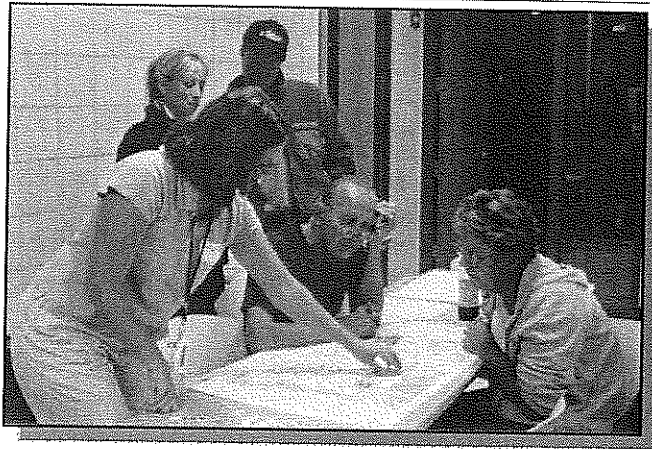


### III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

As part of the planning process for this 2006 *Park and Open Space Plan*, a visioning workshop was held on September 28, 2005 to provide Village residents an early opportunity to share their perspectives on the existing park system and its future. During the workshop, participants were asked to identify key goals for the park system and potential future locations for parks, trails, and preservation areas.

A compilation of data received at the workshop indicated that the Village's top goal was to develop a multi-use trail system. This system should be designed to connect park and open space lands, accommodate alternative means of transportation to and from parks, and provide additional active and passive recreational opportunities (e.g. biking, hiking, jogging, nature study, etc.). Other frequently mentioned goals identified the need for more active *outdoor* recreational facilities, more passive recreational facilities, and improved access to Lake Michigan, particularly beach and swimming areas.

The results of this workshop contributed to the development of the goals, objectives, and policies described in Chapter VI. A complete record of comments received at the workshop is provided in Appendix B of this *Plan*.



*Park Planning Visioning Workshop: September 28, 2005*



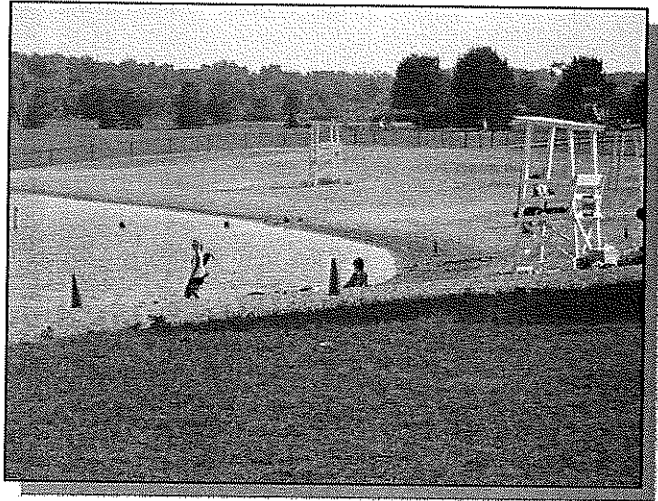
## IV EXISTING PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The following is a summary of the existing park and recreational facilities within the Village. These facilities are depicted on Maps 1a and 1b. A complete list of the facilities within each park is provided in Appendix A.

### A. REGIONAL PARKS

#### Prairie Springs Park

This 930-acre park is located in the western portion of the Village along the Des Plaines River, north of 104<sup>th</sup> Street and west of 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The park includes a 110-acre spring-fed lake, Lake Andrea, which features a beach with designated swimming areas. The lake also accommodates fishing, wind surfing, sailing, canoeing, and kayaking. The park offers two playgrounds, softball fields, picnic areas, volleyball pits, nature trails, and a paved multi-use path around the lake. The LakeView RecPlex and Pleasant Prairie IcePlex, discussed in more detail in Section F of this Chapter, are located within Prairie Springs Park.



### B. COMMUNITY PARKS

#### Anderson Park

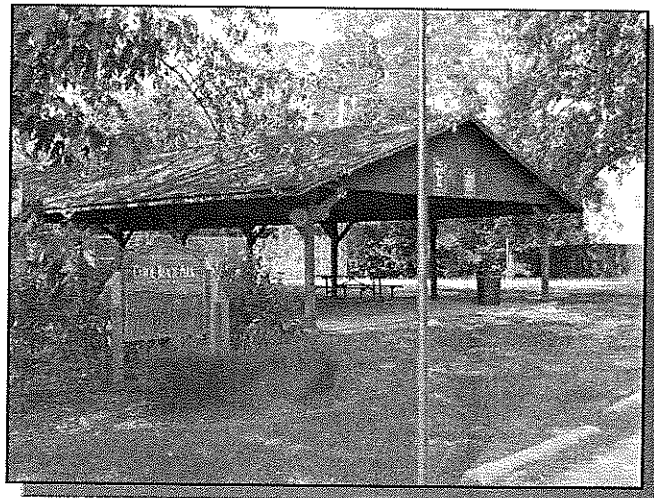
This 95 acre park is situated just north of the Village's jurisdictional boundary in the City of Kenosha (8730 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue). The park is adjacent to Tremper High School and is equipped to accommodate many recreational activities. Amenities include 2 baseball diamonds, 20 soccer fields (10 open to public use), a football stadium (not open to public), a swimming pool, a pond that can be used for fishing in the warmer months and ice skating in the winter, and a playground. Although the park is located outside of Pleasant Prairie, its proximity to the Village, as well as its capacity to accommodate visitors from the surrounding community and multiple neighborhoods, justifies its mention in this *Plan*.

There are no existing Community Parks within the Village limits.

### C. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

#### Carol Beach Park

This 2.9-acre park is located at the intersection of 111<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the eastern edge of Pleasant Prairie near the coast of Lake Michigan. It offers a softball field, an open-air pavilion and supplementary picnic area, a basketball court, and a playground.



**Becker Park**

This small, one and a half-acre neighborhood park is located at the intersection of 76<sup>th</sup> Street and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue along the northern perimeter of Pleasant Prairie. It has one ball field and a playground.

**Woodlawn Park**

This very small, 0.14 acre park is located within a residential neighborhood on the northern edge of the Village at the intersection of Harrison Road and 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It includes a small picnic area and playground.

**Pleasant Prairie Park**

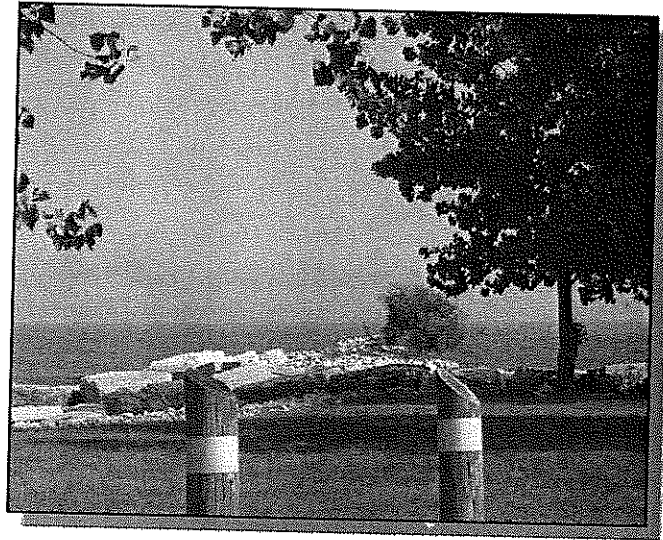
This 22-acre park is located at the intersection of 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bain Station Road on the western edge of the Village about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile east of the Des Plaines River. Amenities include two ball fields, a playground, and restrooms.

**Rolling Meadows Park**

This three and a half-acre park is located at the intersection of 100<sup>th</sup> Street and 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in the eastern portion of the Village. It features a playground, a picnic area, and direct access to the Kenosha County bike/walking trail.

**Lake Michigan Park**

This four and a half-acre site is located on Lakeshore Drive along the coast of Lake Michigan between 102<sup>nd</sup> and 113<sup>th</sup> Streets. The park has one picnic area, a beach, and provides public access to the Lake.

**D. SPECIAL OPEN SPACE AREAS****Carol Beach Open Space Lands**

When combined, these six sites comprise over 60 acres of land along the coast of Lake Michigan. Although these sites are fragmented, they are critical to the continued preservation of prairie habitat, wetlands, and significant archaeological sites. The locations of these six sites are as follows:

- West of 7th Avenue and north of 85th Street;
- West of 3rd Avenue and south of 85th Street;
- East of 5th Avenue and north/south of 91st Street;
- Southeast of 95th Street;
- East of the railway at approximately 101 Street; and
- East of railway at approximately 110th Street.

### **Country Corner-Tobin Creek Open Space Land**

These 8 and one-half acres of open space are located just north of the western portion of Tobin Creek, east of 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue and north of 116<sup>th</sup> Street. The area lies within a secondary environmental corridor.

### **Des Plaines River Open Space Land**

This 150 acre open space area is located east of I-94 and south of State Highway 50. The land is located within a primary environmental corridor.

### **Momper's Woods**

This 26-acre site is located in the central portion of the Village, west of State Highway 31 and between 104<sup>th</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup> Streets. The area is mostly wooded and has been preserved for use as a future park. Archaeological surveys have confirmed that the site is historically significant, as it is home not only to preserved remnants of the Jambeau Indian Trail, but also to several prehistoric Native American campsites that span 10,000 years or more of human history. Currently, this area is not open to the public. However, the Village has plans to transform the land into a nature center with recreation trails and outdoor classroom space (see concept plan located in Chapter IX).

### **Prairie Trails West Open Space Land**

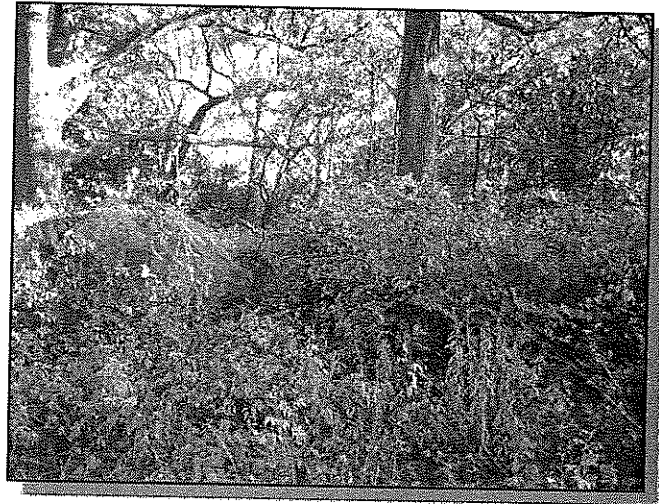
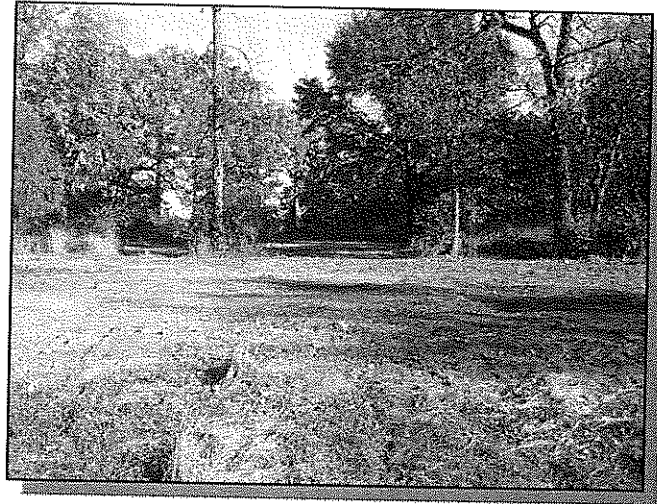
These 8 acres of open space are located within a secondary environmental corridor east of 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue and north of 122<sup>nd</sup> Street. The lands are in proximity to the Kenosha County Bike Trail.

### **Golf Course/Driving Range**

There are two privately-owned golf-related facilities located in Pleasant Prairie. Big Oaks Golf Course is located along the Wisconsin/Illinois State line at 6117 123d Place, and Transcendental Golf Driving Range is located in the southeastern portion of the Village at 1621 116<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area**

These 482 acres of preservation lands are home to one of the largest prairie complexes in the State and the largest coastal wetland in southeastern Wisconsin. The southern portion of the area is managed by The Nature Conservancy, and the northern parcels are managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, including the Kenosha Dunes, which contains open and stabilized sand dunes. More than 400 vascular plant species and 75 grassland and wetland birds habitat the area. Chiwaukee Prairie is recognized as a National Natural Landmark and a State Natural Area.





### Publicly-Owned Open Spaces

These lands are owned by the Village, County, or State. Although the lands are not formal parks, they have remained undeveloped either because they are unsuitable for development, they encompass significant natural resources, or they serve or will serve another function such as stormwater detention. The Village has a total of approximately 447 acres of publicly-owned open spaces, or 2% of the Village's total land area. This acreage includes the Chiwaukee Prairie lands that are owned and managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

### Privately-Owned Open Spaces

These lands are owned, preserved, and managed by a private organization (e.g. The Nature Conservancy). There is a total of approximately 622 acres of privately-owned open space in the Village, or 3% of the Village's total land area. This acreage includes the Chiwaukee Prairie lands that are owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy.

### Primary Environmental Corridors:

These lands have been identified for protection in the Village's *Comprehensive Land Use Plan* because they contain especially high value natural, scenic, historic, and recreational resources. Primary environmental corridors are, by definition, at least 400 acres in size, at least 2 miles long, and at least 200 feet wide. The Village currently has identified approximately 3,286 acres of primary environmental corridors, or 15% of the Village's total land area.

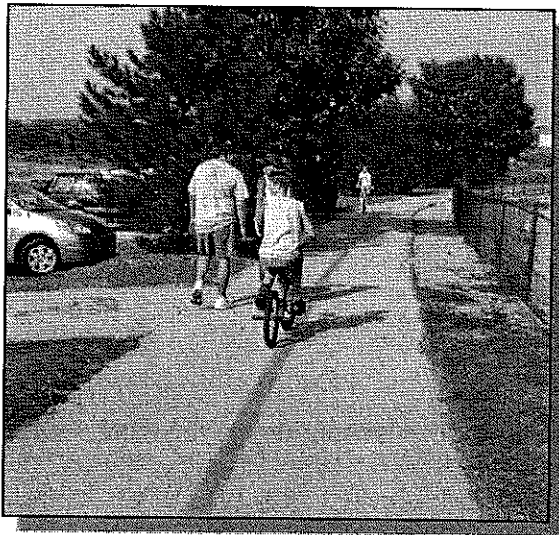
### Secondary Environmental Corridors

These lands are often remnants of primary environmental corridors that have been partially developed or converted to agricultural use. By definition, they are at least 100 acres in size and at least one mile long, unless serving to link primary environmental corridors. The Village has identified approximately 954 acres of secondary environmental corridors, or 4% of the Village's total land area.

### Isolated Natural Resource Areas

These lands represent smaller concentrations of high-quality natural resources that are separated from environmental corridors. Such areas must be at least five acres in size and at least 200 feet wide. The Village has identified a total of approximately 566 acres of isolated natural resource areas, or 2% of the Village's total land area.

## E. TRAILS



### Kenosha County Bike Trail

This trail begins south of the Illinois state line and heads north through the Village and into the City of Kenosha where it connects with the Pike Bike Trail. This Trail continues through to the north of Kenosha and eventually ends in Racine County.

### Prairie Springs Park Trails

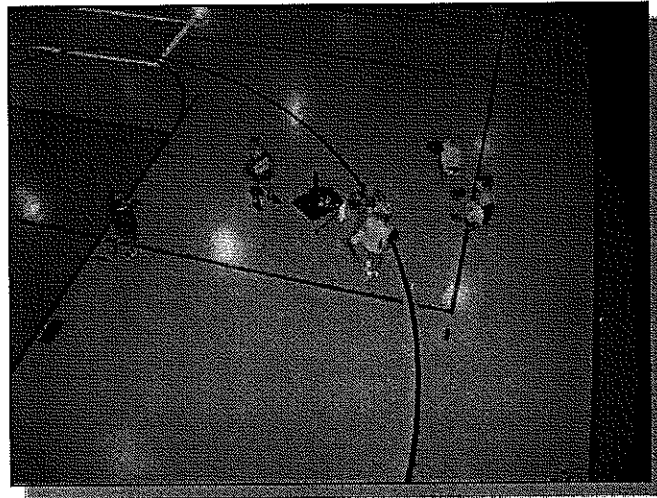
Prairie Springs Park currently has approximately 2 miles of wooded trails and a 2.3-acre paved multi-use trail that encircles Lake Andrea.

## F. OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### LakeView RecPlex and Pleasant Prairie IcePlex

These two facilities are located on the shore of Lake Andrea within Prairie Springs Park. Combined, the LakeView RecPlex and Pleasant Prairie IcePlex house over 260,000 square feet of recreational space, including two National Hockey League-size ice rinks, an indoor water park, a fitness center for aerobics and Pilates classes, indoor soccer fields, basketball courts, volleyball courts, batting cages, racquetball courts, a play zone for kids, a food court, child care facilities, and massage therapy.

The LakeView RecPlex and Pleasant Prairie IcePlex are owned by the Village and managed by Pleasant Prairie's Recreation Department. The facilities are completely self-sustaining and are paid for through membership and usage fees. Roughly half of RecPlex/IcePlex members live outside of the Village. Praised as one of the Village's most remarkable achievements by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, RecPlex/IcePlex is the largest recreation facility in Southeastern Wisconsin, and one of the largest municipally-owned recreation complexes in the nation. Pleasant Prairie's Recreation Department and RecPlex staff coordinate all formal recreational activities in the Village. The Recreation Department also hosts annual triathlon events that bring thousands of athletes and spectators into the Village.



## G. PUBLIC SCHOOL PARKS

### Pleasant Prairie Elementary School Park Land

This 20-acre park is owned and maintained by the Kenosha Unified School District. The Park is fully accessible by the public and functions as a neighborhood park. Amenities include a soccer field, a basketball court, a softball field, a playground, 2 tetherball poles, a playfield, and a hard surface recreation area.

### Prairie Lane Elementary School Park Land

This 23-acre park is owned and maintained by the Kenosha Unified School District. It is accessible by the public and functions as a neighborhood park. Amenities include a basketball court, a soccer field, a baseball diamond, a volleyball net, a playground, and a playfield.

**Whittier Elementary School Park Land**

This 7-acre school yard is owned and maintained by the Kenosha Unified School District. It has three public access points and functions as a neighborhood park. Amenities include, three basketball courts, two soccer fields, a baseball diamond, a volleyball court, a playground, and a playfield.

**H. ACCESSIBILITY-UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND ADA COMPLIANCE**

Park and recreational facilities must be designed to be barrier-free and accessible to all park users whenever possible to meet the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Furthermore, universal design standards serve as guidelines for complying with federal ADA regulations, and are required for most grant-in-aid programs.

Currently, all facilities at Prairie Springs Park are ADA compliant, including restrooms. However, the Village's other existing parks and recreational facilities will require upgrades to make them more accessible to people with disabilities.

