

**Village of Shorewood Hills
Parks Committee**
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - 5:30pm
Location: Virtually via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Carol Barford called the meeting of the Parks Committee to order at 5:33 pm.
2. **Roll Call:** Present, in addition to Barford, were David Boutwell, Kathie Brock, Nancy Heiden, Roma Lenehan, Jeremy Rogers, Jan Tymorek, and Garden Club Liaison Mary Janet Wellensiek. Also in attendance was Village Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Chrissy Kahl. Village Forester Adam Lohrmann was absent.
3. **Note compliance with open meeting law:** Kahl confirmed the meeting was properly posted.
4. **Approve minutes from January 23, 2024 Parks Committee meeting:** Heiden moved, seconded by Lenehan to approve the January 23, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
5. **Public Comments** - This is an opportunity for community members to speak to the Committee. No discussion or action may take place at this time and speakers may be limited to three minutes: No one from the public attended, so no one spoke.
6. **Monthly Forester's Report:** Barford reviewed. Barford will ask Lohrmann if he needs volunteers for Arbor Day. Wellensiek will check with Garden Club as well.
7. **Discussion of spongy moth flier distribution:** Barford thanked those who helped put together the flyers. Distribution will be early to mid-March. Seven committee members volunteered to distribute the flyers.

Heiden left the meeting at 5:55pm due to losing her connection. Heiden returned to the meeting at 6:05pm.
8. **Discussion of SWOT analysis of McKenna Park:** See attached SWOT analysis notes.
9. **Future Agenda Items** – This is an opportunity for committee members to request an item be added to a future agenda. No discussion may take place on any requested items at this time and committee members should not make lengthy statements on their request.
 - Future meetings will go back to in person in May
10. **Next meeting date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024
11. **Adjourn:** Rogers moved, seconded by Heiden to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Chrissy Kahl
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD HILLS
Forestry and Parks

Report for March 2024: Adam Lohrmann, Forester

Overview- This month, the Forestry and Parks Department has focused on street tree pruning and planning for spring projects. The annual rotational street tree pruning project concluded in mid-March, with six streets completed. Forestry and Parks staff also completed training prunes on numerous immature street trees throughout the Village. Locations for tree planting in the spring and summer are currently being identified, and planning for next month's Arbor Day event is underway.

Special Thanks- The Forestry and Parks Department is grateful for the time and effort of the Parks Committee members who assisted with the distribution of the spongy moth informational flyers. Village residents and the community forest will greatly benefit from this educational outreach campaign.

Invasive Species Management- Forestry and Parks staff have continued working on removing woody invasives in our parks and natural areas, with a recent focus on Dudley Davis Quarry Park and Post Farm Park. Target species include buckthorn, honeysuckle, boxelder, winged euonymus, mulberry, sumac, brambles, and others.

Tree Pruning- Over the course of two weeks, rotational street tree pruning was completed at the Village Hall parking lot and six Village roadways: Locust Drive (west end), Colgate Road, Circle Close, Wood Lane, Sunset Drive, and Sumac Drive. Approximately 212 trees were pruned to promote their long-term viability and remove hazards along public setbacks and sidewalks. Special thanks to the Shorewood Hills Department of Public Works staff, who again assisted with ground work, chipping, and clean-up.

Additionally, Forestry and Parks staff completed training and structural pruning on approximately 211 trees throughout the Village over the course of the winter season.

EAB/Spongy Moth/Oak Treatments- The Forester is receiving quotes from multiple contractors for the scheduled Emerald Ash Borer treatments, spongy moth treatments, and treatments to promote oak vitality.

Prescribed Fire- Plans are in development to conduct prescribed burning either this spring or fall in Dudley Davis Quarry Park, Reese Woods, Post Farm Park, and the slope between the west end of the bike path and the Old Middleton Rd westbound exit ramp from University Ave. The benefits of prescribed fire include: management of invasive weeds and undesirable grasses and woody species; promotion of native, fire-adapted plant species; increased soil nutrients; and fuel/debris reduction.

Arbor Day Celebration- Planning is underway for our annual Arbor Day celebration and tree planting event, in partnership with Shorewood Elementary School and Madison Gas and Electric.

The event is scheduled for Friday, April 26th (specific time TBD), with the following Friday, May 3rd reserved as a back-up option in the event of inclement weather.

1. For agenda item 7, see the final draft of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) here: <https://www.shorewood-hills.org/corp>
2. For agenda item 8, see the 2003 VOSH Parks Plan document within this packet. Also see highlights from David Boutwell, below:

Hello Carol,

Below is a copy of the 2003 Parks Plan. The document contains numerous comments regarding natural areas, but they are not well-defined or mapped. I think it would be good for the Parks Committee to define and map the natural areas before we start to develop the 2024 CORP system-wide trail plan.

- David

Page 2 "The Village owned parks, which include both recreational areas and natural areas, contribute to the character of the Village of Shorewood Hills (see Village of Shorewood Hills Parks Map for park locations). Almost all of the parks are natural areas or have at least some portions that are natural. These natural areas are mostly made up of deciduous (in many parks predominantly oak) woodland."

Page 4 "Natural area parks are not designed to be high use areas. They are designed to protect native plants and animals, to preserve green space, to control erosion in steeply sloped land, and to be enjoyed by passive recreation like walking and nature observation. The Village has 6.1 acres of natural areas in four parks, Dudley Davis Quarry Park (includes Reese Woods), Koval Woods, Oak Way Lots (includes Kaeser Woods), and Bigfoot Park. Both the Oak Way Lots and Bigfoot Park were preserved to prevent building on steep lots prone to erosion and are not designed for human recreation of any kind."

Page 13 "The Shorewood Hills parks enrich the Village life by providing recreational opportunities, green space, and places for contemplation. These areas need to be preserved for future Shorewood Hills residents."

Page 18 "Natural area parks are not designed to be high use areas. They are designed to protect native plants and animals, to preserve green space, to control erosion in steeply sloped land, and to be enjoyed by passive recreation like walking and nature observation. The Village has 6.1 acres of natural areas in four parks. Below is a description of each park including facilities, natural areas, and issues, as well as recommendations for future improvements."

Village of Shorewood Hills Parks and Open Space Plan

Introduction

The Village of Shorewood Hills parklands, including wooded and open spaces, shoreline, trails, and public recreation areas, constitute one of the community's greatest assets. These resources provide for Village residents' interaction with nature, relaxation, and recreation in ways that enhance a sense of community and promote the stewardship of natural resources.

Village ordinances define "parks" as "all of the lands and water owned or used by the Village for park or recreational purposes except those lands leased to others" (Village of Shorewood Hills (VOSH) Ordinance 12.01). The ordinances further specify that the parks are "under the jurisdiction of the parks committee," consisting of one elected Village trustee and six Village citizens, all of whom are appointed by the Board's President, "subject to confirmation by the board" (VOSH Ordinances 12.02; 2.02 (10) (b, 2)). The Parks Committee also includes ex officio members whose information and wisdom contribute to decision making. These are the Village Forester and the Garden Club president. In addition to monitoring parks maintenance and restoration, the Committee has responsibility for advising residents "on the care of trees, plants and plant diseases" (VOSH Ordinance 12.02).

Parks Planning

In 2002 when the Village undertook the development of a comprehensive Village plan in accord with "Smart Growth" legislation, the Board designated the Parks Committee as the body responsible for drafting a long term plan for Village parks. For some time the Parks Committee has recognized the need for plans to guide maintenance, development, and restoration of various parks. Although no comprehensive parks plan exists, previous Village of Shorewood Hills Parks Committees have worked on planning. Recently specific plans for individual parks have been developed. In 1992, the "Park, Open Space, and Outdoor Recreation Plan" focused on Post Farm Park, but also profiled the other parks. Specific management plans have been developed for Tessa and Hans Reese Woods (1999) and preliminary plans were written in 2001 for Post Farm Park and the Quarry Park portion of Dudley Davis Quarry Park. The Reese Woods plan has been implemented. However, existing plans apply to only a few parks and some of the plans are obsolete and probably no longer meet the needs of the Village.

The first step in the Village "Smart Growth" Planning process was conducted by the planning firm Vandewalle and Associates at an open Village meeting. From the focus groups at this meeting the consultants concluded that what the Village residents present valued most were trees and a community spirit of harmony and supportiveness.

Subsequently, Mark Wegner, the Village Forester, distributed to residents through the Village Bulletin a parks and recreation survey. Although the response rate was very low, the survey data showed resident concern for the health of trees and access to pedestrian trails.

With community and arboreal values in mind, the Parks Committee created an outline tentatively spelling out the Committee's planning mission and some of its goals. This interim draft outline was presented to the Plan Commission in June 2002 at an open meeting where public comment was invited. The Plan Commission encouraged the Parks Committee to continue to develop this outline.

In October 2003 the Parks Committee presented a draft of the Village of Shorewood Hills Parks and Open Space Plan to the Plan Commission at another open meeting for public comment. The Committee intends to continue to listen to and include community input. The Plan will support the parks' roles in community life and, as closely as possible, reflect the visions of the residents of the Village of Shorewood Hills for the future of their parks.

Mission of the Village of Shorewood Hills Parks Committee:

In addition to accepting the mandates presented in the Village ordinances, the Committee is

1. To provide and regularly update an overall parklands restoration plan that maintains appropriate biodiversity and protects native trees, plants, and compatible animal life.
2. To actively educate residents about ways to safeguard the natural resources of Village parklands.
3. To cooperate with the Recreation Committee and other Village committees to ensure that the development and maintenance of recreational facilities occur and are compatible with the parks' natural environment.
4. To create opportunities for residents to participate communally in activities that improve parklands and enrich neighborhood ties.

Vision for Village of Shorewood Hills Parks

Village parks will

1. Enable Village residents to explore and enjoy public natural areas and recreational facilities.
2. Serve as an example of healthy urban natural areas that contain appropriate biodiversity and protect native trees, plants, and compatible animal life.
3. Obtain sufficient funding for proper maintenance and replanting.
4. Be available for the enjoyment of residents as appropriate for each park category.

Purpose of Parks Plan

The four purposes of the Parks Plan are

1. To implement the park vision.
2. To identify parks and open space goals for the Village of Shorewood Hills and to identify processes to meet those goals (see page 5).
3. To provide Village administrators and residents with a basic knowledge of parks, parks facilities, and parks histories that will supply a foundation for future parks planning.
4. To satisfy requirements of the State of Wisconsin and granting agencies for a parks plan in order to obtain grant money.

Overview of Village of Shorewood Hills Parks

The Village owned parks, which include both recreational areas and natural areas, contribute to the character of the Village of Shorewood Hills (see Village of Shorewood Hills Parks Map for park locations). Almost all of the parks are natural areas or have at least some portions that are natural. These natural areas are mostly made up of deciduous (in many parks predominantly oak) woodland. In many of the parks wildflowers, usually spring ephemerals, cover the ground, contributing to the natural diversity usually present in mixed hardwood natural areas and embodying the beauty of the spring season in Wisconsin.

A variety of other plants and shrubs provide wildlife food and cover. The Shorewood Hills parks support a diverse group of birds and other wildlife species. This animal diversity is increased by the Village's proximity to Lake Mendota and the adjoining 250-acre University of Wisconsin-Madison owned Campus Natural Areas.

The northern edge of the Village of Shorewood Hills is the shore of Lake Mendota. Three of the parks and the leased Blackhawk Country Club border Lake Mendota, giving residents views and access to the Lake and contributing to the Village's feeling of openness. Most of the nine parks managed by the Village are relatively small, covering only about 21 acres (or 121 acres including Blackhawk County Club), and they are scattered throughout the Village. Many of the parks connect smoothly with adjoining private wooded yards, making the parks and the yards seem larger. In summary, the parks add to the wooded, park-like character of the Village of Shorewood Hills.

The Shorewood Hills parks vary in their purposes. Some of the parks, like Post Farm Park, Four Corners Park, and the Marina, have active recreational use. Others, including Koval Woods and Kaeser Woods, are natural areas meant for passive enjoyment. In addition, the degree of development varies from no development in the Oak Way Lots to intensive development in Post Farm Park. The flowerbeds at the H. S. Roth Entry Park, formerly called the Entrance Park, and the Village triangles add color to the neighborhoods and enhance the appearance of the Village.

History of Village of Shorewood Hills Parks

(The Parks Committee is deeply indebted to Thomas D. Brock and his book, *Shorewood Hills: An Illustrated History*, for information on and history of the Shorewood Hills parks.)

The parks have a diverse history that affects their current appearance. For hundreds of years before European settlement, Native Americans visited this area. Over a thousand years ago mounds were built along the Lake Mendota shore. Although many mounds were destroyed, some still remain on the Blackhawk Country Club property. Shortly before settlement, Native Americans probably managed much of this area with fire, possibly promoting an oak savanna landscape in drier areas. Bur oaks survived the repeated fires due to their thick bark, but the repeated fires killed most other trees. However, near Lake Mendota mesic forest may have survived and in wetter lowland areas other habitat types probably existed.

Shortly after settlement much of Shorewood Hills was farmed or grazed. These disturbances destroyed much of the natural ecosystems of the area. Some areas, like the rock quarry in Dudley Davis Park, were used for other purposes. Once the area was no longer burned, many areas that were not repeatedly plowed or grazed began to grow up in oak forest. These oak trees were closer together than oaks growing in a savanna. As a result, they grew upward rather than forming the wide canopies typical of savanna grown trees. These trees shaded out the sun-loving savanna plants. The woodland plants that replace the savanna plants tend to bloom early, before the oaks get leaves, and die back relatively early in the growing season.

The parks were acquired in several ways over a period of time. Several of the parks, including Bigfoot, Koval Woods and parts of Four Corners and McKenna Park, were set aside when Shorewood Hills was developed and were gifted in 1930 to maintain the open character of the Village. Other parks, including much of Dudley Davis Quarry Park, were acquired when owners failed to pay their taxes. The Village of Shorewood Hills purchased still other parcels, like Post Farm Park, which was acquired in 1968. Finally, other parks were given to Shorewood Hills including most of Bradley Park (1936) and Reese Woods (1972) (Brock, 1999).

Even after the parks were acquired, the individual parks were managed differently. In some parks the Village of Shorewood Hills Garden Club planted many wildflowers. In other parks, like Kaeser Woods, almost no management was done. In still other parks a variety of trees and shrubs, both native and non-native, were planted. The natural areas of parks owned by the Village also suffered, at least periodically, from benign neglect. The theory of the time was that natural parks did not have to be managed, but should be left alone for nature to take its beneficial course. Thus, although many wildflowers were planted in Dudley Davis Quarry Park, years of neglect allowed exotic shrubs like honeysuckle and buckthorn and non-native invasive plants like garlic mustard to invade and take over much of this and other parks.

In the mid-1990s an energetic volunteer group began to battle non-native invasive species. In order to save the native woodland understory, Kathie Brock organized the residents of the Village of Shorewood Hills to eliminate non-native garlic mustard. She raised awareness, led work parties to eliminate garlic mustard in the parks, and mapped garlic mustard throughout Shorewood Hills. Garlic mustard was declared a noxious weed by the Village Board in 1998. The ordinance required all garlic mustard to be removed from public and private lands. Garlic mustard was worst in the areas near the railroad corridor and in and near the Dudley Davis Quarry Park. In addition, Kathie Brock's group raised awareness of the dangers of other non-native species including honeysuckle and buckthorn. At approximately the same time, Tom and Kathie Brock initiated the removal of garlic mustard, honeysuckle, and buckthorn in the nearby Campus Natural Areas so that these invasive species would not spread between these two adjoining areas.

Partially in order to continue this active war on non-native plants, Shorewood Hills hired a full time Forester/Horticulturist in 1999. He also replaced Professor Charles Koval who voluntarily served as Forester and took care of the trees of Shorewood Hills for many years. A significant portion of this job involved removing invasive species from the parks, including all garlic mustard by hand pulling or treating with Round-up. The Forester also followed the precedent of previous years, encouraging the removal of garlic mustard on private land by sending letters to residents known to have garlic mustard on their land, reminding them that the 1998 law requires them to remove it. The Forester also planted native plants in the parks. Since that time, several restorations have begun.

In 1999 the first Forester, David Koehler, wrote a restoration plan for Reese Woods that called for it to be restored to oak savanna. A plant inventory was taken and savanna seeds planted in 1999. Subsequently honeysuckle, buckthorn, and, in 2002, many of the black locust, were removed and more savanna seeds and shrubs planted. Many of the plantings survived and became an established part of the park plant community. Garlic mustard continued to be removed. Several controlled burns have been conducted at Reese Woods.

Partial restorations, involving the removal of honeysuckle and buckthorn and in some cases, other less undesirable trees and shrubs, occurred at Four Corners Park, Koval Woods, the Edgehill Parkway edge of McKenna Park, Bradley Park, Post Farm Park (all), and Dudley Davis Quarry Park (all). In many areas local residents protested the removal of screening vegetation, even if the species were undesirable. The general goal was to return the area to oak savanna or oak woodland by removing non-native species and selected other trees. Stated specific goals included restoring native ecosystems, restoring understory diversity, and regenerating oaks. Four Corners planting began in the fall of 1999. Limited planting also occurred in Koval Woods in 2001. Planting began in 2003 in Post Farm Park and Dudley Davis Quarry Park to restore the ground layer.

Summary of Village Parks and Open Areas

Although all the Shorewood Hills parks have some natural areas, for the sake of discussion, parks and open spaces are divided into recreational, mixed, natural, garden, and trail or corridor. A table summarizes the Shorewood Hills parks and green space by category, giving the size and facilities at each park. The Village of Shorewood Hills Parks Map shows the size of each park. A glossary on page 22a defines selected ecological terms.

Recreational

Recreational parks provide a place for community activities and gatherings. They tend to have heavy usage, at least at some time of year. Shorewood Hills has 10.8 acres of recreational park area in three parks: one large park, Post Farm Park; and two smaller parks, the Marina and Four Corners Park. In addition, the 9 acre Shorewood Hills Elementary School grounds, which is owned by the Madison Metropolitan School District, provides a gathering place and a variety of recreational opportunities to Village residents. The Village has an agreement with the school enabling residents to use the Heiden house and adjacent field area for an ice rink and other Village activities. Finally, the largest open area of the Village, 99.5 acre Blackhawk Country Club, is leased to the private country club until 2025, but Village residents have access to this land in winter and limited rights to golf in summer.

Mixed Use

Mixed use parks have both recreational and natural areas. They are generally not as heavily used as recreational areas, or have high usage for relatively shorter periods. The Village has 2.69 acres of mixed use park area in two parks, Bradley and McKenna Parks.

Natural Area

Natural area parks are not designed to be high use areas. They are designed to protect native plants and animals, to preserve green space, to control erosion in steeply sloped land, and to be enjoyed by passive recreation like walking and nature observation. The Village has 6.1 acres of natural areas in four parks, Dudley Davis Quarry Park (includes Reese Woods), Koval Woods, Oak Way Lots (includes Kaeser Woods), and Bigfoot Park. Both the Oak Way Lots and Bigfoot Park were preserved to prevent building on steep lots prone to erosion and are not designed for human recreation of any kind.

Gardens

The Shorewood Hills Garden Club and the Village Forester/Horticulturist maintain multiple garden areas throughout the Village that significantly enhance the Village's appearance. The largest of these is the 1.2 acre H. S. Roth Entry Park, formerly the Entrance Park. In addition, there are 21 triangles scattered throughout the Village. A larger triangle at the corner of Shorewood Boulevard and Bowdoin Road is landscaped.

Trails or Corridors

There are a variety of trails and corridors throughout Shorewood Hills. Some of the trails that lead into parks are discussed with the park descriptions. Other public sidewalks include the Tally Ho Lane Walkway, the Shorewood Boulevard Walkway, and the Edgehill Parkway to Crestwood Walkway.

In addition, the Railway corridor, although not owned by Shorewood Hills, provides a corridor of green space that runs the length of the Village. A variety of bike trails also run through the Village including the Blackhawk Bike Trail, which connects to bike trails going to Middleton and to downtown Madison, and the Lakeshore Path, which continues from the University of Wisconsin into Shorewood Hills.

Goals for Shorewood Hills Parks and Open Space

Overall Goals:

1. Promote biodiversity
2. Maintain the health of Shorewood Hills trees
3. Protect Lake Mendota water quality
4. Provide recreational opportunities
5. Permanently protect and preserve parklands

Goal details:

Goal 1: Promote Biodiversity:

Preserve, restore and establish native biological communities in the natural areas of the parks of the Village of Shorewood Hills, with the aim of achieving appropriate diversity of plants and animals.

Native plants enrich our lives by beautifying Shorewood Hills, holding the soil, and slowing storm water run-off. Once established, they require little maintenance if not disturbed. Furthermore, they support birds and other animals that enrich our lives.

Objectives:

- A. Carry out a biological assessment of the plants and animals in the Shorewood Hills parks.
- B. Eliminate non-native and invasive species from parks.
- C. Restore parks, as necessary, with appropriate native plant species.
- D. Promote appropriate animal diversity.
- E. Monitor and maintain both natural and reintroduced appropriate biodiversity in the Shorewood Hills parks.
- F. Educate Village residents about biodiversity including invasive non-native plant species, native species, and restoration rationale.
- G. Support the Village Forester so that he/she can oversee maintenance and restoration of parks.

Objective details and selected policies:

- A. **Carry out a biological assessment of the plants and animals in the Shorewood Hills parks.**

Topography and Soil

Previous assessments:

There have been several previous assessments. Important to the biological assessment is the topography (see the Village of Shorewood Hills Existing Land Use in Appendix 1) and the soil survey of the Shorewood Hills (available from the Forester).

Plants

Previous assessments:

There have been several partial assessments of the plants of the Shorewood Hills parks. Many of the older canopy trees of the Shorewood Hills natural areas are oaks (red, white, black and a few bur), although hickory and a variety of other native trees are also common. The oak forest of Eagle Heights Woods in the adjacent Campus Natural Areas (CNA) continues into Koval Woods and on into McKenna Park. A survey of the plants of Eagle Heights Woods, a good quality oak forest, is available on the Friends of the Campus Natural Areas Web Site (www.uwalumni.com/fcna). Most of the Shorewood Hills parks have had trouble with non-native and invasive species, such as honeysuckle and buckthorn, which invade the shrub and middle forest layers. In some park areas honeysuckle and buckthorn have been removed. In addition, garlic mustard continues to grow, at least in small numbers, in almost all the Village Parks. Kathie Brock did a Shorewood Hills garlic mustard map that indicated where garlic mustard occurred in the late 1990s. In several of the parks a combination of disturbance, garlic mustard, and dense non-native shrubs has killed most of the native woodland understory of the park. When David Koehler and his team did a plant survey in 1999 before beginning the restoration of Reese Woods, they found few desirable species. Lack of an understory layer leaves the ground susceptible to erosion and the invasion of undesirable aggressive and non-native species.

Policies:

Develop a vegetation map of each park including trees, shrubs, and native plants. For natural areas, note canopy trees and interesting native plants. Note problem areas of the parks that lack desirable species.

Animals

Previous assessments:

The diversity of animals in the Village of Shorewood Hills is partially due to the proximity to the mostly wooded Campus Natural Areas (CNA). Since the oak forest of Eagle Heights Woods continues into Koval Woods and on into McKenna Park, the animal life in Shorewood Hills is similar to the animal life of the CNA. As a part of CNA planning, a biological assessment of the CNA is underway. Assessments of the animals including mammals of the CNA are published on the Friends of the CNA Web Site (www.uwalumni.com/fcna). A systematic bird survey has been carried out in the adjacent CNA. Most of the birds found in the CNA, except some of the marsh and grassland birds, are found in the Village of Shorewood Hills because the woodland birds follow the woodland corridor into Shorewood Hills. The CNA Checklist includes 253 species of birds, more than 72% of which can be expected in Shorewood Hills (see the Checklist in Appendix 3). The CNA has 81 probable and confirmed species of breeding birds, 57 of which nest regularly. Probably 70% of species that nest in the CNA try to nest at least some years in Shorewood Hills.

Policies:

Continue to gather information on animal life in the Village of Shorewood Hills, cooperating if possible with the people carrying out the CNA surveys.

B. Eliminate non-native and invasive species from the parks.

Previous efforts:

For almost a decade the Village of Shorewood Hills has tried to eradicate garlic mustard, and to a lesser extent, honeysuckle and buckthorn (see history section). Unfortunately, garlic mustard, although much reduced in all areas, is still present. In areas where honeysuckle and buckthorn have been removed there is frequently a problem with resprouts and new seedlings from the seeds of previous years.

Policies:

1. Continue to monitor and remove garlic mustard when it occurs from all Village parks.
2. Continue to monitor and remove honeysuckle and buckthorn from previously cut areas in Village parks.
3. As appropriate, remove the remainder of uncut honeysuckle and buckthorn from Village parks. This may have to be done gradually with replacement because of issues with neighbors and/or a lack of other vegetation in the area.
4. Ensure (education, monitoring) that Village residents remove garlic mustard from their yards as required by the 1998 Village ordinance. Develop a list of undesirable plant species that aggressively spread into adjacent lands including parks. Encourage Village residents through education and outreach to remove from their yard other invasive non-native species, especially honeysuckle and buckthorn.
5. Stop resident and contractor dumping in the parks through education, and if necessary, fines. Dumping and driving on trees roots and park property compacts the soil and kills trees and other vegetation. Dumping also introduces into the parks non-native species present (as seeds or roots) in the dumped material, kills any native species present, and creates disturbed ground that provides an opportunity for invasive species to become established.

C. Restore the natural areas of parks, as necessary, with appropriate native plant species.

Previous efforts:

After the removal of non-native and undesirable species, it was necessary to replant some areas. In Reese Woods a plan is in place and there has been extensive successful planting in order to restore it to oak savanna/woodland vegetation. After the clearing of non-native shrubs and trees in Four Corners Park in early 1998, native understory shrubs were planted in spring 1998 and savanna/woodland species seeds were planted in fall 1998. In 2000 a few plants were planted in Koval Woods. Partial plans were developed for Post Farm Park and the Quarry portion of Dudley Davis Quarry Park in 2001 and native plants were planted in these parks in 2003.

Policies:

1. The Parks Committee should identify an appropriate restoration model, savanna, oak or mesic forest, for each park. This should be based on the current vegetation, the site characteristics, and the usage and nature of the park. See the detailed discussion in Appendix 2 about the advantages and disadvantages of oak woodland, mesic forest, and oak savanna restoration.
2. Develop a restoration plan for each park. The Parks Committee should approve restoration plans before restoration begins.
3. Plant native plants and seeds that are appropriate to the area and the community type chosen (savanna, forest). In most cases the new shrubs or trees will be spread out and will not form the dense thickets that buckthorn, honeysuckle, or Norway maple did previously. As a result, most parks will be more open with more sun to encourage the growth of a more diverse group of native understory wildflowers and plants.

D. Promote appropriate animal diversity.

Previous efforts:

Some Village residents feed the birds or put up bird houses. Previous park planners have included trees and shrubs that are attractive to birds and other wildlife.

Policies:

1. When possible, consider animal life when making park plans. For instance, as much as possible, avoid creating holes in continuous woodland areas and corridors like the one along Lake Mendota. When possible, avoid cutting trees and shrubs from May 15 to July 15 to avoid destroying birds' nests and animals' homes.
2. Leave dead trees and fallen wood when they are not a safety hazard.

E. Monitor and maintain both natural and reintroduced appropriate biodiversity in the Shorewood Hills parks.

Previous efforts:

Reese Woods has been burned several times to maintain appropriate diversity. Other park areas are checked for invasive species annually.

Policies:

1. Map and maintain native plantings as necessary.
2. Keep high quality areas free of invasive species.
3. Keep track of native plants, both planted and existing, and try to avoid disturbing sensitive species.
4. Avoid, if possible, or monitor and minimize the impact of construction and other disturbances in park natural areas.
5. Continue to gather data on the animals of Shorewood Hills.

F. Educate Village of Shorewood Hills residents about biodiversity including invasive non-native plant species, native species, and restoration rationale.

Previous efforts:

In the spring of 2003 Mark Wegner organized a series of five lectures on trees and animals. Previous Foresters have had lectures and presentations. In addition, the Forester has created a section of the Village Web Site that provides information on invasive species, parks and restoration efforts. The Garden Club conducts educational programs about biodiversity issues.

Policies:

1. Hold workshops that educate Shorewood Hills residents about non-native species, native species, and restoration.
2. Continue to develop the Village Web Site and link it to other Web Sites with appropriate information.
3. Produce printed material to hand out to Village residents.
4. Cooperate with the Garden Club and other groups to educate Village residents.

G. Support Village Forester so that he/she can oversee maintenance and restoration of parks.

Previous efforts:

The Parks Committee has worked to have the Forester's salary increased to levels comparable with other Village employees and with foresters of similar experience holding equivalent positions in other municipalities. In addition, there has been an attempt to get tree maintenance and park maintenance as line items in the Village budget.

Policies:

1. Keep a qualified Village Forester by paying him/her a salary appropriate to his/her expertise.
2. Support the Village Forester with encouragement, money and volunteer labor.
3. Minimize complaints by educating and informing residents. Promote communication between residents and members of the Parks Committee about parks policies.
4. Encourage applications for grants to further Village parks goals.

Goal 2: Maintain the Health of Shorewood Hills Trees.

Most residents believe that trees are one of the Village's main assets. Without the tree canopy, the Village would look like any other middle-aged suburban community. Tree health is consequently a major concern. For many years Professor Chuck Koval, a resident and generous volunteer, served as Forester, monitoring and caring for tree health in Shorewood Hills. At the time he retired, the Village established and funded the full time position of Forester/Horticulturist. A major duty of the Forester/Horticulturist is to protect trees and restore native landscapes.

Objectives:

- A. Control oak wilt and other contagious tree diseases.
- B. Remove hazardous trees and trim trees to protect resident safety (this is done by an outside contractor).
- C. Develop and implement a plan for planting.
- D. Educate villagers about tree care and the Village Tree Ordinance.
- E. Develop a "valuable tree" labeling program on private land to acquaint residents with the history and value of trees on their property.
- F. Get funding to achieve the above goals.

Objective details and selected policies:

A. Control oak wilt and other contagious tree diseases.

Previous efforts:

Oak wilt is an apparently native tree disease that has periodically infected and killed Village trees. Most recently, in fall 2000 an oak wilt cluster developed on the edge of the Campus Natural Areas and Shorewood Hills. This oak wilt infestation has killed oaks in Eagle Heights Woods, private yards, and Koval Woods. The Campus Natural Areas refused to treat or remove the trees, but said that Shorewood Hills could trench along the border in order to prevent transmission by root grafts.

The new Tree Ordinance (see Goal 2D) requires the removal of infected oaks on public and private land because oak wilt threatens nearby oaks. Root trenches were installed in Koval Woods and infected oaks were removed. In fall 2002 three trees in Koval Woods were treated with a fungicide to protect them from oak wilt.

Policies:

1. Monitor Village trees for oak wilt and other contagious diseases.
2. Keep abreast of best methods of treating tree diseases.
3. Ensure that Village residents handle diseased trees appropriately to minimize additional infections.

B. Remove hazardous trees and trim trees along streets to protect resident safety.

Previous efforts:

In 1999 and 2003 hazard tree assessments were conducted. The 2003 report listed 24 trees that should be immediately removed. Four of these trees have already been removed and the remainder will be removed as money becomes available.

Policies:

1. Keep the hazard tree assessment current.
2. Remove hazardous trees as necessary to protect safety. In park areas, consider wildlife needs in natural areas and human safety near areas used by humans such as recreational areas and trails.
3. Trim trees along streets on a regular basis to keep them healthy and so that they will not become hazardous.

C. Develop and implement a plan for planting.

Previous efforts:

In general, as the trees lining the streets have died or been removed because they are hazardous, the Village has tried to replace them when money was available. When many streets had only one or two types of trees, all planted at the same time, they sometimes were all affected by the same stresses. The death of a group of trees can diminish property values, as when Shorewood Hills lost its American elms.

Policies:

1. The Village Forester needs to develop strategies for planting new trees before the old trees become hazardous and have to be removed. Selective proactive planting increases tree variety and enables streets to have trees of different ages, ensuring the long-term attractiveness of the neighborhood. Both the street trees and the trees in the nearby parks should be considered when planning and planting trees. The Forester should develop a map of the trees in the Village to aid in planning new plantings.
2. When trees are replaced, a variety of trees should be planted to minimize the risks from species specific diseases.

D. Educate Village residents about tree care and the Village Tree Ordinance.

Previous efforts:

In 2001 the Village Forester, Mark Wegner, developed a Tree Ordinance. This Ordinance, with the support of the Parks Committee, was passed by the Village Board. The Tree Ordinance requires the removal of trees with contagious diseases from public and private land. The Tree Ordinance also protected Village owned trees from damage by requiring protective measures whenever construction occurs. Finally, it required the removal of invasive alien species from both public and private land.

In the spring of 2003 Mark Wegner, the Village Forester, organized a series of five lectures on trees funded by an Urban Forestry Grant. Previous Foresters have also held lectures and presentations. In addition, the Forester has created a section of the Village Web Site that provides information on trees. The Garden Club conducts educational programs about landscaping, including trees.

Policies:

1. Hold workshops that educate Shorewood Hills residents about trees and the Tree Ordinance.
2. Continue to develop the Village Web Site and link it to other Web Sites with appropriate information.
3. Produce printed material to hand out to Village Residents.
4. Cooperate with the Garden Club and other groups to educate Village residents.
5. Continue to update the Tree Ordinance.

E. Develop a “valuable tree” labeling program on private land to acquaint residents with the history and value of trees on their property.

Previous efforts:

Although Shorewood Hills does not do this, other areas like Maple Bluff have labeled their trees.

F. Get funding to achieve the above goals.

Previous efforts:

The Village Forester has received annual Urban Forestry Grants and other funds for the Village to maintain its trees. Recently the Village Board has allocated money for tree maintenance and combating oak wilt. In 2002 the Village Board established a line item in the budget to fund tree maintenance.

Policies:

1. Continue to get grant money when possible.
2. Increase Village funding for annual tree maintenance as a line item in the Shorewood Hills budget until basic tree maintenance needs are met.

Goal 3: Protect Lake Mendota Water Quality.

All residents of the Village have a responsibility for water quality. Minimizing erosion and storm water run-off are essential if we are to both protect the Lake Mendota watershed and maintain healthy parks. With the help of environmental consultant Steve Apfelbaum of Applied Ecological Services, the Village, with the cooperation of Blackhawk Country Club, implemented environmentally friendly strategies to prevent storm water from flooding and/or moving directly into the Lake. In 2003 a series of rain gardens was installed to the south of the Country Club parking lot. Berms were planned in 2003 for the south side of the golf course. These strategies should encourage infiltration and prevent fertilizer-tainted water from flowing directly into Lake Mendota.

Objectives:

- A. Increase cooperation among committees with responsibilities for waterfront property, i.e., the Waterfront Committee, the Parks Committee, Public Works, the Blackhawk Country Club Liaison Committee, and the Village Crew.
- B. Maintain vegetation on steep hills and parks near Lake Mendota.
- C. Educate Village residents about erosion and run-off.
- D. Require boaters using the marina and boathouse to remove zebra mussels and other contaminants from their boats as soon as they remove their boat from the lake. Use signs to educate boaters about this responsibility.

Objective details and selected policies:

- A. Increase cooperation among committees with responsibilities for waterfront property, i.e., the Waterfront Committee, the Parks Committee, Public Works, the Blackhawk Country Club Liaison Committee, and the Village Crew.**

Previous efforts:

Over time Shorewood Hills has increased the number of committees dealing with the waterfront and parks in order to meet Village needs. Unfortunately, the responsibilities and authorities of the committees are not always clearly delineated.

Policies:

- 1. Increase communication and cooperation among all Village parties dealing with the waterfront.
- 2. Create a document that clarifies responsibilities for essential tasks.

- B. Maintain vegetation on steep hills and parks near Lake Mendota.**

Previous efforts:

In recent years the Village has made some effort to remove honeysuckle, buckthorn, and garlic mustard at the Marina. However, much of the bluff edge in the Village parks remains dominated by honeysuckle and buckthorn. This dense brush shades out understory plants while failing to adequately hold the soil, resulting in erosion on the steep slopes along Lake Mendota. Further inland much of the honeysuckle, buckthorn, and garlic mustard has been eliminated. As a result, the ground cover in Marina, Bigfoot, and McKenna Parks is healthier and better able to prevent erosion and absorb storm water.

However, 99% of the property along Lake Mendota is private. Thus in order to control erosion and storm water, the Village has to work with private landowners.

Policies:

- 1. Replace honeysuckle and buckthorn in the parks on the bluff edges with plants that will hold the soil more effectively.
- 2. Maintain or establish native understory plants on all slopes in parks near the Lake. Monitor new disturbances and ensure that native understory plants are reestablished in disturbed areas.
- 3. Where stormwater runs through the parks, consider creating rain gardens to infiltrate the water.
- 4. Work with private landholders to maintain or establish appropriate vegetation near Lake Mendota.

C. Educate Village residents about erosion and run-off.

Previous efforts:

Since most of the lake edge property is private and most storm water flows from private land, it is essential that Village residents be involved in protecting Lake Mendota. In order for residents to help protect Lake Mendota, they need to be informed and motivated. In 2000 and 2001 the Village Storm Water Task Force held a series of open meetings on storm water and made its minutes widely available, increasing awareness of these issues. The Garden Club has had lectures about rain gardens.

Policies:

1. Educate Village residents about the importance of their actions to the health of Lake Mendota. Emphasize that they can help by simple actions like minimizing fertilizer and salt use and on site infiltration measures. Use a variety of methods including
 - a. Workshops or lectures (Forester, Garden Club, or Village).
 - b. Articles in the Shorewood Hills Bulletin and on the Web Site.
 - c. Outreach to landowners near the Lake (printed material, personal contact).
2. Get Shorewood Hills residents involved in steps to save the lake such as park planting, trash cleanup, or storm drain monitoring.

D. Require boaters using the marina and boathouse to remove zebra mussels and other contaminants from their boats as soon as they remove their boat from the lake. Use signs to educate boaters about this responsibility.

Previous efforts:

Zebra mussels are new to the Madison lakes, so many people are not aware of them. Zebra mussels kill native species and damage human property. Most lakes in Wisconsin do not yet have zebra mussels, so by carefully washing off their boat, owners can protect the environment and human property elsewhere in the state.

Goal 4: Provide Recreational Opportunities.

The Village has always been concerned about active recreational opportunities for local children. Before 1962 when the Shorewood Hills School was integrated into the Madison School system and ultimately into the Madison School District, recreational opportunities were organized by a recreation director in conjunction with the local school, then serving children through grade 8.

After World War II, the director's position was replaced by a Village Recreation Committee. Other committees were then added to manage the tennis program and the Village Pool. The Garden Club assumed responsibility for community gardens.

With the exception of the Village Pool, which provides recreational opportunities for all residents, activities for young children have been clustered in Four Corners Park. Older children and adults are more likely to find opportunities in Post Farm Park which includes the Pool. By agreement with the School District the Village owns and maintains two tennis courts, the Heiden House and the ice rink on the school grounds.

Objectives:

- A. Cooperate with the Recreation Committee and other Village Committees to fulfill resident needs for recreation.
- B. Develop communication and decision making processes where lines of authority and responsibility are clear (Recreation Committee, Garden Club, Pool Committee, Waterfront Committee, Public Works Committee).
- C. Develop a recreation policy and set of priorities that will aid the Board of Trustees in making budget allocations. The policy should be flexible and reflect the demographics and interests of Village residents.
- D. Develop and maintain active recreational facilities in a manner consistent with safeguarding the parks' natural and historic resources, i.e., trees, native plants and animals, Indian mounds, and shorelines.

Objective details and selected policies:

A. Cooperate with the Recreation Committee and other Village Committees to fulfill resident needs for recreation.

Previous efforts:

In 1991, under the leadership of the Parks Committee, a Park Charette was held to gather Village opinions about parks and recreation. The resulting plan, "Park, Open Space, & Outdoor Recreation Plan," focused its recommendations on Post Farm Park. In the 1990s the play equipment at Four Corners Park was replaced. Most recently, a sand volleyball court was created at Post Farm Park. In 2002 Mark Wegner, the Village Forester/Horticulturist, carried out a Village parks and recreation survey. Unfortunately, the rate of response to the survey was low.

Policies:

1. In cooperation with the Recreation Committee, develop methods to determine what Shorewood Hills residents want for recreation.
2. When recreational facilities are upgraded, they should be equipped for people with disabilities where feasible.

B. Develop communication and decision making processes where lines of authority and responsibility are clear (Recreation Committee, Garden Club, Pool Committee, Waterfront Committee, Public Works Committee).

Previous efforts:

There has been confusion about responsibilities for parks facilities. Although Post Farm Park itself is the responsibility of the Parks Committee, the Recreation Committee, Pool Committee, Village Crew, Tennis Committee and Garden Club have played major roles in decision-making in this park.

Policies:

1. Increase communication and cooperation among all Village parties dealing with recreation.
2. Create a document that clarifies responsibilities for essential tasks.

C. Develop a recreation policy and set of priorities that will aid the Board of Trustees in making budget allocations. The policy should be flexible and reflect the demographics and interests of Village residents.

Previous efforts:

The current Parks Committee knows of no Village recreation policy or set of priorities to guide budget allocations.

D. Develop and maintain active recreational facilities in a manner consistent with safeguarding the parks' natural and historic resources, i.e., trees, native plants and animals, Indian mounds, and shorelines.

Previous efforts:

The new Tree Ordinance requires all building projects near Village trees to be inspected by the Village Forester to ensure that the Village trees are properly protected. In addition, in principle all construction in parks is supposed to be approved by the Village Forester/Horticulturist and/or the Parks Committee to ensure trees and native vegetation are not destroyed.

Policies:

1. Maintain existing recreational facilities while following the guidelines noted below.
2. Notice of all construction in parks should be sent to the Village Forester/Horticulturist and the Parks Committee.
3. Before the project begins, the Village Forester should inspect any proposed construction site in the parks to ensure trees, historic resources, and valuable native plants are preserved, and if necessary (at the Forester's discretion), during and after construction to see that trees and native plants were protected.
4. If necessary, replant areas disturbed by construction in order to prevent erosion and the entry of invasive species.

Goal 5: Permanently Protect and Preserve Parklands:

Preserve the Shorewood Hills parks for perpetuity and increase parklands as land becomes available.

The Shorewood Hills parks enrich the Village life by providing recreational opportunities, green space, and places for contemplation. These areas need to be preserved for future Shorewood Hills residents.

Objectives:

- A. Ensure that all areas now designated as parklands remain protected parklands in perpetuity. For those parks with more limited uses, ensure that any new uses of the park conform to the park category (natural area, mixed, or recreational) and do not violate the limitations (for example no tennis courts built in natural areas).
- B. Establish park boundaries.
- C. Increase the total amount of parklands in every category whenever possible.

Objective details and selected policies:

- A. **Ensure that all areas now designated as parklands remain protected parklands in perpetuity. For those parks with more limited uses, ensure that any new uses of the park conform to the park category (natural area, mixed, or recreational) and do not violate the limitations (for example no tennis courts built in natural areas).**

Previous efforts:

Some of the parks were designated for use as park only when they were acquired or donated, including all of Four Corners Park, Koval Woods, and Bigfoot Park. Portions of the Dudley Davis Quarry Park including Reese Woods, McKenna Park, Bradley Park, and the Oak Way Lots are specified as park use only. The unspecified portions of the four parks and Post Farm Park, the Marina, Blackhawk Country Club, the Tally Ho Walkway, and the Shorewood Hills Entrance Park have no limitations on their development or use.

Policies:

1. Pass a Village of Shorewood Hills ordinance to permanently restrict the use of the current parks to park uses only.
2. Establish a policy that declares the natural area parks, Dudley Davis Quarry Park, Koval Woods, Oak Way Lots, and Bigfoot Park, to be natural areas for passive enjoyment, rather than recreational areas.

B. Establish park boundaries.

Previous efforts:

The blending of the Village parks into backyards creates the illusion that both the parks and the yards are larger than their actual area. However, in many cases neither the residents nor the Village of Shorewood Hills knows the location of the park boundaries. As a result, residents place equipment and mulch piles in the parks and Village personnel do not know which areas they are responsible for maintaining.

Policies:

1. If possible, determine the locations of park boundaries using existing stakes.
2. If necessary, survey some of the parks where boundaries are an issue.
3. Mark the park boundaries with permanent markers.

C. Increase the total amount of parklands in every category whenever possible.

Previous efforts:

As the Village grew, additional parks were donated or purchased to meet Shorewood Hills needs. Today, except for Blackhawk Country Club, most areas are built on or preserved as parks. However, a few lots remain in the Village. Some of these have good quality natural areas and add to the green space and feeling of openness in Shorewood Hills.

Policies:

1. Acquire additional parklands as they become available.
2. Consider, when the Country Club lease negotiations occur for the lease that expires in 2025, converting Blackhawk Country Club to a park if the Village of Shorewood Hills population has grown.

Summary and Recommendations for Shorewood Hills Parks

Recreational Parks

Recreational parks are primarily used for recreation. They tend to have heavy usage, at least at some time during the year. Recreational parks provide a place for community gatherings. Many activities occur on the Village's 10.8 acres of recreational parkland, mainly in Post Farm Park. Below is a description of each park including facilities and problems, as well as recommendations for future improvements.

Post Farm Park

Post Farm Park, the Village's biggest park, is the most intensively used recreation area in Shorewood Hills. The 8.7 acre Post Farm Park was a historic farm that was purchased by Shorewood Hills in 1968 in order to build a swimming pool. The Shorewood Hills Pool, completed in 1970 and renovated in 1997, is a 50-meter pool with deep diving area. It has a small, separate, children's pool. The Shorewood Hills Community Center building is adjacent. The park has 60 parking spaces for users to park. The park also has 3 lighted tennis courts and a relatively new (2001) sand volleyball court. A piece of play equipment, 11 picnic tables, and 2 grills are also in the park. The park contains grass and flower garden areas, including the projected site of the centennial garden. About 2 acres of the park is used for 71 garden plots, which are rented on an annual basis by residents to grow vegetables and flowers. In addition, the Scout Shack, which was remodeled and extended in 2002, stands near an approximately 3 acre natural area.

In 1992 a Park Charette investigated the needs of the Village of Shorewood Hills for recreation and produced "Park, Open Space, and Outdoor Recreation Plan" which concentrated on recreation in Post Farm Park.

Between 1998 and 2003 a great deal of effort was devoted to the removal of non-native invasive species and replanting of native shrubs and flowers in this natural area.

Issues

- In the past few years there have been persistent problems with leaks and other Pool maintenance difficulties. The Village needs to keep the Pool in working order. The Village of Shorewood Hills Pool Committee manages the Pool.
- The Shorewood Hills Community Center is not currently handicapped accessible. In addition, some maintenance is needed. The Community Center should be updated and maintained so that it can be used by the Village. Other Shorewood Hills Committees, including the Recreation Committee, oversee the Community Center.
- In order to be safe and to encourage residents to use them, other recreational facilities including the tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, play equipment, and picnic areas must be maintained. The Village of Shorewood Hills Recreation Committee coordinates maintenance.
- Currently a bike trail is washed out and a large section of the bike trail floods, encouraging bikers to make alternative, unofficial paths. Bike trails should be maintained and trails and roads kept safe for multiple users.
- Post Farm Park has several garden beds, multiple landscaping trees, and grass, all of which need to be maintained. The Village Crew, the Village Forester, and Pool personnel may be involved in maintaining the landscaping.
- Although garlic mustard, honeysuckle, and buckthorn have been removed, keeping them out of the park requires continuing efforts. The elimination of these non-native invasive species leaves some areas with few plants. Although planting native species began in 2003, additional planting and ongoing maintenance of plantings will be required. Currently no official plan exists for the Post Farm Park natural area restoration.
- Storm water runs through the park from Harvard Drive and floods the bike trail and the edge of the gardens.

Recommendations for Post Farm Park

1. Legally designate Post Farm Park as a park area.
2. Maintain existing recreational equipment and facilities.

3. In cooperation with the Village Board, remedy storm water and erosion problems, especially along the railroad tracks and in the corner where Harvard storm sewers drain into the park.
4. Develop relationships and lines of communication with other groups involved with the park including the Recreation Committee, the Village Crew, the Pool Committee, the Boy Scouts, and the Garden Club.
5. Repair or relocate a small section of the bike path to end the short cut.
6. Work with the other committees to plant and maintain appropriate landscaping and flower gardens. This may include screening from the businesses beyond the railroad track and screening neighbors.
7. Continue to remove invasive species including garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle as well as any other aggressive disturbed ground species that invade (examples - stinging nettle, dame's rocket, and some annual weeds including ragweed).
8. Complete a plan for the natural areas of the park.
9. Plant and maintain appropriate native species.

Four Corners Park

According to Thomas Brock, "Four Corners was planned as the crown jewel of John McKenna's 1920s Shorewood development" (Brock, 1999). It was "part of a large tract of woods on the lower part of Blackhawk Hill that had never been logged" (Brock, 1999). A portion of Four Corners Park was sold off as seven lots by John McKenna in 1925. Subsequently 1.5 additional lots were added to the Park to make it easier to enter from Edgehill Drive and to provide an entrance from Sunset Drive. Today the 1.8 acre Four Corners Park has a shelter and playground equipment for small children and is mainly used for preschool summer recreation. About half of the park is natural area.

In 1998, improvements were made in Four Corners Park. New play equipment was installed. Undesirable shrubs including honeysuckle and buckthorn were removed. This clearing and the resulting lack of privacy upset the neighbors. Native understory shrubs were planted in spring 1998. Savanna/woodland species seeds were planted in fall 1998.

Issues

- The shelter and play equipment require ongoing maintenance to keep them safe for young children.
- The front portion of the park is landscaped and has grass and trees which need to be maintained.
- Four Corners Park has a trail that needs to be maintained.
- Although buckthorn, and honeysuckle were removed from most of the park, persistence is needed to keep them out. Garlic mustard continues to be a problem in the park and in the wooded yards adjoining the park. In addition, native jewel weed tends to crowd out other native species and may have to be controlled.
- Four Corners Park receives storm water that may cause erosion from the surrounding residential areas.

Recommendations for Four Corners Park

1. Maintain the existing recreational equipment and facilities.
2. Continue to remove any invasive species in the park including garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle.
3. In cooperation with the Village Board, remedy storm water and erosion problems.
4. If disturbances destroy plants or landscaping, replant as appropriate.

Marina

The Shorewood Hills Marina has 600 feet of Lake Mendota shoreline. The Marina was developed in 1956 by the Boat House Committee and continues to be run by the Waterfront Committee. The Marina has a storage building, piers, outdoor storage racks for smaller boats, and boat lifts. Users, both Shorewood Hill residents and non-residents (non-residents pay higher fees), pay rent to store their boat at the marina. The service road to the marina is frequently eroded by heavy rains. Only people who rent a space, "Authorized Marina Users," are allowed at the Marina. Above the Marina is a wooded natural area. Although parts of this area are very disturbed and have invasive species, other areas have wildflower cover.

Issues

- The marina has had problems with vandalism.
- Marina equipment needs to be maintained.
- The Waterfront Committee manages the marina, while the Parks Committee manages the "park."

- Neighbors use the small natural area associated with the marina for dumping. In addition, invasive species have taken over a large section of this small natural area. Disturbed areas are susceptible to erosion and invasion by non-native invasive species.
- The Marina road is regularly washed out by heavy rains because storm water from Blackhawk Country Club and Shorewood Hills flows rapidly down this steep hill.

Recommendations for the Marina

1. Maintain existing recreational equipment, facilities, and the road.
2. Develop innovative strategies for preventing vandalism.
3. Develop communication with the Waterfront and Recreational Committees and establish each committee's responsibilities.
4. Continue to remove any invasive species in the park including garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle.
5. In cooperation with the Village Board, remedy storm water and erosion problems.

Blackhawk Country Club (leased to the Blackhawk County Club Corporation)

The Blackhawk Country Club is the largest open area, 99.5 acres, in the Village of Shorewood Hills. Shorewood Hills acquired the existing golf course with park bonds in 1944. The Blackhawk Country Club was established in 1921 and was the first golf course on the west side of Madison. This land is leased to the Blackhawk County Club Corporation until 2025. This lease gives Shorewood Hills residents several recreational privileges. Village residents have the right to use this land during the winter months for outdoor recreation. Several days are reserved for youth golf for Shorewood Hills residents.

Blackhawk has several outstanding features. The Country Club has one of the most spectacular views, especially at sunset, in Madison. The portion of the Country Club that borders Lake Mendota is used by the Village for the Marina. Blackhawk Country Club has Native American Mounds, which are listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. It also has many mature trees including several oak groves. On one end near the Club House there is also a semi-forested undeveloped area.

The storm water from the hill at Blackhawk goes into Garden Homes, increasing the flooding of this residential area. Efforts to decrease storm water and erosion continue. Attempted solutions have included berms near the railroad track and a large rain garden that was completed in the summer of 2003.

Issues

- Garlic mustard, buckthorn, and honeysuckle continue to thrive on the edges and in more natural areas of the golf course. If garlic mustard continues to thrive on the Country Club property, it will be impossible for Shorewood Hills to get rid of this aggressive weed.
- In order to function correctly, appropriate deep rooted native plants have to be established in the rain garden. Otherwise, non-native invasive species, like garlic mustard and buckthorn, will take advantage of the disturbance and invade the area. These species will increase erosion and prevent the rain garden from functioning as planned.
- Some Shorewood Hills residents wish the Village not to renew the Blackhawk Country Club lease in 2025 so that the land will become a Village park rather than remain a private golf course.

Recommendations for Blackhawk Country Club

1. Control invasive species, especially garlic mustard. This will require coordination between Blackhawk personnel and Village personnel.
2. Establish and maintain appropriate plants in the rain garden.
3. Encourage Blackhawk Country Club to reduce its use of fertilizers and pesticides and continue to work to minimize storm water from Blackhawk in order to protect Lake Mendota water quality.
4. When the lease expiration approaches, have a Village wide discussion of the options for the future of Blackhawk Country Club.

Shorewood Hills Elementary School Grounds (not owned by the Village)

Since 1962 the Madison Metropolitan School District has owned and run the Shorewood Hills Elementary School, but the Village of Shorewood Hills has continued to use the tennis courts in the summer and the warming house (the Heiden House was built in 1980) and ice rink at the opposite end of the school in the winter. The Heiden House is used year around for recreational activities. The Shorewood Hills Fourth of July Celebration also takes place at the end of the school property where the ice rink is located. In addition, various Shorewood Hills teams and groups use the School Grounds for sports and events.

Issues

The Village of Shorewood Hills does not own the School land, nor does it have a contract with the Madison Metropolitan School District to use the land.

Recommendations for the Shorewood Hills Elementary School Grounds

Develop an agreement with the Madison Metropolitan School District that ensures that the Village of Shorewood Hills continues to have access to the grounds of the Shorewood Hills Elementary School.

Mixed Use Parks

Mixed use parks have both recreational and natural areas. They are generally not as heavily used as recreational areas or have high usage for shorter periods of the year. The Village has 2.69 acres of mixed use park areas which are used for passive recreation and enjoyment of nature most of the year. Below is a description of each park including facilities, natural areas, and issues, as well as recommendations for future improvements.

Bradley Park

The portion of Harold C. Bradley Park fronting on Amherst Drive was purchased so that the Village would own the land on which Harold Bradley had placed a ski jump. Eventually the ski jump was removed and today this area is used as a skiing and sledding hill. The upper portion of Bradley Park is a natural area that was donated by the original College Hills Water District in 1936 after the Village began to obtain water from the City of Madison. A significant part of this park is maintained in mowed grass. In addition, there is a small wooded area that has problems with honeysuckle, buckthorn, and garlic mustard. A portion of the buckthorn and honeysuckle was removed in Bradley Park in the late 1990s and the neighbors protested the opening up of this area.

Issues

- The boundaries between the park and yards are unclear. As a result, mulch piles and equipment are dumped in the park, causing disturbance and making it easier for non-native species to invade the park.
- Invasive species including buckthorn and garlic mustard threaten native species in this park. Removal of non-native species is more difficult because the park boundaries are uncertain.

Recommendations for Bradley Park:

1. Legally designate all of Bradley Park (the two lots on the ski slide are not restricted) as a park area, so portions cannot be sold off and developed.
2. Establish park boundaries.
3. Stop resident encroachment by posting park borders and educating residents.
4. Develop a park plan for Bradley Park.
5. Continue to remove garlic mustard. After a park plan is in place and residents are informed and plans for screening are in place, remove buckthorn and honeysuckle.

McKenna Park

John C. McKenna Park, or the Village of Shorewood Hills Beach, served as a major summer gathering place for Shorewood Hills residents from the 1920s until the Shorewood Hills Pool was built in 1970. In order to support recreation at the Beach, a swimming pier was installed and sand was acquired for the Beach annually. The Beach employed life guards. Swimming lessons occurred at the Beach. A Beach House provided a gathering and picnic area. After the Shorewood Hills Pool was built in Post Farm Park, the popularity of the Beach for swimming decreased dramatically.

Today the 1.65 acre McKenna Park provides public access to Lake Mendota. However, sand is no longer delivered. Perhaps partially due to the increase in the density of water weeds, many of them non-native, few people swim in Lake Mendota. The Beach House is used primarily for boat storage and is not well maintained. A small pier is erected annually. Walkers, fishermen, and swimmers use the pier.

The Boat House and the Boat Moorings are run by the Waterfront Committee. Behind the Beach is a natural area that has relatively few invasive species except for honeysuckle along the bluff edge. One of Shorewood Hills sewer lift stations is located in the park. The lift station was rebuilt in 2002 and 2003.

Issues

- The Boat House/Beach House has not been maintained and needs some major repairs.
- The Beach and surrounding area has problems with littering and glass.
- Construction of the new lift station killed native woodland understory plants in some park areas. Since part of this area is steep, these disturbed areas need to be replanted with native plants to minimize erosion and prevent non-native invasive species from taking over these areas.
- The Parks Committee needs to cooperate with the Recreation and Waterfront Committees to deal with issues of maintenance and safety.
- Storm water is dumped directly into McKenna Park and on into Lake Mendota. This rapidly moving storm water carries fertilizer, leaves, and other items that fertilize and pollute Lake Mendota. In addition, in some areas this water erodes McKenna Park, such as where the storm sewer at the edge of the bridge dumps water from Lake Mendota Drive down a steep slope.
- Invasive species, especially honeysuckle and buckthorn, occur in scattered areas in the Park. Near the edges of the park resident dumping has brought in undesirable species like garlic mustard and burdock.

Recommendations for McKenna Park

1. Legally designate all of McKenna Park as a park area.
2. Work with the Waterfront and Recreation Committees to arrange repair of the Boat House/Beach House to make it safe.
3. Replant areas disturbed by lift station construction. Ensure invasive species do not invade these disturbed areas.
4. In cooperation with the Village Board, remedy storm water and erosion problems.
5. Stop resident encroachment and dumping by posting park borders and educating residents.
6. Develop a park plan for McKenna Park.
7. Continue to remove garlic mustard as necessary.
8. After a park plan is in place and residents are informed, remove buckthorn and honeysuckle. Replace them immediately on steep slopes with aggressive native species to hold the ground.

Natural Area Parks

Natural area parks are not designed to be high use areas. They are designed to protect native plants and animals, to preserve green space, to control erosion in steeply sloped land, and to be enjoyed by passive recreation like walking and nature observation. The Village has 6.1 acres of natural areas in four parks. Below is a description of each park including facilities, natural areas, and issues, as well as recommendations for future improvements.

Dudley Davis Quarry Park (including Reese Woods)

Dudley Davis Quarry Park is actually made up of two separately donated and managed parcels of land. The Quarry itself was an old sandstone quarry that was acquired in 1933 for back taxes. The deed stipulated that the Quarry could be used “for park purposes only” (Brock, 1999). Various plans for the area were developed, but not carried out. The Shorewood Hills Garden Club planted wildflowers in the Quarry. Despite its lack of amenities, scout troops and other groups used the Quarry. Two other lots were also acquired for back taxes. In 1972 Hans and Theresa Reese donated another three lots above the Quarry “for park and wild life sanctuary purposes” (Brock, 1999). In recent years the lower part of the Quarry has been used for leaf and mulch storage.

Unfortunately, due to neglect, the Quarry became a mass of non-native honeysuckle, buckthorn, and garlic mustard. These shaded out and killed the planted wildflowers and the dense thickets made the Quarry

less appealing to users. Beginning in the mid 1990s, Tom and Kathie Brock led spring work parties to eliminate garlic mustard in the Quarry and other Shorewood Hills parks.

In 1999, under the first full time Forester/Horticulturist, David Koehler, an oak savanna restoration was begun in Reese Woods. Honeysuckle, buckthorn, and other undesirable trees and shrubs were removed. David Koehler seeded appropriate savanna/woodland species into the park and planted some native shrubs. Many of these plantings survived and became an established part of the park plant community. Garlic mustard and buckthorn removal by the Forester and Village volunteers continues so that these invasive species will not crowd out the newly established plantings.

In 2001 a crew led by Mark Wegner removed buckthorn, honeysuckle, and locust from the Quarry. These trees and shrubs were chipped and left on the ground to make soil in the very rocky Quarry. This opened up the area and made it easier to remove garlic mustard. In 2003 Mark Wegner and Shorewood Hills school children planted native plants in the Quarry to supplement the scattered surviving wildflowers.

Issues

- Despite persistent efforts to control garlic mustard in the Quarry, Reese Woods, and the surrounding private lands, garlic mustard remains a serious problem in these areas and without continuing work, garlic mustard will kill any new plantings.
- In addition, other invasive species, including leafy spurge, buckthorn, and honeysuckle, persist in Reese Woods and the Quarry.
- Neighbors continue to dump in the park, reintroducing non-native, invasive weeds.
- In 2003 a small area of the Quarry was planted with native plantings, but these plants will require maintenance. Most of the remainder of the Quarry is still dominated by non-native species or has bare ground where shading killed the ground layer. This bare ground can be invaded by undesirable species.
- Reese Woods has problems with storm water and erosion. The Quarry has problems with rain pooling in the lower area, preventing easy access to the remainder of the park. This large persistent puddle also provides a breeding place for mosquitoes.

Recommendations for Dudley Davis Quarry Park

1. Legally designate all of Dudley Davis Quarry Park as a park area (most of it is already specified as park, but two legal lots are not).
2. Establish a policy that declares the Dudley Davis Quarry Park to be a natural area for passive enjoyment, rather than a recreational area.
3. In cooperation with the Village Board, remedy storm water and erosion problems.
4. Stop resident encroachment and dumping by posting park borders and educating residents.
5. Improve park access by building a path through the storage area or marking the alternative path.
6. Continue to remove invasive species including garlic mustard, buckthorn, and honeysuckle as well as any other aggressive disturbed ground species that invade (examples – leafy spurge, stinging nettle and some annual weeds including ragweed).
7. Complete a park plan for the Quarry portion of Dudley Davis Quarry Park. (The Reese Woods area already has a park plan).
8. Replant native plant species and maintain them. Consider methods to get people involved such as an adopt a park program or find a partner such as the Garden Club to help plant, water, and monitor for weeds during the first few years.

Koval Woods

Formerly called Outlot A, Koval Woods, a 1.85 acre oak woodland natural area, was dedicated in 2001 to Charles Koval, the long time Village of Shorewood Hills Forester. Koval Woods is an unlogged extension of the 28 acre Eagle Heights Woods (a part of the University of Wisconsin Campus Natural Areas) and is separated from Eagle Heights Woods only by the houses and lots on either side of Wood Lane. Most of the houses around Koval Woods have naturalized yards and lack a clear dividing line between the yards and the park. The larger adjoining woodland has enabled Koval Woods to support a much wider range of animal life than a small isolated woodland would have, including area sensitive woodland birds. In addition, due to its lack of disturbance, Koval Woods supports a diverse set of woodland plants including wildflowers and shrubs. Koval Woods, unlike the rest of the natural areas of the Village, has few non-native invasive species like honeysuckle and buckthorn. Garlic mustard occurs where soil or yard refuse dumps occurred. However,

Koval Woods does have aggressive, non-native *Polygonum cuspidatum* or Japanese knotweed, which is slowly invading the woods from two private yards. A broad, barked walking trail goes through Koval Woods from Edgehill Drive to Wood Lane.

Unfortunately, in 2000 an oak wilt cluster developed in Eagle Heights Woods and spread into Koval Woods and the adjoining yards. In the fall of 2002 three infected trees were removed from Koval Woods leaving a large canopy gap. Before they were removed, the area was trenched. Adjoining park trees were injected with a fungicide to prevent oak wilt. Although no more trees have died in Koval Woods, untreated trees in adjacent private yards continue to sicken and die, increasing the risk that insects will bring oak wilt back to injured trees within Koval Woods.

In 2000 a partial restoration was begun in Koval Woods. Partially due to objections from the neighbors about removing native trees and shrubs, in the interior of the park only the few non-native buckthorn and honeysuckle were removed. Near the entrance additional trees and shrubs were removed and some native plants planted. Unfortunately, due to a drought, these plantings failed to survive.

In 2003 several new trees were planted in Koval Woods to replace the oaks lost to oak wilt. The disturbance caused by treating, removing, and planting new trees killed injured some of the existing native forbs and brought in new disturbed ground weeds, including thistles.

Issues

- Although the oaks adjoining the diseased trees in Koval Woods were treated for oak wilt, oak wilt continues to be present nearby.
- The removal of the oaks, trenching, and replanting of trees created a disturbed area. Some of the shrubs and wildflowers were damaged. This provides an opportunity for invasive species to move into this area.
- Along the edges of Koval Woods invasive species tend to come in, especially where there is disturbance such as dumping. In addition, Japanese knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*, is invading Koval Woods from the yards on two sides.

Recommendations for Koval Woods

1. Establish a policy that declares Koval Woods to be a natural area for passive enjoyment, rather than a recreational area.
2. Stop the spread of oak wilt.
3. Plant and maintain plants in the oak wilt area.
4. Continue to monitor and remove invasive species including garlic mustard, thistle, buckthorn, honeysuckle, Japanese knotweed, and other invasive non-native species.
5. Stop resident encroachment and dumping by posting park borders and educating residents.

Oak Way Lots (including Kaeser Woods)

Two of these lots were acquired to prevent people from building on this steep, partially quarried slope. Another half a lot, Kaeser Woods, was donated. There is no safe, public access to the wooded natural area above.

Issues

- Although portions of this oak wood lot have a good understory, other areas have invasive species problems including garlic mustard, buckthorn, and honeysuckle. These problems are harder to solve since access to the park is difficult.
- Since the only access to the upper natural area is private, users climb up the steep slopes and cause erosion.
- People are using the park to dump and store materials, build tree houses, and play games (using large trash cans) that result in disturbance, kill native plants, and create opportunities for the invasion of exotic species.

Recommendations for Oak Way Lots

1. Legally designate all of the Oak Way Lots as park area.
2. Establish a policy that declares the Oak Way Lots to be a natural area for passive enjoyment, rather than a recreational area.
3. Establish park boundaries.

4. Through education and signs prevent erosion by stopping inappropriate uses like games and climbing the steep banks.
5. Reestablish plants on eroding areas where possible.
6. Continue to remove invasive species in the park including garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle.
7. Establish a safe access to the park from Circle Close if possible.

Bigfoot Park

Bigfoot Park was given to the Shorewood Hills Park Association in 1930 by the Eagle Heights Land Company. Bigfoot contains a major storm sewer outlet to Lake Mendota. This narrow, wooded area has good spring ephemerals. The Park is not designed for public use or as a Lake Mendota access..

Issues

- Garlic mustard persists in the park despite efforts to eradicate it.
- The sewer line gets clogged with leaves, dirt, and other items carried by storm water. Some of these flow directly into Lake Mendota, fertilizing and polluting the Lake. Other materials block the drain outlet and form pools for mosquito breeding.

Recommendations for Bigfoot Park

1. Establish a policy that declares Bigfoot Park to be a natural area for passive enjoyment, rather than a recreational area.
2. Maintain the storm sewer to prevent mosquito breeding.
3. Limit resident encroachment onto parkland.

Gardens/Trails/Corridors

The Village of Shorewood Hills owns a variety of open space that is not officially parkland. These Village owned open spaces include the H. S. Roth Entry Park, formerly called the Entrance Park (1.24 acres on both sides of Shorewood Boulevard), the triangle at Shorewood and Bowdoin, and the 21 Shorewood Hills Garden Club triangles that are maintained in ornamental plantings and grass. These areas, acquired at different times, enhance the beauty of the Village and increase the open, park-like feeling of the Village. The Garden Club and the Village Forester/Horticulturist maintain these areas.

The Village of Shorewood Hills also owns three walkways not attached to parks: the Tally Ho Lane Walkway which goes from Tally Ho Lane to Locust Drive and has a water lift station, the Shorewood Boulevard Walkway which goes from Shorewood Boulevard along the railroad track to Post Farm Park, and the Edgehill Parkway to Crestwood Walkway which provides a short cut between these two Village streets. Other walkways give access to Village parks and are included with the individual parks.

In addition, there are some open space corridors not owned by the Village. These include the Railroad Corridor which is owned by the state of Wisconsin and controlled by the railroad and portions of the bike trails that go through Shorewood Hills.

Issues

- All of the Village owned open space has to be maintained by the Garden Club, Village Crew, or Forester/Horticulturist.
- Non-native invasive species including garlic mustard persist in some areas.

Recommendations for gardens/trails/corridors

1. Legally designate the Tally Ho Walkway and the H. S. Roth Entry Park as park areas.
2. Establish park boundaries for the Tally Ho Walkway.
3. Monitor all areas for garlic mustard and remove where present.
4. Establish and maintain appropriate landscaping in cooperation with other groups including the Garden Club and adjoining landowners.

Recommendations and Priorities

1. **Maintain the position of Forester/Horticulturist with an appropriate salary and an adequate budget.**
2. **Remove from the parks all serious threats to park and human health as soon as they are identified.**

Details:

Oak wilt and hazard trees, for example, require immediate attention because falling trees can injure residents and their property while a tree disease can kill many of the trees in our parks.

3. **Recruit and organize volunteers to help the Forester/Horticulturist.**

Details:

Cultivate a group of core volunteers who not only support the Forester in his/her efforts in park maintenance, but also invest themselves in community commitment to the Village. With the help of the Parks Committee, the Forester can educate volunteers to rid parks as well as their own property of noxious and exotic plants. Because invasive species are ever present, this needs to be an ongoing program.

A committed corps of volunteers can educate their neighbors about the perils of dumping on park land, the rigors of the tree ordinance, and the seasons for pulling garlic mustard. These volunteers can also work with the Forester and the Garden Club to develop "adopt-a-park" projects and with the schools to teach young people about stewardship.

4. **Continue to eliminate invasive non-native species from Shorewood Hills.**

Details:

Educate Village residents about invasive non-native plants and continue to remove them from parklands.

5. **Replant and maintain appropriate native plants where non-native species have been removed.**

6. **Establish lines of communication among all Village committees whose actions and decisions affect parklands and shorelines.**

Details:

Chairs of all these groups should meet twice each year to discuss their priorities and review the effects of recent actions on the parks system as a whole.

7. **Establish a method of assessing parks progress.**

Details:

Have the Village Forester establish a system of record keeping for each park. This record should include the annual goals for each park, the efforts made to achieve the goals, and the results of those efforts. These assessments will allow Foresters and Village residents to learn which methods work. In addition, records of successful restoration are necessary to justify new major efforts. The records will also create a useful history for all future Foresters, Parks Committees, and Village Boards and justify funding for parks restoration and maintenance.

8. **Safeguard lands currently designated for park use and increase total parklands whenever possible.**

Details:

Protect all lands that are currently functioning as parklands. Accept gifts of free parkland and purchase parkland when available.

SWOT ANALYSIS – MCKENNA PARK

Parks Committee

February 27, 2024

STRENGTHS

- McKenna Park is a special place with a unique landscape and spectacular vistas
- This is the only Village Park with four-season public access to the lake
- Prominent in the minds of our residents (based on comments in the CORP document)
- Expansive display of native spring ephemeral wildflowers and migratory birds
- The boathouse pavilion is a beautiful place to enjoy viewing the lake
- The boathouse offers indoor rack storage for our residents

WEAKNESSES

- Access road is in very poor condition
- Access road is often ice-covered and treacherous in winter
- Stormwater channel is in poor condition
- Stormwater quality going into the lake is not ideal
- Sidewalk leading from Lake Mendota is in poor condition
- Limited auto and bike parking

OPPORTUNITIES

- Remove invasive plants and replace them with natives (see 1929 plant survey)
- Add additional bio-retention areas to slow stormwater flow and improve water quality
- Add a trash receptacle at the top of the access road adjacent to the parking lot
- Multi-committee and resident participation in the McKenna Park Master Plan
- Connect with Wisconsin First Nations to interpret the indigenous history of the area
- Explore opportunities for public restroom access
- Explore opportunities for improved safe lake access along west side of the boathouse

THREATS

- Invasive and overly aggressive native plants, vines, shrubs, and trees throughout park
- Excessive shading of the woodland floor is leading to soil erosion into lake
- The chain link fence above the cliffside is unstable and contributes to erosion
- The few remaining Oak trees are under stress
- Add more native plantings

