

PIKE RIVER CORRIDOR

MOUNT PLEASANT, WI

MAINTENANCE PLAN

June 25, 2015



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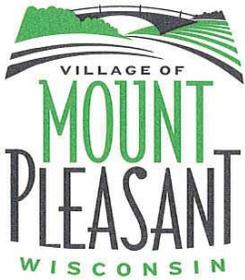
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Looking forward by connecting the past

The pioneers who settled Mount Pleasant in the 1800s certainly would not recognize the Pike River we see today. The prairie wetlands and streams were drained and plowed – improvements that formed the agricultural and economic foundation upon which our community was built. But since those early years, the Pike River was unable to keep up with development and increased runoff in the watershed. The growing frequency and intensity of flooding led to a series of plans for stormwater and flood management in the 1980s and 1990s.

A comprehensive plan for the restoration of the Pike River Corridor was developed and approved in 1998 through the foresight and leadership of the Town of Mount Pleasant Stormwater Drainage Utility working in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This plan implemented a strategy of creating flood protection for development, while recreating the historical wet prairies and stream channel that existed over one hundred years ago. The Village of Mount Pleasant Stormwater Drainage Commission carried out the 9-Phase Plan, which will begin the final construction phases in May 2015.

The success of the Pike River Corridor is measured not only in the way it has helped mitigate flooding in our community, but also by the environmental green space created and recreational opportunities provided by the miles of trails built throughout the corridor. The Village of Mount Pleasant is intent on ensuring that the significant investments made in the corridor are properly protected and maintained, while at the same time providing opportunities to generate more value to the community in the space created by the Corridor.

This *Pike River Corridor Maintenance Plan* provides a roadmap for the Village on how to manage this valuable community asset now and into the future. We've sought advice and input from numerous individuals, groups and business, and worked with our consultants to get a solid handle on what we have now, what we need to do to protect it, and what might be possible looking forward.

Please join us in celebrating your soon-to-be-completed Pike River Corridor. We invite you to walk and bike on its trails, enjoy its wildlife, and admire its colorful prairies – while at the same time imagining the awe experienced by those early pioneers who first settled this beautiful land.

Sincerely,
Mt. Pleasant Storm Water Drainage Utility District


Sonny K. Havn
President

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

Introduction

The Pike River Watershed-Based Plan *A Maintenance Plan for the Pike River Corridor.*

Situated between the cities of Milwaukee and Chicago, population of Mount Pleasant has grown steadily over the past 120 years. Accelerated economic development combined with more impervious surfaces in the Pike River Watershed contributed to increased frequency and severity of flooding events. In 1997, the Village of Mount Pleasant embarked on a nine Phase Plan for the restoration of approximately 5.2 miles of stream corridor to not only address flooding problems, but also to create an environmental and recreational asset for the community. Construction on Phase 1 began in 2001, followed by subsequent Phases moving from upstream to downstream. Phase 6 was completed in 2013 and construction on Phases 7-9 is scheduled to begin in 2015.

Over the past decade, in addition to flood control benefits, The Pike River Corridor has become a true natural and recreational asset. An ever-increasing number of citizens hike and bike on the trails. Local schools use the restored prairies and wetlands for educational activities as a "Living Laboratory." The abundant birds, fish and wildlife provide the community with an opportunity to re-connect with the natural wonders re-establishing in the Pike River.

In 2014, the Village of Mount Pleasant (The Village) began the process to create a Long-term Maintenance Plan (The Plan) for the Pike River Corridor, focused on maintaining the flood control features and ecological health of the corridor along with enhancing recreational, educational, and volunteer opportunities. Input from the public was sought in order to provide a clearer understanding of how the Corridor is used and valued by the stakeholders. This in turn will inform The Village on how to weigh costs and benefits for adding future improvements as well as prioritizing maintenance. The Plan also seeks to identify opportunities to enhance the social, environmental and economic connections within the Pike River Corridor and help set clearer goals

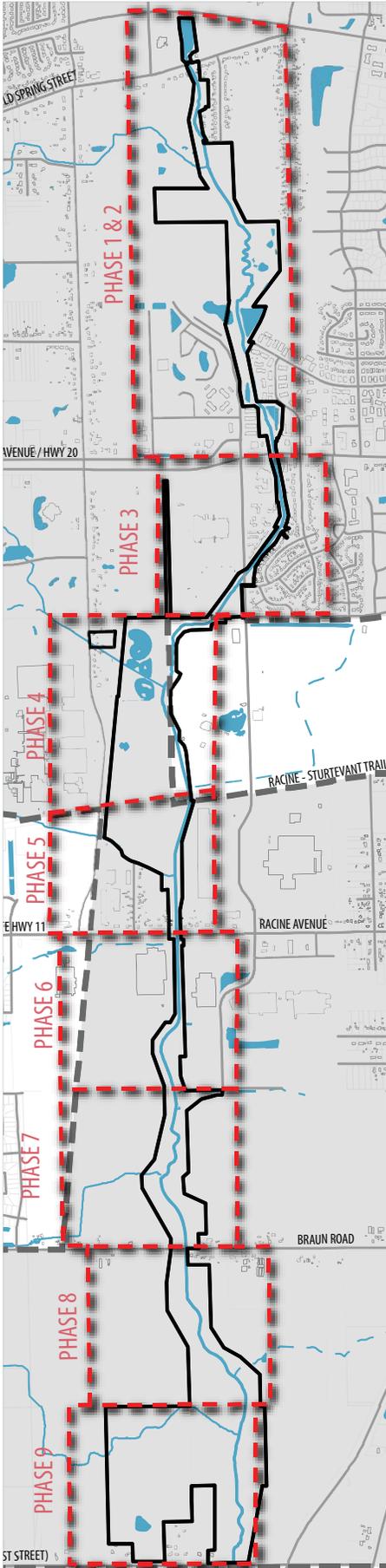
**Plan n. – 1. a
scheme of action of
procedure: action
plan. 2. a project or
definite purpose:
plans for the future.**

with respect to public engagement and recreational uses.

The Pike River Long-term Maintenance Plan was developed in 3-steps:

1. Evaluation of the current corridor status & sustainability relative to the established project goals;
2. Stakeholder engagement and meetings for the review of corridor goals, and identification of new partnership opportunities for enhanced values, sustainable maintenance and protection, and;
3. Development a long-term protection, maintenance and stewardship plan based upon sustainable partnership & financial framework.

The goal is that The Plan will give The Village a framework for effectively and efficiently protecting its significant investment in restoring the Pike River, while also providing a vision for moving forward to take full advantage of the opportunities the restoration has made available to the community.



STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

The introduction provides an overview of the Pike River Corridor by summarizing the geographic, historic, demographic, organizational, and financial profiles of the Village of Mount Pleasant.

CHAPTER TWO

Inventory & Analysis

Chapter Two provides a detailed inventory of all existing conditions. Other relevant planning documents used during the development of this plan are also referenced in the introduction.

CHAPTER THREE

Needs Assessment

The Needs Assessment summarizes key findings in community outreach and engagement including one-on-one stakeholder interviews, focus group meetings and a public workshop.

CHAPTER FOUR

Maintenance Plan and Recommendations

Chapter Four identifies issues, concerns, or opportunities that arose during the previous two phases, justification or support information from the previous phases, and outlines all strategies.

CHAPTER FIVE

Five Year Monitoring and Maintenance Plan

Chapter Five identifies specific projects and improvements for the following categories:

1. Stormwater, Utilities and Infrastructure
2. Vegetation, Prairie and Wetlands
3. Stream and Aquatic Resources
4. Trails and Recreational Amenities

APPENDIX

The Appendix contains all supplementary materials to the report. This includes additional maps, plans and community input.



Corridor Narrative

Phase 1 of the Pike River Corridor Restoration. Preconstruction (2001) and Post Construction (2003).

Pike River Corridor Vision: The Village of Mount Pleasant envisions a community where all of its residents can enjoy the beauty of the prairies and imagine the awe experienced by the early pioneers.

BACKGROUND OF THE PIKE RIVER SYSTEM

The Pike River Watershed area is geomorphologically young. Over the broad flat areas of glacial till and outwash plain deposits, soils developed that supported prairie, Oak Savanna, Oak Forest, Maple-Basswood-Red Oak forests and wetlands. Public land surveyors documented what comprised the terrain and surrounding habitat and vegetation while establishing section corner monuments of the public land survey system. These notes indicate that it is likely the Pike River did not actually extend up as far as it does today, and may have been composed of low-sloped swales and extensive wetland, surrounded by prairie, rather than a defined stream channel. The estimates from Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's (SEWRPC) re-creation of the entire Pike River Watershed, out of a total of 32,708 acres, about 21,936 acres of prairie and about 2,000 acres of wetland existed.

The District's activities began in October of 1878 when farmers in Mount Pleasant met to design a plan to increase tillable acreage and reduce flooding on farmed fields by ditching the shallow swale and wetland complex through their fauns. At the

inception, the local water table in the swales and wetland areas was very near the ground surface. Ditching was accomplished by excavating the channel and casting the excavated material to the side of the new channel. Ditching and continued erosion and maintenance of the channel has lowered the groundwater table near the "stream" over ten feet in many cases.

Today, about 135 years after these first drainage and flood control activities, most of the "original" wetlands have been drained, farmed or disturbed. Drain tiles were added into the fields to remove water and transport it to the ditch. The wetland remnants proximal to the Pike River are there only because the berms created from side castings keep surface water in the relatively impermeable soils, or they are in natural topographic low areas with underlying impermeable clay soils away from the river. Approximately 44 acres of wetlands and about 179 total acres of wildlife habitat were observed in 1996 surveys. Over 50 individual wetland areas were surveyed and delineated from KR to the northernmost extent of the Pike. However, most of these wetlands had no to low functional values except near the "headwaters" of the system. Of these habitat acres, most are

severely degraded, with 105 acres of Class III habitat, 64 acres of Class II habitat, and only 10 acres of Class I wildlife habitat in the study area.

The Pike River was most likely characterized by complex channel morphology in the headwaters that contained diverse warm and cool water fish communities. The ecological structure and functioning of this system was intimately linked to physical and hydrological connectivity with riparian and floodplain wetlands. Changes in the water table and floodplain caused by channelization “aged” the system – increasing peak discharges, sediment loading and water temperature fluctuations while decreasing habitat heterogeneity and spring flood duration (required for the spawning of some fish species – e.g. Northern Pike). This degradation negatively impacted the lower river and the adjacent regions of the Lake Michigan coastal zone. The physical habitat conditions and biotic communities had degraded to a status typical of channelized river systems in mixed urban/agricultural landscapes, including:

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- Flashy and powerful peak discharges with resultant aggradation and degradation of the streambed;
- Low bank stability with high erosional tendencies;
- High erosion in the headwaters and sediment transport downstream;
- Significant surface-flow runoff into stream and non-point source inputs;
- Low habitat heterogeneity for fish and invertebrates consisting of predominantly run habitat;
- Depauperate and degraded aquatic invertebrate communities, indicative of low water quality and high organic pollution;
- Low biological integrity of the fish community;
- Several “remnant” populations of intolerant fish species persisted in small refuges of habitat along the stream where patches of adequate habitat remained.

The frequency and severity of flooding events in the upper Pike River had increased over time as development in the watershed expanded during the 1970s. Based upon a 1983 comprehensive watershed plan prepared by the SEWRPC, The Village of Mount Pleasant submitted a flood control plan in 1992 to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for regulatory approval. An environmental impact statement was completed in 1996 and the permit request was denied in 1997 due largely to the plan’s reliance on extensive streambed dredging to solve flooding issues.

Shortly thereafter, Mount Pleasant entered into a facilitation process with the WDNR for the purpose of developing a strategic approach to mitigate flooding in the North Branch of the Pike River. The year-long facilitation process resulted in a reformulation of the Pike River Plan from a strictly “stormwater conveyance” project into a more integrated stream “corridor restoration” project. The plan that came out from the facilitation proposed a \$17 million, 9-phased approach for the restoration of approximately 5.2 miles of stream corridor.

In order to address degraded conditions, the facilitated restoration plan incorporated the following components:

ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

- Continued comprehensive stormwater and non-point source management to reduce peak flows, maintain base flows, and improve water quality;
- Placement of multiple wetland systems with connectivity to the channel to function as detention/retention basins along the stream;
- Incorporation of multi-stage channel cross-sectional designs with prairie/wetland riparian vegetation to restore the native pre-settlement flora of the watershed;
- Widening of the floodplain to allow more frequent flooding and the dissipation of peak flow energy;
- Increased channel length by addition of sinuosity (meanders) into a new channel in order to diversify habitat;
- Construction of new channel segments outside of the existing streambed when possible – minimizing disturbance to stream and allowing re-vegetation and stabilization prior to use;
- Design and placement of habitat structures to promote resident fish communities;
- Implementation of monitoring plans for habitat, invertebrate, and fish to evaluate the success of the project and recommend modifications as necessary.

The facilitated plan was submitted to WDNR and a Chapter 30 Permit was issued in 1997. The initial permit was for a 10-year period and then was extended in 2007 for an additional 5 years (1997-2012). This unique permit required a WDNR review for the 50%, 90% and 100% plans and required 55 conditions to be met in each project phase. In addition, a US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit and Racine County conditional use permit were obtained. Prior to the initiation of Phase 1, a Peer Review Report for the plan was conducted in 1999. Construction on Phase 1 began in 2001, followed by subsequent Phases moving from upstream to downstream. Phase 6 was completed in 2013 and construction on Phases 7-9 scheduled to begin in 2015.

RESTORATION GOALS

Specific Goals of the Facilitated Restoration Plan included:

- Creation of riparian and floodplain wetlands;
- Increased flood storage capacity;
- Multi-use recreational trails and public open space;
- Aquatic habitat restoration;
- Environmental corridor preservation;
- Native prairie vegetation restoration.

A brief summary of the goals and activities for each of the completed Phases is provided below. A sequence of photographs depicting some of the major restoration activities and construction monitoring reports is available online at:

https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/groups/ls/Biosciences/ResearchGroups/EhlingerLab/Public/Pike_River_Monitoring

PHASE DESCRIPTIONS

Phase 1 involved the restoration of a 2.4 km corridor north from Hwy 20 to Old Spring Street. Construction began in Fall of 2002 and was completed in Spring 2003 at a total cost of \$1.3 million. Additional wetland plantings were done in the Summer of 2003. The project included the creation of a large wetland complex with 0.5 km of new meandering stream channel at the downstream end. In other areas to the north, the channel was widened and the banks flattened to a 4:1 slope. The excavation was designed to increase the capacity of the river to contain the 100-year event within the restored channel and surround wetlands. The channel modifications were structured to reduce flood flow shear stresses and address problematic bank erosion. Erosion mat was placed on all slopes of 4:1 or steeper. All disturbed areas were seeded with native prairie, mesic prairie or wetland seeds. Land was purchased surrounding the channel to include area for planting a prairie buffer of varying widths and land for a paved recreational trail.

Phase 2 involved channel modifications on approximately 0.75 km downstream from Phase 1, staying within the pre-existing streambed. In addition, two pre-existing dry detention basins handling runoff from developed lands east of the Pike River were modified into wet detention facilities to provide water quality benefits by improving the removal of sediment loading. In order to provide improved stream hydraulics two steel plate bridge structures were removed. One of these crossings was replaced with a precast concrete structure to meet the 100-year flood flow conveyance needs. Finally, the new meandered stream channel in Phase 1 was connected to the pre-existing stream channels at the up and downstream ends. Phase 2 was completed in 2004 at a cost of \$1.2 million.

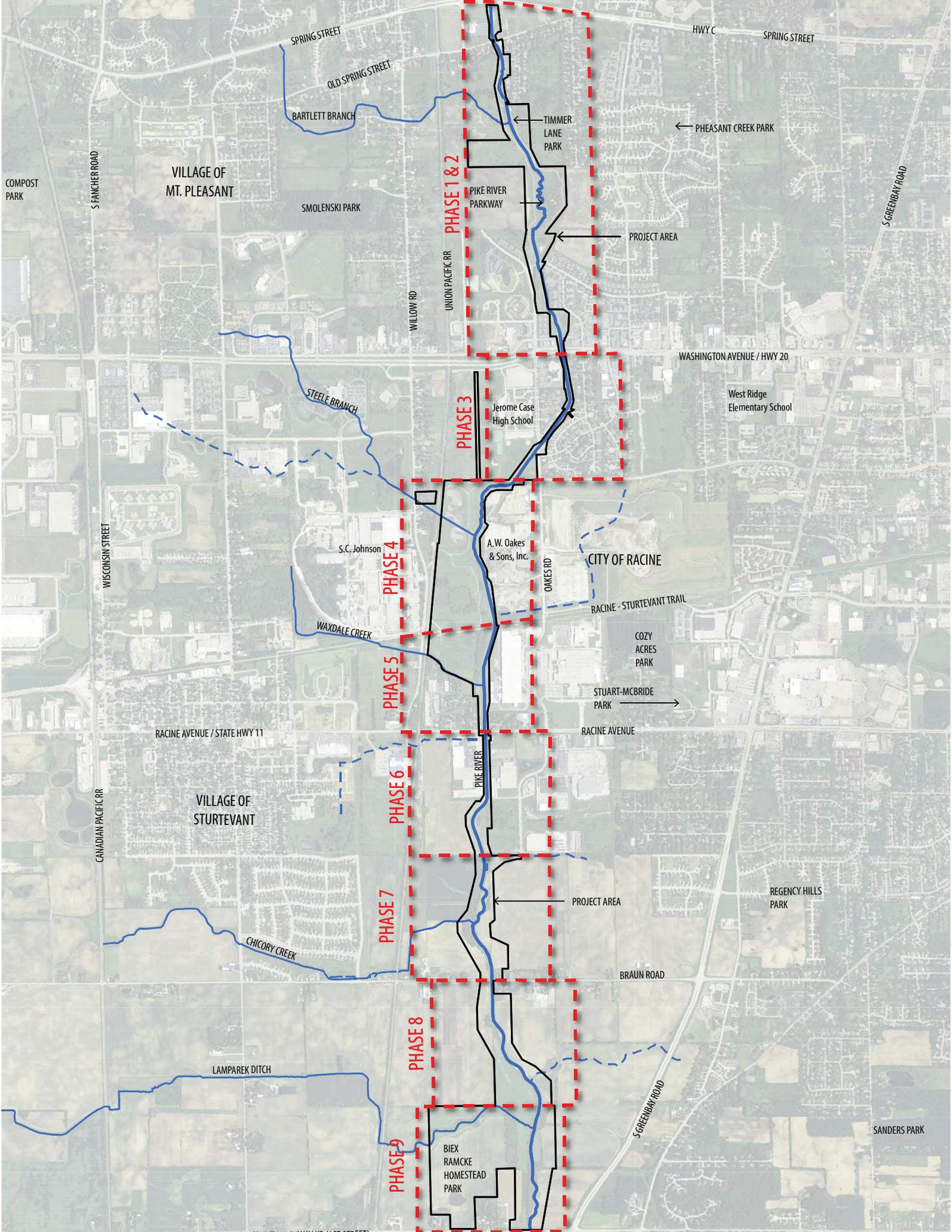
Phase 3 was constructed in 2005 and encompassed the 0.9 km reach extending immediately downstream from Highway 20 to Oakes Road and then southwest past Case High School. This reach presented significant spatial challenges due the

channel's confined proximity to buildings and development. Laying back the channel slopes to achieve the planned flood control benefits increased the floodway conveyance capacity to contain the 100-year discharge. Excavation widened the existing bench so as to reduce shear stress on the channel bed, reduce erosion and increase the conveyance capacity. The streambed was repositioned in certain areas to allow flattening of the side slopes. In locations where existing development prevented the side slopes to be flattened, bank stabilization engineering treatments were used. Aquatic habitat goals for this reach focused on fish passage and providing enough cover for migratory species to and from spawning areas upstream in Phase 1.

Phase 4 continued restoration activities downstream 1.1 km to the Racine-Sturtevant Bike Trail Bridge. The availability of open space in this Phase allowed the opportunity for the inclusion of additional ecological features similar to Phase 1. For example large areas were available for prairie restoration and recreational trails. In addition, a new meandering stream channel was created to the west of the existing channel, which incorporated log and rock structures and pools for fish habitat. Likewise, two large water quality ponds were constructed (one with an island) with hydrological connections to the Steele Branch Tributary. As with previous phases, the original incised stream channel was flattened to a 4:1 slope. Within this phase in particular, the streambed profile exhibits significantly greater slope changes relative to reaches above and below **Phase 4**. In-stream habitat enhancements installed in the new stream channel included the excavation of deep pools and the installation of rocky riffles as well as both cross-log and K-dam habitat structures. Plantings along the bottom of the flood channel and flood plain storage areas were designed to recreate wetland prairie communities. Phase 4 was accomplished in 3 sub-phases (a-c) between 2007-2010.

Phase 5 stretches 0.66 km from the Railroad Bridge downstream to Highway 11 and was constructed in 2010. The channel bench was significantly widened and the floodway channel slopes were reduced back (4:1 slope) adjacent to Graham Packaging Company. Riparian areas were planted with prairie mixtures. In-stream habitat structures primarily consisted of pools and single- or double-winged rock deflectors to create heterogeneous velocities.

Phase 6 stretches approximately 0.9 km downstream of Highway 11. The upstream half was constructed in 2011 and was constrained by industrial development on both sides of the channel, and required the removal of a portion of a parking lot located on the eastern bank. In this portion, the channel bench was widened and floodway banks laid back to a flatter slope relative to the incised channel. Stone riffles, deep pools, single- and double-wing deflectors, and scattered boulder arrangements were placed in this section to improve heterogeneity of the habitats. The downstream half of Phase 6 was completed in 2012. This section was not constrained by development along the channel and allowed for greater flexibility in channel and floodplain design,



SPRING STREET
OLD SPRING STREET
BARTLETT BRANCH

HWY C
SPRING STREET

COMPOST PARK

S FANCHER ROAD

VILLAGE OF
MT. PLEASANT

SMOLENSKI PARK

PHASE 1 & 2

TIMMER
LANE PARK

← PHEASANT CREEK PARK

S GREENBAY ROAD

WILLOW RD
UNION PACIFIC RR

PIKE RIVER
PARKWAY

PROJECT AREA

WASHINGTON AVENUE / HWY 20

West Ridge
Elementary School

STEELE BRANCH

PHASE 3

Jerome Case
High School

WISCONSIN STREET

S.C. Johnson

A.W. Oakes
& Sons, Inc.

CITY OF RACINE

RACINE - STURTEVANT TRAIL

WAXDALE CREEK

PHASE 4

OAKES RD

COZY
ACRES
PARK

STUART-MCBRIDE
PARK →

RACINE AVENUE / STATE HWY 11

PHASE 5

RACINE AVENUE

CANADIAN PACIFIC RR

VILLAGE OF
STURTEVANT

PHASE 6

PIKE RIVER

REGENCY HILLS
PARK

CHICORY CREEK

PHASE 7

PROJECT AREA

BRAUN ROAD

LAMPAREK DITCH

PHASE 8

S GREENBAY ROAD

BIEX
RAMCKE
HOMESTEAD
PARK

SANDERS PARK

COUNTY HIGHWAY KR (1ST STREET)



Widening of riparian floodplain at the south end of Phase 1.



Planting shrubs and grasses along the stream banks of the new channel in Phase 1.



Riparian floodplain widening in Phase 6.



Floodplain widening and prairie planting in Phase 6

including the creation of backwater wetland areas off channel, and the use of large logs and boulders in the creation of fish habitat in the stream.

Phase 7 is downstream of Phase 6 and is located in agricultural land. The design features a re-meander of a section of the river, creation of a river channel bench shelf, in-stream fish habitat structures and multiple ponds to treat water entering the corridor. Chicory Creek enters Phase 7 and the junction shall be re-contoured. The wetland stream shelf will be planted with native sedges and grasses, and the upland slopes will be planted with native prairie. The project is projected to be constructed in 2015.

Phase 8 and Phase 9 are being constructed in 2015 by the US Army Corps of Engineers with significant funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Both Phases 8 and 9 will have new stream meanders constructed as well as the creation of a wide river channel bench shelf. There are in-stream fish habitat structures designed in both Phases and the Phase 9 design includes ecologically designed shallow basins that are intended to create opportunities for fish spawning including Northern Pike. The use of microtopography, native vegetation, and flowage rates to not entrap fish after storm events are among features that will be utilized to create these spawning areas. Both Phases are designed with native wetland and prairie species, as well as native woody plantings. Phase 8 is south of Braun Road, and Phase 9 ends at the Racine County boundary at CTH KR.

Cost Analysis

The summary table shows costs incurred to date for each phase, as well as projections through completion of the project.

The joint project with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) should lower the net cost to the Village by as much as \$5 million (equivalent to the ACOE funding cap). This would lower the currently projected net project cost from \$19,083,225 to \$14,083,225. Potential reception of future grants is also not included in the table.

Development of a Long-Term Maintenance Plan

The Village of Mount Pleasant recognized the need for creating a long-term maintenance plan for the Pike River Corridor that would focus on maintaining the ecological health of the corridor along with enhancing recreational, educational, and volunteer opportunities. This Plan was developed in 3-steps that included:

1. Evaluating of the current corridor status and sustainability relative to the established project goals;
2. Engaging stakeholders for review of goals and identification of new partnership opportunities



Photo of Phase 1 looking north from Highway 20. July 27, 2005

for enhanced values, sustainable maintenance and protection;

3. Development of a long-term protection, maintenance and stewardship plan based upon sustainable partnership & financial framework.

Current Expenditures and Projections- Pike Rive Improvements Project

Phase	Cost to Date	Projections	Grants	Net Cost
1-3	\$4,918,564	\$0	\$1,591,138	\$3,327,425
4	\$3,550,040	\$0	\$836,144	\$2,713,897
5	\$949,384	\$0	\$192,037	\$757,347
Subtotal 1-5	\$9,417,988	\$0	\$2,619,319	\$6,798,669
6	\$1,678,681	\$0	\$350,000	\$1,328,681
7	\$315,000	\$2,600,000	\$75,000	\$2,840,000
8	\$800,000	\$2,620,000	\$295,000	\$3,125,000
9	\$405,500	\$4,670,000	\$84,625	\$4,990,875
Subtotal 6-9	\$3,199,181	\$9,750,000	\$804,625	\$12,284,556
TOTAL	\$12,617,169	\$9,750,000	\$3,423,944	\$19,083,225

through channel modifications to manage conveyance in combination with wetland creation that provides flood storage. These wetlands and channel modifications, in turn helped improve water quality and fish habitat. Furthermore, the trails constructed adjacent to the floodplain and through riparian prairie created a natural corridor that provide opportunities for public-use. The ever-increasing number of citizens using the trails, organizations, and local schools using the system for educational activities indicate that the community is a resource willing to be actively engaged with the Pike River. Input from the Community provided a clearer understanding of how the Corridor is valued by the stakeholders, and will allow the Village to weigh the costs and benefits in developing and maintaining the corridor. It will also identify opportunities to enhance the Social-Environmental-Economic connections with the Corridor and help set clearer goals with respect to educational engagement and recreational uses.

The Pike River Corridor has become a major Community asset for the Village of Mount Pleasant as well as the surrounding Racine Community. The initial focus on providing flood relief to property owners within the 100-year flood plain was accomplished



Demographics

Demographics were obtained using the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Business Analyst Online Software to gather the necessary, up-to-date demographic data needed to understand of the Village of Mount Pleasant and the Pike River Corridor Users.

ESRI is the largest research and development organization dedicated to geographical and information systems, including population projects and market trends.

Village population is expected to increase to 35,000 by 2025.

POPULATION

In 2014, the Village of Mount Pleasant had an estimated population of 26,386 within its municipal boundaries. The population is projected to increase to 26,409 by 2019. According to the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission, anticipated growth for the Village by 2035 is expected to increase to approximately 35,000. Overall the Village of Mount Pleasant is growing albeit slowly. The annual projected growth rate for 2014-2019 nationally is 0.73%, Wisconsin is at 0.32% and the Village is at half of the state projection at 0.15%. The active adult population will increase to almost 6% by 2019. There are 11,256 households in the Village with 66.4% occupied by families and 26.4% with individuals under the age of 18.

26,386

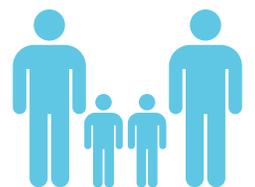
Village of Mount Pleasant Residents



45.8
median age

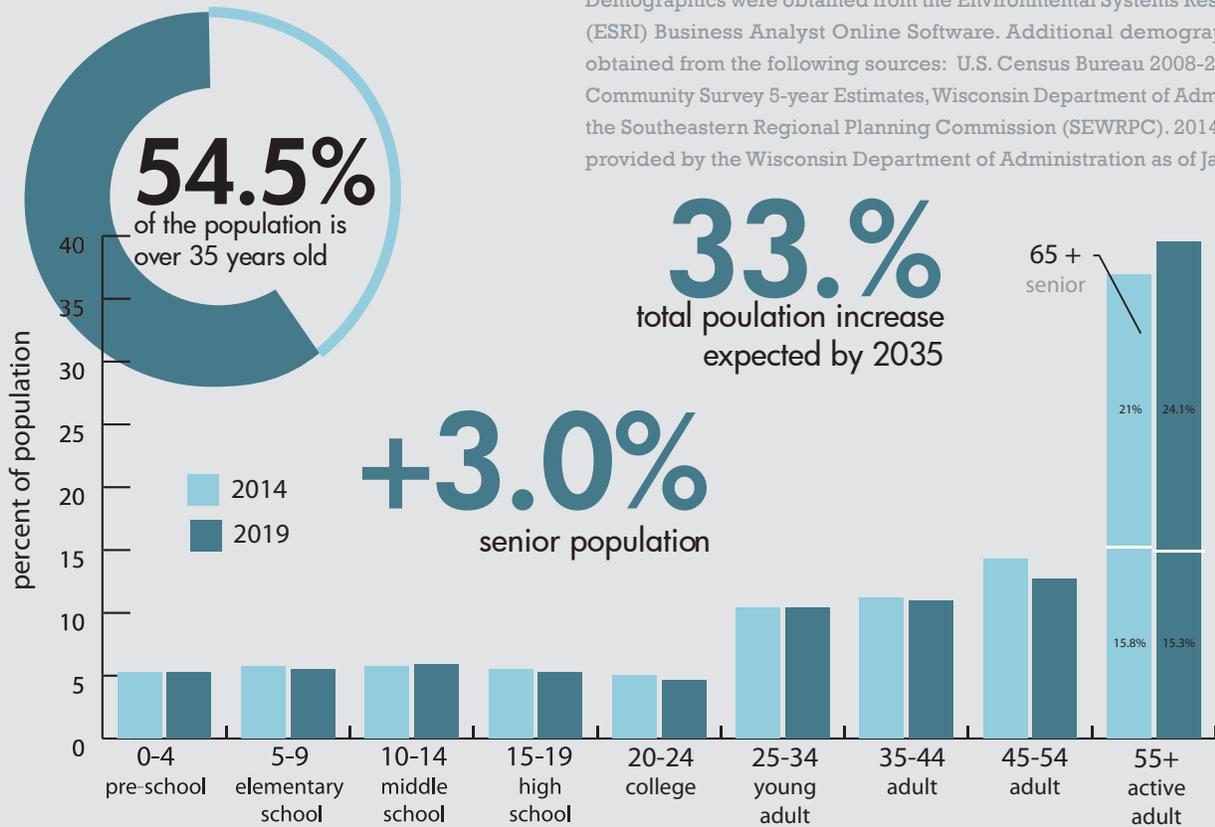


11,256
households

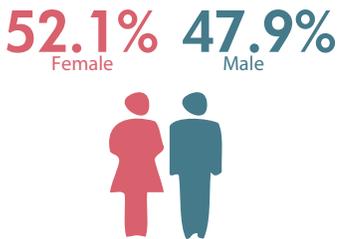


7,440
family households

Demographics were obtained from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Business Analyst Online Software. Additional demographic data was obtained from the following sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Wisconsin Department of Administration and the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). 2014 estimates are provided by the Wisconsin Department of Administration as of January 1, 2014.



Age Distribution



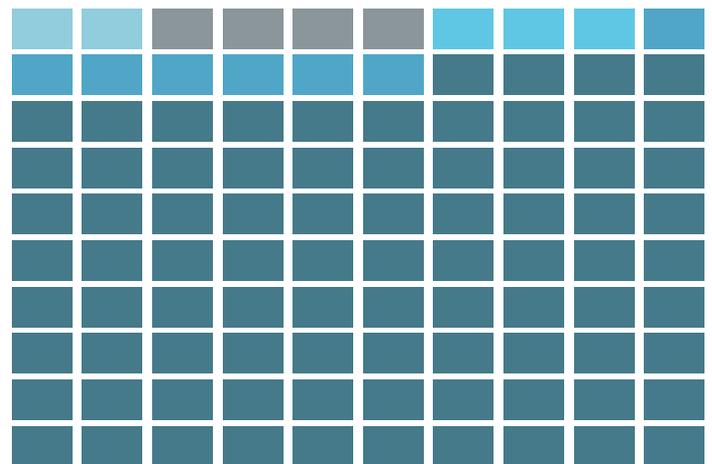
RACE AND ETHNICITY

According to ESRI, 84.2% of the population are White alone, 7.9% Black alone, 2.4% Asian alone, 0.3% American Indian alone, 0.0% Pacific Islander alone, 3% are some other race alone, 2.3% are two or more races. Regardless of race, 9.01% of the population are of Hispanic origin. The majority of the represented races and ethnicities in the Village of Mount Pleasant will remain relatively constant in 2019, while the white population will decrease by 1.4% and the total population with Hispanic origin will grow by 1.46%.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

A majority (62.3%) of the current population is age 35 or older, with 29% of the population being 55 and older. While this number is currently lagging behind the national average of 39%, it will reach 39% by 2019. The projected population by age between 2014 and 2019 indicates that the population in the Village is aging in place. Considerations for an aging population should be taken into consideration when planning passive and active recreational opportunities.

Almost all other age groups are trending downward. With the exception of the 10-14 cohort (0.13% increase), all other age groups are projecting relatively stagnant population growth with a slight decrease in population. While growth in the 10-14 age groups is slower than in the past, the youth segments will remain an essential part of the focus of the customer base.



84.2% White | 7.9% Black | 2.4% Asian | 3.3% Other | 2.3% Two+

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

Key Points

The following list identifies key findings in the corridor profile and demographic analysis.

- The Pike River Watershed has gone through many changes over the past 150 years — Transformed initially from prairie wetlands into agricultural fields, and then from farms into industries, businesses and residential neighborhoods.
- The Pike River had been modified repeatedly since the 1890's to improve agricultural drainage, but the channel was unable to convey the stormwater runoff generated by the growing population and increased development in the watershed.
- The increased frequency and severity of flooding led to the creation of a stream corridor restoration and flood control plan by the Village of Mount Pleasant, finalized in 1997 as part of a facilitated collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Implementation of the 9-Phase Plan began in 2001 and is scheduled for completion in 2016 at a cost of approximately \$19 million.
- In addition to the flood mitigation features of the 9-Phase Plan, the improved fish habitat, wetlands, prairies and recreational trail system included in the project have created a valuable community asset that needs to be managed and maintained.
- The "Pike River Corridor Maintenance Plan" was prepared to (1) Provide an up-to-date inventory of the environmental, social and economic assets and benefits in the corridor, (2) Engage the public in a discussion regarding current and future needs for the corridor, and (3) Generate a road map for the effective and efficient management, protection and enhancement of The Corridor's assets.