

## Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

# Village of Boaz

November 15, 2022



PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY



SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN  
**REGIONAL PLANNING**  
COMMISSION

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4**

**ADOPT THE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR THE VILLAGE OF BOAZ**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Boaz has recognized the need for a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan based upon an inventory of outdoor recreation facilities and natural resources within the Village, Richland County, and Southwest Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, the development of the plan will serve as a guide for making future decisions related to outdoor recreation in the Village of Boaz and through its adoption will make the Village eligible to participate in state and federal recreation aid programs; and

**WHEREAS**, this comprehensive outdoor recreation plan has been prepared for the Boaz Village Board by Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; and

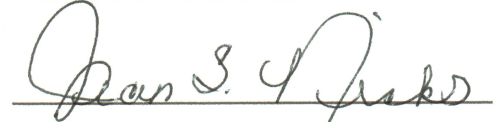
**WHEREAS**, this recreation plan is based on sound planning principles and long-range goals and objectives for the Village's recreational development;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village Board for the Village of Boaz hereby goes on record to adopt the Village of Boaz Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan as the Village's guide for future outdoor recreation improvements and development;

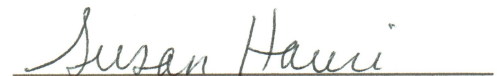
**AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village Board requests the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to provide eligibility to the Village of Boaz for participation in the state and federal cost-sharing programs for an additional five-year period.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.

VILLAGE OF BOAZ:



Jean Nicks, Village President



Susan Hauri, Village Clerk

ATTEST:

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution passed by the Village Board of the Village of Boaz at the regular meeting thereof held on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.



Susan Hauri, Village Clerk

## STAFF

Troy Maggied  
*Executive Director*  
Kate Koziol  
*Economic Development  
Specialist*  
Matthew Honer  
*Senior Planner*  
Griffin Koziol  
*Associate Planner*  
Cory Ritterbusch  
*Associate Planner*  
Jaclyn Essandoh  
*Planner/GIS Specialist*  
Tasha Blindert  
*Office Manager*

## COMMISSIONERS

### Grant County

Robert Keeney\*  
Eileen Nickels  
Jerry Wehrle

### Green County

Arthur Carter\*  
Nathan Klassy  
Erica Roth

### Iowa County

John Meyers\*  
Todd Novak  
Carol Anderson

### Lafayette County

Jack Sauer\*  
Timothy McGettigan  
Raymond Spellman

### Richland County

Marty Brewer\*  
Melissa Luck  
Raymond Schmitz

\* denotes County Board Chair



SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN  
REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION

P.O. Box 262

Platteville WI 53818

p: 608.342.1636 • f: 608.342.1220

e: [info@swwrpc.org](mailto:info@swwrpc.org)

[www.swwrpc.org](http://www.swwrpc.org)

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	1
Introduction .....	2
Goals and Objectives .....	3
Definitions and Classifications .....	4
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan .....	7
Plan Process .....	8
Summary of Previous Outdoor Recreation Plans .....	10
Description of the Planning Region .....	11
Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory .....	23
Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment .....	25
Recommendations for Outdoor Recreation .....	26
Appendix A: Capital Improvement Schedule .....	27
Appendix B: Maps .....	28

## List of Images

Image 1: Boaz Village Community Park Sign .....	1
Image 2: Open space area within the Boaz Community Park .....	4
Image 3: SCORP Regions .....	7
Image 4: 30'X30' Shelter building extension of the Boaz Community Building .....	10
Image 5: Topographic Regions in Wisconsin .....	18
Image 6: Playground Apparatus at the Boaz Community Park .....	23
Image 7: Shelter extension attached to the Community building .....	24



## VILLAGE BOARD

Jean Nicks

*Village President*

Kerry Gies

*Trustee*

Judy Adrian

*Trustee*

*Village of Boaz*  
*Wisconsin*

Boaz Community Building  
17010 State Highway 171  
Richland Center, WI 53581-3967  
p: 608.536-3466  
e: [villofboaz@mwt.net](mailto:villofboaz@mwt.net)  
[www.villageofboaz.com](http://www.villageofboaz.com)

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Plan Process .....	8
Figure 2: Boaz Population Pyramid.....	12
Figure 3: Boaz Population Projection .....	12
Figure 4: Boaz's Distance to other Rec. Areas .....	14
Figure 5: Boaz Park and Features .....	15
Figure 6: Park Walkability .....	17
Figure 7: Boaz Topographic Features .....	19
Figure 8: Boaz Water Resources and Floodplain .....	22

## List of Tables

Table 1: Plan Activities .....	8
Table 2: Boaz Age Cohorts .....	11
Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule .....	27



# Executive Summary

The purpose of the 2022 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is to act as a guide for the Boaz Village Board, Village staff, interested residents, and volunteers in decision-making related to park programs and improvements over the next five years.

The Village of Boaz has ample park space provided for its residents. The 2022 CORP determined that, while the Village did not need to increase the amount of park space, improvements to facilities and equipment were required. This plan's recommendations focused largely on strengthening existing park assets through ongoing maintenance improvements and by providing additional park amenities and facilities based on unmet community needs. More detailed information on recommendations for outdoor recreation within the Village of Boaz can be found in the section "Recommendations for Outdoor Recreation" (Page 26). The plan also includes a Capital Improvement Schedule which shows the park specific recommendations, priorities, and the estimated timeline taken to complete these recommendations.

*Image 1: Boaz Village Community Park Sign*



# Introduction

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for the Village of Boaz is an expression of the community's current goals and future objectives for recreational facilities. The intent of this document is to plan for the maintenance and improvement of Boaz's recreational and open space resources. This will be accomplished by outlining a strategy to manage existing resources and to develop new resources to meet future needs and demands.

Parks can serve a limited neighborhood area, the entire community, and the region as a whole. This provides outdoor recreation for both residents and visitors. Open spaces are not limited to parks but also include greenbelts, wetlands, and floodplains. Open space can also serve many functions for a community other than recreation, such as the following:

- Preservation of scenic and natural resources
- Flood management
- Protecting the area's water resources
- Preserving prime agricultural land
- Limiting development that may occur
- Buffering incompatible land uses
- Structuring the community environment

A parks and facilities plan incorporates private as well as public open space areas in the community. The development and continual updating of the CORP becomes a valuable asset to a community contributing to its ongoing stability and attractiveness.

## Plan Purpose

This plan is an update of the Boaz Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan prepared in 1998. The specific purpose of this plan is to guide the development and improvement of the Village's outdoor recreation facilities over the next five years to meet the recreational needs and demands of residents.

Policy decisions made by the Boaz Village Board for park programs and improvements should be guided by the goals, objectives, findings, and recommendations of this adopted plan. Actual public policy decisions are contingent on funding sources, new opportunities, changing growth patterns, budget priorities, and shifting community goals. For this reason, the plan should be reviewed annually and a detailed update should be completed every five years. Updating the plan every five years is a requirement of the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WIDNR) to remain eligible for matching government funds for parkland acquisition and facility improvements. But just as importantly, the Village of Boaz needs to set a course of action for continued improvement of its park and outdoor recreational system.

## Goals and Objectives

The Village of Boaz takes pride in its excellent park system. This portion of the updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan provides Village officials with general policies to guide future growth and development of Boaz's park system and outdoor recreation facilities. The goals and objectives below are vital to the efforts in providing this important service.

**GOAL:** Continue to provide excellent maintenance to Boaz's parks and recreational facilities.

- Provide additional park amenities and facilities in existing parks including playground equipment, sports equipment, picnic tables, grills, benches, and others.
- Continue to provide excellent equipment and facility maintenance, repairing and replacing items like trash cans, water fountains, and recycling bins.
- Continue to make Boaz parks handicap accessible, by incorporating updates into the formal maintenance schedule.

**GOAL:** Establish and maintain a community-wide system of parks and open space to meet the needs of community residents.

- Develop safe and adequate accessibility to community park and recreation facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Develop park and recreational facilities based on recommended standards and community needs.
- Provide park and recreation facilities to accommodate all user groups, including the unique needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities.

**GOAL:** Continue to efficiently utilize existing funding streams and find new funding solutions for Boaz's park system.

- Continue to cooperate and coordinate work with the school district, county, and state agencies to provide efficient outdoor recreation programs and opportunities.
- Leverage local support to develop more external grant funding for additional parks, recreation amenities, equipment, and maintenance.



*Image 2: Open space area within the Boaz Community Park*



## Definitions and Classifications

### Open Space Need Standards

Standards are a good starting point of reference when determining a community's outdoor recreation land and facility needs. However, each community's needs are different based on such factors as a community's demographic profile and what types of facilities and outdoor recreation priorities the citizenry deems important. Resident input in the form of surveys and/or public hearings are also important when recreation and park planners look at future development and/or preservation of public lands.

The Village of Boaz has a total of 16 acres of park and recreational space intensively developed for recreational purposes. Based on recommendations from the WIDNR and Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC), the standard of 12 acres of developed park lands/open space per 1,000 population is used throughout this plan. This figure is viewed as a target number when recreation and park planners analyze a community's park, recreation land, and open space composition. Based on that standard, Boaz has more than enough developed park space for its residents because it only requires approximately 1.5 acres of developed park land for its population of 129 people. This analysis does not take into consideration the impact of park users residing outside the Village.

The National Recreation and Park Association has assigned one primary classification or code for all parks, recreation lands, and open spaces using the following titles and abbreviations:

- M-P: Mini Park (or Tot Lot)
  - Desirable/Typical Size: 1 acre or less.
  - Service Area: 1/8 – 1/4 mile.
  - Acres/1,000 Population: 0.5 – 1.0 acre.

- Use: Specialized facilities to serve a concentration of limited population or groups such as senior citizens or young children.
- Site Characteristics: Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to concentrations of family or senior housing.
- NP/P: Neighborhood Park/Playground
  - Desirable/Typical Size: 1 to 10 acres.
  - Service Area: 1/4 – 1/2 mile radius.
  - Acres/1,000 Population: 2 – 3 acres.
  - Use: Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, ice skating, picnicking, volleyball, etc.
  - Site Characteristics: Suited for intense development; easily accessible to neighborhood population; geographically centered with safe walking and biking access. May be developed as a joint school/park facility.
- C/CP: Community Park
  - Desirable/Typical Size: 10 to 25 acres.
  - Service Area: 1 – 2 miles.
  - Acres/1,000 Population: 6 - 9 acres.
  - Use: Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes or large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. May be any combination of the above depending on site suitability and community need.
  - Site Characteristics: May include natural features such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. Easy access by all modes of transportation.
- SU: Special Use Area
  - Desirable/Typical Size: Variable depending on type of facility.
  - Service Area: Entire Community.
  - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
  - Use: Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservancies, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, and downhill ski areas. Also includes plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards, or parkways.
  - Site Characteristics: Located within the community.
- LP: Linear Park
  - Desirable/Typical Size: Sufficient width to protect resources and to provide maximum use.
  - Service Area: No applicable standard.
  - Acres/1,000 Population: Variable.
  - Use: Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel or activity such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, fitness trails/cross-country skiing and canoeing. May include active play areas.
  - Site Characteristics: Built on natural corridors such as utility or railroad right-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as school, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.

## Development of Recreational Facilities Need Standards

Standards for the development of recreation facilities, similar to open space standards are expressed in facility units per population ratio. The purpose of evaluating a recreation system is to determine the amount of needed facilities in each recreation area.

Problems related to using facility development standards is the assumption of desired opportunities by the resident population. For example, an examination of the facilities standards may show that a horseshoe area is needed based on the municipality's population. In reality, it is possible that very few people in the community enjoy playing horseshoes, which eliminates the need for this type of facility. Another problem with using standards is they are developed primarily for urban communities and have limited application to rural areas.

Despite these problems, community leaders can use them to approximate the adequacy of their park systems. A listing of recreational facility development standards, prepared by the American Planning Association and the United States Access Board can be found on their respective websites:

---

*American Planning Association Outdoor Recreation Facility Standards:*

<https://www.planning.org/pas/reports/report194.htm>

*United States Access Board:*

<http://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/recreation-facilities/outdoor-developed-areas>

---



# Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

*“Our effectiveness in meeting future recreation needs will be shaped by many factors including the shifting demographics of our population, the quality of habitats and the impacts from invasive species and changing climate conditions, our ability to improve the compatibility between and among recreation participants, and sustainable financial resources. Parks and nature preserves, wildlife areas and refuges, and forests and trails connect people to the natural environment. These places, from small neighborhood parks to the large national, state and county forests, are the stages on which we enjoy the outdoors, improve our health, protect our air and water, and provide a large economic boost, particularly to our rural areas. – Wisconsin Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan*

The 2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), provides recommendations to guide public outdoor recreation policy, planning decisions, the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund money, and other WIDNR administered grant programs. High-quality outdoor recreation experiences available in Wisconsin contribute to our exceptional quality of life; reflected in sustained economic growth and in outdoor recreation traditions passed down through generations. From community river walks to expansive public forests, public recreation lands and facilities enhance our lives, draw millions of visitors, and support businesses large and small. The economic, social, and health benefits of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin far outweigh our investment.

To support the development of SCORP, a statewide survey of Wisconsin residents was conducted regarding outdoor recreation participation and frequency, as well as opinions about future needs. In addition, WIDNR undertook an assessment of recreation opportunities and needs in each region of the state. Together, these supporting documents show that an estimated 95% of Wisconsin adults participated in some type of outdoor recreation in the past year. Activities in which residents most frequently engaged tend to be those that require little preparation or travel time and can provide a high-quality experience in a limited amount of time. Examples include hiking and walking on trails, fishing, bicycling, dog walking, and bird/wildlife watching.

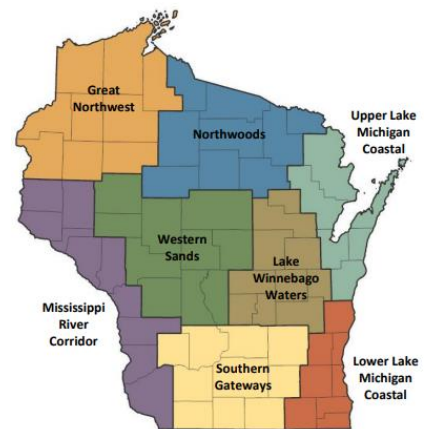
SCORP goals include:

- Boost participation in outdoor recreation.
- Grow partnerships.
- Provide high-quality experiences.
- Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits.
- Enhance funding and financial stability.

Additionally, the SCORP highlights regional recreational demands that supports Boaz’s priorities for its location in the Southern Gateways Region. The top seven (7) most frequently identified recreation opportunities, needed in the Southern Gateways Region, based on public input gathered during the SCORP Recreation Opportunities Analysis (ROA) process include:

- More trails for motorized recreation (ATVs, UTVs, off-road motorcycles, etc.)
- More hiking/walking/running trails
- More natural surface (dirt) bicycling trails
- More paved bicycling trails
- More rustic/quiet campgrounds (pit toilets, no electricity or generators)
- More public shore access to lakes & streams
- More developed campgrounds (electric hook-ups, flush toilets, showers)

Image 3: SCORP Regions



## Plan Process

The planning process for the 2022-2026 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) involved four stages:

1. Creating an inventory of existing community recreational assets and facilities
2. Development of relevant data and trends.
3. Coordinating outreach to the population that uses Boaz's outdoor recreation facilities
4. Plan Development, Review and Approval

To develop Boaz's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, SWWRPC tackled these four baseline functions, while receiving guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

Figure 1: Plan Process



Each baseline function was essential for the development of the final plan, providing essential insight into the community's assets, needs, and priorities. To create an inventory of existing community recreational assets, SWWRPC staff conducted an on-site inventory of Boaz's existing park, facilities, and equipment by using state-provided metrics for ranking recreation assets.

Data compilation and mapping was done throughout the planning process. SWWRPC compiled data related to the Village's age, demographics, and economic makeup and mapped it in relation to the existing park. Finally, outreach is the most important plan activity. A summary of all plan activities and projects were compiled in a public forum, organized as part of the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Update process on March 3, 2022. Plan goals and objectives were developed for the final planning document based on the proposed recommendations provided by residents at the public forum. Village Board and community feedback were compiled and added to the plan, incorporating implementation strategies for formal adoption and approval.

Table 1: Plan Activities

Activity	Date Conducted
Park Inventory	November 2021
Outreach	March 2022
Plan Development	March 2022 – April 2022
Approval	November 2022

## Amending the Plan

Plan amendments are common, represent good implementation or plan usage, and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision makers. Amendments must follow the same process as when the original plan was prepared. Amendments generally prolong the effectiveness of the original plan.

The following steps will ensure the new amendment is approved with respect to state statutes and to the citizens of Boaz.

1. Initial meetings/framing the amendment: Depending on the size and scope of the amendment, the Plan Commission will meet as many times as necessary to discuss the proposed amendment.
2. Opportunity for Public Input: A public forum should be provided with ample time for the community to know about the proposed changes to the plan. Then a public meeting should be held so the community can understand the need for amendment and have an opportunity to provide direct feedback on the proposed changes.
3. Draft Amendment: The Plan Commission develops a draft amendment that captures the need for the amendment and feedback from the public.
4. Amendment Adoption: At an official public meeting, with 30 days of notice, the Village Board will vote to approve the plan amendment with the recommendation of the Plan Commission.
5. WIDNR Approval: The council action on the plan amendment should be sent in writing to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WIDNR) for re-certification of the Village's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) with the new changes. The plan amendment will not be effective until a letter is received from WIDNR indicating their approval.



# Summary of Previous Outdoor Recreation Plans

*Image 4: 30'X30' Shelter building extension of the Boaz Community Building*



The Village of Boaz had its first CORP prepared in the mid-1970's. Since that time, the plan has been updated on a periodic basis to maintain the Village's eligibility for park and recreation cost-sharing funds available through WIDNR. Many improvements have been made to the Boaz Community Park since that initial plan was prepared. The last CORP for the Village of Boaz was prepared in 1998 and expired in 2003. Boaz's previous CORP update determined that, while the Village did not need to increase the amount of park space, improvements to facilities and equipment were required. Recommendations of the 1998-2003 CORP largely focused on creating additional amenities in Boaz's parks. Several improvements that were recommended in the 1998-2003 CORP have been carried out in recent years, as follows:

- Lighting at the horse arena
- Additional shelter buildings
- Additional playground equipment
- Expanding the community building by adding a 30'X30' open shelter for recreational purposes

# Description of the Planning Region

## Social characteristics of Boaz

According to the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census, the population of Boaz is 129, which is down 6.2% from the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census count. Boaz's racial composition is largely homogenous, with 94.6% of the Village's population being white. The remaining 5.4% is split between the "American Indian and Alaska Native" and "Population of two or more races" categories. Boaz's lack of racial diversity is standard for the southwestern Wisconsin region, and lags behind the state average, with 80.4% white and a 19.6% split of other races, black being the highest at 6%.

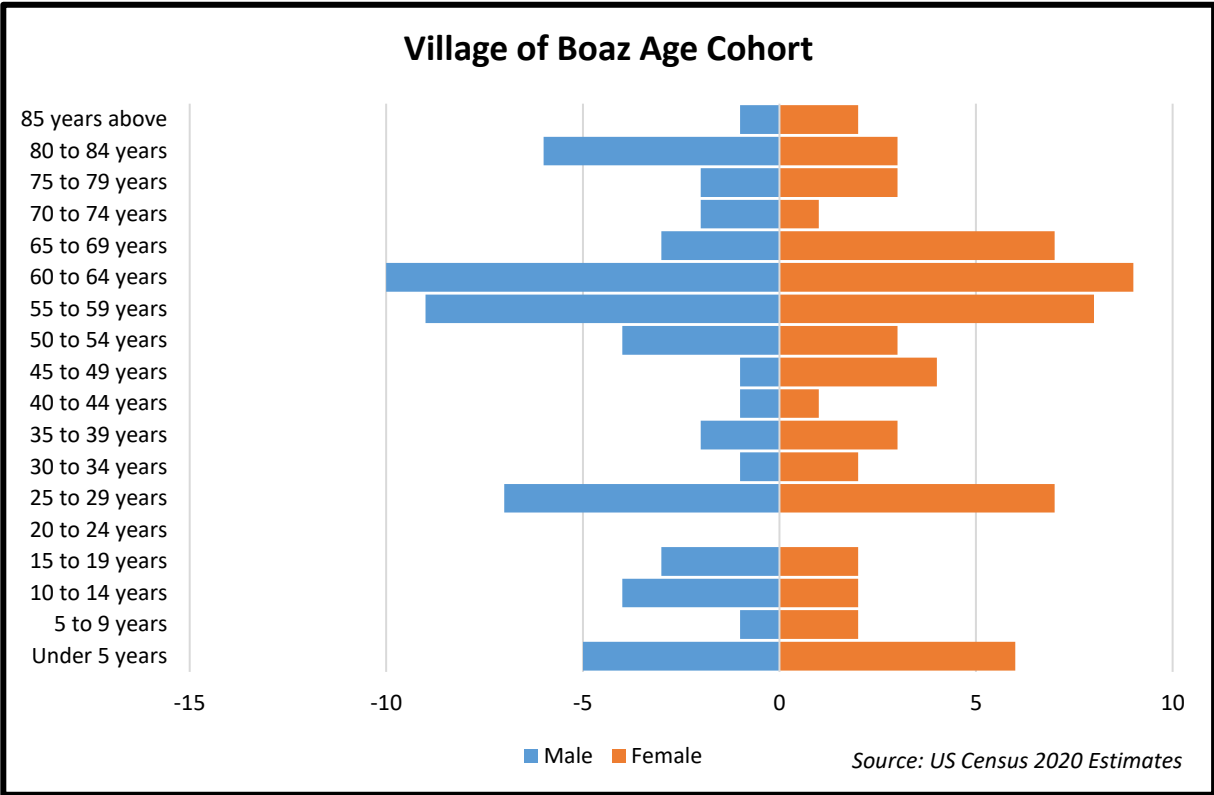
The median age of Boaz's residents is 55.3, similar to many communities in southwestern Wisconsin. Table 2 illustrates that roughly 57% of the community is between 20 and 64 years old. This wide working-age base helps ground the community economically and provides stability. However, the relatively small youth population means the Village will likely struggle with sustainable long term growth.

**Table 2: Boaz Age Cohorts**

	Total Population		Total Male		Total Female			
Total Population	127	100.0%	62	48.82%	65	51.18%		
Under 5 years	11	8.66%	5	8.06%	6	9.23%	Total youth population <b>25</b>	<b>19.68%</b> of total population
5 to 9 years	3	2.36%	1	1.61%	2	3.08%		
10 to 14 years	6	4.72%	4	6.45%	2	3.08%		
15 to 19 years	5	3.94%	3	4.84%	2	3.08%		
20 to 24 years	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	Total working-age population <b>72</b>	<b>56.69%</b> of total population
25 to 29 years	14	11.02%	7	11.29%	7	10.77%		
30 to 34 years	3	2.36%	1	1.61%	2	3.08%		
35 to 39 years	5	3.94%	2	3.23%	3	4.62%		
40 to 44 years	2	1.57%	1	1.61%	1	1.54%		
45 to 49 years	5	3.94%	1	1.61%	4	6.15%		
50 to 54 years	7	5.51%	4	6.45%	3	4.62%		
55 to 59 years	17	13.39%	9	14.52%	8	12.31%		
60 to 64 years	19	14.96%	10	16.13%	9	13.85%	Total retired-age population <b>30</b>	<b>23.62%</b> of total population
65 to 69 years	10	7.87%	3	4.84%	7	10.77%		
70 to 74 years	3	2.36%	2	3.23%	1	1.54%		
75 to 79 years	5	3.94%	2	3.23%	3	4.62%		
80 to 84 years	9	7.09%	6	9.68%	3	4.62%		
85 years and over	3	2.36%	1	1.61%	2	3.08%		
Source: U.S. Census 2020 Estimates								

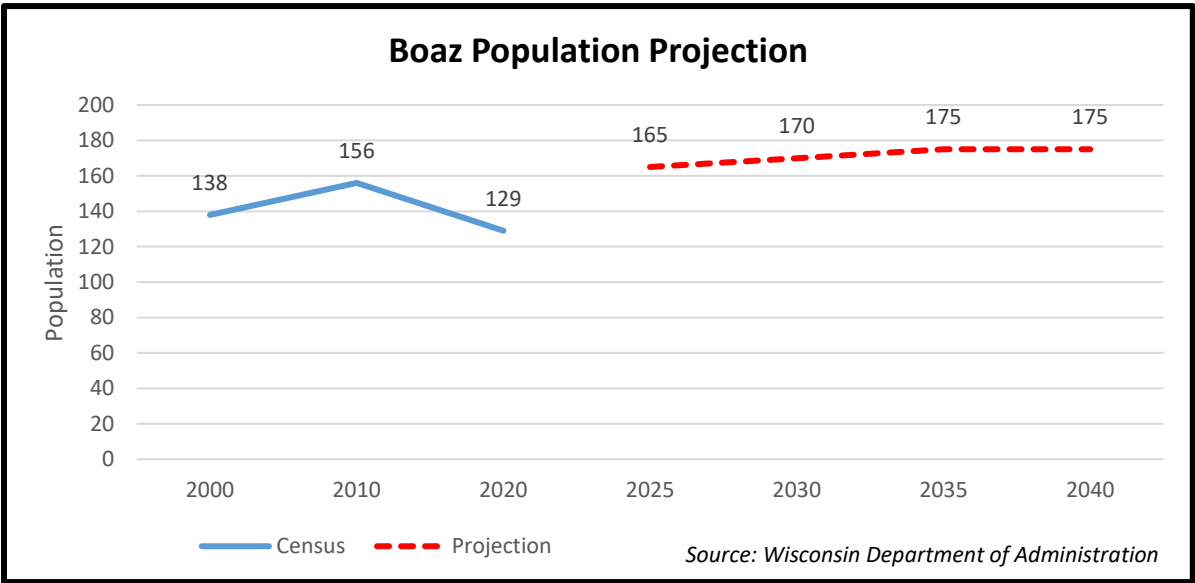
Figure 2 is a population pyramid showing a snapshot of Boaz's population taken from the 2020 U.S. Census Estimates. As mentioned previously, the largest portion of the pyramid is the "working-age" population between 20 and 64 years. The middle section of the pyramid is bloated and the top and bottom are narrow. This means that while the Village's population is currently stable, in the future it will decline, unless more residents move into the Village.

Figure 2: Boaz Population Pyramid



However, these findings are contrary to information from the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), which is believed to provide a more accurate reflection of population growth estimates. The Wisconsin DOA estimates are based on the 2010 Census and analysis of contemporary data including housing units, dormitory and institutional populations, automobile registrations, and other indicators of population change. According to the DOA, Boaz’s population was expected to experience a modest increase in population between 2010 and 2040. However the 2020 Census has shown that the population has declined contrary to what was predicted.

Figure 3: Boaz Population Projection





## Economy

The Village of Boaz is within the 53581 zip code. Even though the 53581 zip code is larger than Boaz's municipal boundary, some data can be used to gain an understanding of the local economy, even if it is not 100% defined by Boaz's Village limits. Within the 53581 zip code, the local economy is driven by businesses within the "Dairy Product Manufacturing," "Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals," and "General Medical and Surgical Hospitals" industries. The Village of Boaz has an estimated 62.3% employment rate according to the 2020 US Census Estimates. The median household income for people living within the Village is \$42,500 according to the 2020 US Decennial Census.

## Physical Characteristics of the Region

### Location

The Village of Boaz is located in the central part of Richland County just to the west of Richland Center. The main highway serving the community is U.S. Highway 14 that goes between Madison and LaCrosse. Actually, the Village is located just to the south of Highway 14 on State Highway 171 that connects the Village with Gays Mills and Highway 61 to the west. County Highway E (a north-south highway) also intersects with Highway 171 in the Village.

Figure 4 is a map depicting Boaz's distance to other recreation areas. Boaz is well-positioned to provide residents with nearby recreation activities. Within 10 miles, residents can utilize the Lower Wisconsin River, Blue River Sand Barrens, Blue River State Natural Area, Smart Farm Trails, Eagle Cave, Ash Creek Community Forest, Muscoda Campground, Watering Hole Campground, Alana Springs Campground, Sabin Spring Fishery Area, Richland Country Club Golf Course, and others.

Figure 5 is a map that illustrates the local recreational assets within the Village of Boaz. Boaz Community Park is the focal point for outdoor recreation activity in Boaz. A state designated snowmobile route traverses the park connecting Boaz with Soldiers Grove to the west and Richland Center to the east.

Figure 4: Boaz's Distance to other Recreation Areas

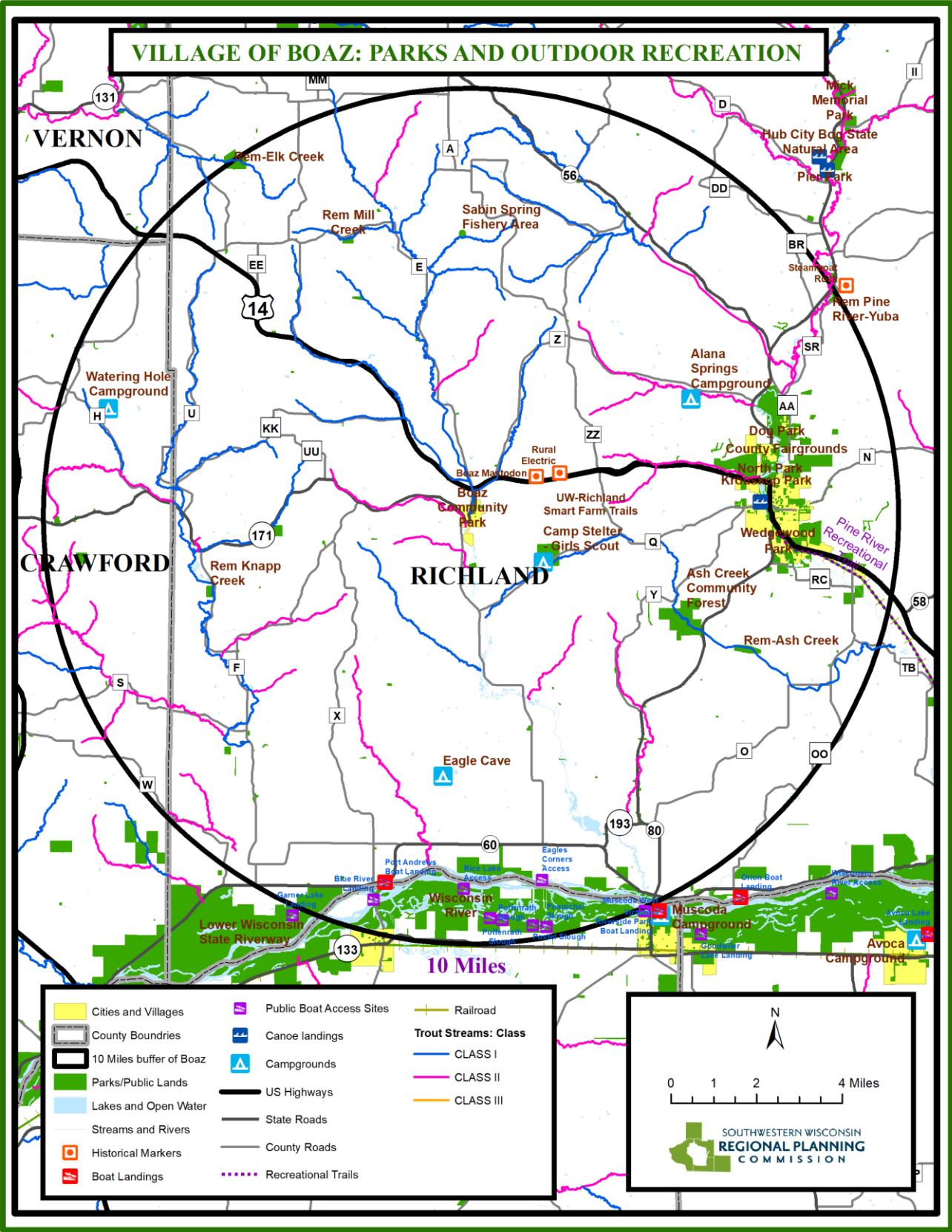
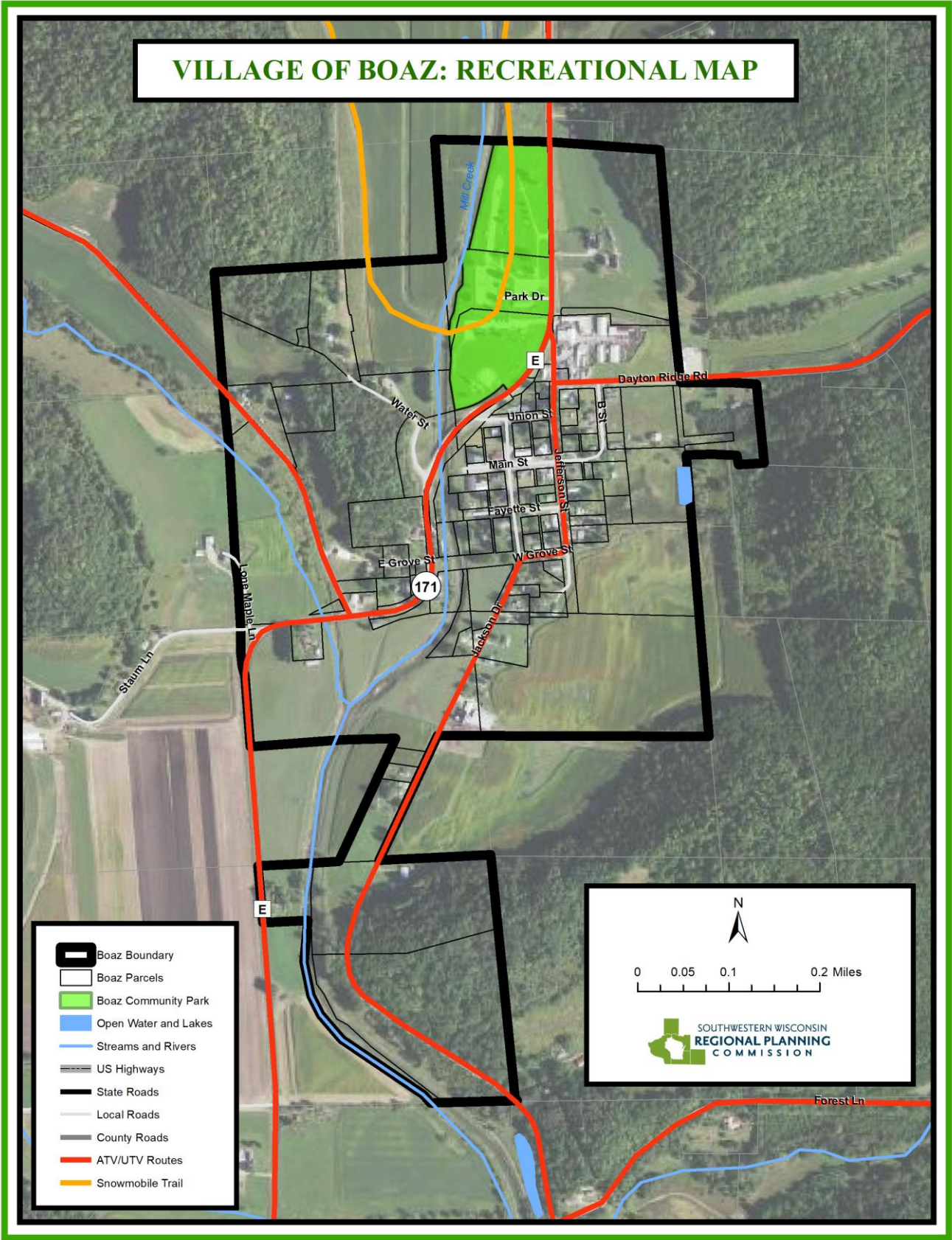


Figure 5: Boaz Park and Features

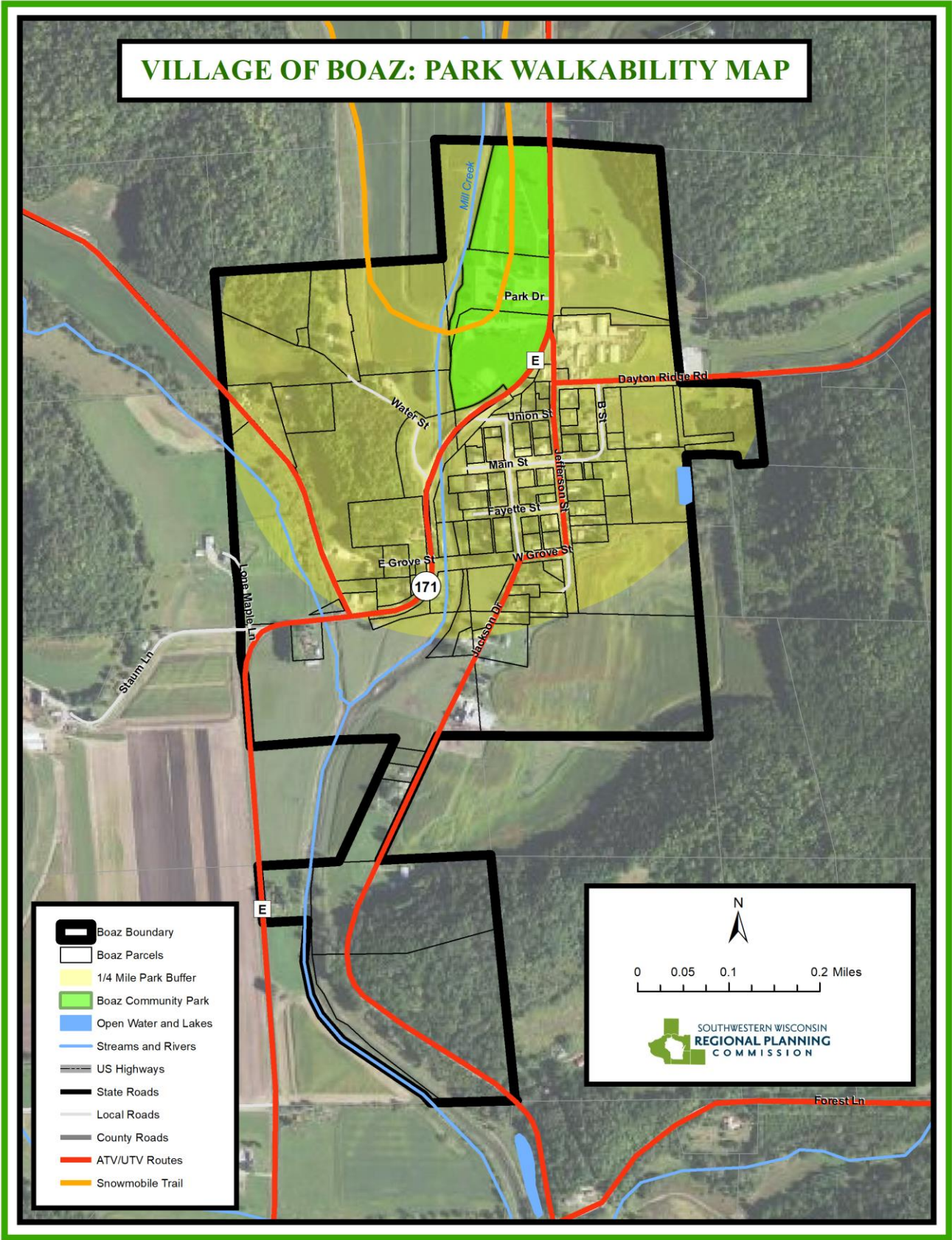


## Walkability

In terms of access, approximately 92% of residential areas of the Village are within one-quarter mile walking distance of the Boaz Community Park. Figure 6 is a map depicting pedestrian access to the Boaz Community Park. A yellow buffer was drawn around the park. This highlighted section represents the quarter-mile distance to the park. A quarter-mile is conventionally considered to be “walkable” in most communities. Exceptions include some residential areas in the southern portion of the Village.



Figure 6: Park Walkability



## Topography

Boaz and the surrounding areas in Richland County are located within the Western Upland. The Western Upland is a geographical region covering much of the western half of Wisconsin. It stretches from southern Polk County in the north to the state border with Illinois in the south, and from Rock County in the east to the Mississippi River in the west. Wisconsin's Western Upland is a rugged, hilly region deeply dissected by rivers and streams. The area is characterized by rocky outcroppings and numerous small caves, as well as sharp and frequent changes in altitude. The average elevation in the region is between 900 to 1,200 feet above sea level, where the area immediately adjacent to the highland averages 600 to 900 feet in elevation. Aside from the Upland itself, the strongest topographic features of the region are the trenches of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and their numerous branches. One of the most dominant topographic features of the region is Military Ridge. The Ridge is the divide between the north flowing tributaries of the Wisconsin River and the south flowing streams of streams tributary to the Rock and Mississippi Rivers.

*Image 5: Topographic Regions in Wisconsin*



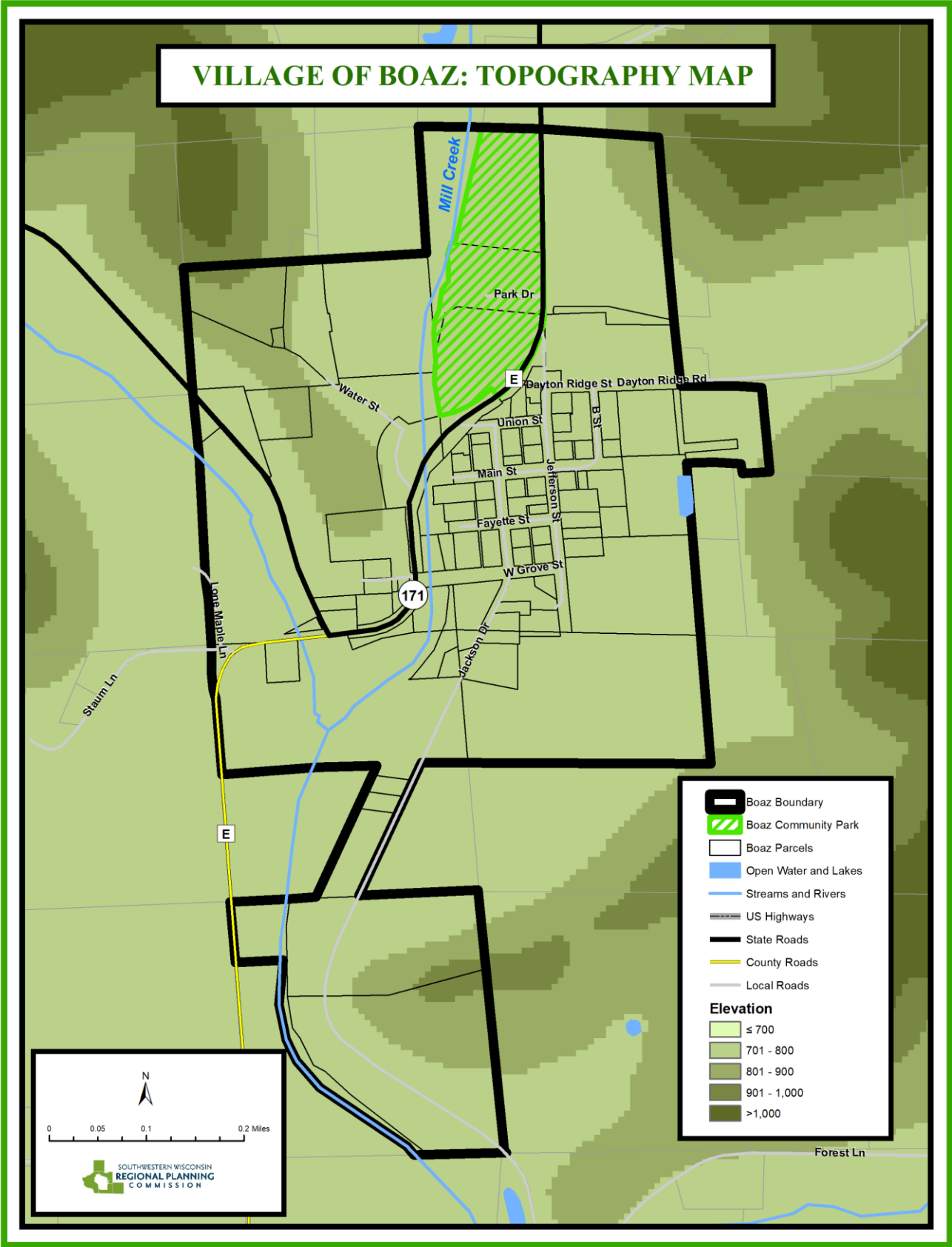
The entire region, with the exception of the eastern half of Green County and a small portion of southeast Lafayette County, is characterized by rugged, steep-walled valleys and high relief. Often referred to as the “Driftless Area,” this region is a large sample of what the rest of Wisconsin as well as northern and eastern United States was like prior to the glacial shaping of landscapes.

The broad valley along this stretch of the Wisconsin River was eroded over several million years, like the rest of the Driftless Area. However, the rapid drainage of glacial Lake Wisconsin changed its shape. Huge volumes of glacial meltwater transported large amounts of sand and gravel and undercut the sandstone and dolomite adjacent to the river. This formed the steep bluffs of the lower Wisconsin River valley. Today, the steep bluffs, broad floodplain, and numerous sandbars

make this stretch of the Wisconsin River a major attraction for recreation. Also, early in the history of North American exploration, this section of the river was part of the water route for trade and exploration from the Great Lakes to the upper Mississippi River.

Figure 7 is a Topography map for the Village of Boaz. Boaz is a prime example of the topography of the Driftless Region with elevations ranging between 700 to 900 feet above sea level.

Figure 7: Boaz Topographic Features





## Climate

The climate of Boaz and the surrounding area in Richland County is continental and typical of the central areas of a continent in the middle latitudes. Winters are relatively cold and snowy with extended periods of rain during the spring and autumn and intermittent periods of hot, humid summer weather. Air temperatures within the region are subject to large seasonal changes and yearly variations. Precipitation in the region for the six-month period from April through September falls largely as rainfall and may range in intensity and duration from light showers to destructive thunderstorms. The snowfall average for the region is about 40 inches annually. Prevailing winds are westerly in winter and southerly in summer.

## Soils

Throughout the Driftless Area the work of weathering has continued since long before the last glacial period and has produced a deep mantle of residual soil. This forms a notable contrast with the remainder of the state, where the continental glacier scraped away nearly all the residual soil and left a sheet of transported soil. Generally, the soils of the region have been classified as the Grayish-Brown Unglaciaded Silt Loam, hilly or steep. The soils were formed from parent materials reflecting native vegetation such as prairie, oak-hickory forestry, and oak savannas. Their basic materials include clay residue from weathered limestone, weathered sandstone, loess, and stream-laid sand and gravel. The latter occurs in valleys of large streams, while the first three are widespread. The entire southwest Wisconsin region is covered with a thick blanket of loess (windblown silt and sand). Over most of the region the loess is largely silt and is two to three feet thick.

## Flora and Fauna

Boaz is located within the Western Coulee and Ridges ecological landscape in Wisconsin. The Western Coulee and Ridges was once dominated by fire-dependent natural communities of Prairie, Oak Savanna, Oak Woodland and Oak Forest. It is now predominately dominated by agriculture, however, remnants of the former natural communities do exist but typically in low-quality. Three-percent of the land in this eco-region are in public ownership so care for the public lands are important. Small and scattered remnants of prairie and oak savanna exist and harbor many rare plant species. High quality streams also exist in this eco-region making buffer zones adjacent to them important.

Threats from invasive plant species have been increasing and control of them should be considered. Invasive plants reduce opportunities for recreation, increase chances for erosion, decrease habitat, and lessen the aesthetics of areas. Some of these invasive plants include: *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard), *Centaurea stoebe* (spotted knapweed), *Cirsium arvense* (canada thistle), *Coronilla varia* (crown vetch), *Dipsacus sylvestris* (common teasel), *Elaeagnus umbellata* (autumn olive), *Euonymus alatus* (burning bush), *Hesperis matronalis* (dame's rocket), *Lonicera tatarica* (tartarian honeysuckle), *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife), *Morus alba* (white mulberry), *Pastinaca sativa* (wild parsnip), *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canary grass), *Robinia pseudoacacia* (black locust), and *Rosa multiflora* (multiflora rose). Any plant that is dominating an area could be considered as invasive.

Common trees of the area historically would include fire tolerant oaks, shagbark hickory, and hazelnut undergrowth. Ravines and near waterways would have been maple-basswood dominated. However, due to a lack of fires in a fire-dependent forest (mesophication), woodlands are becoming dominated by other low-quality tree species and stocking rates are much higher today than historical standards.



The Western Coulees and Ridges Ecological Landscape offers the best opportunities in the state to maintain many of southern Wisconsin's natural communities. Many rare species have been documented here due to the diversity, scale, types, condition and context of the natural communities present.

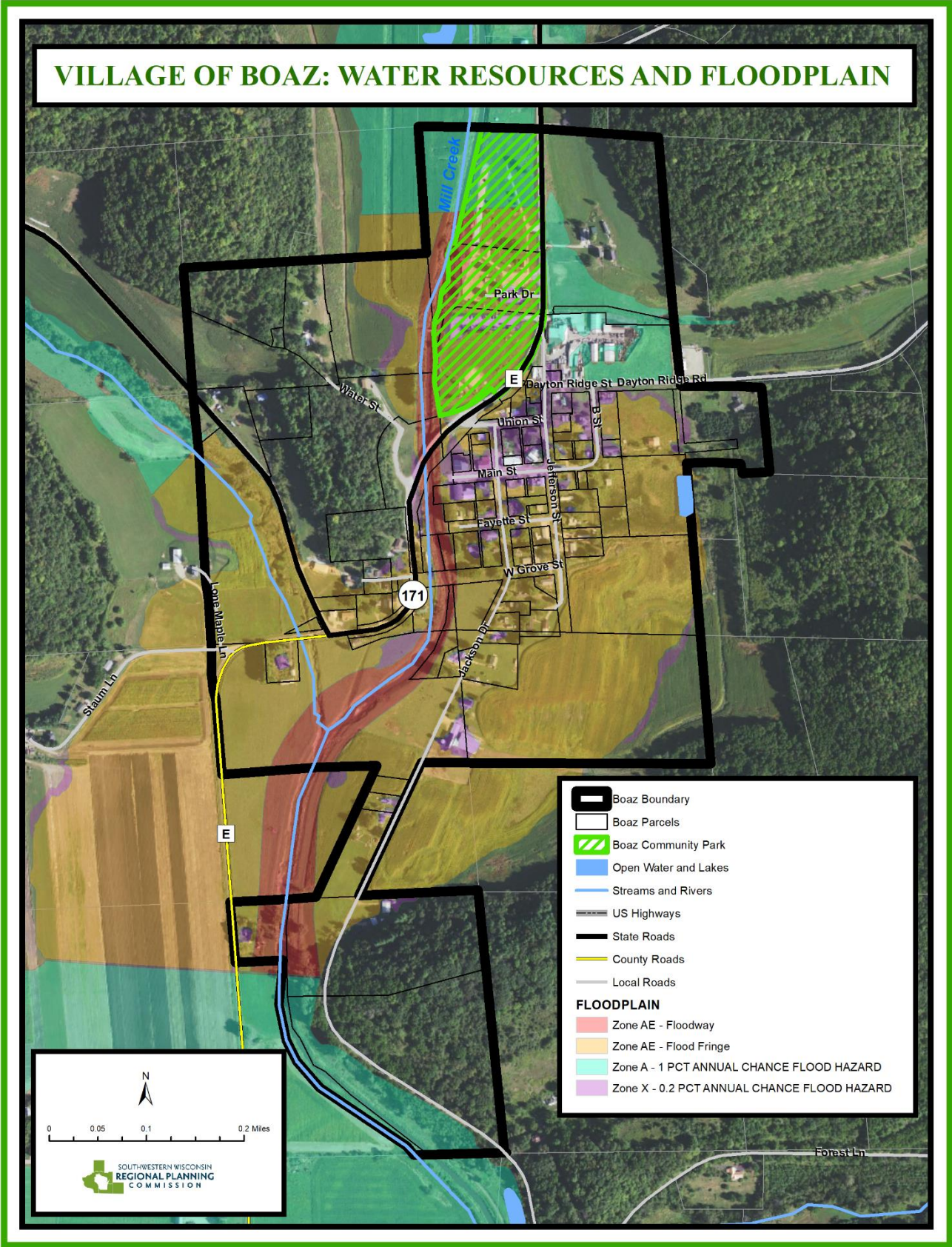
Forests can be managed and conserved here at virtually all scales, even in the Village of Boaz and surrounding areas. Oak forests are more abundant here than any other ecological landscape, mesic maple-basswood forests are also widespread, and some of the Upper Midwest's most extensive stands of floodplain forest occur here along major rivers. All of these forest types can provide critical breeding and/or migratory habitat for significant populations of native plants and animals. Maintaining large blocks of these forest types, including areas with combinations of these types, is a major opportunity. Since much of the forested acreage is privately owned, there are opportunities to work with private landowners, looking for places to combine efforts and plan on a much larger scale than an individual property.

The Western Coulee and Ridges contains public lands which provide abundant recreation opportunities with some of the most popular being surface trail bicycling, paddle sports, fishing and hiking, and walking or running on trails. The cold and cool water streams are also vital to recreation opportunities and their protection and enhancement should be imperative to any land use decisions.

### **Water Resources and Floodplain**

Two major rivers form boundaries of counties within the region. The Wisconsin River forms the northern boundary of Iowa and Grant counties, and the southern boundary of Richland County; and the Mississippi River forms the western boundary of Grant County. In addition, the area is traversed by a number of smaller rivers and streams that flow to either the Wisconsin or Mississippi Rivers. As mentioned above, there are no natural lakes in Southwestern Wisconsin due to the fact that the area was never covered by glaciers. However, there are a few man-made lakes in the region, most of which are located in state parks or other public recreation areas. Figure 8 illustrates the availability of water and delineated floodplain areas within the Village of Boaz. The most relevant water resource of the Village is Mill Creek which runs through the Village.

Figure 8: Boaz Water Resources and Floodplain





# Outdoor Recreation Supply Inventory

To determine what course of action Village officials must take to provide a comprehensive recreation program, it is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of existing areas and facilities in meeting demands for recreation. This section of the report provides an inventory of Boaz's recreational facilities. The location of all park and recreation areas is recorded on Figure 5 (Page 15).

The following is a short description and inventory of Boaz's recreational facilities.

*Image 6: Playground Apparatus at the Boaz Community Park*



## Boaz Community Park

This Boaz Community Park is located on the north edge of the Village. A state designated snowmobile route traverses the park connecting Boaz with Soldiers Grove to the west and Richland Center to the east. One of the most important features of park is the Boaz Community Building. This attractive facility not only functions as the village meeting hall, but serves the community in general as a central meeting place.

Classification: Village/Community Park

- 16 Acres.
- Large landscaped open area with many trees, safety fencing between the park and State Highway 171, appears to be very well lit around the entire park.

- 2 Concession stands; One concession stand has a walk-in cooler and the second concession stand is combined with a storage building which houses maintenance equipment.
- 4 Shelter buildings; 3 standalone and 1 shelter extension attached to the Community Building.
- 28 Picnic tables
- 1 Bench
- Several pieces of playground apparatus. Playground apparatus include two large swing sets, 4 slides, one merry-go-round, one see-saw, and monkey bars/climbers.
- Restroom facilities. There is a restroom building divided into male and female sections and 10 portable toilets.
- Basketball standard
- Softball field with backstop, fencing, bleachers, and lighting
- A parking lot (12-20 stalls)
- A barbecue pit
- A horse arena
- Tractor pull area

*Image 7: Shelter extension attached to the Community Building*





# Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment

## Public Forum

Public input sessions are often a statutory requirement or prerequisite to the adoption of certain ordinances and plans at the local government level. As part of the 2022 Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update for the Village of Boaz, residents provided input on how to improve park and recreational services during the Community Resources public input session organized on March 3, 2022.

A summary from all plan activities and projects in the 1998 Plan were presented during the meeting, and residents provided feedback on projects within the plan which had been completed within the last twenty four years. Residents also provided information on additional projects that they wanted to be included in the 2022 plan during the meeting.

Plan goals and objectives were developed for the final plan document based on the proposed changes. Feedback from the March 3, 2022 meeting was compiled and added to the plan, incorporating implementation strategies for formal adoption and approval. The Plan was reviewed and adopted by the Village at their November 15, 2022 board meeting.

Needs identified through public participation include:

- Provide additional park amenities and facilities in existing parks including playground equipment, parking spaces, picnic tables, benches and others. Residents also expressed the need for a campground facility at the Boaz Community Park for residents and visitors who wish to camp within the area. New recreation facilities should accommodate all user groups, including the unique needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Priorities for park maintenance should include: improving amenities, restroom maintenance, equipment maintenance, facility maintenance, as well as increasing efforts like landscaping and beautification.
- Parks need to continue to be updated to become more handicap accessible.
- Boaz residents need more walking and biking opportunities.
- Continue to provide and enhance public access to Mill Creek.
- Address river stabilization and drainage issues at the park.
- Continual funding is critical for the existing and future needs of the Boaz Parks system.

# Recommendations for Outdoor Recreation

## Action Program

Under the existing park and open space classification system, Boaz has enough open space for its population of 129 people. In terms of access, approximately 92% of residential areas within the Village are within one-quarter mile walking distance of a park or recreation asset. Exceptions include some residential areas on the southern portion of the Village.

This plan's recommendations largely focus on strengthening existing park assets through ongoing maintenance improvements and by providing additional park amenities and facilities based on unmet community needs. The recommendations are aligned with the Goals and Objectives (Page 3).

## Recommendations by Park

### Boaz Community Park

Boaz Community Park has a nice variety of recreational facilities at the present time. However, it is recommended that the Village considers several improvements to the park in future years, including:

- While planning and before implementing any project (including creek study or improvement), verify potential eligibility for phosphorus trade credit to achieve phosphorus compliance at the Boaz Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- Add more playground apparatus (some designed for persons with disabilities). Replace worn playground equipment with new and innovative playground apparatus.
- Add a weather barrier to the shelter at the back of the Community Building.
- Provide additional flower and tree plantings especially around the playground areas.
- Provide additional parking on the north side of the park.
- Update the horse arena, improving the subsoil and drainage.
- Expand park to accommodate a campground. Provide electric hook-ups and amenities at the campground.
- Provide additional portable toilets as necessary, including at least one handicap accessible.
- Improve access to Mill Creek by providing a walking path. Walking path should be paved for handicapped accessibility.
- Replace basketball nets with new ones.

## Appendix A: Capital Improvement Schedule

Over the next five years, the Village of Boaz will focus on the improvements outlined in the previous section. These recommendations are in addition to the standard operations and maintenance schedule under which the Village currently operates. Table 3 is the Capital Improvement Schedule which shows the park specific recommendations, priorities, and the number of years the plan recommendation will be completed by.

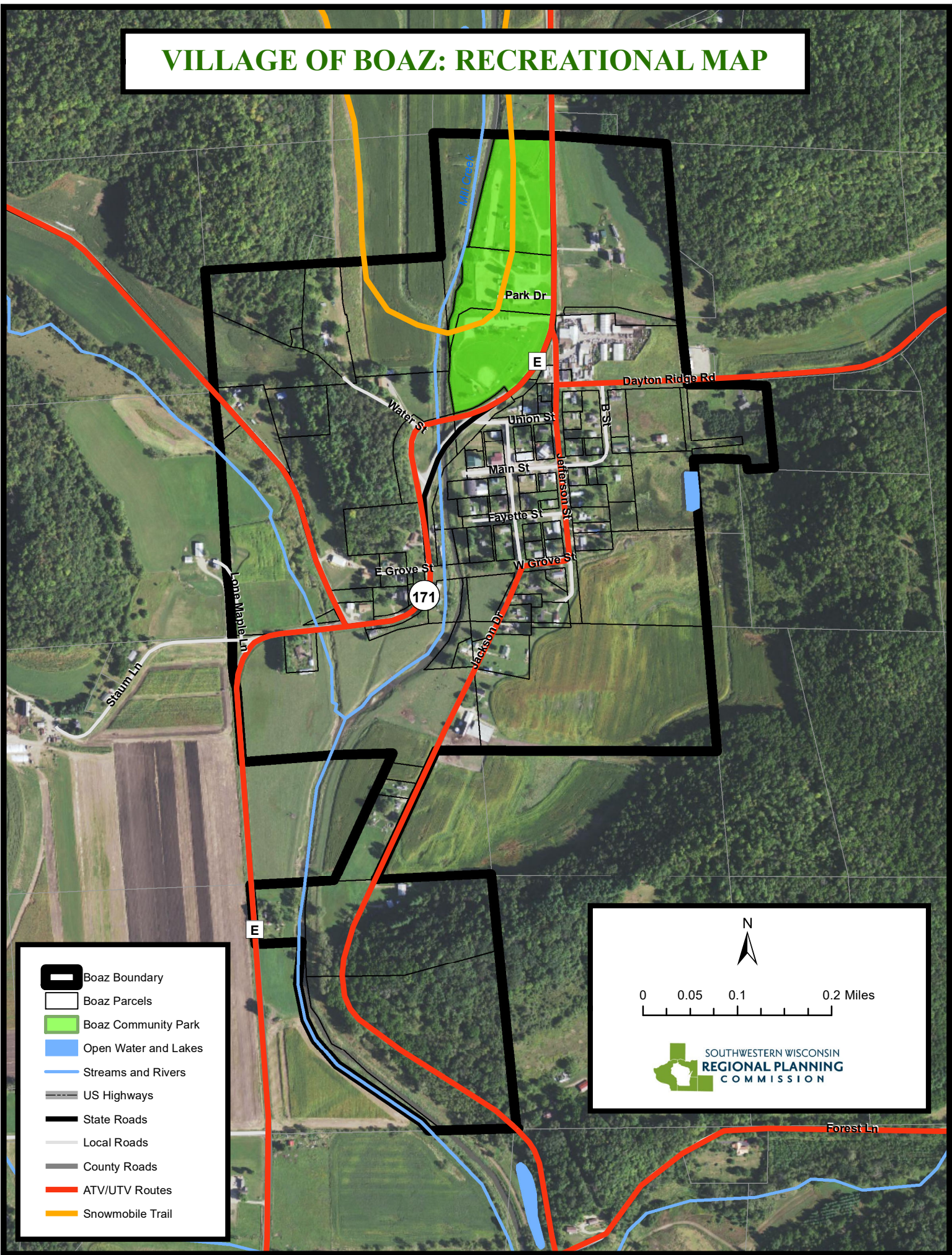
*Table 3: Capital Improvements Schedule*

Park/Recommendation	Priority	Timeline
	1 – 5 1 being highest priority	Within 1 year 2 years 3 years 4 years 5 years
<b>Boaz Community Park</b>		
While planning and before implementing any project (including creek study or improvement), verify potential eligibility for phosphorus trade credit to achieve phosphorus compliance at the Boaz Wastewater Treatment Facility.	1	Always
Add more playground apparatus (some designed for persons with disabilities). Replace worn playground equipment with new and innovative playground apparatus.	3	Within 3 year
Add a weather barrier to the shelter at the back of the Community Building.	3	Within 3 years
Provide additional flower and tree plantings especially around the playground areas.	5	Within 5 years
Provide additional parking on the north side of the park.	2	Within 3 years
Update the horse arena, improving the subsoil and drainage.	2	Within 3 years
Expand park to accommodate a campground. Provide electric hook-ups and amenities at the campground.	1	Within 3 years
Provide additional portable toilets as necessary, including at least one handicap accessible.	1	Within 2 years
Improve access to Mill Creek by providing a walking path. Walking path should be paved for handicapped accessibility.	2	Within 5 years
Replace basketball nets with new ones.	2	Within 2 years

# Appendix B: Maps

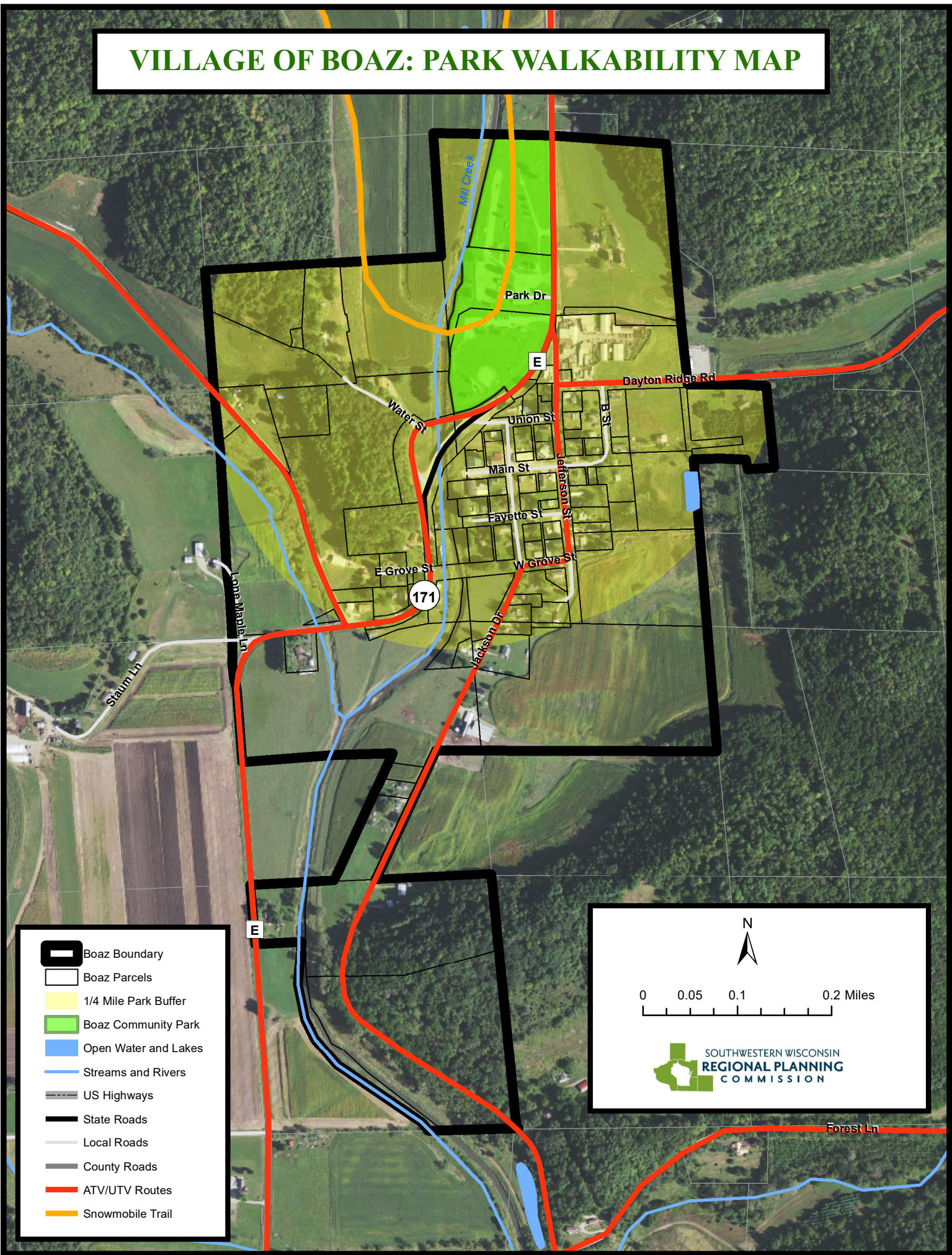


# VILLAGE OF BOAZ: RECREATIONAL MAP

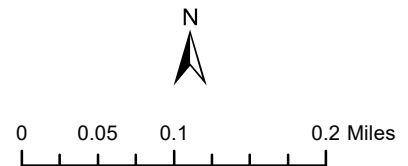




# VILLAGE OF BOAZ: PARK WALKABILITY MAP

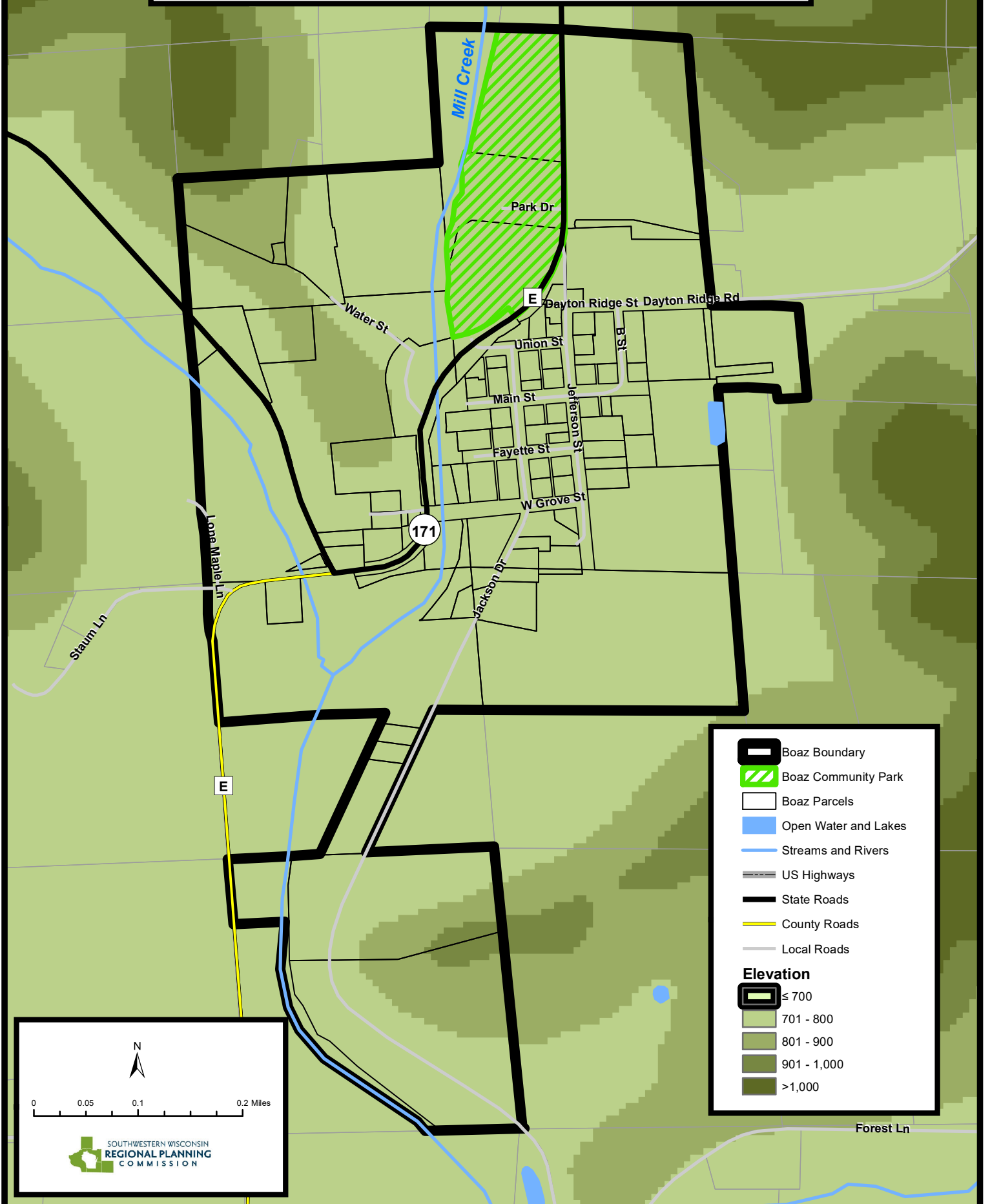


- Boaz Boundary
- Boaz Parcels
- 1/4 Mile Park Buffer
- Boaz Community Park
- Open Water and Lakes
- Streams and Rivers
- US Highways
- State Roads
- Local Roads
- County Roads
- ATV/UTV Routes
- Snowmobile Trail



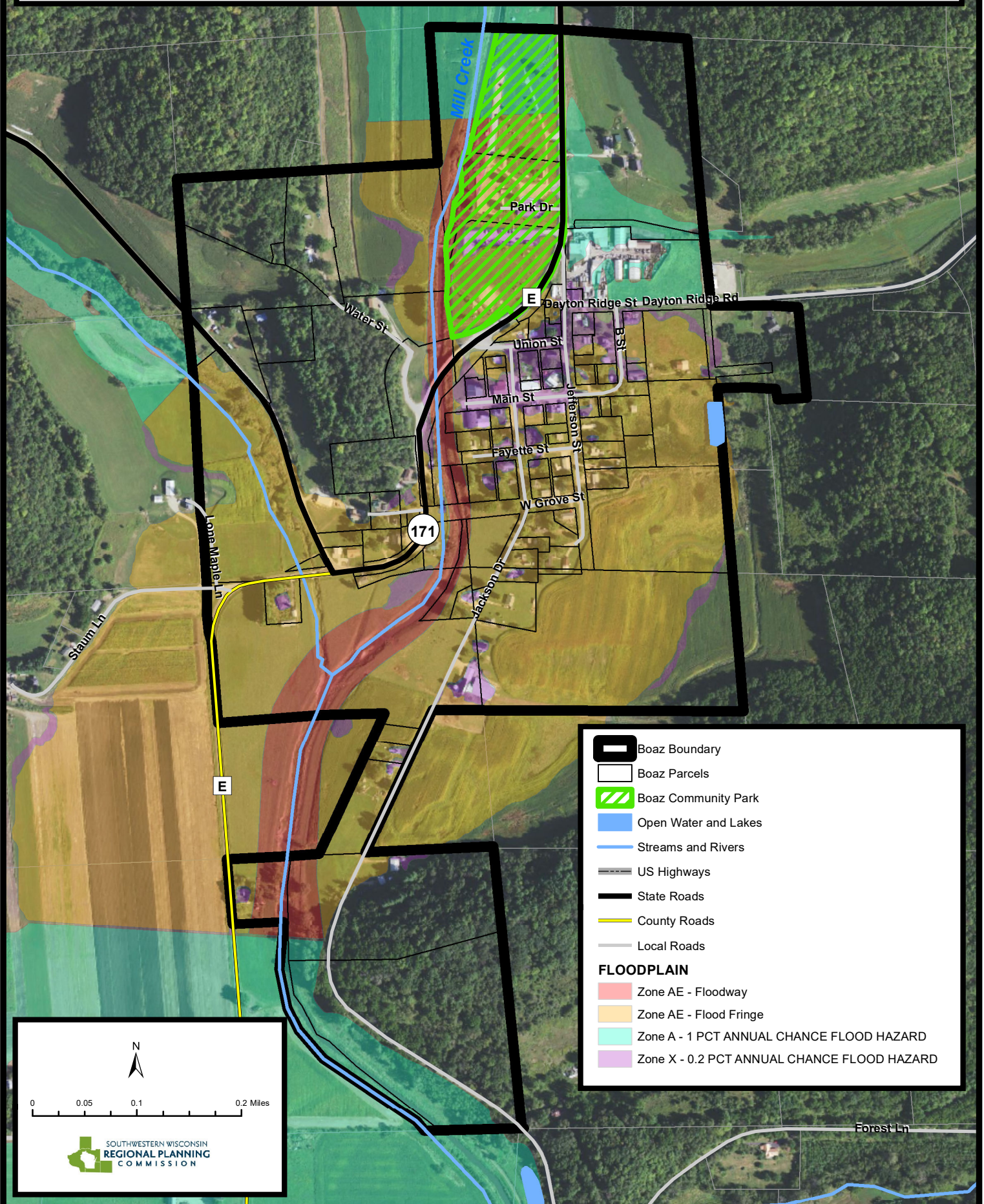


# VILLAGE OF BOAZ: TOPOGRAPHY MAP



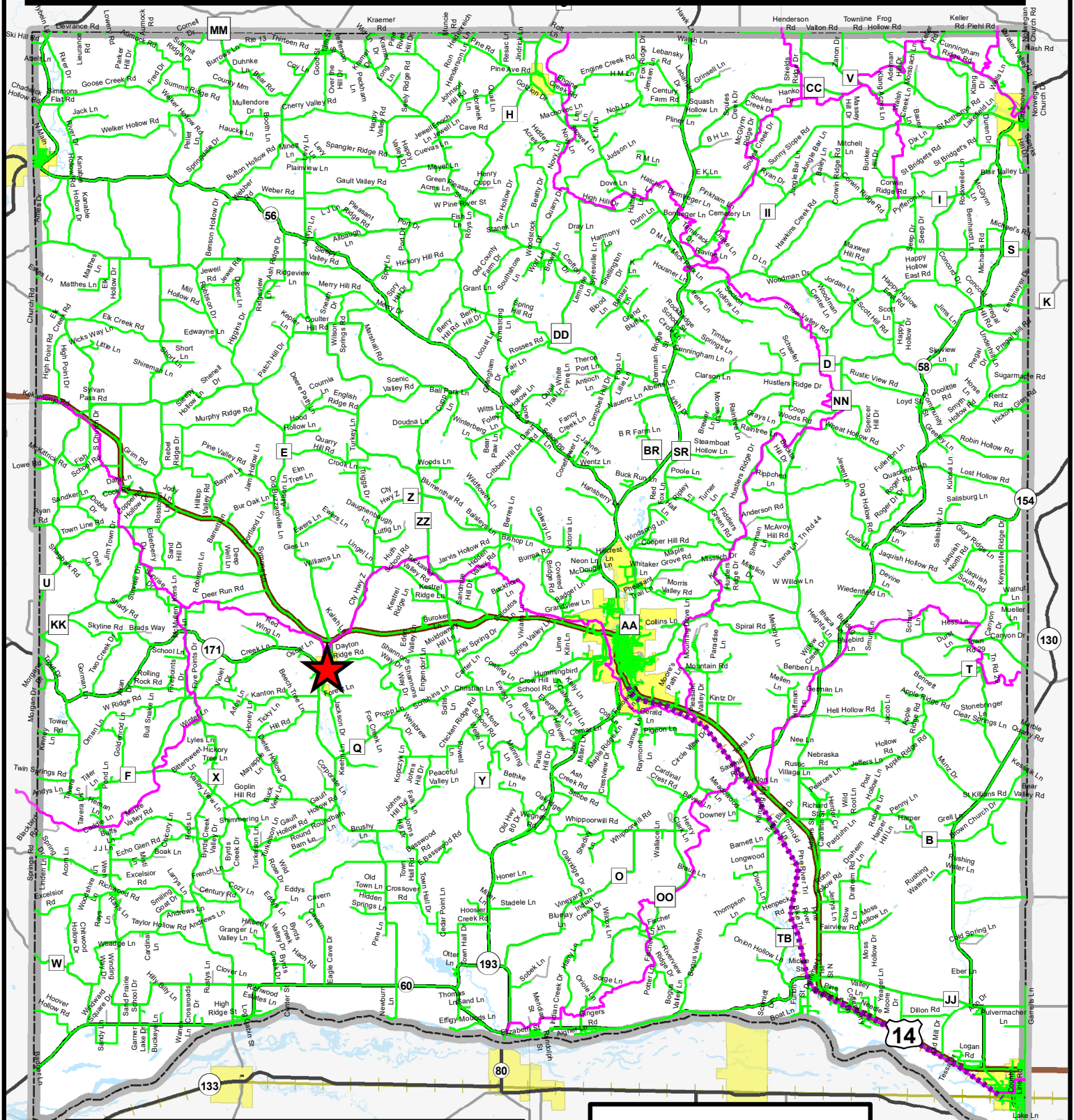


# VILLAGE OF BOAZ: WATER RESOURCES AND FLOODPLAIN





# RICHLAND COUNTY ATV-UTV ROUTES AND SNOWMOBILE TRAILS



Village of Boaz

Cities and Villages

Richland County

Lakes and Open Water

Streams and Rivers

Snowmobile Trails

ATV-UTV Routes

Recreational Trails

Railroad

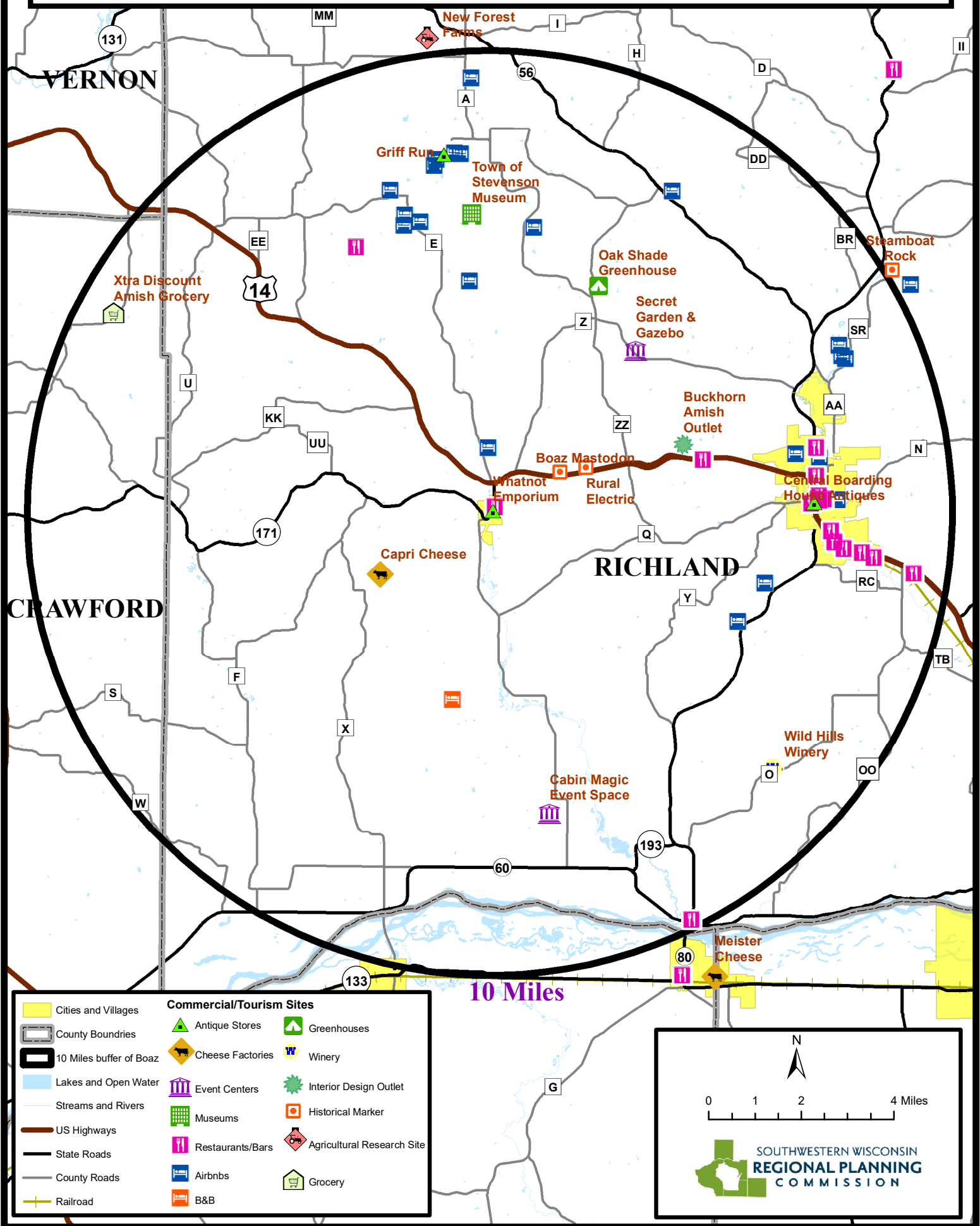


0 1 2 4 Miles

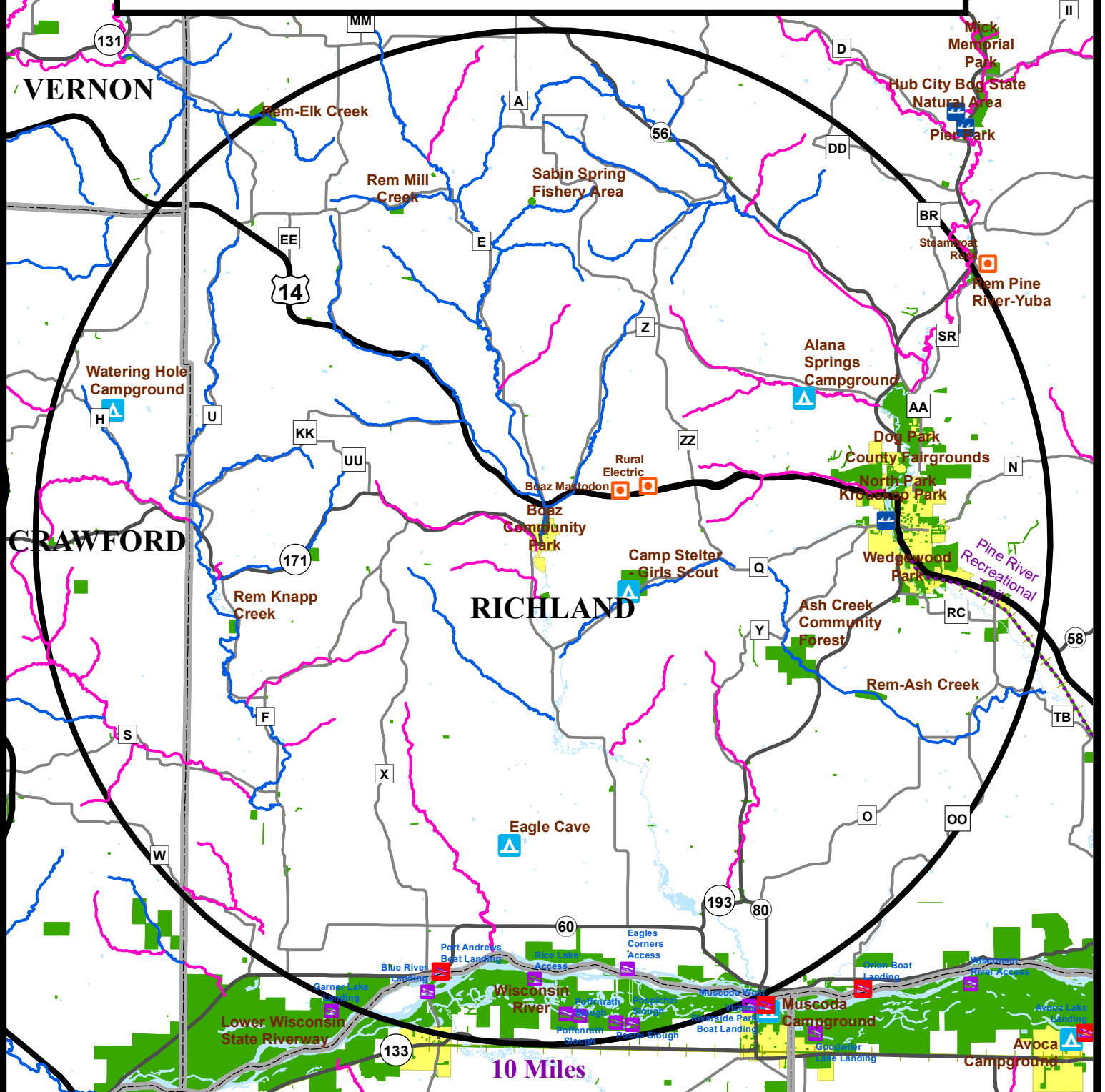


SOUTHWESTERN WISCONSIN  
REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION

# VILLAGE OF BOAZ: COMMERCIAL/AGRI-TOURISM AND LODGING MAP



# VILLAGE OF BOAZ: PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION



- |                         |                          |                             |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cities and Villages     | Public Boat Access Sites | Railroad                    |
| County Boundaries       | Canoe landings           | <b>Trout Streams: Class</b> |
| 10 Miles buffer of Boaz | Campgrounds              | CLASS I                     |
| Parks/Public Lands      | US Highways              | CLASS II                    |
| Lakes and Open Water    | State Roads              | CLASS III                   |
| Streams and Rivers      | County Roads             |                             |
| Historical Markers      | Recreational Trails      |                             |
| Boat Landings           |                          |                             |

