



11333 N Cedarburg Road
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www.ci.mequon.wi.us

Office of Parks and Operations

PARK AND OPEN SPACE BOARD

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

6:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

ELECTRONIC MEETING NOTICE: Pursuant to the current recommendation of the CDC limiting the size of public gatherings and the various federal and state orders implementing that recommendation, and to help protect our community from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, this meeting will be held virtually through the GoToMeeting platform with each member accessing the meeting remotely. Citizens may join the meeting online or by phone. Please go to <https://www.gotomeet.me/KristenLundeen/park-and-open-space> to join the meeting online or call into the meeting by dialing 1-866-899-4679 and enter access code 357-212-389.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS: may be made in writing in advance of the meeting. Written comments should be directed to the Parks and Forestry Department at least 2 hours prior to the meeting by email at mgies@ci.mequon.wi.us addressed to the intended committee. Written public comment may also be deposited in the drop box at City Hall on 11333 N. Cedarburg Road, Mequon at least 2 hours prior to the meeting. Comments received timely will be forwarded to all members of the body for their consideration.

VERBAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: will be accepted only from members of the public who register in advance. Registration shall be made by sending an email to Parks and Forestry Superintendent Mike Gies at mgies@ci.mequon.wi.us or by leaving a message at 262- 512-1297 no later than 2 hours prior to the meeting.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for those citizens who are unable to attend the meeting in the methods identified above upon at least two hours' notice. Notice can be given to the City Clerk's Office at 262-236-2914.

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order, Roll Call
- 2) Approval of Meeting Minutes
Action requested: review and approve
 - a. May 19, 2021 Minutes
 - b. May 27, 2021 Minutes
- 3) Parks and Forestry Superintendent Report
 - a. Parks and Forestry Updates

- b. 2021 Work Plan

4) Discussion Item

Discussion and Possible Action

- a. Finalization of the Budget for 2022
- b. Strategic Planning

5) Adjourn

Dated: June 23, 2021

/s/ Patrick Marchese, Chair

Notice is hereby given that a quorum of other governmental bodies may be present at this meeting to present, discuss and/or gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility, although they will not take formal action thereto at this meeting.

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations for attendance at this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at 262-236-2914, twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting.

Any questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the Parks Department Office at 262-236-2945 Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.



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Office of Parks and Operations

PARK AND OPEN SPACE BOARD

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

6:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Minutes

1) Call to Order, Roll Call

Chair Marchese called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Present:

Chair Patrick Marchese

Vice Chair Jason Cain

Board Member Joseph Branch

Board Member James Lysaught

Alternate Alderman Brian Parrish

Alderman Kathleen Schneider

Board Member Anton Usowski

Board Member Gerald Vite

Board Member Peter Bratt -- **Absent**

Board Member Geoffery Hurtado -- **Absent**

Board Member Breanne Plier -- **Absent**

Also present were Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Lundeen, Finance Director Krueger, and Administrative Assistant Deuster.

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. April 21, 2021 Minutes

RESULT: **Approved [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Board Member Vite

SECONDED BY: Board Member Lysaught

AYES:	Marchese, Cain, Branch, Lysaught, Parrish, Schneider, Usowski, Vite
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3) Action Item

Discussion and Possible Action

a. Parks Funding/Municipal Finance

Attachment: 05-19-2021 Mins_Park and Open Space (6354 : May 19, 2021 Minutes)

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies provided recommendations to support as it relates to the FY2021 to the FY2022 budget including restoration of operation and maintenance budget cuts applied for the FY 2021 due to decrease in revenue. Increase the operation and maintenance accounts related to maintenance and repairs that are insufficient. Maintain the \$50,000 capital funding for park improvements. Increase of capital funding for City Facility Improvements, maintenance of capital funding for parking lots, and restoration of previous funding levels for Emerald Ash Borer Abatement.

The board discussed restoring the budget cuts, master planning for neighborhood parks, cap finding for updated signage, wayfinding- logo project, hiring additional staff and costs to parks becoming ADA accessible.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Lundeen stated for budgeting requests providing a list and requesting increases to an account will allow for the board and staff to decide where funding should go versus promoting an increase to a singular item that might lead to the board saying no and you receive no funding for it.

The Finance Director Krueger provided options as possible solutions to increase funding to the parks for improvements. Those options were Park reservation fees get allocated to park improvement capital account, At the end of the fiscal year, unspent parks department operating budget amount gets transferred to the park improvement capital account, increase the tax levy to fund the park improvement capital account, the city could accept donations designated to certain projects or purposes and create a friends of the Mequon parks or park society.

b. Lemke RFP Score Card Discussion

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies provided the board with score card and interview questions to use for the evaluation of the Lemke Park RFP and looked for feedback on any changes.

c. City of Mequon Strategic Planning Discussion

Chair Marchese provided the board a memo of the boards priorities to have a dialog with the Strategic Planning Team. The intent is to have a brief history on the Park and Open Space Board, our priorities, and a funding mechanism. The priorities are Civic Campus, Master Planning, Stewardship and Maintenance of Natural Areas, and Greenway Plans for the Milwaukee and Little Menomonee Rivers.

Park and Forestry Superintend Gies provided the board with his comments on finding a way to use wayfinding for signage in the Civic Campus. One concern he had was with the Greenway Planning and a disconnect with Community Development and needing the parks department to be at the table for discussions to allow for feedback.

The board discussed the priorities of the strategic planning document with intent to review the full document to provide to the strategic planning team.

4) Parks and Forestry Superintendent Report

a. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Report

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies provided an update on the Rotary Park paving project and the first 1840 Brewing Event held at River Barn Park.

b. 2021 Work Plan

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies provided the 2021 work plan for review.

5) Motion to Adjourn at 8:33 PM.

RESULT: **Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Board Member Lysaught

SECONDED BY: Board Member Vite

AYES: Marchese, Cain, Branch, Lysaught, Parrish, Schneider, Usowski, Vite

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Deuster
Administrative Assistant

Attachment: 05-19-2021 Mins_Park and Open Space (6354 : May 19, 2021 Minutes)



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Office of Parks and Operations

PARK AND OPEN SPACE BOARD

Thursday, May 27, 2021

6:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Minutes

1) Call to Order, Roll Call

Chair Marchese called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Present:

Chair Patrick Marchese
Board Member Peter Bratt
Board Member Geoffery Hurtado
Board Member James Lysaught
Board Member Breanne Plier
Board Member Anton Usowski
Vice Chair Jason Cain -- **Absent**
Board Member Joseph Branch -- **Absent**
Alderman Kathleen Schneider -- **Absent**
Board Member Gerald Vite -- **Absent**
Alternate Alderman Brian Parrish -- **Excused**

Also present were Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies, and Administrative Assistant Deuster.

2) Action Item

Discussion and Action

- a. **RESOLUTION 3851** A Resolution Approving a Special Event Agreement for Goats as a Tool for Invasive Plant Control

Parks and Forestry Superintendent Gies provided a summary to the board, the goats covered 7 acres of land with 4 paddocks in the pilot program last year. The intent was to have a trial period in 2020 and re-access in 2021. This year will be 30 goats brought in for 10-14 days in June and 3-5 days in August. The recommended changes brought to the board is to have this event be reoccurring with approval from the Parks and Forestry Superintendent and the Park and Open Space Board Level. If there would be changes beyond this agreement then it would have to follow the procedure of also needing approval by the Public Works and Common Council.

Also in attendance were M-T Sunrise Rotary members Connie Pukaite and Dave Schlageter to answer any questions from the board.

RESULT: **Approved [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Board Member Lysaught

SECONDED BY: Board Member Plier

AYES: Marchese, Bratt, Hurtado, Lysaught, Plier, Usowski

3) Motion to Adjourn at 6:42 PM.

RESULT: **Approved by Voice Acclamation [Unanimous]**

MOVED BY: Board Member Bratt

SECONDED BY: Board Member Usowski

AYES: Marchese, Bratt, Hurtado, Lysaught, Plier, Usowski

Respectfully Submitted,

Casey Deuster
Administrative Assistant

Attachment: 05-27-2021 Mins_Park and Open Space (6355 : May 27, 2021 Minutes)



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Office of Parks and Forestry

TO: Park and Open Space Board
FROM: Mike Gies, Parks and Forestry Superintendent
DATE: June 23, 2021
SUBJECT: Parks and Forestry Updates

- Chair Vacancy - Process
- Lemke Park Consultants Update
- Goats in Rotary Park Update
- Rotary Parking Lot Update



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Office of Parks and Forestry

TO: Park and Open Space Board
FROM: Mike Gies, Parks and Forestry Superintendent
DATE: June 23, 2021
SUBJECT: 2021 Work Plan

Attached for the boards review is a copy of the 2021 Work Plan.

Attachments:
2021 Work Plan (June 23, 2021) (DOC)

**Park and Open Space Board
2021 Work Plan (June 23, 2021)**

Month	Agenda Topics
June	- Budget Review: Preliminary review of 2021 budget request letter - Strategic Planning- Discussion and possible approval Update: Lemke Park Consultants, Goats, Rotary Parking
July	- Discussion: Annual Report - MTLL/Heat- Dedication Agreement for dugout donation- Review and Approve Fund for Lake Michigan- River Barn Park - Budget Review: Finalization of budget request 2022 - Fee Schedule: Recommendation of 2021 fees
August	- Budget Review: Review of proposed City budget (if released prior to meeting) - Review and Approve: Annual Report (submission to Common Council)
September	- Data Compilation and Result Analyses, Report Preparation-AOC River Advisory Board- Invited to attend
October	Annual Report – Completed and Submitted
November	TBD
December	Budget Review: Prioritization of capital projects for 2021

Future Agenda Topics

- Inventory of park field usage for consideration of redistribution of youth sports groups
- Continued discussion/updates on Community Park/Mequon Civic Campus
-
- Discuss future partnership potential County/ MMSD, plans for park usage
- Discuss future needs of Rennie Field?
- MNP/MMSD Land Acquisition

Status Report

<i>Work Item</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Action Items</i>
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan	Complete	Incorporate comments into 2020 Work Plan

<i>Work Item</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Action Items</i>
Community Group Engagement	Complete	Incorporate comments into CPROSP update
Develop Prioritized Project List	Complete	Approve Prioritized List for 2021 action items
Policy Discussion		
City Naming Rights for donated infrastructure	Complete	Approval by Board and Common Council
Standard document for ownership, operation and maintenance of donated infrastructure	Complete	Document/ in use
Volunteer coordination	Form subcommittee for handout, draft adopt a park format	Draft handout, Draft adopt a park format
Standard Park signage plan	Draft Needed	Draft policy language
Park Rental Fee Schedule	Updated for 2021/Pending	Comprehensive review for 2022
Rotary Pavilion Holding Tank	Complete	

Ongoing Park Projects:

- Reuter Pavilion Doors, Roof, Facia, Gutters- complete April 2021
- Garrison's Glen- Concrete
- Rotary Park Parking Lot Completion 2021- complete June 2021
- River Barn Portals
- River Barn Interior Finishing- complete March 2021

TO: Park and Open Space Board
FROM: Mike Gies, Parks and Forestry Superintendent
DATE: June 23, 2021
SUBJECT: Finalization of the Budget for 2022

Background

The Common Council will meet at the end of July for a budget kickoff meeting, where it will give staff direction for preparing the fiscal year 2022 budget and discuss allocation of funding for capital projects.

The Park and Open Space Board has previously requested that staff provide the timeframe for the Board to address the Common Council with its budget requests.

Analysis

Staff will submit capital and operation and maintenance requests on Friday, July 9 for consideration ahead of the late July workshop. Based on those funding requests, staff is seeking Board support for the following capital funding requests:

- Restoration of operation and maintenance budget cuts applied for the FY2021 due to anticipated decrease in revenue.
- Increase of operation and maintenance
- Facilities
- Parks Capital - restoration of previous funding
- Removal of dead trees due to Emerald Ash Borer - restoration of previous funding
- Parking Lots
- Additional Parks Staffing

Fiscal Impact

In the future, the Board will have the opportunity to support or request specific funding amounts. While the agenda for the late July meeting is not yet established, it is more likely to be a general discussion about budget priorities, needs assessment and funding sources (general levy, borrowing, etc.).

At subsequent meetings, Staff will provide further information on the budget process to provide the Board with the opportunity to engage the Common Council.

Recommendation

At the last POSB meeting, the Board requested that staff provide a copy of a draft letter, penned by the Board. The letter will be discussed at the meeting and potentially approved for submittal to the Mayor and the Common Council for consideration at the July meeting. Staff recommends that the Board review and approve the letter, so it may be forwarded to the Mayor and the Common Council members.

Attachments:

Budget Request Letter 2021 POSB (PDF)

Dear Mayor and Members of the Common Council,

The Park and Open Space Board (Board) understands that on **July 31**, the Common Council will discuss the preliminary structure of the 2022 budget (FY 2022). That will include an evaluation of capital funding, as well as establishing the parameters for staff to generate the operations budget.

We offer the following for your consideration:

Background:

The Park and Open Space Board's work over the past several years has focused on both short term and long-term projects, ongoing operations, and maintenance, and visioning well into the future. The funding for those various initiatives may be different for each.

The Board also continues efforts; meeting with and gathering detailed information from user groups relating to park conditions and their future needs. As well as identifying public/private partnership coordination to implement new projects throughout the Mequon Parks and Open Space system. The Board now prepares annual prioritized lists for Capital Improvement Projects, and Operations and Maintenance needs. This allows the Board to make specific recommendations for the Council to consider during the preparation of the 2022 budget.

The Boards efforts have identified six major areas that we believe the City should fund to initiate or restore direct actions in 2022. Please consider this letter as the Board's recommendations and strong support for budgeting capital and or operational funds for the following areas:

- Restoration of operation and maintenance budget cuts applied for the FY2021 due to anticipated decrease in revenue.
- Increase of operation and maintenance
- Facilities
- Parks Capital – restoration of previous funding
- Removal of dead trees due to Emerald Ash Borer – restoration of previous funding
- Parking Lots
- Additional Parks Staffing

Restoration of Operations and Maintenance Funding:

Due to the circumstances of 2021 and the anticipated decrease in revenue, the Parks budget was decreased by approximately 6-7%. The Board acknowledged the need for the cuts in 2021 but would like to formally request that the funds are restored to pre-pandemic numbers in subsequent years. The Board is also requesting a consideration of an increase to the pre-pandemic numbers to further support deferred maintenance and increased operational expenses.

While capital funded projects are a priority of the Board, funding operations and maintenance is also critical to the parks now and in the future. Therefore, the Board requests a restoration of funds lost due to the impacts of the pandemic. Deferred and delayed maintenance will cause future funding crises!

Facilities:

The Board has found that several of our most used Community Park facilities continue to need some level of maintenance or repair. Not only do these facilities serve the public, the facilities are also reserved, and therefore generate revenue. We continue to be informed by the fee-paying user groups, that the facilities have deteriorated from the prime structures originally constructed. Some facilities have exterior, and aesthetic issues that have become an embarrassment. Others need fundamental repairs that require replacement due to deferred maintenance.

The City's parks and associated facilities serve as a phenomenal resource and a vital part of what makes Mequon the greatest place to live and play. Our parks are extensively used by numerous youth sports teams. During their peak seasons they are practicing, having games, or having tournaments, some of them nationally recognized. Thousands of Mequon families and visitors are using and enjoying our parks. They are in differing states of disrepair and should be restored to their original level of service and subsequently supplemented with proper operations and maintenance funding. The City's asset management report states that the Rotary Park pavilion, Reuter Park pavilion, and River Barn Park pavilion need repair. This report should be the basis for restoring capital funds lost in 2021, as well as considering an increase starting in the 2022 budget and beyond.

The Board requests sufficient funds for park facilities, based on information in the report, should be included in the 2022 budget and a long-term funding plan to restore the park facilities should be prepared.

Parks Capital:

Much like the decrease in operations and maintenance funding, the Parks capital budget was affected by a 6% decrease in 2021. Park's capital expenses continue to be a priority of the Board. Beyond the need for facility improvements, stakeholders and users continue the expectations for improvements within the Parks system. The Board is requesting funds be restored to pre-pandemic numbers.

Dead tree removal:

Although dead trees caused by Emerald Ash Borer is an issue throughout the City, proper removal of dead trees at our parks must be implemented soon! City crews have started and continue to work on removals throughout the park system but have only begun to impact the larger parks that have high densities of Ash. Some of our parks are at risk of closure for public safety reasons. Many parks will require extensive safety measures to remove the dead and dying ash trees, to save other foliage and park amenities. For the safety of the park users, and to maintain the health of existing foliage proper removal is a high priority. The Board requests a restoration of funding to levels, and a possible increase in sufficient funding to remove dead trees that are a risk to public safety in our parks.

Parking Lots:

In addition to the facilities themselves, several parking lots at our most heavily used parks are in very bad condition. The parking lot is the first thing that a park user sees and feels. Parking lots are also the first structure to suffer from deferred maintenance or no maintenance by simply breaking up. The repaving of Rotary Park was completed in 2021, but additional funding is still necessary at River Barn (portions originally installed in 2003), Katherine Kearney Carpenter Park, Community Park, and Villa Grove. The Board requests sufficient parking lot funding be included

in the 2022 budget to address the current needs of the park system, as well as establishing funding for future needs.

Additional Parks Staff:

The Board recognizes the need for additional Parks staff to maintain the Parks and Open Spaces to a level requested and supported by park users. Current staff levels consist of the following.

- 1 - Parttime Superintendent
- 1 - Parttime Administrative Assistant
- 2 - 50/50 park workers (50% of the year in Highway and 50% in Parks)
- 2 - Fulltime Park workers

The National Recreation and Park Association list the national average for park employees per 10,000 residents is (8.1) FTE positions. The Board acknowledges the City of Mequon has an independent Recreation Department but is still operating the parks at a minimal staffing level. Current staffing levels do not allow for care of the parks up to the Board and stakeholder expectations. The requests sufficient funding to be included in the 2022 budget to address the new FTE positions to provide the needed support to the current staffing levels.

Possible funding sources:

The Board recognizes that the Common Council has an obligation to the tax payers to be responsible in establishing funding levels. As each member of the Board is also a tax payer in the City we respect the hard choices you must make to keep our taxes low. We are proud of the way Mequon is growing and how the value of our homes is increasing during the best economic conditions we have experienced in decades. Please consider this letter not only as a set of recommendations and support, but as a formal request for a general levy increase to provide sufficient funding for the Park system. The Board believes City's park system should be a source of pride for all citizens of Mequon and for the thousands of park users who frequent them annually. We know you share our pride and will include adequate funding in the 2022 budget to start the work to bring our parks back to the level of quality and service that makes Mequon great!

Thank you,

Bre Plier

Patrick Marchese, Chair

Gerald Vite

Jason Cain, Vice-Chair

Joe Branch

Anton Usowski

James Lysaught

Peter Bratt

Geoff Hurtado



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Office of Parks and Forestry

TO: Park and Open Space Board
FROM: Mike Gies, Parks and Forestry Superintendent
DATE: June 23, 2021
SUBJECT: Strategic Planning

Background:

The purpose of the effort is to inform the City's strategic plan team about the Park and Open Space Board's major efforts and our larger visioning priorities. This is the City's first Strategic plan. The time frame is 3 years plus.

The City of Mequon is seeking proposals from consultants with expertise in strategic planning to guide the development of an inaugural strategic plan for the organization. Through this process, the City seeks to establish a clearly defined mission, vision, goals, and objectives that can be easily operationalized into the various workplans across the organization. The city also wishes to create an implementation roadmap for carrying out the strategic plan that include processes for keeping it updated and evaluating progress.

Analysis:

The City of Mequon currently has an RFQ out request consultants to complete a strategic service for the city. The timetable for completion is December 2021.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board review final draft of the parks strategic planning recommendations. Once the consultant is chosen, further direction will be given to the Board for potential adjustments or additions to the document.

Attachments:

Strategic Planning Final (PDF)

TO: Strategic Planning Team, Will Jones, Brian Parrish
FROM: Park and Open Space Board
DATE: June 23, 2021
SUBJECT: Park and Open Space Strategic Priorities

Background

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Strategic Planning Team with the Board's priorities for the Park and Open Space system. The priorities were developed from values that make parks and open space an essential part of Mequon and the Board's purpose established in Mequon ordinance. (Ordinance 2017-1505)

The Park and Open Space system is vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in Mequon, ensuring the health of families and youth, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community.

The City established the Park and Open Space Board with the purpose *"to promote and provide active and passive recreational activities, land and water preservation and restoration, and environmental education for the City's residents."*

The Board working with the Park and Forestry Superintendent has focused its efforts on improving maintenance of existing facilities, developing policies, and standard contract forms that provide consistent and efficient service to user groups.

A major accomplishment was the completion of a comprehensive park plan and three master plans for Mequon's community parks. These planning efforts catalyze and drive the Board's actions. They determine priorities, help define adequate resources, aid in establishing public/private partnerships needed to build projects and deliver high quality services to Mequon's residents.

Park and Open Space Board Priorities

Priority #1: CIVIC CAMPUS PLANNING

Assist the City to make decisions and provide direction on what recreational facilities will be included in the future Civic Campus

The Civic Campus (CC) consists of City Hall, the Mequon Community Pool, Rennie Field and the Frank L Weyenberg Library, and forms the institutional core of Mequon. With the development of the Town Center TID, which includes Spur 16, Fox Town, and the Civic Campus, the area has created a new neighborhood which, now defines the “Heart of Mequon.” The future of the Civic Campus will establish the image, culture, and perceived quality of life in Mequon. The actions and decisions Mequon takes today on the CC will have a major impact on the future of Mequon’s Park and Open Space system.

The four recreational components in the CC that will have a substantial impact on Mequon’s ability to provide active and passive recreation are:

- Mequon Community Pool
- Rennie Field
- Ozaukee County Interurban Bike Trail (OIT)
- The Milwaukee River (Riverfront Park)

As important as these components are, they are only a part of the future of the CC, and the Town Center TID.

The Mequon Community Pool and Rennie Field are iconic and part of Mequon’s history. Decisions relating to the need and location of the pool, and the future location of Rennie Field will have a huge impact on our existing and future park system. A decision to eliminate or move the pool and/or the field will substantially impact master planning for all the community parks. Decisions made for the development of a Riverfront Park have the potential to emphasize the importance of the river in Mequon’s image and its policy to preserve and restore our land and water.

The priority of the Board is to provide input and work with City staff and the Common Council to define the park and open space facilities that will be included in the future CC. As the City moves forward in closing the Town Center TID and decides the ultimate future of the CC, the Board believes it is essential that decisions made continue to adhere to the objectives developed in 2002, with a focus on providing:

- Public gathering
- A strong sense of place
- Improved mix of uses
- Interconnectivity
- Way-finding
- Visual and physical access to the Milwaukee River

Timely decisions and direction on these recreational assets are critical to achieving the purpose of the Park and Open Space system and its future capital planning and its operations and maintenance.

Decision on the Mequon Community Pool

Due to the condition of the Mequon Community Pool (first built in 1934 and renovated in 1984), it must have either a major renovation, be replaced, or ultimately be closed. The pool, the bath house and its mechanical equipment continue to age and deteriorate. Complicating the present situation, the 2018 Community Assessment Study's community responses regarding the pool did not indicate a definitive or overwhelming support for a new pool and yet there was substantial support for relocating the pool to another Mequon park. It is essential to make a decision on the fate and location of the pool! A decision on the pool can be made by a simple policy decision, a detailed business case analysis or be a part of a comprehensive CC plan. The method used to make the decision will be at the direction of the City. The Park and Open Space Board is committed to full and complete cooperation, but a decision must be made to move forward.

Decision on the location of Rennie Field

Rennie Field is the most significant sports facility in Mequon and the is the largest recreational space in the CC. The field, which was rededicated in 2014, is the venue for the most high-profile baseball teams, events, and tournaments. Thousands of our citizens and visitors use the field every year to enjoy baseball and Mequon. When evaluating the future of the CC, consider the goals of providing gathering spaces, an improved mix of uses, and interconnectivity an evaluation of moving the field to a different site would be appropriate. Relocating the field will provide for numerous new uses, more and improved parking, and new venue opportunities. A decision to relocate the field will have a major impact on Park Department operations. Any consideration of moving the field must be initiated by a collaborative discussion with the Rennie family and the MTSD Board and leadership.

Decision on the Milwaukee River Riverfront Park

The original concept plan for the CC envisioned the development of a “Riverfront Park” along the Milwaukee River. The proposed park was to provide visual and physical access to the river. The concept included purchasing and removing houses, a gateway structure, and a Riverwalk. The Board supports the goals and concepts originally developed, but the 2019 Comprehensive Plan states that the 9.5 miles of the Milwaukee river that flow through Mequon, and the 8 riverfront parks sites, present a major opportunity for an integrated approach to provide active and passive recreation associated with the river. The park sites on the River can serve as portals for visual and physical access to the river which will emphasize our commitment to the importance of the river in our history while providing recreational opportunities and spectacular view-sheds.

Other facilities and decisions

The CC is intersected by the Ozaukee Interurban Bike Trail (OIT), includes the Isham Day House and a playground adjacent to the Frank L. Weyenberg Library. The future of these amenities should also be evaluated for their function and need as part of Mequon’ park and recreation system.

New Master Plan for CC??

One possible path forward is to prepare a Master Plan for the CC that would build on the 2002 plan and the 2005 design guidelines. Given that the current plan is almost 20 years old, a new plan would help provide feedback on the future of the many amenities within the CC.

PRIORITY #2: PLANNING FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Implement systematic planning for parks and open space in Mequon

The planning process for parks and open space generally involves four levels. These include a city wide park and open space plan, park specific master plans, park specific project plans, and a list of prioritized capital projects. The Mequon Park and Open Space Board has worked closely with the Mequon Park Department on all these four typologies.

- The Mequon Park and Open Space Plan assess the vitality and needs of the current park system and provides direction for the maintenance, growth and programming for the next five to ten years. The plan provides a clear understanding of park land inventory and future recreational facility and open space needs. The City approved Mequon's Park and Open Space Plan in December 2019.
- The park specific master plans for each community and neighborhood park site are intended to define the facilities, recreational amenities, and general landscape elements and land management areas of each park property. These plans identify opportunities for fund raising, donations and naming opportunities. The City has completed master plans for three of the community parks. These plans recommend detailed improvements and phasing plans for implementation. Each of the phasing plans will require more detailed project specific plans.

Master Plans for Community Parks

See Preferred Concept Plans and Implementation Phasing Plans

- Rotary Park (Page 24, 25 & 29 of 2019 Master Plan Report – Exhibit 1)

Master Planning for Neighborhood Parks

- Prepare master plans for Neighborhood Parks including Riverview Park, Villa Grove Park and Garrison's Glenn (see attached map – Exhibit 2)

Priority Capital Projects

- Prepare and maintain a list of capital projects based on existing and future park master plans. (See attached list of capital projects – Exhibit 3)

Open Space and Outdoor Recreation amendment to 2019 Comprehensive Plan

- Prepare an "Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Plan" element to the 2019 Mequon Park and Open Space Plan. The amendment will guide the City in making decisions to protect, preserve and restore open spaces, provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, and maintain Mequon's quality of life and small-town rural atmosphere. The plan will be

based on the City of Mequon Comprehensive Plan and Ozaukee County Park and Open Space Plan

PRIORITY #3: STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE OF NATURE PRESERVES.

Prepare stewardship and ecological restoration plans for nature preserve sites

The Mequon Park and Open Space system has 15 nature preserve sites. Three sites are actively managed and are a critical part of the system's passive recreation facilities.

- The Mequon Nature Preserve (operated by Mequon Nature Preserve LLC)
- Highland Woods
- Pukaite Woods

The 12 remaining sites struggle with many invasive species, including the emerald ash borer, reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, Eurasian buckthorns, honeysuckles and phragmites. These sites also have minimal facilities (usually soft surface walking trails) and are not actively operated or maintained due to lack of resources.

- The City of Mequon should pursue State and Federal funds to plan, design and implement "Ecological restorations and enhancements" at six natural preserve sites along the Milwaukee River. The Milwaukee River in Mequon is within the EPA defined Area of Concern (AOC) and therefore these sites owned by Mequon (identified on the attached maps) are eligible to be ecologically restored with Federal funds.
 - Riverview Park
 - Villa Grove
 - Scout Park
 - River Forest Nature Preserve
 - Shoreland Nature Preserve
 - Willow Bay Nature Preserve

(See attachment map AOC ecological restorations – Exhibit 4)

The restoration will include removal of invasive species and dead ash trees, preservation of wetlands, restoration of flood plains and maintenance and improvements to shoreline and aquatic buffer zones.

- The City should work collaboratively with Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Mequon Nature Preserve, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and others to facilitate maintenance and stewardship plans for the various nature preserve sites.

- The City should also work to form partnerships to establish field stations at existing and sites to encourage environmental education and community engagement lead by the partnerships.

PRIORITY #4: GREENWAY PLANS FOR THE MILWAUKEE AND LITTLE MENOMONEE RIVERS

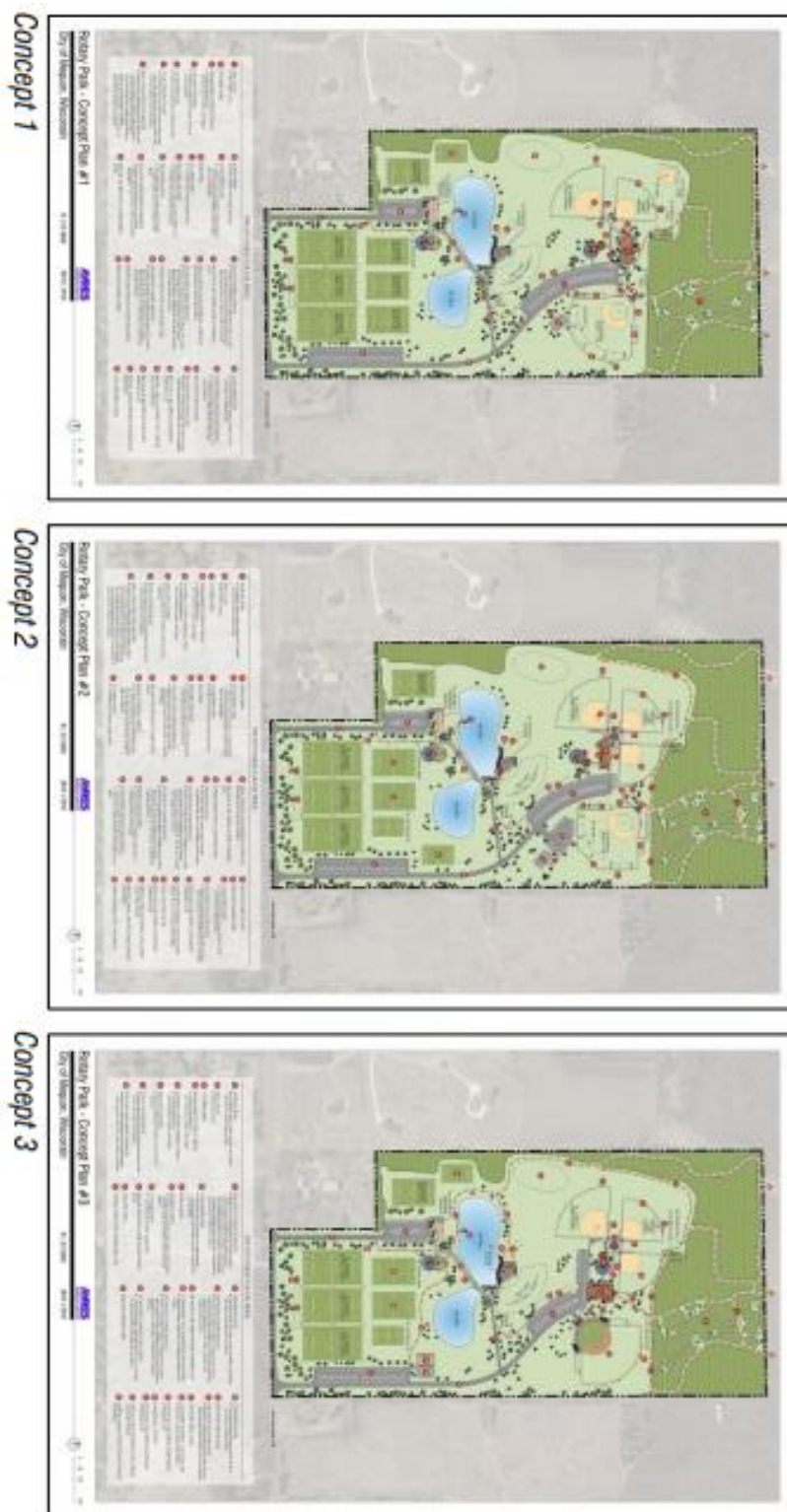
The Milwaukee River flows through the entire length of the City of Mequon. The Little Menomonee River flows south from its head waters north of Freistadt Road to its confluence with the Menomonee River in Milwaukee. Both rivers are recognized exceptional ecological corridors and thereby benefit water quality, expand wildlife habitat and provide recreational opportunities and retain Mequon's rural character. The 9.5 miles of Milwaukee River and the 5 miles of the Menomonee River are designated primary and secondary environmental corridors. These corridors define "greenway open spaces" and are shown on the map in Exhibit 5. They include the 100-year flood plain that are the most basic part of the storm water flood flow hydraulic system. The environmental corridors are protected by State, Regional and local regulations, including Mequon's zoning. Protecting and preserving these greenways are important because any changes in the functioning of the greenways impacts flood flows and local stormwater management.

The Greenway plans along the Milwaukee and Menomonee River environmental corridors will establish priorities and provide direction for future development that must conform with City ordinances and zoning. The preparation of Greenway plans will be collaborative efforts that engage residents, developers, businesses, recreational users and civic leaders to think about the future of these river corridors, and their impact on the future of Mequon's quality of life.

Prepare Greenway Plans

- Prepare Greenway plans that create a community-based master plan for the rivers that provides recommendations for preservation, revitalization and improved public access and recreation. The plans will be made up of several segments that conform to adjacent developing areas such as Ulao Creek Neighborhood.
- This priority planning effort, like the Civic Campus planning, has major strategic impacts on the City, therefore it should be a collaborative effort of multiple City Departments.

Exhibit 1





Rotary Park - Preferred Concept Plan

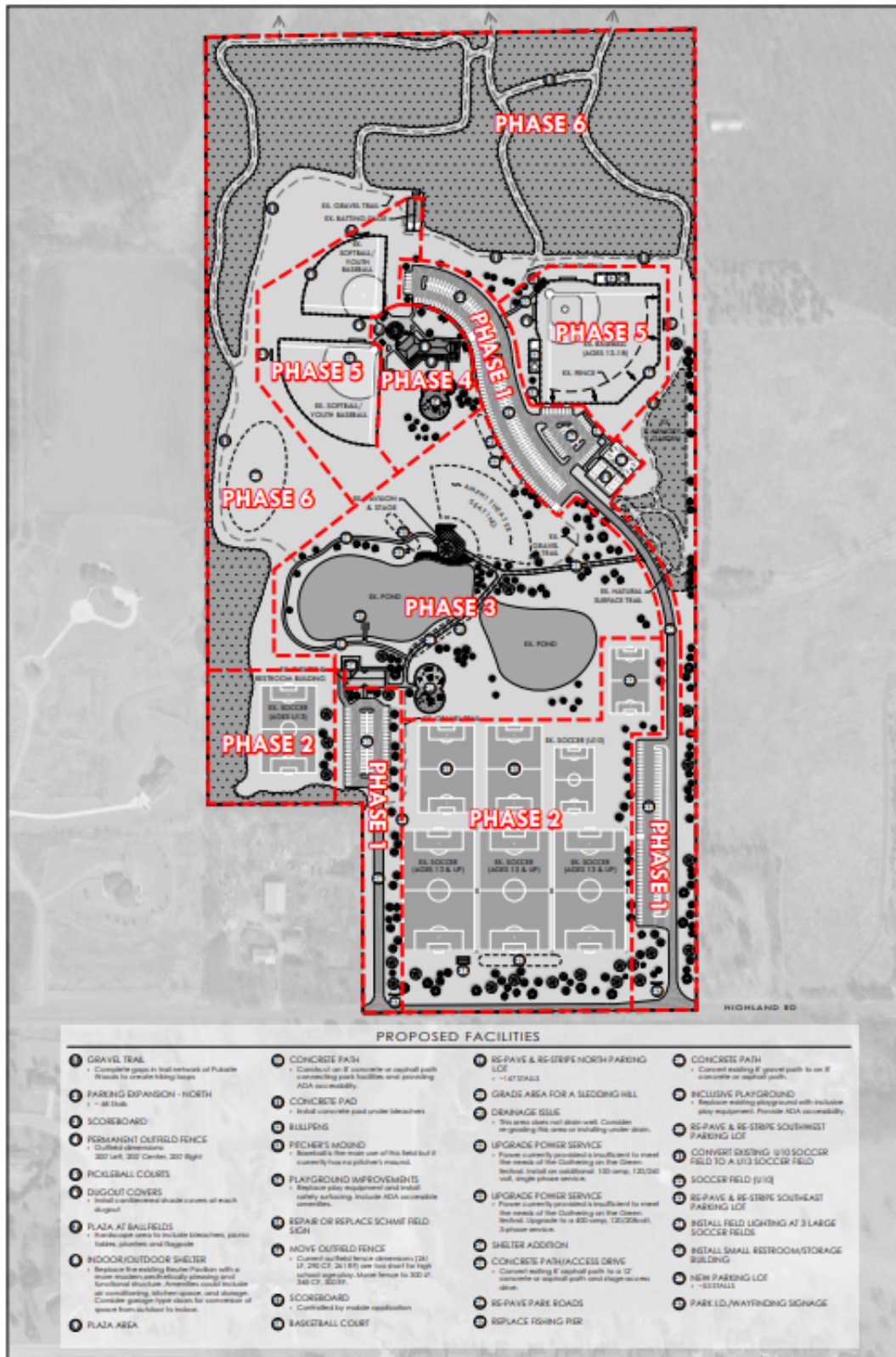
City of Mequon, Wisconsin



ID | 52-0658

1003 | 2019





Rotary Park - Phasing Plan

City of Mequon, Wisconsin

AVRES
ASSOCIATES

ID | 52-0858

1017 | 2019



Exhibit 2

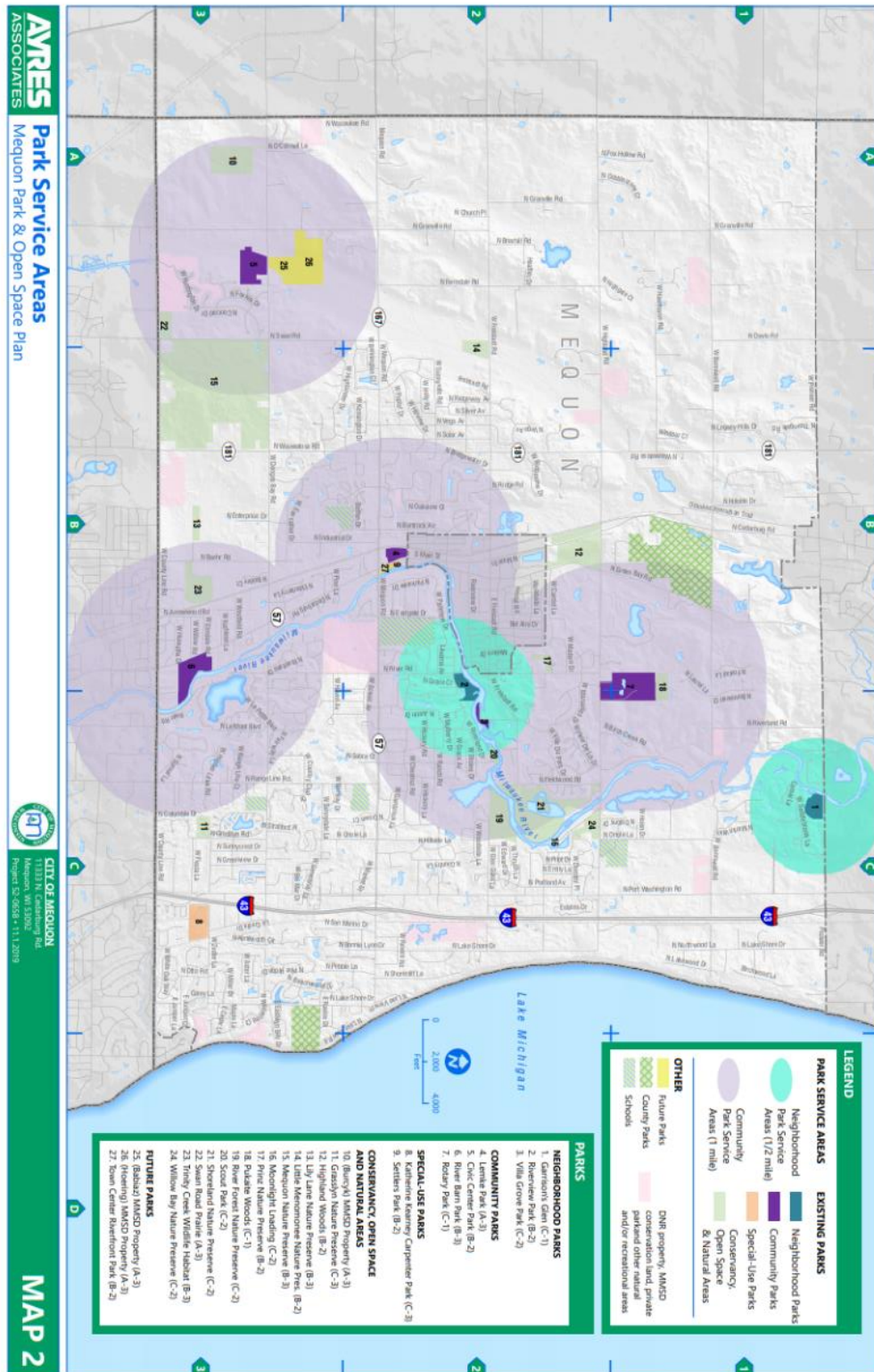
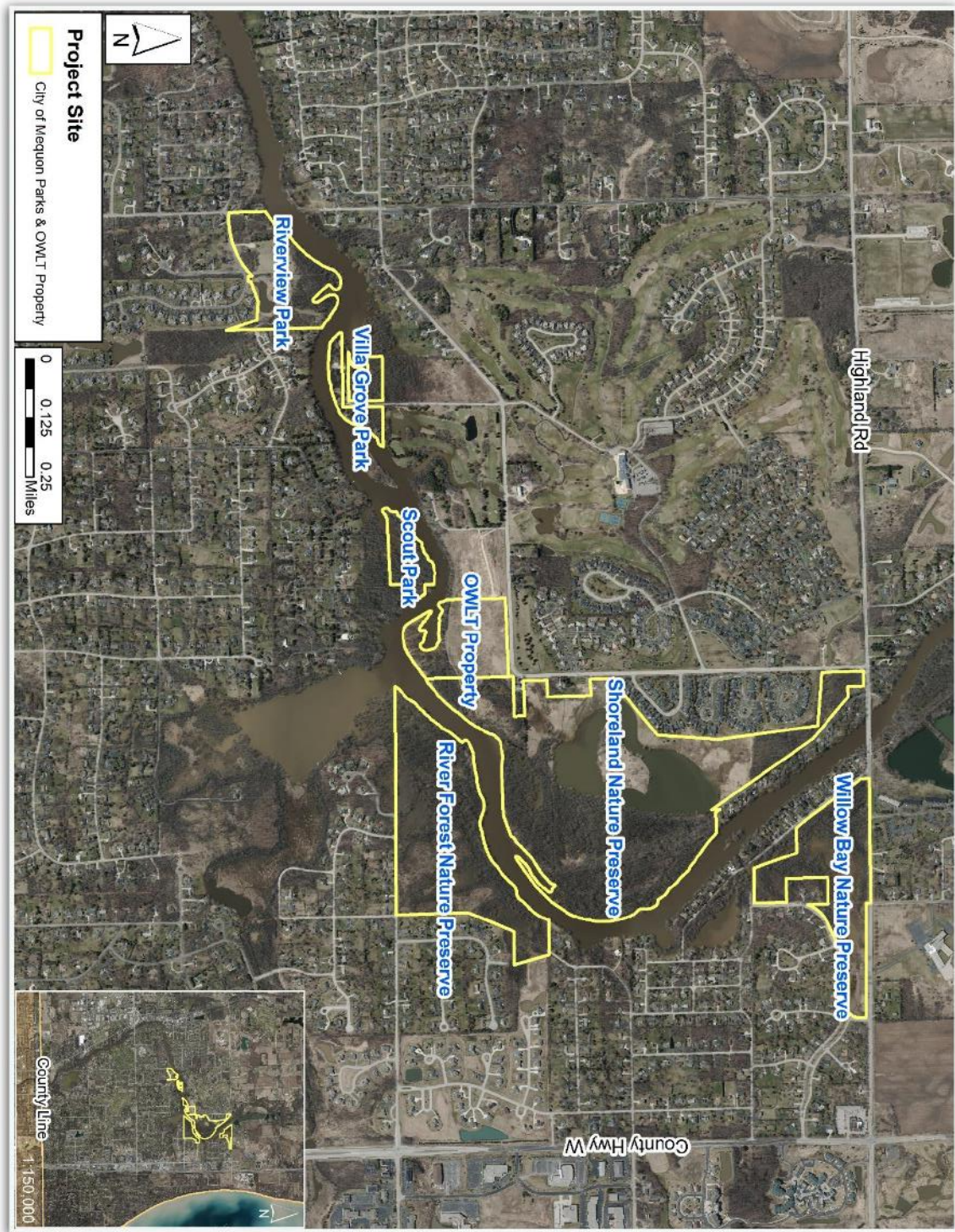


Exhibit 3

Park Location	Description/General
Rotary Pavilion	Facade project- siding, paint, lighting
Lemke	Bathroom/Concession/Storage Facility
Rotary (Reuter)	Musical Playground
Rotary	ADA Fishing Pier, Path, Stone Platforms
Reuter Pavilion	Roof, Painting, LP Fascia
Garrison's Glen	Canoe/ Kayak Ramp
River Barn	Tree relocation, river portals, river trails, prairie
Katherine Kearney	West Parking lot
Katherine Kearney	Ash removal and replant
Rotary	Basketball and Pickleball Court and Fence
Rotary Pavilion	All inclusive playground
Rotary Pavilion	Bolt-on/Expansion/Water/ ADA restrooms
All Parks	EAB removal and Replacement
Lemke	Design for Facility
Reuter Pavilion	Building Replacement
All Parks	ADA audit and Compliance- as developed
Rotary	Electrical upgrade
Rotary	Walking Paths (hardsurface)
Rotary Park	Memory Garden- rebuild pergola/ information sign
Community Park	Replace Bleachers
Community Park	Remove and Replace Asphalt paths, connect OIT

Exhibit 4



Attachment: Strategic Planning Final (6351 : Strategic Planning)

Exhibit 5

