Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake, Wisconsin

Park and Open Space Plan 2016-2021

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I. Introduction and Statement of Need

The primary purpose of this Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Fontana is to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land for park, outdoor recreation, and related open space purposes as needed to satisfy the recreational needs of the Village residents, and to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base.

According to the 2014 Walworth County Park and Open Space Plan prepared by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), "the responsibility for the provision of large resource-oriented parks, resource-oriented recreational facilities, and areawide recreation trails is delegated primarily to the State and County levels of government, while the responsibility for the provision of smaller community and neighborhood parks and associated intensive nonresource-oriented recreational facilities is delegated primarily to local units of government."

Municipalities such as the Village of Fontana have, and are expected to continue to focus on the more active recreational facilities that can be tailored to meet specific community needs. Municipalities are better positioned to provide the administration and maintenance required for active recreation programs. They are well equipped to factor their school district's athletic facilities into their overall recreation needs.

This Park and Open Space Plan for the Village of Fontana presents the following information pertinent to park and open space planning:

- Data on resident population;
- Data on land use patterns and natural resource base;
- Information on the existing park sites and open space lands;
- Review of Village park and open space needs and desires;
- Recreational standards; and
- Identification of actions needed to carry out the recommended plan.

Little Foot Playground

This updated plan is also intended to establish eligibility for Federal and State financial and technical assistance in partial support of the acquisition, development, and restoration of park and open space sites and facilities.

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II. Goals and Objectives

The 2014 Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County prepared by SEWRPC and the Walworth County Public Works Department was based on regional park and open space preservation objectives, principles and standards. The regional report reaffirmed seven objectives toward meeting the recreational needs of the residents of the County:

1. To provide an integrated system of public general use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas that will allow adequate opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities.
2. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow adequate opportunity to participate in intensive non resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
3. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow adequate opportunity to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.
4. To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow adequate opportunity to participate in extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.
5. To provide sufficient access areas to allow adequate opportunities to participate in extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities on the major inland lakes and rivers, which are consistent with enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of adequate water quality.
6. To preserve sufficient high-quality open space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic wellbeing and environmental quality of the County.
7. To provide for the efficient and economical satisfaction of outdoor recreation and related open space needs meeting all other objectives at the lowest possible cost.

These objectives are relatively general in order to cover the broadest intentions to provide for an area's recreational needs.

The Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake is a unique community with a desire to develop a plan that more closely focused on its natural, historic and economic resources. In addition to working toward meeting the objectives identified by SEWRPC (listed above), the following goals and objectives are identified by the Village of Fontana:

Goals:

1. Ensure the provision of a sufficient number of parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of Village residents (both permanent and seasonal) and visitors. Such facilities should accommodate special groups such as the elderly, the handicapped, and young children.
2. Preserve the Village's natural resources and amenities, particularly the lakefront, for the benefit of current and future residents.

Objectives:

1. Enhance and improve the use and condition of existing facilities. This serves as a priority over the acquisition of new parkland, unless such land functions to meet other objectives, such as environmental protection, green space, and preservation of historic character.
2. Decentralize the existing park facilities. Park and open space opportunities should be spaced throughout the Village, providing easy access to all of the population centers.
3. Improve the access to park and open space areas by the development or improvement of linear corridors within the community as well as linking to adjacent communities.
4. Ensure that the majority of park and open space facilities have a resource-based focus since the ecological health of the environment is a critical component of Geneva Lake and the Village.
5. Emphasize the historical attributes of the Village and its surrounding area.

These objectives are reviewed in Chapter VII. Analysis of Existing Park and Recreational Facilities.

III. Planning Process

The 2010 Park and Open Space Plan was reviewed by the Village and consulting staff in early 2016. The Park Commission reviewed updated Plan at its April 20, 2016 meeting. All meetings were open to the public.

The Village Plan Commission held a public hearing on May 31, 2016 to allow residents to comment on the Draft Park and Open Space Plan. The Village Board adopted the Plan on June 6, 2016.

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IV. Fontana Environment

An understanding of the important man-made and natural resource features of the Village of Fontana is essential to the preparation of a sound Park and Open Space Plan. This section provides information on the history of the Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake, existing resident population, and current land use patterns.

The Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake is located in south-central Walworth County on the western shore of Geneva Lake. State Highway 67 runs north-south along the western side of the Village, while County Highway B runs in an east-west direction along the southern boundary of the community. The Village is centrally located within 1 and 1.5 hour's drive of the Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison and Rockford metropolitan areas.

Historic Context

The history and community of the Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake are inseparable from the surrounding natural environment. This region is at the southern end of the Kettle Moraine, formed 14,000 -30,000 years ago by retreating Wisconsin glaciers. The lake basins and moraine of rolling gravel hills provide a magnificent landscape. Geneva Lake, measuring 20.6 miles around (eight miles long and two miles wide), and approximately 144 feet deep, is the largest lake in the region.

The clear waters of Geneva Lake are the result of natural springs flowing throughout the area. The Potawatomi Indians called the lake "Kishwauketoe," meaning clear water.

The area's landscape and natural resources have made this area a popular spot -from Potawatomi Indian Chief Big Foot to today's residents and tourists. It has been said that Fontana began as a resort area and just stayed that way.

Potawatomi Indians

In 1600, the Potawatomi Indians lived in the northern portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. By 1641, they began their move across Michigan and to Wisconsin as they avoided threatening tribes. By 1665, all of the Potawatomi were living on Wisconsin's Door Peninsula. As the Iroquois Indians were driven back towards New York, the Potawatomi moved southward along Lake Michigan's lakeshore, reaching the southern end by 1695. By 1716 most Potawatomi villages were located between Milwaukee and Detroit expanding into northern Indiana and central Illinois during the 1760s.

The Potawatomi name is a translation of the Ojibwe "potawatomink" meaning "people of the place of fire." Similar renderings of this are: Fire Nation, Keepers of the Sacred Fire, and People of the Fireplace-all of which refer to the role of the Potawatomi as the keeper of the council fire in an earlier alliance with the Ojibwe and Ottawa. In their own language, the Potawatomi refer to themselves as the Nishnabek or "people."

Big Foot, or Maunk-suck as he was called in his Indian language, was the chief of three bands of many Potawatomi that lived on Geneva Lake in what are now Williams Bay, Lake Geneva and Fontana. While his primary residence was in Fontana, his tribe of approximately 500 occupied the Williams Bay area. Nearby Potawatomi villages were in Mukwonago, Oconomowoc, Milwaukee, and Waukesha.

The 1830 Removal Act of the United States government, and the 1831-32 Black Hawk War, led to a pivotal meeting in 1833 in Chicago involving over 5,000 Indians. During this meeting, the Native Americans and the U.S. Government negotiated a treaty for moving the Potawatomi Indians from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin westward. As a result of this treaty, Chief Big Foot and the local Potawatomi tribe were evicted from the area in 1836. After temporary stops in Missouri's Platte County and Iowa's Council Bluffs region, by 1846 the tribe had moved to present-day Kansas.

Many roadways and parklands within the Lake Geneva and Fontana area are named after these influential and historic Native Americans and tribes.

Early Settlers

The early settlers in this area came from New York. Mr. Thomas Paine came to the area and settled in Lake Geneva. He claimed land in Fontana, and paid the Van Slykes to live there in order to protect his land and investment. In 1836, Mr. and Mrs. James Van Slyke built a 14 by 16-foot log cabin on the land in the northwest corner of Third Avenue and Lake Avenue. Their cabin was among the earliest in the entire region, as prior to 1833, the land was entirely inhabited by the Potawatomi Indians. The Van Slykes however never formally acquired the land from the U.S. government. In 1839, Dr. Henry Clark purchased the title to 66.06 acres of land in Fontana -that land between the present Highway 67 and the lakeshore, and from Fontana Boulevard and the center of Buena Vista. Dr. Clark later obtained land in what is today Indian Hills, Glenwood, and much of Country Club Estates and the Big Foot Country Club.

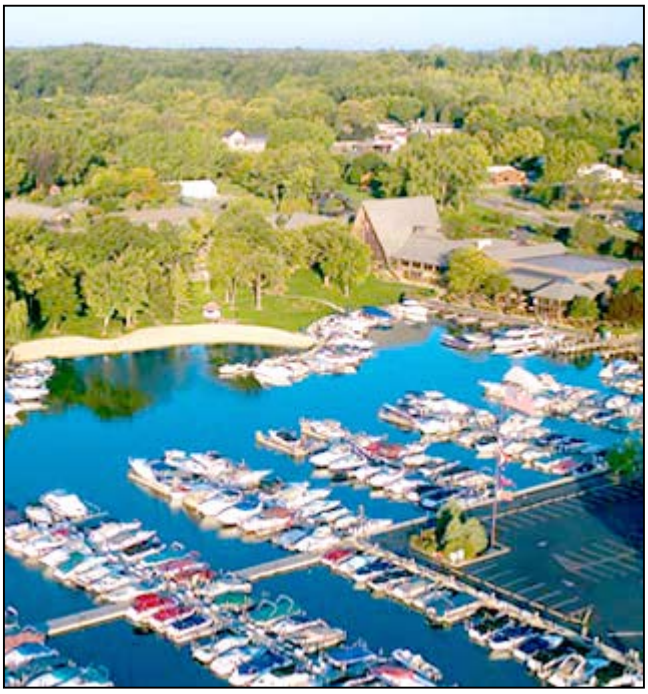
In 1839, a group of local landowners met to organize a township government. They agreed to call the entire township (the area which is now Sharon, Walworth, Fontana and the west half of Williams Bay) Fontana -Italian for "Place of many springs." When a representative went to Madison, the state capital, to record this with the state government, the name was surreptitiously changed to Walworth after a judge from New York.

During the 1850s, the majority of the homes were located in the three blocks between Highway 67 and the school grounds. There was little development in the area until the 1890s. Development throughout the western end of the lake was strictly agricultural (dairy farming) and Fontana and Williams Bay remained primarily rural trade centers.

Resort Development

The Village of Lake Geneva grew quickly due to its great potential for water power from the White River outlet. By 1871, Lake Geneva could be accessed by railroad, and the area became a haven for the wealthy families of Chicago. Chicago's great fire in 1871 caused many of these families to lose their homes and/or businesses. Many came to the Lake Geneva area to build temporary housing and businesses, however many stayed permanently as they were lured by the area's beautiful landscape and growing economy. By 1900, the shoreline of Geneva Lake had been almost completely developed and used by private residents, resort parks, and private camps. There were only a few public beaches and parks along the shoreline in Fontana, Williams Bay and Lake Geneva.

The timeline below describes the rate and type of development that occurred in Fontana in the 19th and 20th centuries.



The Abby Resort and Marina

- 1869: Belvidere Park Club was started by families from Belvidere, Illinois. It was the first club built on the lake.
- 1875: Edward Ayer, a lumberman who became wealthy by selling railroad ties to the railroad, built the first large estate in Fontana.
- 1875: Edward Ayer also built the summer tent colony known as The Harvard Club, named after his hometown of Harvard, Illinois.
- 1875: Doric C. Porter opened the Porter's Park summer tent colony. This colony operated for 24 years.
- 1876: Gardner platted five residential lots in the Harvard Club region.
- 1882: Glenwood Springs was developed.
- 1887: 11 business lots were platted along the lakefront.
- 1900: The area supported two fine summer hotels: Menier Hotel and Glenwood Springs Hotel.
- 1901: Warren F. Furbeck opened Buena Vista Park.
- 1902: Steams and Gerould divided the lakeshore land between Belvidere and Buena Vista into separate lots.
- 1924: Fontana became an incorporated village, with a resident population of 214.
- 1924: The Geneva Lake Improvement Association was formed and deeded land to the Big Foot Country Club.
- 1927: DeWitt Roberts and Joseph O'Brien developed Indian Hills as a year round residential community.
- 1928: Club Unique was developed.
- 1929: Geneva Lake Improvement Association deeds land that would later be known as

Country Club Estates to developer Arthur B. Jensen. With the exception of minor land additions to existing development, no more land in Fontana was platted until 1957.

- 1931: The Property Owners Association of Country Club Estates deeds "Easement Park" to the Village. This is the sand portion of the present Village beach south of the beach house.
- 1949: The Village installed a modern underground water system throughout the entire village -excepting Country Club Estates and The Gardens.
- 1956: The Village installed a sewer system and disposal plant.

Local Industry

Between 1875 and 1925, almost all of Fontana's economy was associated with summer visitors. For example, people worked as house servants, gardeners, and craftsmen. There was some industry in the area, however.

- 1845: Richard Montague built and operated a sawmill, across the street from the present Fontana school.
- 1857: Carlos Douglass constructed and operated a flour mill on Mill Street.
- 1860: Carlos Douglass converted the sawmill to operate as a flour mill.
- 1880: N.K. Fairbanks and Levi Z. Leiter established a trout hatchery in the spring fed pools at Big Foot Country Club, now known as the Seven Sacred Springs.
- 1896-1915: The Boyle Ice Company of Chicago cut ice from Lake Geneva and delivered it to the Chicago area.
- 1898-1920: The Chicago, Harvard and Geneva Lake Railway Company carried freight (sand, gravel and ice) and passengers through the area to Chicago.
- 1900s: Two gravel pits operated in the area, shipping sand and gravel to Chicago and throughout the region.

Today's transportation system allows local residents to work throughout the area. Many residents commute as far as Milwaukee and Chicago for employment. During the summer season, many residents service the tourist and boating trade, providing boat and repair services as well as housing and food services.

Existing Land Use

According to the latest Existing Land Use Inventory conducted in 2009, Fontana supports the land uses presented in Table 1. The dominant land cover in Fontana is undeveloped, open space including water, woodlands, wetlands, and other recreational lands. These land uses cover approximately 51% of the Village. The predominant development is residential, comprising 34% of the area.

Table 1: Land Use in Fontana on Geneva Lake

Land Use	Acres	Percent Land Cover
Residential	738	33.9%
Commercial	8	0.4%
Industrial	6	0.3%
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	212	9.7%
Government and Institutional	26	1.2%
Recreational *	324	14.9%
Agricultural	345	15.9%
Woodlands / Wetlands	443	20.4%
Surface Water	24	1.1%
Other **	50	2.3%
Total Area	**2,176**	**100. 0%**

Source: *GIS Inventory, Vandewalle & Associates*

* *Includes intensively used area of public and non-public recreation sites, as well as off-street parking areas with more than ten spaces.*

** *Includes surface water, extractive, landfills, and unused lands.*

Population and Demographics

Population

The number of households is of particular importance in land use and public facility planning because it greatly influences the demand on existing and future recreational sites and facilities. The age distribution of the population may be expected to influence the location and type of recreational facilities as well.

According to records from the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2000 population of Fontana on Geneva-Lake was 1,754 residents, and the 2010 documented population was 1,672 residents, reflecting a population loss of 4.7% over the 10-year span. The Wisconsin Department of Administration estimated Fontana's 2013 population to be 1,671, which indicates no growth between 2010 and 2013. Again, according to records from U.S. Census Bureau, the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and SEWRPC, the Village of Fontana is the slowest growing population among the villages in Walworth County. The average growth of the surrounding villages from 1990 to 2000 was 33.9% and 8.8% from 2000 to 2008.

Table 2: Population Profile for the Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake, 2010

Total Population	**1,672**
Family households	491
Nonfamily households	241
Households with individuals under 18 years of age	161
Households with individuals 65 years and older	268
Average household size	2.28
Average family size	2.82
Total Number of Households	***732***
Total Housing Units	
Occupied housing units	2,308
Owner occupied units	*632*
Renter occupied units	*100*
Vacant housing units	1,576
Seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	1,538

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

Table 3 presents additional information about age demographics. Overall, Fontana is characterized by an older permanent population compared to the County and the State.

Table 3: Age and Gender Distribution, 2010

	Median Age	**Percent Under 18**	**Percent Over 65**	**Percent Female**
Village of Fontana	50.6	19.1	22.9	51.9
Walworth County	38.1	23.5	13.5	49.9
State of Wisconsin	38.5	23.6	13.7	50.4

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Table 4 calculates the Village's population projections. These figures take into consideration both permanent and seasonal development and associated population, since both types of residents use the Village's park and recreation system. In particular, use of park facilities is generally highest during the summer months, when seasonal population is also at its peak.

The projections in Table 4 will be useful for long-term park and recreational facility planning and funding described later in this Plan. However, it should be noted that the Village's actual future population will depend on social and economic trends, changes in the market, attitudes toward growth, and development regulations.

Table 4: Population Projections

		2013	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
A	Estimated Permanent Population[1]	1,671	1,650	1,680	1,715	1,730	1,690
B	Estimated Household Size[2]	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28
C	Estimated Permanent Dwelling Units (=A/B)	733	724	737	752	759	741
D	Estimated Seasonal Dwelling Units (=C*1.7439)[3]	1,278	1,262	1,285	1,312	1,323	1,293
E	Total Housing Units (=C+D)	2,011	1,986	2,022	2,064	2,082	2,034
F	Total Population (=E*B)	4,585	4,527	4,610	4,706	4,747	4,637
G	Projected **New** Dwelling Units[4]	-	0	36	42	18	0
H	Projected **New** Population[4]	-	0	82	96	41	0

1. Source: Wisconsin DOA Population Estimates and Projections (2013)
2. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
3. Based on the estimated 2009 ratio of permanent to seasonal housing units. Source: Village of Fontana
4. Negative values have been replaced with zeroes.

Employment Characteristics

Table 5 shows employment in the Village by occupational group. In 2014, management and professional occupations accounted for more than 43 percent of the Village's labor force, and sales and office occupations accounted for an additional 32 percent of the labor force.

Table 5: Employment by Occupational Group

Occupation	% of Labor Force
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	43.5
Sales and office occupations	32.9
Service occupations	9.4
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	9.1
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	5.1
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	0.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Table 6 lists Walworth County's 25 largest employers. Fontana's economic base is largely centered on tourism and recreation; however, professional services, dining, and small scale retail also contribute considerably to the Village's economic health.

Table 6: Largest Employers in Walworth County
(Arranged Alphabetically)

Employer	Location	Industry
Abbey Resort	Fontana	All Other Traveler Accommodation
Aurora Lakeland Medical Center	Elkhorn	General Medical & Surgical Hospitals
Birds Eye Foods	Darien	Frozen Specialty Food Mfg
Brunk Industries Inc.	Lake Geneva	Mtl Crwn Clsr & Other Metal Stamping (Exc Auto)
Camp Timber-Lee	East Troy	Recreational & Vacation Camps
Delavan Darien Elementary School	Darien	Elementary & Secondary Schools
Fairgrounds Shop	Elkhorn	Other Performing Arts Companies
Fairhaven Senior Svc	Whitewater	Continuing Care Retirement Communities
Generac Power Systems Inc.	Whitewater	Elect Equip & Wiring Merch Whls
Geneva National Restaurant	Lake Geneva	Full-service restaurants
George Williams College	Williams Bay	Colleges & Universities
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa	Lake Geneva	All Other Traveler Accommodation
I Pacesetters	Whitewater	Telemarketing & Other Contact Centers
Lake Lawn Resort	Delavan	All Other Traveler Accommodation
Mercy Walworth Hospital	Lake Geneva	Offices of Physicians exc Mental Health
Miniature Precision Components	Walworth	General Automotive Repair
Miniature Precision Components	Walworth	All Other Plastics Product Mfg
Pentair Flow Technologies	Delavan	Pump & Pumping Equip Mfg
Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen	Lake Geneva	Full-service restaurants
SPX Flow Technology	Delavan	Engineering Services
Sta-Rite Industries Inc.	Delavan	Pump & Pumping Equip Mfg
Trek Bicycle Store	Whitewater	Sporting Goods Stores
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	Whitewater	Colleges & Universities
Walmart Supercenter	Delavan	Department Stores exc Discount

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (2014)

Physical Environment

Climate

Since recreational activities and many occupations are influenced by climate, it is an important factor to consider during the planning process. Walworth County falls within the mid-continental zone, which is characterized by long, relatively cold and snowy winters and mostly warm summers with periods of hot, humid conditions. The air temperature varies greatly throughout the year. Frost typically occurs in October through May, with streams and lakes freezing over around late November and ice breaking up in late March or early April. Snow cover is likely from December through February.

The mean annual precipitation in Walworth County is 36 inches. The majority of this precipitation is in the form of rain during the growing season (May through September). Precipitation in the form of sleet and snow averages 47 inches annually. This is equivalent to approximately 4.7 inches of water (~13% of the annual precipitation).

Surface Drainage

The surface waters of Walworth County flow to the Mississippi River through the Fox (Illinois) River and Rock River basins. The majority of the Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake is located within the Fox River watershed, with the far south end falling within the Rock River watershed.

Surface Waters

Fontana on Geneva Lake contains several valuable surface water resources. The surface waters of the village include Geneva Lake and Potawatomi and Van Slyke Creeks. Geneva Lake is the largest lake in Walworth County, with a surface area of 5,262 acres. There are 20.6 miles of shore, with one and one half miles of public frontage. This deep spring lake has a maximum depth of 144 feet and has been classified an AQ-2 resource by SEWRPC. This ranking refers to aquatic areas of countywide or regional significance. Geneva Lake contains good overall fish diversity and provides habitat for critical fish species. However, as the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency reports, the lake is beginning to show biological changes due to extensive development.

Near the end of the Wisconsin Glaciation, a series of ridges formed between two immense lobes of glacial ice in what is now southeastern Wisconsin. These ridges, or moraines, are 120 miles long. Scattered among them, areas of crater or kettle-like depressions were created by large chunks of melting ice. Geologists named this region the Kettle Moraine. Studies that began in the Kettle Moraine during the 1870s led to key discoveries and the first map of the extent of continental glaciation in North America.

Source: Wisconsin Ice Age Trail Information Center

Potawatomi and Van Slyke Creeks are cold-water trout streams with good fish populations. These creeks have also been designated by SEWRPC as AQ-2, indicating that they are aquatic area sites of countywide or regional significance, providing critical aquatic habitat. These waterways flow into Geneva Lake from the southwestern portion of the Village. While transporting surface runoff, these waterways are fed by a series of groundwater springs.

Flood Lands

Flood lands are the wide, gently sloping areas contiguous to a stream channel. For planning and regulatory purposes, flood lands are normally defined as the areas, excluding the stream channel, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. Flood land areas often contain important natural resources, such as high value woodlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat and, therefore, constitute prime locations for resource-based parks and open space areas.

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas covered or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency or duration sufficient to support the growth of vegetation adapted for saturated soils. According to the most recent data from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Fontana contains approximately 9.8 acres of wetlands. Many of the wetland areas occur within the primary environmental corridors along Van Slyke and Potawatomi Creeks. These include both emergent as well as forested wetland communities. Several isolated wetland pockets occur throughout the Village. They are noted in both the Country Club Estates and Abbey Springs Country Club golf courses.

Wetland areas have many important natural functions, including:

- *habitat for unique plants and animals;*
- *flood control;*
- *filtering precipitation and runoff;*
- *recharging groundwater;*
- *supplying baseflow to streams;*
- *providing opportunities for education and research;*
- *supporting sites for recreational hunting and birding; and*
- *adding to the aesthetic value of the community.*

A natural fen habitat has been identified within the Village, located east of South Main Street and south of Dewey Avenue. While many wetlands are the result of groundwater seepage, fens are unique systems because the waters are specifically rich in calcium and other minerals, and are alkaline in nature. As a result, fens contain plant species that are not commonly found elsewhere.

Woodlands

Woodlands cover approximately 443 acres, or 20% of the total lands in the Village. Two of the three Primary Environmental Corridors identified by SEWRPC (see Environmental Corridors below) that occur in this area support primarily woodland habitats. The woodlands in this area are mature deciduous communities, supporting a mix of ash, oak and hickory tree species. Woodlands serve many important functions, including providing wildlife habitat, sustaining plant and animal diversity, regulating surface water runoff, and contributing to clean air and water.

Natural and Geologic Resources

In 1994, SEWRPC conducted a comprehensive inventory of Walworth County's natural and geologic resources as part of the Commission's natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan. This inventory was updated in 2010. Their findings are presented below.

Natural Areas

Fontana has two identified natural resource areas. One area is the Fontana Prairie and Fen, a ten-acre area currently owned by the Village of Fontana. SEWRPC classified this site as NA-3, a natural area of local significance. This actively managed area includes a wet mesic prairie complex and a calcareous fen of moderate quality. Uncommon species, including the state-designated threatened beaked spike rush (Eleocharis rostellata), are found in this area.

A second area is North Shore Woods, located along North Shore Drive in the Village. SEWRPC staff investigated the site in 2009 and concluded that the quality and species diversity were sufficiently high to warrant inclusion as a natural area of NA-3 status. The 38-acre area is privately owned and includes dry-mesic hardwoods of moderate quality.

Critical Species Habitat
In the 1994 inventory, SEWRPC classified Potawatomi Creek as a critical aquatic habitat area. Furthermore, they have indicated that this creek is a cold-water trout stream, with good fish populations, of countywide or regional significance.

Since the original inventory was conducted, SEWRPC has added Lyon Woods as a critical habitat area. This 35-acre woods is home to the region's only known population of broad beech fern, a State-designated special concern species. This area is privately owned and is not currently protected.

Geological Sites
Fontana is located in a landscape dominated by the Kettle Moraine. This physiographic feature consists of conical hills, depressions, and narrow ridges. The Kettle Moraine area has been classified as a GA-1 site, indicating it has statewide or greater significance.

SEWRPC did not identify any areas of geological significance in their 1994 countywide survey or 2010 update. The sites were selected on the basis of scientific importance, significance in industrial history, natural aesthetics, ecological qualities, educational value, and public access potential.

Environmental Corridors
SEWRPC has identified two categories of environmental corridors: primary and secondary. The differences in these classifications relate to the overall size of the corridor, the diversity and type of plant and wildlife communities present, the integrity of the natural community, and the extent of human disturbance.

- According to SEWRPC, Primary Environmental Corridors contain the best remaining woodlands, wetlands and wildlife habitat areas. By definition, they are a minimum of 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. They contain remaining high-value woodlands, wetlands and wildlife habitat areas as well as all major bodies of water and shorelands. There are 472 acres classified as primary environmental corridor within the Village. Primary environmental corridors are often the best remaining potential park sites.
- Secondary environmental corridors generally connect with the primary environmental corridors and are at least 100 acres in size, and a minimum of one mile long. These corridors are typically located along small perennial and intermittent streams, and are often remnants of primary environmental corridors that have been disturbed. They support a variety of natural habitats and systems. There are 33 acres classified as secondary environmental corridor within the Village.

The protection of the primary environmental corridors from additional intrusion by incompatible land uses, and thereby from degradation and destruction, is one of the principal objectives of the SEWRPC Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County. Furthermore, the protection of the natural resources within primary environmental corridors is considered the responsibility of all levels of government, including State, County, and local municipalities.

According to SEWRPC, primary environmental corridors occur across a significant portion of the Village of Fontana. There are three major corridors that extend from the lake's edge and through the village area. Two of these corridors are woodland systems. The third corridor follows the wetlands and woodlands associated with the Potawatomi Creek community. The location of these corridors is described below and depicted on Map 1.

- West of North Lake Shore Drive: This corridor extends from the wooded areas in the Duck Pond Recreational Area, across Highway 67, and follows the undeveloped woodland area located primarily on the west side of North Lake Shore Drive into Williams Bay. It supports an isolated open water area, located between North Lower Garden Road and South Lower Garden Road. The corridor connects to the lakeshore of Geneva Lake in the area between North and South Lower Garden Roads. This corridor supports a diversity of upland deciduous woodland species.
- Extending southwest of The Abbey Marina: This corridor supports diverse wetlands and woodland habitats along the Potawatomi Creek waterway. It extends along both sides of the Big Foot Country Club golf course, and behind the residential development on the northwest side of Shabonna Drive and Tarrant Drive. It also extends westward across Highway 67, and includes the Fen area and the wetlands and woodlands located west of South Main Street beyond the school property.
- South of South Lake Shore Drive: This primary environmental corridor extends southwestward from the Village's eastern boundary, across Highway B east of the Country Club Estates golf course. It meanders through the undeveloped portions of the Abbey Springs Country Club residential community: south of the residential development on Briarwood Drive and north of the development of Deer Path. The corridor connects to the Geneva Lake shore east of Green Drive and west of Lakeland Drive. Like the environmental corridor located along North Lake Shore Drive, this corridor supports a mature, deciduous forested community. There are also several pockets of wetland habitats.

Isolated Natural Resource Areas

SEWRPC identifies isolated natural resource areas as areas isolated from environmental corridors by urban development or agricultural uses. As they are isolated, these areas often provide the only available wildlife habitat in an area. According to SEWRPC, these areas should be preserved in natural open uses, being incorporated for use as parks and open space reservations. The 2010 update does not include any isolated natural resource areas within the Village of Fontana, although there are some located to the northwest and south of the Village.

- Woodland: SEWRPC mapped an isolated woodland area south of South Lake Shore Drive and west of Brickley Drive, behind the residential development along Arrowhead Drive. Nearly half of this woodland area has been lost due to recent residential development. The area is isolated from the nearby environmental corridors by residential development.
- Wetland: SEWRPC mapped an isolated wetland area west of Mill Street and south of West Main Street. The approximately 11-acre area extends to South Main Street, immediately across from the current elementary school. This area supports emergent and forested wetlands associated with a spring-fed drainageway flowing from the west side of South Main Street, towards Geneva Lake. A small area of upland forest is also included in this area. (The Village purchased this area in 2005 to protect it from development. It is now the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy).

Prime Agricultural Land
According to the survey conducted by SEWRPC in 1995, there are no prime agricultural lands within Fontana.

Natural Resource Amenities

Fontana on Geneva Lake contains a variety of natural resource amenities, ranging from Geneva Lake and spring-fed creeks to woodlands to wetlands. Through careful planning and management, areas containing these amenities can provide valuable recreational opportunities while protecting habitat for a variety of wildlife.

On-road marked bicycle routes and the Lake Geneva Trail allow residents and visitors to Fontana the opportunity to view and enjoy many of the amenities located within the Village.

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V. Inventory of Current Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Developed Facilities

Village or Public School District Facilities

An inventory of the existing Village-owned park and open space sites and outdoor recreation facilities indicated that in 2016, there were ten such sites, which together encompassed about 160 acres, or about 7% of the Village. The Village owns an additional 30 acres of undeveloped open space not included in this total. The following listing describes the types and number of publicly owned facilities within Fontana. These sites as well as other undeveloped, Village-owned lands are exhibited in Map 1 and described below.

Table 7: Park Sites Owned by the Village of Fontana and the Fontana School District

Site Name	Acreage	Ownership
Neighborhood Parks		
Fontana Elementary School	4	School District
Pioneer Park	0.5	Village
Community Parks		
Duck Pond Recreational Area	109	Village
Fontana Beach	6	Village
Reid Park	5	Village
Lakeview Park	0.47	Village
Special Use Parks		
Well No. 3 Nature Area	15	Village
Hildebrand Nature Conservancy	14	Village
Fontana Fen	10	Village
Headwaters Park	2.59	Village
Mohr Road Public Park (Path Access)	0.21	Village
Geneva Lake Shore Path	16,500 lin. ft.	Public Easement
TOTAL ACRES (excluding trails)	**163.97**	

Duck Pond Recreational Area - 109 Acres (35 Acres of Developed Parkland)
Duck Pond Recreational Area is located in the northwest portion of the Village, west of Highway 67. This 109-acre area can be separated into two distinct parts: a developed portion and an undeveloped portion. The developed portion supports a mix of active, non-resource based recreational facilities. Improvements to this area include the construction of a recreational building that provides restrooms and concessions, two baseball fields, a batting cage, a nine-hole disc golf course, and space for approximately three soccer fields, although no soccer goals have been installed at this time.

The undeveloped portion of this area is located west of the developed area. This area supports an unimproved, informal dirt walking/jogging trail, which follows the ridge encircling the area previously used as the holding ponds for the Village's wastewater treatment plant. The interior portion of this area is highly disturbed and supports pioneer vegetative communities – open field, scattered trees, and a few isolated small ponds. Furthermore, a portion of this area is currently used as the Village recycling and mulching center where residents can dump tree and grass clippings. Duck Pond Recreational Area includes an oak savanna and native prairie restoration area located on the triangle-shaped parcel at the park's Highway 67 entrance. The native plantings area was established and is maintained by a volunteer group coordinated by Park Commissioner and Fontana Garden Club member Gail Hibbard.

There is considerable land linking the developed area and the enclosed, undeveloped area, and the developed area with the park entrance immediately off Highway 67. A paved roadway connects the area between the playfields and the old holding ponds. Much of the area surrounding this roadway, like the area within the holding pond area, is highly disturbed and supports pioneer field vegetation. The area north and east of the playfields, and extending to the park entrance, supports mature woodland. This forested area supports a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees. There is an informal disc golf course in this area. There are informal, and un-maintained footpaths traversing through these woods. A few structures associated with the Village's Department of Public Works are located within this wooded area.

The gateway to Duck Pond consists of an approximately three-acre, triangular-shaped parcel located at the northern entrance to the Village, immediately west of Highway 67, and north of the Duck Pond Recreational Area entrance road. This parcel is scenic and unique in within the Village. It is a sparsely forested area, with pockets of open space. It supports a mix of mature, deciduous trees and an area that has recently been planted with the goal of recreating a native prairie habitat. This site is very visible from the roadway as one enters the Village. A new bicycle path along Highway 67 helps link this area and the entire Duck Pond recreation area to the Village center.

Mohr Road Public Park (Shore Path Access) - 0.21 Acres
This park parcel is accessed through a small permanent public easement given to the Village on residential property, providing pedestrian access to the Geneva Lake Shore Path. It is located at the end of Mohr Road, with two public parking spaces located adjacent to a Village lift station.

Pioneer Park - 0.94 Acres
This park is located at the corner of Third Avenue and Lake Street. This is primarily a passive use park, offering a game table and park benches for viewing the lake. This is the site of the first non-Native-American residence in Fontana. Mr. and Mrs. Van Slyke constructed a 14x16-foot log cabin on this site in 1836.

Fontana Elementary School - 4.0 Acres
The elementary school grounds support playground equipment and an open area for field games. The field is developed not to regulation field standards and does not include structures such as a baseball backstop or soccer goals. There is also a blacktopped area with four basketball hoops and marked lines for hopscotch.

This site also includes the Mill Pond Natural Area, which is a joint project between the Fontana Grade School and the Village of Fontana. This natural area supports a natural spring and coldwater creek, woodlands, and wetland areas.

Well No. 3 Nature Area - 15.0 Acres
This recreated native prairie grassland is located off Brick Church Road, adjacent to the Village Well House No. 3. Originally developed to serve educational purposes for the local schools, it is seldom used by the schools and is now maintained with controlled burns administered by the Park Commission. The area is open to the public. There has been little if any management of the area to sustain it as a viable prairie/savanna natural community.

Hildebrand Nature Conservancy - 14.0 Acres
This area supports a rich diversity of habitat types including upland forest, wetland forest, and emergent wetland between Mill Street and Main Street. Van Slyke Creek flows from Headwaters Park to Mill Street though this area. A trail goes through the area from Mill Street to the Mill House Pavilion. The Park Commission has developed a maintenance plan for this park to try and restore more native vegetation and improve the quality of the stream for trout. On the west side of the area is the Mill House Pavilion which sits on the site of the former mill house. The pavilion serves as a site for educational activities for the community and Fontana Elementary School. In 2015, the Mill House Pavilion was dedicated to former Village President Ron Pollitt and architect David Coates, with a bronze plaque erected in the Pavilion bearing each of their names.

Hildebrand Nature Conservancy entrance

Headwaters Park – 2.59 Acres
This area opposite the Fen on Main Street and Dewey Avenue contains the headwaters of Van Slyke Creek. There is a walking trail into the park area.

Fontana Fen - 10.0 Acres
Located between Main Street and Dewey Avenue, this natural area exhibits fen and prairie restoration work. Open to the public, this area is also used as a nature study area by local school groups. There is currently one small parking area and a series of permanent (mowed grass) trails. Some educational signs exist along the trails explaining the functions and values of fens and prairie systems. This area had been donated to the Village of Fontana with the stipulation that the fen remain in its native or restored state.

Village Beach - 6.0 Acres
This is the only public beach on Geneva Lake within the Village of Fontana. There is currently a beach building that provides lockers and restrooms. There is also an anchored pier and grass play area. Lifeguards are on site during the summer season. A fee is charged for everyone six years of age and older.

Reid Park – 5.0 Acres
This park is located in the central business area along Fontana Boulevard, and partially fronts on Lake Geneva. The primary park area provides a softball field with associated bleachers and backstop, playground equipment, picnic tables, grills, and a gazebo. Several smaller park sites are near or immediately adjacent to this park, and are in all practicality considered part of Reid Park. These separate park areas include the boat access site and the Geneva Lake Shore Path, described below.

- *Boat Access Site*
  This site is the only public boat access site in the Village of Fontana. It is located on Lake Street, just south of the intersection with Bay View Avenue. The launch is sized so that two boats can be launched simultaneously. Parking for the associated cars and boat trailers is located adjacent to Fontana Boulevard, between High Street and Reid Street.

- *Geneva Lake Shore Path*
  A portion of this public trail that follows the shoreline of Lake Geneva crosses through the Village of Fontana. The entire trail is approximately 20 miles long. Approximately 3.13 miles of this trail traverse through Fontana.

Lakeview Park – 0.47 Acres
This park is located on Lake Street, adjacent to the beach house at the Village Beach, and provides seats and a viewing area for the Lake.

Sam's Garden - <0.25 acres
The existing garden on the south side of Second Avenue was displaced by a new development, and in 2015 it was relocated to the new parking lot area behind the Public Library on Second Avenue. The garden includes a park bench donated by the Fontana Garden Club.

Porter Court Plaza - <0.25 acres
The Porter Court Plaza, located between Valley View Drive and Mill Street, is a public open space near the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy's Mill Street entrance. It includes a fountain, butterfly garden, concrete pavers, and crushed granite walkways. It is home to the Farmers Market on Saturday mornings during the summer season, the Fontana Garden Club's annual plant sale, among other community activities.

Undeveloped Village Lands
There are currently two Village-owned parcels that are relevant to the area's open space and recreational needs. These parcels are presented on Map 1 and include the following sites.

- An approximately 29.35-acre, linear-shaped parcel located east of Country Club Estates, north of Highway B and west of Indian Hills Road, adjacent to Pheasant Ridge. The parcel located east of the Country Club Estates "Back 40" is an undeveloped wooded area. Currently, there are unimproved trails through this area, connecting to the "Back 40" area.
- An approximately one-acre parcel located immediately south of the Fen, on the southern side of Highway 67. This site is open and currently maintained as lawn.

Big Foot Recreation District
The Big Foot Recreation District provides and manages the recreation programs serving the Big Foot High School district, which includes the school districts for the Villages of Fontana, Walworth, and Sharon, and the Big Foot portions of the Townships of Sharon, Walworth, Linn, and Delavan. Residents within these areas have open access to all the school facilities listed in Table 8. The majority of these facilities are intensive, non-resource based.

Table 8: Big Foot Recreation District Recreational Facilities, 2016

	Gymnasium	Multi-Purpose Room	Baseball Diamonds	Softball Diamonds	Multi-Purpose Diamonds	Playground Equipment	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Track	Fitness Center	Auditorium with Stage	Wrestling Room	Football Field
Big Foot High School	3		1	1	4		3	6	2	1	1	1	1	1
Walworth School	1	1					1		1					
Fontana School	1	1			1	1			2					
Reek School	1				1	1	1							
Sharon School	1	1			3	2		2	2					

Walworth County

As of 2016, there are no park or open space facilities owned by Walworth County within the Village of Fontana.

Owned by the State of Wisconsin

As of 2016, there are no park or open space facilities owned by the State of Wisconsin within the Village of Fontana. This includes lands owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the University of Wisconsin.

Other

Some of the privately owned facilities are available for public use and provide services for golf, tennis and swimming. These areas include the 9-hole Country Club Estates Golf Course (open to the public), the 18-hole Abbey Springs Golf Course (open to the public), and the recreation core and swimming pool at Abbey Springs (membership available to the public). In addition, there are several private clubs and associations that provide swimming beaches and pools, playgrounds, and boat launching sites for their members and guests. The Seven Sacred Springs are a series of spring-fed ponds and streams located within the Big Foot Country Club property. These ponds hold historic value, as they were the sites of previous Potawatomi Indian activities. A summary of these sites is presented in Table 9.

Abbey Springs Yacht Club entrance

Table 9: Private & Public Interest Resource-Oriented Park and Open Space Sites

Site Name	Acreage	Ownership
Abbey Springs Country Club	152	Private
The Abbey	70	Commercial
Big Foot Country Club	231	Private
Country Club Estates Golf Course	80	Semi-Private
Seven Sacred Ponds	1	Semi-Private

Water Access

The Regional Park and Open Space Plan developed by SEWRPC recommends that rivers and major lakes (defined as lakes with a surface area of 50 acres or more), be provided with adequate public access, including carry-in-boating and motor-boat access. There is a public boat launch site in Reid Park on Lake Street, just south of the intersection with Bay View Avenue.

Trails and Bicycle Ways

According to SEWRPC, Fontana supports the majority of on-road, marked bicycle routes in the County. The primary routes are located along the southern portion of Highway 67, as it enters Walworth; along Fontana Boulevard to South Lake Shore Drive; along Highway B extending the length of the Village, and along a portion of Brick Church Road.

There are dedicated bike lanes along Highway 67. There are plans for a pedestrian path that would allow access to Duck Pond Recreational Area, as well as a pedestrian crossing planned for Highway 67 at Second Avenue.

The Geneva Lake Shore Trail is a privately owned and publicly accessible maintained trail that provides pedestrian access around the entire lake. This trail passes the Fontana public beach and then follows along Lake Street, becoming a shoreline trail again at the corner of Kinzie Avenue and Lake Street. Approximately 3.13 miles of this estimated 20-mile trail traverse through the Village of Fontana.

Historic Sites

Historic sites are often valued for their recreational, educational, and cultural values. There are more than 500 such sites recorded in Walworth County. The Village of Fontana supports one recorded historic site - the Douglass-Stevenson House. This building, currently owned and occupied by the Geneva Lake Conservancy, was listed on the Wisconsin State Historical Society register in 1986.

Douglass-Stevenson House

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Map 1: Existing Park Facilities

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VI. Summary of Previous Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans and Needs Assessments

Wisconsin's 2011-2016 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) assesses the status of current outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. The study connects local recreation opportunities to the broader national initiative of conservation and recreation, describes some of the most important benefits of recreation`, and establishes goals to improve outdoor recreation for Wisconsinites across the state. The SCORP also addresses several key topics related to outdoor recreation: public health and wellness, urban access to outdoor recreation, and public and private partnerships. The latest version of the SCORP focuses more on the needs of the state's population centers and available recreational opportunities, as requested through the US Department of the Interior's *America's Great Outdoors* initiative.

Table 10 summarizes some of the findings presented in this report. These findings indicate that Fontana should keep the following trends in mind as they review and plan their open space and recreational needs for the foreseeable future:

- The migration of rural populations to urban centers will continue to increase demand for urban-based recreational activities.
- Soccer has outpaced every other outdoor recreation activity in terms of sheer numbers.
- In terms of percentage growth, demand for the following activities is expected to grow the most in the immediate future: adventure racing, driving for pleasure, RV camping, kayaking, visiting dog parks, outdoor soccer, BMX biking, indoor climbing, standup paddleboarding, triathlons, off-highway vehicle driving, and gardening for pleasure.

The SCORP includes a list of common goals that those seeking to support outdoor recreation in Wisconsin:

- Assess, understand, and adapt to growing recreation tourism demands and preferences.
- Improve integration of outdoor recreation interests and needs in land use and other relevant planning efforts.
- Continue to provide and enhance public access to Wisconsin recreational lands and waters.
- Conserve rural landscapes and forests through partnerships and incentives.
- Address funding challenges associated with managing Wisconsin outdoor recreation resources.
- Promote outdoor recreation as a means of improving public health among Wisconsinites.
- Establish great urban parks and community green spaces.

Table 10: 2011-2016 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: Summary of Findings

Public Health and Wellness	Access to outdoor recreation is an important predictor of community health and wellness. The SCORP ranked recreation types by relative physical exertion levels in order to determine which activities and facility types provide the greatest public health benefits. The greatest participation levels were seen in low-intensity activities that burn fewer calories and offer fewer health benefits. In order to encourage participation in higher-intensity activities, the SCORP recommends the following: • Trails: Signage and multi-tread trails should be constructed to avoid conflict between trail users and encourage more participation. • Water: The DNR should fund and support improved access to bodies of water and supporting facilities such as piers, boat launches, and rental facilities. • Snow: Trails for should be separated between motorized and non-motorized usage, with certain trails reserved for non-motorized uses only. Making users feel safe will help increase participation in non-motorized snow sports that are especially beneficial to health. • Ice Rinks: Municipalities should construct ice rinks or use existing ponds to provide opportunities for high-intensity activities such as ice skating and hockey. • Sports Facilities: Government entities should partner with private sports facility providers to increase participation in high-intensive activities such as basketball, soccer, and football. • Team Sport Leagues: Fields should be created for use by recreation sports leagues. • Safety: Safety can be addressed through increased police presence, increased street lighting, traffic safety, and a decrease in the amount of vacant buildings. These changes will make residents feel safer traveling to and from recreation sites and using parks and open spaces.

Urban Access to Outdoor Recreation	With the continued urbanization of Wisconsin, the benefits and significance of urban parks—improved health, community ties, and economy—are increasingly important. The SCORP includes implementation strategies for municipalities to enhance access to the outdoors: • Further park acquisition and development should be strategic and focus on physical unification of the park system. • Increasing specialized facilities can meet the demands of niche recreation groups and help reach underserved populations. Individual parks should also strive to improve versatility, e.g. by installing multipurpose fields rather than regulation soccer fields. • In order to provide the best recreation opportunities across multiple jurisdictions, agencies need to collaborate. Intergovernmental partnerships should focus on organizational structure and increasing administrative efficiencies. Efforts should focus on improving recreation connectivity and increasing park access.
Public and Private Partnerships	Providing access to outdoor recreation depends on a combination of community and government support. The SCORP presents focus group findings that address the challenges and benefits to outdoor recreation, as well as increasing access. These include: • Collaboration among private land-owners, nonprofit groups, agricultural and industrial interests, and government agencies was a critical component of past successes and is a necessary part of future open space planning. • Coordinated funding and grant opportunities for outdoor recreation is essential. • There is a need of education with regards to outdoor recreation provision and management. Educational efforts should focus on a variety of stakeholders (e.g., managers, visitors, the public, and elected officials) and should be concentrated on themes such as the importance of open space, the missions and goals of multiple stakeholders (to aid in collaboration), ecological services, and the economic and non-economic benefits of open space protection.

A Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County, SEWRPC, 2014

The following is a summary of the park and open space needs as determined by SEWRPC in their inventory and assessment conducted in 2014.

Major Park Sites

Based on current and project County populations (year 2035), there is a need for approximately 360 acres of additional land in major park sites within Walworth County. Taking into account the proximity of such parks to populated areas, no additional acres are recommended within the Village of Fontana.

Intensive Resource-Oriented Recreation Facilities

Camping
There are currently sufficient public camping facilities to meet the needs within the County.

Golf Course
The per capita standard is considered to be met by existing publicly owned golf courses within the County. However, there may be a need for a public golf course to serve residents in the southeastern area of the County.

Picnic Facilities
There are an adequate number of picnic tables at major parks to meet the needs of the existing and future (year 2035) residents.

Swimming Beaches
The existing public and private swimming beaches are adequate to serve the current and projected population.

Trails
There is a need for additional trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, nature study, and ski touring throughout the County.

Open Space Preservation

SEWRPC has identified 79,964 acres (22% of the County) of open space lands to be protected. The protection of these lands can be accomplished via a combination of public or nonprofit conservation organization ownership, or via protection by zoning regulations. These lands correspond with the primary environmental corridors along Van Slyke and Potawatomi Creeks, and the wooded areas at the northern and southeastern portions of the Village.

> **Primary Environmental Corridors**
> The non-urban areas designated as Primary Environmental Corridors should be acquired by a public agency or nonprofit conservation organization, and preserved as natural areas.

Isolated Natural Resource Areas
Where practical, these areas should be protected. They can be incorporated in parks, reservations, or stormwater retention/detention areas.

Critical Species Habitat
These areas should be preserved and managed to maintain their natural value and protected by acquisition by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations. Fontana's Fen Natural Area is an area SEWRPC has identified for protection in this area. The Fen is currently owned and maintained by the Village of Fontana.

Historic Sites
Local units of government should support efforts relating to the preservation of historical sites and buildings within their jurisdiction.

Nature Study Area
At the time of the 2014 SEWRPC study, there was no nature study areas within the County.

Some important recommendations from the 2014 Park and Open Space Plan prepared by SEWRPC include:

1. Of the total 79,964 acres of recommended open space lands, 22,603 acres, or about 28 percent, were in public ownership, nonprofit conservation organization ownership, under conservation easements, or in compatible private outdoor recreation use in 2012, and are recommended to be preserved in such ownership. It is recommended that an additional 12,048 acres, or about 15 percent of proposed open space lands, be acquired by public agencies or nonprofit conservation organizations for natural resource protection or open space preservation purposes or for public park or trail use. The remaining 45,313 acres of open space lands are recommended to remain in or be placed in protective zoning districts to prevent incompatible development.
2. All prime agricultural lands identified in the updated farmland preservation plan for Walworth County prepared in 2012 should be preserved for agricultural use.
3. Walworth County should develop one new major County park in the western portion of the County along Turtle Creek.

Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake Park and Open Space Plan, 2010-2015

The general purpose of the Village's 2010-2015 Park and Open Space Plan was to guide the preservation, acquisition, and development of land for park, outdoor recreation, and related open space purposes as needed to satisfy the recreational needs of the Village residents and to protect and enhance the underlying and sustaining natural resource base. Two specific goals included:

1. Ensure the provision of a sufficient number of parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to enhance the health and welfare of Village residents (both permanent and seasonal) and visitors. Such facilities should accommodate special groups such as the

elderly, the handicapped, and young children.

2. Preserve the Village's natural resources and amenities, particularly the lakefront, for the benefit of current and future residents.

Additionally, the plan adopted seven of SEWRPC's general planning objectives and added five Fontana-specific objectives. These 12 goals and objectives were largely carried forward into the 2016 Plan. (Refer to the Chapter II. Goals and Objectives.)

Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake Comprehensive Plan, 2009

The stated goal of the 2009 Comprehensive Plan is "to help the Village preserve and protect the natural environment, enhance the Village's unique community character, and guide future growth and development to ensure continued community prosperity." The plan addresses many issues associated with the area's park and open space facilities, primarily emphasizing the development of a green space system with bike and pedestrian access throughout the Village and preserving the health of Geneva Lake and the natural areas in the Village. Following is a summary of the goals of the plan that related to parks and open space:

- The Village will continue to place a strong emphasis on lakefront preservation and shoreland protection.
- Conserve the existing land use and development pattern of the lakeshore within the limits of existing development regulations.
- Preserve and protect the Village's natural resource base, especially Geneva Lake.
- Develop strategies and techniques to prevent overuse of Geneva Lake within the guidelines established by the Wisconsin DNR.
- Link natural resource preservation with recreational opportunities.
- Preserve historically and culturally significant buildings and structures.
- Continue to preserve and protect archaeological resources.
- Maintain the Village as a predominantly single-family residential and natural-resource-based recreational community.
- Promote bicycling as recreational activity and a practical transportation alternative.
- Continue to develop a local bicycle and pedestrian trail network and work to connect to the regional trail network.
- Continue to implement the Village's Greenspace Plan.
- Promote the Village as a haven for recreational and nature-based tourism.
- Collaborate with the County, neighboring communities, and other interest groups to protect resources of regional importance, such as Geneva Lake and agricultural lands.

Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake Park and Open Space Plans, 1988, 1993, 2003

The 1988 Park and Open Space Plan is based primarily on the Regional Park and Open Space Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin prepared by SEWRPC in 1977. Fontana applied six of the objectives presented in the Regional Plan towards its own Park Plan. These objectives are summarized below:

- Sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow adequate opportunity to participate in intensive non-resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities;
- Opportunities to participate in intensive water-based outdoor activities on Geneva Lake;
- Preservation of sufficient high-quality open space land for the protection of the area's natural resource base;
- Preservation of Fontana's historical, cultural and natural heritage;
- Opportunities for recreation activities to be conducted under inclement weather conditions; and
- Efficient and economical satisfaction of outdoor recreation.

To meet these objectives, the Plan made the following recommendations:

- Develop the old holding pond area as a recreational site, providing all of Fontana's intensive, non-resource based facilities.
- Enhance opportunities and facilities for accessing Geneva Lake, including improving the boat launch and providing buoys.
- To encourage the development of parks in the Village's north and eastern portions, requirements for residential subdivisions should be modified such that the subdivider dedicate a portion of the site for park or playground purposes.
- Develop trails and educational information for the Fen.
- Establish a Fontana Historical Society.
- Construct a community center and open shelter to provide space for community events as well as relief from inclement weather.
- Apply to the Local Park Aid and LAWCON grant programs to obtain funding for the proposed park development activities.

The Village updated the 1988 Plan in 1993. In 2001, the Village began a comprehensive Master Plan associated with its commercial area. At that time, many park and open space questions came to light, as much of the commercial base of Fontana is associated with the waterfront. The Village Community Development Authority, which was conducting the Master Plan development, recommended to the Village Board that the Park and Open Space Plan for the area be updated as well. This would result in a comprehensive set of complementary plans that would guide the Village's growth and development for years to come.

The review of the previous Park and Open Space Plans as well as a review of the current park facilities and services began in late summer 2003. A group of public representatives was convened to discuss the current status of the Village park system and to establish the goals and

objectives to guide the Park and Open Space Plan. These representatives included members from: the Fontana Park Commission; the Big Foot Recreation District; the Village Community Development Authority; and the Geneva Lake Conservancy. This group agreed that the purposes for this plan were:

- To clearly describe specific resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved in an area's park system, and identify the kinds of management, use and development that is appropriate to meet those conditions; and
- To ensure that there is a foundation for future decision-making.

They further proposed that a comprehensive and integrated planning approach would assure the Village's Park and Open Space Plan would be able to achieve three specific objectives:

1. Advance other governmental planning efforts,
2. Augment the agendas of other conservation agencies, and
3. Advance compatible, but indirectly related, programs and initiatives.

This group met on several occasions to review and guide the direction of the plan, and to dovetail the recommendations with those being made associated with the updated Village Master Plan. The results of this planning process was the 2003 Park and Open Space Plan.

The 1993 and 2003 Park and Open Space Plan reiterated the objectives and recommendations of the 1988 Plan while providing more specific recommendations for each existing park area.

Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake Comprehensive Master Plan, 1991

The Village's 1991 Comprehensive Master Plan addressed many issues associated with the area's park and open space facilities, primarily emphasizing the development of a green space system throughout the Village. The following is a summary of the recommendations associated with the creation of this green space system, the improvements to the Duck Pond Recreation Area, and the creation of a new neighborhood park.

Green Space System

The system should include linear open space corridors as well as agricultural lands.

Lands proposed for inclusion in the greenway included: "environmental corridor areas that contain features such as wetlands, lands with slopes over 15%, floodplains, woodlands, wildlife and nature preserves, groundwater recharge areas, groundwater retention ponds, lands with highly scenic views and other sensitive natural areas." Recommended land uses within the greenway included "non-intensive agricultural uses such as silviculture, orcharding, truck farming, and permanent crops; open space and recreation areas such as play fields, golf courses, hiking trails, horse riding facilities and bike trails; public uses in an open setting such as schools and other institutional uses, general aviation airport facilities, public well fields, public medical facilities; and low density residential uses such as large lot rural estates and cluster development." The control of these lands would be through a variety of planning tools including zoning and acquisition.

Pedestrian and Bike Trail System

The Master Plan proposed a trail system that would effectively link various destinations within the Village: the lakefront, the Village center, Village Hall, the Duck Pond Recreational Area, the Fontana Elementary School, and a proposed neighborhood park located along Indian Hills Road.

Duck Pond Recreation Area

The master plan of this recreational area should include the development of a natural area and trail system, the development of a water detention/retention basin on the west side of the site, and the creation of a neighborhood park in the eastern portion of the site to include at least one softball field, soccer field, playground equipment, tennis courts, a basketball court, benches and picnic tables, a parking area, and associated restroom facilities.

New Neighborhood Park

To address park and open space needs in the eastern portion of the Village, the plan recommended the development of a two to five-acre neighborhood park in the Indian Hills Road area. The park should provide play area, softball and soccer fields, and associated benches, shelter and restroom facilities.

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VII. Analysis of Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

This chapter presents an analysis of how well the Village's existing park and recreational facilities satisfy current needs in the community. The adequacy of the Village's existing park and recreation system will be evaluated in the following ways:

- An application of local service standards to reliable population projections for the Village (quantitative analysis);
- A qualitative analysis of the Village's park system based on both an understanding of the Village's objectives and an evaluation of the local demand for parkland and recreational facilities;
- An analysis of the geographic distribution and accessibility of park open space areas;
- A consideration of public input regarding the future of the Village's park and open space system; and
- A review of Wisconsin's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The results of this analysis will serve as the basis for the recommendations presented in the next chapter of this *Plan*.

Quantitative Analysis

Table 11 presents a quantitative analysis of the Village's existing park system. As indicated in Table 11, the Village currently has approximately 19.6 acres of developed parkland for every 1,000 residents, including school grounds.

Table 11: Park Acreage Analysis, April 2016

Park Type	Existing Park Acres per 1,000 Persons*	Local Standard (Acres per 1,000 Persons)
Neighborhood Parks	1.0	2.0
Community Parks	10.1	8.0
Subtotal	**11.1**	**10.0**
Open Space Areas	8.5	---
All Village Parks and Open Space Areas	**19.6**	---

**Based on estimated 2013 population (permanent and seasonal residents) of 4,585*

In general, National Recreation and Park Association standards recommend a minimum of approximately 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. It should be noted, however, that national standards do not factor in characteristics of individual communities. Therefore, it is appropriate and necessary for each community to develop their own local park standard. Local standards will be applied in the recommendations section of this Plan.

Qualitative Analysis

Although quantitative standards provide a good basis for formulating the recommendations in this *Plan*, a thorough assessment of the Village's existing facilities must include a more subjective analysis that takes into consideration those characteristics that make Fontana unique from other communities. Furthermore, the qualitative analysis will do the following things:

- Identify those park system deficiencies and strengths that are not captured by universal standards;
- Ensure that future parks and recreational facilities are tailored to meet the needs of Village residents, both permanent and seasonal; and
- Allow for the establishment of a more reasonable and specialized level-of-service standard by which the Village can plan its future park system.

Important factors to consider include the following:

- The quantitative analysis presented earlier in this chapter considers school open space and outdoor recreational facilities to be neighborhood parks. There are no set standards or guidelines for classifying school open space areas; however, in the Village of Fontana, school facilities serve many of the recreational needs of the residential neighborhoods that immediately surround them. It should be recognized that school facilities are not consistently open to the public, and school sponsored activities are given first priority when it comes to the scheduling and use of these facilities. For this reason, it is important for the Village to provide and maintain an adequate number of its own facilities and parklands to accommodate programming needs and to meet local demand.
- Village residents are currently not in the service area of any Walworth County parks. To provide access within a reasonable distance to these types of recreational facilities (camping, hiking, nature observation), the County should work with the Village on future park development in the Fontana area as well as connecting the Village to regional trail systems.
- The following issues related to parks and recreation were identified during the comprehensive planning process:
    - Connectivity of parks and trails.
    - Preservation and maintenance of existing facilities.
    - Protection of Geneva Lake and lakefront areas.
    - Preservation of a greenspace buffer around the Village.

Geographic Analysis

The location and distribution of parks and recreational facilities also provide a good indicator of how well the existing park system is meeting the needs of the Village's residents. To illustrate this distribution, Map 2 depicts the service areas of the Village's parks. These service areas are based on National Recreation and Park Association standards. An analysis of Map 2 suggests that the Village's community park facilities are well distributed and serving most Village residents. Map 2 also indicates that neighborhood parklands are currently centrally located and not easily accessible to residents on the far north, south, and east sides of the Village.

Due to their specialized nature, the service areas for the Village's special use parks include the entire community.

As the Village continues to grow, it will be necessary to acquire additional parklands so future residents have equitable access to all types of parklands and open space.

Review of Recreation Plans

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Program (SCORP), 2011
The findings of this report indicate that Fontana should ensure continued maintenance and possible expansion of their recreational sites as well as their resource-based recreational facilities. Specifically, this would address the management of the existing Duck Pond Recreational Area, Reid Park, Fontana Beach, Big Foot Nature Study Area (Well No. 3 Nature Area), Hildebrand Nature Conservancy, Headwaters Park, Fontana Fen, and the Mill Pond Nature Area.

Park and Open Space Plan for Walworth County (SEWRPC), 2014
The findings of this report indicate Fontana should take steps to ensure the acquisition of the non-urban areas currently designated as primary environmental corridors. The Village itself could acquire these lands, or they could work with local nonprofit conservation organizations to ensure the preservation and management of these lands to maintain their natural value. The SEWRPC report further indicates that areas designated as critical species habitat should be equally protected. The critical species habitat area mapped by SEWRPC is located in the Fen Natural Area and Lyon Woods. Measures should be taken to ensure the continued preservation and management of this site in its natural state.

The SEWRPC report also identifies the protection of isolated natural resource areas. Unlike lands classified as primary environmental corridors or critical species habitat, these lands may be incorporated into parks, or may be used as part of a stormwater management program.

The preservation of historical sites and buildings is another recommended management measure made by SEWRPC. The Douglass-Stevenson Mill in Fontana is currently owned and maintained by the Geneva Lake Conservancy. Measures should be taken to ensure the future, long-term protection of this site and building. A catalogue of local historic sites and buildings should be developed to guide future historic preservation and education actions. The rich history of this area could be better incorporated into the visible fabric of the community -

historic markers, educational signs, historic building design guidelines, and even trail markers would do much to bring to light the historic base of this Village.

Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake Park and Open Space Plan, 2010

Many of the recommendations and actions from the 2010 Plan have been completed. These include:

- Construction of trails accessing the wetland area immediately east of the Fontana Elementary School in the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy.
- Development of a pedestrian path connecting the residential area in Country Club Estates "Back 40" area to Shabonna Drive. This path provides a valuable linkage to the parks along Lake Shore Drive.
- Development of the undeveloped portion of Duck Pond Recreation Area, specifically adding a disc golf course.

Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake Park and Open Space Plan, 2003

Many of the actions recommended in this report have been completed:

Duck Pond Recreation Area: Developed Area

Provide sufficient picnic benches and trash receptacles. The provision of additional shelters may be needed to meet the safety and use needs of the large number of people using the diverse facilities on this site.

Duck Pond Recreation Area: Undeveloped Area

Update a master plan for the currently undeveloped western portion of the park.

Fontana Elementary School

The drainageway flowing along the west side of Main Street should be enhanced to improve its natural aquatic habitat.

Reid Park

The construction of an open-air shelter for use by park, beach, and playfield patrons should be considered. The installation of lighting within the park area should be explored.

Geneva Lake Shore Path

The full extent of the trail should be maintained as a trail. The current trail surface should be improved.

Undeveloped Village Lands

Restrict the use of the land west of Highway 67 at the northern entrance of the Village for passive recreation and open space. Incorporate this parcel with the Duck Pond Recreational Area. This additional land should be included in any additional Master Planning for this park. This site and location serves well as an entrance to the park area, and an embarking site for local trails.

Restrict the use of the parcel located east of the elementary school and west of Highway 67 for passive recreation and open space. A management plan for this area should be prepared to

ensure its long-term viability, including measures for controlling invasive species, improving wildlife habitat, and limiting site erosion.

General
Development of a tree protection ordinance to ensure the protection of mature trees and forested systems in the area. Improved access and use of the newly planted oak savanna area, just north of the entrance to Duck Pond Recreation Area on Highway 67.

Expanding on the objectives set forth in these reports, measures should be taken to ensure the continuation of preservation of high-quality open space and natural areas within the Village. This would include conducting a thorough assessment of the conditions of the existing natural areas on Village-owned properties. Once an assessment of areas such as the woodlands at the Duck Pond Recreation Area, the wetlands associated with Van Slyke Creek and the headwaters of Geneva Lake, and the woodland and wetlands of the undeveloped land adjacent to Highway B and east of Country Club Estates is conducted, appropriate restoration/enhancement and management plans should be developed.

Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake Park and Open Space Plans, 1988 and 1993
Many of the actions recommended in these reports have been completed:

- The Duck Pond Recreation Area has been developed to support a wide variety of intensive, non-resource based recreational activities including a children's playground, restroom and concession facilities, and associated storage buildings;
- An open shelter has been constructed;
- The boat launch has been improved; and
- Trails and educational information has been developed for the Fen.

Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake Comprehensive Master Plan, 1991
The Master Plan stated, "A key element of the entire master planning process has been the development of strategies and policies creating a permanently protected green space system in and around the Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake." An essential element in the maintenance of this green space was the incorporation of a set of proposed development standards into the Village Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinances. Measures have been taken to modify the Village zoning to aid in the protection of the area's open space.

The report recommended the establishment of designated pedestrian and bike trails. Measures should be taken to update the locations of existing and proposed trails as well as to ensure the trails are clearly and properly marked. Adequate provisions for the trails should be made when associated road improvements are being made. Linkages between the Village's existing park and open space facilities should be a priority as park plans are updated and new lands are acquired. For example, pedestrian access along Van Slyke Creek, through the Village-owned properties, could be linked with existing trails located on The Abbey's property. This series of trails would provide valuable access between the commercial area and the waterfront as well as a valuable opportunity for environmental education regarding the headwater system for Geneva Lake.

The Master Plan makes several specific recommendations for the development of the Duck Pond Recreation Area. As much of this development has not occurred, the Village should re-assess its goals for this area. The western portion of this site has not been developed to date, and offers great potential. The use of the site's trails and the wooded area in the eastern portion of the site should be enhanced to take advantage of the site's natural beauty. A restoration and management plan for the protection of the wooded area should be developed.

The Plan also recommended the development of a neighborhood park in the Indian Hills Road area. There still remains a need for recreational facilities to serve the residents in the eastern portion of the Village. Addressing the uses of existing Village-owned lands, or incorporating the development of public park space in conjunction with new residential development can meet this need.

Assessment of SEWRPC and Fontana Planning Objectives

As presented earlier in this report, the Village of Fontana has accepted seven of the park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives formulated by SEWRPC in their Regional Park and Open Space Planning program. Complementing each objective, SEWRPC has developed a set of planning standards that aid in the quantitative assessment of the objectives. The Village supplemented these objectives, adding specific criteria unique to the area itself and reflecting the area's cultural and environmental background.

The following review presents an assessment of the current status of the existing park and open space facilities with regards to meeting these objectives. The objectives have been classified as "SEWRPC" or "Fontana" to identify the originating source. This assessment lists the objectives in the order they have been presented in this report. This order however, does not necessarily reflect their level of priority. The priorities of the recommendations are presented in the section entitled "Priorities and Action Items."

The need to provide recreational facilities is dependent on the existing and future size and distribution of Fontana's resident population. For the purposes of this review, the need for outdoor recreation facilities is determined by a comparison of the number and location of existing facilities to the number and location of facilities recommended for the current and future population.

Objective 1 (SEWRPC)

To provide an integrated system of public general-use outdoor recreation sites and related open space areas which allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation and outdoor education activities.

Public Outdoor Recreation Sites

According to SEWRPC, the public general use outdoor recreation site requirements presented in Appendix 2 should be met.

- Fontana provides a sufficient number of park facilities and school-site facilities based on its year-round population.

- The distribution of the sites throughout the Village, to meet the maximum service radius, does not however, meet the recommended standards. Residents must travel a greater distance to access the public outdoor recreation facilities than recommended. When including both public and semi-private facilities (specifically those associated with Country Club Estates), the distribution of sites does meet the service radius.

Recreation Related Open Space

According to SEWRPC, the following standards should be met for resource related activities:

1. A minimum of 0.16 linear miles of recreation related open space consisting of linear recreation corridors should be provided for each 1,000 persons in the Village.
2. Recreation corridors should have a minimum length of 15 miles and a minimum width of 200 feet.
3. The maximum travel distance to recreation corridors should be five miles in urban areas and ten miles in rural areas.
4. Resource-oriented recreation corridors should maximize the use of:
    a. Primary environmental corridors as locations for trail-oriented activities.
    b. Outdoor recreation facilities provided at existing public park sites.
    c. Existing trail-type facilities within the Village.

- **Fontana's existing park and open space facilities meet the standards for linear recreation corridors access, size, and availability.**

<u>Objective 2 (SEWRPC)</u>
To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in intensive non-resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

The SEWRPC standards for the provision of such non-resource oriented outdoor recreation activities as baseball, basketball, ice-skating, playfield, playgrounds, soccer, softball, and tennis, are presented in Appendix 2.

- **Including those facilities owned by the Fontana schools, the Village of Fontana provides sufficient intensive non-resource oriented outdoor recreation facilities.**
- **The distribution of the sites throughout the Village to meet the maximum service radius, <u>does not</u> however meet the recommended standards. Residents must travel a greater distance to access the public intensive non-resource oriented outdoor recreation facilities than recommended.**

Objective 3 (SEWRPC)
To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow adequate opportunity to participate in intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities.

Abbey Harbor marina

The SEWRPC standards for the provision of such intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation activities as camping, golf, picnicking, and swimming are presented in Appendix 2.

- **Including those facilities owned by the Village of Fontana as well as County owned, private, and those available within the Big Foot School District, there are sufficient intensive resource-oriented outdoor recreation facilities provided. Given the scale and nature of the activities, it is possible to include the facilities provided by sources outside the Village boundary.**
- **The distribution of the sites throughout the Village, and throughout the recommended service area to meet the maximum service radius, also meets the recommended standards.**

Objective 4 (SEWRPC)
To provide sufficient outdoor recreation facilities to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in trail-related and other extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities.

The SEWRPC standards for the provision of such extensive land-based outdoor recreation activities as biking, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, pleasure driving, and snowmobiling are presented in Appendix 2.

- **The Village of Fontana meets the SEWRPC minimum per capita public facility requirements for biking, hiking, and pleasure driving.**
- **No public horseback riding, nature study, or snowmobiling facilities are provided within the Village of Fontana.**

The nature of these activities permits them to be provided at a regional level having a greater service area. The Walworth County Parks and Open Space Plan indicates that with the exception of a nature study facility, these recreational activity needs are met within the County. Measures taken to extend existing trails to link with other communities should include provision for the use of these trails by horseback riders.

Objective 5 (SEWRPC)
To provide sufficient surface water access areas to allow the resident population of the Region adequate opportunities to participate in water-based outdoor recreation activities on major inland lakes and rivers and on Lake Michigan, consistent with safe and enjoyable surface water use and the maintenance of good water quality.

The SEWRPC standards for extensive water-based outdoor recreation activities include the provision of public access sites for lake access, river access, boat launch ramps, and boat slips as presented in Appendix 2.

- **The Village of Fontana meets the SEWRPC minimums established for the provision of public access sites to inland lakes and waterways, based on per capita facility requirements as well as size of lake.**

Objective 6 (SEWRPC)
To preserve sufficient high-quality open space lands for protection of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base and enhancement of the social and economic well-being, environmental quality, and biodiversity of the Region.

SEWRPC separates their definition of high-quality open space areas into two categories – primary environmental corridors and prime agricultural lands. Their standard for the protection of primary environmental corridors states: "All remaining non-urban lands within the designated primary environmental corridors in the Region should be preserved in their natural state." SEWRPC has two standards for the protection of prime agricultural lands.

1. "All prime agricultural lands should be preserved" and
2. "All agricultural lands should be preserved that surround adjacent high-value scientific, educational, or recreational sites and are covered by soils rated in the regional detailed operational soil survey as having very slight, slight, or moderate limitations for agricultural use."

- **With regard to the primary environmental corridors occurring within the Village of Fontana, the Village has stated a goal of protecting these lands in their natural state. Some lands are currently protected via previous acquisition, ownership, or easements held by the Geneva Lake Conservancy.**
- **Areas that exhibit prime agricultural soils may support development or other natural systems such as forest, prairie or fen. Several of these natural areas, including the Well No. 3 Nature Area and Fontana Fen, are currently being preserved based on their existing natural resource use.**

Objective 7 (SEWRPC)
To provide for the efficient and economical satisfaction of outdoor recreation and related open space needs meeting all other objectives at the lowest possible cost.

The standard set by SEWRPC with regards to this objective is very general, stating "The sum total of all expenditures required to meet park demands and open space needs should be minimized."

- **The Village of Fontana works towards minimizing its park and open space expenditures by reviewing proposed projects within the context of their updated master plan as well as existing local and county Park and Open Space Plans.**

Objective 1 (Fontana)
Enhance and improve the use and condition of existing facilities. This should be a priority over the acquisition of new parkland, unless such land additions meet other objectives.

- The Village of Fontana currently owns and maintains 12 park facilities, and through its agreement with the Big Foot School District, has access for its residents to an additional 48 recreational facilities (including those available through the Fontana School) – see Tables 7 and 8. In addition, the Village owns several parcels of land that are currently undeveloped. Based on interviews and field investigations, it does not appear that these facilities are used to their fullest capacity, while maintaining each site's unique environmental resources. Recommendations for improving the usage of the existing facilities are presented in the Action Plan below.

Objective 2 (Fontana)
Decentralize the existing park facilities. Park and open space opportunities need to be spaced throughout the Village, providing easy access to all of the population centers.

- With the exception of the recreation activities associated with Geneva Lake, the majority of the outdoor recreation facilities are located in the northwestern portion of the Village. These facilities are primarily associated with the Fontana Elementary School, Duck Pond Recreation Area, Hildebrand Nature Conservancy, Headwaters Park and the Fen area. The center of the Village's population, however, is primarily located on the south side of the marina outlet, in the southeastern portion of the Village. For many residents, the recreation facilities provided in the Towns of Linn and Williams Bay, available through the Big Foot School District agreement, are closer. Recommendations for providing additional park and open space facilities in the southeastern portion of the Village are presented in the Action Plan below.

Objective 3 (Fontana)
Improve the access to park and open space areas by the development or improvement of linear corridors.

- Access to the existing park and open space areas is currently focused on vehicular access. Pedestrian and bicycle access is limited to existing sidewalks, roadways, and the bike path on Highway 67. This results in indirect and often lengthy trips for pedestrians and cyclists. The existing trails should be maintained – properly marked, signed and lit as necessary.

- SEWRPC has mapped two primary environmental corridors that follow the drainageways that flow through the Village. These corridors, along with plans associated with new residential and/or commercial development, provide opportunities for improving the existing off-road pedestrian and bicycle access to the area's recreational areas. Recommendations for the inclusion of trails through these areas are expanded in the Action Plan provided.

Objective 4 (Fontana)
The majority of park and open space facilities should be resource-based, as the health of the environment is critical to both the lake and the Village itself.

- The residents of the Village of Fontana are ensured access to a wide variety of non-resource based recreational facilities through the Big Foot School District recreational program. Given Fontana's lakeside location and its prevalence and regional importance of natural spring, waterway and wetland ecosystems, there is an opportunity for Fontana to provide its residents as well as the other communities located within the Big Foot School District with distinctive resource-based facilities. Measures to enhance the Village's existing resource-based recreational areas should be taken to secure their long-term protection as well as use. The Village should review its goals and maintenance plan for the following existing areas: Fontana Beach, Mill Pond Nature Area, Well No. 3 Nature Area, Hildebrand Nature Conservancy, Headwaters Park, the Fontana Fen, and even the forested and wetland areas occurring in the Duck Pond Recreational Area.

- Future interest in new park and open space land should focus on lands that provide resource-based recreational elements. The Village of Fontana supports many unique wetland as well as bluff and shoreline habitats that would provide such resource-based recreational and educational elements.

- It is important that the management of the Village's open space and undeveloped lands be conducted in a sustainable manner. Adverse environmental impacts associated with typical maintenance practices should be identified and limited to the extent practicable.

- Impacts associated with typical maintenance practices should be identified and limited to the extent practicable.

Objective 5 (Fontana)
Measures should be taken to emphasize the historical aspect of the Village and its surrounding area.

- It is clear that the Village of Fontana is proud of its history: Pioneer Park is located at the site of the homestead of the first settlers, numerous institutions are named for Potawatomi Chief Big Foot who lived in Fontana during the 1830s, and the Geneva Lake Conservancy is housed in the historic Douglass Stevens House. There are measures which can be taken to highlight the natural and cultural history of this area, keeping the area connected to its past as it continues to grow.

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Map 2: Park Service Areas

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VIII. Recommendations for Future Recreational Opportunities

The primary purpose of this Park and Open Space Plan is to guide the acquisition and development of lands and facilities needed to meet the outdoor recreational needs and desires of the resident population, while protecting and/or enhancing the underlying natural resource base.

The following recommendations are made in response to previous comprehensive open space and recreational plans (SCORP, SEWRPC, Village Master Plan), as well as to the objectives developed by SEWRPC for Walworth County and by Fontana representatives for their Village.

Future Park System Needs

Based upon the analyses provided in this chapter, the Village's future local standard for total active and passive park acreage is 10 acres per 1,000 persons, 2 acres per 1,000 persons for neighborhood parks and 8 acres per 1,000 persons for community parks. Given the nature of special use parks, applying a quantitative measure would be difficult and somewhat arbitrary and therefore has not been included in the future park acreage needs.

Based on these standards, Tables 12 and 13 show the minimal additional park acreage that will be needed to accommodate the Village's projected population in 2025 and in 2035. Because with Wisconsin Department of Administration Population Projections do not show population growth between 2025 and 2035, the projected park acreage needs in 2025 and in 2035 are virtually the same. (See Table 4 for the Village's population projections for both permanent and seasonal populations.)

The 2025 projection will be used in Chapter IX. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreation Facilities of this *Plan* to determine recommended parkland dedication and impact fee requirements. Although there is no difference between the 2025 and 2035 projections, the 2025 population projection better corresponds to Chapter 66.0617 of Wisconsin Statutes, which specifies municipalities have a ten-year timeframe for collection and expenditure. Land acquisition and improvement recommendations are based on what the Village can reasonably expect to accomplish between now and 2025.

Table 12: Park Acreage Needs, 2025

Park Type	Village Standard Acres Per 1,000 persons	Recommended Acreage by 2025 (based on acres per 1,000 persons*)	2016 Total Acres	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2025
Neighborhood Parks	2	9.4	4.5	4.9
Community Parks	8	37.6	46.5	---
Total	**10**	**47.1**	**51.0**	**4.9**

** Based on 2025 projected population (4,706)*

Table 13: Park Acreage Needs, 2035

Park Type	Village Standard Acres Per 1,000 persons	Recommended Acreage based on Acres per 1,000 persons*	2016 Total Acres	Minimum Additional Acres Needed by 2035
Neighborhood Parks	2	9.3	4.5	4.8
Community Parks	8	37.1	46.5	---
Total	**10**	**46.4**	**51.0**	**4.8**

** Based on 2035 projected population (4,637)*

Priorities and Action Items for Future Park and Recreation Facilities

The following recommendations relate directly to the accepted park and open space objectives and the findings associated with the application of the appropriate standards. Again, the recommendations are presented in the order of the identified Park and Open Space Objectives. Table 14 presents the prioritization of these recommendations.

Objectives 1 and 2(SEWRPC):
Measures should be taken to provide general outdoor recreation facilities in the predominantly residential area in the Village's southeastern section In order to address the distribution and access requirements. Such facilities include picnic areas, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other playfields, tennis courts, playgrounds, and basketball courts. It is recommended that the Village consider the use of its current land holdings in this area, specifically the parcels near Indian Hills Road and Kenosha Avenue (Highway B), adjacent to the Pheasant Ridge subdivision, to meet the needs of areas currently not served by neighborhood

park facilities. Additionally, the Village should plan for a potential new park or pond at Indian Hills Road/South Lake Shore Drive.

In addition, Map 3 shows the approximate locations for future neighborhood parks to serve future populations. More precise park boundaries will be determined during the preparation of detailed neighborhood plans or when lands are acquired or platted.

Map 3 also depicts recommended future trails and bike routes. These proposed trails would complement the existing bike and pedestrian system and connect future neighborhood parks. While this Plan presents general recommendations regarding locations for future trails, more detailed recommendations regarding type, design, and location would require more in-depth analyses.

Objective 3 (SEWRPC):
The current sites and facilities meet the needs associated with this objective.

Objective 4 (SEWRPC):
While the Village meets the per capita requirement for land-based recreational areas, measures should be taken to improve the signage associated with biking on public roadways.

There are considerable opportunities for improving the use of the few existing hiking trails within the Village as well as providing additional trails. There are currently hiking trails through the forested portions of the Duck Pond Recreation area. Many of these trails are unmarked and poorly maintained. Given the terrain of this area, trail improvements would provide unique hiking and cross country skiing experiences, as well as pedestrian access to and through the entire recreation area.

The possibilities for providing pedestrian access to existing facilities, especially improving access for those distant areas currently underserved by recreational sites, should be well explored. Options such as access agreements for use of the existing trails within the Abbey property and new trails linking the developed area south of the marina area would provide valuable east-west access.

Objective 5 (SEWRPC):
The current sites and facilities meet the needs associated with this objective.

Objective 6 (SEWRPC):
According to SEWRPC, “All remaining non-urban lands within the designated primary environmental corridors in the Region should be preserved in their natural state.” There are several parcels located within the primary environmental corridor following Van Slyke Creek that are undeveloped. The Village should take measures to protect these parcels from residential and commercial development, via direct purchase or through the placement of conservation easements. The Village should ensure passive use activities be permitted on these lands.

Objective 7 (SEWRPC):
The Village of Fontana should continue to be judicious and responsible in their allocation of funds for park and recreational sites and facilities. To ensure the funds are used in a comprehensive manner, allocations should be consistent with the current Village Master Plan and Park and Open Space Plan. Furthermore, the Village should diligently consider the applicability and availability of state, federal and private grant programs.

Objective 1 (Fontana):
The following improvements to existing facilities should be explored. In addition, measures to meet the recreational needs for all the parks and open space areas should be provided, including seating, bike racks, appropriate lighting, waste containers, and adequate parking and signage. The Village should take steps to standardize the use and design of common park elements including signage, lighting, seating, historical markers, and architectural details.

Duck Pond Recreation Area: Developed Area

- Complete enhancements to the dog track and the disc golf course expansion and improvements.
- Provide adequate lighting for any and all new recreational site development within the western portion of the site for safety purposes.
- Provide appropriate lighting for the existing sports fields (baseball, soccer, disc golf) to increase the usability of these facilities.
- Install regulation quality soccer goal posts in the lawn area currently developed and maintained for field sports.
- Install appropriate score boards for field sport facilities.
- This large developed area could support additional non-resource based facilities that are limited in the area, such as basketball, volleyball or tennis courts, a sledding hill and/or hockey/skating areas.

Duck Pond Recreation Area: Undeveloped Area

- Improve and mark the hiking/cross country skiing trails through the forested area. Extend existing trails through the entire site, and link to other recreational trails and sites.
- Consolidate the area currently used for the disposal of compost and yard waste in order to improve the aesthetics of the area, create greater usable space for recreational activities.
- Conduct appropriate studies to determine compatible uses within the undeveloped portion of the site. The potential need for capping certain areas associated with the previous waste treatment facility should be clarified before further plans are developed.
- Install a rain garden and native plantings near the old wastewater treatment ponds.

Mohr Road Public Park

- Measures were taken to ensure the continued public access to Geneva Lake and the Geneva Lake Shore Path through this parkland. Signage has been provided to clearly mark the area as an access point to the Geneva Lake Shore Path, where there is park bench overlooking the lake.

Pioneer Park

- To meet the objectives associated with Objective 5 (Fontana), encouraging the promotion of the area's cultural past, measures should be taken to highlight the park's local significance as the site of the first settlers in Fontana. Such measures could include signage and site design that reflects the site's previous use.

Fontana Elementary School

- The school should maintain its current recreation facilities and continue its association and responsibilities associated with the Big Foot Recreation District.
- Environmental educational information, similar to that provided for the Fen, should be developed and made available to people visiting this site.

Hildebrand Nature Conservancy and Headwaters Park

- The existing trail system should be improved and extended and connect to the trail system within the Fontana Fen. If possible, boardwalks should be constructed to improve access though low-lying areas.
- The maintenance plan should be reviewed annually to ensure that the goals of the plan are being met. A plan should be developed for the upland areas of the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy.
- Restoration of the stream should continue to be a priority, to improve the habitat for the brook and brown trout.

Well No. 3 Nature Area

- Informational signs, regarding plants, prairie ecology, or management practices, should be installed to indicate the value and uniqueness of this site. Mowed paths, similar to those created and maintained at the Fen, could be provided to encourage people to move within the site and explore the area further.
- A long-term management plan should be prepared to maintain this site as an upland prairie. Accordingly, budgetary needs associated with this site's management should be met.
- Measures should be taken by the Village to encourage active use of this site.

Fontana Fen

- Appropriate ecosystem management measures should be continued. Such measures include appropriate measures to limit the invasion of weed species, and cleaning of existing and/or new birdhouses. A general maintenance plan for this site should be prepared and followed.
- Given the uniqueness of this site, and its great value and use by local and regional wildlife species, consideration should be given to the installation of a raised viewing platform for observing birds and wildlife.
- For educational purposes, the boundaries of the actual "fen" ecosystem should be identified – either on a map or in the field via stakes/flags.
- All appropriate measures should be taken to maintain and protect the hydrology of this site to ensure protection of the fen habitat.

Village Beach

- A maintenance plan should be prepared to insure the health of the grass, which is subject to intense use during the summer months.

Reid Park (Including Boat Servicing Facility, Boat Access by Pioneer Park, and Lakeview Park)

- Enhance the path and replace aging park benches along the lakefront.
- The Lakefront Redevelopment Plan failed to earn required approval in a public referendum, so the Park Commission has implemented a memorial bench donation program to replace the old park benches along the lakefront path.
- Options for year-round use of this park, such as the provision of ice skating areas, should be explored.
- The Village should maintain Lakeview Park as an area for scenic viewing of the lake.

Geneva Lake Shore Path

Geneva Lake Shore Path

- Easy access should be maintained to this trail system. There are scattered access points to this trail, such as at Mohr Road Public Park. All access points should be well marked and maintained for public access.
- The full extent of the trail should be maintained as a trail and the signage should be more apparent.

Sam's Garden

- The garden needs a new sign to identify the recently-relocated garden.

Undeveloped Village Lands

- Restrict the use of the parcel located east of the Country Club Estates Back 40 for recreation and open space. Develop a Master Plan for this park area that incorporates the passive and active recreational needs that are currently not provided to the residents in this area of the Village.
- Develop a pedestrian trail system linking several of the Village-owned areas including the spring and headwaters of Van Slyke Creek and Geneva Lake and the wetland system along Van Slyke Creek and the Fen.

<u>Objective 2 (Fontana):</u>
Acquisition and development of parkland in the southeastern portion of the Village should be explored. Possible development opportunities include the development of existing land owned by the Village, and requirements for the incorporation of smaller, pocket parks to be constructed as part of new residential development plans. As described above, the Village should plan for a potential new park or pond at Indian Hills Road/South Lake Shore Drive.

<u>Objective 3 (Fontana):</u>
Measures should be taken to improve the condition, safety and signage associated with existing trails: bike trails along roadways, pedestrian paths through existing easements, and surfaced trails within existing parks. For example:

- The SEWRPC report indicates the presence of several bike trails through the Village, however these are not adequately marked.
- The Village should pursue the addition of trails through the Abbey property leading from Highway 67 to Shabonna Drive near Big Foot Country Club.
- The Village should plan and develop a Back 40 pedestrian path to allow pedestrian access from the Country Club Estates to County B and the Pheasant Ridge subdivision.
- Plan and develop a new pedestrian path to allow access from Dewey Avenue to Duck Pond.
- The Village should pursue a future path to connect the Country Club Estates path to the path along Highway 67, via the Abbey wetlands. (these three moved here on 5-16-16)

- A comprehensive system, which effectively links the existing parks to each other and possibly to parks and trails within adjacent municipalities, should be planned. This would allow the Village to effectively expand and link their trail system as land is developed. The trail system should be publicized through online channels and through a printed map. General recommendations for future bike and pedestrian facilities are depicted on Map 3.
- A comprehensive system, which effectively links the existing parks to each other and possibly to parks and trails within adjacent municipalities, should be planned. This would allow the Village to effectively expand and link their trail system as land is developed. The trail system should be publicized through online channels and through a printed map. General recommendations for future bike and pedestrian facilities are depicted on Map 3.

Objective 4 (Fontana):
The Village of Fontana has several open space areas that emphasize the Village's natural resources. Intrusion of these areas' natural resources should be kept to a minimum. The following initiatives would advance this objective in existing parks and open spaces:

- The addition of a wildlife viewing platform at the Fen
- The addition of trails or educational/informational signs at the Well No. 3 Nature Area
- Signs and/or access to the spring heads which feed the many creeks flowing through the area as well as Geneva Lake
- Design emphasis on the aesthetic value of the many waterways flowing through the Village
- The provision of pedestrian access and improvements to the existing wetland systems located at the Duck Pond Recreational Area
- Consolidation of the waste recycling area at the Duck Pond Recreation Area to reduce its impact on the site's stormwater runoff

Objective 5 (Fontana):
As previously indicated, historic markers, educational signs, historic building design guidelines, and even trail markers would do much to bring to light the historic base of this Village.

- The Village should centralize its historic data and provide public access.
- The current map of area historic sites and buildings should be updated.
- A flyer highlighting historic sites and information should be created.

In addition, the Village is also interested in acquiring new parkland which advances protection and restoration of natural resources, particularly the following properties:

- The Village still is interested in working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to purchase properties adjacent to Van Slyke Creek along Highway 67 (Valley View Dr). This location is depicted on Map 3 as a "Future Conservation Park." This land would be focused on creek restoration, conservation, and passive recreation uses. The

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources would have access to the property to implement a fish management strategy.

- The Village has acquired a parcel of land at the southwest corner of Indian Hills Road and South Lake Shore Drive for storm water management planning and is planning to develop the lots it owns on Mesita Road. These locations are depicted on Map 3 as a "Future Conservation Park." These lands would be focused on stormwater management and conservation uses.

Preservation of Agricultural Lands and Open Space

As described in the Village's 2009 Comprehensive Plan, southeastern Wisconsin is home to some of the State's most productive agricultural land and undeveloped "green space" is a highly-valued component of the Fontana area. However, this region of the State is also at the highest risk for degradation of agricultural resources and conversion of farmland to development.

The Village of Fontana supports efforts to protect farmland viability, preserve working lands, and ensure compact urban development as the community grows. The Village will consider collaborating in a multi-jurisdictional planning effort to preserve and protect agricultural lands in conjunction with efforts to conserve the region's unique natural resources such as Geneva Lake.

Table 14: Priorities of Recommended Action Items

HIGH PRIORITY	Plan for a potential new park or pond at Indian Hills Road/South Lake Shore Drive (Adreani Lot).
	Complete enhancements to the Dog Track and the disc golf course expansion and improvements at Duck Pond Recreation Area.
	Enhance the path and replace aging park benches along the lakefront at Reid Park.
	Implement year-round use of Reid Park.
	Implement resource management plans for existing natural areas including the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy, Headwaters Park, and the Fen.
	Implement maintenance plans for all existing park and natural areas to insure infrastructure and areas are well maintained.
	Complete a trail system linking natural areas through the Village's environmental corridors and along Van Slyke Creek (Headwaters Area) to enhance passive recreational use opportunities.
	Work with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to acquire and restore properties adjacent to Van Slyke Creek.
	Maintain and enhance technical and funding partnerships including the Big Foot Recreation District, the Geneva Lake Conservancy, and the Village Park Commission.

	Explore grant-based and other funding opportunities to facilitate the implementation of Park Plan recommendations and outreach objectives. Encourage in-kind cost sharing from technical partners.
MEDIUM PRIORITY	Complete unfinished portions of the bicycle and pedestrian network.
	Develop a new Neighborhood Park (1-5 acres) on the southeast side of the Village.
	Enhance community-based appeal and use of trails through strategic improvements to the trail system through the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy.
	Facilitate a sense of community cohesion, connectedness, involvement and outreach with planned bicycle and pedestrian trail signage and directional markers throughout the Village, coupled with advancing conservation-based educational tools.
	Install wildlife and natural area habitat viewing platform at the Fontana Fen to encourage conservation-based, informational outreach opportunities.
	Continue planning for additions to the bicycle and pedestrian network. In particular, consider a bicycle/pedestrian path parallel to South Lake Shore Drive and North Lake Shore Drive.
	Seek opportunities to protect and consolidate open green space into ecological corridors to reduce future fragmentation.
LOWER PRIORITY	Consider acquisition and conservation-based improvements to parkland in the southeastern portion of the village.
	Maintain accessibility that is well marked to the Geneva Lake Shore Path, building in opportunities for information/education outreach and enhanced passive-recreational use.
	Develop informational/outreach tools to enhance community based ecological participation and passive recreational use of the Well No. 3 Nature Area.
	With technical and funding partners, find opportunities to promote the rich cultural history of the Village through targeted educational outreach programs, tours and other venues.

General Recommendations

- The Village Plan Commission and Village Board should consider requiring open space for parks in all new development proposals.
- The Plan should be reviewed periodically to incorporate regional planning initiatives.
- The Plan should be a living document that will grow and change with the Village's needs.
- The Village of Fontana should maximize partnerships with other open space preservation agencies to expand funding opportunities.
- The Village of Fontana should work with appropriate staff and outside agencies to identify, map and preserve viewsheds and areas of significant beauty.

- To the extent possible, the Village of Fontana should develop and improve connectivity between existing and future public – and appropriate private – open space.
- Open space acquisitions and development should be coordinated with preservation initiatives of other agencies, including but not limited to: the State of Wisconsin, Walworth County, and nonprofit organizations.
- The Village of Fontana should enhance the recreational opportunities offered to all.
- Maintenance of preserved open space, recreational waterways, and parklands will require well-planned management activities. These include:
    - Protecting and enhancing riparian buffers.
    - Controlling invasive and non-native species.
    - Identifying stewardship responsibilities and establishing relationships with regional planning and natural resource agencies.
- The long-term viability of recreational facilities and the preservation of critical natural resources depend on several factors. These include:
    - Funding
    - Land and waterway management policies and practices
    - Facility operations and maintenance
    - Partnerships

Operation and Maintenance Responsibilities

Development of parklands and trails includes constructing facilities that visitors can see – trails, picnic areas, restrooms, parking lots, etc. – and less obvious infrastructure such as plumbing, electrical systems, storage, etc. All must be integrated into the park system in a way that ensures that construction of later park improvements does not conflict with the enjoyment of existing facilities. This requires the development of operation and maintenance plans that take into account all phases of construction.

Proper maintenance of park properties and trails will be a critical aspect of the Village Department of Public Works. Department operations and should be adequately funded. Maintenance activities at these facilities should include the provision, paving, and resurfacing of parking lots and walkways; resurfacing of volleyball, basketball, and tennis court areas; provision, repair, or replacement of such support facilities as park benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains; provision, repair, or replacement of restroom facilities, water supply facilities, maintenance buildings, and picnic shelters, and the maintenance of lawns and other landscape plantings. These responsibilities will not decrease with time. Usage patterns typical of a county parks system will require an ongoing commitment to ensure future generations' enjoyment and safety.

Partnerships

Partnerships are essential to achieving the Village's goals. There are tremendous opportunities to coordinate efforts with other public and private sector initiatives to ensure implementation of the Village's plan. Activities ranging from trail maintenance and park cleanup to historic preservation and environmental education can be aided by volunteers and supported by a host of other groups. Collaborations between municipal agencies and nonprofit organizations enhance the opportunities for obtaining funding for a variety of projects. These groups will be called upon to provide valuable information, expertise and volunteer resources to further mutual goals. Potential shared service arrangements and public/private partnerships include:

- Natural resource and environmental education groups
- Trail advocacy groups
- Historic preservation groups
- Arts and cultural organizations
- Local, state and federal agencies

These broad-based partnerships – including private individuals, businesses, nonprofits, foundations, and the government – can encompass many jurisdictions and address a wide variety of issues. Successful partnerships involve everyone with a stake in the future of the community. Such efforts thrive on the active participation of local government, the private sector, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and individual citizens. Furthermore, successful efforts to create or maintain healthy, livable communities often achieve lasting solutions when economic, and environmental challenges are pursued simultaneously.

Map 3: Future Park Facilities

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IX. Estimated Cost Projections for Future Facilities

This element contains detailed capital cost estimates for providing the new park and recreational facilities recommended in this Plan. The information is intended to assist the Village with budgeting and planning for future parks and to satisfy Sections 66.0617 and 236.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes regarding parkland dedication, fees-in-lieu of dedication, and playground improvements impact fee collection. However, the adoption of this Plan does not commit the Village of Fontana to collecting these fees through an ordinance.

Estimated Cost Projections for Future Park and Recreational Facilities

Based on a projected growth of 96 persons by the year 2025 and the Village's standard of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons (for neighborhood and community parks; according to Statutes, the Village cannot require dedication of land for special use parks), the Village should plan to spend an estimated $36,314 in 2016 dollars for park land acquisition. Assuming the addition of 42 households, a fee-in-lieu of land dedication of $863 per new dwelling unit would meet this demand. The alternative dedication of 993 square feet (0.023 acres) per dwelling unit would satisfy this requirement, if land dedication were preferred. However, land dedication per this provision must be suitable for the development of a neighborhood or community park. The process for arriving at these calculations is described in detail below.

Table 15: Projected Parkland Dedication and Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication

Calculation	Value
A. Projected Additional Population in 10 years (individuals)	96
B. Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 10 years (dwelling units)	42
C. Calculated Additional Acres Needed ((Row A/1000)*10)	0.96
D. Calculated Land Dedication Requirement per Dwelling Unit in Acres (Row C/Row B)	0.023
E. Land Cost per Acre Estimate (Based on an average cost per acre listed for comparable land sales in the Village.)	$34,375
F. Projected Cost of Land Acquisition (Row C*Row E)	$33,013
G. Legal, Engineering, and Design Costs (Row F*10%)	$3,301
H. Total Land Acquisition Cost (Row F + Row G)	$36,314
I. Calculated Fee-in-Lieu of Land Dedication per Dwelling Unit (Row H/Row B)	**$863**
J. Alternative Land Dedication per Dwelling Unit in Square Feet	**993 square feet**

Estimated Cost Projections for Future Playground Improvements

Each park type should have a minimum amount of playground equipment/opportunities available. The cost of certain playground equipment varies with the age range of the intended users and the park type. Equipment in neighborhood parks is intended for younger children and the equipment available in larger parks should accommodate a wider age range of users. However, State law currently restricts the type of park improvements for which a community

may collect impact fees. Table 16 outlines the collectable playground costs associated with each future neighborhood or community park in Fontana. As detailed in Table 17, a cost of $505 per dwelling unit would be required to cover the costs associated with playground improvements.

Table 16: Projected Improvements and Cost by Park Type

Calculation	Neighborhood	Community
A. Cost of Play Equipment	$109,000	$109,000
B. Cost of Benches	$6,540	$13,080
C. Total Estimated Cost (Row A + Row B)	$115,540	$122,080
D. Typical Park Size (based on NRPA standards)	5	25
E. Total Playground Costs per Acre	$23,108	$4,883
F. Landscaping Cost per Acre	$1,635	$1,635
G. Sidewalks Cost per Acre (within parkland)	$9,810	$9,810
H. Grading and Seeding Cost per Acre	$2,180	$2,180
I. Average Improvement Cost per Acre (Rows E +F+G+H+I)	$36,733	$18,508
J. Acres per 1,000 Residents (based on Village standard)	2	8
K. Percent of Total Acres per 1,000 residents in Row J (Row J/10)	20%	80%
L. Average Improvement Cost per Acre (weighted average of Row I based on Row K = ($36,733*0.2)+($18,508*0.8))	**$22,153**	

Table 17: Projected Park Improvement Fee

Calculation	Value
A. Projected Additional Population in 2020 (individuals)	96
B. Projected Additional Dwelling Units in 2020 (dwelling units)	42
C. Calculated Additional Acres Needed ((Row A/1000)*10)	0.96
D. Average Park Improvement Cost per Acre Estimate (Row L from Table 16)	$22,153
E. Projected Cost of Park Improvements (Row C*Row D)	$21,275
F. Calculated Park Improvement Cost per Dwelling Unit (Row E/Row B)	**$505**

Total Impact Fee

In Fontana, impact fees should be imposed on each new dwelling unit unilaterally. By using the fees outlined in Tables 15 and 17 for park lands and playground improvements, **the total park fee per dwelling unit will be $1,367.** In instances where development has dedicated lands, the collected fee will be $505 per dwelling unit.

Impact on Low-Income Housing

As part of the public facilities needs assessment process, Wisconsin Statutes 66.0617(4)(a)(3) requires estimating the effect of imposing impact fees on the availability of affordable housing within the community. For this type of analysis, it is first assumed that housing in Fontana is affordable if:

- Costs of the monthly mortgage payment consumes no more than 30 percent of a household's adjusted gross income;
- Homeowners borrow no more than 2.5 times the Village of Fontana's median household income for a home mortgage (which in 2014 was $77,344 according the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates); and
- Homeowners would make a minimum down payment of 5 percent of the total home cost.

Based on these assumptions, if someone is spending 2.5 times the Fontana population's median household income for a home mortgage ($193,360), and making a 5 percent down payment, then an affordable house in the Village of Fontana costs approximately $203,028. (According to American Community Survey estimates, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in the Village of Fontana is $362,700). Assuming an affordable single-family detached housing price of $203,028, a minimum 5 percent down payment, a 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, and a mortgage amount of $193,360, the typical monthly mortgage payment is $1,038.00.

The Village's imposed fees for parkland, park improvements, and recreation trails would be an integral part of the housing unit mortgage amount. Based on the recommendations of this Plan, the park fee added to the home mortgage amount is $1,367. After adding this fee, the mortgage amount for the typical single family detached home would increase to $194,727. Assuming the same 30-year mortgage at an interest rate of 5 percent, the monthly mortgage payment would be $1,045.34. This increase in monthly mortgage payments due to the imposition of the park fee is $7.34 per month. Therefore, using the assumptions for a home in the Village of Fontana, this study finds that the park impact fee requirements will have a minimal effect on the provision of affordable housing in the Village.

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X. Conclusion

The Village of Fontana has shown itself to be a unique community – rich in natural resources and community pride. There are considerable opportunities for enhancing the resources in the community for the betterment and enjoyment of the Village residents, as well as residents of the entire Geneva Lake area. Furthermore, given the value of the natural communities and waterways occurring within the Village, there is an implicit obligation for future residents to ensure the long-term viability of these systems.

This Park and Open Space Plan presents the Village's intent to protect and preserve its park and open space areas. Along with the Village's Comprehensive Plan, this document should serve as a guide as Village residents and decision-makers face future development and resource protection pressures. Implementation of this Plan over time will ensure a pleasant and sustainable environment with diverse recreational opportunities for all Village residents.

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Appendix 1. Funding Programs

Funding Source	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Typical Funding Amounts and Cycle
Federal			
Land and Water Conservation Fund	State and local governments.	Acquisition, development and redevelopment of parks, trails, general conservation	
USDA NRCS Wetland Reserve Program	Landowners (NRCS determines final eligibility)		
Great Lakes Program Funding (GLNPO)	State pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; for-profit organizations are not; partnership can be built using any combination of the above for better opportunity to win a grant	Habitat Ecological Protection & Restoration Environmental Education, Invasive Species management; partnership building	
Great Lakes Basin, Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund		Protect and Restore Wetlands, Aquatic Habitats	$500 to $3500
Wisconsin Environmental Education Board	Private organizations, communities, and School Programs in partnership are good partner matches for funding eligibility	Environmental Education initiatives	February 2010 $5,000 to $30,000
US EPA Environmental Education Grants	Governmental agencies, School districts, non-profit organizations	Training educators, developing educational programs	$15,000 to $25,000
Recreational Trails Act	Municipalities, school districts	Develop and maintain motorized and non-motorized trail facilities.	

Funding Source	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Typical Funding Amounts and Cycle
NPS National Recreational Trails			
NFWF Challenge Grant Program	All	Priority actions promoting fish and wildlife conservation and wildlife habitat	
National Endowment for the Arts Design Program	Non-profit organizations	Projects that create design awareness, improve the designs of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and planning, historic preservation graphic design.	
US Geological Survey-Water Resources Research Grant		Topics addressing non-point source pollution	
North American Wetlands Conservation Act	Organizations	Matching grants for wetland restoration, acquisition and enhancement	1:1 matching
Clean Vessel Act Grant Program	An agency of a State designated by the Governor	Prevent recreational boat sewage from entering US waters. Planning and construction of pump out stations	$14,000 – $790,000
State of Wisconsin			
Wisconsin Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship	Local governments, non-profit organizations	Land acquisition for development of recreational resources.	
Stewardship Local Assistance Grants	Local governments	Land acquisition, development and restoration; nature-based recreation.	
Community-based Restoration program (NOAA)		Small scale, locally driven habitat restoration projects that foster natural resource stewardship within communities	

Funding Source	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Typical Funding Amounts and Cycle
Foundations			
The Conservation Fund Kodak American Greenways Awards	Non-profit organizations, local governments	Creation of greenways, blueways, trails and open space systems throughout America	$2,500 no required match
The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation	501c (3) org.	Environmental education and outreach, ecosystem preservation	$10,000 -$100,000 no required match
Eastman Kodak Charitable Trust		Supports environmental conservation, education, senior and youth organizations, and community centers.	
Sara Lee Foundation	All	Educational and community enhancement projects, historic preservation, resource conservation matching (capital grants)	matching
Project Water Education for Teachers	All	Equipment for environmental education regarding water resources	
Project WILD	Schools	Outdoor classroom development grants	
Weeden Foundation	All	Land acquisition and protection through conservation actions, protect biodiversity	
American Land Conservation Program (Mellon Foundation)	Non-profit Org.	Acquire and preserve key tracts of land which are in danger of being lost to urban sprawl and environmentally insensitive development.	
Rails to Trails Conservancy		Technical assistance	
Trust for Public Land	Public agencies and communities	Conservation real estate -acquire and protect lands as parks, gardens, recreation area and wilderness.	
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)	All	Funding and gear donations for active outdoor recreation	

Funding Source	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Typical Funding Amounts and Cycle
Youth Garden Grants		Equipment and Products to schools, community centers, for the creation of youth gardens	
River Network Mini-Watershed Grants	Conservation groups	Support short-term organizational development projects	$4,000
Natural Resource Foundation of Wisconsin		Education Related to Wisconsin's Natural Resources	Up to $1,000
Schoenleber Foundation, Inc.		Restoration and Management	
Marshall & Ilsley Foundation, Inc.		Restoration and Management	
The Kresge Foundation	Strengthen the capacity of charitable organizations to provide effective programs of quality; support a range of organizations reflecting almost the entire breadth of the nonprofit sector	challenge grant toward an organization's capital project to reward good programs, It offers an opportunity to build institutional capacity by helping an organization broaden and deepen its base of support from the private sector and by encouraging volunteer involvement	

Appendix 2. SEWRPC per Capita Public Outdoor Recreation Standards

Site Type	Size (Acres)	Publicly Owned Park and School Sites							
		Parks				Schools			
		Minimum Per Capita Public Requirements (acres/1,000 person)	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles)		Minimum Per Capita Public Requirements (acres/1,000 person)	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles)	
				Urban	Rural			Urban	Rural
Multi-community	100-249	2.6	Campsites, swimming beaches, picnic areas, golf course, ski hill, ski touring trail, boat launch, nature study area, playfield, softball and/or baseball diamond, passive activity area	4.0	10.0	***	***	***	***
Community	25-99	2.2	Swimming pool or beach, picnic areas, boat launch, nature study area, softball and/or baseball diamond, soccer field and other playfields, tennis courts, passive activity area.	2.0	***	0.9	Playfield, baseball diamond, softball diamond, tennis court	0.5-1.0	***

Site Type	Size (Acres)	**Publicly Owned Park and School Sites**							
		Parks				Schools			
		Minimum Per Capita Public Requirements (acres/1,000 person)	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles)		Minimum Per Capita Public Requirements (acres/1,000 person)	Typical Facilities	Maximum Service Radius (miles)	
				Urban	Rural			Urban	Rural
Neighbor-hood	Less than 25	1.7	Wading pool, picnic areas, softball and/or baseball diamonds, soccer fields and other playfields, tennis court, playground, basketball court, ice skating rink, passive active area.	0.5-1.0	***	1.6	Playfield, playground, baseball diamond, softball diamond, tennis court, basketball court.	0.5-1.0	***

Source - SEWRPC, 2002

Appendix 3. Glossary of Terms

aquifer: a level of water lying beneath the surface of the soil. This is the source for much drinking water in North America. The water table is the top of the aquifer.

basin: an area drained by a river and its tributaries. Best management practices: the conservation measures and management practices intended to lessen of avoid a development's impact on surrounding land and water. (DNR)

community: in reference to plants, an interacting assemblage of plant populations sharing a given habitat.

carrying capacity: An assessment if a natural resource's or system's ability to accommodate development or use without significant degradation. (DNR)

conservation: preserving and renewing, when possible, human and natural resources. The use, protection, and improvement of natural resources according to principles that will ensure their highest economic or social benefits.

covenant: a legally binding restriction of the future use of a piece of land.

critical species habitat: areas, outside of natural areas, where the chief value lies in their ability to support rare, threatened or endangered species. (*SEWRPC*)

ecosystem: a natural environment considered a complex whole that functions as a unit; a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

environment: the totality of the physical conditions of the earth or a part of it.

environmental corridors: linear areas of natural resources that are critical to maintaining water quality and quantity and to providing habitat linkages that maintain biological diversity. Environmental corridors are often associated with rivers and streams. Identification is based on the presence of one or more of the following elements: 1) rivers, streams, lakes and associated shorelands and floodlands; 2) wetlands; 3) woodlands; 4) prairies; 5) wildlife habitat areas; 6) wet, poorly drained and organic soils; 7) rugged terrain and high relief topography.

erosion: the wearing away of the earth's surface by the action of water, wind, etc.

exotic: a plant or animal species that has been introduced into an ecosystem that is not its native habitat. Because exotics lack natural predators in their new habitats, their population grows rapidly.

fen: in a broad sense, wetlands that are predominately supported by groundwater discharge; fens can be segregated by soil chemistry, water chemistry and vegetation, e.g., calcareous fens.

floodplain: the area alongside a river or other body of water that is subject to flooding.

floodway: the channel of a stream and adjacent area reserved to facilitate passage of a 100-year frequency flood. The wide gently sloping areas contiguous to, and usually lying on both sides of, a stream channel. For planning and regulatory purposes, they are areas, excluding the stream channel, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. (*SEWRPC*)

forbs: herbaceous plants, excluding the grasses, rushes and sedges; especially used to describe broad-leaved, flowering plants.

groundwater: water found in soil or in pores, crevices, etc. in rock.

habitat: the natural home of an organism.

impervious/impermeable: a ground cover such as cement, asphalt, or packed clay or rock through which water cannot penetrate; this leads to increases in the amount and velocity of runoff and corresponds to increases in soils erosion and nutrient transport.

invasive species: Most invasive species are ecological pioneers and colonizers which, once introduced, quickly establish themselves in ecologically disturbed communities. Invasive species typically displace native flora due to faster growth rates, efficient dispersal mechanisms, and tolerance of a wider range of conditions. Invasive species often lack natural predators and diseases which control populations in their native environments. As the diversity and populations of native plants decrease, so does the variety of habitats available for wildlife. (*Source: DNR*)

major streams: those which maintain, at a minimum, a small continuous flow throughout the year except under unusual drought conditions. (*SEWRPC*)

marsh: a type of wetland dominated by soft-stemmed vegetation such as cattails, reeds, and sedges.

mesic: intermediate between dry and wet conditions; moderately moist.

native: an indigenous species, originating naturally in a specific area.

natural areas: tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the landscape before European settlement. (*SEWRPC*)

non-point source pollution: pollution from sources other than waste treatment plants and direct wastewater discharges.

pervious surface: a ground cover through which water can penetrate at a rate comparable to that of water through undisturbed soils.

planning: a rational process for formulating objectives and meeting those objectives through the preparation and implementation of plans.

point source pollution: pollution arising from direct wastewater discharge or from treatment plant effluents.

riverine: of or on a river or river bank; riparian.

sedimentation: consolidation of matter that is carried by water or wind and deposited on the surface of the land.

Smart Growth: an approach to land-use planning and growth management that recognizes connections between development and quality of life. The features that distinguish smart growth approaches vary. In general, smart growth invests time, attention, and resources in restoring community and vitality to center cities and older suburbs. In developing areas, the approach is more town-centered, is transit and pedestrian oriented, and has a greater mix of housing, commercial, and retail uses. Smart-growth approaches preserve open space and other environmental amenities. The term is also used to refer to Wisconsin's comprehensive planning law. See s. 66.1001, Wis. Stats. (*Source: WDNR*)

stewardship: an ethic of responsible management for long term sustainability of a resource

stormwater management: the reduction of the quantity of runoff which affects flooding, or of pollutants generated at a development site and carried in stormwater. (*DNR*)

stormwater runoff: describes the water that flows overland during a rainstorm.

subwatershed: area of a river basin based on the tributaries and their watersheds as defined by the area's natural topography.

succession: a sequence of changes whereby a plant or animal community successively gives way to another until a climax community is reached.