NPS Form 10-900 (January 1992) Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

1. Name of Property

MAY 2 0 2011 NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

416

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

		Α						
2. Location								
street & number	Located betw	een G	ant Park a	t Hawthorne Avenue	and Rawson	N/A	not for p	ublication
city or town	South Milwa	ukee				N/A	vicinity	
state Wisconsin	code	WI	county	Milwaukee	code	079	zip code	53172
3. State/Federal	Agency Cer	rtifica	ition					
X meets _ does not n	neet the Nationa	al Regi	ster criteria	ional requirements s a. I recommend that dditional comments.	this property be con			
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Signature of certifyi State Historic Pr			r - Wisc	onsin	Bati	2		
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Oak Creek Parkway		Milwaukee	Wisconsin
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determined not eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. removed from the National Register. other, (explain.)	1		
_outer, (explain.)	Signature of the	c Keeper	Date of Action
5. Classification	V		
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		rces within Property eviously listed resources
private	building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
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	Oak Creek Parkway
Section 7 Page 1	South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Introduction and General Setting

The Oak Creek Parkway is located within the City of South Milwaukee, in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. The Parkway is located along the outer loop of two concentric, connected, oval-shaped chains of parkways first conceived in 1923. Known as the "Emerald Necklace," the loop twice encircles the county, comprising a significant portion of the Milwaukee County Park and Parkway System.

Oak Creek follows a northwesterly course from its junction with Lake Michigan in the City of South Milwaukee through the Town of Oak Creek and into southeastern Milwaukee County. The 2.75-mile segment of the Oak Creek Parkway (Parkway) covered in this nomination is located between Grant Park on the east and Rawson Avenue on the west, and generally follows the development plan included in the 1931-1932 *Biennial Report* of the Milwaukee County Regional Planning Department and the Milwaukee County Park Commission. The Parkway includes 20 resources: ten contributing and ten noncontributing. The road, eight vehicular bridges, two pedestrian bridges, railroad bridge, dam, baseball diamond, and tennis courts are counted as structures. A warming house and three maintenance/utility sheds are counted as buildings. The Parkway and its landscape features are counted as one contributing site. Features of the Parkway landscape include Oak Creek, a mill pond, pedestrian paths, memorial, playground, signs, retaining walls, and a mix of dense vegetation along the creek with open clearings for recreational space. Noncontributing resources within the Parkway are categorized based on recent construction dates, which are outside of the Parkway's period of significance, which spans from 1931 to 1960. One resource (Railroad Bridge) predates the parkway; however, it was incorporated into the final design and therefore is contributing.

The Parkway begins at the southern edge of Grant Park at Hawthorne Avenue and follows Oak Creek in a curvilinear manner as it meanders northwest to 15th Avenue and turns south and continues to Rawson Avenue. The major roads that intersect the Parkway include Mill Road, North Chicago Avenue (State Trunk Highway [STH] 32), 15th Avenue, and Rawson Avenue. Residences line varying sides of the Parkway along select segments of the corridor.

The Oak Creek Parkway Drive (Drive) follows Oak Creek. The creek runs the length of the Parkway; however, it continues south of the Parkway's historic boundary. The topography along the Parkway consists primarily of rolling hills with heavily wooded properties, as well as flat, open, low-lying areas between the Drive and Oak Creek. The Drive has an asphalt surface flanked by concrete curb and gutter and modern Parkway signs.

Vegetation along the Parkway is dominated by mixed-age stands of native trees. Areas along the creek tend to have shrubby undergrowth interspersed with the mixed-age forest. Wider spaces between the

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Drive and creek include open space with mowed grassy areas and scattered mature tree plantings. The following is a list of the resources contained within the Parkway¹:

Oak Creek Parkway	c.1931	Contributing Site
Railroad Bridge (P-40-0571)	c.1890	Contributing Structure
Maintenance Building	c.1935	Contributing Building
Oak Creek Parkway Drive	1931	Contributing Structure
Vehicular Bridge (P-40-0740)	1931	Contributing Structure
Vehicular Bridge (P-40-0936)	1931	Contributing Structure
Mill Pond Dam	1932	Contributing Structure
Warming House	c.1935	Contributing Building
Pedestrian Bridge	c.1945	Contributing Structure
Baseball diamond	c.1980	Noncontributing Structure
Tennis Courts	c.2005	Noncontributing Structure
Pedestrian Bridge	c.1945	Contributing Structure
Modern Utility Building	c.2000	Noncontributing Building
Modern Utility Building	c.2000	Noncontributing Building
Vehicular Bridge (B-40-0521-81)	c.2002	Noncontributing Structure
Vehicular Bridge (B-40-0672)	2002	Noncontributing Structure
Vehicular Bridge (B-40-0218)	2002	Noncontributing Structure
Vehicular Bridge (B-40-0026)	1999	Noncontributing Structure
Vehicular Bridge (B-40-0601)	1992	Noncontributing Structure
Vehicular Bridge (B-40-0714)	2008	Noncontributing Structure

The following text describes the Parkway in greater detail in segments beginning at the eastern terminus.

Grant Park to Mill Road

The Parkway begins at the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue, Grant Park Drive, and Oak Creek Drive, at the southern end of Grant Park and the Grant Park Golf Course. At this point, a modern Oak Creek Parkway sign marks the beginning of the route, which also includes pendant light posts. Concrete curb and gutter are also in place. The Drive slopes gently downhill as it winds southwesterly from its terminus and begins to curve northwest as it intersects Oak Creek. Thick vegetation lines both sides of the Parkway, and a narrow, paved pedestrian path is situated along the west side of the Drive. A

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) bridge ID numbers are included when known.

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Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

modern concrete girder bridge B-40-0218 (noncontributing) carries the Drive over Oak Creek. Constructed in 2002, the vehicular bridge was built using materials similar to those of the original structure. The bridge's abutments are faced in a coursed stone veneer, and the parapet includes four lines of squared metal rails running between a series of coursed limestone pilasters capped in concrete.

A single story maintenance building (contributing) with a rectangular plan is located west of the 2002 vehicular bridge. Originally constructed c.1935, the building is composed of two sections; the western half of the building is sheathed in brick set in a common bond and is covered by a hip roof, while the eastern half is constructed of concrete block and covered by a side gable roof. Two rows of corbelled brick run beneath the roofline on the brick half of the north elevation, and two windows are centrally located within this section of the building. The windows are covered in wire mesh screens and feature brick sills. A single door is located on the west elevation and several vents perforate the brick half of the building on the north and west elevations. A metal double-door is located on the concrete block half of the north facade. Vertical wood siding is located in the east gable end.

A c.1931 segmented, random ashlar limestone retaining wall lines a short section of the southern edge of the Drive west of the maintenance building. Slightly west of its endpoint a second limestone retaining wall begins on the north side of the Drive. A cut limestone staircase located at the eastern end of the northern retaining wall leads up a hill to an unpaved pedestrian path through a wooded area. As the northern retaining wall tapers down towards its western terminus, a cutaway limestone bench is located within the wall. A paved pedestrian walkway and bike path parallels the north side of the Drive along this stretch. An earthen pedestrian trail leads from the Drive through the wooded area alongside the northern edge of Oak Creek. The trail extends to the intersection of the Drive and Mill Road, and is well worn and easy to follow.

Bridge P-40-740 (contributing) carries the Drive west over Oak Creek, just prior to its intersection with Mill Road. Constructed in 1931, the concrete arch with limestone veneer is a 30 foot-span topped by a wooden railing. A modern, concrete retaining wall lines the northwest bank of Oak Creek on the north side of the bridge, and a historic, random ashlar limestone retaining wall lines the southern bank of Oak Creek on the south side of the bridge. A cut limestone culvert is situated within the south retaining wall, providing an outlet for a second, smaller waterway.

Mill Road to North Chicago Avenue (STH 32)

Bridge P-40-936 (contributing) carries Mill Road over Oak Creek at the intersection with the Parkway Drive. Constructed in 1931 of concrete with a cut limestone veneer, the arch is a 30-foot span and features a wooden railing. A concrete dam, built in 1932 (contributing), with stone facing is located

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immediately west of this bridge, and separates Oak Creek from Mill Pond.² The Drive curves around the north side of Mill pond just west of the intersection with Mill Road. Concrete curb and gutter line both sides of the drive, and streetlights remain consistent. A concrete sidewalk also runs parallel to the Drive along the north bank of Mill pond.

A c.1935 warming house (contributing) is located on the south bank of Mill pond. This one story building has a rectangular plan and is sheathed in randomly coursed ashlar block. The side gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles and is supported by exposed rafters and large wooden corner brackets. A one room, side gable ell is located at each end wall. A large, five-part box bay with six-over-six, double hung sash separated by wide wood mullions and a six-part transom window is located on the north facade. Pairs of six-over-six, double hung sash with six-pane transoms are also located on each end wall of the central mass. Each side ell has a single fixed window on the end wall and on the north facade. All windows rest upon concrete sills, with concrete lintels. Double entry doors with concrete surrounds are located on the north facade at either side of the box bay. These doors are accessed by a stone terrace enclosed by a wooden balustrade that extends across the north elevation. A curved ashlar block balustrade projects from both ends of the facade and leads down a single flight of concrete stairs to a concrete patio at the edge of Mill pond. At this point, two concrete docks project slightly out over the water.

Two newly replaced bridges (noncontributing) are located northwest of Mill pond. Bridge B-40-0714 was constructed in 2008, and bridge B-40-0026 was constructed in 1999. Both concrete girder vehicular bridges are stylistically consistent with the other replacement bridges within the Parkway and are constructed of materials similar to the original Parkway structures. The bridges display a cut stone veneer with randomly coursed ashlar pilasters supporting four rows of steel rails along each side elevation. A concrete curb and gutter and standard light poles and fixtures flank this segment of the Drive. Maintained open spaces are located at varying points on either side of this segment of the Drive. A small memorial is located south of the creek along STH 32.

North Chicago Avenue (STH 32) to 15th Avenue

A c.2002 vehicular bridge B 40-521-81 (noncontributing) is located immediately south of the intersection of North Chicago Avenue (STH 32) and the Parkway Drive and carries STH 32 over Oak Creek. Consistent with the modern replacement bridges throughout the Parkway, the STH 32 bridge features a cut stone veneer with randomly coursed ashlar posts supporting rows of steel rails along each side elevation.

² This dam replaced a previous dam on Oak Creek at this site. The Mill Pond is a pre-existing landscape element that was included in and adapted to the Park Commission's plans.

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Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Past the intersection with STH 32, the Drive angles north and the appearance of the Parkway changes slightly. Although the Drive is lined with concrete curb and gutter, the street lights are dissimilar and private residences are located along the northeast side of the Drive along this segment. Bridge B-40-0601 (noncontributing) was constructed in 1992, and is located slightly west of the intersection of Oak Street and the Parkway Drive. The girder bridge is constructed of concrete with a stone veneer and a wooden railing along each side elevation. An asphalt bike and pedestrian path runs along the north edge of the Drive and a maintained grassy open space separates the Drive from Oak Creek. A c.1945 timber pedestrian bridge (contributing) constructed of wooden planks set across two support logs with simple wood railings leads from the Parkway to a residential neighborhood to the north.

South of Elm Street the Drive turns due west. The Chicago and NorthWestern Railroad bridge P-40-0571 (contributing), a c.1890 two-span arch with limestone veneer, carries a now-removed rail line across both the Drive and the adjacent Oak Creek. One arch spans a sidewalk and the creek bed, while the second arch spans the Drive. Beyond this bridge and west to the intersection with 15th Avenue, the Drive curves gently along Oak Creek. Concrete curb and gutter continue along the Drive, as well as a concrete sidewalk along the north edge of the roadway. Maintained open grassy space separates the Drive from Oak Creek.

15th Avenue to Rawson Avenue

The appearance of the Parkway remains consistent westward through the intersection with 15th Avenue as it curves and meanders south. The open, grassy spaces on either side of the Drive are wide, and more level than in other segments of the Parkway. Vehicular bridge B-40-672 (noncontributing) constructed in 2002 carries 15th Avenue over Oak Creek immediately north of the Drive. The concrete girder bridge features a cut stone veneer with coursed ashlar pilasters supporting rows of steel rails along each side. An open recreation area with a modern playground and pedestrian paths is located on the north side of Oak Creek west of 15th Avenue. A large recreation field and a c.1980 baseball diamond (noncontributing) and eight c.2005 tennis courts (noncontributing) is located south of the creek and west of 15th Avenue. A one room, single story utility shed (noncontributing) with a hip roof and square plan is located on the western edge of the parkway boundary. Constructed c.2000, the building lacks windows and is sheathed in vinyl siding. A concrete retaining wall is located south of the utility shed, and supports both the east and west banks of Oak Creek. A second timber pedestrian bridge (contributing) constructed c.1945 and identical to the pedestrian bridge located between North Chicago Avenue and 15th Avenue, crosses Oak Creek parallel to Beech Street south of the utility shed.

A one room, single story building (noncontributing) with a hip roof and square plan is located on the western edge of the Drive, just south of the retaining wall. Constructed c.2000, the building is identical to the utility shed to its north. It lacks windows and is sheathed in vinyl siding. Across from

Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8-86)

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this building is a large, open grassy area traversed by concrete pedestrian and bike paths and separating the Drive from the residential neighborhood to the east. Immediately south of this grassy area is the intersection with Rawson Avenue, at which point the appearance of the Drive and the landscape change dramatically, signaling the end of the Oak Creek Parkway. Oak Creek continues on a southwesterly course, and scattered county-owned parcels line the creek bed; however, the open green spaces and the Drive terminate as the area becomes more commercial than residential and recreational. The county-owned parcels were acquired more recently and do not represent the development plan from the 1931-1932 *Biennial Report*.

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

(Mar	licable National Register Criteria k "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria fying the property for the National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
<u>X</u> A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
_ B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
<u>X</u> C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1931-1960
_D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates 1931, 1932, 1935
	eria Considerations k "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	
Prop	erty is:	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)
_ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A
_B	removed from its original location.	·
_C	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
_D	a cemetery.	N/A
_E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
F	a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder
_G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Boerner, Alfred

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Statement of Significance

The Oak Creek Parkway meets National Register Criterion A: Community Planning and Development and Criterion C: Landscape Architecture. The Parkway is locally significant as an individual component in the Milwaukee County Parkway System, which was largely constructed under Depression-era federal work relief efforts. The Oak Creek Parkway was designed by Alfred Boerner³ as a component in a large chain of parkways that encircled Milwaukee County. It is largely intact and the original intention of the parkway plan is clearly visible. The period of significance extends from 1931, when construction of the Oak Creek Parkway Drive began, to 1960, when the National Register's 50-year cutoff is reached.

The Oak Creek Parkway is one of nine parkways, established between 1923 and 1960, that are addressed in the Multiple Property Document (MPD), "The Milwaukee County Parkway System." As such, the Parkway is linked to the associated historic contexts of "Community Planning and Development in Milwaukee County, 1923-1960," "Federal Work Relief Programs in Milwaukee County, 1933-1942," and "Landscape Architecture in the Milwaukee County Parkway System, 1923-1960," as outlined in the MPD.

History of the Oak Creek Parkway

Charles B. Whitnall included the Oak Creek Parkway in his initial study for the Milwaukee County Parkway System. The Parkway would connect Grant Park, the southernmost park of Lake Michigan Parkway South, with the Root River Parkway. Plans for the first segment were adopted by the county board in 1926. Land for this Parkway segment, which followed Oak Creek from Lake Michigan to the Chicago and NorthWestern Railroad bridge, just west of 11th Avenue, was acquired by means of condemnation and an assessment of benefits and damages in 1930. Landowners dedicated additional land in 1932, 1934, and 1936.⁴

In 1929 and 1930 the Milwaukee County Park Commission's planning department prepared plans for the parkway unit, which included sketches for five limestone veneered bridges. The 1931-1932

³ Alfred L. Boerner served as landscape architect in the Milwaukee County Regional Planning Department from 1926 to 1952. In 1952 he replaced George Hansen as Superintendent of Parks and served in that capacity until 1955. Though Boerner arrived in Milwaukee County shortly after the county parkway system had been conceived, it was many of his designs that made the parkway system a reality. Boerner's designs implemented the proposed plans by Whitnall and the Park Commission.

⁴ Milwaukee County Park Commission and Milwaukee County Regional Planning Department, *Annual Report for the year 1926* (Milwaukee: Milwaukee County Regional Planning Department, 1927), 40; Milwaukee County Park Commission and Milwaukee County Regional Planning Department, *Biennial Report: 1929-1930* (Milwaukee: Court House, 1930), 39; Milwaukee County Regional Planning Department and Milwaukee County Park Commission, *Quadrennial Report: 1933-1936* (Milwaukee: Court House, 1937), 36.

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Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Biennial Report included an illustrated plan for the junction of Grant Park and Oak Creek Parkway. This plan featured a curvilinear drive that alternated along the north and south sides of the creek and abundant plantings. During 1931 and 1932, Milwaukee County Department of Outdoor Relief (DOR) workers laid more than one mile of macadam pavement from Grant Park to North Chicago Avenue. Additionally, workers constructed concrete curb and gutter, installed storm sewers, and laid black-top walks. By 1936 this Parkway segment was complete. It encompassed 99.3 acres of land and featured one shelter, a mill pond, a ravine, dam, 1.75 miles of drive, and a bridle path.⁵

Works Progress Administration (WPA)-funded labor completed erosion control along Oak Creek by adding retaining walls and widening and deepening the creek channel in 1943. A footbridge at an unspecified location was constructed in 1948. After federal funding ceased, the Park Commission added a Parkway segment along Oak Creek from Rawson Avenue to the railroad tracks west of Pennsylvania Avenue. Work began in 1949 and the segment was completed in 1956. Milwaukee County continued to acquire parcels of land along Oak Creek after 1960. Most of these parcels are discontiguous and are located south of Rawson Avenue.

An informal recreational area located between the Drive and 15th Avenue near South Milwaukee High School was developed between 1956 and 1963, according to aerial photographs. By 1963 the open area included informal sand lots, which may have served as baseball fields. The current baseball diamond was installed c.1980, and portable bleachers have since been added to the site. Based on aerial photographs, a cluster of eight tennis courts were added to this recreational area c.2005.⁷

Rustic Design of the Oak Creek Parkway

The Oak Creek Parkway is a good representative example of a designed landscape property type. In particular, the Parkway is unified throughout the Drive through the use of a rustic design aesthetic that is applied to the Parkway's buildings, retaining walls, dam, culverts, and bridges.

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Milwaukee County Park Commission and Milwaukee County Regional Planning Department, Biennial Report: 1929-1930, 43; Milwaukee County Regional Planning Department and Milwaukee County Park Commission, Biennial Report: 1931-1932 (Milwaukee: Court House, 1933), 41; Milwaukee County Regional Planning Department and Milwaukee County Park Commission, Quadrennial Report: 1933-1936, 36.

⁶ Milwaukee County Park Commission and Milwaukee County Regional Planning Board, Quadredecennial Report: 1937-1950 Inclusive (Milwaukee: Court House, 1951), 113-115.

⁷ Milwaukee County Aerial Photographs: 1956, 1963, 1995, and 2005 http://maps.milwaukeecounty.org/Geocortex/Essentials/Web/Viewer.aspx?Site=PUBLIC (accessed 22 January 2010).

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Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Rustic architecture emerged from a tradition of domestic and resort architecture in rugged and scenic places such as the coast of Maine, the Adirondacks of New York, the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Sierra Madre of California and was characterized by the use of natural, local materials and handcrafted finishes. As the idea of developing nature and wilderness for personal pleasure extended throughout America, an increasing number of public parks, at the local, state, and national levels, adopted the rustic style of architecture for numerous park structures.⁸

In the case of the Oak Creek Parkway, much of the rustic design aesthetic was the result of CCC and WPA labor work during the Depression era, which utilized local materials, including timber and limestone, to build bridges, retaining walls, and comfort stations. Examples of Rustic architecture within the Parkway include a c.1935 warming house adjacent to the mill pond and a c.1935 brick maintenance building. Additionally, WPA workers installed limestone retaining walls and bridges with limestone veneer throughout the Parkway which reflect the tenets of rustic design through their use of natural, local materials and handcrafted finishes.

Integrity

Currently, the initial segment of the Parkway generally follows the original alignment the development plan included in the 1931-1932 *Biennial Report*. A parkway drive follows Oak Creek, alternating on both sides of the creek, from Grant Park to Rawson Avenue at 15th Avenue. Segments of the Oak Creek Parkway feature natural plantings, as well as characteristic elements, including the mill pond, open recreation spaces and picnic areas consistent with early development plans. Several of the masonry veneered bridges have recently been replaced with modern spans. However, most of these modern bridges reflect the original design intent of the parkway and feature rustic materials. Due to the scale of the intrusions relative to the size of the Parkway as a whole, the addition of a c.1980 baseball field and c.2005 tennis courts in the northwest corner of the Parkway do not detract from the Parkway's integrity. The addition of active recreational facilities throughout the Parkway ensures that the parkway land continues to serve the recreational and athletic needs of the adjacent community and high school.

Although the Parkway has been slightly altered, it still conveys its original intention as a component within the overall system of parkways. The major features that contribute to the overall significance of the site, including the creek, park drive, and natural setting, are still present.

⁸ Linda F. McClelland, "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks," (National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, August 1995), E: 27.

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Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Conclusion

The Oak Creek Parkway meets National Register Criterion A: Community Planning and Development as a significant component in the Milwaukee County parkway system, which was implemented with federal aid work relief. In accordance with the registration requirements of the Milwaukee County Parkway System MPD, the Parkway is associated with the overall parkway system as it was designed, developed, and managed by the Milwaukee County Park Commission between 1923 and 1960. Moreover, the Parkway has a direct and illustrated association with Whitnall's original vision for a county-wide parkway system – it was identified in Whitnall's 1923 map for a parkway system and plans were provided in the County's 1931-1932 Biennial Report. Although several of the Parkway's resources, including the mill pond and associated dam, pre-date the parkway system, they were included in Whitnall's 1923 vision for a unified system of public green space and became incorporated into and associated with the system during parkway implementation. The millpond became part of the recreational use of the parkway with the warming house added at this location to facilitate the pond's use for skating during the winter months.

Additionally, the Oak Creek Parkway reflects the aims of the Milwaukee County Park Commissioners who advocated developing a parkway system to relieve urban congestion, provide a hygienic landscape, provide outdoor recreational spaces, increase adjacent property values, and control flood-prone watersheds. The Parkway also maintains a strong association with federal aid work relief in Milwaukee County as much of the Parkway's implementation occurred under the umbrella of federal work-relief efforts. CCC and WPA labor completed development tasks while operating out of camps along the Parkway. The Oak Creek Parkway retains strong integrity of location, design, setting, association, and feeling. Alterations to the Parkway, including the addition of modern bridges, ensure that the Parkway will continue to function into the twenty-first century.

The Oak Creek Parkway also meets National Register Criterion C: Landscape Architecture as a good representative example of a designed landscape property type. In accordance with the registration requirements of the Milwaukee County Parkway System MPD, the Parkway is unified through the use of a rustic design aesthetic, including the use of natural local materials, and handcrafted masonry finishes, which are applied to the Parkway's building, retaining walls, dam, culverts, and bridges. Despite slight alterations to the Parkway, it continues to demonstrate the design intent of parkway planning and development in Milwaukee County. The setting of the parkway, along the creek, with vistas of natural vegetation interspersed with open areas containing specimen plants reflects the design aesthetic of the parkway system. As stated in the Milwaukee County Parkway System MPD's registration requirements, it is not necessary for an eligible parkway to look exactly like its original design as long as it retains a significant amount of its characteristic features to make its historic character clearly recognizable. The Oak Creek Parkway includes a circulation system, vegetation, watershed feature, retaining walls, buildings, and bridges. These characteristic features contribute to

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

the Parkway's ability to serve as a good representative example of its period of design and construction and its landscape type.

Archaeological Potential

A historical marker located along Mill Road at the Mill Pond dam identifies the Mill Pond as the location of the first industry leading to the settlement of the Town of Oak Creek. As a result, there is a potential for historic archaeological remains near this original settlement site. Within the remainder of the Parkway, research indicates that the structures and buildings present are original to their respective sites and, therefore, it is unlikely that any historic archaeological remains are located within this portion of the Parkway boundary. The literature indicates the presence of habitation and ceremonial sites in the vicinity of the current parkway. These uses date back 1000 years or more and continued until the removal of Native Americans in the 19th century. Increase Lapham mentioned the presence of conical mounds in the area of the mill pond; however, no surface indications of the site remain. It is likely that any remains of pre-European cultures located within the district would have been greatly disturbed by the building activity associated with subsequent development in the area.

Oak Creek Parkway	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service);

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic
 - landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

X State Historic Preservation Office

- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
 - Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 178.8 Acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	428570	4752495	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	16	428800	4752845	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	

3	16	429635	4752560	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	16	431135	4750752	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
X		ntinuation Sh		

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Christine Long, Emily Pettis and Mollie Douglas					
organization	Mead & Hunt			date	February 2010	
street & number	6501 Watts Road			telephone	(608) 273-6380	
city or town	Madison	state	WI	zip code	53719	

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Section 9 Page 1

Oak Creek Parkway, South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Bibliography

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- Milwaukee County Park Commission and Milwaukee County Regional Planning Board. Quadredecennial Report: 1937-1950 Inclusive. Milwaukee: Court House, 1951.
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- Newton, Norman T. Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971.
- Tishler, William H. "H.W.S. Cleveland." In American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places. Edited by William H. Tishler. Building Watchers Series. Washington D.C.: Preservation Press, 1989.
- Wyatt, Barbara, ed. Cultural Resource-Management in Wisconsin, Vol. II. Madison, Wis.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1 Oak Creek Parkway
South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

16	431144	4750738
Zone	Easting	Northing
16	430590	4750910
Zone	Easting	Northing
16	429835	4751560
Zone	Easting	Northing
16	429185	4752415
Zone	Easting	Northing
16	428880	4752250
Zone	Easting	Northing
16	428758	4751578
Zone	Easting	Northing
16	428644	4751581
Zone	Easting	Northing
16	428555	4751960
Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The historic boundary surrounding the 2.75-mile Oak Creek Parkway is an irregular polygon that is shown on the attached historic boundary maps. The boundary follows the course of Oak Creek from the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue and Oak Creek Parkway Drive at Grant Park, where the Drive begins, northwest and then south to its termination point at Rawson Avenue. The historic boundary includes Oak Creek, the Drive, and park space along the creek corridor. The small portion of Oak Creek between the Drive and Lake Michigan that is not adjacent to the Drive and county-owned Parkway parcels is omitted from the boundary.

Between 9th Avenue and 5th Avenue a portion of the former railroad right-of-way is currently owned by Grant Park Commons, LLC. Although the southeast corner of the Warming House building extends into this right-of-way, the structure has always been associated with the parkway. Therefore,

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 2

Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

the historic boundary was delineated to include the entire building. In this area, the railroad right-ofway and 45' contour line were used to delineate the historic boundary. The 45' contour line allows for the entire Warming House building to be included in the historic boundary.

Boundary Justification:

The historic boundary was defined to include property historically associated with the Oak Creek Parkway and property owned by Milwaukee County. With the exception of the area immediately south of the Mill Pond Warming House, the limits of county-owned parcels and the back edge of pavement along the Parkway Drive were used to define the historic boundary. Although Oak Creek continues south of Rawson Avenue and County-owned parcels are located along the creek, this land was acquired in more recent years and does not reflect the original parkway design intent. Therefore, Rawson Avenue forms the southern boundary.

Grant Park and the associated Golf Course and Pitch 'n' Putt course along Hawthorne Avenue are not included within the Parkway boundary as they are distinct entities within the Milwaukee County Parkway System and merit National Register eligibility independently from the Parkway.

Oak Creek Parkway Milwaukee County Wisconsin
Name of Property County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title

organization			date	
street&number			telephone	
city or town	state	WI	zip code	

name/title

organization			date	
street&number			telephone	
city or town	state	WI	zip code	

name/title

organization		date	
street&number		telephone	
city or town	state	zip code	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Photos Page 1 South M

Section Photos Page 1

Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Oak Creek Parkway
City of South Milwaukee
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, 53172
Photographer: Mead & Hunt, Inc., June 2007
Negatives in the collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society

Photograph 1 of 24
Street light and sign - intersection of Grant Park and Hawthorne Avenue
View looking east

Photograph 2 of 24 Parkway Drive with retaining wall View looking west

Photograph 3 of 24
Bridge at western end of Oak Creek Parkway Drive – southwest elevation
View looking northwest

Photograph 4 of 24
Maintenance building – north and west elevations
View looking southeast

Photograph 5 of 24 Stone stairway through retaining wall View looking north

Photograph 6 of 24 Stone bench within retaining wall View looking north

Photograph 7 of 24 Bridge P-40-740 – southwest elevation View looking northeast

Photograph 8 of 24 Retaining wall View looking south

United States Department of the Interior

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National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Section Photos Page 2

Photograph 9 of 24
Bridge P-40-936 – east elevation
View looking west

Photograph 10 of 24 Warming house View looking southwest

Photograph 11 of 24 Mill pond with Parkway Drive View looking west

Photograph 12 of 24 Bridge B-40-0174— north elevation View looking southeast

Photograph 13 of 24
Bridge immediately east of STH 32 – southwest elevation
View looking west

Photograph 14 of 24 Bridge B-40-0521-81 – southeast elevation View looking northeast

Photograph 15 of 24 Parkway Drive between STH 32 and 15th Avenue View looking west

Photograph 16 of 24
Bridge between STH 32 and the railroad – southwest elevation
View looking northwest

Photograph 17 of 24
Pedestrian bridge – west elevation
View looking northeast

Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8-86)

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 3

Oak Creek Parkway South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Photograph 18 of 24
Railroad bridge – west elevation
View looking northwest

Photograph 19 of 24 Bridge B-40-0672 – east elevation View looking northwest

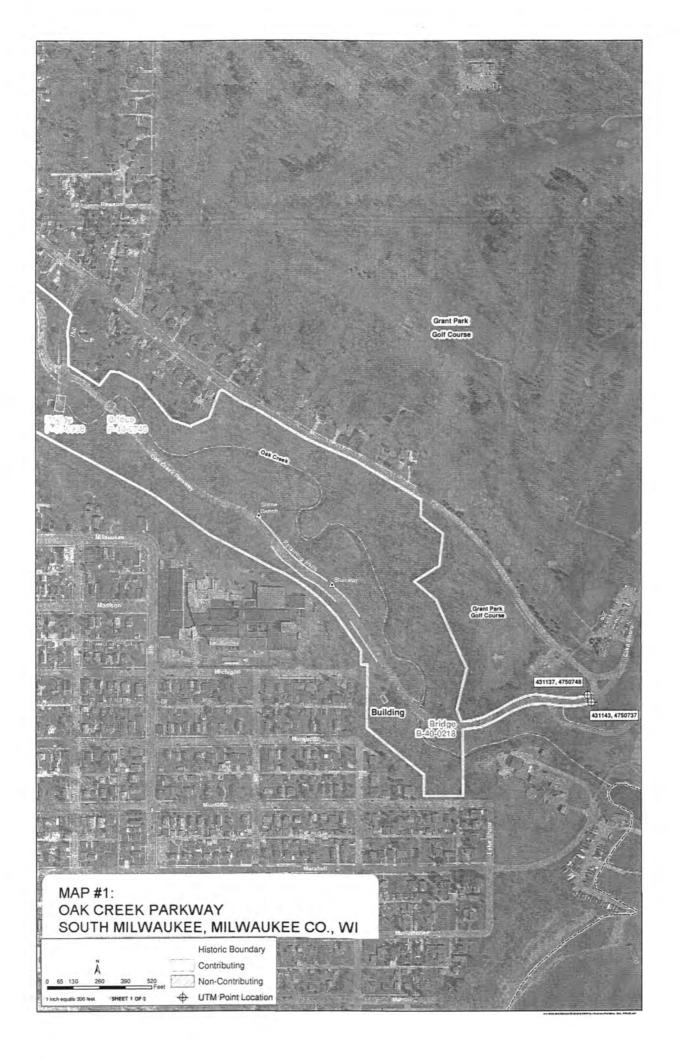
Photograph 20 of 24 Playground – north of Oak Creek Parkway Drive and west of 15th Avenue View looking west

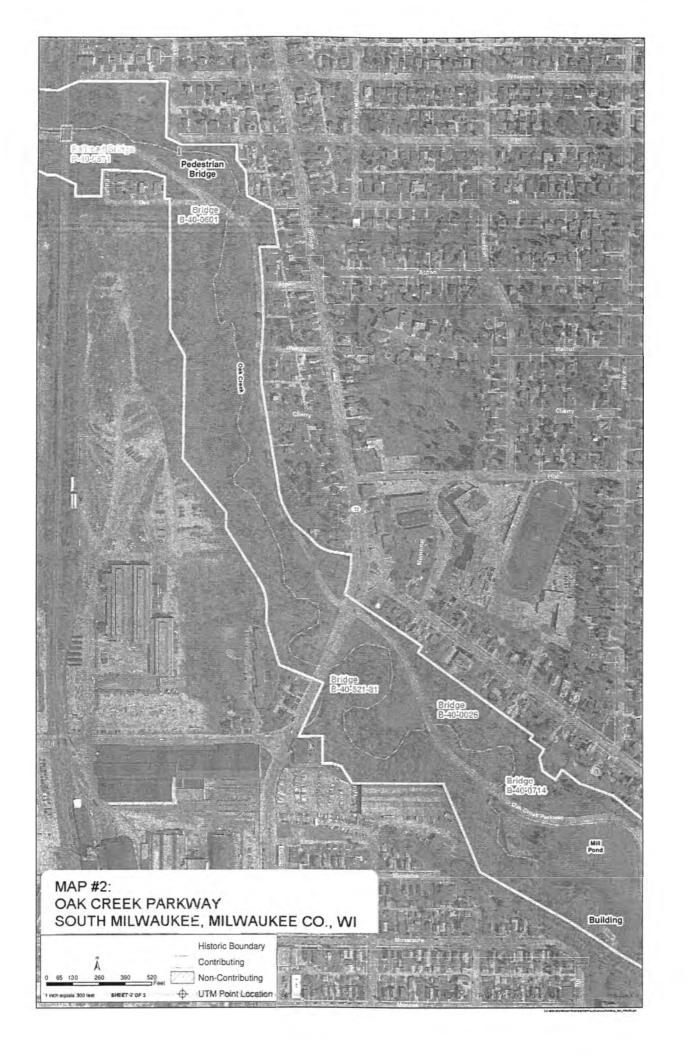
Photograph 21 of 24
Ball field/tennis courts – west of 15th Avenue
View looking east

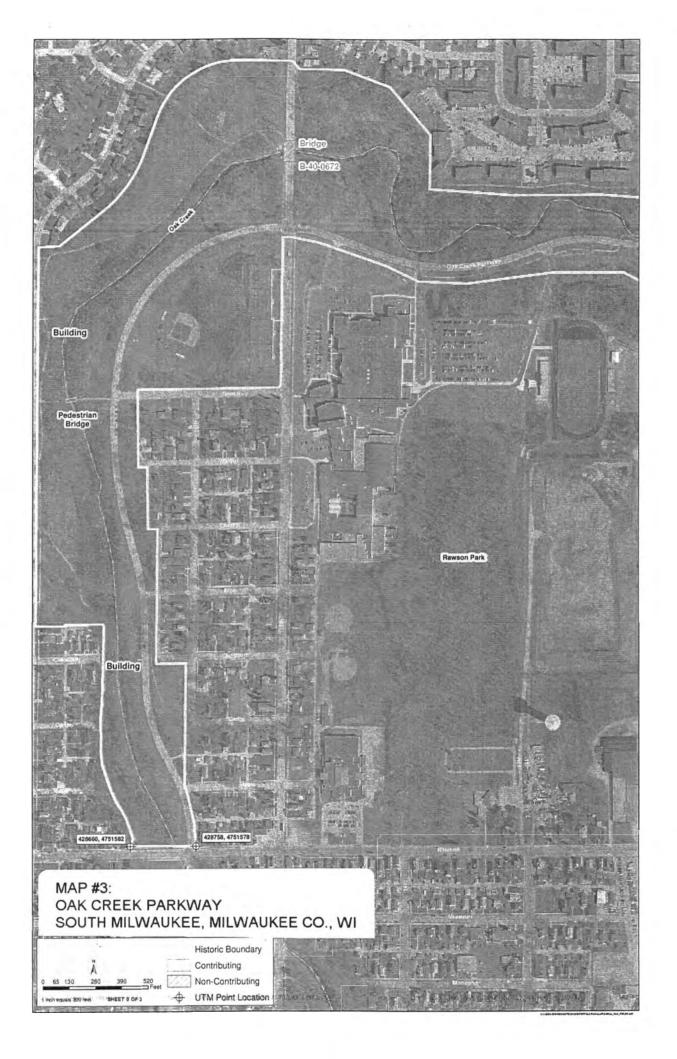
Photograph 22 of 24
Pedestrian bridge – across the Drive opposite Beech Street
View looking west

Photograph 23 of 24
Utility Shed – across Oak Creek opposite the baseball diamond
View looking southeast

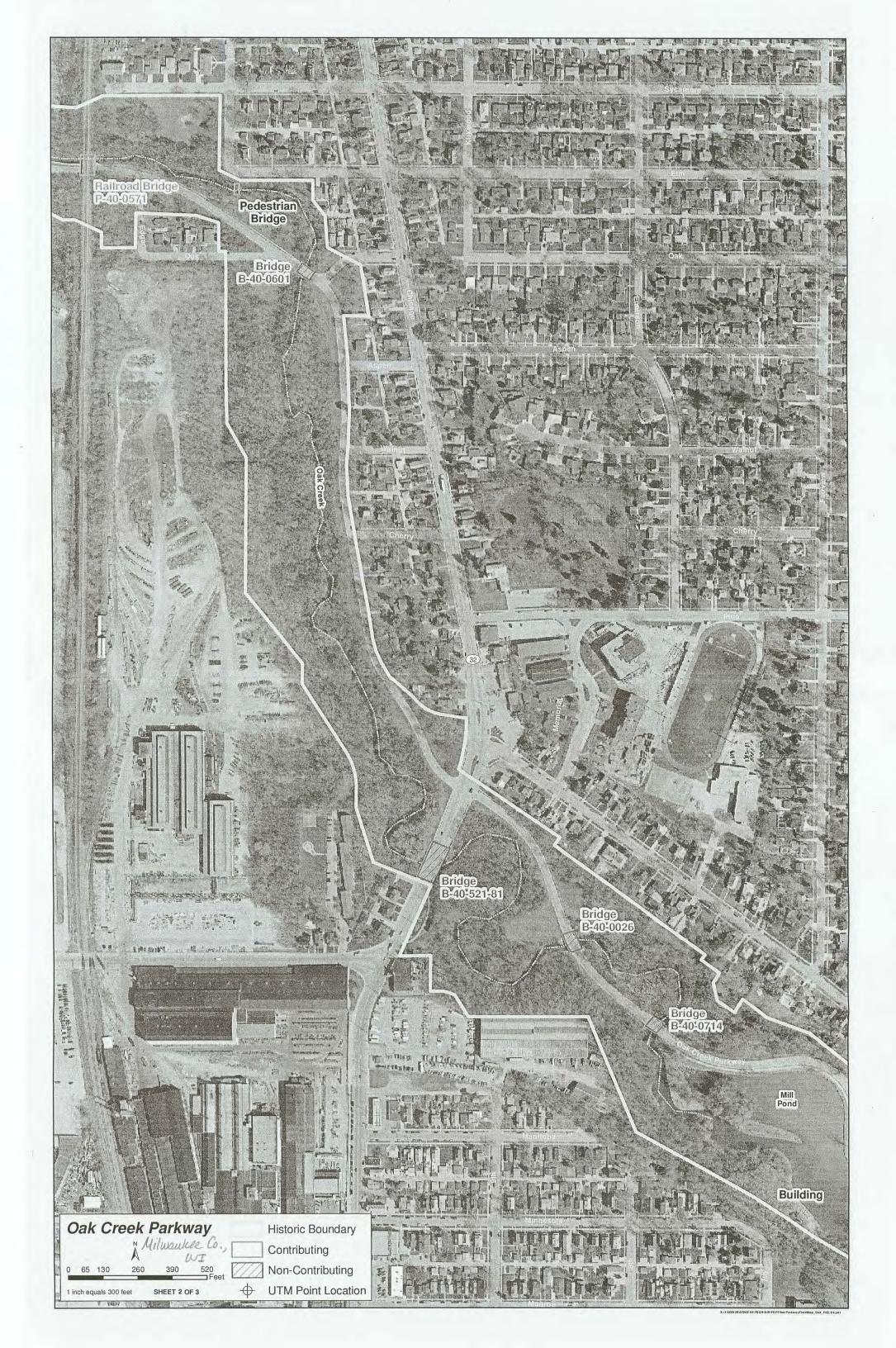
Photograph 24 of 24 Parkway Drive with utility shed View looking north

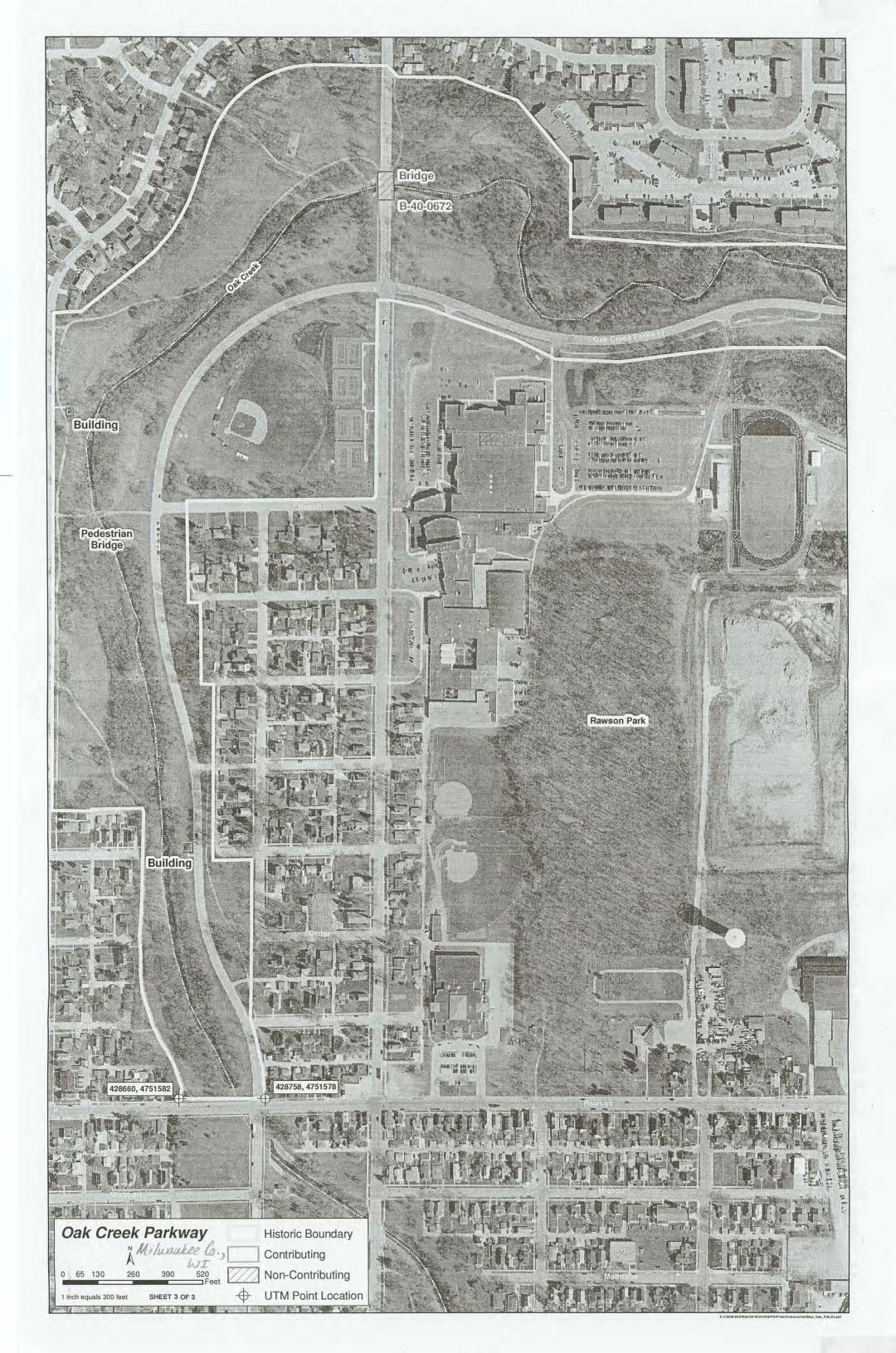


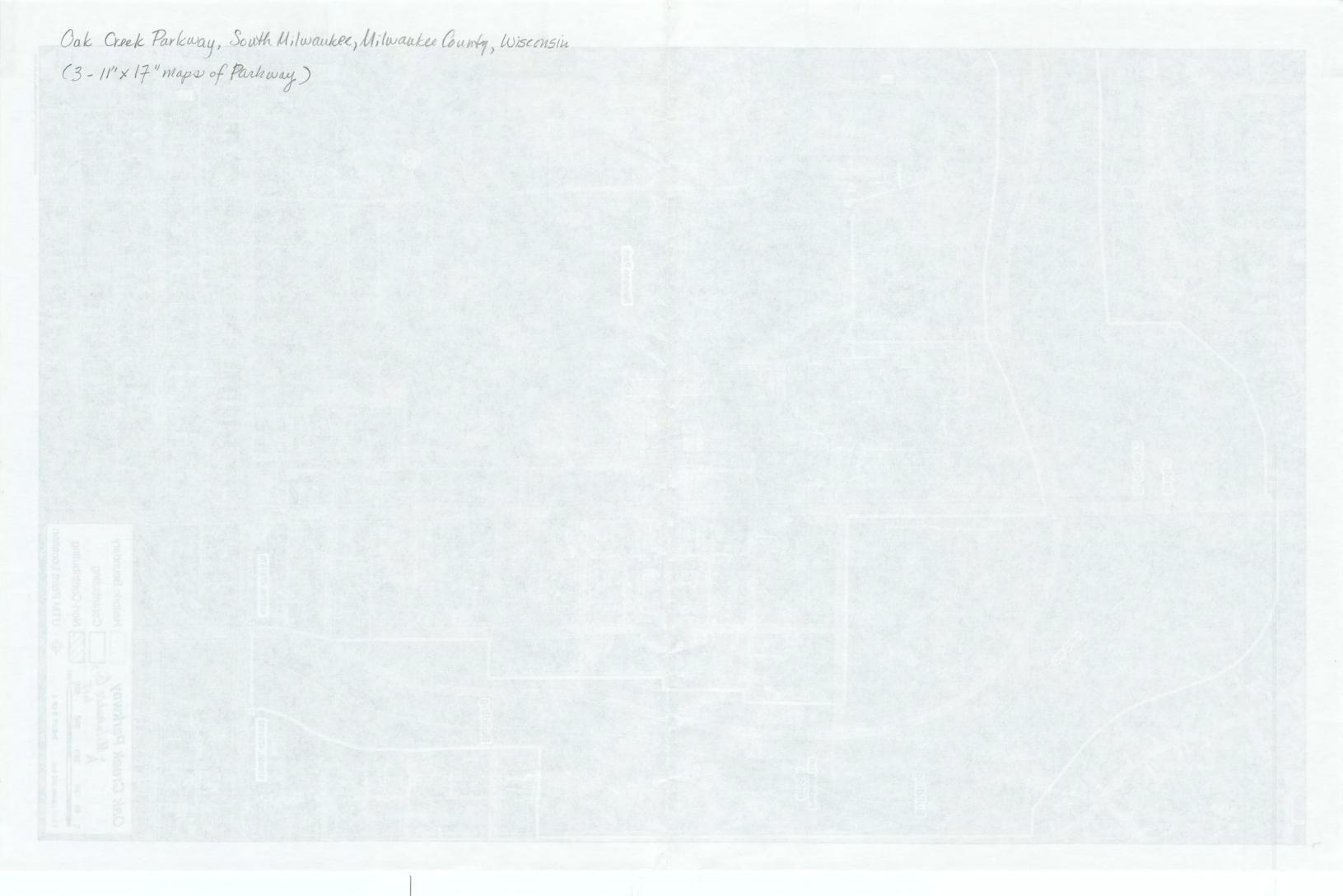












UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION	
PROPERTY Oak Creek Parkway NAME:	
MULTIPLE Milwaukee County Parkway System NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Milwaukee	
DATE RECEIVED: 5/20/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/10 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/27/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/0 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	10/11 05/11
REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000416	
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL:	
COMMENT WAIVER: N	
VACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6-27. // DATE	
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	
The National Register of Historic Places	
RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER DISCIPLINE	
TELEPHONE DATE	
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N	
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the	



Oak Creek Parkway
Milwankee County, Wisconsin
Med & Hunt
May 2008
Negatives in the collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society
Street Light and sign-intersection of Grant Park & Hawthorne Ave
View looking east
Photo 1 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway Milwaukee County, Wisconsin Medd & Hunt May, 2008 Negatives at Wisconsin Historical Society Park way Drive with retaining wall view facing west Photo 2 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway milwaukee County, Wisconsin Mead & Hunt May 2008 Negatives at Wisconsin Historical Society Bridge - side elevation view facing northwest Photo 3 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway
Mil waukee County, Wisconsin
Mead & Hunt
May 2008
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society
Maintenance Building - North and West elevations
View looking southeast
Photo 4 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
Mead & Hunt
May 2008
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society
Stone Stairway through retaining wall
View facing north
Photo 5 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin
Mead & Hunt
May 2008
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society
Stone bench within retaining wall
View facing north
Photo 6 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway
Milwaukee County, WI
Mead & Hunt
May 2008
Negatives in the Wisconsin Historical Society
Bridge - side (south) elevation
View facing north
Photo 7 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway Milwaukee County, WI Mead & Hunt May 2008 Negatives at Wisconsin Historical Society Retaining wall View looking South Photo 8 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway Milwaukee County, WI Mead & Hunt May 2008 Negatives at Wisconsin Historical Society Bridge - side (east) elevation View facing west photo 9 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway Milwaukee County, W/ Mead & Hunt May 2008 Negatives at Wisconsin Historical Society Warming House View facing south west photo 10 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway Milwaukee County, WI Mead & Hunt May 2008 Negatives at Wisconsin Historical Society lagoon and Parkway Drive View looking west Photo 11 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway Milwaukee County, W/ Mead & Hust may 2008 Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society Bridge B-40-0174 view facing SE Photo 12 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway Milwankee County, WI mead & Hunt May 2008 Negatives at Wisconsin Historical Society Bridge - side (south) elevation View facing west Photo 13 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway milwaukee County, W/ mead & Hust May 2008 Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society Bridge B-40-0521-81 view facing NE Photo 14 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway Milwankee County, WI Mead & Hunt May 2008 Negatives at Wisconsin Historical Society Park way Drive between Chicago & 16th Avenue. view facing West Photo 15 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway Milwankee County, WI Mead & Hunt May 2008 Negatives at Wisconsin Historical Society Bridge View facing west Photo 16 of 24



OAR CREEK PARKWAY

MILWAVKEE COUNTY, WI

MEAD & HUNT

MAY 2008

NEGATIVES AT WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE - SIDE (WEST) ELEVATION

VIEW LOOKING EAST

PHOTO 17 OF 24



OAR CREEK PARKWAY

MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WI

MEAD & HUNT

MAY 2008

NEGATIVES AT WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

RAILROAD BRIDGE - SIDE (WEST) ELEVATION

VIEW FACING EAST

PHOTO 180F24



Oak Creek Parkway milwankee County, WI meads think May 2008 Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society Bridge B-40-0672 View facing NW photo 19 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway Milwaukee County, WI mead & thust May 2008 Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society Playground north of Oak Creek Pkuy Drive and west of 15th Ave View facing west Photo 20 of 24



Oak Creek Parkway milwaukee County, WI Mead 4 Hust May 2008 Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society ball field be tennis courts west of 15th Ave View facing east Photo 21 of 24



OAK CREEK PARKWAY

MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WI

MEAD & HUNT

MAY 2008

NEGATIVES AT WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
VIEW FACING WEST

PHOTO 22 OF 24



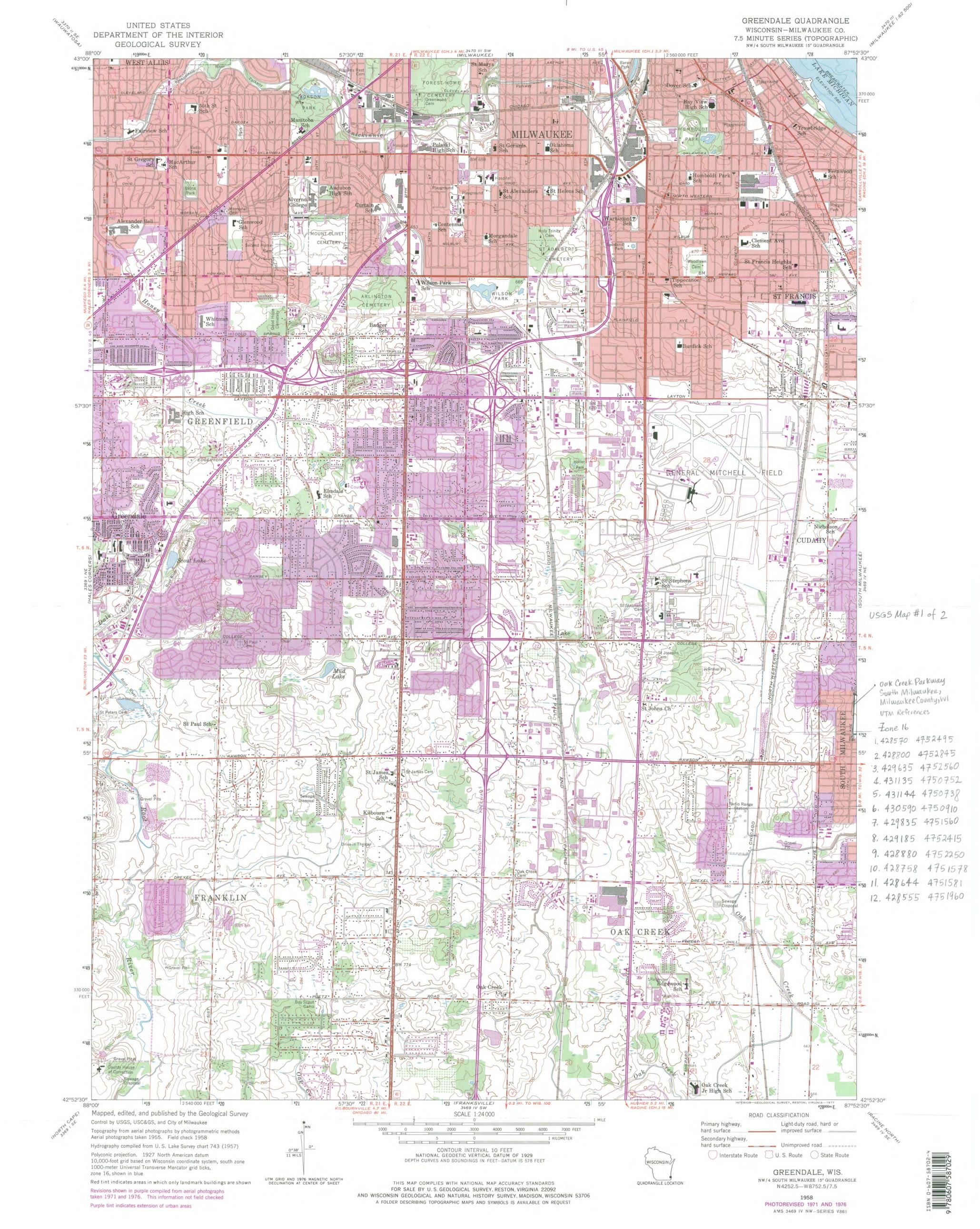
Oak Creek Parkway Milwaukee County, WI Mead & Hunt May 2008 Negatives at Wisconsin Historical Society Utility building Viewfacing southeast Photo 23 of 24



DAK CREEK PARKWAY MILWAUKEE COUNTY, WI MEAD & HUNT MAY 2008 NEGATIVES AT THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PARKWAY DRIVE AND UTILITY SHED

VIEW LOOKING NORTH

PHOTO 24 of 24



RECEIVED

AUG 1 1 2010

OBJECTION TO LISTING IN THE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DIV HIST PRES

Property Name: Grant Park (commons (Proposed)
I am sole owner of the property - I am part owner of the property (circle one)
Address of Property: Adjacent Oak (reck Parkury
City: South Milwarkee County: Milwarkee
In accordance with Section 101 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and Title 36, Part 60.6, of the Code of Federal Regulations, I hereby certify that I am the sole/part (circle one) owner of the property listed above and do hereby object to its listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In accordance with said law and regulations, I understand that my property will not be listed in the National Register, providing that I sign and have notarized this statement, and that I submit it to the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer prior to the meeting of the State Historic Preservation Review Board during which the nomination of my property will be considered. Signed: Date: 8-3-2000
Print or Type Name: RICHARD SCHUMACHER
Mailing Address: 730 ST, SYLVESTER OR,
City: <u>So. MILW.</u> State: <u>W/</u> Zip: <u>53172</u>
NOTARY State of Wisconsin, County of Milwan Kee
The above statement was subscribed and sworn before me this day of
August , 20,10
145.1/
Notary Public Signature
Brian C. Sajdak
My commission Expires: i> Perent





TO:	Keeper National Register of Historic Places
FROM:	Daina Penkiunas
The followin	National Register Nomination g materials are submitted on this 12th day of May 2011, on of the Oak Creek Parkway to the National Register of Historic
1	_ Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
	_ Multiple Property Documentation Form
24	_ Photograph(s)
	_ CD with electronic images
2	_ Original USGS map(s)
3	_ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
1	_ Piece(s) of correspondence
3	Other: Large 11" x 17" maps of Oak Creek Parkway [Note: These three large maps are copies on normal photocopy paper not bond paper. The scale and features of the Parkway are easier to note on these larger maps.]
COMMENT	`S:
	Please insure that this nomination is reviewed This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67 The enclosed owner objection(s) do do not constitute a majority of property owners. Other: