

# VILLAGE OF SUAMICO

## OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2023-2027



Prepared by  
Martenson & Eisele  
Adopted June 3, 2013

Amended with assistance from MSA Professional Services  
March 2023

In cooperation with the  
Village of Suamico Recreation, Park, Forestry, & Trails Committee and Village Staff

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## **Park, Rec, Forestry, & Trails Committee**

The Suamico Park, Recreation, Forestry, & Trails Committee directed the update of the Village of Suamico Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan. In addition to leading this planning effort, the Committee reviews and recommends action to the Village Board on the following:

1. Policy and procedures regarding administration of recreation leagues;
2. Setting of fees to pay for recreation league and recreation programming supplies, services, equipment, uniforms, awards, etc.;
3. Development and review of user surveys and other evaluation tools;
4. Recreation program offerings;
5. Annual recreational programming and facilities needs assessment;
6. Park planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance;
7. Active and passive recreation facilities;
8. Master Park Planning;
9. Trail Master Plan;
10. 5-year facilities/capital improvements planning;
11. Special requests by groups or organizations wishing to add or change park features or equipment;
12. Natural resource management;
13. Village forest, conservancy, and open space areas;
14. Invasive species and forest pest control; and
15. Park and community facility use including policies regarding use, large group usage hours, rules, and governing ordinances.

The Committee is comprised of one trustee and six residents who are appointed by the Village President and approved by the Village Board. The Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Municipal Services Center, 12781 Velp Avenue.

**RESOLUTION 23011**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE VILLAGE OF SUAMICO  
AMENDED COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2023-2027.**

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*The Board of Trustees of the Village Board of Suamico do resolve as follows:*

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Suamico approved the 2013-2017 Village of Suamico Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2013-2017 Village of Suamico Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan recommended the development of Suamico's ongoing park and recreation planning efforts and is intended to be a comprehensive update of the Village's park, outdoor recreation, and open space needs from the previous plan.

WHEREAS, the Village of Suamico 2023 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan includes demographics (current and projected), Goals 1 and 8 referencing the Calavera Springs Master Plan and the newest Trails Plan, updated references to the newest Trails Plan, and reformatted Appendix.

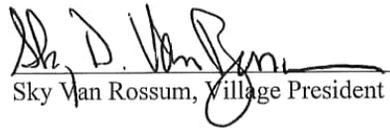
WHEREAS, the Village of Suamico 2023 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan will allow for the potential to apply for state and federal grant opportunities for park development.

WHEREAS, the amended Village of Suamico 2023 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan will complement the 2013 Village of Suamico Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Village Parks, Rec, Forestry, & Trails Committee recommended adoption of the plan at the April 11, 2023 committee meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Suamico, Wisconsin does hereby adopt the amended Village of Suamico 2023 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and that, from this date forward, said Plan is adopted and to be considered in the future planning and development of the Village of Suamico.

Adopted this 17th day of April 2023.

  
Sky Van Rossum, Village President

Attest:   
Michelle Bartoletti, Village Clerk

Vote: Aye	<u>6</u>
Nay	<u>1</u>
Abstain	<u>0</u>
Absent	<u>0</u>

# VILLAGE OF SUAMICO OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN 2023-2027 TABLE OF CONTENTS

## THE PLAN

### Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	7
Overview	7
Purpose	7
General Plan Direction	8
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Inventory</b>	9
Description of the Village of Suamico	9
Location	9
Village Setting	9
History	9
Natural Resource Features	12
Population	25
Land Use	27
Park and Open Space Facilities Inventory	27
Village Sites	27
County Sites	30
State Sites	31
School District Sites	32
Semi-Private Sites	33
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Goals and Objectives</b>	36
Purpose	36
Definitions	36
Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Goals and Objectives	36
Goal 1:	36
Goal 2:	37
Goal 3:	37
Goal 4:	37
Goal 5:	38
Goal 6:	38
Goal 7:	39
Goal 8:	39
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Needs Analysis</b>	40

Overview .....	40
Primary Standards.....	40
Secondary Standards .....	41
Park Types .....	41
Village of Suamico Recreation Department & Recreation Programs .....	42
Public Input, Comments and Suggestions.....	43
<b>Chapter 5 .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Recommendations .....</b>	<b>44</b>
Introduction.....	44
Major Park Accomplishments that have Occurred Since the Prior Planning Effort .....	44
Broad Based Impacts and Directional Shifts from the Prior Planning Effort.....	44
Five Year Capital Improvement Projects .....	46
Calavera Springs Park .....	47
Idlewild Community Park: .....	47
Firemen’s Park .....	48
Wied Mill Park .....	48
Sunset Beach Park.....	48
Municipal Service Center Park .....	49
Other Projects .....	49
Proposed Park, Recreation and Open Space Sites .....	50
Future Community Park (Proposed location Norfield Road) .....	50
Waterfront and Wetland Preservation along the Bay of Green Bay .....	50
Lake Michigan Water Trail.....	51
<b>Chapter 6 .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Implementation.....</b>	<b>52</b>
Introduction.....	52
Village of Suamico Responsibilities.....	52
Brown County Responsibilities.....	53
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Responsibilities .....	53
Other Public and Private Responsibilities .....	54
Capital Improvements Program.....	54
Complementary Funding Options.....	54
<b>APPENDIX A .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Village of Suamico Park and Recreation Facilities Map.....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>APPENDIX B .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Secondary Components of the Village of Suamico Park Plan Needs Analysis – NRPA</b>	
<b>Standards.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>APPENDIX C .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>A Summary of Recommendation from other Plans Related to the Village of Suamico*</b>	
.....	64
<b>APPENDIX D .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Calavera Springs Park Master Plan.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>APPENDIX E .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>West Shore Pike Habitat Project.....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>APPENDIX F .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Park Maintenance Program Village of Suamico.....</b>	<b>73</b>

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### Overview

Outdoor recreation and open spaces lend form and function to Suamico, enhancing the Villages attractiveness and sense of civic pride in the Village of Suamico. This is most noticeable when an increasingly urbanized environment threatens areas of the Village. The provision of areas, facilities, and activities to accommodate the public's recreational needs have long been demonstrated to promote the general health, welfare, and safety of our communities and citizens.

The public's desire for recreation and open space has grown over the years to the point that today's citizens commonly expect government to satisfy a large proportion of these needs, and for the provision of neighborhood and community parks and open space, the public often depends upon its cities, villages, and towns. A well maintained and attractive park system can often determine where a young family will put down its roots to become part of the community. In addition, the increase interest in public health has alerted the older generations for the need to have opportunities to walk, run or view their children and grandchildren in play.

To respond to this need, local communities across the world have provided park, open space, and recreational opportunities to their citizens. To provide these recreational services in an efficient and effective manner, planning principals and guidelines are often included as an integral element of outdoor recreation and open space programs. That process is typically formalized in a park and open space plan.

### Purpose

This report represents an update to Suamico's ongoing park and recreation planning efforts and is intended to be a comprehensive update of the Village's park, outdoor recreation, and open space needs from the previous plan. The Village of Suamico has a long history of park planning and working cooperatively with other levels of government and school districts to provide a variety of recreational experiences. Few communities provide the variety of passive, active and ecological recreational opportunities the Village contains.

This updated plan will identify the following:

- Current park, outdoor recreation, and open space within the Village of Suamico.
- Improvements and investments made in the Village's recreation system since the last planning effort.
- Anticipated future demands and needs for park, outdoor recreation, and open space sites and facilities.
- A prioritized set of actions that should be pursued to meet those needs.

This plan is the culmination of a cooperative effort undertaken by the Village of Suamico, the Village of Suamico Recreation, Park, Forestry, & Trails Committee, and Village residents during the summer of 2012 and winter/spring of 2013. It is intended to serve as a guide for the Village in its provision of park, outdoor recreation, and open space sites and facilities for at least the next five years.

When adopted by the Suamico Village Board and endorsed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, this plan will maintain the Village's eligibility to apply for and receive state and federal funds for open space and outdoor recreation purposes. Any request for park, open space, or outdoor recreation funding must be consistent with the recommendations of this plan to be eligible for that funding.

Furthermore, consistent review and implementation of this plan over time will ensure the cost-effective and coordinated provision of park, open space, and outdoor recreation opportunities to the residents and visitors of the Village of Suamico in the most cost effective manner.

## General Plan Direction

Since the development and adoption of the last Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan, many changes have occurred relative to the pace of development in the State of Wisconsin and the Country as a whole. The impacts reached down to the local community level and the Village of Suamico was not immune.

In 2008, the United States fell into an economic recession, stagnating business and industrial growth throughout the Village, State of Wisconsin and the entire nation. According to many sources, this was the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Residential development, especially in more rural areas, came to an abrupt halt. The new housing market took the brunt of the economic hit as few new homes were being constructed. When new housing development did take place, houses and lot sizes tended to be smaller in size than what was traditionally experienced in the earlier part of the century. As of the writing of this plan, the economy had begun a slow recovery but the tempo of the new housing market could only be described as still cautious.

The financial impacts of the 2008 recession have left scars on the investment community's willingness to pursue larger development projects. Recent housing trend data from the American Planning Association suggest less demand for rural single family type housing in exchange for more concentrated, neighborhood type housing. As generations become less connected to the land, they will seek housing opportunities that will allow them to be in close proximity to services, social activities, schools, employment and other support functions. As the baby boomer generation ages, they will require closer essential services and medical facilities. In addition, volatile and usually high gasoline prices appear to be a deterrent to living longer distances from employment. Recent data also shows people are driving less likely due to the cost of vehicle ownership. Also, as the duration of employment at one company continues to fall (averaging less than six years in tenure), the ability to move more easily from one housing location to another will become even more attractive, especially for single households.

Due to the recession, community operational budgets have been strained due to less revenue from the lack of development. This has caused cut backs in required public facility improvements and expansion projects leaving only the highest priorities to receive funding. It is the intent of this planning effort to recognize the recent slow economy and the resultant budgetary impacts.

# Chapter 2

## Inventory

### Description of the Village of Suamico

#### Location

As shown on Figure 1, the Village of Suamico is located in the northwestern part of Brown County, along the west coast of the Bay of Green Bay. It is bordered on the south by the Village of Howard, on the west by the Town of Pittsfield, and on the north by Oconto County.

Major highways within the Village include USH 41/141 which runs north-south through the east central area of the Village, CTH B which runs east-west through the central portion of the Village, CTH HS which runs north-south through the central portion of the Village, CTH J which runs north-south through the east central portion of the Village, and CTH M which runs along the south Village limits and west side.

#### Village Setting

The Village of Suamico (2020 Census pop. 12,820) is nestled along the west shore of the Bay of Green Bay approximately 5 miles north of the City of Green Bay. This full service community is characterized by its rural charm including areas of woodland, farms, pastures, tastefully designed rural subdivisions, and environmentally sensitive areas. In addition to its well-known rural character, the Village contains areas serviced by public sewer and water infrastructure. In these areas, concentrated primarily around the core of the Village, housing densities are more reflective of typical urban type residential neighborhoods. This diversity of available living environments, quality schools, and beautiful parks and public green space areas has attracted many long-term residents to the community.

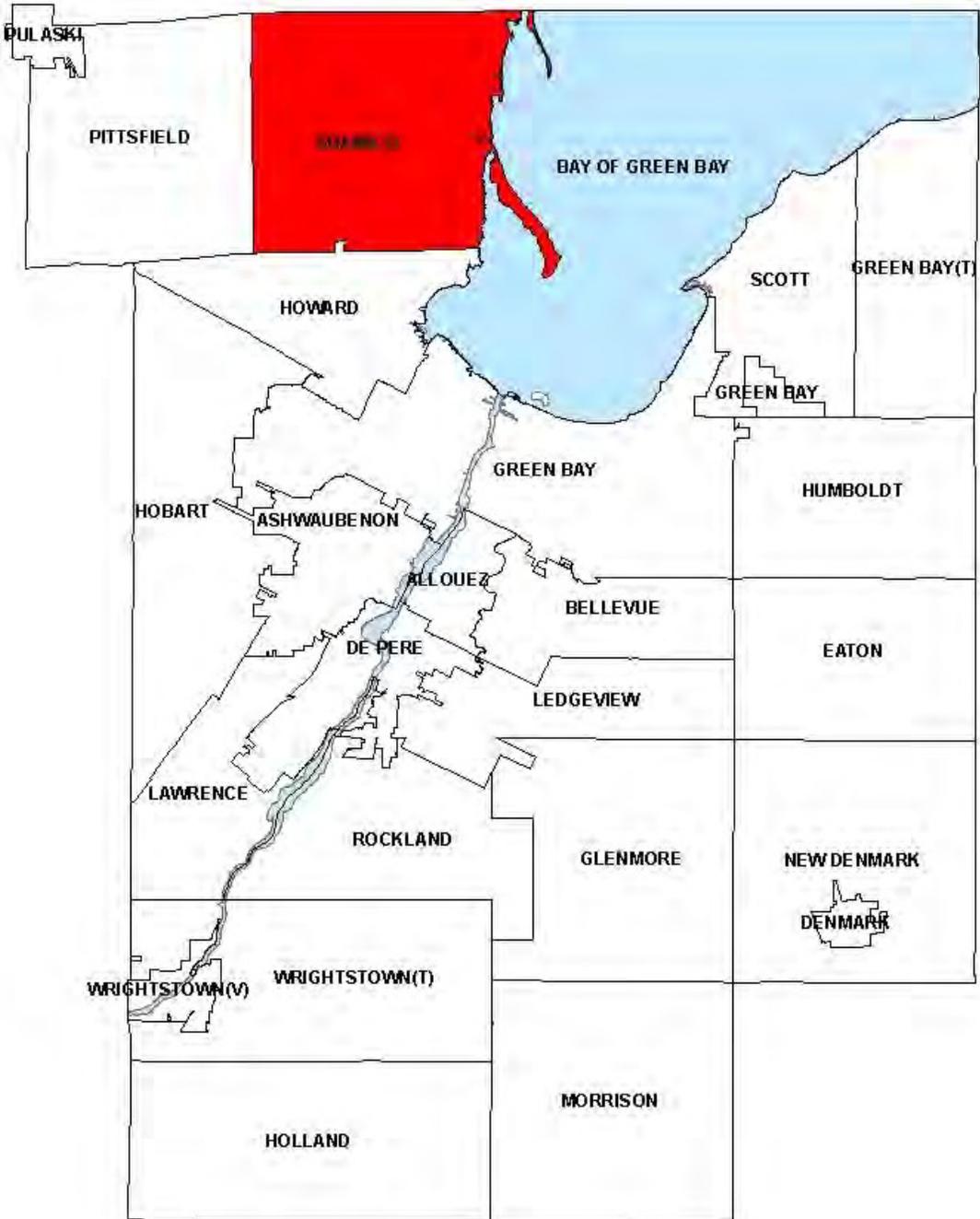
#### History

From conception, the growth and development of and in Suamico was centered on the Suamico River. Not only was this a water source for the settlers but also a means of transportation. The river was used extensively to float saw logs to the Bay of Green Bay where they could be loaded onto train cars for market. The rich soils of the river bottom also provided high quality agricultural land. As the lumber industry waned farming use increased, as did commercial fishing. Suamico remains the host port to a majority of commercial fishers on the Bay of Green Bay.

Until the early 1980's, Suamico maintained a mostly rural atmosphere. However, since the early 80's development began to occur at a more rapid pace. As a means to protect water quality, a sanitary district was formed to accommodate existing development within the core area of the then town and along the river to the port area. Excess capacity built into the design of the plant, allowed for the additional development of more densely developed subdivisions. In response to those demands, Suamico proactively purchased lands for both Idlewild and Calavera Parks and both sites have been fully developed to accommodate recreation program on both the east and west side of the village. In 2003, the Town of Suamico was incorporated into the Village of Suamico. The 1990's and early 2000's was a period of unprecedented economic growth and urbanization of the now new Village progressed rapidly beyond the expectations of many planners and village leaders. Such a dramatic increase in population placed many demands on the community and parks were no exception.

Although growth has slowed due to the recession, the prior growth allowed the Village to make its claim as a viable independent community of Brown County and less reference as a bedroom community. The business community has diversified and offers traditional small shop venues in contrast to commercial chains. The Village of Suamico is well known and respected amongst visitors and residents alike. It's diversified recreational opportunities and destinations are the envy of most communities. A high standard the village wishes to maintain.

**Map 1.**  
**Village of Suamico in Relationship to Brown County, WI**



Source: Brown County Planning Commission

## **Natural Resource Features**

As is common with most of Brown County and the State of Wisconsin, the Village of Suamico's topography has been shaped by past glacial action. The natural features in Suamico, such as the bayshore, Suamico River, large stands of woodlands, varied terrain, and the estuaries of the West Shore wetlands, all combine to help create the rural character that the Village's residents wish to maintain. These natural features continue to attract recreational users and, in some cases, a desire to live near these resources, prompting new development. In order for the Village to maintain these features that make Suamico desirable to both new and existing residents alike, it must strike a balance between development and the natural environment. The most significant features in the village are numerous large wetland areas, the Suamico River, and the Bay of Green Bay.

### **Surface Water**

Surface water is one of the most important natural resources available in a community. Surface waters provide recreational opportunities, as well as peace and solitude to anglers, boaters, hunters, water skiers, swimmers, and casual observers alike. Some surface waters provide an end source for drainage after heavy rains, provide habitat for countless plants, fish, and animals, and can be a source of drinking water for communities and a source of process water for industry and agriculture. Lands immediately adjacent to such waters have an abundance of cultural and archeological significance because they were often the location of Native American and early European settlements.

There are many miles of perennial streams in the Village of Suamico. These streams have many scenic and recreational values. Many of the Villages' ephemeral streams and wetlands, which are some of our most important surface water resources, do not show up on maps and are poorly protected by state and federal statutes. Yet, these ephemeral (intermittent) waterways provide sites for infiltration of surface water into groundwater reservoirs and provide habitat for many plants and animals. Small intermittent waterways and wetlands are where most nutrients and many contaminants enter the waters that are used for drinking and recreation.

Sheetflow, which is simply water that flows across the land surface after a rainfall, can also be considered a surface water resource, and how it is managed is very important. As water flows across the surface of the land, it picks up nutrients and contaminants, and these dissolved substances are then carried into larger surface water bodies and into our groundwater. In many places in the Village of Suamico, groundwater is only a few feet below the surface of the land, and the soil (often Tedrow-Roscommon) is very sandy. As a result, anything applied to the land's surface almost immediately enters our groundwater.

Because of the importance of surface waters, numerous federal, state, and local laws and regulations have been created to protect them. They range from the commerce clause of the United States Constitution to county floodland zoning regulations. The most heavily regulated waters are those that are determined to be natural and "navigable." On the other hand, ephemeral waterways not considered navigable and ephemeral wetlands are poorly protected by state and federal statutes and need protection at a more local level.

The primary surface water features in the Village of Suamico are the Bay of Green Bay, Suamico River, and Hallers Creek. In addition to these three resources, the Village also has a number of small unnamed streams, ditches, and man-made lakes that are also considered surface water resources. Many of these small waterways, including roadside ditches, have long provided spawning habitat for northern pike and recently, musky. The protection and preservation of the Village's surface waters should be one of its highest natural resources priorities. While this action is important for all of the Village's surface waters, particular focus should be provided to the Suamico River, Hallers Creek, and the bayshore areas in

order to re- establish these waters as a primary benefit and attraction of the community.

### **Bay of Green Bay**

Beyond serving as the starting point for early settlement and transportation to the interior of Wisconsin and thus being rich in historical and archeological significance, the Bay of Green Bay provides the largest potential for water-based recreational activities within Suamico with about 6 miles of shoreline plus the shorelines of Long and Little Tail Points. The bay is a hard water alkaline basin, and its bottom materials consist of very loose flocculent sediment. Its depth is an average of about 26 feet outside the shipping channel. Much of the western shore of the bay, including the Suamico bayshore, is relatively undeveloped due to large wetland complexes and publicly-owned parcels that cover much of the shoreline.

The water quality and fishery of the Bay of Green Bay are heavily influenced by what occurs inland in connected streams and wetlands. This is true even though many of these connections occur only once a year. Each spring, due to spring precipitation and snow-melt, almost all streams and wetlands within the Village are directly connected to the Bay of Green Bay proper. This temporary hydrologic connection provides an opportunity for fish to migrate upstream to spawn, and this annual flooding benefits reproduction of other aquatic life forms. Each spring, there is a huge pulse of biotic activity as fish spawn and amphibians and invertebrates hatch and then slowly drift downstream to the Bay of Green Bay proper. However, over the past two decades, traditional water levels in the Bay of Green Bay have declined, jeopardizing these sensitive seasonal connections. Meteorology data suggest this may be a localized result from overall climate change. The resultant lower water levels have changed the vegetative communities along the shoreline due to reduced saturation. This has created an additional barrier to water users making the bay more difficult to reach and even see from the inland locations. In addition, lower water conditions have exposed sediment and sand bars in areas of the bay never exposed before.

Water quality and even the water temperature of the Bay of Green Bay are heavily influenced by input from connected wetlands and waterways. Input into streams that discharge into the bay have an almost immediate effect on the Bay of Green Bay proper. The impact upon the Village of Suamico's portion of the southern Bay of Green Bay is magnified because bay water circulation is in a counter-clockwise direction to the south of Points Sable and Long Tail. As a result, what enters the south end of the bay has a tendency to re-circulate south of Points Sable and Long Tail.

Commercial fishing (primarily for perch, whitefish, and lake trout) had long been a popular activity within the bay until high pollutant loadings to the Fox River and the southern portion of the bay became a significant and widespread problem by the late 1940s and early 1950s. However, recent studies have indicated that improvements in water quality have occurred and are most likely due to reduced point source pollution loading. The introduction of exotic species has also presented some challenges for the bay. Zebra mussels, known for their impact on vessel attachment and the clogging of water intake pipes, have provided a water filtering benefit that may have improved the living environment for such species as smallmouth bass and whitefish which are sought in season by area anglers. On the other hand, white perch and gobies have been competitors of the highly sought after yellow perch causing the reduction of bag limits.

### **Suamico River**

The Suamico River is a tributary to the bay. It is a navigable river that flows westward 16 miles from its headwaters in Shawano and Outagamie Counties and through the middle of the Village to the bay. The river transitions from a clear, bubbling stream in the western portion of the Village to a relatively sluggish, wide, and muddy stream near its mouth. The upper two-thirds has a rubble and gravel bottom containing many invertebrates and an abundance of crayfish. The easternmost portion of the river is classified as

a Warm Water Sport Fishery with bottom materials comprised of sand and silt. The remainder is classified as a Full Fish and Other Aquatic Life water with bottom materials comprised of rubble and gravel. Agricultural and rural residential land uses are adjacent to the majority of the stream and continue to expose the river to nonpoint source pollution associated with agricultural, development, and impervious surface runoff.

Where possible, the Village should also consider programs that promote the establishment of buffers and the planting of native grasses and shrubs along the river to improve its wildlife habitat and stormwater management capabilities. Additionally, the Village should consider working with local conservation or school groups to re-stabilize the shoreline along the Suamico River by planting native grasses and plants in order to further reduce shoreline erosion. In more urban areas, the utilization of stormwater management techniques such as detention ponds allows for harmful sediments and pollutants to be settled out before discharging to area waterways. Rain gardens, which can be incorporated into development designs, will also reduce the amount of pollutant loading to waterways.

### **Hallers Creek**

Hallers Creek is a tributary to the Suamico River flowing in a southeasterly direction from the northwestern corner of the Village until its confluence with the Suamico River near Velp Avenue. Hallers Creek is Suamico's only trout stream and, therefore, has important wildlife value warranting protection by the Village. The Village should consider identifying those areas of the creek that may be experiencing erosion or other habitat degradation and should consider working with local conservation or service groups to enhance the river's trout habitat.

### **Other Small Streams**

There are many small intermittent and perennial streams within the Village. These streams provide seasonal spawning habitat for Bay of Green Bay fish and provide important habitat for many other plants and animals. Many fish that reside in the Bay of Green Bay as adults migrate upstream to spawn, and the young then drift slowly back to the bay. It's to their advantage to remain in these small waterways for as long as they can. These small streams provide excellent nursery habitat that allows the young fish to grow to a competitive size before they reach the Bay of Green Bay proper. The importance of small streams is only now beginning to be understood by many, but longtime residents of the area realize that small streams and wetlands within the Village actually define the character of the Village of Suamico, as evidenced by the cattails on the Village's water tower.

Over 70 percent of wetland habitat along the west shore has been lost. Many of these areas were once important spawning marshes for northern pike. In addition to the loss of suitable spawning habitat, fish encounter passage obstacles when leaving Green Bay to find spawning marshes or when fry migrate back to Green Bay. From 2007 to present the Brown County LWCD has had some success restoring northern pike habitat on private land in the watershed. The Department has leveraged funding from various sources including NRDA, USFWS, EPA, Ducks Unlimited, Brown County Conservation Alliance and others in order to accomplish this work.

The Brown County LWCD provides flat-rate payments to eligible landowners for the installation of the following conservation practices:

- \* Vegetative Riparian Buffers - \$2500/ac
- \* Wetland Restoration - \$1500/ac
- \* Critical Area Stabilization – \$1300/ac

Construction costs are paid at a 70% cost share rate. Currently through a cooperative agreement,

the USFW is currently paying the 30% landowner costs. All contracts have a 15 year operations and maintenance agreement and are perpetual through deed restrictions.

Staffing and supplies are paid through GLRI. Appendix E provides more information on the West Shore Pike Habitat Project. It also includes a map of 25 projects in the Village of Suamico funded through this program.

In addition to these restoration efforts, the Village may wish to enact an open waterway ordinance to protect fish and wildlife habitat located in roadside ditches (such as the unique walleye and northern pike spawning habitat along Lineville Road) and in other streams and wetlands not currently protected by state or federal statutes.

### **Artificial Lakes**

A number of artificial lakes have been created in the southeastern part of the Village, including Harbor Lights Lake, Lake Leone, Jessie Lake, and the Barkhausen Waterfowl Refuge ponds. Except for the Barkhausen ponds, the lakes have been created as a way to enhance residential development; although, they do provide limited fish and waterfowl habitat, as well. Because the lakes provide a conduit for contaminants to reach the Suamico's groundwater, the Village should monitor the lakes' quality to ensure pollutants are not entering the lakes or groundwater.

### **Watersheds**

A watershed is an area of land where all the water on it and under it drains to the same place. Within this area of land, all living things are linked by the common waterway. The Suamico- Little Suamico Watershed drains the entire Village to the bay, except for a small portion of the southwestern part of the Village, which drains into Duck Creek. A few areas of the Village are also drained directly to the bay by small, unnamed streams and ditches.

Field observations by County staff and others over recent years indicate that many of the smaller streams within the Village have been significantly disturbed by past and current agricultural activities. Such disturbances include dredging, ditching, and realignment. All of these activities degrade or entirely remove the natural bed and bank of the stream, thus increasing erosion, removing vegetation and wildlife habitat, and damaging downstream water quality.

### **Floodplains**

Floodplains are natural extensions of waterways. All surface waters possess them, but the size of the floodplain can vary greatly. They store floodwaters, reduce flood peaks and velocities, and reduce sedimentation. They also provide habitat and serve as filters for pollution.

Like surface waters, the importance of floodplains is also recognized and is regulated by federal, state, county, and local governments. The State of Wisconsin mandates floodplain zoning for all communities under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 117. These minimum standards must be implemented in order to meet eligibility requirements for federal flood insurance.

For regulatory, insurance, and planning purposes, the 100-year recurrence interval flood hazard area (also referred to as the regional flood) is most often used. This is the land that has a 1 percent chance of being flooded in any given year. Mapped floodplains within Suamico include the bayshore, Suamico River, Hallers Creek, and an unnamed stream/wetland complex located just north of the Village's border with Howard.

There are several threats to floodplains and the resource values that they represent:

- **Filling**, which might diminish the flood storage capacity of the floodplain. This could have the effect of raising the flood elevation or increasing flow velocities to the detriment of upstream or downstream properties.
- **Grading**, which can degrade the resource functions of floodplains, such as filtering pollutants or providing habitat.
- **Impediments**, which include encroachment of buildings or undersized culverts and bridge openings. These manmade and natural impediments affect the size and proper functioning of floodplains and pose potential hazards to adjacent residents and passersby.
- **Impervious surfaces**, which can increase the velocity of the flood flows, increase the number of pollutants, reduce the amount of natural wildlife habitat, and limit the amount of infiltration of stormwater into the ground.

Due to the importance of floodplains for environmental, regulatory, and insurance purposes, it is recommended that flood studies be undertaken for all rivers and streams where development is proposed. Such flood studies should map both the floodway and the flood fringe portions of the 100-year recurrence interval flood hazard area, should be based upon full development of the drainage basin, and should be reviewed and approved by both the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). If detailed flood studies are not undertaken and/or do not take into consideration the effects of future development of the watershed, future flooding events may be more extensive and cause greater property damage.

Under current regulatory requirements, the floodways would be off limits to development. However, development could occur within the flood fringe areas with the receipt of appropriate permits and approvals, and agricultural activities could continue within the floodplain.

### Shorelands and Stream Corridors

Shorelands are the interface between land and water. In its natural condition, shorelands are comprised of thick and diverse vegetation that protect lakes, rivers, and streams. If these areas are developed, this vegetation is lost, and fish, wildlife, and water quality are damaged.

There are a number of well-defined drainage courses with associated ravines in the western portion of the Village. Most of the streams in the eastern portion of the Village are less defined and do not have the differing topography as do the streams in the western portion of the Village.

Like floodlands, the importance of shorelands is recognized and is regulated by state and local governments. Shoreland zoning is primarily intended to control the intensity of development near and to create a buffer around lakes, rivers, and streams. The buffer is intended to remain an undeveloped strip of land that protects the water from the physical, chemical, hydrological, and visual impacts of nearby development. Wisconsin mandates shoreland zoning for all unincorporated communities and those parts of incorporated cities and villages that were annexed after May 7, 1982. Since Suamico incorporated after April 30, 1994, it also must follow the state mandated minimums listed under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115.

The shoreland restrictions do not apply to those waters that are determined to be non-navigable waters. However, all lakes, rivers, and streams, no matter how small, should be assumed to be navigable until determined otherwise by the DNR.

As shorelands are closely related to floodplains, so are the threats to the resource values shorelands

represent. In addition, research being conducted by the DNR and others indicates that current state-mandated shoreland zoning standards might not be adequate to properly protect water quality and shoreland ecosystems.

Under current regulatory requirements, the 75 feet closest to navigable waters are off limits to development, but development could occur within the remainder of the shoreland area with receipt of appropriate permits and approvals, and agricultural activities could continue within the shoreland area.

Based upon the importance of the Village's shorelands and their relationship to surface water and the Village's rural character, Suamico should encourage greater protection of the shoreland area. In this regard, the Village should take full advantage of federal, state, and county funding and other assistance in the establishment of vegetative stream buffers to further filter out sediments and other associated pollutants. Suamico is currently in the process of developing a shoreland-wetland ordinance that meets the requirements of NR 115.

### Wetlands

Wetlands are characterized by water at or near the ground level, by soils exhibiting physical or chemical characteristics of waterlogging, or by the presence of wetland-adapted vegetation. Wetlands are significant natural resources that have several important functions. They enhance water quality by absorbing excess nutrients within the roots, stems, and leaves of plants and by slowing the flow of water to let suspended pollutants settle out. Wetlands help regulate storm runoff, which minimizes floods and periods of low flow. They also provide essential habitat for many types of wildlife and offer recreational, educational, and aesthetic opportunities to the community.

There are two broad classifications of wetlands: perennial wetlands and ephemeral (intermittent) wetlands. Perennial wetlands are inundated with water for much of the year and develop classic wetland characteristics, such as soil mottling. Perennial wetlands usually support populations of water loving plants. Ephemeral wetlands, which are sometimes called intermittent wetlands due to soil type and topography, often do not develop classic wetland characteristics since they are flooded only part of the year. Both types of wetlands are equally important.

The Village of Suamico contains a significant area of wetlands along the Bay of Green Bay. These wetlands are recognized as being of national importance. They are part of a larger complex of wetlands located along the entire length of the western shore of the Bay of Green Bay terminating near the City of Marinette. The "west shore wetlands," as they are known, provide critical waterfowl and wildlife habitat, as well as fish spawning habitat for many game fish in the Bay of Green Bay, including perch and northern pike. In order to preserve some of these vital spawning areas, the WDNR has purchased and maintains ownership over the Sensiba Wildlife Area (which includes Long Tail Point) and the Little Tail Management Unit in the far northeastern part of the Village.

The Wisconsin Wetlands Inventory map identifies wetlands scattered throughout the Village. The WDNR digital wetlands inventory identified approximately 5,190 acres of wetlands within the Village. In addition to the west shore wetlands, there is a large wetland complex located south of Harbor Lights Road between USH 41/141 and Velp Avenue. This complex is part of the Suamico Lacustrine Flats, which is also a critical northern pike spawning area. Due to the value of the wetlands for northern pike spawning in this area, they should be strongly considered for purchase by the WDNR, Village of Suamico, Brown County, or a combination of the agencies. Because of the inaccuracies inherent in the Wisconsin Wetlands Inventory, the Village may wish to accurately field-verify and map its known wetlands to ensure that they are not disturbed and to further streamline the development process. Suamico also contains a number of wetlands adjacent to its rivers and streams throughout the Village,

as well as some isolated pothole wetlands in the more hilly terrain associated with the northwestern quarter of the Village.

The primary threat to wetlands is filling. Although an array of federal, state, and local regulations helps with protection, wetlands (especially smaller ones) are still lost to road construction and other development activities. The draining of wetlands can also occur through the placement of drain tile and rerouting of surface water. Some agricultural areas are actually former wetlands that would probably revert back to wetland character if left alone for a period of time.

Even if wetlands are not directly filled, drained, or developed, they still can be impacted by adjacent uses. Siltation from erosion or pollutants entering via stormwater runoff can destroy the wetland. Previously healthy and diverse wetlands can be reduced to degraded “muck holes” where only the hardiest plants like cattails can survive. Invasive plant species, such as purple loosestrife, can also negatively affect wetlands.

Under current regulatory requirements, all wetlands are off limits to development unless appropriate permits and approvals are obtained. In addition, under certain situations, agricultural activities may also be regulated within wetlands. In this regard, the Village should take full advantage of federal, state, and county funding and other assistance in the protection of existing wetlands and restoration of drained wetlands.

### **Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

Environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) are defined by the Brown County Planning Commission as portions of the landscape consisting of valuable natural resource features that should be protected from intensive development. They include all lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, floodways, and other locally-designated significant and unique natural resource features. ESAs also include a setback or buffer from these features. In addition, they include areas of steep slopes (slopes 12 percent or greater) when located within or adjacent to any of the features previously noted. Research and experience from throughout Wisconsin indicate that the potential exists for significant adverse water quality impacts if these areas are developed.

Identification and protection of ESAs are required by both state and county regulations under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 121 and the Brown County Sewage Plan, prepared by the Brown County Planning Commission, as well as the Brown County Subdivision Ordinance. They are enforced during the review and approval of all land divisions and/or public sanitary sewer extensions. The intent of the ESAs is to protect water-related natural resource features from the adverse impacts often associated with development.

In general, development and associated filling, excavation, grading, and clearing are prohibited within ESAs. However, certain non-intensive uses, such as public utilities and public recreation, are often allowed within these areas. In conjunction with erosion control and stormwater management practices, protection of the ESAs can provide numerous benefits, including:

- Recharge of groundwater.
- Maintenance of surface water and groundwater quality.
- Attenuation of flood flows and stages.
- Maintenance of base flows of streams and watercourses.
- Reduction of soil erosion.

- Abatement of air pollution.
- Abatement of noise pollution.
- Favorable modification of micro-climates.
- Facilitation of the movement of wildlife and provision of game and non-game wildlife habitat.
- Facilitation of the dispersal of plant seeds.
- Protection of plant and animal diversity.
- Protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species.

Threats to ESAs are similar to those of floodplains and shorelands. In addition, the quality and effectiveness of ESAs can be severely reduced should adjacent development change drainage patterns or remove native vegetation from the lands within or immediately adjacent to the ESAs. Such disturbances can also introduce invasive plant species to the ESAs, which can result in loss of native vegetation, diversity, and habitat.

### Groundwater

Groundwater begins as precipitation. This precipitation (rain or snow) falls upon the land. Some of the precipitation runs off into lakes, rivers, streams or wetlands. Some evaporates back into the atmosphere, and some is absorbed by plants. Groundwater is that precipitation that soaks into the ground past plant roots and down into the subsurface soil and rock. A layer of soil or rock that is capable of storing groundwater and yielding it to wells is called an aquifer. There can be a number of aquifers within an area, one above another. The top of the aquifer closest to the ground's surface is called the water table. It is the area below which all the openings between soil and rock particles are saturated with water. Like surface water, groundwater moves from high areas to low areas. It discharges at those places where the water table intersects the land's surface, such as in lakes, streams, and wetlands, providing a base flow for those water features. The distance such groundwater travels is generally not far.

Groundwater is the source of the Village of Suamico's drinking water. Drinking water for the Village is drawn from the groundwater through private wells and from three municipal wells that serve residents in the southern half of Suamico.

As with all communities, it is very important that the groundwater, the Village of Suamico's only source of drinking water, is protected. The greatest threats to groundwater are contamination and overuse. As with any rural or suburbanizing community, the most common sources of contamination include feedlots, manure storage and spreading, manure pits, irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides. Although Suamico does not currently have many problems with the high number of private wells in the Village, continued private well development may eventually have a negative impact on groundwater quantity and/or quality. The Village will also need to ensure that old wells are properly sealed to prevent contaminants from reaching the groundwater.

The Village will need to monitor not just the quality of groundwater available for its residents but also the quantity as Suamico and the Green Bay Metropolitan Area continue to grow. In order to ensure a safe supply of private drinking water, the Village should consider developing a well- testing program to identify contaminants that may be present, such as bacteria, nitrates, and pesticides, as well as other contaminants. The Village should provide new homeowners with information regarding proper maintenance and testing of private wells, such as the educational brochure from the WDNR entitled

“You and Your Well.”

Although maintaining groundwater quality will continue to be a concern, quantity may become less of an issue because many other suburban communities in Brown County have stopped drawing groundwater after they begin receiving potable water from Lake Michigan. At some point in the future, Suamico may wish to reconsider joining the Central Brown County Water Authority in order to reduce the Village’s reliance on groundwater as it expands its public water system for new development.

To help communities meet the requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and to protect their drinking water supply, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recommends that all communities undertake Vulnerability Assessments and Wellhead Protection Plans. The DNR will assist with the preparation of these assessments and plans.

The Village should also support Brown County’s “time of sale” program of inspecting private onsite wastewater treatment systems to guard against failing systems. Ensuring functioning septic systems will serve as a protection against groundwater contamination.

### **Woodlands**

The vegetative state of the woodlands in Suamico varies considerably. The woodlands on the glacial moraine in the western part of the Village are characterized by mature stands of white pine, red maple, oaks, and other species in dry mesic classifications. This compares to the woodlands in the wetter eastern part of the Village, which consist largely of willows, cottonwoods, cedar, ash, aspen, and other wet and successional types of vegetation. The Brown County Reforestation Camp is almost entirely wooded with plantations of Norway pine, jack pine, and white pine planted since 1942. Natural woodlands in the camp vary from wet lowland communities dominated by black ash and cottonwood to drier highland communities of aspen, paper birch, and red maple with scattered native white pine, red pine, and red oak.

The largest contiguous areas of woodlands in Suamico are located within the Reforestation Camp, Sensiba Wildlife Area, Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve, and Suamico Lacustrine Flats. The wooded areas in the remainder of the Village have largely been fragmented by residential development. However, there are a few areas of woodlands up to 40-acres in size scattered around the Village.

Continued development is the primary threat to Suamico’s remaining woodlands. Since these areas are prized as settings for residential subdivisions, they are often targeted for development. Intensive development, especially if improperly planned, can destroy the scenic and natural values of the woodland resource and can disrupt the blocks and corridors necessary to provide refuge and passage for wildlife. Loss of these woodlands may also degrade the perceived rural atmosphere of the Village.

Other threats to the woodlands of Suamico include improper management (such as the over- harvesting or under-harvesting of trees), haphazard utility and road construction and maintenance, and the introduction of exotic species and disease.

Where woodlands are not also classified as wetlands and are not located within the protected portions of floodplains and shorelands, they should be preserved as much as possible through such approaches as conservation by design, conservancy zoning or inclusion into the WDNR’s Managed Forest Law program.

## **Wildlife Habitat**

Since much of the land in Suamico is actively being farmed or developed, the best wildlife habitat within the Village is contained in its woodlands, wetlands, and drainage corridors. Large tracts of woodlands or wetland-type vegetation offer areas for wildlife movement. However, these areas are still affected by development around their edges by regional issues, such as water quality, and by potential invasion of exotic species. Wild game birds and mammals found in the Village include ducks, geese, woodcock, pheasant, Hungarian partridge, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, fox and gray squirrel, muskrat, mink, raccoon, skunk, opossum, woodchuck, red fox, coyote, otter, turkey, and whitetail deer.

The west shore wetlands provide excellent habitat for many types of mammals, birds, and fish. Additionally, the Brown County Reforestation Camp provides large areas of unfragmented habitat for both upland and lowland flora and fauna. Suamico also has narrow, linear habitat areas along the Village's numerous streams and drainageways.

Preservation of wildlife habitat is another reason why it is very important to protect surface waters, floodplains, shorelands, wetlands, and woodlands. It is assumed for purposes of this comprehensive plan that should these areas be adequately protected and preserved, so would wildlife habitat.

## **Threatened Endangered Species**

An endangered species is one whose continued existence is in jeopardy and may become extinct. A threatened species is one that is likely, within the foreseeable future, to become endangered. The Bureau of Endangered Resources within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources monitors endangered and threatened species and maintains the state's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI). This program maintains data on the locations and status of rare species in Wisconsin. According to the NHI, there are some endangered or threatened species found or potentially found in Suamico. A map identifying locations for such species within Brown County indicates that there are a number of known occurrences of rare aquatic and terrestrial species and natural communities along the bayshore, as well as areas inland to USH 41/141. There are two other incidences of endangered aquatic species in the Flintville area.

Threatened or endangered species in Suamico include:

- Cherrystone Drop (threatened).
- Longear Sunfish (threatened).
- Pale Green Orchid (threatened).
- Redfin Shiner (threatened).
- Snow Trillium (threatened).
- Wood Turtle (threatened).
- Yellow Gentian (threatened).
- Common Tern (endangered).
- Forster's Tern (endangered).
- Purple False Oats (endangered).

The primary threats to these species are the loss of wetlands and other habitats due to development and other factors. Federal and state regulations discourage and sometimes prohibit development where such species are located. This is also another reason why it is very important to protect and preserve the Village's surface waters, floodplains, shorelands, wetlands, and woodlands.

### **Scenic Resources and Topography**

The Village's topography ranges from almost flat adjacent to the bay (578 feet above sea level) to increasingly hilly and diverse traveling to the west (786 feet above sea level), resulting in a difference in elevation of only 208 feet over approximately 6 miles. Generally, the areas to the east of CTH J are the areas of the Village with the least amount of variability in topography. This oftentimes results in problems with draining stormwater away from development in these areas.

The western quarter of the Village is much higher and diverse in terms of its topography. It has a number of hills and ravines from the streams that drain this area. The hills provide picturesque views of the rolling terrain and, in some of the higher parts of the Village, provide views of the bay. Since this area has some issues with steeper slopes and terrain changes, stormwater in these areas may increase erosion due to the velocity with which the water drains and the generally sandy soils.

As with floodlands, shorelands, wetlands, and woodlands, scenic areas should also be considered for protection where appropriate under conservancy zoning and/or conservation by design subdivision techniques.

### **Mineral Resources**

Nonmetallic mining is a widespread activity in Wisconsin, as well as in Brown County. In Wisconsin, there are an estimated 2,000 mines that provide aggregate for construction, sand, gravel, and crushed stone for road building, and limestone for agricultural lime applications. In Brown County, there are a number of active quarries that mine dolomite, sandstone, limestone, or crushed stone (sand or gravel). The pits and quarries in Suamico tend to be of a much smaller scale and operation than those in other portions of the County. The largest pits are located in the western quarter of the Village, and are typically used for gravel and sand.

It can be noted that the State of Wisconsin first passed a nonmetallic mining law in 1994. The law requires that all nonmetallic mining operations be registered. To be registered, the nonmetallic mineral deposit must be delineated by a professional geologist or registered engineer and certified to be economically viable. Second, if the land is zoned, the existing zoning at the time of registration must allow mining as a permitted use or as a conditional use. The state law further specifies that the registration lasts for ten years and can be renewed for an additional ten years. However, after 20 years, the full registration process must be undertaken once again. In addition, the law states that local zoning officials can deny the mining only if they can prove that the mineral deposit is not marketable or that the zoning at the time of the registration prohibited mining.

Wisconsin passed a second nonmetallic mining law in 2000: Wisconsin State Statute Section 295.13(1) and Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 135. The state statute and administrative code require that all counties in the state adopt an ordinance in 2001 (consistent with the model ordinance prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources) to establish a reclamation program capable of ensuring compliance with uniform state reclamation standards. The administrative code also allows cities, villages, and towns to adopt such an ordinance and administer the program within their own jurisdiction at any time. However, the administrative code further states that the county ordinance will apply to every city, village, or town within the county until such time as the city, village, or town adopts and administers

the ordinance itself.

Brown County adopted its Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance in 2001. Most communities in Brown County, including the Village of Suamico, opted to have Brown County adopt and enforce the reclamation ordinance for their respective municipalities.

Wisconsin's nonmetallic mining reclamation program requires that nonmetallic mining operators prepare a reclamation plan to state standards. These standards deal with topsoil salvage and storage, surface and groundwater protection, reclamation during mining to minimize the amount of land exposed to wind and water erosion, re-vegetation, site grading, erosion control, and a final land use consistent with local zoning requirements.

Because of the presence of small-scale nonmetallic mining operations within the Village of Suamico and the potential for both significant positive economic impacts and significant negative environmental and land use impacts associated with mining, the Village ordinances should be subjected to further review and revision. Therefore, the Village's Planning Commission and Village Board should amend the Village's zoning ordinance to address nonmetallic mining operations and consider imposing conditions, such as requiring nonmetallic mining operations to be a certain number of feet away from ESAs and residential uses, identifying appropriate hours for blasting and hauling of aggregate, and utilizing the Brown County reclamation ordinance to ensure adequate cleanup and reuse of the site when mining is completed.

### **Historic Buildings**

The Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) is an official inventory maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), which tracks historically significant structures, sites, or objects. These sites collectively display Wisconsin's unique culture and history and, therefore, should be noted and protected/preserved when feasible.

Suamico has one building that is listed on the state and national registers of historic places. The Henry House (also known as the Weed Mill Lumber Inn) located at 1749 Riverside Drive was certified on January 31, 1980. In addition to the state and national historic registers, the Wisconsin Historical Society maintains the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) that identifies structures by community that are not listed on either the state or national register but have historic characteristics that indicate they may be eligible to be listed. Within Suamico, there are 31 structures that are listed on the AHI and are generally located in the village center area, as well as in the Flintville area.

In 1998, the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission received a grant from the National Park Service to conduct an intensive historical and architectural survey of selected unincorporated communities in Brown County. Bay-Lake RPC then contracted with Heritage Research, Ltd. to perform the survey and provide recommendations regarding eligibility for the National Historic Register. Heritage Research, Ltd. produced the Historical/Architectural Resources Survey of Selected Unincorporated Communities of Brown County. Within Suamico, 18 separate properties were surveyed (16 in the village center area and 2 in Flintville), and 3 were identified for further research and evaluation under National Register of Historic Places criteria.

The Suamico Fish Company building located at 1184 Riverside Drive was built circa 1905 and is a reminder of the importance fishing once played in Suamico's local economy. According to the report, "The fact that the company is still in business further bolsters its commercial role as one of the few remaining resources associated with the county's fishing trade." The report identifies this structure as the one out of three that is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The former Riverside Cheese Company located at 1776 Riverside Drive was built circa 1905. The report states, "Although the property's historic function as a cheese factory reflects one of the most significant industries in the economy/commercial development of Brown County and Wisconsin in general, the (building's) significant alterations seriously affect the structure's integrity of form as well as of function." As a result of the changes to the building, the building is not considered eligible for the National Register.

The third property identified for further research is located on Velp Avenue and currently consists of a farmstead and small barn. According to the report, "The site was originally used as a stagecoach stop and tavern known as The Rough and Ready, established in 1856." The report further states, "...it remains unclear whether or not the house or the granary were historically associated with the historic stagecoach stop, The Rough and Ready Tavern. This may impact historical significance. As a result of a lack of conclusive evidence, a decision regarding Register eligibility cannot be rendered at this point." The report recommends further study to determine eligibility.

Another historically significant structure in the Village is the lighthouse on Longtail Point. This structure is a very recognized feature of the bay shore.

As the Village redevelops the village center, it should take into account the number of potentially historic structures located there and work with the property owners to refurbish the buildings in a historically sensitive way. These redeveloped buildings can then be utilized to help draw residents and tourists to the village center as a destination. The Village should work with the State Historical Society to consider appropriate designation and preservation of potential historic sites as they are identified to maintain examples of the Village's culture and history.

### **Archeological Resources**

The following information is provided by Janet M. Speth of the Neville Public Museum and was gathered from an archival literature search. According to the literature search, few large-scale archeological surveys have been conducted within the boundaries of the Village of Suamico. The surveys that have been made have generally been confined to narrow sewer easements or highway rights-of-way. However, the fact that there are 67 catalogued sites is, according to the museum, "...a testimony to the archeological richness of the area."

The Village of Suamico recently formed a Howard-Suamico Historical Society with the Village of Howard. The Howard-Suamico Historical Society should be utilized for historic and archaeological reference information.

The lower reach of the Suamico River contains a cluster of archeological sites that were heavily collected in the early part of the twentieth century. Many of the artifacts from this area are in the collections of the Neville Public Museum. A second concentration of sites is located in the southwest quarter of the Village, and additional sites are scattered throughout Suamico.

According to the Neville Public Museum, areas of special archeological concern and interest in the Village of Suamico would be both banks of the lower stretch of the Suamico River, including any near-shore submerged areas, which may have been dry when lake levels were lower than today. A secondary area of concern is the area roughly paralleling Velp Avenue, which is a likely location for the earliest Native American sites in the Village.

There are five historic Euro-American cemeteries in the Village: an unnamed cemetery in Section 15, St. Benedict Cemetery in Section 22, Suamico Public Cemetery in Section 23, Ss. Edward and Isidore

Cemetery in Section 18, and the two separate areas of the Unitarian Cemetery in Section 18.

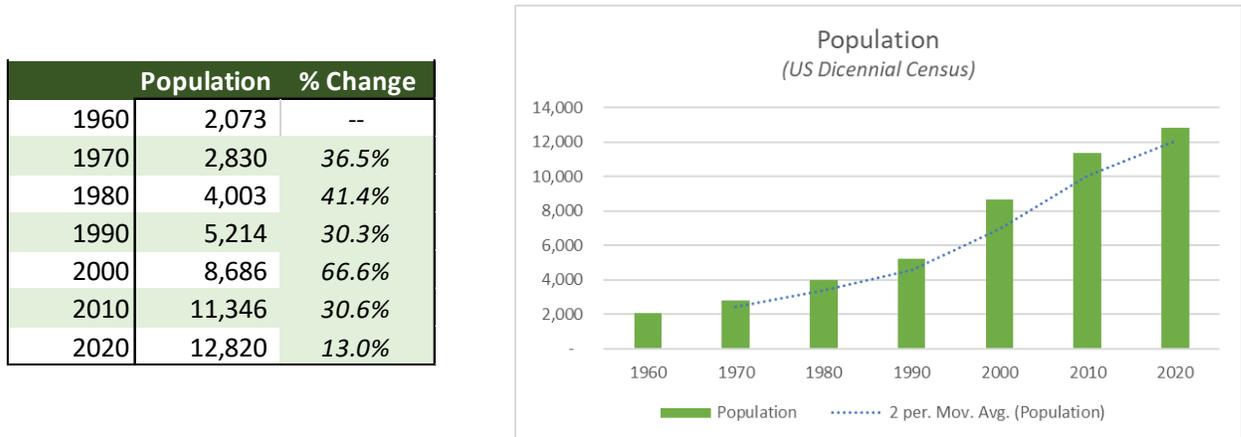
The archeological sites are windows to the past. They provide information and insight as to the culture of the previous residents of Suamico. Current state law gives protection to all human burial sites. There are also programs and restrictions relating to other archeological sites. Developing these sites before they can be catalogued and studied is the major threat to this resource. Any residents finding evidence of archeological sites should contact representatives of the Neville Public Museum.

Suamico should capitalize on the value of these resources, perhaps by including these sites within public neighborhood parks and educating citizens about pre-European settlement life in the Suamico region. The Village should work with the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Neville Public Museum to identify these sites. Processes for dealing with these sites during construction of new development should then be established, particularly for burial sites, which, as previously mentioned, are currently protected under state law.

### Population

The Village of Suamico experienced very rapid population growth, doubling in size between 1990 and 2010. This was due to an aggressive economic period. In addition, the Village’s natural beauty and easy access to the Green Bay Metropolitan Area were likely factors as well.

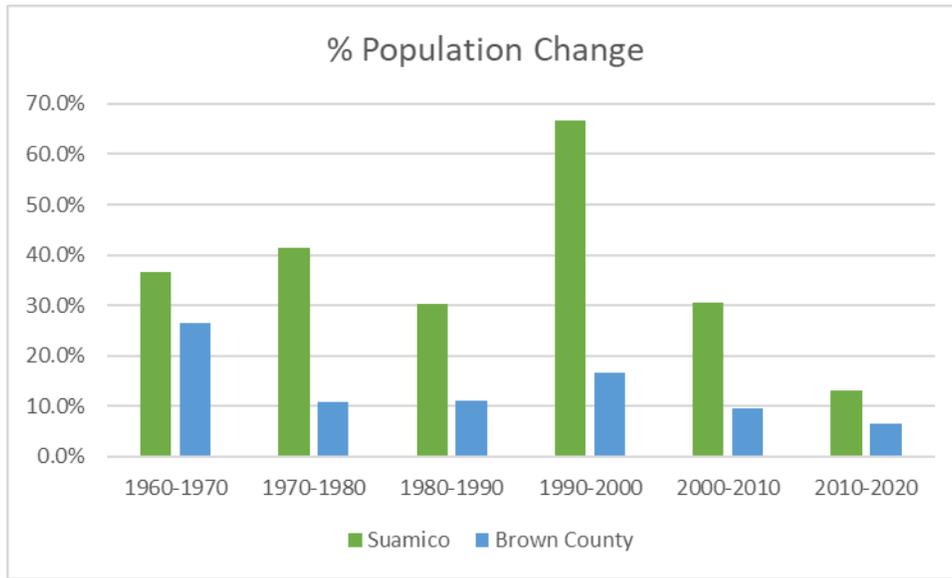
**Figure 1: Village of Suamico Historic Growth Trend**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Wisconsin Department of Administration; and Brown County Planning Commission

Compared to Brown County, The Village of Suamico has experienced more aggressive population growth each and every decade since 1960 (See Figure 2). Since the Village has available infrastructure (public sewer, water, parks, etc.) and appears an attractive location for home buyers, it is expected that the Suamico will continue to surpass the average population growth for the County in the future.

**Figure 2: Village of Suamico and Brown County Percentage Population Increase, 1960-2020**



Source: US Bureau of the Census; Wisconsin Department of Administration; and Brown County Planning Commission.

According to Figure 3, the Village of Suamico is forecasted to grow to 16,620 people by 2035. This trend results in a projected 29.6% population growth rate from 2020 to 2035, or roughly 1.97% per year.

**Figure 3: Population Projections for Village of Suamico and Brown County, 2000-2030**

	2020 Census	2025	2030	2035	% Change 2020-2035
<b>Village of Suamico</b>	12,820	14,430	15,650	16,620	29.6%
<b>Brown County</b>	268,740	285,650	299,540	308,730	14.9%

Source: US Bureau of the Census; Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) *adjusted*

## Land Use

Brown County Planning Commission conducts a countywide land use inventory every decade. The most recent inventory was completed in June 2010. However, this data was not made available by individual community. For the purpose of this plan, the 2004 land use data will be used.

The largest land use category in the village in 2004 was “Natural Areas” (water features, wildlife refuges, woodlands, and other natural areas), which encompass 36.23%, or 8,548.6-acres, of the land uses in the Village. “Outdoor Recreation” land uses (zoos, parks, golf ranges, archery ranges, and water access sites) encompass an additional 6.78%, or 1,600.7-acres, of the Village.

Rarely will you find a Village where the amount of recreational, agricultural and natural areas comprises over 60% of the acreage. The expanse of these undeveloped land use types point to the unique composition of the Village as a recently incorporated former Town.

**Figure 4: Village of Suamico January 2004 Land Use Acreage**

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Residential	5,518.6	23.40%
Commercial	97.5	0.41%
Industrial	184.3	.78%
Transportation	1,665.5	7.06%
Utilities	24.9	0.11%
Governmental	162.1	0.69%
Recreation	1,600.7	6.78%
Agricultural	4,814.4	20.41%
Natural Areas	8,548.6	36.23%
Under Development	977.3	4.14%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,593.5</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: Brown County Planning Commission

## Park and Open Space Facilities Inventory

Discounting Semi-Private recreation facilities, there are approximately 3,934-acres of park, recreation, and open space lands available to both residents and visitors alike in the Village of Suamico. Figure 7 provides a detailed breakdown of the classification and acreage of each site. Map 2 provides the specific location of each facility. Below is a more detailed description of each recreation site by ownership.

### Village Sites

#### Idlewild Community Park

Idlewild Community Park is a 53.4-acre facility located at the intersection of Harbor Lights Road and Lakeview Drive and is also the location of the village offices. The park is served by sanitary sewer and municipal water service. Current improvements include one lighted softball field, one baseball field, three youth fields, two Pop Warner Football Fields w/scoreboards and two tennis courts. A concession

stand, playground equipment, and a seasonal shelter support the athletic fields. An all season pavilion is available for rental to village residents with combined parking areas sufficient to accommodate 300 vehicles. There are also wetlands and woods for the nature enthusiast with the intention of a trail system in the near future.

### Calavera Springs Park

Calavera Springs Park is located in the southwestern portion of the Village on Flintville Road (CTH "M"). Named after Minerva Calewaerts, this 65.4-acre park was purchased in 1991, and developed in 1998 to include three soccer and flag football fields, three fenced softball fields, marked walking/cross country ski trails, and an all season pavilion with concession stand. In 2000, two tennis courts were added and the parking lots were paved to accommodate 300 vehicles. In 2009, a bridge was added to the trail system. Restroom accommodations are provided for public use thru port-a-potties. For organized or facility rental events, the indoor restrooms are made available for use in the pavilion. The Village has an agreement with Cellcom, a telecommunications company, for accommodating access to the company's cell tower facility. The agreement generates additional annual revenue for park improvements. The parks most unique feature is a flowing spring that is a tributary to Hidden Lake and the Suamico River. In order to showcase the full extent of what the park has to offer, the walking trails direct users past this spring, through open prairie, woodlands, and wetlands. Consideration has been given to adding a Frisbee golf course to the park.

### Doctor-Vickery Park

Doctor-Vickery Park is located on the north side of the Suamico River on Velp Avenue. The north side of this 2.5-acre property is bounded by Hallers Creek. Owned by the Doctor Family, the parcel is leased to the Village in year increments with the understanding that it be maintained to the identical standards of other village parks. The primary use is for fishing and picnicking. Structural improvements are not possible due to its location in the flood plain.

### Firemans Park

Firemans Park is a small half-acre facility adjacent to the Suamico River at Deerfield Avenue West. The park is undeveloped but does offer fishing opportunities and canoe access to the river. Picnic tables are made available, as this is a popular spot for summer lunch breaks. The possibility of enhanced fishing/canoe access may be explored.

### Hawk's Nest

Hawks Nest is a rural residential development located in the northwest quadrant of the village between Flintville Road and Stream Road. Because of its proximity to the Suamico River there is a considerable expanse of wooded floodplain which was undevelopable. This 29.1-acre area was dedicated to the village as a conservancy with the long term goal of creating a river walk.

### Municipal Services Center Park

This 2.4 acre neighborhood park site is adjacent the Municipal Service Center located along Velp Avenue. The park is currently undeveloped but will be constructing a playground area with a modular play system in 2013. The park will utilize the existing public parking lot and will integrate a trail system to allow pedestrian access from surrounding residential neighborhoods.

### Rose Hill Estates

Rose Hill Estates is located along Pine Lane in the northwestern portion of the Village. Immediately to the north on Sunrise Road is the Brown County Reforestation Camp. This development dedicated 24.7-acres of green space that is intended to serve as stormwater management and a common area for the immediate residents of the development. Public access points are located in several strategic places to offer walking opportunities for anyone wishing to partake. There are no improved trails in the greenways so it is considered to be a conservation area.

### Sunset Beach Lane Park

In 1934, a 60 foot wide access was dedicated to the public as part of the Plat of Sunset Beach. In 2006, the Village used funding from both the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program to purchase two additional properties to the south of the 60' access. Combined, the park area is .64 acres in size. The depth of the property will always vary with the level of the bay which recently has been very low. To initiate coordinated development of the park, a master plan was developed for the property in 2011. Since development of the master plan, the Village has constructed a park shelter and parking lot (2012). Additional plans call for the construction of authentic play structures, tree plantings and improved water access to the bay for pedestrians and watercraft.

### Wied Mill Park

Wied Mill Park is an undeveloped 9.4-acre park obtained in 1996 to accommodate residential growth. The site is located south of Riverside Drive, west of Velp Ave., and adjacent to the Suamico River. The site is planned to be developed as a passive conservation area. Approximately 60% of the park is located in the flood plain of the Suamico River and offers limited opportunity for active recreational facilities. Further research on the environmental features and possible constraints should be instituted prior to any advances in development of this site.

### Whisper Ridge Park, Trails and Greenspace

Whisper Ridge Park is located west of Bay Port High School at the intersection of Flowering Peach Drive and Luxury Drive. This park provides playground equipment suitable for children age 2-12. This area also has over 23-acres of green space that is to serve as a common area to the immediate residents of the Whisper Ridge development. Public access points are located in strategic places to offer walking opportunities for anyone wishing to partake. The irregular path of the greenways and graveled pathways offer an alternative to sidewalks for exercise trails.

### Wooded Wetland along Deerfield Avenue West

The Village recently acquired approximately 120-acres of wooded wetland along Deerfield Avenue West. The property contains a mix of upland hardwoods, seasonally flooded softwood, and a marsh. Also found within the property is an abandoned railroad grade dating back to the 1850's.

### Public Access to Green Bay

Beside the recently developed Sunset Beach Park, there are currently two additional points of access to the Bay: the 1<sup>st</sup> being a narrow strip on Longtail Beach Lane and the 2<sup>nd</sup> at the east end of Riverside Drive at the mouth of the Suamico River, These two sites are unimproved and provide little if any parking

for public access.

## **County Sites**

The Village of Suamico contains a significant amount of county-owned land. Brown County presently owns and administers approximately 2,005-acres of land in the Village of Suamico. Specific areas include the following:

### Brown County Reforestation Camp

The Brown County Reforestation Camp is located in the northwest portion of the township with access provided by CTH "B" west of USH 41/141. The 1528-acre forest consists of a variety of vegetation communities. Wet lowland communities dominated by native American Elm, Aspen, and Ash are scattered throughout the forest intermixed with sections of highland species like White Pine, Red Oak, Red Maple, and White Birch. Sandy, well-drained areas within the Reforestation Camp often support numerous Red Pine plantations. The scenic terrain offers 4 mi. of snowmobile trails, 25 mi. of cross country ski trails, 7 mi. of horseback riding trails, and 14 mi. of mountain bike trails. Nestled among the pines are several playground areas, grills, volleyball courts and a softball diamond. Two shelter facilities complete with cooking equipment are available for rent. Additional facilities include a rifle range, trout fishing ponds, and an observation tower. Parking has been recently expanded to accommodate over 500 cars.

### NEW Zoo

The NEW Zoo facility is located within the Reforestation Camp at the end of CTH "IR". This popular family destination, along with the reforestation camp, accommodates nearly 500,000 visitors annually from throughout northeastern Wisconsin and the upper peninsula of Michigan. Accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the NEW Zoo is a 17-acre facility that features approximately 100 exhibits with over 200 live animals. Changes to exhibits and animals occur annually. Divided into several themed areas including the North American Plains, Wisconsin & Northern Trails, Africa, Australia, a Children's Zoo and an education building. The NEW Zoo contains a visitor center that accommodates special events throughout the year and provides concession opportunities for visitors. The NEW Zoo also contains an animal hospital facility and is staffed by a full-time curator. The NEW Zoo is recognized as a regional facility drawing visitors and groups from throughout NE Wisconsin and the entire state.

### L.H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve

The L. H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve is a 474-acre area located in the southeast corner of the Village of Suamico. It is adjacent to the 447-acre Fort Howard Paper Foundation Wildlife Area south of Lineville Road in the Village of Howard. This woodland marsh, located east of CTH "J" (Lakeview Road), contains several water impoundments and provides excellent habitat for nesting waterfowl, shorebirds, deer and rabbits. The preserve also provides over 8 miles of hiking and cross country ski trails and hosts an interpretative center which is available for hosting environmental programs. Designated areas are open for waterfowl hunting, and deer hunting is allowed with certain restrictions. The preserve is host to numerous naturalist guided programs that accommodate over 5,000 students annually. The preserve has recently experienced wetland restoration improvements and has developed a northern pike spawning area. The preserve is nationally recognized as a wildlife viewing area.

## Suamico Boat Landing

The Suamico Boat Landing is a 4-acre boat launching facility providing four launching lanes for access to the Suamico River and the Bay of Green Bay. The landing is located on the north bank of the Suamico River, about ¼ mi. upstream from the bay. Access is provided of Sunset Beach Rd., east of CTH "J". The facility includes 42 car/trailer stalls and 30-car only stalls. The entire parking area is paved and lined. In addition, a retaining wall provides onshore fishing opportunities along a majority of the riverfront area. The facility includes a seasonal restroom. Periodic dredging is required to improve and/or maintain navigability. The Suamico boat landing is a popular spring and fall boating destination, especially for perch fishermen and duckhunters.

## **State Sites**

The State of Wisconsin owns and regulates 1,248-acres in the Village of Suamico, known as the Green Bay West Shore Wildlife Area. The Green Bay West Shore Wildlife Area includes the Sensiba Wildlife Area, Longtail Point Wildlife Area, a primitive 2-acre boat launching facility, and over 200-acres in the Little Tail Point Management unit. Recent land purchases include wooded wetlands that do not carry a designated name.

## Sensiba Wildlife Area

Sensiba Wildlife Area is located along the western side of lower Green Bay adjacent to the Suamico River. This 500 acre site includes some upland grasslands and forest, providing habitat for pheasant, grouse, turkey and a variety of songbirds. The remaining wetlands and shrub swamps provide excellent environments for waterfowl, deer, and rabbits.

A Wisconsin Coastal Management Program grant was awarded to the Village of Suamico in 2013 for a project at Sensiba Wildlife Area. The property is owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The WDNR is currently working on a project to construct and improve a dike system that will allow property managers to control water levels in the wildlife area. The dike project does not include any improvements to the dikes other than for water control. The controlled water levels should be an asset to spawning northern pike and musky.

The grant project includes construction of roughly 3.25 miles of 8' wide fine crushed stone trail with a depth of 4" on top of the dike structures. The trail will extend from the existing WDNR parking lot north of Sunset Beach Road, east along the north side of Sunset Beach Road and the Suamico River, then north passing through Sunset Beach Park (with access to Green Bay), and following a dike system constructed by WDNR through the Sensiba Wildlife Area. A connector trail to Resort Road is also part of the project. The proposed trail will loop around to the west and finally return to the WDNR parking lot (trail head). A wildlife viewing platform will be constructed along the trail. The project also includes crossing a stream/wetland area with a wooden causeway estimated to be 150' long. The project also includes construction of an enclosure for the existing portable toilets at Sunset Beach Park.

The idea for this project was developed by WDNR staff while exploring ideas for other trail projects in the Village of Suamico. The project also received endorsement by Brown County Park System which operates a boat launch facility directly south of the proposed project on the Suamico River.

The project will deliver the following outcomes:

#1 Construction of 3.25 miles of ADA compliant trail along Green Bay and the Suamico River. This will

allow residents better access to the Sensiba Wildlife Area as well as additional trails for recreation.

#2 The project will include construction of a wildlife viewing platform and educational kiosk. This will help educate the public on important biological phenomenon in the Sensiba Wildlife Area.

#3 The project will include construction of an enclosure for the Sunset Beach Park toilets. This will enhance use of this small park.

#4 The project will expose roughly 200 viewable acres of Sensiba Wildlife Area that was previously unavailable to the average resident.

### Longtail Point

Longtail Point is a 300 acre area that includes a narrow strip of wetland marsh that extends southeastward from the west shore into the lower bay. The point forms the eastern boundary of Dead Horse Bay and was extended with dredging by the Army Corps of Engineers. Longtail Point is completely underdeveloped and provides excellent habitat for waterfowl, shore birds, and aquatic mammals. The western shore consists of cattail marsh and is a favorite for waterfowl hunters. Boaters use the sandy beach stretches found on the eastern shore extensively for swimming and picnics. The remnants of a historical lighthouse are found on the south end of Longtail Point.

### Little Tail Management Area of the Green Bay West Shore Wildlife Area

The 192 acre Little Tail Management unit of the Green Bay West Shore Wildlife Area is located in the extreme northeast corner of the Village adjacent to Bay Side and Hook Roads. Like Longtail Point and the Sensiba Wildlife Area, the Little Tail Point unit contains a virtual potpourri of wildlife. Wildlife groups include waterfowl species, shore birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

### Small Craft Boat Launch on Harbor Lights Road

A small craft boat launch is available at the east end of Harbor Lights Road. This 2-acre area has not experienced any recent improvements and is available for launching small crafts such as canoes and skiffs. This site contains potential for further enhancement, for use as a passive recreational site such as picnicking, special events, and bird watching. A small graveled parking lot is available, but could benefit from further improvement. This is DNR property under lease by the Village of Suamico.

### DNR Owned Wooded Wetlands

The Wisconsin DNR owns five separated wooded wetland complexes throughout the eastern half of the Village. The five sites total 254 total acres of wooded wetland that primarily serve as hunting and nature areas. Each parcel is under a management plan by administered by the WDNR

## **School District Sites**

### Bayport High School

Bay Port High School is a shared facility between the Villages of Suamico and Howard. It is located on Lineville Rd. (CTH "M"). The site contains 3 baseball, 3 softball, 3 football/soccer fields, a running track, and football/soccer stadium. Other recreation facilities include an indoor gymnasium and a theater stage.

### Lineville School & Forest Glen Elementary School

Lineville School (includes Forest Glen Elementary) is situated adjacent to the Village of Suamico in the Village of Howard on Lineville Road. The school includes an indoor swimming pool used throughout the year. Outdoor recreation facilities include two little league/softball diamonds, two soccer fields, two modular play systems, basketball standards, two swing sets and a large open play area. The school district has no immediate plans to expand the recreation facilities.

### Suamico Elementary School

Suamico Elementary School is a 26.4-acre site at the intersection of CTH "B" and School Lane. Due to a 1996 expansion of the school building, the softball/little league field was removed and will not be replaced. Facilities currently include just two swing sets and areas for open recreation. The site is a very popular winter sledding location during and after school hours but is not an encouraged activity of the School District.

### Bay Harbor Elementary

This new school is located on corner of Birch and Harbor Lights Rd. adjacent to Idlewild Park. Presently, there are 2 open play fields and a playground system. Furthermore, the plan is to connect the school facilities to the park in order to fully utilize each.

## **Semi-Private Sites**

### Green Bay Golden Arrow Archery Club

The Green Bay Golden Arrow Archery Club is a wooded 40-acre site located in Section 11 on Golden Arrow Road. The site contains archery courses and a shelter facility.

### Nicolet Rifle Club

The Nicolet Rifle Club located adjacent to St. Pat's Drive in Section 16, this 9-acre site offers members ample shooting stations for rifle and trap. A rest room and small clubhouse are also provided.

### Wouter's Front Tavern Softball Field

Wouter's Front Tavern located on CTH "B" (School Lane), maintains a 2.5-acre men's regulation size softball field equipped with excellent lighting, fencing, seating, and electronic facilities. This location is a popular host for summer softball tournaments and is a popular destination for young adults.

### Knight Riders Snowmobile Club

Knight Riders Snowmobile Club is open to members only; this 9.6-acre site contains a clubhouse in a passive recreational setting. This site is located approximately ¼ mile north of Sunny Lane on the east side of Velp Avenue.

### Izaak Walton League Wildlife Area

The Izaak Walton League owns a wooded 39-acre parcel located adjacent to the boundary of the Reforestation Camp. This parcel is managed primarily as a wildlife area. No physical improvements are

present on the site.

### Windjammers Sailing Club

Windjammers Sailing Club, Inc. is a not-for-profit private club on the western shore of Green Bay, located at 4009 Channel Road in the Town of Suamico. The 2.6 acre facility is maintained by membership volunteers. The harbor has slips for 52 boats. Another 44 boats can be accommodated in the dry sail area. There is a boat launch, as well as a 1000 pound hoist for the smaller boats. The clubhouse contains a meeting room, restrooms, shower and bar room. The sailing club is identified as an access point in the Wisconsin portion of the Lake Michigan Water Trail. Windjammers has been willing partner with the Village's Recreation Department on watercraft use and training programs.

**Figure 7: Suamico Park and Open Space Sites**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Acreeage</b>
Calavera Springs Park	Village of Suamico	65.4
Deerfield Woodlands	Village of Suamico	162.8
Doctor Vickery Park	Village of Suamico	2.5
Firemans Park	Village of Suamico	0.5
Hawk's Nest	Village of Suamico	29.1
Idlewild Community Park	Village of Suamico	53.4
Lineville Woodlands	Village of Suamico	19.2
Municipal Services Center Park	Village of Suamico	2.4
Rose Hill Estates	Village of Suamico	24.7
Sunset Beach Park	Village of Suamico	.6
Weid Mill Park	Village of Suamico	9.4
Whisper Ridge Subdivision	Village of Suamico	23.5
Wooded Wetland (Deerfield Ave)	Village of Suamico	120.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>13 sites</b>	<b>513.3</b>
Brown County Reforestation Camp with NEW ZOO	Brown County	1528.0
L.H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve	Brown County	474.0
Suamico Boat Landing	Brown County	2.9
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3 sites</b>	<b>2004.9</b>
Five Other WDNR Owned Wooded Wetland Sites.	State of Wisconsin	254.0
Little Tail Management Unit of the Green Bay West Shore Wildlife Area	State of Wisconsin	192.0
Longtail Point	State of Wisconsin	300.0
Sensiba Wildlife Area	State of Wisconsin	500.0
Small Craft Boat Launch in Harbor Lights Road	State of Wisconsin	2.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9 sites</b>	<b>1248.0</b>
Bay Harbor Elementary	School District	17.4
Bay Port High School	School District	84.2
Lineville Middle & Forest Glen Elementary School	School District	40.0
Suamico Elementary School	School District	26.4
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4 sites</b>	<b>168.0</b>
Green Bay Golden Arrow Archery Club	Semi-Private	40.0
Izaak Walton League Wildlife Area	Semi-Private	39.0
Knight Riders Snowmobile Club	Semi-Private	9.7
Nicolet Rifle Club	Semi-Private	8.9
Rescue Memorial	Semi-Private	1.3
Windjammers	Semi-Private	2.6
Wouter's Front Tavern Softball Field	Semi-Private	4.7
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7 sites</b>	<b>106.2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36 SITES</b>	<b>4040.4</b>

# Chapter 3

## Goals and Objectives

### Purpose

The following goals and objectives are meant to guide Village officials as they work to improve the Village's park and open space system. The goals and objectives indicate the type of outdoor recreation and open space system the Village would like to provide for its residents. These goals and objectives include any changes or revisions from the previous plan based on input by the Village of Suamico Recreation, Park, Forestry, & Trails Committee.

The goals and objectives listed below are not prioritized in any special order, nor do they represent a specific project's feasibility. There may be a certain amount of "overlap" among the goals. However, there should not be a conflict between or among the goals and objectives. All of the goals and objectives are important and, although some may be more important than others, they all interact to form the basis of the plan's direction.

### Definitions

**Goals** – Goals represent desired situations toward which planning efforts should be directed. They are broad and long-range in nature. They represent the vision of the community as an end to be sought, but an end that may never be fully realized.

**Objectives** – Objectives describe more specific purposes that should be sought, to advance toward achievement of the goals. They are targets along the path to the goals.

## Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Goals and Objectives

### Goal 1:

Provide adequate amounts of "active" and "passive" recreational lands to meet future needs.

### Supporting Objectives:

- Acquire additional lands for "active" and "passive" park development.
- Stress the importance of "accumulating good developable lands" for recreational facilities in areas targeted for future park development.
- Acquire lands and provisions for safe harbors.
- Acquire waterfront recreational sites.
- Develop a Master Plan for all existing Village owned property for recreational purposes.

- Consider the creation of a dog park.
- Implement the Calavera Springs Park Master Plan (see Appendix D)

**Goal 2:**

Provide adequate recreation facilities at all parks within the Village.

**Supporting Objectives:**

- Continue development of our existing park system so that a variety of activities are provided to serve all interest and age groups.
- Install lighting to allow maximum use of active recreation facilities.
- The construction of park facilities should begin to be developed when 25% of the proposed park’s service area is residentially developed.
- Upgrade facilities and promote varied use of existing facilities.
- Restructure facilities to meet the growth of organized sports.
- Diversify park use.

**Goal 3:**

Provide Village’s residents with safe, reliable, recreation facilities.

**Supporting Objectives:**

- Replace old, deteriorating, recreation equipment.
- Continually maintain existing park equipment to ensure equipment longevity and safety.

**Goal 4:**

Continue to coordinate development efforts and the use of recreational facilities between the Village of Suamico, other governmental jurisdictions, local schools, and non-profit organizations and semi-private recreational facilities.

**Supporting Objectives:**

- Encourage increased public use of indoor and outdoor school recreation facilities.
- Encourage cooperative multi-jurisdictional/school/non-profit organization development projects to avoid duplication of services.
- Explore the building of a pool or other water sports facility.

## **Goal 5:**

Provide recreational facilities that are designed to accommodate the needs of disabled and senior citizen users.

### **Supporting Objectives:**

- Incorporate disabled specifications into the design of recreation facilities per the American Disabilities Act (i.e., shelter houses, rest rooms, and water fountains).
- Provide non-intensive sports facilities that are designed to accommodate the needs of disabled and senior citizen users.

## **Goal 6:**

Encourage the preservation of the Village's natural resources, such as wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, as well as historically significant sites.

### **Supporting Objectives:**

- Support agricultural and erosion control programs that are designed to improve water quality in the Suamico River and Green Bay watersheds such as the Brown County Land Conservation Department, WDNR and other agencies.
- Encourage and support the preservation of wetlands and wildlife habitat.
- Retain and protect native plant communities on public lands.
- Establish a reforestation program for public lands areas that require vegetative cover for stabilization or aesthetic reasons.
- Protect environmentally sensitive and historically significant areas from "active" recreational development.
- Incorporate historically significant sites into future park locations whenever possible.
- Encourage conservation by design development as conveyed in the Village of Suamico Subdivision Ordinance and incorporate conservation areas into park inventory as appropriate.
- Develop plans for conserved green space areas, in conjunction with neighborhood associations as applicable.
- Enact measures to control and prevent introduction of invasive species.

## **Goal 7:**

Utilize all available resources to further enhance the quality of the Village's park system.

### **Supporting Objectives:**

- Pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the purchase or development of park system improvements.
- Implement policies and design standards that reduce opportunities for park vandalism.
- Recognize the potential that exists with other public and private organizations for donations to aid in appropriate park system development.
- Consult and incorporate the needs identified in the CORP before subdivision plats are approved.
- Continually update the Village's CORP every 5 years to provide the Village with the Wisconsin statutory period of funding eligibility.

## **Goal 8:**

To incorporate the 2023 Suamico Trail, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Plan into all applicable existing and new development in the Village of Suamico.

### **Supporting Objective:**

- Strive to work in concert with the Brown County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the goals of the Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Completion of the Calavera trail system and trail hardening.
- Completion of the Idlewild trail system and trail hardening.
- Work with the WDNR and Brown County to further develop trails on village, county and state owned areas.
- Implement the projects as identified and prioritized in the Village of Suamico 2023 Trail, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Plan.
- Consult the Trail Plan and identify the needs for trails to be incorporated in subdivision development plans and road/highway (re)construction projects during the planning phase(s) of those projects.

# Chapter 4

## Needs Analysis

### Overview

In recreation planning, a needs analysis is a method used to determine and quantify a community's recreational requirements. The needs analysis undertaken in Suamico's previous park plans relied upon criteria set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association relating to jurisdictional, per capita, and accessibility standards. That organization, as well as park and planning departments across the nation, are now placing more emphasis upon locally preferred standards and levels of service. Such a change has occurred primarily in recognition of the great amount of variability in the social, economic and physical fabric of our communities. This variability creates situations whereby standards that work well for one community are often not applicable or appropriate to another.

Part of acknowledging more local preferences, is to review trends that are associated with park programs offered through the Village's Recreation Department. In Suamico, specific park programs have seen growth while others are limited due to a lack of facilities.

In recognition of the above situations, the Suamico Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan Needs Analysis consisted of working closely with the Village of Suamico Recreation, Park, Forestry, & Trails Committee, during the summer of 2012 and the winter/spring of 2013. In addition, the consultant and Village Staff visited and inspected each village park site to assess the arrangement, pedestrian flow and condition of recreational facilities. With this approach, it is intended that information about the status and condition of each site as well as information about the need for future repairs, replacement, or expansion of such sites and facilities, will be obtained.

### Primary Standards

The following sources were utilized and are considered "Primary" in the Village of Suamico Needs Analysis:

- The suggestions and recommendations of the Park, Rec, Forestry, & Trails Committee.
- Recommendations of Village Staff.
- Facility needs to address village recreation programs.
- Recommendations from previous village outdoor recreation and open space plans.
- Recommendations from other community plans which could impact the provision of recreation and open space within Suamico such as the *2023 Suamico Trail, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Plan*, the *Sunset Beach Lane Park Master Plan, 2011*, and the *Calavera Springs Park Master Plan*.
- Recommendations from the *Village of Suamico Comprehensive Plan*.
- Recommendations from the *Brown County Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

- Recommendations and trend acknowledgement from the *State of Wisconsin Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016*. Please see Appendix D for the outdoor recreation trends identified in this plan.
- Agency contacts including the WDNR; Brown County Parks, Land Conservation and Planning Departments; WI Coastal Management.
- Planning Consultant, Martenson & Eisele Inc.
- Public input, comments, and suggestions.

## Secondary Standards

The following standards are considered “Secondary” components of the needs analysis, and have been included in Appendix B. It must be noted that these standards have been utilized to guide the Village of Suamico outdoor recreation planning efforts since the community started doing outdoor recreation plans. Since the standards recognize the responsibility of other units of government to provide recreational opportunities, the standards are still very appropriate to guide park planning in the Village and should continue to be utilized. The standards cover three broad areas:

- Jurisdictional standards
- Per capita standards
- Accessibility standards

## Local Assessment of Need

### Park Types

A very important component of analyzing needs within a park and recreation system is to understand that parks come in various sizes and perform different functions. To start, a recognized park classification system should be used to classify the function of each park in the community. This process is particularly useful in determining if the community is in “balance” to accommodate recreational pursuits of its residents and visitors alike. Many park planning efforts utilize a park classification system to achieve this approach. That system will continue to be used for this planning effort and is set forth as follows:

- Community Parks. Includes those sites that are typically larger in size, serve an entire community, provide both intensive and passive recreational activities, and are designed for a wide variety of activities. Facilities commonly found at such sites include lighted ball fields, lighted tennis courts, trails, and natural areas. Special use sites such as soccer complexes are also often included in this category. Community parks often host larger events and have large off-street parking areas, shelters and restrooms as support facilities. Properly located, community parks can also serve a dual purpose as a neighborhood park as well for adjacent residential development. In Suamico, Calavera Springs and Idlewild Parks are classified as community parks but also serve the function of a neighborhood park to many adjacent residents.

- Neighborhood Parks. Includes those sites that are typically smaller in size, serve only a portion of a community, provide primarily intensive recreational opportunities, and are designed for a limited number of activities. Facilities commonly found at such sites include basketball courts, playgrounds, and informal playfields. Limited off-street parking is sometimes provided. Suamico has only two true neighborhood parks by this classification; the newly developed Municipal Services Center Park and Whisper Ridge Park. However, the recently developed Sunset Beach Park could also serve area residents within this function.
- Other Park, Recreation or Open Space Sites. Includes those sites that area are typically small in size, or do not provide any intensive recreational opportunities. Examples include small conservancy areas that were set aside through a parkland dedication ordinance for subdivision development. Per the Park and Recreation Facilities Map found in Appendix A, the Village has numerous designated locations which meet this classification.
- Special Use Parks. Includes those sites that provide a truly unique experience not commonly found at traditional park sites. Examples of these types of parks could include swimming beaches, winter sports complexes, boating facilities and zoos. In the Village of Suamico, the NEW Zoo would be considered a “Special Use Park” of regional significance. A Village owned park that would meet this definition includes Sunset Beach Park in which the unique feature is access to the Bay.

## **Village of Suamico Recreation Department & Recreation Programs**

The mission of the Suamico Recreation Department is to improve the quality of life by providing recreational, leisure and aesthetic opportunities for all residents, and by conserving and enhancing the environment. The Department strives to provide quality programming, making the best use of existing resources, developing a supportive and influential community, and developing effective collaborations and partnerships.

Under the general policies and regulations set forth by the Village Administrator, the Village Park, Forestry, Trails, & Recreation Committee, and the Village Board. The Recreation Director

1. is responsible for overseeing, directing, and evaluating the programs and operations in relation to recreation.
2. coordinates youth, adult, and senior citizen activities, special events, trips, and sports leagues.
3. manages park facility reservations.

Currently the Village of Suamico Recreation Department coordinates over 30 recreation programs which are designated to appropriate parks sites and facilities throughout the Village. In 2012, programs that had the highest participation level included youth baseball, football (flag & Pop Warner), softball and cardiotone. Many indoor recreation classes such as Dance, Tae Kwon Do, Zumba and many others are accommodated at the shelter facilities located at both Calavera and Idlewild parks.

Soccer programs are provided locally by the Howard/Suamico Fire Soccer Club, youth baseball leagues are provided by the Howard Suamico Youth Baseball Association and softball programs are provided by the Howard Suamico Youth Softball Association. Most of these programs are held on fields outside the Village of Suamico.

Most of the outdoor programs such as football, baseball and soccer are limited to expansion due to the amount of existing fields available in the Village. In addition, the Village must address turf management

issues at the existing fields which are in need of reseeding and/or re-sodding to maintain proper playing conditions. Some fields may need to be taken out of active play for a period of time (usually a year) to allow for the fields to heal and reestablish. Irrigation to maintain and manage turf surfaces should also be considered. The Village will need to address the need for more turf fields if they wish to accommodate growth in field use recreation programs.

Another area of growth appears to be within water sports, specifically swimming, kayaking, scuba and sailing. Given the cost of constructing an outdoor pool facility, the Village may want to pursue an outdoor water site such as a pond to accommodate training for these types of programs and activities. Bay water levels have been extremely low over the past 10 years making the Bay of Green Bay limited in providing areas for training which are usually more confined for safety reasons. The demand for water type sports such as kayaking is further supported by the *State of Wisconsin Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016* (See Appendix D).

### **Public Input, Comments and Suggestions**

Public input and comments are always a welcomed addition to any planning effort. A public meeting on the Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan: 2013-2017 was held on May 20, 2013, at the Municipal Services Center.

The Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Plan: 2013-2017 for the Village of Suamico was adopted by the Village Board on June 3, 2013.

# Chapter 5

## Recommendations

### Introduction

The primary purpose of this plan is to guide the acquisition and development of lands and facilities needed to satisfy the park, recreation and open space needs of the Village of Suamico, and to protect and enhance the important natural resource features found within the community.

### Major Park Accomplishments that have Occurred Since the Prior Planning Effort

Planning and implementing projects are an ongoing function. As a means of not feeling overwhelmed, the Village must celebrate its successes since the last planning effort. These accomplishments can be listed as follows:

1. Acquisition and partial development of Sunset Beach Park
2. Acquisition of the area for the Municipal Services Center Park
3. Update of the Village of Suamico Trail Plan
4. Secured a Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant for trail projects within the Sensiba Wildlife Area
5. Partnership with the Brown County Land Conservation Department and landowners on the Green Bay West Shore Pike Habitat Project (See Appendix E).
6. Established a youth football program through an executed partnership with the Duck Creek Pop Warner Football Association via a 15 year lease agreement.
7. Received a WDNR Urban Forestry Grant to develop an Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Plan for Idlewild Park.

### Broad Based Impacts and Directional Shifts from the Prior Planning Effort

This plan update acknowledges and represents some significant shifts as to how future park planning should be approached in the Village of Suamico over the next five years. The factors, forces and trends that are center to these impacts and directional shifts are discussed below:

1. Economic slowdown impacting residential development: The financial impact of the recession has left scars on the investment community's willingness to pursue larger development projects such as sub-divisions. Recent housing trend data from the American Planning Association suggest less demand for rural single family type housing in exchange for more concentrated, neighborhood type housing. That said, the Village's ability to fund future park projects will also be impacted due to reduced revenues.
2. Lessen the amount of proposed neighborhood parks: The Village's last outdoor recreation plan recommended the development of eight (8) neighborhood parks. Three of those parks have been acquired and partially developed (Whisper Ridge Park, Sunset Beach Park and Municipal Services Park). However, given the need for additional sports fields and associated facilities, this plan will focus on the need to develop another community park. Suamico's residential development pattern currently caters to vehicle travel to access parks.

3. Plan for the establishment of another community type park to accommodate programmed recreational activities (organized field sports) verses extending playing time via lighting or scheduling: See discussion on #2 above. A future community park site has been identified adjacent the Norfield Road/ Hwy 41 crossing.
4. Make better use of existing parks (i.e. extend operational hours, program scheduling, etc.): The most cost effective option for providing the necessary facilities required to accommodate recreational programs is to maximize existing facilities via lighting and creative scheduling. However, this approach comes with risks in that some facilities such as sports fields can only handle so much demand and traffic. This plan calls for an increased focus on the maintenance and upgrading of existing parks through a more detailed park maintenance program. Increased attention to maintenance and upgrades should position the existing park system to accommodate increased use.
5. Protect the investment made in existing parks by expanding efforts toward executing a more detailed Park Maintenance Program: See discussion on #4 above.
6. Further explore joint use and operation of school recreation facilities: The Village of Suamico has a long history of working with the local school district to share existing facilities. This plan recognizes that a continued effort should be made to encourage the joint use whenever possible as a cost effective option over the development of new facilities.
7. Execute complementary recreation programs between partners: An opportunity to work with other agency partners and private recreation organizations has begun to develop. This plan recognizes the potential to increase recreation program partnerships and supports the efforts of Village Staff to link and execute partnerships.
8. Key partnerships with Harbor Commission, US Coast Guard, Brown County Parks, Howard Suamico School District, Etc.: See #7 above.
9. Trail plan integration: The Village of Suamico Community Development Department created a very detailed trail plan titled; *2023 Suamico Trail, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Plan*. This planning effort views this document as an important component of the future facility development, especially the need to link recreational sites within the Village via a means other than motorized vehicles.
10. Incorporation of unique facilities such as skateboarding, dog parks, frisbee golf, scuba, etc.): This planning effort recognizes that unique recreational experiences will always be developing and brought forward to the Village for consideration within their park system. Careful review of the proposals and the impact on the “chemistry” of the park should be undertaken. Some of these proposed facilities and projects will be compatible while others may not.
11. Historical linkages to recreational sites (lighthouse, historic structures): The Village of Suamico has many historically significant sites and locations. This planning efforts encourages incorporating these features into the fabric of recreational sites if at all possible.

12. Define further the roll of neighborhood associations with park development and care: This planning effort acknowledges that financial resources are limited to maintain park facilities. In an effort to promote cost effectiveness, this plan acknowledges that the potential exists for already developed neighborhood associations to take a more active role in maintaining park facilities. The Village should play an active role in offering a program that could make these relationships a reality.
13. Develop an aggressive park development funding strategy with private donors and resources: Again, this planning effort acknowledges that financial resources will be limited to develop new recreational sites and/or facilities. However, this planning effort also acknowledges that a huge opportunity exist to raise outside funding that can be used to fund future projects. The Village should pursue the development of a detailed fundraising strategy or “booklet” to make donations easy for potential donors. A donor recognition program should be part of this effort.
14. Address a growing interest in water recreation and field type programs: With the increased interest in water sports, the Village should pursue any opportunity to make water resources more available to residents. This planning effort recognizes the high cost of traditional pool facilities and encourages the use of available outdoor water sites as options to help train program participants. Likewise, this planning effort acknowledges the need for more sports fields to accommodate growing ball sports on turf. The proposed Norfield park site location may be able to address both growing needs.

## Five Year Capital Improvement Projects

Based on the 2013 Needs Analysis (Chapter 4) and the above mentioned broad based shifts, the following projects were selected and ranked by the Park, Rec, Forestry, & Trails Committee and Village Staff. Map 2 in Appendix A, identifies the locations of the subject sites. Please note that some of these projects are “borderline” between being a capital project and routine maintenance. Appendix F provides a detailed approach to maintenance procedures which should assist in understanding the difference. The approximate costs and responsible parties for implementation of these recommendations are presented in Chapter 6.

The priority ranking system included below is intended to provide guidance to Village officials and staff in determining which recommendations to pursue and obtain funding. The system is based on the assumption that the correction of health and safety hazards, is the first and highest priority. The second priority recommendation is related to repair and replacement of existing facilities (routine maintenance and repair). Third in priority is the implementation of the recommendations dealing with the development of new sites or facilities. This ranking system is designed to be flexible to meet changes in community needs, professional judgment, or unique opportunities, encountered during implementation of this plan.

*The priority rankings were based on the following:*

**High** (Project should be completed within the next two years)

**Medium** (Project should be complete within the next five years)

**Low** (Project is a need but may not be completed within the next five years)

## Calavera Springs Park

### Priority Rank

- High** Implement the Calavera Springs Park Master Plan (*see Appendix \_\_\_*)  
Upgrade kitchen in shelter (electrical, new appliances, etc.)  
(partially completed, ongoing)  
Refurbish bleacher surfaces. (completed)  
Bleacher railings (completed)  
Begin turf work on fields. Level and reseed. (One field off-  
line each year)  
Refurbish picnic tables
- Medium** Install scoreboards (completed)  
Upgrade shelter with a metal roof (completed)  
Resurface tennis courts (2023)  
Seal coat and line parking lot  
Tree nursery establishment in back field  
Install field lighting  
Establish a frisbee golf course  
Install a sand volleyball court  
Install an irrigation system for field turf establishment  
Develop an outdoor classroom in natural area (project in  
combination with area school district(s))  
Harden trail surface from cell tower access road to bridge
- Low** Construct new park entrance sign

## Idlewild Community Park:

### Priority Rank

- High** Upgrade ballfield fencing around other diamonds  
(partially complete)  
Upgrade shelter kitchen  
Upgrade shelter roof  
Install large outdoor gill next to shelter for large outdoor  
events  
Install bleacher railings (completed)  
Begin turf work on fields. Level and reseed. (One field off-  
line each year)  
Resurface tennis courts (completed)  
Install water in shelters (completed)  
Upgrade and/or replace concession building  
Improve concrete around ball diamond areas
- Medium** Construct paved parking lot on graveled area  
Seal Coat and line existing parking areas  
Plant additional shade trees using the *Idlewild Park  
Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Plan* as a reference

(ongoing)  
 Replace dugouts  
 Install scoreboards for Diamonds 1 & 2  
 Install fencing for diamonds 1 & 2 (completed)  
 Install irrigation system for turf establishment  
 Improve drainage on west side of diamond

**Low**                      Splash Pad  
                                   Exercise stations

**Firemen’s Park**

Priority Rank

**Medium**                Pave turn around access to park area (completed)  
                                   Investigate the feasibility of the construction of  
                                   Fishing/Canoeing access points (Docks, piers, etc.) along  
                                   the river. (completed)

**Low**                      Construct a bandstand on the river

**Wied Mill Park**

Priority Rank

**Low**                      Further study on site limitations

**Sunset Beach Park**

Priority Rank

**High**                      Acquire additional adjacent land  
                                   Install playground system (completed)  
                                   Reinforcement of launch point  
                                   Plant trees and shrubbery (landscaping)(ongoing)  
                                   Establish a trailhead for the Sensiba Trails network and  
                                   construct restroom facilities (completed)

**Medium**                Drinking fountain  
                                   Purchase and locate benches, picnic tables and grill  
                                   Install fishing dock  
                                   Install security lighting  
                                   Establish swimming area  
                                   Install stairway to water (completed)

**Low**                      Establish trail along water  
                                   Rain garden  
                                   Expand parking lot

## Municipal Service Center Park

### Priority Rank

- High**            Install modular play system (completed)  
                      Install trail around park  
                      Establish tree borders plantings (buffering) (ongoing)
- Medium**        Sledding Hill  
                      Define and establish ice skating area

## New Community Park Site (Proposed Location: Norfield Rd)

### Priority Rank

- High**            Select exact location  
                      Develop a site master plan  
                      Construct shelter with restrooms  
                      Install play systems  
                      Develop off-street parking
- Medium**        Establish trails  
                      Install security lighting  
                      Establish water sports area
- Low**            Construct ball diamonds  
                      Construct football/soccer fields

## Other Projects

### Priority Rank

- High**            Blacktop Whisper Ridge subdivision trail for safe routes to school program  
                      Sensiba trail system improvements with WDNR (completed)  
                      Develop a *Park Donations Document* (completed) *designed to establish a formal process for obtaining private funding for specific park facilities and projects.*
- Medium**        Outdoor swimming area
- Low**            Develop a dog park  
                      Harbor Lights Lane boat landing improvements  
                      Indoor swimming pool

## Proposed Park, Recreation and Open Space Sites

### **Future Community Park (Proposed location Norfield Road)**

In order to continue to provide quality recreation opportunities, the Village of Suamico should pursue the development of a new community. The Needs Analysis section (Chapter 4) of this plan noted a deficiency in sports fields to accommodate existing and future recreational programs. This need is exacerbated by the fact that several of the existing fields at Idlewild and Calavera Springs parks will need to be reseeded and/or resodded to meet adequate turf standards. The rehab effort will mean several fields will need to sit idle each year. The Needs Analysis section also noted a growing demand for water sports training. This training can be accomplished at area community pools, however an outdoor site may be more appropriate. The selected site should provide an additional two baseball fields, two soccer fields, 100-stall parking lot, 5-foot wide paved trail system, playground equipment and shelter. The potential for future expansion would also be a nice accent. A water feature, such as a pond, would be very desirable.

Currently the Village owns several parcels adjacent the Norfield Road area, east of Hwy 41. This property was purchased to accommodate business development along the highway corridor. However, this area does not contain any public sewer and water infrastructure or direct highway interchange access which may limit its attractiveness as a higher end business development area. Advantages of these Villages owned parcels as a future community park site include the fact that park development cost would be lower due to no land acquisition cost. It also contains a barrow pit pond which is several acres in size which could accommodate water sports training. Other advantages include adequate available land area size, relatively flat topography, good road access, and limited adjacent land compatibility issues. Disadvantages include its value as a business site, isolation relative to adjacent neighborhoods, potential wetland impacts and the heavy reliance on motorized transportation to access the sites.

### **Waterfront and Wetland Preservation along the Bay of Green Bay**

The Village of Suamico lies on the west shores of the Bay of Green Bay. The shore and the Suamico River consist of many wetland areas and significant natural features. Every attempt should be made to preserve the wetland and natural features in their natural state, with considerations only made for passive recreation. Whenever possible, grants should be pursued to the benefit of preserving and providing access of such areas. The recent Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant for trail improvements in the Sensiba Wildlife Area is an example of quality improvements to this area and should continue to be pursued as partnerships. Another example of complimentary improvements is the Green Bay West Shore Pike Habitat Project. Specifics of the program are listed Appendix E. This project included over 20 sites throughout the Village that were completed and will now allow spawning pike and perhaps musky to reach improved spawning locations.

The Village of Suamico contains a significant area of wetlands along the Bay of Green Bay. These wetlands are recognized as being of national importance. They are part of a larger complex of wetlands located along the entire length of the western shore of the Bay of Green Bay terminating near the City of Marinette. The "west shore wetlands," as they are known, provide critical waterfowl and wildlife habitat, as well as fish spawning habitat for many game fish in the bay of Green Bay, including perch, northern pike and musky. In order to preserve some of the vital spawning areas, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has purchased and maintains ownership over the Sensiba Wildlife Area (which includes Long Tail Point) and the Little Tail Management Unit in the far northeastern part of the Village.

The use of the site for public access to the Bay of Green Bay for resident use, and for nature- based tourism and recreation can create an attraction to the Village of Suamico. The potential for expansion of this type of recreation, that does not impact wetlands, should be reviewed and considered when preserving and developing the Bay of Green Bay waterfront as is was in the recent Sensiba trail project grant.

The Wisconsin Wetlands Inventory Map identifies wetlands scattered throughout the Village. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources digital wetlands inventory identified approximately 5,190-acres of wetlands within the village. In addition to the west shore wetlands, there is a large wetland complex located south of Harbor Lights Road between USH 41/141 and Velp Avenue. This complex is part of the Suamico Lacustrine Flats, which is a critical northern pike spawning area. Due to the value of the wetlands for northern pike spawning in this area, additional areas should be strongly considered for purchase by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Village of Suamico, Brown County, or a combination of the agencies. Because of the inaccuracies inherent in the Wisconsin Wetlands Inventory, the village should accurately field verify and map its known wetlands to ensure that they are not disturbed and to further streamline the development process. The Village of Suamico also contains a number of wetlands adjacent to its rivers and streams throughout the Village, as well as some isolated pothole wetlands in the more hilly terrain associated with the northwestern quarter of the Village.

Whenever possible, wetland complexes should be absorbed as part of any future recreation land acquisition projects. The wetland areas should be preserved and managed accordingly.

## **Lake Michigan Water Trail**

The State of Wisconsin in partnership with the National Park Service and other federal and local agencies is developing a new, 523-mile water trail along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Several sites in Suamico are designated as access points to the water trail. They include Hook Road, Windjammers Sailing Club, Sunset Beach Park, Suamico Boat Landing and Harbor Lights Road. One significant feature of the trail will be the Longtail Point Lighthouse. This water trail will become the state's second longest and will increase public access to the shoreline. A campaign starting in 2012 will engage local communities and private affiliates to help acquire land for and to build the new trail. The four states bordering Lake Michigan are also working to expand on the national recreation trail designation that exists on part of the lake. Shoreland along the Bay within the Village of Suamico is within the designated area of the Lake Michigan Water Trail. The Village should pursue opportunities to work in partnership with other agencies to provide future access to the trail.

# Chapter 6

## Implementation

### Introduction

A founding and continuing principal of this plan is the belief that the provision of outdoor recreation is a shared responsibility between neighboring communities, levels of government, and the private sector. To encourage such partnerships, it is necessary that the Village of Suamico builds upon its previous efforts in this regard and utilize this plan as a means to guide those efforts. For this plan to be a success, no reasonable effort should be spared by the Village in its attempt to forge enduring relationships with its neighbors, the county and the state, and those private individuals, associations, and businesses with an interest in recreation and civic pride.

To assist in that effort, this chapter will identify the various parties responsible for implementation of this plan; prioritize the recommendations of the plan; and present some estimated costs associated with the major implementation components of those recommendations.

### Village of Suamico Responsibilities

The Village of Suamico has authority over, and has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to, the provision of intensive, non-resource-oriented sites and facilities, and the protection of important local natural resource features. In addition, the Village has undertaken the responsibility of providing quality recreation programs to further engage the youth, seniors and residents alike.

Under this plan, it is recommended that the Village of Suamico be responsible for:

- The maintenance of all existing village-owned parks.
- The development of additional facilities at existing village-owned parks.
- The acquisition and development of new park and open space sites.
- The preservation of important natural resource features within the village.
- The enforcement authority for shoreland/floodplain zoning.
- Determining the need and means for linking various existing Village of Suamico trail systems, and proposed Village of Suamico trails in the 2023 Suamico Trail, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Plan, in cooperation with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Brown County.
- The continued administration and growth of its recreation programs.

## Brown County Responsibilities

Brown County has the authority and responsibility for the acquisition and development of the major park and open space sites within the county.

- The maintenance of all existing county-owned parks and support facilities (i.e. Suamico Boat Launch).
- The development of additional facilities at existing county-owned parks.
- Identify partners for future projects and leverage grant possibilities.
- Coordinate recreational programs with the Suamico Recreation Department.
- Determining the need and means for linking various existing Brown County trail systems, and proposed Brown County trails in the 2023 Suamico Trail, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Plan, in cooperation with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Village of Suamico.

## Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Responsibilities

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has authority and responsibility in the areas of park development, natural resources protection, water quality control, and water use regulations. Because of this broad range of authority and responsibility, certain Department functions have particular importance to the implementation of the open space and outdoor recreation for the Village of Suamico. In particular, the Department often becomes the lead agency in the acquisition of those sites and facilities that are of regional or statewide importance. Examples of such involvement include acquisition of public hunting and/or fishing grounds and acquisition of particularly rare or sensitive natural resource features. In addition, it is also important that the Department approve and adopt the park and open space plan for the Village of Suamico in order to maintain the Village's eligibility for State and outdoor recreation grants.

Under this plan it is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources be responsible for:

- The maintenance of all existing state-owned parks.
- The development of additional facilities at existing state-owned parks.
- Identify partners for future projects and leverage grant possibilities.
- Determining the need and means for linking various existing DNR trail systems, and proposed DNR trails in the 2023 Suamico Trail, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Plan, in cooperation with Brown County and the Village of Suamico.

## Other Public and Private Responsibilities

Local units of government typically have the authority to, and traditionally have assumed the responsibility for, the acquisition and development of neighborhood and community parks, and the preservation of locally important natural resource features.

Residents also often depend upon local public and private schools to provide neighborhood – type recreational facilities and programs. These services are typically a welcome and needed addition to those public facilities provided by the community.

Under this plan, it is recommended that:

- The Howard-Suamico School District continues to work with the Village of Suamico to maintain existing facilities and shared opportunities. It is also recommended that all parties continue to be open and flexible to the changing recreational needs of the residents of the community.

## Capital Improvements Program

The Village of Suamico utilizes a Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to forecast future capital expenditures of all village responsible areas of government. The CIP allows for large projects and purchases to be budgeted to prevent “spikes”, both up and down, in the property tax rate. Park projects are included in this budget exercise.

It is important to note that this plan and its recommendations represent the planned improvements to the Village of Suamico park system over the next five years. However, some recommendations, like the development of a future community park, may address the recreational needs of the residents of the Village of Suamico for a much longer period.

Chapter 5 of this plan specifies projects the Village should pursue and their general priority for implementation. A degree of flexibility should always be honored due to changing economic conditions, grant funding opportunities and potential donations.

The recommendations should be reviewed yearly for input into the Village’s Capital Improvements Program. Specific cost for projects should be determined at that time based on the best available bid information.

Routine maintenance however, is considered routine repair and upkeep of existing sites and facilities. Routine maintenance is traditionally funded through an operations budget.

It is recommended that this plan be reviewed and updated every 5 years to reflect as accurately as possible the recreational needs of the community, and to maintain the village’s eligibility to apply for and receive state and federal aid.

## Complementary Funding Options

It should be noted that park project costs, particularly the acquisition costs, could be dramatically decreased through the alternative use of grant funding, creative financing, donations and preservation tools. Such options include:

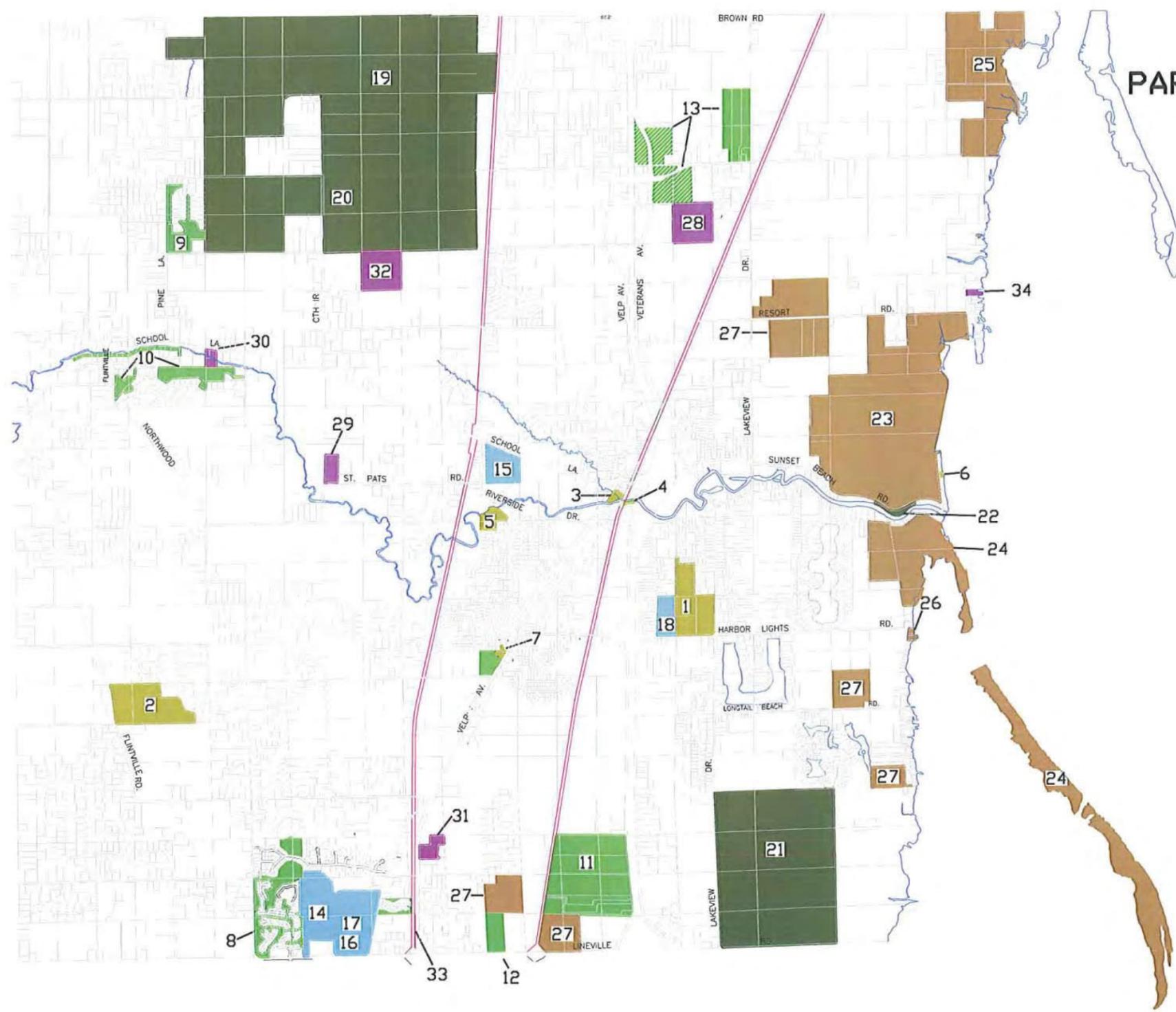
- Use of existing state and/or federal aid programs such as: State Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks; Wisconsin DNR Stewardship Grants; Urban Green Space Program; Urban Rivers Grant Program; Streambank Protection Program; Lake Protection Grants; and the federal Land and Water Conservation program.
- Use of the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, is designed to enhance, preserve, and protect resources within the State's coastal zone.
- Donations received through the administration of park fundraising program.
- Acquisition of lands through less than fee simple interest such as: purchase and resale of land on condition; purchase and lease-back of land; acquisition of land subject to life estate; acquisition of tax delinquent land; acquisition of conservation or scenic easements; and acquisition through gift or donation.
- Protection and preservation of especially sensitive natural resource features through local zoning and/or subdivision ordinances. Under current regulatory requirements, all wetlands are off limits to development unless appropriate permits and approvals are obtained. In addition, under certain situations, agricultural activities may also be regulated within wetlands. In this regard, the village should take full advantage of federal state, and county funding, and other assistance in the protection of existing wetlands and restoration of drained wetlands.
- Continue to work with private sector partners to help establish financial agreements for specialized park improvements (i.e. Cellcom agreement).



# **APPENDIX A**

## **Village of Suamico Park and Recreation Facilities Map**

# MAP 2 VILLAGE OF SUAMICO PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES



**PARKLAND**

- 1. IDLEWILD PARK (53.4 ACRES)
- 2. CALAVERA PARK (65.4 ACRES)
- 3. DOCTOR-VICKERY PARK (2.5 ACRES)
- 4. FIREMANS PARK (0.5 ACRES)
- 5. WEID MILL PARK (9.4 ACRES)
- 6. SUNSET BEACH PARK (0.6 ACRES)
- 7. MUNICIPAL SERVICES CENTER PARK (2.4 ACRES)

**OPEN SPACE**

- 8. WHISPER RIDGE TRAILS & OPEN SPACE (23.45 ACRES)
  - 9. ROSE HILL ESTATES (24.69 ACRES)
  - 10. HAWKS NEST OPEN SPACE (29.1 ACRES)
  - 11. DEERFIELD WOODLANDS (162.8 ACRES)
  - 12. LINEVILLE WOODLANDS (19.2 ACRES)
  - 13. VILLAGE BUSINESS PARK LANDS (119 ACRES)
- OTHER VILLAGE LANDS   
 PROPOSED NEW PARK

**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

- 14. BAY PORT HIGH SCHOOL (84.2 ACRES)
- 15. SUAMICO ELEMENTARY (26.4 ACRES)
- 16. LINEVILLE INTERMEDIATE (20 ACRES)
- 17. FOREST GLEN ELEMENTARY (20 ACRES)
- 18. BAY HARBOR ELEMENTARY (17.4 ACRES)

**BROWN COUNTY LANDS**

- 19. REFORESTATION CAMP (1528 ACRES)
- 20. N.E.W. ZOO (INCLUDED IN REFORESTATION CAMP)
- 21. BARKHAUSEN PRESERVE (474 ACRES)
- 22. BROWN CO.'S SUAMICO BOAT LANDING (2.9 ACRES)

**STATE OF WISCONSIN LANDS**

- 23. SENSIBA WILDLIFE AREA (500 ACRES)
- 24. LONGTAIL POINT (300 ACRES)
- 25. LITTLETAIL MANAGEMENT AREA (192 ACRES)
- 26. SMALL CRAFT LAUNCH SITE (1.8 ACRES)
- 27. OTHER WDNR LANDS (254 ACRES TOTAL)

**PRIVATE FACILITIES**

- 28. GOLDEN ARROW ARCHERY (40 ACRES)
- 29. NICOLET RIFLE CLUB (8.9 ACRES)
- 30. WOUTERS FRONT TAVERN (4.7 ACRES)
- 31. KNIGHT RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB (9.7 ACRES)
- 32. IZZAK WALTON LEAGUE (39 ACRES)
- 33. RESCUE MEMORIAL (1.3 ACRES)
- 34. WINDJAMMERS (2.6 ACRES)



# APPENDIX B

## Secondary Components of the Village of Suamico Park Plan Needs Analysis – NRPA Standards

The following standards are based upon information prepared by the National Recreation and Park Association and have been utilized as part of most historic park planning efforts for the once Town, now Village of Suamico. These standards have been used are intended to be used as a guide. Furthermore, these standards address minimum rather than maximum goals.

### Planning Per Capita Standards

Approximately 100-acres of park, recreation and open space lands per 1,000 persons  
70-acres of which should be devoted to passive recreational uses  
30- acres of which should be devoted to active recreational uses

### Jurisdictional Per Capita Standards

Recreational Lands to be Provided by the State = 70-acres/1,000 persons  
Recreational Lands to be Provided by the County = 15-acres/1,000 persons  
Recreational Lands to be Provided by Local Communities = 10-acres/1,000 persons  
Recreational Lands to be Provided by the Private Sector = 5-acres/1,000 persons

### Local Community Per Capita Standards

Developed Open Space to be provided by Local Communities = 6.25 to 10.5 acres/1,000 persons

Passive Recreation = 7-acres/1,000 persons  
Active recreation = 3-acres/1,000 persons

Or

Community Parks = 5 to 8-acres/1,000 persons  
Neighborhood Parks = 1 to 2-acres/1,000 persons  
Mini Parks = 0.25 to 0.5-acres/1,000 persons

Tennis Court = 1 per 2,000 persons  
Baseball Diamond = 1 per 5,000 persons  
Basketball Court = 1 per 5,000 persons  
Softball Diamond = 1 per 5,000 persons  
Volleyball Court = 1 per 5,000 persons  
Soccer Field = 1 per 10,000 persons  
Football Field = 1 per 20,000 persons  
Swimming Pool = 1 per 20,000 persons  
Golf Course = 1 per 25,000 persons

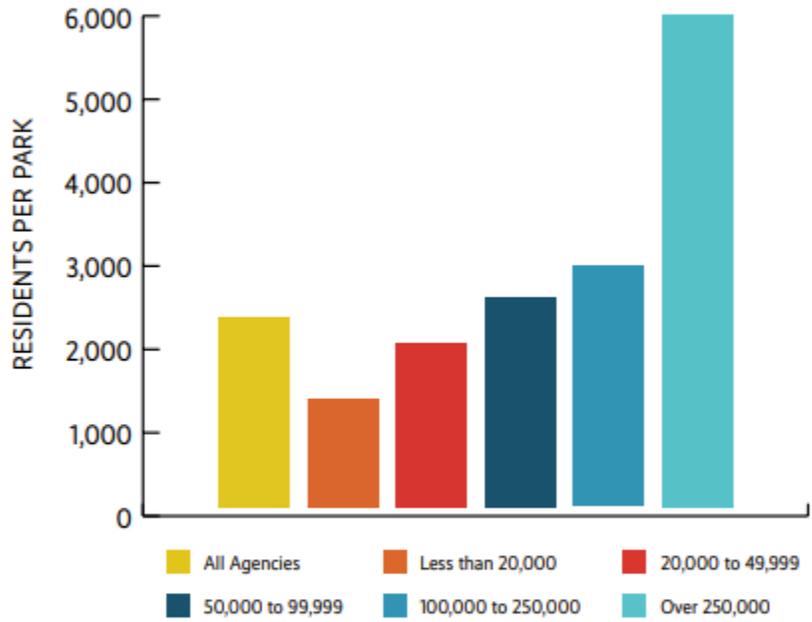
### Accessibility Standards

Community Park Service Area = 1 to 2 mile radius  
Neighborhood Park Service Area = 0.25 to 0.5 mile radius  
Mini Park Service Area = Less than 0.25 mile radius  
Tennis Court = 0.25 to 0.5 mile radius  
Baseball Diamond = 0.25 to 0.5 mile radius  
Softball Diamond = 0.25 to 0.5 mile radius  
Volleyball Court = 0.25 to 0.5 mile radius  
Soccer Field = 1 to 2 mile radius  
Football Field = 15 to 30 minute travel time  
Swimming Pool = 15 to 30 minute travel time  
Golf Course = 0.5 to 1 hour travel time



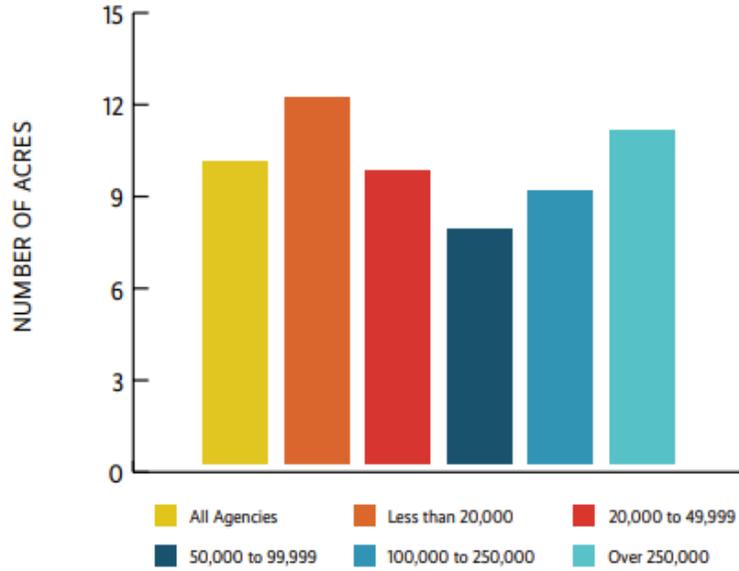
**NRPA 2020 Agency Performance Report**  
*Statistics replacing the former NRPA Standards*

**FIGURE 1: RESIDENTS PER PARK  
 (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)**



	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	Over 250,000
Median	2,281	1,300	1,963	2,523	2,889	5,908
Lower Quartile	1,316	908	1,233	1,560	1,914	2,818
Upper Quartile	4,140	2,037	3,140	4,518	5,135	15,286

**FIGURE 2: ACRES OF PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS (BY JURISDICTION POPULATION)**



	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	Over 250,000
Median	9.9	12.0	9.6	7.7	8.9	10.9
Lower Quartile	5.1	5.2	5.4	4.7	5.0	5.3
Upper Quartile	17.1	20.8	15.0	17.1	14.9	17.9

**FIGURE 3: OUTDOOR PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES – POPULATION PER FACILITY  
(BY PREVALENCE AND POPULATION PER FACILITY)**

Types of Facilities		Median Number of Residents per Facility					
		Population of Jurisdiction					
	Percent of Agencies	All Agencies	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	50,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 250,000	Over 250,000
Playgrounds	93.9%	3,750	2,523	3,157	3,859	4,623	8,291
Basketball courts	86.5	7,400	4,090	7,067	8,557	8,792	11,468
Tennis courts (outdoor only)	81.1	5,004	2,922	4,347	6,242	5,589	9,224
Diamond fields: baseball - youth	78.3	6,779	3,396	5,132	7,222	12,293	19,286
Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	64.8	13,510	5,072	10,849	15,500	26,714	30,511
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	64.5	8,150	4,683	7,297	10,467	13,233	15,527
Dog parks	62.9	45,899	10,000	28,132	58,000	99,707	135,457
Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	59.0	11,511	5,691	9,785	12,000	23,220	44,398
Diamond fields: baseball - adult	52.8	19,518	7,804	17,185	22,876	47,754	46,196
Swimming pools (outdoor only)	50.9	35,837	8,023	25,107	45,825	64,250	84,884
Tot lots	47.6	11,173	6,998	10,900	11,200	20,715	27,284
Community gardens	47.2	29,273	7,914	22,562	50,000	66,645	102,625
Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	46.9	7,325	3,294	4,833	9,085	12,875	29,559
Multiuse courts - basketball, volleyball	43.1	19,814	7,866	20,040	22,250	34,565	66,967
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	40.7	12,446	7,665	10,576	16,644	20,478	22,485
Skate parks	38.2	49,500	10,118	29,491	62,567	107,773	232,297
Rectangular fields: football field	37.2	26,771	7,500	16,971	32,420	44,580	114,831
Multi-purpose synthetic fields	19.4	49,493	8,530	22,000	51,110	61,250	118,791
Ice rinks (outdoor only)	17.4	18,526	9,860	13,542	29,830	122,902	422,692
Rectangular fields: lacrosse field	11.4	27,500	6,690	14,605	29,046	60,155	144,398
Rectangular fields: cricket field	11.0	133,045	ISD	29,228	59,227	105,715	389,255
Overlay fields	8.0	14,887	3,771	8,468	9,774	36,348	104,684
Rectangular fields: field hockey field	3.4	27,418	ISD	19,135	39,514	91,941	316,067

# APPENDIX C

## A Summary of Recommendation from other Plans Related to the Village of Suamico\*

### **The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), prepared by the Department of Natural resources.**

Every five years, Wisconsin publishes a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to serve as a blueprint for state and local outdoor recreation planning as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965.

The SCORP is updated every 5 years. Due to the regularity of the updates that do not align with the 5-year timeline for this plan, recommendations should be referenced directly from the current Wisconsin SCORP provided by the Wisconsin DNR.

### **The Brown County Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2008 - 2013 prepared the Brown County Planning Commission.**

- ◆ The identification, acquisition and development, of the Brown County Parkway System should be a joint public and private effort involving federal, state, county, and local units of government and public and private foundations, conservancy groups, and service organizations.
- ◆ The Brown County Parkway System should primarily be designed for county-level resource preservation and trail-oriented activities.
- ◆ The acquisition and development of the Brown County Parkway System is to be a long-range project, extending far beyond the timeframe of this plan.
- ◆ Greater local input into the location, size, and use of these parkways should be allowed in those instances when significant local involvement and investment is provided.
- ◆ The Brown County Parkway System is to be publicly owned.

### **The Village of 2023 Suamico Trail, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Plan prepared for the Village of Suamico.**

- ◆ Multiple recommendations are made throughout the Village. Trail Design Criteria is established. The plan should be referenced due

to specific recommendations.

**The Brown County Sewage Plan, prepared by the Brown County Planning Commission.**

- ◆ To restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the U.S. and the state.
- ◆ To manage the quality of the waters of the U.S. and the state, both ground and surface, both public and private, including consideration of the relationship of water quality to land and water resources and uses.
- ◆ To address water quality management issue in an economically feasible and environmentally sound manner.
- ◆ To create and maintain buffer areas.

**The Village of Suamico Comprehensive Plan**

- ◆ Preserve wetlands, floodplains, and other environmental areas to link various parts of the Village and to serve as wildlife corridors, pedestrian trails, and stormwater management areas.
- ◆ Utilize the existence of significant natural resources as a key factor when identifying locations for future parks.
- ◆ Maintain and enhance the accessibility of public lands along the waters of the Suamico River and bayshore.
- ◆ Coordinate future parks and greenspace with adjoining communities and the recommendations in the Brown County Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- ◆ Promote a more harmonious relationship between the natural landscape and future development through the use of conservation subdivisions and other flexible land development techniques.
- ◆ Preserve archeological sites by incorporating them into the greenspace requirements of conservation subdivisions or other parklands.
- ◆ Additional recommendations can be referenced in the Comprehensive Plan.

\*This is not an all-inclusive list of recommendations. Please reference planning documents involving recreation elements from the State of Wisconsin, Brown County, and the Village of Suamico when necessary.

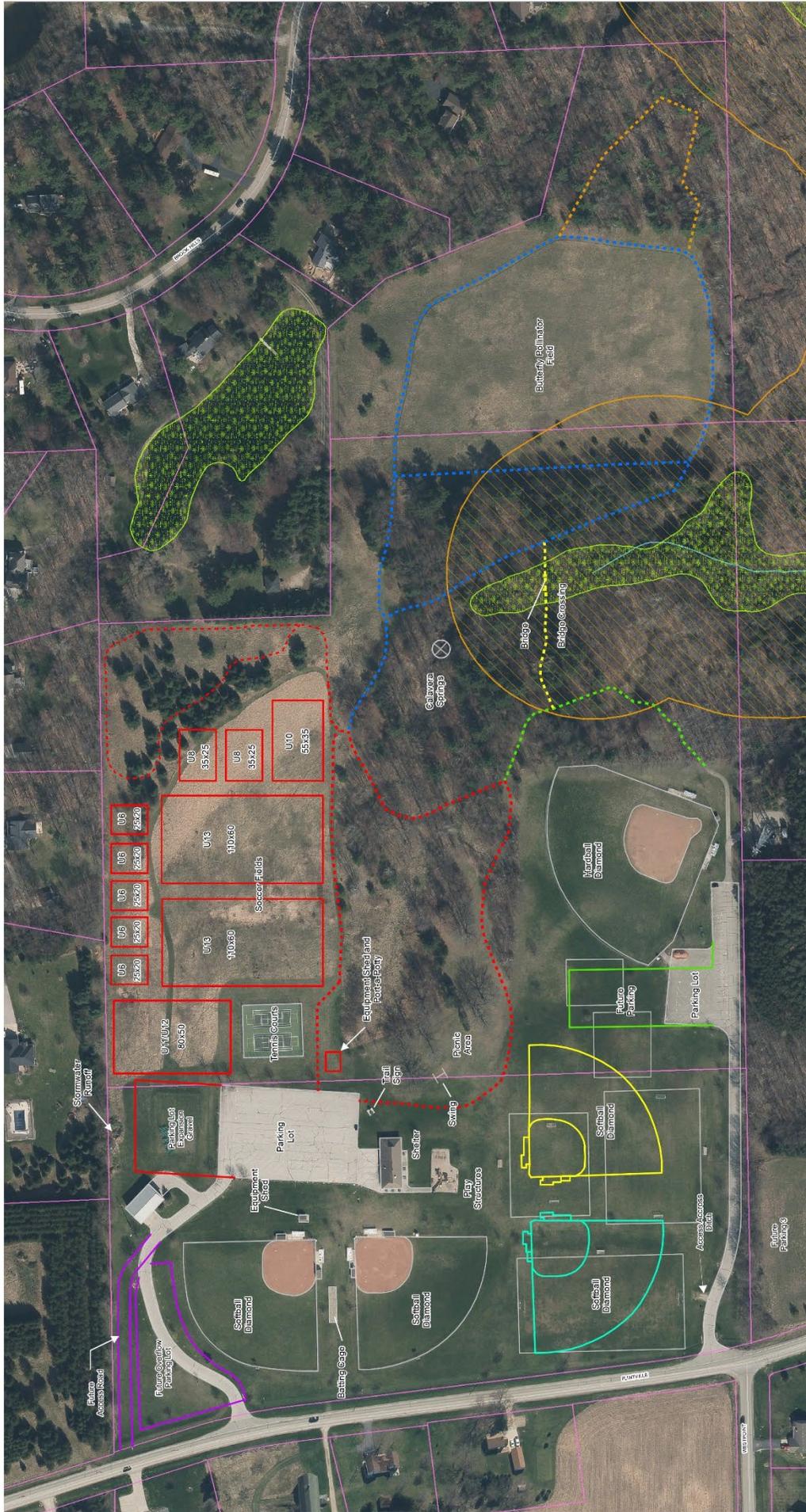
# **APPENDIX D**

## **Calavera Springs Park Master Plan**

# Master Plan 1

## Calavera Community Park

Village of Suamico, WI



- Map Features**
- Wetlands
  - Shoreland Zoning/ESA
  - Streams
  - 2 ft Contour Lines
  - Parcel Lines

- Park Trails**
- Red
  - Green
  - Bridge
  - Unimproved

- Park Features**
- Phase 1
  - Phase 2
  - Phase 3
  - Phase 4
  - Phase 5
  - Existing Facilities



The base map was created with data from Brown County Land Information Office, who in no event assumes any liability for errors or omissions in this map and any application by others, is the responsibility of the user.

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# **APPENDIX E**

## **West Shore Pike Habitat Project**

# West Shore Pike Habitat Project

## Project Overview:

The northern pike (*Esox lucius*) is Wisconsin's second largest native predator fish and is an important part of the Green Bay ecosystem and fish community. Over 70 percent of wetland habitat along the west shore has been lost. Many of these areas were once important spawning marshes for northern pike. In addition to the loss of suitable spawning habitat, fish encounter passage obstacles when leaving Green Bay to find spawning marshes or when fry migrate back to Green Bay. From 2007 to present the Brown County LWCD has had some success restoring northern pike habitat on private land in the watershed. We have leveraged funding from various sources including NRDA, USFWS, EPA, Ducks Unlimited, Brown County Conservation Alliance and others in order to accomplish this work.

Typically the process for doing habitat work involves the following activities:

1. Assessing tributaries within the watersheds for restoration potential (spawning season)
2. Evaluating properties within a watershed for suitability for restoration; wetland creation, enhancement or protection.
3. Comprehensive survey of selected properties under varying weather conditions to evaluate the potential of the site for maintaining adequate water levels throughout the spawning/rearing season.
4. Preparing site designs and developing landowner agreements.
5. Hiring Contractors and supervising construction, seeding and erosion control.
6. Spring monitoring of fish production.

The Brown County LWCD provides flat-rate payments to eligible landowners for the installation of the following conservation practices:

- \* Vegetative Riparian Buffers - \$2500/ac
- \* Wetland Restoration - \$1500/ac
- \* Critical Area Stabilization – \$1300/ac

Construction costs are paid at a 70% cost share rate. Currently through a cooperative agreement, the USFW is currently paying the 30% landowner costs. All contracts have a 15 year operations and maintenance agreement and are perpetual through deed restrictions. Staffing and supplies are paid through GLRI.

## Program Funding & Contributing Partners:

NRDA – Natural Resource Damage Assessment	\$620,000.00
USEPA – GLRI	\$395,000.00
US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$91,000.00
Ducks Unlimited	\$7,500.00
Fisheries Forever, Inc.	\$1,750.00
Trout Unlimited	\$1,000.00
Brown County Conservation Alliance	\$10,000.00
Isaac Walton League of America	\$1,000.00
	\$1,127,250.00

## Accomplishments to Date:

Approximately 17 miles of stream corridor benefited from this project; 7 miles were enhanced and protected and another 10 miles were made accessible for migrating fish by replacing perched culverts.

Over 30 acres of wetlands (spawning marshes) were installed.

41 acres of vegetated riparian buffers were installed.

Over 45 acres of critical area planting installed.

6 perched culverts were replaced with project money and another 2 replaced by the Village of Suamico.

The major fish species that benefit from the project are Northern Pike; however wetlands created also benefit ducks as well as other waterfowl. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) research has shown that wetland complexes like the ones installed has produced up to 20,000 pike fry per acre.

**Managing Council:**

Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resources Trustee Council

**Members:**

Tehassi Hill – Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

Kenneth Fish – Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Bruce Baker – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Charlie Wooley – US Fish and Wildlife Service





# APPENDIX F

## Park Maintenance Program Village of Suamico

Parks must be managed and maintained if they are to continue to provide the benefits for which they were acquired. It is estimated that only 15 percent of the lifetime cost of a recreation facility is acquisition and construction. The remaining 85 percent is maintenance. Compounding the problem is the fact that funding for maintenance is less “glamorous” to obtain than new dollars for park acquisition and construction. Communities need to strike a balance between acquisition and their ability to maintain what is acquired for park purposes.

The Village of Suamico maintains a park system through the Village’s Public Works Department. During the summer recreation season, the village hires two part time employees for mowing and other park maintenance tasks. As expected, the need for park maintenance staffing decreases during the winter months and increases significantly during the late spring and summer seasons. Village Public Works Department staff estimates 1,920 hours to perform normal park maintenance activities and 240 hours for lining and striping ball fields to adequately address annual village park needs.

It must also be noted that the Village contracts with several privately owned business to perform some of the routine tasks which are associated with park maintenance. These tasks include mobile restroom management; heating, cooling & electrical within shelters; solid waste collection and security.

In an effort to assist with budget purposes and look for opportunities where volunteer help or financial sponsorship could be utilized to assist in park system maintenance, this section of the plan will address in detail, those elements that should be executed to maintain the park system. This section also includes a “Park Maintenance Activity Plan” (Calendar Chart) that can be used by the Public Works Department to plan and monitor maintenance activity.

### **Maintenance Elements**

The best way to ensure that ongoing maintenance does not become overly burdensome is to consider and plan for maintenance needs from the onset of park development. The idea is to spend a little extra money up front for quality materials that will hold up and save money over the long-term. That said, basic elements for maintaining parks and facilities still must be

executed. The following list outlines these basic park maintenance elements:

**Turf Care.** Mowing, aeration, reseeding, top dressing, weed control, rolling

**Fertilization.** Fertilization of turf, trees, shrubs, or floral plantings

**Irrigation.** Automated or manual watering of turf, trees, shrubs, and floral plantings

**Disease & Insect Control.** Prevention, correction, and management of disease and/or insects in turf, trees, shrubs, floral plantings either by cultural or chemical methods; includes pest control in and around park buildings

**Hardscape Surfaces.** Sweeping, blowing, and power washing of walkways, parking lots, tennis courts, dugouts and any other hardscape surfaces

**Repair.** Maintenance required to facilities or park amenities

**Inspection.** Conduct certified playground safety inspections. Includes visual and physical examination of a park facility, equipment, or amenity to ensure compliance, safety, and proper operation

**Tree, Shrubbery and Floral Planting.** Watering, fertilizing, disease control, dead-heading, cultivating, weeding, planting, or removal of ornamental flowering bedding plants

**Rest Rooms.** Cleaning, sweeping, sanitizing, stocking of supplies; all vandalism and graffiti are to be reported to the Village Administrator.

**Special Features.** Maintenance of equipment or facilities such as drinking fountains, flag poles, soccer goals, tennis and basketball netting, picnic tables, signs, litter receptacles

**Play Lots.** Inspection and maintenance of play equipment and rototilling of wood-chip surface to level dips and ruts, and to remove litter and other foreign objects in the surfacing material

**Mobile Restroom Facilities (Porta-Potties).** Accurately plan for the need to place an adequate number of facilities to accommodate larger event crowds, monitor the need for additional toilet paper, sanitizer, etc., contact service vender when required

### **Weekly Routine Tasks**

The park maintenance crew is expected to perform tasks each week at each park in addition to mowing all turf grass. While crew is mowing the turf, the other crew members should perform the following duties:

### **Park Maintenance**

- Picking up loose litter throughout the park.
- Reporting any park damage, vandalism, graffiti, etc. to the Supervisor.
- Removing weeds in planter/mulch beds.
- Maintaining clean rest rooms and reporting any vandalism, damage, graffiti present in the restrooms.
- Line trimming around poles, trash cans, and areas where a mower cannot reach; edging all sidewalks and trails along mulch beds and tree wells; blowing all walkways and concrete areas.

### **Pruning**

- Prune all park tree branches up to 9 feet to allow for mowing and pedestrian clearance.
- Any tree or tree branch that requires more extensive pruning can be scheduled with the contracted tree crew; reporting this to the Supervisor so that the work can be scheduled is another duty the crew performs.
- Removing weeds, grass, and debris from around the root crown of trees and maintaining these areas weekly; spraying with herbicide, edging, line trimming, and putting down mulch around trees.

### **Maintenance of Landscaped Areas**

- Mulched areas and garden beds should be maintained with a clear delineation between the turf and mulch/soil areas.
- Spot spraying with herbicides on regular basis fence lines, hard surface cracks, around poles and borders to maintain them in a weed-free condition.
- Monitoring each week the staking of newly planted trees for proper support and sufficient irrigation.

### **Playgrounds**

- Raking and rototilling the playground wood-chip surfacing and backfilling low spots around the equipment.
- Removing by hand all weeds and debris/foreign objects in the chips.
- Reporting any damage, vandalism, graffiti, etc. to the Supervisor.

### **Other Duties**

Much of the work the mowing crew observes during the work week requires a more extensive scheduling of resources and labor time. Such duties as these will be performed by workers skilled in such tasks. These duties include:

- Performing weekly play equipment safety inspections
- Inspecting all restrooms for burned-out lights, malfunctioning toilets, urinals, sinks, hand dryers, etc.; looking for graffiti and reporting any damage to the Supervisor so that the repair work can be scheduled.
- Maintaining all drinking fountains in working condition.
- Making sure all park security lighting are functioning; checking for vandalism to park benches, picnic tables, etc., and reporting these issues to the Supervisor so that the repair work can be scheduled.
- Checking, cleaning, and replacing as needed all padlocks that are

- rusted or malfunctioning.
- Maintaining all park signs in a stable, graffiti-free condition.

### **Park Maintenance Annual Calendar**

Certain park maintenance tasks take place routinely over the course of the year. In addition to routine maintenance, park crews assist recreation programs with setup and break down for each event. Events are scheduled through the Recreation Director. The following calendar outlines tasks which are typical for the season of the year for which they are programmed. However, the following calendar, is not entirely inclusive of all the tasks that may be required to maintain an adequate level of service.

#### **January/February/Early March**

- Remove holiday lights if utilized
- Shovel snow and ice removal from hard surface trails and walkways as needed
- Maintain winter trails for snowshoeing and cross country skiing
- Interior shop repairs on park facilities such as picnic tables, benches, bleacher platforms, etc.
- Interior repairs to shelter and restroom facilities
- Research on pricing for facility improvements, equipment and large planting requirements for upcoming year
- Prune park trees and large shrubbery as needed to maintain proper form
- Freeze skating rink areas as required

#### **Late March/Early April**

- Fertilize turf areas, as needed
- Aerate and dethatch turf areas, as needed
- Add mulch to mulched areas in parks
- Begin exterior park facility improvements
- Annual servicing of trucks and other park equipment
- Remove anything associated with the ice skating rink

#### **Late April/May**

- Return to weekly mowing schedule
- Transport picnic tables, benches and other park amenities to park locations
- Top off wood-chip playground surfacing
- Dethatch turf and fertilize as needed
- Execute crab grass and broadleaf weed control
- Annual servicing of trucks and other park equipment
- Acquire, transport and maintain, tree, shrubbery and other annual flowerbed materials
- Prepare and plant annual flower beds and other plants and trees
- Spot-spray weeds as needed
- Disease and insect control as needed
- Execute ball field fencing and dugout repairs
- Conduct exterior park facility improvements such as painting and other repairs
- Line fields and install equipment as needed

#### **June/July/August**

- Continue execute weekly mowing schedule
- Continue to top off wood-chip playground surfacing
- Continue servicing of trucks and other park equipment
- Rototill sand volleyball courts and top up with fresh sand as needed
- Maintain flower beds and other plants and trees
- Conduct exterior park facility improvements such as painting and other repairs
- Spot-spray weeds as needed
- Disease and insect control as needed
- Top off mulch areas as needed
- Aerate turf as needed
- Fertilize as needed
- Stake and mulch young trees as needed
- In late August, over seed and top dress turf areas

### **September/October**

- Reduced mowing schedule
- Blow off building roofs and clean rain gutters for winter preparation
- Plant any spring bulbs as needed
- Clean flower beds
- Leaf raking and disposal
- In late October, move required park amenities into storage as needed
- In late October, water trees and shrubbery for winter preparation
- Fertilize cool season turf areas

### **November/December**

- Install holiday lights as directed
- Snow preparation in all areas
- Shovel snow and ice removal from hard surface trails and walkways as needed.
- Maintain winter trails for snowshoeing and cross country skiing.
- Winterize equipment
- Prepare ice skating rink (location to be determined)

### **Maintenance Standards For Parks And Facilities**

The following standards provide goals and achievable benchmarks by which staff can assess the condition Suamico parks and recreation facilities. As a minimum, the General Park Standards must be maintained. More detailed maintenance procedures are identified for more specific park components.

#### 1. General Park Standards

##### A. Grounds

- i. Grounds are mowed and trimmed.
- ii. Park is free of litter, debris, and hazards.
- iii. Parking lots are clean.

##### B. Drinking Fountains

- i. Fountains are accessible and operational.
- ii. Fountains are appropriately located and comply with ADA requirements.

- iii. Fountains are on solid surfaces.

#### C. Signage

- i. Park identification signs are secured and properly installed in a visible location.
- ii. Handicapped parking signs are secure, visible, and meet current codes.
- iii. Park rules signs are secure and in a noticeable location.
- iv. Restroom signs are secured and visible.
- v. Signs are clean, painted, and free of protrusions.

#### D. Walkways

- i. Walkways have a uniform surface and are level with the ground and free of trip hazards.
- ii. Walkways are free of litter and debris.
- iii. At least one walkway meets ADA requirements.
- iv. Walkways have unobstructed accessibility (i.e. free from low and protruding limbs, guidewires, etc.).
- v. Walkways are neatly edged.
- vi. Walkways are clear of weeds and grass growth in cracks and expansion joints.

#### E. Trash Receptacles

- i. Receptacles are free of graffiti.
- ii. Concrete receptacles are intact and free of cracks and damage.
- iii. Area around trash receptacles and roll-off containers is clean and free of trash and debris.
- iv. Roll-off containers and dumpsters are screened and placed in less intrusive areas.

#### F. Chain Link Fencing

- i. Material is galvanized chain link and is the appropriate- gauge wire for specified use.
- ii. Fencing material is properly secured to support rails.
- iii. Support rails are properly connected and straight.
- iv. Fencing is free of holes, protrusions, and catch points.
- v. Gates and latches are operational.

#### H. Wood Fencing

- i. Fences are intact.
- ii. Nails, bolts, and screws are flush with the surface with no exposed sharp points.
- iii. Fences have no excessive cracks or splintering.

#### I. Lights: Security and Exterior Facility Lights

- i. 90% of security and facility lights are operational.
- ii. No electrical conducting wires are exposed.
- iii. Lights comply with current building codes.
- iv. Electrical components are operational, properly installed, and secured.

#### J. Bridges in Canyon and for Trails

- i. Bridges have a uniform surface and are free of trip hazards.
- ii. Bridges have handrails intact and are properly installed and anchored.
- iii. Bridges are free of litter and debris.

#### K. Athletic Practice Areas

- i. Athletic practice areas are free of litter and debris.
- ii. Areas are mowed at the appropriate height and are trimmed.
- iii. Area has a uniform surface and is well drained.
- iv. Areas have trash receptacles that are in good condition.
- v. Soccer goals are properly installed and anchored.
- vi. Goals show no excessive bending.
- vii. Soccer nets are owned and hung by the leagues.
- viii. Baseball backstops are properly installed, anchored, and in sound condition.
- ix. Support poles and railings are straight and properly connected.
- x. Backstop fencing is galvanized chain link and is the appropriate-gauge wire.
- xi. Backstop fencing is properly installed to support rails and is free of bending and sagging.
- xii. Backstop fencing is free of holes and protrusions.
- xiii. Bleacher hardware is intact.
- xiv. Bleacher bracing is tightly connected.
- xv. Bleacher seating is clean, smooth, and free of protrusions and has no exposed sharp edges or

pointed corners.

L. Irrigation (turf and landscape)

- i. Irrigation system is fully operational.
- ii. System is free of leaks.
- iii. Heads are installed according to intended use.
- iv. Heads are properly adjusted with rotations and arcs set to reduce water runoff.
- v. Systems are set to run at specific times to minimize water evaporation and waste.

M. Picnic and Benches

- i. Hardware is intact and structurally sound.
- ii. Nails, bolts, and screws are flush with surface.

2. Athletic Fields

A. Turf

- i. Turf has a healthy, dense stand of grass and coverage is no less than 95% of playable area.
- ii. Play area has a uniform surface and is well drained.
- iii. Turf is mowed at the appropriate height for the type of grass used, the season, and the type of field.
- iv. Turf is free of litter and debris.

B. Skinned Infields

- i. Infields have a uniform surface are free of lips, holes, and trip hazards.
- ii. Infields are well drained with no standing water areas.
- iii. Infields have proper soil consistency for intended usage.
- iv. Infields are free of weeds and grass.
- v. Infields are free of rocks, dirt clods, and debris, as per Little League rules and specifications.
- vi. Bases and plates are properly installed, level, and are at the proper distances and anchored in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and league requirements.

C. Soccer Goals

- i. Goals are properly installed and anchored.
- ii. Goals show no excessive bending.
- iii. Nets are supplied and maintained by the leagues.

D. Bleachers

- i. Hardware is intact.
- ii. Bracing is tightly connected.
- iii. Seating surface is clean, smooth, and free of protrusions and has no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners.
- iv. Bleacher areas have clean trash receptacles

present and are in good condition.

#### E. Sports Lighting

- i. Electrical systems and components are operational and in compliance with appropriate building codes.
- ii. 90% of lamps for each field are operational.
- iii. No electrical conducting wires are exposed.
- iv. Ballast boxes and components are properly installed and secured.
- v. Lights provide uniform coverage on facilities.

#### F. Fencing

- i. Fencing material is galvanized chain link and is the appropriate-gauge wire for specific use.
- ii. Fencing material is properly secured to support rails.
- iii. Support rails are properly connected and straight.
- iv. Fencing is free of holes and protrusions.
- v. Gates and latches are properly operational.

#### G. Restrooms

- i. Restrooms are clean, sanitary, and properly stocked with paper products.
- ii. Lighting and ventilation systems are operational.
- iii. Toilets, water faucets, stall doors, and hand dryers are operational.
- iv. Restrooms are free of graffiti.
- v. Restroom doors are properly marked, according to gender.
- vi. Restrooms have clean trash receptacles.
- vii. Restroom doors and locks are operational.
- viii. Restrooms are in compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### 3. Playgrounds

#### A. Play Equipment

- i. Play equipment and surrounding play areas meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.
- ii. Play equipment and hardware is intact.
- iii. Play equipment is free of graffiti.
- iv. Age-appropriate play equipment is available.

#### B. Surfacing

- i. Fall surfacing is clean, level, and free of litter and debris.
- ii. Surfacing meets ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.
- iii. Surfacing is well drained.
- iv. Rubberized surfacing is free of holes and tears.
- v. Rubberized surfacing is secure to the base material and curbing.

#### C. Borders

- i. Playground borders are well defined and intact.
- ii. Playground borders meet ASTM and National Playground Safety Institute standards.

#### D. Benches

- i. Slats are smooth and structurally sound.
- ii. Hardware is intact.
- iii. Nails, bolts, and screws are flush with the surface.
- iv. Seats and backing are smooth with no protrusions and have no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners.

### 4. Picnic Areas

#### A. Picnic Tables and Benches

- i. Tables/Benches are clean and free of graffiti.
- ii. Table/Benches hardware is intact.
- iii. Table/Benches frames are intact and slats are properly secured.
- iv. Table seats and tops are smooth with no protrusions and have no exposed sharp edges or pointed corners.

#### B. Grills

- i. Grills are operational and free of rust and metal deterioration.
- ii. Racks are operational and secured to main body.
- iii. Grills are properly anchored to reduce hazards and prevent theft.
- iv. Underbrush, low limbs, and debris are cleared away from the picnic/grill areas to reduce fire hazards.

#### C. Trash Receptacles

- i. Receptacles are free of graffiti.
- ii. Concrete receptacles are intact and free of cracks and damage.
- iii. Area around trash receptacles is clean and free of trash and debris.

### 5. Tennis Courts

#### A. Surfacing

- i. Surface is smooth, level, and well drained with no standing water.
- ii. Surface is free of large cracks, holes, and trip hazards.
- iii. Surface is painted and striped in accordance with United States Tennis Association court specifications.
- iv. Worn painted surfaces do not exceed 20% of total court surface.
- v. Surface is free of litter, debris, gravel, and graffiti.

- vi. Surface is to be swept weekly and washed with a mild detergent monthly.

#### B. Nets

- i. Nets are free from tears and frays.
- ii. Nets are properly installed and secured to support poles.
- iii. Nets have center straps installed at the regulated height and are anchored to the court.
- iv. Support poles have hardware intact, properly anchored, and installed.

#### C. Lights

- i. Electrical systems and components are operational and in compliance with appropriate building codes.
- ii. 90% of lights for each court are operational.
- iii. Timers are properly set for specific hours of operation.
- iv. No electrical conducting wires are exposed.
- v. Ballast boxes and components are properly installed and secured.
- vi. Lighting controls with operation instructions and information are conveniently located for easy access.
- vii. Lights give uniform coverage on facilities.
- viii. Fixtures are adjusted to eliminate dark or blind spots.

#### D. Fencing

- i. Material is galvanized chain link and is the appropriate- gauge wire for specified use.
- ii. Fencing material is properly secured to support rails.
- iii. Support rails are properly connected and straight.
- iv. Fencing is free of holes, protrusions, and catch points.
- v. Gates and latches are operational.
- vi. Windscreens are present.

### 6. Basketball Courts

#### A. Surfacing

- i. Surface is smooth, level, and well drained with no standing water.
- ii. Surface is free of large cracks, holes, and trip hazards.
- iii. Surface is free of litter, debris, gravel, and graffiti.

#### B. Backboards

- i. Backboards are level with hardware intact.
- ii. Support poles are secured in the ground and straight.

#### C. Lights

- i. Electrical systems and components are operational and in compliance with appropriate building codes.
- ii. 90% of lights for each court are operational.
- iii. Timers are properly set for specific hours of operation.
- iv. No electrical conducting wires are exposed.

- v. Ballast boxes and components are properly installed and secured.
- vi. Lights give uniform coverage on facilities.

## 7. Sand Volleyball Courts

### A. Nets

- i. Nets are free from holes and are not torn or tattered.
- ii. Nets are hung tightly at the specified heights.
- iii. Nets are securely attached to the support poles.
- iv. Support poles have hardware intact, properly anchored, and installed.

### B. Surface

- i. Court surface is loose sand.
- ii. Surface is smooth with good drainage and no standing water.
- iii. Surface is free of weeds, grass, litter, and debris.

### C. Borders

- i. Borders are well defined and intact.



