

PHASE I: BARABOO RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN

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(Reserved for Adoption Resolution)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Introduction

1.1 Plan Purpose
1.2 Planning Process

1.1 PLAN PURPOSE

The Phase I: Baraboo River Corridor Plan (BRCP) is a partnership between the Village of North Freedom, Village of West Baraboo, City of Baraboo and Sauk County. This Phase I plan will lay the ground work for future planning efforts and improvements to the Baraboo River Corridor.

The Village of North Freedom, Village of West Baraboo, City of Baraboo and Sauk County have all recently engaged in conversation discussing potential park and recreation projects located directly adjacent to the Baraboo River. Discussions have been spurred by more recent changes to the River. Fifteen years ago the Baraboo River was officially restored to a free-flowing river after a series of dam removals. These dam removals increased the River's potential for recreation and have since spurred individual communities' plans and improvements. The Baraboo River is the longest restored River east of the Mississippi River.

North Freedom, West Baraboo, Baraboo and Sauk County would like to make the River a focal point in their communities and make it a true regional amenity. Although individual communities and organizations have made improvements to the River corridor, such as the Baraboo Riverwalk and the boat launch at Haskins Park, the communities wish to make a joint effort to improve the corridor moving forward.

The communities wish to preserve and enhance the character of the River. This includes using it to provide economic revitalization by attracting more tourists and more people who would like to use the River for recreational

purposes. In order to get more people to the River, the communities desire to add new/improve existing public access for walking, biking, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, etc. To accomplish this goal, shoreline stabilization will need to occur and a buffer needs to be created along the River. Incorporating all of these goals into once sentence, the purpose statement of the BRCP effort is to "protect, restore and enhance the natural environment within the Baraboo River Corridor and focus on opportunities that will spur recreation, tourism and development to establish the region as *THE* premiere water recreation destination in south central Wisconsin."

This plan will provide recommendations for the following:

- Goals and objectives for the corridor
- Conceptual planning for recreation improvements
- Land acquisition
- Site and access improvements
- Signage and wayfinding enhancements
- Capital improvements on proposed development
- Operational considerations
- Public policy priority actions and investments

The Phase I: BRCP includes recommendations and the identification of funding options.

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

The Phase I: BRCP planning process was spread over the course of approximately two months. The process included an inventory and analysis where the consultant team gathered and reviewed existing information pertaining to the study area, conducted site visits to evaluate existing conditions, assessed existing features and identified issues and opportunities. A large portion of the planning effort involved evaluating stakeholder needs to provide input on environmental, recreational, educational and other desired improvements. From the inventory and analysis and stakeholder needs assessment, this Phase I: BRCP was created to identify goals and objectives for the corridor, develop a conceptual plan and implementation plan and identify funding opportunities. The plan was completed by mid-April 2016 in order to meet State grant deadlines. Milestones in the planning process are listed below.

Next steps after the Phase I plan include applying for grant funding, building partnerships for future planning, and operation/maintenance of the corridor, then beginning to implement recommended park and recreation projects from this plan. These steps will lead the communities towards growing the corridor and making it a community and regional destination.

PROJECT MILESTONES

March 2, 2016	Kickoff Meeting
March 7-8, 2016	Focus Groups
March 15, 2016	Public Information Meeting
March 30, 2016	Municipality meeting to review preliminary plan and comment
Week of April 11, 2016	Community presentations and plan adoptions



Island Woolen Mill Dam & Platform (Circa 1910s) (Removed in 1972)
Photo Credit: SCHS Trimpey Collection, A Brief History of the Dams of the Baraboo River



About: The Baraboo River Corridor

- 2.1 Local & Regional Context
- 2.2 Demographics
- 2.3 Existing & Future Land Use

The following chapter gives general information on the communities and region, demographic data and discusses land use within the study area. The information comes from a variety of resources, including the US Census, the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the communities' Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans and Comprehensive Land Use Plans.

2.1 LOCAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

There are five main watersheds (HUC-10) within the Baraboo River Region, four which drain into the River before it drains to the Wisconsin River. These watersheds are all part of the Mississippi Watershed.

The Baraboo River runs through the following counties: Monroe, Juneau, Sauk and Columbia. The focus of Phase I: BRCP is on Sauk County and several of the communities within the County.

Sauk County is located in south central Wisconsin and is the fifth fastest growing county in the State. The total population in Sauk County according to the 2010 US Census was 61,976. This population is supposed to grow by 25.6% by the year 2040 to a population of 77,815, according to the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WI DOA). Sauk County has many qualities that contribute to such robust growth including the transportation corridor, high quality schools, the diversified economies, historic downtowns, four State Parks, 23 State Natural Areas and opportunities for recreation.

Baraboo is located approximately 50 miles north/northwest of the City of Madison and 10 miles south of the Wisconsin Dells. The City is known for its circus history which can be viewed at Circus World Museum. The site was historically known for being the winter quarters for the Ringling Brothers Circus. Other unique aspects of the City of Baraboo include a historic downtown square and the Baraboo River. These amenities along with the City's location help the community to attract and retain a wide variety of businesses, though the community does have some concern about a loss of local businesses. Per the Comprehensive Plan, the community wishes to focus its future efforts on the redevelopment of the riverfront area to provide a connection from downtown to Circus World Museum, preserving and enhancing the surrounding natural environment, enhancing recreational opportunities, and enhancing its historic downtown square.

West Baraboo is approximately the same distance from the Wisconsin Dells and Madison as Baraboo is. The Village is surrounded by the City of Baraboo on the south and east sides and the Town of Baraboo on the north and west sides. The Village has experienced rapid population growth over past years and has experienced growth pressure generated by US Hwy 12 which threatens its unique rural character.

Despite its threat to the community's character, US Hwy 12 could provide some benefit to the community. A large number of tourists pass through the Village along US Hwy 12 on their way to the Wisconsin Dells, Circus World Museum, Mirror Lake State Park and Devil's Lake State Park. Natural resources are part of the regional tourism experience, and since the Baraboo River runs through West Baraboo, the

Village could capitalize on this and attract additional visitors to the area if the Baraboo River Corridor is improved and opportunities for recreation are expanded.

North Freedom is located eight miles west of the City of Baraboo. According to the Village's Comprehensive Plan, it is facing issues related to the local economy and age distribution within the community. More specifically, there is a lack of variety in North Freedom's downtown businesses and no local entity to attract and retain businesses. Existing businesses have not been able to draw in many tourists who pass through the community. There is potential to attract tourists to downtown North Freedom since the community is located near the City of Baraboo, Devil's Lake State Park and the City of Wisconsin Dells, all of which are regional tourist destinations. If improvements were made to the Baraboo River which runs through North Freedom, such as creating a "canoe trail", North Freedom could attract additional visitors as well. Downtown redevelopment and enhancement is a focus for the community over the next twenty years. Overall, the region is known for tourism and recreational

amenities in large part due to the Wisconsin Dells and Devil's Lake State Park. The Wisconsin Dells offers natural amenities, lodging, retail and other opportunities for entertainment. The City of Baraboo is located approximately 2 miles north of Devil's Lake State Park. The Park includes picnic areas, camping areas, sandy swimming beaches and 29 miles of hiking trails. The Park estimates it has over 1.5 million visitors annually. This number of visitors is similar to the number of visitors that a National Park may see. The Park is located along the Ice Age Trail which is a thousand-mile footpath that runs through Wisconsin and highlights glacial remnants throughout the State. The Trail is widely used for hiking, backpacking and snowshoeing and attracts an estimated 1.2 million visitors annually.



Baraboo Riverwalk along the Baraboo River
Photo Credit: City of Baraboo

2.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Relevant demographic information is presented below for North Freedom, West Baraboo, Baraboo and Sauk County.

POPULATION

The highest projected 30-year (2010-2040) increase in population in the study area is Sauk County (25.6%), followed by West Baraboo (24.8%), Baraboo (19.9%) and North Freedom (7.7%). All communities, except North Freedom surpassed the 30-year projected growth rate of the State of Wisconsin (14.1%). The study area will continue to experience growth due to its unique characteristics - including opportunities for recreation and tourism, high quality school districts and quality of life offered by the communities.

AGE COMPOSITION

Approximately 50% of the population in each community is less than 35 years old. The percentage of those age 65 and older in each community is relatively low today; 9.7% in North Freedom, 10.1% in West Baraboo, 15.5% in Baraboo and 15% in Sauk County. The highest median age in the study area is Sauk County (40.0), followed by Baraboo (38.0), North Freedom (35.9) and West Baraboo (33.1).

By the year 2040, the WI DOA estimates that 24% of the population in Sauk County will be age 65 or older (estimates are unavailable at the municipal level). Consideration of the aging population should be taken into account when planning passive and active recreational opportunities in the Corridor. In 2040 all other age cohorts are projected to remain comparable to 2010 levels.

HOUSING

In 2010 the average household size ranged from 2.26 in Baraboo to 2.59 in North Freedom. As with national trends, average household size in these communities has been declining over the past several decades. This trend can be attributed to smaller family sizes, increases in life expectancy and increases in single-parent households. The total number of households in 2010 ranged from 271 in North Freedom to 25,192 in Sauk County.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

North Freedom, West Baraboo and Baraboo are all in the Baraboo School District. Over the last 10 years, school enrollment has remained fairly stable. The 2005-2006 enrollment was 2,971 students which increased by 3.8% to 3,083 in 2014-2015. This growth has remained minimal and is another indication that although communities are growing, their populations are aging overall.

Table 2.1 Population History & Projections

Source: US Census and WI Department of Administration

	North Freedom	West Baraboo	Baraboo	Sauk County
2000	649	1,248	10,711	55,225
2010	701	1,414	12,048	61,976
2015	700	1,450	12,250	63,750
2020	725	1,545	12,980	68,750
2925	750	1,640	13,660	72,175
2030	770	1,715	14,230	75,660
2035	765	1,750	14,440	77,265
2040	755	1,765	14,450	77,815
30 year % change (2010-2040)	7.7%	24.8%	19.9%	25.6%

Table 2.2 Combined Age Composition, 2010

Source: US Census

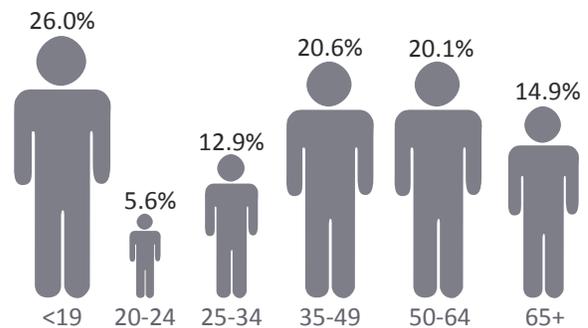
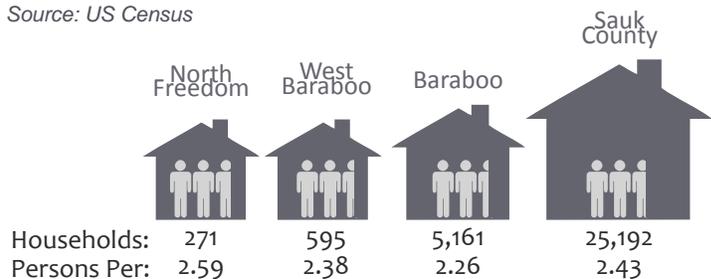


Table 2.3 Housing Statistics

Source: US Census



2.3 EXISTING & FUTURE LAND USE

Land use not only impacts the appearance of the corridor but it also impacts recreation, the environment and other elements. Instances where land use was discussed in Comprehensive Plans and during the stakeholder assessment phase are summarized below:

BARABOO

The City of Baraboo's Comprehensive Plan specifically discusses land uses along the River and recommends relocating larger more industrial uses away from the River and into the existing Baraboo industrial parks or to the farmer's co-op site. The Plan suggests developing more mixed-use opportunities along the River that include retail, office, and entertainment, live/work, apartment and condominium opportunities.

GENERAL LAND USE

Land use was a topic that came up in both focus group interviews and at the public meeting. Stakeholder interviews

revealed concerns with the adjacency of farmland to the River, especially when farm animals are allowed to roam into the River. This has a negative impact on water quality and creates potential risks for paddlers.

During the public information meeting, residents also said they were concerned about development being thoughtfully planned along the River and emphasized that when businesses are located directly on the River, they should not disturb the River's flow.

There is a variety of business types already located in the study area near the River. Looking at previous plans and taking into account stakeholder feedback, there should be a greater variety of businesses that are accessible from the river corridor and are attractive to tourists. This could be accomplished through designating more mixed uses along the River in future Comprehensive Plans.

Inventory & Analysis

3

- 3.1 Natural Resources
- 3.2 Cultural and Historic Resources
- 3.3 Infrastructure Resources
- 3.4 Recreational Resources

The planning area for the Phase I: Baraboo River Corridor Plan is located in Sauk County and stretches approximately 15 miles from North Freedom Park to the boat launch located just east of STH 113 (Glenville Launch), which includes the areas of North Freedom, West Baraboo and Baraboo (see map in Appendix A). The Goal for Phase II of the Baraboo River Corridor will be to extend to the northwest to include Rock Springs, Reedsburg and La Valle and eastward towards the confluence into the Wisconsin River.

3.1 NATURAL RESOURCES

WATERSHED

Within the Baraboo River Region there are five main watersheds (HUC-10), four of which drain into the Baraboo River before it enters the Wisconsin River. These include the Headwaters of the Baraboo River, Little Baraboo River, Narrows Creek, and Devil's Lake watersheds.

According to Sauk County, land use within the Baraboo River Watershed (note: the watershed is a much greater area than the study area-see image above) is comprised of:

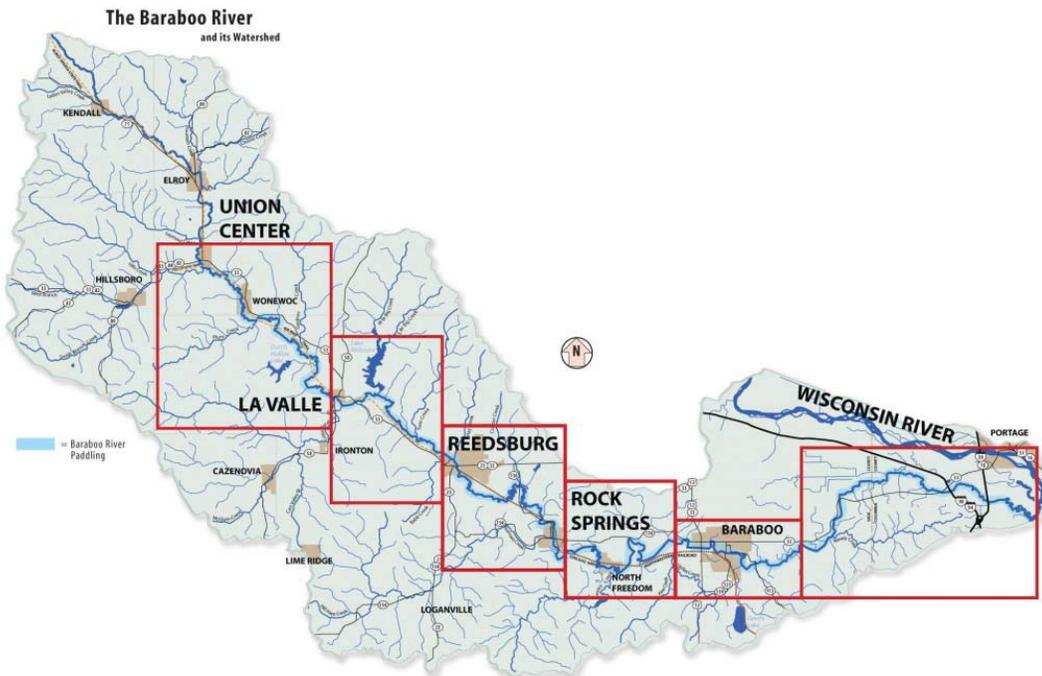
- Cropland (42%)
- Pasture (16%)
- Forest (31%)
- Urban, Feedlots, Water, Other (11%)

The entire River is approximately 120 miles long and the watershed covers a total area of 655 square miles.

BARABOO RIVER CORRIDOR CHARACTER

The character of the river corridor between North Freedom and the Glenville Launch transitions through a variety of zones. This rural-to-urban transect of the corridor fluctuates as you enter/exit the different municipalities along the Baraboo River. (See Site Inventory and Analysis Map-Appendix B) West of North Freedom Park the river corridor is largely suburban and characterized by large lot single family residents, as you move east the river corridor takes on a natural and rural like setting. The adjacent land use in this section is agricultural and grazing animals have been known to wade in the river near their farms. Steep slopes, rock formations, log jams, over vegetation slow flowing water have also been noted as issues in this segment. As you approach Giese Park Launch adjacent land uses become more rural/suburban with sporadic residential clusters and an occasional industrial or commercial use.

US Hwy 12 is the beginning of the Urban section, as you enter the Village of West Baraboo. These urban segments vary in land use, density and shoreline character as you move eastward. Several Activity Hubs have been identified where concentrations of recreational activities are already provided to visitors and residents. The river elevation from Gander Mountain to Spirit Point is 50 feet, allowing for a few segments of Class II rapids. A series of parks are located on the river's edge in this urban portion of the corridor and include Haskins Park, Oschner Park and Zoo, Lower Oschner Park, Attridge Park, Mary Rountree Evans Park, Statz Park, Kiwanis Park, Circus World and Maxwell-Potter Conservancy. These parks provide a wide range of recreational opportunities ranging from river access, trails to



Baraboo River Watershed
 Photo Credit: UW-Extension

active sports. The river winds creating a peninsula starting at Haskin’s Park and ending at Attridge Park. This natural feature creates a unique opportunity for looped Riverwalk/trail connectivity and a portage opportunity for those who wish to frequent the rapids in this section. There is also potential for the area to be developed as a fishing location because it is known for small mouth bass.

The River winds through Baraboo and past a series of historically and architecturally significant buildings, some that are deteriorating and others that are in need of demolition. These sites provide opportunities for redevelopment within the corridor. Past the eastern edge of Circus World, the surroundings start to feel more suburban in character. The river winds around Spirit Point, a location where historic reenactments are staged and heads south towards Maxwell-Potter Conservancy and the abandoned Waterworks Site. This second peninsula creates yet another opportunity for a short course where paddlers can portage and repeat. The river travels south past Maxwell-Potter Conservancy and meanders to the east before it reaches the Glenville access point. This segment is largely natural and rural in nature with private uses adjacent to the river.

Each section of the River is distinct and provides a different experience that has the potential to attract a wide range of users.

SURFACE WATER CONDITIONS

A series of dam removals have taken place along the Baraboo River which have allowed the river to return to a free-flowing natural state. This dramatic change has served as a catalyst

to reclaim the River and make it an integral destination in the communities that it runs through. Dam removal began in the mid 1990’s and the last dam was removed in 2001.

According to the WDNR, the Baraboo River drops over 150 feet from its headwaters to the confluence with the Wisconsin River. Approximately a third of this drop occurs in a five mile stretch within the City of Baraboo, commonly referred to as the “Baraboo Rapids”. Stakeholders mentioned that this drastic drop can be difficult for paddlers to navigate. Today the average annual flow of the River is 383 cubic feet per second. Real-time daily flow can be seen at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wi/nwis/current/?type=flow> by selecting site number 05405000.

At the vertical rise of the Baraboo Bluffs the river turns sharply east and drops fifty feet over the next five miles, a third of the study areas total elevation change and distance. Several riffle areas and a couple of Class II rapids occur in this segment.

WATER QUALITY

The water quality of the Baraboo River is widely known to be poor due to nonpoint source solution. Sediment levels are also high in the River. The Baraboo River is listed as a high priority on the WDNR’s 2014 final and 2016 draft list of impaired waters due to its Total Phosphorus levels (there is no 2015 list on WDNR’s website). Efforts to improve water quality include the collaborative effort of more than 500 landowners, including many farmers, who have installed conservation practices that reduce runoff and help improve water quality.

HABITAT AND WILDLIFE

According to the WDNR the trout streams of the region are located primarily higher in the watersheds and are generally low order, wade-able streams. Smallmouth bass in the region are found lower in the watershed (i.e. Wisconsin River, Baraboo River, Cazenovia Branch and Narrows Creek). Stakeholders also noted that bass fishing is good by the lagoon in North Freedom. Fisherman have been known to find a range of fish, including Catfish, Walleye, Muskie, Northern, Crappie and Bass in the segment of river stretching from North Freedom to the Kohlmeyer Road bridge. According to the WDNR the Baraboo Hills have been selected as an area of significance by the Land Legacy Study for the variety of plant communities found in the area. The river corridor is home to a variety of rare plant and animal species including birds, butterflies, dragonflies, fish, mayflies, mussels, snakes, mammals and a turtle, lizard and snail.

The City of Baraboo has recently joined the ranks of upwards of 100 cities designated as a “Bird City” by Bird City Wisconsin. According to Bird City Wisconsin, a “Bird City” is a community whose government educates citizens about birds and implements sound conservation practices to preserve and enhance bird habitats within their borders.

Information on Natural Resources specific to the corridor are very broad at this point. The next steps of this planning effort should include a more in-depth analysis of environmental resources.

3.2 CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SITES

Within the Baraboo River Corridor there are many archaeological sites and historic structures. Archaeological sites include effigy mounds which are shaped to resemble animals and humans. Historic sites include buildings, bridges and other structures.

The first people to use the Baraboo River extensively were the Native American population. The region had many resources which made it desirable (wildlife, water, fertile soils) which is why it was inhabited originally by the Ho-Chunk and mound builders. Once settlers arrived and started claiming land along the Baraboo River, dams were also constructed. At one time there were as many as eleven dams along the River. The River was key to community development and drove economic development in the region. The first industry to harness the power of the Baraboo River was timber for home building. With time, industry in the region became more specialized and eventually the River was used in flour milling and textiles. Throughout the history of the region, water power has played an integral part in development of the communities.

Each community has its own sites that are of historic interest. The Village of North Freedom is located adjacent to the Mid-Continent Railway Museum which is also adjacent to the Baraboo River. One of the more unique features found in the Phase I section in West Baraboo is upstream of the Shaw Street Bridge. In the mid 1880’s, a Chicago-Northwestern Railroad freight train derailed on a bridge while crossing the river and dumped several rail cars into the river. The railroad relocated its tracks to avoid the site but today you can see a former bridge pier where it originally was located.

The City of Baraboo’s historic resources include approximately 14 buildings which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Circus World Museum is also considered an important part of the community’s history and is located directly on the River. These unique features should be identified, protected, renovated when feasible and showcased.

FESTIVALS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The corridor’s cultural and historic resources symbolize important events throughout the development of the region. Since they hold such high importance to the communities, they should be highlighted as part of the Baraboo River Corridor improvements. A variety of events have been centered on the river and even extend beyond the Phase I limits of the project. Reedsburg has hosted a Lazy River Canoe Race, Baraboo has hosted a variety of events including a Zoo Crew Fest, Otter 8k Run, Duck Race, Milk Jug Regatta, Arbor Day Celebrations at Maxwell-Potter Conservancy and River Rendezvous, a reenactment camp that occurs over labor day weekend.



Shaw Street Bridge in West Baraboo
Photo Credit: milespaddled.com

3.3 INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCES

STREETS

The Baraboo River Corridor Plan study area runs from North Freedom Park to the boat launch located just east of STH 113 (Glenville Launch). The Baraboo River intersects CTH I, US Hwy 12 and STH 113. Within the Village of West Baraboo, US Hwy 12 is classified by the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) as a principal arterial (a road that provides the greatest mobility) and connects to the I-90/94 corridor. The corridor is well-connected to other communities via the I-90/94 corridor which makes it a relatively easy location to travel to. I-90/94 connects west to La Crosse, northwest to the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, and southeast to Madison, Milwaukee, Rockford and Chicago. In coming years, the US Hwy 12 Bypass will be constructed to the west of the existing highway in West Baraboo. A map containing the bypass is shown in Appendix A.

RAILROADS

The region also has access to rail. The Wisconsin Southern Railroads bisects the Villages of North Freedom and West Baraboo and the City of Baraboo.

TRAILS & RIVERWALK

There are also two trails located along the Baraboo River, both of which are found in the City of Baraboo. The Ice Age Trail is a thousand-mile footpath through Wisconsin and is managed by a partnership between the National Park Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Ice Age Trail Alliance. The trail can be used for hiking, backpacking and snowshoeing. Some portions can be used for cross-country skiing. The Ice Age Trail connects with the Baraboo Riverwalk at Maxwell-Potter Conservancy and follows the Riverwalk until the Ice Age Trail heads north, west of Ochsner Park and Zoo.

The Baraboo Riverwalk is a joint effort between the City of Baraboo and the Baraboo Kiwanis Club. The Riverwalk is currently 1.8 miles long and offers several benches along the trail for users to enjoy views of the Baraboo River.

According to Running Free: The Baraboo River Restoration Story, there are still challenges to using the Baraboo River for recreational purposes. A major challenge being low water levels in the summer which can make it difficult to canoe or kayak. The boat launches, trail signage, lack of shuttle service and log jams are other paddling obstacles. The report also mentions that although one can fish in the Baraboo River,



Baraboo Riverwalk Map
Photo Credit: City of Baraboo

many choose to go to the nearby Devil's Lake which is a much more scenic and well-known location. The muddy and turbid water are both barriers to water recreation.

VEHICULAR ACCESS AND PARKING, TRAIL HEADS & RIVER ACCESS

There are currently four official put in/take out locations within the Phase I project limits. These access points to the river vary in size, amenity and condition.

North Freedom Boat Launch

The North Freedom boat launch is located in North Freedom Park. The boat launch is a partially paved ramp into the River. Stakeholders stated that the launch is in great need of repair as it is difficult to launch a boat from it currently. In addition, there is a snow pile pushed in front of the launch area, which is the only access point to the water due to a fence that creates barrier issues to get close to the water.

Giese Park/Kirkwood Access

The Giese Park/Kirkwood Access Launch is located in Sauk County a couple miles west of the Village of West Baraboo. The landing does not have a pier but does offer a rustic outhouse. Stakeholders stated that the lack of a formal launch and steep side banks make it difficult to launch boats at this location. In addition, the small amount of parking is an issue.

Haskins Park Boat Launch

The Haskins Park Boat Launch is located in Haskins Park in West Baraboo. The boat launch was updated in 2015 and includes a non-motorized boat launch, floating pier and ADA accessible kayak launch.

Glenville Landing

Glenville Landing is located off STH 113 just outside of the southeast corner of the City of Baraboo. The boat launch is a paved ramp into the River. Stakeholders stated this launch is heavily silted in, which makes it difficult to launch or exit at and deters people from using it. Overall the launch site needs to be cleaned up.

SIGNAGE

An extensive inventory of signage in the corridor was not conducted as part of Phase I, but based on stakeholder input it appears that in general there is a lack of signage directing visitors and residents to access points, riverside amenities and/or trails. Phase II should evaluate the existing locations and quality of the existing wayfinding and identification signage. As part of the global corridor marketing effort, a comprehensive signage package should be considered.

3.4 RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC PARKS

County

Giese Park is located two miles west of US Hwy 12 on Hatchery Road. The site includes some parking and a rustic outhouse.

North Freedom

North Freedom Park is located on the north side of the River off of South Linn Street. Park amenities include a playground, picnic tables, park shelter, restrooms, baseball diamond and boat launch.

West Baraboo

Haskins Park is located on the south side of the Village along the Baraboo River off of Shaw and Willow Streets. The Park provides playground equipment, a shelter with restrooms, gazebo, green space, and non-motorized boat launch. Stakeholders suggested that the recently added rip-rap along the River could provide new spawning areas for sturgeon and that the Riverwalk should be expanded through Haskins Park.

Baraboo

Oschner Park and Zoo and Lower Oschner Parks are located on the east side of the river south of Linn Street/8th Avenue. Oschner Park & Zoo is a 26 acre Park with two acres of zoo, free to the public. Parking is available off Ridge Street. The park has restroom facilities, three shelters, picnic grills, a large playground and connection to the Baraboo Riverwalk. Lower Oschner Park is located on the east side of the river, across from Attridge Park. The park has a soccer field and on site parking.

Attridge Park is located on Second Street in Baraboo. The park includes picnic amenities, basketball and sand volleyball courts and opportunities for fishing off-shore. A footbridge connects the riverwalk and Lower Oschner Park.

Kiwanis Park is located on Water Street and includes a gazebo, access to the Riverwalk, overlook area, grill and picnic tables.

Mary Roundtree Evans Park is located on the north side of the river south of 2nd Street between Ridge Street and Park Street. The park includes parking, restrooms, a baseball field, shelter and offers shoreline fishing opportunities. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail passes through the southern portion of the park.

Statz Park is located on the north side of the river west of Broadway Street and has a small parking lot to the south of First Avenue. The park is home to a baseball/softball diamond, picnic shelter and restroom facilities. Visitors can fish off shore and stroll the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Spirit Point is a peninsula west of the Circus World Museum which is owned by the State Historical Society. The site is an undeveloped natural area and open space with a gravel access drive and parking area.

Maxwell-Potter Conservancy is located just east of Circus World and extends from Water Street down south of Hill Street along the west side of the River. The Conservancy features a fenced in retreat for pups; a 6-acre arboretum that contains butterfly gardens, interpretive plantings, mature forest, streams and trails; parking; and playground equipment. The Waterworks site is an abandoned pump house on the property which is currently being renovated. By the end of summer 2016 the pump house building will be a large picnic shelter with restrooms and historic signage. The new shelter also includes scenic overlooks of the River and a future canoe/kayak launch site.

PRIVATELY OWNED PARK

Circus World

Circus World is a private park owned by the Wisconsin Historical Society and operated by the Circus World Foundation. Circus World is located off of STH 113/Water Street and is on the Baraboo River. The site features several buildings that hold numerous exhibits on circus history and a large parking lot. Stakeholders mentioned the snow removed from downtown Baraboo is placed in this parking lot for storage. When it melts, stakeholders are concerned about pollution of the River by this runoff which contains salt, sediment and other pollutants.

PARKS OUTSIDE THE CORRIDOR

There are additional parks outside of the designated study area that could further connect a web of recreational opportunities.

North Freedom

- Veteran’s Memorial Park

West Baraboo

- Max J. Hill Park

Baraboo

- Campbell Park
- City View Park
- Deppe Park
- Langer Park
- Mary Hoppe Felts Park
- Nanny Park
- Pierce Park
- Ritzenthaler Park
- Steinhorst Park
- Weber Park

Sauk County

- The County Forest
- Hemlock Park
- Lake Redstone Park
- Man Mound Park
- White Mound Park
- Yellow Thunder Park

State

- Devil’s Lake State Park

- Mirror Lake State Park
- Natural Bridge State Park
- Rocky Arbor State Park

PADDLING, PORTAGE AND BOATING

Today the Baraboo River is widely used for paddling and offers opportunities for beginners all the way through more experienced paddlers. The University of Wisconsin-Madison’s outdoor education and recreation club, Hoofers, currently brings students to the Baraboo River for canoe/kayak instruction.

In addition to accommodating a variety of skill levels, the River offers different settings for paddlers, ranging from urban to rural. According to paddlers, the free-flowing river is unique and is widely used, however it does need additional launches and improvements to existing launches to make the River easier for everyone to use. It should be noted that portage is currently required in North Freedom between the community and the railroad trestle. A detailed paddling map including approximate trip duration, river features and access and paddling information can be found at: <http://sauk.uwex.edu/files/2013/11/BarabooMap.pdf>.

FISHING

Fishing is another activity many engage in along the River. Before the dam removals, the dams restricted fish migration and habitat. With the River now flowing freely, the Baraboo fishery is recovering and fish have more opportunities to be found in all sections of the River. There have even been some reports of sturgeon spawning, which is believed to be a sign that the River is headed in the direction of a full recovery.

BIRDING

Baraboo has been a designated “Tree City” for 23 years and has recently been designated a “Bird City” as well. Thanks to this recent designation, the City of Baraboo and surrounding area has the opportunity to capitalize on the growing recreational hobby. According to Wisconsin Travel, Devil’s Lake State Park is one of the best places for birding with thick forests and ravines. The Baraboo Hills are nesting areas for 105 species with 220 species recorded including warblers, barred owls, ruffed grouse and four species of woodpecker. The Ochsner Park Zoo also has a small aviary which offers three bird species and three additional species located in adjacent exhibits. There is also an opportunity to plan for a future zoo expansion which could tie in the River with bird education/new species at the zoo.

CAMPING

There are currently no identified camp grounds within the Phase I corridor. The closest camping opportunities are Devil’s Lake State Park and the privately-owned Baraboo Hills, KD Ranch, Wheeler’s, Nordic Pines and Northern Lights Campgrounds. The natural and recreational resources in the region make the corridor an attractive destination for camping. The Phase II plan should evaluate opportunities for public or private camp grounds.

Stakeholder Needs Assessment

4

- 4.1 Existing Plan Summary
- 4.2 Stakeholder Assessment
- 4.3 SWOT Analysis



This chapter summarizes existing plans related to the study and efforts to engage with the community and identify strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats.

4.1 EXISTING PLAN SUMMARY

There are plans which have already been produced by local governments, citizen groups and non-profits that discuss the Baraboo River Corridor. These plans are listed below and elements that relate to the current Phase I: BRCP effort are summarized along with related recommendations.

VILLAGE OF NORTH FREEDOM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2005)

There are several action items in the Plan that are related to the Baraboo River. These include:

- Identify areas for increased access to the River.
- Maintain appropriate access to the River.
- Promote use of best management practices (BMPs) along the River.

VILLAGE OF WEST BARABOO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2004)

The following are listed as medium to high priorities for the community related to the River:

- Participate in the completion of a multi-use trail system along the River.
- Install an informational sign indicating the access point for the River trail on Linn Street.
- Implement and enforce land use control measures

to protect the Baraboo River from future growth and development.

- Diminish the entry of non-point source pollution into the River by encouraging nearby developments to implement water runoff control measures (e.g. native vegetation, detention basins, etc.).

VILLAGE OF WEST BARABOO COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (CORP) (2014)

One of the key goals of the plan is to improve access to the River from Haskins Park for boating and fishing. Specific recommendations from the plan include:

- Improve access to the River for canoes/kayaks by constructing a non-motorized boat launch in Haskins Park with an ADA compliant boarding dock and/or wharf and parking space to accommodate vehicles with trailers carrying multiple watercraft.
- Develop a shoreline restoration design along the River to prevent erosion and improve water quality for stormwater entering the River. The shoreline restoration structure should also provide additional riverfront access for shoreline fishing.
- Develop an ADA compliant fishing pier on an existing railroad bridge abutment and pier in the River to provide improved access for fishing.
- Construct additional ADA compliant sidewalks in Haskins Park to provide pedestrian and bicycle access to the new non-motorized boat launch, fishing pier and shoreline of the River.
- Consider locating a park under the US Hwy 12 Baraboo River Bridge with possible Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) land dedication.

CITY OF BARABOO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2005)

The Plan recommends the following for the River corridor:

- Continue to expand the City's riverwalk system, specifically focusing on the creation of a walkway along the Water Street Corridor.
- Create active space along the riverwalk that encourages pedestrian and bicycle use.
- Create more pedestrian entrances onto the riverwalk and enhance pedestrian access through various clearly marked paths.
- Incorporate the riverwalk with regional trails (such as the Ice Age Trail) and the historic downtown square and to Circus World Museum.
- Relocate larger, more industrial uses away from the River and into the existing Baraboo industrial parks or to the farmer's co-op site to encourage development of more active space along the River.
- Develop more mixed-use opportunities along the River that include retail, office, entertainment, live/work, apartment and condominium opportunities.
- Attract hotel and convention center uses to locate on a riverfront development site.
- Establish or maintain easements all along the riverwalk

to ensure a continuous riverwalk rather than one that is broken up by private property.

- Maintain river viewsheds by preventing the riverfront from becoming solidly developed. Use courtyards and arcades for more porous development that preserves river views (such as the views down streets that run from north to south).
- Create a statutory redevelopment plan to outline and direct redevelopment efforts spearheaded by the City and the CDA.

CITY OF BARABOO CORP (2011)

Baraboo's CORP recommends the following:

- Continue the development of the Riverwalk in coordination with Sauk County, the State of Wisconsin and the Ice Age Trail Alliance's plans.
- Install a new canoe/kayak launch in at least two parks.
- Install a pedestrian bridge over the river at Maxwell-Potter Conservancy to create a loop on the south end of the Riverwalk.
- Promote the River as a local water trail to attract users.
- Construct the Oak Street Overlook which overlooks the Baraboo River and rapids at Kiwanis Park.



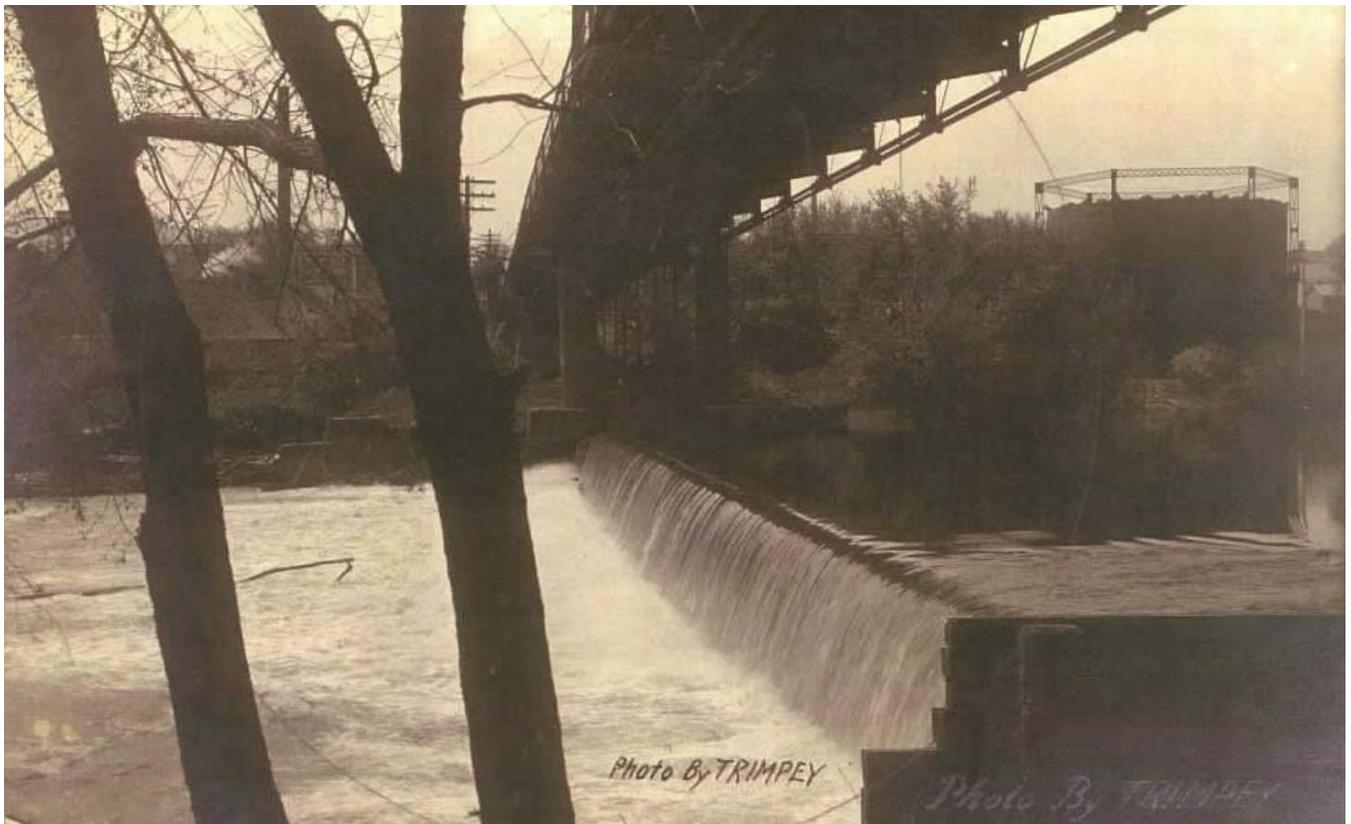
Baraboo Riverwalk

Photo Credit: Panoramio.com

CITY OF BARABOO'S RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT AREA PLAN (2006)

Recommendations for the area surrounding the River include:

- Install streetscape improvements downtown.
- Construct a new commercial building on the west edge of the Civic Center.
- Do a high-density residential project.
- Reserve the corners where Water Street intersects with Broadway and Ash Street for commercial uses on the ground levels.
- Public overlook at the end of Oak Street and a pedestrian pathway to allow people to walk between downtown and the riverfront.
- Maintain the existing historic building that Aldo Leopold Foundation uses.
- Develop a mixed-use project at the corner of Broadway and Water Street to serve as a riverfront gateway.
- Create a public park at the terminus of Oak Street with public access to the River.
- Create a riverwalk and riverwalk loop to connect to entertainment and retain uses.
- Encourage a mix of entertainment and retail along the riverfront.
- Redevelop site on Ash Street to commercial use.
- Renovate buildings on Ash Street to be historic.
- Redevelop Onyx Site into riverside restaurant and boutique hotel.
- Incorporate riverfront into Circus World Museum grounds.
- Construct high-density housing along the riverfront.
- Include sites surrounding Alliant Energy in redevelopment project.
- Renovate the existing train depot.
- Renovate the buildings on Walnut Street to their historic appearance.
- Redevelop Co-op Country Partners site.
- Redevelop land between City Services building and Lynn Street to be residential.
- Area between Circus World Museum and the proposed range view housing should remain single-family.
- Preserve Old Mill Park as public Natural Area.



Oak Street Dam Under High Bridge (Removed in 2000)
 Photo Credit: SCHS Trimpey Collection, *A Brief History of the Dams of the Baraboo River*

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- Preserve Old Mill Park as a public natural area.

CITY OF BARABOO DOWNTOWN AND RIVERFRONT PLAN (2011)

The purpose of this study was to create and provide recommendations for promoting commerce by applying best practice principles throughout the Baraboo Downtown and Riverfront. The first recommendation from the plan is to beautify the area. The plan also recommends having a variety of reasonably priced restaurants and cafes, making store windows larger so people can see inside and focusing efforts on attracting retail supply, sports and recreation and clothing appropriate for the community and tourists since one of the area's strengths is its eco-tourism.

PHASE I: BARABOO HISTORIC PHOTOS (2001)

This document includes photos the Citizens for Waterfront Revitalization (CWR) collected during their work on the History of the Dams of the Baraboo River.

BARABOO RAPIDS STRATEGIC PLAN (2001)

This strategic plan, created by CWR, is a guide for the location of physical improvements, and it contains recommendations for public policy changes and grass roots advocacy. Recommendations from the Plan focus on dividing the corridor into a series of different zones that are differentiated primarily by land use. The plan states that any new development should promote access to and from the river and recognize river users as potential patrons. The plan also aims to protect the natural character and unique wildlife habitat in the river corridor. At the time, the recent dam removals were a catalyst for these efforts.

PHASE II: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DAMS OF THE BARABOO RIVER (2004)

This study completed by CWR profiles the history of each of the dams along the Baraboo River. The image on the previous page is from this study.

RUNNING FREE: THE BARABOO RIVER RESTORATION STORY (2009)

This study discusses the history of the River, beginning with the Native Americans and fur traders and discusses each of the eight dams along the river. During the span of four years, four dams were removed along the River to return it to its natural state. The study discusses the River's potential as an improved location for fishing, the increased opportunities for recreational use and the potential for riverfront development after dam removal.

DRIFTLESS AREA TROUT & SMALLMOUTH BASS STREAM MASTER PLAN PROJECT (2013)

Chapter 7 discusses the topics of land use, watersheds, and habitat in the region as they relate to different types of fish and their probability of occurrence in different areas throughout the Baraboo River Region.

GEOLOGY OF THE ICE AGE TRAIL NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL (2011)

The section in the book on the geology of the Baraboo Segment of the Ice Age Trail runs from Effinger Rd. to the UW-Baraboo campus and is approximately 5.2 miles long.

4.2 STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT

Baraboo River Corridor stakeholders include North Freedom, West Baraboo, Baraboo and Sauk County government officials, property and business owners and residents. To gain insight from a variety of viewpoints, MSA conducted two focus group discussions and a public forum to gather critical knowledge and discuss improvements to the Baraboo River Corridor.

FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS

Community members representing a variety of local interests were asked to participate in one of two focus groups. A breakdown of groups represented is listed below. Focus group meetings were held with various stakeholders and local government staff members. There were several groups that were unable to attend the meeting, but still offered feedback, which is included in this section. Focus group sessions and individual interviews were held on March 7th and 8th, 2016 and consisted of participants representing interests of the following groups:

Educational & Recreational Organizations

- Baraboo Kiwanis
- Center for Wisconsin Archeology
- Sauk County Historical Society
- Baraboo Public Library
- University of Wisconsin - Extension

Environmental Organizations & Agencies

- WDNR
- WDNR Fisheries
- Baraboo River Canoe Club
- Sierra Club RTS Paddlers
- Mad City Paddlers
- Ice Age Trail Alliance – Baraboo Hills Chapter
- Baraboo Range Preservation Association

Businesses

- Baraboo News Republic
- Baraboo Chamber
- Sauk County Development Corporation
- Wildside Adventure Sports

Local Governments

- City of Baraboo
- Village of North Freedom
- Village of West Baraboo
- Sauk County



Boat Launch at Haskins Park

Photo Credit: MSA Professional Services

Focus group participants were asked a variety of questions related to how they perceived the Baraboo River Corridor today and how they envision it in the future. When asked what the first thing is that comes to mind when they thought of the Baraboo River, responses fell under one of the following topics: recreation, rapids, river restoration, riverwalk, water quality, natural beauty, accessibility, and opportunity.

Many of the participants personally engaged in recreation along the river. Those who primarily used it for walking loved the Riverwalk and would like to see it extended into other communities. Many also canoed and kayaked, though would like to see improvements to put in/take out spots as existing access points are difficult to use due to water fluctuations, slope, mud/erosion/debris, etc.

When asked what historical, cultural or educational facts about the river corridor give it a unique sense of place, common responses were related to the history of the corridor and the recent efforts to restore the Baraboo River by removing the dams.

When asked what the biggest asset of the Baraboo River Corridor is, responses included the views, nature, and public access. When asked what the biggest issue facing the Baraboo River Corridor is, responses included water quality, lack of cohesive plan, public access, lack of river cleanup and no identified river course.

Participants were also asked to name communities that have river corridors that they enjoyed and had unique amenities they would like to see on the Baraboo River. Sample responses included: San Antonio, TX Riverwalk; Elkader, IA; Rockford, IL; Fort Atkinson, WI; and Milwaukee, WI among others.

Participants also came up with a list of one improvement they thought would make the Baraboo River Corridor better. Responses included: improve erosion control along River, utilize Best Management Practices, make all access ADA compliant, keep the River log jam free, add shops along River, add community programming/events, add a rental shop, do better marketing, extend the Riverwalk, keep the natural feel of the corridor, etc. (See Appendix D for a complete summary.)

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

MSA facilitated a public forum on March 15, 2016 to review existing resources and initial findings and discuss how to improve the Baraboo River Corridor. Approximately 30 participants were asked to share their thoughts, concerns, ideas, the current state of the corridor, strengths and weaknesses and a vision for the future.

Several prompt questions were asked to get the community thinking about what they envision for the Baraboo River Corridor. When asked what one word they would use to describe the Baraboo River Corridor today, the attendees



Source: tagul.com

overwhelming response was not only positive but reflective of the communities' value for the Corridor. Positive comments included fun, resource, scenic, asset and calming. Comments suggesting opportunities or improvements included potential, degraded, underused, muddy and polluted. See word cloud on the previous page for all responses. *(A word cloud is a method for visually presenting data text. In this instance, the size of each word is random and does not indicate its importance or frequency.)*

When attendees were asked what the biggest strength of the Baraboo River Corridor is, top responses included whitewater, fishing, economic opportunity for tourism, eco-tourism and variety of recreational opportunities. When attendees were asked what the biggest weakness of the Baraboo River Corridor is, top responses included water quality, agricultural runoff, lack of a paddle sports store, depth: shallow, lack of accessible businesses and put in and take out points.

Attendees were asked what changes would most improve the Baraboo River Corridor. Stakeholders were asked to respond to this question for each of the following categories:

- Environmental
- Recreational
- Educational
- Other

Ideas and comments for the Environment fell under four overarching themes including: Wildlife and Habitat, Maintenance, Best Management Practices and Water Quality, with respondents saying things like fish habitat, river cleanup, invasive species removal, wetland restoration, road salt and sand storage and streambank improvements.

Ideas and comments for Recreation fell under one of four themes; Paddling, Accessibility, Trails or Amenities with respondents stating they would like to see more public canoe/kayak launches with parking areas, restrooms, a bike trail, extended riverwalk, a camping area and a whitewater park.

Ideas and comments for Education fell under one of three themes: Partnerships, Educational Programming and Signage. Attendees felt strongly about the potential of the corridor to be used as an education tool stating they would like to see historical markers along the corridor, integration of the Baraboo River into local school curriculum, partnership with the zoo or University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County and kayak/canoe clinics.

When asked to provide ideas unrelated to a specific topic resident responses fell under four different categories: Marketing, Local Businesses, Accessibility, and Maintenance. The most popular responses under this category included signage, planned events, tourism-related businesses, and

businesses a person can paddle up to. Additional responses included bank erosion, increasing parking availability, ADA accessibility, bike rental, etc. (For a complete list of responses to all of the above questions please see Appendix D.)

4.3 SWOT ANALYSIS

Based on the inventory and analysis of the Baraboo River Corridor (Chapter 3), existing plans and stakeholder input, the following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and costs have been identified. This SWOT analysis was used to generate goals and recommendations in the next chapter.

STRENGTHS

Natural Resources and Recreational Opportunities

- Free-flowing river/dam removals have increased opportunities for recreation on the River (e.g. kayaking, canoeing, fishing).
- Riverwalk in Baraboo connects people to the River and offers opportunities for walking, biking and enjoyment of nature.
- Public access allows residents and visitors to recreate on and near the River.
- Transect of River allows users to have a variety of experiences (River runs through developed areas and very rural areas).
- Scenic views along River make it a desirable place to visit.
- Paddling opportunities for all skill levels along River offer something for everyone.
- ~50 foot drop in elevation at Baraboo Rapids section of River make it a desirable paddling location.

Established, multi-jurisdictional partnership

- Partnerships between and within communities make planning and funding improvements more feasible.

WEAKNESSES

Waterway

- Water quality is poor due to phosphorus and suspended solids.
- Log jams in River create difficulties when paddling.

Recreational Limitations

- Existing canoe/kayak launches are difficult to use due to mud and steep slopes.
- River access points are not widely known/ well-publicized.
- There is a lack of public restrooms along corridor.

- Not all canoe/kayak launches are ADA accessible.
- Fluctuation of water level causes mud issues which make accessing the River difficult.

OPPORTUNITIES

Access, Active Use and Healthy Living

- If River conditions continue improving, the River could become a fishing destination.
- Riverwalk trail extension could be extended to other communities.
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation wayside along STH 33 could become a canoe/kayak launch.
- Improve canoe/kayak launch at Giese Park.
- New canoe/kayak launch to the east of Circus World.
- New canoe/kayak launch along Water Street.

Development/Redevelopment

- Riverfront redevelopment could make the area more attractive for residents and visitors to enjoy.
- Tourism could bring additional spending into the communities.
- Restaurants/retail along the River could make the area more widely used by residents and visitors.
- Hold events that focus on River to bring awareness to the resource as a local and regional destination.
- New paddle sports store and/or rental location for those who come to the area to canoe/kayak or for those who are interested in trying those activities.
- Water Works Building could be reused for a business related to River recreation.

Education and Stewardship

- Additional partnerships within communities (ex: University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County) could bring others on board to help with planning and implementation efforts and engage the wider community.
- Organized river cleanups will improve the River's appearance and help improve water quality.
- Marketing/advertising will help to bring in more local and regional visitors to use the River as a recreational amenity

Beautification

- More natural landscaping adjacent to River will make the River more scenic.

- Beautification of the corridor will help it become a place that people enjoy visiting.

THREATS

Human Activity

- User conflicts on River can be potentially dangerous and should be minimized (e.g. between fishermen and those kayaking on the River).
- There is some uncertainty about designated vs. undesignated hunting areas (e.g. water fowl hunting near Gander Mountain)

Maintenance

- Obstructions in and along the River can make paddling difficult and/or dangerous.

Health and Safety

- Increasingly degraded water quality can be a health hazard for those tubing, swimming, canoeing or kayaking in the River and those eating fish from the River.
- Agricultural land uses increase phosphorus levels in the River which lead to degraded water quality.

Recommendations

5

5.1 Goals

5.2 Objectives

5.3 Overall Corridor Implementation

5.4 Specific Capital Improvements by Municipality

Chapter 5 presents a vision for the future of the Baraboo River Corridor and describes the goals and recommendations necessary to achieve this vision. Additional details will be identified in the next phase of the project. **Please note: the municipalities within the Baraboo River Corridor are under no obligation to complete the recommendations listed in this Chapter if they adopt this plan.**

5.1 CORRIDOR GOALS

1. Make the Baraboo River Corridor an attractive, accessible and safe destination to increase its use by residents and visitors for recreation.
2. Improve the water quality of the Baraboo River.
3. Build partnerships to develop, implement and champion improvements throughout the Baraboo River Corridor.
4. Create a system of access points throughout the Baraboo River Corridor and associated Tributaries for kayakers, canoers and fishers.

5.2 OBJECTIVES

BY 2025, THE BARABOO RIVER CORRIDOR:

1. Will be known regionally as a paddling destination with designated whitewater course(s).
2. Will provide a host of support facilities and amenities to expand tourism within communities it resides.
3. Will put into place measures to protect, enhance, restore and control the corridor's natural setting, improve water quality and biodiversity and educate visitors and residents on the unique cultural and historical significance of the Corridor.

VISION

“Protect, restore and enhance the natural environment within the Baraboo River Corridor and focus on opportunities that will spur recreation, tourism and development to establish the region as *THE* premiere water recreation destination in south central Wisconsin.”

5.3 OVERALL CORRIDOR IMPLEMENTATION

PUBLIC POLICY IMPROVEMENTS

To ensure that improvements and policies are made which continue to advance the BRCP and build upon the Phase I Plan, it is recommended that a River Partnership be created to include all municipalities adjacent to the River. Once the partnership has been established, the general goals contained within this section (5.3) should be delegated to specific entities to carry-out. A coordinator should also be designated so there is one person ensuring the project stays on track and continues moving forward.

Baraboo River Corridor

- Adopt and maintain the Baraboo River Corridor Plan.
- Review existing codes and processes, modify these documents to align with the goals, objectives and strategy. Evaluate impediments to implementing this and future phases of the plan.
- Conduct Phase II of the Baraboo River Corridor Plan which should include a parallel NRCS watershed study.

Conduct additional studies

- Conduct a study of stream and aquatic resources, vegetation, prairie and wetlands in order to identify issues and opportunities for ecological protection and restoration. As part of the study, create a maintenance plan for consistent river clean up.
- Conduct fishery surveys of the Baraboo River to identify current fish populations and strategize as to how to improve the abundance of desirable fish in the River and determine where fish habitats could be built.
- Conduct feasibility study to expand Riverwalk and/or trail throughout the corridor.
- Create a recreational master plan to guide the implementation of proposed amenities.
- Create, adopt and enforce planning and design guidelines for corridor improvements.
- Complete a more detailed analysis of cultural/historical resources for storytelling and educational opportunities within the corridor.

Developer toolkit

- Determine approach and available resources to provide developer assistance. Confirm developer assistance criteria and toolkit.
- Property owner outreach. Contact property owners to discuss the goals, objectives and recommendations of the BRCP (determine support, future plans, business objectives, potential development, etc.). Align policies and actions.

OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

Marketing

- Engage in branding, collateral, public relations, business development and outreach.
 - » Create a brand strategy and communication system.
 - » Develop promotional material (including logo/mark, slogan, imagery and pattern language all municipalities can use throughout the Baraboo River Corridor.)
 - » Develop a design standards package and plans for identification, wayfinding, map and educational signage throughout the corridor.
- Create a website and app for the corridor. Include a real-time map of river levels, input/takeout points, trip suggestions, etc.
- Work with local tourism agencies to advertise existing local attractions and new attractions as they are developed.

Public/Private Partnerships

- Build a River Partnership to include all municipalities adjacent to the Baraboo River.
- Consider creating an intergovernmental organization or 501 (c)(3) agency to oversee Implementation of the Baraboo River Corridor Plan(s).
- Consider establishing a Friends of the Baraboo River Corridor group (or another volunteer group) that oversees stewardship and events in the corridor.
- Coordinate between the municipal River Partnership group, the 501 (c)(3) and the Friends group for planning, implementation and volunteer efforts in the Corridor.
- Designate a “coordinator” between all of the partners involved in the effort who will commit to organizing meetings, marketing and ensuring the project maintains focus.
- Hold community-wide events that focus on the River.
- Engage local County law enforcement to identify protocol on policing within the corridor.
- Work with WDNR to determine the feasibility of increasing rapids in certain places along the River to enhance kayaker experience.
- Investigate opportunities for educational and exploratory programming to expand curriculum that focuses on the diversity of the area and the potential to create outdoor classrooms and monitoring stations within the corridor. (Local schools, University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County and other local higher education institutions)
- Work with property owners and businesses to address property conditions, unsightly views and improper uses along the corridor.
- Reach out to potential developers and

operators:

- » Contact a whitewater course developer.
- » Contact paddle sport businesses.
- » Contact food cart vendors.
- » Contact shuttle service providers.

Funding

- Investigate funding opportunities for planning, design and construction of future improvements.
- Establish corporate and individual donation program.
- Prepare an annual Capital Improvement Project Plan that aligns with partners and all sources of revenue.
- Identify local businesses for support, sponsorship and volunteer efforts.

Project Management

- Consider recruiting and hiring a project manager who can dedicate efforts to the revitalization and development of the river as a premiere recreation destination.
- Hire or identify staff responsible for regularly inspecting and reporting deficiencies, obstructions and debris within the riverway.
- Organize river cleanup days and clear log jams.

Park and Public Space

- Identify capital improvement budgets and priority action items.
- Prepare maintenance plan for current and future capital improvement projects.
- Develop a plan for revenue generation and enhancement through fees, events and sponsorship.
- Consider a Historic Review Board for oversight on protection and restoration of historic sites and structures.

LAND AND DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENTS

- Develop paddle up restaurant(s) along the corridor.
- Each municipality should pay attention to properties that will further the goals and objectives of this plan by obtaining land either through purchase or easement for recreational and capital improvements.
- Municipalities should carefully review development proposals including opportunities for:
 - » A paddle sports store and/or rental locations near the river.
 - » Designated camp ground facilities.
 - » Redeveloping riverfront parcels into mixed-use development that allows for retail, restaurant and other businesses that are desirable to those

recreating on the River.

- Each municipality should carefully evaluate developer proposals and provide gap funding opportunities and assistance for property acquisition and clean up.

Current initiatives

- Continue to encourage redevelopment by supporting current grant opportunities for property owners.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Parks, Trails and Riverwalk

- Plan and design an extension of the Riverwalk and connecting Trails to and along the River Corridor towards North Freedom and the Glenville access point.
- Integrate public art, historical markers and interpretive signage into the corridor along designated routes that celebrates the rich history of the river.
- Identify and install designated fishing areas along the River.
- Connect to existing trails to provide multi-modal opportunities to, from and within the corridor.
- Improve existing launches and create new canoe/kayak launches that are easy to use, provide additional parking options and are ADA accessible.

Transit, Street and Streetscapes

- Install a unified, comprehensive wayfinding system throughout the corridor following the development of the branding effort.
- Inventory existing boat launch sites, associated parking, identify specific improvements needed and develop an implementation plan.
- Identify strategic locations for additional parking along the river.

Best Management Practices

- Communities should implement additional stormwater management techniques to improve non-point runoff.
- Increase native vegetation along the River to improve water quality and decrease erosion.
- Use best management practices to filter stormwater before it reaches the River.
- Communicate the importance to landowners of keeping farm animals out of river.

5.4 SPECIFIC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BY MUNICIPALITY

Please note: the municipalities within the Baraboo River Corridor are under no obligation to complete the recommendations listed in this Chapter if they adopt this plan.

City of Baraboo

- Evaluate the feasibility of installing a pedestrian bridge just east of the Broadway bridge, upstream of proposed whitewater course.
- Evaluate the feasibility for and apply for a Stewardship Grant for the pedestrian bridge east of Circus World.
- Identify, mark, and provide support amenities for portage opportunities at the two peninsulas (Attridge Park Area and Spirit Point).
- Acquire additional property for river access points.
- Evaluate the feasibility of moving the snow storage at Circus World's parking lot to somewhere outside the river corridor.
- Work with businesses along the river to establish potential variable access points.
- Work with the Village of West Baraboo to create a whitewater course from Haskin's Park to the south end of Attridge Park. Identify, mark, and provide support amenities for portage opportunities.
- Create additional opportunities for picnicking and unpaved recreation at Spirit Point.
- Work with the County to create an off road trail connection from Spirit Point to The Ice Age Trail.
- Identify, mark, and provide support amenities for portage opportunities.
- Create a short whitewater course from the west side to the east side Spirit Point with two potential variable access points. Identify, mark, and provide support amenities for portage opportunities.
- Identify opportunities for historic storytelling, especially focused on the River.
- Continue to move forward with redevelopment opportunities that support the goals of this plan.
- Continue to renovate the pump house into a picnic shelter with restrooms and historic storytelling plaques.

Village of North Freedom

- Apply for SFR and RBF Grants in 2016 for the boat launch improvements in North Freedom Park
- Apply for DNR Stewardship Grant for redevelopment of North Freedom Park
- Designate safe pedestrian routes to/from North

Freedom Park and local destinations (Village Hall, local restaurants etc.)

- Work with adjacent land owners to develop additional variable access points to the river.
- Evaluate the feasibility of extending the riverway trail to Seely Creek and Lake.
- Work with adjacent land owners to clean up over-vegetation and log jams from North Freedom to Giese Park.
- Identify opportunities for historic storytelling, especially focused on the River.
- Continue to move forward with redevelopment opportunities that support the goals of this plan.

Village of West Baraboo

- Conduct feasibility study and extend the Riverwalk to Haskin's Park.
- Install a kayak/canoe launch along 2nd Street.
- Apply for DNR Stewardship Grant in 2016 for Phase II of the park redevelopment.
- Consider applying for RTA or Stewardship Grant in 2018 for trail extension.
- Partner with Gander Mountain to add a variable access point on the river. Obtain an access/usage easement from Gander Mountain.
- Create a designated route on W. Oak Street that connects to Haskins Park and meets the Baraboo Riverwalk and loops back to Hill Park and The Village Hall Square.
- Work with the City of Baraboo to create a whitewater course from Haskin's Park to the south end of Attridge Park.
- Identify opportunities for historic storytelling, especially focused on the River.
- Continue to move forward with redevelopment opportunities that support the goals of this plan.

Sauk County

- Coordinate with WDNR and the Town of Baraboo to address existing erosion and sediment issues at both Giese and Glenville launches.
- Work with landowners to develop additional variable access points to the river.
- Consider development of a park/shelter and improved boat landing facilities at the Glenville Access Point and on land owned by Sauk County west of State Road 113 based on perceived increased demand. Coordinate development efforts with the WDNR.
- Coordinate with the Town of Baraboo to improve the Giese Park Access point/boat launch.
- Work with participating communities/friends groups to identify opportunities for historic storytelling, especially focused on the River.

5.5 TOOLS & MECHANISMS TO FUND IMPLEMENTATION

Maintenance and operational expenses of the Corridor’s Parks and Open Space is generally funded through property taxes and user fees. As the park systems within the corridor grow, the need to increase funding to meet the basic maintenance and operational costs also grows. Often there are insufficient funds to undertake major capital improvement projects. There are a wide variety of potential funding sources to assist with up-front capital costs, including acquisition of land and the development of new recreational facilities.

GRANT PROGRAMS

An important source of funding is grant programs offered by state and federal agencies, especially the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Table 5.1 provides a summary of common state and federal park and recreation grant programs. The table is not an exhaustive list of grant programs, rather those that are typically used by municipalities. Other grant programs may exist and information regarding funding details shown in Table 5.1 should be verified with grant providers prior to seeking grant funding.

COMMUNITY FUND-RAISING & VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Community groups and civic organizations are sometimes willing to organize fund-raising efforts to assist with these costs, and they may also be able to marshal volunteer labor to assist with small development projects such as trail creation or playground installations. Local business and corporate support should also be sought. Both non-profit and for-profit organizations can be rewarded for their support with acknowledgement on a plaque or sign at the site.

501(C)3 FOUNDATION

The City can set up an endowment fund as an additional means of providing continual financial support for park acquisition and development. An endowment fund works like a permanent savings account. The amount individuals give, which is the principal, is never spent. Only the interest income is spent, thereby providing a continual source of monies. A park endowment fund can provide a means for residents to either bequeath money or provide ongoing donations to the City’s park system, with the certainty that the money donated will only be used for the advancement of recreation in the community. Gifts to an endowment fund are typically tax deductible under federal and state law.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF)

As part of a broader plan to redevelop an area, the City can use tax increment financing to assist with parkland acquisition and development. There are some limitations to what revenues from a TIF district can be used to pay for, generally the costs of constructing public buildings can not be funded with TIF.

The City currently has two active TIF Districts, TID #4 and TID #6. The TID’s were created for the purpose stimulating redevelopment and new public and private investments.

Under state statute 66.1105 a municipality can use tax increment to complete public improvements within a 0.5-mile radius of the TID, so long as the use of the funds supports and benefits the TID.

Table 5.1 Funding Opportunities

Funding Program & Agency	Eligible Activities	Application Deadline	Grant Award Limit	Local Match Required	Additional Comments
Boat Enforcement Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detecting and investigating alleged boating law violations Enforcing state and local ordinances 	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1.2 million to \$1.4 million Shared with all participating patrols 	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued to Wisconsin counties and municipalities that participate in boating enforcement efforts. Must have a lake of at least 100 acres in size, determined by the current Department lake survey; or, At least one mile of river within the jurisdiction of the unit of government. Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/BoatPatrols.html
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being immediately available to perform search and rescue missions for individuals reasonably believed to be alive, in distress, and in a life threatening situation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 75% reimbursement 		
C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting small-scale habitat restoration projects Education and outreach programs about Wisconsin's natural resources 	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$1,000 	1:1 basis (including in-kind services or donation) twice per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be tax-exempt 501(c)(3), public or private school, or government agency. Grants are not awarded to projects with a total project budget greater than \$10,000. Website: http://www.wisconsinconservation.org/how-we-work/c-d-besadny-conservation-grants/
Natural Resources Foundation					
Citizen-based Monitoring (CBM) Partnership Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding citizen and volunteer participation in natural resource monitoring 	Request for proposals in spring annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5,000 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualifying topics include monitoring of aquatic and terrestrial species, natural communities and environmental components such as water, soil and air. Partnership Program funds for 2016-2017 will be focused on expanding existing CBM projects that address WDNR priority data needs. Website: http://wiatri.net/cbm/Partnership/
WDNR					
Club Fostered Stewardship Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing heavy debris and trash from rivers and bays Improving access for local paddlers 	March annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100-\$1,000 	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible organizations include canoe clubs and conservation organizations. Applications that outline how funding will be acknowledged (i.e., press releases; websites and social media sites; newsletters; using the ACA/ L.L. Bean logo on advertisements, signage, printed materials, etc.) have an increased chance of being funded. Website: http://www.americancanoe.org/?page=LLBean_CFS_Grant
American Canoe Association/L.L. Bean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing water trails Monitoring water quality Removing environmentally-sensitive woody debris Restoring and improving riparian buffer Environmental education and outreach programs 				

Table 5.1 Funding Opportunities

Funding Program & Agency	Eligible Activities	Application Deadline	Grant Award Limit	Local Match Required	Additional Comments
Community Development Block Grant-Planning (CDBG-PLNG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating plans to address economic and development needs of a community or site 	End of May annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-wide: \$25,000 • Site Specific Plan: \$15,000 	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet Low to Moderate Income (LMI) criteria to be eligible. • Website: http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Housing/Bureau-of-Community-Development/CDBG-PF-Program-Overview
Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including, but not limited to the construction of senior or community centers 	End of May annually	• 50% up to \$500,000	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet Low to Moderate Income (LMI) criteria to be eligible. • Website: http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Housing/Bureau-of-Community-Development/CDBG-PF-Program-Overview
DOA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological improvements including: wetland, riparian, forest and coastal habitat restoration • Wildlife conservation • Enhancing community tree canopy • Water quality monitoring and storm water management • Targeted community outreach, education and stewardship 	Annually in February	• \$20,000 to \$50,000 (average \$30,000)	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographic focus depends on funding available from the funding partners. • Website: http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/2016RFP.aspx
John C. Bock Foundation Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserving and protecting landscapes containing mature woodlands or old growth forest 	May 31st annually	• Variable	Variable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims at public education, particularly of builders and developers, about the conservation of woodlands. • Website: http://www.bockfoundation.org/bock/default.htm
John C. Bock Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail marketing, print and broadcast ads, direct mail, publicity, and billboards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First of the month August, November, February and April 	• Up to \$39,550	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimburses Wisconsin non-profit organizations for qualified advertising costs to make a promotion or event come to fruition. • Applications must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the first day of advertising that will be paid using the grant funds; for example, if your first JEM funded ad runs on November 1, your application should be submitted by August 1. • Website: http://industry.travelwisconsin.com/grants/joint-effort-marketing-jem-grant-program

Table 5.1 Funding Opportunities

Funding Program & Agency	Eligible Activities	Application Deadline	Grant Award Limit	Local Match Required	Additional Comments
Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program WDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land/easement acquisition for local parks Development projects for nature-based outdoor recreation 	May 1st annually	No limit	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide umbrella program for Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space (UGS) grants, Urban Rivers (UR) grants, and Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR). Community must have an up-to-date Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stewardship/grants/Index.html
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) WDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land acquisition Developing outdoor recreation facilities, including active sports facilities 	May 1st annually	No limit	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants apply for LWCF grants through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/LWCF.html
Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) WDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving or creating habitat for native plants and wildlife Providing technical help to improve property, which helps wildlife and plant species, especially rare species 	Various	\$2,500 - \$25,000	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps private landowners create and manage habitat for species that are rare or declining. Provides management advice, assistance with management plans and cost-share funding to individuals and organizations proposing projects on private lands throughout Wisconsin. LIP is a cost-share program and DNR can reimburse a landowner for up to 75% of the cost for the on-the-ground practices that are involved in the management of the project. The landowner is required to contribute the matching percentage. Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/lip.html
Municipal Flood Control Grant Program WDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property acquisition and removal of structures to improve water storage Flood-proofing and detention ponds Flood mapping 	March annually	Various award amounts	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be eligible for grant award payment reimbursement, the applicant shall obtain all necessary permits and approvals for the project. Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/MunFloodControl.html

Table 5.1 Funding Opportunities

Funding Program & Agency	Eligible Activities	Application Deadline	Grant Award Limit	Local Match Required	Additional Comments
North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands • Habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle 1: November annually • Cycle 2: July annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$75,000 for small projects 	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants submit project proposals to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation for either of the program's two funding cycles per year. • Website: http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of new and reconstruction of ramps, boarding docks, and support facilities • Improvement and repair of docks • Dredging • Trash skimming equipment • Navigation aids • Weed harvesting equipment • Feasibility studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Application (Typically May 1st) • Commission considers applications twice per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No limit 	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must make presentation to the appointed Waterways Commission. • Website: http://dhr.wi.gov/Aid/RBF.html
Recreational Trails Aids (RTA) Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining or restoring existing trails • Developing or rehabilitating trailside/trailhead facilities and trail linkages • Constructing new trails • Acquiring property for trails 	May 1st annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$45,000 annually • \$200,000 every third year 	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal funds are awarded through the WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. • Website: http://dhr.wi.gov/aid/rta.html
WDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructing and renovating a new boat ramp • Developing and renovating parking lots • Developing accessible paths • Lighting and restroom facilities • Channel dredging and feasibility studies • Fishing Piers 	February 1st annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No limit 	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that have received funding from other federal grants are not eligible to receive SFR grant funding. • Website: http://dhr.wi.gov/Aid/SFR.html

Table 5.1 Funding Opportunities

Funding Program & Agency	Eligible Activities	Application Deadline	Grant Award Limit	Local Match Required	Additional Comments
Surface Water Grants: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Control Grants WDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing and controlling the spread of aquatic invasive species • Education, Prevention and Planning Projects (including Clean Boats Clean Waters) • Early Detection and Response Projects • Established Population Control Projects • Maintenance and Containment Projects • Research and Demonstration Projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIS Education, Prevention and Planning: December 10th annually • Established Population Control: February 1st annually • Research and Development: year-round • Early Detection and Response: year-round • Containment: year-round • Maintenance and Containment: year-round 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, Prevention and Planning projects: \$150,000 • Early Detection and Response projects: \$20,000 • Established Population Control projects: \$200,000 • Maintenance and Containment: permit fee reimbursement • Research and Development: annual funding limit of \$500,000 	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded through DNR Surface Water Grants Program. • Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/SurfaceWater.html
Surface Water Grants: Lake Classification and Lake Protection Grants WDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and implementing local land and water management programs targeted to specific classes of lakes in response to various development and recreational use pressures • Improving or protecting the quality of water in lakes or the quality of natural ecosystems • Implementing protection activities for the lakes based on their classification • Implementing the recommendations of a lake management plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Classification and Ordinance Development: December 10th annually • Lake Protection: February 1st annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification: \$50,000 • Protection: \$200,000 	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded through DNR Surface Water Grants Program. • Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/SurfaceWater.html

Table 5.1 Funding Opportunities

Funding Program & Agency	Eligible Activities	Application Deadline	Grant Award Limit	Local Match Required	Additional Comments
Surface Water Grants: Lake Management Planning and Large and Small Scale Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collecting and analyzing information needed to protect and restore lakes and their watersheds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 10th annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small scale projects: \$3,000 Large scale projects: \$25,000 	33%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for local governments and tribes. Awarded through DNR Surface Water Grants Program. Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/SurfaceWater.html
WDNR					
Surface Water Grants-River Protection Planning & River Protection Management Grants	<p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting in the formation and/or strengthening of qualified river management organization Protecting or improving rivers and their ecosystems River improvement education projects Assessments and plan development <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchasing land or conservation easements Developing local ordinances Installing nonpoint source pollution control practices River restoration activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Protection Planning: December 10th annually River Protection Management: February 1st annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning: \$10,000 Management: \$50,000 	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded through DNR Surface Water Grants Program. Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/SurfaceWater.html
WDNR					
Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Grant Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimbursing agriculture or urban nonpoint source pollution control in targeted, critical geographic areas with surface water or groundwater quality concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 15th annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-scale: \$1 million Small-scale: \$150,000 	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive grants for local governments. Cities, villages, towns, counties, regional planning commissions, tribal governments and special purpose lake, sewerage and sanitary districts may apply. Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/TargetedRunoff.html
Tax Increment Finance (TIF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land acquisition, park infrastructure, trail development Cannot be used for constructing recreation and community buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption must be completed by September 30th of each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a grant program 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a grant program but an economic development financing tool. Local municipality creates Tax Increment District (TID). 100% of tax increment growth returned to the TID for a set period of time, usually 20 or 27 years. Website: https://www.revenue.wi.gov/sif/tif.html
Wisconsin Department of Revenue					

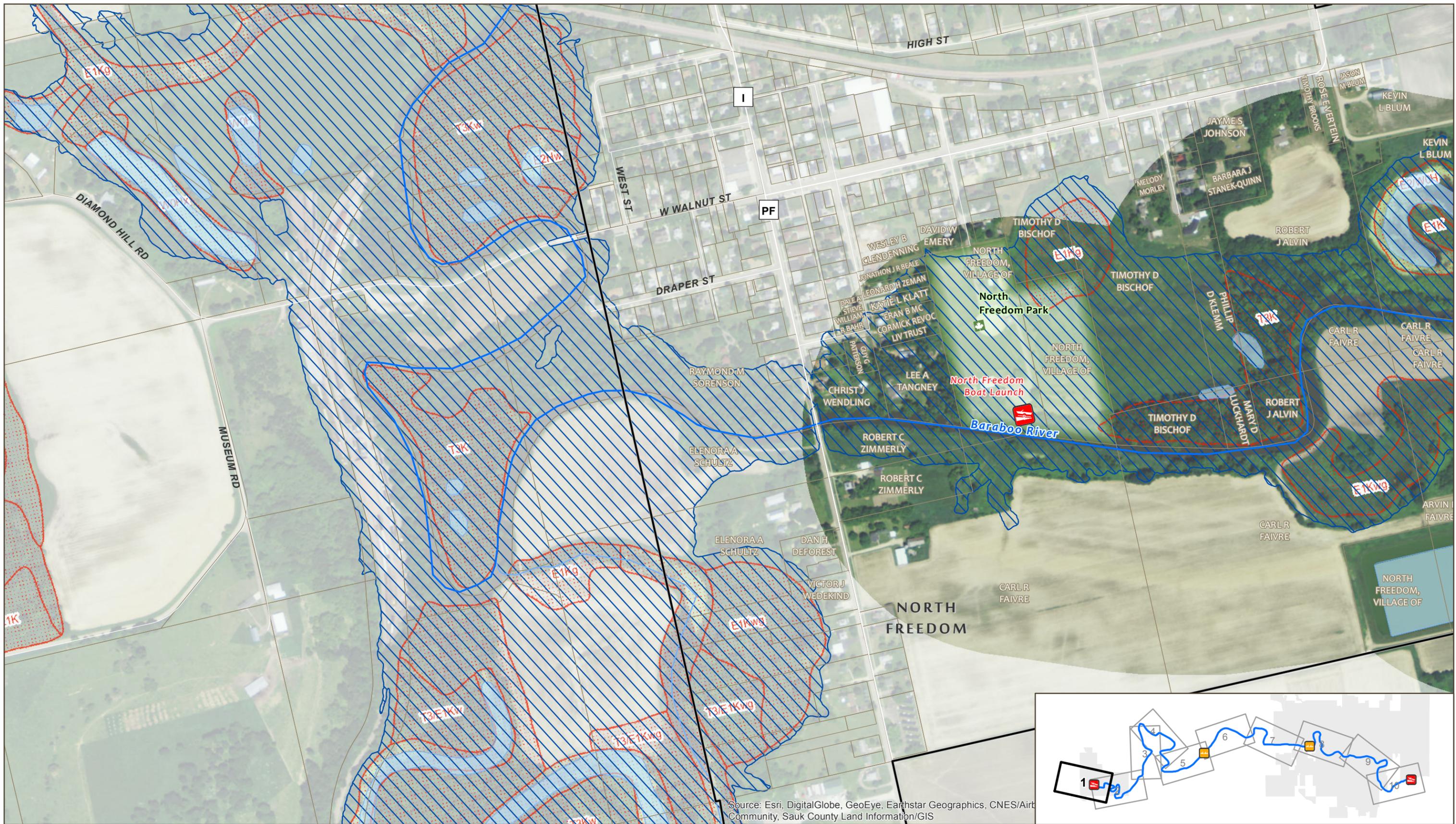
Table 5.1 Funding Opportunities

Funding Program & Agency	Eligible Activities	Application Deadline	Grant Award Limit	Local Match Required	Additional Comments
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing on-road and off-road facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists Other non-motorized forms of transportation Associated streetscaping 	November (even-numbered years)	No limit	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAP incorporates the following three WisDOT multi-modal transportation improvement programs: Safe Routes to School (SRTS); Transportation Enhancements (TE); and The Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program (BPPF). Website: http://wisconsin.dot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/astnce-pgms/aid/tap.aspx
Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)					
Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Grants	Controlling urban nonpoint source and storm water runoff pollution	April 15 annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction: \$150,000 Additional \$50,000 may be requested for property acquisition 	Planning: 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive grants to local governments to reimburse costs of planning or construction. The local government must have either jurisdiction over the project area or be required to control storm water discharge with an inter-governmental agreement between the municipality and WDNR. Eligible areas are urban lands with population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile or non-permitted commercial or municipally-owned industrial use. Projects may be in areas that are expected to become urban within 20 years. Website: http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/UrbanNonpoint.html
WDNR					

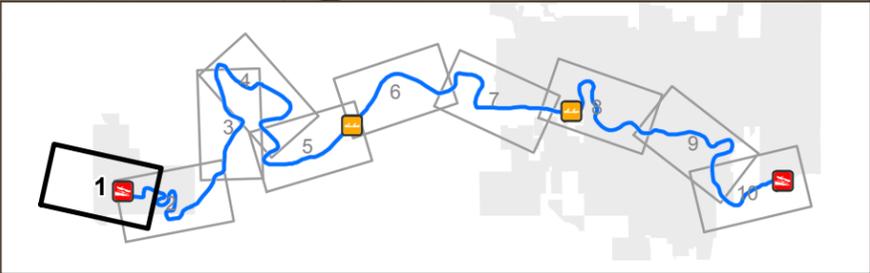
Appendix: Base Map Book



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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus Community, Sauk County Land Information/GIS

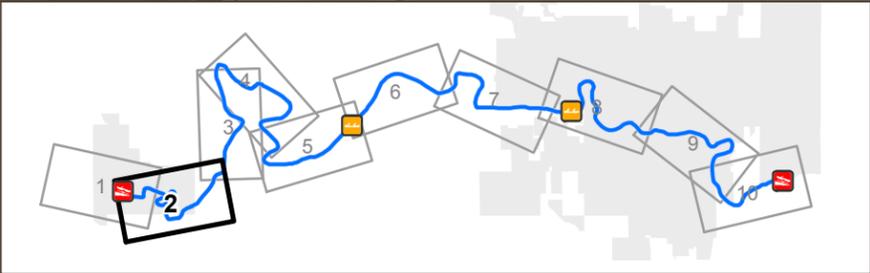
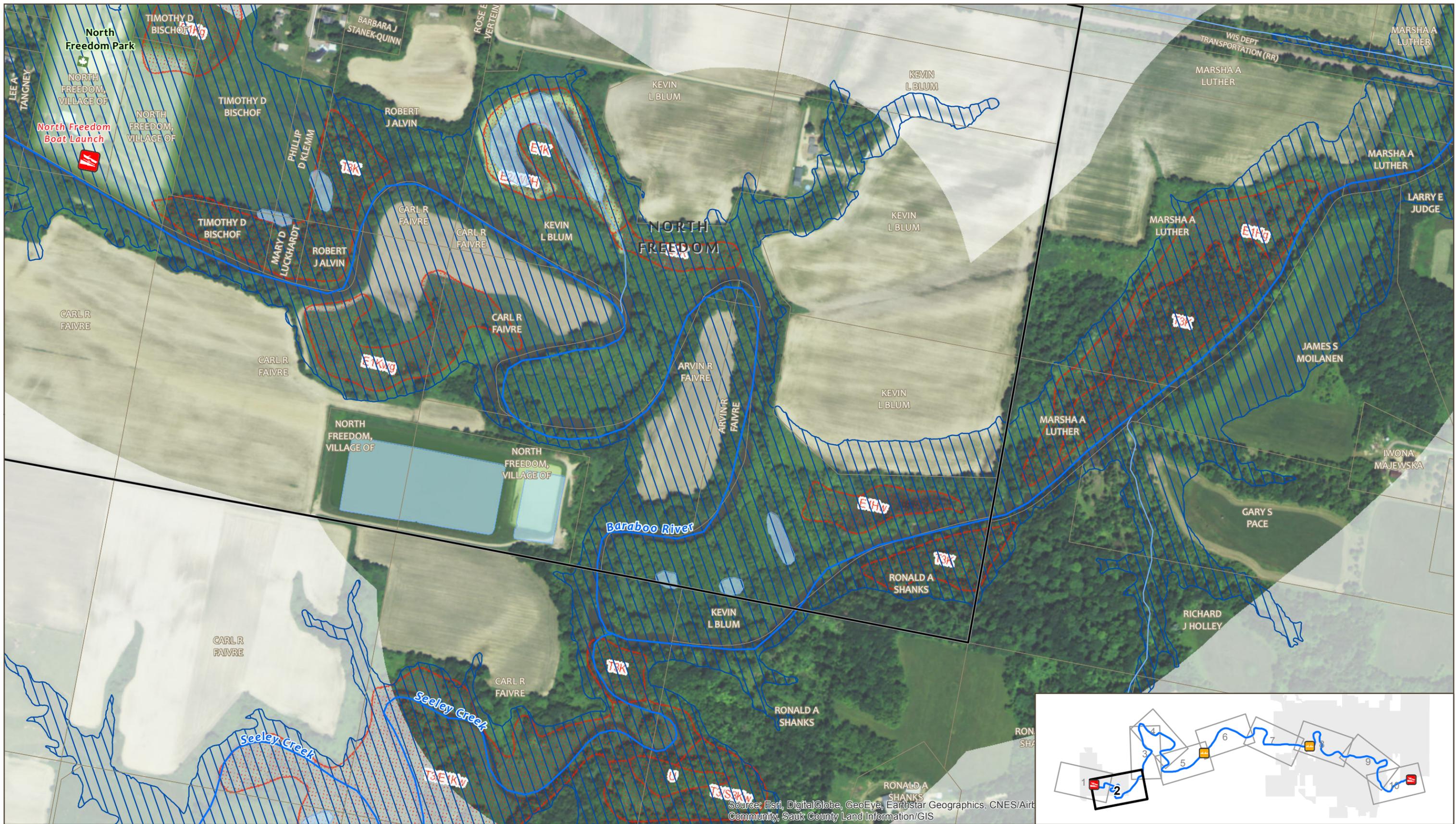


PAGE 1: BASE MAP

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| City/Village | Waterbody | DNR Wetland | Park | County Owned Land | River/Stream | River Walk | Ice Age Trail (unofficial connector) | Outdoor Retail | Recreation | Carry-In |
| Town | Floodplain | Parcel | Future Highway 12 Bypass | Unnamed River/Stream | Ice Age Trail | Education | Municipal/Other | Ramp | | |

DATA SOURCES:
 BASE DATA PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY, WDNR, AND USGS.
 FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA.
 AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.

Feet



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus Community, Sauk County Land Information/GIS

PAGE 2: BASE MAP

- City/Village
- Waterbody
- DNR Wetland
- Park
- County Owned Land
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- Carry-In
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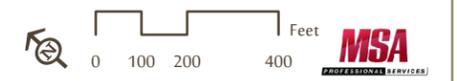


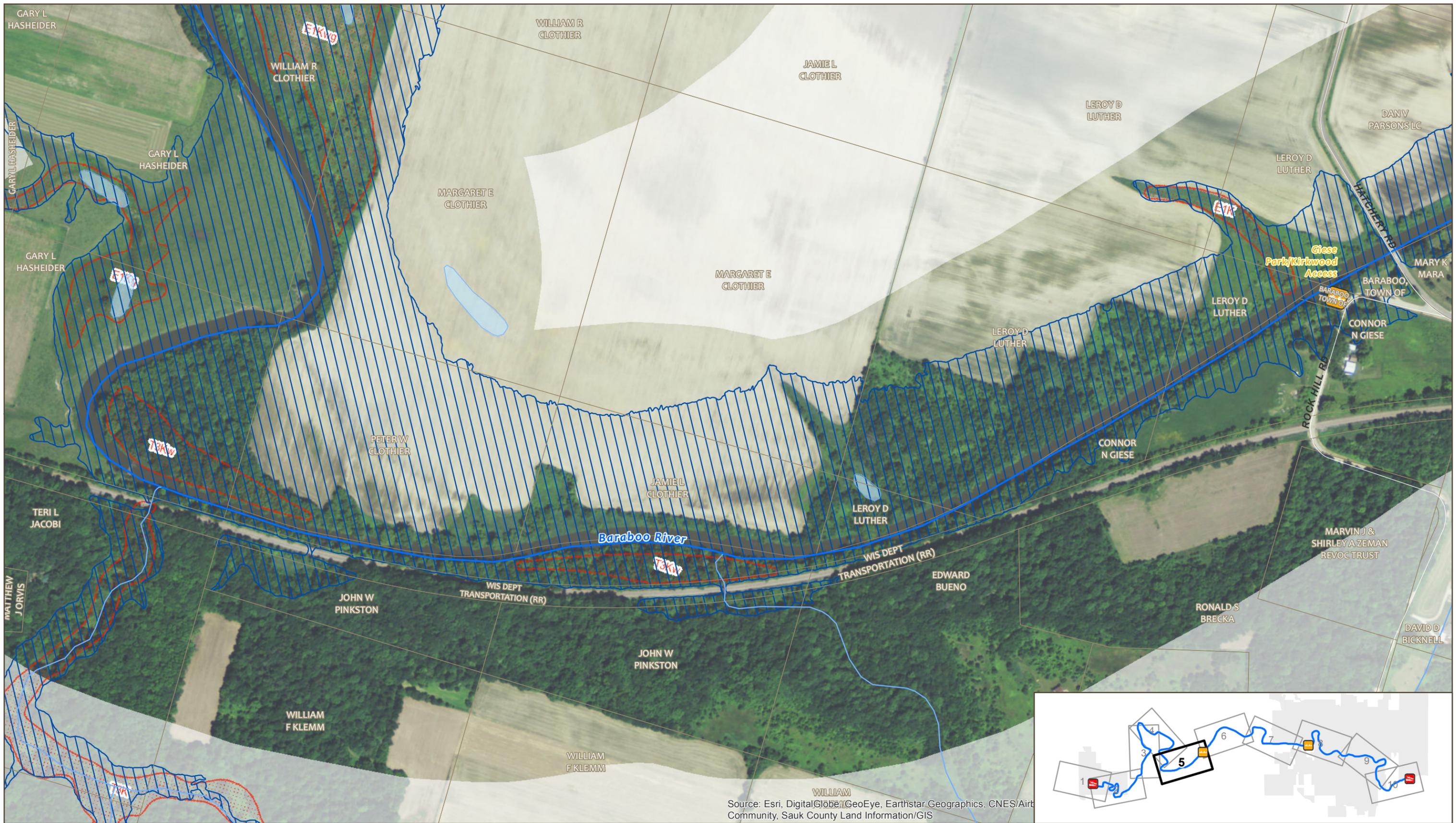
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SAUK COUNTY, WI

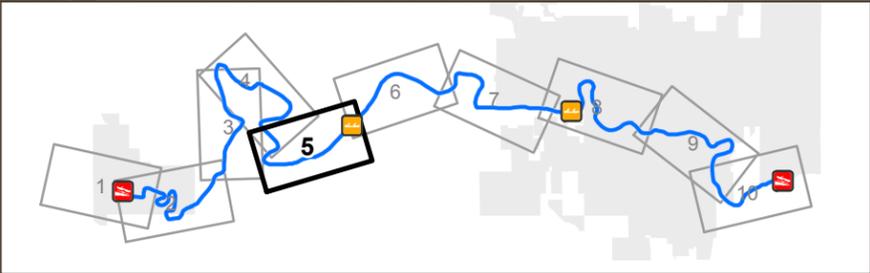
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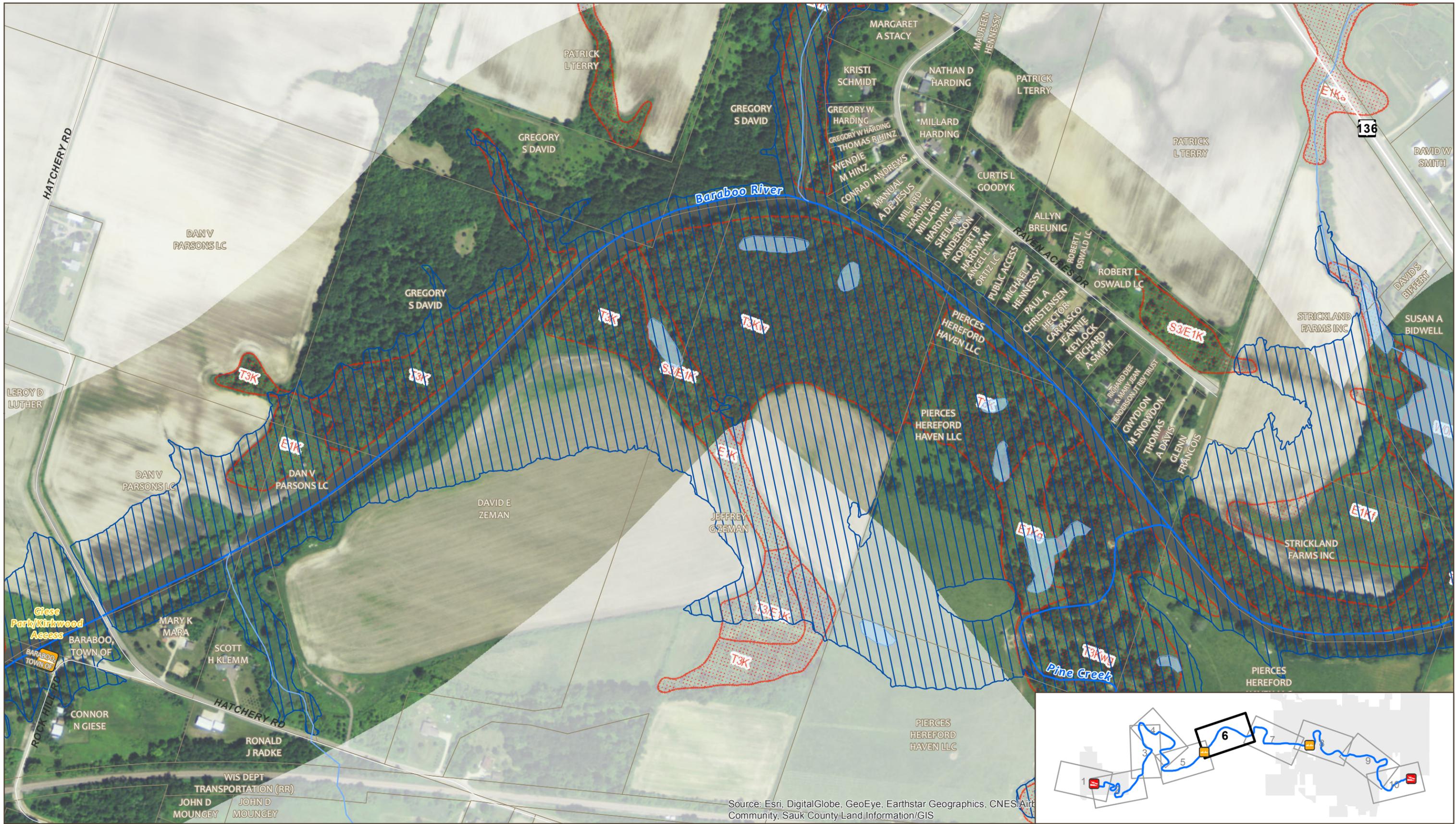
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SAUK COUNTY, WI

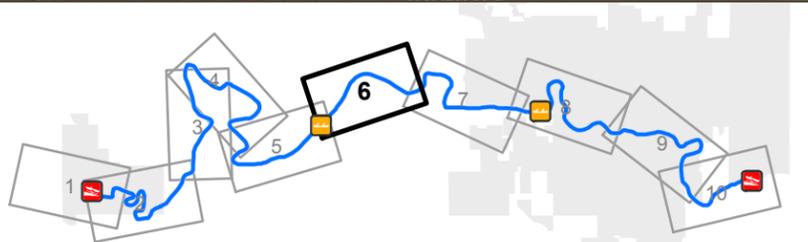
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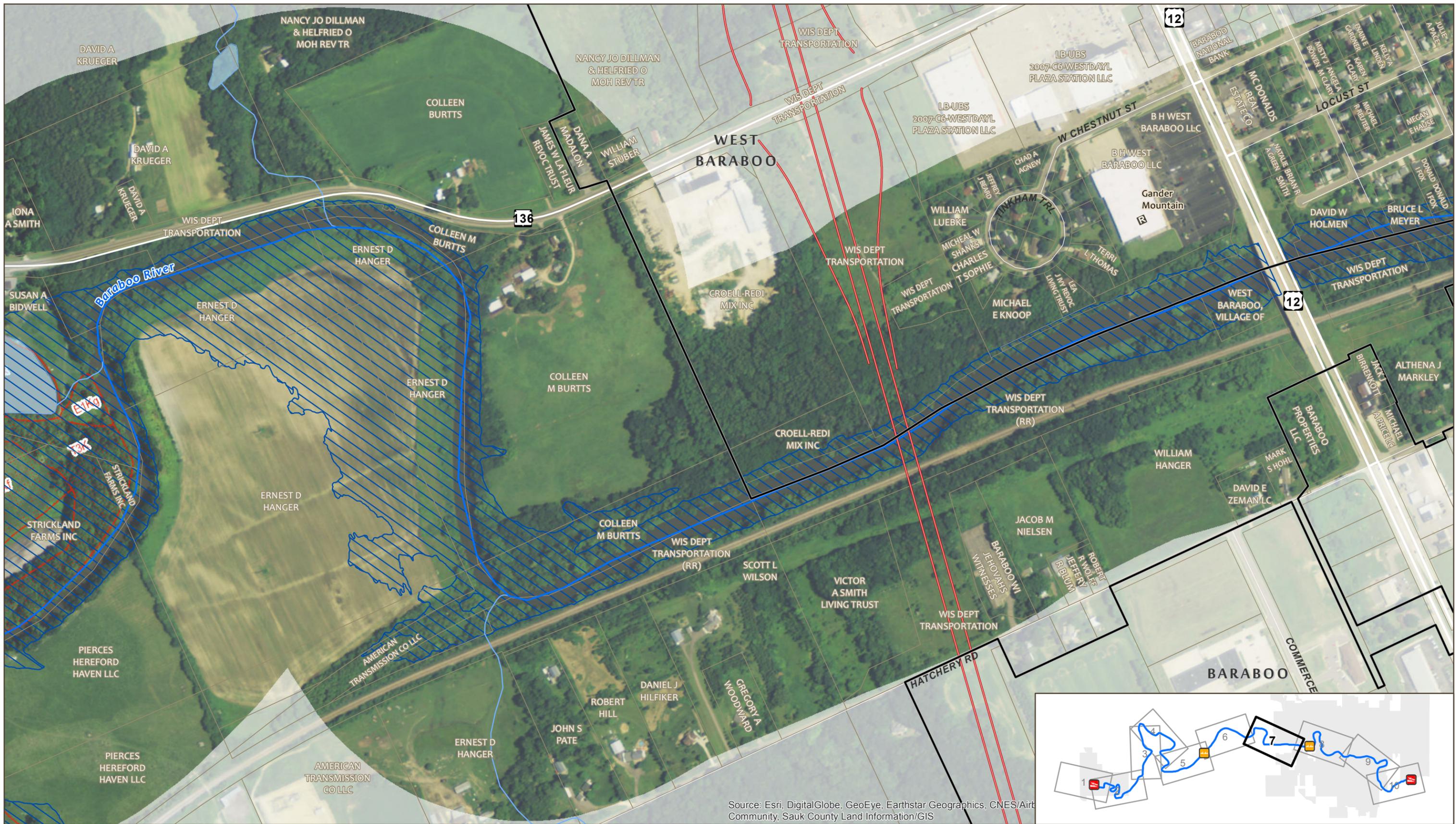


PAGE 6: BASE MAP

- City/Village
- Waterbody
- DNR Wetland
- Park
- County Owned Land
- River/Stream
- River Walk
- Ice Age Trail (unofficial connector)
- Outdoor Retail
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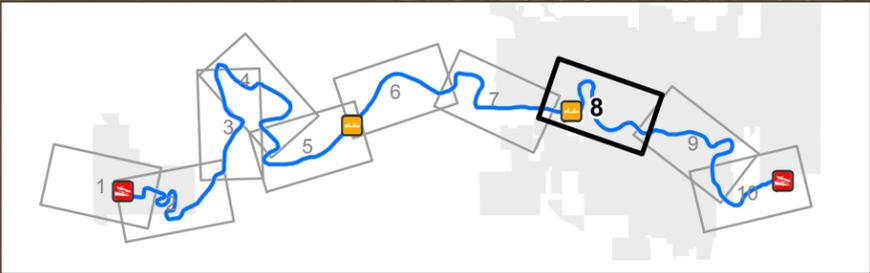
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PAGE 7: BASE MAP

City/Village	Waterbody	DNR Wetland	Park	County Owned Land	River/Stream	River Walk	Ice Age Trail (unofficial connector)	Outdoor Retail	Recreation	Carry-In
Town	Floodplain	Parcel	Future Highway 12 Bypass	Unnamed River/Stream	Ice Age Trail	Education	Municipal/Other	Ramp	<p>DATA SOURCES: BASE DATA PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY, WDNR, AND USGS. FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA. AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.</p> <p>0 100 200 400 Feet</p>	



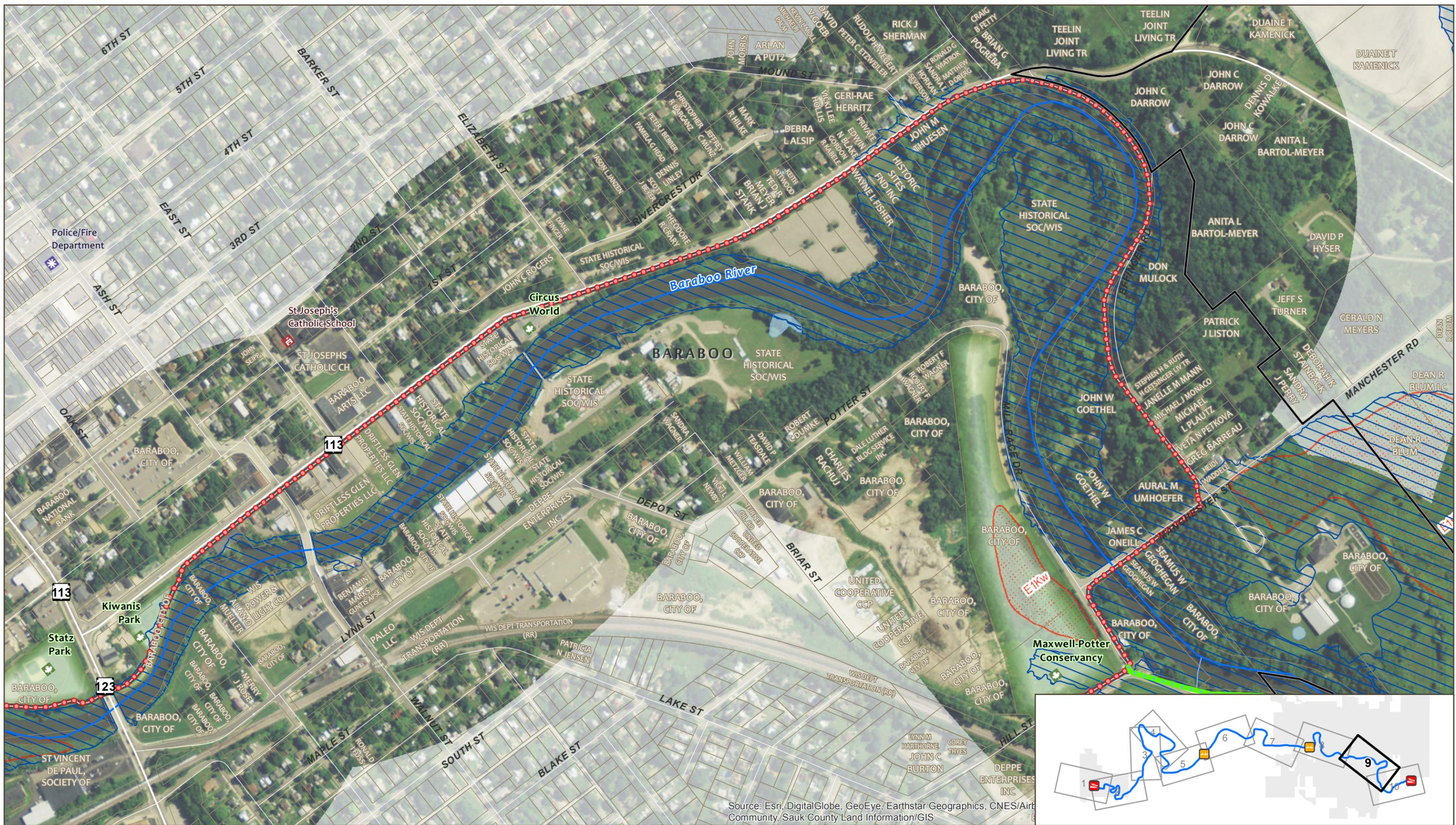
PAGE 8: BASE MAP

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- Parcel
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DATA SOURCES:
 BASE DATA PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY, WDNR, AND USGS.
 FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA.
 AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.

0 100 200 400 Feet

MSA
 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

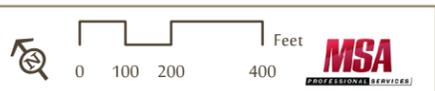


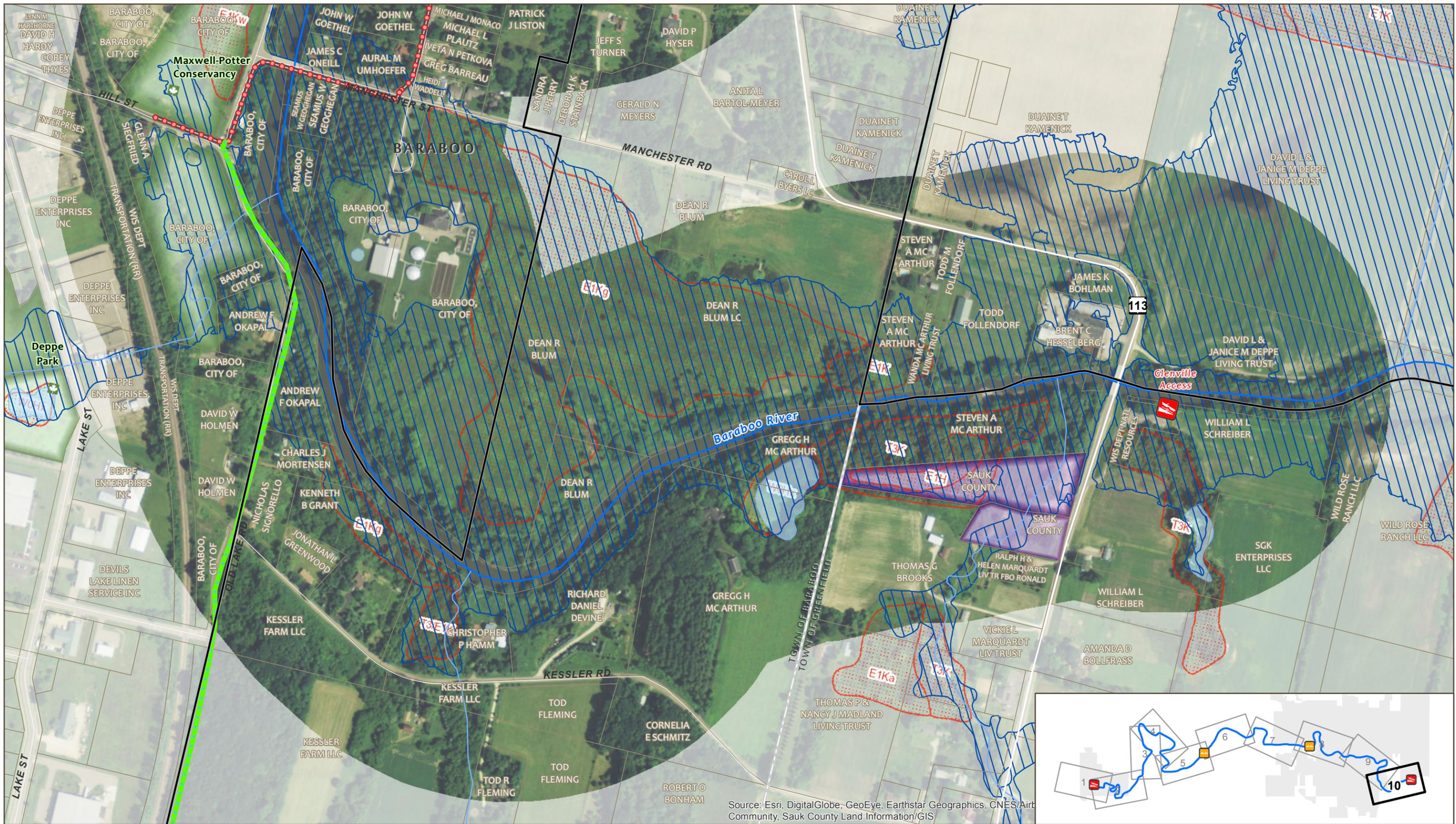
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus Community, Sauk County Land Information/GIS

PAGE 9: BASE MAP

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- Ice Age Trail (unofficial connector)
- Outdoor Retail
- Recreation
- Carry-In
- Town
- Floodplain
- Parcel
- Future Highway 12 Bypass
- Unnamed River/Stream
- Ice Age Trail
- Education
- Municipal/Other
- Ramp

DATA SOURCES:
 BASE DATA PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY, WDNR, AND USGS.
 FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA.
 AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.





PAGE 10: BASE MAP

SAUK COUNTY, WI

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- Town
- Floodplain
- Parcel
- Future Highway 12 Bypass
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- Education
- Municipal/Other
- Ramp

DATA SOURCES:
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 FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA.
 AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.



Appendix: Inventory & Analysis Map

B

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RIVER CORRIDOR CHARACTER

SUBURBAN

This segment of the River is flows through the Village of North Freedom and has a blend of residential and agricultural uses adjacent to the river.

RURAL

This segment of the River is characterized by slow moving, meandering waterway with steep cliffs and rock formations in some areas. The majority of the adjacent properties are agricultural uses.

RURAL/SUBURBAN

This segment of the river corridor is transitional and moves from rural, into residential into a few industrial and commercial uses. The experience from the corridor itself largely remains rural in character.

URBAN

This segment of the river corridor largely urbanized and transitions from low density to medium density back again into lower density. There are range of uses from commercial, industrial, civic, park and residential. This area has a mix of architecturally and historically significant buildings, some are deteriorating and others are in need of demolition. These site provide opportunities for redevelopment.

SUBURBAN/RURAL

This segment of the river corridor transitions from suburban to rural in character with open space and parkland in between.

The segment from Walnut Street down to Pat Liston Dog Park is known to be a good fishing spot for Small Mouth Bass.

BARABOO RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN

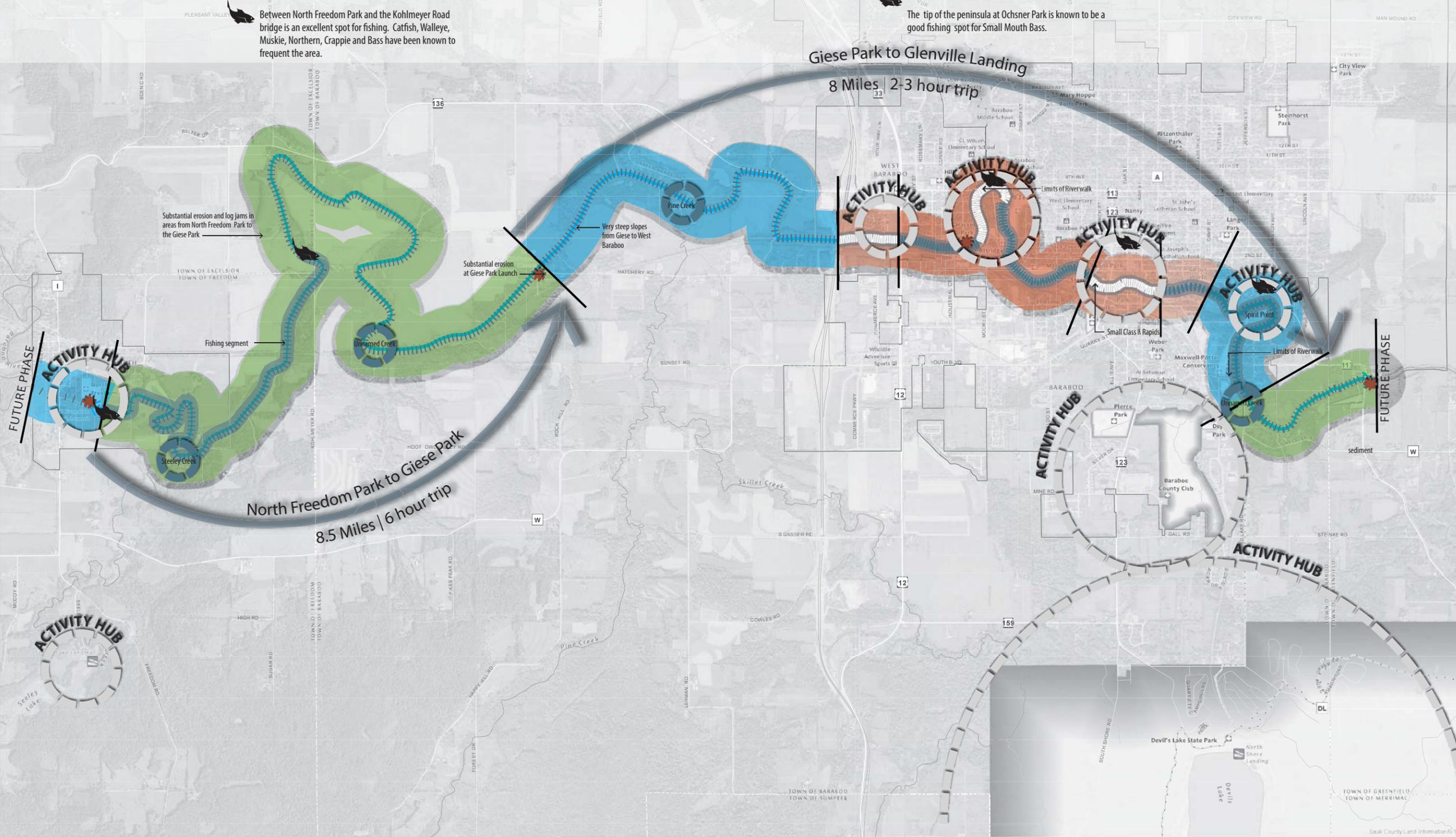
Inventory and Analysis Map

LEGEND

- Proposed Riverway
- City/Village
- Town
- Waterbody
- Floodplain
- DNR Wetland
- Park
- County Owned Land
- Future Highway 12 Bypass
- River/Stream
- Unnamed River/Stream
- Trails**
 - River Walk
 - Ice Age Trail
 - Ice Age Trail (unofficial connector)
- Outdoor Retail**
 - Outdoor Retail
- Community Facilities**
 - Education
 - Recreation
 - Municipal/Other
- Boat Access Site**
 - Carry-In
 - Ramp
- Class 1 Rapids
- Riffles, Potential Class I Rapids
- Slow flowing with few riffles

DATA SOURCES:
MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY
WATERBODIES AND RIVERS/STREAMS PROVIDED BY THE USGS (NHD)
DNR WETLANDS PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY
FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA
AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY USDA-NRCS (NAIP 2015)

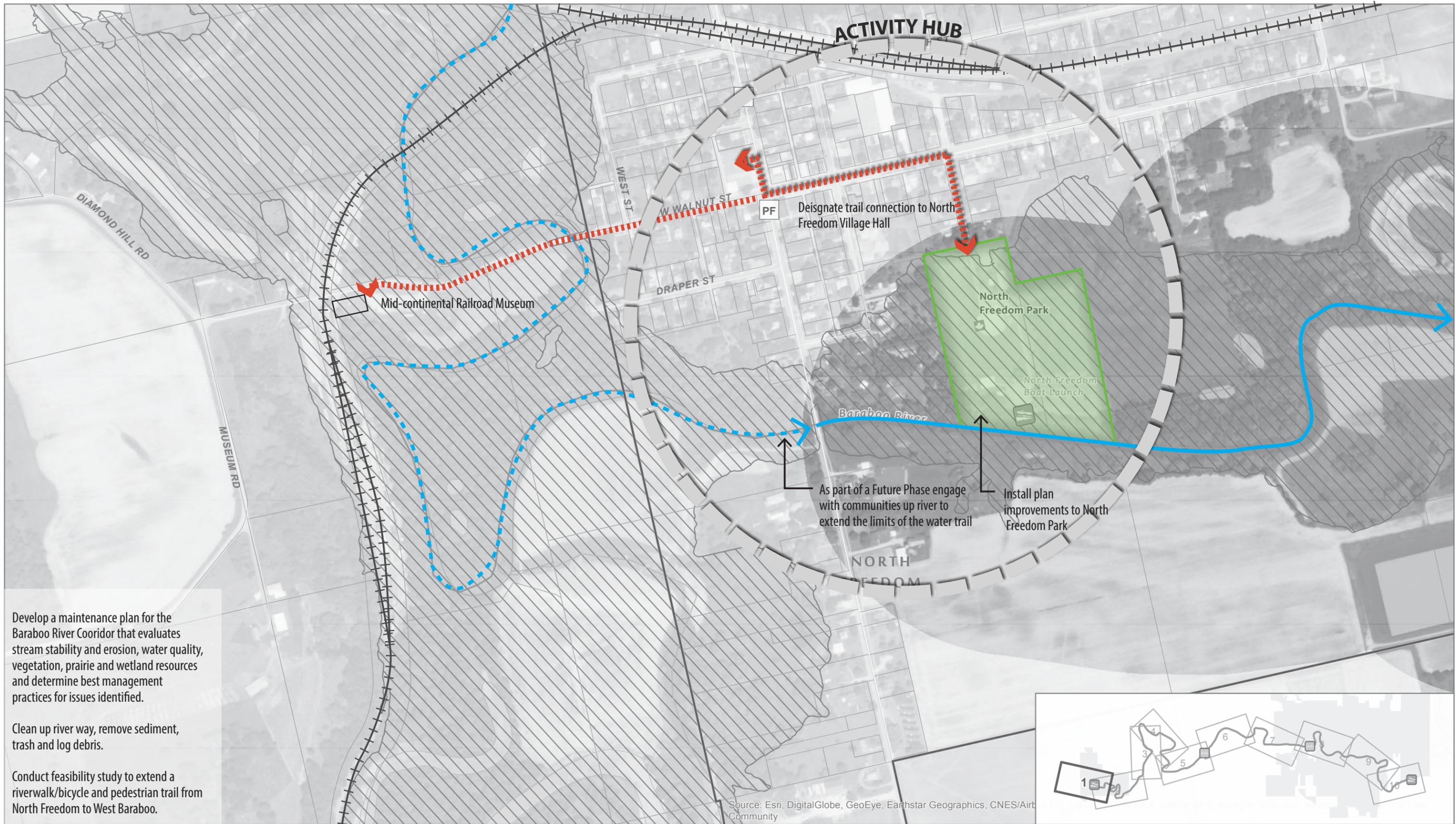
SAUK COUNTY, WI



Appendix: Concept Map Book



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Develop a maintenance plan for the Baraboo River Cooridor that evaluates stream stability and erosion, water quality, vegetation, prairie and wetland resources and determine best management practices for issues identified.

Clean up river way, remove sediment, trash and log debris.

Conduct feasibility study to extend a riverwalk/bicycle and pedestrian trail from North Freedom to West Baraboo.

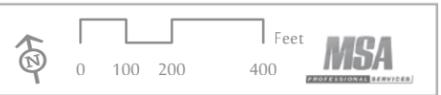
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Air Community

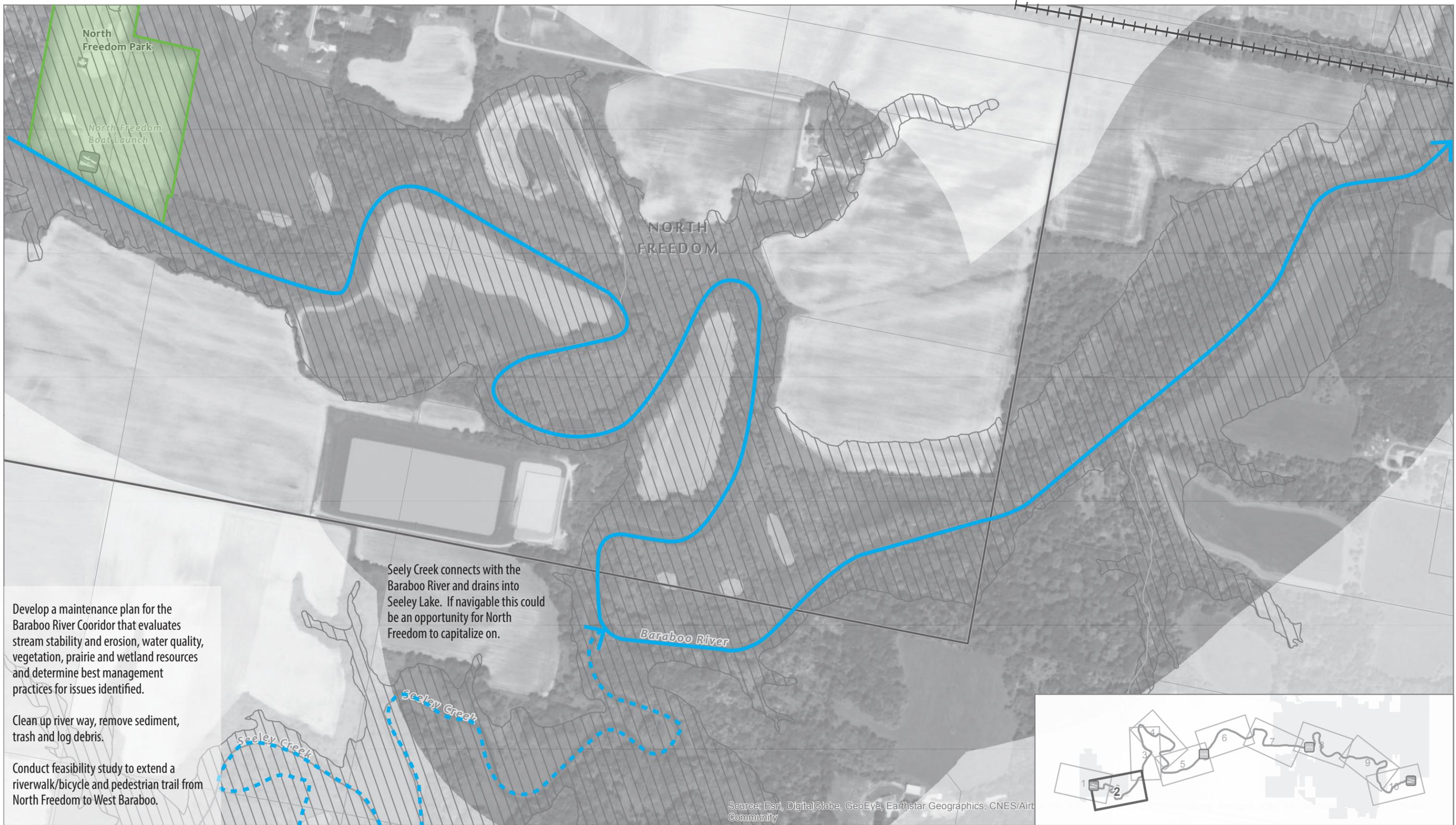
PAGE 1: CONCEPT PLAN

SAUK COUNTY, WI

- City/Village
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- Recreation
- Carry-In
- Town
- Floodplain
- Parcel
- Future Highway 12 Bypass
- Unnamed River/Stream
- Ice Age Trail
- Education
- Municipal/Other
- Ramp

DATA SOURCES:
BASE DATA PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY, WDNR, AND USGS.
FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA.
AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.





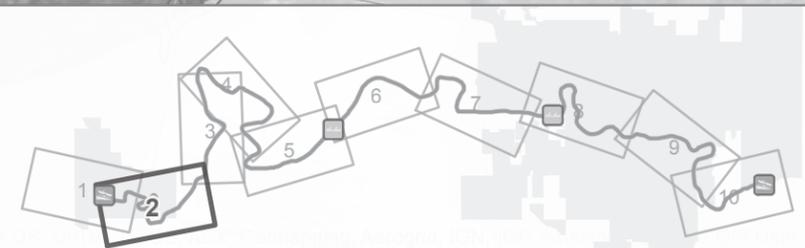
Develop a maintenance plan for the Baraboo River Corridor that evaluates stream stability and erosion, water quality, vegetation, prairie and wetland resources and determine best management practices for issues identified.

Clean up river way, remove sediment, trash and log debris.

Conduct feasibility study to extend a riverwalk/bicycle and pedestrian trail from North Freedom to West Baraboo.

Seeley Creek connects with the Baraboo River and drains into Seeley Lake. If navigable this could be an opportunity for North Freedom to capitalize on.

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus Community

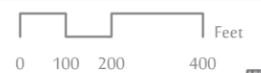


PAGE 2: CONCEPT PLAN

SAUK COUNTY, WI

- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------|----------|
| City/Village | Waterbody | DNR Wetland | Park | County Owned Land | River/Stream | River Walk | Ice Age Trail (unofficial connector) | Outdoor Retail | Recreation | Carry-In |
| Town | Floodplain | Parcel | Future Highway 12 Bypass | Unnamed River/Stream | Ice Age Trail | Education | Municipal/Other | Ramp | | |

DATA SOURCES:
BASE DATA PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY, WDNR, AND USGS.
FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA.
AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.



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Clean up river way, remove sediment, trash and log debris.

Conduct feasibility study to extend a riverwalk/bicycle and pedestrian trail from North Freedom to West Baraboo.



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus Community

PAGE 4: CONCEPT PLAN

SAUK COUNTY, WI

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DATA SOURCES:
BASE DATA PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY, WDNR, AND USGS.
FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA.
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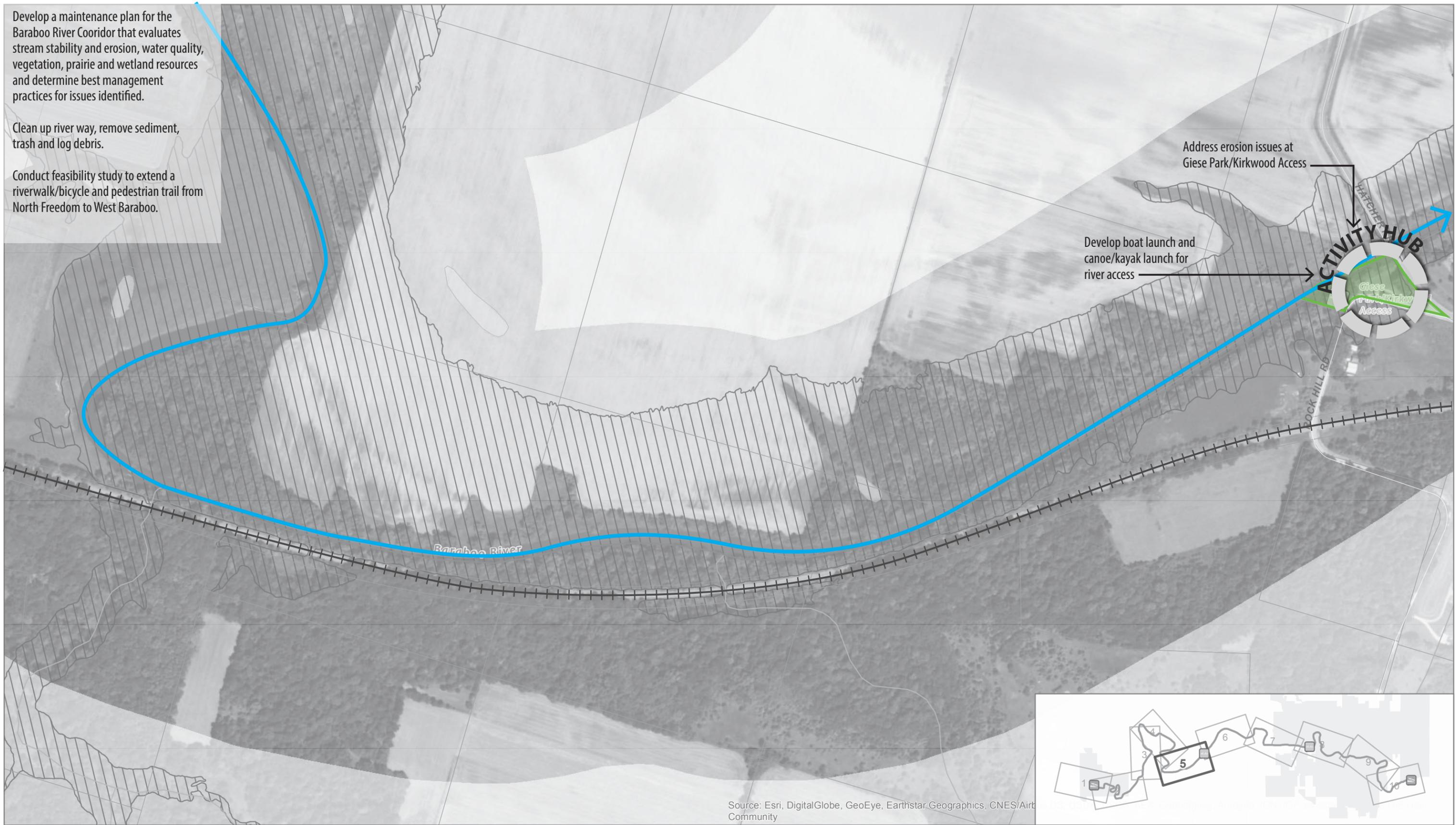
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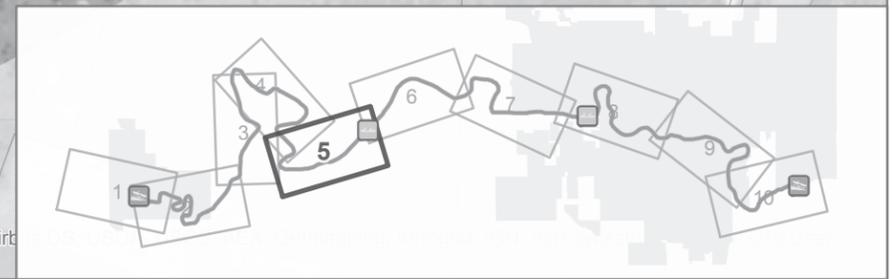
Conduct feasibility study to extend a riverwalk/bicycle and pedestrian trail from North Freedom to West Baraboo.

Address erosion issues at Giese Park/Kirkwood Access

Develop boat launch and canoe/kayak launch for river access



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus Community



PAGE 5: CONCEPT PLAN

SAUK COUNTY, WI

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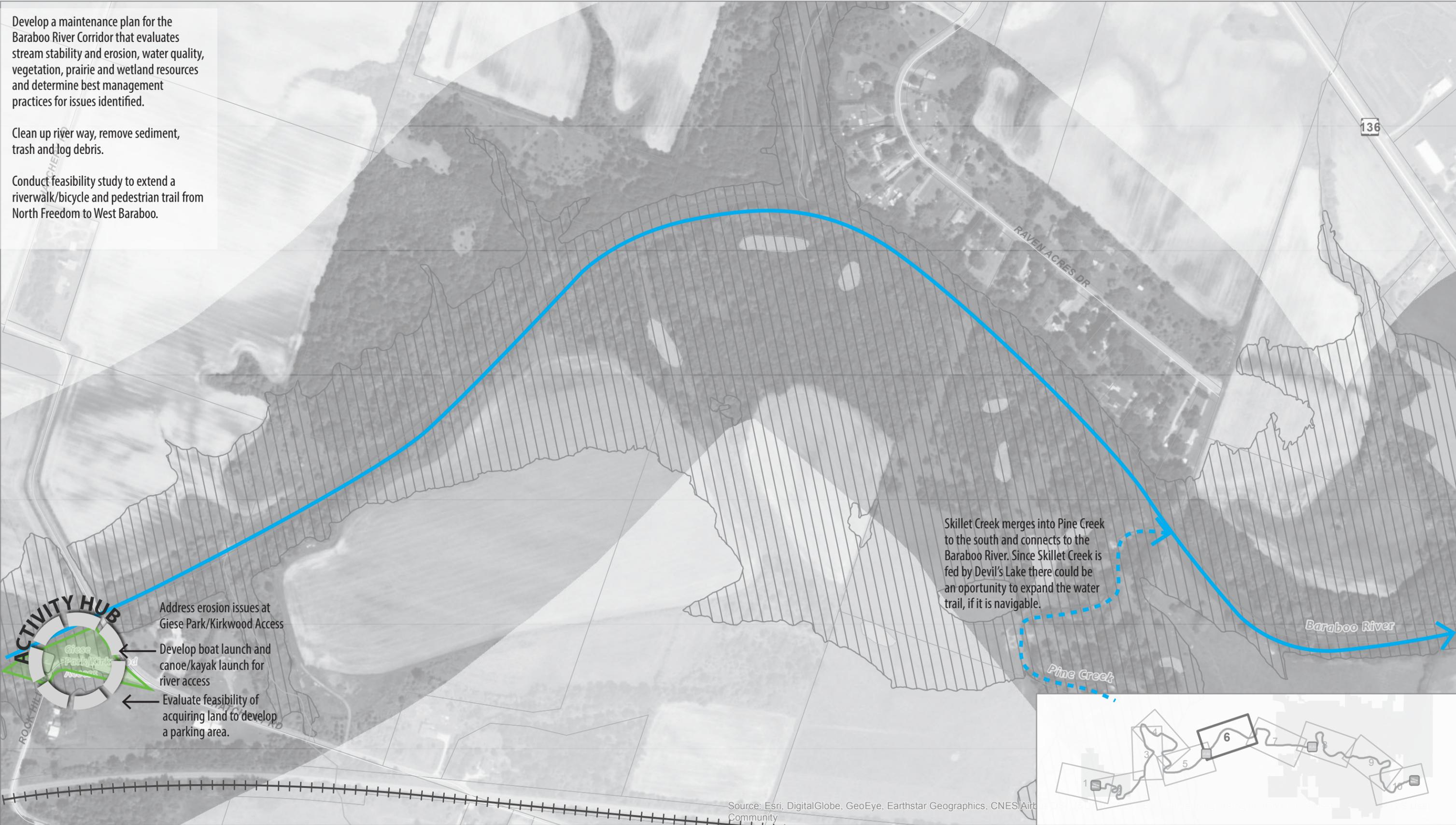
DATA SOURCES:
BASE DATA PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY, WISCONSIN, AND USGS.
FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA.
AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.



Develop a maintenance plan for the Baraboo River Corridor that evaluates stream stability and erosion, water quality, vegetation, prairie and wetland resources and determine best management practices for issues identified.

Clean up river way, remove sediment, trash and log debris.

Conduct feasibility study to extend a riverwalk/bicycle and pedestrian trail from North Freedom to West Baraboo.



Address erosion issues at Giese Park/Kirkwood Access

Develop boat launch and canoe/kayak launch for river access

Evaluate feasibility of acquiring land to develop a parking area.

Skillet Creek merges into Pine Creek to the south and connects to the Baraboo River. Since Skillet Creek is fed by Devil's Lake there could be an opportunity to expand the water trail, if it is navigable.



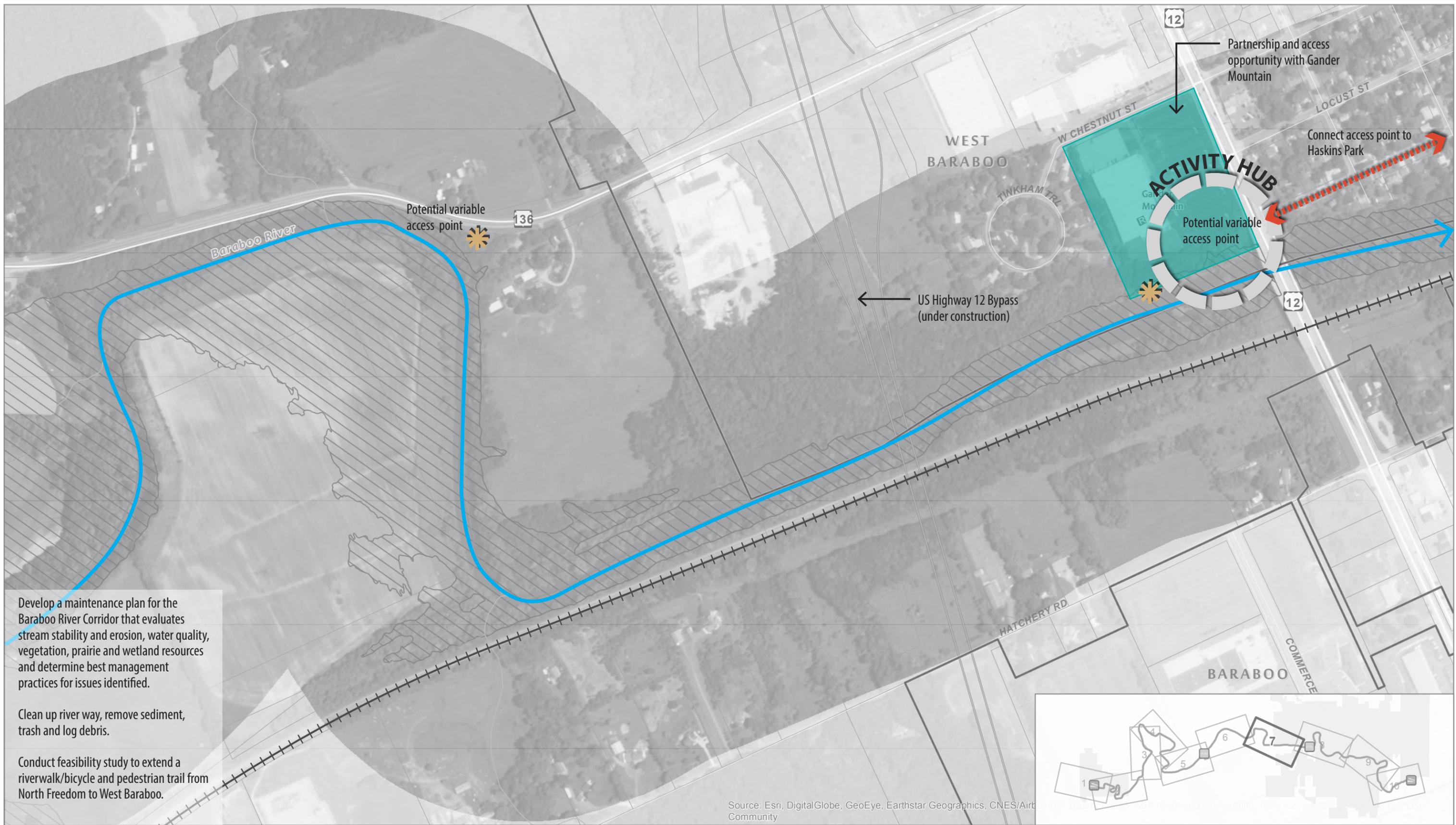
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus Community

PAGE 6: CONCEPT PLAN

SAUK COUNTY, WI

City/Village	Waterbody	DNR Wetland	Park	County Owned Land	River/Stream	River Walk	Ice Age Trail (unofficial connector)	Outdoor Retail	Recreation	Carry-In
Town	Floodplain	Parcel	Future Highway 12 Bypass	Unnamed River/Stream	Ice Age Trail	Education	Municipal/Other	Ramp		

DATA SOURCES:
 BASE DATA PROVIDED BY SAUK COUNTY, WDNR, AND USGS.
 FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA.
 AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.



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Clean up river way, remove sediment, trash and log debris.

Conduct feasibility study to extend a riverwalk/bicycle and pedestrian trail from North Freedom to West Baraboo.

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, Swire, Community

PAGE 7: CONCEPT PLAN

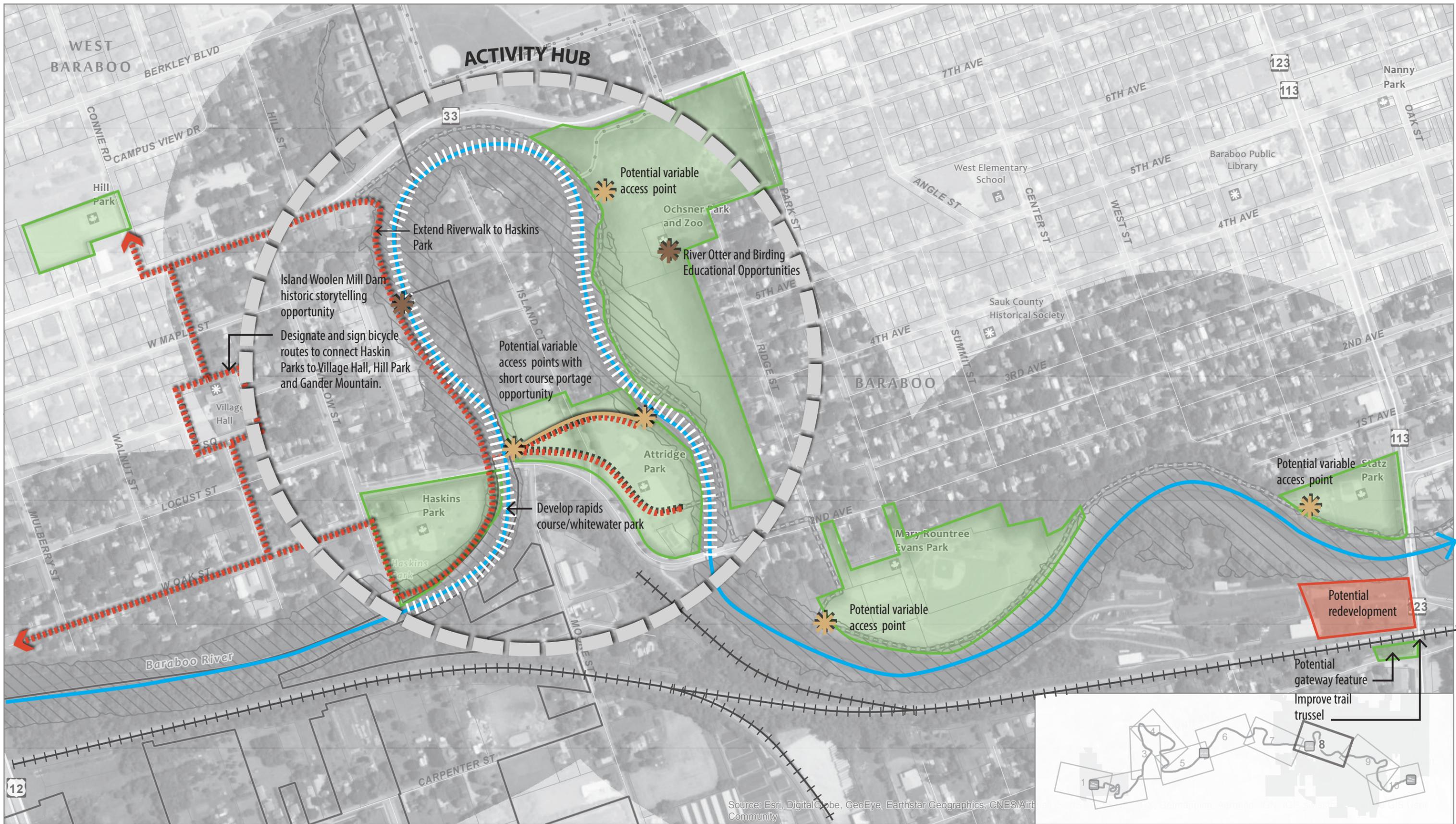
SAUK COUNTY, WI

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 FLOODPLAIN PROVIDED BY FEMA.
 AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.

0 100 200 400 Feet

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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus Community

PAGE 8: CONCEPT PLAN

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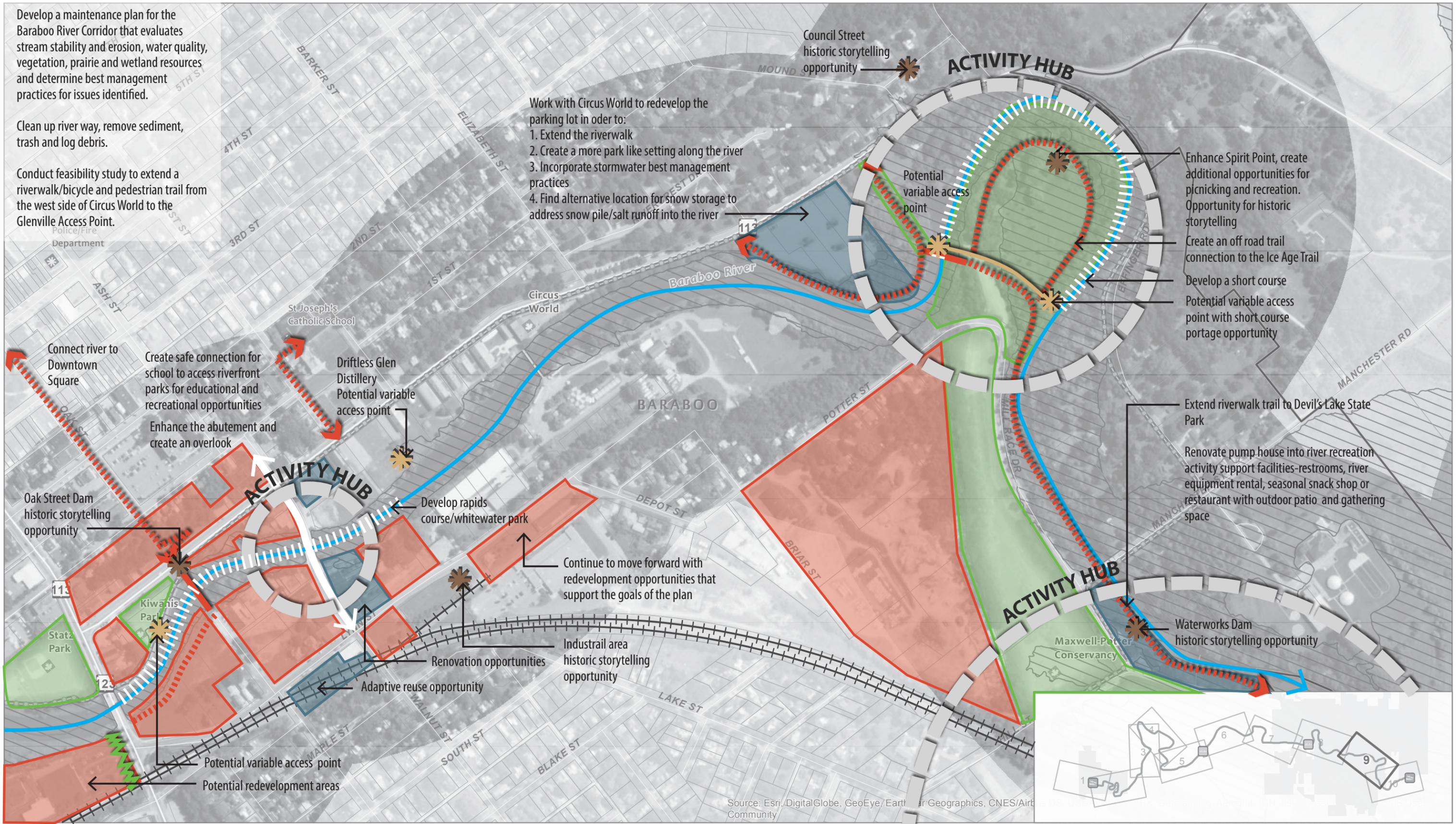
Develop a maintenance plan for the Baraboo River Corridor that evaluates stream stability and erosion, water quality, vegetation, prairie and wetland resources and determine best management practices for issues identified.

Clean up river way, remove sediment, trash and log debris.

Conduct feasibility study to extend a riverwalk/bicycle and pedestrian trail from the west side of Circus World to the Glenville Access Point.

Work with Circus World to redevelop the parking lot in order to:

1. Extend the riverwalk
2. Create a more park like setting along the river
3. Incorporate stormwater best management practices
4. Find alternative location for snow storage to address snow pile/salt runoff into the river

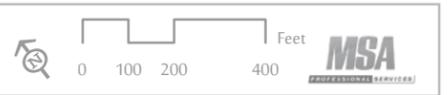


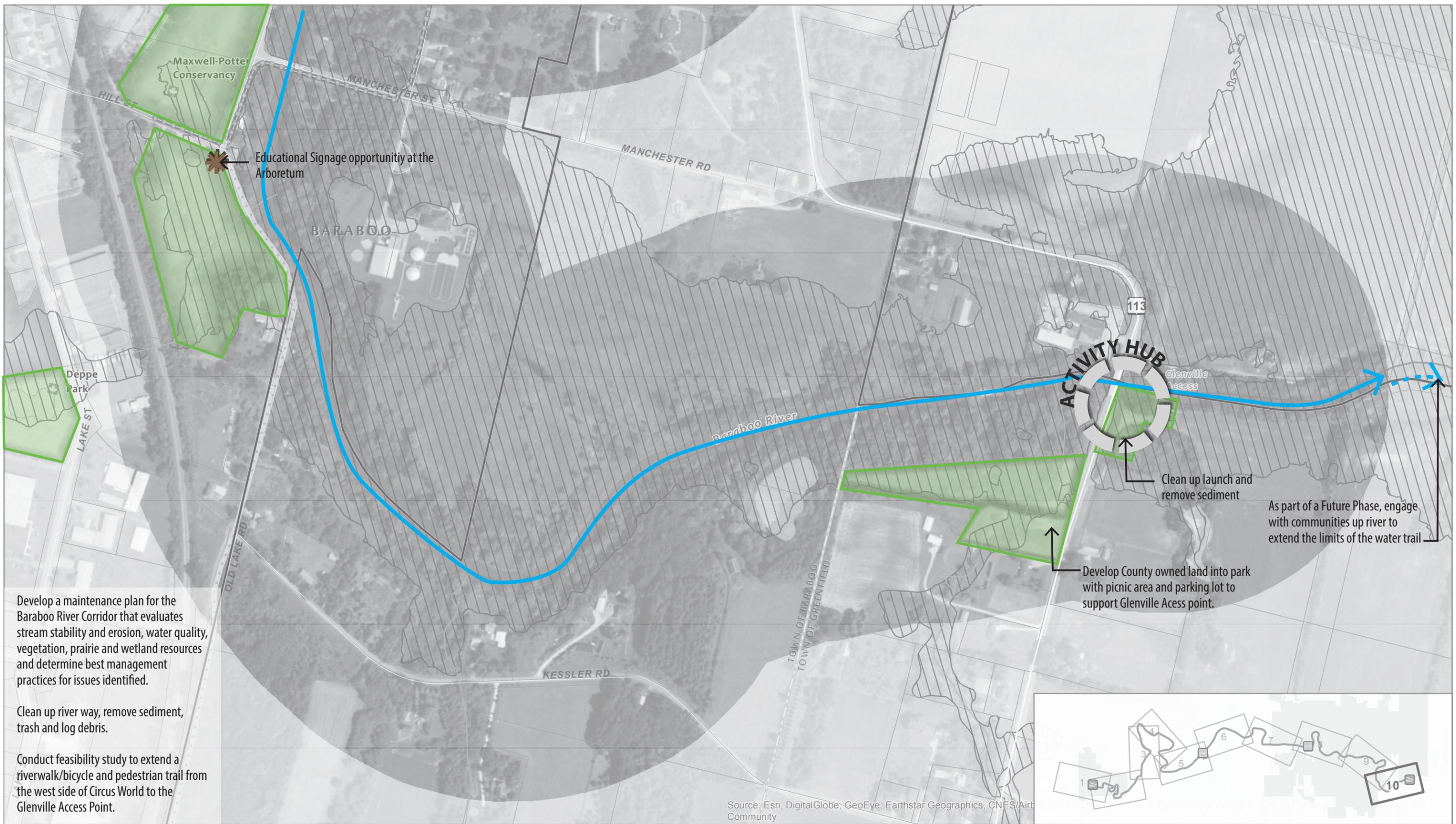
PAGE 9: CONCEPT PLAN

SAUK COUNTY, WI

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PAGE 10: CONCEPT PLAN

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 AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI.

0 100 200 400 Feet

MSA
 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Appendix: Stakeholder Engagement Notes



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Meeting Minutes in blue

KICK-OFF MEETING

Baraboo River Corridor Kick-off Meeting

Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016, 7pm

West Baraboo Village Hall

500 Cedar

West Baraboo, WI

Prioritization of Kick-off Meeting:

1. Introductions and roles
 - a. Raine Gardner, Project Manager and Engineer
 - b. Sarah McDonald, Landscape Architect and Urban Planner
 - c. Becky Binz, Planner
 - d. Mike Palm – City of Baraboo
 - e. Dave Dahlke and Holly Fenske – Village of West Baraboo
 - f. Brian Simmert and Brentt Michalek – Sauk County
 - g. Rick Hehenberger, Kayla Steinhorst, and Brian Schwarz – Village of North Freedom
2. Review Scope of Services – Phase I (see attachment)
 - Tie in ex. Baraboo Riverwalk into Plan, but future phases should be addressed in Phase II.
 - Trails and access points are important to the community
3. Discuss Phase II items
 - Recently received a grant from NRCS to do watershed study
 - Has started already, will be finished in 2020 (5 year timeline)
 - Phosphorus is one of the greatest challenges with the River
 - They were told the River would turn into a small mouth bass stream – but no fishermen today
 - The DNR did studies on this in the 1990's. Nate Nye may know more.
 - Bringing in La Valle, Reedsburg, and Rock Springs
 - Build River Partnership and develop a logo
4. Review and confirm schedule
 - a. Early February 2016 – Review relative/related background information
 - b. February 24, 2016 – Kick off Meeting and Site Review
 - i. **Met on March 2, 2016**
 - c. Weeks of Feb. 29 and March 7, 2016 –Focus Group Meetings
 - **March 7 and 8 at 10 am at Baraboo Civic Center, Rm 14**
 - d. March 15th or 16, 2016 – Public Information Meeting (PIM)
 - **March 15 at 6pm to 8pm at Baraboo Civic Center, Rm 14**
 - Breakout into small groups to brainstorm
 - Raine will notify newspaper of PIM
 - e. March 24, 2016 – Complete preliminary plan and Review Concept Alternatives
 - f. **Week of March 28, 2016 – Municipality Meeting to Review Preliminary Plan and Comment**
- **March 30 at 7pm in West Baraboo Village Hall**
 - g. April 7, 2016 –Final Plan Complete for packets
 - h. Week of April 11, 2016 – Community presentations and approvals
5. Confirm key stakeholders for Focus groups

- a. Identify two stakeholder focus group meeting dates/times.
 - b. Identified Stakeholder for focus groups (See attached spreadsheet)
 - i. Environmental Organizations and Agencies
 1. Kiwanis Club
 2. Sierra Club
 3. WDNR
 4. Baraboo River Canoe Club
 5. Baraboo Range Preservation Association
 6. Ice Age Trail Alliance
 7. Fishing groups
 8. NRCS
 9. Baraboo Parks & Recreation
 10. Sturgeon Restoration Group
 11. City of Baraboo
 12. Village of West Baraboo
 13. Sauk County
 14. Village of North Freedom
 15. Spirit Point Rendezvous Group
 - ii. Business
 1. Gander Mountain
 2. Wildside
 3. Circus World Museum
 4. Business Economic Development Corporation
 5. Chamber of Commerce
 - a. Contact Bobbi Beoc
 6. Sauk County Development Corporation
 7. Citizens of Waterfront Revitalization (CWR)
 8. Local fishing guides
 9. Mid-Continent Railroad Museum
 10. BID – Baraboo Business Improvement District
 11. Gem City Bar
 12. Driftless Glen
 13. Napa Auto Parts
 - iii. Educational and Recreational Organizations
 1. Schools
 - a. High School Biology Dept./class
 2. UW-Sauk County/Baraboo
 3. Public Library
 4. Center for WI Archaeology (UW-Sauk County/Baraboo)
 5. Sauk County Historical Society
 6. Baptist Church – North Freedom
 7. St. Joseph’s Catholic Church – Baraboo
 8. St. John’s Lutheran Church– Baraboo
 9. Other Various Churches?
 10. Sauk County Sheriff’s Dept.
 - a. Sauk County Dive Team
 11. Baraboo Police
6. Review and confirm focus group questions
 7. Review and confirm public open house agenda and workshop
 - a. Discuss each municipalities role in presentation
 8. Brainstorm vision statement, preliminary goals and objectives.

- Buzzwords for Vision Statement:
 - Regional
 - Partnership
 - Give it an identity
 - Wayfinding
 - Connections
 - Collaborative effort
 - Economic development
 - Regional
 - Quality
 - Premiere
 - Destination
 - Recreation
 - Water sports
- Goals:
 - Make the Baraboo River Corridor an attractive destination that increases use by residents and visitors.
 - Build partnerships to develop, implement and champion improvements throughout the Baraboo River Corridor.
 - Create a system of access points throughout the Baraboo River Corridor and associated tributaries for kayakers, canoers and fishers.
- Issues-Opportunities:
 - The different experiences you can have on each section of the river (rural vs. urban, water classifications, pace, etc.)
 - Have had conversations with DNR to increase rapids in order to enhance kayaker experience down near Water Street.
 - Bass fishing is good by the lagoon in North Freedom
 - Recommendation for reinstatement of volunteer groups for stewardship (clean up, tree removal, invasive species eradication etc.)
 - Recommendation for a fish study to determine where fish habitats could be built (partnership with DNR?)
 - Baraboo River is the longest restored River East of the Mississippi
 - Opportunities to expand the system/trails? Creeks connecting to Baraboo River
 - Riverwalk is largely popular, explore opportunities to expand to Haskins Park/West Baraboo.
 - Potential issues with designated vs. undesignated hunting areas (water fowl hunting near Gander Mountain)
 - Portage required in North Freedom with the worse stretch being between North Freedom and the Railroad trestle
- Preliminary Recommendations:
 - Consider hiring a company to engage the communities in a branding and logo discussion.
 - Develop a unified, comprehensive wayfinding system throughout the corridor.
 - Develop a list of priority actions and investments for capital, operational, land and development improvements.
 - Conduct a study of stream and aquatic resources, vegetation, prairie and wetlands.
 - Conduct feasibility study to expand Riverwalk to Haskins Park.
 - Generate public-private partnerships in the corridor.
 - Consider establishing a friends group that oversees stewardship and events in the corridor.

9. Review map and existing conditions and identify preliminary issues and opportunities (see attachment)
 - County has GIS information that would be helpful
 - Their identified County lands for access points to be added into map (unimproved points)
 - Planning area is ~15 miles
 - Identify on west side of 113, south of the river, Sauk County's access to river as additional lands
 - Highlight municipal parcels on river – where public can directly access river
 - Really make these stand out in color
 - Ensure we have Baraboo's new parkland and arboretum
 - Arboretum Dedication on April 29th at 10am – MSA welcome to speak on the BRCP to announce it more
 - Maps should highlight parks and public access points so a pattern of accessibility can emerge
 - Slope steepness will need to be evaluated in several locations as this is an issue
 - Investigate speeds and skill level required for certain segments of the river
10. Identify list of needs for research, inventory and analysis. (existing plans, documents etc.)
11. Existing plans and documents to review.
 - a. Comprehensive Plans
 - i. West Baraboo
 - ii. Baraboo
 - iii. North Freedom
 - iv. Sauk County
 - b. Park and Open Space Plans
 - i. Baraboo
 - ii. West Baraboo
 - iii. Others?
 - c. Existing maps
 - i. Paddle the Baraboo – John Exo may have this
 - ii. Flood Plain plan map
 - iii. Sauk County Mapping info
 - d. Studies
 - i. Downtown Revitalization Plan
 - ii. History on the Dams – supplied by Mike Palm
 - iii. New Richmond River Plan
 - iv. Running Free The Baraboo River Restoration Story
 - e. Others?
12. Review and confirm final deliverable
13. Next Steps
14. Other?

March 2nd Kick-off Meeting

FOCUS GROUP #1

Baraboo River Corridor Plan

March 7th, 2016, 10am

Baraboo Civic Center, Rm 14

124 2nd St

Baraboo, WI 53913

Questions

1. Please introduce yourself and explain your affiliation and/or interest with the region and Baraboo River.
 - + See attached sign in sheet.

2. When you think of the Baraboo River what is the first thing that comes to mind?
 - + Recreation
 - + Baraboo rapids section
 - o 45 ft drop in Baraboo rapids section
 - o Benefit of dam removal
 - o This has improved fishing
 - + Restored to free-flowing in 2001 – Dam Removal
 - o Longest restored river east of the Mississippi River
 - + Restoration of river and hydrology
 - o There is a long way to go to continue improving it
 - + Lots of mud and log jams
 - + Aesthetics
 - o Really nice walk along the River – goes through the heart of the community (Baraboo)
 - + It feels wild and remote
 - + Riverwalk

3. Do you engage in recreation along the River? If so, how? If you don't engage with the river does anyone you know engage in recreation along the River?
 - + Getting in and out of the river is challenging for canoers and kayakers – it needs to be more simple for more people to use it due to water fluctuations
 - + Getting down to the river is difficult, the banks are high
 - + Most paddlers put in at Gander Mountain and pull out at Circus World or Glenville Dam (end of the rapids). People also get in at Haskins.
 - + Gander has a 4 ft. grade which is difficult to get the canoes/kayaks in and out
 - + Many people use Fish Hatchery Rd. access to get to the river. The fishing is good here.
 - + When it existed, Boo Canoe put in plastic docs along the river that were good to use. Now that they are out of business the docks are no longer there.
 - + Another issue is that many people don't have access to canoes and fishing equipment
 - + A lot of fishing is done at Kiwanis river park
 - + Walking along the river – this started with the Kiwanis group. Today there is a riverwalk in Baraboo along the river. They would like to see the riverwalk extended. The club is looking into putting in a bridge along the path. The City maintains the riverwalk really well.
 - + The pet waste stations that have been added along the riverwalk have improved the incidence of people not picking up after their pets.

- + There is a dog park off of the river – no direct access to river though for dogs to swim.
 - + There is one park in Baraboo (Deppe) that allows dogs to swim in its pond.
 - + Conflicts with boating and fishing uses on the river
 - + With water fluctuations cause mud issues
 - o Approx. 3,000 lbs/acre/yr of soil loss to the Baraboo River
 - o Water clarity is low and needs to be addressed
 - + Lack of fish habitat and water quality for fish to stay in river
 - o River has potential for walleye and sturgeon runs up the river from WI
 - + Log jams are major issue with the soft maples and box elder trees
 - o Clearing of the down tress is an issue
 - + Consider in future the DOT wayside along STH 33 before the interstate as a put in/take out point
 - + DNR mentioned Redstone Dam issue with fish going over the dam need a safe way to come over which causes issues sending fish down
4. Do you own a business in one of the communities being studied: North Freedom, West Baraboo, City of Baraboo or elsewhere in Sauk County? If so, where and what reason did you have to locate your business here? What is your business? Does the corridor benefit your business?
- + N/A
5. Is your business within a quarter mile of the river corridor?
- + N/A
6. What historical, cultural or educational facts about the river corridor give it a unique sense of place?
- + History of dams
 - o Harnessing the power of Baraboo River
 - o Dam removals
 - + Ho-Chunk and other tribes
 - + Baraboo Bluffs
 - + Rock Springs Spring
 - + Ringling Circus
 - + 1982 – monuments were added throughout City that represent historical facts about the City of Baraboo
 - + New historical event: ability to reclaim the River for the community
 - o Kiwanis Club, City efforts
 - o Acquired land and built a riverwalk
 - o Funding: DNR grant (50%), City (25%), Kiwanis (25%)
 - + IATA – book with a geological look at sections of river (though book's focus is even broader than just the river corridor)
 - + 12 Quartz Monuments should be tied into Corridor
 - o One on Council St.
 - o One on Mound St.
7. What is the biggest asset of the Baraboo River Corridor?
- + Public access
 - o Parks are connected
 - o Would be nice to continue riverwalk into West Baraboo
 - o Kiwanis have talked to West Baraboo about this extension. They like the idea but there isn't funding for it right now.
 - + Views of bluffs and wetlands
 - + Sidenote: they don't have any public river events. Some local groups hold small events, but nothing that is geared towards the entire community.
 - + They aren't entirely sure the wider community knows about all access points to the river and the assets the river is
 - + There used to be a paddle map of the river (UW Extension)
 - + Connection of Trails
 - o Like to have clear vistas of the river where the trails connect – add more, but like what they have already done with the riverwalk

- Fishing Platforms connected to riverwalk and vista areas
- Angler uses – Creel census via DNR to supply information
- Need to get riverwalk along the river in the prettiest part of the City section along water street east of the Broadway Bridge along the best riffle section
-

8. What is the biggest issue facing the Baraboo River Corridor? What causes the problem?

- + There needs to be improved access at Giese Park – it is very muddy
- + Water quality is very poor
 - Baraboo is an MS4
 - Land use issues
 1. Farms allow animals to the river's edge still
 - a. Erosion and deposit issues
 - New adaptive management plan should help with water quality
 - Phosphorus and TSS are issues
 - TMDL from roads needs to be reduced
 - Move snow removal piles away from the river
 1. Circus World Parking Lot Snow Pile
 2. North Freedom Snow Pile by boat launch
 - Soil Erosion in West Baraboo along private owner properties along Oak St. sections
 1. Some have installed rip-rap
 2. Most mow right up to the water's edge, but grass is not strong enough to hold the bank and stabilize it
- + Need more natural looking areas along river
 - Add in more native vegetation, but still provide access
- + Access to the river is not great (for kayakers, canoers, and others)
 - Giese Park needs to be improved
- + Route along river needs to be completed – extended into West Baraboo and beyond
- + ADA Compliance for access to river

9. Have you ever visited a community with a river corridor that you really enjoyed and were there any unique amenities that you'd like to see here?

- + Root River Corridor – MN (length is approximately the distance from Baraboo to Mauston)
 - Good access, riverwalk
- + Pine River – Richland County
 - Good access points, good signage – info on ports which makes it easier to plan trips if people know what to expect, they also have brochures that have info on ports and distances
- + Oregon
 - Marble amphitheater – people read, there are artists, historical displays. Their corridor is the focal point of the community.
- + Make the corridor a destination – maybe have stores along the river that people can stop at
- + San Antonio, TX riverwalk
 - Businesses along river
 - Though, Baraboo needs to be realistic about its size and market and what types of businesses it has and what it can realistically attract.
- + Wausau's River Course
 - Though Wausau is controlled and the Baraboo River is free-flowing, Because of this there is a longer kayaking season in Baraboo (it starts earlier). So many kayakers come to Baraboo to practice before going to Wausau.
- + Coon Creek – Coon Valley
 - Good fishing
- + Elkader, IA
 - Nice course
 - Similar community to Baraboo

10. Name one improvement that would make the Baraboo River Corridor better.

- + Erosion
 - o Bad at Village of West Baraboo on north side. There is some rip rap there, but room for improvement.
 - o Issue with animals going directly up to river from farmland
- + Need more buffer around the river – more native vegetation
 - o In Baraboo, most land is City owned – so the City has a lot of control over land adjacent to the River
- + Challenge will be to keep in mind that all access is ADA compliant
- + Create a nice takout after Haskins Park that would be similar
- + Keep the river log jam free – these cause issues when travelling the river
 - o In the 1970s student groups spent time clearing log jams and that was useful
 - o Are there other groups that could do this today? Though to do this today we may need to get approval from landowners.

OTHER

- + Fisheries
 - o Red Stone Dam
 - There is a spillway over rock wall (cliff). The cliff is giving way, so there is a proposal to fill the pool below with rocks. But this could kill fish
 - o Narrows Creek
 - Here there has been habitat work done for Smallmouth Bass
 - DNR needs to be persuaded to start stocking fish here. They are reluctant to do this.
 - Need to create spots with good fishing – do this in conjunction with creating a good kayak/canoe route.
- + Oak Street drop needs better public access
- + Check out desmoinesregister.com/parks. There is a really nice corridor there, several communities are working together : Charles City, IA, Elader, IA, and Manchester, IA
- + Put in – Take out Points
 - o Along Water Street, just east of the Broadway Bridge has best riffles for whitewater kayaking
 - Need a good put in and take out points near this section on each end and path for boaters to walk with boats back and forth
 - o Gander Mountain parking lot has the 2nd best riffle location
 - o East of Circus World has another good spot to consider a launch

Focus Group Questions

FOCUS GROUP #2

Baraboo River Corridor Plan

March 8th, 2016, 10am

Baraboo Civic Center, Rm 14

124 2nd St

Baraboo, WI 53913

Questions

1. Please introduce yourself and explain your affiliation and/or interest with the region and Baraboo River.
 - + See attached Sign in Sheet.

2. When you think of the Baraboo River what is the first thing that comes to mind?
 - + Dam removal and transition of the river into a free flowing body of water
 - + Missed opportunities
 - o Expand the riverwalk
 - + Potential for the corridor to be a Mecca for paddle sports
 - + Difficult to plan around the nature of the river. The water levels are irregular and unpredictable. Challenge to plan around mother nature The water is usually too low.
 - + Ecosystem
 - + North Freedom Park is Muddy.
 - + Water quality -issue
 - + Opportunities for sporting goods is ripe.
 - + Source of life for people today and in the past
 - o Education opportunity to walk through time
 - + Natural beauty
 - + The water has a calming and peaceful effect
 - + Accessibility – no spots to get in/on the corridor between North Freedom and West Baraboo safely.
 - o Giese Park needs to be upgraded

3. Do you engage in recreation along the River? If so, how? If you don't engage with the river does anyone you know engage in recreation along the River?
 - + Kayak May-July, bird watching, observe wildlife (mink, otters, etc.) Section with invasive reed canary grass
 - + Tributaries are interesting, especially skillet creek connection (old school travel)
 - + Love Riverwalk, Bicycle at least once a week, never canoed or paddled
 - + Obstructions along the river, issues with flooding. Really can haul in segment near downtown.
 - + Draw people to the distillery
 - + Shuttling is different every time. Sometimes by car, by bike. Often times awkward. Bike share would be great.
 - + Water works buildings, opportunity for reuse

4. Do you own a business in one of the communities being studied: North Freedom, West Baraboo, City of Baraboo or elsewhere in Sauk County? If so, where and what reason did you have to locate your business here? What is your business? Does the corridor benefit your business?
 - + Wildside – sporting goods store focusing mostly on biking, skiing, and some camping gear
 - o Have road maps for biking trails which then gets people near and down to the river corridor.
 - o Have thought about expansion closer to corridor, but rental costs were too high.
 - Could sell boats, rent boats, and rent bikes
 - City and Wildside to discuss potential 2nd location near corridor

5. Is your business within a quarter mile of the river corridor?
 - + Wildside

6. What historical, cultural or educational facts about the river corridor give it a unique sense of place?
 - + Woolen Mill Area
 - + Circus World
 - + Bones of factories
 - + Water Works near Dog Park
 - + History
 - o Conflict on flow of River Reedsburg 1850
 - o Flow important, powered everything
 - o Dams (removed)
 - + Walking is an escape
 - + Raven Acres, interesting land owner. Issue with run off.
 - + Educational Hub, opportunities for discovery, remote destination
 - + Geocaching to engage youth

7. What is the biggest asset of the Baraboo River Corridor?
 - + Public access
 - + Free flowing
 - + Sandstone cliffs near North Freedom
 - + Connection to nature

8. What is the biggest issue facing the Baraboo River Corridor? What causes the problem?
 - + Water quality/clarity
 - o Non-point sources
 1. Phosphorous
 2. Sediment Runoff
 - + Farmers/land owners agricultural practices, discharging into the river
 - + No marketing of the region or the river – lack of
 - + Animals in River
 - + Lack of a cohesive plan
 - + Lack of partnerships
 - + Blight, especially along walnuts street in the old Baraboo area, backs of buildings
 - + Beautification is required
 - + Gentrification is a concern
 - + Dumping
 - + Ice Age trail isn't marked and connection to parks aren't clear
 - + Remove snags and debris
 - + Fish – need both bait and game fish to keep them in the river
 - o Noted that DNR did state they dump in 1,000 yearling Sturgeon into the Baraboo River each year, sometime around July at 2 locations, one is Haskins Park
 1. New rip-rap along Haskins Park could provide new spawning areas for Sturgeon.
 - + River Clean Up – issues after each storm, Canoe Club to possibly head this up again, use the high schoolers
 - + Need to really identify a river course

- Need to layout sections of the river by experience and capabilities so users know what they will be getting into
- 9. Have you ever visited a community with a river corridor that you really enjoyed and were there any unique amenities that you'd like to see here?
 - + San Antonio, TX riverwalk
 - + Fort Atkinson
 - + Bayfield
 - + Greenbay
 - + Milwaukee
 - + Charles City, IA
 - + Naperville, IL
 - + Rockford, IL
 - Outdoor dining
 - Festivals
 - Connection to the river
- 10. Name one improvement that would make the Baraboo River Corridor better.
 - + Bird City designation, opportunities for birding
 - + Revitalizing economy and business
 - + Eateries along the river corridor, public houses, shops
 - + Multi-modal recreation
 - + Programming/Events, Reedsburg does the Lazy River Race- a canoe race
 - + Ecotourism
 - + Amenities along the river or nearby
 - + Educational opportunities, high school and middle school, UW extension, outdoor classroom
 - + Signature connection between school and river
 - + Reuse or green space
 - + Rentals
 - + Skillet and Pine creek interesting connection for Archeology and education
 - + Active PR/Marketing
 - Need a website, something like the Keweenaw County Website
 - Need a map for river levels in real time, input/takeout points
 - + Public Art
 - + Packaging (marketing)
 - + Nappa Auto is an opportunity site
 - + Boys & Girls Club
 - + Build it, they will come
 - + Active Kayak shop
 - + Set up North Freedom as the main trail head – take in sites there such as Mid-Continent Railroad
 - + Connect the riverwalk all the way to North Freedom
 - Need to dual use for winter – snowshoeing or cross country skiing.
 - + Connect in trails such as the Great Sauk Trail, Ice Age Trail
 - + Keep the natural look and feel of the corridor
 - Use this aspect for education and schools for teaching programs
 - Example – WI Riverway Board – Regulate adjacent development of aesthetics, cutting of trees, etc.
 - Need to get private landowners on board with plan to help with this

OTHER

- + Events
 - Zoo crew fest
 - Otter 8k Run
 - Duck race
 - Milk Jug Regatta
 - River Rendezvous-reenactment camp over labor day weekend

- + Additional Contacts
 - o Land Trust
 - o Joe Van Berkle
 - o John Exo
 - o Jack Burton
 - o Anne Burton
 - o Zoo crew
 - o Local Campgrounds
 - Baraboo Hills
- + Establish Plaques along corridor as historical markers
 - o Council St., Oak St. industrial district, etc.
- + Phase II Suggestions
 - o Committee in charge of river cleanup
 - Church Groups
 - North Freedom Fire Dept.
 - North Freedom Sportsman Club- Rod and Gun Club
 - o Marketing Plan, Mapping
 - Business Advertising could help out
 - Downtown District to make connection
 - Gem Grant thru Dept. of Tourism to help with corridor marketing plan
 - o DNR River Planning Grants

Focus Group Questions

Public Meeting

Baraboo River Corridor Plan

March 15th, 2016, 6pm

Baraboo Civic Center, Rm 14

124 2nd St

Baraboo, WI 53913

**Participants had four sticky dots total and were able to vote on their four favorite ideas under any of the below categories. Parenthesis after the idea indicate the # of associated sticky dots*

RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

- + Public launches with parking areas (19)
- + Whitewater park (7)
- + Restrooms available (3)
- + Bike trail: Sauk to 400 trail (2)
- + Fishing/kayak race touring (1)
 - o Zoo crew canoe race – 2016
- + May 22 River clean up
- + Gander access point (1)
 - o Parking easement
 - o Access easement – put in at bank of building
 - o Gradual access
- + Eco-tourism promotion
- + Lights for night paddling
- + Move structures in river to improve paddling
- + Riverwalk extension Baraboo Bridges
- + Designated river trail
- + Camping
- + Fishing area
- + Canoe/kayak races
- + Tours
- + Small section near Hwy 12 for put in/take out
- + Kayak/canoe lockup
- + Input/takeout points
- + Whitewater parks – open park next to it for viewing
- + Other outlying parks
- + STH 113 – cleanup sediment
- + Walking tours/historical tours

EDUCATION IMPROVEMENTS

- + Historical markers (2)
- + Overall advocacy group (1)
- + Provide more education as project progresses -history, river
- + River is already viewed as a training river for paddling
- + Get kids outdoors
- + Integrate the River into school curriculum
 - o Phys ed: fishing
 - o Middle school science
- + Legacy
- + Fish survey schools
- + UW Baraboo day trip outdoor program
- + Zoo partnership and others
- + UW Baraboo
- + Advocacy
- + Educational paddling trips
- + Nature Conservancy
- + Park & Rec tot lot - 3-5 year olds
- + Wetlands – Ecosystems

- + Wildlife habitat -“what animals will you see?”
- + Classes
- + Crane Foundation
- + Boys and Girls Club
- + 4H
- + Aldo Leopold
- + Zoo – river otter

- + Signage
 - o Historical markers
 - o Dam removal
- + Fishing
- + Kayak/canoe clinics – whitewater park – teaching (3)
- + Sediment loading to river/reduction

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

- + Signage (2)
- + Planned events (1)
- + Marketing/Advertising (paddle, family, nature) (1)
- + Business tourism servicing tourists (1)
- + Access/ Paddle up to businesses (1)
- + Beer garden/outdoor bar (1)
- + Bank erosion – potential grant opportunities. Is there funding for private properties?
- + Increase parking
- + ADA
- + Outfitter/shuttle
- + Trash receptacles and maintenance

- + Ordinance/regulation to protect and allow uses
- + Food sales
 - o Food trucks
 - o Restaurants – closer to corridor
- + Improvements – drive economics
- + Leave no trace – adopt
- + Websites and mapping – on all communities’ websites
- + ID various trips along the river for more access
- + ID land – public or obtain
- + Stress beauty
- + Bike rental
- + Beach development – nicer access

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

- + Better agricultural practices (5)
 - o Cattle in river
- + River cleanup (4)
 - o Local businesses sponsor river section - similar to adopt a highway
- + Salt, sand storage at CWM parking lot and salt at Gander and West Dayl Plaza parking lot (2)
- + Wetland restoration (1)
- + Regular maintenance (1)
 - o Requires \$\$
 - o Cleanup needs
- + Fish habitat –habitat restoration (1)

- + Erosion prevention along banks – plant trees
- + Fish cribs
- + Water quality
 - o Mud
 - o Clarity
- + Mud
- + Invasive species removal
- + Streambank improvements
 - o Use something more aesthetically pleasing than rip rap
- + Who is responsible for cleaning up? Ex: log jams
- + Fix wave by Driftless Glenn

WEAKNESSES

- + Water quality (6)
 - o Clarity
 - o Sediment
 - o Trash
 - o Runoff
- + Ag runoff (4)
 - o Animals in river
- + Paddle sports store – rentals? (3)
- + Depth: shallow for paddling (1)
- + Lack of accessible businesses (1)
- + Put in and take out points (1)
- + Shuttling
- + Blockage/ need to portage
- + Insects in slow flow areas
- + Lack of restrooms
- + Lack of fish
- + Eye sores
- + Steep and muddy banks
- + Poorly thought out development
- + Restrooms at put in and take out points
- + Marketing/advertising the corridor
- + Access
- + Lack of education
- + Accessibility
- + Predictability
- + Lack of connections
- + Fallen trees/debris/cleanup needed
 - o Log jams
- + Carp upstream
- + Not the Apple River
- + Hwy 12-Haskins
- + Haskins to Shaw
- + Connections between known points for access along river (on river)
- + Kayak/canoe rentals

STRENGTHS

- + Whitewater (8)
- + Fishing (5)
- + Economic opportunity for tourism (3)
- + Potential eco-tourism (2)
- + Variety of rec opportunities (1)
- + Trails
- + Different sections and skills
 - o Good for intro paddling
- + Good size river
- + Water
- + Scenic
- + Education opportunity
- + Scenic beauty
- + Connecting trails
- + Dam removal
- + Free flowing
- + Living environment
- + Pride
- + History
- + Habitat
- + Partnership opportunity
- + Multiple entities on board in planning
- + Community build
- + Location
- + Proximity to cities
 - o Madison
- + Lack of density
- + Lack of development
- + Potential for development
- + A lot to do in the area
- + Rails to trails opportunities (possible redevelopment of Passenger Depot)
- + Public riverwalk – access through rapids corridor
- + Level walking
- + Connectedness of the corridor
- + Opportunity for recreation

- + Potential for future balanced development
- + Usage of river
- + Central location in WI for river usage
- + Possibilities
- + Places to shop and eat too
- + Surrounding communities
- + Coordinate with other planning efforts
- + Local and regional paddle destination
- + Uninhibited stretch
- + Recreation
- + Parks
- + Health-well being
- + Connections
 - o GST
 - o 400
 - o Ice Age

ONE WORD

- + Fun
- + Potential
- + Paddling
- + Whitewater
- + Meandering
- + Degraded
- + Shallow
- + Underused
- + Asset
- + Scenic
- + Muddy
- + Opportunity
- + Recreation
- + Unpredictable
- + Resource
- + Polluted
- + Connector
- + Parks
- + Agriculture
- + Historic
- + Calming
- + Habitat
- + Fishing
- + Green space
- + Railroad
- + Mounds
- + Wildlife