84 acres), Division Road (94 acres), County Road U (40 acres), and Marshview Court (70 acres).

Town of Greenbush Community Hall. 14 acres of public open space area and the location of the Town Hall at State Highway 23 and Sugarbush Road, soccer field and playground equipment is present.

Wade House Stagecoach Inn and Wesley Jung Carriage Museum. Located at County Road T, this 236 acre site has eight historical buildings, nature trails, picnic areas, a famous carriage collection and museum, all of which is part of a State Historic Site.

Surface Water Resources

- *Bear Lake Marsh Area.* 118 acres and located in the Kettle Moraine State Forest.
- *Little Round Lake.* 8 acres and located in the Kettle Moraine State Forest.
- *Sheboygan River*
- *Mullet River*
- *Watercress Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The Town of Greenbush has been active in pursuing recreation opportunities for its residents, and the Town Hall and park often provide opportunities for private groups and for public gatherings. To better accommodate these functions, the Town would like to pursue the development of restrooms that are not connected to the Town hall, construct a new picnic shelter, and enhance the existing playground equipment. A trail from the park area behind the Town Hall and the Old Plank Road Trail would enhance opportunities for trail users to access the park. Sheboygan County also intends to update and enhance the Old Plank Road Trail, Trailhead and park as needed and as funds allow and to provide new amenities as the trail is expanded westward. Likely amenities may include a new trailhead near the county line.

One challenge that continues in the Town of Greenbush is the disappearance of public land for snowmobile use. The conversion of farmland into residential land has resulted in changing ownership; many new landowners are not willing to allow the snowmobile trail to traverse their property.

The locations of the Town of Greenbush's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.1.

Town of Herman

The Town of Herman is located in the northeastern portion of the County and surrounds the Village of Howards Grove. The Village, which continues to grow along with Lakeland College, influences the landscape in the Town. With its proximity to the Village of Howards Grove, and the ease of access to

Interstate 43 and State Highway 42, the Town had a population of 2,151 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$208,100 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median income of \$66,563.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Howards Grove Rod and Gun Club. 16.8 acre private shooting range at Meadowlark Road and a 27 acre site at Rangeline Road.

Jetzer's Lake Access. County-owned boat launch with a fishing pier, restrooms, small park site, on a one acre public site on County Road A.

Lakeland College. A college campus on 107.22 acres, located at County Road M and County Road A with football fields, practice fields, soccer fields, and a basketball court.

Town of Herman Park. A 1.75 acre undeveloped play and picnic area located at Franklin Road and County Road FF.

Surface Water Resources

- *Jetzer's Lake.* Fishing for northern pike, largemouth bass, and panfish with a public boat launch.
- *Sheboygan River*
- *Pigeon River*
- *Fisher Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The open space and recreation needs for the Town of Herman are currently being met.

The locations of the Town's outdoor recreational facilities are shown on Map 5.2.

Town of Holland

The Town of Holland borders the northern communities of Ozaukee County. The Town has been successful in maintaining much of its rural character and farming heritage in the past by trying to limit growth in specific key areas in the Town. Lake Michigan borders the eastern side of the Town, and is subject to development pressure at higher rates than other parts of the Town. Its Board of Supervisors has attempted to limit development around the villages of Oostburg and Cedar Grove and within the corridor area between Interstate 43 and Lake Michigan. The Town of Holland had a population of 2,239 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$241,200 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median income of \$48,500.

It is important to note that the Town of Holland is larger than a typical township; the Town of Holland is comprised of T13 R22 (west) and T13 R23 (east), although there are only about ten sections in T13 R 23 (east) compared to the typical 36 sections within a township.

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Amsterdam Park. A 3 acre site open to residents of the Town of Holland and villages of Cedar Grove and Oostburg, with beach frontage, picnic tables, and barbeques.

Holland Town Hall Park. A small playground next to the Town Hall for the public to use.

Amsterdam Dunes. An approximately 328 acre area open to the public located just east of Interstate 43. Portions of the site will be developed for low-impact recreational uses, and portions will be used for Sheboygan County's wetland mitigation bank site.

Park Square Subdivision Park. A small greenspace within the subdivision that is primarily used by neighboring residents.

Peterman's Hunting and Fishing Club. A private hunting club on 13.5 acres located on Hoftiezer Road.

Pine Beach Boat Club. A private boating club on 3.4 acres located on N. Pine Beach Road.

St. Nicholas Church (Dacada). A 6 acre public site with a baseball diamond and playground equipment on County Road K.

State of Wisconsin DNR lands. A 31.4 acre area of State-owned land with the Cedar Grove Ornithological Research Station. The primary use of this station is the trapping and banding of hawks/raptors. It is located adjacent to the Amsterdam Dunes Preservation Area.

Surface Water Resources

- *Grasser Lake.* Located on 10 acres and without public access.
- *Barr Creek*
- *Onion River*
- *Sucker Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

If the opportunity presents itself, extending the off-road section of the County-owned Interurban Trail north would be desirable. Also, the highest priorities of the Town would be to continue to acquire open space, install playground equipment, acquire funding to help maintain current park facilities, and to ensure constant usage of the open space or recreational areas. If the opportunity and funding presents itself, Sheboygan County would also consider expanding the County-owned Amsterdam Dunes

Preservation Area to include sensitive ridge and swale areas as well as areas upstream of the various creeks that run through the property. The Amsterdam Park Board has expressed an interest in updating the pier at the park.

The locations of the Town of Holland’s outdoor recreational facilities are shown on Map 5.3.

Town of Lima

The Town of Lima continues to be a largely rural town, with the exception of an area south of State Highway 28 near State Highway 32. This area consists of commercial uses and the “Ourtown” neighborhood that the Town of Lima previously identified as a growth area in their comprehensive plan. The Town has been quite successful in preserving agricultural land, and funneling residential and other non-farm related development to one of two unincorporated sewered areas in Gibbsville and Hingham. The Town of Lima had a population of 2,982 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$183,800, and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor’s degree have a median income of \$57,000.

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Camp Riverside. Located at Camp Riverside Road and County Road W, this 60 acre site, managed and owned by the 4-H Leaders Association, includes a nature trail, horseshoe pits, lighted ball diamond, shelter, barbeques, two cabins, playground equipment, a storage building, and restroom facilities.

Gibbsville Athletic Park. An 11.2 acre public site located at State Highway 32 and Wilson Lima Road with playground equipment, a lighted ball diamond with bleachers, a picnic area, a concession stand with restroom facilities and a parking lot.

Hingham Athletic Association Playground. A 3.2 acre site at County Road I and County Road W open to the public with a ballpark and playground equipment.

Surface Water Resources

- *Hingham Mill Pond.* 43 acres open to the public with fishing for northern pike and panfish and an overlook on the dam.
- *Mullet River*
- *Onion River*

Analysis and Recommendations

The open space and recreational needs of the Town are currently being met.

The locations of the Town of Lima’s outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.4.

Town of Lyndon

The Town of Lyndon is, like many other rural communities today, experiencing an increase in new housing at the cost of existing farmland. It is, however, still a primarily agricultural township. The Town of Lyndon had a population of 1,542 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$225,000 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$60,536.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Cedar Springs Trout Farm. A 15 acre area located on State Highway 28 and open to the public for fishing for a fee.

Harbor Lights Resort. Private campground located on a 10.8 acre private site on Walter Way.

Hilly Haven Campground. A 60 acre private campground located on Dusty Lane.

Lake Ellen Access. A one acre State-owned public boat launch located on the northwestern shore of Lake Ellen.

Larson's Resort. Private campground located on 18 acres on Ellen View Road.

Nichols Creek Wildlife Area. State-owned public hunting grounds located at County Road N and Highview Road in the towns of Mitchell and Lyndon (660 acres, with 86 acres of public land in the Town of Mitchell).

Ridge Runners Sportsmen's Club. 68 acre private hunting club at County Road F and Tripperary Road.

Robert Bein Property (Wisconsin DNR). A 154 acre public site acquired by the Wisconsin DNR and the Sheboygan County Conservation Association, with help of the Sheboygan County Stewardship Grant Fund. Acquired specifically for the protection of the sensitive trout production areas of the Onion River Watershed. Site provides access to the Mill Creek.

Silver Spring / Mill Creek Wildlife Area. A 135 acre public, State-owned site with public hunting grounds, self-guided nature trails, and flowing springs, located at County Road S and Silver Spring Lane in the towns of Mitchell and Lyndon.

Wisconsin DNR Lands. State natural areas located on the east and west sides of Blueberry Lane (69.5 acres), on County Road U (5.49 acres), and at County Road U and Dooley Road (320 acres).

Tom Hawe Shooting Preserve. 233 acres of private hunting grounds located at State Highway 28 and County Road NN.

Surface Water Resources

- *Lane Ellen and Mud Lake*. Fishing for northern pike, walleye, largemouth bass, and panfish on the public boat launch (3.3 acres of the 115 total acres are public).
- *Waldo Mill Pond*. Navigable access for the 33.4 acre public site is provided by a stream and offers fishing for northern pike.
- *Onion River*
- *Ben Nutt Creek*
- *Mill Creek*
- *Nichols Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The park and open space needs of the Town are currently being met. However, owners of a significant tract of land near Lake Ellen have expressed a potential interest in selling the property for conservation purposes. If the opportunity and funding present themselves, consideration should be given to obtaining the tract of land to help protect one of the County's larger inland lakes from further development pressure.

The locations of the Town of Lyndon's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.5.

Town of Mitchell

The Town of Mitchell has nearly one half of its land held in governmental ownership, particularly in the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit, which is owned by the State of Wisconsin. The Town's beautiful glacial landscape makes it a very attractive place to live, and many of its residents commute elsewhere to work. The Town of Mitchell had a population of 2,335 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 20012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing unit of \$215,000 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$66,667.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Highland Sportsmen's Club and Kennels. 231 acre private hunting and training grounds at County Road F and County Road A.

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit. Consists of 30,000 acres, of which 8,103 are located in the town of Mitchell and Scott, and are public. The site includes nature study, multi-use trails, picnic areas, camping, boating, fishing, hunting, dog training, cross country ski trails, snowmobile trails, shelters, and the 60' high hilltop Parnell Tower.

Mitchell Town Park. A 6.4 acre public site on Parnell Road with two baseball diamonds, bleachers, restroom facilities, a concession stand, shelter, picnic tables, and horseshoe pits, picnic area, swings, and other play equipment.

Nichols Creek Wildlife Area. State-owned public hunting grounds located at County Road N and Highview Road in the towns of Mitchell and Lyndon (660 acres, with 86 acres of public land in the Town of Mitchell).

Silver Spring / Mill Creek Wildlife Area. A 135 acre public, State-owned site with public hunting grounds, self-guided nature trails, and flowing springs, located at County Road S and Silver Spring Lane in the towns of Mitchell and Lyndon.

Smoky Hollow Muzzle Loaders. A 90 acre private shooting club on Parnell Road east of County Road S.

US Fish & Wildlife Service. A public area on 299.1 acres with hunting grounds and a waterfowl production area, located on County Road W at County Road A.

Surface Water Resources

- *Butler Lake.* Fishing for northern pike, largemouth bass, panfish, and trout. The site is open to the public, on 7.3 acres, and has a boat launch.
- *Cedar Lake.* A 7 acre site with a wilderness seepage lake. Fishing for largemouth bass and panfish, and no roads or buildings within 200 feet of the lake.
- *Kellings Lake.* A 6.5 acre public site with a wilderness seepage lake, and no roads or buildings within 200 feet of the lake.
- *Chambers Creek*
- *Mink Creek*
- *Nichols Creek*
- *Watercress Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The Town of Mitchell hopes to invest more into the Town Park and add more playground equipment within the next few years. The Town is also working towards investing in ATV routes and opening Town roads to ATV access that already have not been.

The locations of the Town of Mitchell's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.6.

Town of Mosel

The Town of Mosel is unique in that it is mostly a rural township which surrounds one of the world's premier golf courses, Kohler's Whistling Straits. The national golf tournaments held at the course have the potential to place increasingly development pressure on the current mostly rural landscape. The Town of Mosel had a population of 790 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 20012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$194,000 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$45,714.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

County Green Space. A 1.24 acre public area at County Road LS and County Road FF, which was a former wayside.

Sheboygan Rifle and Pistol Club. A 7 acre private shooting range on Rowe Road.

Suscha & Fales Sportsmen's Club. A private hunting club on a 22 acre site located on County Road MM.

Whistling Straits Golf Course. A 36 hole golf course on approximately 500 acres along County Road LS. The course is privately-owned with the public welcome, and has hosted the PGA Championship multiple times and will host the Ryder Cup.

Surface Water Resources

- *Lake Michigan*
- *Meeme Creek*
- *Seven Mile Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The open space and recreation needs of the Town are currently being met. However, the Town and County recommends that the section of rail line through the Town on the east of Interstate 43 be converted into a multi-use pathway, should public acquisition of the rail line become possible. The Town would also like to create an access point to Lake Michigan in the future if funding becomes available. Other areas of public acquisition for hunting are on the northern edge of the Town and County Line adjacent to land already designated for hunting.

The locations of the Town of Mosel's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.7.

Town of Plymouth

The Town of Plymouth has acted as a suburb of the City of Plymouth for many years. It currently includes the State Highway 23 corridor, the Road America Raceway, and the highly-developed Crystal Lake. The Town of Plymouth had a population of 3,195 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$227,000 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$46,500.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Camp Anokijig. A private, 271 acre summer camp located on County Road E.

Camp Evelyn. Girl Scout camp on 192 acres on Camp Evelyn Road.

Old Plank Road Trail Plymouth Trailhead. A 5 acre public area at County Road C and State Highway 57. Amenities include a pit toilet, picnic areas, ample parking, and a water source.

Crystal Lake Access. County-owned, one acre public site at County Road C and Crystal Lake with a boat launch, restroom facilities, and parking (the lake is both in the Town of Plymouth and Town of Rhine).

Plymouth Rock Campground. A 128 acre private campground on State Highway 67.

Plymouth Snow Rangers Snowmobile Club. A private snowmobile club on 18 acres on County Road C.

Rhine-Plymouth Field and Stream Club. A 26 acre private hunting club on Golf Course Road.

Road America Raceway. An international raceway on 513 acres along State Highway 67 (privately-owned facility with public welcome) that offers recreational opportunities to the public (i.e. disc golfing, biking on the raceway, etc.).

Rocky Knoll Mountain Biking & Hiking Trails. Located on the undeveloped section of the 62 acre Rocky Knoll Healthcare Facility. Approximately 5 miles in length on varied terrain.

Sir Lanserlot Golf Course. An eighteen hole golf course on 75 acres on County Road C (privately-owned facility with public welcome).

Wisconsin DNR Lands. State-owned lands on County Road ZZ (205 acres) and County Road C (21.8 acres) for State habitat and hunting areas.

Winooski Bowmen Archery Club. A 5 acre private archery club on County Road C.

Surface Water Resources.

- *Crystal Lake.* Fishing for northern pike, walleye, bass, and panfish, with a public boat launch on a 130 acre public site.
- *Mullet River*
- *Ben Nutt Creek*
- *Jackson Creek*
- *La Budde Creek*
- *Otter Creek*
- *Gerber Lakes.* Gerber Lakes consists of two contiguous basins connected by a navigable channel. Both lakes provide summer and winter fishing of bass, bluegills, crappie, and perch.

Analysis and Recommendations

The open space and recreation needs of the Town are currently being met though if the opportunity arises to extend a trail system from the Old Plank Road Trail north to at least Elkhart Lake, the opportunity should

be explored. Sheboygan County also intends to keep upgrading the Rocky Knoll Trail System and will continue to seek funding to do so. Road America also seeks to continue to update the recreational opportunities at its facility. They are considering a mountain bike trail system at this time.

The locations for the Town of Plymouth's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.8.

Town of Rhine

The Town of Rhine contains three of the most heavily-developed lakes in the County: Crystal Lake, "Big" Elkhart Lake, and Little Elkhart Lake. The gravel resource found in the Town's glacial landscape make for a complicated balancing act between residential and gravel resource interests. The Town of Rhine had a population of 2,134 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$229,000 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$65,521.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Camp Anokijig. A private, 271 acre summer camp located on County Road E.

Camp Brosius. A 9 acre camp privately owned by Trustees of Indiana University and located on County Road P, along the western shore of Elkhart Lake.

Elkhart Lake Access. A 1.68 acre County-owned public site at County Road P and Elkhart Lake with a boat launch, restroom facilities, parking, and fishing piers.

Gerber Lake Public Fish and Wildlife Area. A 154 acre public area at County Road E and Gerber Lake Road with a boat launch, public hunting, wildlife viewing, and open space.

Hermitage Conservation Club. A 107 acre private hunting club on Hermitage Road.

Kiel Marsh Wildlife Area. A State-owned public area of 200 acres on Highview Road, north of County Road MM. Public hunting grounds and wildlife area. Extends into Manitowoc and Calumet counties for a total over 808 acres.

LaBudde Creek State Wildlife Area. Public hunting grounds on 320 acres at Little Elkhart Lake Road and Badger Road (State-owned).

Little Elkhart Lake Access. A one half acre County-owned site with a boat launch, restroom facilities, picnic, and parking area on State Highway 67.

Manitowoc Area Off-Highway Vehicle Club. 66.1 acre private off-roading club on State Highway 57.

Milwaukee Police Officers Conservation and Sportsmen Club. 75.1 acres of private hunting club area on Highview Road and Spindler Lane.

Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin. 116.7 acres of undeveloped land to preserve a riparian area of the Sheboygan River along State Highway 67.

Quit Qui Oc Golf Course. An 27 hole golf course on 95.7 acres along State Highway 67 (privately-owned with public welcome).

Rhine Center Bog Natural Area. A classic bog lake is a State natural area. 53 acres, open to the public on State Highway 57.

Recreation Park. A 2.2 acre public picnic area located at County Road J and County Road P, directly east of the Marsh Park at the Sheboygan River.

Road America Raceway. An international raceway and recreational area on 513 acres along State Highway 67 (privately-owned facility with public welcome).

Schuett Creek State Fishery Area. A 120 acre public area to protect the fishery of Schuett Creek on Willow Road.

Shotgun Shooting Inc. A hunting club located on Golf Course Road (31.4 acres, private) and Racetrack Road (51.3 acres, private).

Town of Rhine Town Hall and Open Space. Also includes a restored wetland. Located at County Road FF and Little Elkhart Lake Road (40 acres and 1.22 acres, public).

Town of Rhine Memorial Park. A 0.33 acre public site with a memorial statue for Town of Rhine soldiers that died during the Civil War. Located at County Road FF and Rhine Road, it is also a State of Wisconsin Historical Marker.

Surface Water Resources

- *Crystal Lake.* A 130 acre site with a public boat launch and fishing for northern pike, walleye, bass, and panfish.
- *Elkhart Lake.* Totaling 301 acres of privately- and publicly-owned space, includes a public boat launch and fishing for muskie, northern pike, walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, panfish, and trout.
- *Gerber Lake.* 109 acres, County-owned, located at Gerber Lake Road and County Road E, with two lakes, spring pond, improved wildlife habitat, parking, fishing pier, boat launch, and restroom facilities with fishing for northern pike, largemouth bass, and panfish.

- *Little Elkhart Lake.* 58 acres, including a public boat launch and private residences along the Lake. Fishing for largemouth bass and panfish north of State Highway 67 near Schwaller Lake, Terrace Drive, and Birch Point Drive.
- *Sheboygan River*
- *LaBudde Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The open space and recreation needs of the Town include the potential of creating a splash pad park otherwise their needs are currently being met. Sheboygan County intends to keep upgrading, expanding where appropriate, and restoring Gerber Lakes and will continue to seek funding to do so. Efforts are underway to establish a trail system around Elkhart Lake to better enhance the safety of residents and visitors to the tourist area. The partnership includes the Village of Elkhart Lake, the nearby lake associations and Sheboygan County.

The locations of the Town of Rhine’s outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.9.

Town of Russell

The Town of Russell is the smallest town in the County, both in land area and population. Its location north of the Sheboygan Marsh has isolated it from its neighbors to the south, influencing the decision to reduce the size of the Town from 36 square miles to 24 square miles. Nearly one half of the Town, or approximately ten square miles, consists of the Sheboygan Marsh, which is mostly owned by the State of Wisconsin and Sheboygan County. The Town of Russell had a population of 377 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$199,400 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor’s degree have a medium household income of \$56,250.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park and Wildlife Area. This County- and State-owned area consists of 14,000 acres, of which 7,995 are publicly-owned. The Park itself consists of thirty acres of developed area, including 64 campsites, a large playground, picnic areas, a boat launch, new educational facility, a full-service restaurant and tavern, and the ever-popular Marsh Tower, claiming the title of the tallest wooden observation tower in the State of Wisconsin. The remaining area of the Marsh is used for hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, and nature observing. A new multi-purpose educational facility, the Kohler Center for Marsh Education, is expected to open in 2021.

Kiel Marsh Wildlife Area. A State-owned public area of 200 acres on Highview Road, north of County Road MM. Public hunting grounds and wildlife area. Extends into Manitowoc and Calumet counties for a total over 808 acres.

St. Anna Sportsman Inc. Located on Holstein Road, north of the Sheboygan Marsh, and west of Hunters Court. A private hunting club (48.55 acres and 20 acres).

St. Joe Quality Hunters. A 73 acre private hunting club located east of Olrich Court.

Surface Water Resources

- *Sheboygan Lake*
- *Sheboygan River*

Analysis and Recommendations

Town leadership would like for the Town to continue its emphasis on conservation, especially in preserving the Marsh for wildlife. Sheboygan County will continue to pursue expanding the Sheboygan Marsh property if opportunities present themselves especially in areas where a secondary public boat launch may be feasible. Sheboygan County has interest in further expanding the amenities at the Sheboygan Marsh Park as well which may include an updated trail system/boardwalk near the South Ditch, primitive cabins for rent at the campground, new playground equipment, new dam and associated accoutrements, and tree restoration due to the effects of Emerald Ash Borer.

The locations of the Town of Russell's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.10.

Town of Scott

The Town of Scott is located in the southwest corner of Sheboygan County, and has approximately 10% of its land held in governmental ownership. It is located directly north of Washington and Ozaukee counties, and east of Fond du Lac County. The Town shares school districts with Kewaskum and Random Lake, fire and first responder units of Batavia with the Town of Sherman, and a Jaws of Life responder and ambulance unit with Random Lake. The Town of Scott had a population of 1,836 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 20012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$195,500 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$32,083.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Batavia Ballpark and Picnic Area. A 12.7 acre public site with a lighted baseball field, play area, concession stand, restroom facilities, and shelter, located at State Highway 28 and County Road A.

Beechwood Ballpark and Picnic Area. A 3.7 acre public site with a baseball field, playground equipment, and concession stand on County Road A.

Beechwood Sportsman Club. A 3 acre private sportsman's club at County Road A and Tower Drive.

Crooked Lake Access. A one acre, State-owned public boat launch on Maple Tree Road.

Hoeft's Resort. A 50 acre private campground facility and lake access located in the northwest portion of the township on the northern shore of Crooked Lake.

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit. Overall, the State Forest is about 30,000 acres. The property includes hiking and bridle trails, areas for nature study, picnic areas, camping, cross-county ski trails, snowmobile trails, boating, fishing, hunting, dog training, and shelters.

Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery. State-owned public fish hatchery on 316 acres at County Road S and County Road SS.

Lake Seven Access. One acre public boat launch on Maple Tree Road (State-owned).

Wisconsin DNR Lands. State-owned natural areas on County Road A (39 acres) and Camp Awana Road (65 acres).

US Fish and Wildlife Lands. Federally-owned natural areas on County Road D and County Road A South (100 acres, 80 acres, and 80 acres).

Beechwood Lake Public Access. Public access to Beechwood Lake.

Surface Water Resources

- *Cedar Lake.* A 7 acre wilderness seepage lake with fishing for largemouth bass and panfish. No roads or buildings within 200 feet of the Lake.
- *Crooked Lake.* 65 acres with some speedboats permitted and fishing for bluegill, crappie, bass, and northern pike.
- *Lake Seven.* A landlocked glacial lake on 26 acres with no motors allowed, and fishing for bluegill and largemouth bass.
- *Beechwood Lake.* No large motorboats permitted on 11 acre site, with fishing for largemouth bass, northern pike, and bluegill, among others.
- *Haack Lake.* 17 acres with no public access.
- *North Branch Milwaukee River*
- *Batavia Creek*
- *Mink Creek*
- *Melius Creek*
- *Silver Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The open space and recreational needs of the Town are currently being met.

The locations of the Town of Scott's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.11.

Town of Sheboygan

The Town of Sheboygan is one of two urban towns in the County and is comprised mostly of a mix of residential housing units and some commercial and light industrial use. It had a population of 7,271 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$194,700 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$70,694.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Erie Avenue Trailhead. Provides access to the Old Plank Road Trail (1.1 acre, County-owned).

Esslingen Park. A County-owned public park on 4.53 acres along Lower Falls Road.

Farmers and Sportsmen's Conservation Club. A 63 acre private hunting club on County Road O.

Lincoln-Erdman Elementary School. A 6.9 acre site located on County Road J with a playground and ball field.

Petermann's Hunting and Fishing Club. A private hunting club on 1.78 acres along S. Taylor Drive.

Pine Hills Country Club. An 18 hole, members only, private golf course on 176 acres along County Road O.

River Access. A 1.67 acre area with Town-owned public access to the Pigeon River on County Road LS.

Sheboygan Dog Training Club. 8.5 acres of Sheboygan Dog Training Club lands on Najacht Road.

Sheboygan Town and Country Golf Course. 148 acre golf course on County Road J, west of County Road Y (privately-owned, public welcome).

Stonefield Community Park. 8.3 acre Town of Sheboygan community park on Cobble Drive.

Fireman's Town Park. 33 acre site with a one half acre park that includes walking paths, playground equipment, a picnic area, and open space at the Town fire station on County Road Y.

Water Trail Park. A 2.19 acre public resting point with benches and portable toilets, located at County Road LS and Playbird Road.

Surface Water Resources

- *Lake Michigan*
- *Sheboygan River*
- *Pigeon River*

Analysis and Recommendations

The Town of Sheboygan continues to experience rapid growth, far higher than the rate in other portions of Sheboygan County. Because of this, special consideration should be made for future parkland and nonmotorized facilities as development continues. In particular, Town leadership envisions more recreational trails, parks, and open space, with amenities such as softball and baseball fields, dog walking areas, picnicking areas, and Frisbee or disc golf courses. Sheboygan County intends to continue restoration and development projects at the Erie Avenue Trailhead and Esslingen Park and will seek funding to do so. Partners will also continue to seek funding to continue the on-going restoration efforts at the Lakeshore Road access on the Pigeon River.

The locations of the Town of Sheboygan's recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.12.

Town of Sheboygan Falls

The Town of Sheboygan Falls has faced development pressure from the City of Sheboygan Falls via annexations and from State Highway 23, which runs in an east-west direction through the Town. Although it has not had high levels of urban growth, it can still be susceptible to development pressure due to its proximity to the City of Sheboygan Falls, and the fact that public sewer facilities are available in portions of the Town. The Town of Sheboygan Falls had a population of 1,718 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$188,400 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$57,958.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Johnsonville Fishing Area. A 4.7 acre County-owned undeveloped, open space area, fishing area, and kayak launch area for the public located at County Road J and the Sheboygan River. A small 2-3 car parking area is present.

County Park. A 2.63 acre undeveloped, open space for the public located at County Road M and County Road PP on the Mullet River.

Dassow Park. A one half acre public space with a play area and fishing, located at County Road O and Hillside Road.

Koenig's Conservation Club. An 18 acre private hunting club on Meadowlark Road.

Meadowlark Trailhead. A County-owned trailhead on 4.8 acres on Meadowlark Road for the Old Plank Road Trail. Amenities include a pit toilet, picnic areas, ample parking, a well, and kayak launch.

River Access. 0.75 acre of public access to the Sheboygan River on County Road TT.

Sheboygan Area Radio Kontrol Society. 25.5 acres, privately owned, on County Road C.

Sheboygan County Memorial Airport. A 654 acre public airport facility on County Road O.

Sheboygan County YMCA Camp Y-Koda. An 80 acre Sheboygan County YMCA camp with a 2.5 acre pond, athletic field, volleyball courts, basketball courts, an archery camp, campsites, a lodge, twelve cabin units, the McKinley Nature Center, and cross country ski trails on Sunset Road at State Highway 23 (privately owned with the public welcome).

Sheboygan Falls Conservation Club. A 55.2 acre private hunting club on Meadowlark Road.

Smerkes Conservation Club. A 51 acre private hunting club at County Road J and State Highway 32.

Sunset Hills Golf Course. 56.5 acre private golf course at Sunset Road and State Highway 23.

Town Park. Play area and fishing on a 4.0 acre public site on Playbird Road and Rangeline Road at the Pigeon River.

Whitetail Bow Hunters Club. A 40 acre private hunting club on County Road M.

Surface Water Resources

- *Sheboygan River*
- *Mullet River*
- *Pigeon River*

Analysis and Recommendations

Town leadership indicates that they are currently meeting the recreational needs of their residents.

The locations of the Town of Sheboygan Falls' outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.13.

Town of Sherman

The Town of Sherman has the potential to experience growth pressure from neighboring Ozaukee County, located directly to the south. Commercial and retail businesses have increased in number during recent years along the State Highway 57 corridor, which connects the Town through Ozaukee County and to the City of Milwaukee. STH 57 offers quicker commute times to the larger metropolitan areas farther south, making the Town of Sherman attractive to those wanting to live out of the city but who work in it. The Town of Sherman had a population of 1,505 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of \$231,500 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$62,500.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Christ Pond Foundations. Privately owned on 100 acres on State Highway 57.

County View Community Park. A dedicated community park in a residential subdivision. Located on about five acres and southwest of Random Lake.

Silver Creek Park. A one half acre open space area on State Highway 144.

Silver Creek Fireman's Park (Silver Creek Fire Department). A 4.86 acre area with a picnic shelter, concession stand, barbeque, and restroom facilities on State Highway 144 west of Silver Creek Road.

Town of Sherman – Town Hall. Located at State Highway 144 and Camp Anawa Road, the Town Hall is on a 1.38 acre site.

Wisconsin DNR Lands. Two areas of State-owned land located on Camp Anawa Road and also adjacent to STH 144.

Surface Water Resources

- *Random Lake.* Swimming, boating, water skiing, and fishing for small panfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, and walleye on a 213 acre site.
- *Spring Lake.* Ten acres without public access.
- *North Branch Milwaukee River*
- *Lynn Creek*
- *Silver Creek*
- *Western Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The recreational needs of the Town are currently being met.

The locations of the Town of Sherman's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.14.

Town of Wilson

The Town of Wilson has nearly six miles of frontage on Lake Michigan, and prides itself in the natural beauty contained within the Black River area of the Town. One of two urban towns in Sheboygan County, it has a unique mix of uses, including agricultural, commercial-industrial, urban-residential, and high-end residential. The Town of Wilson had a population of 3,330 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$212,100 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$63,700.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Beach Court Access. Public access to Lake Michigan.

Black River Advancement Association. Located at two sites along Evergreen Drive, this private organization is intended to help protect the Black River.

Black River Road Access. Public access to Lake Michigan.

Indian Mound Park. 15.4 acres of public park with walking trails to view replicas of historical sites located at Panther Avenue and South 9th Street.

Jerving Conservancy. A 32.9 acre public preserve of natural wetland at the mouth of the Black River, nature trail, bird sanctuary, fishing, and canoeing at Weeden Creek Road and Evergreen Drive.

Jung Bell Tower / Fireman's Park. Historic tower, ball diamond, modular playscape structure, new and restored swing sets, and undeveloped open space on 1.73 acre at Indian Mound Road and Evergreen Drive.

Kaufmamm Park. Outdoor picnic area on 2.5 acres adjacent to the Town Hall on South Business Drive.

Koenig's Conservation Club. Private sportsmen's club with a lodge and trap shooting on 15 acres on County Road EE.

Kohler-Andrae State Park. 750 acres of State park with picnic facilities, beach frontage, 105 camping sites, cross country ski trails, and a nature center, located at Old Park Road and Lake Michigan.

Norman Koepp Sue-Gar-Da Shooting Preserve. A private hunting club on 119 acres at County Road KK and Wilson Lima Road.

Paradise Subdivision Park. Undeveloped open space on 0.56 acre, located on Paradise Lane.

Pioneer Road Access. Public access to Lake Michigan.

Riverdale Country Club. An 18 hole golf course, restaurant, and cocktail lounge at County Road KK and South 12th Street (privately-owned, public welcome).

Schinker Creek Park. A 5 acre public park located on the northeast corner of Moenning Road and Schinker Creek Road. Includes playground equipment, a bathroom, and shelter.

Tellen Statues – Kohler Foundation. Native art and statuary exhibits on 3.5 acres at Evergreen Drive and Indian Mound Road (privately-owned, public welcome).

Town of Wilson Lands. 11.25 acres of natural lands on Panther Avenue.

University of Wisconsin Arboretum. A 36 acre nature study area on County Road OK. Privately-owned and open to the public under supervision.

Wilderness Park. Nature study area and hiking trails on 15.47 acres, located on Indian Mound Road at Black River.

Wilson Lima Road Access. Public access to Lake Michigan.

Surface Water Resources

- *Lake Michigan*
- *Black River*
- *Weeden Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The Town is looking to invest in additional biking/hiking trails along with updated playground equipment within some of their parkland. Sheboygan County and/or its partners will continue to maintain, restore and develop the County-owned trail system and environmental corridor that is located in the electric transmission utility corridor just north of Weeden Creek Road.

The locations of the Town of Wilson's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.15.

Village of Adell

The Village had a population of 516 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$139,000 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$66,250.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Conservancy Area. 19.5 acres of natural area with hiking trails located on County Road BB.

Dedicated Open Space. A 1.25 acre site at County Road I and County Road BB with a pathway, bridge, and landscaping completed.

Village Park. A 12 acre park with two baseball diamonds (one lighted), playground equipment, park shelter, concession stands, restroom facilities, and park benches, located at Adell Avenue and Seifert Street.

Surface Water Resources

None.

Analysis and Recommendations

The Village is currently meeting the recreational needs of its residents.

The locations of the Village of Adell's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.16.

Village of Cascade

The Village of Cascade had a population of 709 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$154,800 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median income household of \$46,667.

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Cascade Memorial Park. An 8 acre public site with a picnic area, barbeques, benches, shelter, playground equipment, lighted baseball diamond and bleachers, combination tennis and basketball courts, restroom facilities, general purpose building, and a passive recreational area. Located on Milwaukee Avenue and Lake Street.

Cascade Millpond. A 7 acre site open to the public with a barbeque, playground equipment, and passive recreational area, found at Clark Street and County Road NN.

Surface Water Resources

- *Cascade Millpond.* 5.0 acres and open to the public.
- *Nichols Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The park and open space needs of the Village are currently being met.

The locations of the Village of Cascade's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.17.

Village of Cedar Grove

The Village of Cedar Grove is located one mile north of the Sheboygan/Ozaukee County line, west of Interstate 43. Currently, it houses little industry or employment with many of its residents commuting to jobs outside of the area. The Village of Cedar Grove had a population of 2,113 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$151,700 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$44,583.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Cedar Grove Memorial Park. 2.8 acres with fourteen picnic tables, 28 park benches, two barbeque grills, bandstand with concession area, shelter with barbeques, restroom facilities, twelve pieces of playground equipment, winter skating rink, three lighted horseshoe courts, two-unit tennis court, underground electrical outlet facilities, and energy-efficient park lighting on cemented pathways on Van Altena Avenue.

Cedar Grove Independence Park. A 6.2 acre site with a baseball diamond, three-unit tennis court, combination volleyball and basketball court, sand volleyball pit, six pieces of playground equipment, two barbeque grills, six picnic tables, a shelter, and restroom facilities, located at South 5th Street and Ramaker Avenue.

Cedar Grove Athletic Field. A lighted baseball diamond and a soccer/football field (in conjunction with the Cedar Grove-Belgium Area School District).

Cedar Grove-Belgium Area School District. Twenty acres on Union Avenue with a football practice field, practice area for golf lessons, baseball diamond, soccer field, gymnasium with exercise equipment and adjoining swimming pool.

Elementary School. Cedar Grove Elementary School located on 3.4 acres at Van Altena Avenue and S 2nd Street.

Sauk Trail Conservation Club. A private sportsman's club on 40 acres and State Highway 32 and Interstate 43.

Cedar Grove Interurban Trail Trailhead. Funded in part by a Sheboygan County Stewardship Grant award, the trailhead, located at E Union Avenue, features a shelter, picnic tables, and bicycle parking.

Village of Cedar Grove Lands. 15.25 acres of Village-owned lands on South 2nd Street.

Village of Cedar Grove Athletic Complex. In 2017 the Village purchased land in order to develop a recreational sports complex for the general public. The complex includes several soccer and baseball fields along with walking trails.

Surface Water Resources

- *Barr Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

Top priorities of Village leadership include, as a general rule, improvements to the existing recreational facilities. Otherwise, the Village considers that they are meeting the current recreational needs of the public though they will continue to develop the new athletic complex near Vanaltena Avenue.

The locations of the Village of Cedar Grove's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.18.

Village of Elkhart Lake

The Village of Elkhart Lake, Sheboygan County's oldest village, was incorporated in 1894. It lies on the northern and eastern shores of Elkhart Lake, on State Highway 67 in the Town of Rhine. Situated north of the Kettle Moraine Forest – Northern Unit and near the Road America raceway, this community relies heavily on tourism. Its resorts, bed and breakfasts, art galleries, shops, and restaurants attract a number of visitors every year. It has maintained a small-town atmosphere, which shines through in the local recreational facilities, some of which were made possible through the efforts of local volunteers.

The Village of Elkhart Lake had a population of 967 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$175,000 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$33,889.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Elkhart Lake Boy Scouts Area. 1.4 acres of private land for use by the Boy Scouts on East Maple Street.

Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah Public School. 32 acres on publicly-owned land with four tennis courts, two basketball courts, a lighted baseball diamond, four unlighted softball diamonds, and several pieces of playground equipment, located on East Maple Street and N Lincoln Street.

Elkhart Lake School Forest. A 6.5 acre parcel on Arbor Drive donated for nature study.

Fireman's Park. A three acre private site with picnic tables, barbecues, 270' of beach frontage, concession stand, beach house, restroom facilities, and several pieces of playground equipment on Lake Street and the eastern shore of Elkhart Lake. A fee is required to access the lakefront.

June Vollrath Park and Hiking Trails. A basketball court, baseball and softball diamonds, playground equipment, hiking/biking trails, and a concession stand on 20 acres on State Highway 67 at the north end of the Village. The Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah Athletic Association organizes youth and adult activities and all scheduling for the use of the fields.

Lions Park. A 0.75 acre public site with playground equipment, small baseball diamond, picnic tables, restrooms, and a covered pavilion.

School Wetlands and Eco-Study Center. 8.9 acres open to the public for nature study at Moraine Drive and Park Lane.

Residents-Only Village Beach. Open to Village residents and residents within the Elkhart Lake – Glenbeulah Public School District, a .5 acre parcel with 150' of beach frontage, park benches, and restroom facilities on Lake Street.

Village Park. One acre parcel open to the public with several pieces of playground equipment, picnic tables, sand box, informational kiosk, and park benches. Park is located at the corner of Lake Street and Pine Street, with the Village Library and Civic Center on its northern end.

Surface Water Resources

- *Elkhart Lake.* 301 acres of publicly- and privately-owned areas. Fishing for muskie, northern pike, walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, panfish, and trout.

Analysis and Recommendations

The Elkhart Lake area has many recreational facilities and opportunities. Located near the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit, Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park, Road America raceway, Ice Age Trail, and a number of lakes, including Elkhart Lake, Crystal Lake, and Little Elkhart Lake, residents and visitors can choose to spend their leisure time pursuing active or passive recreational activities.

The following recreational and open space proposals are recommended:

1. Develop a skiing, jogging, bicycle, and cross-country ski trails around Elkhart Lake.
2. Develop a multi-purpose trail to connect to the Kiel/New Holstein trail to the north and the Old Plank Road Trail to the south.
3. Encourage residents to allow the use of the historic lake path around Elkhart Lake.
4. Continue to work with local snowmobile clubs to maintain a trail throughout the Village.
5. Encourage the extension of the Ice Age Trail through the Village.
6. Assist with the replacement of the tennis courts and addition of lighting at the Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District's facilities.
7. Develop a nature trail on land owned by the Village at the end of West Rhine Street and adjacent to Birchwood Drive.
8. Create a path system connecting the Village to Crystal Lake.
9. Construct a dog park.

The locations of the Village of Elkhart Lake's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.19.

Village of Glenbeulah

The Village of Glenbeulah at one time boasted a population greater than the City of Sheboygan, and has always been a community of mostly lifelong residents, with only 3% of its housing being seasonal or recreational. The Village had a population of 463 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$130,900 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$42,083.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Dr. John Hansen Memorial Park. An 8 acre public site with picnic tables, barbeques, concession stand, shelter, eleven pieces of playground equipment, a ball diamond, and a lighted 2-unit tennis court at Akin Street and Swift Street.

Anton Barta Park (aka Glenbeulah Park). A 1.4 acre area with two picnic tables, two barbeques, and undeveloped open space at Gardner Street and the Millpond.

Meyer Park. Undeveloped public access to the Millpond on .32 acre. Surface Water Resources

- *Glenbeulah Mill Pond.* Open to the public on 8 acres, it has fishing for northern pike, bass, and panfish.
- *Mullet River*

Analysis and Recommendations

Village leadership foresees an expansion of John Hansen Park if funding were to become available. Also, the addition of walking trails to Meyer Park, as well as the development of a new dog park somewhere in the Village, are priorities.

The locations of the Village of Glenbeulah's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.20.

Village of Howards Grove

The Village of Howards Grove is very much a bedroom community for people working in the City of Sheboygan, Village of Kohler, and City of Sheboygan Falls. It had a population of 3,188 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied units of \$166,800 and individuals 25 years and older with bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$60,100.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Community Park. 58 acres open to the public, located on the north side of County Road JJ and west of State Highway 42.

Deerfield Park. A 1.3 acre site open to the public, located on Elk Lane.

Fisher Creek Park and Trail. An improved walkway composed of woodchips and four pedestrian bridges, open to the public on 14 acres. Located in the western side of the Village along a portion of Fisher Creek.

Miller's Glen Golf Course. 46 acres (privately-owned, public welcome) with an 18 hole golf course in the north end of the Village along State Highway 42.

Howards Grove High School. On 53.3 acres, the high school has basketball courts, a football field, baseball diamond, soccer field, and a track, and is located at State Highway 42 and Audubon Road.

Howards Grove Middle School. 12.2 acre site open to the public on Kennedy Avenue with three basketball courts, playground, and a soccer field with goals.

Howards Grove School District Environmental Laboratory Trail. A 900' long wooded trail open to the public and used by students on a mixed grassy woodland area. Found adjacent to Northview Elementary School's eastern boundary.

Memorial Park. Located on the northeast side of the Village on 37 acres and open to the public. Site has four picnic tables, landscaped open space, parkours fitness trail, eight benches, three grills, and fishing pond. Park also has an athletic field with three electric scoreboards, a football field, three batting cages, press box, dugouts, six metal bleachers, lighting, bicycle racks, restroom facilities, concession stand, hardball diamond, off-street parking for approximately 33 vehicles, playground and picnic area with off-street parking, shelter building with kitchen, covered picnic area, six benches, seven picnic tables (1 disabled accessible), a grill, dedication monument, Korean War Tank Memorial, flagpole, merry-go-round, teeter-totters, spring animals, a swing set with three baby swings, a jungle gym with a slide, and a large climbing slide.

Northview Elementary School Playground. Located on the northwest side of the Village of Tyler Street. 21.3 acres with two basketball hoops, two portable soccer goals, one monkey bar set, one large swing set with nine swings, one merry-go-round, a grassy play area, an asphalt play area, full court basketball court, one tire climber, one climbing dome, and one wooden climbing apparatus with a tire swing and slide.

Riverside Park. 10.7 acres open to the public located on the southeastern part of the Village. Includes an off-street parking area, two grills, and a grassy play area. Also has a central play area with one slide, one baby swing set, teeter-totters, bike racks, a large swing set, a bench, and spring animals. Also, two full size asphalt tennis courts, a full size basketball court, a ball field area with an open air shelter, grills, two wooden bleachers, two metal bleachers, a storage/press box, a paved parking area, picnic tables, a concession stand, bubbler, and benches. This area also has an upper spectator area with three aluminum and six wooden bleachers, lighting, an electric scoreboard, a picnic area with a shelter, picnic tables and benches, a grill, and a playground area that holds a merry-go-round, swing sets, rings, swings, teeter-totters, grills, a baby swing set, a wooden climber with a slide, a funnel ball setup, two volleyball courts, two horseshoe pits, and a footbridge. Also, the park has an enclosed picnic/shelter building with picnic tables (one disabled accessible), water and electricity, an indoor grill, folding tables, and lights.

Surface Water Resources

- *Pigeon River*
- *Fisher Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The Village would like to invest in more multiuse trails to connect destinations and residents throughout the community.

The locations of the Village of Howards Grove's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.21.

Village of Kohler

The Village of Kohler is a planned community and heavily influenced by Kohler Company. The design concepts of Fredrick Law Olmsted and Frank Lloyd Wright originally guided development in the Village. Kohler Company is the largest employer in Sheboygan County, and the Village boasts the Midwest's only 5 diamond hotel - the American Club, the championship golf course of Blackwolf Run, the Kohler Design Center, and the Shops at Woodlake. The Village had a population of 2,120 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of \$236,900 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$51,797.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Blackwolf Run. A 36-hole golf course on 200 acres along State Highway 28 (privately-owned, public welcome).

Kohler Schools Athletic Complex. 25 acres of public area with a lighted track/gridiron and several support structures, located at Ebben Field on the north side of Upper Road. South of the complex is an area with four lighted tennis courts. Contiguous to school buildings are the indoor/outdoor Village swimming pool, youth center, and gym, which is available for activities after hours.

Lost Wood Park. An 18 acre public park, separated into an upper and lower area and connected by pathways. The northern area has two wooden jungle gym-type structures, two bridges over a meandering creek, a basketball court, and walking paths. The south area provides a ball diamond and a small soccer field. A recreation building contains restrooms and storage facilities for picnic tables and benches. Two bleachers provide seating for approximately 100 people.

Ravine Park. 12 acres open to the public between West Park Lane and East Park Lane with a bandstand, picnic area with benches and barbeques, several pieces of playground equipment, and a walking path.

Kohler Arboretum. An approximately 20 acre open space on the east side of Woodland Road with lush trees and beautiful native scenery.

River Wildlife. Over 500 acres of a private preserve and dining club located on West Riverside Drive, along the Sheboygan River. Membership is required, and activities include hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, trapshooting, bird hunting, fishing, and cross country skiing.

Roosevelt Park. A basketball court, baseball diamond, shelter, bandstand, restroom facilities, several pieces of playground equipment, and a picnic area located on an 8 acre public site at Park Road and Roosevelt Road.

Tall Oaks Park. A small wooded lot which includes playground equipment.

Surface Water Resources

- *Wood Lake.* Approximately 15 acres open to the public and located on Woodlake Road. It consists of a northern lobe and southern lobe. The northern is used as a beach area for the Kohler Sports Core and as a public boating area. The southern supports public boating and has a path system around the Lake's perimeter.
- *Sheboygan River*

Analysis and Recommendations

Much of the park and open space areas in the Village are privately held. Consideration of open space preservation as residential development expands is important, especially open space that is available to the public. The Village intends to develop new restroom facilities at its existing public parks, a new park within the Clearings subdivision, increase the bicycle and pedestrian path system throughout, install or upgrade playground equipment, and possibly complete upgrades to the school's athletic complex. Additionally, the Village has identified athletic fields as an additional need to meet its current demand. Sheboygan County intends to seek funding to beautify and enhance the County Road PP Linear Parkway located partially in the Village.

The locations of the Village of Kohler's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.22.

Village of Oostburg

The Village of Oostburg is located ten minutes south of the City of Sheboygan, and a 45 minute drive north of the Milwaukee Metropolitan area. Its growth level has been one of the highest in the County's 28 communities. Its location adjacent to Interstate 43 makes it desirable for industry, but it has also remained heavily residential. The Village of Oostburg had a population of 2,887 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$148,000 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$45,625.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Oostburg Christian School. 4 acres of privately-owned land with a baseball field, two basketball courts, and playground equipment, at Superior Avenue and S 7th Street.

Oostburg Elementary School. 2.25 acres open to the public with playground equipment, a basketball court, and game area at N 7th Street and New York Avenue.

Oostburg High School. 20 acres open to the public with a lighted track/gridiron with bleachers, two baseball diamonds, and two soccer fields at New York Avenue and N 6th Street.

Oostburg Interurban Trail Trailhead. Located just south of Union Avenue on the site of a former railroad depot, the rest area includes a shelter building and bicycle parking.

Stuart J. Mentink Memorial Park. A wooden walkway, four permanent park benches, and a memorial marker on 0.2 acre on N 10th Street.

Veterans Memorial Park. 9 acres open to the public with a lighted softball diamond, four-unit tennis court, bandstand, concession stand, shelter, restroom facilities, park benches, bubbler, picnic tables, and playground equipment at N 12th Street and Park Avenue.

Surface Water Resources

- *Black River*

Analysis and Recommendations

A top priority for the Village remains the extension of the Interurban Trail through and north of the Village if the opportunity arises. In general, Village leadership would like to be able to offer more parks for baseball, football, basketball courts, and for family-based activities. A park area on the east side of the Village is currently being planned and the Village intends to seek funding to help with its development.

The locations of the Village of Oostburg's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.23.

Village of Random Lake

The Village of Random Lake is located on the shores of the popular 210 acre Random Lake, located just west of State Highway 57 in the Town of Sherman. It had a population of 1,594 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$167,200 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$53,646.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Kircher Park. A six acre site with a lighted baseball diamond with fencing, unlighted practice ball field, scoreboard, bleachers, concession stand with restroom facilities, two tennis courts, pavilion, volleyball court, utility shed, open space area to the south, and playground equipment. Located on Grant Avenue and Allen Street.

Lakeview Park. 6.6 acres with a public beach, picnic tables, barbecues, shelter, restroom facilities, play area and playground equipment, public boat launch, boat docking facilities, and walkway, found on the southern end of Random Lake.

Orth Park. A 1.25 acre undeveloped site at West Lake Drive and Jessie Lane with a dedicated play area.

Village-owned Lands. 2.07 acres on Spring Court, 5 acres on East Shore Drive, and 3.8 acres on Carroll Street.

Random Lake Public School Recreation Complex. Located at State Highway 144 and Random Lake Street, 8 acres with a lighted track and football field, basketball court, lighted baseball diamond, softball diamond, two soccer fields, playground equipment, and two concession stands.

Bertram Park. This park consists of a lighted softball field with a new concession stand.

Surface Water Resources

- *Random Lake.* 213 acres with swimming, boating, water skiing, and fishing for small panfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, and walleye.
- *Silver Creek (tributary of the North Branch Milwaukee River)*

Analysis and Recommendations

Additions to Kircher Park, Lakeview Park, and Orth Park, along with additional park and open space, is recommended. The Village also owns vacant property along Jessie Lane which they intend on developing as a park including a public access point to Random Lake in the near future.

The locations of the Village of Random Lake's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.24.

Village of Waldo

The Village of Waldo is located approximately four miles south of the City of Plymouth, with State Highway 57 completely bisecting it. It had a population of 503 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$123,000 and a median household income of \$51,625.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Millpond Village Park. 2 acres of undeveloped open space open to the public and located at the south end of the millpond.

Waldo Village Park. A lighted softball diamond, partially fenced tennis court, park benches, picnic tables, barbeques, restroom facilities, and playground equipment, open to the public on 7 acres located east of State Highway 57 on County Road V.

Surface Water Resources

- *Waldo Mill Pond.* 33.4 acres and open to the public with fishing for northern pike. Navigable access is provided by the presence of a stream which furnishes access to the millpond.
- *Onion River.*

Analysis and Recommendations

The Village would like to invest in ATV access, creating picnic areas, and offering more opportunities for fishing and boating if additional funds were obtained. The Village believes that the biggest hurdle in creating these new opportunities is funding alone.

The locations of the Village of Waldo's outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.25.

City of Plymouth

The City of Plymouth had a population of 8,445 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflects a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$137,600 and individuals 25 years and older with bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$43,149.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

Anton Park. Picnic facilities, fishing areas, and a recreational trail on a two acre site on Eastern Avenue open to the public.

Bishop Street Park. A public site located at the end of Bishop Avenue and west of CTH E.

Carl Loebe Field. A 4.5 acre public area located between Western Avenue and Sunset Drive with a lighted baseball diamond, fencing, concession stand, bleachers, and restrooms.

City Park. A public area on 18 acres, located on Grove Street with a lighted softball diamond, concession stand, restrooms, two tennis courts, a basketball court, a volleyball court, an outdoor swimming pool, playground equipment, three picnic shelters and other picnic facilities, a lighted sledding hill during the winter, a parking lot, and a band shell. It also contains part of the recreation trail running parallel to Suhrke Road from Sunset Drive to State Highway 67.

Evergreen Golf Course. 28 acres on County Road C with a nine hole pitch and put and driving range.

Fairview Elementary School. A 6.2 acre public site on Kensington Avenue with playground equipment, a playfield, and a paved asphalt area for basketball.

Faith Baptist Church. A 3.2 acre private site on Krumrey Street.

Henry H. Huson Park. A 2.4 acre public passive recreation facility with bench seating adjacent to the recreational trail which runs from the northeast to the southwest, following the Mullet River, and a foot bridge that crosses to the downtown area.

Horizon Elementary School. 10 acres open to the public at the corner of Highland Avenue and Valley Road with playground equipment, a playfield, and a paved area for basketball.

Ice Skating Building. A warming house on the Mullet River millpond on Main Street.

Lion's Park. 6.7 acres open to the public at Highland Avenue and Valley Road with a lighted youth baseball field, covered stands, a concession stand, restrooms, a soccer field, and a parking lot.

Lone Oak Park Frisbee Golf Course. Planned Frisbee golf course on an 8.5 acre site on Valley Road.

H.M. Meyer Nature Park. Publicly-owned and adjacent to the Mullet River and Daleview Drive, a 25 acre area with playground equipment, a parking lot, and recreation trail; the site offers fishing and nature viewing as well.

Nutt Ski Hill. On the western part of the City adjacent to Roosevelt-Nutt Park, a 7 acre site open to the public with a beginner level and main ski hill, two electric tow ropes, snow making equipment, a parking lot, a shelter with an indoor kitchen, handicap accessible restrooms, and an enclosed deck.

Parkview Elementary School. Playground equipment, a playfield, and a paved area for basketball on a 6.4 acre site open to the public and adjacent to Carl Loebe Field.

Plymouth High School. 70 acres and open to the public at Eastern Avenue and Highland Avenue with a quarter mile track, lighted football field, eight tennis courts, a softball diamond, baseball field, indoor swimming pool, and other recreational areas.

Plymouth Youth Center. A basketball court and indoor space for youth groups and meetings in a half acre public area on North Street.

Quit Qui Oc Athletic Center. 45 acres (privately-owned, public welcome) on Riverview Road near State Highway 67 and State Highway 23 with three lit softball diamonds, seven soccer fields, concessions, picnic areas, and a parking lot.

Riverview Middle School. 11 acres on a public site. Includes baseball fields, basketball courts, and a recreation trail.

Roosevelt-Nutt Park. 10 acres open to the public on W Main Street. Consists of a nature trail winding through a woods with educational stops.

Rotary Park. A 6.9 acre public site on E Clifford Street with a lighted baseball diamond, fencing, concession stand, bleachers, restrooms, playground equipment, volleyball courts, picnic area, and a parking area.

Sheboygan County Fairgrounds. On Fairview Drive, 56 acres open to the public. Facilities include a half-mile dirt racing track, exhibition buildings, concession stands, restrooms, and parking areas.

Soccer field. 58 acre of private soccer fields on CTH PP.

St. John the Baptist School. 3.6 acres of privately-owned land at Pleasant Avenue and Summit Street with playground equipment and a private school.

St. John Lutheran School. Private school on 2.3 acres with playground equipment at Main Street and Stafford Street.

State of Wisconsin – DNR Lands. 20 acres of State-owned land on CTH C. State habitat and nature area.

Stayer-Junior Park. A 0.2 acre site open to the public, with frontage on the Mullet River and a fenced playground area and sitting areas.

Tom and Jerry’s Mini Golf. On Suhrke Drive, 2.2 acres open to the public, but privately owned. Mini-golf course and batting cages.

Utility Park. A 2 acre public site near the intersection of Milwaukee Street and Mill Street. Features two lighted tennis courts and a foot bridge crossing the Mullet River. Also includes part of the Recreation Trail.

Veterans Park. Public site on 0.5 acre at Eastern Avenue and E Mill Street with park benches and landscaping. Also has scenic views of the Mullet River dam.

Surface Water Resources

- *Plymouth Mill Pond.* 34 acres open to the public with fishing for largemouth bass and panfish at Mill Street, Riverview Drive, and North Street.
- *Mullet River*
- *Jackson Creek*

Analysis and Recommendations

The locations of the City of Plymouth’s outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.26. Sites identified as being reserved for potential future open space are shown on the map. New open space or recreational opportunities identified in a Comprehensive Plan or Outdoor Recreation Plan and adopted by the Plymouth City Council are also adopted by Sheboygan County. Additionally, City leadership would most like to see open space improvements and trail expansion along its Mullet River Corridor. Acquisition of property along the river and south of STH 23 is also important to the City as well as adding additional playground equipment and tennis courts. The City is also foreseeing new residential neighborhoods being added within their limits. Once these neighborhoods are established new parks will be added. Sheboygan

County, in partnership with the City, will be adding to the trail system along the Mullet River in the downtown area that will connect to Meyer Park. The City and/or County may seek additional funding to enhance this trail network. To note, the City of Plymouth may craft its own plan, and if so, that plan shall complement this plan.

City of Sheboygan Falls

The City of Sheboygan Falls had a population of 7,775 in 2010, according to the US Census. Also, the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reflected a median housing value of owner-occupied housing units of \$139,900 and individuals 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree have a median household income of \$57,958.¹²

Existing Facilities and Open Space Areas

The Bull Golf Course. Private golf course (public welcome) on 370 acres on State Highway 32.

Bluebird Park. An approximately 35 acre public area adjacent to Bluebird Lane. The park is currently under development to offer passive and active recreational opportunities.

Falls View Park. Established and named in 1994, the .17 acre site is open to the public has picnic tables and a rear viewing area. Located at Broadway Street and Ellen Street.

K-Meadows Park. A 3.14 acre site open to the public on Huron Trail with nine pieces of playground equipment, a sand box, two benches, and one half basketball court.

Jaycee's Riverwalk. Accessed from the intersection of Western Avenue and First Street or from the Monroe Street Bridge. A scenic walking trail extending along the Sheboygan River with walking bridges and benches on 0.3 acre and open to the public.

Public Open Space. 23.34 of public, City-owned open space on Huron Circle.

River Park. A public site on ten acres at Western Avenue and First Street. Includes picnic areas with fryers and picnic tables, a lighted ball diamond, two tennis courts, a basketball court, playground equipment, sand box, two shelters, walking bridges, and a skating rink in winter. The City is currently in the process of installing a kayak launch at the park as well.

Rochester Park. Four tennis courts, playground equipment, a lighted basketball court, a lighted ball diamond, a volleyball court, two field houses, picnic tables, and lighted sledding hills in the winter months. Located on 10 acres at Cleveland Street and the Sheboygan River and open to the public.

Settler's Park. Open space, viewing areas, gardens, a gazebo, and restrooms on 1.75 acres. Located adjacent to the Sheboygan River along Broadway Street between Monroe Street and Buffalo Street.

Sheboygan Falls Elementary School. 33 acres with open space, three soccer fields, a baseball diamond, and two softball diamonds, open to the public and located on W Miley Avenue.

Sheboygan Falls Middle School. 1.8 acres open to the public with five basketball courts and eight pieces of playground equipment at Detroit Street and Guilford Street.

City of Sheboygan Falls Open Space. A public site located between Broadway Street and the west bank of the Sheboygan River.

Sheboygan Falls High School. A 24.5 acre public site with six tennis courts, two basketball courts, baseball and softballs fields, a lighted football field, and open space, located on Guildford Street.

Shelly Drive Mini-Park. 0.25 acre open to the public on Shelly Drive with six pieces of playground equipment and a bench.

Wisconsin DNR Lands. 25.4 acres of State-owned lands meant to act as a buffer to the Sheboygan River along River Oaks Drive.

St. Mary's Elementary School. A 0.3 acre public site with playground equipment and a basketball hoop at Giddings Avenue and Park Street.

Woodview Mini-Park. A 0.5 acre public area of Woodview Avenue with seven pieces of playground equipment and two benches.

Sheboygan Falls YMCA. 0.36 acre on Buffalo Street (privately-owned, public welcome with a membership needed to participate in the YMCA's activities).

West Side Park. The City is looking to develop 20 acres of land into a useable recreation space which may include a ball field, splash pad, trails, playground equipment, and tennis courts.

Surface Water Resources

- *Sheboygan River*
- *Onion River*
- *Mullet River*

Analysis and Recommendations

The City of Sheboygan Falls has planned several projects and programs to continue to meet the open space needs of its residents. Its foremost priority would be the continued development of Westside Park, to include amenities such as paths, parking, athletic fields, and shelters. They are also looking to develop the City of Sheboygan Falls Land Fill site into a series of biking and hiking trails. There is a desire to further enhance bicycle/pedestrian connections throughout the City. As such, there is a desire to construct two

pedestrian bridges in two different areas of the City. One, in western section of the City, would cross the Sheboygan River near the Bemis Manufacturing facility and connect to public space on the other side. The other, in the downtown area, would connect downtown neighborhoods east to the Riverside Park and future Tecumseh redevelopment site area which is another desired future open space area.

The greatest challenge the City is facing is the workload that comes with developing three major new park sites which are the Landfill Site, Westside Park, and the Tecumseh Property. Sheboygan Falls does not have a permanent parks and recreation staff member to implement these projects. The City has to rely on the park board or volunteers to implement these projects causing a longer timeframe for completion.

The locations of the City of Sheboygan Falls' outdoor recreational facilities are shown in Map 5.27. Sites identified in its 20 Year Comprehensive Plan (2009) as being reserved for potential future open space are shown on the map. New open space or recreational opportunities identified in a Comprehensive Plan or Outdoor Recreation Plan are adopted by the Sheboygan Falls City Council. To note also, the City of Sheboygan Falls may craft its own plan, and if so, that plan shall complement this plan.

City of Sheboygan

Although the City of Sheboygan is omitted from this Plan because it has its own Planning staff and detailed Outdoor Recreation Plan, the City's Plan is herein referenced so that its open space and recreational opportunities are adopted by Sheboygan County once the City's Plan is adopted by the City Council.

Chapter 5: Significant Recreational Facilities and Activities in Sheboygan County

Sheboygan County has an abundance of diverse outdoor recreational facilities and opportunities for all ages and seasons. They attract millions of visitors, and also appeal to the local residents. An overview of the recreational facilities can be found in Map 10.0, and the County-owned facilities located in the City of Sheboygan can be found in Map 3.0.

Existing County Facilities, Analysis, and Recommendations

Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park

In 1937, 6,349 acres of land consisting of wild, undeveloped open space and surface water was purchased by Sheboygan County at a public foreclosure auction. Today, this property is the principle area of the Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park and Wildlife Area. The Park was named after civic leader and conservationist, Charles E. Broughton, who had worked to restore the Marsh after attempts were made to drain the area for farmland.

In 1938, a permanent dam was constructed; the area was re-flooded and once again restored to an excellent habitat for waterfowl and a diversity of other game and non-game species. Numerous other

individual parcels of land have been acquired by and donated to the County and the State of Wisconsin throughout the years since the initial acquisition.

Thirty acres of land were set aside for construction of a developed park and campground area which offer amenities and recreational opportunities including:

- Full service bar and restaurant
- Approximately 50 (reduction from previous plans due to the new multi-purpose building) fully developed campsites at three camping areas
- Large picnic area
- Playground
- Boat launch
- Fishing piers
- Snowmobile trails
- Access to 14,000 acres of land and water for hunting, fishing, canoeing, boating, cross-country skiing, hiking, and nature study
- Part of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve
- Delineated archaeological sites
- Multi-purpose educational building (to be completed in 2021)

One of the Marsh's most unique assets, however, is the Sheboygan Marsh Tower. Spearheaded by the Friends of the Sheboygan Marsh, a non-profit group aimed at protection and promotion of the Sheboygan Marsh, it stands as the tallest wooden observation tower in the State of Wisconsin. The Friends of the Marsh is continuing its efforts by leading a fundraising effort to design and construct a multi-purposes educational facility at the Marsh. Although the building would serve several important purposes, possibly its biggest impact will be on Camp Y-Koda. Currently, the Outdoor Skills and Education Center of the YMCA, which oversees Camp Y-Koda's program, is housed in a former trailer, too small to accommodate the popularity of the program. The Sheboygan Marsh acts as a natural classroom for the children that participate in this outdoor education program.

The Sheboygan Marsh is managed through a cooperative agreement between Sheboygan County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Its administration is guided by the Marsh Management Plan, which was last updated in 2013 and encompasses a 10-year planning horizon. Map 6.0 shows the entire area of the Sheboygan Marsh Park and Wildlife area, while Map 11.0 provides an aerial view of only the Marsh Park.

Goals for the Sheboygan Marsh include obtaining additional preservation areas if opportunities arise, a potential whitewater kayak facility if funding can be secured, a boardwalk/trail system off of the South Ditch (may include a small pedestrian bridge) area, the addition of small cabins for rental, additional playground equipment, outdoor amenities near the new multi-purpose building, and continued maintenance of the existing facilities.

UW-Green Bay – Sheboygan Campus

UW-Green Bay Sheboygan Campus is a County-owned facility, offering two- and four-year college degrees, along with masters' programs. It is located in the City of Sheboygan, directly adjacent to Lutheran High and Esslingen Park. According to its website, the college is home to about 513 students as of 2018. Beyond offering degree programs, the building also houses several other County-wide organizations, such as Master Gardeners, nearby Bookworm Garden, and UW-Extension programs such as 4-H Youth Development. A new trail system on the campus is being planned as part of an adjacent new hospital's construction and associated trail system and would provide connections to the campus' many amenities, other nearby trail systems, and other nearby destinations (i.e. the new hospital).

Esslingen Park

This County-owned and –maintained park in the Town of Sheboygan boasts a canoe launch, fishing access, and off-road parking. It becomes extremely popular for fishing in the warmer months, and can also be reached by a spur of the CTH PP Linear Parkway multi-use pathway traveling next to it. The park offers attractive scenery, close access to the City of Sheboygan, and was part of a habitat restoration area of the 2012 Sheboygan River dredging project. The County's bicycle and pedestrian plan shows for one or more bridges to connect the park to the UW-Green Bay - Sheboygan Campus area and Sheboygan Lutheran High School.

Taylor Park

The Taylor Park area, located adjacent to the Historical Society, serves as an open space with passive recreational opportunities, a playground, park shelter and as a connection between the Taylor Drive multi-use pathway and Urban Recreation Trail with asphalt pathways traversing it.

Erie Avenue Trailhead

Offering nonmotorized users a comfortable rest area along the Old Plank Road Trail, the Erie Avenue Trailhead is a County-owned area in the City of Sheboygan. It is in very close proximity to both the Taylor Drive multi-use pathway and the Urban Recreation Trail, while also serving as the eastern terminus of the 17-mile Old Plank Road Trail (soon to be over 20 miles). The area offers off-street parking, benches, landscaping, a short walking path through the site, and a well-lit tunnel underneath Interstate 43 that runs



between the Village of Kohler and the City of Sheboygan.

Roy Sebald Sheboygan River Natural Area

Originally part of a highway land acquisition project, Sheboygan County owns a parcel of land fronting the Sheboygan River at the Taylor Drive and Indiana Avenue intersection. As part of the Sheboygan River natural restoration component of the 2012 dredging project, it has now evolved into an attraction for flora and fauna with a walking path, canoe launch,

and fishing access area. Additionally, it creates a connection to the multi-use pathway adjacent to Taylor Drive, which reaches a large number of destinations along the busy corridor.

Having been unnamed until 2014, the Sheboygan County Planning, Resources, Agriculture, and Extension Committee approved the naming of the site after one of the County's conservation leaders. The late Roy Sebald served as co-chairperson of the Sheboygan County Water Quality Task Force, was active in the leadership of such organizations as the Sheboygan County Conservation Association and Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and undoubtedly made a long-lasting impact on the conservation of the areas valuable natural resources. A short trail segment may be added to connect to other nearby trails at this location.

Gerber Lake Fish and Wildlife Area

The Gerber Lake Fish and Wildlife Area, which is shown in Map 4.0, is located three miles east of Elkhart Lake primarily in the Town of Rhine and is open to public hunting and fishing during the respective seasons. The property includes two lakes, both of which are among the most popular fishing and canoeing lakes in the area. The larger of the lakes is approximately 15 acres in size with a maximum depth of 37 feet; the smaller lake is approximately eight acres with a maximum depth of 21 feet. Both are connected by a short, navigable channel, and both have restrictions on motorized watercraft.

Land cover on the property is diverse, consisting of tillable uplands, deciduous trees (principally maple, beech, oak, ash, birch, and aspen), coniferous forest (principally pine, spruce, and tamarack), meadow, and wetlands. The topography of the property ranges from rugged, steep slopes greater than 25% on the western and southern portions of the property, and gently rolling along the areas adjacent to the lakes.

A former home on the property, which was in deteriorating condition, was removed in the summer of 2009. In 2012, a privy with two pit toilets was installed on the northwestern portion of the property. A gravel parking lot was constructed in 2014, further improving the convenience of the wildlife area for Sheboygan County residents and visitors. The County will continue to seek funding to help with prairie and forest management on the property.



Gerber Lake Wildlife Area

The lakes on this property are within the headwaters of the Otter Creek tributary. They include one of the region's most productive warm water fisheries, with the principal species being largemouth bass, bluegill, and black crappie. Game and non-game animal species commonly found on the property include whitetail deer, red and grey fox, raccoon, skunk, cottontail rabbit, squirrels, various mice, voles, and moles, wild turkeys, herons, red tailed hawks, barred and great horned owls, migratory waterfowl (such as mallard, wood duck, greenwing and bluewing teal, and Canada geese), songbirds, pheasant, and Hungarian partridge.

To guide the future management of Gerber Lake, surveys were made available to the public, both online and via mail, which asked survey takers several questions regarding their vision for the Gerber Lake Wildlife Area. The County received a more than 30% response rate for the mailed surveys, some results of which are shown below.

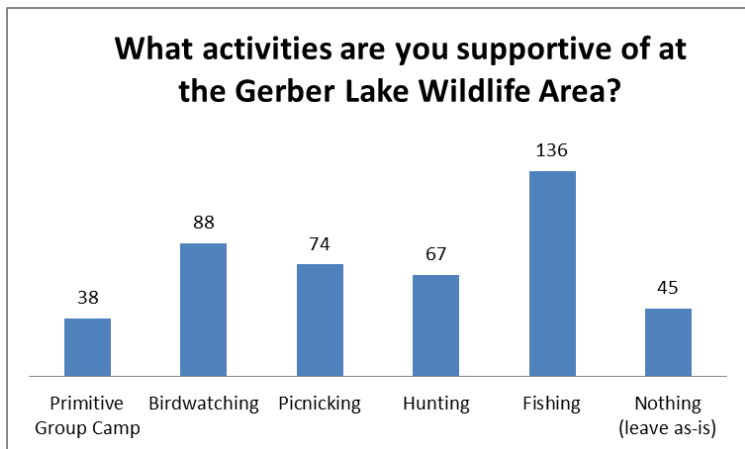


Figure 5.1

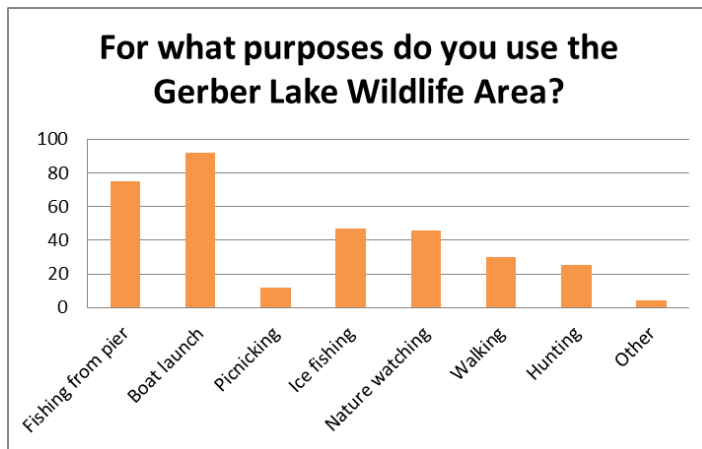


Figure 5.2

Amsterdam Dunes Preservation Area

Acquired in 2015, the Amsterdam Dunes Preservation Area has the potential to become one of the County’s most valuable assets yet.

Located on the southeast corner of Sheboygan County and bordering Lake Michigan, Amsterdam Dunes is a 328 acre area composed of seven contiguous parcels of land. It boasts over 1,500 feet of beach frontage, and is one of the last remaining significant shoreline habitat assemblages in much of Wisconsin and Michigan that has remained undeveloped. Approximately half of the property is composed of ridges and swale complexes with 80 acres of wooded wetlands; the other half is an upland area currently being farmed, of which approximately 35-50 acres are restorable wetlands. About 500 feet from Lake Michigan



is a 40 foot high bluff, gently sloping upward to the west.

Natural resources factors provide an important footing for the preservation of Amsterdam Dunes. According to field studies conducted in 2006 by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, critical species habitat areas on the property held 41 plant community areas, two state-designated threatened plant species, two special concern plant species, and a special concern tree species. Barr Creek bisects the property, along with three unnamed permanent

or intermittent waterways leading to it. Stream habitat is dominated by warm-water forage fish with a smaller population of game fish. Adjacent to the property is the DNR's Cedar Grove Raptor Research Station . Preservation saved a glacial relic, the shoreline remnant of the 6,000 year old Lake Nipissing, which is found on the property. Adding interest is its location next to a historic shipwreck, which sunk in 1906 and lies immediately offshore in 17 feet of water.

Other advantages of retaining the area from development include the Maple-Beech forest remnant; very few of these woodlands still exist in the state oak trees, estimated to be 150 to 175 years of age are present as well. Also, acquisition and ownership of the property by Sheboygan County allows for the protection of a rare sand dune habitat for its aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species. The Bureau of Endangered Resources considers inter-dunal wetlands to be the rarest of all habitats in Wisconsin. The coastal and inland wetland preservation effectually enhances a clean water supply and offers flood control as well.

The County is actively restoring the property with a host of many partners. It will continue to seek funding to help with restoration efforts. If the opportunity presented itself, the County would have an interest in expanding the property to protect critical habitats and protect its investment in downstream areas where restoration efforts have or will occur in riparian areas. Once restoration efforts are further along, the County will seek to construct a primitive trail system, observation platform, parking areas and seek funding to help with these efforts.

Boat Launch Sites

- *Crystal Lake* is one the most heavily used lakes for fishing and boating. Crystal Lake incorporates an extensively developed shoreline which fosters productive fishing in early morning and late evening when northern, crappie, perch, walleye, bass, and bluegills are caught. The property owners' association helps maintain the clarity of water through proper management of this valued water resource. Motor boating is not permitted on Sundays.
- *Elkhart Lake* is the largest natural lake in the County and fourth deepest (second naturally occurring) in the State. Elkhart's clear water and rock, gravel, and sand shoreline make it ideal for almost any recreational use, particularly swimming and boating. Elkhart Lake has an excellent public boat landing and parking facility. Fishing for smallmouth bass and rock bass is typically successful, with some trophy size walleye caught each year. Motor boating is not permitted on Sundays.
- *Little Elkhart Lake* provides excellent fishing for largemouth bass, bluegill, and musky. It has a public landing with a small picnic area. A lake management district exists to ensure a bright future for this scenic little lake. Motor boating is not permitted on Sundays.

- *Gerber Lake* consists of two contiguous basins connected by a navigable channel. Both lakes provide summer and winter fishing of bass, bluegills, crappie, and perch. A large fishing pier is adjacent to the boat landing area. Outboard motors are not allowed on the lakes. Sheboygan County purchased the initial 108 acres in 1996 and an additional 45 acres in 2001.
- *Jetzer's Lake* is a family fishing lake that does not permit motor boats. The lake incorporates a pier for fishing from the shore, which adds to the uniqueness of the lake. Though the bluegills and black crappies tend to be relatively small, larger fish are caught on occasion. Bass and northern pike provide more experienced fishermen with a challenge.

Snowmobile Trails

Sheboygan County has approximately 228 miles of State-funded snowmobile trails. Fifteen area clubs maintain these trails, while private landowners provide the majority of the land used for the trails. Map 12.0 shows the County's snowmobile trail system.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Sheboygan County Interurban Trail. The Sheboygan County Interurban Trail enters the County at CTH K in the Town of Holland and follows utility right-of-way north to DeMaster Road in the Village of Oostburg. The pathway follows an on- and off-street route in a northern direction, meeting the City of Sheboygan at S 12th Street. From this point, bike lanes and sharrows continue the nonmotorized network farther into the City, even after the official route of the Interurban Trail has ended. On the southern end, it connects directly with the Ozaukee Interurban Trail for an additional 30 miles. Map 1.0 shows the extent of the Interurban Trail in Sheboygan County.

The trail offers a direct bicycle route to many of the County's destinations, possibly the most notable being Kohler-Andrae State Park. Bicyclists can make their way through the City of Sheboygan to Sheboygan Falls, Kohler, and Plymouth via the Old Plank Road Trail, which is linked to the Interurban Trail through the City's on- and off-road bicycle network.



The route of the Interurban Trail is the former "northern route" of the interurban electric railway which traveled from Milwaukee to Sheboygan. Service began around 1908, connecting the City of Sheboygan to the City of Milwaukee with stops in between. In 1922, the right-of-way was acquired by the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company for development of an improved rapid transit service from Milwaukee to Sheboygan with stops in the mostly rural communities of Brown Deer, Thiensville, Cedarburg, Grafton, Port Washington, Belgium, Cedar Grove, Oostburg, and Sheboygan. Service ended in 1951.

Today, much of the old interurban right-of-way, now held by WE Energies, has been converted to popular trails that enhance the region's quality of life. For instance, the Ozaukee Interurban Trail route south of Sheboygan County connects historic downtowns with natural landscapes. Views along the pathway

include hardwood woodlands, wetlands, farmlands, Cedar Creek, the Milwaukee River, and Lake Michigan; the trail is also designated as a Great Wisconsin Birding Trail.

The Sheboygan County Interurban Trail, which is the first of its kind in southern Sheboygan County, allows users to traverse a more rural landscape as they travel south, while offering significant nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities such as:

- Nature-based recreation, specifically as a multi-use, multi-season pathway for biking or walking, hiking, bird watching, wildlife viewing, nature photography, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. (Motorized vehicles and horses are prohibited.)
- An off-road bicycle and pedestrian connection between communities in Sheboygan County.
- A direct link to the 30 mile Ozaukee Interurban Trail, which connects to trails in Milwaukee County. This makes the impact of the Sheboygan County Interurban Trail regionally significant.
- An on-road link to other Sheboygan County multi-use pathways to the north and west, specifically, the Urban Recreation Trail in the City of Sheboygan and the Old Plank Road Trail, which travels west to the Town of Greenbush.



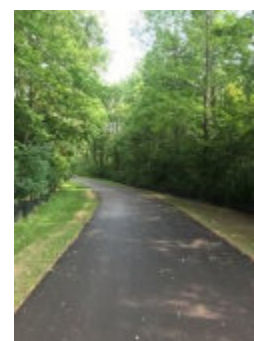
Old Plank Road Trail. This popular, 17 mile trail accommodates bicyclists, runners, walkers, in-line skaters, horseback riders, moped users, cross country skiers, and snowmobiles on ten feet of asphalt with approximately eight feet of adjacent turf. The trail parallels STH 23, and travels from Sheboygan, through Kohler, Sheboygan Falls, Plymouth, and extends to Greenbush. Here, it links with the Ice Age Trail in the

northern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

In 2005, a 1.5 mile extension of the trail was completed from the existing Greenbush trailhead to CTH A. In the years since, the County has continually invested funds towards maintenance of the trail. In 2012, 2013, and 2014, portions of the Old Plank Road Trail were closed so that the Sheboygan County Transportation Department could remove and reconstruct sections about one mile long each. Additionally, an extension of the trail to the Fond du Lac County line has been incorporated into the planned expansion of STH 23 which construction began in 2020. With such prominence and visibility, continued investment into the Old Plank Road Trail will be an unwavering priority for the Planning &

Conservation Department. As such, in 2021, plans are to extend the trail west to the County Line. Sheboygan County may seek funding to construct another trailhead/rest area in the new section of trail.

Southside Utility Corridor Trail. This short, but very popular, trail runs just under one mile between County Road OK and 18th Street on the southside of the City of Sheboygan (most of the trail is actually in the Town of Wilson). Plans to continue the trail east to 12th Street are complete if funding and fortitude come forth. The trail runs in a utility corridor with the underlying property being owned by Sheboygan County from County Road OK east to the 12th Street. Benches for rest are present as well as a small off-street parking area at 18th Street.



County Highway PP Linear Parkway Trail. This project consisted of a “road diet” shrinking the automobile travel lanes from four down to two with the addition of green space, a roundabout at a dangerous intersection and a bike path. Phase I of the project was completed in 2018 and stretched from Highland Road in the Village of Kohler east to Esslingen Park. Phase II of the project is scheduled to be constructed in 2022 and will consist of another “road diet”, a major intersection overhaul, green space, and a bike path running from Esslingen Park east to the city limits of Sheboygan (i.e. 24th Street). Once complete, the bike path will connect the Village of Kohler and the City of Sheboygan along with the Taylor Drive Pathway. A link also provides connections to the Sheboygan Lutheran High School and UW-Green Bay Sheboygan Campus’ as well as Esslingen and Roy Sebald Park areas. Sheboygan County intends to aesthetically enhance the trail with vegetative plantings and potentially partner with the nearby John Michael Kohler Arts Center to help with other enhancements.

Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program. In July 2005, the U.S. Congress adopted a new transportation budget, which included special provisions to create the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program. Sheboygan County was one of four communities in the country selected to participate in this landmark program, now known locally as NOMO Sheboygan County. As part of the program, Sheboygan County was to receive up to \$25 million between 2005 and 2009 to develop a network of nonmotorized transportation facilities that connect



neighborhoods, retail centers, schools, recreational amenities, and employment centers. The goal of the program was to allow people to choose the way they move around in their daily lives. NOMO Sheboygan County has expanded the existing nonmotorized network within Sheboygan County, both within and between its incorporated communities. Map 1.0 shows bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Sheboygan County.

The Sheboygan County Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was created in 2007 and has been updated since, providing a tool to guide planners and policy officials in the creation and expansion of nonmotorized facilities at the local level. It makes recommendations involving the incorporation of bicycle

and pedestrian facilities into every transportation project taking place in Sheboygan County. The overarching goal of the plan is:

By 2045, Sheboygan County's pedestrian and bicycle facilities will be an efficient, connecting system of routes and facilities that provides a safe, convenient, and viable transportation choice for Sheboygan County residents and visitors.

Applications for projects to be funded by NOMO Sheboygan County were submitted to and reviewed by the Citizens Advisory and Technical Committee, a group of 30 people with a variety of backgrounds and interests.

Projects funded by NOMO Sheboygan County include:

- **Taylor Drive Pathway.** This three mile multi-use pathway, which varies in width between 10 and 14 feet, runs entirely along the east side of Taylor Drive, one of the busiest corridors in the City of



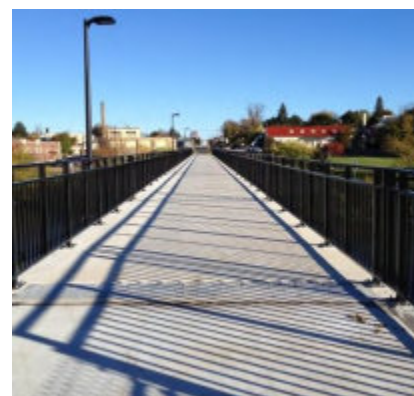
Sheboygan. It travels past a number of popular destinations, including shopping areas, residential areas, and offices, and manufacturing facilities. The asphalt pathway includes amenities such as a lookout over the Sheboygan River and rest stops, and will connect to the Old Plank Road Trail, providing an important connection for bicyclists and walkers traveling for both utilitarian and recreational purposes. Future plans for the Taylor Drive multi-use pathway, if funding were to

become available, would be to extend the path south to STH 28 and beyond, after which point nonmotorized facilities would be offered on Taylor Drive towards the Utility Corridor Pathway. The City of Sheboygan maintains this trail.

- **Shoreland 400 Rail Trail.** Traveling through the core of the City of Sheboygan for about 1.7 miles, the Shoreland 400 Rail Trail can be considered one of the most prominent successes of NOMO Sheboygan County. The 12 foot wide, asphalt multi-use pathway replaced an abandoned, dilapidated section of Union Pacific Railroad tracks. Not only does it improve the aesthetics of the neighborhoods through which it runs, but it also provides a safe, off-road route for bicyclists and pedestrians to a large number of destinations. The future goal of the Shoreland 400 Rail Trail, if the railroad corridor and funding were to become available, would be to extend the pathway south to Weeden Creek Road and north to Haven. Sheboygan County and



Before Shoreland 400 Rail Trail Bridge



After Shoreland 400 Rail Trail Bridge

the City of Sheboygan have maintenance responsibilities for this community amenity from Pennsylvania Avenue north to North Avenue.

- *Sidewalks, bikes lanes, and pathways.* In nearly every community all around Sheboygan County, one or more types of bicyclist and pedestrian facilities have been constructed. Municipalities received funds for the sidewalks, bike lanes, or pathways at a 100% funding level, and Sheboygan County worked closely with their local leaders to ensure the facilities are maintained well into the future. Areas chosen for bicyclist and pedestrian facilities were those for which there was a high need; where connections could be made between places of work, school, or high-priority destinations; and where conditions were currently unsafe –whether perceived or real – for those choosing to leave the car behind to get from place to place.

Existing State of Wisconsin Facilities

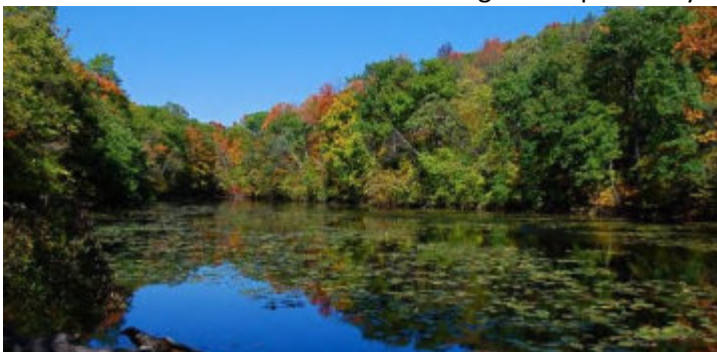
Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit

The Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit is located 45 minutes north of the Milwaukee area and contains 30,000 acres of glacial resources, including kames, eskers, moraines, and kettles of various sizes. Designated as a State Forest in 1936 by the Wisconsin State Legislature, the facility is currently managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Forest is divided into two management units – Northern and Southern. Approximately 15,000 acres of the Northern unit is located in Sheboygan County, with the other half extending into Fond du Lac County and Washington County. Most of the state-owned land in the County is located within the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit. Map 5.1 and 5.6 shows the location of this land, along with a few others in the County.

The Kettle Moraine State Forest provides a variety of recreational opportunities, and it attracts residents and visitors from around the world. Some of its amenities include the following:

- *Henry S. Reuss Ice Age Visitor Center.* The Center is usually open seven days a week; however, its schedule can vary between December and March. The Center is located a half mile west of Dundee on State Highway 67. It offers forest information, interpretive displays, and an Ice Age file. Naturalist programs are scheduled at the Center throughout the year, and group interpretive programs are available upon request.
- *Cross country ski trails.* About 30.4 miles of trails traverse the Forest. Twelve of these miles are located in the Town of Greenbush, which has a parking lot at the Greenbush Group Campground that holds about 180 cars; the campground also has a warming shelter and sledding hill. Also, the Zilmer and New Fane Ski Trails are located just outside of the Sheboygan County boundary, in Fond du Lac County.

- *Camping.* The Northern Unit holds about 367 campsites. In Sheboygan County, the nine group camping sites can hold up to 540 people. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail winds through the State Forest and includes five sites designated specifically for backpacking, while the Greenbush



Source: WI Department of Tourism

Group Campground has nine outdoor sites that accommodate group of up to 60 people. Sites are located near the trails in Greenbush where campers can enjoy hiking and off-road biking. An enclosed shelter building, handpumps, and pit toilets are available near the site. Camping is available between the months of

April and November. Within the Northern Unit, but outside of Sheboygan County, the Forest contains camping facilities at Mauthe Lake, which includes YMCA Camp Matawa and 137 individual campsites. At Long Lake, also in Fond du Lac County, 200 campsites are available.

- *Equestrian trail riding and camping.* The New Prospect Horse Riders' Campground is located along the 33 mile bridle trail that winds through the Forest. Campers with horses can use on of the twelve family or three group camping sites, picnic shelter, drinking water, and pit toilet. The site has a 48 stall horse shelter building available to campers, and each camp has tether posts. The Forest contains a total of 41 miles of bridle trails, and has a number of areas of interest to stop and observe along the trail.
- *Hiking trails.* The Forest has more than 132 miles of trails, each varying in level of difficulty for the user.
 - Butler Lake Loop. On Butler Lake Road, 1.5 miles east of the Long Lake Recreation Area, the Butler Lake Trail winds more than three miles through the 158 acre Butler Lake and Flynn's Spring State Natural Area. A portion of the trail loop is shared with the Ice Age Trail. Interpretive displays are set at the base of the esker, and overlook Butler Lake. A picnic table, grill, and drinking water are available at the trailhead.
 - Greenbush Loop. On Kettle Moraine Drive, 2.5 miles north of State Highway 67, the Greenbush Trail is a combination of four loop trails, totaling nine miles. Seasonally, hikers share these loop trails with off-road mountain bikers. In winter, the trails are groomed for cross-country skiing. Hiking is not permitted when the trails are covered with snow. A heated picnic shelter, picnic tables, a grill, drinking water, and vault toilets are available near the trailhead.
 - New Fane Loop. On County Line Road, 1.5 miles east of Kettle Moraine Drive, the New Fane Trail is a series of moderately challenging loop trails that total 5.5 miles. A short connector trail allows access to the Ice Age Trail. Hikers and off-road mountains bikers share this multi-

- use trail system during non-snow times of the year. Hiking is not permitted when the trails are covered with snow so as to allow cross-country ski use.
- Parnell Loop. On County Road U, a quarter mile west of County Road A, the Parnell Towers Trail begins its 3.5 mile loop with a series of steps leading to the highest point of elevations in the Forest. A 60 foot tower rises above the treetops for a birds-eye view of the glacial landscape. The trail follows the Ice Age Trail near a backpack shelter. Picnic tables, grills, drinking water, and vault toilets are available adjacent to the trailhead.
 - Zillmer Loop. On County Road SS, a quarter mile west of County Road G, the Zillmer Trail Area is made up of four loop trails totaling eight miles. The trailhead on the south end of the loop has picnic tables, grills, and drinking water, and the Ice Age Visitor Center can be accessed from this trail. A backpack shelter is available on this loop for camping and in winter, it is groomed for cross-country skiing. Hiking is not permitted on the trail when the ground is snow covered. This loop is closed to hunting with firearms, except during the gun deer season and the turkey season.
- *Areas of special interest.* The Forest has a number of points of interest, both in Sheboygan County and the neighboring counties.
 - Greenbush Kettle. Located on Kettle Moraine Drive, one mile north of State Highway 67. This site is an outstanding example of a glacial kettle depression, and includes a scientific overlook, viewing deck, and interpretive display near the parking lot.
 - Haskell Noyes Memorial Woods. On County Road GGG, south of County Road SS. This 67 acre area is designated as a Wisconsin Wildlife Viewing Area, and is included in the national “Watchable Wildlife” program. A historical market is set at the site for information.
 - Vista Trail Overlook. At the Henry S. Reuss Ice Age Visitor Center, located a short climb up a set of stairs, is a viewing platform overlooking a beautiful vista where a visitor can see drumlins, eskers, and moraines.
 - Little Mud Lake. On County Road SS, a half mile east of County Road GGG. This site is a State Habitat Preservation Area, and is vital for the long-term survival of the red-spotted, blue-spotted, spotted, and tiger salamanders. A picnic table and grill are provided at the parking lot.
 - Kame Field. Near the intersection of County Road V and Deer Road, on the north side. Visitors can view and experience the rock rubble and gravel ‘insides’ of a kame up close, and also a mile wide view of the kame field.
 - Dundee Mountain. Also known as White Kame, it lies within a 468 acre State Natural Area near Highway 67 and County Road F. This conical Moulin kame is known throughout the world by geology students, and is often pictured in geology textbooks because of its near perfect form.
 - *Off-road bicycle trails.* Off-road biking is allowed on the nine mile Greenbush Trail and the 5.5 mile New Fane Trail. Normally, these trails are opened late in April through November, depending

on trail conditions. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources asks that riders do not use the trails during rain events or within four to six hours after the rain has stopped. A trail pass is required for riders that are 16 years old or older.

The Forest contains a total of 17 miles of machine groomed cross-country ski trails for diagonal and skate skiers. Pets and hiking are not allowed on the groomed trails. A heated log shelter house and sledding hills are available at the Greenbush Recreational Area. Non-groomed cross-country ski trails are available at New Fane.

- *Snowmobile trails.* A 58 mile network of state forest snowmobile trails join County and private trails. This network makes possible visits to adjoining towns and villages in the three county area. Trails are groomed by local snowmobile clubs.
- *Winter hiking/showshoe trails.* The Moraine Nature Trail (0.75 mile), Tamarack Nature Trail (2 miles), Parnell Trail (3.5 miles), Ice Age Trail (31 miles), and the Butler Lake Trail (3.1 miles) are open for hiking and showshoeing during the winter.
- *Canoe and boat rentals.* Watercraft rentals are available at the Parkview General Store. Watercraft available for rental includes rowboats, canoes, funyaks, and four-seat paddle boats. Many of the floating craft are available at the Mauthe Lake Recreational Areas boat landings; however, rowboats are also located at Lake Seven, Auburn, and Forest Lake. Parkview General Store is located on County Road GGG, north of the Mauthe Lake Recreational Area.
- *Auto touring.* Visitors can enjoy the beauty, variety, and geology of the Kettle Moraine State Forest by driving the Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive. The Scenic Drive is 115 miles long and traverses six Wisconsin counties. The northern end of the Drive is near Elkhart Lake and ends near Whitewater Lake in southeastern Walworth County. Along the drive, there are numerous places to picnic, hike, camp, bike, swim, fish, visit historical sites, shop, and find lodging.
- *Hunting.* Approximately 95 percent of the State Forest is open to public hunting during established open seasons. Some seasons may be subject to change. Areas restricted from hunting include the 850 acre wildlife refuge around Mauthe Lake and areas of high public use, such as recreation areas, campgrounds, and the Ice Age Visitor Center. There are many areas of private land scattered throughout the forest.
- *Dog training.* The Forest has two dog training areas available for training hunting dogs. Scheduled dog trials will take precedence over dog training. Events will be posted when they are scheduled. The 'wet dog' training area is located on Division Road, just south of County Road F, and is recommended for water skills training. The 'dry dog' training area, located on County Road U, just east of County Road A, should be used for developing upland bird hunting skills.

- *Picnic shelters.* The Forest has three areas with picnic shelters available for reservation. These include the Mauthe Lake Recreational Area Shelter (enclosed shelter with a fireplace, electric, and capacity for 50 people), Long Lake Recreational Area Shelter (open shelter with electric and capacity for up to 50 people), and the Greenbush Recreational Area Shelter (heated facility with electric and capacity for up to 50 people).
- *Swimming.* The State Forest has three swimming beaches. One is located at Mauthe Lake, and two are located at Long Lake. Lifeguards are not provided at any of the beaches.

Kohler-Andrae State Park

Kohler-Andrae State Park is one of the last natural preserves along the Lake Michigan shoreline, and is open for everyone to explore and enjoy. It has offerings such as campgrounds, picnic areas, a bath house, a nature center, trails, and roads. This 1,000 acre scenic spot on the shores of Lake Michigan offers a peaceful setting year round. The State Park consists of two separate parks with adjacent boundaries and is managed as one unit by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Map 5.0 provides a view of the State Park.



Source: WI Department of Tourism

- *Camping.* Of the 105 available family campsites, 49 have electrical hookups. Each campsite includes a campfire ring and picnic table. Each site can accommodate six people or one family (considered two parents, minor children, and two guests). Each site is limited to one wheeled camping units and two vehicles, which must be parked on the paved drive. Off-site parking for additional vehicles is available.

In addition, a canvas and pole teepee is for rent in the summer for those that do not have their own camping equipment, or those who want the experience of camping in a primitive shelter. The Park has a specially designed campsite, restroom, and shower for camper with physical disabilities.

The campground is open all year. During the warm weather season, showers, flush toilets, and laundry facilities are available in the family campground. Campsites do not have water or sewer hookups, but a trailer dump station and a fresh water fill-up station are available in the park.

Tents are only allowed in the two group campsites, which have a combined capacity of 50 people. Vault toilets are provided at this site.

- *Cross country ski trails.* Currently, the park has 2 ½ miles of marked, groomed ski trails. They are gently rolling and are used extensively by beginner and intermediate skiers. The Park offers two candlelight ski events during the winter season.
- *Nature trails.* The Park has two self-guided nature trails. The Creeping Juniper Trail is located south of the Sanderling Nature Center and includes nature signs. This trail winds through the sand dune areas of the Park. The Woodland Dunes Nature Trail traverses a heavily wooded section of the park located south of the campground area. Self-guiding nature signs through the trail describe many of the unique trees a visitor will experience within the Park. A shorter, level, limestone trail that composes the first portion of the Woodland Dunes Trail is available for mobility impaired visitors of the Park.
- *Hiking trails.* The Black River Marsh Boardwalk is located on the west side of the campground area off the main campground road. The quarter mile boardwalk offers a unique opportunity to walk out over the marsh, past nesting ponds, and west to the Black River. Along the way are three looking and resting platforms with seats. The boardwalk is accessible to people with disabilities. Dogs are allowed on the trail if kept on a leash.

The Dunes Cordwalk stretches north and south of the Sanderling Nature Center. Users can walk on the 2 ½ mile cordwalk (boards and rope) through the dunes. Three lookout points and benches overlooking Lake Michigan and an interdunal marsh area are available.

The Black River Trail is located in the northwest section of the Park, directly adjacent to County Road V. The 2 ½ mile trail traverses open prairie, mixed woodlands, and a red pine plantation. This trail is open for horses, hikers, and mountain bikes.

- *Picnic facilities.* Thirty acres of picnicking facilities have been developed adjacent to the beach area, which offers charcoal grills, picnic tables, a volleyball court, baseball diamond, restroom facilities, water fountains, and a playground area. The picnic area features both an open air shelter building and an enclosed shelter building with a fireplace and party room. Both shelter buildings are able to be reserved. A small picnic area in the north beach location is also available for us.
- *Beaches.* The Park has 2 ½ miles of wide, sandy beaches along Lake Michigan, with parking at several access points in the Park. Changing stalls, flush toilets, and a machine-operated concession stand are located in the bathhouse. An accessible shelter and picnic table are also available at the main beach area. The Park has a beach wheelchair available for use by visitors with physical disabilities.
- *Nature center.* The Sanderling Nature Center is a large, modern facility located along the shoreline of Lake Michigan. During the summer months, the Center offers nature programs or guest

lectures in the building's auditorium, and houses many exhibits on the Park's plants and wildlife. An active volunteer group made up of located citizens, named the Friends of Kohler-Andrae, assist in the Center; they also sell merchandise, firewood, and refreshments to raise funds to provide permanent programming and help with projects in the Park. The volunteers help keep the Nature Center open in the spring and fall when the Park experiences extensive use by school groups for educational programming.

- *Kohler Dunes State Natural Area.* Located within Kohler-Andrae State Park, the 135 acre State Natural Area protects fragile dune communities and several rare and endangered plants. The area is used extensively via cordwalk trails and naturalist-guided hikes.

The Wade House State Historic Site

Kettle Moraine State Forest, once served as an inn and stopping point for stage coaches traveling on the Fond du Lac – Sheboygan Plank Road. Guides in Civil War-era costumers and period furniture and furnishings give guests a firsthand glimpse of a time gone by. The Wesley Jung Carriage Museum, located on the grounds, holds one of the world's outstanding authentic collections of hand- and horse-drawn vehicles. Map 14.0 shows the location of the Wade House State Historical Site.



Source: WI Historical Society

Cedar Grove Ornithological Raptor Research Station (CGORS) – State Natural Area (No. 8), Section 30, Town of Holland-East

As also discussed briefly in Protection of Migratory Bird Flyways, the CGORS is located on a 1,000 foot wide beach of former glacial Lake Algonquin and is intermediate in elevation between the cultivated uplands to the west and Lake Michigan to the east. In the 1940's, the Milwaukee Public Museum banded hawk at this site. In 1950, Helmut Mueller and Dan Berger began trapping and banding raptors and passerines, and their research is continued yearly today by volunteers. It has long been known as a site to view spectacular raptor migrations, and has been used as a trapping and banding station for more than 50 years, primarily in the fall.



Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Today, it is one of the major banding and observation areas for long-term raptor research. The Station has the longest sustained record of activity in North America for trapping and banding migratory raptors, and more than 45,000 birds of prey of 23 species have been live-trapped, banded, measured, and released. Birds first spotted or banded in Wisconsin at the Station include gyrfalcon, Mississippi kite, gray vireo, anhinga, and Harris's hawk. The Cedar Grove Hawk Research Station is owned by the Wisconsin DNR and is maintained by the Cedar Grove

Ornithological Research Station. It was designated as a State Natural Area in 1952. The primary use of

the research station – trapping and banding – requires as little disturbance from people as possible. Visits must be coordinated with trapping activities to avoid conflicts.

Kettle Hole Woods – State Natural Area (No. 254), Section 18, Town of Scott

Located in southeastern Wisconsin's glacial kettle topography is Kettle Hole Woods, an isolated hill forested with southern mesic and dry-mesic hardwoods. Ephemeral ponds are scattered throughout the site. The mature forest features an excellent canopy of very large trees, primarily red oak and sugar maple, with associated beech, basswood, white ash, white oak, and bitternut hickory. Most saplings are sugar maple and beech, suggesting that the red oaks will eventually be replaced by other, more mesophytic species. The shrub layer is variable in density, with witch hazel, American hazelnut, viburnums, and gooseberry. Mayapple, Pennsylvania sedge, interrupted fern, lady fern, round-lobed hepatica, and wild geranium characterize portions of the ground layer, while scattered open areas with pockets of gooseberry support maidenhair fern, blue cohosh, bent trillium, and violets. Two state-threatened species, red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), and Acadian flycatcher (*Expidonax virescens*) nest here. Also present is the uncommon yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), ovenbird, red-eyed vireo, and hairy woodpecker. Many of the ponds are also used by a large number of amphibians. Kettle Hole Woods is owned by the Wisconsin DNR, and can be reached by traveling east on STH 28 for 3.6 miles after the intersection of US Highway 45 and STH 28 in Kewaskum, then traveling north on Forest View Road for 5.7 miles. The natural area boundary is about 0.8 mile past Highway S, and users can walk east into the area.

Crooked Lake Wetlands – State Natural Area (No. 255), Section 6, Town of Scott.

The 261 acre Crooked Lake Wetlands is a diverse complex of communities, including northern wet forest, southern dry-mesic forest, south sedge meadow, shrub-carr, open bog, and two shallow seepage lakes. The 65 acre Crooked Lake is one of the larger natural lakes in the County and has a maximum depth of 34 feet. The inlet provides a spawning ground for northern pike, while the outlet forms a small tributary of the East Branch of the Milwaukee River. On the west side of Crooked Lake is a shrub-carr area of diverse composition and structure. White meadows and bog birch are dominant with openings of blue-joint grass, tussock sedge, and long-braced tussock sedge. Red-osier dogwood and willows dominate some areas, while speckled alder, common winterberry, nannyberry, and poison sumac characterize others. The herbaceous layer is equally diverse, with royal fern, ash fern, meadow-rue, and marsh pea. Also present are two shallow, hard water seepage lakes: Cedar Lake and an unnamed lake. Cedar Lake is surrounded by swamp hardwoods of yellow birch, black ash, and red maple, and a mature stand of sugar maple, basswood, and red oak. The unnamed lake has numerous emergent aquatics, including wild rice, and is surrounded by a boggy shrub forest with tamarack. The unnamed lake has been home to a large colony of breeding black terns (*Chlidonias niger*), and is also a spawning area for northern pike. Besides black terns, this area is home to a diverse community of birds, including nesting and migratory waterfowl; swamp sparrow; yellow, golden-winged, and Nashville warblers; veery; gray catbird; American woodcock; and yellow-billed cuckoo. Crooked Lake Wetlands is owned by the Wisconsin DNR, and can be access by traveling south on CTH G for 2 miles after the intersection of STH 67 and CTH G in Dundee, then traveling east on CTH SS for 1.6 miles; the boat launch is then 0.1 mile north.

Butler Lake Flynn’s Spring-State Natural Area (No. 257), Section 20, Town of Mitchell

Located on 158 acres, Butler Lake and Flynn’s Spring features a 7 acre shallow, hard-bottom lake surrounded by sedge meadow. Previously, the site contained a tamarack hardwood swamp, but several years of high water levels killed off most of the trees. Although the groundlayer has also been flooded, the aquatic vegetation and geologic features are still intact. Nearby Flynn’s Spring is a small, spring brook flowing into the southern end of Butler Lake. Chara covers the marl-bottomed Butler Lake, while the dominant submerged aquatic species is Illinois pondweed. Emergents include white water-lily, bullhead pond-lily, and hard-stem bulrush. A small zone of sedges and bulrushes on the northern end is the only open wetland. Older tamaracks, which formerly surrounded the lake, have died, but the species is reproducing well along the northwestern and southern shores. Adjacent to the lake is Parnell Esker, a geologic feature known worldwide, and used extensively for education. The esker is 5 to 35 feet in height, and runs northeast and southwest for about four miles. Of particular interest at this site is the presence of two rare species: the unicorn clubtail dragonfly (*Arigomphus villosipes*), and the swamp spreadwing (*Lestes vigilax*). Butler Lake and Flynn’s Spring is owned by the Wisconsin DNR. It can be reached by traveling east for one mile on CTH F after the intersection of STH 67 and CTH F in Dundee, the traveling north on Division Road for one mile, east on Butler Lake Road for 1.1 mile, south on an access road 0.1 mile to the parking area, boat launch, and trailhead for the Butler Lake Trail. The wetlands are best accessed by canoe.



Source: Wisconsin DNR

Johnson Hill Kame – State Natural Area (No. 258), Section 8, Town of Mitchell

On 14 acres, the Johnson Hill Kame is a “Moulin” kame, a conical hill of sand and gravel formed near the edge of the wasting glacial ice sheet by subglacial meltwater streams that poured downward through cylindrical holes in the glacier. The swirling motion of the debris-laden water reminded early French mountaineers of a Moulin (meaning “mill” in French). Hundreds of spectacular glacial features can be found within the Kettle Moraine, and the Northern Unit contains one of the best displays of Moulin kames in the country. Surrounding the kame is both southern and northern dry-mesic forest. The southern slope is composed of red oak, big-tooth aspen, beech, ironwood, sugar maple, butternut hickory, basswood, white oak, and eastern hop-hornbeam. The cooler north slope consists of basswood and sugar maple with beech, red oak, and eastern hop-hornbeam. Johnson Hill Kame is owned by the Wisconsin DNR. It can be accessed by traveling south and east on Woodside Road for 0.75 mile after the intersection of STH 67 and STH 23 in Plymouth, then traveling south on Shamrock Road for 0.4 mile. Users can park along the road and walk across the field to the kame.

Kettle Moraine Red Oaks – State Natural Area (No. 259), Section 14, Town of Scott

On 316 acres, Kettle Moraine Red Oaks is a mature second-growth southern dry-mesic forest, which originated in 1889. Composed of red oak, basswood, sugar maple, and white ash, it is one of the richest

oak forests in the region, and contains over 100 species of trees, shrubs, and herbs. Other canopy species present include big-tooth aspen, white oak, black cherry, and shagbark hickory, while the subcanopy is composed of ironwood, sugar maple, basswood, and ash saplings. The forest is situated on the high interlobate moraine, and contains several outstanding dry kettle holes, which provide some diversity in exposure. The groundlayer contains characteristic dry-mesic species, with three species of bedstraw, numerous sedges, downy Solon's seal, mayapple, maidenhair fern, American squaw-root, large-flowered trillium, sweet cicely, and Canada mayflower. This large tract provides important habitat for forest interior birds, including three state-threatened species: Acadian flycatcher (*Empidonax vireescens*), red-shouldered hawk, (*Buteo lineatus*), and cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*). Other birds include ovenbird, barred owl, and wood thrush, wood pewee, and scarlet tanager. Kettle Moraine Red Oaks is part of the most extensive hardwood forest located within the region, and forms the core of a larger proposed Habitat Preservation Area. Protection of this site is vital, given the harvest pressure and the loss of red oaks across the landscape. As this site ages, it will become a prime candidate for research of old-growth red oak forests. Kettle Moraine Red Oaks is owned by the Wisconsin DNR. Visitors can travel south on CTH A for one mile after the intersection of CTH T and CTH A in Greenbush, to a pull-off on the east side of the road. The Ice Age Trail, which crosses CTH A 0.2 mile farther south, traverses the site. Access is also available from the east along Ridge Road, 1.4 mile north of CTH Z.

Rhine Center Bog – State Natural Area (No. 414) Section 11, Town of Rhine

Located on a 53 acre site, the Rhine Center Bog features a class bog lake, a product of past glaciation formed during the melting of a large ice block suspended within glacial debris. Surrounding the lake is a second-growth southern wet-mesic forest of yellow birch, red maple, black ash, white pine, and other lowland hardwoods. Along the southern edge of the lake is a grove of tamaracks. The lake supports arrowheads and water-lilies, and is surrounded by a variety of sedges along with soft-stem bulrush, pickerelweed, and bog birch. Other plants include pitcher plant, skunk cabbage, sensitive fern, marsh marigold, and swamp saxifrage. The surrounding uplands are forested with American beech, sugar maple, shagbark hickory, hemlock, and basswood. The groundlayer supports many ferns, including maidenhair, royal, cinnamon, and intermediate wood and other species such as red elder, American hazelnut, wood betony, may-apple, Canada mayflower, shining club-moss, and false Solomon's seal. The wetlands provide excellent habitat for nesting and migrating birds. Some of the species found include wood duck, belted kingfisher, green-backed heron, and wild turkey. The State-endangered northern ribbon snake has also been found nearby, and is essential to its continued survival in Wisconsin. Rhine Center Bog is owned by the Wisconsin DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 2005. It can be reached by traveling north on STH 57 for 7.6 miles after to intersection of CTH O and STH 57 just northeast of Plymouth, to a small pull-off on the west side of the road. Users can walk southwest to the lake.

Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery – Town of Scott

Species present include Chinook and Coho salmon, Arlee rainbow, and Kamloops strains of trout. Visitors can access it by traveling on STH 28 north from Batavia, west on Cherry Hill Road, north on Trout Springs Road, and then west to the Sheboygan County restrooms at the hatchery. Tours are often conducted for school groups, scouts, and other groups by appointment.

LaBudde Creek State Fishery Area – Town of Rhine

LaBudde Creek State Fishery Area includes portions of LaBudde Creek that are Class I and Class II trout streams. The State Fishery Area lies on approximately 320 acres, and was acquired to protect the fishery in this pristine watershed.

Nichols Creek State Wildlife Area – Town of Lyndon and Town of Mitchell

The approximately 640 acre Nichols Creek State Wildlife Area protects the uppermost portions of the trout stream. Nine miles of the North Branch Milwaukee River, upstream of the study area, was acquired as part of the Streambank Protection Program, which aims to protect critically threatened streams that are high quality waters, as well as purchasing property along degraded streams in order to rehabilitate them.



Source: Wisconsin DNR

The portion of the North Branch Milwaukee River that runs through the Nichols Creek State Wildlife Area is designated as an Outstanding Resources Water in Wisconsin

Administrative Code NR 102. Outstanding resource waters are those that are of such outstanding quality that discharges from municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants must be of the same or better quality as the receiving water. This designation is based on the quality of the fisheries, protection of recreational uses, water quality and pollution sources. Only about two percent of the surface waters in the State are designated as outstanding or exceptional resource waters.

Schuett Creek State Fishery Area – Town of Rhine

The Schuett Creek State Fishery Area in Section 16 of the Town of Rhine includes approximately 120 acres of undeveloped land to protect the fishery of Schuett Creek. The creek joins the Sheboygan River 0.1 mile downstream of CTH MM, and is 0.4 mile in length. It is classified as a Class I trout stream, with a population consisting of small brook trout. Water quality in the lower 800 feet is threatened by barnyard runoff, and streambank mowing. Fish diversity is good, but the number of species is low. Intolerant, tolerant, and very tolerant species are equally represented in the fish community.

North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Area

This area includes portions of Sheboygan, Ozaukee, and Washington counties, and encompasses a total of 19,487 acres of land. The core area is made up of 16,549 acres and an additional 2,938 acres composed of corridors along the five tributary streams in the Heritage Area. The area includes river and stream corridors, large wetland complexes, three lakes, and rural and agricultural lands, and is one of the largest blocks of open space in Wisconsin where agricultural use is the dominant land use.

Nearly 9,100 acres of cropland and pasture areas, 5,900 acres of wetlands, and 700 acres of forest occur within the boundary area. In an effort to achieve the goal of agricultural land preservation, the Wisconsin DNR is committed to working with local farmers and landowners to participate in Purchase of

Development Rights (PDR) projects within the boundary area. PDR programs pay landowners the difference between the market price and the use price (such as agricultural use value). In return, the landowner relinquishes his or her right to develop the land.

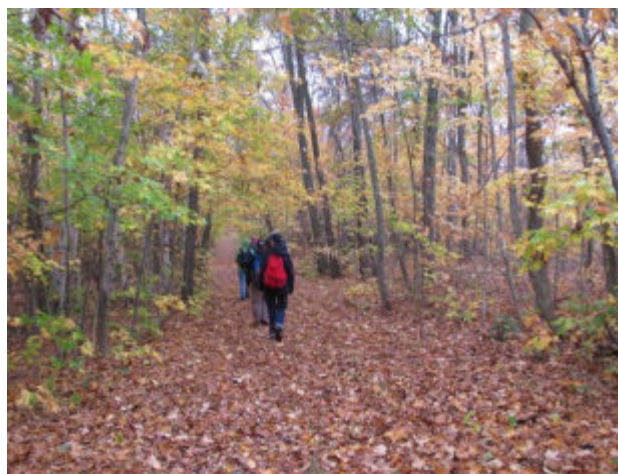
Existing National Facility in Sheboygan County

Ice Age Trail

The Ice Age Trail is one of eight national scenic trails in the United States. When complete, the trail will be a thousand mile walking and hiking trail throughout Wisconsin. Currently, about 600 miles are completed and available for use. The Ice Age Trail's purpose is to tell the story about the impacts of the Ice Age on earth's history along a scenic footpath. The route of the Trail approximates the last stopping point or terminal edge of the most recent continental glaciation. The Trail varies to include other features of the glacial landscape, portions of the "Driftless Area," and other communities.

The Trail began as a vision of Milwaukee native Ray Zillmer in the 1950s. Mr. Zillmer envisioned a linear national park and long distance hiking trail that would wind through Wisconsin along the Kettle Moraine and continue to the west towards the end moraines of the last glaciation of this area. The Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation was established in 1958 to make the idea a reality. Ray Zillmer passed away in 1960, and in 1980, Congress recognized the national significance of the Trail by designating it a National Scenic Trail. The State of Wisconsin designated the Trail as a State Scenic Trail in 1987.

The Ice Age Trail is intended for low impact activities such as walking, backpacking, hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Different segments of the Trail are owned by different entities (federal, state, and private), so use is dictated by the owner. Some segments of the Trail coincide with bike, horse, or snowmobile trails. Several segments have designated campsites or pass near public camping facilities, and some County forest areas along the Trail allow primitive camping with restrictions.



Source: Gathering Waters Conservancy

To date, over 600 miles of Ice Age Trail have been developed and are open for use. When complete, the Trail will extend over 1,200 miles from Interstate State Park on the Saint Croix River in Polk County to Potawatomi State Park in Door County, passing through more than 30 counties along the way.

A connection from the end of the Trail in the Village of Glenbeulah through Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Kewaunee counties to Lake Michigan is currently in the planning stage. This segment of the trail will be between eight and ten miles. The existing 25 mile

segment of the Trail in Sheboygan County traverses upland and lowland areas, and at times follows the

highest ridges of the Interlobate Moraine through the western portion of the County. Map 5.1 and 5.6 shows the existing Ice Age Trail in Sheboygan County.

Parks and Environmental Areas in Sheboygan County

University of Wisconsin Arboretum

The University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Sheboygan County is a wet lacustrine swamp that is made up primarily of black ash and American elm with alder in the understory. It is approximately 36 acres, and located in Section 19 of the Town of Wilson. The tree canopy is somewhat open, and present are many plant species throughout the swamp, which see little local relief. Trails run along the east and west fringes of the swamp. The location can be seen on Map 5.15.

Ellwood H. May Environmental Park

This 120 acre public park is commonly known as Maywood. The area offers natural history, environmental programs and activities, community events, recreational outings, summer camps, field trips, self-guided walks, cross country skiing and hiking trails, wildlife viewing, and a meeting place for environmental groups. The Park is a popular destination for school groups, families, and individuals who love nature and the outdoors.

Diverse habitats at Maywood provide a haven for wildlife throughout the restored prairies, Pigeon River corridor, spring-fed ponds, wetlands, and coniferous and deciduous forests. The Maple forest is tapped every March for its sweet maple syrup, which is bottled and sold at the Ecology Center.



This land was donated to the City of Sheboygan in 1974 by Ellwood H. May. Mr. May owned and operated the Mayline Office Furniture Company of Sheboygan. After a careful and extensive study of the existing environmental conditions, it was determined that an environmental park would be the best suited use of the new facility. Now, the Park is supported by the City of Sheboygan, public grants, and the Environmental Park Trust of Sheboygan County through voluntary donations, bequests, and annual fund drives. The Ecology Center, an extensive trail network, and a beautiful setting make Maywood a natural focal point for the environmental programs within Sheboygan County

Sheboygan County Conservation Organizations

Sheboygan County has a number of organizations interested in conservation. Many of the County's organizations had joined together to form the Sheboygan County Conservation Association (SCCA), which began in 1957 with just a few conservation-minded groups. Now, decades later, the group consists of 33 conservation clubs and is at about 3,000 members strong. This group typically meets monthly, and has

become a strong force in conservation efforts in the County. The SCCA is recognized statewide for its multitude of programs and improvements of Wisconsin's great outdoors. To date, over \$850,000 has been raised for conservation efforts and projects. This organization supports a Pheasant Program, supports Trees for Tomorrow, and provides an annual scholarship. Since 1996, the SCCA's Pheasant Program raises a more wild strain of bird in hopes of establishing a sustaining pheasant population. The SCCA also changed the way the pheasants are released into the wild. Release sites are not all necessarily huntable lands; habitat is stressed more. The program is designed to put a ratio of one rooster to five hens into the best habitat possible, or in areas lending to habitat enhancement. The remaining roosters use huntable land with good habitat, and are intended for harvest.

Concentrating on habitat improvement, two programs were developed. The first program establishes food plots. Landowners are reimbursed for planting small plots of corn, sorghum, etc., to stand over the winter months. They are designed for food and cover for all wildlife. Landowners are paid \$20 for working the land, \$10 for planting, \$20 for weed control, and \$20 for fertilizer, totaling up to \$70 per acre, depending on the situation. A new approach is being taken towards the establishment of grasslands. Instead of concentrating mainly on farmers, landowners with smaller parcels are targeted. As a new joint venture, the SCCA teamed up with Pheasants Forever in hopes of offering a more attractive package. Landowners are now paid \$90 per acre to establish grasslands for nesting cover; total program acreage is limited to 180 acres per year. In a 10 year span, over 1,800 acres could be re-established as nesting cover for wildlife.



The SCCA also acquires land, sometimes keeping ownership of the land. Most of the time, however, the land is donated to the DNR, conservation organizations within the SCCA, or other government agencies. In 2005, the Association purchased a 154 acre parcel of land for public use, and also acquired land in 2006 and another forty acres in 2013 for the same purpose. Following is a listing of the 27 conservation organizations that make up the SCCA which was found on their website.

- Adell Sportsmen's Club
- Binversie's Sportsmen Club
- Between the Lakes Muskies
- Crystal Lake Sportsmen's Club
- Farmers' and Sportsmen's Conservation Club
- Hermitage Conservation Club
- Howards Grove Rod & Gun Club
- Johnsonville Rod & Gun Club
- Koenig's Conservation Club
- Ladies of the Kettles
- Lakeshore Trout Unlimited
- Marshview Conservation Club
- Northern Kettles Chapter of NWF
- Peterman's Hunting & Fishing Club
- Rhine-Plymouth Field & Stream
- Ridge Runners Sportsmen Club
- Riverside Hunting & Fishing Club
- Sauk Trail Conservation Club
- Sheboygan Falls Conservation Club
- Sheboygan Rifle & Pistol Club
- Smerke's Sportsmen's Club
- Suscha & Fale Sportsmen's Club
- Tri-County Sportswomen's Club, LLC

- Waldo Pond Improvement
- Whitetail Bowhunters
- Winooski Bowman Archery Club
- Wisconsin Trappers Association – District 8

Most of these member organizations have yearly or monthly dues, and have their own monthly meetings. These organizations also are involved in their own conservation activities, along with those of the SCCA. Some of these organizations acquire their own lands.

Another conservation organization in Sheboygan County is the Pheasants Forever organization. It is a national organization with a Sheboygan/Manitowoc Chapter. The organization rotates its meeting locations between Plymouth and Valders. Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the conservation of pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public awareness, education, and land management policies and programs. This chapter is responsible to determine how 100% of their locally raised funds will be spent.



Local lakes in Sheboygan County also have organizations that have missions to protect, enhance, and preserve the lakes. The Elkhart Lake Improvement Association (ELIA) has a mission of promoting, preserving, and enhancing the general welfare of the lake through furthering water safety, pollution control, environmental maintenance, and public education. In this spirit, the ELIA offers this Statement of Concerns to area governmental and regulatory authorities with jurisdiction over the lake and the surrounding community, as well as to lake property owners, potential private buyers, and real estate agents and developers. The aim of the ELIA is to ensure that changes to the ownership and use of the surrounding lake community will not result in changes to the beauty, tranquility, and quality of the lake.

The Crystal Lake Advancement Association (CLAA) works to improve, promote, and preserve the general welfare of the lake. The Random Lake Association (RLA) was formed for the purpose of uniting in a central body of such persons interested in accepting responsibilities of stewardship for the waters of Random Lake, its shoreline, and adjoining property, and to maintain such at their highest level of quality, to foster its beauty and recreational facilities, to maintain property values, and to generate goodwill with the Village of Random Lake and the surrounding community for the support of these ideals, thus insuring the environmental health and longevity of this resource for present and future generations. Little Elkhart Lake has a rehabilitation district. Along with these lake associations, Crystal Lake, Little Elkhart Lake, and Lake Ellen have sanitary districts, which help to ensure any water is treated before it ends up back in the lakes.

Another organization concerned with conservation efforts in Sheboygan County is the Glacial Lakes Conservancy (GLC). The GLC is the local, regional land trust serving Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, Calumet, and Fond du Lac counties. This nonprofit conservation organizations work with willing landowners and public partners on parcel-specific projects to protect significant habitat, land and water resources, open space and recreational lands – both urban and rural – and to promote and protect

regional working farm and forest lands. More information on the projects they are working on can be found on their website (glaciallakes.org).

Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund Grant Program

In November of 2000, over 70% of voters in Sheboygan County voted in favor of establishing a County-wide Stewardship Fund to create and enhance recreational opportunities, and also to conserve valuable natural resources. Funding was allocated for the first round of projects in 2002, with monies received in part from a fee charged to developers of subdivisions in Sheboygan County's towns. In order to achieve public involvement in the process of grant distribution, an ad-hoc committee was formed that was tasked with deciding to whom grants would be awarded. Although most of the early funding was provided to communities to assist with creation of Smart Growth Plans, which became a requirement after State legislation, it has now also spread to other well-deserving applications.

Since 2007, the Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund has received its funding through the County's portion of its tax levy. Funding has fluctuated over the years depending on the availability of revenue, although the Stewardship Fund has always maintained a high priority program for the Planning & Conservation Department. Since land conservation and recreational opportunities have always been a cornerstone of the Department, it has maintained a sincere effort to distribute Stewardship Funds equitably. Projects are meant to align with the goals established in this Plan, and applications which do so are given a higher score when ranked.

Eligible projects fall under three categories. Land acquisition projects include conservation easements, property acquisition of sensitive or significant lands, fee title acquisition of lands for future recreational purposes or to restrict development, or the purchase of development rights, among others. Examples of applications falling under the project development category include park or trail development, the creation or restoration of public access to significant water resources, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, wetland restoration, or vegetative buffers along surface water resources, among other. Discretionary projects, the final category, are those that do not fall under the other two categories and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis for eligibility.

Goals of the Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund are as follows:

- Ensure citizen involvement in the County's Stewardship process
- Cultivate environmental stewardship within individuals, organizations, and government entities
- Help implement projects identified in the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan, and other relevant plans
- Provide matching funds by the County for leveraging dollars from federal, state, local, and private entities for conservation activities



- Coordinate County stewardship activities to be in harmony with other conservation and recreational activities already occurring in or planned for the County
- Initiate only those stewardship activities that cannot be accomplished by current or upcoming regulatory tools, such as land use planning, zoning, land division ordinances, and shoreland-wetland-floodplain regulations
- Preserve the County’s natural resources while minimizing the loss of property tax revenues
- Form green space and wildlife habitat corridors by linking existing natural areas together
- Acquire, protect, and restore only those resources that can adequately be maintained by specific public or private custodians in the future
- Preserve the natural resources of the County while continuing to promote wise growth and economic development
- Promote beautiful, healthy, and thriving cities, villages, and towns so that new and existing County residents will always have attractive and useful quality of life amenities
- Provide higher priority for Stewardship funding to those municipalities that have adopted Smart Growth compliant comprehensive plans

Over 64 projects, excluding funding for Smart Growth Plans, have been funded to about 11 municipalities and 12 organizations since the first round of Stewardship Fund money was distributed to awardees. Below is a list of projects that have received funding each year.

Table 12: Sheboygan County Stewardship Awards

<u>2002 - Stewardship Projects Awarded</u>		
<u>Smart Growth</u>		
Town of Lyndon	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
City of Plymouth	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
City of Sheboygan	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Mitchell	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Village of Cedar Grove	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
<u>Stewardship</u>		
City of Sheboygan	\$21,333.00	South Pier Promenade Project
City of Plymouth	\$21,333.00	Dam removal & habitat restoration project
Village of Elkhart Lake	\$21,333.00	Construction of two nature trails
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2002	\$88,999.00	

<u>2003 - Stewardship Projects Awarded</u>		
<u>Smart Growth</u>		
Town of Lyndon AMENDED	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Mitchell AMENDED	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Village of Glenbeulah	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Village of Elkhart Lake	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Rhine	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning

Town of Russell	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Greenbush	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Sherman	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Village of Adell	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Village of Random Lake	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
<u>Stewardship</u>		
Trout Unlimited	\$10,200.00	Onion River Habitat Restoration
Town of Rhine	\$36,800.00	Wetland Restoration Project
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2003	\$137,000.00	

2004 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Smart Growth</u>		
Village of Howards Grove	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Village of Oostburg	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Wilson	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Mosel	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Sheboygan	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Scott	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Lima	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Plymouth	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
<u>Stewardship</u>		
SCCA	\$6,325.25	Land Acquisition at the Sheboygan Marsh
City of Sheboygan Falls	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Village of Howards Grove	\$5,520.00	Wetland Restoration at a Village Park
County Land & Water	\$14,325.00	Vegetative Stream Buffers
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2004	\$96,170.25	

2005 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Smart Growth</u>		
Town of Herman	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
<u>Stewardship</u>		
WDNR	\$10,500.00	Land Acquisition on the Onion River
Village of Oostburg Interurban	\$10,365.00	Interurban Trail Development
Village of Cedar Grove	\$15,365.00	Interurban Trail Development
Village of Oostburg Bandshell	\$18,000.00	Bandshell redevelopment
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2005	\$64,230.00	

2006 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
Trout Unlimited	\$8,750.00	Habitat restoration on the Onion River
Town of Sheboygan Parks	\$14,922.00	Walking path at Fireman's Park
Camp Y-Koda	\$37,500.00	Marsh Tower project

Bookworm Gardens	\$20,000.00	Exhibit project development
Town of Wilson Parks (project cancelled)	\$25,000.00	Property acquisition for park
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2006	\$106,172.00	

2007 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
Sheboygan River Basin Partnership	\$9,000.00	Fisherman's Creek Concept Plan
<u>Smart Growth</u>		
Town of Sheboygan AMENDED	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Lima AMENDED	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Plymouth AMENDED	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Town of Sheboygan Falls	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2007	\$34,000.00	

2008 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
SASD Jackson School Initiative	\$45,210.00	School community garden - Green Scene Initiative
<u>Smart Growth</u>		
Town of Holland	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
Village of Cascade	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
City of Sheboygan Falls	\$5,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2008	\$60,210.00	

2009 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
BLRPC Emerald Ash Borer Inventory	\$15,000.00	Funded staff time for urban tree inventory
Friends of Kohler-Andrae State Park	\$15,579.00	Fishing pond on Old Park Road
County Planning - OPRT Repair	\$50,000.00	OPRT Trail Repairs
Bookworm Gardens	\$25,000.00	Outdoor Amphitheater and Erosion Control Project
County Land & Water Well Testing	\$4,550.00	Well testing project
<u>Smart Growth</u>		
Sheboygan County	\$10,000.00	Smart Growth Planning
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2009	\$120,129.00	

2010 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
Village of Howards Grove	\$7,550.00	Wetlands study
Sheboygan County Planning	\$15,000.00	Union Pacific Rails to Trails project
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2010	\$22,550.00	

2011 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
Glacial Lakes Conservancy Inc.	\$60,000.00	Purchase of Grasshopper Hill property
Sauk Trail Conservation Club	\$1,250.00	Prairie Restoration
Village of Howards Grove	\$8,300.00	Continued wetlands study
Sheboygan River Basin Partnership	\$50,000.00	Surveying & topography work on Fisherman's Creek restoration project
Sheboygan Cty Planning & Conservation- cancelled	\$11,818.00	Extend IUT north of CTH K/Minnesota Ave to Wilson-Lima Rd
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2011	\$131,368.00	

2012 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
Bookworm Gardens	\$15,450.00	Invasive Species Control & Education
Sheboygan Cty Conservation Assoc	\$5,000.70	Fishing Restocking at the Sheboygan Marsh
Town of Wilson	\$16,420.00	Park Development & Associated Land Acquisition
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2012	\$36,870.70	

2013 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
Village of Cedar Grove	\$22,885.00	Parking and Shelter Area
Village of Elkhart Lake	\$16,939.00	Tree Park and Pathway
Sheboygan Cty Planning & Conservation	\$21,900.00	Northern Extension of rails-to-trails Pathway
Sheboygan Cty Conservation Association	\$31,025.00	Land Acquisition at County Marsh
City of Sheboygan Falls	\$14,069.00	Bluebird Park Planning and Site Preparation
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2013	\$106,818.00	

2014 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
City of Sheboygan Falls	\$25,850.00	Continued Bluebird Park development
Bookworm Gardens	\$11,750.00	Erosion control and land management project
Town of Wilson	\$20,643.00	Continued Schinker Creek Park development
4-H Leaders Association	\$8,625.00	4-H Camp Riversite multi-purpose trail development
Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation	\$38,335.00	Second phase of Shoreland 400 Rail Trail extension
Sheboygan County Conservation Association	\$5,000.00	Fish stocking at Little Elkhart Lake & Sheboygan Marsh
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2014	\$110,203.00	

2015 - Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
Girl Scouts	\$24,000.00	Dam removal at Camp Evelyn
City of Sheboygan Falls	\$23,073.00	Continued Westside Park development
Little Elkhart Lake Rehabilitation District	\$7,500.00	Panfish re-stocking
Bookworm Gardens	\$3,628.00	Wood fencing as part of ravine management project
Town of Wilson	\$19,800.00	Continued Schinker Creek Park development
Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department	\$27,600.00	Amsterdam Dunes site planning and design
Glacial Lakes Conservancy	\$6,805.00	83 acre conservation easement
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2015	\$112,406.00	

2016 – Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
4-H Leaders Association	\$11,303.00	Camp Riversite multi-use trail
Friends of the Sheboygan Broughton Marsh	\$50,000.00	Construction of multi-purpose educational building
Glacial Lakes Conservancy	\$8,433.00	Conservation easement
Sheboygan County Conservation Association	\$1,500.00	Trout stocking at Sheboygan Falls lagoon
Town of Wilson	\$19,960.00	Fireman's and Jung Parks upgrades
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2016	\$90,196.00	

2017 – Stewardship Projects Awarded

<u>Stewardship</u>		
City of Sheboygan	\$5,016.00	Canoe/kayak launch at Kiwanis Park
Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership	\$6,925.00	Invasive species control within Pigeon River estuary
Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department	\$23,200.00	Install iron-enhanced filter bed
Girl Scouts of Manitou	\$8,350.00	Camp Evelyn invasive species removal
Glacial Lakes Conservancy	\$32,458.00	Willow Creek Preserve site plan
RCS Empowers	\$28,727.00	Shoreland 400 rest area
Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department	\$8,000.00	Amsterdam Dunes restoration implementation
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2017	\$112,705.00	

<u>2018 – Stewardship Projects Awarded</u>		
<u>Stewardship</u>		
Friends of Peace Park	\$19,110.00	Peace Park Development
Village of Cedar Grove	\$20,000.00	Community Sports Complex planning/design
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2018	\$39,110.00	

<u>2019 – Stewardship Projects Awarded</u>		
<u>Stewardship</u>		
Glacial Lakes Conservancy	\$19,380.00	Remove culverts on Willow Creek to restore habitat
Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership	\$23,500.00	Northpoint Bluff invasive species removal
Town of Wilson	\$3,427.00	Henry Mueller Family Conservancy invasive species removal
Sheboygan County Rocky Knoll	\$13,090.00	Install public mountain biking/hiking trail
Village of Cedar Grove	\$46,580.00	Construct Community Sports Complex
RCS Empowers	\$2,310.00	Mural for open space area
Plymouth Mill Pond	\$15,986.00	Install kayak/canoe launch
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2019	\$124,273.00	

<u>2020 – Stewardship Projects Awarded</u>		
<u>Stewardship</u>		
City of Sheboygan	\$24,640.00	Construct Kiwanis Park multi-purpose trail
City of Sheboygan Falls	\$6,900.00	Emerald Ash Borer mitigation/tree replanting
Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership	\$12,420.00	9 Key Element Watershed Planning
Sheboygan County Meals on Wheels	\$10,000.00	Construct oasis garden
Village of Random Lake	\$21,600.00	Design/planning of future park
TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED 2020	\$75,560.00	

Current Public Open Space and Recreational Opportunities in Sheboygan County

Camping

According to the 2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), camping is considered to be in the top five of nature-based outdoor activities in the state. Sheboygan County is fortunate to be able to bring in a number of visitors, however, with its relatively generous supply of campgrounds. Kohler-Andrae State Park and the Kettle Moraine State Forest are the only publicly-owned and operated sites in the County, while the campground at the Sheboygan Marsh is publicly-owned it is privately run. Being that they require more space, area campgrounds are dispersed throughout the County and are found in some of its more rural areas, such as throughout the western portion of Sheboygan County. Unlike some other recreational activities, camping is frequently chosen as a family

activity, with nearly half of campers traveling with children, according to the SCORP. Map 10.0 illustrates the spread of campground facilities and Table 13 lists the current facilities.

Table 13: Campgrounds in Sheboygan County

Municipality	Name	Ownership
Town of Russell	Broughton Sheboygan County Marsh Park	County
Town of Lyndon	Hagar's Hilly Haven	Private
Town of Scott	Hoeft's Resort	Private
Town of Plymouth	K.A. Campground	Private
Town of Wilson	Kohler-Andrae State Park	State
Town of Lyndon	Larson's Resort	Private
Town of Plymouth	Plymouth Rock Camping Resort	Private

Skiing and Snowboarding

Skiing and snowboarding are more active recreational opportunities available to residents of and visitors to Sheboygan County. Although they are relatively new to the world of mainstream activities in the County, local communities offer several attractive areas for these winter pursuits. Table 14 lists the areas for cross-country skiing in the County and outside of the City of Sheboygan. Additional multi-use trails, golf courses, and open areas are available, but not specifically designated, to skiers at other locations in the County. Although the Old Plank Road Trail is open to cross-country skiers, conflicts with snowmobiles could make such use dangerous, so skiing on the trail is discouraged. According to the SCORP, Wisconsin's trend has revealed that participants tend to snowboard at a greater rate than downhill skiing; the former increased by 111.6 percent between 1994 and 2009, while the latter experienced a 20.7 percent decrease in demand. As people engage in fewer recreational activities during the winter, capitalizing on the growing trend of snowboarding and skiing could bring in more year-round spending to Sheboygan County.

Table 14: Cross Country Skiing in Sheboygan County

Cross Country Ski Trail	Length (miles)	Municipality
Kettle Moraine State Forest	12.0 (30.4 forest-wide)	Towns of Greenbush and Mitchell
Kohler-Andrae State Park	4	Town of Wilson
Quit Qui Oc Golf Course	5.3	Town of Rhine

Golfing

According to the SCORP, 41.8 percent of all residents in the State over the age of 16 choose golf as a recreational activity. Sheboygan County has received an exceptional amount of attention with regards to its golf course opportunities, both those existing and currently proposed. The County has 11 privately-owned golf courses, with all but one 18-hole course open to the general public on a green fee basis (see Table 15, continued onto the following page). Although the number of golfers is increasing nationwide, the number of rounds of golf played has decreased. Based on its population of 114,922 as reported in the 2013 Census, Sheboygan County appears to offer ample facilities to satisfy demand. Its world-class golf

facilities, Blackwolf Run and Whistling Straits, bring in visitors, professional golfers, and an influx of spending to Sheboygan County from all around the world. These two courses were ranked in the top 100 golf courses in 2010, with Whistling Straits ranking 3rd and Blackwolf Run at 12th on the list.¹⁸ Faced with opposition from residents concerned with environmental impacts, the currently-proposed golf courses in the County have a challenging road ahead. With the current number of golf courses, however, everyone from PGA level golfers to families choosing golf as an occasional hobby have open opportunities.

Table 15: Sheboygan County Golf Courses

Name	Municipality	Holes	Yards	Status
Blackwolf Run: River Course	Kohler	18	6,991	Public
Blackwolf Run: Meadow Valleys Course	Kohler	18	7,142	Public
The Bull at Pinehurst Farms	Sheboygan Falls	18	7,332	Public
Evergreen	Plymouth	9	1,414	Public
Miller's Glen	Howards Grove	9	2,479	Public
Pine Hills	Sheboygan	18	6,348	Members only
Qui Qui Oc: Glacial 9 Course	Elkhart Lake	9	3,227	Public
Qui Qui Oc: 18 Hole Course	Elkhart Lake	18	6,350	Public
Riverdale Country Club	Sheboygan	27	5,875	Public
Sir Lanserlot	Plymouth	18	4,352	Public
Sunset Hills Golf Course & Driving Range	Sheboygan Falls	9	1,466	Public
Town and Country Club: Berms Course	Sheboygan	18	3,149	Public
Town and Country Club: Pigeon Run Course	Sheboygan	18	2,841	Public
Town and Country Club: River Woods Course	Sheboygan	18	3,073	Public
Whistling Straits: Straits Course	Town of Mosel	18	7,288	Public
Whistling Straits: Irish Course	Town of Mosel	18	7,201	Public

Hunting and Sport Shooting

With its vast amount of lands, both publicly- and privately-owned, available for these activities, hunting and sport shooting have remained a part of Sheboygan County's heritage. According to the SCORP, 18 percent of Wisconsin's participate in big game hunting, which may consist of deer and bear, while 11.3 percent hunt small game, which may include raccoon, rabbit, and squirrel. The popularity of these activities is also reflected in the number of conservation organizations around the County which aim, in part, to the sustainability of and access to hunting and sport shooting. Sheboygan County is unique compared to its neighbors in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Area as defined in the SCORP since it is comparatively more rural in nature. When hunters have more space available and do not need to be in close proximity to one another, they are more apt to have success and, in turn, more apt to choose hunting as a recreational activity. Additionally, with a focus on the younger generation to participate, sport shooting is another activity that can be expected to live on in Sheboygan County.

Bird Viewing and Photographing

As one of the more passive, low-impact recreation activities, the State of Wisconsin has higher rates of participating in birdwatching than other states. According to the SCORP, 41.7 percent of Wisconsinites report that they engage in the viewing and photographing of birds, which is also a relatively popular activity in Sheboygan County. Typically, it is done as a family activity, and within one mile of the birdwatcher's home. As the prominence of this activity has grown, the State of Wisconsin has taken a role in the development of birdwatching trails. As the conversation of development versus preservation on open land in the County is growing louder, birdwatching is able to be kept out of the discussion as it is an almost zero-impact activity.



Source: Patrick Dean



Source: Wisconsin DNR

Recreational Water Use

With its 9,560 miles of river, 1.1 million acres of water in nearly 15,000 lakes, 6.5 million acres of Great Lakes, and almost 95,000 acres of the Mississippi River, the State of Wisconsin offers ample opportunity for recreational water use. Fishing, sailing, power boating, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and other water-based activities rely entirely on the State's water resources.

Boating

Boating has long been a popular tradition in Sheboygan County. With six County-maintained boat landings and several more maintained by volunteer groups or residents in all corners of the County, it is an attractive and accessible recreational opportunity. Not only is it appealing to nearly all generations, but the different forms of boating reach those who desire high speed and action all the way to those who enjoy leisurely fishing outings. In part, this interest is due to the improved affordability of boating options, opening up watercraft ownership to a greater segment of the population.

Boat launch passes have been required since 2010 for those parking at any of the six County-maintained boat landings and the Sheboygan Marsh. Although a few passes were likely sold for people parking near the boat landings but not boating, the vast majority of passes sold indicate the trend in boating habits in Sheboygan County. In 2019, 4,093 passes were sold, an increase from 3,302 passes in 2013, or 24% increase.

Fishing

Fishing is a popular activity to a wide gamut of the population for several reasons. It is readily accessible, with a number of lakes, streams, and rivers in the County open to the public for fishing. Nearly all generations can participate since it is a more passive activity, and it can also be done with little cost for

the recreational fisherperson. Excluding Lake Michigan, which is fished by a large number of people, Table 16 illustrates the acres of fishable inland surface waters in Sheboygan County. Lake Michigan can be accessed by any of six boat launches, four of which are improved and two of which are unimproved. Five launches lie within the corporate limits of the City of Sheboygan and the other in the Town of Holland. The most popular site, Deland Park, which offers six ramps, finger piers, and a large parking lot, provides direct access to the Lake.

Table 16: Fishable Inland Surface Waters

Lake Name	Acres
Beechwood Lake	11
Butler Lake	7
Crooked Lake	91
Gerber Lakes	23
Lake Seven	26
Jetzer's Lake	15
Elkhart Lake	300
Crystal Lake	152
Lake Ellen	121
Little Elkhart Lake	48
Random Lake	213
Sheboygan Lake (Marsh)	640
Rivers and streams fished	1,000
Total acreage	2,647

Swimming

The SCORP reveals that 41.7 percent of respondents to its survey indicated that they participate in swimming in lakes or streams. Unfortunately, invasive species such as zebra mussels have been found in Elkhart Lake, Crystal Lake, and Lake Ellen, which discourages people from swimming in them. However, due to increased awareness and education of invasive species, boaters and fishermen are becoming more proactive in preventing their spread. Sheboygan County has been the recipient of a number of grants to help combat the spread of invasive species, and used its 'Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers' campaign to do so. Staff and volunteers working for the grants offered presentations on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, posted informational signs at several boat landings, and collected data regarding the public's cleaning habits of watercraft at boat landings.

The number of square feet available for swimming in Sheboygan County is located in Table 17. In this case, the City of Sheboygan is included in the table.

Table 17: Square Feet of Surface Waters for Swimming

Name	Square feet
Crooked Lake (Hoeft's Resort)	4,000
Crooked Lake (Four Seasons Resort)	4,000
Crystal Lake	952,000
Elkhart Lake	1,800,000
Lake Michigan (Black River south to county line)	2,420,000
Lake Ellen	455,000
Little Elkhart Lake	150,000
Random Lake	417,000
Sheboygan's Deland Park (Lake Michigan)	240,000
Sheboygan's Jaycee Park (Quarry)	15,000
Sheboygan's King Park (Lake Michigan)	35,000
Total	6,492,000

Recreational Marinas

Sheboygan County has one marina with access to Lake Michigan, which is located in the City of Sheboygan, adjacent to Deland park. The City can be contacted or referenced for more information on this facility.

Sheboygan County Open Space Priorities

Open space lands, other than prime agricultural lands, are recommended for protection through a combination of public, private, or nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or through the application of protective zoning. Map 9.0 in Appendix A shows these areas recommended for protection, along with the existing open space, natural areas, and recreational opportunities. The most effective way of protecting an area would be to acquire it as a public site. Table 18 below lists lands as a priority for protection because they lie adjacent to existing parks, State wildlife areas, or to watersheds that are degraded and in need of rehabilitation and protection. The riparian areas are only shown in the table below. Additionally, some areas identified are also prioritized by the Wisconsin DNR for preservation. Table 19 below provides a listing of the land legacies identified in Sheboygan County in the WI DNR's Wisconsin Land Legacy Report.

Table 18: Priority Land Acquisition

Area of Land	Municipalities
Riparian areas along the North Branch of the Milwaukee River, Silver Creek, and Nichols Creek	Towns of Sherman, Scott, and Lyndon
Tracts of forest contiguous to the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Northern Unit	Towns of Greenbush, Mitchell, Plymouth, and Scott
Riparian areas along Mink Creek	Town of Scott and Mitchell
Riparian areas and wetlands along the Onion River and Ben Nut Creek	Town of Lyndon and Plymouth
Tracts of forest or wetland areas adjacent to the Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park & Wildlife Area	Towns of Greenbush and Russell

Land adjacent to the La Budde Creek State Wildlife Area	Town of Rhine
Land adjacent to Gerber Lakes Public Fish and Wildlife Area	Town of Rhine
Land adjacent to the Kiel Marsh Wildlife Area	Towns of Rhine and Russell
Land adjacent to the Schuett Creek State Fishery Area and the Rhine Center Bog Natural Area	Town of Rhine
Riparian areas along the Sheboygan River	Town of Herman, Rhine, and Sheboygan Falls
Land adjacent to the Amsterdam Dunes Preservation Area	Town of Holland

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Table 19: Sheboygan County Land Legacy Listings ¹⁹

1.	Kettle Moraine State Forest
2.	Kohler-Andrae Dunes
3.	Millhome Woods
4.	Milwaukee River
5.	Onion River Grasslands
6.	Sheboygan County Trout Streams
7.	Sheboygan River Marshes

Forest Sites

Planners, policy makers, and citizens in Sheboygan County should make continual efforts to re-establish relatively large tracts of grasslands and forest areas in the County. Re-establishment of such tracts would provide habitat for bird populations that have been adversely affected by the loss of habitat due to development (rural and urban) in the area.

Coastal Open Lands

Lake Michigan provides many recreational opportunities and habitat for birds and wildlife, but coastal open lands are limited and steps should be taken to protect the open land that does exist. Partnerships can also be formed to help acquire coastal open land if it becomes available.

Protection of Migratory Bird Flyways

Sheboygan County is in the migratory path of shorebirds such as waterfowl and is in the Mississippi Flyway. A flyway contains a chain of wetlands, on which shorebirds rely to rest and feed as they migrate. Since the birds need these areas, it is especially important that wetlands in the County are preserved. Those wetlands areas being preserved for water quality and watershed protection can also be used as flyways for the migratory birds. For example, land



in the Town of Lyndon may be protected as a flyway area, and it may also be protected to ensure the quality of the Onion River.

Protection of Geological Areas and Glacial Terrain Features

Efforts should be made to inventory the geological areas as part of a future regional planning process, or in conjunction with the comprehensive planning process. Special consideration should be made for areas based on a list of criteria including scientific importance, significance in industrial history, natural aesthetic quality, ecological qualities, educational value, and public access potential.

Occasionally, unanticipated opportunities arise to acquire land or water resources that specifically and uniquely complement this plan's goals and objectives. Flexibility in plan implementation, driven by a set of sound acquisition criteria, should exist to swiftly take advantage of such opportunities. The following land acquisition criteria are guidelines that should be used for evaluating project proposals.

1. Properties available (those on the market)
2. Properties accessible to the public, or the acquisition of which achieves an important public purpose
3. Properties which are, or provide access to, lands or water of unusual quality for resources management and recreational purposes
4. Properties with threatened critical habitat, the loss of which would put at risk wildlife, fish, or the larger ecosystem
5. Properties adjoining public land or complementing existing management plans
6. Properties affordable, which employ all available funding opportunities and types of rights purchased
7. Properties exhibiting great public recreational need for identified recreational activities.
8. Properties with high potential for increased production of wildlife species through development and management
9. Properties with high values for research and education
10. Properties contained in any identified environmental corridors

Depending on the location of the land, the acquisition may be appropriate for the federal, state, or county government, or the local municipalities.

Chapter 6: Implementation

Various tools and methods are available to assist the County and its municipalities in achieving the goals and objectives of this Plan.

Vision for the County

The Vision for the County as discussed in Chapter 3 is:

“Sheboygan County will offer its residents the best possible system of outdoor recreation and open space sites and activities in a manner which is responsive to the needs of the public, fiscally responsible, and which promotes the preservation and sustainability of the County’s outstanding environmental, archaeological, historical, and cultural resources.”

To help meet this vision, goals and objectives were developed. In order to help meet these objectives, time estimates and programs are discussed. The following includes programs the County and municipalities should work on in the next 5 years, 10 years, and 20 years.

5 YEARS

- Ensure that municipalities are providing residents with sufficient parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas. Municipalities are eligible to apply for a number of grants that can help in the development of these areas.
- The County may choose to send out information on these grants to the municipalities to ensure they are aware they can receive funding from these sources. The County may help municipalities in developing applications for these grants. Some of these grants are listed later in the Chapter.
- Not only should municipalities apply for grants, but they should work to find local donors who would provide permanent sources of funding.
- Land that is shown as a high priority land acquisition in Map 9.0 should be acquired if it becomes available. Some of these lands help to protect riparian corridors, which is an objective set forth in Chapter 3.
- The County should update relevant ordinances as needed, such as the floodplain-shoreland ordinance and the subdivision ordinance in order to protect open space and recreational opportunities.
- The County should work with local governments, civic organizations, groups, and concerned citizens in the development of parks and recreational areas. The County may help the municipalities or civic organizations apply for grants that may be used to acquire land or make improvements to existing facilities.
- The County should review local municipalities’ comprehensive plans to ensure they are providing facilities that will meet the future needs of the area.
- Development of a county-wide parks, recreation, and open space organization that unites all of the parties involved.

10 YEARS

- Land that is shown as a high priority land acquisition in Map 9.0 should be acquired if it becomes available. These lands help to protect the riparian corridors, which is an objective set forth in Chapter 3.
- When enhancements and improvement are made to local parks and recreational areas, equal accessibility should be provided for all.

20 YEARS

- Large tracts of contiguous land should be protected and acquired as it becomes available.
- The County will have developed an adequate amount and a variety of recreational areas for the citizens of the County. This includes having recreational facilities available for year-long use.

It is vitally important that the State, County, or conservation organizations acquire high priority lands when they become available. This will help to ensure large tracts of contiguous lands are preserved.

Methods of Land Acquisition

Grants, gifts, and general purpose revenues are typically used to acquire and develop recreational projects. Combinations of these and other creative packages should be explored. The following are possible facility acquisition methods.

- Fee simple purchase. The outright acquisition of title (either lump sum or multiple payments) for complete rights of ownership of a parcel; normally reflects current market value of land and, therefore, is normally the most expensive method of acquisition.
- Easement and property rights purchase. An acquisition of specific partial rights to real estate (i.e. scenic easements; streambank easements; other access easements; specific development rights; fishing, hunting, or snowmobiling rights) at a purchase cost significantly lower than that of fee simple purchase. No title conveyance occurs, and the parcel retains service both to the buyer and seller.
- Donation. This is the most desirable and economical means of acquiring title to real estate for public recreational or other uses. Donation may also provide a real tax benefit, as well as community recognition to the gifting landowner.
- Option to purchase. Whether short term or long term, the purchase of an option to buy fixes an established purchase price for a stated period while the necessary approvals, agreements, and funding arrangements are made. The option is binding on the seller, but not on the buyer. The option price may be nominal or substantial.
- Lease. A negotiated agreement used to obtain total or partial use rights on a parcel without the necessity to purchase outright; long term arrangements allow recreational acquisitions at greatly reduced costs.
- Purchase and leaseback. A land acquisition method involving outright purchase, with subsequent leaseback, wholly or partially, to the original landowner. This not only allows the selling landowner a specific continued use of the land with no tax burden, but also provides control of land usage by the buyer.
- Eminent domain. Condemnation for a public purpose by governmental action, with fair market compensation paid to the owner. While sharply limited in its legal applications, it can be useful in protecting delicate, unique, or threatened properties. It can also be used to acquire desirable open space lands through easement and right-of-way expansions, and in establishing definition in cases of contested land ownership and disputed sales.

- Joint ownership or management. Utilization of facilities by a number of public entities (i.e. school districts, park districts, municipalities) through joint ownership or management agreements. Facilities conducive to this would include swimming pools, tennis courts, shooting ranges, and athletic fields.
- Adopt-a-Park or 'Friends of...' programs. Normally involves municipal ownership, with facility operation and maintenance provided by service organizations, athletic clubs, or neighborhood associations.

The County should use eminent domain only as a last resort for acquiring desired lands. Sheboygan County should continue working with local organizations in helping them to acquire lands. The County Stewardship Grant Fund can support these goals, although funding for the grant now comes entirely from the tax levy.

Grants Available

In the past, the County has used some of the grant programs administered by the Wisconsin DNR in order to facilitate land acquisition, fish restoration, or other conservation efforts that would fall under the sphere of the recreation and open space plan. Several of these grants are listed below.

- All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Trails. Counties, cities, villages, and towns are eligible for up to 100 percent of the costs of maintenance, development, rehabilitation, insurances, and acquisition of ATV trails and intensive user areas.
- ATV Enforcement Patrol. County Sheriff Departments are eligible for up to 100 percent of their net costs associated with all-terrain vehicle patrols and enforcement.
- County Conservation Aids. Counties are eligible for 50 percent of the costs of carrying out fish or wildlife management projects that enhance fish and wildlife habitat or are related to hunter/angler facilities. Sheboygan County has used this in the past.
- Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration. The Wisconsin DNR prioritizes fisheries related projects (sport fish restoration, boating access, and fishing piers) biannually to identify projects eligible for 75 percent cost share; the DNR sometimes negotiates contracts and use agreements with counties, villages, and towns for use of this funding for construction of boat landings and fishing piers. Sheboygan County has used this in the past.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund. Qualifying towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and school districts are eligible for 50 percent of the costs of land acquisition and the development for public park and recreation areas.
- Municipal Water Safety Patrols State Assistance. Municipalities, tribes, inland lake rehabilitation and protection districts, and sanitary districts are eligible to receive up to 75 percent of the costs (salaries, supplies, and equipment) of operating a Boating Law Enforcement Program, including conducting boating education programs, providing professional enforcement of boating laws and local regulations, and providing search and rescue for live persons.
- Recreational Boating Facilities. Counties, cities, villages, towns, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations are eligible for up to 50

percent of feasibility studies and construction of capital improvements related to the development of safe recreational boating facilities, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemical treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil.

- Recreational Trails Program. Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governing bodies, school districts, state agencies, federal agencies, and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive up to 50% of the cost of maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails, and acquisition of easements or property for trails.
- Snowmobile Trails Aids. Counties are eligible for 100 percent (including money per mile caps) of the cost of approved trail maintenance, development, and major bridge rehabilitation.
- County Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols. County sheriff departments are eligible for up to 100% of their net costs (salaries, fringe benefits, travel, materials, supplies, etc.) associated with snowmobile patrols and enforcement.
- Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Acquisition and Development of Local Parks. Qualified towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations are eligible for up to 50 percent of the costs of acquisition of land or conservation easements, and the development of facilities for public park and recreation areas used for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes. The County has used this program, along with the Sheboygan County Conservation Association.
- Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Urban Rivers. Qualified towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations are eligible for up to 05 percent of the costs of acquisition of land or conservation easements, and the development of facilities for public park and recreation areas, including shoreline enhancements, for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes along urban waterways and riverfronts.
- Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Urban Green Space. Qualified towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations are eligible for up to 50 percent of the costs of acquisition of land and conservation easements for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes that will protect open natural spaces and land with scenic, ecological, or natural values in urban areas. The County received this for the Gerber Lakes Area.
- Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Acquisition of Development Rights. Qualified towns villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations are eligible for up to 50 percent of the costs to acquire development rights (conservation easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial development would provide or enhance nature-based outdoor recreation.

The County will apply for these grants as it sees necessary. If boat launches are in need of replacement or improvements, the County will look at applying for the recreational boating grant. The County can also look into receiving these grants when areas of high priority are able to be obtained.

Regulatory Measures

Regulations which assist municipalities in acquiring, developing, or even preserving existing and future recreational areas include the following:

- *Subdivision Ordinances.* In addition to guiding the efficient, well-designed residential development of land, subdivision control ordinances aid in acquisition and development programs by encouraging developers to dedicate a specific percentage of land in a new residential subdivision for recreation or open space use. In its own subdivision ordinance, Sheboygan County includes provisions for *conservation subdivisions*. These subdivisions are meant to cluster the housing closer together in an effort to preserve open space or agricultural land. Wisconsin’s Smart Growth law defines them as “a housing development in a rural setting that is characterized by compact lots and common open space, and where the natural features of land are maintained to the greatest extent possible.”

Generally, conservation subdivisions allow for an adjustment in the local of residential dwelling units on a parcel of land so long as the total number of dwelling units does not exceed the number



of units otherwise permitted in the zoning district. The dwelling units are grouped or “clustered” on only a portion of a parcel of land. The remainder of the site is preserved as open space, farmland, or as an environmentally and culturally sensitive area. This clustering of the dwellings into a small area is made possible by reducing the individual lot sizes. The open space is permanently protected and held in common ownership. Sometimes additional dwelling units may be permitted if

certain objectives are achieved. Conservation subdivisions enable a developer to concentrate units on the most buildable portion of a site, preserving natural drainage systems, open space, and environmentally and culturally sensitive areas. Developers are offered incentives, such as shorter review times and reduced fees, in order to incentivize the use of conservation subdivisions in Sheboygan County. An important component is that the open space created be accessible to everyone, which facilitates a sense of community while saving open space. The County Subdivision Ordinance also encourages connectivity between developments to allow for efficient transportation options and to try and limit loading onto thoroughfares for short trips.

- *Shoreland and Floodplain Zoning Ordinances.* Section 59.97, 87.30, 61.351, and 62.231 of the Wisconsin Statutes enable all Wisconsin villages, cities, and counties to prepare and adopt acceptable shoreland and floodplain zoning ordinances regulating the development of shorelands, wetlands, and flood prone areas. These regulations not only prevent unwise and unsafe encroachment into delicate areas, but also preserve such natural resources in an open, undisturbed condition. The Sheboygan County Shoreland and Floodplain Ordinances regulate development along navigable lakes, rivers, and streams in the County.

- *General Zoning Ordinances.* Zoning provides a valuable tool for retaining the specific character of an area, and preserves identified open spaces through the establishment of land use controls on all lands within a community’s jurisdiction. Zoning enhances the establishment of privately- and publicly-owned open space lands by encouraging the sound, efficient, usage of developable areas, as well as the protection and preservation of delicate, undevelopable areas. Although Sheboygan County does not have county-wide zoning as most of the other counties in Wisconsin do, many of its communities consider the preservation of open space and recreation in their own zoning codes.
- *Official Maps.* An official map ordinance designates those lands that a municipality intends to acquire at some future time for future streets, parks, and other public facilities. Legally, such mapped lands are “reserved” for future fair market purchases by the municipalities, and private development on them is largely prohibited. When based on an adopted comprehensive outdoor recreation and open space plan, the official map clearly indicates to all landowners the governmental unit’s intention to acquire specific lands to be used for recreational purposes.

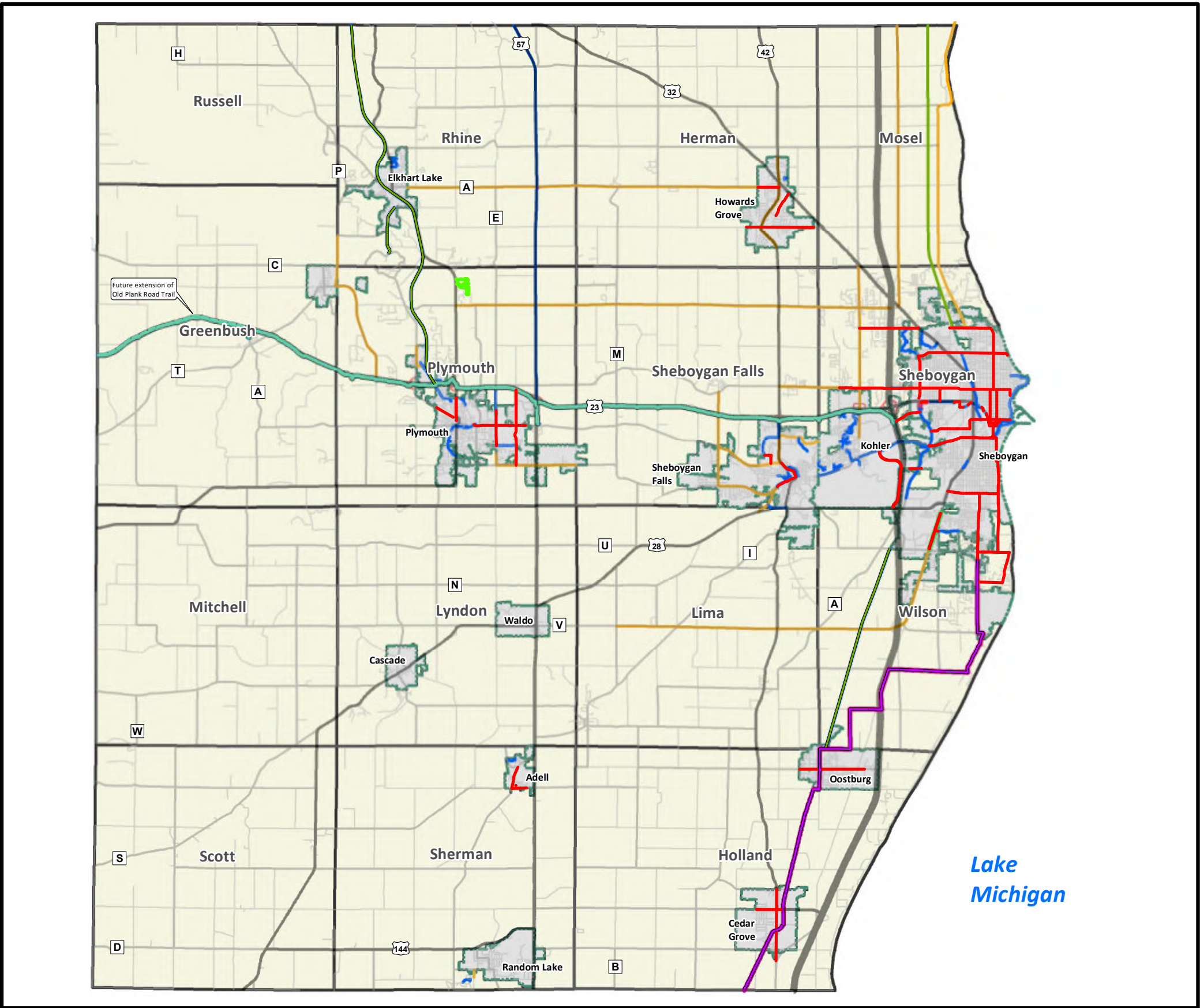
The parks, recreation, and open space projects that are discussed in this plan may change. As communities grow and adapt to the changing technology, different facilities may be required. Working with local governments and organizations, applying for grants, updating and establishing viable regulations, will be necessary to achieve the goals set forth in this plan.

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Appendix A



Map 1.0 Bicycle and Pedestrian Network

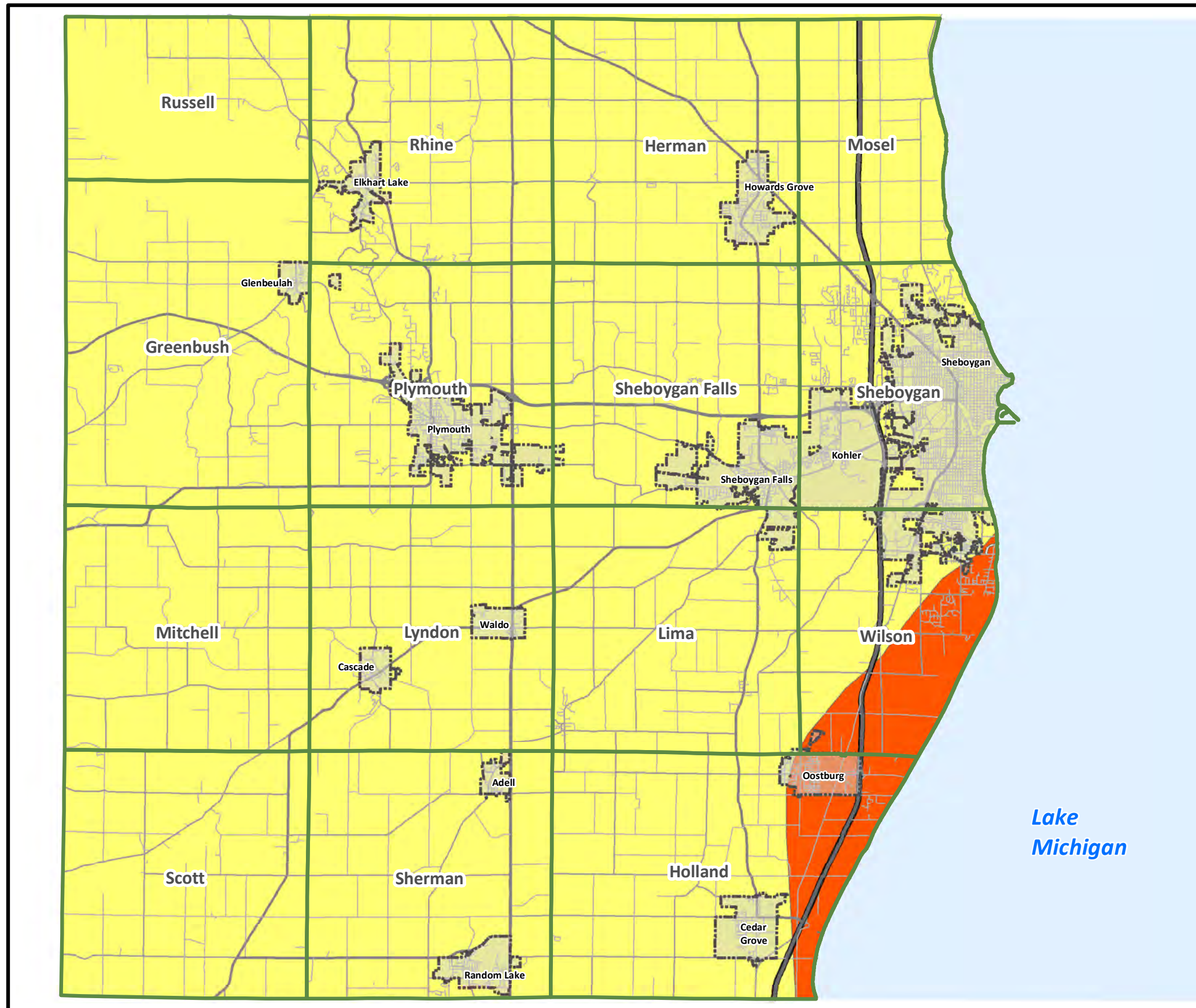
Sheboygan County, WI

**Existing Bicycle and
Pedestrian Facilities**

	Townships
	Municipal Boundary
	Lakes
Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	
	Bicycle Lanes / Routes
	Paved Shoulders
	Multi-use Pathways
	Potential Future Trails
	Interurban Trail
	Old Plank Road Trail
	Rocky Knoll Mnt Bike Trail





The Interurban Trail has both on- and off-road segments.

**Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**



Map 1.1 Bedrock Geology

Sheboygan County, WI

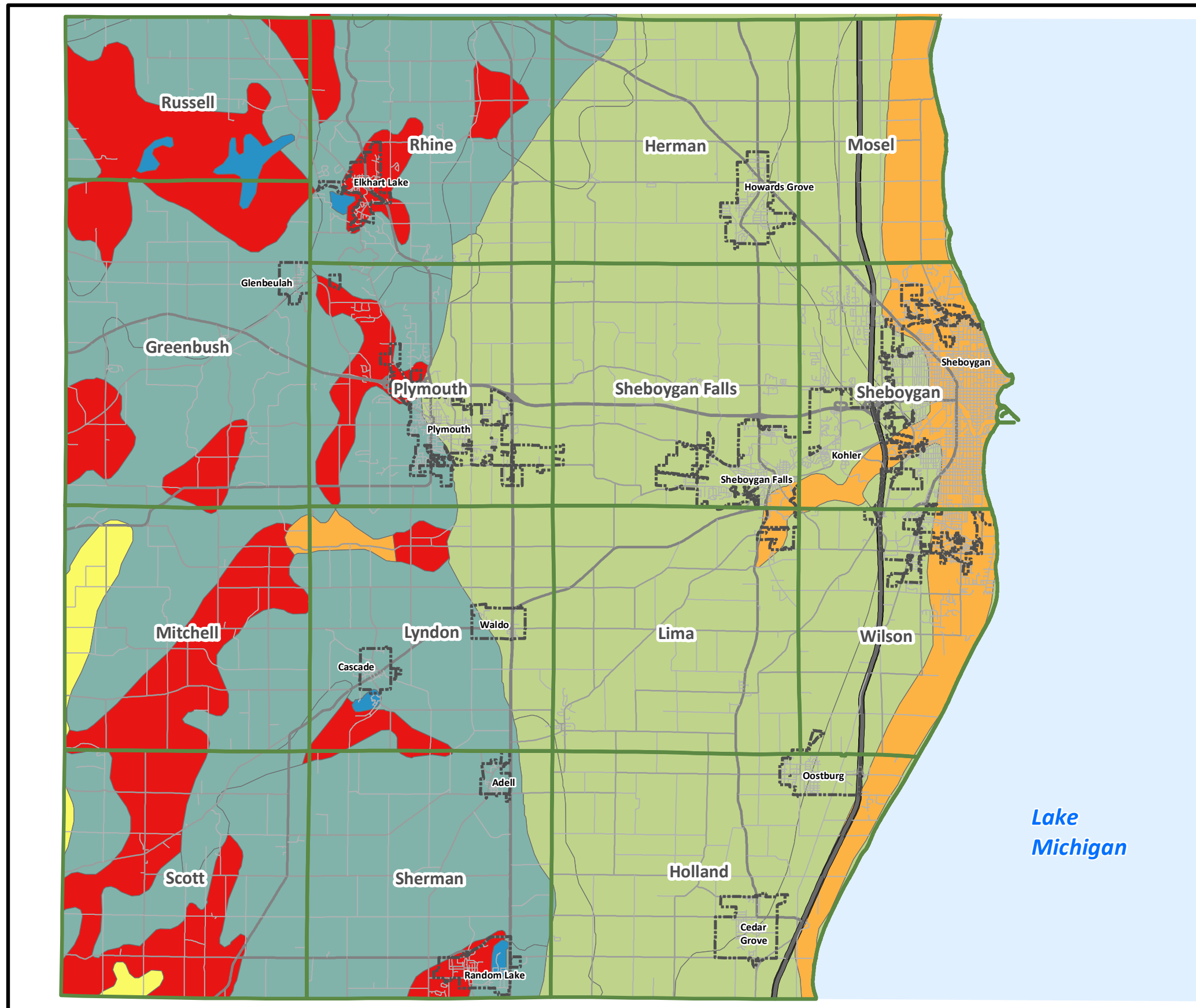
-  Townships
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Devonian Bedrock
-  Silurian Dolomite



**Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**












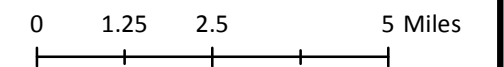
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

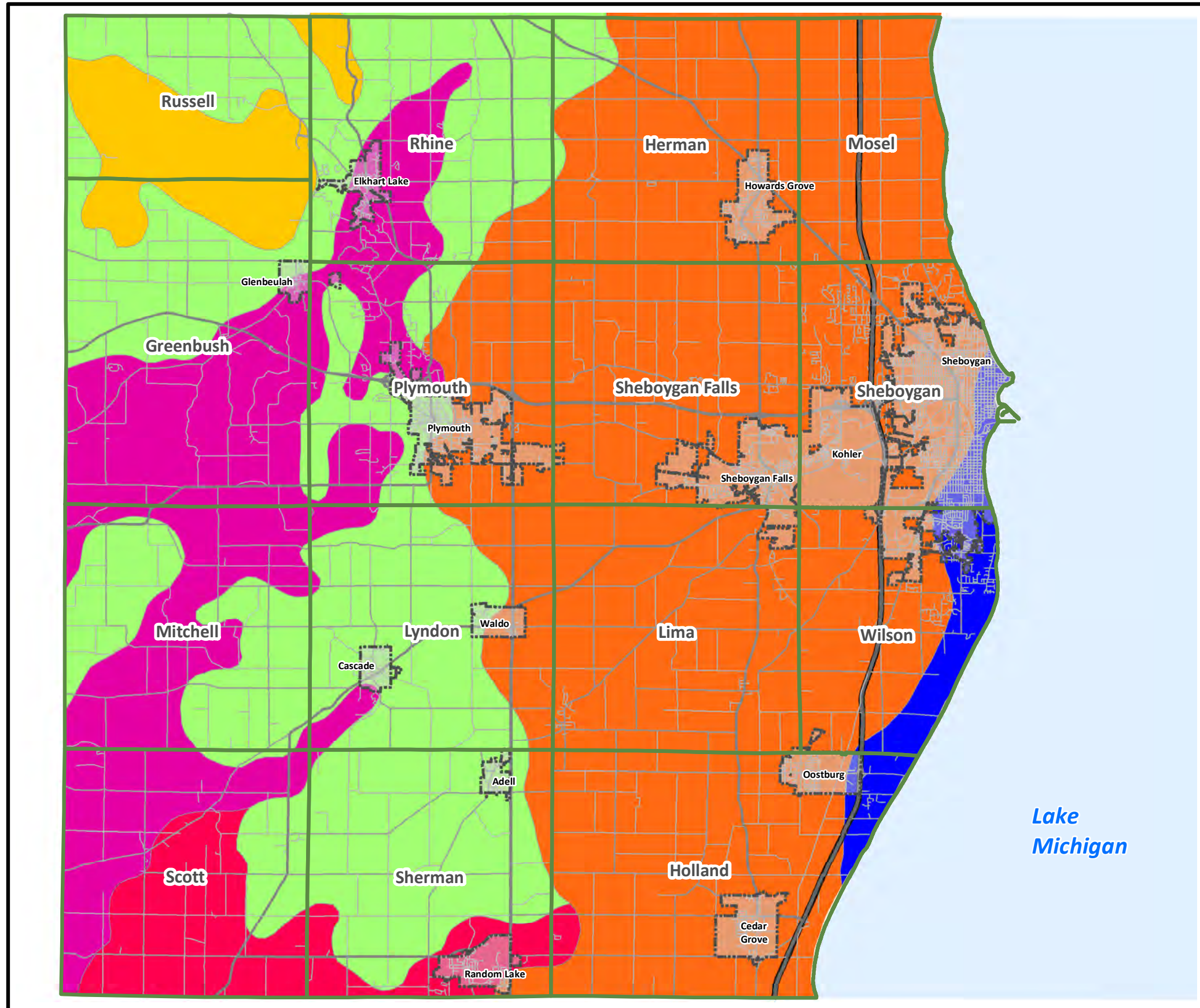


Map 1.2 Pleistocene Geology

Sheboygan County, WI

	Townships
	Municipal Boundary
Pleistocene Geology	
	Lake Deposits
	Sandy Loamy Till
	Clayey Till
	Ice-Contact Sand and Gravel
	Lake Silt and Clay
	Lake Sand
	Outwash Sand and Gravel





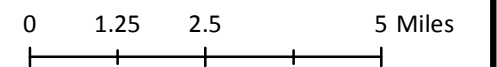
Map 1.3 General Soils

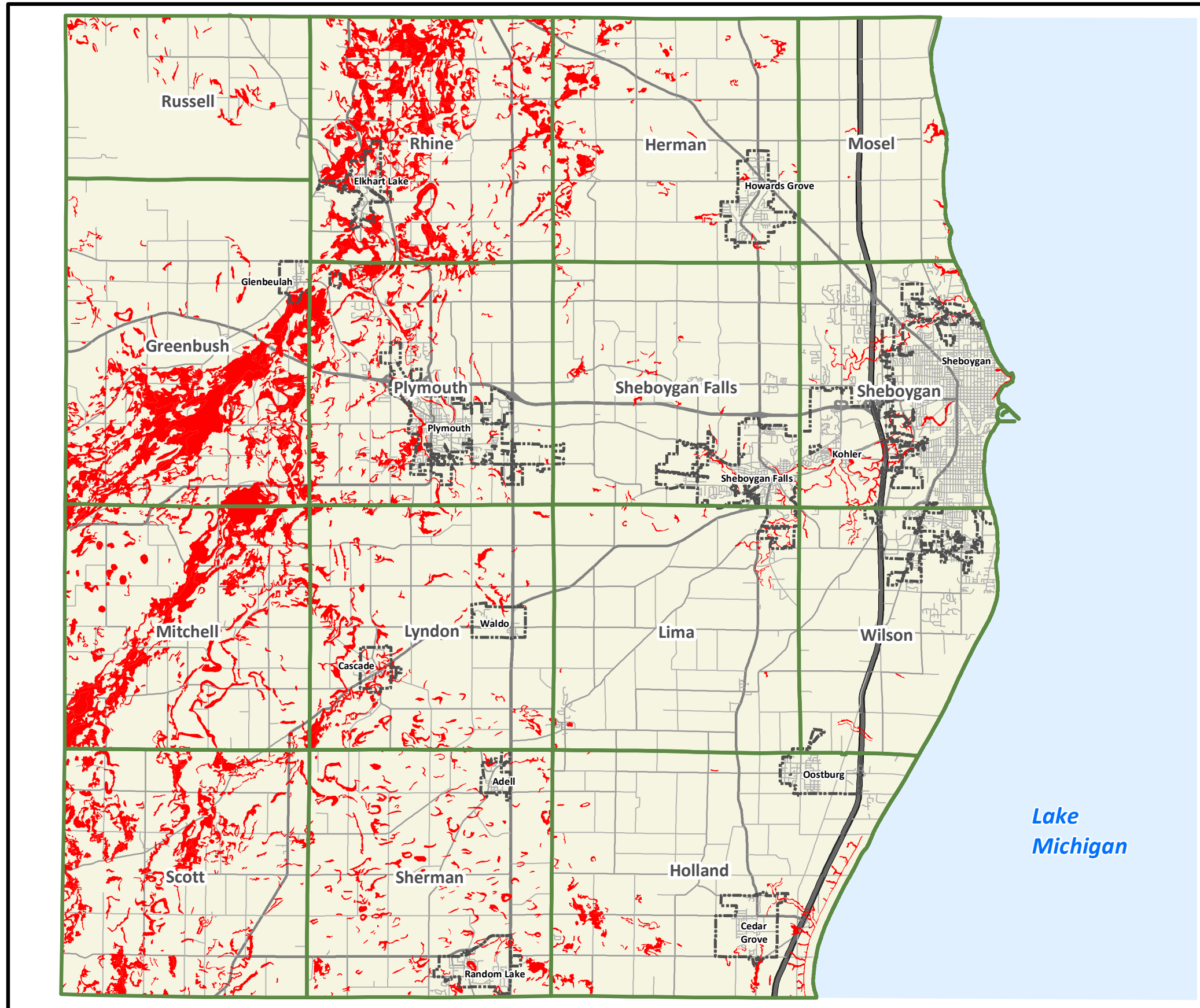
Sheboygan County, WI

Townships
 Municipal Boundary

General Soils

- Virgil
- Barry
- Manawa
- Houghton
- Casco
- Coloma



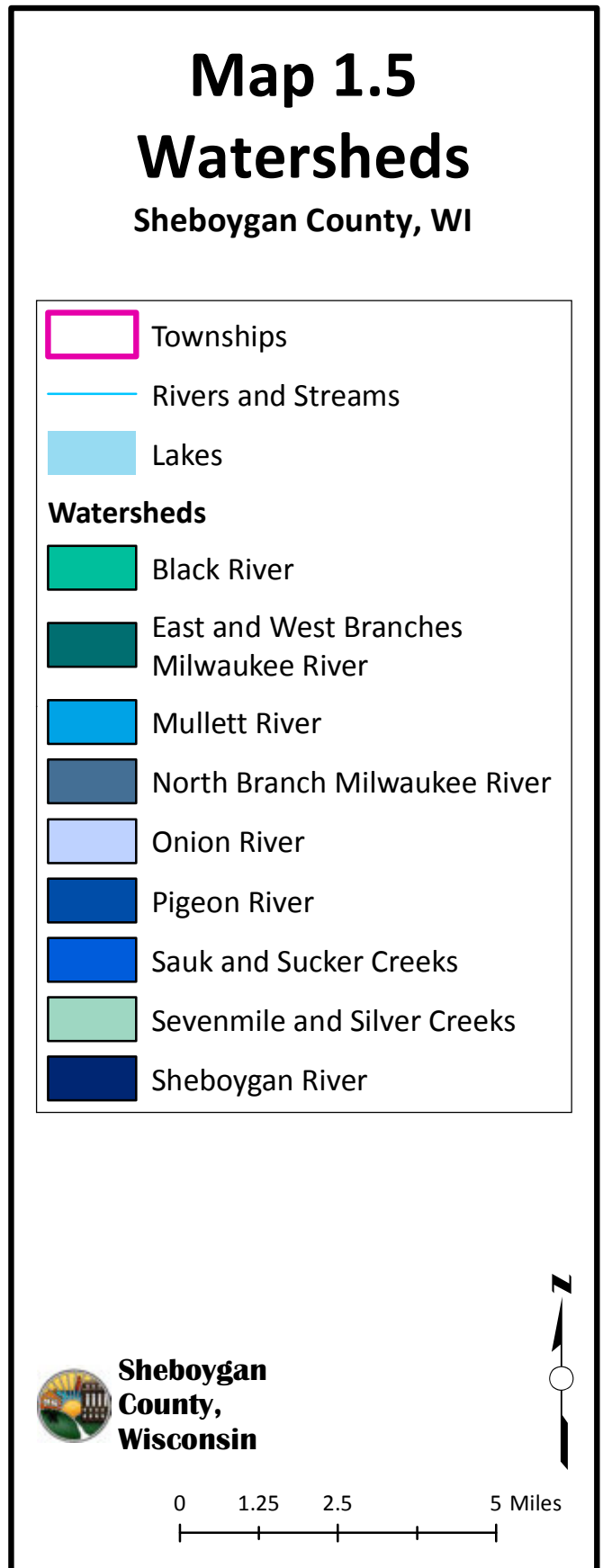
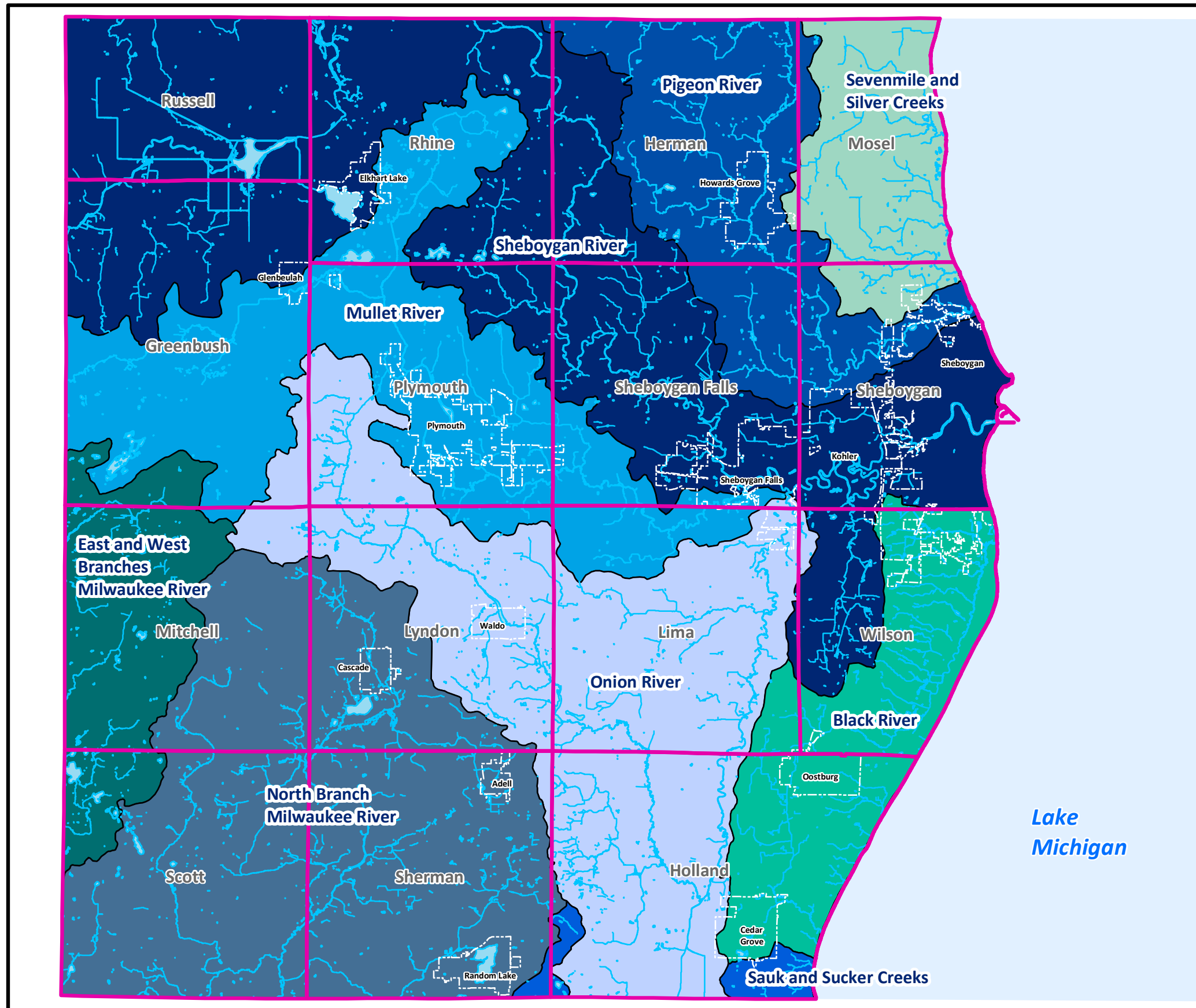


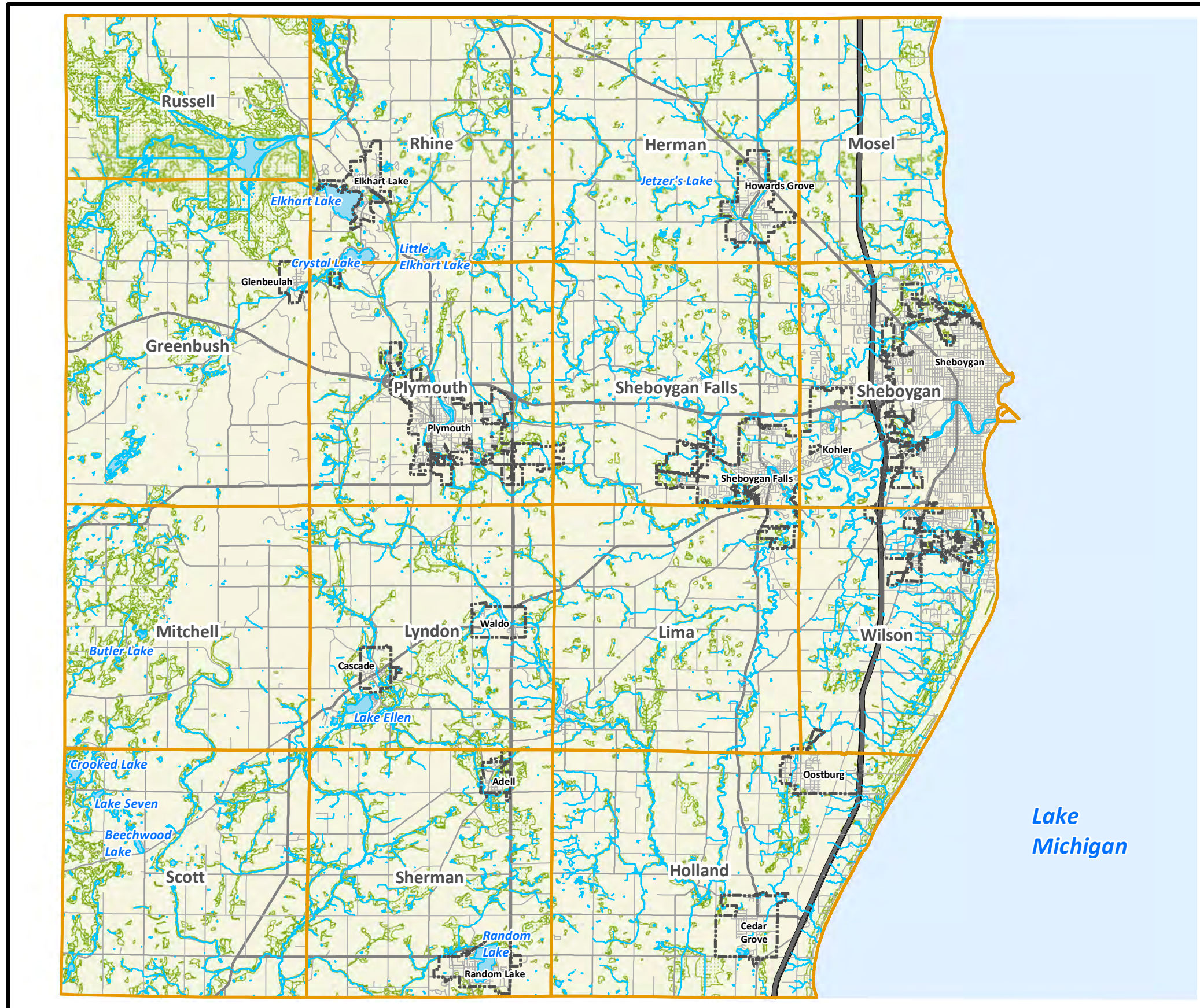
Map 1.4 Steep Slope Sheboygan County, WI

- Townships
- Municipal Boundary
- Steep Slope (12% or greater)

Sheboygan County, Wisconsin






0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles







Map 1.6 Surface Water Resources

Sheboygan County, WI

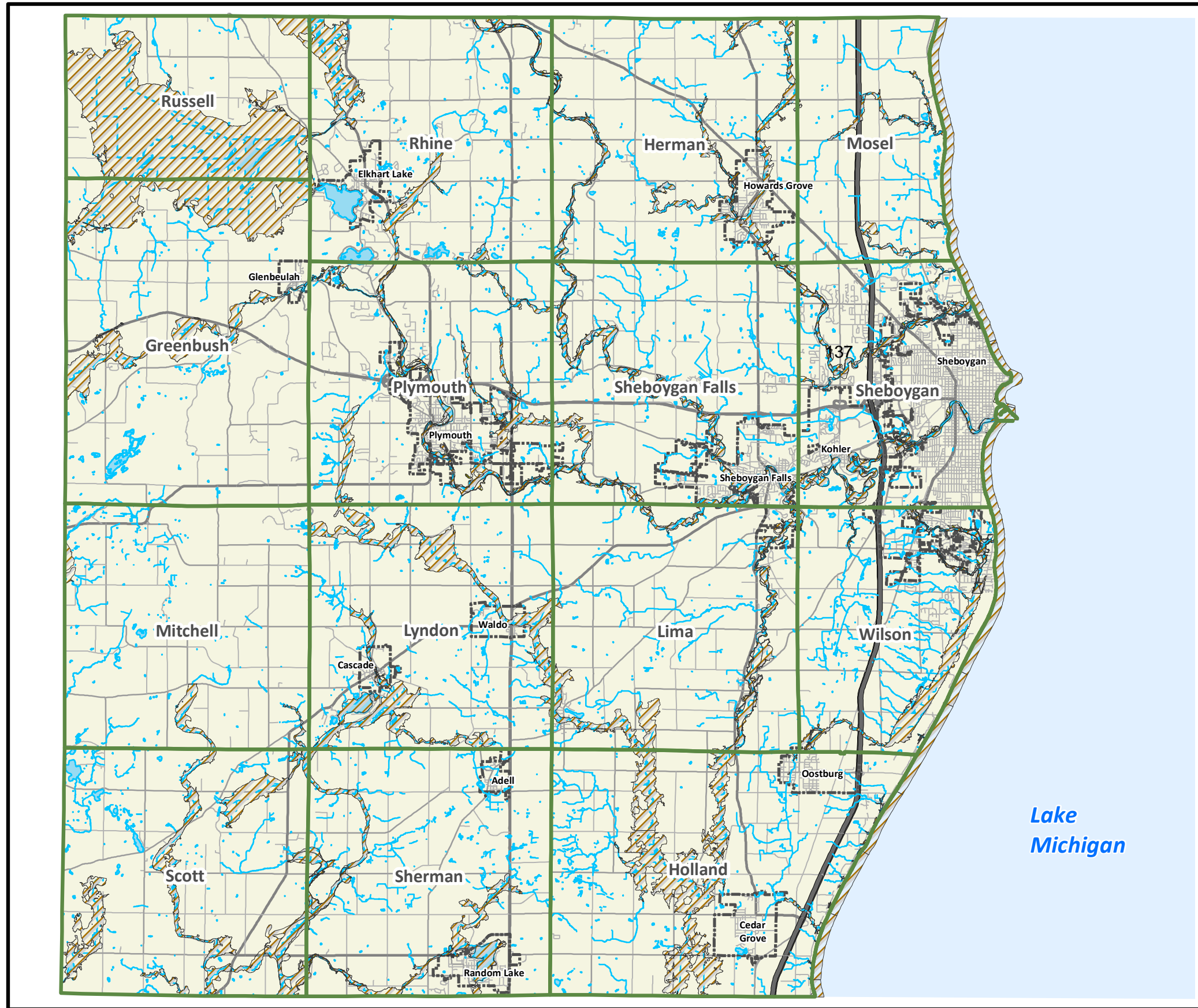
-  Townships
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
-  DNR Wetlands



**Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**









0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

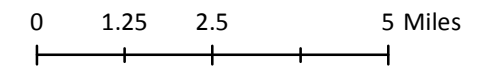


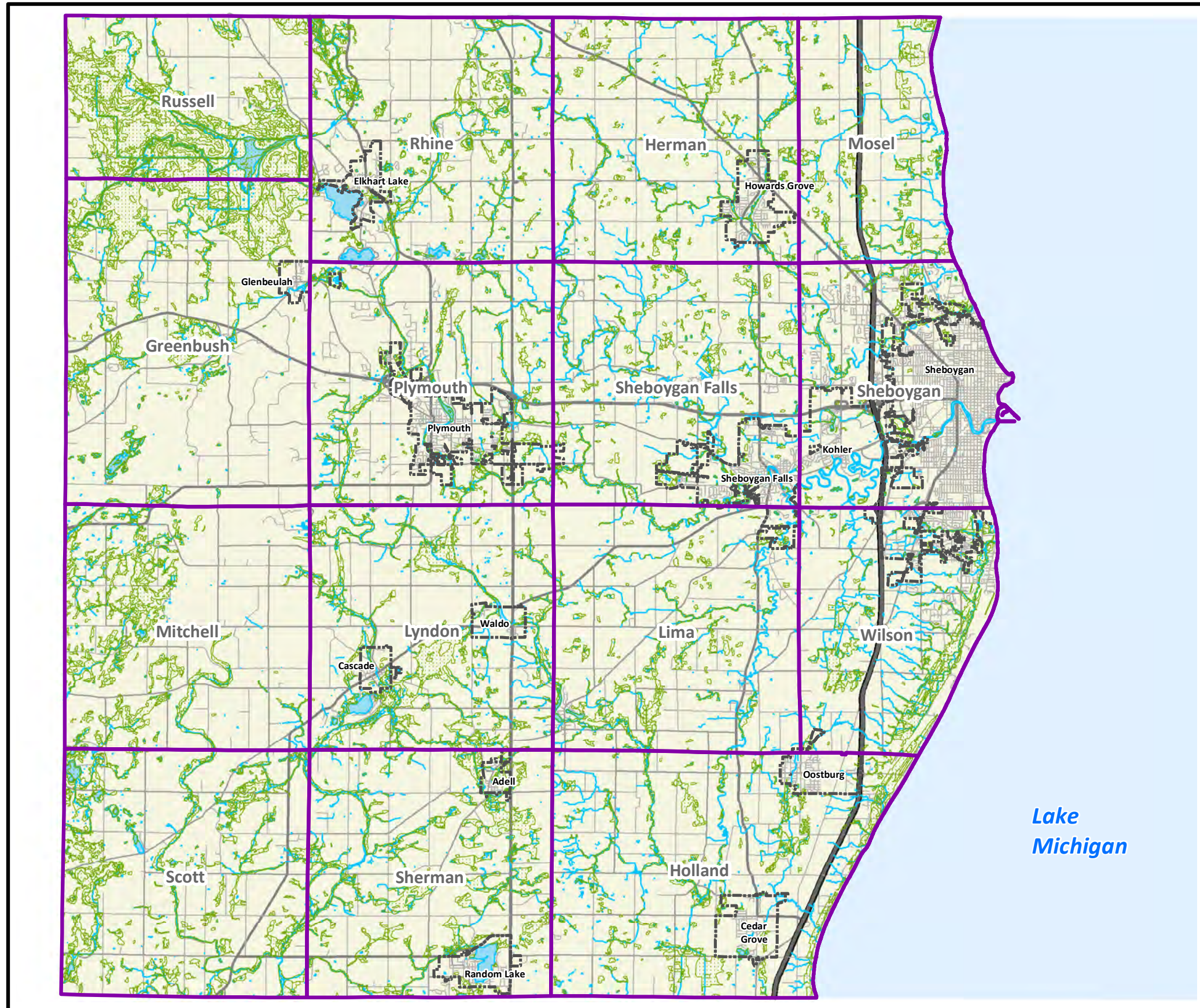
Map 1.7 Floodplains

Sheboygan County, WI

-  Townships
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
-  100 Year Floodplain
-  500 Year Floodplain

 **Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**



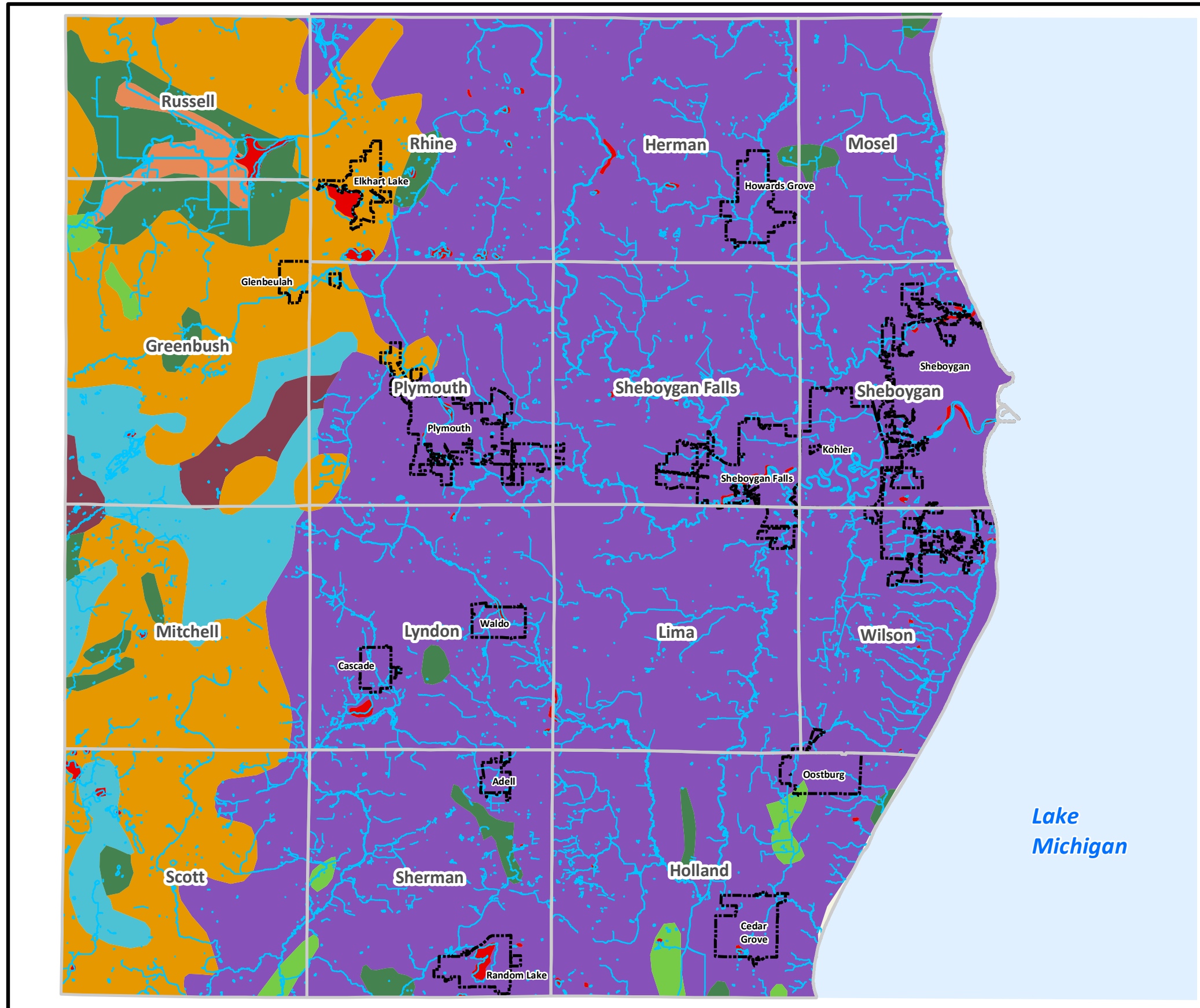


Map 1.8 Wisconsin DNR Wetlands Sheboygan County, WI

- Townships
- Municipal Boundary
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes
- DNR Wetlands

Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Map 1.9 Original Vegetation Cover Sheboygan County, WI

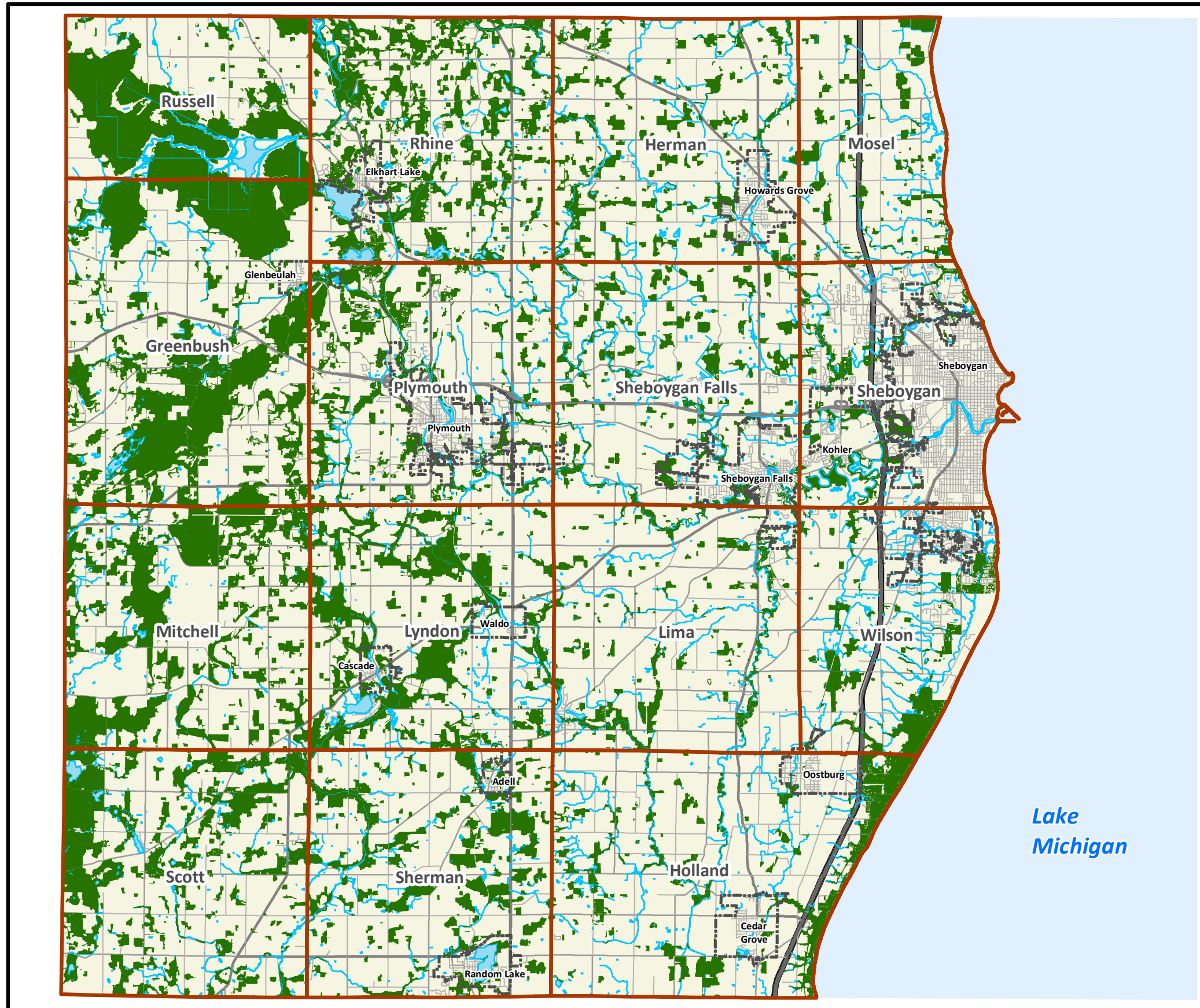
Townships
 Municipal Boundary
 Rivers and Streams

Original Vegetation

- Water
- Beech, Sugar Maple, Basswood
Red Oak, White Oak, Black Oak
- Lowland Hardwoods - Willow, Soft Maple,
Box Elder, Ash, Elm, Cottonwood
- Marsh & Sedge Meadow, Wet Prairie,
Lowland Shrubs
- Oak - White Oak, Black Oak, Bur Oak
- Oak Openings - Bur Oak, White Oak, Black Oak
- Sugar Maple, Basswood, Red Oak,
White Oak, Black Oak
- Swamp Conifers - White Cedar, Black Spruce,
Tamarack, Hemlock

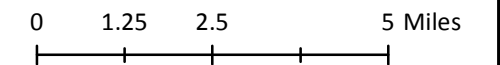
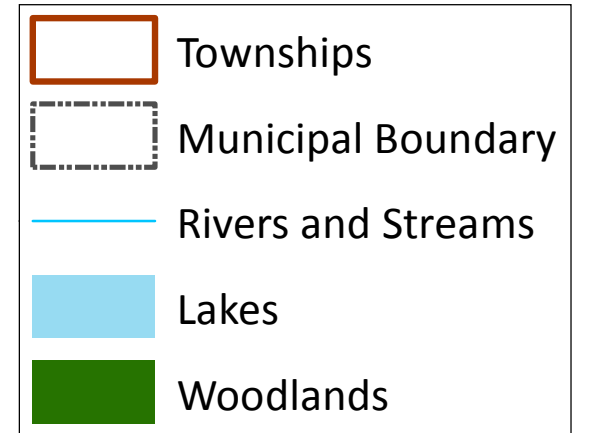
**Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**

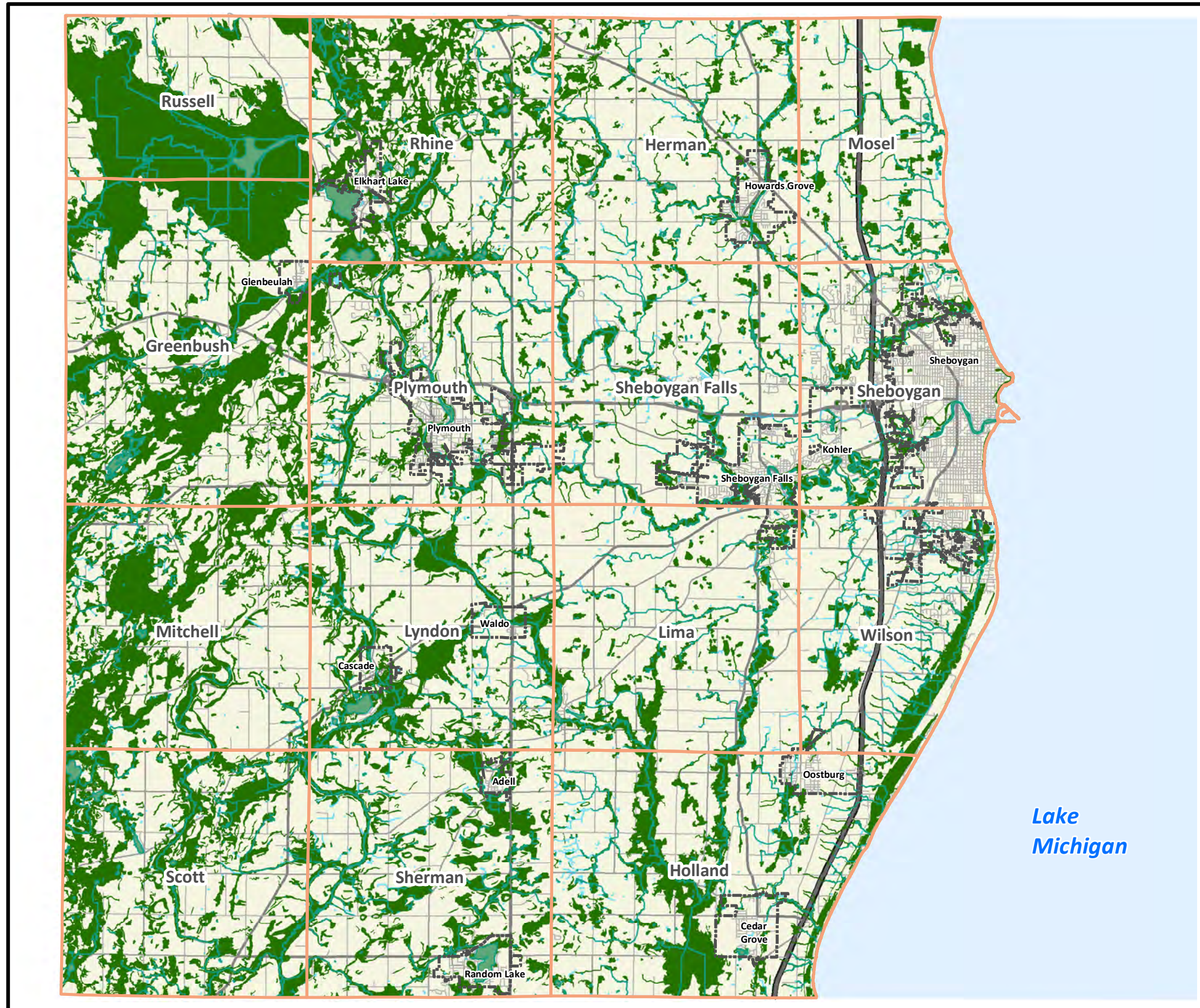
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Map 1.10 Woodlands






Sheboygan County, WI



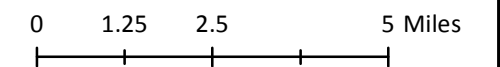


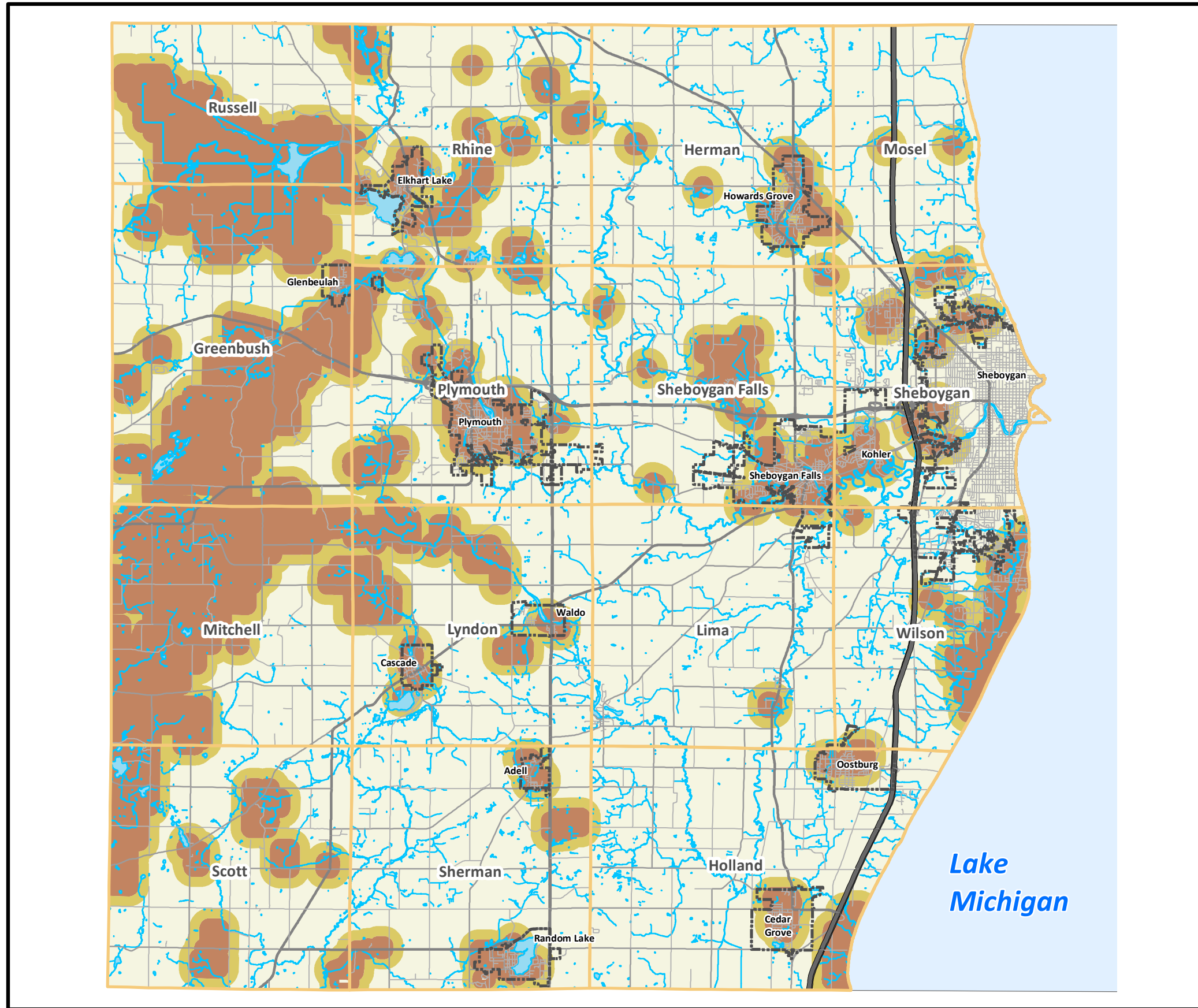
Map 1.11 Environmental Corridors

Sheboygan County, WI





-  Townships
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
-  Environmental Corridors

Environmental corridors are defined as being Wisconsin DNR wetlands, within the 100 year floodplain, having steep slopes of 12% or greater, or areas with a 75 foot surface water setback.







Map 2.0
Properties Within 1/4 Mile
and 1/2 Mile of a Public Park
or Open Space
 Sheboygan County, WI

-  Township Boundaries
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes


Distance from open space

-  1/4 Mile
-  1/2 Mile


The 1/4 mile buffer includes the open space or park itself.
 The analysis excludes facilities within the City of Sheboygan.

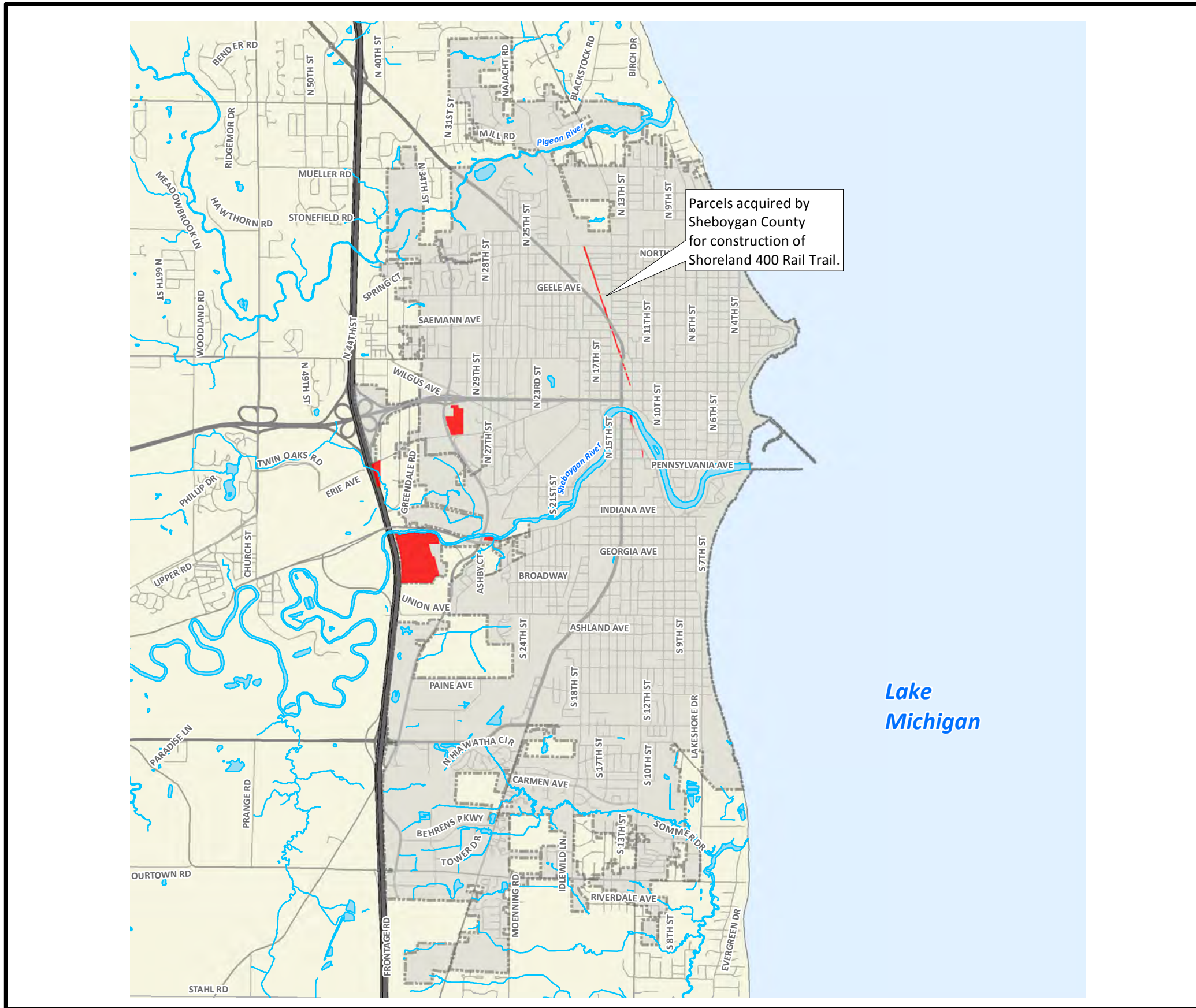
Approximately 20,530 parcels,
mostly residential sites or
employers, lie within 1/2 mile of
a park or open space throughout
Sheboygan County.

About 14,200 parcels lie within
1/4 mile.

 **Sheboygan County, Wisconsin**

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles








Map 3.0 County Facilities in City of Sheboygan

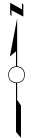
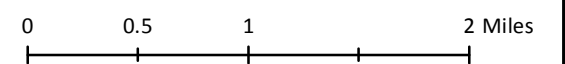
Sheboygan County, WI

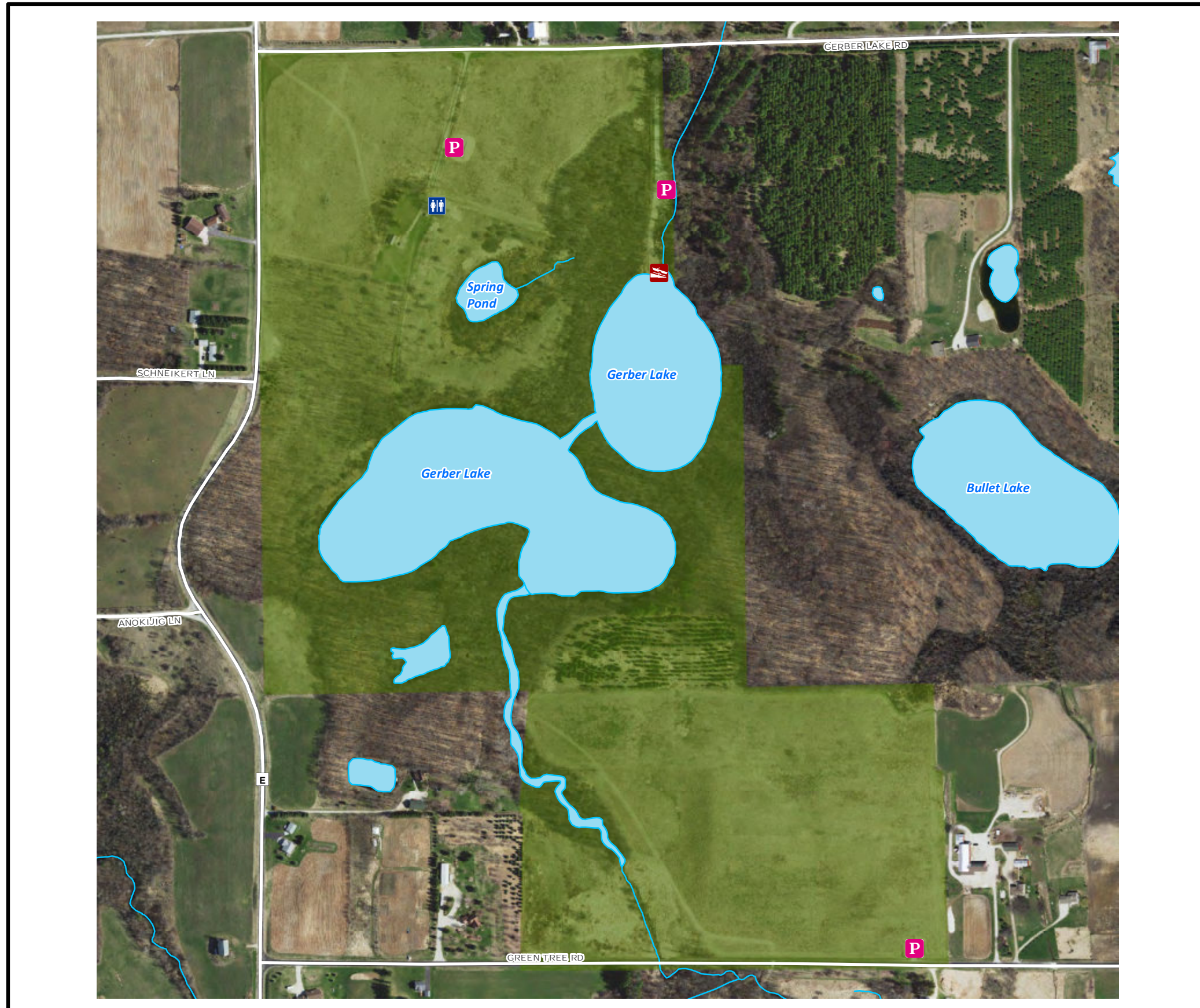
**Existing County-owned
outdoor recreation and open
space areas**

-  City of Sheboygan
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
- Recreational Areas**
-  County-owned areas
-  Old Plank Road Trail



**Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**

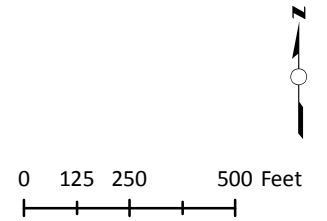




Map 4.0 Gerber Lake Wildlife Area

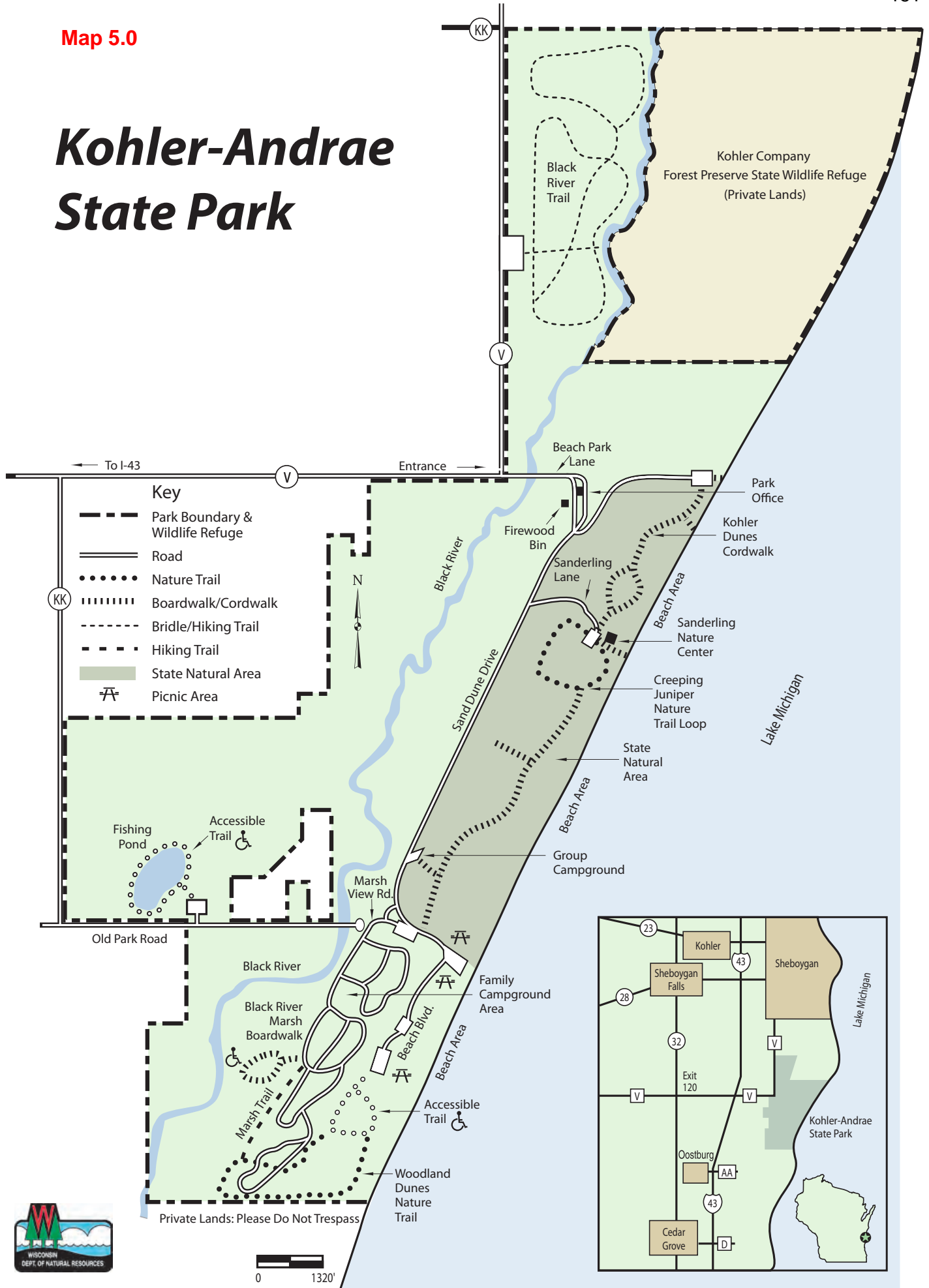
Sheboygan County, WI

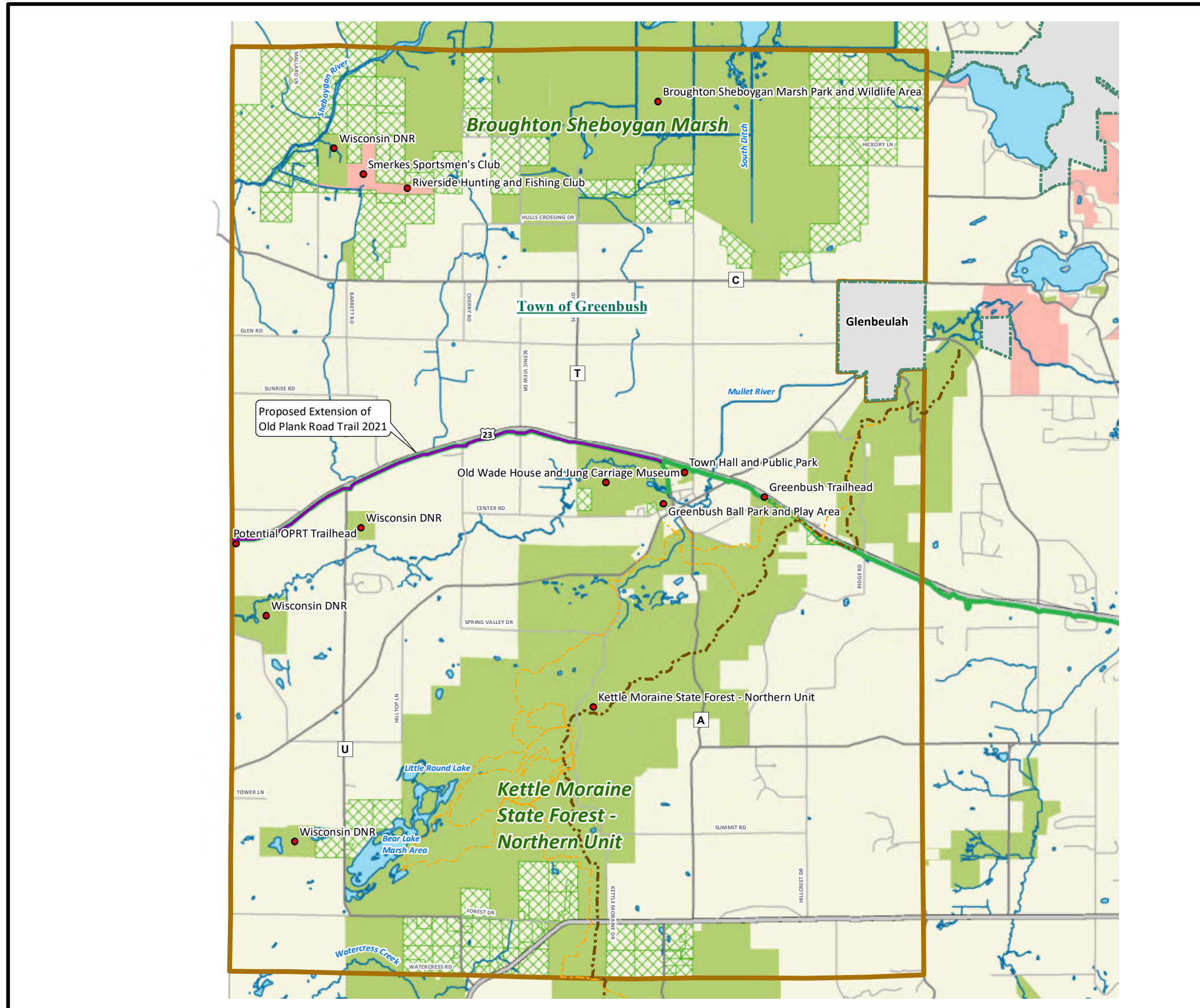
-  Gerber Lake Wildlife Area
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
-  Parking area
-  Boat landing
-  Pit toilet



Map 5.0

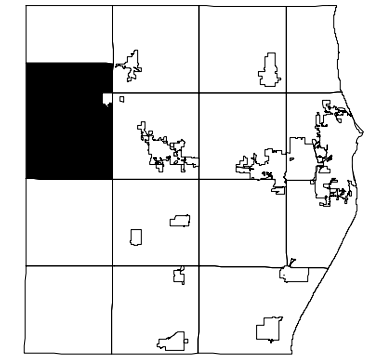
Kohler-Andrae State Park



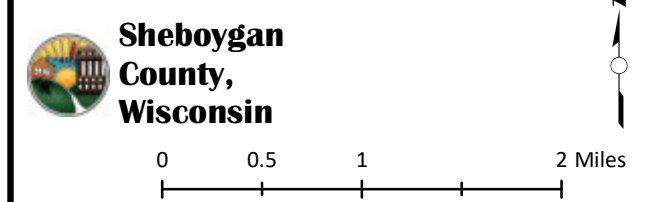
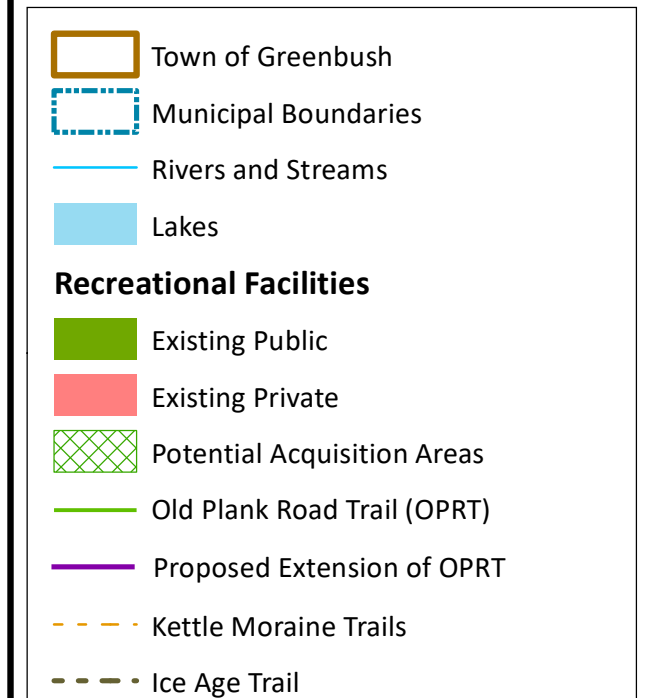


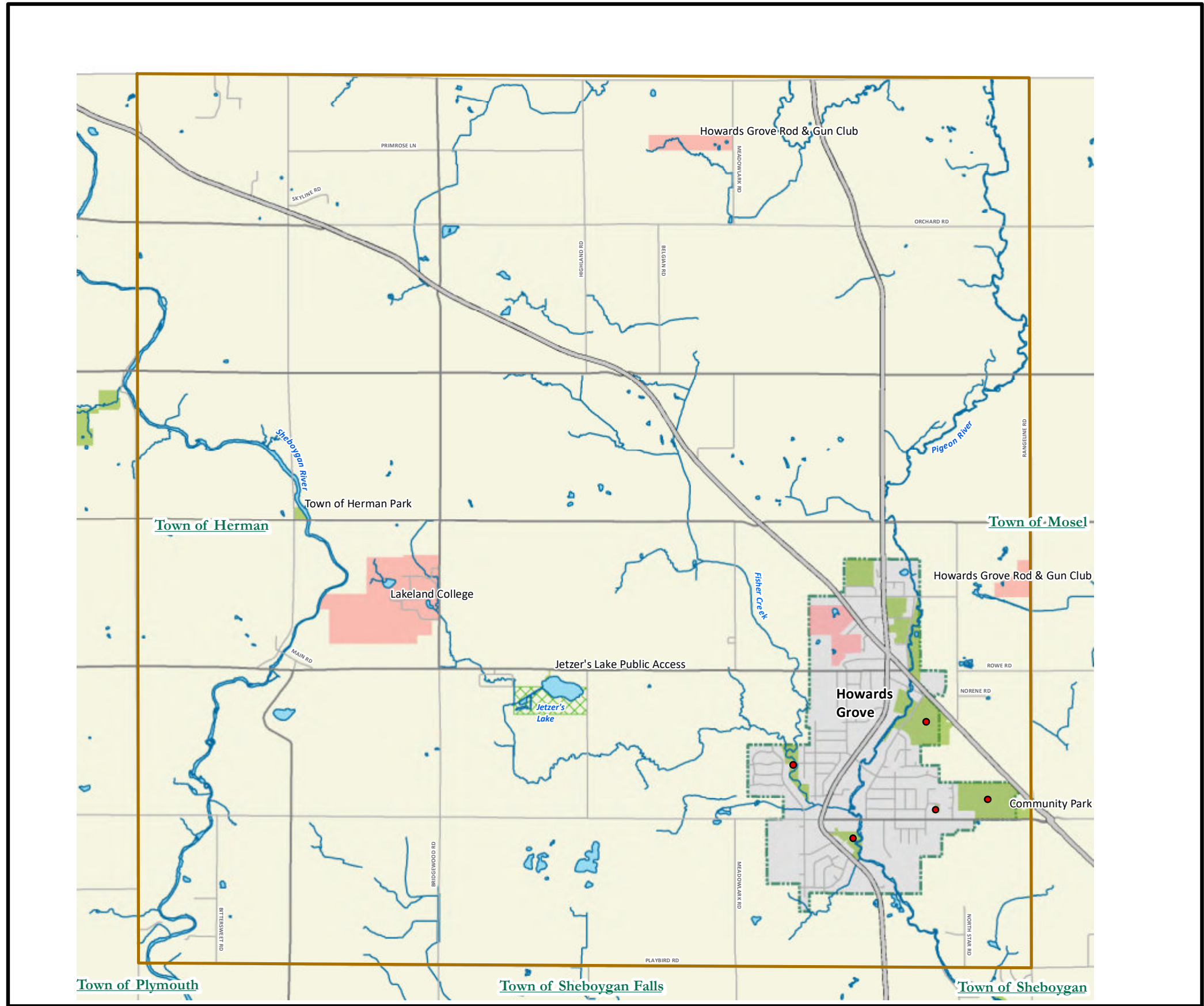
Map 5.1 Town of Greenbush

Sheboygan County, WI



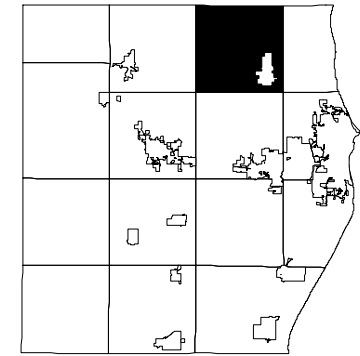
Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities





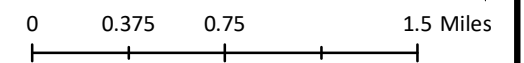
Map 5.2 Town of Herman

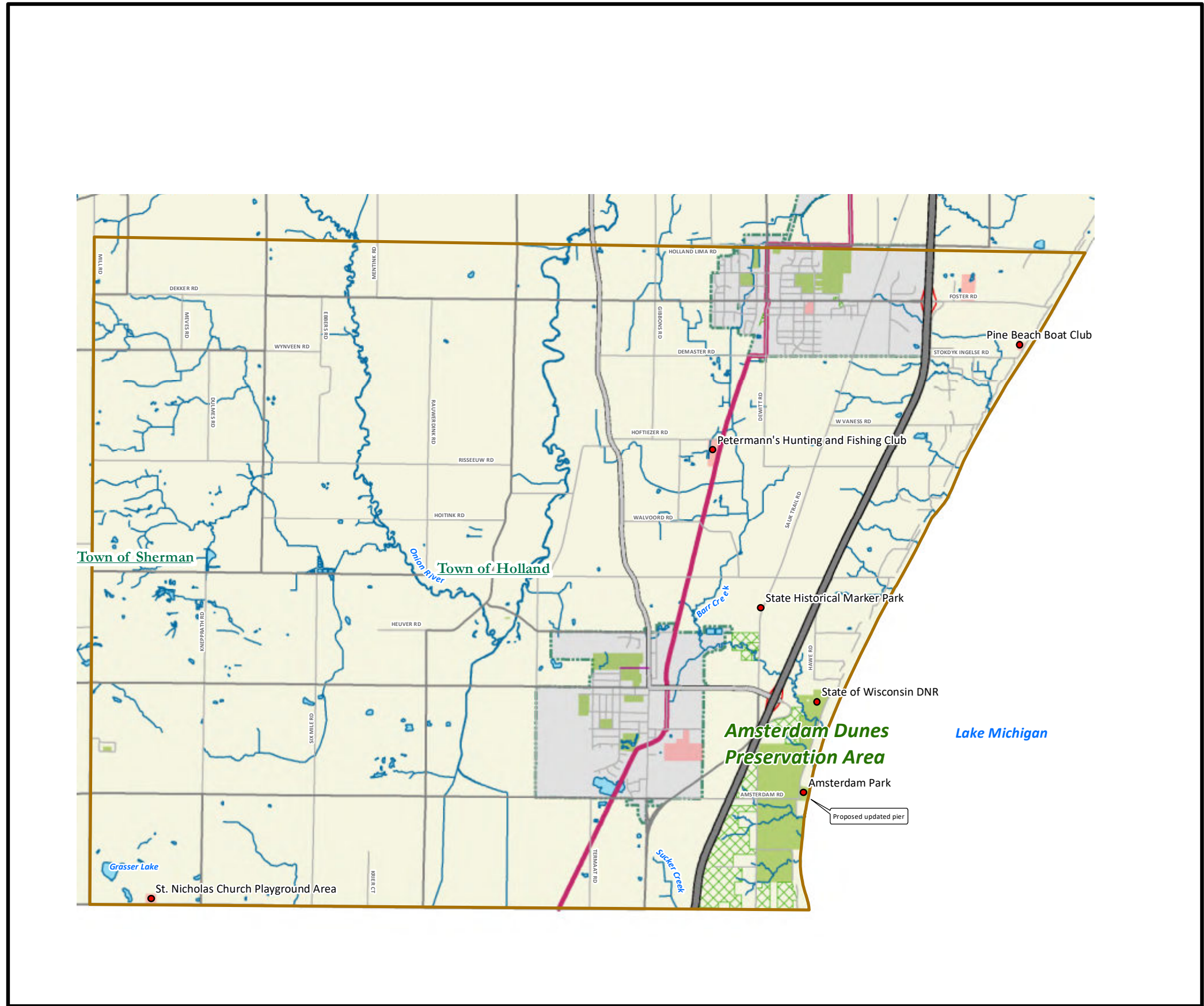
Sheboygan County, WI



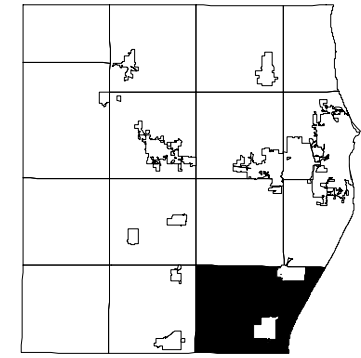
Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities

	Town of Herman
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes
	Municipal Boundaries
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public
	Existing Private
	Potential Acquisition Areas












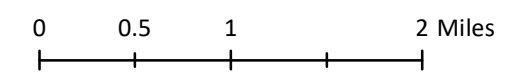


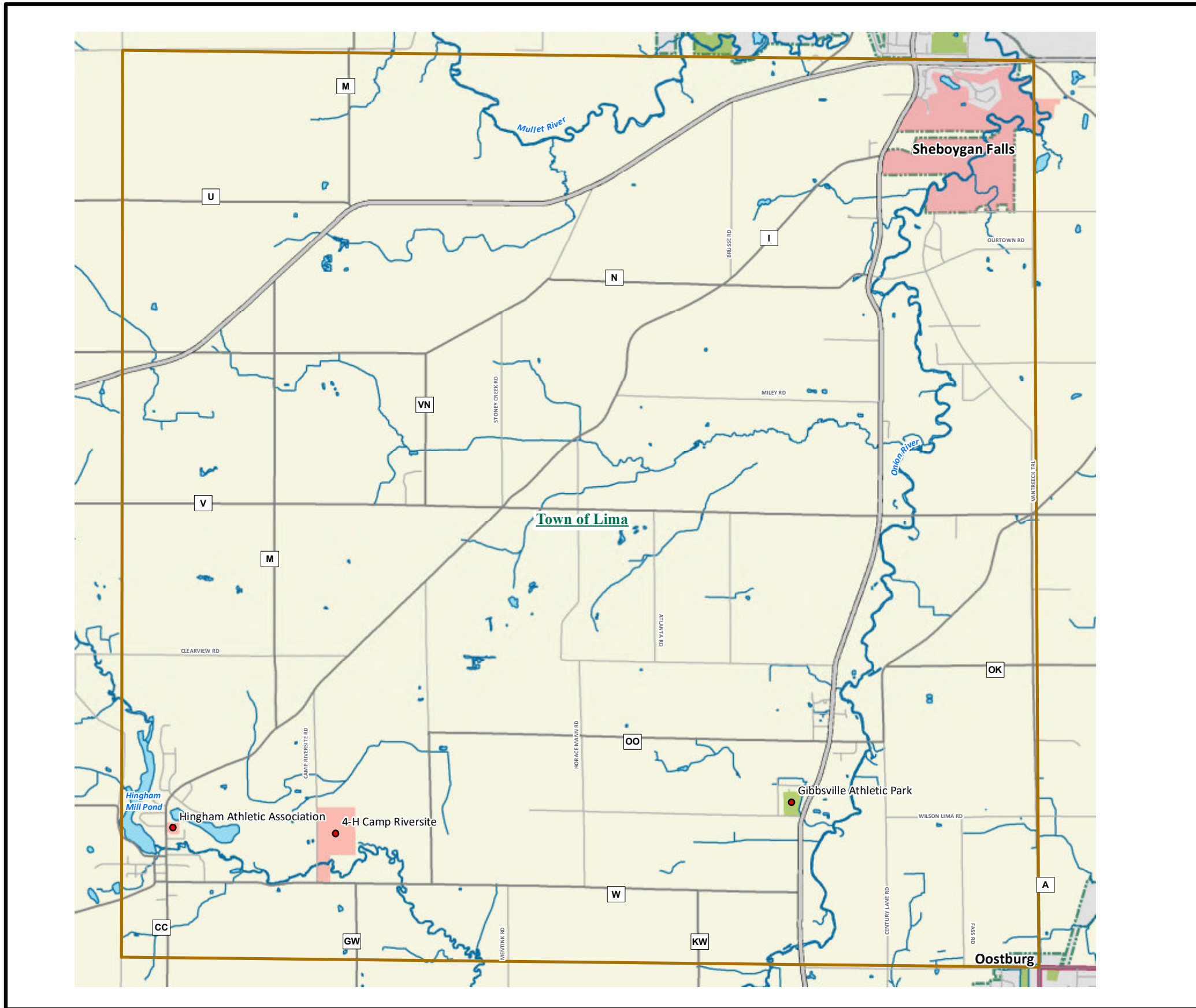
Map 5.3 Town of Holland Sheboygan County, WI



Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities

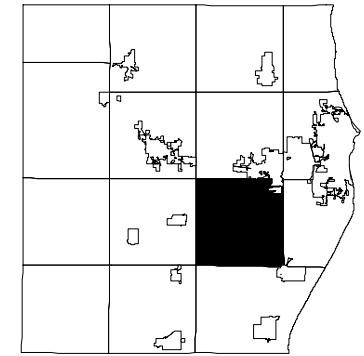
-  Town of Holland
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
- Recreational Facilities**
-  Existing Public
-  Existing Private
-  Potential Acquisition Areas
-  Interurban Trail
-  Trailhead







Map 5.4 Town of Lima

Sheboygan County, WI

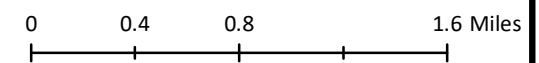
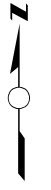


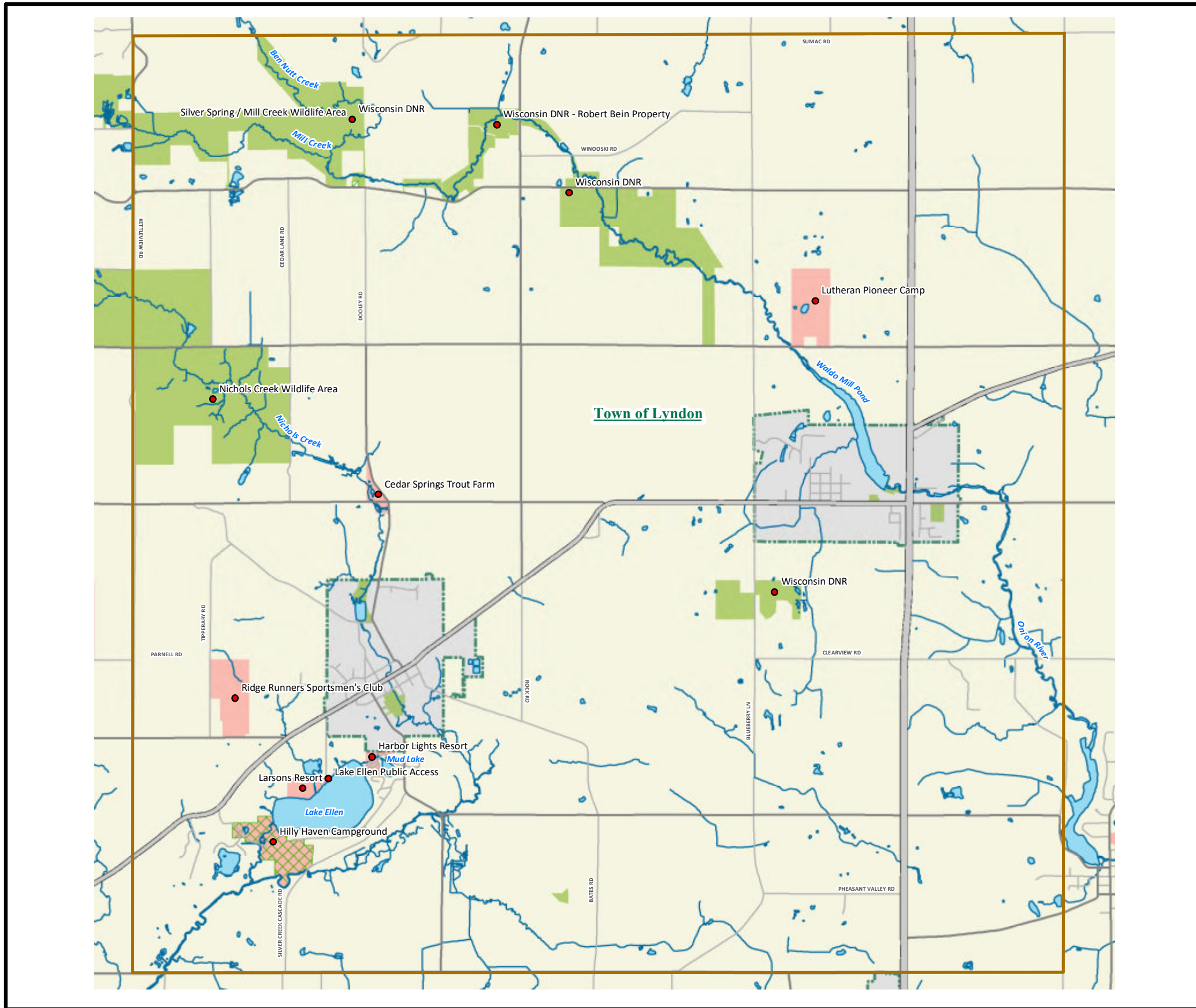
Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities

-  Town of Lima
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
- Recreational Facilities**
-  Existing Public
-  Existing Private



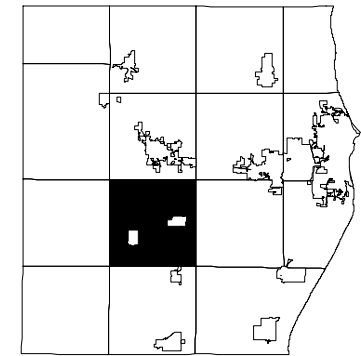
**Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**



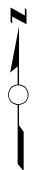
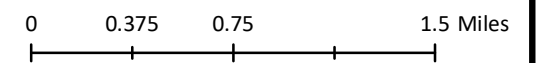


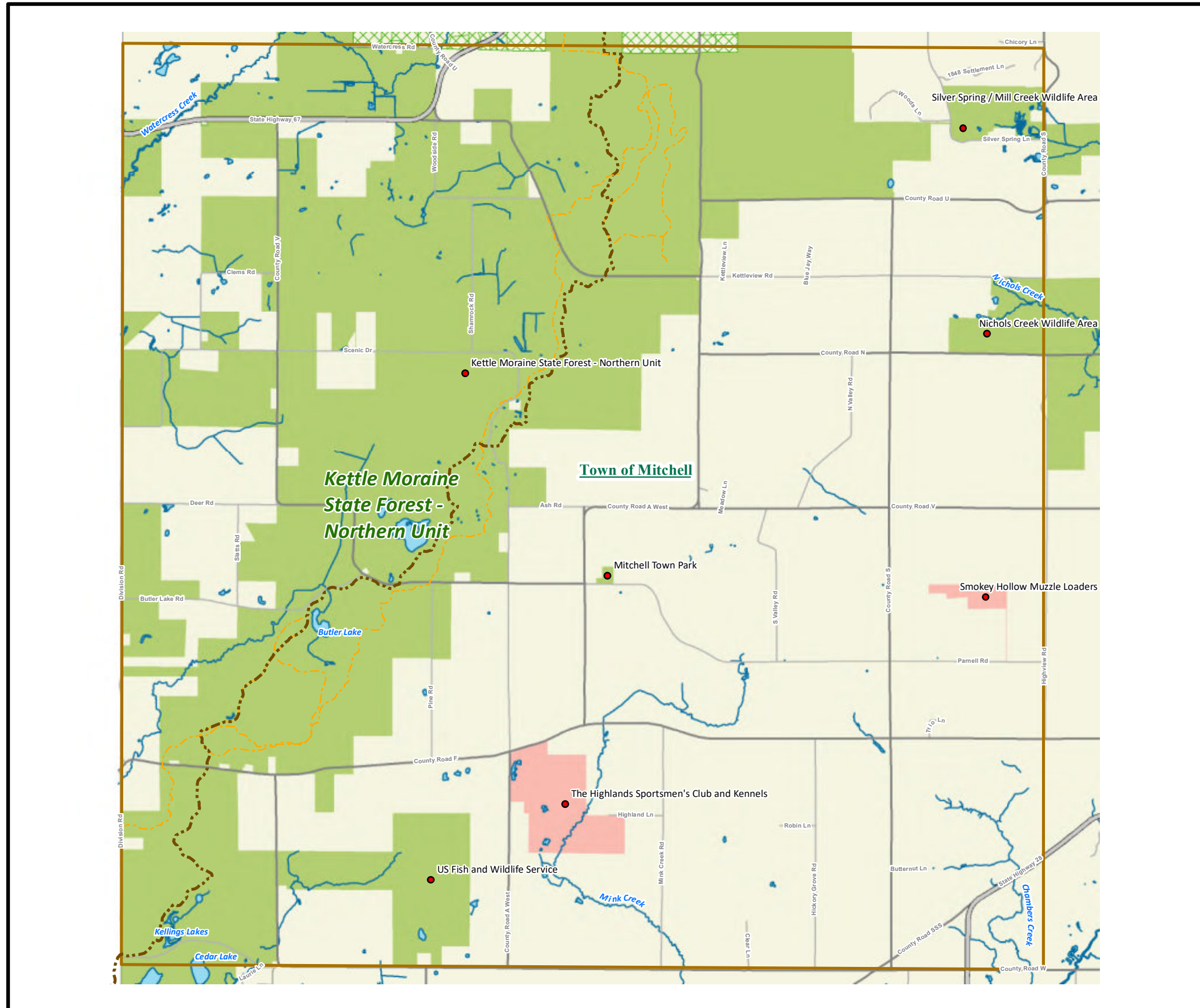
Map 5.5 Town of Lyndon

Sheboygan County, WI



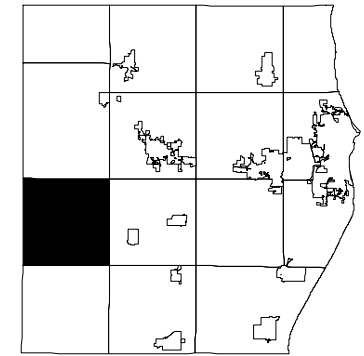
Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities



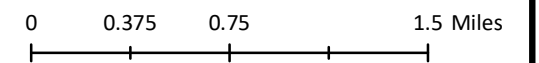
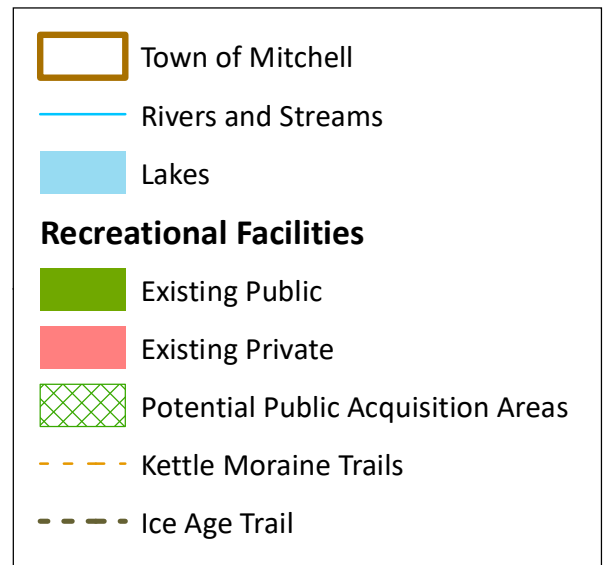


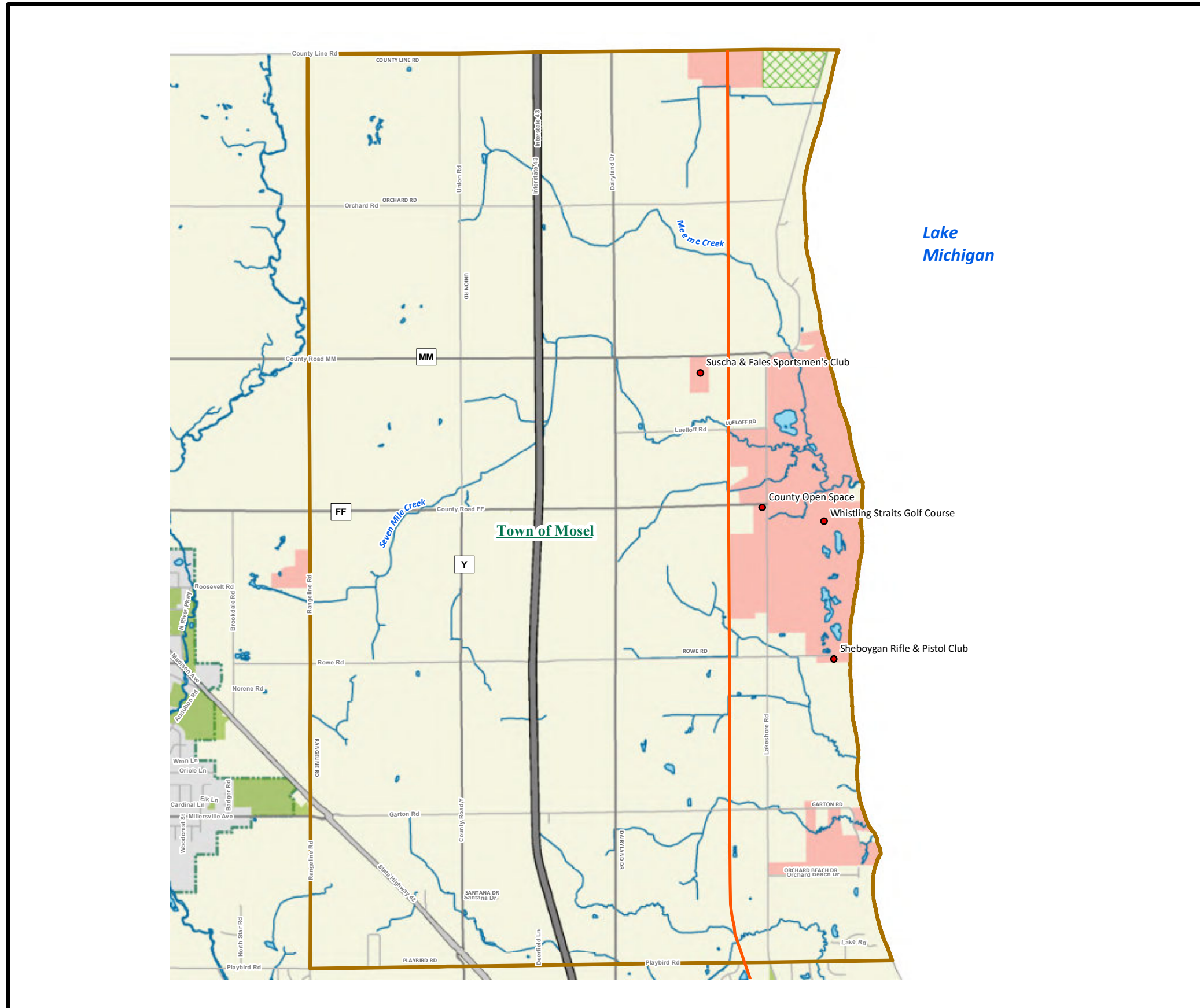
Map 5.6 Town of Mitchell

Sheboygan County, WI



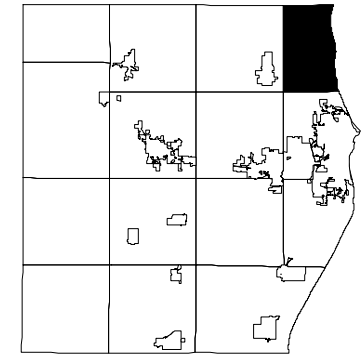
Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities



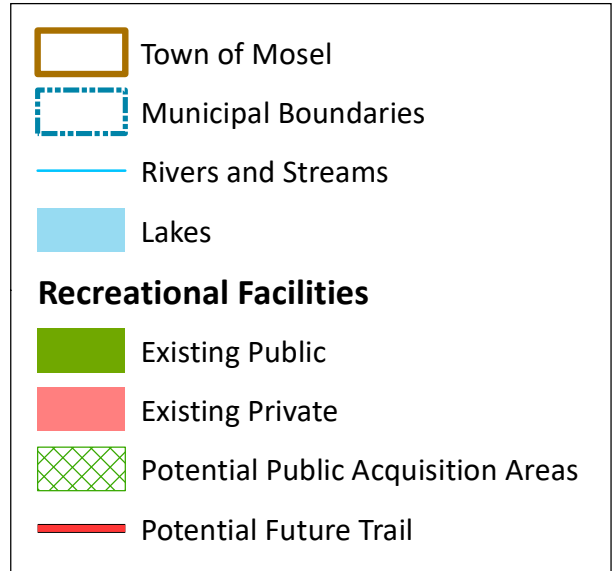


Map 5.7 Town of Mosel

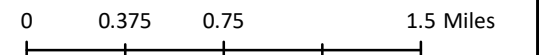
Sheboygan County, WI

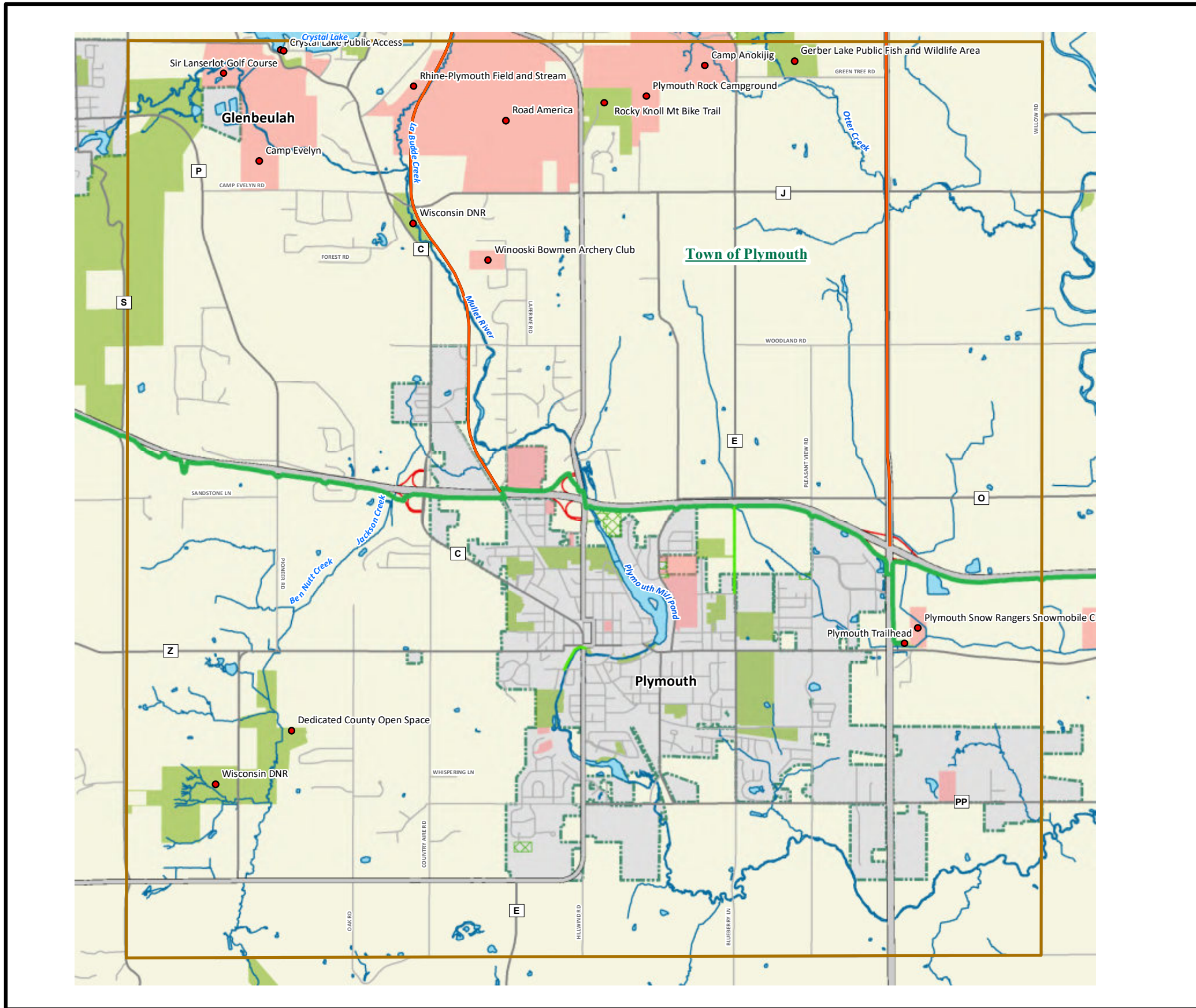


Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities



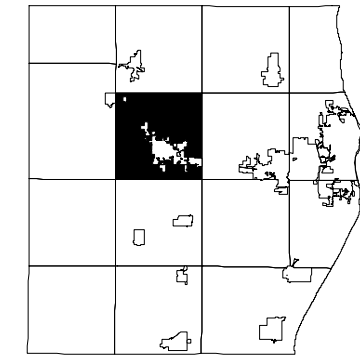
**Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**



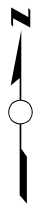
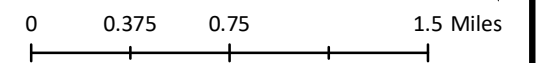
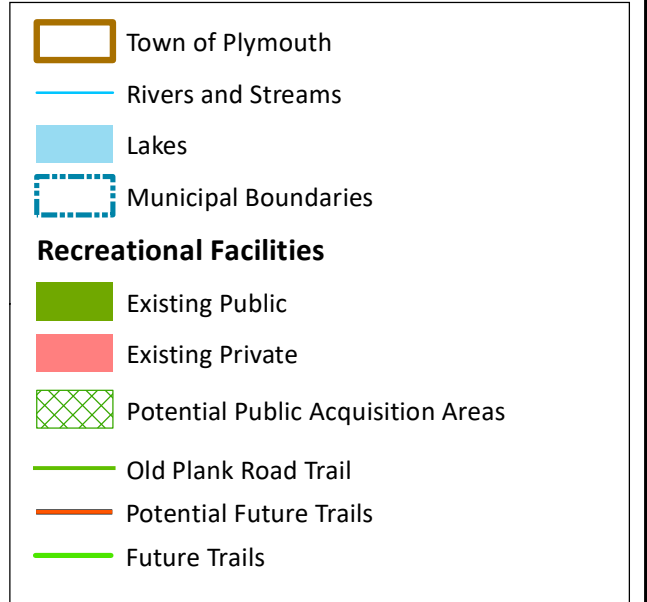


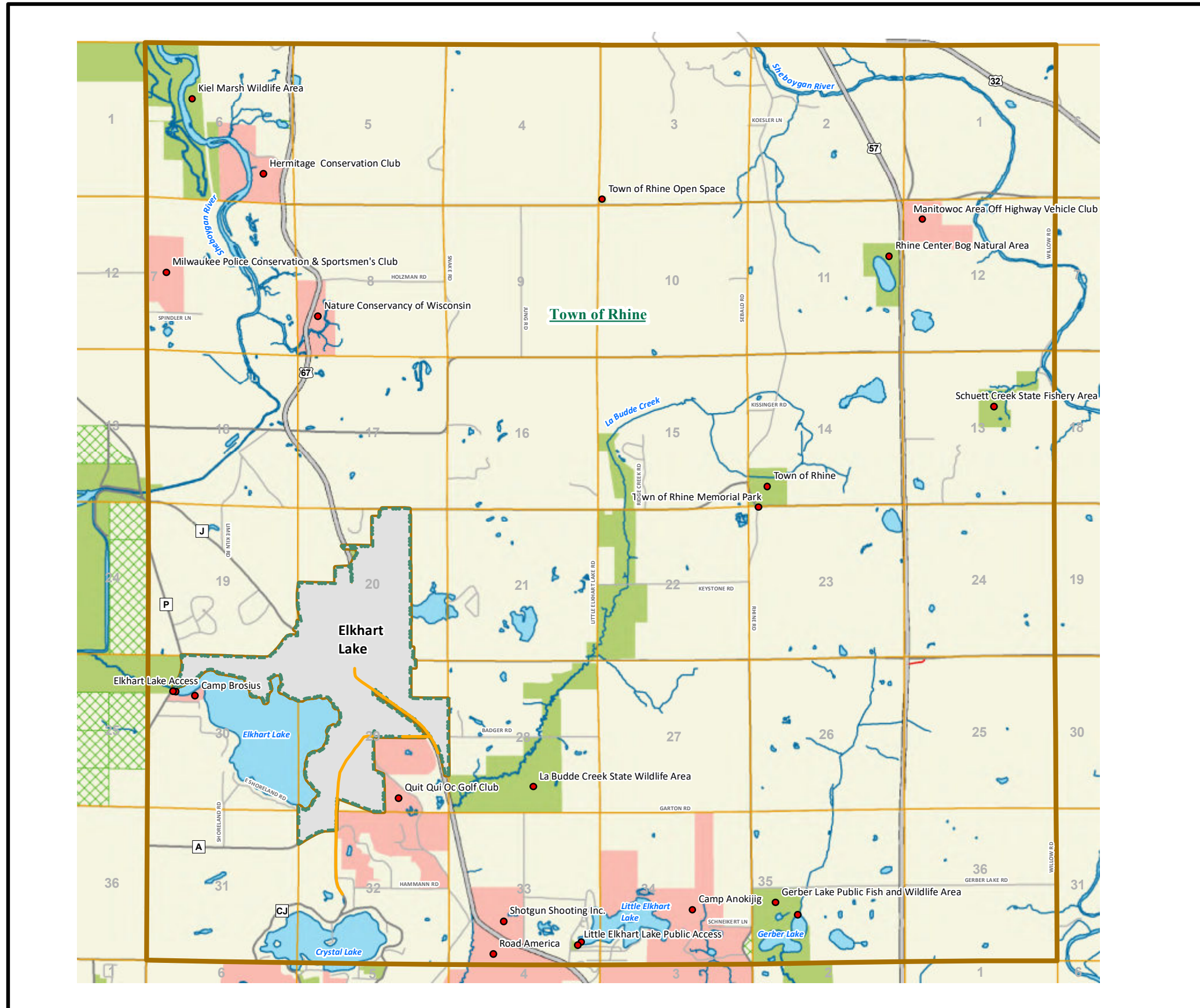
Map 5.8 Town of Plymouth

Sheboygan County, WI

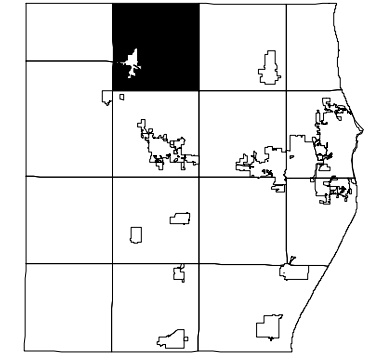


Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities





Map 5.9 Town of Rhine Sheboygan County, WI

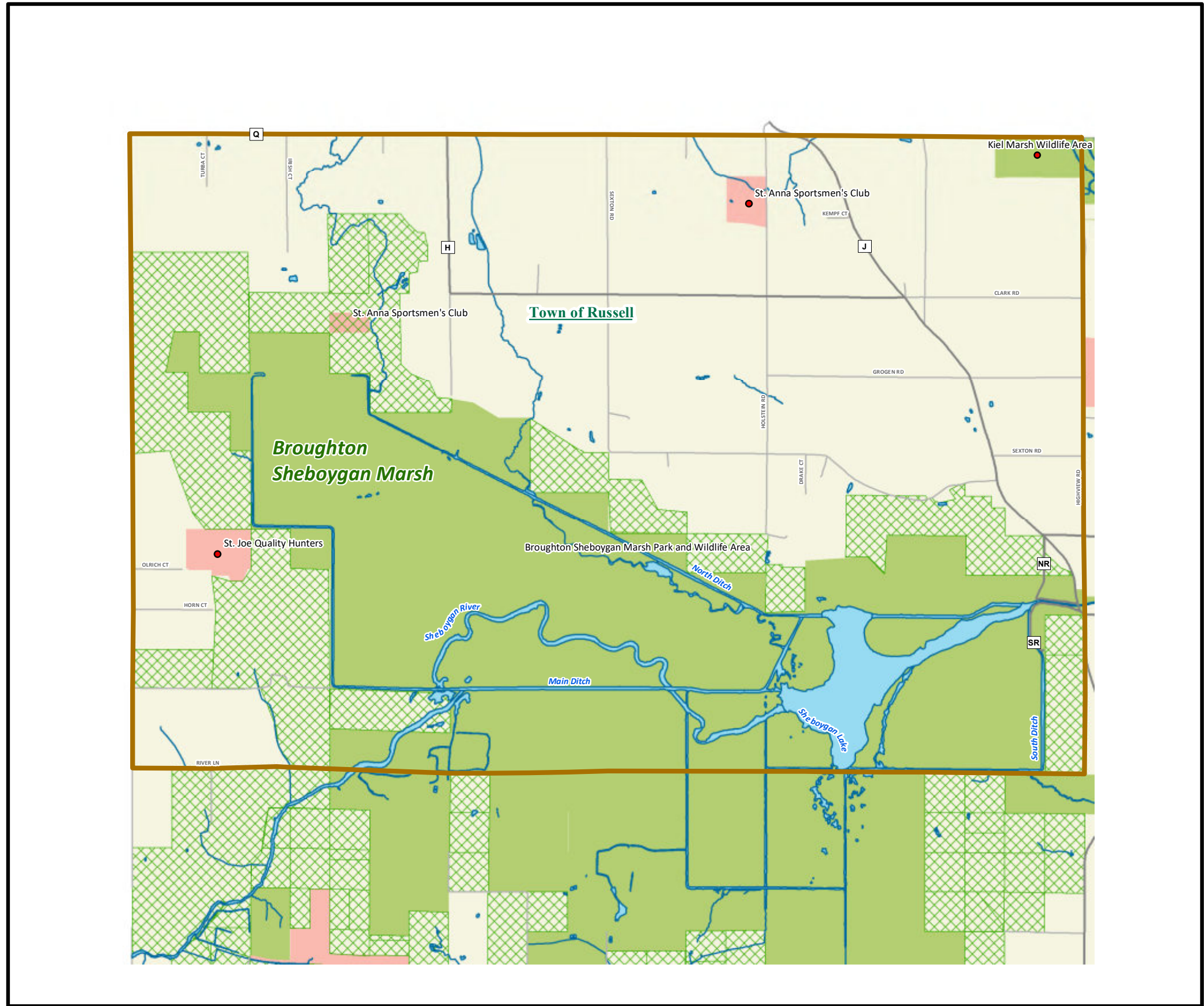


Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities

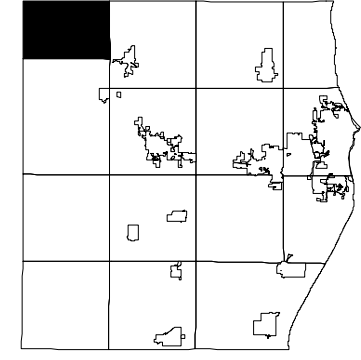
	Town of Rhine
	Municipal Boundaries
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public
	Existing Private
	Potential Public Acquisition Areas
	Potential Future Paths

Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

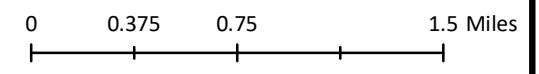


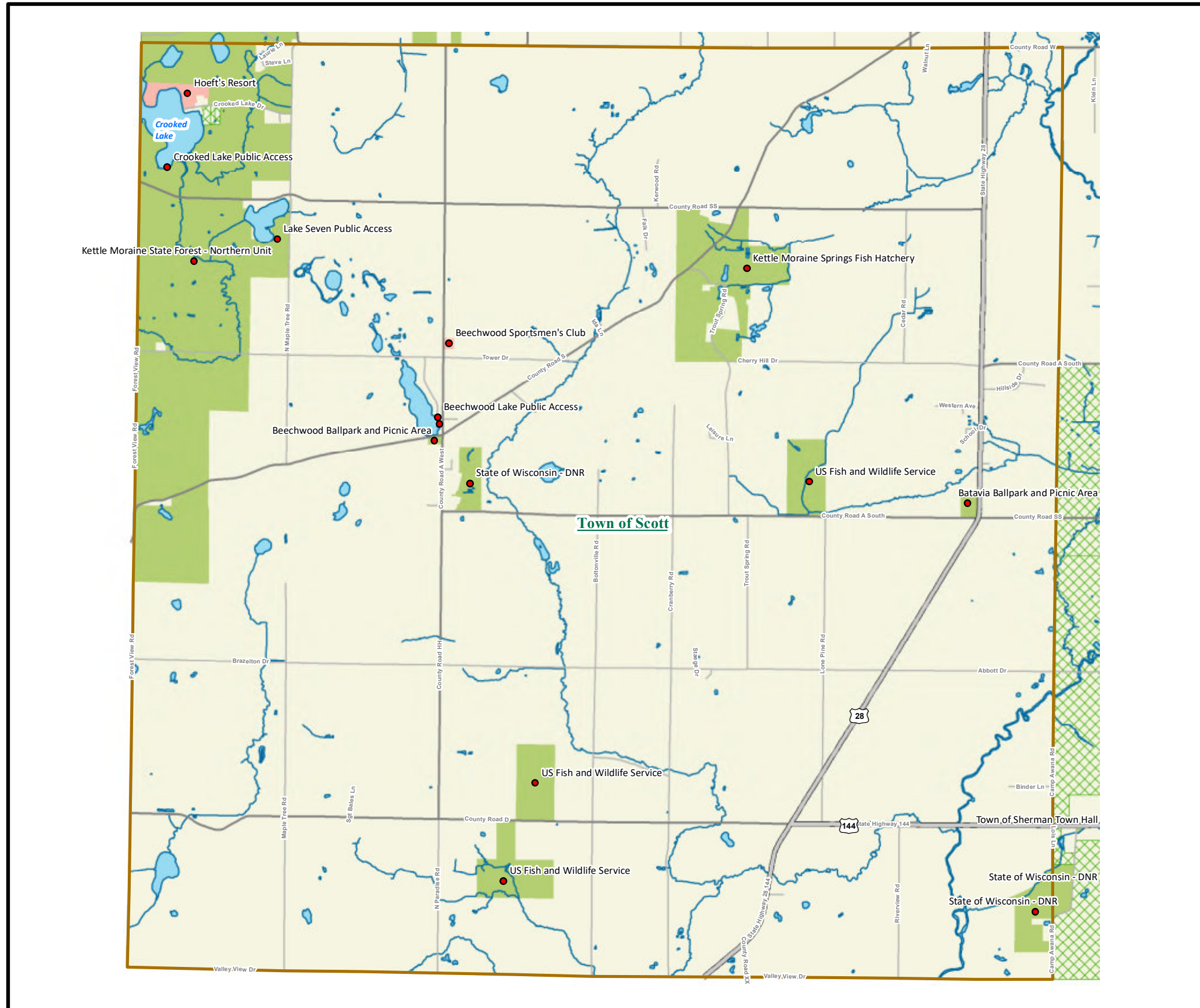
Map 5.10 Town of Russell Sheboygan County, WI



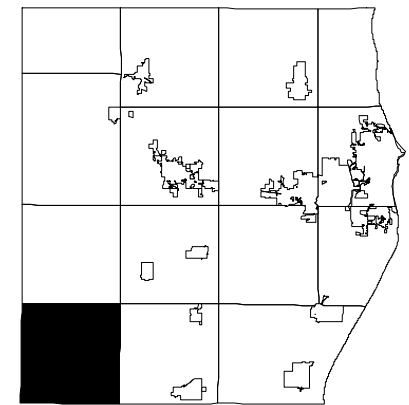
Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities

	Town of Russell
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public
	Existing Private
	Potential Public Acquisition Areas



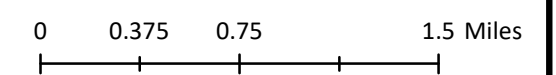


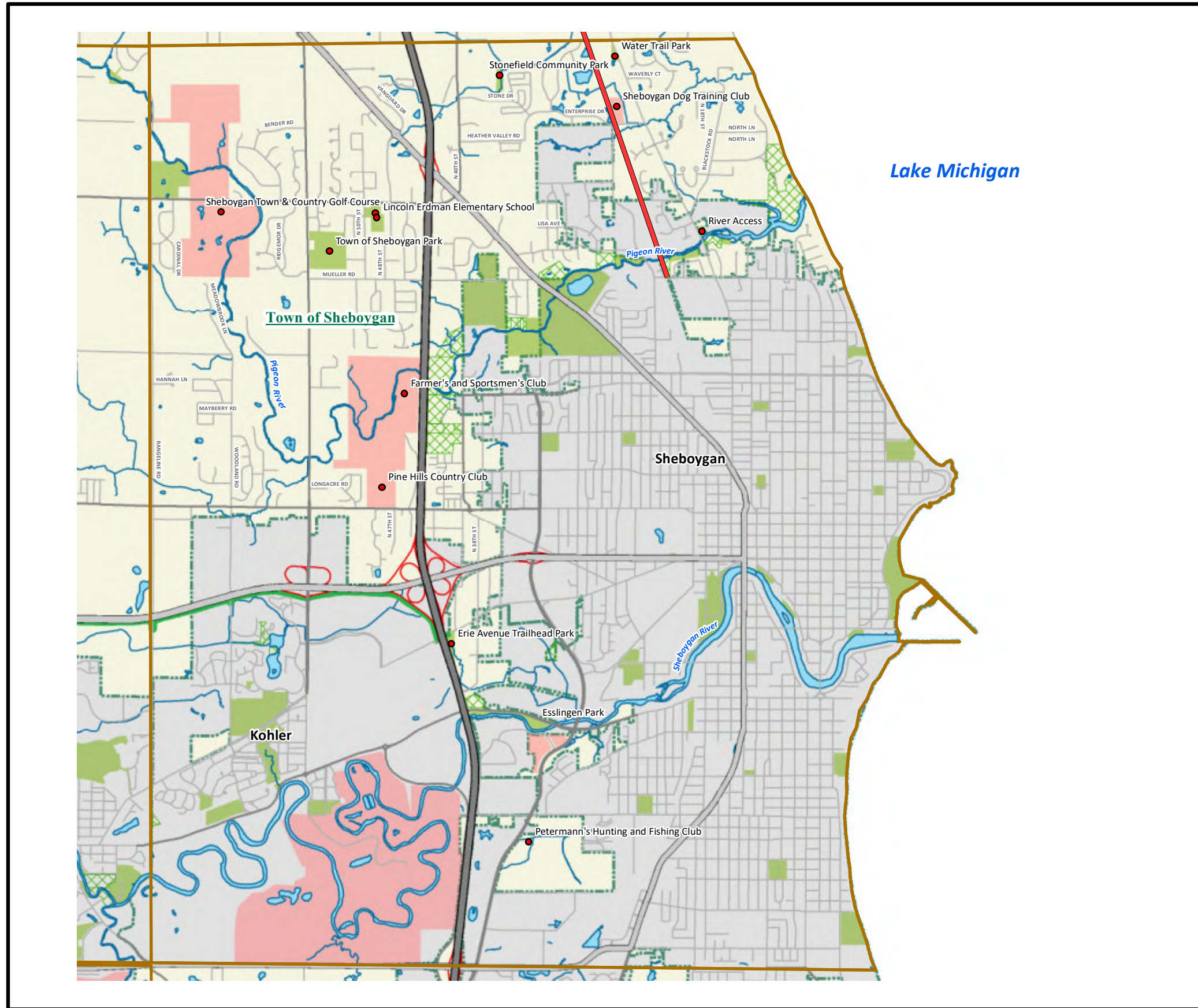
Map 5.11 Town of Scott Sheboygan County, WI



Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities

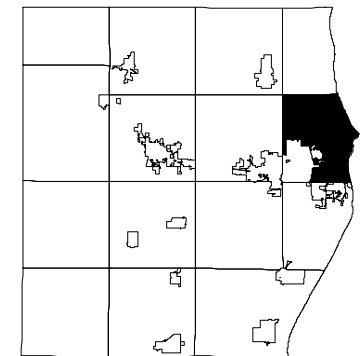
	Town of Scott
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public
	Existing Private



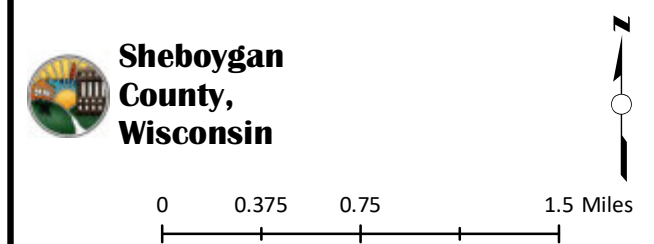
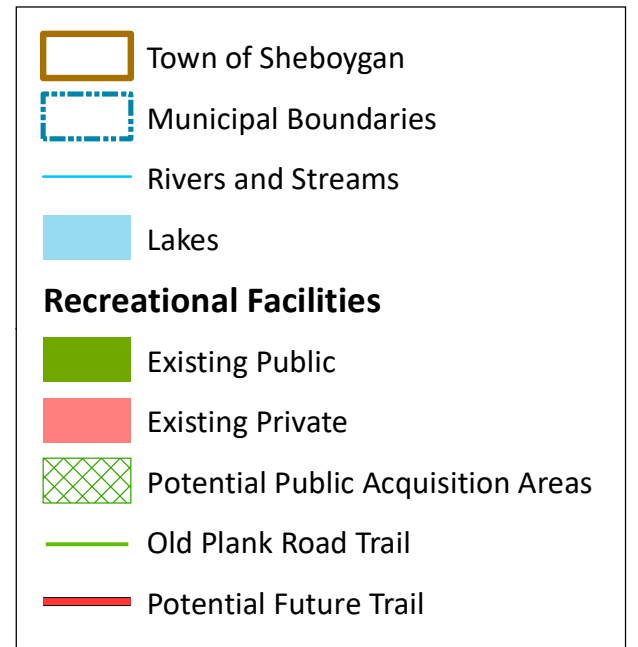


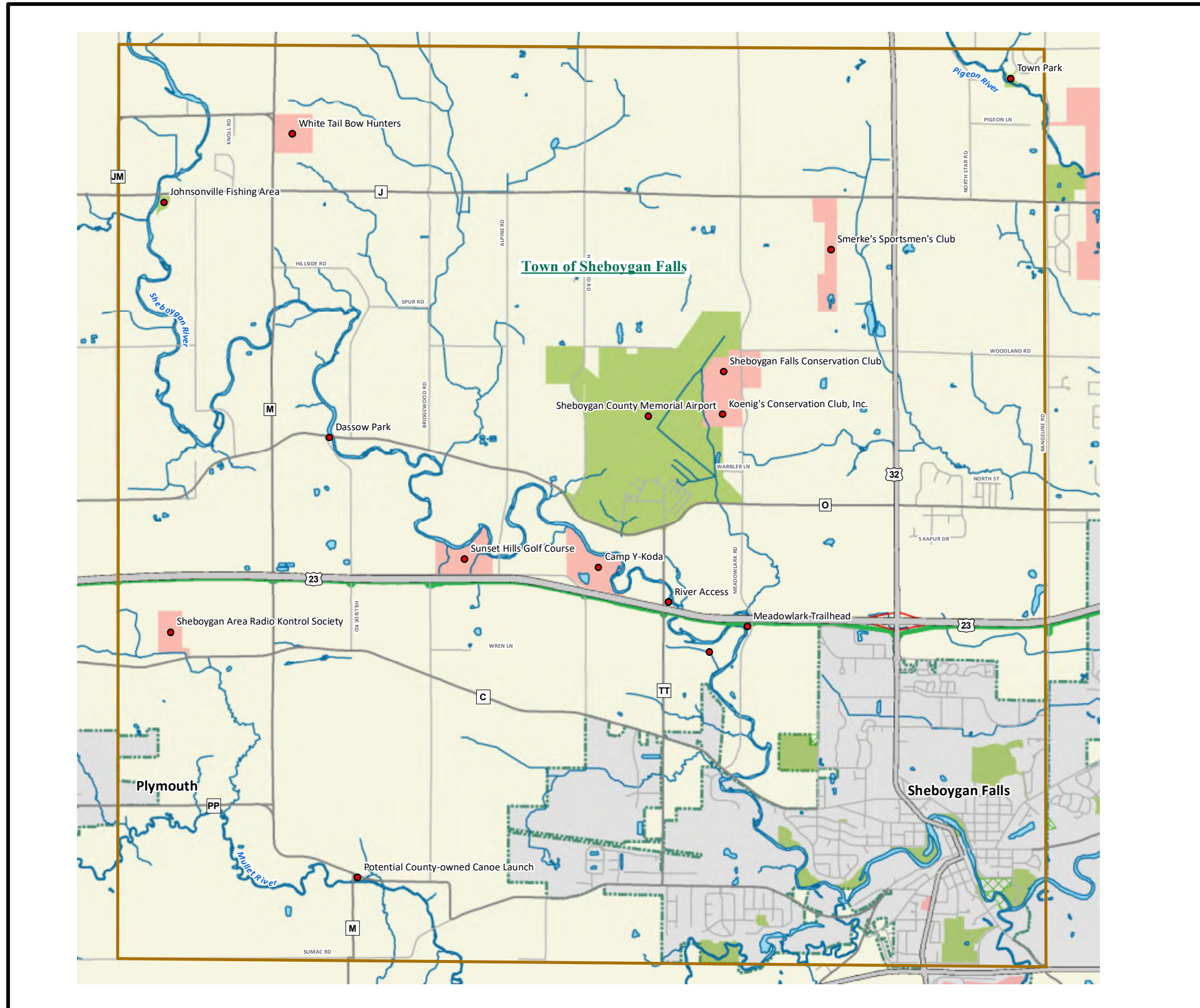
Map 5.12 Town of Sheboygan

Sheboygan County, WI



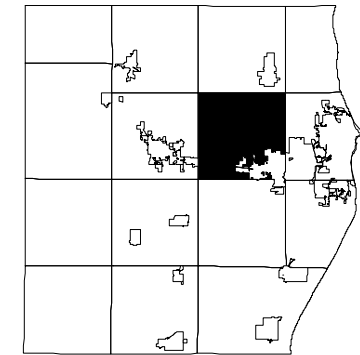
Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities



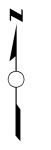
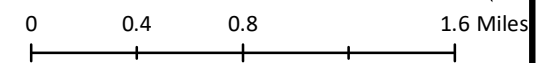
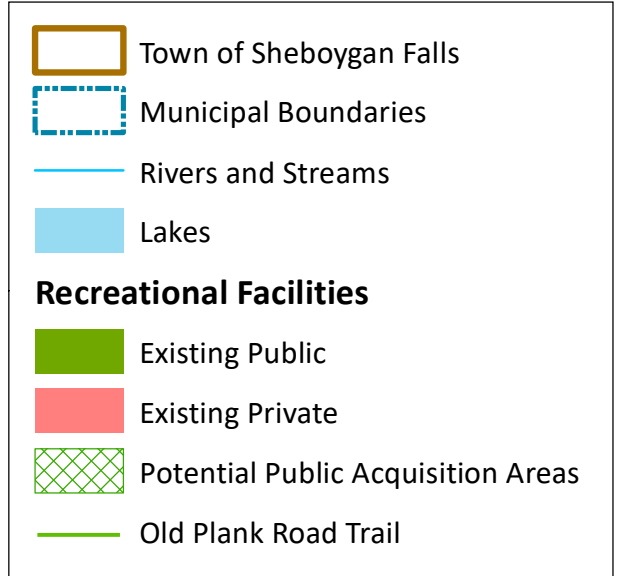


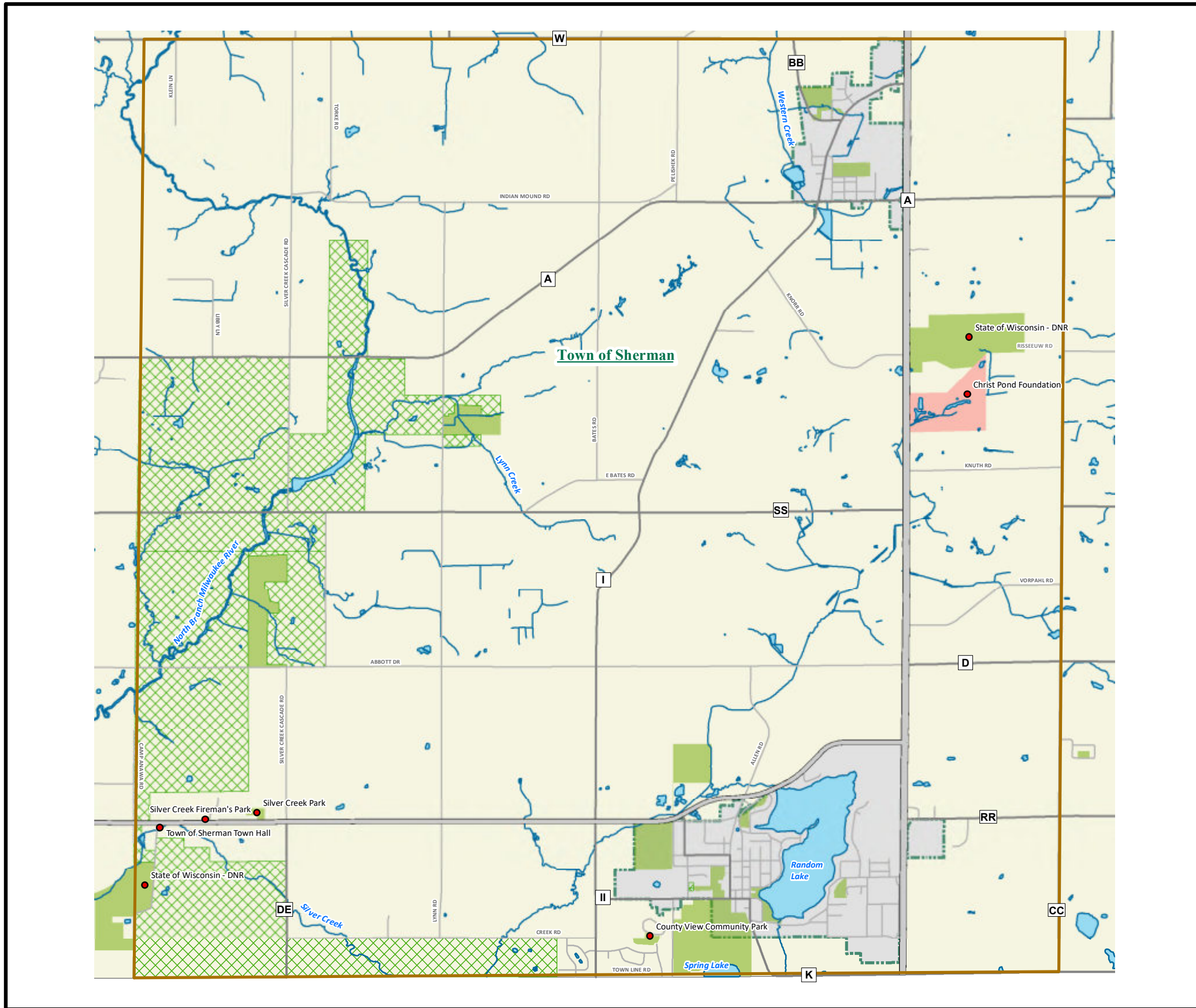
Map 5.13 Town of Sheboygan Falls

Sheboygan County, WI



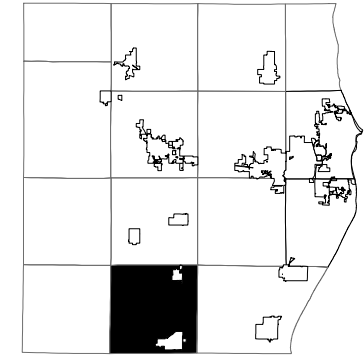
Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities



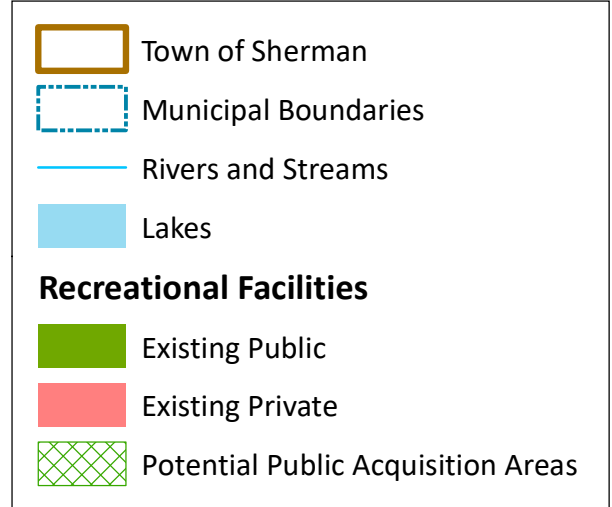


Map 5.14 Town of Sherman

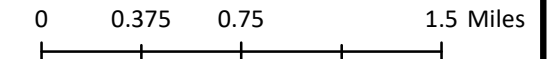
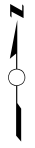
Sheboygan County, WI

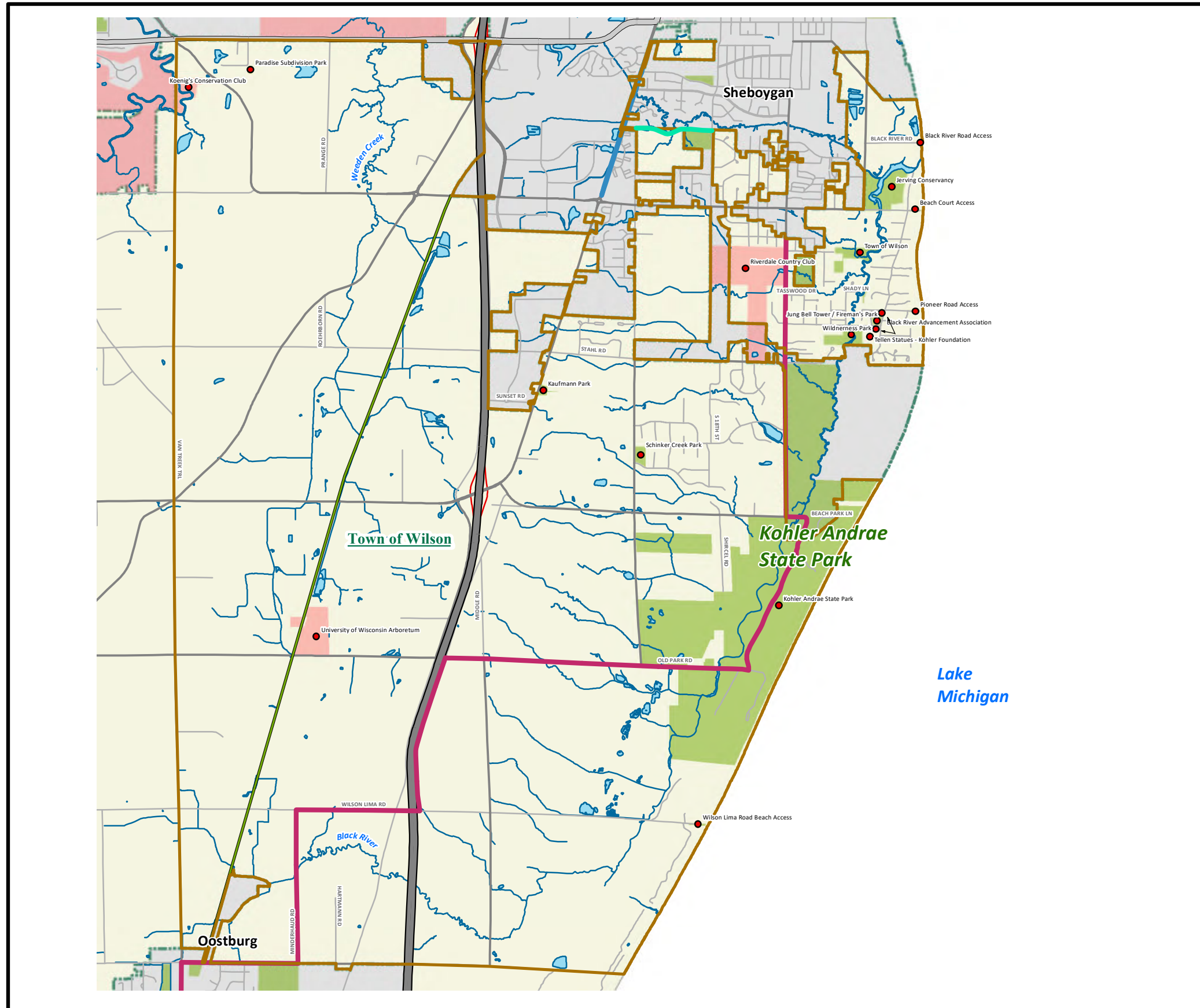


Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities



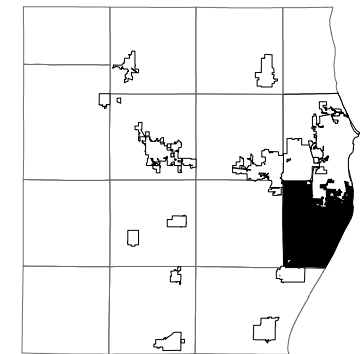
**Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**





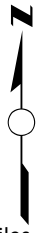
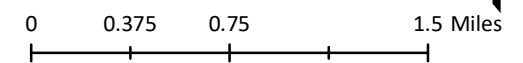
Map 5.15 Town of Wilson

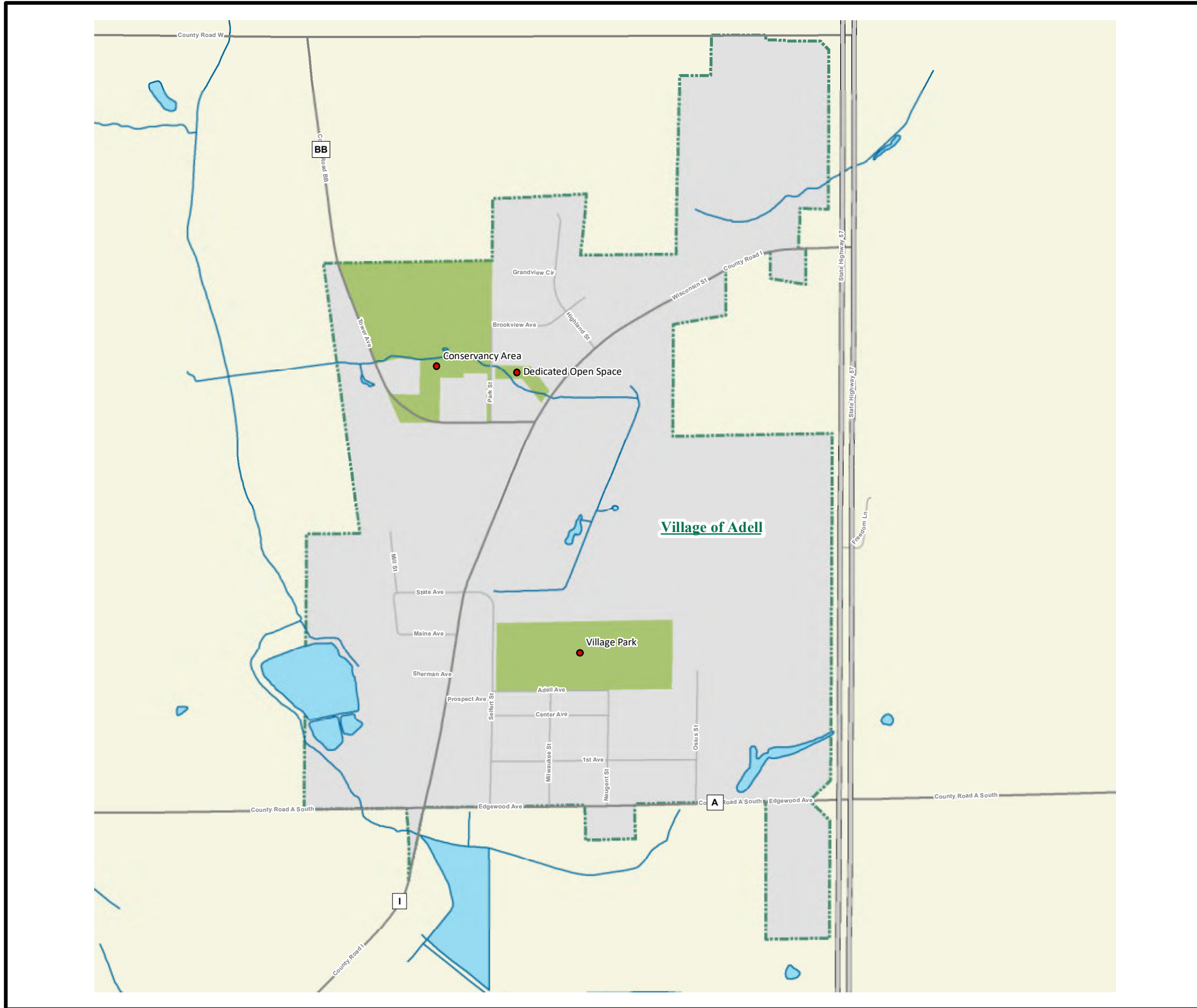
Sheboygan County, WI



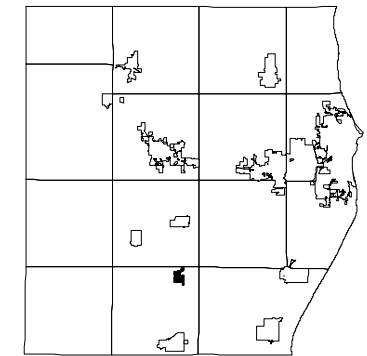
Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities

- Town of Wilson
- Municipal Boundaries
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes
- Recreational Facilities**
- Existing Public
- Existing Private
- Interurban Trail
- Potential Interurban Trail Extension
- Utility Corridor Trail





Map 5.16 Village of Adell Sheboygan County, WI

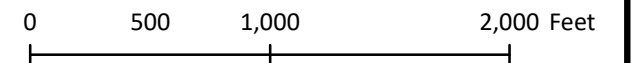


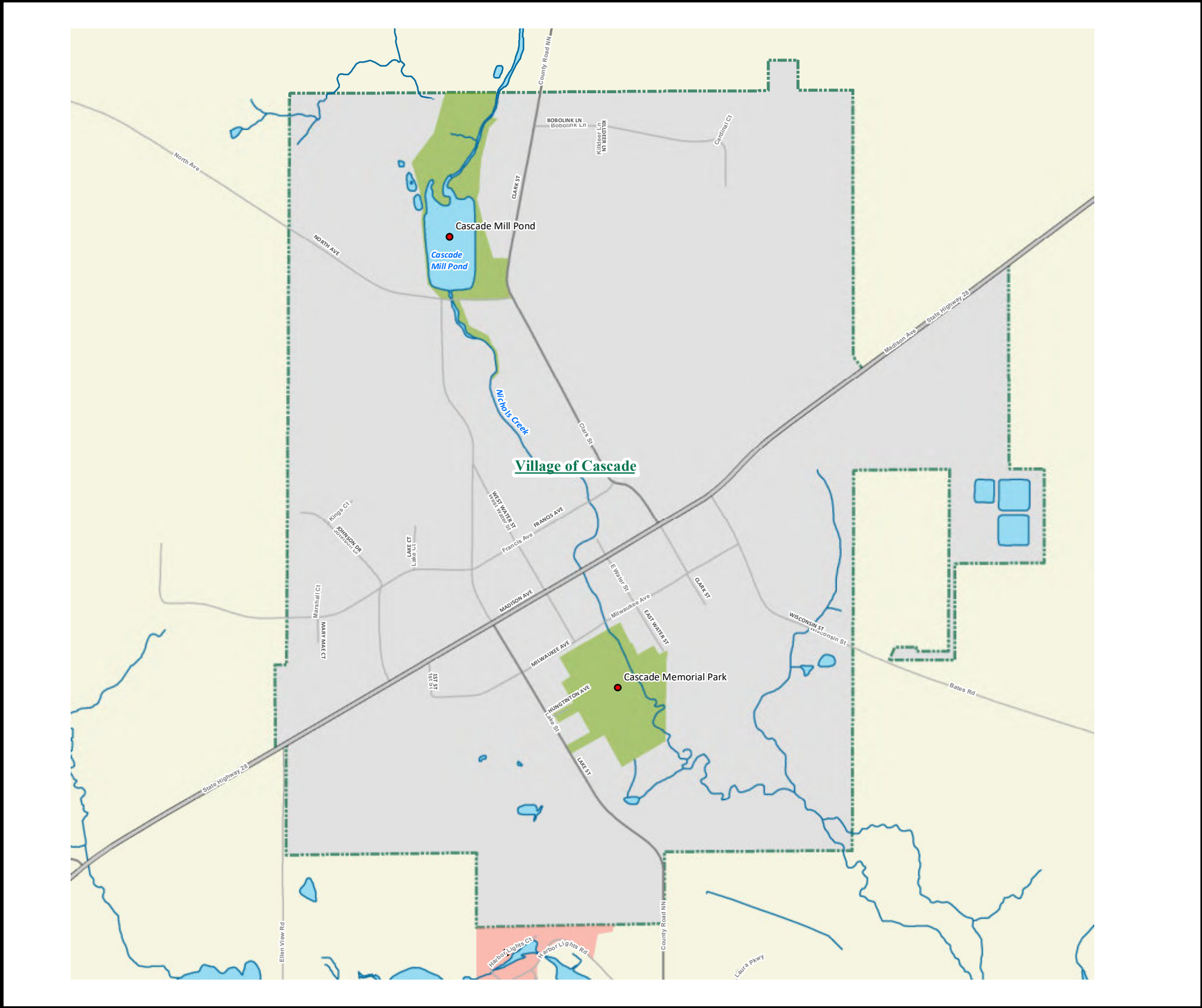
Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities

	Village of Adell
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public
	Existing Private



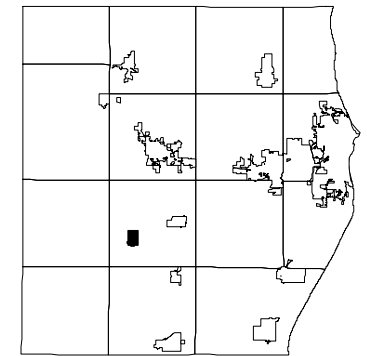
**Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**





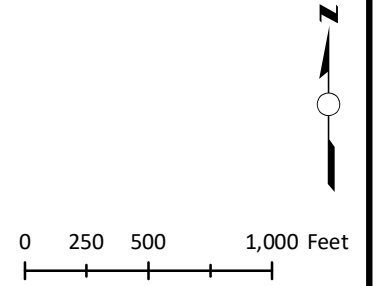
Map 5.17 Village of Cascade

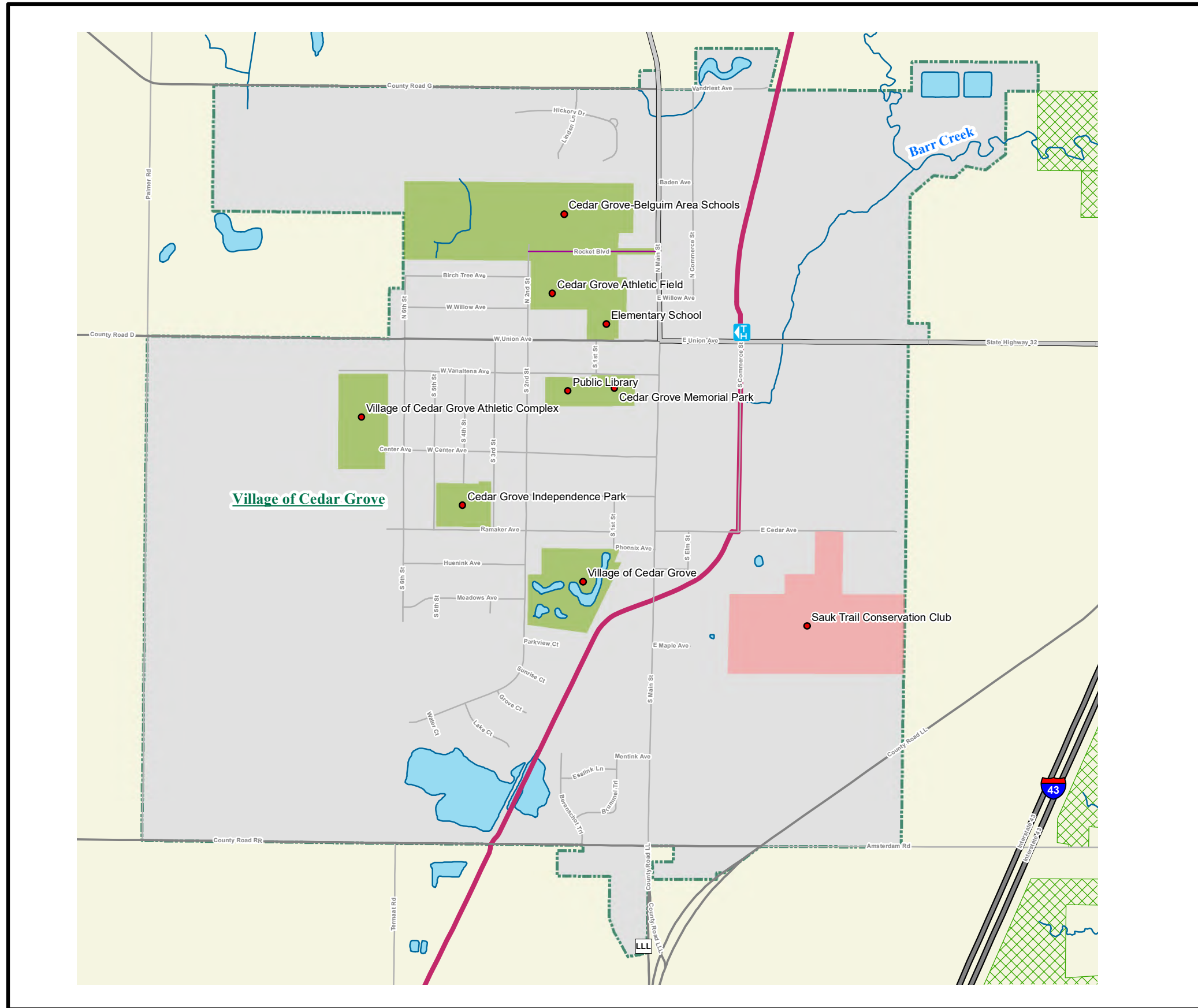
Sheboygan County, WI



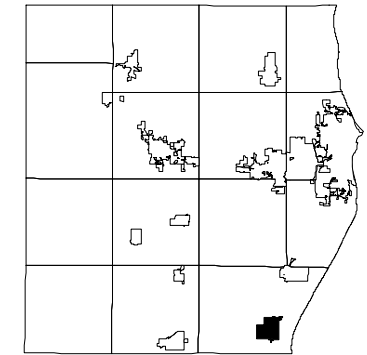
Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities

	Village of Cascade
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public
	Existing Private





Map 5.18 Village of Cedar Grove Sheboygan County, WI

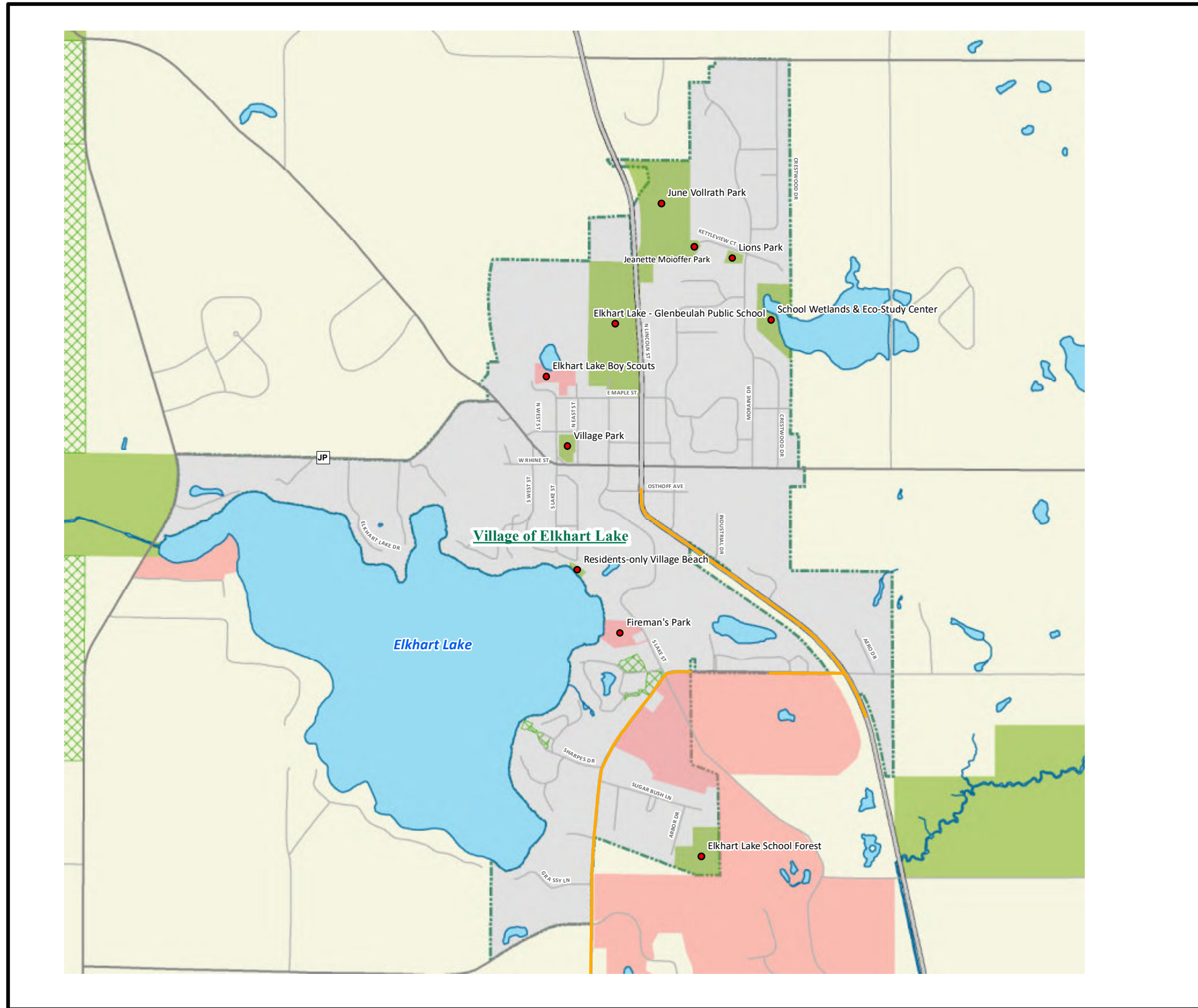


Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities

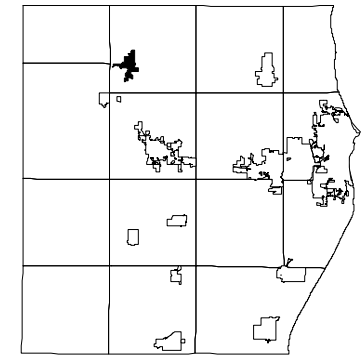
	Village of Cedar Grove
	Rivers & Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Private
	Existing Public
	Potential Public Acquisition Areas
	Interurban Trail
	Trailhead

Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

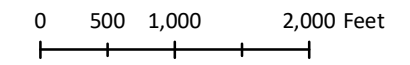


Map 5.19 Village of Elkhart Lake Sheboygan County, WI



Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities

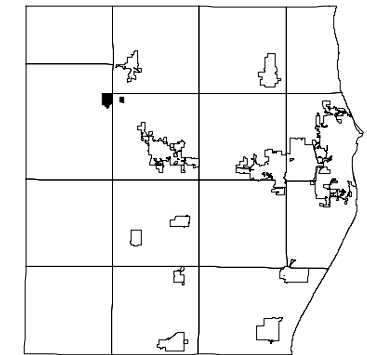
-  Village of Elkhart Lake
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
- Recreational Facilities**
-  Existing Public
-  Existing Private
-  Potential Public Acquisition Areas
-  Potential Future Paths





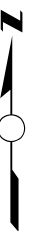
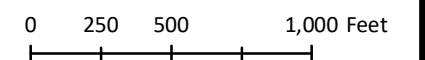
Map 5.20 Village of Glenbeulah

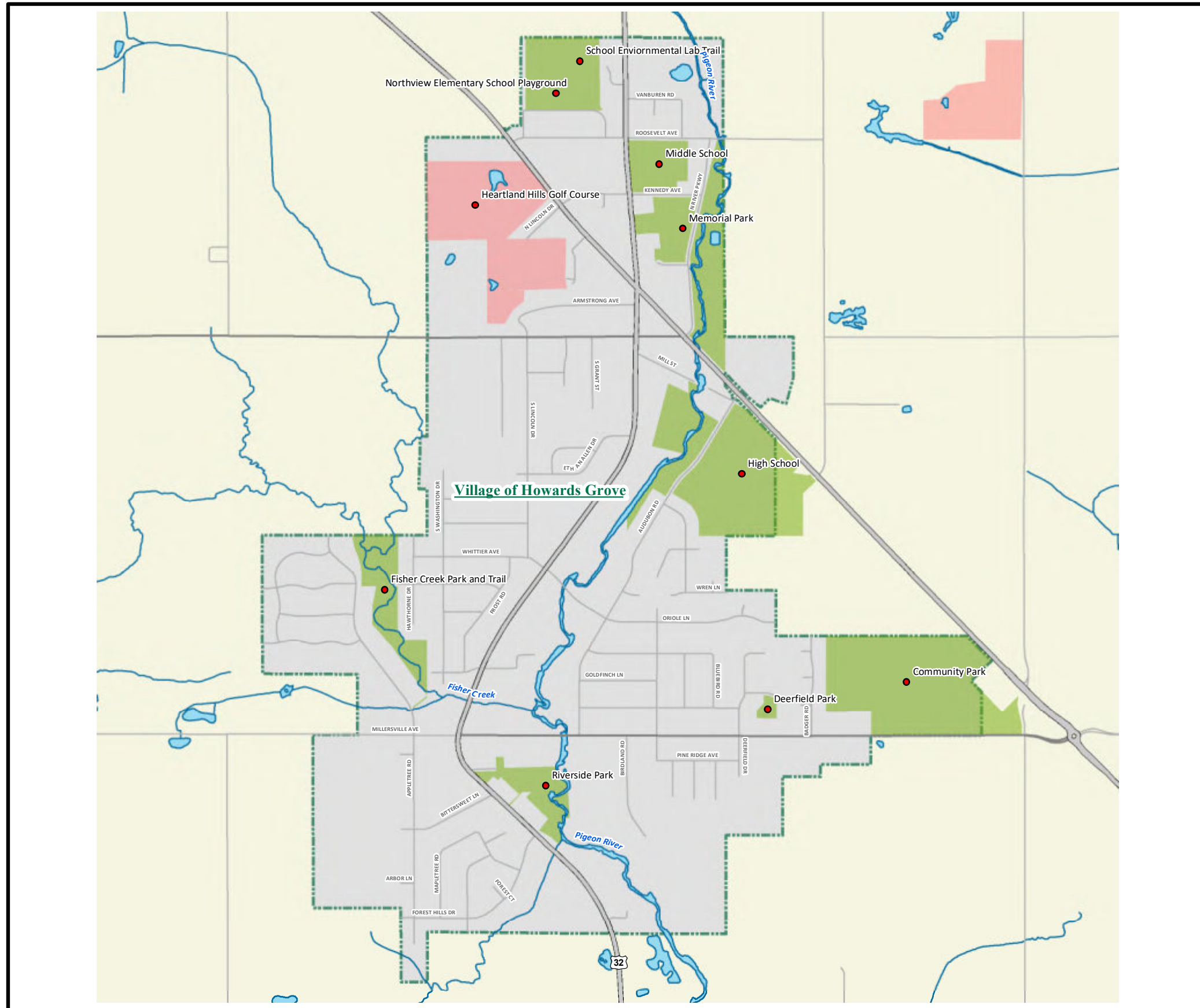
Sheboygan County, WI



Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities

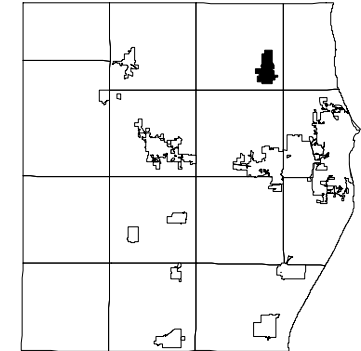
	Village of Glenbeulah
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public





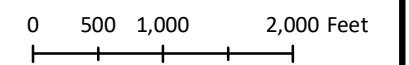
Map 5.21 Village of Howards Grove

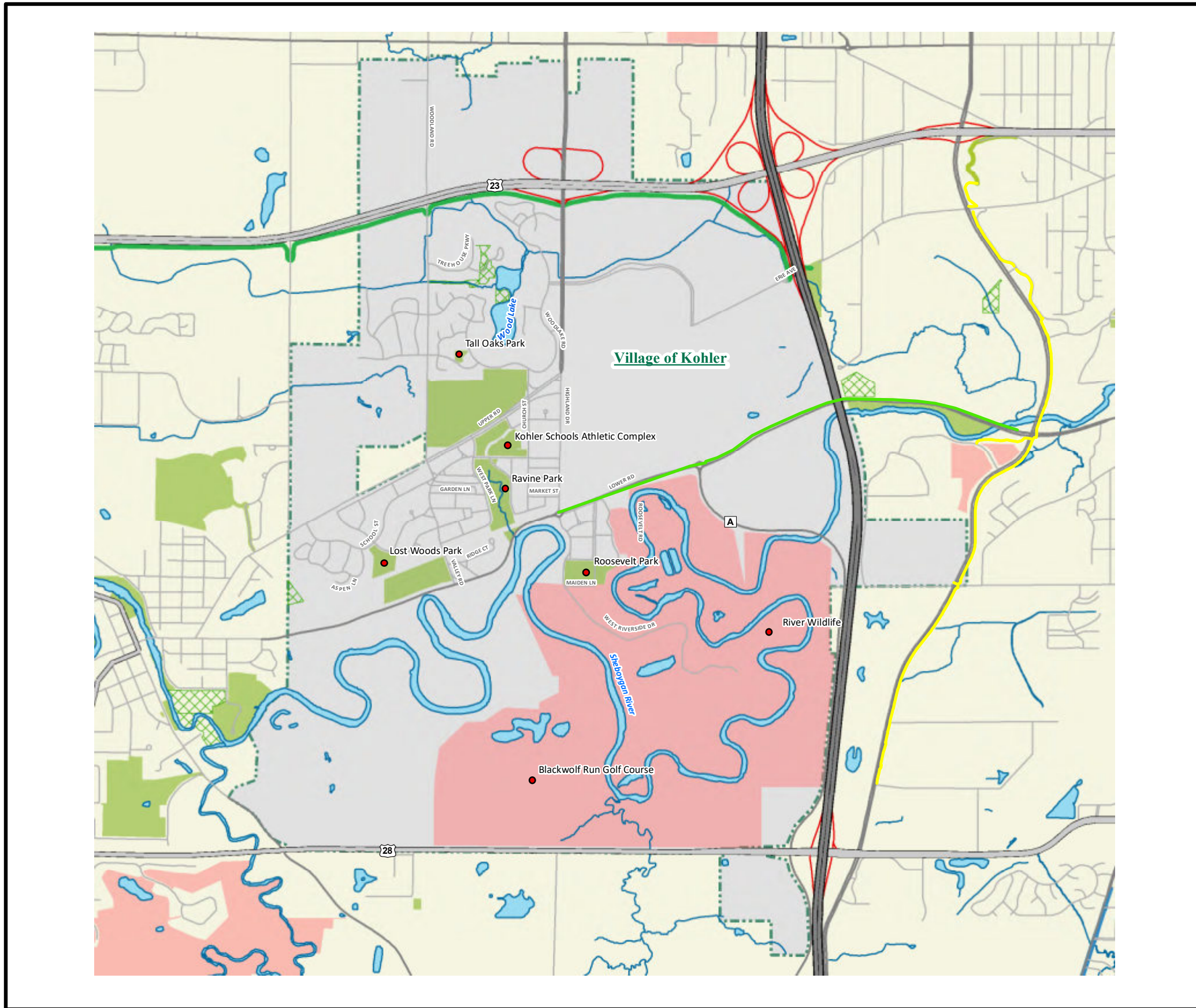
Sheboygan County, WI



Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities

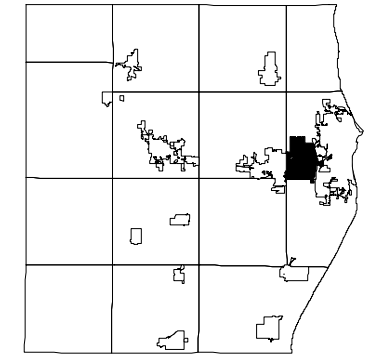
	Village of Howards Grove
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public
	Existing Private














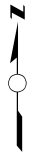
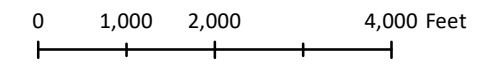
Map 5.22 Village of Kohler

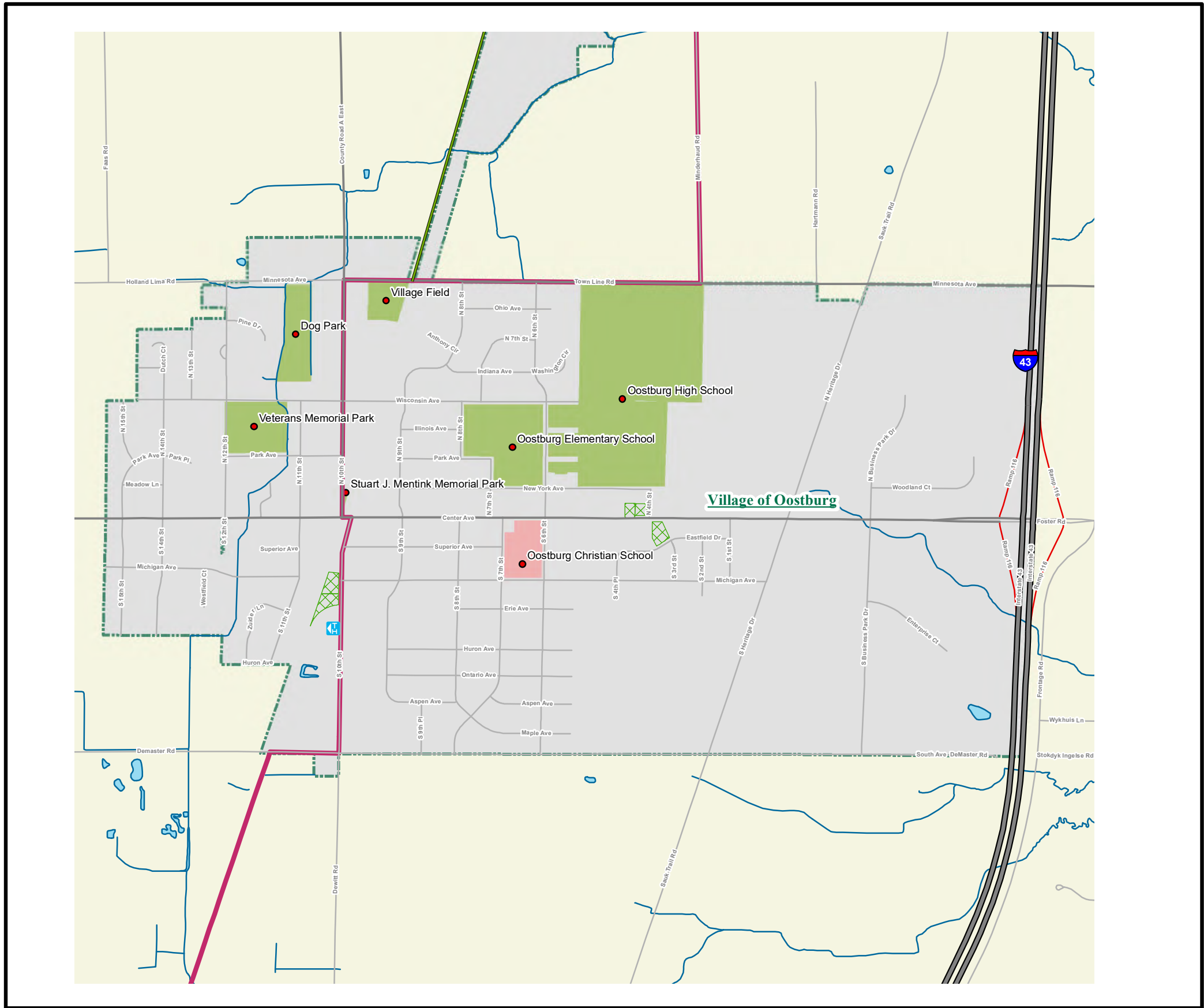
Sheboygan County, WI



Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities

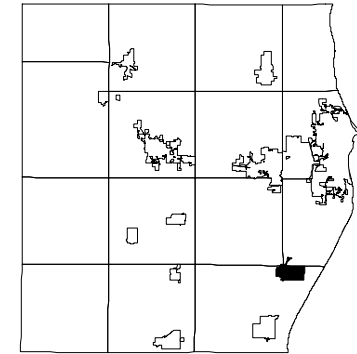
	Village of Kohler
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public
	Existing Private
	Proposed Public Acquisition Areas
	Old Plank Road Trail
	CTH PP Linear Parkway
	Taylor Drive Pathway





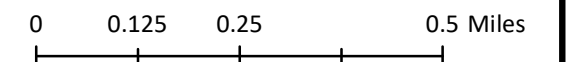
Map 5.23 Village of Oostburg

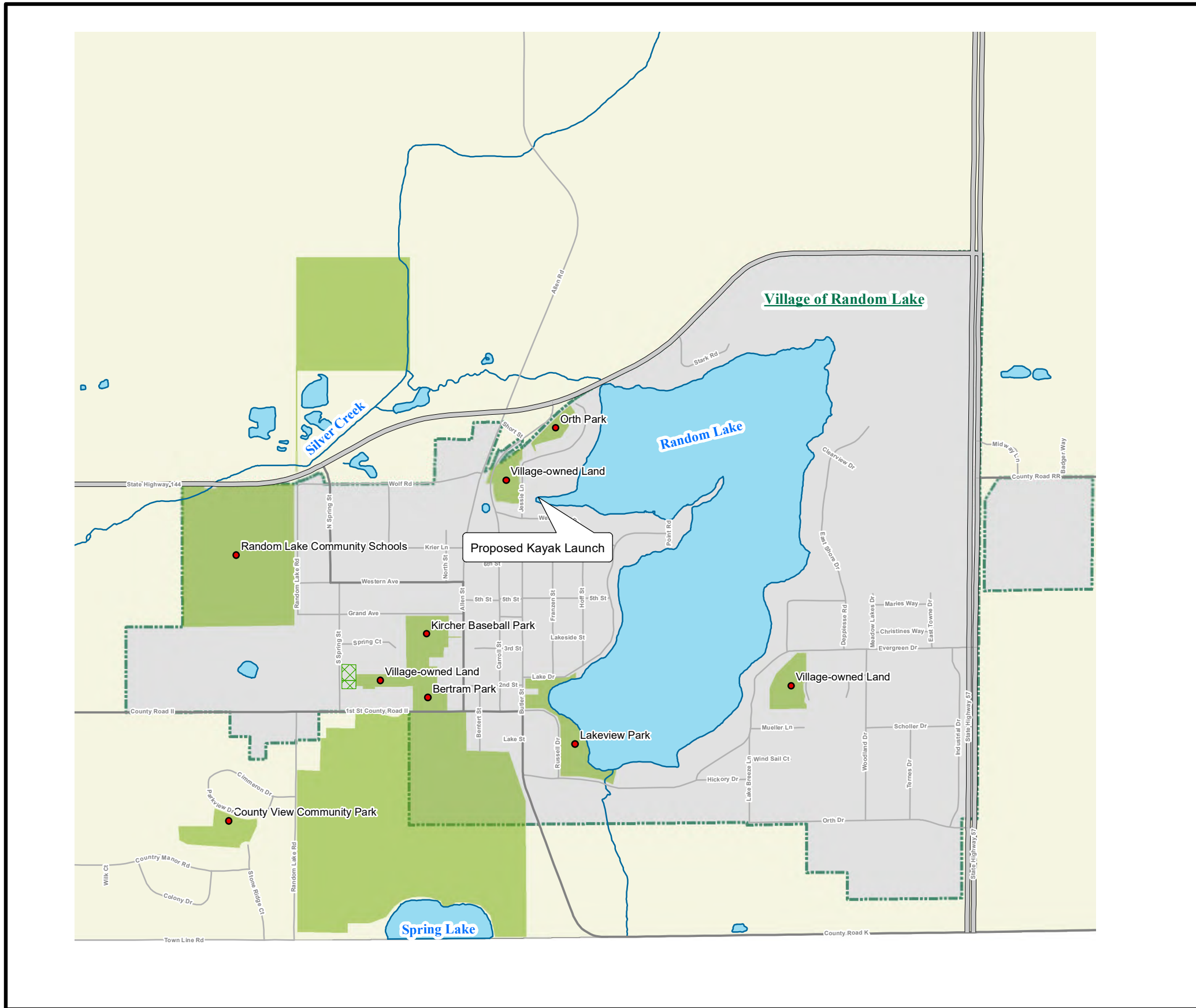
Sheboygan County, WI



Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities

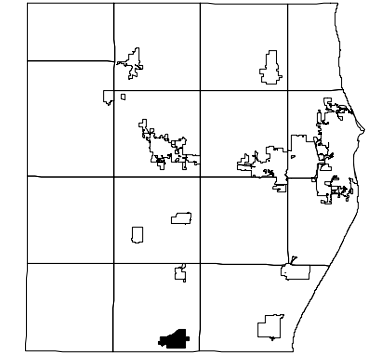
- Village of Oostburg
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes
- Recreational Facilities**
- Existing Public
- Existing Private
- Potential Public Acquisition Areas
- Interurban Trail
- Potential Interurban Trail Extension
- Trailhead





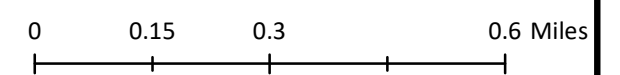
Map 5.24 Village of Random Lake

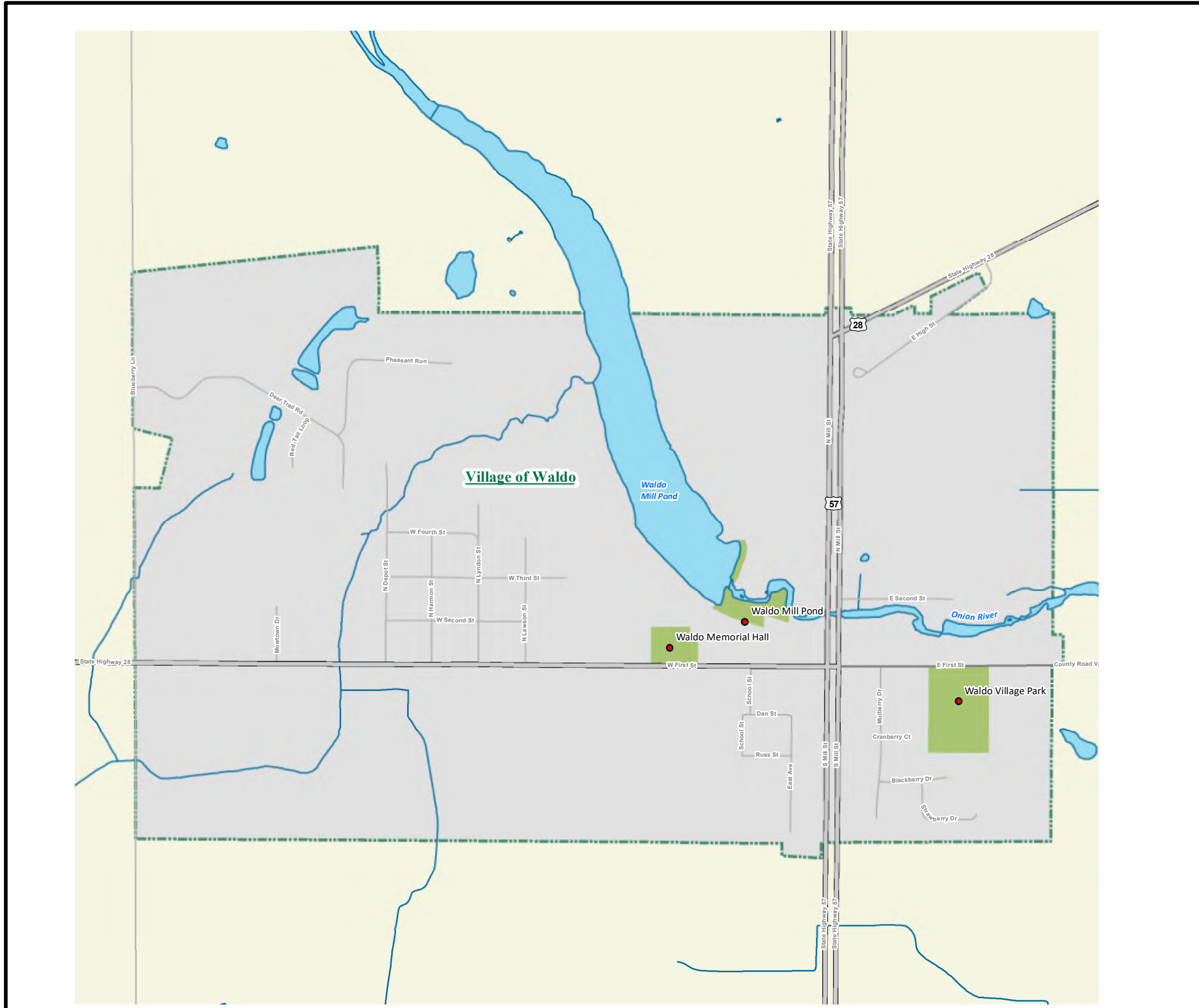
Sheboygan County, WI



Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities

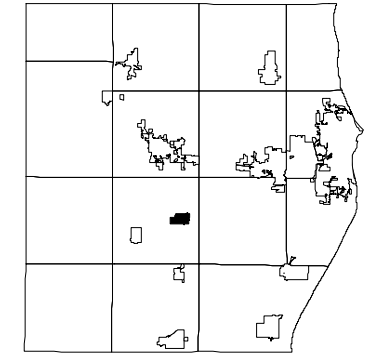
	Village of Random Lake
	Rivers & Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public
	Potential Public Acquisition Areas









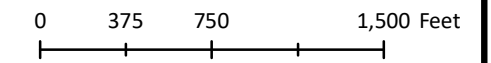
Map 5.25 Village of Waldo

Sheboygan County, WI



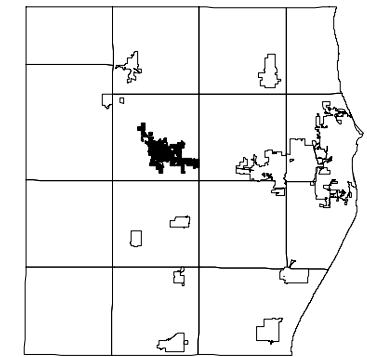
Existing Outdoor Recreational Facilities

	Village of Waldo
	Rivers and Streams
	Lakes
Recreational Facilities	
	Existing Public



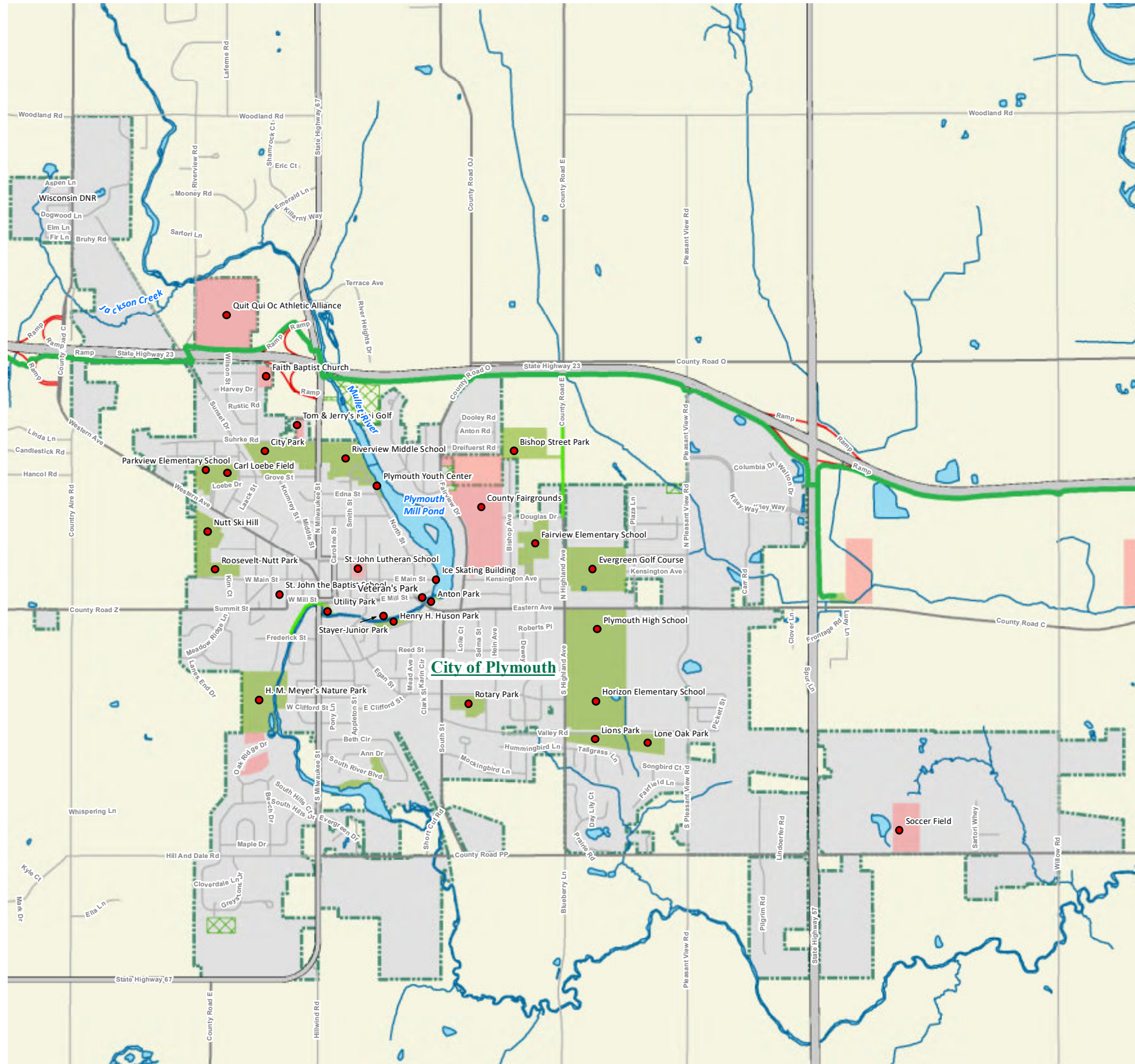
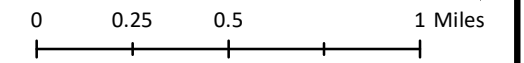
Map 5.26 City of Plymouth

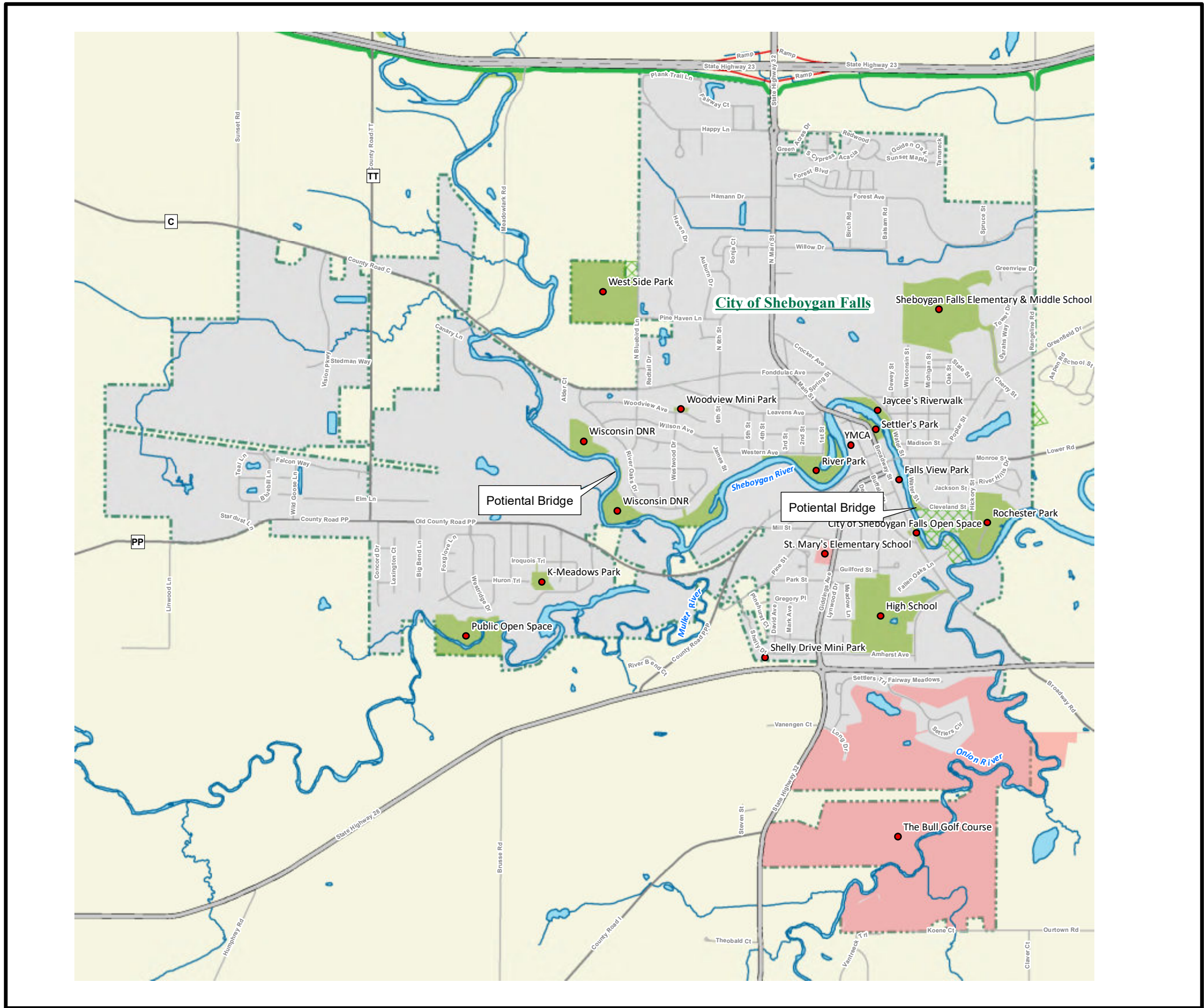
Sheboygan County, WI



Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities

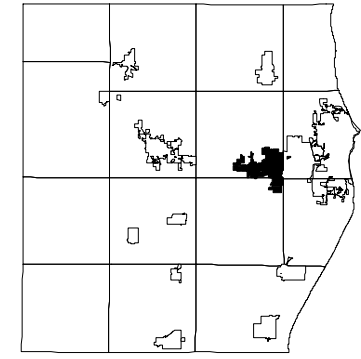
- City of Plymouth
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes
- Recreational Facilities**
- Existing Public
- Existing Private
- Potential Public Acquisition Areas
- Old Plank Road Trail
- Proposed New Trails













Map 5.27 City of Sheboygan Falls

Sheboygan County, WI

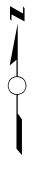


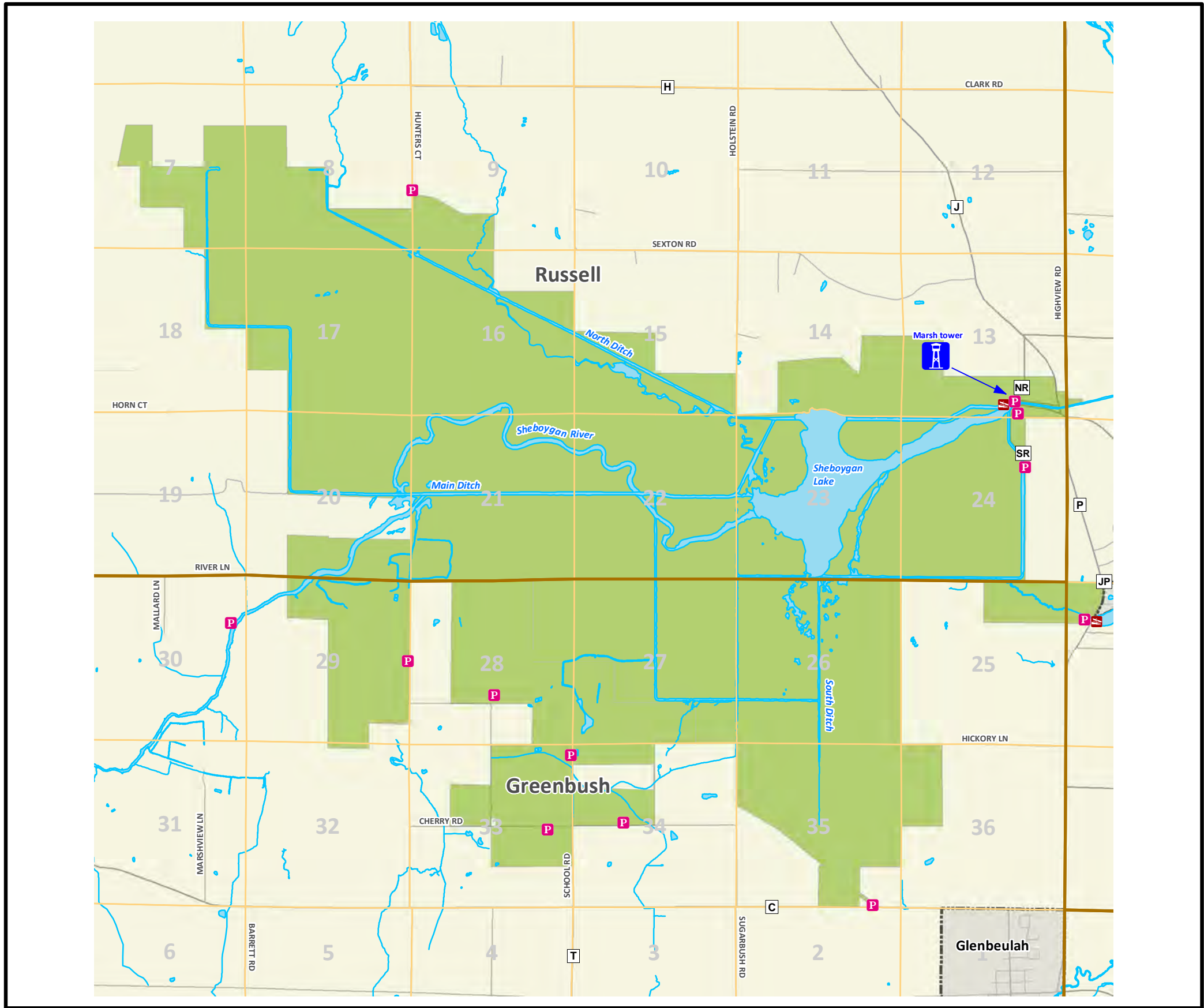
Existing and Proposed Outdoor Recreational Facilities

-  City of Sheboygan Falls
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
- Recreational Facilities**
-  Existing Public
-  Existing Private
-  Potential Public Acquisition Areas
-  Old Plank Road Trail








 **Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**


0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



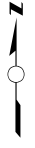


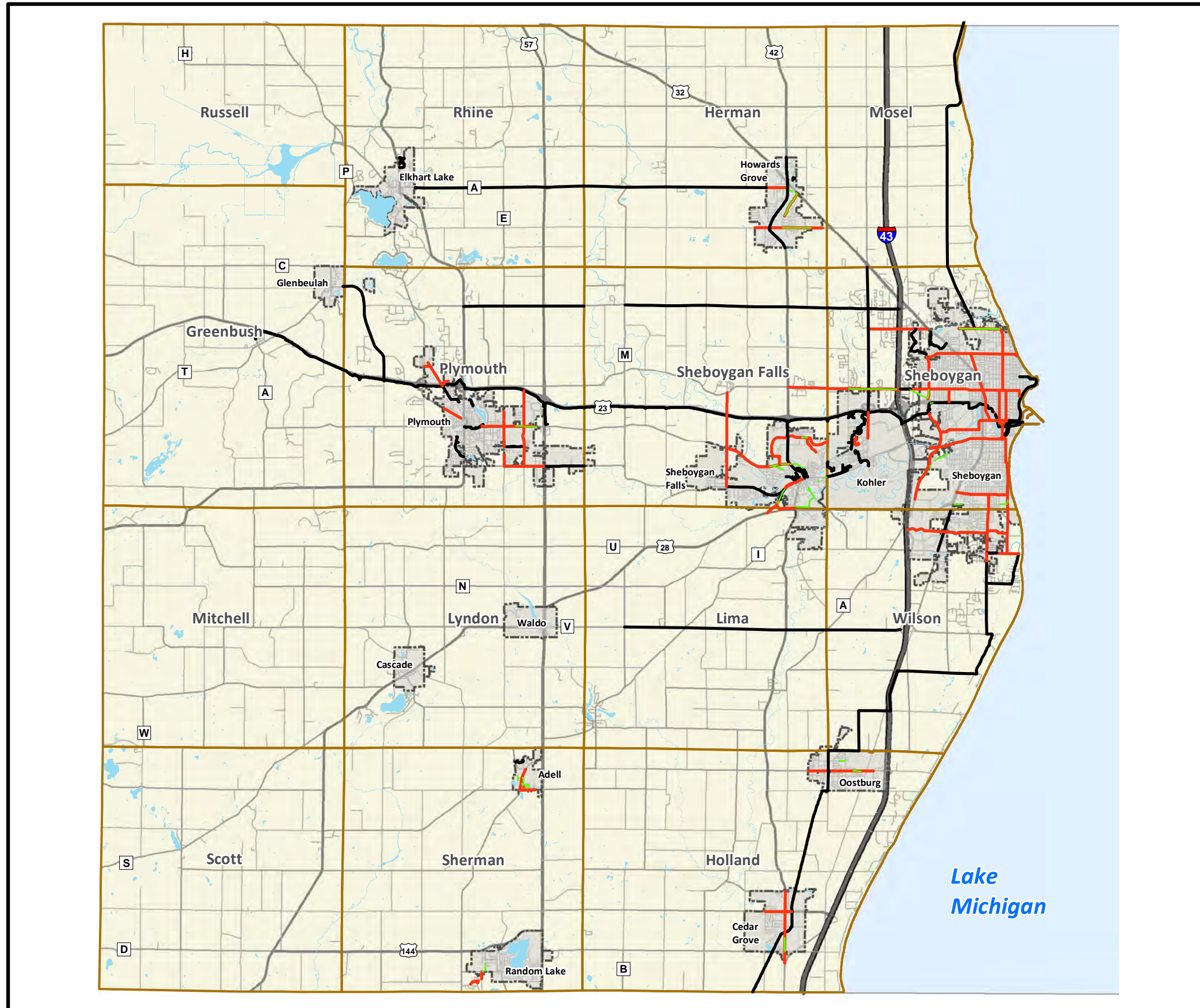
Map 6.0 Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park and Wildlife Area Sheboygan County, WI

-  Townships
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
-  Parking area
-  Boat landing
-  Marsh Park and Wildlife Area

 **Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles



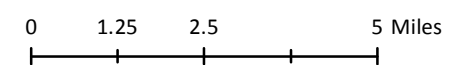


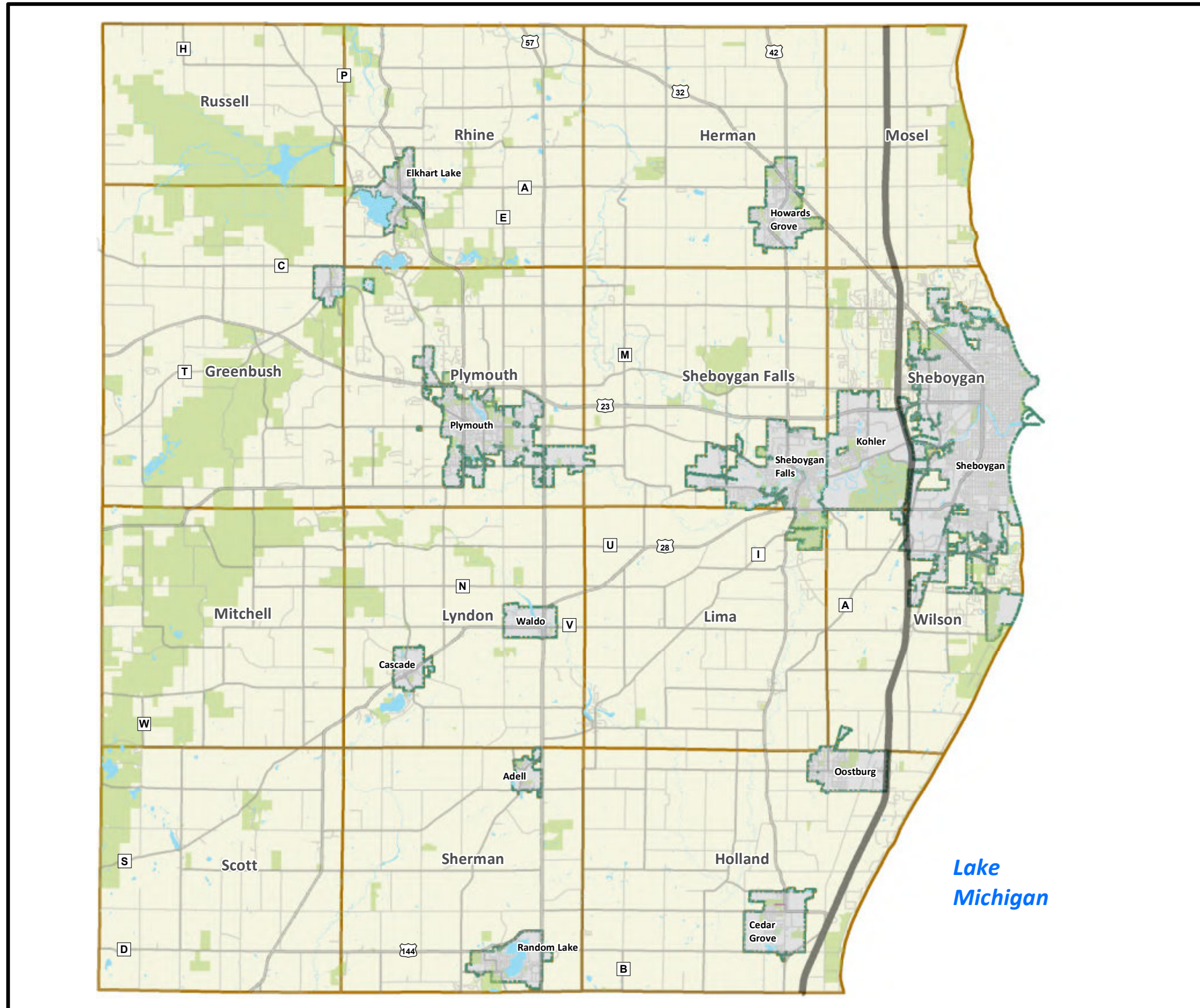
Map 7.0 Existing and NOMO-funded Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Sheboygan County, WI



	Townships
	Municipal Boundaries
Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	
	Existing bicycle facilities
	NOMO-funded bicycle facilities
	NOMO-funded sidewalks

Existing sidewalks not funded by NOMO Sheboygan County are not shown on this map for clarity.



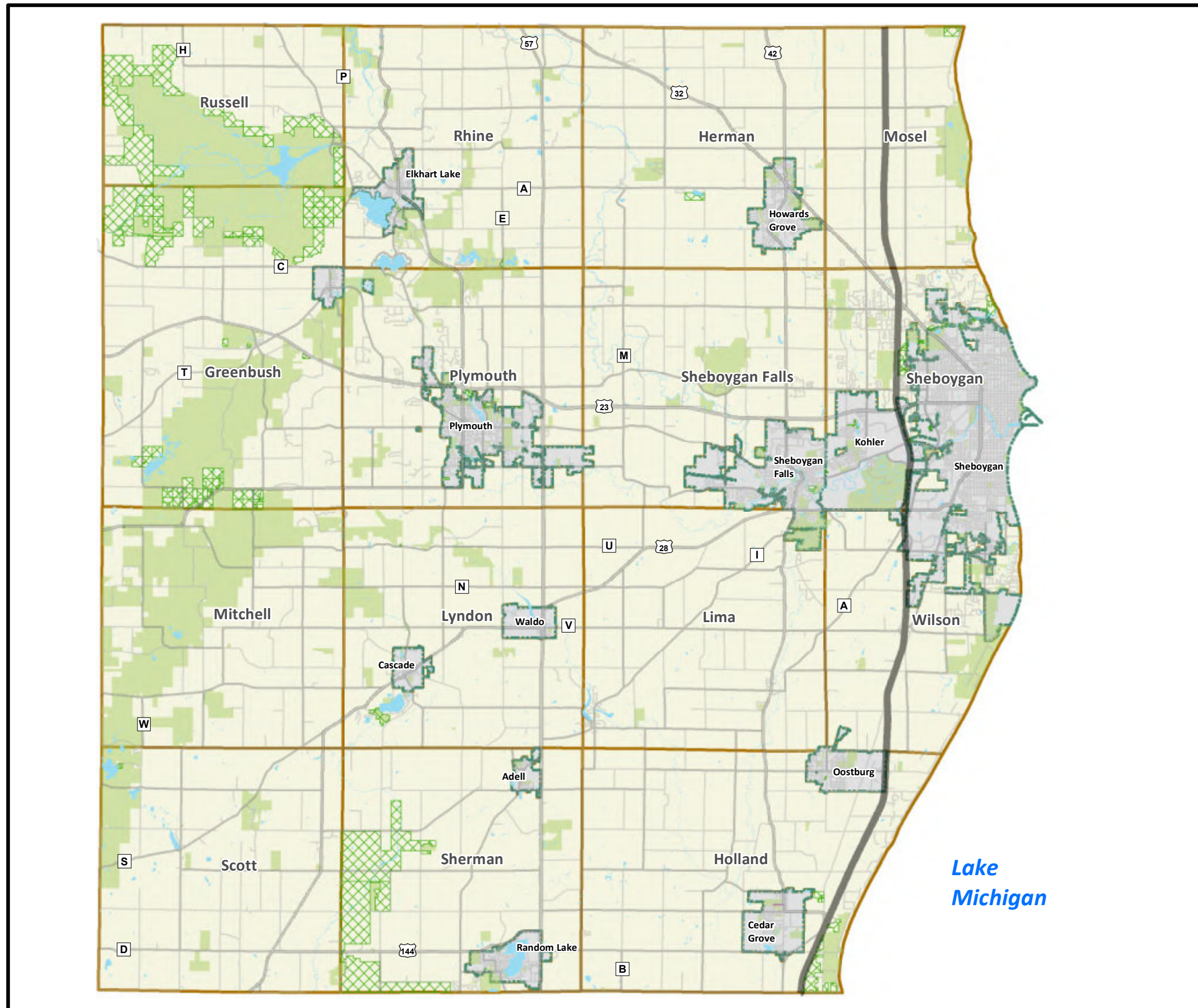


Map 8.0 County-wide Public Areas Sheboygan County, WI






- Townships
- Municipal Boundary
- Lakes
- Existing Public Areas


Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles




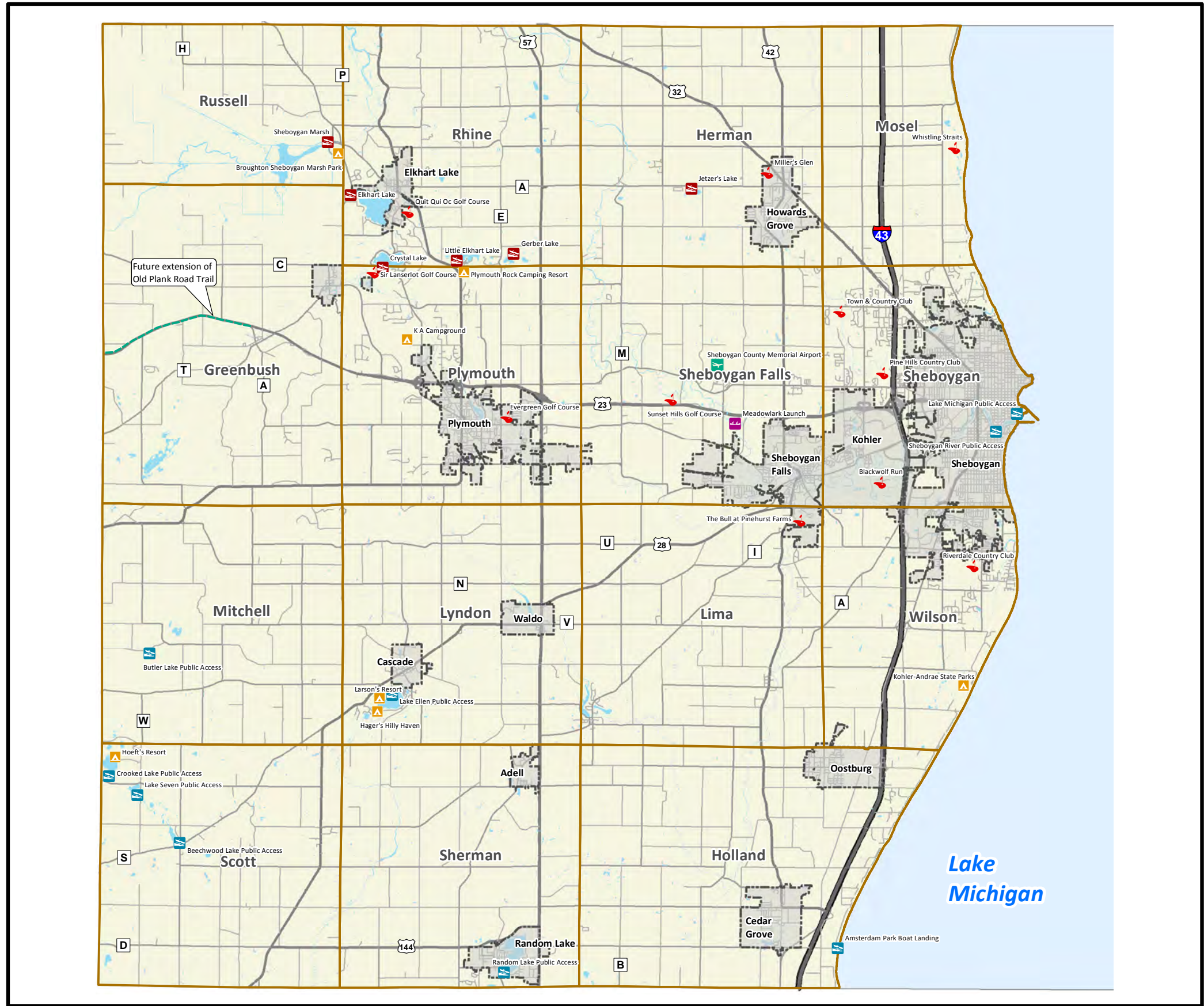
Map 9.0 Proposed County-wide Public Areas Sheboygan County, WI

	TownshipsMunicipal
	Boundary
	Lakes
	Existing Public Areas
	Potential Public Areas

 **Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles





Map 10.0 Active Recreational Facilities Sheboygan County, WI

Legend

- Townships
- Municipal Boundary

Recreational Facilities

- ♣ Golf courses
- ▲ Camping
- ✈ Sheboygan County Memorial Airport
- Old Plank Road Trail
- Interurban Trail
- - - Kettle Moraine Trails
- - - Ice Age Trail

Public Access Points

- ⚓ County Maintained Boat Landings
- ⚓ Non-County Maintained Boat Landings
- ⚓ Canoe Launch








Cross-country skiing is available at Kettle Moraine State Park, Kohler Andrae State Park, and Quit Qui Oc Golf Course in Plymouth.

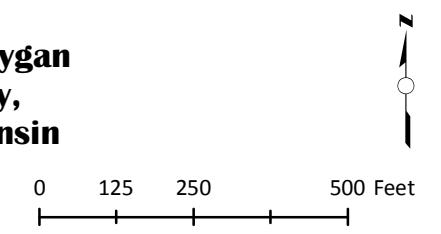
Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

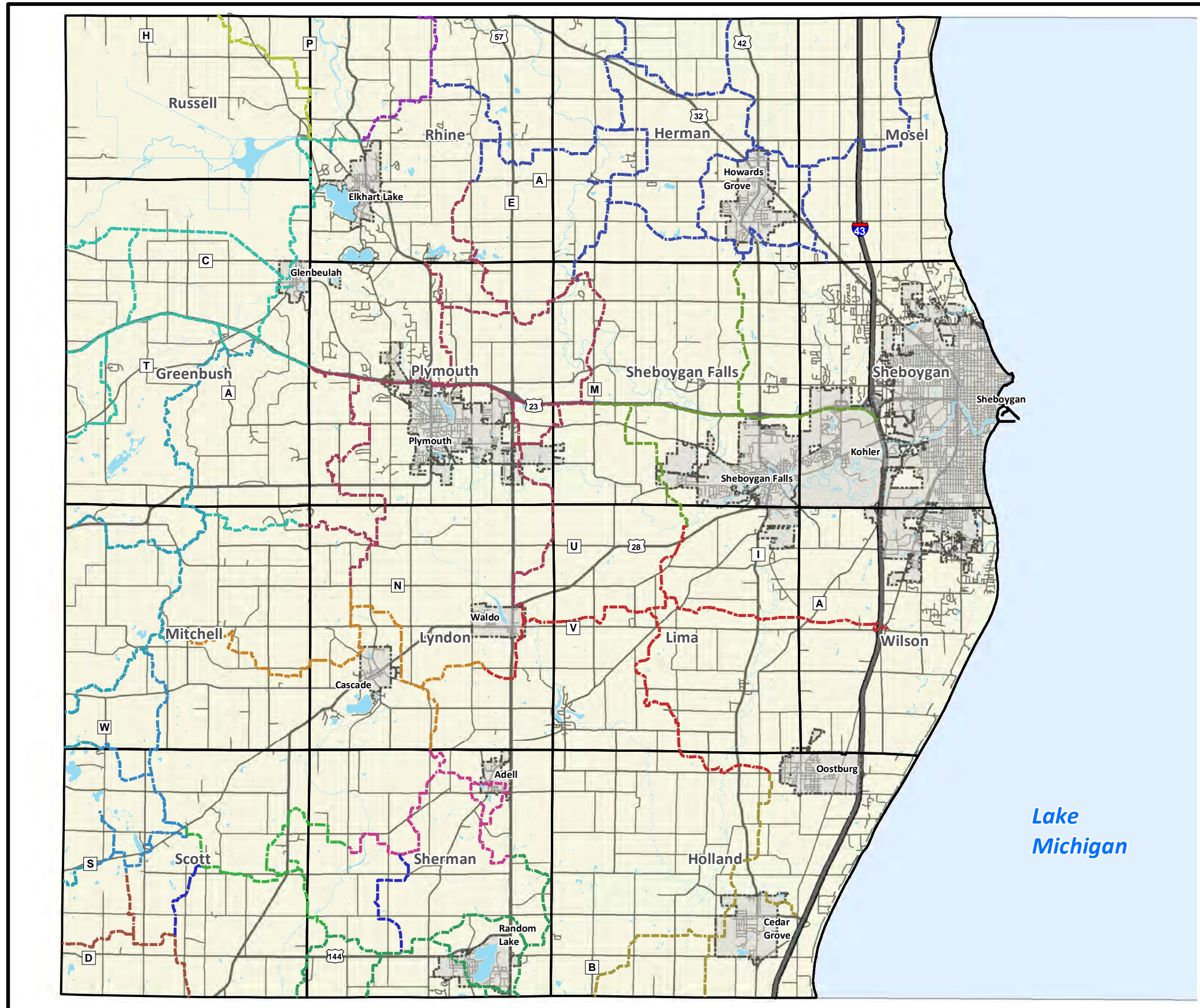
0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



Map 11.0 Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park Developed Area Sheboygan County, WI

-  Marsh Park Developed Area
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Lakes
-  Parking area
-  Boat landing
-  Dam
-  Marsh Tower





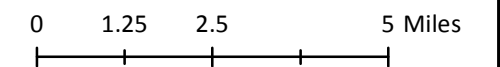
Map 12.0 Snowmobile Trails

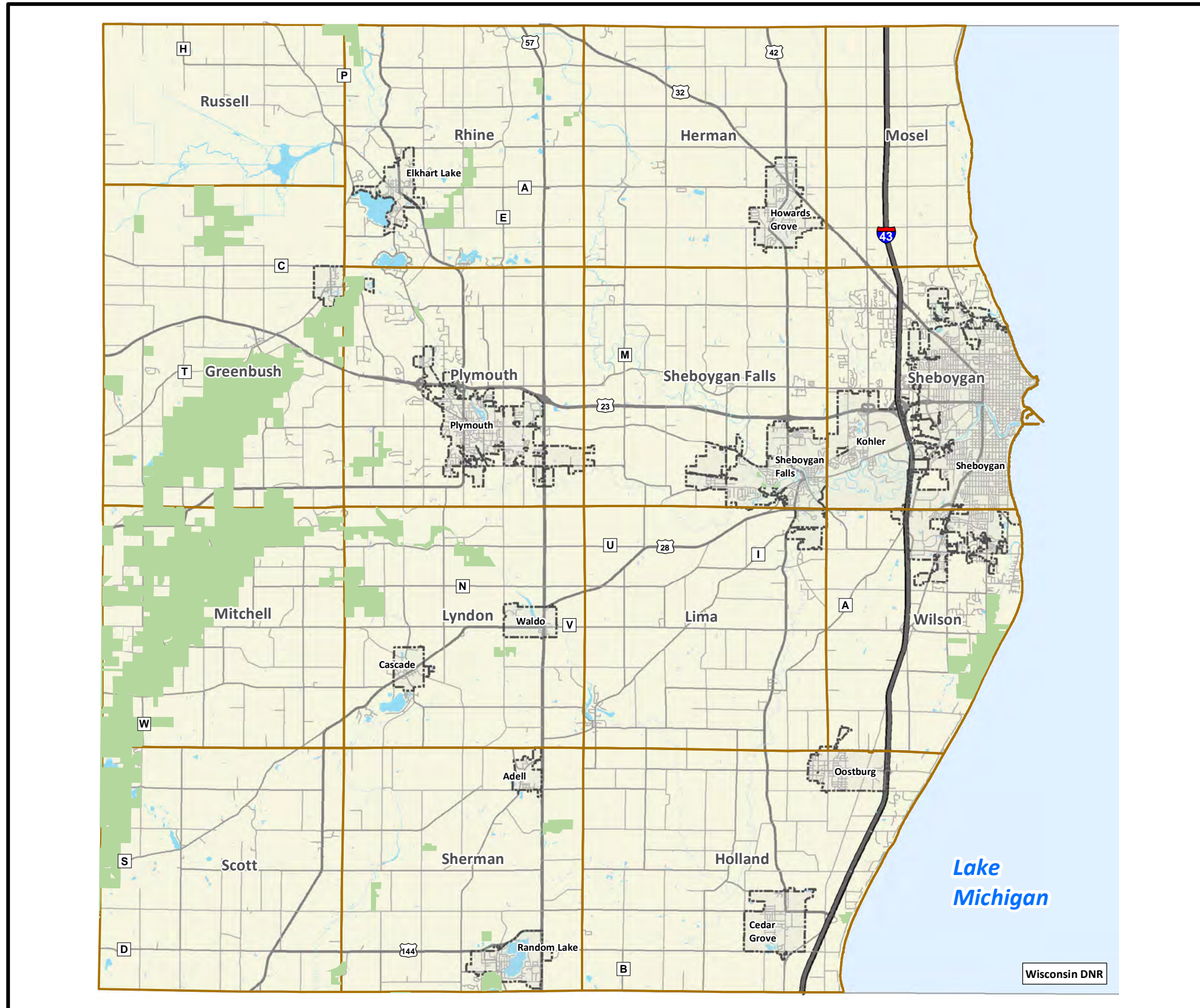
Sheboygan County, WI

Snowmobile Club

- Adell
- Batavia
- Beechwood
- Cascade
- Club Trail
- Five Corners
- Greenbush
- Kiel
- Lakeshore
- Louis Corners
- New Fane
- Plymouth
- Sheboygan Falls
- Snow Runners
- State
- United Sno-Byrds
- Townships
- Municipal Boundary

This map is subject to change as snowmobile routes are updated.





Map 13.0

Countywide State-owned Land

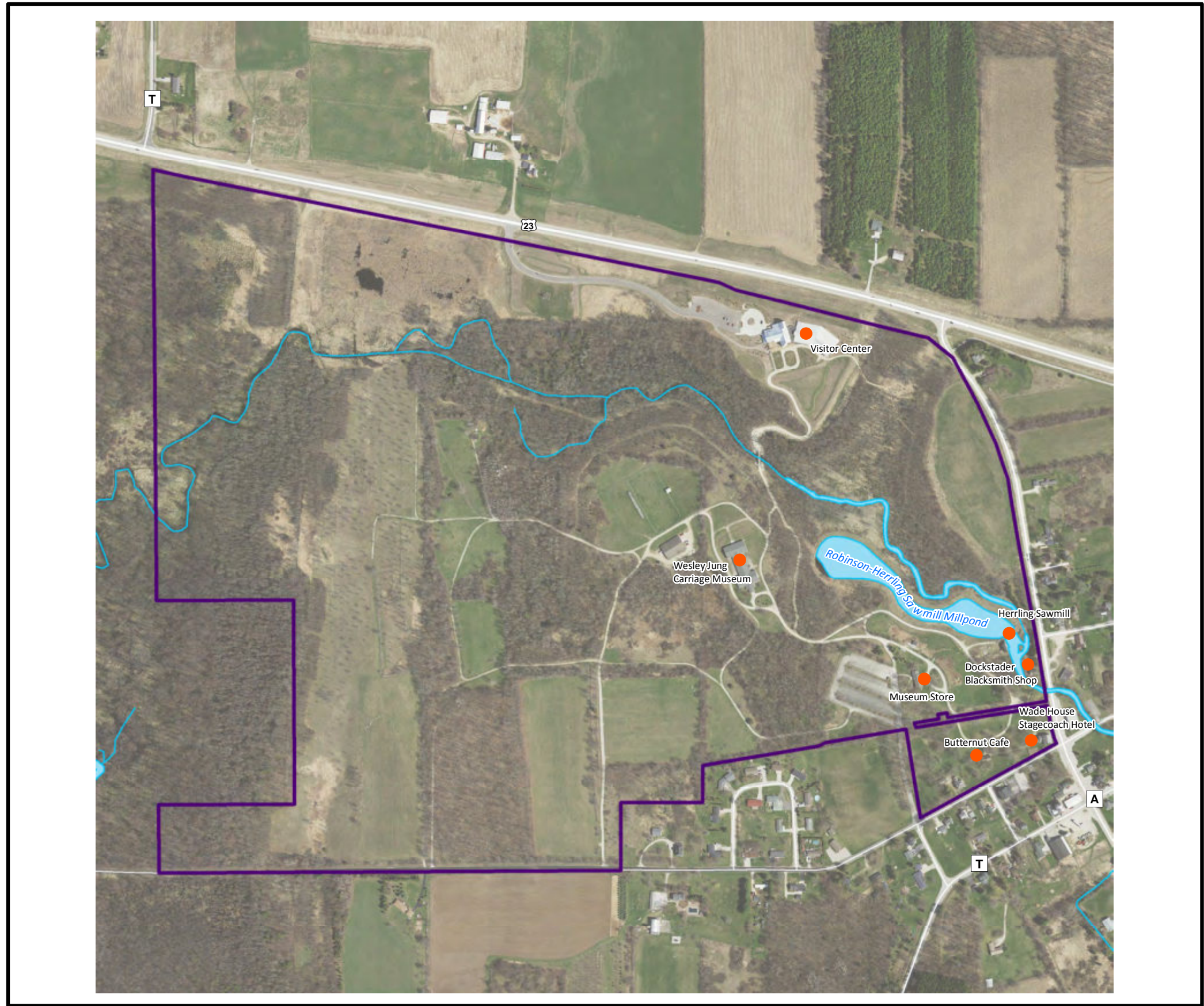
Sheboygan County, WI

- Townships
- Municipal Boundary
- Lakes
- Wisconsin DNR-owned Lands

Sheboygan County, Wisconsin




0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles


Wisconsin DNR




Map 14.0 Old Wade House and Jung Carriage Museum

Sheboygan County, WI

-  Lakes
-  Rivers and Streams
-  Old Wade House and Jung Carriage Museum

 **Sheboygan
County,
Wisconsin**

0 250 500 1,000 Feet



Appendix B

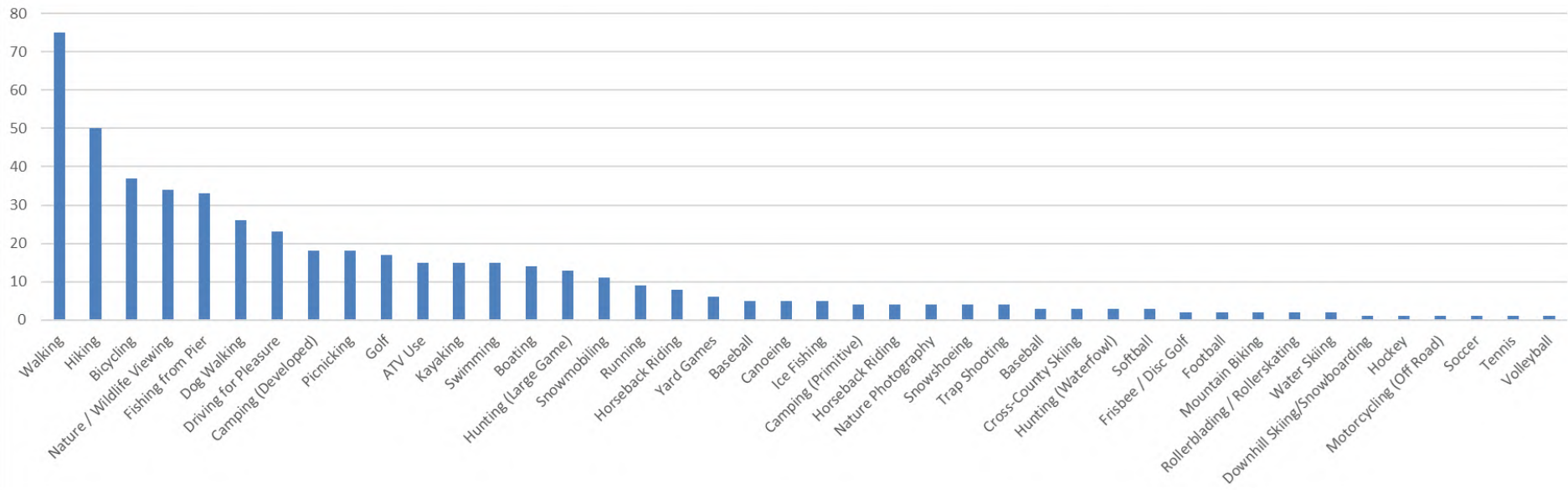
Top 10 Most Popular Activities			
(Based on how often the respondent participates in the activity, whether it is State or local land, and how far the respondent travels to get to the activity location.)			
Activity	Frequency	Land	Distance
Walking	Weekly	Town/city/village land	Less than one mile
Hiking	Weekly	State-owned land	6 - 20 miles
Bicycling	Weekly	Town/city/village land	Less than one mile
Nature / Wildlife Viewing	Weekly	State-owned land	Less than one mile
Fishing from Pier	Monthly	State-owned land	6 - 20 miles
Dog Walking	Daily	Town/city/village land	Less than one mile
Driving for Pleasure	Weekly	Town/city/village land	6 - 20 miles
Camping (Development)	Monthly	Private land	6 - 20 miles
Picnicking	Monthly	State-owned land	6 - 20 miles
Golf	Weekly	Private land	Less than one mile

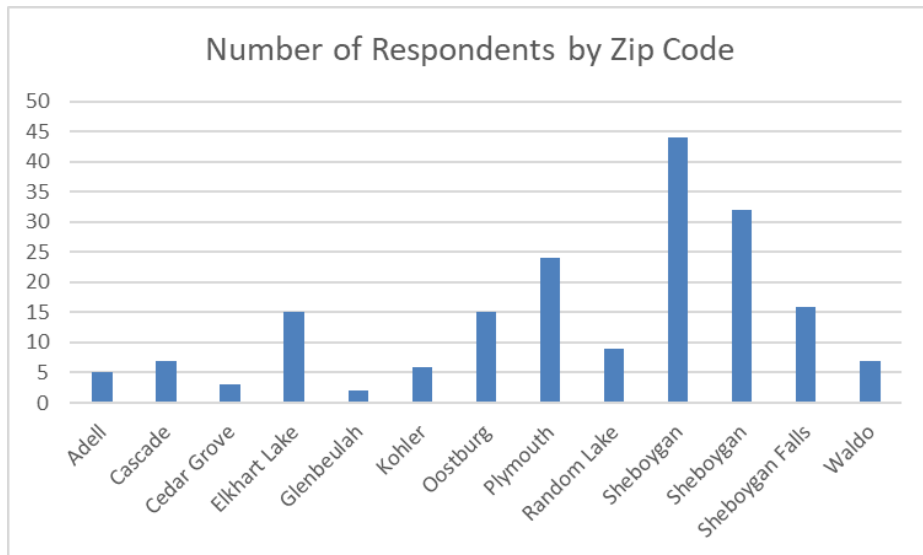
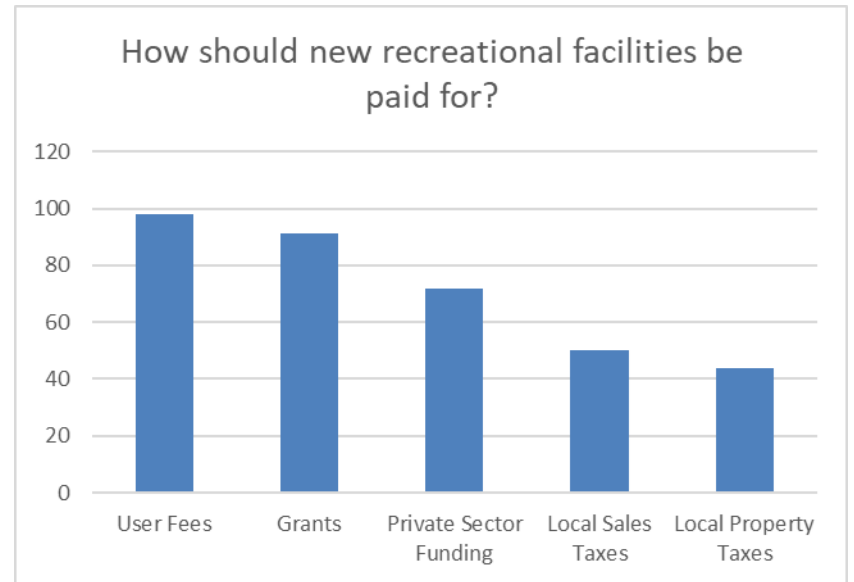
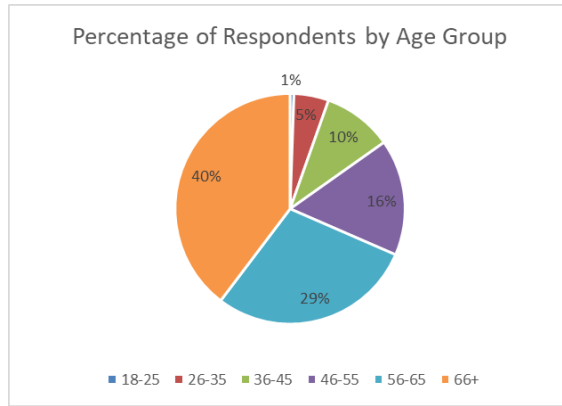
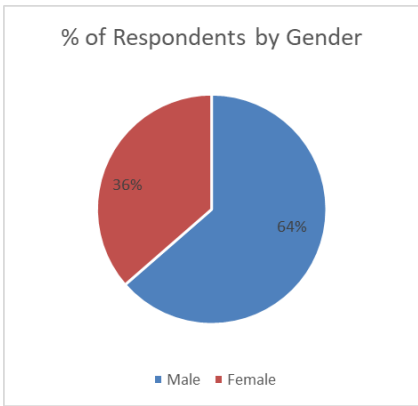
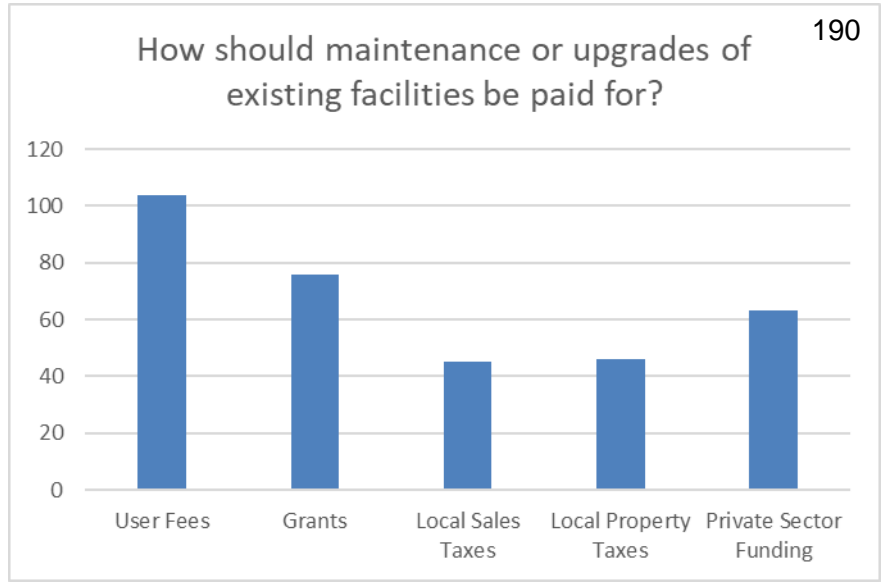
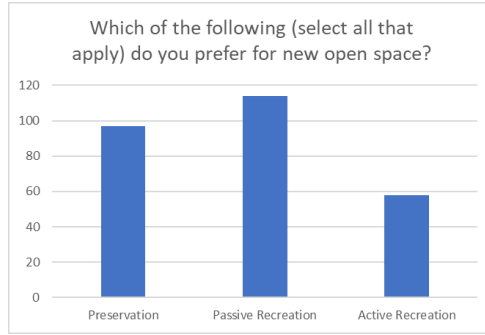
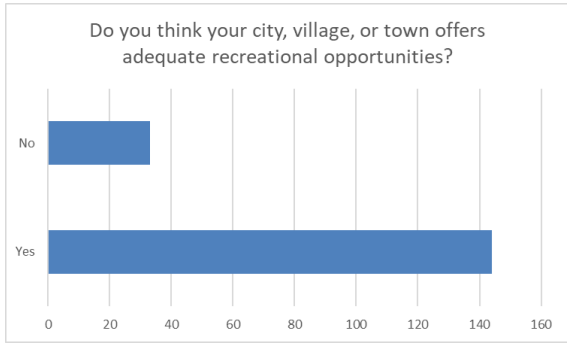
Most Popular Activity by Rank	
Rank	Most Popular Response
#1 Activity	Walking
#2 Activity	Walking
#3 Activity	Hiking

Most Popular Activity by Age Group		
Age Group	Most Popular Activity	2nd Most Popular Activity
<18-35	Hiking	ATV Use & Dog Walking
36-45	Walking	Bicycling
46-55	Hiking	Bicycling
56-65	Walking	Bicycling
66+	Walking	Nature / Wildlife Viewing

Please rank the three activities in which you and your household participate most frequently.

The total number for each activity below reflects the frequency by which it was chosen overall, combining ranks 1, 2, and 3.





2020 Community Leaders Survey Results

Page 1

Municipality	In your opinion, does your municipality offer an appropriate amount of active or passive recreational opportunities for your residents?	In your opinion, does your municipality offer an appropriate amount of parks or open spaces for your residents?	Are you planning to increase your recreational opportunities within the next ten years?	Are you planning to acquire more open space within the next ten years (either for preservation or park development)?	If 'yes' to questions 3 or 4, what type of opportunities or facilities?	How important do you think recreational facilities and open spaces are to your residents (1 being not important at all, and 10 being extremely important)?
Town of Rhine	No	No	Yes	No	Possible children's play park, walking paths, picnic areas, etc. Areas have not been determined.	10
Town of Mosel	No	No	Yes	No	We plan to develop better access to Lake Michigan on property already owned.	6
Town of Greenbush	Yes	Yes	No	No		7
Town of Sheboygan Falls	Yes	Yes	No	No		5
Town of Mitchell	Yes	Yes	No	No		9
Town of Lima	Yes	Yes	No	No		4
Town of Wilson	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Removal of invasive species in existing parks & conservancies and expanding trails.	10
Town of Scott	Yes	Yes	No	No		9
Town of Sherman	Yes	No	Yes		Small park in Country Meadows subdivision.	6
Town of Holland	Yes	Yes	No	No		8
City of Sheboygan Falls	No	No	Yes	Yes	We have several projects and purchases we are looking at devaluing in the next 10 years. New kayak launch at River Park, upgrading the boat launch at River Park, developing the land fill site into a series of biking & hiking trails, developing 20 acres of West Side Park into a recreational space, acquire land that would connect West Side Park to the river, develop the Tecumseh property, build a new shelter at Kay Meadows Park, and continue to develop the City's walking and biking trails.	8
City of Plymouth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Based on proposed residential neighborhoods new parks would be added. Trail expansions along Mullet River.	8
Village of Howards Grove	Yes	Yes	No	No		9
Village of Kohler	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible upgrades to school athletic complex and new park area is planned in Clearings subdivision.	9
Village of Waldo	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	ATV access	8
Village of Random Lake	No	No	Yes	Yes	Looking for usable park space on east side of Village. Would like to make Village owned land a usable park with proper equipment along Jessie Lane.	8
Village of Oostburg	No	No	Yes	Yes		10
Village of Cedar Grove	Yes	Yes	No	No		8
Village of Elkhart Lake	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	We would like to create a walk/running path that connects to the current sidewalk system. We would also like to connect the Village to Crystal Lake with a sidewalk or pathway.	9
Village of Glenbeulah	Yes	Yes	No	No		2

2020 Community Leaders Survey Results

Page 2

What do you think are the three most important activities to your residents?				Would you increase your recreational opportunities if your municipality had more funding to do so?	If 'yes,' what programs, outdoor recreational opportunities, or open space offerings would you invest in?	If 'no,' why not?	What do you feel are the greatest recreation-related challenges facing your community within the next ten years?
Municipality	#1	#2	#3				
Town of Rhine	Boating, fishing, canoeing	walking, running, bicycling	Nature/Wildlife Viewing / Picnics	Yes	Splash pad park for children, children's toys, more biking and walking paths, update the nature park.		Funding, motivation, help from community.
Town of Mosel	Walking	Bicycling	Driving for Pleasure	Yes	Park		Funding
Town of Greenbush	Hunting	Walking	Nature/Wildlife Viewing	No		Kettle Moraine State Forest / Sheboygan County Marsh take up a majority of property in township.	Keeping the natural wildlife without to much more population increase.
Town of Sheboygan Falls	Hunting small game & big game	archery/trapshooting	Nature/wildlife viewing	No		We need to concentrate on road repair + fire protection. We have a limited staff to do so.	
Town of Mitchell	Hunting small game, big game, & waterfowl	Hiking	Horseback Riding	Yes	Probably invest in our town park. Add more playground equipment and maybe other sport equipment besides baseball. Improve facilities.		Organized sports teams to use ball diamond. Coming up with other uses that groups can use park for and that the athletic club can support and help arrange.
Town of Lima	Nature/Wildlife Viewing	Baseball	Hunting, big game	Yes	Woodlands - Hiking & Fishing		Land (Open Space)
Town of Wilson	Nature/Wildlife Viewing	Dog Walking	Hiking	Yes	Additional biking / hiking trails, park playground equipment.		Development
Town of Scott	Camping	Fishing	ATV				Maintaining the roads to keep them in good condition for those that are traveling to a campground, a lake for fishing or just putting miles on their ATVs.
Town of Sherman	Walking	Baseball	Running	Yes	Open space in subdivision Country Meadow Estates.		Maintenance of any new open space or playground.
Town of Holland	Nature/Wildlife Viewing	Walking	Boating	Yes	Depends on restrictions of the use specific funding received. Replace aging park facilities - boat launch ramp, playground equipment, purchase development rights to open space.		High water (Lake Michigan) levels damage to Amsterdam Park to increase would need use specific funding from an outside source, such as a grant.
City of Sheboygan Falls	Hiking / Biking Trails	Park / Open Space	Fishing/Kayaking/Boating	Yes	Developing series of walking/biking trails that would connect our neighborhoods. That would include two walking bridges across the Sheboygan River. Install age specific soccer and baseball diamonds at our parks.		Developing the three major park sites we have right now. The landfill site, Westside Park, and the Tecumseh Property. Sheboygan Falls does not have a permanent parks and recreation person to concentrate his tie into developing these sites. Our park board or volunteers and depending on their commitment, time availability, and skill set, it takes a lot of time to get things moving. Secondly, we need to adequately fund the Parks Budget to maintain our current parks.
City of Plymouth	Walking	Open Space	Tennis	Yes	Additional tennis courts, playgrounds, recreation trails.		Upkeep of existing infrastructure and adding new facilities.
Village of Howards Grove	Walking Trails	Youth Sports	Biking	Yes	Multiuse Trails		Funding
Village of Kohler	Soccer	Baseball	Tennis	Yes	Dog park, additional sport fields		Sport fields
Village of Waldo	Fishing	softball	kayaking	Yes	ATV Access, picnicking, fishing/boat		Cost, location
Village of Random Lake	All Lake activities			Yes	Improve park on Jesse Lane - Has no equipment at present time.		Funding appropriate funding to maintain, upgrade, + improve existing parks.
Village of Oostburg	Baseball	Soccer	Walking	Yes	Park with playground equipment		Funding
Village of Cedar Grove	Soccer	Baseball	Walking	Yes	A better boat launch at Amsterdam Park - Shared by the Town of Holland, the Village of Oostburg and the Village of Cedar Grove.		Funding any new ideas that come up.
Village of Elkhart Lake	Walking/Hiking	Bicycling	Multipurpose courts (tennis, soccer, basketball)	Yes	We would create a dog park and more walking/hiking/biking opportunities.		Space & Funding.
Village of Glenbeulah	Fishing	Basketball	Tennis	Yes	We have an undeveloped park, Meyer Park, that we would someday like to make walking, hiking, or maybe a dog park was at one time talked about.		Funding

Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund Grant Program
Year 2021 Application Materials



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Introduction

In November of 2000, over 70% of voters in Sheboygan County voted in favor of establishing a County-wide Stewardship Fund to create and enhance recreational opportunities, and also to conserve valuable natural resources.

Funding was allocated for the first round of projects in 2002, with monies received in part from a fee charged to developers of subdivisions in Sheboygan County's towns. In order to achieve public involvement in the process of grant distribution, an ad-hoc committee was formed that was tasked with deciding to whom grants would be awarded. Although most of the early funding was provided to communities to assist with creation of Smart Growth Plans, which became a requirement after State legislation, it has now also spread to other well-deserving applications.

Since 2007, the Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund has received its funding through the County's portion of its tax levy. Funding has fluctuated over the years depending on the availability of revenue, although the Stewardship Fund has always remained a high priority program for the Planning & Conservation Department. Since land conservation and recreational opportunities have always been cornerstones of the Department, it has maintained a sincere effort to distribute Stewardship Funds equitably.

Projects are meant to align with the goals established in the Sheboygan County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan, which is updated at approximately five year intervals, and other relevant plans. The Plan can be found online at sheboygancounty.com or made available upon request.

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Planning & Conservation Department before beginning the process. Staff can be reached at 920-459-3060 or tyler.betry@sheboygancounty.com.

Goals of the Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund

- Ensure citizen involvement in the County's Stewardship process
- Cultivate environmental stewardship within individuals, organizations, and government entities
- Help implement projects identified in the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan, and other relevant plans
- Provide matching funds by the County for leveraging dollars from federal, state, local, and private entities for conservation activities
- Coordinate County stewardship activities to be in harmony with other conservation and recreational activities already occurring in or planned for the County
- Initiate only those stewardship activities that cannot be accomplished by current or upcoming regulatory tools, such as land use planning, zoning, land division ordinances, and shoreland-wetland-floodplain regulations
- Preserve the County's natural resources while minimizing the loss of property tax revenues
- Form green space and wildlife habitat corridors by linking existing natural areas together
- Acquire, protect, and restore only those resources that can adequately be maintained by specific public or private custodians in the future
- Preserve the natural resources of the County while continuing to promote wise growth and economic development
- Promote beautiful, healthy, and thriving cities, villages, and towns so that new and existing County residents will always have attractive and useful quality of life amenities
- Provide higher priority for Stewardship funding to those municipalities that have adopted Smart Growth-compliant comprehensive plans

Eligible Applicants

- Towns, villages, or cities in Sheboygan County
- Non-profit organizations as reported in federal form 501(c)(3)
- Other government units (such as school districts)

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Planning & Conservation Department before beginning the application process.

Eligible Projects

- Land acquisition – examples include the following (this list is not all-inclusive):
 - Easement acquisition (such as conservation easements)
 - Property acquisition of sensitive or significant lands
 - Fee title acquisition of lands for future recreational purposes or to restrict development
 - Purchase of development rights (PDR) (before beginning Narrative (Attachment D) for a PDR project, please remember to *always* contact the Planning & Conservation Department first)
- Project development – examples include the following (this list is not all-inclusive):
 - Park or trail development or restoration
 - Creation or restoration of public access to significant water resources
 - Vegetative buffers along surface water resources
 - Fish and wildlife habitat restoration
 - Forest, prairie, and flora restoration
 - Wetland restoration
 - Lake Michigan bluff protection
- Discretionary – these projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis where the project has significant merit to promote the goals of the Stewardship program

Non-Eligible Projects

- Funding for projects that were already completed prior to submitting the application. The only exceptions to this are for real estate expenditures needed for acquisition (typically an appraisal, survey, title insurance, historical or cultural assessments, or environmental inspections).
- Playground equipment.
- Funding will not be provided to cover wage reimbursements.
- Invasive species removal must be part of a larger restoration effort. Funding for invasive species removal alone will not be considered.
- Routine property maintenance (tree clearing, stump grinding, brush cutting, etc.). Funding for this type of maintenance must be part of a larger restoration effort as well.

Match Requirements

Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund grant award amounts are not to exceed 50% of the total acquisition or project development costs (or both). The applicant is responsible for obtaining funding matches, sources of which might include state or federal grants, contributions from the municipality in which the project lays, or private donations (wages cannot be used to cover matched funds or for part of the total project cost). For eligible County Stewardship reimbursable costs, see the proper Budget Worksheet (Attachments B & C).

Application, Evaluation, and Selection Process

Formal applications are due **April 30, 2021**. Planning & Conservation Department staff will then review applications and prioritize projects based on the Rating and Ranking Form. Projects that align with the goals established in the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan generally receive higher placement; additional points are awarded for meeting criteria provided in the Rating and Ranking Form.

Staff provides the full applications, with a narrative for each and a recommendation to approve or deny funding –and the specific amount of funding if the recommendation is for approval – to the Sheboygan County Recreational Facilities Management Advisory Committee (SCRFMAC). During its meeting, the SCRFMAC votes on its funding recommendations; this is then passed along to the Planning, Resources, Agriculture, and Extension Committee (PRAECOM) of the Sheboygan County Board. This committee, which oversees the Planning & Conservation Department, ultimately votes on the final funding allocation at one of its regular meetings.

If a project is awarded funding, the awardee will receive a formal award letter from the Department. An agreement will be included with the letter, which also explains the exact dollar amount of funding to be awarded. Prior to the project's commencement, the applicant shall coordinate a site visit with the Department. The applicant will also be notified via a formal letter if funding has not been awarded. Awardees are encouraged to work with Department staff throughout the grant process; those that were denied funding are also encouraged to discuss ways in which the application can be improved for a better possibility of funding in the next cycle.

Important Dates to Remember

- April 30, 2021: Deadline to submit final application materials to the Planning & Conservation Department by 5:00 pm
- May 10, 2021: Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation staff begins technical review and scoring
- Early June: Sheboygan County Recreational Facilities Management Advisory Committee reviews applications and recommends projects for funding to the PRACEOM (applicants will be notified of meeting dates so they may attend if they wish)
- June 2021: The PRAECOM makes its decision regarding project funding at its regular meeting
- Late June 2021: Applicants are notified whether or not their project was chosen for funding and press release issued notifying the public of awardees

Signage

Awardees are required to post a Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund Grant sign, provided by the County, during the project development process or after the land acquisition has been completed. Grant recipients should contact the Planning & Conservation Department for up to two signs, which are provided free of charge. The signage is to be posted at the site.

Project Tracking

The Planning & Conservation Department may request annual progress reports from awardees. At the conclusion of the acquisition or project development, the awardee will be required to provide a brief report. In it, the organization's representative is to provide a short narrative describing for what the funding was used (this should be general and not item-specific), lessons learned from the project, and what benefits the Stewardship allocation provided the organization or community. The report is due 60 days after the final reimbursement to the awardee. At least two pictures taken before the project has begun and after it has been completed are also due with the report; for acquisition projects, pictures of the acquisition site are required. Staff also reserves the right to visit the site with the purpose of evaluating the project or acquisition on-site and take pictures; this information is to be used for Department reporting purposes and can be shared with the awardee upon request. Also, invoices and/or receipts for specific items or services purchased must be submitted to the Department for reimbursement. For acquisition projects, a copy of the deed and any other associated documents for which the applicant is seeking reimbursement (such as recording fees) must be submitted.

Application Checklist

The following is a list of required documents to be submitted to the Department for the completed application. The application packet should not be bound, and those submitted by email or fax will not be accepted. One hardcopy (and digital copy, preferably) of the entire application packet must be delivered to the Department via mail or in person by 5:00 pm on the due date:

Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department
508 New York Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

For questions, contact 920-459-3060 or tyler.betry@sheboygancounty.com

- Qualifying Questions (from page 9)
- Applicant and Project Information (Attachment A)
- Budget Worksheet
 - For land acquisition projects, use Attachment B
 - For discretionary or project development proposals, use Attachment C
- Narrative Outline (Attachment D)
- Resolution (Attachment E)
 - This form is not required, but the form or a version of it is strongly encouraged
- 501(c)(3) letter of determination from the IRS (if the applicant is a non-profit organization)

- Letters of support
 - These are not required, but will strengthen an application
- Property information
 - Include details such as ownership, known encumbrances (i.e. deed restrictions, etc.), legal description if available, property characteristics, etc.
- Map(s)
 - Must show proposed location and boundary of project with the property highlighted
 - Additional maps will strengthen the application (orthographic, topographic, etc.)
- Copies of at least two pictures taken at the project site

Checklist for Grantees of Real Estate

This checklist includes information required if the applicant is intending to acquire real estate (whether via fee title, easement, or another form of ownership).

- Property data
 - Name of current property owner
 - Location (including legal description, if possible)
 - Description of current conditions of the property
 - Encumbrances (to the best knowledge of the applicant, and can include deed restrictions, easements, etc.)
 - Existing improvements (such as buildings or trails)
- Management plan
 - If the project applicant will retain title or hold an easement to the property, a plan should be prepared for the long-term management and oversight of that property. This plan should include an indication of the ability of the applicant to oversee management and oversight responsibilities, its experience with management and enforcement, and should specify any endowment that has been established for the long-term management of the property or easement enforcement.
- DNR Environmental Hazards Assessment Form (Form #1800-001) or Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
- Letter of interest OR option to purchase OR offer to purchase from landowner
- Real estate appraisal
 - Not required but strongly recommended
 - Appraisals for approved projects must be submitted prior to the final distribution of Stewardship Grant funds. Appraisals should comply with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition, and the statutory rules governing the determination of just compensation (Chapter 32 Wis. Stats.). A copy of the technical bulletin Real Estate Appraisal Guidelines, prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, is available from the Planning & Conservation Department upon request. In addition, the Department can provide applicants with a listing of appraisers with experience in appraising conservation lands. Please contact the Department if there are extenuating circumstances in receiving the appraisal by the deadline for submittal of the application.
- Title insurance policy
- Deed or easement documentation

To view the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan, visit sheboygancounty.com and navigate to the Planning & Conservation Department's page.

Qualifying Questions

Proposals not qualifying in this section will not move forward in the grant selection process.

Applicant:

Municipality/organization: _____

- 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Town, Village, or City in Sheboygan County
- Other governmental agency

In what manner is this project consistent with the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan?

- Project has been identified in the Plan and its boundaries are entirely within the Plan
- Project has partially been identified and/or buffers a project identified in the Plan
- Project fits the intent of one or more of the goals of the Plan
- This project is not identified in the Plan, but is identified in the following local, state, or federal plan: _____

Project applies to which of the following categories:

- Project development
- Real estate acquisition
- Discretionary (explain): _____

Please complete this form and attach to the front of the application packet.

Attachment A - Applicant and Project Information

Applicant Information

Municipality / organization _____

Contact person / title _____

Address _____

City, state, zip code _____

Phone number _____

Fax number _____

Email _____

Organization website _____

Project Information

Project location:	Township	Range	1/4 1/4	Section
Project type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Project development	<input type="checkbox"/> Property acquisition (fee title)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Property acquisition (easement)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary		
Total project cost (if project development or discretionary):	\$ <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>			
Total purchase price (if land acquisition):	\$ <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>			
Total grant request (up to 50% of total project cost):	\$ <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>			
Ultimate title or easement holder (if land acquisition): _____				
Brief project description: _____				

I certify that the information in this application and its supporting materials are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Name / Title

Signature

Date

Attachment B – Budget Worksheet for Land Acquisition Projects

1. Purchase price \$ _____

2. Associated transaction costs

 Appraisal(s) \$ _____

 Survey \$ _____

 Title insurance \$ _____

 Recording fees \$ _____

 Relocation payments \$ _____

 Historical or cultural assessments \$ _____

 Environmental inspection \$ _____

3. Estimated total acquisition costs (line 1 + line 2) \$ _____

4. Matching grant fund(s)

 Pending \$ _____

 Committed \$ _____

 Applied for \$ _____

Total of matching fund(s) \$ _____

5. Appraised value of land to be acquired \$ _____

6. Stewardship Grant funding request (50% of line 3) \$ _____

List sources and associated values of any matching grant funds (from Line 5):

Source:	Amount:
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Note: Stewardship Grant funds granted for acquisition are based on the appraised value of the property unless the purchase price is lower. If the purchase price is higher than the appraised value, a 2/3 vote of the present Committee members will be required to approve funding.

Attachment C – Budget Worksheet for Project Development Applications

Development Project Items <small>(list by individual item or break down by use areas) (include donated materials and/or time)</small>	Indicate <small>Contract (C), Force Account (F), or Donated (D)</small>	Quantity and unit of measure	Component Cost	Estimated total item cost
			Total:	\$
Stewardship Fund Grant request amount (50% of total):				\$

Make photocopies for additional pages if necessary.

Attachment D – Narrative Outline

All Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund Grant proposals **must include** a stand-alone narrative that includes a summary describing how the proposal is consistent with the Sheboygan County Outdoor Recreation & Open Space Plan and other relevant plans. Applicants can refer to the Rating & Ranking Guidelines and Forms, beginning on page 15, for guidance. The form of the narrative can follow the factors as they are outlined in the Rating and Ranking Forms specifically (see below for guidance); the applicant is welcome to write independently and without the guidance of the Forms, although the narrative must be presented in a complete, structured format.

The narrative should not exceed 5 pages.

A clear, concise narrative will improve the applicant’s probability of being awarded a Stewardship Fund grant. Proposals can also include additional documentation that supports and enhances the narrative.

Form A (all project types)

Introduction

Natural resources: water

Natural resources: land

Community cooperation

Density standards

Form B (project development)

Introduction

Planning factors

Recreation

Management factors

Economic factors

Cooperative factors

Form C (land acquisition)

Introduction

Project availability

Economic factors

Management factors

Planning factors

Natural resources factors

Cooperative factors

Recreation

Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department staff is not responsible for researching various local, State, and/or Federal plans in which the project may be identified. It is the responsibility of the applicant to include this information in the proposal in order to receive points for those items.

If you would like a copy of a past successful Stewardship Fund Grant application, please contact 920-459-3060 or tyler.betry@sheboygancounty.com.

Attachment E – Sample Resolution

Requesting a Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund Grant

BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____
(Board of Directors or other authorized governing unit)

of the _____
(name of municipality / organization)

headquartered at _____

HEREBY AUTHORIZES _____
(name and title)

to act on its behalf to submit an application for financial assistance to the County of Sheboygan under the Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund Grant Program for the acquisition of property or for other qualified conservation and recreation project purposes described below; to sign documents; and to take action necessary to undertake, direct, and complete an approved Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund Grant project:

(description of grant proposal project)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE _____
(name of municipality / organization)

recognizes and acknowledges the long-term ownership and management responsibilities (when applicable) associated with this Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund Grant Program, and will meet its obligations under the Stewardship Grant Agreement for the project.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Authorized signature _____

Printed or typed name _____

Title _____

Date _____

Existing Observation Tower
(State's Tallest Wooden)

Proposed New Dam

Proposed New Footbridge

Existing Trail

New Multi-Purpose
Environmental Education Bldg
(Under Construction)

Proposed New
Boardwalk &
Invasive Control Area



Enhancing the Ecological Integrity and Wildlife Use of Sheboygan Marsh

