



**Parks and Public Spaces Committee**  
**3930 N. Murray Avenue, Committee Room**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**January 13, 2026**  
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Consider approval of October 15, 2025, meeting minutes
3. Citizens to be Heard – this item is for matters not on the agenda. Discussion may follow comment on non-agenda items or discussion, and action may come at future meetings.
4. [Policy 49 Workplans, Village Initiatives, and Task Assignments](#)
  - a. January 31 – Volunteer Boards and Committees identify prior year accomplishments in the 2025 annual report
    - Information to be submitted by noon December 23; project will be compiled and reviewed and considered by Committee on January 13
  - b. March 1 – Volunteer Boards and Committees submit proposed initiatives to the Village Manager for consideration in the next fiscal year (2027).
    - Deadline noon January 26; proposed initiatives will be compiled and considered by the Committee on February 10 prior to submission
5. 2026 Village Initiative – [Neighborhood Greenways and Traffic Calming Program](#) (Director Griepentrog)
  - a. Review and provide comment on RFP’s scope of services to solicit consultant
6. 2025 Initiative - [Finalize Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan update](#)
  - a. Report progress to date
  - b. Action items
7. 2026 Initiative - [Consider updates to Village Code Ch. 207](#)
  - a. Report progress to date
  - b. Action items
8. 2026 Initiative - [Vision triangle regulations review](#)
  - a. Report progress to date
  - b. Action items
9. 2026 Initiative - [Rational Recreational Rules – Village Code Ch. 466-30](#)
  - a. Report progress to date
  - b. Action items

10. Identification of possible 2027 initiative projects.

11. Staff Liaison Report

12. Adjournment

DATED at Shorewood, Wisconsin this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

**VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD**

Toya Harrell, Village Clerk

Members of the Public are encouraged to participate by submitting questions to [nberzin@shorewoodwi.gov](mailto:nberzin@shorewoodwi.gov) or 414-847-2705 by noon of the meeting date.

It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information; no action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of all individuals.



# VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD

## REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS TO PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES COMMITTEE

---

**Meeting date:** January 13, 2025

**Staff Liaison:** Leeann Butschlick, Director of Public Works

---

**Agenda Item Discussion** – *Please provide a summary of the agenda item along with bullet points highlighting the main items and key issues to be discussed.*

Below, please find a summary of the meeting agenda items for December 9, 2525.

**2. Consider approval of October 15, 2025, meeting minutes.**

Please see attached.

**3. Citizens to be Heard.**

President McKaig has suggested that Committee agendas include language modeled after the regular Village Board agenda item language.

**4. [Policy 49 Workplans, Village Initiatives, and Task Assignments](#)**

This will continue to be a standing agenda item. Please note the following upcoming due dates:

- December 23 noon – prior year accomplishments identified and submitted to staff liaison
- **January 13 – PPS will review and approve submission (please see attached)**
- January 31 – Annual report published
- January 26 – proposed initiatives for FY 2027 must be submitted to staff liaison
- February 10 noon – PPS to review and approve submission
- March 1 - Proposed initiatives for FY 2027 submitted to Village Manager

**5. 2026 Initiative – [Neighborhood Greenways and Traffic Calming Program](#)**

Please see the attached RFP for this initiative. Planning Director Bart Grienpentrog will be present at your meeting to review this document which will be considered by the Village Board's Public Works Committee on January 21, 2026, and the Village Board on February 2, 2026. PPS Committee members may submit comments to Director Grienpentrog prior to that time.

**6. 2025 Initiative – Finalize Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan update**

Attached please find a near-final draft of the 2026 Village of Shorewood Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. As previously reported, the current planning exercise cannot be considered an update of the plan given the time that has elapsed since the 2015 version was finalized. This document satisfies the requirements for a Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and will qualify the Village to submit WDNR grant applications.

Highlights of the document will be reviewed with the Committee. PLEASE NOTE – the document has little to no formatting, this will be addressed in the final version, which will be presented for Committee recommendation at your February 9, 2026, meeting with Village Board consideration to follow on February 16, 2026.

**7. 2026 Initiative – [Consider updates to Village Code Ch. 207](#) (continuation of 2025 initiative)**

This item was submitted by PPS but assigned to the Police Department. No update is available at this time, as a reminder, the Police Chief is awaiting previously requested comments from PPS.

**8. 2026 Initiative – [Vision Triangle Review](#)**

This initiative was assigned to the Planning and Development Department (and Department of Public Works) within the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The Planning Director and Lead Building Inspector have drafted a proposed update as part of the Conservation Committee’s requested modifications to natural lawn regulations, which cross references vision setbacks. They are currently awaiting Village Attorney review and a scheduled time to discuss with the Village Board. Since these regulations appear within the Zoning Chapter, the Plan Commission will be asked to provide a recommendation. The Planning Director will be happy to also provide the draft to the Parks and Public Spaces for comment within the consideration process

**9. 2026 Initiative – [Rational Recreational Rules Project Village Code 466-30](#)**

This item was submitted by PPS but assigned to the Police Department (as time permits). No update is available at this time.

**10. Identification of possible 2027 initiative topics**

The Committee should begin to outline structure for the identification and prioritization of potential initiatives for 2027.

**11. Staff Liaison Report**

---

**Attachments** – *Please list the following attachments and supporting documents for this agenda item. Some attachments may be hyperlinked. Include Fiscal notes, if applicable, as the first attachment following this memorandum. Attachments may include agreements/contracts, presentation materials, letters, service proposals, etc.*

1. October 15, 2025, minutes
2. 2025 PPS annual report submission
3. DRAFT Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



# Parks and Public Spaces Committee Minutes

October 15, 2025 6:00 PM

3930 N. Murray Avenue, Shorewood, WI 53211

## 1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

Members present: Chair Heather Mansfield, Raynie Pero, Ian Berry, Kristin Greenman, Andrew Kaczmarek, Mary Jorgensen, Ruth Williams, Natalie Avallone.

Members not present: Vice Chair Paige Hammond, Sandie Pendleton, Gary Brunk

Others present: Chief Heather Wurth – Staff Liaison

## 2. Consider approval of July 8 meeting minutes

Ian Berry moved to approve, second by Kristin Greenman and the motion carried 8-0.

## 3. Citizens to be heard

Mary Jorgensen (as a citizen) commented about pedestrian safety and pedestrians crossing Wilson Drive without looking at/towards oncoming traffic.

## 4. Review of Policy 49 Workplans, Village Initiatives, and Task Assignments

Heather Mansfield outlined the annual initiative timeline and Policy 49, identifying the January 31 deadline will be for 2027 initiatives. (Heather mentioned that there the subcommittees will be meeting in advance of the PPS meeting). Can the committee meeting be agendized to be a “working meeting” to discuss initiatives?

## 5. 2025 Initiative – Finalize Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update

Heather Mansfield will assist DPW Director Butschlick with research and formatting to address the plan for DNR compliance.

Report (initiative) progress to date:

Chief Wurth awaiting review and feedback from Bike and Pedestrian Safety subcommittee about proposed revisions to Chapter 207.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 78 (related to the towing of vehicles for reckless driving) was signed by the legislature and awaiting signature by Governor Evers, after which initiative will proceed. No established timeline.

## 6. Staff Liaison Report

No discussion on TAPCO demonstration.

Safe Roads Save Lives - Status of Senate Bill 375 (An Act to amend 346.01 (2), 346.02 (12) and 346.43 (1) (b) 1.; to create 346.375, 346.43 (5), 346.575 and 346.60 (6) of the statutes; Relating to: the use of speed safety camera systems and traffic control photographic systems in a first-class city and providing a penalty) noted by the Wisconsin State Legislature is noted as, “10/7/2025 Public Hearing Held.”

Parks & Public Spaces Committee  
October 16, 2025 Minutes

**7. Adjournment**

Ruth Williams moved adjournment, second by Ian Berry. The motion carried 8-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Heather Wurth  
Police Chief

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD  
COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

**Instructions:** To help inform the Village Board on the annual operations, services and activities being performed by all areas of the Village, all volunteer committees are required to complete the following report.

**Name of Department / Committee:** Parks and Public Spaces Committee

**Name of Department Head / Committee Chair:** Heather Mansfield, Chair

**Other Department Managers / Committee Members:**

Paige Hammond, Vice Chair; Natalie Avallone; Ian Berry; Gary Brunk; Kristin Greenman; Mary Jorgensen; Andrew Kaczmarek; Roger Mason; Sandie Pendleton; Raynie Pero; Ruth Williams\* (\*resigned from committee November 2025).

**Identify your most significant department / committee services and activities performed in the past year.**

- Successfully secured funding to continue providing bags to Scoop the Poop
- Continued researching and conversations regarding placemaking in the village
- Continued work on the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan with new direction – more aligned with state requirements for outdoor recreation plans (better positions us for future funding opportunities)
- *Shorewood Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan:* The plan, finalized with Bart Griepentrog's excellent assistance, was adopted by the Village Board without changes on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - OLT Signage: With the Subcommittee's encouragement (as called for in P/B Master Plan § 4.1), new signage was installed by the County along the OLT in fall 2025.
  - Deterring Reckless Driving: Consistent with P/B Master Plan § 11.1, after legislation passed at the state level enabling police officers to impound vehicles in a broader set of circumstances, Chief Wurth and the Subcommittee recommended the Village Board pass an enabling ordinance, which it did on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Reviewing Village Code Chap. 207: As called for in the P/B Master Plan, and with the assistance of Chief Wurth, the Subcommittee made progress in 2025 in reviewing village regulations in VC Chap. 207 relating to the use of micromobility devices on sidewalks (further efforts on this issue are planned for early 2026).
- Complete Streets Policy: The Subcommittee reviewed and suggested improvements to the draft policy by Bart Griepentrog. The Village Board adopted the policy without changes on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
January 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Village Profile

Park and Open Space Inventory

Community Needs

Goals & Objectives

Evaluations & Recommendations

Appendix

A – Park Facility and Amenity Condition Ratings

B – Community Input Sessions Survey Report

DRAFT

## INTRODUCTION

Recreation opportunities and public open spaces represent an important measure of community livability, help maintain neighborhood value, and promote a high quality of life.

In a small and densely populated community such as Shorewood, the creation of a roadmap for long-term management and the ability to position the community to respond to limited opportunities that may arise is of particular importance. Unlike communities that experience a trend of growth and expansion, the population base and municipal boundaries of Shorewood are effectively stable.

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is a strategic document intended to guide park and recreation facility development in the Village. It considers both immediate needs and future concerns relevant to parks, trails, and open space areas. The plan strives to guide preservation and protection of natural and cultural resource features, and support recreation facility improvements among various recreation management entities. It serves as an implementation tool that will enable the realization of a high-quality system of recreational spaces. Each of the plan's recommendations responds to existing conditions and identified recreational needs.

DRAFT

## VILLAGE PROFILE

Located between the shores of Lake Michigan and the banks of the Milwaukee River, the Village of Shorewood was incorporated in 1900. Today, approximately 13,200 people call Shorewood home. The community spans approximately 1.5 square miles and is served by an urban infrastructure and parks system which dates to the early 1900's.

An understanding of the growth and composition of the local population provides an important foundation for the Village of Shorewood Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The demand for recreational opportunities and facilities is influenced, in part, by demographic characteristics. This section evaluates historic trends in population and analyzes characteristics of the residents within the Village and the natural characteristics of their land.

### Social Characteristics

The [US Census, 2023](#) estimated the Village of Shorewood population to be 13,682. This figure represents a population decline of under 2% since 2000.

TABLE 1: Population Trends, Village of Shorewood

1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2020	2023 (latest avail.)
14,116	13,956	13,763	14,155	13,162	13,859	13,603

Data from the United States Census Bureau and US Census Bureau Quick Facts, 2025

The age distribution of a community is perhaps the most referenced population characteristic relevant to future park and recreational demand and needs.

The population of the Village increased by approximately 500 persons between 2010 and 2020. The largest increases were seen in the under 5 and 70-79 age groups. The largest decreases were seen in the 10-19 and 20-29 age groups. The following graph shows the change in age structure for the Village of Shorewood.

TABLE 2: Shorewood Age Group Distribution, 2010 - 2023

Age Group	2010		2023		2010-2023
	Number	%	Number	%	Percent change
Under 5 years	658	5%	924	7%	+40%
5 to 9 years	648	5%	734	5%	+13%
10 to 14 years	777	6%	552	4%	-29%
15 to 19 years	699	5%	529	4%	-24%
20 to 29 years	2610	20%	2111	15%	-19%
30 to 39 years	1669	13%	2317	17%	+39%
40 to 49 years	1716	13%	1654	12%	-4%
50 to 59 years	1859	14%	1531	11%	-18%
60 to 69 years	1347	10%	1736	13%	+29%
70 to 79 years	664	5%	1080	8%	+63%
80 years and over	515	4%	514	%	-.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,162</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,682</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Census Bureau, 2010 and 2023 (demographics by age in most recent American Community Survey)

TABLE 3: Shorewood Ethnicity

White	80.8
Asian	5.3
Mixed	5.3
Hispanic or Latino	4.8
Black	2.3

### Economic and Housing Trends

TABLE 4: Shorewood Labor Force

Residents employed (in labor force)	72.6
Residents unemployed	2.3

TABLE 5: Shorewood Private Sector Economy

Food Service	28.5
Health Care and Social Services	23
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	14.2
Retail	13
Education	5.2
Other	62.9

The total number of occupied housing units within the Village (2020) was 6,635. Although Shorewood is considered a fully built community, it remains likely that the Village will continue to experience an increase in housing units within the rental market. The diversity of housing in the Village of Shorewood is characterized by a high concentration of rental housing (52.3%) in 2020. This trend is largely due to the Village’s proximity to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Downtown Milwaukee and availability of rental housing for young urban professionals. There is a growing demand for multifamily housing among some population sectors who do not wish to own a traditional single-family home. Opportunities for high-quality recreational space may be especially important for these residents.

**HOUSING TABLE HERE 6**

DRAFT

## PARK AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

To the credit of the Village, Milwaukee County, and philanthropic and citizen support, a significant percentage of the public park and open space areas in the community have been established through creative reclamation, conversion, and acquisition efforts. As a result, the Village and partnering interests have successfully assembled a small but varied park system that provides for a variety of active and passive recreational needs.

TABLE 7: Park Development History

Site	Former Use	Primary Recreational Uses
Atwater Park	Lakeshore bluff environment that historically functioned as a "dumping ground" prior to being dedicated for recreational uses	Scenic viewing /Leisure Resting/Public Art Walking, Children's play, Picnicking, Swimming
Hubbard Park	River bluff environment adjacent to the Milwaukee River utilized for private leisure recreation since the late 1800s, and later converted to public use	Scenic viewing /Leisure resting Walking, Picnicking, Beer Garden, Fishing, Canoe/Kayak, Community Events
Humble Park	Former service station (1960s) parcel	Leisure resting
Nature Preserve	Lakeshore bluff environment that represents an assembly of private residential parcels (1979)	Walking, Nature Viewing, Education (Amphitheatre and nature programs)
River Park	Acreage that once housed the Oakland Avenue Railyard (Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company)	Baseball, Soccer, Picnicking, Biking, Walking, Leisure Resting
Triangle Park	Residual residential parcel in the Kensington Heights neighborhood	Leisure resting, Unstructured play
Riparian Trail	Private property	Walking, nature viewing
Estabrook County Park (MKE)	River bluff environment bisected by a railroad spur, and located between a (former) railroad corridor and the Milwaukee River; established in 1936 by the County of Milwaukee, and designed by County Landscape Architect Alfred Boerner	Baseball/Softball, Soccer, Volleyball (sand), Disc golf, Unstructured field-play, Cross-country skiing, Fishing, Walking/Running, Cycling, Picnicking, Nature Viewing, Dog park
Oak Leaf Trail (MKE)	A converted rail corridor(1990s) for recreational use (included in Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan)	Bicycling, Walking/Running, Inline Skating

## Inventory Data

Approximately 136 acres of public outdoor recreation space lies within the municipal boundaries of Shorewood; the Village, the Shorewood School District, and Milwaukee County respectively own and manage this publicly accessible recreation acreage located throughout the community.

TABLE 8: Recreation Facility Management by Location and Area

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	ACRES	CLASSIFICATION	% TOTAL RECREATIONAL SPACE
<b>Village of Shorewood</b>	<b>33.7</b>		<b>24.6%</b>
Atwater Park	6.8	Neighborhood Park	
Hubbard Park	6.1	Neighborhood Park	
Humble Park	0.2	Mini Park	
Nature Preserve	8.3	Natural Area	
Riparian Trail		Trail Corridor	
River Park	5.4	Special Use Park	
Triangle Park	0.3	Mini Park	
<b>Shorewood School District</b>	<b>9.5</b>		<b>7.0%</b>
Atwater Elementary	3.6	School Grounds	
Lake Bluff Elementary	5.9	School Grounds	
High School/Intermediate	6.6	School Grounds	
<b>Milwaukee County</b>	<b>93.6</b>		<b>68.4%</b>
Estabrook	74.2	Community Park	
Oak Leaf Trail	19.4	Trail Corridor	

### *Village of Shorewood Park Facilities*

Though land under its control represents only 24.6% of the total outdoor public space, the Village is traditionally considered the primary provider of recreational venues in Shorewood. Maintenance and improvements to parks are provided directly by the Department of Public Works or its staff plan for and administer capital improvements. The municipal operating budget includes annual funding for park maintenance; infrastructure improvements are planned through the Village's Long Range Financial Plan which identifies funding based upon Village Board direction.

Please see Appendix A for detailed condition assessments for Shorewood parks and open spaces. On average, the conditions of park and recreation amenities are "fair". Amenities that receive a "poor" rating should be prioritized for short-term improvements and upgrades.

### *Shorewood School District Facilities*

The Shorewood School District (SSD), which holds seven percent of outdoor public space, affords opportunities for the community to utilize elementary school grounds and recreational facilities during after-school hours, weekends and summer months. SSD facilities include playgrounds, soccer fields, baseball and softball diamonds, paved play areas, and tennis courts. Athletic fields are generally programmed by the District's Recreation and Community Services Department and are used heavily by local youth sports organizations.

This plan recognizes the critical importance of the recreation options the SSD facilities provide to the residents of Shorewood. The long-term planning for and maintenance of these areas is controlled by the District and while this plan makes no recommendations regarding their use or improvement, it serves to document its many community amenities and acknowledges the importance of continued collaborative efforts to enhance these important community assets.

### *Milwaukee County Park and Trail Facilities*

Milwaukee County maintains jurisdiction over 93 acres of public parks and natural areas within Shorewood's municipal boundaries (68% of the total park and natural space in Shorewood). Estabrook Park and a 1.6-mile off-road section of the regional Oak Leaf Trail provide significant recreational opportunities for Shorewood and regional Milwaukee residents.

As with the Shorewood District recreation facilities, this plan makes no recommendations for the Milwaukee County Parks use or improvement but serves to document their amenities and acknowledges the importance of continued collaborative efforts to enhance these important community assets.

## **Park and Recreation Standards**

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) have traditionally recommended standards to assess demand for park land in urban areas. Historically, NRPA standards recommended a range of 6 to 10.5 acres of developed park land per every 1,000 residents. An analysis of park, open space and school ground acreage reveals that the recreational space within the Village equates to approximately 9.3 acres per 1,000 population. The overwhelming majority of acreage occurs within one park facility (Estabrook County Park).

NRPA standards serve as a benchmark to analyze the deficiencies of a local park system. However, in Shorewood's case, a more representative measure of park quality considers the individual character of site, location, access, maintenance levels, diversity of offerings, and the range of amenities. These characteristics significantly influence the intensity of recreational use to a greater degree than the amount of available acreage.

### *Summary*

In recent years, the level of service offered by park and school grounds in Shorewood has experienced a modest increase. However, it must be recognized that recreational opportunities in the Village depend heavily on upgrades and offerings made possible by the School District and County. While a cursory analysis of parkland acreage indicates that the Village is compliant with traditional standards outlined by the NRPA, it should be acknowledged that (1) school grounds are not available for use during school-hours and during programmed events and (2) that the County must permit regional use of facilities for soccer, baseball and softball. Rising recreation demands will continue to rely on these non-municipal providers for recreational space.

DRAFT

## COMMUNITY PLANNING AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Village of Shorewood most recently completed a Community Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2007. The plan was a product of a collaborative effort by Village residents and stakeholders, the Village's Park and Recreation Plan Steering Committee and private consultant PDI. A 2015 update was completed by Village staff based upon input from the Village Parks Commission and various stakeholders.

### **Previous Planning Efforts**

Since the adoption of the 2015 Park Plan Update, several park and open space-related planning efforts have occurred. These efforts are summarized below:

#### *River District Riparian and Land Management Plan (2019)*

A land management plan was completed in 2019 to address restoration of the bluff along the Milwaukee River extending from Hubbard Park north to E. Capitol Drive. The document provides directions for the management of invasive species and the restoration of the various native habitat areas.

#### *Milwaukee River Greenway Ecological Restoration and Management Plan 2021*

The management plan serves as a blueprint to improve the focus natural areas located within the Milwaukee River Greenway (MRG) Area of Concern (AOC) a more stable ecological state. The plan identifies a number of progressive projects to achieve this goal, including management of invasive species and native plan restoration to bluff areas within Shorewood's Hubbard Park and along the Riparian Trail.

#### *Canoe and Kayak Launch 2021*

Initially identified among the recommendations in the 2009 River Site Restoration Plan, construction of the launch feature was not included in the 2018 Riparian Trail construction due to budget constraints. The launch, constructed in 2022, features a refined version of the original design. In addition to a launch area, improvements include a stone stair feature offering direct access to the water for fishermen and other nature enthusiasts.

#### *Triangle Park Improvements 2022*

Through a collaborative effort by the Parks Commission and the Department of Public Works design concepts were developed for this small, but heavily used neighborhood park. The center flagpole was removed to open usable lawn area, a concrete walkway with bench pads was added for access and additional trees and shrubs were planted.

### *Nature Preserve Land Management Plan 2023*

The volunteer Friends of the Shorewood Nature Preserve was founded in 2022 as advocate for the revitalization of the Nature Preserve. The group successfully raised funds to underwrite the 2023 Nature Preserve Land Management Plan.

The Nature Preserve Land Management Plan assesses the vegetation community, identified areas of concern and areas in need of improvement, includes a trail system design and additional amenities for the preserve and advises the Friends of the Shorewood Nature Preserve on land management activities.

### *Atwater Park Site Circulation Plan (2024)*

A site circulation and landscape plan was completed for the upper Atwater Park area in 2024. The primary goal of the exercise was to provide a connection to the planned on-street ADA parking spaces to be constructed with the 2025 Wisconsin Department of Transportation Lake Drive/STH 32 improvements. This effort also aimed to review and improve the current pedestrian path layout in advance of the replacement of failing hardscape areas that are anticipated to be necessary in the near future.

The final design maintains access for maintenance and emergency vehicles from the north and south entrances of the park to the beach level. The concept includes improvement to pedestrian flow and additional space for amenities including benches and bike racks. It also identifies a location for a relocated flagpole and potential future foot wash station and suggests the addition of hardscape surrounding the Plensa statue at the south end of the park. The Plensa is a popular spot for photos, and the foot traffic has destroyed much of the plant material surrounding the base.

### **Community Needs Assessment**

Work on the current plan was begun by the Parks Subcommittee of the Village's Parks and Public Spaces Committee in 2021 with a review of park features and inventory update. In 2022 through 2024, the Parks Subcommittee led community input sessions and online surveys to gather feedback related to parks and public spaces. Much of the feedback received related to the Nature Preserve and Atwater Park and Beach. Many of the comments have been incorporated into the recommendations found later in this document. Information regarding the feedback is detailed in the Community Input Sessions Survey Report found in Appendix B.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

This section includes a series of goals and objectives that are designed to guide park, natural space and recreational facility development in the Village of Shorewood.

Goals are broad statements that describe general aspirations and desired future outcomes.

Objectives are measurable and specific actions that typically occur within a specified timeframe.

## **GOAL 1: PARK DEVELOPMENT**

A range of recreational opportunities that serve the passive and active needs of citizens and visitors in the Village of Shorewood is supported through facility design and recreational programming.

### *OBJECTIVES*

Ensure that a variety of recreational elements and spaces accommodate the needs and desires of different age groups, accessibility, and skill levels.

Support the development of a detailed site plan for each park or natural space preserve which includes design development, construction drawings, cost estimates and a maintenance budget.

Construct and maintain athletic facilities within existing parks where it is feasible to meet local demands for active sports use and to provide high quality facilities.

Encourage collaboration between the Village and Shorewood School District when facilities of either are contemplated or planned for upgrade so that support may be garnered for potential recreation improvements in these spaces.

## **GOAL 2: PATH ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY**

Pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between parks, regional trails and the Village is enhanced through improved access, trail development and maintenance.

### *OBJECTIVES*

Goals for path access and connectivity are included in the 2024 Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Plan Update, previously reviewed and recommended by the Parks and Public Spaces Committee.

## **GOAL 3: DESIGN STANDARDS**

The standards of park and recreational facility design achieve a high level of aesthetic and functional quality.

### *OBJECTIVES*

Promote a unified design theme appropriate to each park that is represented by signage, fencing, furnishings, lighting, construction materials and techniques, and landscape treatment that is consistent and committed to quality.

To the greatest extent possible, ensure that the design of landscape and ornamental features, such as stairs, walls, entry monuments and paving are of high quality and durable natural materials that remain timeless in their appeal.

Incorporate more extensive use of vegetation in park spaces that contribute to aesthetic appeal, benefit wildlife, and provide greater interest of the ground plane.

#### **GOAL 4: UNDERUTILIZED AREAS**

Underutilized areas of parks -- those which could potentially encourage more intensive use -- are activated through facility upgrades and development.

##### *OBJECTIVES*

Where appropriate, maximize the use of open areas within parklands to accommodate sports fields and associated facilities.

Ensure that public spaces that appear underutilized for recreational purposes are not undermined by issues related to security or the perception of unsafe conditions.

Consider facility development within underutilized areas, as appropriate, for implementation. An emphasis could focus on new recreational amenities that cater to youth and young adult populations.

Encourage public awareness of nature areas, such as the Nature Preserve and the Milwaukee River Greenway trails, for passive recreational uses and natural resource stewardship.

#### **GOAL 5: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

Components of the natural environment associated with park sites and trail corridors are protected, enhanced and restored.

##### *OBJECTIVES*

Protect natural areas of parks that are of high ecological value from future recreational use and facility development.

Ensure that active recreational facilities are designed so that their normal use does not degrade natural resources components.

Actively promote and fund removal of non-native and invasive flora in park areas and corridors that are candidates for ecological restoration.

Restore ecological health in natural areas through planting of native species that contribute to aesthetic qualities and benefit wildlife.

Recognize the importance of environmental features, such as bluff lands, wetlands, woodlands, and shorelands. Implement the goals/projects of the five-year vegetation maintenance plan identified in the River District Land Management Plan.

Ensure stormwater is proactively addressed and appropriately managed to promote protection of local water resources and improve water quality.

## **GOAL 6: CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Historic structures and cultural landscape features are retained and restored to their traditional condition for the benefit of future generations.

### *OBJECTIVES*

Recognize, protect, and rehabilitate unique historic and cultural resources in parks that contribute to the historic character of Shorewood.

Interpret historically significant areas, stories or features in parks through wayside or exhibit signage. These efforts could be supported through collaboration with the Shorewood Historical Society, Shorewood Waters Project and other community groups and stakeholders.

## **GOAL 7: PARK MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance of the park and trail system is supported through appropriate levels of staffing and funding.

### *OBJECTIVES*

Ensure that the Village allocates sufficient funding for maintenance and development of park and natural space sites.

Evaluate maintenance staffing levels and increase as required to provide proper care of park facilities and natural spaces.

Support and promote the Village's donation program to provide opportunities for interested individuals or groups to fund additional or improved park amenities.

Continue use of water wise landscape practices including use of native plantings and natural turf maintenance practices.

Require that park designs consider long-term maintenance costs and water costs.

Provide adequate resources for appropriate athletic field maintenance to ensure safe play and maximize seasonal use.

## **GOAL 8: COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS**

Cooperative relations between the Village and various other entities enables facility development, use and programming.

### *OBJECTIVES*

The Parks Subcommittee of the larger Parks and Public Spaces Committee champions the plan and continues to advocate for appropriate resources to support park improvements and maintenance.

Continue to partner with the Shorewood School District and Shorewood Recreation Advisory Committee; community groups Friends of Atwater Beach, Friends of Estabrook Park, and Friends of Shorewood Nature Preserve; and Milwaukee County Parks and Milwaukee River Greenway Coalition to support community recreation, to facilitate the provision of existing and new recreation uses, and to maximize the value of capital expenses.

## **GOAL 9: SAFE FACILITIES**

Recreational facilities within the Village are perceived as safe environments.

### *OBJECTIVES*

Replace deteriorating recreation equipment and furnishings with items that provide longevity and safe use.

Consider night lighting of park and pathway facilities to increase safety of recreational spaces and improve the perception of safety.

Involve Public Safety Officers in the review of park and trail design plans to ensure that safety issues are appropriately considered.

As warranted, increase Village police presence through bicycle or foot patrols in areas where safety concerns have been identified.

## **GOAL 10: FUNDING**

Economic sustainability and stability of parks is afforded through efficient use of financial resources.

### *OBJECTIVES*

Ensure that sufficient funding of park improvements is allocated for long-term maintenance and operations on an annual basis and to afford opportunities to seek matching monies through grant awards.

Aggressively seek matching funding sources for park improvements through local, state and federal means.

Seek appropriate private and not-for-profit sponsorship opportunities for developing specific features within public parks.

Work with local sports organizations, the Shorewood School District, and Milwaukee County to define mutually compatible facility needs and mechanisms for the development, construction, operation and maintenance of these facilities.

## EVALUATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

This evaluation of park and recreational facilities considers a number of factors, including use levels, facility quality, presence or absence of user amenities, recreational trends, and human observation. Rather than of utilizing a traditional “demand and needs” quantification to evaluate park facilities, this evaluation represents a qualitative appraisal that may be more suited to the conditions and constraints inherent to Shorewood.

### ATWATER PARK & BEACH EVALUATION

#### *UPPER TERRACE STRENGTHS*

**Flexibility of the space.** In general, the upper terrace is simplistic and informal in its design layout. The terrace affords opportunities for self-actualized forms of recreation, such as picnicking, scenic viewing, and walking. The only programmed space is found in the northern area of the park (children’s playground).

**Public Art.** The Spillover II sculpture by international artist Juame Plensa is the centerpiece of a contemplative area in the southern section of the upper park terrace area.

**High visibility and accessibility.** The upper terrace represents the smallest section of the park (approximately the same surface area as a football field) but supports the greatest concentration of activity and use. The average depth of the terrace (street-to-bluff) is 110 feet and therefore allows for good visual access throughout the ground plane. The park is sited along one of the most heavily traveled street corridors in the Village and is viewed by numerous passers-by daily (14,200 vehicles per day, annual average daily traffic, Wisconsin Department of Transportation Traffic Count Map, 2023 latest available).

**Unobstructed views to the lake.** The primary attraction of the upper terrace is the view of the lake and shoreline. Atwater Park is the only public space within the Village that affords unobstructed visual access to these natural resources (the Nature Preserve provides access, but the views are limited from the upper elevations).

**Playground Area.** The upper accessible playground structure is situated in an appropriate location, at the northern end of the park and is a short and convenient distance from the street. As the only programmed space within the upper terrace, the location allows for active play without disrupting more tranquil areas of the park that are utilized for passive uses, such as viewing scenery and sitting.

**Seating wall.** A seating wall of large limestone blocks runs adjacent to the southern portion of the upper path, allowing for leisure activity and enjoying the views of the lake.

**Gate.** A decorative iron gate is located at the base of the stairs adjacent to the gatehouse building and is programmed with an automatic lock to deter access to the beach after the park is closed.

## *UPPER TERRACE OPPORTUNITIES*

**Central space.** The overlook platform (veteran’s memorial), flagpole, paved plaza, and walkways that lead to these elements comprise the primary built features of the upper terrace. This central element is understated and does not serve as a “signature” or compelling feature of the park. The hardscape, specifically the paver area surrounding the planting bed, shows signs of deterioration and should be replaced with higher quality materials more suitable to the location. These issues are addressed in the 2024 Atwater Park Site Circulation Plan.

**High-quality landscape design.** The design details of the park do not generally reflect high quality materials and craftsmanship observed in neighboring private residences. Acknowledging that simplicity of the design allows the natural beauty to hold center stage, understated built features, such as entry monuments, could enhance the function and aesthetic qualities of the park. Features identified in the Atwater Park Site Circulation plan, include new monument signage and building hardscape seating around the Plensa sculpture, due to the popularity of visitors to the park convening here for pictures.

**Uniformity of furnishings.** An accumulated mix of various bench and bicycle rack designs could be unified to provide a more consistent aesthetic.

**Exposure to natural elements.** The park lacks built shade structures that provide protection from natural elements, most notably near the playground.

## *BLUFF STRENGTHS*

**Access options.** Access to the lower beach area is accommodated through two access routes – a direct stairway and a circuitous (switchback) path. Park users may choose which route to utilize and may select a combination of routes that incorporates both path and stairs. The path grade affords an alternative route that is less strenuous than the stairs and is especially appropriate for accessibility based on age or physical ability. The path also allows for maintenance vehicles to access the lower areas of the park.

**Native plant and habitat restoration.** As of this plan’s writing, the Village is implementing an intensive two-year plan to restore and enhance the bluff vegetation. MORE HERE FROM WORKPLAN. The bluff has been a designated Monarch Waystation since 20XX.

## *BLUFF OPPORTUNITIES*

**Pathway experience.** The asphalt pathway (switchback) represents a highly functional element of the park but does not provide for interesting “episodes” along its length. While continual views of the lake and lower beach are afforded throughout the duration of the path, there are no opportunities to sit along the pathway to rest or view the lake environment. The entire stretch of trail is exposed to sun and natural elements, and lower sections of the path pavement exhibit cracking due to soil creep.

## BEACH STRENGTHS

**A welcoming beach.** Nearly 900 feet (approximately two acres) of relatively level sandy shoreline welcomes beach visitors. During the summer season, the sand surface is groomed weekly.

**Seclusion.** The steep backdrop of the bluff provides a sense of remoteness for beach users and affords a somewhat natural experience within the confines of the most densely- developed municipality in the State of Wisconsin.

**Playground and boardwalk.** A boardwalk runs for approximately 75% of the public beach and connects the switchback at the south end of the park to the stairs and leads to the playground area at the northern end of the beach.

## BEACH OPPORTUNITIES

**Additional shade and user amenities.** Sans one boardwalk umbrella shade structure, the beach area is without permanent or semi-permanent (dismountable) structures that would otherwise provide “creature comforts” or “drawing cards” for park users. In particular, there are no shade structures or facilities that afford a retreat from exposure to the sun. While the playground provides recreation for children, there are no other formal recreational amenities provided for other users, such as permanent volleyball nets and concrete table tennis platforms.

**Location of path (asphalt) terminus.** The grade of the asphalt pathway that provides access to the beach (maintenance vehicles and pedestrians) leads to the south end of the beach in a zone that is not highly active by visitors. It is likely that many beach users traverse the bluff via the pathway to the point where it intersects with the stairs, and then continue down the staircase. However, this does not provide a feasible option for small children, parents with strollers, or physically challenged persons.

**Groin rehabilitation.** The three breakwater structures or piers that extend from the beach into Lake Michigan are constructed of stacked concrete masonry units, and exhibit signs of corrosion. While these features were constructed for the purpose of protecting the beach and shoreline from erosion, they are now visually unappealing and detri Figure 12 Atwater Beach ach. The public is prohibited from accessing these structures.

**Addition of a foot washing station.** There is currently no foot wash station in the park or beach area, which invites beach goers to wash their feet in the sink of the bathroom at the top of the terrace, causing maintenance issues. However, the Atwater Park Site Circulation Plan took this feedback received during the 2024 joint Public Engagement meetings and identified an appropriate site for a foot wash station in the plan.

**Continued water quality education.** Use of the beach during the warm season is occasionally hindered by poor water quality following heavy rains. Since 2011, the Village has supported the Shorewood Waters Project which creates fun an engaging events and educational programs to

## HUBBARD PARK EVALUATION

### *DEVELOPED AREA STRENGTHS*

**Non-programmed nature of space and solitude.** The simplicity of Hubbard Park provides a refuge from urban environments and represents a hallmark of this space.

**Unobstructed views and access to the river's edge.** The views to the Milwaukee River corridor from the lower and upper terraces of the park, accompanied by the natural setting of the site, are perhaps the most valued characteristic of the park. Access to the water's edge in the vicinity of the lower terrace and along the nature path allow park users to experience the water resource in an informal fashion.

**Cluster of historic built features.** The grouping of four historic structures and cultural landscape features that embody railroad development and Works Progress Administration efforts from the 1930s represent important components of the built park environment that possess greater potential for interpretation and public uses.

### *DEVELOPED AREA OPPORTUNITIES*

**Pedestrian access from adjacent parks and trails.** Although Hubbard Park may be accessed via tunnel systems (pedestrian and vehicles) that connect to the adjacent neighborhood, there is no direct access between Hubbard Park and the adjacent Oak Leaf Trail or River Park with one exception. In 2014 a Beer Garden was opened between the Hubbard Lodge and the River Club. During hours of operation, a gate is open from the Oak Leaf Trail. There is also no formal pedestrian access from River Park to the lower vehicle (two-tunnel) entrance.

**Inability to "way find".** The linear configuration of park acreage, limited means of accessing the site, and arrangement of paths and buildings is somewhat unordered, and may generate confusion for people that visit the park. In particular, the pathway configuration within the lower terrace terminates at the boat (storage) house, and the nature trail that extends northward along the river's edge often goes unnoticed.

**Dearth of bench seating in lower levels.** Even though the most commanding views of the river occur from the upper area of the park, the lower terrace provides for a distinctive feeling of enclosure and offers a private experience near the water's edge. However, bench seating is limited in this portion of the park.

**Lack of bicycle parking in lower level of park.** There are no bicycle racks located in the lower level of the park or the parking lot. Bicycle racks were added in the upper level as part of the Beer Garden in 2014.

## *NATURAL AREA STRENGTHS*

**Integrity of ecological components.** The presence of mature stands of black oaks, “high order” ground-level vegetation and limited invasion from non-native plant species represents a stable and very uncommon natural environment within the urbanized area of Milwaukee.

**Ability to traverse the river’s edge.** Within the Village of Shorewood, Hubbard Park affords easy access to the Milwaukee River. The nature trail along the river that extends northward to Estabrook Park is also an appreciated resource.

## *NATURAL AREA OPPORTUNITIES*

**Visual presence of the nature trail.** The nature trail, while informal, is only discovered by happenstance. There is no signage or logical connections that enable for ease of wayfinding.

**Unrecognized natural merits.** Hubbard Park supports high order flora, but is not promoted as a special feature of the park.

**Degradation of Milwaukee River Bluff.** The numerous informal paths which have developed on the bluff are contributing to the bluff’s degraded condition including soil compaction and erosion.

## **HUMBLE PARK EVALUTION**

### *STRENGTHS*

**Welcoming entrance.** Serves as a gateway into the community when entering from the southern border of Shorewood, along Oakland Avenue. Entry markers made of brick and ornate iron arches line both sides of Oakland Avenue as well.

**Logical pedestrian access.** Interior paths match pedestrian foot traffic, crossing the space diagonally at Oakland Avenue and Edgewood Boulevard.

### *OPPORTUNITIES*

**Enhanced gateway.** A similarly landscaped gateway feature on the west side of Oakland would provide greater impact.

## **RIPARIAN AREA EVALUATION**

### *STRENGTHS*

**Improved access.** Development of trail provides contiguous public access along the River throughout Shorewood. Provides visual access to ecologically important native plant areas.

### *WEAKNESSES*

**Access challenges.** Remote path sections and the size of pathway prohibit use of most mechanized equipment for regular maintenance and emergency response.

## **RIVER PARK EVALUATION**

### *STRENGTHS*

**Well-maintained sports fields.** River Park provides high-quality facilities for young adult and youth active sports. The park maintains excellent turf play fields (baseball/ soccer) that are irrigated and programmed for both practice and game play. Pesticides are not used to maintain the fields. Support facilities include a picnic shelter, restrooms and a pavilion structure.

**Well-maintained pavilion and restrooms** open to the public during Little League games, offering food and beverages.

**Access to the Oak Leaf Trail.** River Park is easily accessed via the Oak Leaf Trail and provides a direct connection to the Oakland Avenue business district through the southern section of the park.

### *WEAKNESSES*

**Lack of turf area for soccer use.** River Park represents the only Village-managed recreation space that accommodates soccer uses for practice, game play and clinics. At present, soccer is played in the open field area within the western area of the park and is limited to one soccer field. Although public schools provide playfields for soccer league play, school grounds are also utilized by programs managed through the School District Recreation Department.

**Lack of additional ball diamonds.** As the Village's premier baseball facility (Spector Field), River Park provides a high-quality level of service for competitive Little League games. However, the absence of a second baseball diamond prevents consolidation of local baseball activity within a single park site.

**Absence of a circuit pathway system.** Although the existing path affords a direct connection between Oakland Avenue and the Oak Leaf Trail, it does not provide for a circuit that allows park users to access the park from various locations.

**Absence of connection from Edgewood Avenue to the southern park path.** The park does not have a path or sidewalk at the corner of Edgewood and Oakland that goes into the park and connects with the path that leads to the Oak Leaf Trail. Users accessing the park from the south or directly from the east do not enter by way of the center path. Pedestrians and bicyclists entering from Edgewood walk through the parking lot to access the park.

**Underutilized acreage.** The southwest corner of the park is marked by remnants of an earlier park design and includes a covered picnic shelter. A shuffleboard was removed in 2009 to help improve the space. The shelter feature is not fully integrated into the remainder of the park design and is not of high-quality design.

**Lack of diverse park offerings.** River Park provides well maintained active sports fields for youth, but diverse recreation offerings for other age groups is currently limited, such as a playground.

**Feeling of exposure.** The openness of the sports field acreage creates a feeling of exposure to the natural elements. Although the western perimeter of the park is enclosed by a vegetation buffer, the northern area of the park is ill-defined against a backdrop of large buildings or vehicular parking lots.

## **TRIANGLE PARK EVALUATION**

### *STRENGTHS*

**Maximized open space.** Recent improvements, including the relocation of the flagpole, and the installation of a paved walkway have increased open space and access.

### *OPPORTUNITIES*

**Seasonal drainage concerns.** Water often ponds on the south section of public sidewalk following snow melt or heavy rains. The addition of drain tile behind the sidewalk may alleviate this nuisance.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION PROVISION**

Occasions for the acquisition of public acreage for park and recreation use remains limited in Shorewood, however, as land parcels within the Village are redeveloped the opportunity to create new public spaces or pocket parks may arise. As such, this plan places an emphasis on enhancing and encouraging activation of existing public spaces that promotes greater outdoor public uses.

### *GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS*

#### **Natural Resource Restoration and Protection**

The majority of park and open space facilities within the Village are characterized by natural resource components, such as riverine and beach environments, woodlands, wetlands, and bluff features. Major portions of Hubbard Park, Estabrook Park, Atwater Park and the Nature Preserve are designated as Primary Environmental Corridors by the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and are further regulated by State and Federal environmental requirements. Additionally, parklands adjacent to the Milwaukee River are afforded an extra measure of protection and regulation through the Village Shoreland Ordinance (Ordinance No. 1917, October 2006). Therefore, protection and restoration of ecological integrity should remain an important objective of current and future parkland management.

### **Continued and Enhanced Collaboration**

As noted previously, recreational facilities controlled by the Village represent a fraction of total facilities available to Shorewood residents. The majority of land-consumptive recreational uses, such as baseball, softball, soccer and tennis are accommodated within School District and County facilities. This fact demands that the Village approach its park and recreation planning in a collaborative and cooperative manner and consider various options to assist in shared funding and management of extraterritorial recreation venues.

### **Land Acquisition**

The Parks and Public Spaces Committee (through its Other Spaces Subcommittee) has prioritized the identification of opportune spaces to be activated for outdoor recreation. One such space is a currently vacant lot on the northeast corner of N. Oakland Ave and E. Marion Street in the heart of the Village's business district. The Shorewood Business Improvement District has also expressed interest in activating this space for recreational use. Though likely environmental remediation costs must be considered, this parcel should be evaluated for acquisition as park space.

### **Park Funding and Maintenance**

Budgets for park maintenance and development must competitively vie with other operations and capital improvement projects at the municipal, school district, and county levels. While funding of park maintenance occurs on an annual basis, the majority of efforts focus on maintaining the existing level of service. In some parks, amenities have outlived their functional use and need replacement. In 2024 the Village created Policy 45, a Donation Policy that provides structured opportunities for private donations to enhance park user experiences. This policy should be actively and continuously promoted.

### **Trail Connectivity and Design**

The interconnectivity of parks and public spaces is important to ensure all Shorewood residents have access to parks and public spaces regardless of mobility or access to modes of transportation. As such, the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan must work in conjunction with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety plan to encourage multimodal access to all parks and public spaces. Both planning documents must be actively integrated into the Village's long range financial planning efforts.

### **Active Team Sports Fields**

Active sports fields that include soccer, football, baseball/softball, and tennis/pickleball are located in several parks and school grounds. Participants and sponsors of active sports indicated the current number and sizes of fields are insufficient to meet existing and growing interest in activities such as little

league baseball, softball and soccer. While soccer activities may occur within the outfields of baseball diamonds during the fall season, they must forfeit use of ball fields during the spring season when baseball activities commence. This limitation places hardships on soccer uses. In addition, there are no full-size baseball fields which limit the use of any Shorewood parks for baseball competitions.

Additionally, the inadequate quality of the field turf and moderate level of maintenance of Estabrook Park fields is of concern. In 2011 Lake Bluff Elementary fields were redone, eliminating flooding that often occurred on one of the ball fields.

A recent concern for users of our recreational spaces (as well as the trends nationwide) points to the need for additional pickleball fields. There are currently four courts available in the Village, and the Parks Subcommittee has worked with partners and the local pickleball community to develop and advocate for additional court opportunities in the Shorewood area. The Village should continue to actively explore opportunities for field development and collaborative partnerships.

### **Design Quality**

The design of park spaces does not consistently incorporate high quality materials or construction. The apparent variance in the quality and condition of park furnishings, such as lighting, benches, trash receptacles and signage appears to be a result of park development over time. Maintenance of multiple styles results in logistical efficiency and storage/inventory issues. The Village should evaluate opportunities for standardization opportunities.

### **Access to Water Resources**

Water bodies and riparian corridors that abut park spaces in the Village represent a valued resource. While the water's edge is generally reachable by means of paths or trails, there is a need to improve access through trail development, wayfinding signage, and path amenities.

## ***PARK RECOMMENDATIONS***

### **Atwater Park Recommendations**

#### ***UPPER TERRACE***

- Implement the Atwater Park Site Circulation plan design to improve pedestrian access and connections between Lake Drive, the public sidewalk and the on-street ADA accessible parking constructed in 2025.
- Carefully consider the addition of permanent shade/arbor structures (2) at seating nodes located at the northernmost and southernmost areas of the upper terrace. The shade structures should employ high quality materials and design details that are of enduring value and minimize obstructing views of the lake.

- Unify furniture design utilizing the Village’s donation program. Benches and trash receptacles should be affixed to concrete pads that afford greater durability.

#### *ATWATER PARK BLUFF*

- Evaluate options to construct viewing/seating deck overlooks (2) along the outer edge of the pathway. Decks would afford opportunities to rest and provide opportunities for interpretive signage and views along the pathway. Consideration should be given to utilizing temporary (seasonal) canopies that offer shade during summer months of use. Interpretive signage should also be incorporated along the pathway to communicate the social and natural history of the site.
- Continue to support the restoration and enhancement of native vegetation on the bluff.

#### *ATWATER PARK BEACH*

- Install seasonal tensile shade structures for the beach and on new deck platforms to encourage use.
- Complete installation of (2) seasonal above-grade deck platforms along the toe of the bluff south of the bluff stairs and near shade structures to provide a hard-surface for seating or beach equipment storage.
- Support proposed evaluation of beach groin structures.

### **Hubbard Park Recommendations**

#### *HUBBARD PARK DEVELOPED AREA*

Retain a consultant to develop a masterplan for the park, comprehensively evaluating current and potential uses and considering:

- Site circulation improvements, including current and potential connections to the Oak Leaf Trail.
- Identification of appropriate locations for additional site furniture, including benches, bike racks and other items.
- Review of the park lighting system prior to Phase 5 (2029) of the Village’s Street Lighting Replacement Program.
- Wayfinding, educational/interpretive, Milwaukee River Greenway, and entrance signage improvements.
- Landscape enhancements.
- Opportunities for additional historical and cultural education opportunities.

#### *HUBBARD PARK NATURAL AREAS*

- Remove invasive and unhealthy vegetation (such as buckthorn) to improve ecological condition of the bluff and river edge environments, and revegetate with native, fruit-bearing shrubs and trees to

enhance bird and wildlife habitat. Remove hazardous or unhealthy trees to allow for sunlight to reach the ground plane.

- Supplement native vegetation in areas of disturbance, including along portions of the river's edge to discourage Canada geese from accessing the lower turf area. Establish perennial beds and native shrubs to further deter unwanted wildlife.
- Install "restoration in progress" signage in discrete locations along the lower nature trail, thereby discouraging foot traffic along the bluff slope and alerting bikers to consider the ecological sensitivity of the riverine environment.
- Protection of ecologically significant plant community which includes endangered species. Area directly north of Hubbard Park should be managed as a sanctuary so as to protect one of the few remaining high quality plant community remnants in Southeastern Wisconsin.

### **Humble Park Recommendations**

- Explore the option to create a landscaped area along west side of Oakland Avenue across from Humble Park to enhance Shorewood's southern gateway.
- Evaluate street furniture condition and schedule replacement as warranted.

### **River Park Recommendations**

Retain a consultant to develop a masterplan for the park, comprehensively evaluating current and potential uses and considering:

- Site circulation improvements, including along the western edge and the connection to Hubbard Park.
- Identification of appropriate locations for additional site furniture, including benches, bike racks and other items.
- Review of the park lighting system prior to Phase 5 (2029) of the Village's Street Lighting Replacement Program.
- Evaluation of playscape and space needs, including playground equipment and feasibility of a skate park.
- Consider reconstruction/relocation of the aged open shelter building.
- Wayfinding and entrance signage improvements.
- Landscape enhancements.

### **Riparian Trail Recommendations**

- Review recommended improvements in the River District Riparian Land Management Plan, evaluate funding opportunities and incorporate projects as appropriate into Village's Long Range Financial Plan.

- Monitor trail erosion and develop long-term strategies to mitigate and maintain.
- Continue to support River Greenway Ecological Restoration and Management Plan objectives.

### **Triangle Park Recommendations**

- Complete previously identified drainage improvements.
- Continue to maintain trees in mowed areas east of the pedestrian walkway.