

***DRAFT* AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

City of Burlington Vision Plan 2040

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources chapter outlines the goals, policies, and actions necessary to improve these resources in Burlington. Parks and Recreation, Historic Resources, and Community Design are incorporated into this chapter. By continuing to protect and preserve these resources, an agricultural system that maintains farmland, mineral resources that safely extract valuable minerals, expand parks and trails, and consider community design in the business districts and residential neighborhoods, the City can achieve its natural resource, historic resource, park, and design objectives. This chapter will help Burlington prepare for the natural resource, design, and parks and recreation needs of the future. These include improved access to parks and schools, enhanced natural resources, a focus on trails and recreation assets, community design, and a focus on the past and historic and cultural resources of the City.

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

The Wisconsin State Legislature regulates the contents of a comprehensive plan through Statute 66.1001. The Statute requires an agricultural, natural, and cultural section for the conservation, and promotion of the effective management, of natural resources, parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.



“*The Fox River, Echo Lake, and the railroad have all influenced the pattern and character of development in Burlington.*”

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND MINERAL RESOURCES

Introduction

Natural resources and habitat play an important role in the environment surrounding Burlington. The City has recognized that natural resources are important components of everyday life of its residents and require conscientious management to ensure their existence and value into the future. Natural resources provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and areas for people to enjoy nature, as well as assist in stormwater management, improve air and water quality, and shape Burlington's identity. This plan updates policies regarding the preservation and conservation of natural resources in and around the City. Moving forward, this comprehensive plan identifies the following priority open space and natural resource objectives and actions:

- » Promote and protect the Fox River.
- » Protect all the City's water, tree, and all natural resources.
- » Consider opportunities to preserve the open space and corridors throughout the City.
- » Update the Park and Open Space Plan for the City's park, trail, and open space system.

Agricultural Resources

Wisconsin law defines agricultural land, exclusive of buildings and improvements necessary for their location and convenience, as land devoted primarily to agricultural use. Agricultural land consists of all unimproved property devoted to agricultural use, which includes land that produces a crop or supports livestock. Agricultural use could include dairy farming, land used to grow corn or soybeans, growing Christmas trees or other crops, and land enrolled in specific federal and state agricultural programs. Burlington has about 810 acres of agricultural land used for a variety of purposes.

RACINE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

Prime agricultural lands are lands being farmed, and soil characteristics, are best suited for the production of agricultural products. A number of important public purposes are served by the preservation of prime agricultural lands. Such purposes include maintenance of agricultural reserves; maintenance of open space; control of public costs by avoiding the need to provide urban services such as sanitary sewer, public water, and full-time police and fire protection; and preservation of the local economic base.

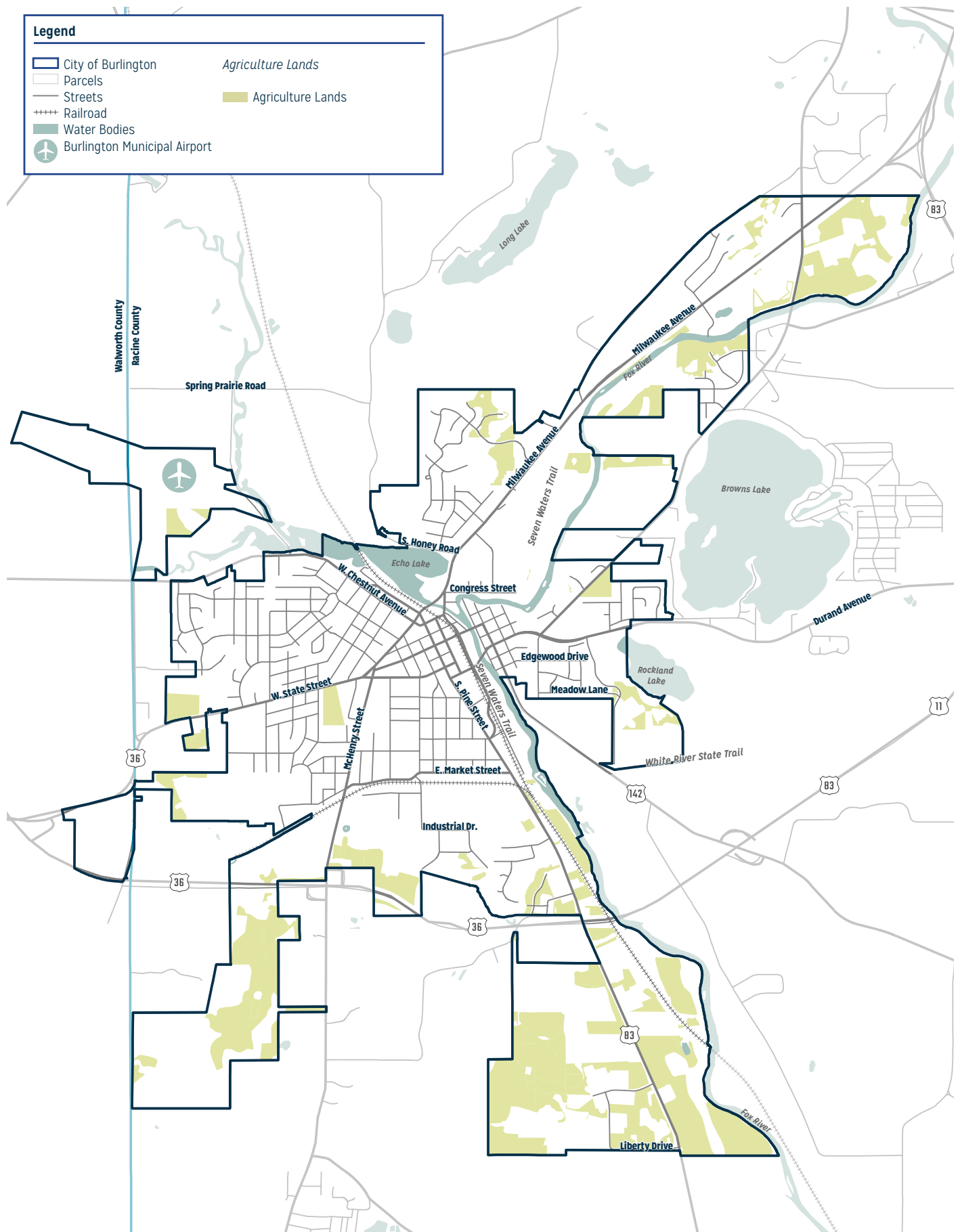
Prime agricultural lands in Racine County were identified by the Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan, which was adopted by the Racine County Board in June 1981. In this plan, prime agricultural land must meet the following criteria: the farm unit must be at least 35 acres in size; at least 50 percent of the farm unit must be covered by soils which meet Soil Conservation Service (now the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) criteria for “Prime Farmland” or “Farmland of Statewide Importance” (generally Class I, II, or III soils); and the farm should be located in a contiguous farming area at least 100 acres in size. Farmland preservation is recommended by the State, SEWRPC, and the Racine County Comprehensive Plan. Burlington does not have any prime agricultural land.

SOIL RESOURCES

Many soil types can be found in Burlington including lime-rich tills, clays, loams, and sandy deposits. These soils tend to be relatively deep. Dolomite is the predominant bedrock type, although the Fox River is underlain by shale. Burlington provides a good example of glacial topography extending east from Walworth County into Racine County. Specifically, kettle and kame glacial formations can be found in this area. The advances of glacial ice sheets resulted in a wide range of glacial deposits over the bedrock. The most substantial glacial deposits, represented as depth to bedrock, are 25 to 50 feet thick, and located in the central portion of the City.

The area has been further classified into several land type associations. Four of these cover the majority of Burlington and its extraterritorial jurisdiction. The Fox River is a nearly level lake plain dissected by narrow V-shaped valleys, with moderately well-drained silty clay loams. The Freedom Plains is a nearly level lake plain complex with well-drained silty loam. The Holland Plain is an undulating plain cut by V-shaped valleys. Its predominant soil is a well-drained silt loam. The Greenville Moraines are a characteristic undulating moraine with well drained silt loam.

Exhibit 1: Burlington Agriculture Lands



Steep slopes can present difficulties for private and public development and improvements. As a general practice, cities tend to discourage development on steep slopes, especially where concerns about erosion, subsidence, or stability exist. Within Burlington, these slopes tend to occur near the Fox River and south of West Chestnut Street.

Natural Resources

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

Burlington has 995 acres of Primary Environmental Corridors in multiple locations, 62 acres of Secondary Environmental Corridors in one location and 44 acres of Isolated Natural Resource Areas in three locations. The corridors are generally located in all parts of the City, but concentrated in the southern, eastern, and northern areas. The northern corridors exist along the Fox River and Milwaukee Avenue. The southern corridors exist near the industrial area, and the eastern corridors exist near the River and other water resources. The corridors are defined as:

- » Primary Environmental Corridors contain concentrations of the most significant natural resources. They are at least 400 acres in size, two miles long, and 200 feet wide.
- » Secondary Environmental Corridors contain significant but smaller concentrations of natural resources. They are at least 100 acres in size and one mile long, unless serving to link to primary corridors.
- » Isolated Natural Resource Areas contain significant remaining resources apart from environmental corridors. They are at least five acres in size and at least 200 feet wide.

According to the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) environmental corridors are the lifelines of natural resources. Environmental corridors are locations in the landscape containing especially high value natural, scenic, historic, scientific, and recreational features. In Southeastern Wisconsin environmental corridors appear as long ribbons of natural vegetation and surface waters. They contain the best remaining woodlands and wetlands, wildlife habitats, undeveloped shorelands and flood lands, groundwater recharge and discharge areas, and steeply sloped lands in the area. They are generally not available for development. But some development and improvements are allowed, including residential at very low densities, recreation, transportation, infrastructure, utilities, and other public benefits. They are generally used for protection of the environment and natural habitat.

Corridors are used to connect high value areas. It is with environmental corridors that high value lakes, wetlands, prairies, and woodlands become valuable when linked by corridors of concentrated natural resource activity. The best resource features are strung together and actually become part of a larger functioning natural resource system. Fish and wildlife, birds, native plant distribution, and even clean water are all dependent upon moving through environmental corridors, and upon the vital functions they perform.

Recreational use is enhanced by the continuous nature of environmental corridors. This expands the quality of hunting, fishing, canoeing, hiking, and touring by bicycle or motor vehicle where these corridors exist. Beyond the features already mentioned, environmental corridors may also contain historic sites

and structures, cultural resources, and scenic vistas. These corridors are the best remaining elements of the natural resource system. Protection and proper management of the resources found within them helps prevent environmental degradation.

SEWRPC has been instrumental in identifying and advocating the protection of environmental corridors. Once the corridors are delineated and mapped, informed planning and policy decisions can be made regarding these resources. This information has been available for a long time with refinement achieved by local or project planning.

FOREST AND WOODLAND RESOURCES

The City has many forest and tree resources located in the primary and secondary environmental corridors. These tree resources are protected and provide valuable habitat for birds and rare species. The City contains approximately 494 acres of forest and woodland land cover types. There are significant oak forests within the project area as well as a variety of other forest types including maple-basswood, floodplain forests, and lowland hard forests. Burlington will seek to protect forested areas and tree resources as they provide a valuable environmental benefit and wildlife habitat.

Saving high quality woodlands provide complementary benefits. These include scenic beauty, upland plant and animal habitat, and protection against soil erosion that occurs with their loss. Unseen, but vitally effective, is the forest's infiltration of precipitation for groundwater recharge. This provides clean, cool groundwater inflow to lakes, streams, and wetlands, and replenishes well water supplies. However, some economic development, transportation, and utility or infrastructure benefits may occur from development of these lands.

WATER RESOURCES

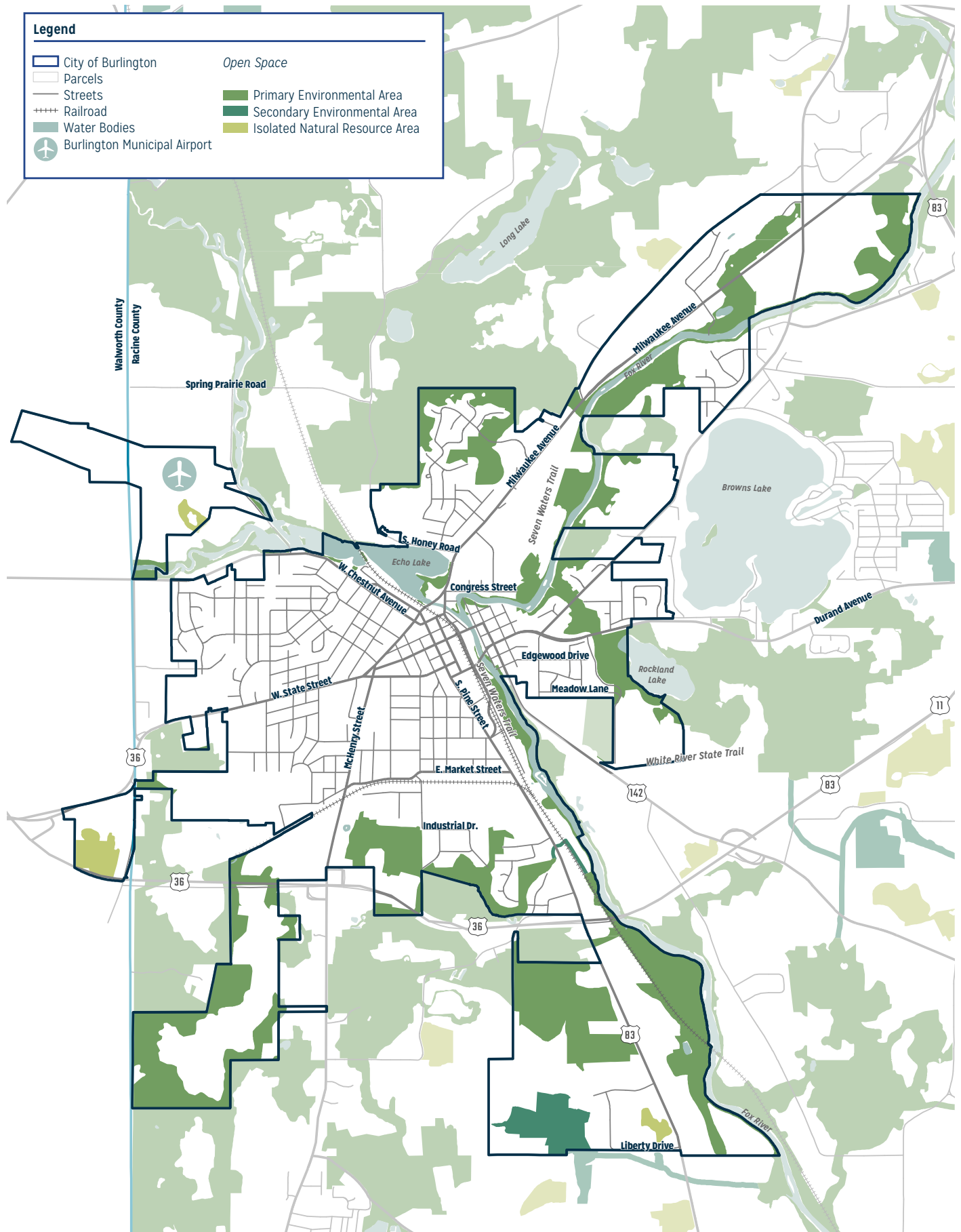
The public waters of Burlington are consistent with the criteria found in Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and protected waters for Racine County. The City contains about 1,200 acres of surface water, wetlands, and floodplains. The City's most prominent water feature is the Fox River. The area surrounding Burlington includes floodplains, lakes, and water features including Echo and nearby Brown's Lake, Spring Brook Creek, wetlands, and numerous unnamed water features.

Fox River

The City is a part of the Fox River watershed. The location of the River allows access to residents and visitors looking for a Fox River experience. The Fox River enters the City in the northeast and meanders along open space and park lands, near Downtown, and through developed and industrial lands until it exits the City in the south.

Burlington's location along the Fox River provides immeasurable value. The River provides significant natural features and helps shape the identity of Burlington as a Fox River town. It provides habitat as City parks and trails are spread along the riverfront. Passive enjoyment of the River exists at numerous locations, including Echo Park, the Burlington Riverwalk, Riverside Park, Wehmoff Jucker Park, and Bushnell County Park near the High School. The City will seek to protect and promote the Fox River and build on this asset in the future. It will firmly establish itself as a Fox River City.

Exhibit 2: Burlington Environmental Corridors



Echo Lake and Dam

Echo Lake is located in the center of the City. It is a seventy acre, shallow lake with a maximum depth of eleven feet. It provides significant habitat for a variety of fish, wildlife, and migratory waterfowl. It also provides identity for the City. The lake has an outlet to the White River which flows a short distance into the Fox River. Due to this, fluctuating water levels on the lake have been an issue for the area and for residents south of the lake. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking long term solutions to this issue.

In 2015, the City performed a Dam Failure Analysis (DFA) for the dam. The findings of the DFA were that the dam could not contain a modeled “500-year-flood”, which is a requirement of the dam. The DNR has required the City to achieve compliance with this requirement by July 2025. Compliance can be achieved by making modifications to the dam to increase spillway capacity, or by removing the dam. In either case some change will be necessary for the dam and lake and maintaining the dam in its current state is not an option for compliance.

Browns Lake

Browns Lake is located outside of the City in the Town of Burlington but is an important resource to the City. It is a 397 acre lake with a maximum depth of 44 feet, although its average depth is only 8 feet. Visitors have access to the lake from a public boat landing. It is mostly used as a recreational resource with boating and fishing as the main activities. Fish species are varied but include Panfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike and Walleye. The lake’s water is moderately clear.

Wetlands

Burlington contains about 320 acres of wetlands. Maintenance of wetlands as open space will allow them to function to their full natural capacity. The benefits of maintenance may be protected wildlife habitat and fish spawning beds, filtration of stormwater runoff, storage of floodwater, and the preservation of diverse, rare, or endangered plant communities. Wetlands in environmental corridors may contain several levels of legal protection. It is acknowledged that not all regulated wetlands lie within these corridors.

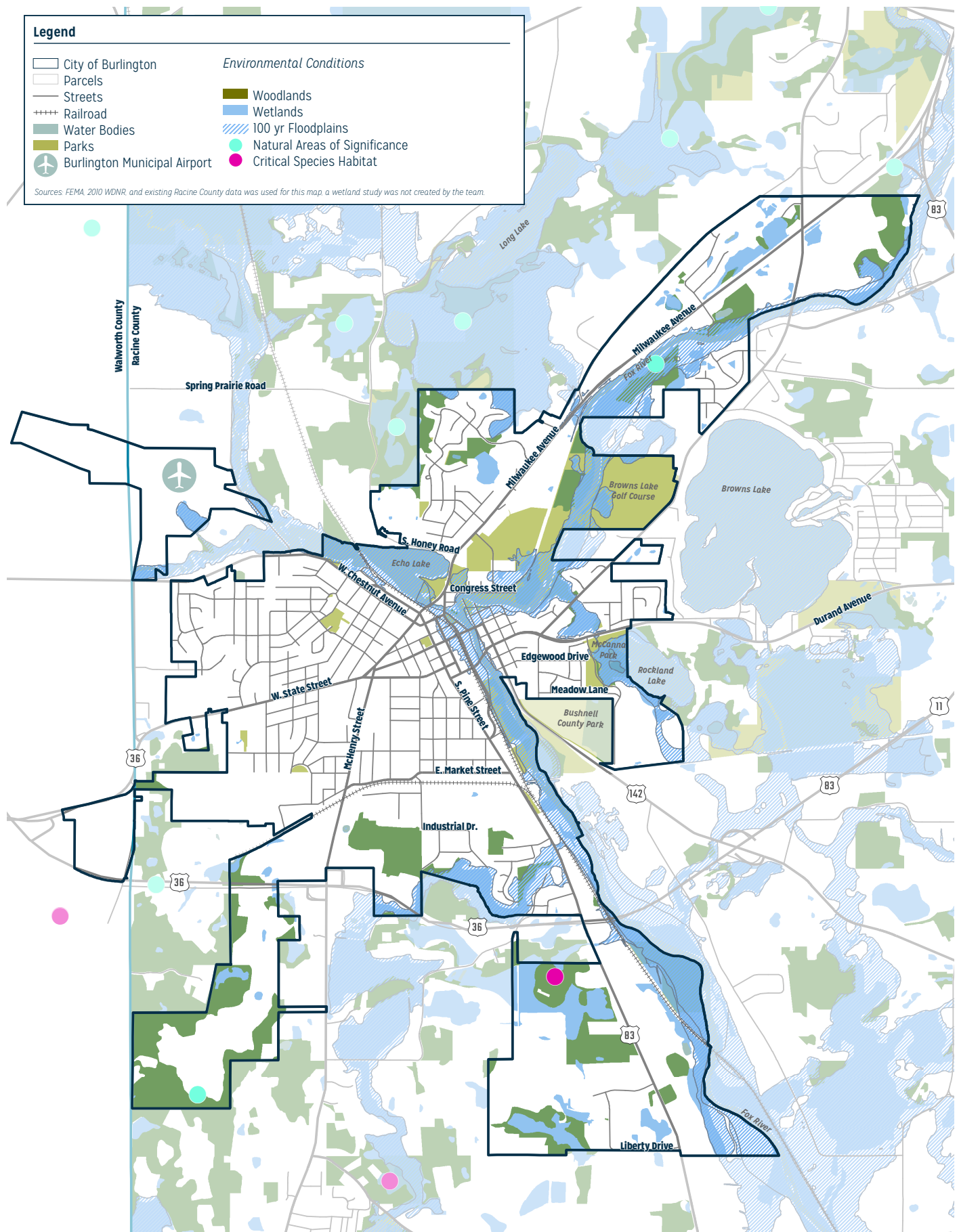
The Burlington Wetland Area is a 160-acre nature reserve located 3.5 miles southeast of Burlington in Racine County on Hoosier Creek Road. Habitat on the property consists of a mixture of marsh, lowland shrub, cool season grasses, upland shrub, and small, scattered woodlots. A Fox River tributary runs through the middle of the property. Recreational opportunities exist for deer and waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing.

Creek Corridors

Spring Brook Creek is considered a protected watercourse in Burlington and is an important source of drainage from the Fox River. It drains to Bohner Lake. Spring Brook Creek is classified as a part of a “tributary stream.” The City will protect Spring Brook Creek as an important water source and corridor moving forward. Policies to promote its protection are included in this chapter.



Exhibit 3: Burlington Environmental Conditions



WILDLIFE HABITAT

Small mammal species common to Burlington and the southeastern Wisconsin region are rabbits, squirrels, woodchucks, raccoons, muskrats, and beavers. Larger mammals such as white-tailed deer, coyotes, and foxes also inhabit the region. Common bird species include cardinals, robins, woodthrushes, great blue herons, wrens, blue jays, cranes, hawks, and killdeer. These species can be found in the area surrounding Burlington but do not offer significant value.

Rare Species Occurrence

SEWRPC identified high quality natural areas and critical habitats throughout the region. The results were published in a report titled “A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin.” There are occurrences of rare species in the areas surrounding Burlington. The specific locations for each are available from Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources but are not generally released. WDNR’s Natural Heritage Conservation Program helps protect and restore Wisconsin’s rare plants, animals and state natural areas. Detailed information regarding the types of endangered animals, plants, and natural communities can be found at the Department of Natural Resources’ website, dnr.wisconsin.gov.

Mineral Resources

The City does not contain any metallic quarries. It does contain one nonmetallic rock quarry operated by a private operator. Other quarries and mining operations are located near the City but outside the City limits in the Town of Burlington or Racine County. Rock and gravel for construction purposes are the main commodities being mined. Nonmetallic minerals, including sand, gravel, stone, peat, and clay, have significant commercial value and are important sources of construction materials needed for the continued development of Burlington and the region. They provide for the maintenance of the existing infrastructure and development or improvement of new infrastructure. Permitting urban or rural development of lands overlying these resources, or in close proximity may make it impossible to utilize such resources in the future. This could result in shortages and increases in the costs of these materials.

Under Wisconsin Statutes (295.20), landowners who want to register their property as a nonmetallic mining deposit are required to notify each county, city, village and/or town that has zoning authority over their property. State law limits the ability of a municipality or a county to rezone or otherwise interfere with the future extraction of a mineral resource from a registered nonmetallic mineral deposit. This plan recommends the following with respect to nonmetallic mineral resources within Burlington:

- » There are some existing mining operations located in the vicinity of the City. The plan recognizes the continued operation of these facilities, as well as the possible expansion of such facilities to adjacent lands subject to appropriate zoning and State and County regulations.
- » The City has significant potential for commercial sources of nonmetallic mineral resources. It must be recognized that there will continue to be a need for sand, gravel, stone, and clay for public works and development projects in the City and region. Decisions regarding future land development should take into consideration the location of mineral resources.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Introduction

A system of parks, trails, and open spaces are an integral part of a well-planned community. They provide spaces where the community can gather with family and friends, connect with nature, and get outdoors. They are crucial to the economic, social, and environmental health of communities.

Burlington is located on the Fox River resulting in the development of riverfront parks and open spaces. The river is surrounded by a series of natural corridors of wetlands and woodlands that provide habitat for wildlife. A system of neighborhood and community parks as well as the Riverwalk follow the Fox River. The City's parks and open space system provides a range of recreational facilities from baseball and softball fields, tennis and basketball courts, hiking and biking trails, natural areas, picnic areas, and play equipment.

The City of Burlington last adopted a Comprehensive Recreation Plan in 2015 to guide outdoor recreation facility development through the year 2020. The plan was prepared to guide the City in acquiring and developing public outdoor parks and recreation facilities and to enable Burlington to participate in outdoor recreation grant programs through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This Comprehensive Plan builds on the recommendations and goals set forth by the 2015-2020 Park and Open Space Plan.



STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

The 2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) acts as a guiding resource for local outdoor recreation planning. The SCORP is updated every five years and provides recommendations to guide public outdoor recreation policy and planning decisions and allocate federal funds equitably among local governments. Top priority needs of the SCORP:



Provide more places near urban centers to support a variety of nature-based recreation, particularly trails and water access.



Connect communities to nature and the outdoors to improve community health, protect air and water, and provide an economic boost.

Burlington Park and Recreation Priorities

The extensive community engagement done throughout this comprehensive planning process found that the City of Burlington's existing parks and open space, specifically tied to the Fox River, are a unique strength of Burlington that add to the community's high quality of life. The engagement reaffirmed the high value residents place on the parks and open space network of Burlington. The goals and policies of this chapter seek to implement the following priorities for Parks and Recreation:

- » Update and bring forward the recommendations of the 2015 to 2020 Park and Open Space Plan.
- » Strengthen the pathway and trail system.
- » Equitably distribute parks throughout the community.
- » Ensure all parks and facilities meet the needs of all residents regardless of age, gender, or ability.

2015-2020 PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

The 2015-2020 Park and Open Space Plan is an update to the City of Burlington's Outdoor Recreation Plan which sets forth the City's vision for the future growth and development of its outdoor recreation parks and facilities. The mission of the plan is to provide residents within the urban service area a high quality of life. This will be achieved through the effective provision of athletic, recreational, and leisure facilities and programs available for residents of all age groups and levels of ability. The general recommendations of the plan include:

- » Retrofit all parks and park facilities to be accessible for all individuals.
- » Improve existing playgrounds with amenities for all ages.
- » Complete the city-wide, barrier-free, multi-purpose trail system that connects the city parks, county and state parks, and existing regional trails.
- » Actively pursue funds for park and recreation programs and park development.



Parks and Open Space System Inventory

This section provides an analysis of the City of Burlington's parks and open space system. The system is classified and inventoried based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards. An inventory of nearby State and County parks and facilities, available to Burlington residents follows.

Burlington's parks and open space system, includes a series of mini, neighborhood, and community parks located throughout the City, as well as sports fields and other recreation areas. Additional providers, Racine County and the School District, expand park and open space opportunities in Burlington. For example, Bushnell County Park serves Burlington as it is located to the southeast directly adjacent to the City boundary and River. The School District operates several schools with playground facilities in Burlington.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATION

Burlington's parks and open space systems were classified into the following categories and metrics:

table 1

Park Classification, NRPA Benchmark

CLASSIFICATION	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	SERVICE AREA	SIZE CRITERIA
MINI PARKS	Mini Parks meet the need for a walkable, drop-in recreation experience. Appropriate elements include playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating.	Less than 0.25 mile distance.	One acre or less.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and are generally designed for informal active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces. Elements in these parks often include playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields, and trail systems.	0.5-mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	1 to 5 acres in size is typical.
COMMUNITY PARKS	Community Parks focus on meeting regional and community-wide recreation needs. Community Parks also host athletic teams and affiliate programs. Elements in these parks include playgrounds, pavilions, trails and path systems, multiple sport courts, and fields.	Usually serves two or more neighborhoods at 0.5 to 3-mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 10 acres.
SPECIAL USE	Special use facilities focus on meeting community-wide recreation needs. Often, these spaces, both indoor and outdoor, are designed as single-use recreation activities. Examples of special use facilities include golf courses, nature centers, outdoor pools, and museums. Essentially, areas that are for specialized or single purpose recreational activities.	No applicable standard.	Variable, depending on desired amenity.
LINEAR PARK	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel. May include active play areas.	No applicable standard.	Sufficient width to protect resource and provide maximum use.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

The City of Burlington has 26 parks and open space sites that equal a total of 126 acres. Out of all parks, 92.5 acres (73%), are considered “Active Recreation Areas,” while 33.5 acres (27%), are considered “Non-park Sites.” Non-park Sites include special use parks and conservation areas. Community parks are the largest (42%) park category in Burlington, followed by neighborhood parks (24%). A breakdown of park acreage by classification is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Acreage by Park Classification

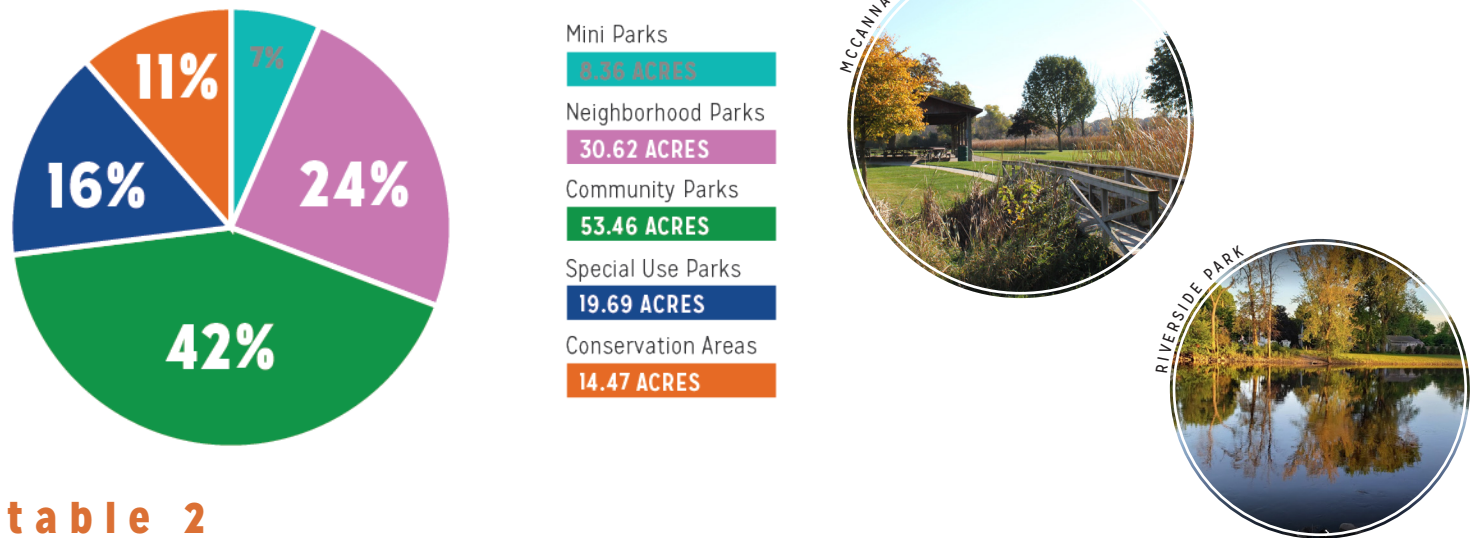
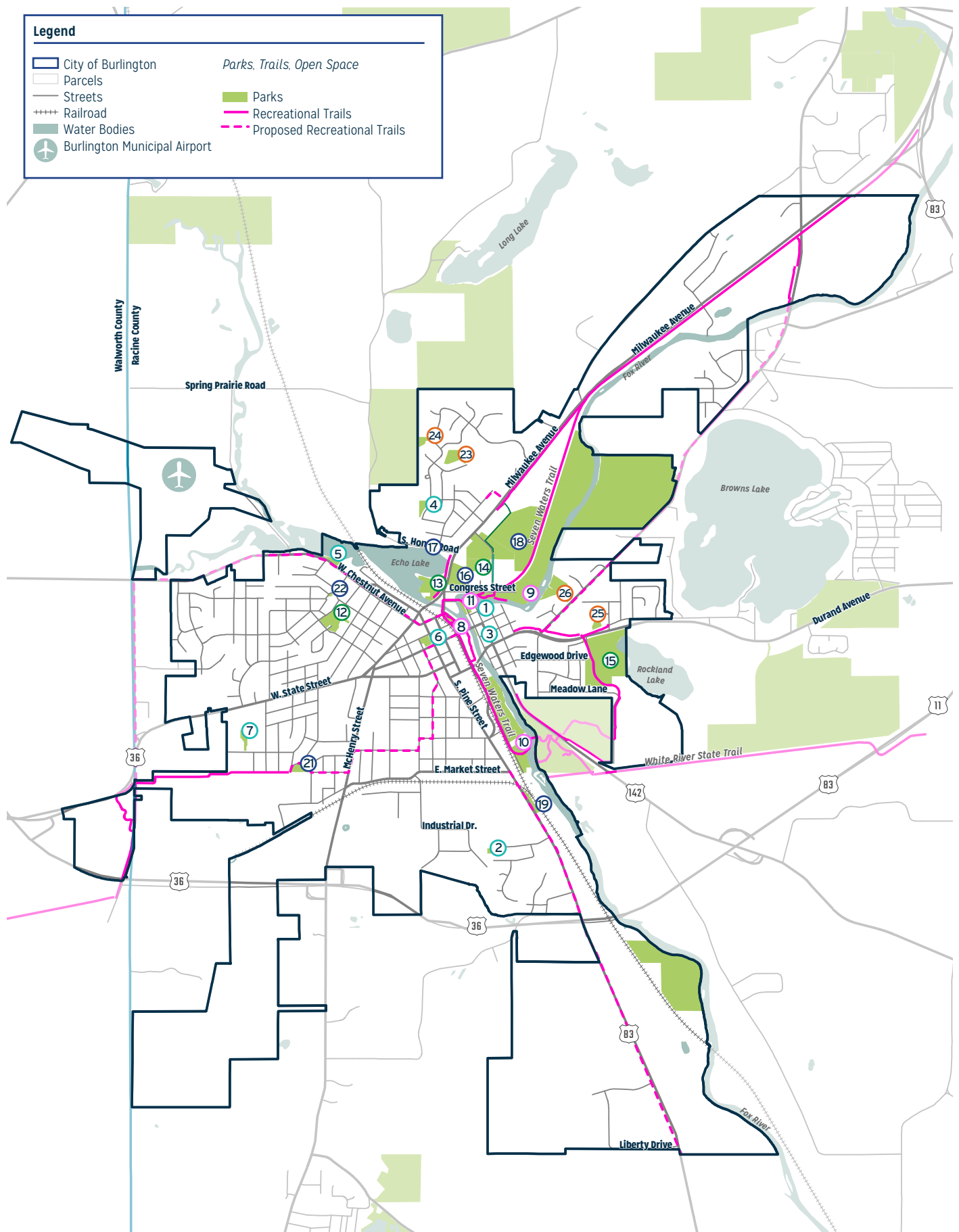


table 2

City of Burlington Parks Inventory

LOCATION / PARK TYPE	Address	ACRES
MINI PARKS		
1 Benson Park	408 E. Washington Street	0.55
2 Beverly-Jo Park	367 Dunford Drive	1.63
3 Meinhardt Park	225 N. Spring Street	0.34
4 Steinhoff Park	833 Cedar Drive	1.69
5 Wagner Park	500 W. Chestnut Street	1.59
6 Wehmhoff Square	355 N. Pine Street	0.87
7 Westedge Park	632 Hillside Drive	1.69
TOTAL ACRES		8.36
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS		
8 Riverfront Park	400 Bridge Street	1.66
9 Riverside Park	517 Congress St.	4.35
10 St. Mary's Park	348 S. Calumet Street	21.33
11 Wehmoff Jucker Park	408 E. Washington St.	3.28
TOTAL ACRES		30.62
COMMUNITY PARKS		
12 Devor Park	394 Amanda Street	4.63
13 Echo Park	595 Milwaukee Ave.	10.48
14 Festival Grounds	681 Maryland Avenue	5.05
15 McCanna Park	100 McCanna Parkway	33.30
TOTAL ACRES		53.46
SPECIAL USE PARKS		
16 Beaumont Field / Congress Field	650 Milwaukee Avenue	7.42
17 Grove Street Park	125 Grove Street	0.31
18 Hintz Complex	712 Maryland Avenue	6.71
19 Nestles Park	624 S. Pine Street	2.44
20 Skateboard Park		0.84
21 Sunset Park	400 Sunset Drive	1.91
22 Water Tower Park	389 Lewis Street	0.06
TOTAL ACRES		19.69
CONSERVATION AREAS		
23 Bear Meadows Park 1	149 Karyl Street	4.24
24 Bear Meadows Park 2	1073 Cooperhawk Drive	1.66
25 McCanna Park 2	700 E. State Street	1.20
26 McCanna Wetland Preserve	688 Browns Lake Drive	7.37
TOTAL ACRES		14.47
CITY TOTAL ACRES		126.60

Exhibit 4: Burlington Parks, Trails, and Open Space



ADDITIONAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PROVIDERS

School Parks Inventory

The City of Burlington has a system of ten school parks, classified as Neighborhood Playground areas and Community Playfield areas. These parks add to the overall acreage of parklands within Burlington but are managed and operated by the school district.

Linear Parks/ Trail Corridors Inventory

- » Burlington Riverwalk: The main trail corridor, owned and maintained by the City connects several parks along Fox River including Riverside Park, Wehmhoff Jucker Park, Echo Park, Bushnell County Park, and Burlington High School.
- » Beloit Pedestrian Way: This gravel multi-use trail connects Sunset Park and Westedge Park to Aurora Hospital and White River State Trail. This trail is still seeking grant funding to pave the path and improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.

County and State Facilities Inventory

Racine County Parks and Trail Corridors

- » Bushnell County Park: Bushnell is a 95-acre County Park at the southeastern corner of Burlington. Bushnell County Park is classified as an active park with baseball and soccer fields, a bicycle and pedestrian trail, playground equipment, and pavilion, grill, and seating for gathering. The City of Burlington schedules sport activities for the fields and prepares and maintains the fields and open areas.
- » Seven Waters Trail: A four-mile stretch of this trail is within Burlington's City limits, it begins at Riverside Park and travels northeast, along the Fox River to Waterford.

State Trail Corridors and Recreation Areas

There are no state parks within or near the City of Burlington limits although the below state trail corridors and recreation areas exist near the City providing additional recreational opportunities for Burlington residents.

- » Burlington-Kansasville Bicycle Trail: This trail begins on the eastern edge of Burlington and extends to Kansasville. Racine County operates the eight-mile trail.
- » White River State Trail: Between Elkhorn and Walworth County, just west of Burlington is ten miles of county-operated state trail for hiking, biking, and snowmobiling.





» Richard Bong State Recreation Area: This state recreation area is nine miles from Burlington on Highway 142. It offers a variety of recreational opportunities including camping, biking, picnicking, boating, canoeing, and kayaking, and fishing. It is operated by the State DNR.

Parks and Open Space System - Level of Service Analysis

The Level of Service (LOS) analysis evaluates how well the City's parks are serving the current needs of the community. Level of Service is assessed through acreage and distribution analysis.

Level of Service Analyses are benchmarks that provide City officials the ability to respond to their growing community's ever-changing needs.

As much as this analysis is integral in estimating how well residents of the City are being served, it is only one of many tools that can help in determining future recreation goals and needs. Others examples include demand and funding.

ACREAGE

A park acreage calculation is used to determine Level of Service, which quantifies the minimum area required to provide the necessary parkland and recreation facilities for City residents. This analysis is based on NRPA's ten acres per 1,000 population, however, the 2015-2020 Park and Open Space Plan for Burlington adopted 10.5 acres per 1,000 population.

With a population of 10,963, the City of Burlington is recommended to have 115.1 acres of mini, neighborhood, and community parks space combined. With 92.5 acres dedicated to mini, neighborhood, and community parks space, the City is deficient by 22.6 acres of "Active Recreation Areas." However, if including special use parks and conservation areas, the City's total parkland is 126 acres and exceeds the recommended 10.5 acres/1,000 population. Although conservation areas are not used for recreation. Special use areas can be although it depends on the facilities included.

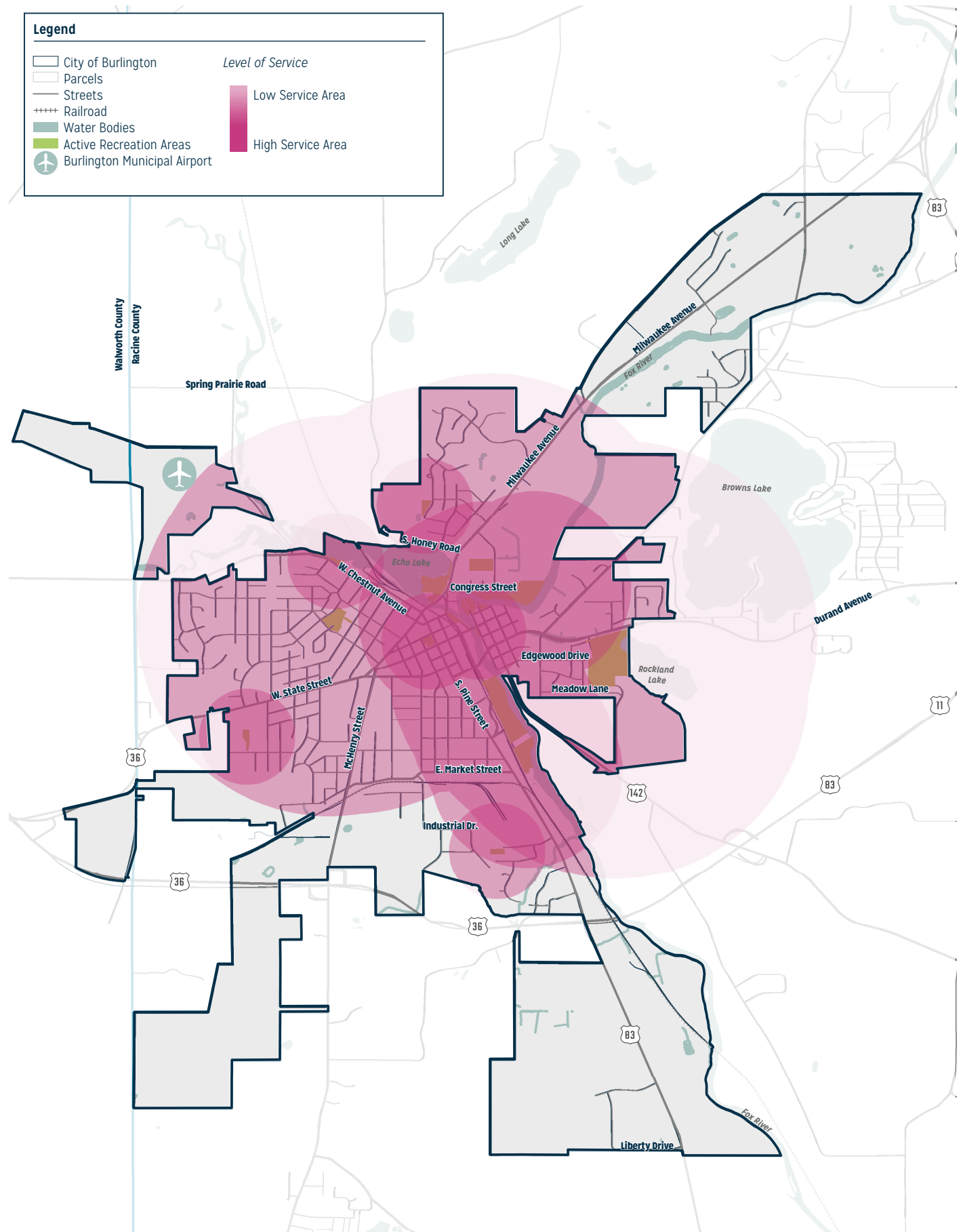
DISTRIBUTION

Distribution Level of Service Analysis studies the geographic distribution of parks and evaluates how equitably these sites are placed throughout the community. The result of this analysis will focus on how many people are served by the existing parks and open spaces.

To analyze this, service areas were created in the form of discs. These areas are illustrated with a pink disc in Exhibit 5. Overlaying service areas indicates which areas are most or least served by the existing active recreation areas. Residents who fall within a dark pink area are served by multiple parks and amenities.

The overall park service area map shows a 0.25-mile, 0.5-mile and one-mile service area radius around the existing mini parks, neighborhood parks and community parks, respectively. Generally, active

Exhibit 5: Overall Distribution Level of Service Analysis



recreation areas are centered in the core of Burlington, as identified in the pink discs. The northeast, southeast, and southwest portions of the City, almost fully industrial in use, lacks open space. Additional parkland and park resources will be needed if these areas were developed with residential uses.

Overall, 93% of Burlington residents have access to mini, neighborhood, or community parks within zero to one mile of where they live. This percentage of the population is higher than the 84% median identified in the planning team's data base.

Accessibility

The City of Burlington strives to ensure the parks and open space system and programs are designed to meet the needs of all residents regardless of age, gender, or ability. The City acknowledges that not all parks and programs are fully accessible and strives to provide barrier-free access to new facilities and update current facilities to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Open Space & Natural Features

The Fox River is the most evident and determining natural feature in Burlington. It runs the length of the City from north to south creating a forested wetland and a 100-year floodplain through the City. The 100-year floodplain denotes the areas that will be inundated by the flood event having a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Floodplain data is derived from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The 100-year floodplain also exists in the northeast corner of Burlington, limiting potential development and restricting the expansion of infrastructure in the area while providing areas for sustained stormwater management.

Echo Lake and its spillway into the Fox River also provides an identifiable open space feature near the Downtown area. The many parks and natural features in this area provide recreation, improve health, protect the environment and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. The majority of wetlands surround Echo Lake and the Fox River, additional wetlands and water features are scattered near Browns Lake, Bushnell County Park, and in the southern portions of the City.

Another significant natural feature in and around Burlington includes woodlands and large groves of mature trees. These areas exist in the northeastern, eastern, and southern portions of the City. Some of these areas are identified as conservation areas, including Bear Meadows and McCanna Wetland Preserves.

These combined natural features provide environmental corridors and critical habitats throughout the City and provide opportunities for future preservation, recreation, and ecological benefits.



Recommendations

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Below is a set of general recommendations put forth by 2015-2020 Park and Open Space Plan for Burlington's entire parks and open space system:

- » Retrofit all parks and park facilities to be disabled accessible, including shelters and restrooms. As park toilet buildings are built or upgraded, they should be designed to be barrier-free and accessible to all park users.
- » Cover surfaces directly under play equipment and a safe zone around the play equipment with a 10-inch to 12-inch layer of resilient safety surface.
- » Acquire additional parklands as appropriate to meet current and future recreational needs per the recommendations of the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- » Improve existing playlots and playgrounds as neighborhood gathering places for all ages and incorporate new neighborhood-focused facilities consistent with the patterns of new residential growth in the City.
- » Develop a City-wide, barrier-free, multi-purpose trail system that connects city parks, county and state parks, existing regional trails, and provides access to natural and cultural resources in the community and region.
- » Actively generate funds for park and recreation programs and park development. The city should pursue grant opportunities and private development to supplement capitol funds for future development and park system upgrades.
- » Develop an ordinance to control boating access and storage on public waterways within the city of Burlington.
- » Perform systemic routine maintenance of park facilities and equipment including play equipment, courts and fields, benches and picnic tables, trail systems, restrooms, and shelters.

FUTURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

As shown in the Level of Service Analysis, the north east portion of the Milwaukee Ave corridor and the southern portion of the South Pine Street corridor is greatly undeserved by the parks and open space system. Any new development in these location should incorporate new park and open space, especially as new residential development and population growth occurs.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Introduction

The City of Burlington has a relatively intact stock of historic buildings and resources respecting its heritage. This is inherent in the community's strong historic character and outstanding 19th and 20th-century heritage resources. These thrive through downtown commercial district of Italianate and Classical Revival brick buildings to its residential neighborhoods of grand Queen Anne homes and modest Period Revivals and Craftsman Bungalows. These and other important resources, including schools, churches, parks, and cemeteries, represent the community's past while contributing to the community's present character and urban design. They also represent opportunities for rehabilitation and adaptive use that contribute to Burlington's overall economic vitality.

National Register of Historic Places

Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the nation's official list of historic resources worthy of preservation. The National Park Service, a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior, administers the National Register program, while the Wisconsin Historical Society administers the National Register program in Wisconsin and serves as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Properties listed in the National Register may have local, state, or national significance, though listing is honorary and imposes no restrictions on the use, alteration, and disposition of property. In addition, income-producing National Register properties are eligible for the Federal and Wisconsin Historic Preservation Tax Credit Programs.

The National Register may include individual buildings, structures such as bridges, sites including parks and cemeteries, and objects such as statues and monuments, as well as historic districts – groups of buildings having related historic context within a defined geographic area. National Register listing requires a formal nomination and approval



by the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board and the National Park Service. Any person or organization can prepare and submit a National Register nomination.

There are two (2) properties individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the City of Burlington.

National Register Properties (location and NRHP reference numbers included)

- » Burlington Cemetery Chapel (701 South Browns Lake Road, NRHP #13000824, listed 2013)
- » Burlington Community Swimming Pools and Bathhouse (394 Amanda Street, NRHP #13000850, listed 2013)

There are two (2) historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the City of Burlington as of November 2021.

National Register Historic Districts (location and NRHP reference numbers included)

- » Burlington Downtown Historic District (Bounded by East Jefferson, North Pine, East Washington, East Chestnut, North Dodge, Commerce, Mill, and West Chestnut Streets, NRHP #00000603, listed 2000)
- » Kane Street Historic District (Bounded by Washington and Rudolph Streets, Perkins Boulevard, and Gardner Avenue, NRHP #14000452, listed 2014)

The architectural and historic resources found in each National Register Historic District are described on the following pages.



BURLINGTON DOWNTOWN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

(Bounded by East Jefferson, North Pine, East Washington, East Chestnut, North Dodge, Commerce, Mill, and West Chestnut Streets, and Milwaukee Avenue, NRHP #00000603, listed 2000)

The Burlington Downtown National Register Historic District includes 97 commercial buildings and one site – Wemhoff Square – encompassing all of the downtown commercial district. Building construction dates reflect the historic district's period of significance from 1848 to 1950. The earliest known building, built in 1848, is located at 189 East Chestnut Street and marks the beginning of this period. The period of significance ended in 1950 and was determined by the 50-year cut-off for eligibility to the National Register at the time the nomination was prepared in 2000. The district's commercial buildings range from one- to three stories in height, are of frame and brick construction, and include architectural styles such as Italianate, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, and Twentieth-Century Commercial. Overall, 81 percent contribute to the district's historic and architectural significance. The district's non-contributing resources include 17 buildings and Wemhoff Square. The properties classified as non-contributing do not fall within the period of significance or have extensive alterations that compromised their architectural integrity.

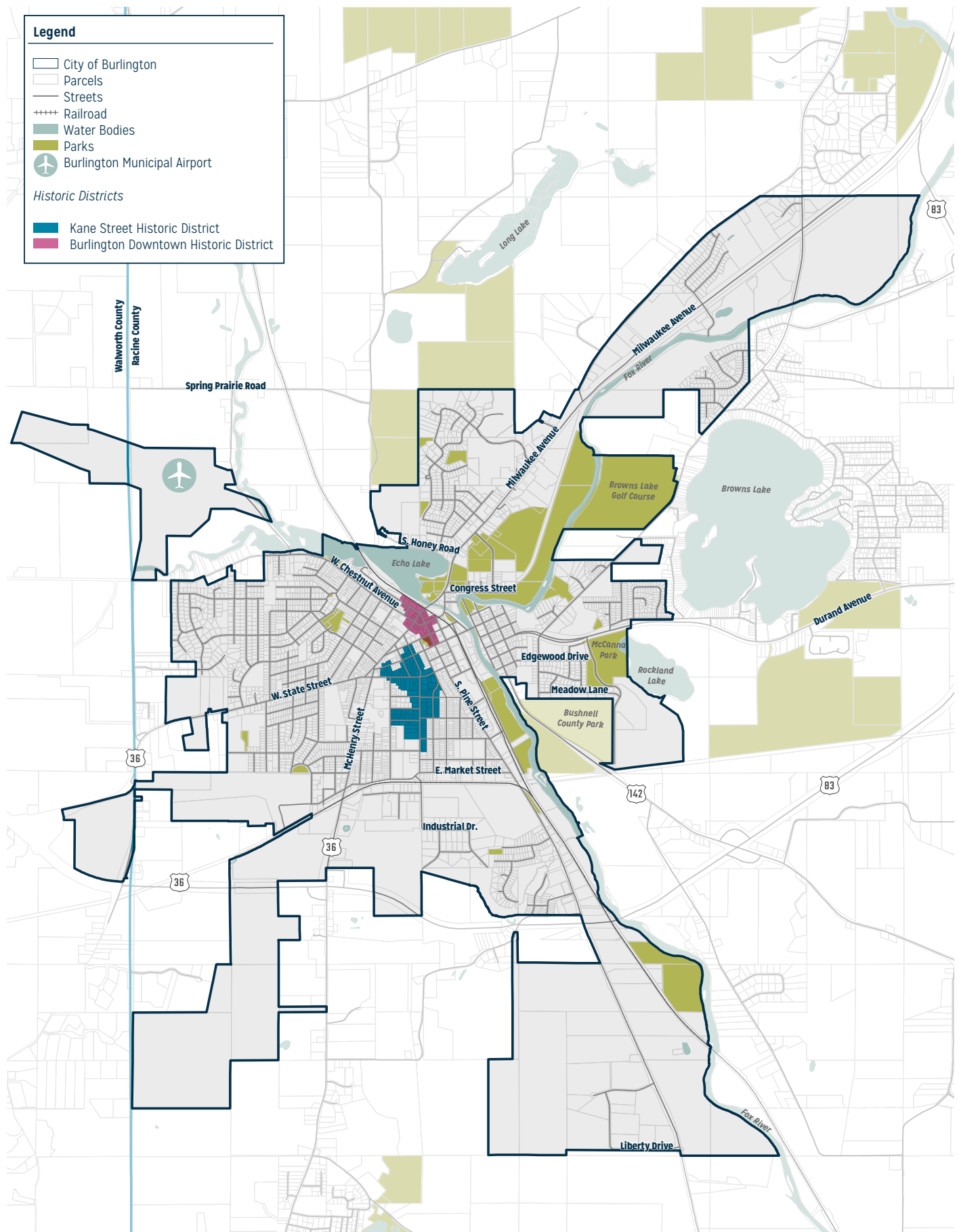
KANE STREET NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

(Bounded by Washington and Rudolph Streets, Perkins Boulevard, and Gardner Avenue, NRHP #14000452, listed 2014)

The Kane Street National Register Historic District includes 158 buildings and one object located west of Downtown Burlington. The district's historic resources include single-family residential buildings, several churches, a school, a Masonic Temple, and the Abraham Lincoln statue, the district's lone object. Building construction dates reflect the historic district's period of significance from 1844 to 1940. The earliest known building, constructed in 1844, is located at 172-176 West State Street and marks the beginning of this period. The house at 408 South Kane Street, constructed in 1940, marks the end of the period of significance as it was the last house in the district designed in a Period Revival style. The district's buildings range from one- to two stories in height, are of frame, brick, stone, and stucco construction, and include architectural styles such as Queen Anne, Greek Revival, American Foursquare, and Craftsman Bungalow, as well as Period Revivals styles such as Tudor, Colonial, and Dutch Colonial Revivals, among others. Overall, 88 percent contribute to the historic district's historic and architectural significance. The district's non-contributing resources include 19 buildings that were either constructed after the period of significance or had significant exterior alterations impacting their integrity and appearance.



Exhibit 6: Burlington Historic Districts



BURLINGTON ZONING ORDINANCE

Article XI, Sections 315-110 through 315-116, of the Burlington Zoning Ordinance, adopted in 1999, establishes the Historic Preservation Commission. They are authorized to protect Burlington's "... historic and cultural heritage" in order to "... improve property values; promote civic pride.... and strengthen the economy of the City." Article XI also describes the Commission's rules and operating procedures as well as its powers related to designating Historic Preservation Overlay Districts; managing demolitions, exterior alterations, and new construction within Overlay Districts; and facilitating new listings in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, Article XI also permits the Commission to consider rescinding property designations if the owner of record cannot sell the property after a six-month period. This latter provision is not customary for most historic preservation ordinances in Wisconsin and in other states.

Section 315-114 of Article XI outlines the specific criteria for designating historic buildings, structures, sites, and Historic Preservation Overlay Districts. The Commission may consider designation if a property or district meets one or several criteria:

1. Exemplify or reflect the broad cultural, political, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community;
2. Are identified with historic personages or with important events in national, state, or local history;
3. Embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for the study of a period, style, method of construction, or of indigenous materials or craftsmanship;
4. Are representative of the notable work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual genius influenced his age; or
5. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information to prehistory or history.

Article III, Section 315-42 also outlines more detailed procedures and requirements for creating Historic Preservation Overlay Districts and for Certificate of Appropriateness applications and reviews. Section 315-42 mandates the review of all exterior alterations and property demolitions within the district through a Certificate of Appropriateness application process administered by the Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission reviews applications according to the Historical Preservation District Standards and Guidelines, last amended in 2019. In addition, Article XIII, Section 315-139 of the Burlington



Zoning Ordinance specifies the submittal requirements for a Certificate of Appropriateness application.

There is one (1) Historic Preservation Overlay District designated within the City of Burlington as of November 2021. Described below are the architectural and historic resources found in the Burlington Downtown Historic District:

Burlington Downtown Historic District (Historic Preservation Overlay District)

(Bounded by East Jefferson, North Pine, East Washington, East Chestnut, North Dodge, Commerce, Mill, and West Chestnut Streets, and Milwaukee Avenue, designated 1999)

The Burlington Downtown Historic District comprises seven blocks of commercial buildings encompassing the entire downtown commercial district. The district boundaries and number of buildings coincide with the Burlington Downtown National Register Historic District. The period of significance spans from 1848 to 1950, beginning with the construction date of the earliest building and ending with the 50-year limit for listing in the National Register. The district's one- to three-story buildings, constructed of wood frame, brick, and stone, highlight architectural styles such as Queen Anne, Classical Revival, and Twentieth-Century Commercial. Of the 97 buildings and one site, 81 percent contribute to the district's historic and architectural significance.

Historic Resource Surveys

BURLINGTON ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL INTENSIVE SURVEY, 2011-2012

In 2011, the City of Burlington conducted a reconnaissance survey of Burlington's historic resources, followed by an intensive survey of 406 resources identified as having architectural and historical significance. The survey report includes a context statement of Burlington's development, used for evaluating the significance of historic resources, a description of prominent architectural styles and building types, and recommendations for future surveys, research needs, priorities for National Register listing, and strategies for Burlington's historic preservation program. In addition, survey maps provide the location of all properties surveyed, as well as boundary maps of potential National Register historic districts.

The intensive survey identified 48 properties individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, two potential residential historic districts, and six potential historic complexes, including the Community Pool, Rainbow Motel, God's Acre Cemetery, the St. Charles Borromeo and St. Mary Catholic churches, and the St. Francis Friary. At the time of the survey, the City of Burlington had already nominated downtown in the National Register. Following the survey's completion, the City of Burlington nominated the Kane Street neighborhood, the Burlington Cemetery Chapel, and the Burlington Community Swimming Pools and Bathhouse in the National Register.

COMMUNITY DESIGN AND IDENTITY

Burlington was formed and developed around specific geographic and constructed barriers that have defined its identity and character. The City is a small Midwestern community built along the intersection of two rivers and supported by a train line that formed the commerce and connections that created Burlington's economy. More specifically, this Section describes the land use character, scale and makeup of these neighborhoods and their formation around transportation and natural resources. These physical and natural barriers today continue to support and enhance Burlington's community character, its neighborhoods, and its economy.

Key Elements of Community Character and Identity - Placemaking

Every community has its special sauce. Some basic elements or ingredients that create a true sense of place, an authentic community. It is not about the newness of community facilities or the size of the City or population. It's rooted in the community heritage, history and landscape and it is celebrated by all its residents who live here.

The fundamental ingredients of community design and placemaking are:

- » Corridors and Streetscapes (road, streetscape, riverwalk, wayfinding, signage, gateways)
- » Traditional Downtown Core (scale, architecture, mixed use, walkable, preservation, programming)
- » Walkable, connected neighborhoods (single family traditional character, sidewalk, tree lined streets, neighborhood defining elements-school, church, park)
- » Architectural Heritage (preservation, adaptive reuse and mixed-use)
- » Landscape/Open Space Character (environmental, corridors, trails, pocket parks, plazas)



COMMUNITY CORRIDORS AND STREETSCAPES

Each of Burlington's older and newer neighborhoods radiate from its solid traditional Downtown core and riverfront along key corridors of community entry's:

- » Milwaukee Avenue from the Northeast
- » East State Street/Durand Avenue
- » Hwy 142 from the Southeast
- » South Pine Street and McHenry Avenue for the South and Southwest
- » West State Street and Chestnut Street from the West and North

These corridors are one of the most important “windows” and brand statements to defining the Burlington community character. They offer residents and visitors a first impression to the community design, character, and quality of life in Burlington. Generally, these corridors transition from a more rural community character to a more developed commercial, residential, or downtown business district character. *These transition or community gateway points need to speak to preserving, protecting, and enhancing the overall community character - a beautiful small hamlet community along the Fox River corridor.*

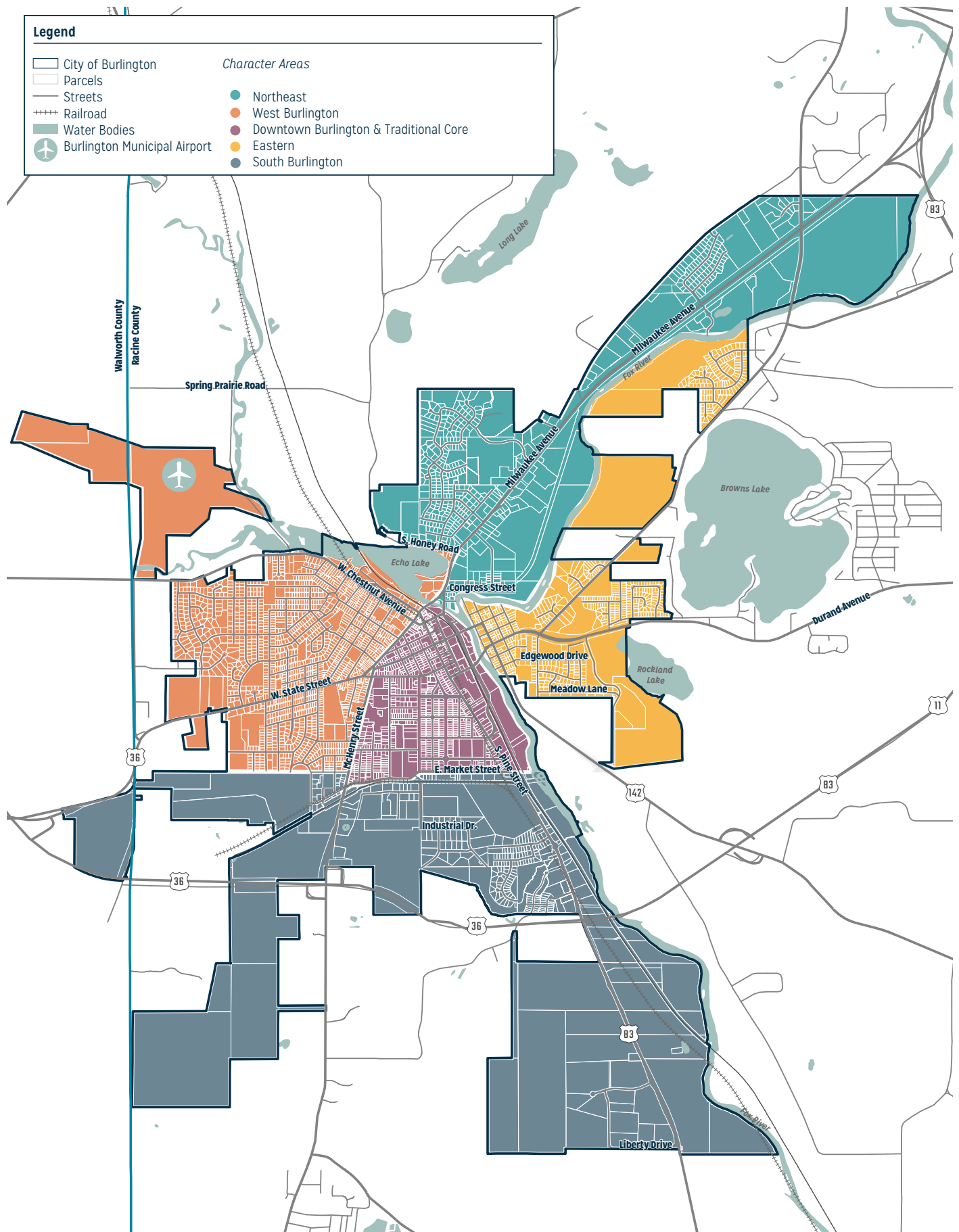
Consistent and updated gateway and brand character entry signage should be enhanced. Repetitive wayfinding signage elements such as community directionals, or seasonal banners must begin to direct residents and visitors to the many community destinations, neighborhoods, or major businesses. While the “feel” of each of these neighborhoods is unique the City should develop a palette of effective, achievable, and maintainable corridor design guidelines that speak to the desired landscape, site and building character within each neighborhood or character zone. At a minimum, these guidelines will allow the City to evaluate and coordinate a long-term vision for consistent parkway landscape standards, connected walks and trails, buffering or screening of parking or vehicular use areas, building street frontage design, setbacks and orientation and lighting for new or renovated development.

Streetscapes

Burlington's blessed with a variety of streetscape characters or conditions that support the adjacent neighborhood or land use character. From tree-line residential parkways with sidewalks to more urban cross sections along Milwaukee Avenue, Pine Street in the downtown and south Pine Street, maintaining a high-quality streetscape character and continued public investment in its maintenance and enhancement must be a critical community, property, economic development and health and wellness goal of the Burlington community.

These streetscapes are shared by not only vehicles but residents, visitors and businesses who see these areas of mobility as instrumental to their access to community services, retail, recreation, education, and operation. Continued improvements in the communities' streetscapes should identify clear focus and strategies on addressing safe and fully accessible walkways and crossings for all residents, incorporation of shared use or improved bikeways facilities, expanded opportunities to support local business use of outdoor seating dining and entertainment, improved parking and access,

Exhibit 7: Burlington Neighborhoods and Character Areas



parkway tree plantings and management and consistent wayfinding and signage standards.

TRADITIONAL DOWNTOWN CORE

It cannot be stated enough to say that one of the most important basic ingredients of a successful community is anchored in its Downtown. Newer communities across America continue to strive to create the authenticity of a real Traditional Downtown Core. When asked of new residents moving into communities outside of major metropolitan centers today, resoundingly good schools and a walkable downtown center are some of the highest priorities on their lists. People need to connect with a place where they meet, celebrate, shop, and dine and live people need community and it is found in the real traditional historic downtown of Burlington.

Clearly the retail world has changed to move to convenience-based consumer society needs of drive-thru, big box, and now on-line retail. Burlington like other communities has evolved to meet that need. From a land use perspective, the Milwaukee Avenue corridor provides the home for most of this new world retail change. This change no doubt, has impacted Burlington's traditional downtown retail environment. However, the world continues to evolve, and a surprise opportunity has come back to Main Street America in the form of a world pandemic (2020-2022)....people are working remotely, wanting to reconnect to a more walkable, healthy form of life, that supports a diversified traditional downtown now oriented to small specialty retailers, restaurants, coffee shops, micro-breweries, entertainment venues and alternative forms of single family and multifamily housing choices for all age spectrums. Burlington has a great opportunity to seize this moment and reestablish, fortify, and expand on its downtown core.

Burlington should continue to promote the downtown's unique character and offerings through a range of both active and passive programs that focus on placemaking, improved wayfinding and signage, public art initiatives, promoting and supporting new business pursuits, building preservation and adaptive reuse, infill downtown residential development and cleaning up the edges of downtown/neighborhood land use transition zones. Burlington should also identify strategies to better connect and expand upon its natural and constructed assets of the Fox River and Riverwalk to the core downtown areas.

Significant opportunities exist in Downtown Burlington to develop both larger and more intimate public open space venues, pocket parks, plazas or people streets where effective community programming can not only create community through festivals and events but also serve as economic development catalysts for private investment in new business, expansion of existing businesses or redevelopment of adjacent parcels and buildings. These opportunities are especially important both on Pine Street north





of Milwaukee Avenue and south Pine Street just south of the downtown in the south Downtown Special Area District.

The South Pine Street Special Area plan has been designated just south of Downtown, between South Pine Street and the railroad tracks/Calumet Street. This approximately 26-acre area represents a detailed redevelopment focus area for the city that could accommodate a mix of residential, commercial, and retail uses. Given the underutilized nature of many of these properties, as well as site and building vacancies, undesirable uses, and property disinvestment, this area represents a significant opportunity for mixed-use and multi-family housing development close to Downtown. The City should make every effort to market this site for mixed-use residential development. Expanding the multi-family options in this location would attract potential residents and provide new residential uses within walking distance to Downtown. Specific development capacity would be dependent on numerous factors, but this area could become an attractive mixed-use district complementary to Downtown.

WALKABLE, CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS

Walkability and bike accessibility has become a significant part of community growth and development strategies over the past several years. With an increasing awareness of public health and community wellness, meeting the needs of our aging population base, providing connected, safe, and accessible routes to our schools and community institutions, and reducing our dependence on the automobile and energy usage, Burlington must implement a long-term strategy to connect community neighborhoods to one another, the downtown, schools, and riverfront. Nowhere is the principal of connected neighborhoods more evident than in the traditional and historic single-family neighborhoods of Kane Street Historic District adjacent to the downtown. Simple tree-lined parkways, continuous sidewalks along traditional grid street/block designs provide the ability to move people safely, efficiently, and effectively through the community.

The City of Burlington should build upon this existing sidewalk design and policy framework, to ensure all neighborhoods in the community are connected and that existing and new development provide the desired public walks, trail and bike facility connections and facilities needed to reach this community goal.

Additionally, the City should further build and support this neighborhood housing strategy as part of a long-term downtown traditional neighborhood infill housing strategy. This seeks to support a range of higher density, new or renovated smaller lot traditional single-family homes within targeted walkable downtown residential neighborhood locations.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE/HOUSING CHARACTER

As noted in this Vision Plan, the City hosts a range of architectural styles consistent with an early 1900 Midwestern vernacular. Most notably, two designated historic districts support the core center of the original community growth in the Kane Street Neighborhood Historic District and the Burlington Downtown Historic District. Traditional American wood frame home styles are the dominant material of the older center city neighborhoods adjacent to the downtown and riverfront.

The traditional Main Street American styles of 1-3 story commercial mixed-use retail buildings or street wall in the downtown share a more permanent civic scale of materiality in stone, brick and specialty wood and metal detailing. This style of traditional downtown architectural character is very consistent in the 3-4 blocks that make up the core of the downtown along south Pine Street. Of particularly interest is the unique street wall condition is that is created and framed by the 2-3 story commercial buildings along Chestnut Street south of Milwaukee Avenue and west of South Pine. This unique, memorable urban design space lends itself to creating a special community public space through effective placemaking tools and urban design.

Neighborhoods north and west of downtown provide opportunity for new infill housing and existing single-family rehabilitation. Here, architectural styles are less defined or significant. Commercial and industrial properties near Echo Lake north of Milwaukee along Pine Street lend themselves to creative or adaptive retail, entertainment, and residential reuse. This area north of downtown along Pine Street could potentially extend the downtown commercial core and be promoted as a small “gritty” creative district with support from a younger creative community already in Burlington or adjacent communities. The City should support future entrepreneurial efforts and investment public place making in this north downtown district.

As noted earlier, major roadway corridors leading into the downtown and adjacent neighborhoods are defined by a less structured architectural character. These areas are dominated by industrial, commercial, and retail uses and generally insignificant architectural character. However, as the community evolves and carefully grows into the future, anticipated growth in residential neighborhoods will become part of this land use fabric. These land use changes support a community design strategy of implementing character area design guidelines. Burlington should develop an achievable set of design guidelines or standards that speak to organized character zones within the community. These guidelines while context-sensitive in their use, aim to help educate, support, and regulate a consistent community design aesthetic for new or rehabilitated development that promotes and adds value to the quality of life and the City of Burlington brand.

LANDSCAPE AND OPEN SPACE CHARACTER

Burlington is blessed with a variety of landscape and open space character, the most notable of which is the pastoral rural feel of the road corridors as they approach the City. All of Burlington's major access points bring residents and visitors through the native southern Wisconsin agrarian lake country into the community. Once arriving in Burlington, the landscape character is structured around the rivers, lakes, and environmental corridors. It is critical to preserve and enhance these corridor landscapes as the buffer to urban growth and maintaining the small town feel and charm of the Burlington community. They are essential elements to maintaining the quality of life in Burlington.

Within the neighborhoods, more typical open parks, greens, pocket parks, and tree-lined parkways maintain the character of Burlington's residential streets and Downtown. As mentioned under streetscapes, the value of the urban tree canopy along local streets plays a vital component to area property values, walkability, and sustainability.

In order to protect its landscapes and open space assets, the City should consider implementing the following recommendations:

- » Develop specific corridor zone landscape, open space guidelines or standards.
- » Consider the implementation of scenic view corridors or easements.
- » Protect and enhance natural corridors along the River or other environmentally sensitive areas.
- » Enhance passive recreation use and enjoyment of public open space through connected paths, trails, and view corridors.
- » Provide consistent design guidelines for new and existing development along or adjacent to environmental corridors or sensitive lands.
- » Continue investment in public green space, parks, natural resources, and the river corridor to meet the changing active and passive recreation and health and wellness needs of the entire community.
- » Ensure a balanced and equitable public park and open space system that provides the appropriate level of service to all areas and demographics of the community.
- » Continue to foster an active street tree management program to ensure the health and replacement of Burlington's street tree canopy within its neighborhoods, Downtown, and key corridors.



GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 1 - Fox River

A protected Fox River embraced as one of the defining features of Burlington and provides locations for recreation, natural and passive enjoyment.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 2 - Natural Resource Conservation

A protected and preserved open space that provides Burlington's Natural Resource System. The significant elements of this system include the Fox River, water features, environmental corridors, regional parks, and the network of local parks, private open spaces, natural areas, and trails.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 3 - Environmental Corridors

Continue to recognize the importance of the designated environmental corridors and isolated natural areas and preserve these areas to the greatest extent possible.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 4 - Water and Forest Resources

Protected water and forest resource systems that offer natural habitat and enhances the biological value of the City.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 5 - Agricultural and Mineral Resources

Maintain and protect agricultural and mineral resources preserving productive farmland and active quarries especially those near sensitive areas.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 6 - Parks and Open Space System

Maintain an adequate amount of active and passive park and recreational land to meet current and future recreational needs.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 7 - Preserve and Protect Burlington's Historic Places

Continue listing properties in the National Register of Historic Places, and designating local landmarks and Historic Preservation Overlay Districts, as a way to recognize and protect the Burlington's important heritage places. With four National Register listings, including two National Register Historic Districts, and one local Historic Preservation Overlay District, the City of Burlington has a track record of recognizing and preserving its heritage.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 8 - Community Design and Identity

Enhanced community identity, design, and character of the City's public spaces, streetscapes, plazas, alleys, and corridors by creative, cost-effective placemaking, landscaping, and public art initiatives to enhance social gathering, events, and recreation for residents of all ages and abilities.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 1 - Fox River

A protected Fox River embraced as one of the defining features of Burlington and provides locations for recreation, natural and passive enjoyment.

POLICY	ACTION
<p>Policy 1.1 - Access and Views of the Fox River</p> <p>Capitalize on Burlington’s location along the Fox River and promote the City as a “rivertown” by seeking opportunities to enhance the river, viewing areas through scenic overlooks, and by increasing riverfront access through property acquisitions.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Acquire lands as possible to protect the River, enhance views, and access to the river.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Direct access to the river should be provided wherever public space permits, including existing locations and those that may become available in the future.</p>
	<p>ACTION 3</p> <p>Extended frontage along the riverfront should be protected wherever available, while respecting the rights of private landowners.</p>
	<p>ACTION 4</p> <p>Prevent riverbank erosion by working with property owners and regional authorities to maintain and enhance the river’s edge.</p>

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

Goal 2 - Natural Resource Conservation

A protected and preserved open space that provides Burlington’s Natural Resource System. The significant elements of this system include the Fox River, water features, environmental corridors, regional parks, and the network of local parks, private open spaces, natural areas, and trails.

POLICY	ACTION
<p>Policy 2.1 - Natural Resource Protection</p> <p>Protect and preserve the open space system within the City of Burlington.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Designate lands as needed to identify, protect, and preserve the natural systems and rare species.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Expand and add to the open space system to preserve the natural character of Burlington.</p>
	<p>ACTION 3</p> <p>Update the 2015-2020 Parks and Open Space Plan for the City.</p>
	<p>ACTION 4</p> <p>Conduct a natural resource inventory of the City.</p>
	<p>ACTION 5</p> <p>Protect rare species found in the City by preserving open spaces and natural resources.</p>
	<p>ACTION 6</p> <p>Educate the community on the importance of Burlington’s open space system.</p>
	<p>ACTION 7</p> <p>Utilize techniques such as conservation easements, conservation subdivisions, lot averaging, and purchase or transfer of development rights to protect resources.</p>

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

Goal 3 - Environmental Corridors

Continue to recognize the importance of the designated environmental corridors and isolated natural areas and preserve these areas to the greatest extent possible.

POLICY	ACTION
Policy 3.1 - Maintain environmental corridors Protect and preserve the environmental corridors within the City.	ACTION 1 Follow SEWRPC guidelines in protection of the corridors.
	ACTION 2 Expand and add to the environmental corridors to preserve the natural character of Burlington when available and appropriate.
	ACTION 3 Allow compatible development in environmental corridors when it meets SEWRPC guidelines.
	ACTION 4 Update as needed the existing zoning ordinances and regulatory tools that protect and enhance the City's environmental corridors.

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

Goal 4 - Water and Forest Resources

Protected water and forest resource systems that offer natural habitat and enhances the biological value of the City.

POLICY	ACTION
<p>Policy 4.1 - Water and Forest Resource Protection</p> <p>Protect and preserve the water and forest resources within the City of Burlington.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Protect woodlands and forested areas within and surrounding Burlington as a valuable community resource.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Require proposed projects near water resources to protect the aesthetic, recreational and biological benefits consistent with flood control and water recharge.</p>
	<p>ACTION 3</p> <p>Encourage other agencies to preserve, enhance, and restore wetlands and water resources that are under their jurisdiction.</p>
	<p>ACTION 4</p> <p>Evaluate and limit development near designated woodland and water resources unless sufficient mitigation can be provided to reduce impacts to insignificant levels.</p>

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

Goal 5 - Agricultural and Mineral Resources

Maintain and protect agricultural and mineral resources preserving productive farmland and active quarries especially those near sensitive areas.

POLICY	ACTION
<p>Policy 5.1 - Agriculture and Mineral Resource Protection</p> <p>Ensure that agricultural and mineral resources activities do not create a significant impact to the character and long term health of the City.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Maintain the agricultural base, preserving productive farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Encourage landowners of areas formerly used for mineral resource extraction to donate or lease land no longer needed for mineral extraction to an appropriate public agency for open space, wildlife management or public recreation.</p>
	<p>ACTION 3</p> <p>Continue to require appropriate control measures and best management practices (BMP's) to limit erosion prior to, during and subsequent to new mineral resource extraction.</p>
	<p>ACTION 4</p> <p>Consider resource values prior to approval of land uses that could affect the future availability of the resource.</p>

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

Goal 6 - Parks and Open Space System

Maintain an adequate amount of active and passive park and recreational land to meet current and future recreational needs.

POLICY	ACTION
<p>Policy 6.1 - Maintain Adequate Amount of Parkland</p> <p>Ensure the parks and open space system is adequate for the needs of the current population, the future population, and the environmental conditions of the community.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Acquire 10.5 acres of land, suitable for active recreation, for every 1,000 new residents.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Maintain a set of park classifications to categorize park facilities based on size and function in the community.</p>
	<p>ACTION 3</p> <p>State acceptable characteristics of usable lands in the Parkland Dedication Ordinance to acquire lands suitable for park and recreation use.</p>
	<p>ACTION 4</p> <p>Update the 2015-2020 Parks and Open Space Plan as an implementation tool for the City of Burlington.</p>

POLICY	ACTION
<p><i>Policy 6.2 - Trail Connectivity</i></p> <p>Develop a city-wide, barrier-free, multi-purpose trail system that connects city parks, county and state parks, existing regional trails, and provides access to natural and cultural resources in the community and region for pedestrians and bicyclists.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Establish a trail network to link existing and future parkland and surrounding neighborhoods, schools, and state trails.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Incorporate wayfinding and signage in the parks, trails, and open space system to allow residents, new residents, and visitors to effectively travel throughout the City.</p>
	<p>ACTION 3</p> <p>Coordinate with street developments to provide on-street linkages between trail segments and park facilities.</p>
<p><i>Policy 6.3 - Accessibility</i></p> <p>Ensure that parks and open space, recreational facilities, and programs, existing and proposed, meet the needs of all residents regardless of age, gender, or ability.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Incorporate barrier-free access in all new park facility construction and play areas.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Strive for compliance with accessibility requirements in existing parks and facilities.</p>
	<p>ACTION 3</p> <p>Ensure participation in all programs offered by the Park and Facilities Department is barrier-free and complies to ADA requirements.</p>
<p><i>Policy 6.4 - Funding</i></p> <p>Actively generate and budget funds for park and recreation programs and the development of the park and open space system.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Pursue grant opportunities to allocate to future development and park system upgrades.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Update the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan every five years to maintain state grant eligibility.</p>
	<p>ACTION 3</p> <p>Establish an adequate yearly park budget using the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as a guide.</p>

POLICY	ACTION
<p><i>Policy 6.5 - Maintenance</i></p> <p>Provide a well-maintained parks and open space system for the City of Burlington, the surrounding areas, and visitors to the community.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Incorporate sustainable practices into the construction, maintenance, and operations of Burlington parks and recreational facilities.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Coordinate efforts with School District and other recreation providers to ensure efficient and adequate maintenance of all parks and facilities.</p>

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 7 - Preserve and Protect Burlington's Historic Places

Continue listing properties in the National Register of Historic Places, and designating local landmarks and Historic Preservation Overlay Districts, as a way to recognize and protect the Burlington's important heritage places. With four National Register listings, including two National Register Historic Districts, and one local Historic Preservation Overlay District, the City of Burlington has a track record of recognizing and preserving its heritage.

POLICY	ACTION
<p>Policy 7.1</p> <p>Pursue the designation and recognition of historic and cultural resources identified as historically and architecturally significant through past survey and documentation efforts.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>List new properties in the National Register of Historic Places. Although the City of Burlington nominated the Burlington Cemetery Chapel to the National Register in 2013, there remains an additional 44 properties identified in the 2011-2012 Burlington Historic Resources Survey with the potential for National Register listing (see the implementation chapter for the full listing).</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>List new historic districts in the National Register of Historic Places. While the City has listed one historic complex and one historic district in the National Register in the last ten years identified in the 2011-2012 Burlington Historic Resources Survey, the Historic Preservation Commission should consider prioritizing and planning for listing additional historic districts identified in the survey (see the implementation chapter for the full listing).</p>
	<p>ACTION 3</p> <p>Designate existing National Register properties and historic districts as local landmarks and Historic Preservation Overlay Districts.</p>
	<p>ACTION 4</p> <p>Create an annual work plan to prioritize the Commission's designation efforts. Preparing an annual work plan will allow the Historic Preservation Commission to prioritize future designation activities initiated by the Commission, and can include the identification of potential partners, available funding sources, and project timelines.</p>

POLICY	ACTION
<p>Policy 7.2</p> <p>Protect historic and cultural resources identified as historically and architecturally significant through continued preservation, the Historic Preservation Commission, and documentation efforts.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Utilize the Historic Preservation Commission to protect historic resources identified as historically and architecturally significant.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Enforce protection efforts and document existing historic and cultural resources in order to preserve and recognize Burlington’s important heritage places.</p>

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goal 8 - Community Design and Identity

Enhanced community identity, design, and character of the City's public spaces, streetscapes, plazas, alleys, and corridors by creative, cost-effective placemaking, landscaping, and public art initiatives to enhance social gathering, events, and recreation for residents of all ages and abilities.

POLICY	ACTION
<p>Policy 8.1</p> <p>Focus on the neighborhoods, corridors, transition zones, and community gateway points by preserving, protecting, and enhancing the overall community identity, design, and character of the City.</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>Create a park, plaza, or urban design space that lends itself to creating a special community public space through effective placemaking tools east of Downtown.</p>
	<p>ACTION 2</p> <p>Support future entrepreneurial efforts and public investment in spaces or places north of Downtown.</p>
	<p>ACTION 3</p> <p>Prepare and develop an achievable set of design guidelines or standards that speak to the corridors and organized character zones within the City.</p>
	<p>ACTION 4</p> <p>Implement a long-term strategy to connect community neighborhoods to one another, the Downtown, schools, riverfront, and other community destinations.</p>
	<p>ACTION 5</p> <p>Promote Downtown's unique character through a range of programs that focus on placemaking, improved wayfinding and signage, public art, new business pursuits, building preservation, residential opportunities, and the edges of Downtown transition zones.</p>
	<p>ACTION 6</p> <p>Market the south Downtown Special Plan Area for new mixed-use residential development. Expand the multi-family options in this location and attract potential residents within walking distance to Downtown. Also, promote economic development for private investment in new businesses, expansion of existing businesses, or redevelopment of adjacent parcels and buildings.</p>

