

OPEN SPACE, PARKS AND RECREATION

Background

The Village is fortunate to have a large amount of open space and undeveloped land within its boundaries. This open space serves a variety of purposes including: providing space for outdoor recreation, conserving natural and scenic resources, providing habitats for wildlife, preserving ecologically fragile areas, maintaining property values and natural beauty, and acting as a buffer between incompatible land uses. Over the past several years steps have been taken to preserve and enhance the open space within the Village. The Plan recognizes that the natural features of open, undeveloped land within the Village adds much to its distinctive character, and consequently includes goals, objectives and policies that preserve such space. For the purposes of the Plan, open space, parks, and recreation areas are defined as follows:

- ◆ **Open Space** - includes unimproved public and private open space areas designated as conservancies, farms, preserves, outlots, or buffers.
- ◆ **Parks** - includes public parks and beaches, ball fields, and playgrounds.
- ◆ **Recreation** - includes property and facilities designed for paid recreational use such as health and tennis clubs and public and private golf courses.

The Park District is charged with the maintenance of most of the park land within the Village and for providing recreation services to Village residents. The Village also enjoys large areas of open space which are privately owned. Recreation areas are both privately (i.e. The Bath and Tennis Club) and publicly (i.e. Lake Bluff Golf Course) owned and maintained.

Inventory

The open space, and parks and recreation areas found in the Village are detailed in the following tables. The tables provides a description/location for each area followed by the acreage, ownership of the area, the organization which controls the use and maintenance of the area, and the area's Plan designation. A summary table is included providing the totals for each category and the percentage per category to the total Village acreage. The map included with this section details the location of these areas.

OPEN SPACE				
Description	Acre	Ownership	Control	Plan Designation
Lillian Dells Drive	.5	Public	Park District	Open Space
Sheridan Road Greenstrip South	6.3	Public	Park District	Open Space
Bath and Tennis Wetlands	8.1	Public	Park District	Open Space
Belle Foret	3	Public	Park District	Open Space
Sheridan Road Green Strip North	2.7	Public	Village	Open Space
<i>Tangley Oaks/Armour Woods</i>	25	<i>Private</i>	<i>Tangley Oaks/Armour Woods HOA</i>	Open Space
<i>Wimbledon Courts</i>	3	<i>Private</i>	<i>Wimbledon Court's HOA</i>	Open Space
Crabtree Farm Conservation Easements	124.2	Conservancy	Private	Open Space
Crabtree Village Owned Parcel	2.4	Public	Village	Open Space
Open Lands (LBOLA)	35.7	Public	LBOLA	Open Space
Forest Preserve	44.1	Public	Lake County	Open Space
SUB-TOTAL	252.6.0			

Notes: HOA = Homeowner's Association. Italics indicates dedicated open space associated with planned residential developments.

PARKS

Description	Acres	Ownership	Control	Plan Designation
Bluff Park	.99	Public	Village	Park
Sunrise Park and Beach	15	Public	Park District	Park
Artésian Park	12.4	Public	Park District	Park
Mawman Park	6	Public	Park District	Park
Ravine Park	5	Public	Park District	Park
Village Green	3.5	Public	Village	Park
Washington Park	.2	Public	Village	Park
SUB-TOTAL	44.5			

RECREATION

Description	Acres	Ownership	Control	Plan Designation
Shore Acres Golf Club	89	Private	Shore Acres Golf Club	Recreation
Blair Park	41	Public	Park District	Recreation
The Bath and Tennis Club	8.2	Private	Bath and Tennis Club	Recreation
The Racquet Club	3.6	Private	Lake Bluff Racquet Club	Recreation
Lake Bluff Golf Club	120	Public	Park District	Recreation
SUB-TOTAL	261.7			

*The total Shore Acres Golf Club equals 150 acres, 61 of those acres are not in the Village.

SUMMARY

Description	Private Acres	Public Acres	TOTAL ACRES	% Of Total Village
Open Space	152.2	100.4	252.6	11%
Parks	0.0	44.5	44.5	2%
Recreation	100.7	161.0	261.7	11%
TOTAL	252.9	305.8	568.7	23%

Source: Village and outside organization files and planimeter studies.

Open Space, Parks and Recreation - Goal, Objectives and Policies

GOAL: Preserve and protect the parks and open space within the Village and assist the Park District in meeting the recreation needs of Village residents.

Objectives - Open Space	Policies - Open Space
<p>PO1. Preserve and protect adequate open space to maintain the character of the Village.</p>	<p>PO1-1. Evaluate the continuation the open space provided by the conservation easements and the village owned parcel within the Crabtree Farm Properties. Promote greater public use within, and public benefit from, those areas that qualify as conservation easements. <i>See policies LU1-3 and PO1-4.</i></p> <p>PO1-2. Purchase, or assist the Park District in obtaining for open space, the privately owned single family houses north of Route 176 and adjacent Eva Terrace.</p> <p>PO1-3. Investigate, with assistance from the Lake Bluff Park District, options to gain site control or ownership of the Lake County Forest Preserve property west of the Harrison House Conference Center for park use or open space. <i>See policy LU5-6.</i></p> <p>PO1-4. Maintain and enhance scenic easements along Sheridan Road (north and south), Green Bay Road (north of Route 176), Route 176 and Route 43.</p>
<p>PO2. Maintain and enhance the appearance of the Village.</p>	<p>PO2-1. Develop a public lands zoning classification for District 65, Park District, Village and other public properties in the Village.</p> <p>PO2-2. Vigorously enforce Village ordinances including appropriate use of zoning, subdivision controls, and land acquisition.</p>

PO2. Continued
PO3. Maintain existing open space buffers utilizing density control, preservation and conservation techniques to preserve areas which are ecologically fragile such wetlands, flood-plains, and ravines.

PO2-3. Periodically review and promote appropriate roadway, utility and landscape designs for Village entryways including the areas along Sheridan Road, Green Bay Road, and Route 176, with the assistance of the Architectural Board of Review.
PO2-4. Maintain and encourage appropriate landscape improvements along existing rights-of-way throughout the Village
PO3-1. Retain, maintain and extend as feasible the open space adjacent to Sheridan Road from east Sheridan Road to the Village limits to the north.
PO3-2. Adopt a ravine ordinance regulating construction activities along ravine borders and the use and maintenance of the ravine systems. <i>See policy LU2-2(a), LU3-1(a), and H1-4.</i>
PO3-3. Respect and preserve existing woodlands, prairies and wetland environments.

Objectives - Parks and Recreation
PO4. Preserve and assist in maintaining the public parks within the Village.

Policies - Parks and Recreation
PO4-1. Retain the recreation space provided by the Shore Acres Country Club <i>See policies LUI-3 and PO1-1.</i>
PO4-2. Provide assistance in park planning.
PO4-3. Study the use of an appropriately sized area south of JAWA and west of E. Sheridan Place for park use, to include ball fields. <i>See policy LU5-8.</i>
PO4-4. Support investment in upgraded park equipment.

PO4. Continued

PO4-5. If approved by the residents of the Village through a referendum, a community center/museum, as currently (1997) proposed by the Park District, should be located in the Blair Park area. Vehicular and pedestrian access should be examined.

Open Space, Parks and Recreation Map