

OPEN SPACE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

This element includes background information, goals, objectives, and actions to guide the future development of the parks and vacant lands in the Town of Shelby. This element provides an overview of outdoor recreation opportunities that exist in the Town of Shelby, detailing current facilities while addressing potential needs for utilities, facilities, upgrades, and considerations in the years to come.

Within the Town of Shelby there is approximately 3,532 acres of developed parks, trails, and recreation facilities and approximately 62 acres of undeveloped or vacant lands.

GOAL 1
Create consistency in Town of Shelby Parks, Trails, and Vacant Lands. <i>Objective 1-1:</i> Explore options for consistency in signage, park facilities and fixtures.
GOAL 2
Prioritize regular maintenance of Town of Shelby Parks and Trails. <i>Objective 2-1:</i> Schedule regular maintenance for all existing trails, green space, equipment, and facilities.
GOAL 3
Update Town of Shelby Parks and Trails to meet needs for accessibility and safety updates. <i>Objective 3-1:</i> Investigate grants and alternate sources of funding to provide accessibility and safety updates to the Town Parks and Trails
GOAL 4
Coordinate public and private sector efforts such as Mississippi Valley Conservancy, Blufflands Coalition and City of La Crosse to protect and preserve green space and waterways. <i>Objective 4-1:</i> Encourage development of Town of Shelby Parks, Trails and Vacant Lands that will conserve and enhance natural beauty. <i>Objective 4-2:</i> Identify locations and implementation tools needed to better connect the recreational path and greenway system.
GOAL 5
Provide opportunities for community involvement and community education. <i>Objective 5-1:</i> Educate residents on trail usage, locations, and etiquette and recreation opportunities using the Facebook page, town website and quarterly newsletters. <i>Objective 5-2:</i> Encourage community involvement with parks and trails.
GOAL 6
Plan for reasonable and responsible expansion and redevelopment/ development of Town of Shelby Parks, Trails, and Vacant Lands.

Objective 6-1: Discuss methods to ensure expansion, development and/ or redevelopment does not negatively impact natural resources and reduces the impacts of floods, erosion, pollution, and stormwater run-off.

ACTIONS

Action 1-1: Create a plan to make necessary updates to Town of Shelby Parks, Trails, and Vacant Lands.

Action 1-2: Redesign logos for parks and trails that complement the Town of Shelby and Sanitary District No. 2 logos as well as logos for local trail organizations.

Action 2-1: Work with Public Works to create a manageable maintenance plan for existing parks and trails.

Action 3-1: Create a plan to make necessary updates to Town of Shelby Parks, Trails and Vacant Lands for accessibility and safety.

Action 4-1: Limit bluff top development by enforcing existing ordinances and continuing with voluntary easement acquisition programs and other tools.

Action 4-2: Explore development of a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in accordance with DNR standards to forecast park needs and create eligibility for grant funding through the state.

Action 5-1: Update Town of Shelby website and Facebook page to provide information and education.

Action 5-2: Obtain maps and historic information about the trails and parks and make those available to the public.

Action 6-1: Seek out funding sources and grants for larger projects that the annual budget cannot cover. Fundraising options should also be investigated.

Action 6-2: Work with developers to dedicate desirable lots or linear spaces to greenspace and parkland.

Action 6-3: Identify “no build” preservation areas and develop ways to encourage owners to participate, i.e., conservation easement; purchase of development rights; outright donation of land or tax incentives.

Action 6-4: Set a preferred ratio of open space to developed space (i.e., 10/20/30 acres between any developments).

Action 6-5: Encourage development of a Mormon Coulee Creek Greenway from Goose Island to County Highway YY, along both sides of the creek, where possible. Require a 150-foot setback for new development along this section of Mormon Coulee Creek.

Action 6-6: Encourage development of a Pammel Creek Greenway from Drive In Road easterly to the bottom of Irish Hill, along both sides of the creek, where possible.

Action 6-7: Budget for regular maintenance, smaller updates, planning efforts, and community education and involvement opportunities.

Action 6-8: Maintain an up-to-date inventory of all parks, trails, vacant lands and determine goals for each individual parcel.

Action 6-9: Draft and maintain a list prioritizing necessary projects for parks, trails, and vacant lands.

The Town of Shelby has an extensive system of parks and play areas. The major subdivisions have parks due to the Town's subdivision ordinance requirements. Within the Town, there are 16 developed parks and 8 undeveloped parcels. These parks and parcels retain green space and preserve safe, beautiful areas that are desirable for public use. The Developed and Undeveloped Parcels are as follows:

Developed Park Name	Acres	Parcel No.	Amenities
Arbor Hills Park	3.77	11-313-1	Grass Parking, ¼ Basketball Court, Swings (1 Infant and 3 Standard), Large Play Equipment, 1 Bench, Tennis Courts, Greenspace
Battlestone Station Road Park	1.35	11-1048-510	Off Street Parking, Walking Trail, Berms, Greenspace
Boulder Ridge Park	1.06	11-2558-0	Grass/Street Parking, Swings (1 Infant and 3 Standard), Large Play Equipment, Greenspace
Breidel Coulee Park	9.29	11-77-4	Grass Parking, Swings (1 Infant and 3 Standard), Slide, Step Climber Gym, Picnic Table, Greenspace
Brookwood Park	1.00	11-140-0	Grass/Street Parking, Swings (1 Infant and 3 Standard), Play Equipment, 2 Spring Riders, 1 Bench, Picnic Table, Greenspace
Gazebo Park	.37	11-639-0	Street Parking, Gazebo, Game Bench, Greenspace, Bike Rack, Bubbler, 2 Benches, Free Library
Hills of Home Park	0.15	11-208-3	Grass/Street Parking, Swings (1 Infant and 3 Standard), Slide, Greenspace.
Mormon Coulee Park	20.5	11-1815-0 & 11-1864-0	3 Paved Parking Lots, 3 Open Shelters, 1 Closed Shelter with Bathrooms, Swings (2

			Infant and 2 Standard), Twin Slides, 3 Large Play Equipment Sets, 2 Teeter Totters, 1 Spring Rider, Basketball Court with 2 Hoops, Disc Golf Course, Ball Field with Bleachers, 4 Stationary Grills, 2 Free Standing Bathrooms, Walking Path, Bridge, Creek, Greenspace, 5 Benches.
Nolop Estates Park	0.28	11-287-0	Grass/Street Parking, Swings (1 Infant and 1 Standard), ¼ Basketball Court, Play Equipment
Pammel Creek Park	18.0	11-1008-0, 11-2522-0 & 11-994-0	Off Street Parking, Swings (2 Infant and 2 Standard), Play Equipment, 4-Sided Basketball Hoop, Soccer Nets, 2 Ball Fields with Bleachers and a Batting Cage, Gravel Walking Path, 2 Wooden Bridges, Open Shelter, Small Storage Shed, Port-a-Potty, Free Library, Greenspace
River Hills Park	0.42	11-2291-0	Grass/Street Parking, Swings (1 Infant and 1 Standard), Slide, 2 Spring Riders, ½ Basketball Court, Greenspace
Skyline Park	7.90	11-1250-0	Street Parking, Swings (1 Infant and 3 Standard), 1 Spring Rider, Tunnel Slide, Climber, ½ Basketball Court, Bench, Free Little Library, Walking Trail, Greenspace
Smyth Park	1.77	11-324-2	Grass Parking, Swings (4 Standard), Slide, Step Climber Gym, ½ Basketball Court, Backstop with 2 Wooden

			Benches, Covered Shelter, Greenspace.
Wedgewood Terrace Lower Park	0.70	11-956-0	Street Parking, Slide, Swings (1 Infant and 3 Standard), 2 Teeter Totters, 2 Spring Riders, Monkey Bars, 1 Bench, Volleyball Net (seasonally) Greenspace.
Wedgewood Terrace Upper Park	0.77	11-846-0	Street Parking, Slide, Swings (1 Infant and 3 Standard), 2 Teeter Totters, Basketball Court, 1 Bench, Play Equipment, Walking Path, Tennis Court, Greenspace.
Wedgewood Valley Park	1.30	11-760-0	Grass/Street Parking, Swings (1 Infant and 3 Standard), 1 Teeter Totter, 1 Freestanding Metal Slide, Play Equipment, 1 Bench, Little Free Library, Wooden Bridge, Creek, Paved Pathway, Walking Trail, Greenspace.
Total Acres	68.75		

Undeveloped Land Location	Acres	Parcel No.	Amenities
Arbor Hills	17.46	11-480-0, 11-484-0, 11-325-3	Gravel Road Access, Greenspace, Shelby Wellhouse and Reservoir
Brookwood	1.00	11-131-0	Vacant Lot
Hickory Lane	.29	11-698-1	Planted Boulevard (No Need for Mowing)
Hillcrest- Greenwald Coulee	.99	11-1231-0	Open Wooded Area
Sunset Slope	.20	11-1039-0	Vacant Lot

Terrace Wellhouse/ Drive-In Road	2.21	11-772-0, 11-674-101	Greenspace and a Wellhouse with minimal storage
Valley Reservoir	10.88	11-566-0, 11-568-1	Wooded Trail that allows access to Shelby's Valley Reservoir
Total	33.03		

Shelters & Rentals

The Town of Shelby has many shelters that are available for public use on a first come, first serve basis. There are only two shelters that the Town of Shelby rents, both are in Mormon Coulee Park located just off Highway 14/61. The Enclosed Shelter can be accessed via Bloomer Mill Road and Open Shelter #2 is accessed via Park Drive. Shelters can be reserved for events between April 15th and October 15th of each year. Reservations are taken at Town Hall after the 1st of January. A full payment of the rental fee and a signed contract are due when making the reservation, the deposit is meant to be paid when the key is picked up at Town Hall the Friday before the scheduled event.

Vacant Parcels

The parcels listed below are vacant parcels that are owned and maintained by the Town of Shelby that are partially vacant or could be utilized for trails or additional greenspace. Parcels that are owned and maintained by the Town of Shelby that are designated as right-of-way or drainage easements have not been included. This list is meant to assist with the planning of future trails, parks, walkways, and other uses for the vacant land owned by the town. The parcel number and general location has been provided to help identify the parcels. The vacant parcels are as follows:

Parcel No.	Acres	Potential Use	Description
11-1276-4*	.41		Vacant Parcel Strip, Hypoint Drive/Hagen Road
11-2021-0	10.07	Hiking Trail	Old Landfill, Old Town Hall Road, controlled by DNR, cannot break ground, or put a building on the parcel.
11-1321-2	2.15	Hiking Trails	Valley Reservoir, Woodlands, Easter Road
11-994-0	5.26		Vacant Lot, State Road 33/ Horseshoe Place

11-2522-0	1.74		Vacant Lot, State Road 33/ Horseshoe Place
11-614-1	1.53		Pammel Creek Land, Hagen Road
11-2688-0	1.26		Vacant Parcel, Knobloch Road
11-2689-0	1.36		Vacant Wooded Parcel, Willow Trail

Trail Systems

The table below details the trail systems located in the Town of Shelby and near the Town of Shelby. Not all the trails listed are controlled, owned or maintained by the Town, but are frequently utilized by Town residents.

Trail Name	Acres	Parcel No.	Amenities
Old Vineyard Bluffland (Includes Butterfly Trails)	37.79	11-363-0, 11-363-1, 11-363-2, 11-377-0, 11-569-0, 11-566-0, 11-568-1, 11-575-0, 11-586-4, 11-586-6, 11-587-0	Trails and Trail Heads, Garbage Receptacle at the Upper Trailhead. Parking for the Upper Butterfly Trailhead in a Cul-de-Sac. Parking for the Lower Butterfly Trailhead on the Side Street. In Shelby.
Pammel Creek Walkway	10.01	11-588-0, 11-614-1, & 17-50310-36 (City)	Wooden Bench, Metal Bench, Trail map sign, greenspace. In Shelby.
Clara's Climb	25.30	17-50246-40	Access on Ebner Coulee Road – No Street Parking, Hiking access to La Crosse Gateway Trails System
Dobson Tract	53.53	17-20270-50	Access at the end of Thistledown Drive- Parking Available
Easter Road Trailhead – Hass Trails	119.74	17-50310-300	Trailhead and Parking on Easter Road, No biking, camping or motorized vehicles
Crown Blvd Trailhead	19.12	17-50325-82 & 11- 1723-12	Trailhead on Crown Boulevard, One mile out and back

Chad Erickson Trail	77.75	17-50310-36, 17-50310-30, 17-50310-40	Paved walking trail- primary trailhead/ parking lot off Park Lane Drive. (South end of the trail). Additional access along Pammel creek road or via state road school.
Total	343.24		

Waterways & Trout Streams

This section will provide an overview of waterways that exist within the Town of Shelby and the recreational activities they provide for residents and visitors. These waterways range from the Mississippi River which flows along the Southwestern border of the town near Stoddard and Goose Island Park, to the smaller creeks that flow within the town such as Pammel Creek and Mormon Coulee Creek.

Pammel Creek

This creek originates in Pammel Creek park flowing along Highway 33, Pammel Creek Road, following 33rd St and emptying into the Mississippi River just beyond Sherwood Park in the City of La Crosse. This waterway has a large concrete casing in some areas, allowing for additional water flow when large rainfalls occur in this area. This helps to alleviate the flooding and overrun of water from the creek into nearby homes and across the road. This creek is very shallow a majority of the time and its water levels do not allow for swimming, canoeing or kayaking. This creek is considered a protected trout stream by the Department of Natural Resources.

Mormon Coulee Creek

Mormon Coulee Creek is located further south in the Town of Shelby. It originates past eastern border of the Town, the creek flows into the Town of Shelby from the Town of Greenfield. This creek flows just off Highway 14/61 for the most part, directly through its namesake, Mormon Coulee Park. It adds a beautiful water feature to Mormon Coulee Park, splitting the park in two. It provides added recreation opportunities for fishing. After the park the stream leads more towards the southern border of town, spilling into the Mississippi River just before Goose Island and County Road K. The water levels in this creek do not allow for swimming or canoeing/ kayaking. This creek is considered a protected trout stream by the Department of Natural Resources.

Mississippi River

The Mississippi river flows along the southwestern border of the town through Goose Island and along the Boschert Addition (located behind the Shelby Mall). The Mississippi flows along the City of La Crosse and Town of Shelby borders as well as many other municipalities in La Crosse County. This waterway is used nearly year-round. In the warmer months for swimming, fishing, boating, jet skiing, canoeing, paddle boarding, kayaking, waterskiing, and tubing. In the colder months, once the river has frozen enough, the river is utilized by many for ice fishing.

Shelby Youth Ball

Shelby Youth Ball is the youth baseball and softball program run by the town. The Shelby Youth Ball program utilizes multiple ball fields throughout the town. The main fields associated with Shelby Youth Ball are located on 33rd Street which is in the City of La Crosse. The fields are owned by La Crosse County but are leased and maintained by the Town of Shelby. These fields are located on an 8-acre parcel that includes the following amenities:

3 Ball Fields, 2 sets of 2 Batting Cages, 3 Base Boxes, 2 Swing Away Poles, 3 Scoreboards, 2 Bubblers, 6 Bleachers, 4 Swings, 3 Outfield Fences, 3 Warning Tracks, 6 Dugouts, Hitting Pad, Greenspace, Concession Stand with Open Shelter Attached with 2 Restrooms (Handicap Accessible), Storage Shed (Icehouse), Parking lot across from the fields (off 33rd Street).

Recreational Land Located in the Town of Shelby

There are many outdoor recreational facilities located within the Town of Shelby that are not owned or operated by the Town, totaling 3,415.18 acres.

Goose Island Campground

This campground is owned and operated by La Crosse County. Spanning 710 acres along the banks of the Mississippi River, this campground offers boating, canoeing, hiking, camping, fishing, and many other recreational opportunities. This Campground includes picnic shelters and playgrounds that can be used by campers and the public.

Mount La Crosse Ski Area

Mount La Crosse Ski Area established in 1959, more commonly known to locals as Mt. La Crosse, is a 200-acre, privately owned ski hill in the Town of Shelby. Mt. La Crosse maintains 18 slopes and trails for skiing and snowboarding all serviced by 3 chair lifts and one rope tow. The Mt. La Crosse Chalet contains a bar and restaurant, complete ski shop, and a rental and repair shop. Mt. La Crosse hosts races and other sporting events throughout the winter season.

Stry Foundation Nature Center

The Stry Foundation Nature Center is a 5.18-acre passive recreation facility owned by a non-profit foundation. This Nature Center is located just off Highway 33 in the Town of Shelby. This natural wildlife habitat consists of a pond and walking trails that can be accessed by the public.

Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge

The Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge is a nature preserve available for passive recreation. This vast refuge consisting of 2,500 acres spanning along the Mississippi River is owned by the federal government.

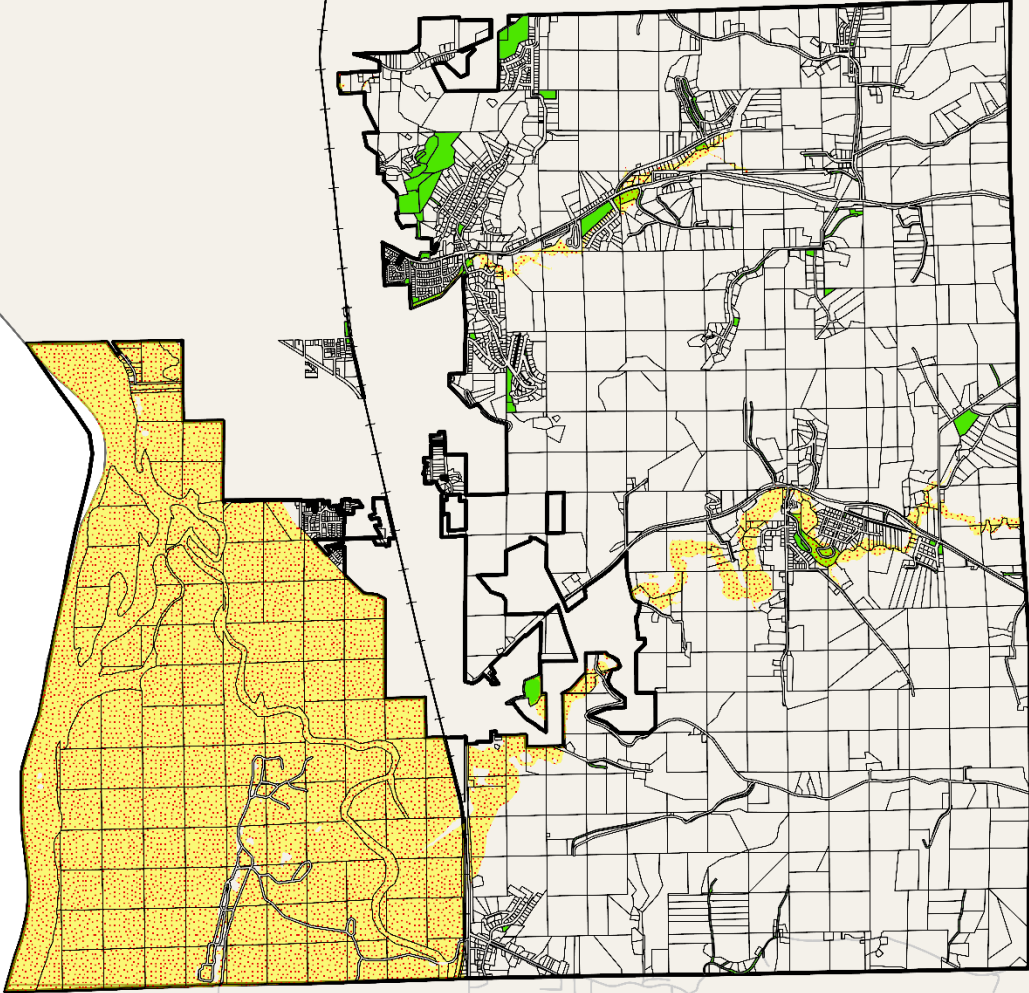
Definitions



Passive Recreation refers to recreation that does not require prepared facilities like sports fields or pavilions. This includes wildlife observation, walking, biking, picnicking, canoeing.

Greenspace/ Greenways shared use pathway or area of grass, trees and other vegetation to encourage and connect people to nature, other areas of the community and is set apart for recreational and aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban or developed environment.

TOWN OF SHELBY

TOWN OF SHELBY LAND



-  Town of Shelby Parcels
-  FEMA 100 Year Boundary

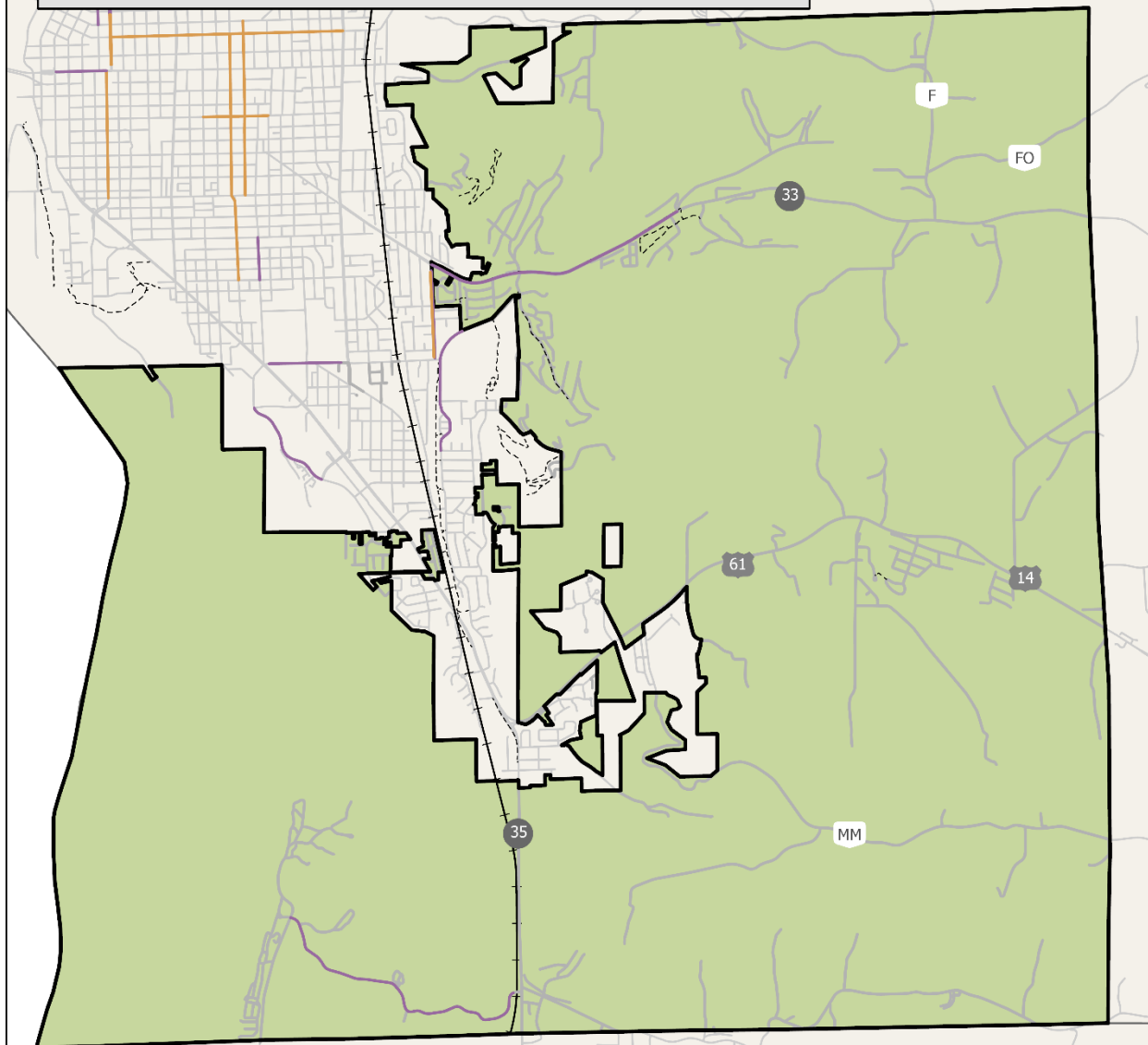


Source: La Crosse County Land Records, MRRPC 1/22



TOWN OF SHELBY

TRAILS AND BIKE LANES



Biking Facilities

- Bike Lanes
- Sharrows
- Shoulders
- - - Trails

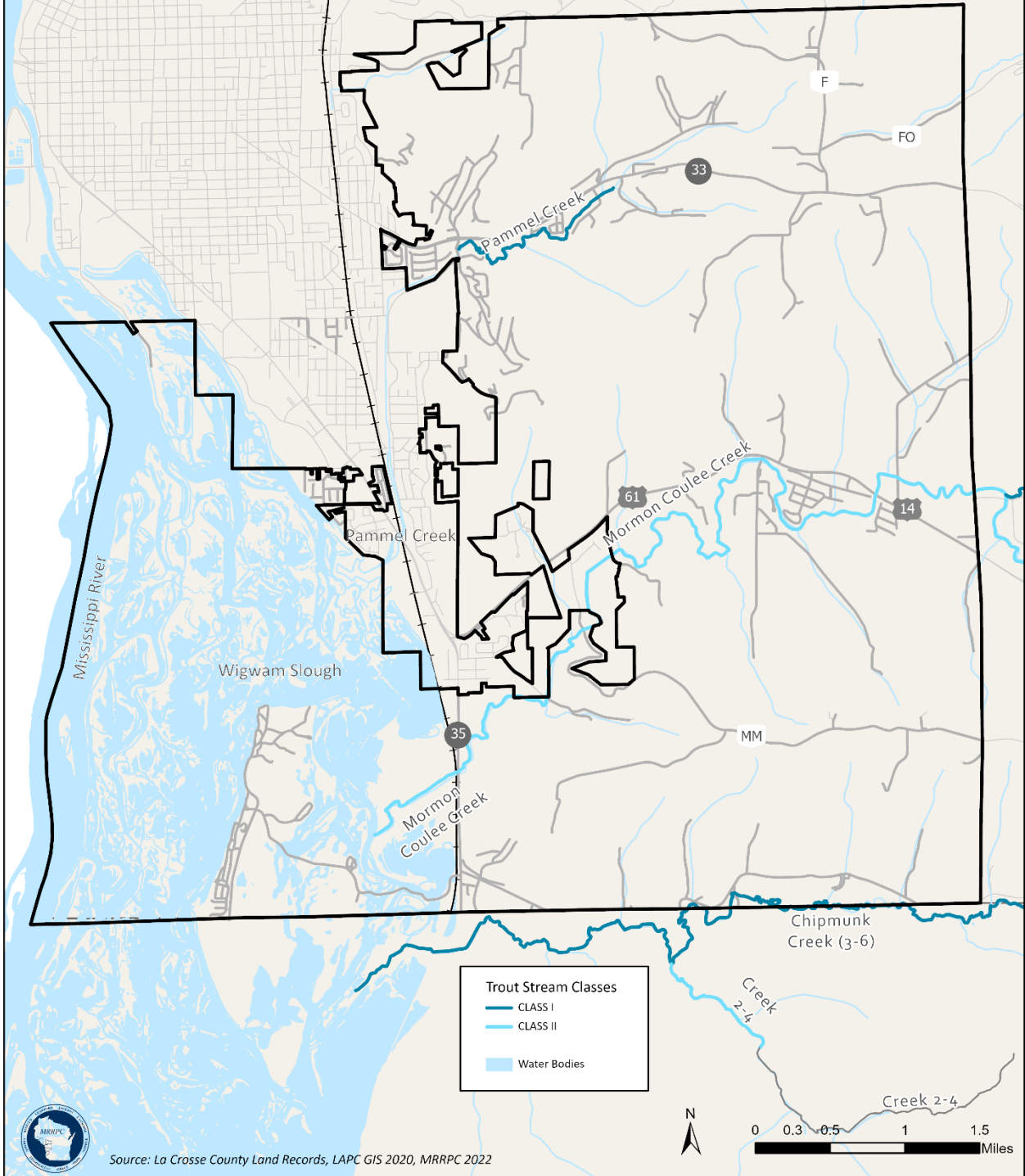


Source: LAPC, MRRPC 10/21



TOWN OF SHELBY

WATERWAYS



Source: La Crosse County Land Records, LAPC GIS 2020, MRRPC 2022