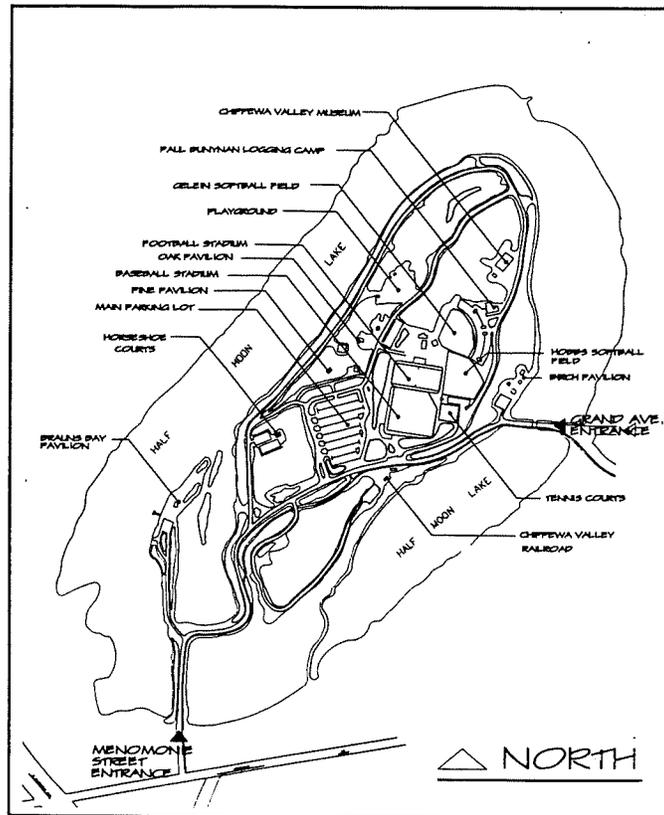


CARSON PARK



MANAGEMENT PLAN

September, 1997

Carson Park Mgmt. Plan Citizens Committee
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Community Development

September 1, 1997

TO: Eau Claire City Council
Eau Claire Plan Commission
Waterways and Parks Commission

FROM: Carson Park Management Plan Citizens Steering Committee

SUBJECT: Carson Park Management Plan

The Carson Park Management Plan Citizens Steering Committee in conjunction with the City of Eau Claire Departments of Parks and Recreation and Community Development are pleased to submit this copy of the Carson Park Management Plan for your consideration. The plan has been developed over the past twelve months at the request of the Commission. It is based on an extensive review of the park's resources and facilities as well as consideration of user input about the facilities available within the park.

Based on this review, the Committee has identified a number of issues and concerns pertaining to the existing and future utilization of the park. In response to these issues, a mission statement and listing of goal statements were developed to help formalize the City's intentions relative the future utilization and development of the park. Finally, a series of recommendations which address these issues are set forth by the Committee for consideration by the City.

The Committee has appreciated the opportunity to study Carson Park and make recommendations regarding its future role in the community. The Committee feels that Carson Park is truly unique as no other park offers such a mix of cultural, educational, historical and recreational activities.

We hope this work serves as an important step in the continued upkeep and preservation of Carson Park for future generations to enjoy!

**CARSON PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN CITIZENS
STEERING COMMITTEE**

Representative

Gary Bartlett
Tom Bouchard
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UW-Eau Claire
Environmental Representative
Member At-large
Member At-large
Convention & Visitors Bureau
Eau Claire School District
Chippewa Valley Museum
Chippewa Valley Railroad
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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The Carson Park Management Plan Citizens Steering Committee was appointed by the Eau Claire Waterways and Parks Commission at the direction of the Eau Claire City Council in January of 1996. Members of the Committee included representatives of the permanent park tenants, organizations such as the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and Eau Claire School District, neighborhood associations and citizens having various backgrounds and interests in the park. The Committee was given the charge of developing a long-range plan for the Carson Park providing recommendations to the City relative to its future utilization and development. The City Council directed the Waterways and Parks Commission to develop this plan to help establish policy and direction for the City as to how the resources of the park are to be utilized and managed, as well as what level of development and activities should be allowed to take place in the park.

In taking on this charge, the Committee incorporated the following components into the development of the management plan for the park:

- development of background information
 - an overview of the park environment and facilities
 - input from citizens of the community, park tenants and park users;
- identification of issues and problems existing relative to the park;
- mission statement for the park;
- long range goals relating to future utilization of the park;
- recommendations needed to carry out the "mission" of the park and address issues identified by the public and Committee.

The city of Eau Claire has much at stake in Carson Park not only because of its continued commitment to provide high quality facilities within the park, but because it also is an integral part of the form and image of the city as a whole. Because of this, Carson Park is unique to the other community parks within the city of Eau Claire. Its diverse natural environment and mix of activity areas make it the most popular and well used park in the City's park system. In addition, the park is a popular attraction for visitors from out-of-town because of the presence of facilities such as the Chippewa Valley Museum, Paul Bunyan Camp, Chippewa Valley Railroad, as well as the baseball, softball and football complexes.

Therefore, development of a management plan for Carson Park is important in order to balance all the needs and demands placed on the park and its resources by the various activities and users. In addition, the plan will assist the City in being able to respond in both a timely and appropriate manner to requests which might affect the future character of the park.

BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

Overview of Park Environment and Facilities. Carson Park is approximately 134 acres in size. It is the City's oldest, largest and most popular community park in the city. Since the park is so large and diverse, the Committee's initial task was to compile information pertaining to the park's environment and facilities. Information gathered to assist the Committee in accomplishing their charge included such items as: soils, vegetation, wetlands, topography, current land uses, location of existing buildings and facilities, identification of picnic areas, trails and pathways, identification of major activities occurring within the park (major picnics, events, celebrations, etc.), location and number of parking spaces, a visual analysis of the park, identification of land uses surrounding the park and Half Moon Lake, etc.

This information has been an integral component of the Committee's analysis of park issues and in the process of formulating recommendations. Information compiled is quite extensive, and in order to condense this material as much as possible, much has been summarized on maps which can be found in Appendix A. Detailed narratives of much of this information is available from the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

Input From Citizens, Park Tenants and Park Users. Input from community, as well as park users and park tenants, was compiled to assist the Carson Park Management Plan Steering Committee with the identification of issues, problems, and strengths relating to the current facilities at Carson Park and in assessing the current management of the park. This information was also of assistance as the Committee discussed future facility needs for the park and community attitudes about such changes.

The survey information gathered for the Committee was compiled from four different user groups, each having some interest or stake in the park. A summary of the survey findings can be found in Appendix B. The following is a general overview of this information:

A. Community-Wide Survey

In May and June of 1996, 1,000 randomly selected households received a questionnaire by mail pertaining to Carson Park. Response to the survey was excellent as 454 surveys were included in the tabulations. An additional 30 to 40 surveys were returned after tabulation of the results had started.

The objective of this survey was to obtain information pertaining to: use of the park, opinions on park maintenance, opinions on operation and management, and opinions on the current and future levels of development within the park. Generally, the results are shown in the format of the questionnaire which was completed by each respondent.

B. Carson Park User Survey

This survey involved the sampling of opinions of those persons that visited either the Paul Bunyan Camp, Chippewa Valley Museum, Chippewa Valley Railroad or the Carson Park Baseball Stadium. A total of 218 persons were surveyed. These persons were asked to fill out a short one-page questionnaire while they were visiting one of the four facilities listed above.

Questions on this survey related to: location of residence, whether this was their first visit to the park, difficulty in getting to the park, and various questions about park facilities and maintenance. Included with the survey results are several cross tabulations which provide a more detailed analysis of the results.

C. Carson Park User Group Questionnaire

This portion of the survey information provides a summary of the input received from various groups and organizations which use the park on a regular basis. Input was requested from approximately 27 groups and 10 groups submitted responses. A listing of the groups which returned questionnaires is included. Although the response rate was not high from these user groups, it was felt that most of those groups which did not respond chose not to respond because they were generally satisfied with the park and its facilities.

D. Carson Park Tenant Interviews

Finally, interviews were conducted with the four primary tenants of the park to obtain comments from these organizations regarding park maintenance, park management and discuss long-term plans of each organization. The four tenants interviewed included: the Chippewa Valley Museum, Paul Bunyan Camp, Chippewa Valley Railroad and the Eau Claire Horseshoe Club. In addition, each tenant was asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their opinions about the park.

***ISSUES AND
PROBLEM
IDENTIFICATION***

ISSUE AND PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

The Steering Committee identified a number of issues and problems relating to the utilization, upkeep and management of the facilities and areas within Carson Park. The majority of these issues became evident upon review of the community, user and tenant surveys, while Committee members also discussed and added to this listing. Upon identification of the issues, the Committee then prioritized each by their perceived importance relative to the park.

The following is a listing and brief description of the problems and issues identified by the Steering Committee. They are listed in general order of importance as determined by the Committee. A complete listing of the comparative priorities given these problems by individual Committee members can be found in Appendix C.

Overall Park Maintenance. This issue relates to the need to provide a high level of maintenance throughout the park. The park is the "flagship" community park for the city and is a destination of many people from outside the community. Therefore, the need for a high level of maintenance is important in order to project a positive image of the community as a whole. In addition, the park is the most heavily used park in the city, thus, requiring higher levels of maintenance to keep the facilities in good condition and presentable.

Park Maintenance and Capital Upkeep. In order to keep Carson Park in good condition, the community needs to make a long-term commitment to fund adequate levels of maintenance for the park and providing funding for upkeep of the facilities within the park.

Shoreline Development Opposite Carson Park. The City established a policy years ago of attempting to acquire the land along Half Moon Lake opposite Carson Park. As the City continues to acquire this land, development of this land for open space use should be undertaken while considering its impact and relation to Carson Park, as well as maintaining public access along the "outer" shoreline of the lake.

The City should also consider the acquisition of land along Menomonie Street, west of the Dairy Queen property. This property could be used to enhance the entry into the park and continue to provide overflow parking for the park.

Aesthetics of the Development Within the Park. The Committee feels that an issue exists pertaining to the design and appearance of buildings and facilities developed within the park. Any development occurring should enhance the appearance of the park and "fit" with the character of the park.

Development vs. Natural Areas. This issue relates to the balance maintained between development and natural areas within the park and the resultant character or perception people have of the park based on the level of development which is permitted to occur. Does the community wish to maintain the current balance or mix between those portions of the park with area left in a natural state and those areas which are developed in some manner? A related factor

to this issue is mix or type of development occurring within the park. This can range from the very active areas such as the athletic fields, parking lots, playgrounds and permanent facilities to the more passively developed areas, such as the picnic grounds and trails.

Management of the Park. Carson Park is Eau Claire's most used and most popular community park. In addition, it also is a popular attraction for visitors from out-of-town because of the Museum, Paul Bunyan Camp and Chippewa Valley Railroad, as well as the park's scenic beauty and variety of activities. Therefore, the focus of the City's management of the park is an important consideration as whether this focus is towards the local use of the park as a community park, towards the out-of-town visitors who view the park as a tourist attraction or to include both aspects of the park's use. This has implications relating to signing, advertizing, design and scale of development, maintenance, etc.

Restroom Maintenance. Community survey responses indicate dissatisfaction with the maintenance of existing restrooms in the park. Restrooms at the baseball stadium were mentioned most frequently.

Management of the Trees. Carson Park has a wide variety of trees growing within the park. The majority of these trees have been growing since the early 1900s once the logging era declined. The issue regarding the trees is whether this resource should be managed or left to continue to mature without any intervention. This would include areas such as in the vicinity of the Chippewa Valley Railroad where there was significant damage to the trees from the storm of 1980.

Availability of Restrooms. Responses from surveys and comments from park tenants identified the need for more restrooms throughout the park. Attitudes towards whether the use of portable toilets would be acceptable were mixed on the surveys.

Park Vandalism. Vandalism within the park is a concern both for City facilities and activity areas, but also of the tenants located within the park. Costs associated with trying to minimize vandalism and repair damage which is done is a concern.

State Bike Trail Connection. The State Bike Trail extends along the Chippewa River to the south of Menomonie Street within close proximity to Carson Park. Plans should be developed to make a trail connection between the existing trail and the park in order to provide better access to the park by use of bicycle. Access to the City's proposed trail system to the east of Half Moon Lake should also be incorporated into the City's trail plans.

Survey responses and comments from park tenants also note a need to improve pedestrian accessibility between the Chippewa Valley Museum/Paul Bunyan Camp area and the picnic/playground area to the west. A trail connection between these areas would address this need.

Directional Signage Within the Park. Several Committee members expressed concern over the need for additional and improved directional signage within the park. Those visiting the park for the first time would benefit most from this type of sign system.

Directional Signs to Get to the Park. The issue was raised as to whether there is adequate directional signs provided for out-of-town visitors wishing to visit such facilities as the Chippewa Valley Museum, Paul Bunyan Logging Camp or Chippewa Valley Railroad. Survey information indicate that this was not an overwhelming concern of those visiting the park from out-of-town, but a small percentage of people did note a concern. The City does provide directional signs for Carson Park on arterial streets throughout the city. In addition, the State has developed a signing program for museums and historic sites called the Wisconsin Heritage Sign Program which has not been implemented in Eau Claire because of conflicts with the City's sign ordinances.

Number of Major Events Held. Community survey responses note that having several of the major events within the park (i.e., 4th of July, Festival in the Pines, etc.) has been a good use of the park and has been good for the community. However, if additional events such as these are added to the park use in the future, at some point, this may become an excessive use of the park and not in the public interest to commit the park to this restrictive type of utilization.

Park tenants noted that additional major events which close access to the park would have an affect on their operations and attendance. Therefore, adding more major events could be an issue.

Handling Traffic for Major Events and Festivals. Three different traffic-related issues were identified relative to having major events or festivals held in the park. Such events would be those such as Festival in the Pines, 4th of July and Sawdust City Days where access to the park is restricted and controlled in some manner. Also on a more limited basis, events such as the Buckshot Run has restricted access to the park for a more limited time-frame. Traffic related issues include:

- Accessibility of the regular tenants within the park (i.e., Chippewa Valley Railroad, Chippewa Valley Museum, Paul Bunyan Logging Camp and Horseshoe Club) for those not wishing to attend or participate in the special event. Restricted access of the park for the major events has had some affect on the number of people visiting these different facilities (particularly the Museum and Paul Bunyan Camp.) However, surveys and interviews do not indicate a major disruption because of these events, nor have any of the permanent park tenants indicated that major events should be eliminated from the park. Although, as noted above, scheduling additional major events in the park may be a concern with these tenants.
- Entrance to the park for major events. Lake Street currently serves as the entrance to the park for major events, with traffic exiting out to Menomonie Street. An alternative of routing traffic into the park from Menomonie Street was mentioned. Menomonie Street is an arterial street and has more direct access to Clairemont Avenue and Interstate 94.
- The issue of parking demand was discussed relative to major events which are scheduled in the park. Historically there has been insufficient parking spaces within the park to accommodate all those attending the major events and busing has been utilized to address the issue. In addition, the property west of the Dairy Queen property has been used for over-flow parking. The Committee discussed

whether this current arrangement is satisfactory or whether additional parking should be provided within the park.

UWEC Homecoming. The UWEC football team has traditionally held their homecoming football game at Carson Park. In addition to the game, students and other persons have "celebrated" in the parking lot before, during and after the game. This "gathering" has resulted in concerns about underage drinking, overdrinking, possible injury to those attending, costs of crowd control and damage to the park facilities.

Ability to Maintain Football Field Condition. The Committee raised the concern as to whether a natural turf football field could be kept in good playing condition even with the improvements made to the field in 1996. Three high school and one college football teams will again be playing on the field in 1997. In addition, the School District is considering the construction of another high school which would add another football team, and community officials have been attempting to attract a professional football team to the area during the pre-season.

Marketing of the Park. Marketing of the park was an issue identified by the Committee. At the present time, marketing or promoting the park is done in somewhat of a piece-meal fashion. Efforts have been limited to the individual park tenant's promotion of their particular facility. The City does not have a brochure providing an overview of the facilities at the park.

Telephones. Survey information indicates concerns regarding the number, location and visibility of telephones within the park.

Park Road Condition. Survey responses and comments from park tenants note the need to repair some of the roads within the park. The road in poorest condition provides access to the Chippewa Valley Railroad. Committee members also noted that the traffic volumes on Carson Park Drive need to be monitored as this road is not only used to access the park, but as a thru-route by some motorists.

Nature Trails. The issue was raised regarding the usage of the wetland area located in the southern portion of the park. The City used to maintain a series of nature trails and boardwalks located in this area which is a low, marshy portion of the park below and south of the bluff-line from the Chippewa Valley Railroad. The storm of 1980 caused damage to this portion of the park and the trail system was never repaired.

Bicycle Racks and Related Facilities. Survey findings and Committee comments indicate a need for additional bicycle racks within the park. Such facilities are needed currently but even more so as connections to trail systems outside the park are made.

Picnic Pavilions. Survey information indicates that there may be a need for additional picnic pavilions in the park. Also, the question as to whether additional picnic areas should be developed was also raised by the Committee.

East Entry of the Park. The Soo Line Locomotive #2719 which was located at the top of the hill at the Lake Street entry of the park was recently moved out of the park. The locomotive helped serve as a focal point for this east entry. The Committee feels that future utilization of this area should be a consideration due to its high visibility.

User Surveys. The need for up-to-date park user information was identified. In order to provide facilities and activities which are geared to the needs of the park users and community, it is important that the City continue to survey park users about their feelings concerning the park and about types and frequency of use.

Concessions. The issue exists as to whether some form of additional food concessions should be available within the park. At the present time, concession-type foods and refreshments are available at the athletic fields only when events are in progress. In addition, the Chippewa Valley Museum provides food and beverages at their facility.

Winter Road Closing. Several of the roads within the park are closed during the winter and are used for cross country skiing during this time period. Closing the roads restricts access to those portions of the park for a segment of the population which does not have access to or wish to cross country ski. The acceptability of closing these roads for a portion of the year was identified as an issue by the Committee.

***MISSION
STATEMENT
AND GOALS***

CARSON PARK MISSION STATEMENT

Carson Park is Eau Claire's largest and most popular community park in the City's park system. It is to be thought of as a park for everyone and project a strong positive image for the City's park system as well as for the entire community. Its mission is to provide both a natural and developed environment while providing something of interest for both residents of the city, as well as those visiting Eau Claire through a mix of cultural, educational, historical and passive and active recreational activities.

GOALS

It is the goal of the Parks and Recreation Department to manage the park in a manner consistent with the current mix of uses within the park.

Both the developed and natural areas within the park are important. Existing natural areas will not be encroached upon by existing or proposed development, nor will existing developed areas be eliminated for the purpose of adding natural areas to the park.

It shall be the goal of the City to manage, protect and enhance the diversity and abundance of the natural resources within the park and to ensure that facilities within the park continue to meet the needs of its users.

Through cooperation with user groups, developed portions of the park will be maintained at a very high level. The City shall provide the highest standard of maintenance on the athletic facilities and other high use areas in the park.

The park and the facilities within the park will provide a safe environment for those people using the park.

It is the goal of the City to provide access for the public to the facilities in the park at a reasonable cost. With the exception of concession stands and fund-raising special events, it is not intended that the facilities in the park will be managed as revenue producing facilities.

The City through the Parks and Recreation Department shall encourage the use of the park for a variety of special events balanced with the need to allow access to the park and park facilities or attractions by the general public.

Design and appearance of development occurring in the park shall be of high quality and be compatible with the historical character and aesthetics of the setting within the park.

Park users, tenants and the City shall work together to foster a continued appreciation of Carson Park and Half Moon Lake and promote the park and lake as a rich multi-purpose resource.

The City shall ensure that development along the Half Moon Lake shoreline opposite of Carson Park, which includes Rod and Gun Park and Half Moon Beach, has a functional relationship with the activities and environment within Carson Park.

PLAN
RECOMMENDATIONS

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

As stated previously within this plan, Carson Park is one of the our most valuable and unique resources. We must all serve as stewards of the park in order for future generations to continue to enjoy this resource. The actions and policies set forth herein have been recommended by the Carson Park Management Plan Steering Committee as a basis to implement the “mission” set forth within this plan for Carson Park and provide direction for the City as to how the resources of the park should be utilized and managed. In addition, a number of these actions, when implemented, will address issues and problems identified by the community and Steering Committee.

Management of the Park. Responses from the community survey provide a strong statement that the community likes the current mix of uses within the park and do not want to see dramatic changes. It was also evident that the “dual” function of the park, both as a community park and as a destination for out-of-town visitors, is well accepted by the community.

In addition, the community expressed strong feelings about the current mix of developed areas within the park versus those areas which have been left in a natural state. Responses to specific survey questions regarding this issue indicate that people would not like to see existing activity areas eliminated in order to expand the natural areas nor should more activity areas be added or expanded at the expense of the natural areas of the park. In summary, the community seems very comfortable with maintaining the “status quo” in Carson Park.

Therefore, it will be the objective of the City to manage the park in a manner to promote the current mix of uses, facilities and activity areas within the park. Local use for the park by citizens of Eau Claire as a community park and its utilization as a tourist destination are both important roles that the park shall continue to play.

In addition, proposals which would result in any significant changes in the use of areas or facilities will not be supported by the City if such proposal would result in a change in the current balance in the amount of natural areas within the park. These areas include those kept in a relatively undisturbed state and those areas where the tree growth has been kept but the ground cover is maintained and cut to allow activities such as picnicking.

To assist in the future management of Carson Park, the park has been divided in management areas. Creation of these areas is not meant to change current management practices within the park, but better delineate varying use areas and illustrate where the City’s management philosophy changes from one portion of the park to the next. Management within each area will vary depending on:

- the vegetation management practices prescribed for that portion of the park;
- the type of activities and facilities located the area;

- the focus of that area towards a community park orientation or a tourist destination orientation.

Map 1 provides a general breakdown of the three general management areas within the park. The first of the three areas includes the natural areas of the park which are those areas where little to no development has occurred and areas along the Half Moon Lake shoreline. The second area includes those portions of the park where the tree growth has generally been retained but groundcover has been converted to a maintained turf. The picnic grounds, pavilions, restrooms and playgrounds are located within these areas.

The remaining area is where the highest level of use and development has occurred. The athletic fields, stadiums, major parking lots and permanent park tenants are located here. Community input indicates that the current level or intensity of the development in this sector of the park is appropriate and can be generally accommodated by existing parking, restrooms and other support facilities. Based on this finding, any new major facility or additional park tenant proposed for this sector of the park will not be supported unless such new use is a replacement of an existing facility or active use area within the park.

Within each of the management areas, it will be the objective of the City to provide maintenance and services appropriate for the current level of use and activity occurring in the respective area. In addition, only those uses, activities and facilities appropriate for a respective area will be allowed.

Long-term Capital Upkeep. Survey responses and Committee input strongly document the importance of Carson Park to Eau Claire not only for the recreational opportunities and natural environment it provides within the heart of the city, but also because of the image the park projects for the entire community. The park is unique in that it is not only the most popular community park within the city, but it is also one of the most popular destinations in Eau Claire for visitors from out-of-town. The City has recognized the importance of the park and has demonstrated its commitment to the park in recent years by upgrading facilities such as the baseball stadium, football stadium, playground, Braun's Bay fishing pier and main parking lot through the utilization of funds from a variety of sources, in addition to the funds appropriated by the City. It is recommended that the City continue this commitment in upgrading park facilities and providing a high level of maintenance in order for future generations to enjoy this resource.

Park Vegetation. There are a variety of benefits we derive from the diverse vegetative cover in the Carson Park complex. These include soil erosion control, moisture retention, weather moderation, air pollution filtration, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunity, visual aesthetics and even wood products. In order to realize a mixture of all possible Urban Forest benefits and ensure that they will be forthcoming on a continuous and sustained basis, Carson Park has been divided into five distinct management systems (see Map 2) which include the following:

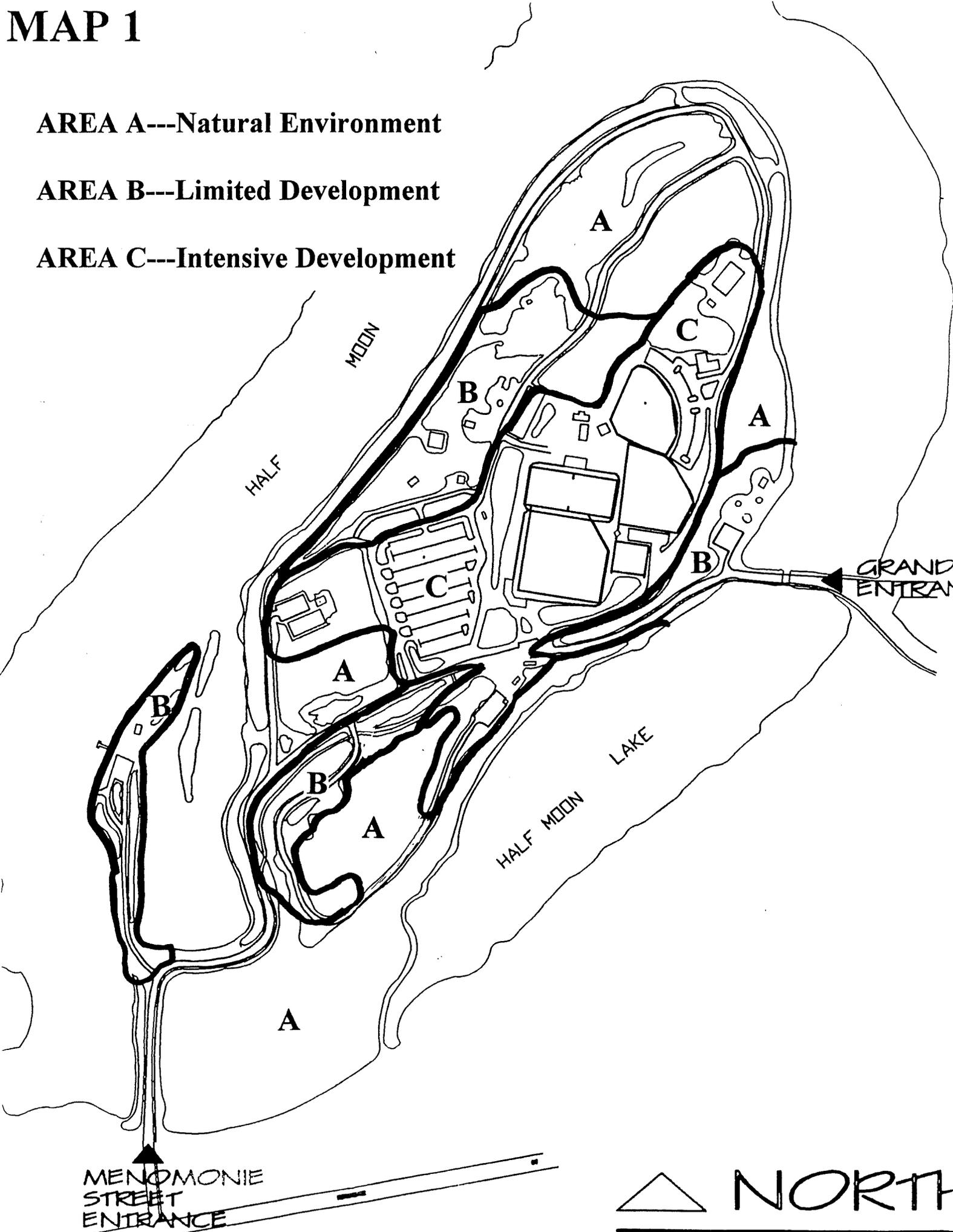
- I. Natural/undeveloped
- II. Exotic
- III. Wooded/maintained

MAP 1

AREA A---Natural Environment

AREA B---Limited Development

AREA C---Intensive Development

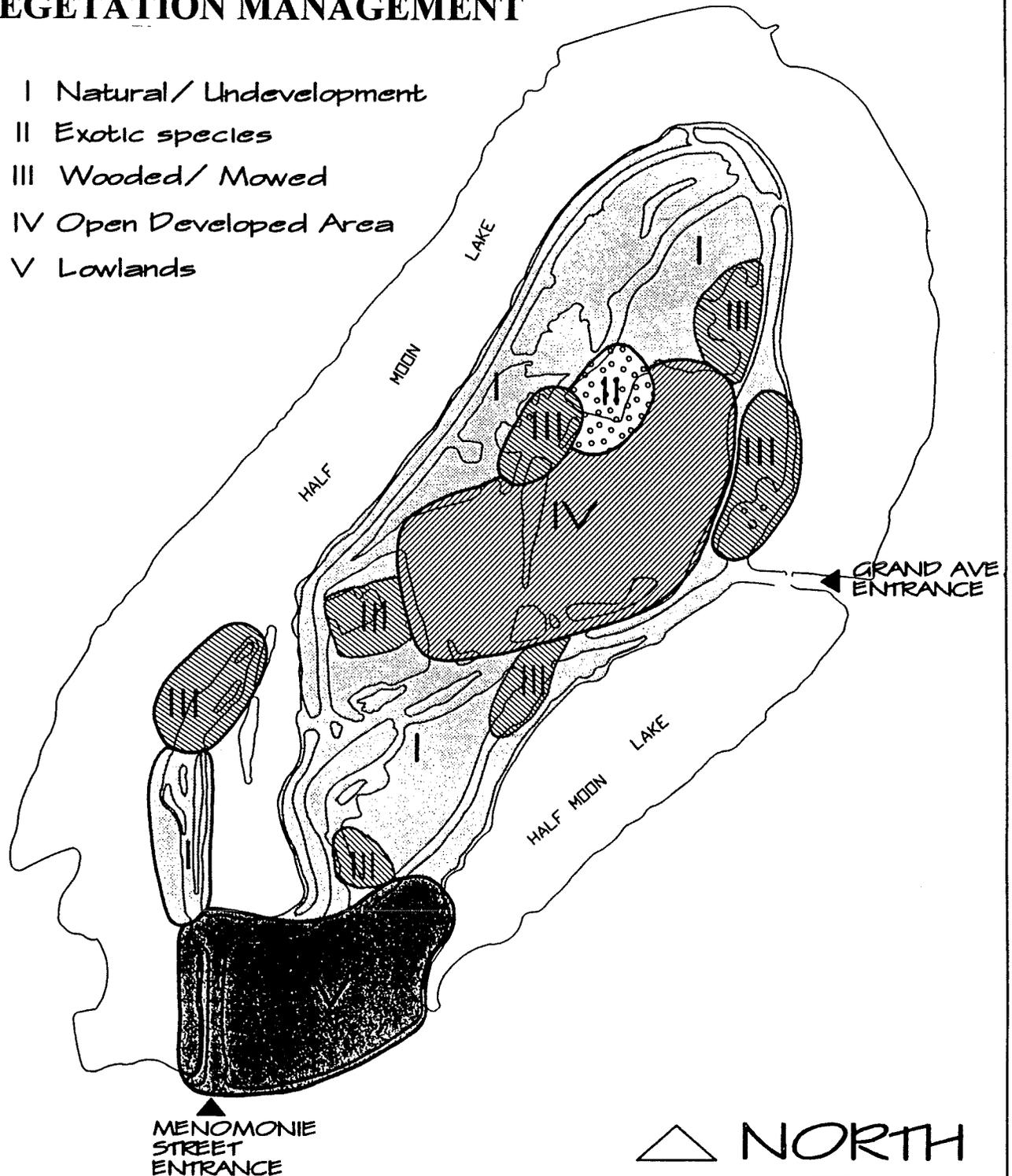


CARSON PARK MASTER PLAN

MAP 2

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- I Natural/ Undevelopment
- II Exotic species
- III Wooded/ Mowed
- IV Open Developed Area
- V Lowlands



- IV. Open/developed
- V. Lowland/wetlands

The vegetative composition of each system reflects land use, both past and present, as well as soil capability and limitations (see appendix.) To provide optimum benefit levels for this resource, we must develop special management criteria for each system. At the same time we must remain cognizant of the fact that one system does not exist in isolation from another and that we, as stewards, must be sympathetic to the entire resource so that a healthy balance of use and protection can be maintained. Although different, each management criterium reflects a goal to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and resource maintenance aimed at the continuous social, economic and environmental benefits for our residents.

The following is a summary of each management system within the park:

Area I - Natural/Undeveloped

The state of Wisconsin has two distinct plant provinces, i.e., the Prairie Forest Province of the South and the Northern Hardwood Province. These two provinces are separated by a narrow zone that contains vegetative members of both. This zone is called the "Tension Zone" and serves as the northern most and southern most boundary of many Wisconsin species. The Carson Park complex lies within the tension zone and the vegetative species in the natural/undeveloped area reflect this presence (see appendix).

Although Area I is labeled as natural, a more fitting term may be undeveloped. Most of the larger over story pines and spruces now existing in this portion of the park were planted approximately 60 to 70 years ago by farsighted and caring superintendents. The numbers and size of these trees are quite fitting in a park named after one of the fathers of "Sawdust City", William Carson. The great White Pines of Carson Park now stand as living monuments to our city's lumbering history. They deserve to be managed for both their historic value, as well as their aesthetic prowess.

Within this system there are many areas that must receive site protection constraints. These are very sensitive areas with fragile ecosystems. Vegetative cover can easily be disturbed because of their existence on steep slopes, shorelines, wetlands, rock out crops and shallow soils. Wildlife habitat is also a prime concern here. Therefore, use or development within these areas should be minimal with only those uses with provide limited disturbance being allowed. The vegetative corridors between roadways and the Half Moon Lake shoreline fall into this sensitive category and our management should reflect this. Recommended management goals are as follows:

- minimal disturbance of ground cover
- preservation of the cover in areas where ground cover is void or sparse
- maintenance of tree and ground cover on slopes over 25%

- planting of appropriate species where needed to maintain a consistent over story and soil stabilization
- perform silvicultural practices as necessary to provide for tree health and vigor
- provide for inspections to prevent hazards/disease and insect control
- vistas shall be maintained, but cultural work done to trees should yield a natural appearance to the landscape

Interior to the perimeter road lie less sensitive natural grounds. Species diversity is quite extensive for both vegetative cover and wildlife. This area north of the playground and interior to the perimeter road should be managed and preserved in the most natural state possible. This parcel is small but unique to a community park with such intensive recreational activities. The natural attributes of this landscape are worthy of special consideration. Management goals on this site should provide for sustained educational scientific and aesthetic benefits and are recommended as follows:

- Provide for disease and insect control only if the area is significantly threatened or if pest activity may threaten other areas of the park.
- Provide no silvicultural treatment; but allow the stand to progress naturally toward a climax state.

Sites west and south of the main parking lot are mainly monocultures of pine (red and white). Although artificially placed about 70 years ago, these stands appear as did the great pine stands of 150 years past. They stand as historical monuments to "Sawdust City" and one of the men who gave birth to our community. Besides their historical benefit, they serve to moderate the impact of large asphalt areas and structures, provide aesthetically desirable corridors for traffic movement, and provide an aesthetically pleasing definition between active and passive recreational areas. Whether driving through the park, fishing in Half Moon Lake, walking a park trail or playing tennis, the sight, sounds and fragrance of the pines in Carson Park affect your experience. Management of these trees should reflect their significance as historic, social and visual benefit to our community. Recommended management of these portions of the park are as follows:

- Silvicultural techniques have been employed in the past in the form of thinning. This practice should be employed as needed to insure the health and vigor of the stands.
- Inspections should be performed frequently to prevent the establishment of disease/insect problems that could adversely effect this monoculture.
- Although these are not considered environmentally sensitive sites and that they have capability for a variety of recreational uses, it is recommended that any introduced activity not adversely alter the form and appearance of these stands.

- If natural disease were to eliminate these stands, it is recommended that replanting complement the present pine monoculture.

Area II - Exotic

This area was developed twenty years ago as both a picnic site and a place where residents could view many different exotic plant species. Adjacent to heavily utilized recreational facilities, it serves as a unique buffer between the fast paced athletic activities of the park and the more passive types of recreation. The vegetative diversity here provides interesting seasonal changes in the over story. In spring, flowers abound, while in the fall, the summer green gives way to shades of reds, yellows and orange. School groups can often be seen studying the various species of trees and shrubs in this area. Although this site is not considered formally as an arboretum, it has the most diverse and unique group of plantings within the Eau Claire park system. Future management objectives for this area are as follows:

- Provide for insect/disease control as needed.
- Because this is a popular picnic area, periodic inspections should be performed and hazardous trees and parts there of identified for removal.
- Because of both the educational and aesthetic benefits of the ornamental vegetative cover here we recommend that exotic species and diversity be maintained on this site for future generations to enjoy. Also, the presence of an underground irrigation system adds to the potential for success of sustaining these plantings.
- Because of the activity level here, new plantings should be at least 3" caliper stock.
- Inspections should be performed periodically to insure that trees in picnic areas are properly pruned to provide safe use of the area.

Area III - Wooded/Mowed

The vegetative cover within this system is generally maintained turf and larger mature trees. Many of the hardwood trees within these intensively utilized picnic areas are between 50 to 100 years of age and are extremely valuable specimens. Management objectives are as follows:

- Provide for routine inspections of mature trees to alleviate hazards.
- Plant large growing quality hardwood species when trees die or are removed for other reasons. Maintain at least a 50 foot spacing to allow for recreational use of these areas by picnickers.
- Because of the activity level here, plantings should be at least 3" caliper at planting time to prevent excessive disturbance or injury to newly planted stock by park users.

- Provide insect and disease control as needed.
- Water routinely during dry periods. This may also apply to mature plants during extreme conditions.
- Maintenance should be appropriate to ornamentals of high value.

Area IV - Open Developed

This system is made up of athletic fields, parking lots, stadiums and walkways. Trees and turf make up the vegetative cover. The trees consist of landscape ornamental plantings, but some valuable trees are present on the east bank above the main parking area. There is presently good diversity here and this diversity should be retained. Because of the exposure in this area, trees are susceptible to damage by heat/drought around "heat islands". Also, vandalism of new plantings is always a concern because of the activity levels here. The management objectives for this portion of the park are similar to that in Area III.

Area V - Lowlands/Wetlands

This area has historically been known as the Carson Park Wildlife Area and activities are governed by provisions of Chapter 18.95 (shoreline/wetlands) of the city code of ordinances and all management objectives would be in keeping with this code. The management objectives for these lowland areas are as follows:

- Provide for insect and disease control only if the area is severely threatened.
- Continue to treat the area as a wildlife area and allow the area to proceed through natural processes of succession.
- Provide no silvicultural practices to control the trees in this area.
- Provide no formal access points into the area, but allow individuals to view the fauna and flora of this wetland from a pathway located on the periphery of the area.

Picnic Pavilions and Areas. There are currently four picnic shelters in Carson Park. Two of these shelters are in the main area of the park (just to the north of the main parking lot), one is in the Braun's Bay area on the west side of the park, and one is located next to the lake on the east side of the park. Both the shelter in the Braun's Bay area and the shelter on the east side of the park are located in areas that are limited in size by the natural features of the park. In both instances the lake is right next to the picnic area. These areas can serve approximately 100 people comfortably. Due to demand, however, they are often scheduled for groups much larger than that. The shelters in the main area of the park are approximately the same size as the other two. Because the areas in which they are located are much larger and they are closer to the main parking lot, they can accommodate much larger groups. These two picnic areas are where most of the larger company picnics are held. All four of the picnic pavilions have electrical outlets and

lights and are large enough for approximately ten picnic tables to be placed under the roof. Many additional picnic tables are located in close proximity to the two shelters located in the main area of the park.

There are two other areas that are open and can be used by groups for picnics. One area is referred to as the upper area or the enhanced area. This area is located just to the west of Gelein softball field. It is an area with several permanent picnic tables. The area is served by electricity but does not have a shelter. At times it is used as an overflow area when double reservations have occurred. The other area is located behind the Paul Bunyan Camp and has only a few tables and does not have electrical service. The Parks and Recreation Department does not reserve either area for picnics.

Key factors to consider when developing picnic areas for group picnics include availability of electrical service, access to restrooms, access to water and parking. Currently the pavilions in the main area of the park have easy access to permanent restrooms, water in the immediate area and electrical service. The Pine Pavilion is located adjacent to the main parking lot so parking is more than adequate. Large groups using the Oak Pavilion in the center of the park have an ample number of parking stalls across the road from the pavilion. However, in some instances overflow parking must use the main parking lot which involves a short walk to the Oak Pavilion. The other two pavilions have small parking areas and overflow parking is not immediately available. They are also served by portable restrooms. They do have electricity and access to water.

According to the information received in the survey of the community, people do not want to see the balance of natural area and developed area changed to any great extent. Therefore, to place additional picnic facilities in what is now wooded areas of the park seems to be unacceptable. This indicates that the City should concentrate on developing existing areas to a greater extent and enhancing the facilities available at the current picnic areas.

It is recommended that the City concentrate on improving the existing picnic facilities in the park. The City should work toward improving the restroom facilities at the Birch Picnic area located on the east side of the park. Although the cost benefit has to be considered, the long-term plan should be to provide permanent restroom facilities in this area. It does not appear to be at all feasible to place permanent restrooms in the Braun's Bay area. Therefore, portable restrooms designed in accordance with the recommendations contained on pages 27 and 28 will have to be an acceptable standard in this area.

As the city continues to grow, it is anticipated that more large companies will want to reserve the park for their annual picnics. In response to this, the City should look at replacing the Pine Pavilion located just to the north of the main parking lot, with a larger facility. Possibly, an enclosed area with enhanced kitchen or serving capabilities should be included. This pavilion was constructed by the Jaycees however, so their input should be solicited.

Also, in response to larger picnics using the park, the City should over the next several years substantially increase the number of picnic tables in the park. Currently, when the larger groups use the park for picnics, tables must be hauled from other parks. This not only is labor intensive but it also depletes the table inventory in the other parks.

Finally, it is recommended that no additional pavilions be constructed within the park due to considerations relating to parking availability, removal of vegetation resources within the park and utility needs. However, consideration could be given to the relocation of the Oak Pavilion at such time as this pavilion needs to be replaced. Relocation of this pavilion may be desirable if the Pine Pavilion is replaced with a larger facility since both pavilions are currently in the same general location within the park and there have been instances where very large picnics located at the Pine Pavilion have at times spilled over into the Oak Pavilion area. A possible site for relocating the pavilion would be the enhanced or upper area, as this area already has electricity, access to parking and access to restrooms. If a pavilion is designed for the enhanced area, the use of that pavilion, in conjunction with the softball field, should be considered.

Scheduling of Major Events. There are two different categories of major events which have traditionally been scheduled in Carson Park. One type are those which for all practical purposes close access down to the park for general users of the park. This occurs when the entrances to the park are closed or controlled for such events as Festival in the Pines, UWEC Homecoming and for the evening of the 4th of July. The other type of major events are those which occupy major portions of the park but do not effectively close the park down for the general users. This includes major picnics such as: Luther Hospital or Cray Research (Silicon Graphics), the Boy Scout Jamboree, Cavalier baseball promotion nights, fund raising runs or walks within in the park, etc.

Residents of Eau Claire indicate in surveys that use of the park for both of these types of major events are an appropriate use of the park. However, park tenants note that scheduling such events which require the special routing of traffic or closing of roads does have an impact on their operations, whereas the major events which do not close access to the park do not have an adverse affect on their attendance. The park tenants also indicated in interviews that they feel that use of the park for the current number of major events which close access to the park is acceptable.

As the City continues to grow, it is anticipated that organizations and groups will request permission to schedule additional major events of both types within the park. In reviewing such requests, the City must balance the need to provide a location for such events with the need to have the park generally accessible for the public and the permanent park tenants which the City has allowed to develop facilities within the park.

Therefore, when the City considers any requests to allow additional major events within the park, the impact of such activity must be carefully evaluated. Whether the event would result in the closing of access to the park or involve an activity which would occupy major portions of the park, this consideration should include but not be limited to:

- duration of the event
- parking needs for the event
- impact on accessibility to other portions of the park such as picnic areas, athletic fields, stadiums and the playgrounds
- staffing levels required by the City staff to accommodate the event
- location of the event within the park

- timing of the event in relation to other major events currently scheduled within the park (are there other events scheduled on several consecutive weekends or days which may create difficulty for the park users from the general community to utilize the park?)
- capacity of the park to handle the event (i.e., affect on the facilities and resources of the park)
- unless otherwise approved by the City Council, the program or activity is being held as a community event and is sponsored by a non-profit organization for charitable purposes
- availability of other parks which might better accommodate the event.

Finally, major events which necessitate the control or closing of the entrances to the park place constraints on the existing park tenants and the utilization of the park by the general community. Therefore, it is recommended that the current number of such events of three which is acceptable not increase to more than a total of five in a given calendar year.

The over-riding factor when reviewing requests for special events to be scheduled in the park is the impact on the general public and how it will affect their ability to visit and enjoy the park and its facilities. The primary role of the park in this context is its availability for the general public to visit and enjoy. Use of the park for major events is a secondary role which must be balanced with the need to keep the park accessible to the public.

Major Park Tenants. Carson Park is unique in that the City has leased portions of the park to several non-profit organizations to operate their facilities. This includes the Chippewa Valley Museum, Chippewa Valley Railroad, Eau Claire Horseshoe Club and the Paul Bunyan Logging Camp. As part of the community survey, residents resoundingly support having these four organizations operate their facilities within the park. In fact, over 93 percent of the responses indicate that having these organizations operate facilities in the park was an asset to Carson Park.

Questions have arisen from time to time as to whether it is in the best interest of the park and the community to allow the permanent tenants to enlarge existing buildings and expand their operations or facilities in the park. As part of the community survey, residents were asked their opinions regarding this issue. Survey results show that residents of the community feel that it is acceptable to allow these organizations to expand their facilities provided that some limitations and controls are placed on such expansion.

Therefore, the City will give consideration to allowing the permanent tenants to add onto existing buildings or expand their facilities. Such proposals will be subject to the review of the Waterways and Parks Commission and Plan Commission and approval of the City Council. Any such proposals shall:

- occur only in areas adjacent existing buildings or facilities and which do not extend beyond the current perimeter of the area utilized;
- shall be consistent with the objectives of this management plan of maintaining the current balance within the park of developed areas and the nature environment;

- such expansions must be an integral part of the existing facilities and the current mission of the organization;
- design and appearance of new buildings or additions will be an important aspect of a proposal and must be in keeping with the character of the park. In general, earth tone colored building materials are preferred made of wood, masonry, brick or similar materials. Metal facades or roofs should be avoided.

Park Entrances. The Committee discussed that the City has made significant improvements in the vicinity of both entries to Carson Park in recent years along Lake Street and at Menomonie Street. This work was undertaken in order to improve access to the park and also improve the appearance or aesthetics of the park's entry points.

The City should continue to make enhancements to these two entries in order to project a positive park image as visitors enter the park. In particular, the feasibility of acquiring a portion of the vacant parcel of land located on the west side of Carson Park Drive at the Menomonie Street entrance should be investigated. Acquisition of a portion of this vacant land would allow for additional enhancements at the park's entry and possibly provide for overflow parking during major park events. In addition, plans for the future reconstruction and upgrading of Menomonie Street should take into consideration enhancements to the Carson Park Drive/Menomonie Street intersection.

The City will also be developing plans for the reconstruction of the Lake Street causeway and east entry road extending past the Birch Pavilion area in the next few years. As these plans are developed, consideration should be given to incorporating visual enhancements for this entryway area such as decorative lighting, a pathway, and decorative railings along the causeway bridge. Also, when this entryway is reconstructed, consideration should be given to the reuse of the small parcel located at the top of the hill where the Soo Line Locomotive was located. The locomotive served as focal point as people entered the park from the east.

In a related matter, the Committee indicated that it would be advantageous to designate one of the two park entries as the primary entrance in order to better direct marketing and improvement efforts for the park. At the present time, the City provides directional signing for both entry points but generally directs traffic into the park via Lake Street and out to Menomonie Street for major events. Yet efforts to get out-of-town visitors to the park by the Convention Tourism Bureau and the various park tenants has generally directed these visitors to the Menomonie Street entrance of the park.

Therefore, it is recommended that the City coordinate with tenants of the park and organizations using the park to market and utilize Menomonie Street as the primary entrance for the park. The committee feels that it is generally easier to direct visitors coming into Eau Claire from the Interstate and other highways to the Menomonie Street area rather than the Lake Street side of the park. This would mean that any marketing or advertizing sponsored by organizations using the park for an activity should direct people to enter the park at this entrance. In addition, promotional materials prepared by park tenants or the City should likewise direct visitors to Menomonie Street.

In designating Menomonie Street as the primary entrance, the City should review the current placement of Carson Park directional signs along the City's arterial streets to determine if such signs adequately direct out-of town park visitors to this entrance. Of special concern to the Committee is the ability of people to get to the park from the Highway 37 exit off of the Interstate. At the present time, two Carson Park directional signs are located along Clairemont Avenue between Highway 37 and Menomonie Street, but none are located along Highway 37 directing people to turn left once they get to Clairemont Avenue. The City should consult the Wisconsin DOT to see if this additional sign could be erected.

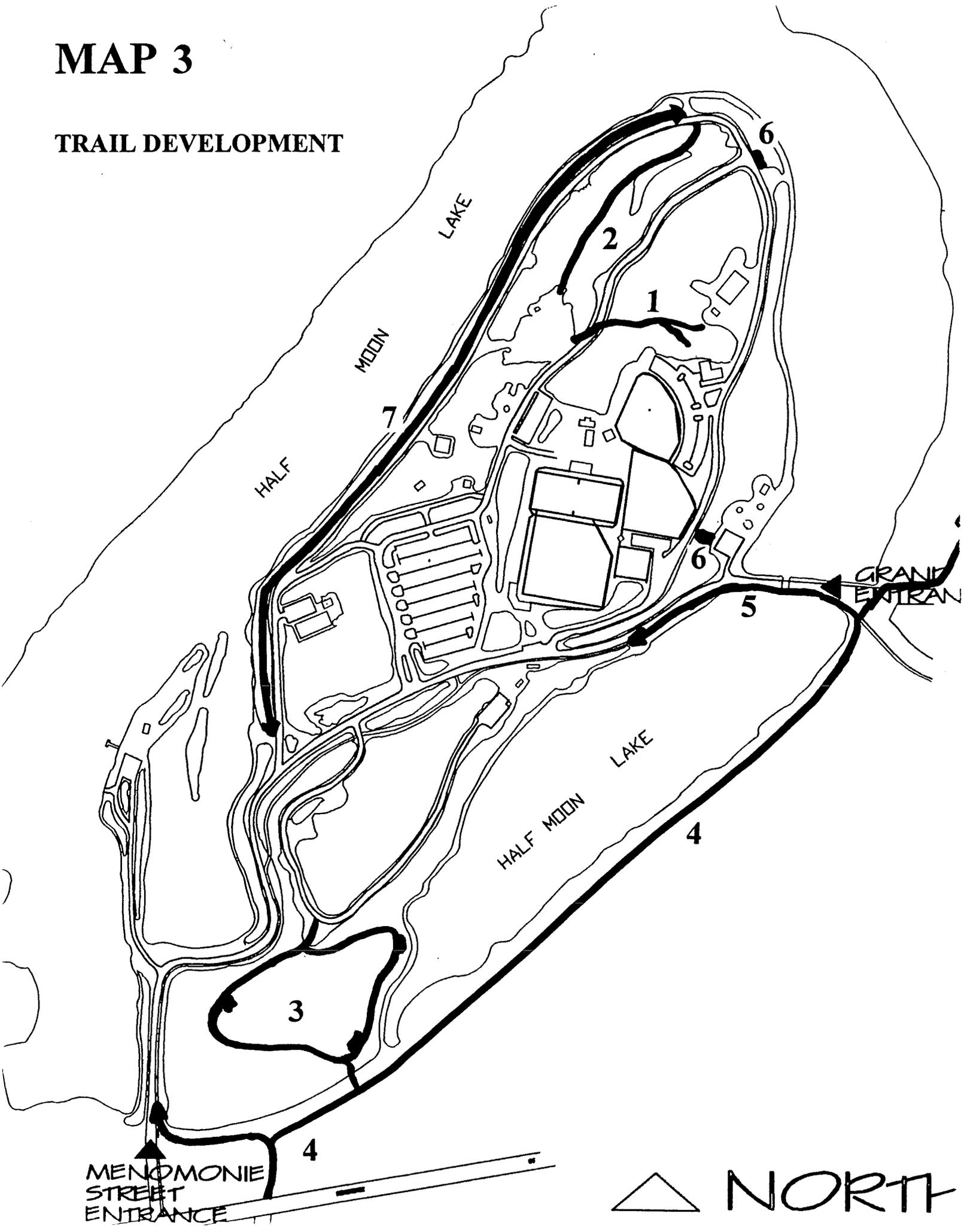
Finally, the City should evaluate whether it would be feasible to change the routing of traffic into the park for major events from Lake Street to the Menomonie Street entry. The primary issues that would need to be resolved would be the effect of reversing the bus routes on the pick-up and drop-off sites both outside the park and within the park.

Trail and Walkway Systems. The Committee's analysis of facilities and user areas within the park, as well as comments from park tenants indicate that several trail and pathway projects could be undertaken within the park which would improve pedestrian and bicycle circulation within the park and enhance visitor appreciation of the natural environment of the park. The following improvements are recommended and are shown on Map 3:

1. Construct a trail way connecting the main playground area and Oak Pavilion picnic area to the portion of the park to the east where the Chippewa Valley Museum and Paul Bunyan Camp are located. Numerous comments indicated a need for a better pedestrian connection between these two use areas.
2. Develop a nature trail within the northern portion of the park where the old road used to be located.
3. Develop an interpretive trail to provide access to the wetland area located at the south end of the park. This trail would not extend through the wetland like the boardwalk trail system which the City at one time developed in the 1970s, but rather would extend around the periphery of the wetland incorporating a series of observation nodes and overlooks.
4. Provide a trail connection between Carson Park and the Chippewa River State Trail located to the south along the Chippewa River. The state trail currently extends north to Menomonie Street in close proximity to the Carson Park Drive entrance to the park. This trail connection would improve the access to the park and its facilities for those utilizing the State Trail. Providing this connection would also create a link between Carson Park and the Hobbs Ice Center Complex.
5. At the time the Lake Street causeway and east entrance roadway are reconstructed, a pedestrian/bicycle pathway should be built along the road. This pathway should also connect to the trail system which is planned to be located along the east shoreline of Half Moon Lake. The design of this

MAP 3

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT



pathway would be similar to that which provides pedestrian/bicycle access to the park from Menomonie Street entrance.

6. Upgrade existing stairways and pathways which were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s.
7. Improve maintenance on the wood chip pathway which extends along the lake side of the outer loop road located in the northwest portion of the park.

The Committee also discussed the feasibility as to whether the City should consider closing the west portion of the loop road which runs along Half Moon Lake to motorized traffic and making it available only for pedestrian and bicycle use. The road is currently closed during the winter. The Committee concluded that it would not be in the best interest of the City to limit access along this road. Prohibiting automobiles on this road would limit access to this part of the park for many people, particularly the elderly and disabled. Since this is a very scenic part of the park, many people drive on this road to enjoy the beauty of the park and lake. In addition, the Committee did not think that conflicts between pedestrians and bicyclists and the motorists using this roadway were significant.

Finally, it is recommended that a brochure be developed which would provide information about pedestrian/bicycle circulation within the park and identify and describe nature and interpretive trails. It should also illustrate trail connections with trail systems outside the park such as the Chippewa River State Trail and trails extending around Half Moon Lake.

Major Picnic Areas. The Parks and Recreation Department feels it is important that at least one of the City's community parks provide facilities to accommodate major picnic events. Carson Park has typically been the park where groups and organizations have held the largest picnics and gatherings such as those scheduled by Pope and Talbot and Luther Hospital which regularly have over 1,000 people attending. Carson Park has generally been chosen by these organizations because the park is most suited to accommodate the large events and gatherings of people. Surveys of these organizations and groups indicated that this was due to both the facilities provided within the park and its relatively central location within the community.

Because there is a need to provide picnic facilities for large gatherings, Carson Park will continue to be the community park within the city of Eau Claire's park system to accommodate such major picnics and group gatherings. In addressing this need, the City must on a regular basis solicit comments from those organizations using the facilities regarding maintenance and types of improvements which may be needed.

Playground Facilities. Responses from the community survey indicate that one of the most popular and most used facilities within the park is the main playground located to the north of the Oak Pavilion area. This playground was recently shifted to the north and completely updated by the City. The Committee feels that this facility is an integral component of the mix of facilities and activities currently provided within the park and recommends that the City place a very high priority on maintaining this playground as one of the top playgrounds within the community.

Athletic Facilities. Carson Park has long provided athletic facilities, including the baseball stadium, football stadium and two softball fields which have been utilized by the Eau Claire School District, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and non-profit organizations such as the Cavaliers and American Legion. Providing these facilities for public use has eliminated the need for the costly duplication of facilities for each organization or group within the community. It will continue to be one of the roles of Carson Park to provide facilities for baseball, football and softball at a nominal rate within the park which will be available to organizations or groups within the community. However, it is not the responsibility of the City to ensure that the community's needs for these types of facilities have to be solely provided at Carson Park nor solely by the City.

Coordinated Marketing and Promotion. Committee members noted that promotion of the park and activities within the park is done in a some-what piece-meal fashion. It is recommended that the Convention Tourism Bureau and the City develop an informational brochure for Carson Park which features the wide variety of activities and facilities available at the park. A calendar of major events occurring within the park could be a component of this brochure. The brochure would be directed to those not familiar with the park such as out-of-town visitors and those new to the community. Funding for the development and publication of the brochure could come from those organizations having a major stake in the park such as: the Convention Tourism Bureau, tenants of the park, major users and the City or from funds made available from the room taxes.

Committee members also noted that additional opportunities exist to enhance the recreational experience of visitors to the park. Some of these could be undertaken by the City, while others could be undertaken by a non-profit organization or private vendor under contract with the City. Suggestions from the Committee include, but should not be limited to:

- Development of an interpretive signing program which would highlight the park's history and unique natural resources. A pamphlet about the park's history could also be developed in conjunction with the signing program.
- Food concessions could be made available within the park on weekends. This would be in addition to those currently available at the stadiums when stadium events are in progress and at the Chippewa Valley Museum.
- Operation of a canoe or paddle boat rental on Half Moon Lake. This would enhance the use of Half Moon Lake and could be located either within Carson Park or along the shoreline opposite the park.
- Operation of carriage rides or sleigh rides around the park.
- Operation of a shuttle or trolley service throughout the park during busy weekends to move people around the park.

Finally, it would also benefit visitors to the park if organizations within the park could better coordinate their programs, activities and events. Such coordination would also have the potential of enhancing the use of the facilities within the park. In order to accomplish this, park tenants should meet on a regular basis to work on developing appropriate mechanisms where respective

activities, programs, exhibits, events, marketing and promotion of each organization can be coordinated. This could include the joint sponsorship of events or exhibits, as well as developing a combined or coordinated admission policy.

Directional Signing Within the Park. Community and user surveys did not indicate that people encountered any significant problems in finding their way around the park. However, several park tenants and members of the Steering Committee argued that a need does exist for a more extensive and coordinated directional sign system within the park. Such a system of signage would be of most benefit to those people visiting the park for the first time.

Since Carson Park is unique to other parks in Eau Claire in that many people from out-of-town visit the park, the Committee feels that the incorporation of a directional "pathfinding" signage system into the park is warranted. In addition, these signs could incorporate a park logo to provide continuity for all the signs throughout the park. Therefore, the City Council should consider appropriating funds for the development of a directional signage system within the park to direct visitors to major activity and use areas within the park, as well as identify locations of restrooms and telephones. Such signage system should primarily be designed for automobile traffic coming into the park, but pedestrian and bicycle use should be a consideration.

In developing this system, the City should work with a committee comprised of persons representing both the tenants and users of the park, as well as persons from the general public. In development of this signage system, the over-riding objective should be to balance the need of directing visitors around the park with the need to maintain the character of the park in keeping with the park's mission statement.

Restroom Facilities. Community response was strong regarding the need for additional restrooms within the park and the maintenance of existing restrooms. Currently, restrooms are located at four sites within the park which are open on a regular basis. These include: Braun's Bay, Oak Pavilion, Birch Pavilion and north of the main playground. In addition, restrooms located within the baseball stadium and adjacent the athletic field complex north of the football grandstand are available when activities are scheduled at these facilities. Each of these restroom facilities fall into one of three general categories: those with regular plumbing, portable toilets placed within a permanent enclosure or building and portable toilets. Also, each permanent tenant of the park has restroom facilities, with the exception of the Chippewa Valley Railroad, which used portable toilets in 1996 and 1997.

To address the need for additional restrooms within the park, it is recommended that a restroom facility be constructed east of the Gelein and Hobbs Field complex in vicinity of the tennis courts. Responses from community surveys, park users and park tenants indicated such a need at this location.

All new facilities should involve either the construction of a permanent building with plumbing or a permanent enclosure to house portable toilets. Such buildings should be of wood or masonry construction and designed to enhance the character of the park. It should be noted that the City will need to continue to use portable toilets for major events such as Festival In The Pines,

UWEC Homecoming and major picnics in order to accommodate the larger number of visitors at the park.

The City should also consider upgrading existing facilities within the park, such as those at Braun's Bay, Birch Pavilion and at the Chippewa Valley Railroad. Permanent facilities should be optimum choice as utilities become available to these sites. However, permanent enclosures for portable toilets are an acceptable alternative, particularly where utilities are not available.

Finally, the community survey indicated some user dissatisfaction with the maintenance of the existing restrooms within the park. However, the survey did not provide sufficient detail as to whether restroom complaints were caused by the type of restroom (permanent vs. portable) and whether complaints occurred during normal use periods or during peak usage such as during a major event. The City should review its current policy and procedures regarding the maintenance of these facilities to determine what types of improvements could be made. A survey of park users which looks at these types of issues should also be considered.

Telephones. The community survey also indicated that park visitors feel that additional public telephones are needed within Carson Park. Currently, there are two public telephones within the park which are continually available; one located in the vicinity of the restroom north of the main parking lot and the other is along Carson Park Drive south of the baseball stadium.

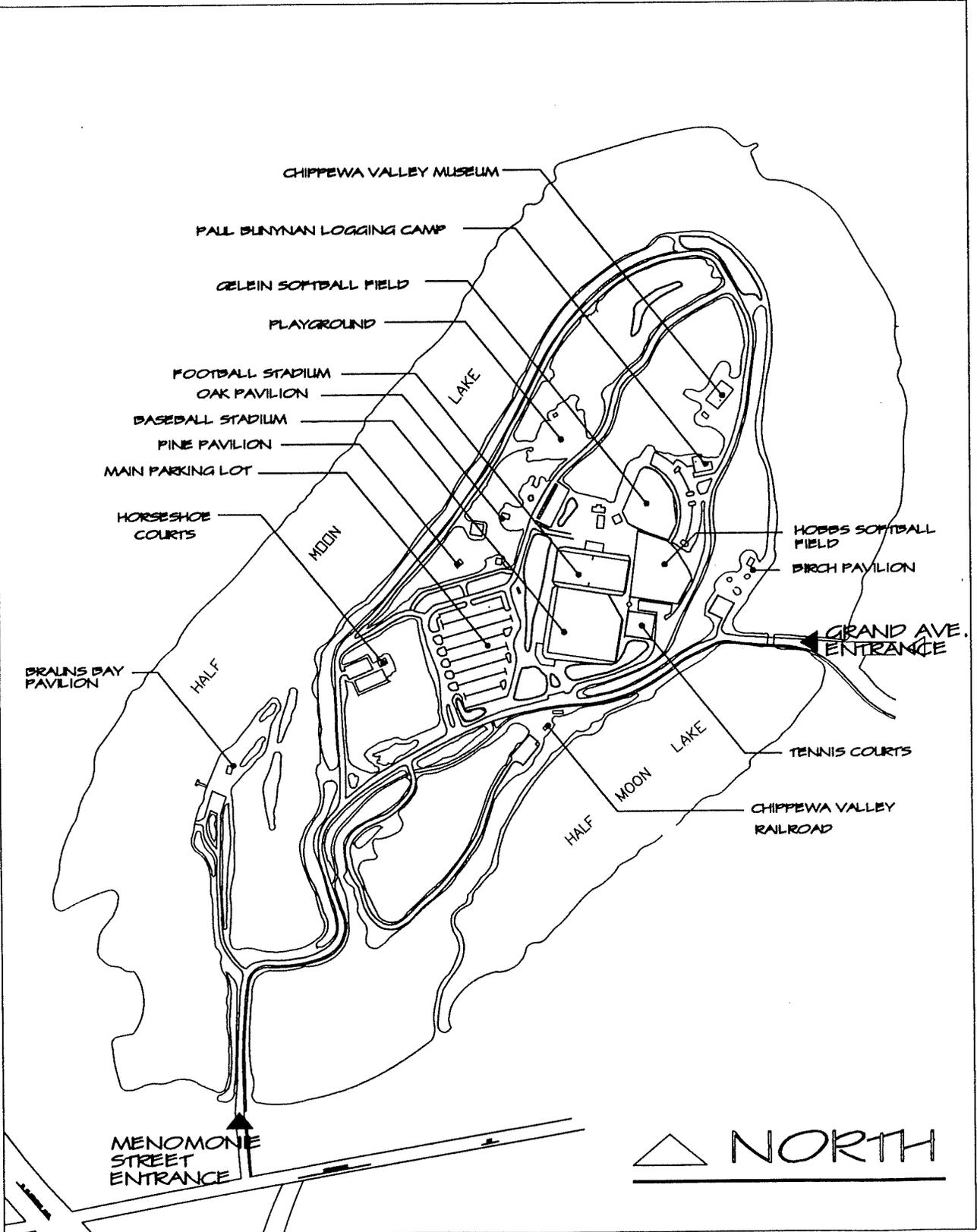
Issues of convenience and security were mentioned by the Committee as factors in investigating the need for additional telephones within the park. Possible locations for additional telephones suggested by the Committee include: the Braun's Bay area, the Birch Pavilion area and in the vicinity of the playground. Consideration should also be given as to whether there may be a deficiency in the number of phones at certain locations during peak use periods such as when major events are scheduled within the park.

Park Utility Needs. A review of existing facilities for the park found that information about existing utilities within the park is very limited. Therefore, the City should develop a utility map for the park showing locations of sanitary sewer mains, water mains and storm sewer. Such a map is needed to analyze the feasibility and costs of extending these services within the park, particularly for restrooms.

Shoreline Development Opposite Carson Park. The City has developed extensive park and open space plans for the shoreline of Half Moon Lake opposite Carson Park. A component of this plan is the acquisition of land along the shoreline for public open space utilization. As recommended by Committee members, the acquisition and eventual open space improvements along the shoreline opposite Carson Park should be undertaken in a manner which coordinates and complements with the activities and environment of Carson Park.

APPENDIX A

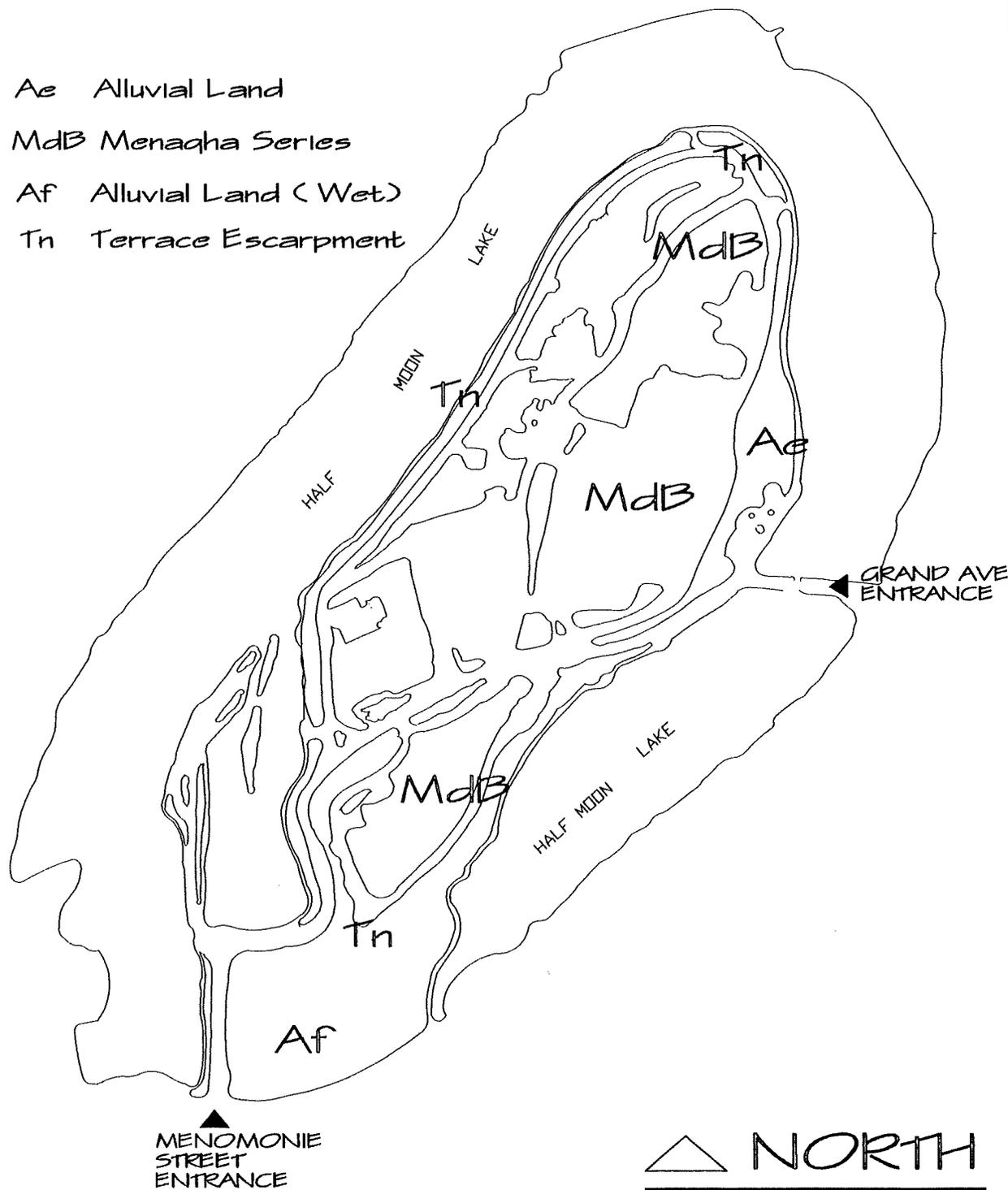
CARSON PARK



CARSON PARK MASTER PLAN

SOILS ANALYSIS

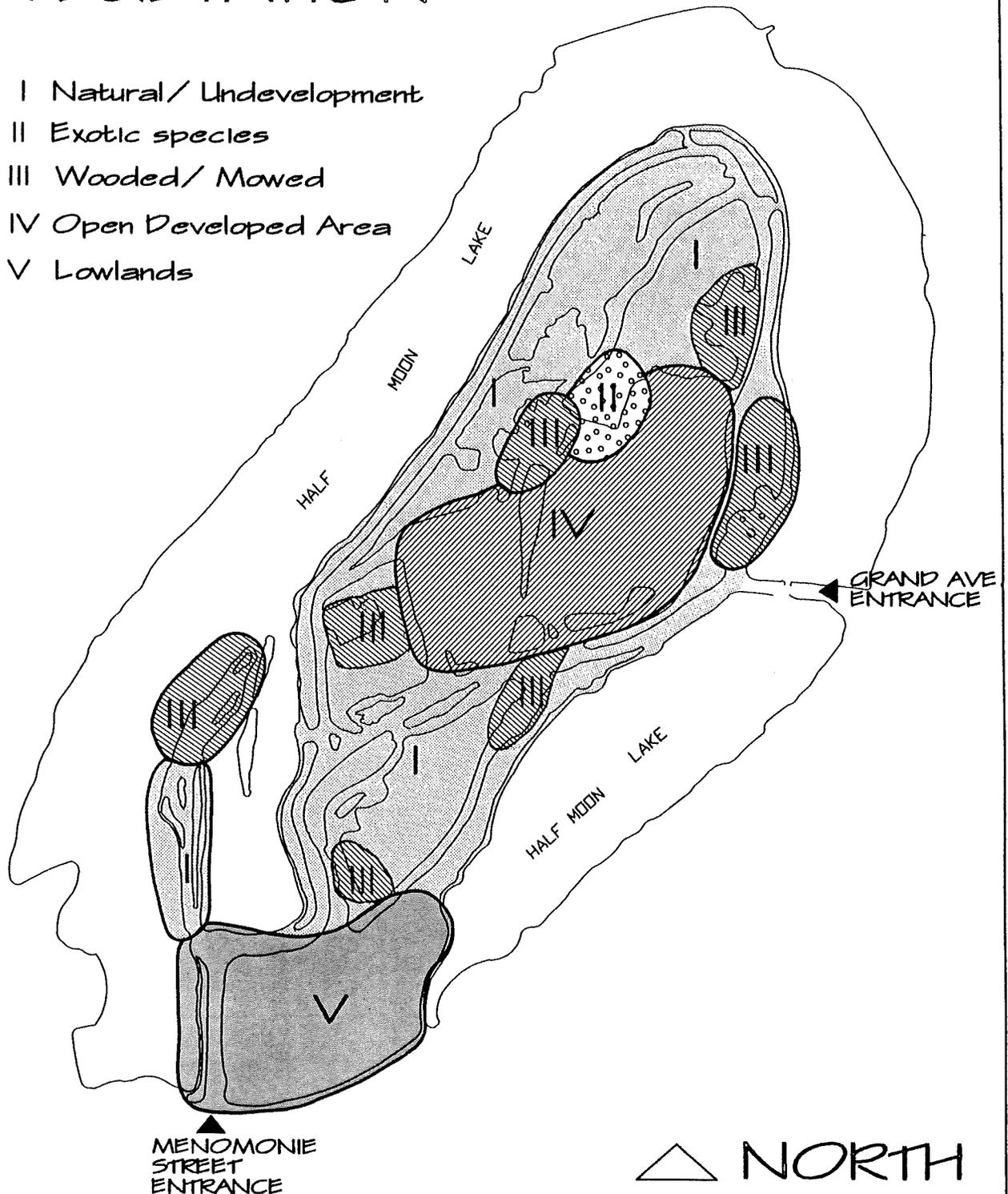
- Ae Alluvial Land
- MdB Menasha Series
- Af Alluvial Land (Wet)
- Tn Terrace Escarpment



CARSON PARK MASTER PLAN

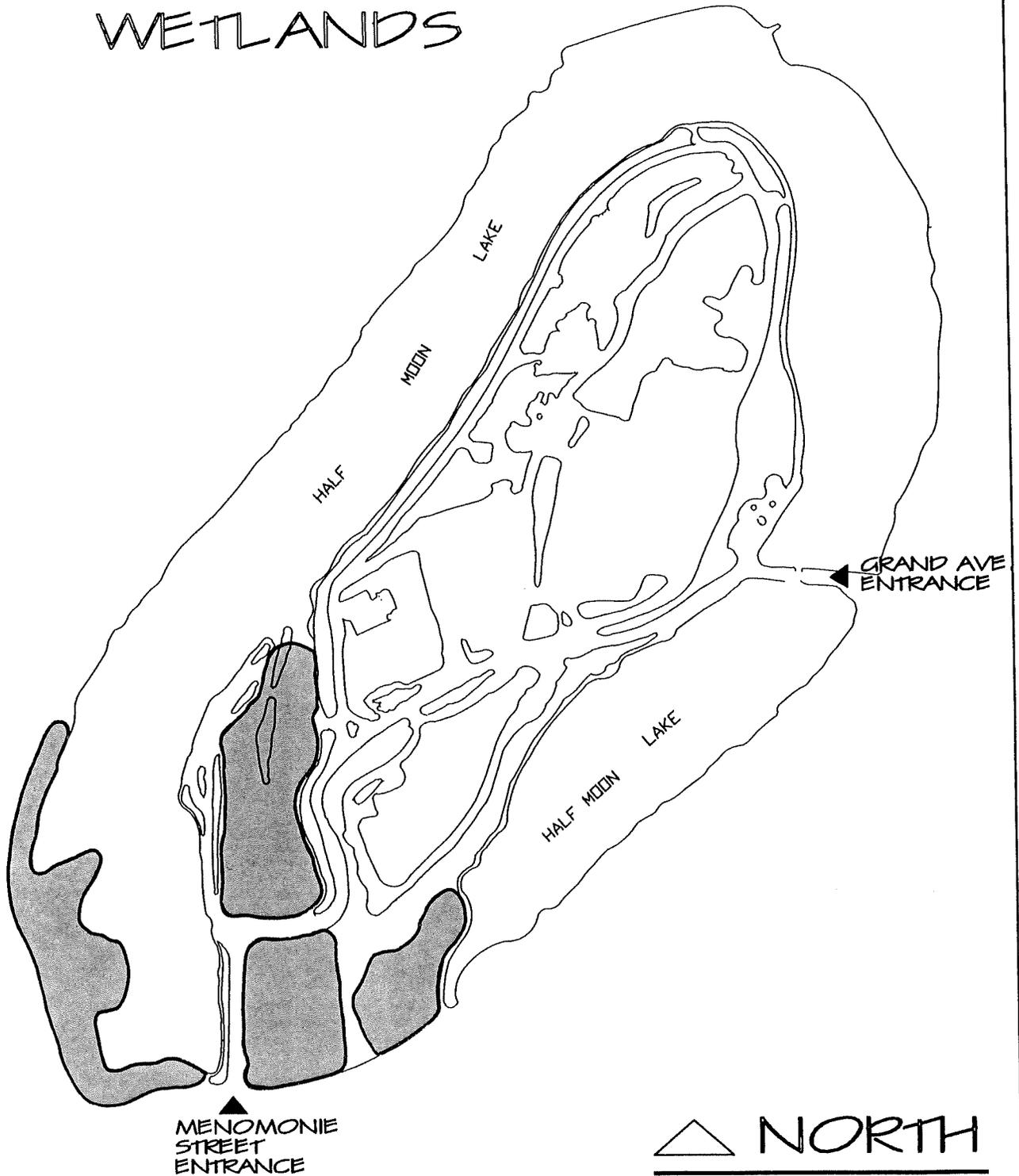
VEGETATION

- I Natural/ Undevelopment
- II Exotic species
- III Wooded/ Mowed
- IV Open Developed Area
- V Lowlands



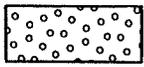
CARSON PARK MASTER PLAN

DESIGNATED WETLANDS



CARSON PARK MASTER PLAN

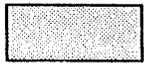
CURRENT LAND USES



GROUP ACTIVITY AREAS



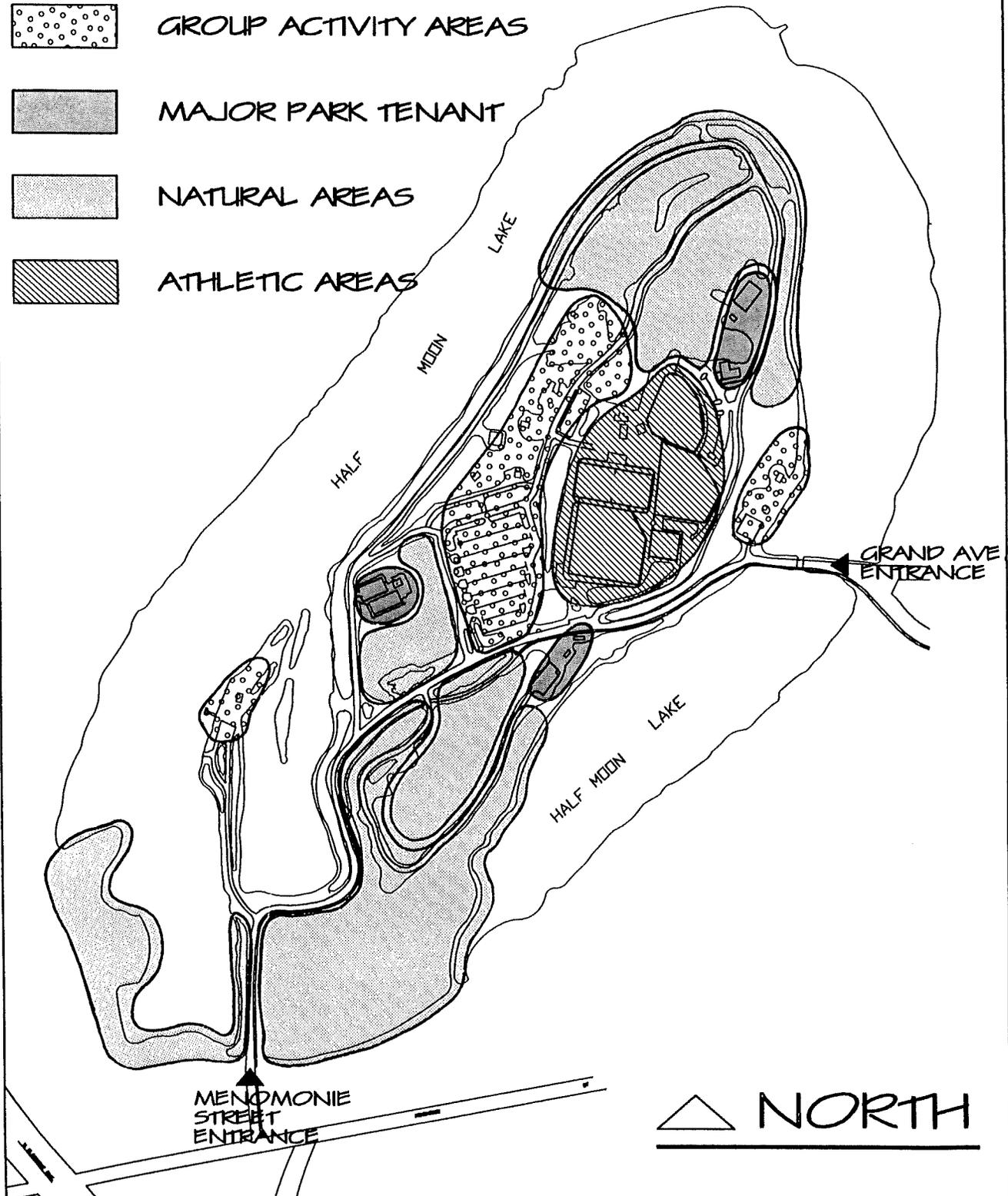
MAJOR PARK TENANT



NATURAL AREAS



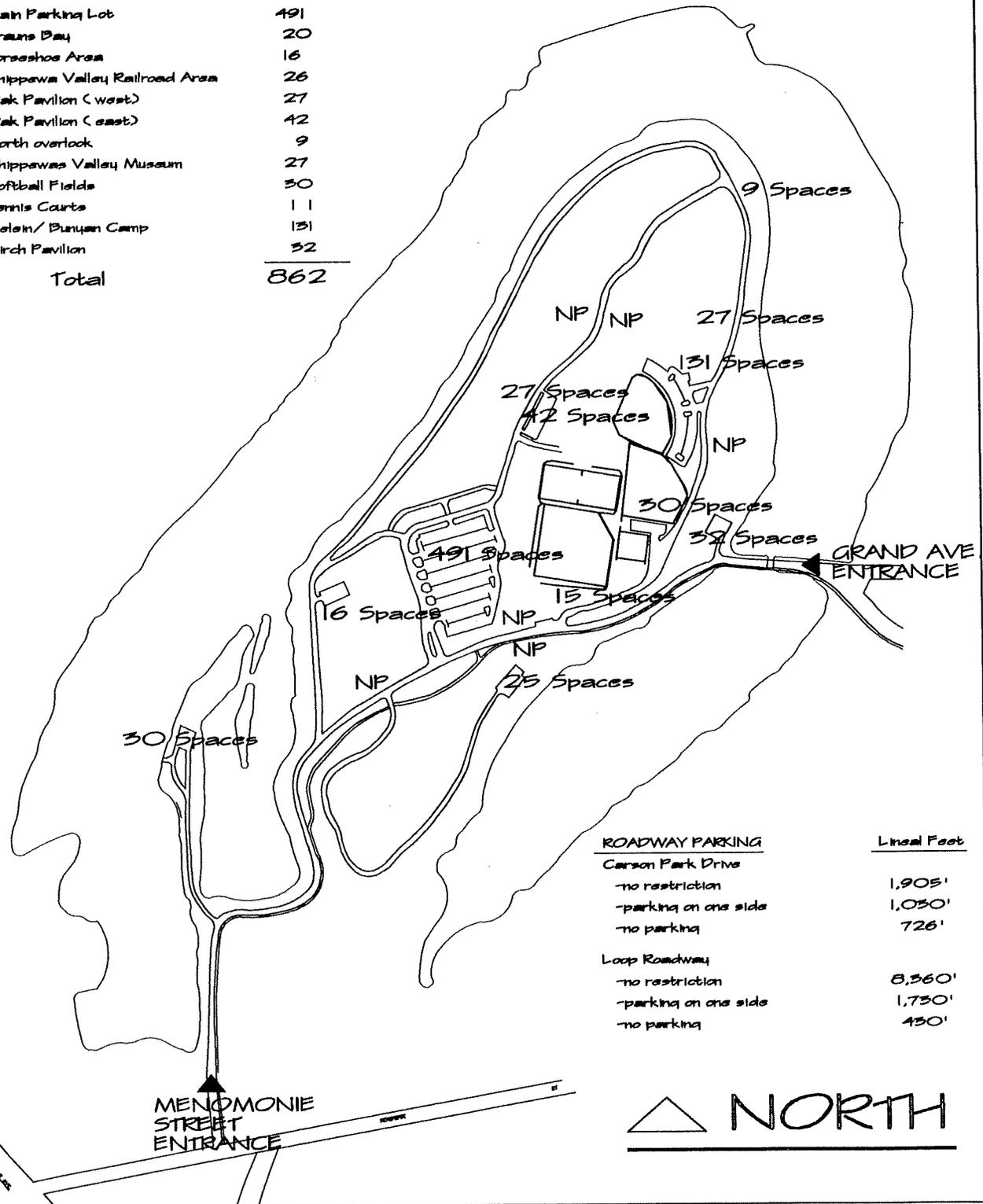
ATHLETIC AREAS



CARSON PARK MASTER PLAN

PARKING

<u>PARKING LOT</u>	<u>SPACES</u>
Main Parking Lot	491
Drains Bay	20
Horseshoe Area	16
Chippewa Valley Railroad Area	26
Oak Pavilion (west)	27
Oak Pavilion (east)	42
North overlook	9
Chippewa Valley Museum	27
Softball Fields	30
Tennis Courts	11
Golein/ Bunyan Camp	131
Birch Pavilion	32
Total	862



<u>ROADWAY PARKING</u>	<u>Linear Feet</u>
Carson Park Drive	
-no restriction	1,905'
-parking on one side	1,030'
-no parking	726'
Loop Roadway	
-no restriction	8,360'
-parking on one side	1,730'
-no parking	430'



CARSON PARK MASTER PLAN

VISUAL ANALYSIS



VISION CORRIDORS



VEGETATIVE AREAS



CONFLICT AREAS
VEHICLE / PEDESTRIAN
VEHICLE



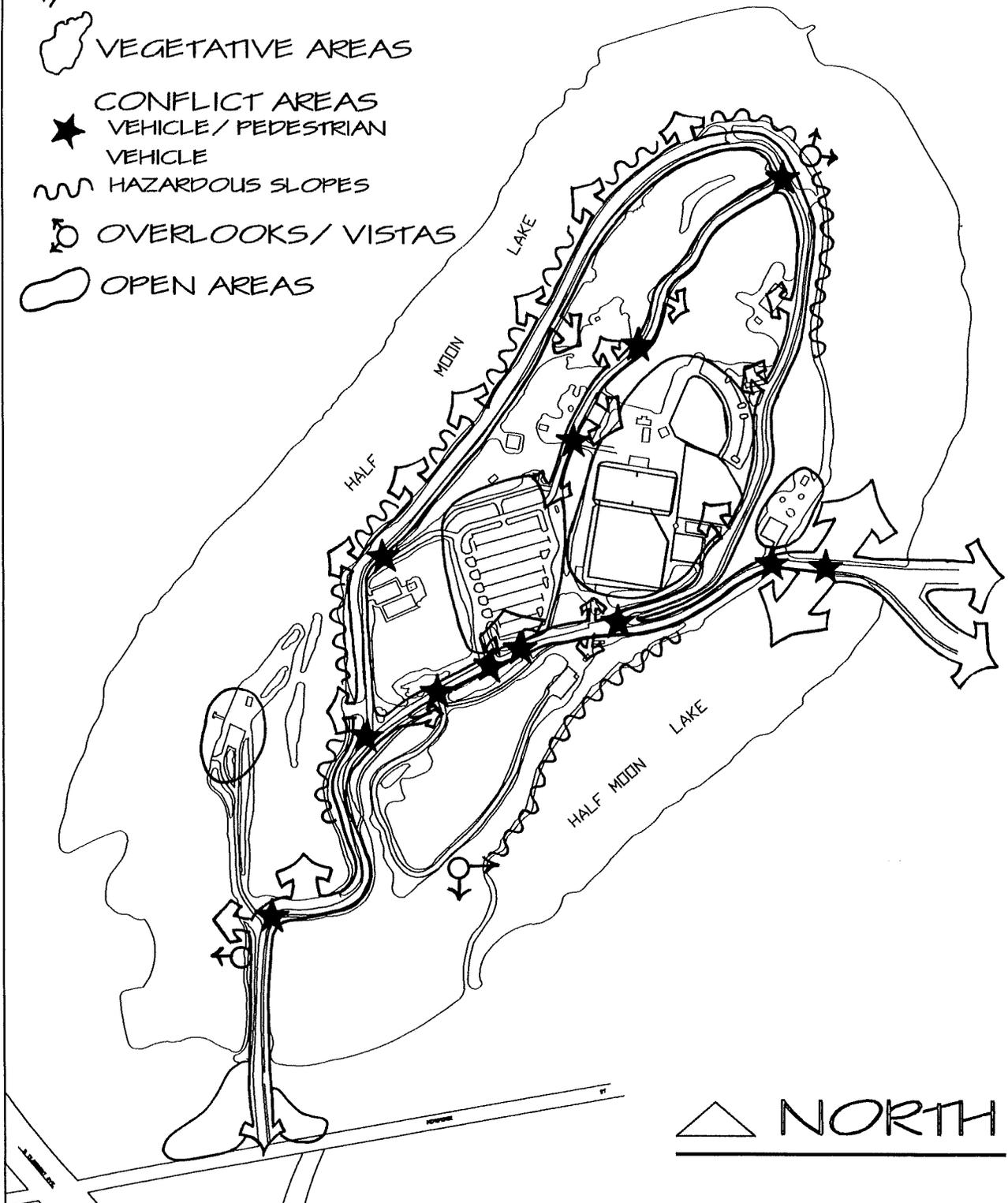
HAZARDOUS SLOPES



OVERLOOKS / VISTAS



OPEN AREAS



APPENDIX B

CARSON PARK COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY

The City of Eau Claire is beginning the process of developing a long-range plan for Carson Park. For those not familiar with the park, Carson Park is the City's largest community park located within the lower west side of the city (see enclosed map of the park). As we begin developing this plan for Carson Park, we are interested in obtaining input from the community about issues pertaining to the park. Therefore, you can help us greatly by filling out this questionnaire. Please note that all information will be confidential and none of the participants will be identified by name or location. Thanks!

454 SURVEYS WERE RETURNED FOR TABULATION BETWEEN 5/20/96 TO 6/21/96.

Q-1. Have you or any member of your family visited Carson Park in the past two years?
(Circle number of your answer.)

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

No. Responding	%
413	91.0
39	8.6
2 (left blank)	.4

→ If NO, please indicate why not. Then skip to Question #6.

- 1. don't know about the facility or what's available there
- 2. too crowded
- 3. too far away
- 4. my health makes it difficult for me to go there
- 5. activities available there are not interesting to me
- 6. too busy
- 7. like other parks better
- 8. other:

Responses
1
0
0
9
10
8
1

use lake home (3)	use enclosed clubhouse w/kitchen
too old (2)	at Altoona's park
no need to use	only for fishing
like zoos better	children have grown up
just didn't get there	

Q-2. Indicate which of the following activities you or your family participated in while visiting Carson Park in the past two years. (Circle number of as many that apply.)

- 1. used playground equipment
- 2. picnicking
- 3. visited the Chippewa Valley Museum or Paul Bunyan Logging Camp
- 4. watched or played in a softball, baseball or football game
- 5. visited the Chippewa Valley Railroad facility (train ride)
- 6. fishing
- 7. walking or hiking on trails
- 8. cross country skied
- 9. attended a special event (i.e., Sawdust City Days, 4th of July celebration, Festival in the Pines, etc.)
- 10. played tennis

Responses
193
241
207
199
109
99
149
24
279
15

11. other:

graduation ceremonies (9)	driver's ed practice
biking (8)	Middlefort Clinic picnic
drive through (7)	4th of July
Buckshot Run (4)	family reunion
Christmas lights (4)	read books
horseshoes (4)	winter carnival
fishing (2)	museums
birthday party (2)	club picnic
walk dogs (2)	show park to visitors
Boy Scouts (2)	Hank Aaron statue
cross-country ski (2)	played on dirt hill
circus (2)	picked berries
rollerblading (2)	wedding reception
photography (2)	Parks & Rec activities
running/jogging (2)	bird watching
Tortoise & Hare race, ice skating,	Ski Sprites
volleyball	UW-EC Homecoming
fed birds	sat
study nature	pavilion meeting
drawing	group picnic
anniversary	
Walk for Values, UCP Walk, Carson Park Run	

Q-3. Approximately how many times have you or any member of your family visited Carson Park in the past two years? (Circle number of your answer.)

1. 1-2 times
2. 3-4 times
3. 5-6 times
4. 7 or more times

<u>No. Responding</u>	<u>%</u>
41	10.1
73	18.0
87	21.5
204	50.4

Q-4. It is important to assess whether people feel that Carson Park is being properly maintained and that it projects a good image for the community. Please indicate your feelings regarding the following issues.

1. Maintenance of restrooms and pavilions
2. Trash and litter removal
3. Maintenance of lawn areas
4. Upkeep of floral displays
5. Maintenance of stadium and athletic fields
6. Safety and upkeep of playground equipment
7. Condition of roads
8. Upkeep of boat launch
9. Condition of the pathways and trails
10. Condition of the cross country ski trails
11. Overall appearance of park

Circle One Response For Each Item

<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Not Satisfied</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
266	66	65
343	20	35
367	8	20
264	20	109
205	62	121
272	5	112
336	45	15
99	13	272
236	10	143
77	4	304
374	13	9

Comments on appearance and maintenance of the park.

add more flowers (6)
looks great (2)
too many bees (2)
poor signage (2)
well kept
good condition considering high use
plant native plants and label them
update facilities
maintenance is generally good
gets better every year
beautiful attraction
need paved boat launch with dock
could do better
parking lot is great
new net needed for tennis courts
lakeshore is eroding
poor athletic fields
more trash bins needed
well-kept
enjoy natural areas
football field needs help
unkept after events
don't like football stadium
great park!
keep natural
overhaul stadiums
new parking lot is great
bring back toddler swings
looks old
upkeep of lawn needed
add more flowers, trails, roads, improve stadiums
great playground!
update restrooms
more contained playground needed
need better restrooms in both ball parks
concerned of water quality of lake
bathroom lights don't always work
rebuild baseball stadium
lake looks awful
women's bathroom in baseball stadium has water problems
upgrade restrooms
improve roads, need more flowers
toilets lack paper towels
maximum effort should be given to maintain park
upgrade aesthetics
too much trash in lake
upkeep trails, pull weeds
more work needs to be done
great asset to city
maintenance is satisfactory
park looks clean

some roads need work
lake is a dump
improve sidewalk up hill from east side of lake
more trash bins or pick up trash more frequently
reduce bugs
sweep sand earlier in spring
repair road by museums
park is well-maintained
poorly maintained
control vandalism
more bike trails needed
groom ski trail
improve baseball stadium restrooms
open Half Moon to the river
liked old playground

Q-5. The quality of the facilities and the operation of the park are also important factors in determining the experience people have when using the park. Please indicate your feelings regarding the following for Carson Park:

	Circle One Response For Each Item		
	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Not Satisfied</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
1. Hours of operation (6 a.m. to 11 p.m.)	383	5	14
2. Directional signs to get to the park	367	18	15
3. Directional signs within the park	359	21	17
4. Location of picnic tables and grills	333	24	44
5. Availability of restrooms	276	85	37
6. Availability of parking	347	44	7
7. Availability of trash receptacles	332	28	32
8. Quality and design of playground equipment	287	5	107
9. Handicapped accessibility to facilities	121	14	262
10. Availability of public telephones	139	42	214

Comments on facilities and operation.

need more picnic tables (2)	more private restrooms near playgrounds
build toilets by tennis courts (2)	poor signage for restrooms
better signage in park (2)	more phones needed
need restroom at rail depot	small towns have better playgrounds
bathrooms unkept during special events	add swimming pool
poor parking lot design	plow roads in winter
where are the phones?	lack of parking by Hobbs fields
new playground is great	more trash bins in fishing areas needed
more tables and grills needed	more phones by lower picnic and Braun's Bay like new playground
more trash cans needed	limited handicap parking at ball park
more picnic tables, longer hours	new playground is great; wish the old was left too
less bees!	could stay open until 12:00
hard to find phone	better signage and more picnic areas
enjoy park	tables next to grills needed
need parking closer to playground	new parking eliminated too many spaces
like walking trails	non-slip pavement, railing needed along slopes
poor restrooms, parking isn't close to playground	restrooms needed at lower park
parking is sometimes a problem	security station for emergencies
add more playgrounds	limited parking during events
build small pavilions for families	get money back from Ground Rubber Company
allow parking at special events when there is space	restrooms near playground were locked
boat rentals?	
Paul Bunyan has strange hours, hard to reach	
update stadium restrooms	
add more restrooms and drinking fountains	
improve restrooms	
more trash bins needed	
public phone doesn't always work	
improve baseball handicapped seats	

Q-6. As the City plans for the future parks and open space needs of the community, it is important to balance these needs and demands with a plan to manage the resources of Carson Park for future generations to enjoy. Please indicate your feelings about the following management issues for Carson Park.

Circle One Response For Each Item

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
1. It is important that the existing natural areas within the park stay undeveloped.	311	73	16	9	23
2. Carson Park should be used for community festivals (Sawdust City Days, 4th of July, Festival in the Pines, etc.)	295	73	26	22	18
3. There are enough playground areas in the park.	193	89	36	14	99
4. I feel that there is a good balance of recreational facilities and natural areas in the park.	262	103	26	4	36
5. Group picnic areas in the park are about the right size.	220	112	32	7	63
6. The use of portable toilet facilities at some picnic pavilions is acceptable.	174	92	49	59	59

Comments on management of Carson Park.

no portable toilets (4) need pavilion near Braun's Bay could use enclosed pavilion grade = C- control beer drinking more toilets higher user fees to preserve pavilions more toilets and pavilions rude groomer more bathrooms clean the toilets use portable toilets only for special events keep dead trees untouched, few rodents and rabbits upkeep restrooms have festivals at fairgrounds great park! more pavilions more nature, less concrete don't use for large events	move Sawdust City Days good job use portable toilets throughout park don't use the park for big events move Sawdust City Days somewhere else children are afraid of portable toilets disperse the playground areas portable toilets must be well serviced toilets are not handicapped accessible use less chemicals along roadways there are more city trucks in the park than on the street build walking trails to escape noise have Sawdust City Days in park improve existing facilities, don't develop more move ball parks elsewhere don't develop too much, keep natural women's restrooms are inadequate at events don't overdevelop
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Q-7. The Chippewa Valley Museum, Paul Bunyan Logging Camp, Chippewa Valley Railroad, and Horseshoe Club lease land from the City to operate their facilities within the park. We would like your input regarding their use of Carson Park.

1. Having these facilities in Carson Park is an asset to the park.
2. If any of these organizations proposed to expand their facilities within Carson Park, the City should: (Circle the letter of your answer.)

<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
347	56	8	5	16

- a. allow these requests for expansion without any limitations
- b. not allow any additional expansion of these facilities
- c. provide some limitations on these expansions

<u>Responses</u>	<u>%</u>
30	7.1
34	8.1
358	84.8

→ **If you selected Item C**, indicate what type of limitations you feel may be appropriate. (Circle the number of as many that apply.)

1. Only limited expansion of facilities should occur in areas adjacent to the existing facility.
2. Existing natural or undeveloped portions of the park should not be eliminated to allow these organizations to expand.
3. Design and appearance of any new buildings or additions should be a consideration.
4. Other

<u>Responses</u>
214
213
260

hold public hearing on changes	subject to park rules
don't use my tax dollar	provide access to park
choose wisely, we lack space	expansion should occur in
consider the whole park, not just adjacent areas	adjacent areas
the above facilities constitute most park use	make better use of railroad
lease should not be used for profit	Carson is a park, not a tourist trap
make toilets easy to reach	building should be closely
more isn't better	connected to current structure
should be limited	leave natural areas alone
build a second floor to preserve green space	have organizations find their own parking
don't cut down trees	expansion must be justified
remove parking, not natural space	Paul Bunyan 10+
have railroad circle the park	blend expansion to existing structure
more walking trails	make evaluation based on proposal
additional attractions would be an asset	provide parking stalls for bikes
increase lease	railroad is unique and offers an outdoor experience
I wouldn't object to more horseshoe courts	parking could be a problem
	leave all natural areas alone
	facilities should not make profit at park's expense

Q-8. As the City looks to the future, we need to evaluate what kind of development or changes should occur in the park. The following address some of these issues.

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
1. It would be okay to develop more sport fields (baseball, softball, football, etc.) in the park.	58	57	98	159	56
2. More picnic shelters are needed in the park.	108	135	52	44	87
3. Natural, undeveloped areas in the park should be expanded to the extent of removing existing active recreational areas.	14	25	101	238	48
4. A boat launch for the east side of Half Moon Lake is needed.	51	30	32	96	218
5. More floral displays should be added to the park.	112	103	69	54	81

Comments on development within the park.

<p>good balance (4) add more flowers (3) don't overdevelop (2) focus facilities on the natural environment need walk-through perennial garden enjoy games and fireworks open up park for animals sports fields should be developed elsewhere save the pines more basketball courts needed more visible floral displays preserve undeveloped areas for walking and observing use football stadium for other purposes eliminate Ski Sprites - cause erosion keep natural have no-wake speeds on lake build speed skating oval, frisbee golf, softball room elsewhere for sports facilities repaint structures develop bike and in-line skating trails more perennial plantings don't build boat launch more boat landings and parking at landings build more pavilions slow development</p>	<p>build a club house w/kitchen like Altoona more tennis courts improve swimming area upgrading doesn't mean expansion spend money to remove trash, rather than plant flowers sports field require too much room more volleyball courts don't add another boat launch area improve sidewalk from east side of lake up hill need bike trail along east entrance to park move picnic areas into natural areas maintain existing facilities, don't develop more allow development, unless it destroys natural area limit if parking is needed no more development don't increase my taxes no more sports fields, expand existing to attract add new items as time and money allows more benches zoo animals, pool and more museums more fountains and sculptures</p>
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Q-9. What are your feelings about the number of people that use the park? (Circle number of your answer.)

1. Under-used
2. Used about right
3. Too crowded
4. Don't know

<u>Responses</u>	<u>%</u>
53	12.6
237	54.0
15	3.6
125	29.8

Q-10. List some of the things that you like about Carson Park.

natural setting (134)	ducks (3)
convenient location (95)	asset to Eau Claire (3)
playground equipment (80)	not commercialized (3)
picnic areas (48)	horsehoe courts (2)
well-maintained grounds (47)	can be used year round (2)
diverse activities (47)	not crowded (2)
layout/design/spaciousness (44)	limited access
trails (43)	excellent drainage
Chippewa Valley Museum (39)	aerobic exercise
tennis courts (36)	pleasant
convenient parking (31)	amenable atmosphere
baseball diamond/softball field (31)	accessibility
Half Moon Lake (22)	dirt hill
football stadium (22)	relaxing
Chippewa Valley Railroad (20)	buildings don't stand out
fishing (20)	friendly
Paul Bunyan Logging Camp (19)	no motor boats
special events (18)	planning
restrooms (13)	open to area groups
safety (13)	lighting
family park (7)	prices
quiet/peaceful (5)	

Q-11. List anything that you don't like about Carson Park.

poor parking at special events (28)	lack of phones (3)
lack of pavilions (17)	lack of trash bins (3)
poor quality of restrooms (15)	high museum fees (3)
lack of restrooms (14)	eliminate Ski Sprites (3)
poor access to park (12)	steep walks (3)
poorly-maintained grounds (12)	lack of swimming pool (2)
poor quality lake (12)	too crowded (2)
poor quality roads (9)	too few tennis courts
lack of paved trails (8)	homecoming is a "boozefest", needs to be controlled
lack of zoo animals (8)	parking lot is poorly designed
poor quality stadiums (8)	east side of park is shabby
poor signage (6)	lack of playground equipment for children
poor quality pavilions (4)	not enough benches along lake
lack of unpaved trails (4)	lack of concession stands or pop machines
lack of floral spaces (4)	speed limit too low
too many bugs/insects (3)	

Q-12. Overall, how would you rate Carson Park. (Circle number of your answer.)

- 1. Excellent
- 2. Good
- 3. Fair
- 4. Poor

Responses	%
181	43.0
228	54.2
11	2.6
1	.2

Q-13. What comments or suggestions do you have about Carson Park?

would like train rides on other days	more picnic tables and benches
good place to take out-of-town guests	improve all areas
more scheduled events needed at park	security for Christmas displays
don't expand too much	fishermen should use motors if Ski Sprites can
city should spend less	better Christmas display and more floral displays
limit hours	continue busing for events
"more" is not necessarily good	more fountains, gift shops and concession
preserve natural areas	good work!
great place any time of year	we need more places like Carson Park
don't name stadium after Aaron	have canoe rentals
I worry about the fishermen on the	don't push out wildlife
narrow road	don't allow in-line skating in the parking lot
allow motor boats at no-wake speeds	promote park
have animals	don't over-develop
need snack bar	loud noise
identify trees and plants along	get rid of festivals and make natural
nature trail	control expansion, consider banning cars
pavilions are hard to schedule	like Irvine better
love the new playground	more special events
pave boat landings	more swings for young children, more benches
more water fountains	add wading pool
beautiful park	best park around
no door on women's bathroom stall	concession stands too far from football field
longer hours, more picnics	willing to use tax dollars for improvements
needs beach	control speed limit
more restrooms	years ago the south entrance was beautiful
have a Christmas display	with lilacs
add more family festivals	park is not good enough for family reunions
more basketball courts	more parking at playground
promote natural environment	show-off train
keep up good work	put Festival in the Pines in the pines, not
expansion distracts from natural beauty	parking lot
we need professional baseball!	improve steps from east entrance to tennis courts
good mix of uses	water provides nice buffer from city
allow motor boats	place portable toilets at Half Moon Beach
patrol for safety	pick up trash
use railroad to shuttle people during	more pavilions
special events	expand athletic fields across from DQ, south
don't develop any more	of park
don't use stadium for minor league	connect park to city trails
the park should grow with the city, zoo?	the park is a reason for moving to E.C.
northwest access?	don't allow too many expansions
more promotions	stop hot rodding in parking lot

<p>like the tree-lined roads football stadium is costly larger facilities are needed as E.C. grows more electrical outlets more phones and police patrols maintain park well and don't add too much keep special events in park park needs pool and zoo like Irvine better Christmas display like Irvine build arboretum or gardens, provide map of park too much emphasis on sports move horseshoe court from park - limited use open vending areas during softball games buy London Square Mall and build a stadium there promote family activities train ride should cover entire park park needs large indoor facility</p>	<p>leave natural areas alone take advantage of the park's beauty and nature enlarge parking lot more lights at lower portion, eliminate space ship keep up the good work people should have more respect for the park need commission to oversee the park need frisbee golf and wide open spaces don't over-expand keep the park natural need bike paths adequate funds needed to maintain park offer music concerts no more pavement or expanded use creating traffic don't like UW-EC homecoming restrictions lower expenses for park to build a civic center no UW-EC homecoming needs aquarium, teach day camp programs</p>
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Finally, we would like to ask some questions about yourself and your household. These questions will help us interpret the survey results and prepare a better plan for Carson Park.

Q-14. Do you own (or are you buying) your home? (Circle the number of your answer.)

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

<u>Responses</u>	<u>%</u>
364	84.5
67	15.5

Q-15. Number of people in each of the following age groups that are in your household. (If none, write "0".)

<p>Households with persons under 5 years of age: 43 hshds. w/1 person, 11 hshds. w/2 persons, 3 hshds. w/3 persons</p> <p>Households with persons 5 to 13 years of age: 52 hshds. w/1 person, 34 hshds. w/2 persons, 9 hshds. w/7 person, 1 hshds. w/4 persons</p> <p>Households with persons 14 to 18 years of age: 50 w/1 person, 25 w/2 persons, 2 w/3 persons, 1 w/4 persons</p> <p>Households with persons 19 to 24 years of age: 41 w/1 person, 8 w/2 persons, 3 w/3 persons, 2 w/4 persons</p> <p>Households with persons 25-64 years of age: 73 w/1 person, 239 w/2 persons, 7 w/3 persons, 1 w/4 persons, 1 w/6 persons</p> <p>Households with persons 65 years and over: 60 w/1 person, 53 w/2 persons, 1 w/3 persons</p>

Q-16. Your sex. (Circle number.)

- 1. Male
- 2. Female

<u>Responses</u>	<u>%</u>
209	49.5
213	50.5

Q-17. What is your household's combined yearly income before taxes? (Circle number of your answer.)

- 1. less than \$14,000
- 2. \$14,000 to \$19,999
- 3. \$20,000 to \$25,999
- 4. \$26,000 to \$35,999
- 5. \$36,000 to \$49,999
- 6. \$50,000 to \$74,999
- 7. \$75,000 or more

<u>Responses</u>	<u>%</u>
43	10.9
28	7.1
51	12.9
57	14.5
88	22.3
75	19.0
52	13.2

Q-18. What is your race? (Circle number of your answer.)

- 1. White
- 2. Black
- 3. Native American
- 4. Asian
- 5. Other

<u>Responses</u>
423
0
1
1
1

Q-19. Does anyone in your household have a physical disability or limitation which requires handicapped accessibility facilities in order to use the park? (Circle number of your answer.)

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

<u>Responses</u>	<u>%</u>
44	10.1
391	89.9

Q-20. Looking at the City map located on the back of this survey, what area of the City do you currently live?

- North
- South
- East
- West

<u>Responses</u>	<u>%</u>
99	22.8
140	32.2
92	21.1
104	23.9

*Thank you for taking the time to complete and return this survey!
Please place the survey in the stamped, self-addressed envelope
that accompanied the survey form and drop it in the mail. Thanks
again!*

Carson Park User Survey

218 Surveys

Dear Park User:

We are interested in comments about Carson Park. Please fill out the survey below and place it in the box or mail it back to us.

1. Is this your first visit to Carson Park? **Yes = 74/34.1% No = 143/65.9% 1 missing**

2. Do you live in Eau Claire? **Yes = 93/42.9% No = 124/57.1% 1 missing**

If **NO**, how far from Eau Claire do you live?

0-15 miles: 17/13.6% 16 to 30 miles: 6/4.8%
31 to 45 miles: 7/5.6% more than 46 miles: 95/76.0%

3. Did you have any difficulty getting to the park? **Yes = 16/7.5% No = 198/92.5% 4 missing**

If **YES**, explain

not familiar with Eau Claire	more signs needed
maps didn't have correct street names	howdy
confusing signage	couldn't find signs to lead the way
signs weren't plain	asked policeman for directions
lost following signs, human error?	called visitor information
confusing signs	
there could be bigger, more visible signs	
poor signage	

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	
4. Availability of parking	149/70.3%	52/24.5%	8/3.8%	3/1.4%	
5. Directional signs to get to park	113/54.3%	68/32.7%	15/7.2%	12/5.8%	10 missing
6. Directional signs within park	106/52.7%	76/37.8%	15/7.5%	4/2.0%	17 missing
7. Availability of restrooms in park	72/38.7%	72/38.7%	23/12.4%	19/10.2%	32 missing
8. Condition of roads	90/43.5%	93/44.9%	17/8.2%	7/3.4%	11 missing
9. Cleanliness of park	127/60.8%	78/37.3%	4/1.9%	0/0%	9 missing
10. Overall appearance of park	137/65.6%	69/33%	3/1.4%	0/0%	9 missing

11. What was your main reason for visiting the park today?

trains (26)	hi (2)
Paul Bunyan (18)	museum program (2)
baseball (15)	fun (2)
museum (14)	entertain visitors (2)
train (11)	birthday party (2)
entertain children (4)	train and picnic (2)
history (3)	volunteer at museum (2)
visiting (3)	visiting family (2)
museum and Paul Bunyan (3)	rain (2)
vacation (2)	train ride for grandchildren (2)
entertain out-of-state relatives (2)	tour
to have fun (2)	grandson

<p> picnic education/recreation tour group from Green Bay visited 35 years ago entertain guests entertain friend just to look around museum pioneer days Hank Aaron statue seeing more of Eau Claire recommended heard about the park years ago sight-seeing interested in park gift shop tour park check the facilities picnic and Paul Bunyan museum and logging camp see Indian exhibit to see the Cavs sweep two women baseball to see Putton Legion baseball game baseball game Bears vs. Legion Pizza Hut Legion game Big Brother/Big Sister baseball photo exhibit nice weather curiosity in the area </p>	<p> photograph exhibit goat milking at museum Pioneer Days passing thru and stopped to see the museum brochure at brewery playground student interesting Father's Day visit everyday Paul Bunyan wouldn't let us use the bathroom meeting half way with relatives travel and boredom on vacation entertainment reminisce museums referral kill time interest photo display something to do grandchild just riding around to ride trains, see park family outing AAA book nice day for train ride pleasure, scenery reunion Cavs game </p>
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12. Other comments about Carson Park.

<p> nice park (4) nice (2) much enjoyed (2) very nice (2) great place (2) a wonderful piece of history better signage needed wonderful great nice place, picnic areas - run train more often interesting poor signage between museum and logging camp beautiful nice camp poor labeling in cookshack advertising very interesting best asset to Eau Claire very interesting, much enjoyed </p>	<p> pretty setting beautiful area more restrooms, enjoyed museum, great place great visit very neat great park poor signage can't wait until stadium is redone grand stands suck have you ever eaten an apple? mess after Cavs game was cleaned up fast hi needs renovation very pretty work on getting a minor league team get more equipment in the park better seating needed everything was great improve condition of stadium </p>
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great playground	I like it
shady parking places at museum	more difficult to park campers
great museum! was a great surprise	excellent helpers and good ice cream
wonderful museum	real neat
enjoyable place to visit	nice museum
ok	need longer train track system
picnics	wonderful for kids
lovely park	excellent facility
love the new playground	more restrooms near trains, good playground
good	road to train needs work
beautiful baseball field, don't change character	nice playground
great facility	improve bathroom availability and cleanliness
enjoyable	so far, so good
park is much improved	children and adults need restrooms - help!
excellent park	restrooms and season passes needed at railroad
cut grass by Anderson House	better roads and bathrooms at railroad
very nice museum	open restrooms daily!
pretty trees and shrubs	park has a lot to offer
lots of parking	nice train
nice and pretty	park area for kids is great

13. Where was the survey taken?

Paul Bunyan Logging Camp: 71/32.6%	Chippewa Valley Railroad: 58/26.6%
Chippewa Valley Museum: 62/28.4%	Baseball Stadium: 27/12.4%

CROSS TABULATIONS

1. Questions #13 and #1

<u>Location of Survey</u>	First Visit to Carson Park?	
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Paul Bunyan Camp	25 (35.2%)	46 (64.8%)
Chippewa Valley Museum	42 (67.7%)	20 (32.3%)
Chippewa Valley Railroad	50 (86.2%)	8 (13.8%)
Baseball Stadium	26 (100%)	0
TOTAL	143 (65.9%)	74 (34.1%)

2. Questions #13 and #2a

<u>Location of Survey</u>	Do you live in Eau Claire	
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Paul Bunyan Camp	59 (83.1%)	12 (16.9%)
Chippewa Valley Museum	40 (64.5%)	22 (35.5%)
Chippewa Valley Railroad	22 (37.9%)	36 (62.1%)
Baseball Stadium	3 (11.5%)	23 (88.5%)
TOTAL	124 (57.1%)	93 (42.9%)

3. Questions #13 and #5

Location of Survey

Paul Bunyan Camp
 Chippewa Valley Museum
 Chippewa Valley Railroad
 Baseball Stadium
 TOTAL

Directional Signs Getting to Carson Park

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
33	21	7	9
30	19	5	2
33	19	3	0
17	9	0	1
<u>113 (54.3%)</u>	<u>68 (32.7%)</u>	<u>15 (7.2%)</u>	<u>12 (5.8%)</u>

4. Questions #13 and #3

Location of Survey

Paul Bunyan Camp
 Chippewa Valley Museum
 Chippewa Valley Railroad
 Baseball Stadium
 TOTAL

Did you have difficulty getting to Carson Park?

<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
60	9
56	5
57	1
25	1
<u>198 (92.5%)</u>	<u>16 (7.5%)</u>

5. Questions #2b and #3

For Those Not Living In EC, Distance They Drove

0-15 miles
 16-30 miles
 31-45 miles
 46+ miles
 TOTAL

Did you have difficulty getting to Carson Park?

<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
17	0
6	0
6	1
80	14
<u>109 (87.9%)</u>	<u>15 (12.1%)</u>

CARSON PARK USER GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE

The City of Eau Claire is beginning the process of developing a long-range plan for Carson Park. As we begin developing this plan for Carson Park, we are interested in obtaining input from your organization about issues pertaining to the park.

Organizations: Responding: 10 groups - Kiwanis, Northwest AIDS Project, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Babe Ruth, United Cerebral Palsy, American Legion Baseball, Special Olympics, E. C. Ski Striders, Tabernacle of Praise, Sky Sprites

Q-1. It is important to assess whether people feel that Carson Park is being properly maintained and that it projects a good image for the community. Please indicate your feelings regarding the following issues as they relate to your organization.

Circle One Response For Each Item

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintenance of restrooms and pavilions 2. Trash and litter removal 3. Maintenance of lawn areas 4. Upkeep of floral displays 5. Maintenance of stadium and athletic fields 6. Safety and upkeep of playground equipment 7. Condition of roads 8. Upkeep of boat launch 9. Condition of pathways and trail 10. Overall appearance of park 	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>9-Satisfied</td> <td>1-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>1-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7-Satisfied</td> <td>1-Not Satisfied</td> <td>2-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>1-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>6-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> </table>	9-Satisfied	1-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know	10-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know	10-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know	9-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	1-Don't Know	7-Satisfied	1-Not Satisfied	2-Don't Know	9-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	1-Don't Know	10-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know	4-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	6-Don't Know	10-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know	10-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know
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Comments on appearance and maintenance of the park.

Very adequate, keep the park upgraded, excellent job, finally - helpful crews, satisfied with cross-country ski trail grooming, Tabernacle of Praise not satisfied with restroom maintenance, Babe Ruth said baseball stadium needs to be upgraded

Q-2. The quality of the facilities and the operation of the park are also important factors in determining the experience people have when using the park. Please indicate your feelings regarding the following for Carson Park; again as they relate to your organization:

Circle One Response For Each Item

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hours of operation (6 a.m. to 11 p.m.) 2. Directional signs to get to the park 3. Directional signs within the park 4. Location of picnic tables and grills 5. Availability of restrooms 6. Availability of parking 7. Availability of trash receptacles 8. Handicapped accessibility to facilities 9. Availability of sewer and water 10. Storm drainage 11. Availability of electricity 12. Lighting within the park 	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>10-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9-Satisfied</td> <td>1-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8-Satisfied</td> <td>2-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>3-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8-Satisfied</td> <td>1-Not Satisfied</td> <td>1-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-Satisfied</td> <td>0-Not Satisfied</td> <td>5-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7-Satisfied</td> <td>1-Not Satisfied</td> <td>2-Don't Know</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9-Satisfied</td> <td>1-Not Satisfied</td> <td>0-Don't Know</td> </tr> </table>	10-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know	9-Satisfied	1-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know	8-Satisfied	2-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know	10-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know	7-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	3-Don't Know	8-Satisfied	1-Not Satisfied	1-Don't Know	5-Satisfied	0-Not Satisfied	5-Don't Know	7-Satisfied	1-Not Satisfied	2-Don't Know	9-Satisfied	1-Not Satisfied	0-Don't Know									
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Comments on facilities and operation.

Poor quality pavillions, empty trash more often

Q-3. As the City plans for the future parks and open space needs of the community, it is important to balance these needs and demands with a plan to manage the resources of Carson Park for future generations to enjoy. Please indicate your feelings about the following management issues for Carson Park as they relate to your organization.

1. It is important that the existing natural areas within the park stay undeveloped.
2. Carson Park should be used for community festivals (Sawdust City Days, 4th of July, Festival in the Pines, etc.).
3. There are enough playground areas in the park.
4. There is a good balance of recreational facilities and natural areas in the park.
5. Group picnic areas in the park are about the right size.
6. The use of portable toilet facilities at some picnic pavillions is acceptable.

Circle One Response for Each Item
 Agree ← → Disagree Don't Know

6	3	1	0	0
7	2	1	0	0
7	2	0	1	0
7	2	1	0	0
7	3	0	0	0
3	2	1	4	0

Comments on management of Carson Park.

Build restrooms near pavillions

Q-4. As the City looks to the future, we need to evaluate what kind of development or changes should occur in the park. The following address some of these issues. Please respond as they relate to your organization.

1. It would be okay to develop more sport fields (baseball, softball, football, etc.) in the park.
2. More picnic shelters are needed in the park.
3. Natural, undeveloped areas in the park should be expanded to the extent of removing existing active recreational areas.
4. A boat launch for the east side of Half Moon Lake is needed.

Circle One Response For Each Item
 Agree ← → Disagree Don't Know

1	0	1	7	1
1	4	2	2	1
0	1	1	7	1
1	1	1	3	4

5. More floral displays should be added in the park.

0 3 3 1 2
1 missing

Comments on development within the park.

Build some smaller pavillions, create theme trails?? (see ski strider survey)

Q-5. Do you foresee your organization's use of the park changing in the future?

- 1. 1-Yes
- 2. 8-No (Go to Question #6)
- 3. 1-Don't know (Go to Question #6)

If YES, explain.

Festival in the Pines will outgrow the space

Would the change noted above involve additional land area currently not utilized by your organization?

- 1. Yes
- 100% 2. 1-No 9 no answer

If YES, explain.

Would the change noted above require more or less services provided by the City?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No 10 no answer

If YES, explain.

Q-6. What are your feelings about the number of people that use the park? (Circle number of your answer.)

- 1. 3 under-used
- 2. 5 used about right
- 3. 0 too crowded
- 4. 2 don't know

Q-7. List some of the things that you like about Carson Park.

convenient location (3)	baseball diamond
natural setting (3)	true city park, not north-south issue
conveninet parking (2)	user-friendly
trails (2)	age of park gives it history
Half Moon Lake (2)	blend of recreation and natural areas
diverse activities (2)	
design/layout	
low pavillion fee	
good hours	
general cleanliness	
Chippewa Valley Museum	
Paul Bunyan Logging Camp	

Q-8. List anything that you don't like about Carson Park.

slow access when crowded
noise
limited accessibility
long lines after events

poor facility for Sawdust City Days
too many cars in summer and fall
needs more police patrols

Q-9. What suggestions do you have that would improve Carson Park?

improve lighting in picnic areas
create bike trail access to park
more playgrounds
pave Half Moon Beach parking lot
& Ski Sprites boat ramp

promote activities between user groups
(calendar of events)
improve signage within park
more trails and natural areas
control traffic

Q-10. Overall, how would you rate Carson Park. (Circle number of your answer.)

1. 9 - Excellent
2. 1 - Good
3. 0 - Fair
4. 0 - Poor

July 1, 1996

Chippewa Valley Museum

Interview with: Susan McLeod, Dr. Robert Lotz, Katherine Teeters

Maintenance and Operations:

- Overall, park maintenance is good.
- The museum has had some problems with vandalism, but this has not been a major concern.

Management and Facilities:

- The Board of Directors feels that having the Museum within Carson Park is an enhancement for visitors of the museum. Therefore, they like the current composition of facilities and level of development within the park and don't want to do anything that would negatively effect the character of the park.
- The museum feels that directional signing to get to the park could be improved for those visiting the park from out of town. In addition, directional signing within the park could be improved by developing an integrated graphics signage system for the park.
- A better pedestrian linkage from the main picnic area to the museum would be beneficial.
- It would be helpful to have a brochure about the park which the Museum could distribute to visitors to better direct them around the park. This could also be used in mailings.
- The City needs to better promote the park in terms of its benefit to the community and the savings in the multiple use of its facilities such as the football and softball fields.
- Parking for the museum is sufficient, however, some people are not aware that the lot to the south of the Paul Bunyan Camp is available for museum use.

Plans for the Museum:

- The museum has created a long range planning committee to look at the long range facility needs for the museum. The museum does have an existing shortage in space and would like to be able to construct onto the existing building. The committee has discussed overall orientation of the museum as to whether the primary public entrance should continue on the east or be moved to the west side.
- The Museum has sponsored some exhibits such as "Dinovation" at sites away from the museum and park; such exhibits have been very successful. The museum may sponsor more "off-site" exhibits like this in the future
- The concept of having an outdoor playground facility in conjunction with the museum has been discussed also.

Other Comments:

- Long-term: more coordination between the Chippewa Valley Museum, Paul Bunyan Camp and the Chippewa Valley Railroad Association would be beneficial for the park and for visitors of the three sites. This could be more coordination in programming of activities or direction under one board of directors.
- If the City decided to develop another park facility geared more for family picnics, reunions and large group gatherings, the City may want to consider promoting the park more as a tourism destination. This could include such things as horse-drawn buggy rides, extending the train around the park, etc.
- Holding major events in the park such as homecoming and Festival in the Pines does hurt the attendance at the museum.

August 5, 1996

PAUL BUNYAN CAMP

Interview with: Hank Strand

Maintenance and Operations:

-Maintenance around their facility and of the park in general is good. The only item mentioned was the possibility of the Paul Bunyan Camp taking care of the shrubbery around the building rather than have the City do this work.

Management and Facilities:

- The current mix of uses within the park is good.
- Menomonie Street should serve as the primary entrance to the park (because of its access to Clairemont Ave.) for large events such as Festival in the Pines. For these events, traffic and buses should be routed into the park from Menomonie Street and out on Lake Street.
- The Paul Bunyan Camp feels that people visiting Eau Claire have a hard time finding Carson Park and that better signage is needed to get these people to the park. Once in the park, directional signage within the park could also be improved. Several kiosks with park maps would be helpful to guide people around the park.
- Parking for the facility seems adequate.
- Pedestrian and bicycle traffic to the Paul Bunyan Camp and Chippewa Valley Museum could be improved by adding a pathway from the main picnic/playground area to these facilities.
- There seems to be a need for a restroom east of the softball fields and near the tennis courts.

Plans for the Paul Bunyan Camp:

- The Paul Bunyan Camp would like to add a log hauler to their display. Space for this is already available.
- There are no immediate plans for additional buildings for the facility. However, if there was any future addition, it would extend to the west from the main building along the main parking lot. It would not be practical to extend west down the hill.
- The Paul Bunyan Camp is considering the possibility of organizing some type of outdoor music in an attempt to draw more visitors to the facility. Something like this would be held once or twice per year.

Other Comments:

-The Paul Bunyan Camp does not have any problems or conflicts with the existing festivals in the park. Morning use of the park for large events such as the Buckshot Run is best.

August 12, 1996

Chippewa Valley Railroad

Interview with: Dave Peterson

The Chippewa Valley Railroad is open on Sunday afternoons and on the 4th of July. The club normally has 400 to 500 visitors per Sunday, totalling about 8,000 persons per year.

Maintenance and Operations:

-Overall, the club is satisfied with the maintenance of the park, however a couple of items were mentioned:

- the access road to the facility is in very poor condition;
- there is a need for restrooms at the facility, the railroad is currently using a portable toilet which the club is paying for. This has been OK.
- the area in the middle of the loop needs to get cleaned out. Trees in this location were damaged in 1980 and should be removed. Areas that can be mowed are maintained by the club.

-Pedestrian access to the facility is good.

Management and Facilities:

- The club likes the current mix of uses within the park.
- Signing to the park and within the park does not appear to be a problem for its users.
- Dave indicated that he felt that the primary entrance to the park should be on Menomonie Street, particularly for festivals and the traffic should be routed in from Menomonie Street and out to Lake Street. Dave suggested the park entrance on Menomonie Street should be made more prominent even including the acquisition of land on the west side of the entrance drive (across from the Dairy Queen.) The City should even consider construction of an activity center at this location incorporating the Westburne Supply property which the City recently purchased.
- Trees in the area of the railroad vary in type and condition. Consideration should be given to better management growth of these trees and possibly reforestation areas damaged in the 1980 storm.
- Dave noted that depending on how the Convention Tourism Bureau advertized the park, may dictate how the park is managed (ie: Is the park managed like of community park or a tourist attraction for visitors to the City?)

Plans for the Railroad:

- The railroad has no plans for expansion of its operation to include additional days at the present time. This would require more volunteers and add to the level of maintenance required. If any additional days were to be added, Saturdays would be the likely choice.
- Short term plans or improvements for the railroad include building a better road bed for the tracks, building additional cars, adding onto the existing roundhouse and adding a picnic area within the loop area where the damaged trees need to be cleared out.
- Periodically, members have suggested the idea of extending the track for the railroad to go north of Carson Park Drive. However, crossing the road would be a major obstacle. The only feasible option of doing this would be having a reverse loop track rather than a complete loop north of the road.

Other Comments:

- Dave suggested that the area below the hill along the access road off of Carson Park Drive would make a good picnic area.
- The portion of the park below the bluff to the south once had many nature trails and paths. This area was also hit quite severely in 1980 and is not used.
- Festival in the Pines generally brings in visitors to the railroad, whereas, Sawdust City Days did not. It is also busier on the Sundays when the Cavaliers are playing baseball.
- An issue which should be addressed is that the railroad group is attempting to move the Soo Line Locomotive from the park, if this occurs, consideration should be given as to the future utilization of this site which is at the top of the hill as people come in to the park from Lake Street.
- An idea to move people around the park for one activity area to another would be to operate some form of a shuttle during the week-ends (the suggestion of using an old fire truck was mentioned.)

August 12, 1996

EAU CLAIRE HORSESHOE CLUB

Interview with: Curt Bestul

The Eau Claire Horseshoe Club has league play three nights per week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It sponsored six tournaments this past year, but normally sponsors three per year. The club has its own restrooms within its building.

Maintenance and Operations:

-Maintenance of their facility has been very good; the parking lot located to the northwest of their facility has worked out very well for the club. The only items mentioned was the need to paint a railing and that some concrete walkways are cracked.

Management and Facilities:

-The club feels that the park is run very well. The only conflict that has occurred is with the Buckshot Run making it difficult to access the horseshoe facility to drop off supplies. Lighting for the facility is good.

Plans of the Club:

-Membership in the club has been steady and no significant increase in growth in the club is anticipated. The club hopes to start a juniors program at some point to encourage more youth in the sport. Some members have suggested enclosing the courts within a building, but the club has no plans to do so and it would be cost prohibitive.

Other Comments:

- Their operation conflicted with Sawdust City Days and are glad to see the festival move from the park.
- No problems with Festival in the Pines.
- Camping facilities within the park would be nice when the club runs their tournaments.

APPENDIX C

CARSON PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE RESPONSES

1-22-97

ISSUES/PROBLEMS	INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEMBER RANKINGS										TOTAL POINTS	COMMITTEE RANKING		
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J			K	L
OVERALL PARK MAINTENANCE	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	17	1.42
LONG-TERM PARK MAINT./ & CAPITAL UP-KEEP	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	18	1.50
OUTER SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	1	18	1.50
AESTHETICS OF DEVELOPMENT	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	1	1	19	1.58
DEVELOPMENT VS NATURAL AREAS	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	19	1.58
MGMT OF THE PARK	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	20	1.67
MAINTENANCE OF RESTROOMS	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	22	1.83
MANAGEMENT OF TREES	1	1	2	1	2	2	4	3	2	2	4	1	25	2.08
AVAILABILITY OF RESTROOMS	2	2	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	26	2.17
VANDALISM	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	3	3	3	3	3	23	2.30
STATE BIKE TRAIL CONNECTION	1	2	5	3	1	1	2	4	2	2	2	3	28	2.33
DIRECTIONAL SIGNS WITHIN PARK	1	4	4	1	4	2	4	1	2	2	1	3	29	2.42
DIRECTIONAL SIGNS TO GET TO PARK	1	3	2	3	3	3	4	1	4	3	1	2	30	2.50
NUMBER OF MAJOR EVENTS HELD	1	2	2	1	3	3	3	2	3	4	4	2	30	2.50
TRAFFIC FOR MAJOR EVENTS	3	3	1	5	1	2	4	1	3	3	4	2	32	2.67
UWEC HOMECOMING	1	5	5	4	1	1	4	3	2	3	3	1	33	2.75
ABILITY TO MAINTAIN FOOTBALL FIELD CONDITION	2	2	3	4	5	1	3	3	1	3	4	3	34	2.83
MARKETING THE PARK	1	3	3	2	5	1	5	2	4	3	1	4	34	2.83
TELEPHONES	3	2	4	2	2	1	4	4	2	2	3	5	34	2.83
PARK ROAD CONDITION	2	3	1	2	5	2	4	3	3	3	4	3	35	2.92
NATURE TRAILS	1	4	4	3	2	5	3	3	4	1	3	4	37	3.08
BICYCLE RACKS & RELATED FACILITIES	2	2	5	5	1	3	3	4	3	3	2	4	37	3.08
PICNIC PAVILIONS	3	1	4	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	38	3.17
EAST ENTRY OF PARK	2	5	1	4	3	5	5	4	2	3	2	3	39	3.25
USER SURVEYS	2	3	3	2	4	5	3	4	4	3	3	5	41	3.42
CONCESSIONS	2	4	5	4	4	4	5	5	3	5	2	3	46	3.83
WINTER ROAD CLOSING	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	3	2	53	4.42