

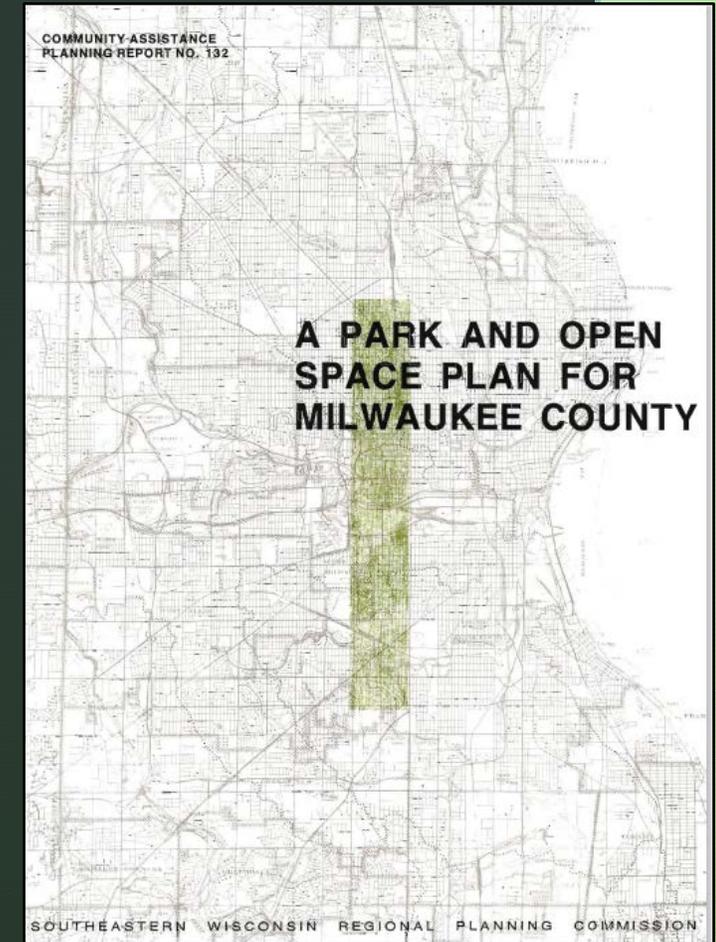
# Milwaukee County Parks Park and Open Space Plan

*Informational Report, December 2021*



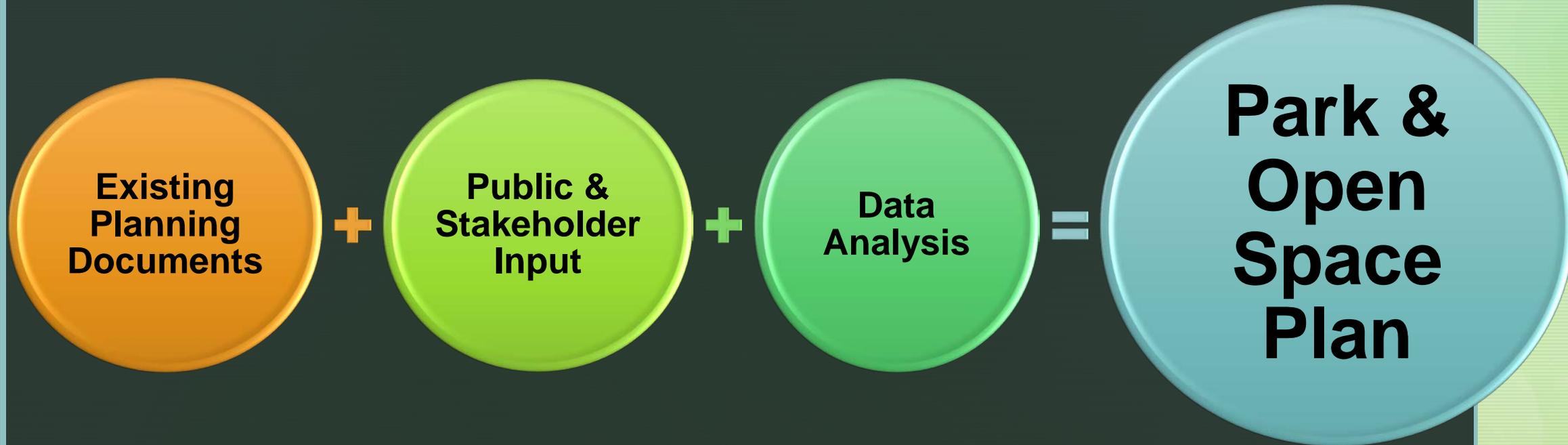
# Purpose

- To identify the existing and future needs for recreational and open space.
- To develop a workable plan that can effectively meet forecasted needs.
- To guide long-term park management, maintenance, and development.
- To fulfill federal and state grant eligibility requirements for park system projects. Mke Cnty Parks' current plan was completed in 1991.



# Process

*With technical assistance from SEWRPC,  
PROS Consulting, P3 Consulting, and ETC  
Institute:*



**\*Milwaukee County Board Adoption by Resolution**

# Topics

Chapter 1 –  
System history,  
plan purpose,  
project  
methodology

Chapter 2 –  
Existing resident  
population, land  
use patterns,  
and natural  
resource base  
of the County

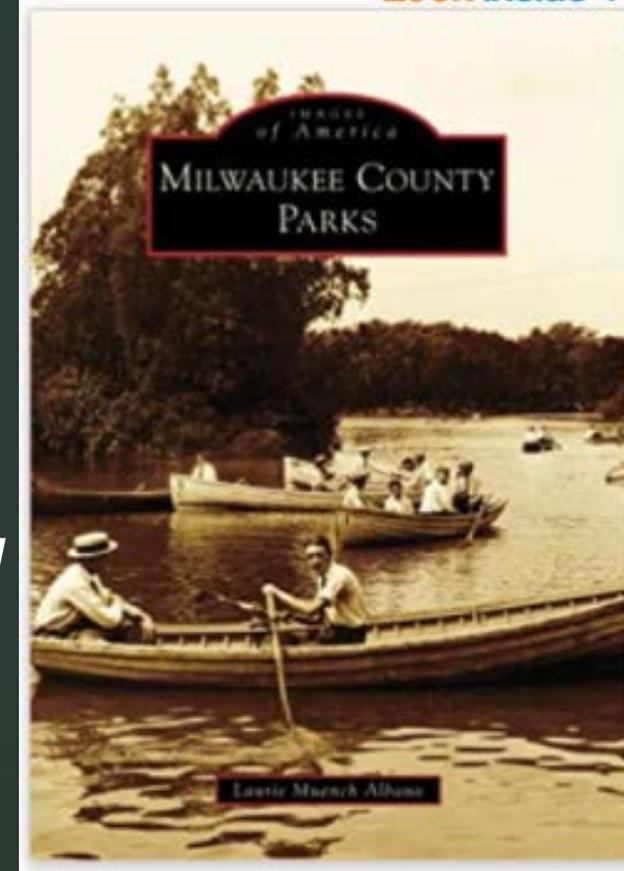
Chapter 3 –  
Information on  
existing park  
sites and  
facilities and  
open space  
lands within the  
County

Chapter 4 – A  
framework for plan  
development,  
summaries of  
existing reports and  
public input  
opportunities

Chapter 5 –  
Level of service;  
preservation,  
acquisition &  
development goals;  
analysis of park and  
open space needs

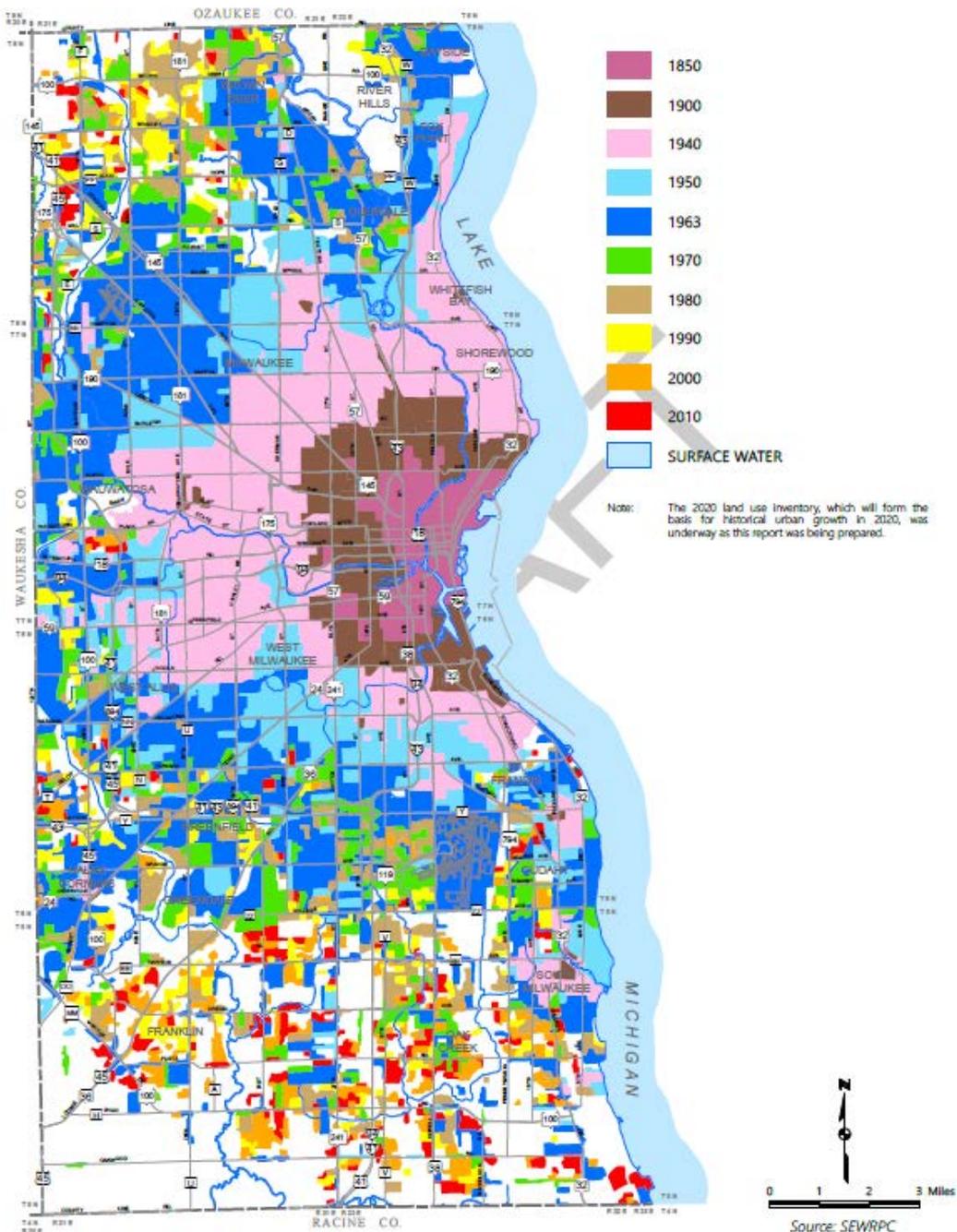
Chapter 6 – A  
recommended park  
and open space  
plan that identifies  
the actions required  
to carry out the  
recommended plan

*The Milwaukee County Park System began with the establishment of the Milwaukee County Park Commission in 1907. That Commission envisioned and developed a park system composed of a series greenways and parks encircling the County. The County Park Commission proposed connecting existing parks within the City of Milwaukee to outlying areas, which were selected based upon the active and passive recreational opportunities offered by, and the aesthetic appeal of, the landscape. This expansion of the park system was envisioned as an opportune means to accommodate residential growth.*

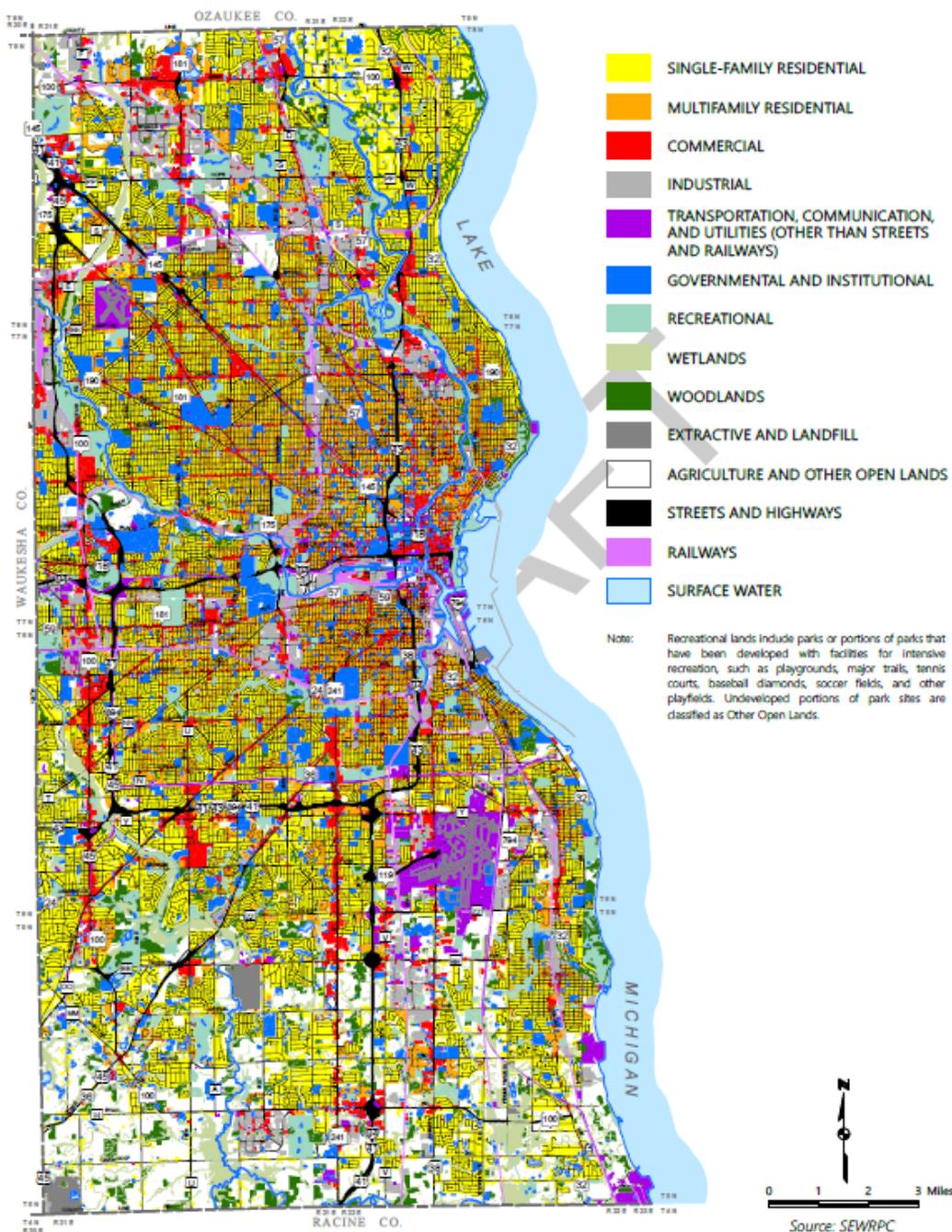


# Existing Conditions - Land Use

Map 2.1  
Historical Urban Growth in Milwaukee County: 1850-2010

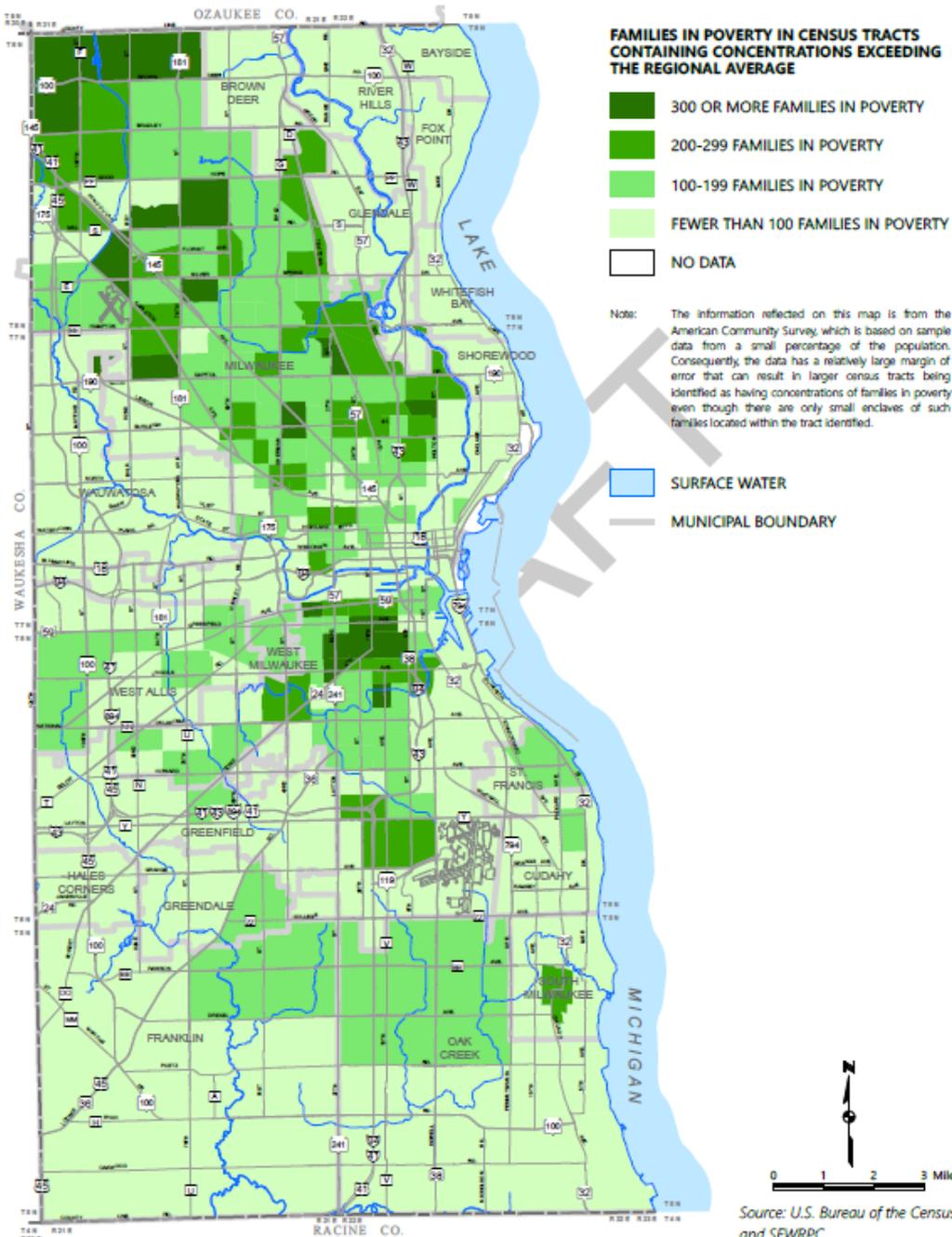


Map 2.4  
Generalized Land Use in Milwaukee County: 2010



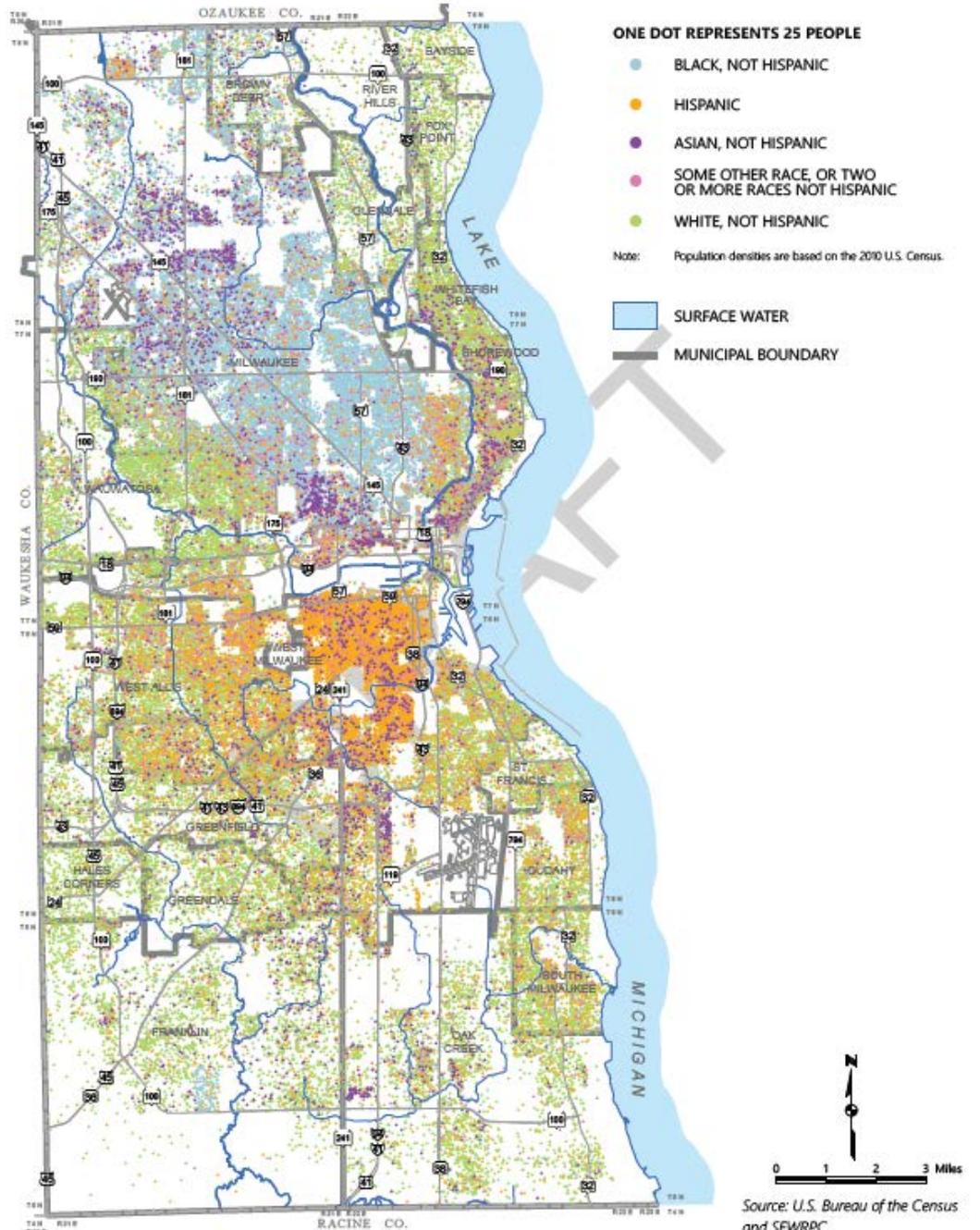
# Existing Conditions – Populations

Map 2.3  
Families in Poverty within Milwaukee County



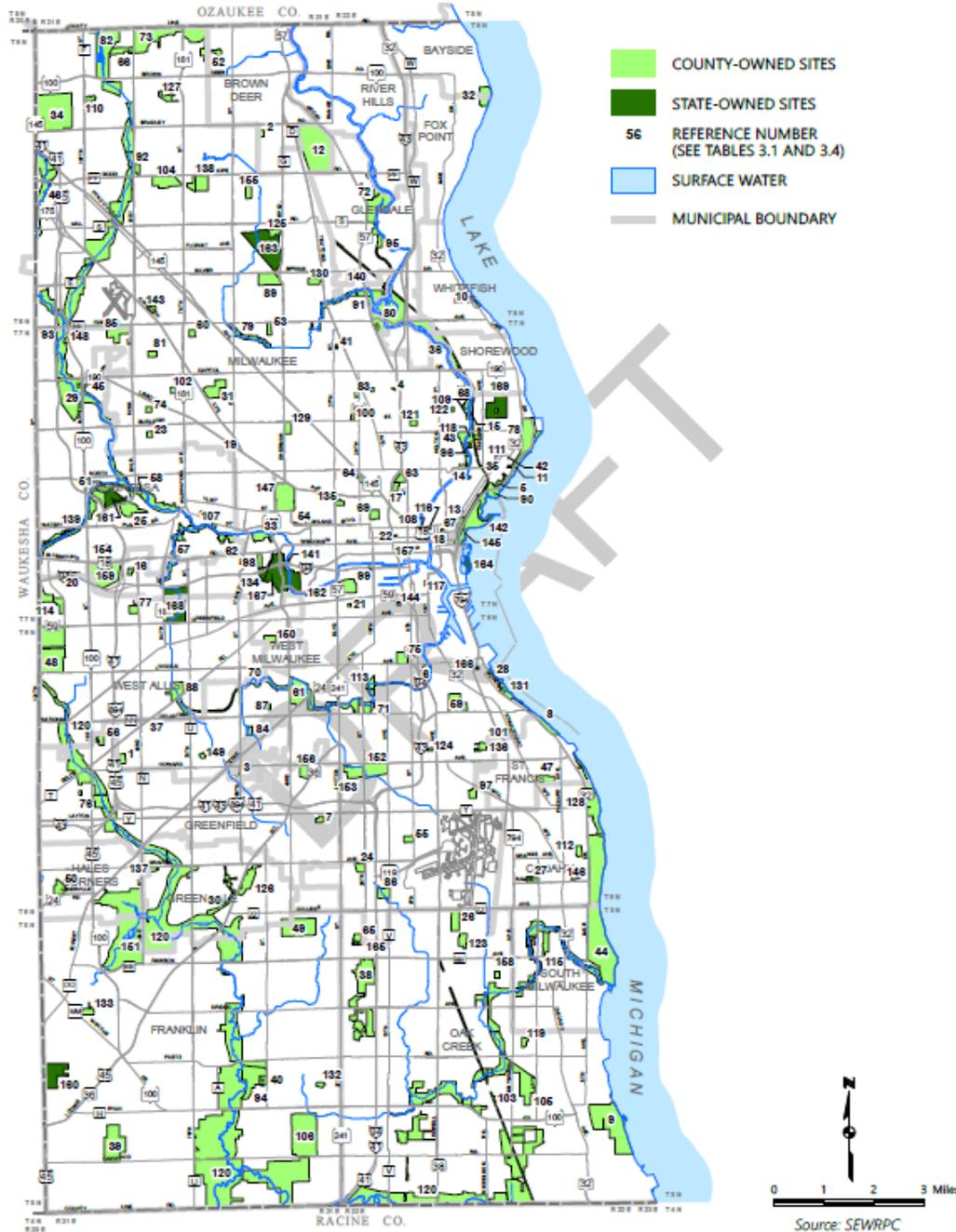
Map 2.2  
Race in Milwaukee County: 2010

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - CHAPTER 2

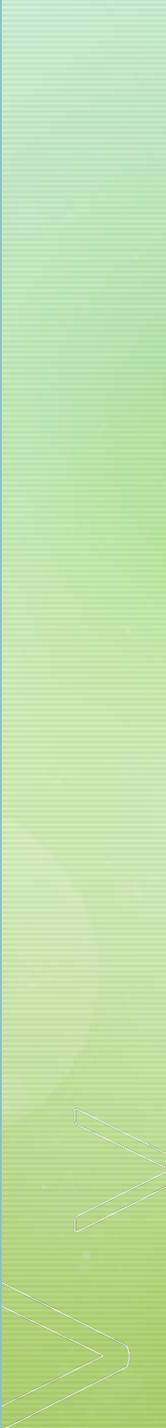
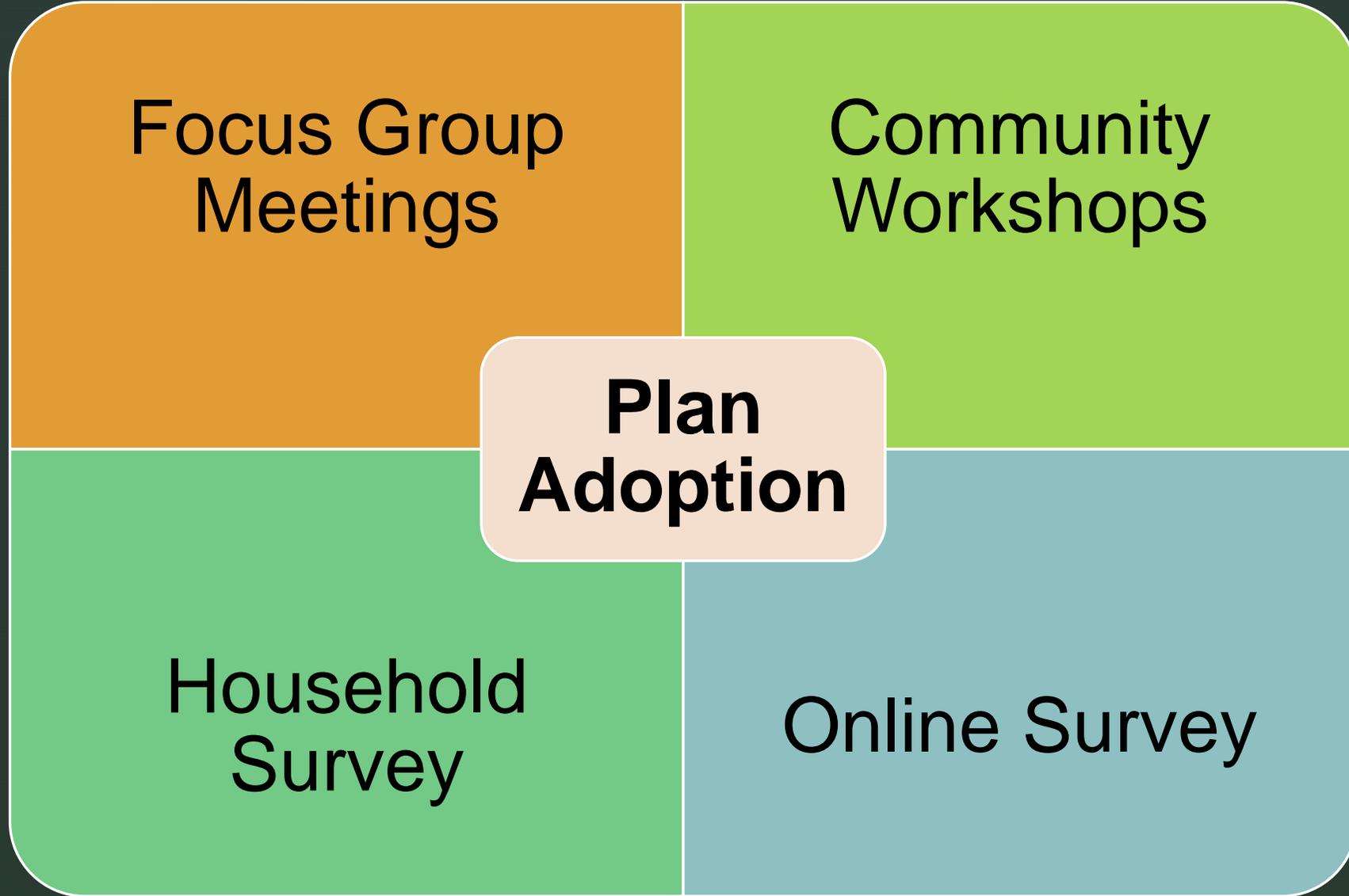


# Existing Conditions – Park Sites

Map 3.1  
Milwaukee County and State of Wisconsin Park and Open Space Sites: 2015



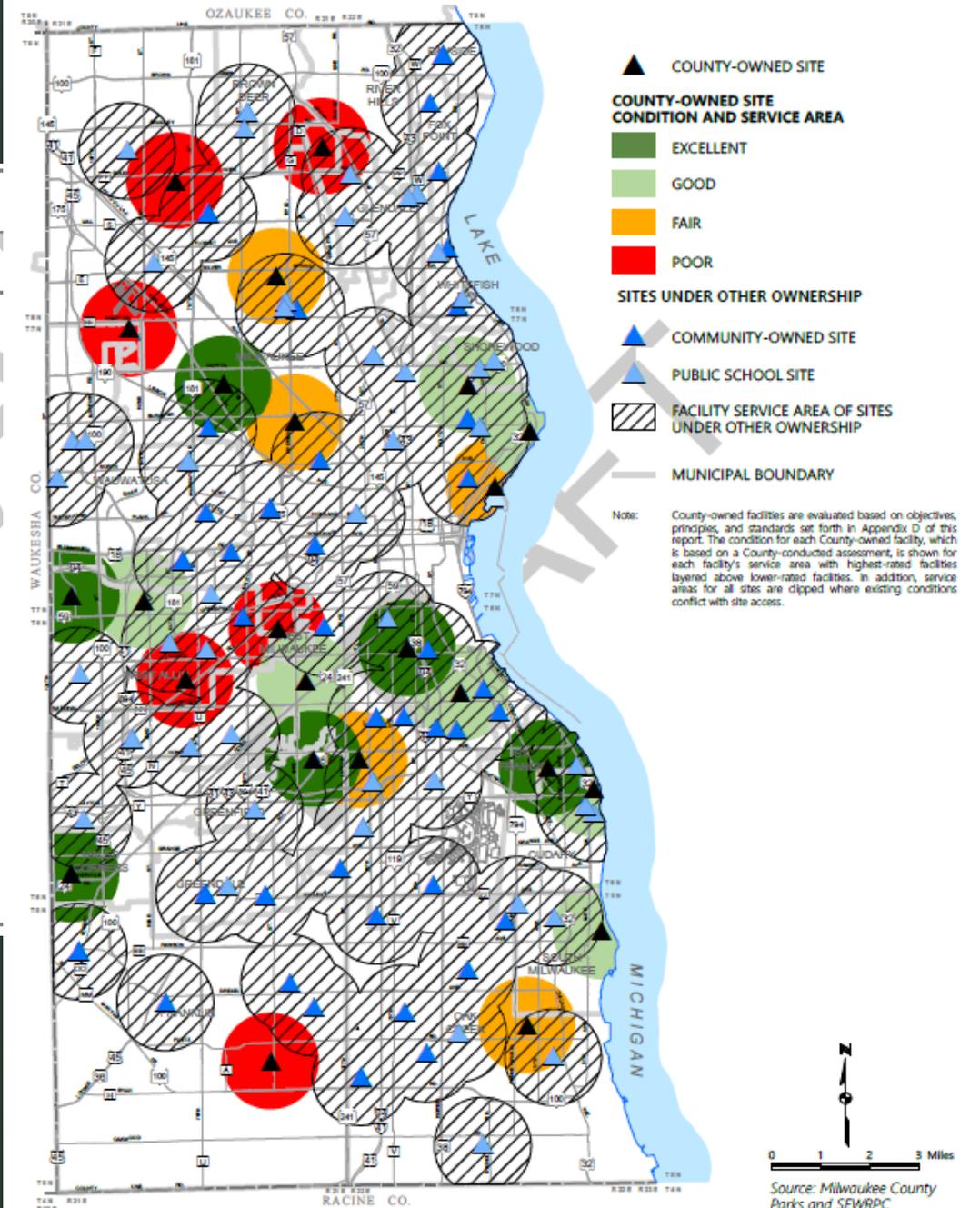
- Milwaukee County owns 157 park and open space sites, which collectively encompass 15,316 acres, or about **10 percent of the total area of the County**
- The State of Wisconsin or special purpose district established by the State owns a total of 10 park and open space sites, encompassing 888 acres, or **less than 1 percent of the total area of the County**
- Local units of government and school districts own 486 park and open space sites, encompassing 3,371 acres, or **about 2 percent of the total area of the County.**



# System Services & Needs

Outdoor Recreational Facility	Service Radius (miles)	Inventory by Ownership (number of facilities)			
		County-Owned	Municipally Owned	School-Owned	Total
Basketball Court <sup>f</sup>	0.5	83	169	660	912
Disc Golf <sup>g</sup>	10.0	8	1	--	9
Dog Park <sup>g</sup>	5.0	6	1	--	7
Golf-Regulation	10.0	10	--	--	10
Golf-Par 3	--	5	--	--	5
Multi-Purpose Field	2.0	36	17	30	83
Outdoor Swimming - Deep Well Pool/Aquatic Center <sup>g</sup>	3.0	14	2	--	16
Outdoor Swimming - Wading Pool/Splash Pad <sup>g</sup>	3.0	42	8	1	51
Playground	0.5	114	126	244	484
Picnic Area	4.0	149	9	--	158
Picnic Tables	0.5-1.0	2,633	440	--	3,073
Sand Volleyball	2.0	52	17	3	72
Skate Park <sup>g</sup>	5.0	--	4	--	4
Soccer Field	2.0	60	47	168	275
Regulation Baseball	2.0	19	20	17	56
Regulation Softball	1.0	55	83	87	225
Tennis	1.0	81	135	203	419

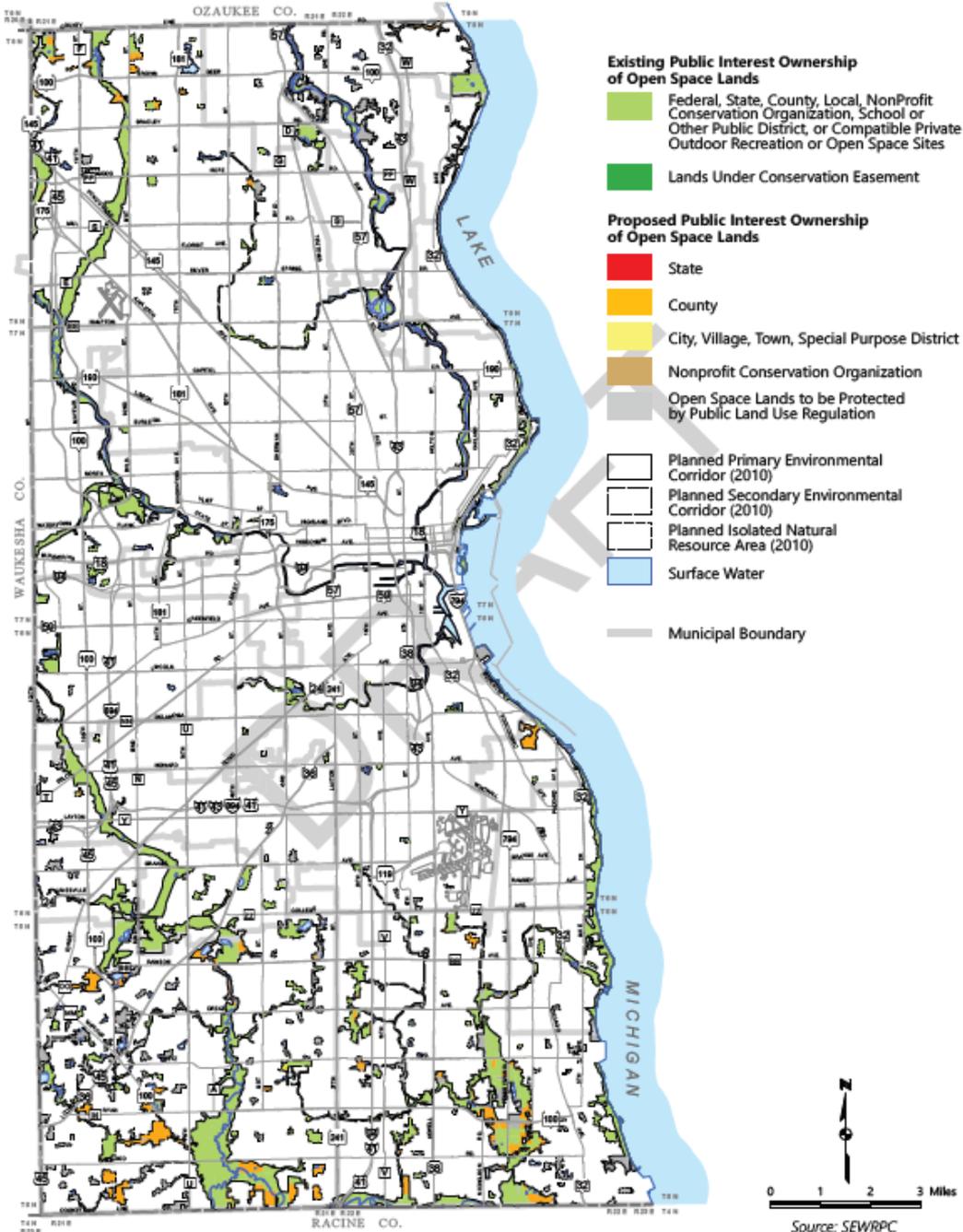
Map 5.17  
Areas Within Milwaukee County Served by a Tennis Court



Source: Milwaukee County Parks and SEWRPC

# Recommended Actions

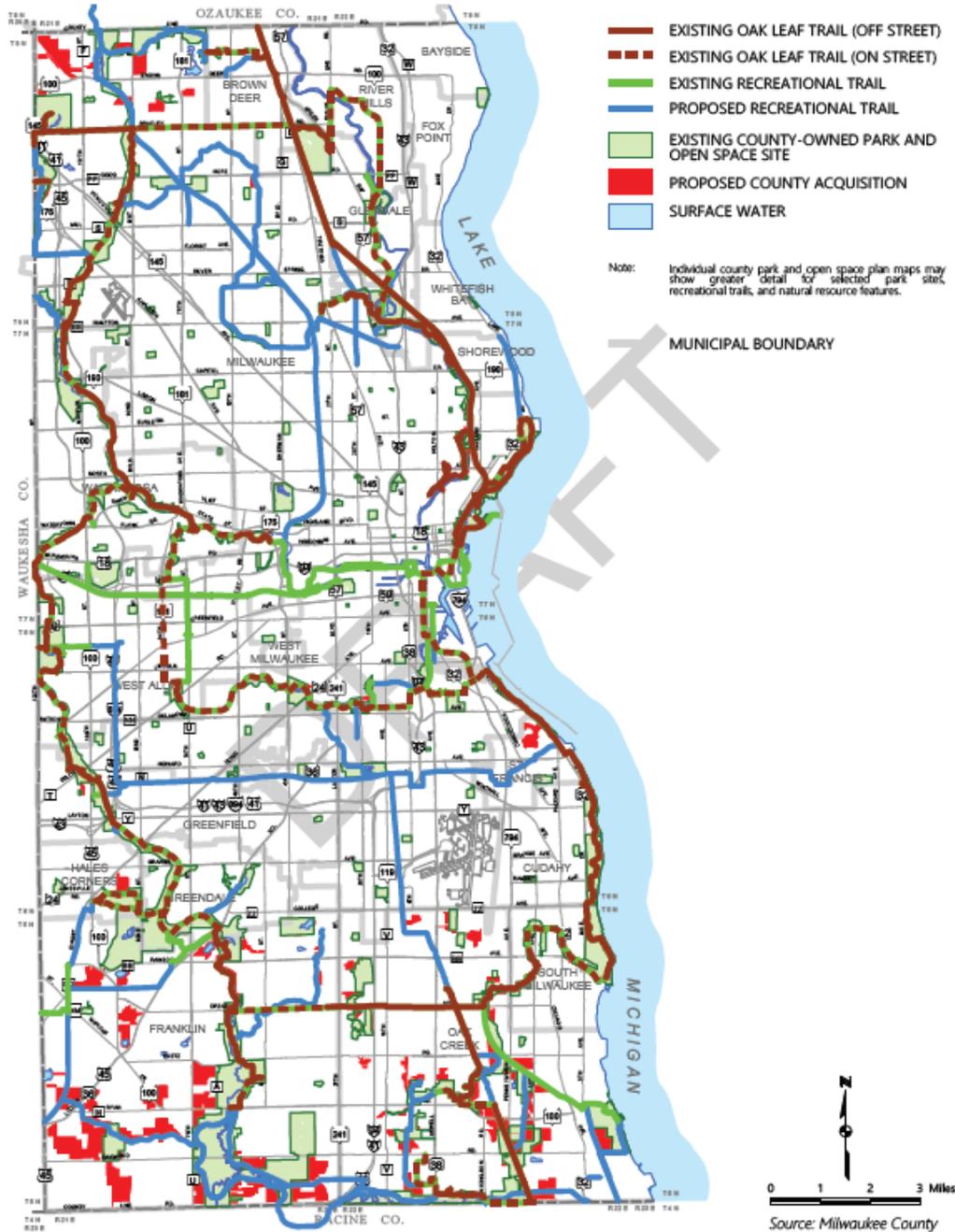
Map 6.2  
Protection of Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas in Milwaukee County: 2050



- Recommendation 1.1: Preserve primary environmental corridors.
- Recommendation 1.2: Preserve secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.
- Recommendation 1.3: Protect natural areas and critical species habitat sites.
- Recommendation 1.4: Protect significant geological sites.
- Recommendation 1.5: Promote WDNR's acquisition of lands within project boundaries.
- Recommendation 1.6: Maintain and improve as necessary existing County-owned parks and outdoor recreation sites.
- Recommendation 1.7: Refine and update cost estimates for meeting park and open space site and facility needs and addressing deferred maintenance.

# Recommended Actions

Map 6.6  
Recommended Recreational Trail Network for Milwaukee County



- Recommendation 1.8: Explore alternate means of using or managing County-owned park and open space sites.
- Recommendation 1.9: Complete planned development of regional parks within existing County owned sites.
- Recommendation 1.10: Complete planned development of community parks on existing County-owned lands.
- Recommendation 1.11: Develop needed neighborhood parks where appropriate sites have already been acquired by the County.
- Recommendation 1.12: Continue to develop a recreational trail network within the County to promote the establishment of County- and Region-wide trail systems.

# Recommended Actions

Map 6.7  
Recommended Water Trails in Milwaukee County



- Recommendation 1.13: Work with Ozaukee County to identify, acquire, and develop a public access site providing recreational boat launch facilities within a harbor of refuge along Lake Michigan.
- Recommendation 1.14: Continue to develop a water trail system on canoeable rivers and along Lake Michigan that connects to water trails in adjacent counties.
- Recommendation 1.15: Continue to work with local governments to promote the development of recreational sites and facilities.

# Milwaukee County Parks Park and Open Space Plan

*Informational Report, December 2021*

*Action Item, January 2022*

