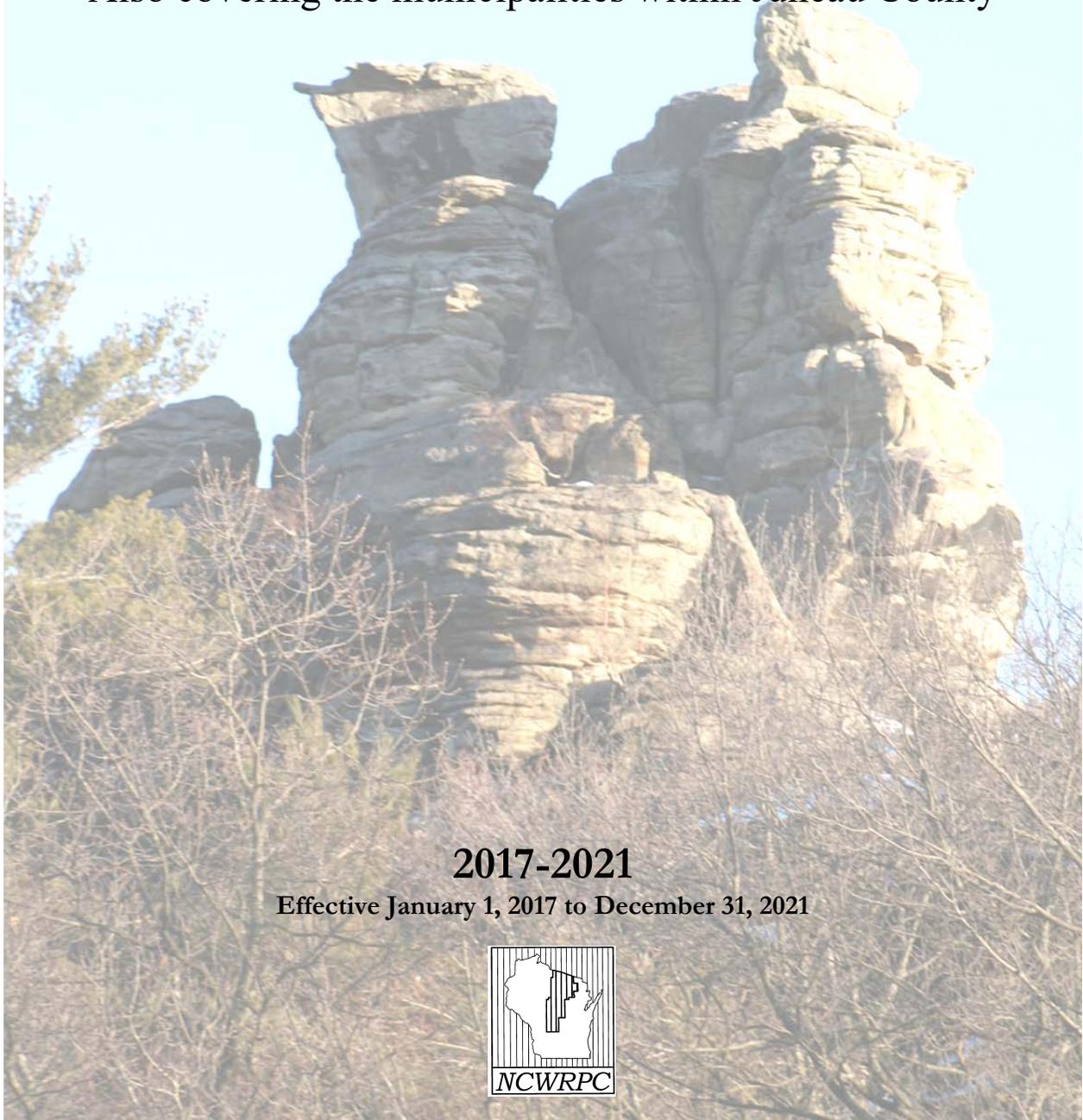


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# Juneau County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Also covering the municipalities within Juneau County



**2017-2021**

Effective January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021



Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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**February 2017**

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This plan was prepared under the direction of the Juneau County Land, Forestry, Parks, & Zoning Committee by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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# ABSTRACT

- TITLE:** JUNEAU COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
2017-2021 Effective January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021
- SUBJECT:** This report 1) Assesses the existing recreation system in Juneau County; 2) Identifies recreation needs based upon public input, past plans, and recreation standards; and 3) Establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.
- Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids to purchase land and to add facilities to existing outdoor recreation lands. The Juneau County Outdoor Recreation Plan is required to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and Wisconsin Stewardship Grant funding.
- Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.
- DATE:** **February 2017**
- AGENCY:** Forestry, and Parks Department  
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Mauston, WI 53948
- CONTACT:** Brian Loyd, Administrator  
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- DISCLAIMER:** This plan was prepared by the staff of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission under agreement with the above contact.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTERS:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. INTRODUCTION .....   | 1  |
| - Purpose .....   | 1  |
| - Statutory Base .....  | 1  |
| - Plan Components.....  | 1  |
| - Past Plans .....  | 2  |
| 2. DESCRIPTION OF JUNEAU COUNTY .....                         | 9  |
| - Physical Characteristics .....                              | 9  |
| - Social Characteristics .....                                | 12 |
| 3. EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES.....                        | 16 |
| - Introduction .....  | 16 |
| - Linear Facilities.....                                      | 16 |
| - Public Access Points to Water Bodies .....                  | 17 |
| - Points of Interest.....                                     | 17 |
| - County Forest.....  | 18 |
| - Community Forest.....                                       | 19 |
| - Forested Lands – Not State or County Owned .....            | 19 |
| - School District Facilities .....                            | 19 |
| - Private Outdoor Recreation Facilities.....                  | 21 |
| - Parks and Conservancy Areas .....                           | 22 |
| 4. OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT.....                   | 42 |
| - Introduction .....  | 42 |
| - Recommendations and Projects Completed from 2012-2016 ..... | 42 |
| - Public Participation.....                                   | 42 |
| - Past Plan Summaries of Public Content.....                  | 44 |
| - Other Plan References.....                                  | 44 |
| - Needs Driven Park Planning.....                             | 44 |
| 5. GOALS & OBJECTIVES.....                                    | 46 |
| 6. RECOMMENDATIONS.....                                       | 47 |
| - Countywide Recommendations .....                            | 47 |
| - City, Village, and Town Recommendations.....                | 50 |
| - Capital Improvements 2017-2021 .....                        | 52 |
| 7. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES .....                            | 54 |
| 8. PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING.....                               | 58 |

MAPS:

|        |  |    |
|--------|--|----|
| Map 1  | Potential Trails and Legacy Areas .....                  | 8  |
| Map 2  | Outdoor Recreation (County, State, Federal, & Town)..... | 31 |
| Map 3  | City of Mauston Outdoor Recreation.....                  | 32 |
| Map 4  | City of Elroy Outdoor Recreation .....                   | 33 |
| Map 5  | City of New Lisbon Outdoor Recreation .....              | 34 |
| Map 6  | Village of Camp Douglas Outdoor Recreation.....          | 35 |
| Map 7  | Village of Hustler Outdoor Recreation.....               | 36 |
| Map 8  | Village of Lyndon Station Outdoor Recreation.....        | 37 |
| Map 9  | Village of Necedah Outdoor Recreation.....               | 38 |
| Map 10 | Village of Union Center Outdoor Recreation .....         | 39 |
| Map 11 | Village of Wonewoc Outdoor Recreation .....              | 40 |
| Map 12 | County Forest Management Units.....                      | 41 |

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Outdoor Recreation Online Survey Results
- B. Park Design and Location Criteria
- C. State and Federal Financial Assistance Programs
- D. Juneau County Landfill Map
- E. Potential Hillsboro State Trail Modification In Union Center

# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this recreation plan is to provide continued direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of the county. This is accomplished through an inventory and analysis of outdoor recreational facilities, and the establishment of recommendations to meet identified needs.

Adoption of this plan by the Juneau County Board and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), will continue eligibility of the county and its local units of government for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), and Stewardship Funds. If a municipality wishes to cooperate with Juneau County and use this plan for grant applications it is not necessary for that municipality to adopt the plan individually. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Juneau County applies on their behalf.

Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

### STATUTORY BASE

This Outdoor Recreation Plan was prepared pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program. This section serves to “promote, encourage, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive long-range plan to acquire, maintain, and develop for public use, those areas of the state best adapted to the development of a comprehensive system of state and local outdoor recreation facilities and services...”

Submission of this adopted ORP to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the county and local units of government to apply for a variety of Federal and State Aids (Chapter NR 50.06(4), Wisconsin Administrative Code).

### PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs for county facilities and all local governments within Juneau County that don't have their own outdoor recreation plans.

Background information on Juneau County was compiled to develop an understanding of the environmental and social characteristics of the county and their meaning for outdoor recreation. An inventory of existing recreational facilities exists in Chapter 3 of this plan.

The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies. A combination of public survey compilation, standards analysis, and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were utilized to define recreational and open

space needs. Goals and objectives were created to guide the direction of recreational planning efforts within Juneau County.

The recommendations are general strategies and five-year action programs for recreation facility development. A series of possible tools to aid implementation of these recommendations are set forth. This plan concludes with a note on updating this plan to insure that it remains relevant to the needs of the county over the entire five-year span.

## PAST PLANS

Juneau County has been involved with recreation planning since 1971 when an *Outdoor Recreation Plan for Juneau County* was compiled and written by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In 1977, Comprehensive Planning Services developed a five-year outdoor recreation plan for the County. In 1989, the City of Elroy developed a plan for the City to address the specific issues relating to bike trail systems in the Elroy area. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) has prepared the *Juneau County Outdoor Recreation Plan* since 1990.

Summaries of plans that affect outdoor recreation:

### ***Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016***

**NOTE: This plan is being updated in 2016-2017.**

Every five years, the Wisconsin DNR publishes a SCORP as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. At its core, this SCORP is used to help allocate federal funds equitably among local communities, but the document also transcends many levels of outdoor recreation discussion and policy.

### ***North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan***

**NOTE: This plan is being updated in 2016-2017.**

This 2004 document is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region. Potential trails are identified and an improvement description was created by each county where trails existed, to facilitate how the plan can become reality cost effectively.

The routes for Juneau County are mainly a series of on-road routes throughout the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and on-road routes throughout Juneau County connecting the Omaha, Elroy-Sparta, Hillsboro, and 400 state trails.

### ***State Trails Network Plan***

This 2003 document clarifies the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) role and strategy in the provision of all types of trails. The plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors that would link existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. This statewide network of interconnected trails would be owned and maintained by municipalities, private entities, and partnerships of the two. Preserving transportation corridors, such as old rail lines, is specifically discussed as a very important strategy in the creation of recreational and alternative transportation corridors. These trails are shown on Map 1.

### **Segment 53—Wyeville to Mauston to Adams County Hwy Z**

This potential trail corridor is a combination of rail line and highway right-of-way that links via Juneau County's Omaha Trail to the Elroy-Sparta and "400" State Trails in Elroy. Rail line would provide the linkage from Wyeville to Mauston, and various roadways from Mauston east to the Wisconsin River.

### ***Petenwell and Castle Rock Flowages Comprehensive Management Plan***

The WDNR coordinated the creation of this 10-year plan in January 1996, to remediate the Petenwell and Castle Rock Flowages. Recreation, flora & fauna habitats, and aesthetics have been affected by a number of pollutants in both flowages. This plan addresses the water pollution causes, monitoring goals, and funding mechanisms to remediate the flowages.

### ***Buckhorn State Park Regional Analysis***

The WDNR created this report in February of 2005 for Buckhorn State Park. The analysis summarizes park visitation estimates, and camping demand at area state parks. RV camping needs for the area are described and how state parks can be improved to meet those needs.

### ***Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area Master Plan and Environmental Assessment***

The WDNR created this 1997 report after acquiring land from the Dells Boat Company, a subsidiary of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation in 1993. The master plan for this property calls for long-term management activities that will maintain and enhance the rare natural and scenic qualities of the natural area, while allowing compatible public uses.

The boundary for the project includes a total of 2,115 acres of land, which will expand current state ownership by 1,065 acres [as of 1997]. Along the Wisconsin River [directly north of Wisconsin Dells], the zones will average 200 feet in width, with a minimum width of 75 feet. In some locations the zone [along the river] may be wider than 200 feet, because topography and location of sensitive resources to be protected will determine the width.

The [WDNR's] policy is to purchase from willing sellers only. This policy will be adhered to for land acquisition at the Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area.

**Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056**

This report is a comprehensive inventory of the special places that will be critical to meeting future conservation and outdoor recreation needs for the next fifty years. Some of the questions asked to guide creation of this report were: Which lands and waters remain unprotected that will be critical for conserving our plants and animals and their habitats? What gaps exist now (and will likely emerge in the future) in providing abundant and satisfying outdoor recreation? How can we most effectively build upon the state's existing investment in protected lands to fill conservation and recreation gaps? What special places will our children and grandchildren wish we had protected? The study focused on identifying what of our state or regionally significant green infrastructure remains to be protected.

The report recommends protection of these lands by using federal, state, and local funding opportunities; along with possibly creating new kinds of incentives for landowners, working to draft comprehensive plans, or offering different types of technical assistance.

Each Juneau County Legacy Area is summarized below. 5 stars represents the highest level:

**BN Badlands**

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Size                      | Small    |
| Protection Initiated      | Limited  |
| Protection Remaining      | Moderate |
| Conservation Significance | ☆☆       |
| Recreation Potential      | ☆☆       |

**MW Middle Wisconsin River**

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Size                      | Large    |
| Protection Initiated      | Limited  |
| Protection Remaining      | Moderate |
| Conservation Significance | ☆☆       |
| Recreation Potential      | ☆☆☆☆☆    |

**BO Baraboo River**

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Size                      | Large    |
| Protection Initiated      | Moderate |
| Protection Remaining      | Moderate |
| Conservation Significance | ☆☆☆☆     |
| Recreation Potential      | ☆☆☆☆     |

**NC Necedah National Wildlife Refuge**

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Size                      | Medium      |
| Protection Initiated      | Substantial |
| Protection Remaining      | Limited     |
| Conservation Significance | ☆☆☆☆☆       |
| Recreation Potential      | ☆☆☆         |

**CF Central Wisconsin Forests**

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Size                      | Large       |
| Protection Initiated      | Substantial |
| Protection Remaining      | Limited     |
| Conservation Significance | ☆☆☆☆☆       |
| Recreation Potential      | ☆☆☆☆        |

**SM Meadow Valley State Wildlife Area**

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Size                      | Large       |
| Protection Initiated      | Substantial |
| Protection Remaining      | Limited     |
| Conservation Significance | ☆☆☆☆☆       |
| Recreation Potential      | ☆☆☆☆☆       |

**GC Greensand Cuesta**

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Size                      | Medium   |
| Protection Initiated      | Limited  |
| Protection Remaining      | Moderate |
| Conservation Significance | ☆☆☆      |
| Recreation Potential      | ☆☆☆      |

**YW Yellow (Juneau) River**

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Size                      | Large    |
| Protection Initiated      | Moderate |
| Protection Remaining      | Moderate |
| Conservation Significance | ☆☆☆☆☆    |
| Recreation Potential      | ☆☆       |

**LL Lower Lemonweir River**

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Size                      | Medium      |
| Protection Initiated      | Limited     |
| Protection Remaining      | Substantial |
| Conservation Significance | ☆☆☆         |
| Recreation Potential      | ☆☆          |

***City of Mauston Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2012-2016***

**NOTE: This plan is being updated in 2016-2017**

This plan (ORP) assesses the existing recreation system in the City of Mauston; identifies recreation needs based upon public input and recreation standards; sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating outdoor recreation improvements; and provides recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.

A variety of recommendations in the plan are based on the above goals. Also in the plan are lists of capital improvements for each park for the next 5-years.

See Mauston’s 2017-2021 ORP for additional details.

***Juneau County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan***

This 2006-2020 document contains the Juneau County Forest Access Plan, and has goals for each forest management unit.

***Juneau County Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030***

This plan is a combination of nine chapters. The following goals, objectives and policies within the Recreation, Open Space and Environmental Resources Chapter, directly relate to outdoor recreation:

**Issues to Address:**

1. Preserve natural resources
2. Improved surface and ground water quality

## **Goals**

1. To recognize the natural environment of the local lakes, wetlands, wildlife habitats, woodlands, open spaces, and watershed and ensure that the health and stability of this resource system are maintained.
2. To provide adequate permanent open space throughout the County for outdoor recreation, environmental protection and to encourage the same within local jurisdictions.
3. Control development in a manner that sustain recreational opportunities, aesthetics and economic use of resources.

## **Objectives**

1. Provide park areas, open space, and recreation facilities which meet the needs of the county and are accessible to all residents.
2. Preserve the role of wetlands and woodlands as essential components of the hydrologic system and as valuable wildlife habitat.
3. Protect floodplain, steep slope and bluff areas throughout the county to mitigate hazard potential, and emphasize their value to the community as potential focal points of natural beauty and recreation.
4. Acquire new land, when feasible, for the expansion of recreation and open space opportunities, and continue to maintain current recreation infrastructure such as trails and shelters.
5. Promote collaboration between the county and local governments with organizations and associations that are working to preserve the natural resources of Juneau County.
6. Promote development that minimizes groundwater impacts from on-site septic systems and other sources.
7. Promote groundwater protection efforts in Juneau County to maintain or lower nitrate, pesticide, and volatile organic compound pollution at levels below safe drinking water standards.
8. Reduce contamination of surface waters in Juneau County.
9. Increase and improve wildlife habitat within Juneau County.
10. Develop a long-term plan for the identification of land which should be preserved.
11. Protect forest resources with County, private and public support.
12. Preserve or improve water quality, lakes and groundwater.
13. Collaborate with local and regional agencies and municipalities to control invasive species of plants and insects.

## **Policies**

1. New development should not negatively impact natural resources.
2. Participate in state and federal programs providing funding for parks and open space.
3. Conduct an inventory to identify valuable recreation, open space, and environmental resources in Juneau County.
4. Incorporate natural drainage patterns and stormwater detention measures in the design of any improvements to minimize pollutants and sediment loads that enter county water sources.
5. Delineate and protect environmental corridors in the county that include stream corridors,

woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, and other environmentally and/or potentially hazardous areas that should be avoided for future development.

6. New development should be discouraged from areas shown to be unsafe or unsuitable for development due to flood hazard, potential groundwater contamination, loss of farmland, highway access problems, incompatibility with neighboring uses, etc.
7. Maintain and encourage reforestation to protect large contiguous blocks of forests.
8. Work to minimize forest fragmentation and explore techniques that would allow fragmented forests to retain a larger portion of their original ecological and economic values.
9. Support efforts by non-profit land trusts and private landowners to preserve forest areas.
10. Encourage the use of native species in plantings and consider ways to control the spread of invasive exotic species that can have negative ecological and economic impacts to forests.

Map 1 – Potential trails and Legacy Areas

# Chapter 2

## DESCRIPTION OF JUNEAU COUNTY

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

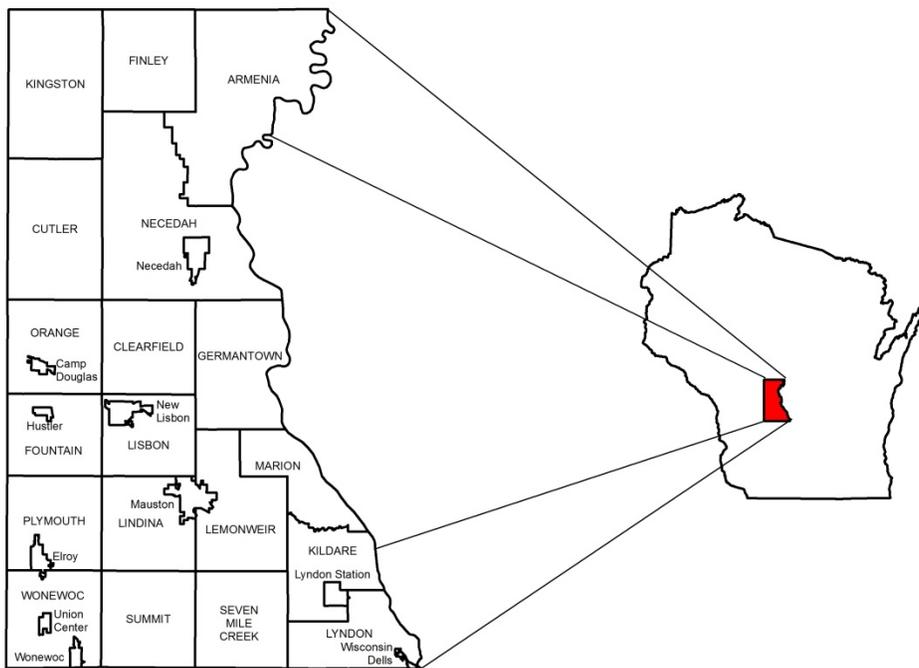
#### Introduction

This section describes the physical features of Juneau County. This information is essential to determining the potential of an area for recreation development, as well as the limitations. Recreation planners use this kind of data to determine which resources to develop and which resources to protect or preserve.

#### Geography and Land Use

Juneau County in west central Wisconsin has a total of 513,758 acres; of which 35.3% is forested, 31.8% is used for agriculture, 5.0% is water, 23.8% is wetlands, 2.0% for open space, 1.5% is for transportation (which includes airports and roads), 0.1% for residential, and 0.5% is for commercial and industrial uses. The City of Mauston is the county seat and the largest urban area in Juneau County. Mauston is 135 miles northwest of Milwaukee; 105 miles southwest of Green Bay; 125 miles south of Wausau; 70 miles northwest of Madison; and 70 miles east of La Crosse. Juneau County contains the Cities of Mauston, Elroy, and New Lisbon; the Villages of Camp Douglas, Hustler, Lyndon Station, Necedah, Union Center, and Wonewoc; and 19 Towns. See Figure 1.

**Figure 1**      **Location**



## **Climate**

Juneau County has a continental climate that provides year-round recreation opportunities. Summers are characterized by warm but not excessively hot days and cool nights, while winters are long and relatively snowy. In the winter, the average daily temperature is 18 degrees, while in the summer it is 69 degrees. The average annual precipitation is about 31 inches of which 60 percent falls from May through September. For the growing season, the interval between the last 32-degree freeze in the spring and the first one in the fall averages about 131 days. The sun shines 40 percent of the possible time in summer and 20 percent in winter. The prevailing winds are from the west and have the highest average wind-speed in March, April, and November.

## **Topography and Geology**

The northeastern 75 percent of Juneau County is part of extinct Glacial Lake Wisconsin. This area is generally flat or gently undulating topography, except for an occasional sandstone butte. These buttes rise above the basin to a height of 100 to 300 feet, and have a maximum elevation of 1,262 feet, at Sheep Pasture Bluff. Upper Cambrian sandstone is underlain by Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks in this area of the county. These Precambrian rocks are buried 400 to 850 feet beneath the Upper Cambrian sandstone with the exception of the Necedah quartzite. This hill at Necedah is an extrusion of Precambrian quartzite surrounded by Upper Cambrian sandstone.

The southeast 25 percent of Juneau County is part of the Driftless Area. This very hilly area has steep sandstone escarpments, which mark the northern and eastern boundaries. The valleys are V-shaped and have relatively narrow bottoms 200 to 350 feet below the ridge tops. The highest elevation is 1,380 feet, at Johnson Hill in the Town of Plymouth. Upper Cambrian sandstone, shale, and conglomerate are the parent geology in this area of the county. The Upper Cambrian rocks are capped in places by remnants of a more resistant, Ordovician, marine calcitic-dolomite.

## **Surface Water**

The many streams, rivers, and flowages in Juneau County furnish an abundant supply of surface water for power generation, irrigation, recreation, and fish & wildlife habitat. Groundwater is the major source of drinking water for most residents.

Juneau County has a total of about 57 lakes, and 73 streams. Many lakes are impoundments to generate power, used for waterfowl, or as cranberry flowages. Nearly all of the lakes are used for recreation. The two largest lakes are Petenwell and Castle Rock; both are flowages on the Wisconsin River. Juneau County has 378 linear miles of streams; all of which drain to the Wisconsin River. Two other important rivers are the Lemonweir and the Yellow.

## **Groundwater**

The quality of groundwater in Juneau County is generally good for most domestic, municipal, and industrial uses. The water is relatively soft in most of the county, but becomes fairly hard in the uplands in the southwestern part of the county. Local differences in the quality of ground water are caused by the composition, solubility, and surface area of particles of soil and rock through which the water moves, and the length of time the water is in contact with these materials. Calcium,

magnesium, and bicarbonate ions derived from dolomite are present. Minor water use problems are caused by hardness and locally by high concentrations of iron. Iron is mainly produced by reducing conditions in marshes and swamps.

Glacial lake and outwash deposits make up an aquifer that is the major source of groundwater for private water supplies in the northern 75 percent of the county. Yields are as high as 1,850 gallons per minute, but range mainly from 150 to 840 gallons per minute. The average high capacity well yields 500 gallons per minute.

## **Soils**

Even though Juneau County was never scoured by glaciers, about 75 percent of the county lies in the basin of extinct Glacial Lake Wisconsin. Most of the soils in this part of the state formed in sandy lake deposits, sandy outwash, or local sandy residuum, which all have fewer weatherable minerals than that in other areas of the state. Organic matter is the parent material for a number of soils in the county. Most of the upland soils in the southwestern part of the county formed in loess, in bedrock residuum, or in both.

Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service published the Juneau County Soil Survey in 1991. Updated soil suitability tables for outdoor recreation and other uses are available on the Internet.

## SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Introduction

This section describes the social and economic factors that shape Juneau County. This type of information can give a general feeling of how trends in recreational needs might be changing, because the residents are changing. Developing an understanding of these characteristics and their changes will help direct future planning efforts in the appropriate directions.

### Population & Housing

The population is projected to increase, then slightly decrease between 2015 and 2040, resulting in a total population incline from 2015, see Table 1.

| Year              | 2015   | 2020   | 2025   | 2030   | 2035   | 2040   |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Population</b> | 27,305 | 28,130 | 29,080 | 29,790 | 29,805 | 29,465 |

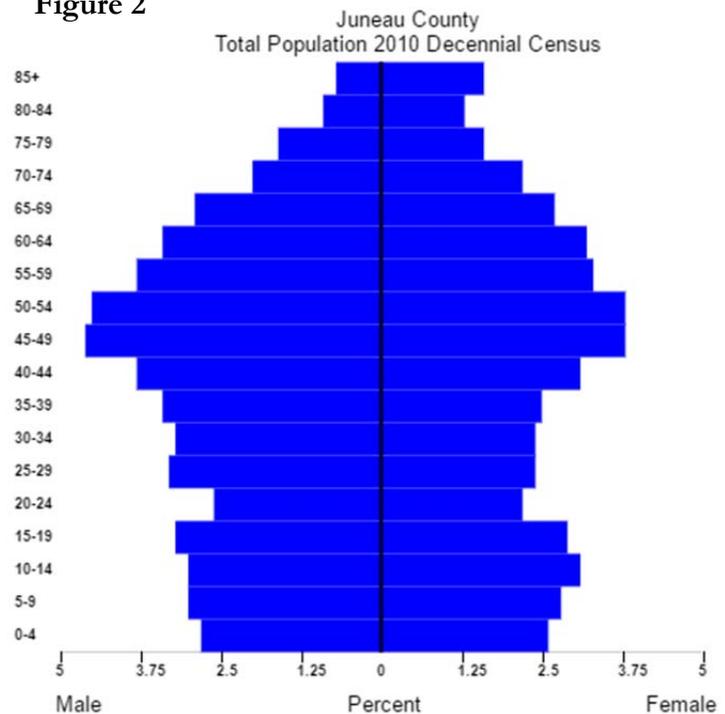
Source: WI DOA, 2013

Figure 2 illustrates the county's population by age and gender. Juneau County's largest population cohorts, for both males and females, are the 45-49 and 50-54 year olds. Median age in the County increased from 39.4 years old in 2000 to 44.1 years old in 2014. The population is almost equally balanced male and female until about 80 years and older when females outnumber males, as is expected due to females' naturally longer life expectancy.

From 2000 to 2014, the population of persons under age 18 declined from 25.4% to 18.4% of Juneau County's population.

The total number of housing units increased from 12,370 units in 2000 to 14,744 units in 2014. Seasonal housing units are a significant part of the housing stock, making up 21.6% of all housing units; greater than the 6.1% of units for the state. Seasonal housing units are found in all but two of the municipalities in the County, with the Village of Hustler and the City of Wisconsin Dells being the exceptions. The percentage of seasonal units by town ranges from 1.3% in the City of Elroy to 60.5% in the Town of Finley.

**Figure 2**

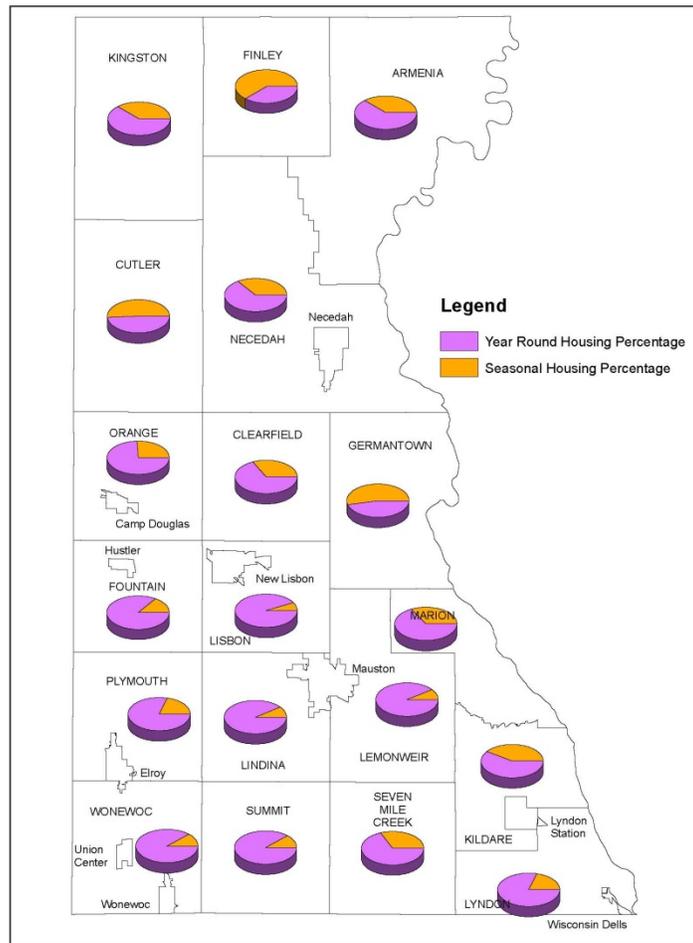


Total Population: 26,664 (Male: 14,029; 52.6%, Female: 12,635; 47.4%)

Population Pyramid created by GetFacts [www.getfacts.wisc.edu](http://www.getfacts.wisc.edu)

Figure 3 shows the percentage of seasonal housing units to total housing units in each of the towns and municipalities in Juneau County. All of the cities and villages in Juneau County have seasonal housing rates under 5% except for the villages of Necedah (6.2%) and Lyndon Station (20.8%). The trend over the last 20 years has been for seasonal home owners to retire to their seasonal home, thus becoming permanent residents in their former “cottages”. New permanent and seasonal homes are being built as well. These trends are both projected to continue.

**Figure 3: Year Round and Seasonal Housing, 2014**



### Demographic Trends

Table 2 shows a comparison within Juneau County of demographic indicators from the 2000 Census and the 2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. The total population increased by over 2,290 persons. The percentage of persons under 5 and under 18 have also both declined, but the percentage of persons over 65 years has increased and the median age has increased as well.

Racial diversity within the County has increased slightly, with the percentage of White, Non-Hispanic persons decreasing from 96.6% to 94.4%, and the percentages of persons identifying as Black, American Indian, or Hispanic all increasing.

Educational attainment has increased in the County since 2000. The percentage of persons with a high school degree or higher increased from 78.5% to 84.6%, and those with a Bachelor's degree or higher increased from 10.0% to 12.4%. These trends are increasing, however Juneau County still has lower educational attainment than the State which has rates of 91.4% for high school or higher and 28.4% for a Bachelor's degree or higher.

The Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development creates countywide workforce profiles that include some demographic data. The 2015 profile provided the following population perspective:

| <i>Table 2 - Juneau County Demographics</i> |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2000</b> | <b>2014</b> |
| Population                                  | 24,316      | 26,607      |
| Persons under 5 years                       | 5.9%        | 5.4%        |
| Person under 18 years                       | 25.4%       | 15.5%       |
| Persons 65 years and over                   | 16.8%       | 18.4%       |
| Median Age                                  | 39.4        | 44.1        |
| Female Persons                              | 50.0%       | 47.3%       |
| White Persons (not Hispanic)                | 96.6%       | 94.4%       |
| Black Persons                               | 0.3%        | 2.2%        |
| American Indian Persons                     | 1.3%        | 1.6%        |
| Asian Persons                               | 0.4%        | 0.3%        |
| Hispanic or Latino Persons                  | 1.4%        | 2.8%        |
| High School Graduates or Higher*            | 78.5%       | 84.6%       |
| Bachelor's degree or Higher*                | 10.0%       | 12.4%       |
| Housing Units                               | 12,370      | 14,744      |
| Average Household Size                      | 2.47        | 2.50        |
| Median Household Income                     | \$35,335    | \$45,135    |

*Source: U.S. Census*

*\*Percentage of persons age 25 and over*

Juneau County added an estimated net total of 323 residents during the almost five-year period (from 2010 to 2015). The growth rate of 1.2 percent matched the statewide growth rate but fell well short of the 3.9 national population growth rate during the same time period. Juneau County's population grew at the 20<sup>th</sup> fastest rate in Wisconsin. The total county population ranks as the 47<sup>th</sup> largest in the state. Mauston, the Juneau County seat, remained the most populous municipality and grew at one-and-one-half times the county's overall growth rate. The Town of Germantown experienced the fastest growth rate (8.9%) and gained 131 new faces over the five-year period.

Juneau County's population growth was almost entirely due to a positive net immigration. Juneau's increase due to natural growth was nominal. Low natural growth typically indicates an older population, and indeed the high migration rate is an indication that Juneau County continues to be an attractive destination for retiring individuals.

## Employment

Overall, the labor force has increased from 12,068 in 2000 to 13,010 in 2014, an increase of 7.8%, see Table 3. The labor force is defined as the number of persons, sixteen and over, employed or looking for employment. Persons over sixteen who are students, homemakers, retired, institutionalized, or unable/unwilling to seek employment are not considered part of the labor force. The unemployment rate in Juneau County more than doubled from 3.9% in 2000 to 9.3% in 2014.

|                    | <b>2000</b> | <b>2014</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Labor Force        | 12,068      | 13,010      |
| Employed           | 11,333      | 11,726      |
| Unemployment Rate  | 3.9%        | 9.3%        |
| Participation Rate | 63.9%       | 59.8%       |

*Source: U.S. Census*

Table 4 contains industry level employment data for 2014 along with annual employment change. Over 67 percent of total employment was in the top three industry sectors the Education & Health sector; the Manufacturing sector; and the Trade, Transportation, Utilities sector.

|                                  | <b>Avg Emp</b> | <b>1 Yr Change</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Natural Resources                | 180            | -5                 |
| Construction                     | 270            | -17                |
| Manufacturing                    | 2,099          | 74                 |
| Trade, Transportation, Utilities | 1,555          | 59                 |
| Information                      | 42             | -2                 |
| Financial Activities             | 198            | -9                 |
| Professional & Business Services | 264            | 10                 |
| Education & Health               | 2,365          | 88                 |
| Leisure & Hospitality            | 770            | -60                |
| Other Services                   | 153            | -15                |
| Public Administration            | 1,069          | 6                  |

*Source: WI DWD, QCEW 2014*

## Chapter 3

# EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

### INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing outdoor recreational facilities in Juneau County, which will focus primarily upon public facilities. Some private facilities will be listed for reference purposes. The private sector provides many recreational opportunities but this plan's purpose is to identify public facility improvements that may qualify for state and federal money.

### LINEAR FACILITIES

**Water Trails:** A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. This website can help with creating a trail: (<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/publications/watertrails/>). There are over 410 miles of streams and rivers in the county. Portages have been established on the Wisconsin River to get around the dams. All navigable water is available to canoe on. Both the Wisconsin and Lemonweir Rivers have multiple access points.

The Baraboo River is the first river in Wisconsin to have all the dams removed, and now it is a canoeing river with some areas that need widening (Wonewoc Comprehensive Plan 2004).

The **400 State Trail** is a 22-mile rail bed trail between Elroy and Reedsburg. This trail connects to the Elroy-Sparta, Hillsboro, and Omaha Trails. Hiking, bicycle touring, and snowmobiling are possible on this trail.

**Elroy-Sparta State Trail** – A 32.5-mile rail bed trail between Elroy and Sparta. Hiking, bicycle touring, and snowmobiling are possible on this trail.

**Hillsboro State Trail** – A 4.3-mile county-operated hike/bike/snowmobile trail between Hillsboro and the 400 Trail at Union Center.

**Omaha Trail** – A 12.5 mile county-operated, rail bed trail between Camp Douglas and Elroy. Hiking, bicycle touring, and snowmobiling are possible on this trail.

**Snowmobile Trails** – Juneau County has approximately 239.7 miles of designated snowmobile trails that are part of the State snowmobile aid program, along with approximately 65 miles of club trails. There are no winter designated ATV trails.

**ATV Trails** – Juneau County has approximately 400 miles of on-road ATV routes, but no ATV trails. Off-road trails that complement the on-road ATV route system are being explored where appropriate and sustainable.

## PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO WATER BODIES

Public Access sites on Juneau County's lakes and streams can be found on State, County and Township managed lands. An updated map of public access areas is available from the Juneau County Visitor and Recreation Guide. Juneau County owns and maintains 5 developed access points. State statute provide for public access to water bodies when development occurs. See the Implementation Strategies chapter for more details.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

Juneau County contains both historic and contemporary points of interest of cultural, aesthetic, recreational, and scientific importance. A number of private sites may be open to the public, while others in private ownership are closed.

### A) Necedah National Wildlife Refuge – Meadow Valley Wildlife Area

The Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is an important wildlife viewing area and destination for nearly 150,000 visitors annually, which forms part of a sprawling 43,600-acre mix of wetlands, uplands, bottomland forests and grasslands, and boasts more than 230 species of birds and some rare grassland, wetland and forest species, including Karner Blue butterflies, the Massasauga rattlesnake and bald eagles.

In the early 1930s the U.S. Government acquired 114,964 acres of land in Juneau, Wood, Monroe, and Jackson Counties, using the authority of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 and the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. The management of 55,000 acres of this Federal land was transferred to the State of Wisconsin with the signing of a Cooperative and License Agreement. They are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, but managed cooperatively with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Meadow Valley is managed under a cooperative agreement with USFWS, currently in the second of three 15-year leases.

### B) Buckhorn State Park

Buckhorn State Park and Wildlife Areas occupy a peninsula of Castle Rock Lake. The State Park encompasses 3,229 acres, the Yellow River WLA has 2,297 acres and the Buckhorn WLA consists of 4,903 acres. A range of facilities are available including boat landings, campsites, swimming, changing and shower facilities, fishing, picnic tables, and more than ten miles of hiking trails. Visitorship has increased by thirty-five percent over the last ten years to more than 107,000 per year.

### C) Dam

The Petenwell Hydroelectric Plant Dam provides cold season nesting grounds for Bald Eagles by maintaining an open area of the Petenwell Flowage.

## D) Geologic Sites

Juneau County's topography and geology are described in Chapter 2 – Description of Juneau County. Several land features are named below:

**Cranberry Rock Lookout**, Town of Armenia, National Guard Bombing and Gunnery Range.

**Lone Rock**, Town of Orange, Camp Williams Army National Guard.

**Duckworth Ridge**, Town of Lisbon, privately owned.

**Johnson Hill**, Town of Plymouth, privately owned.

**Mullin Ridge**, Town of Plymouth, privately owned.

**Pleasant Ridge**, Town of Wonewoc, privately owned.

**Potter Ridge**, Town of Summit, privately owned.

**Potato Hill**, Town of Summit, privately owned.

**Sheep Pasture Bluff**, Town of Lemonweir, privately owned.

**Pine Knob**, Town of Seven Mile Creek, privately owned.

**Fairy Bluff**, Town of Seven Mile Creek and Lyndon, privately owned.

**Fitz Bluff**, Town of Seven Mile Creek and Lyndon, privately owned.

**Bald Knob**, Town of Seven Mile Creek and Lyndon, privately owned.

**Moran Bluff**, Town of Seven Mile Creek and Lyndon, privately owned.

**Grubb Hill**, Town of Lyndon, privately owned.

**Castle Rock**, Town of Marion, privately owned.

**Swandas Bluff**, Town of Kildare, privately owned.

**Rogge Bluff**, Town of Kildare, privately owned.

**Fox Point**, Town of Kildare, privately owned.

**Stand Rock**, Town of Lyndon, privately owned.

**Inspiration Point**, Village of Wonewoc, privately owned and available to Spiritualist Campers

## COUNTY FOREST

The Juneau County Forestry Department manages 17,798 acres of county forest. This land is managed for multiple uses, and is independently certified as sustainably managed and harvested. Some of the county forest is closed to motorized vehicles. Examples of permitted recreational activities are hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, camping (permit required), bough cutting (permit required), firewood collection (permit required), and wildlife observation. Refer to the 15-year Juneau County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

See Forest Units in **Map 12**.

## COMMUNITY FOREST

The Juneau County Forestry Department manages 1,440 acres of forested land that is not enrolled in the County Forest Law program. This land is managed the same way that the county forest is. Many of the parcels are isolated from other county forest blocked areas. Some of the community forest is closed to motorized vehicles. Examples of permitted recreational activities are hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, bough cutting (permit required), firewood collection (permit required), and wildlife observation. Refer to the 15-year Juneau County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

## FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE or COUNTY OWNED

Forested lands that may be open to the public but are not part of the county forest are privately held lands by individuals and corporations that are enrolled in the Managed Forest Law.

There are 50,356 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program as of January 1st, 2016. 6,699 acres of these MFL enrolled lands are available to the public for hunting (not trapping), fishing, hiking, sightseeing, and cross-country skiing only (s. 77.83(2)(a), Wis. Stats.). Other than the following exception, MFL lands enrolled as open must not be posted as to restrict access. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation. Landowners may prohibit any activity associated with public use of open MFL land which may cause property damage (e.g. cutting trees, brush, building permanent blinds or tree stands, putting nails in trees). Temporary tree stands and bait stations (where hunting regulations allow) are an accepted and allowable method of hunting conditional upon no damage to the property, including the tree. Access by motor vehicles or snowmobiles may be prohibited by the landowner on open as well as closed lands. Open MFL lands can be found on the DNR website at <http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/opfl/>. It is the responsibility of the user to know where they are and which land is open to the public.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Six school districts provide additional local recreation opportunities in Juneau County. School yards often have playgrounds with play equipment, ball diamonds, and basketball hoops. School yards are considered neighborhood parks that range in size from 1 to 15 acres. A few districts also have school forests that are open to the public for a variety of recreational and educational uses.

### Mauston School District

Lyndon Station E.S. – 10 acres with buildings, baseball field, parking, playground equipment and open space.

West Side E.S. – 6 acres with buildings, baseball field, basketball court, parking, playground equipment and open space.

Gordon Olson M.S., Grayside E.S., and Mauston H.S. – 117 acres with buildings, effigy mound display, baseball fields, softball field, basketball court, soccer field, open space, playground equipment, football field and track. Almost 12 acres of parking.

The School District of Mauston has two school forest properties located in Juneau County. There are no facilities on either parcel. Contact the School District of Mauston for rules of use on school forest lands.

- Mauston School Forest (located in Germantown) has 166 acres with snowmobile trails and access roads.
- Mauston School Forest (located in Lemonweir) has 40 acres.

#### Tomah Area School District

Camp Douglas E.S. – 1.5 acres, basketball court, parking, playground equipment.

#### New Lisbon School District

New Lisbon E.S. – 2.5 acres, open space, parking, playground equipment.

York Athletic Field – 6 acres, baseball field, football field, open space, restrooms, track. No off-street parking.

Tennis Courts – 2 courts in the City of New Lisbon.

#### Necedah School District

Necedah H.S. – 5.2 acres, baseball field, basketball court, open space, parking, playground equipment, and tennis court.

#### Royall School District

Elroy E.S. – 1.25 acres, basketball court, parking, playground equipment.

Royall H.S. – 13 acres, baseball field, basketball court, football field, open space, playground equipment, and track, with off-street parking.

#### Wonewoc-Center School District

Wonewoc E.S. and H.S. – 4.2 acres, baseball field, basketball court, and football field.

Wonewoc Center Outdoor Learning Area – 97 acres located at the end of School Road in Wonewoc, this school forest has a pond and dock, 1 mile hiking trail, 2 mile cross country ski trail, and limited parking available. Contact the Wonewoc-Center School District for rules of use on school forest lands.

## PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

### Private Campgrounds

There are approximately 8 private campgrounds totaling 673 campsites in Juneau County. All of these campgrounds are available for a fee to the public.

SCORP 2005-2010 data reports that there are a total of 3,049 public and privately owned campsites in Juneau County.

There are 3 private golf courses that are open to the public for greens fees.

- Castle Rock Golf Course, 18-hole, in the Town of Lisbon.
- Oak Creek Golf Course, 18-hole, in the Village of Necedah.
- Spring Valley Golf Course, 9-hole, in the Village of Union Center.

### Wonewoc Spiritualist Camp

The camp consists of numerous cabins for the camp attendees as well as for the psychics and mediums themselves. The campsite maintains restrooms, a kitchen hall, a main office, and a snack store when the camp is occupied. There is also a motel located on the site that operates year-round. The rustic site is located atop the bluff to the east of the Village of Wonewoc and camp attendees may look down onto the Village of Wonewoc from Inspiration Point high above the valley.

Horseback Riding is available at Red Ridge Ranch just east of Mauston, and at Woodside Ranch, which is located on a high wooded hillside that offers a panoramic view of the Lemonweir River Valley. Woodside is an operating ranch that offers cross-country ski trails, horseback riding, swimming, square and line dancing, shuffleboard, tennis, mini-golf, table tennis, hayrides, horseshoes and more. A proposal to transform Woodside Ranch into a baseball and soccer facility and training camp is under consideration. This proposal would greatly increase the number of visitors and impact of the facility on the local economy.

### Camp Douglas Sportsman's Club

Founded in 1948, this organization has strong community and military ties, and is one of many hunting and fishing groups in Juneau and surrounding counties. The club offers a range of activities, with an emphasis on target shooting, and sponsor several special events each year which draw participants from throughout the county, and some from over 50 miles away. Club facilities have been used for military and law enforcement training for local and out-of-state groups.

### Woodside Sports Complex

The 245 acre western themed Mauston property opened in June of 2013 and consists of 4 synthetic turf baseball fields (which can be downsized to softball fields), 4 synthetic turf softball fields and a full concession/retail area. Future plans to expand include on site housing, 10 synthetic turf soccer/multipurpose fields, 20 sand volleyball courts as well as a concert field that will be able to host up to 50,000 people.

## PARKS and CONSERVANCY AREAS

A summary of all the local and county parks, school grounds, state parks, and conservation areas with the amenities at each are located in the following tables and maps. The following brief descriptions of each park type are from SCORP 2005-2010.

**Mini Parks** – These parks are special areas that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. One prominent feature or recreation facility like a playground may be present as the purpose of this park. The service area for this park generally is a ½ mile radius, and a population of 2,000-3,000 people.

**Neighborhood Parks** – This is an area that serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Active and passive recreational activities in these parks include field, court, and ball games; skating; crafts; and picnicking. Facilities may also include a playground, wading pool, ball field, multi-activity field, ball diamond, tennis courts, skatepark, and shelter. Trees, open fields, and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks. The service area for this park generally is a 1 mile radius, and a population of 2,000-5,000 people.

**Community Parks** – Usually larger in size, these parks serve entire communities, and are located adjacent to a collector street to provide community-wide vehicular access. The purposes of these parks are to meet the recreational needs of several neighborhoods, as well as to preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. These parks allow for group activities not feasible at the neighborhood level. All of the facilities of a neighborhood park may exist, along with nature trails and scenic areas.

**Special Use Areas** – These areas are for single purpose recreational activities that often are designed as revenue generating enterprises such as for baseball, golf, nature centers, arboreta, formal gardens, gun ranges, festivals, ski areas, or areas that preserve and maintain cultural or archeological sites.

**County Parks** – County parks consist of 100 acres or more that are specifically set aside for active and passive recreation uses to accommodate large gatherings, special events, and individual users. These parks have scenic natural features that preserve the character of the region and provide a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities; and may also provide areas for camping, historic preservation, protection of natural areas, and special use areas.

**State Parks** – State parks are similar to county parks, with two differences: they consist of several hundred acres and preserve natural areas of statewide importance.

**Conservancy Areas** – Conservancy areas are managed for the flora & fauna resources that exist at a site. Activities like hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing may be allowed on these lands that may be known as state natural areas, forests, or wildlife refuges. Each conservancy area has specific rules of use for public enjoyment.

Table 5

CLASSIFICATION

Linear Parks

| Facility                 | Jurisdiction   | * Meets Disabled Accessibility Standards |                |             |                      |               |             |         |               |             |       |                     |         |                   |                             |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------|---------|---------------|-------------|-------|---------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
|                          |  | MILES                                    | BICYCLE TRAILS | CANOE TRAIL | CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING | HIKING TRAILS | HORSE TRAIL | HUNTING | NATURE TRAILS | PARKING LOT | PAVED | SANITARY FACILITIES | SHELTER | SNOWMOBILE TRAILS | TUNNELS (abandoned from RR) |
| 1. Elroy-Sparta Trail    | Wisconsin DNR  | 33                                       | X              |             | X                    | X             |             |         | X             | X           |       | X                   | X       | X                 | 3                           |
| 2. 400 Trail State Trail | Wisconsin DNR  | 22                                       | X              | X           |                      | X             | X           |         |               | X           |       | X                   | X       | X                 |                             |
| 3. Omaha Trail           | Juneau County  | 12.5                                     | X              |             |                      | X             |             |         |               | X           | X*    | X                   |         | X                 | X                           |
| 4. Hillsboro State Trail | Juneau County with City of Hillsboro and Vernon County | 4.5                                      | X              |             |                      | X             |             |         | X             |             |       | X                   |         |                   |                             |
| 5. Woodside Ranch Trail  | Private  | 6  |                |             | X                    | X             | X           |         |               | X           |       | X                   |         |                   |                             |
| 6. Oak Ridge Trail       | Juneau County  | 7  | X              |             | X                    | X             | X           | X       | X             | X           |       |                     |         |                   |                             |
|                          |  |  |                |             |                      |               |             |         |               |             |       |                     |         |                   |                             |
|                          |  |  |                |             |                      |               |             |         |               |             |       |                     |         |                   |                             |
|                          |  |  |                |             |                      |               |             |         |               |             |       |                     |         |                   |                             |
|                          |  |  |                |             |                      |               |             |         |               |             |       |                     |         |                   |                             |
|                          |  |  |                |             |                      |               |             |         |               |             |       |                     |         |                   |                             |
|                          |  |  |                |             |                      |               |             |         |               |             |       |                     |         |                   |                             |
|                          |  |  |                |             |                      |               |             |         |               |             |       |                     |         |                   |                             |
|                          |  |  |                |             |                      |               |             |         |               |             |       |                     |         |                   |                             |

Source: NCWRPC



Table 7

CLASSIFICATION  
Neighborhood Parks

|   |                                    | * Meets Disabled Accessibility Standards |                |                  |         |             |              |                      |                |                |                |            |         |             |                      |         |                           |           |              |
|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------|------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|---------|-------------|----------------------|---------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <u>Facility</u>                         | <u>Jurisdiction</u>                | ACRES                                    | BASEBALL FIELD | BASKETBALL COURT | BENCHES | BOAT ACCESS | FISHING PIER | CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING | DRINKING WATER | FOOTBALL FIELD | HORSESHOE PITS | OPEN SPACE | PARKING | PICNIC AREA | PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT | SHELTER | SKATING RINK or SLED HILL | RESTROOMS | TENNIS COURT |
| 14. South Town Park                     | Village of Wonewoc                 |  |                |                  |         |             |              |                      |                |                |                | X          |         |             |                      |         | X                         |           |              |
| 15. Camp Douglas Elementary School      | Camp Douglas School District       | 1.5                                      | X              |                  |         |             |              |                      |                |                |                |            | X       | X           |                      |         |                           |           |              |
| 16. New Lisbon Elementary School        | New Lisbon School District         | 2.5                                      |                |                  |         |             |              |                      |                |                |                | X          | X       | X           |                      |         |                           |           |              |
| 17. Elroy Elementary School             | Elroy-Kendall-Wilton Sch. District | 1.25                                     | X              |                  |         |             |              |                      |                |                |                |            | X       | X           |                      |         |                           |           |              |
| 18. Lyndon Station Elementary School    | Mauston School District            | .5                                       | X              |                  |         |             |              |                      |                |                |                |            | X       | X           |                      |         |                           |           |              |
| 19. Mauston West Side Elementary School | Mauston School District            | 6  | X              |                  |         |             |              |                      |                |                |                | X          | X       | X           |                      |         |                           |           |              |
| 20. Wayside Park                        | Village of Necedah                 | 2  |                |                  |         |             |              |                      |                |                |                |            | X       | X           | X                    |         |                           | X         |              |
| 21. Old Mill Park                       | Village of Necedah                 |  |                | X                | X       | X*          |              |                      |                |                |                | X          | X       | X           | X                    | X       |                           | X         |              |
| 22. Heritage Park                       | City of New Lisbon                 | 2.1                                      |                | X                |         |             |              | X                    |                |                |                | X          | X       | X           | X                    | 2       |                           | X*        |              |
| 23. Village Park                        | Village of Hustler                 | 1.2                                      | X              | X                |         |             |              | X                    |                | X              |                |            | X       | X           | X                    | X       |                           | X         |              |
| 24. Marchowsky Park                     | City of Mauston                    | 2  | X              | X                | X       |             |              | X                    |                |                |                | X          | X       | X           | X*                   | X       |                           | X*        |              |
| 25. Lions Park                          | City of Mauston                    | 6.5                                      | X*             | X                |         |             |              | X                    |                |                |                | X          | X       | X*          | X*                   | X*      |                           | X         | X            |
| 26. Eagle Parkway                       | Village of Union Center            | 1.5                                      | X*             |                  |         |             |              | X*                   |                | X              |                |            | X       | X*          | X                    |         |                           | X*        |              |
| 27. Oak Ridge Park                      | City of Mauston                    | 6.5                                      |                |                  |         |             |              |                      |                |                |                | X          | X       | X           | X                    |         | X                         |           |              |
| 33. Jones Park                          | City of Mauston                    | 2.5                                      | X              |                  |         |             |              |                      |                |                |                | X          |         |             | X                    | X       | X                         | X         |              |

Source: NCWRPC

Table 8

**CLASSIFICATION**  
Community Parks

| Facility                                      | Jurisdiction                       | * Meets Disabled Accessibility Standards |                |                  |                |             |         |         |                      |                         |                |                |                      |            |             |             |                      |              |         |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               |       |
|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|---------|---------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------|--------------|------------------|---------------|-------|
|   |                                    | ACRES                                    | BASEBALL FIELD | BASKETBALL COURT | HORSESHOE PITS | BOAT ACCESS | BENCHES | CAMPING | CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING | DUMP STATION (for RV's) | FISHING ACCESS | FOOTBALL FIELD | HIKING/NATURE TRAILS | OPEN SPACE | PARKING LOT | PICNIC AREA | PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT | SKATING RINK | SHELTER | RESTROOMS | SOCCER FIELD | SWIMMING BEACH | SWIMMING POOL | SHOWERS | TENNIS COURT | VOLLEYBALL COURT | SLEDDING HILL | TRACK |
| 28. Necedah High School                       | Necedah School District            | 5.2                                      | X              | X                |                |             |         |         |                      |                         |                |                | X                    | X*         |             | X           |                      |              |         |           |              |                |               |         | X            |                  |               |       |
| 29. York Athletic Field                       | New Lisbon School District         | 6  | X              |                  |                |             |         |         |                      |                         | X              |                | X                    |            |             |             |                      |              | X       |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               | X     |
| 30. Royall High School, Elroy                 | Elroy-Kendall-Wilton Sch. District | 13                                       | X              | X                |                |             |         |         |                      |                         | X              |                | X                    |            |             | X           |                      |              |         |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               | X     |
| 31. Wonewoc Elementary & High School          | Wonewoc-Union Center Sch. District | 4.2                                      | X              | X                |                |             |         |         |                      |                         | X              |                | X                    |            |             |             |                      |              |         |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               |       |
| 32. Mauston Middle & High School              | Mauston School District            | 80                                       | X              | X                |                |             |         |         |                      |                         | X              |                | X                    | X          |             | X           |                      |              |         | X         |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               | X     |
| 33. Jones Park---Moved to Neighborhood Parks. |                                    |  |                |                  |                |             |         |         |                      |                         |                |                |                      |            |             |             |                      |              |         |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               |       |
| 34. Nelson Park                               | Village of Camp Douglas            | 7  | X              | X                | X              |             | X       |         |                      |                         |                |                | X                    | X          | X           | X           |                      | 3            | X       |           |              |                |               |         | X            | X                |               |       |
| 35. Travis Fitzgerald Memorial Park           | Village of Lyndon Station          | 2.5                                      | X              |                  |                |             | X       |         |                      |                         |                |                | X                    |            | X           | X           |                      | X            | X       |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               |       |
| 36. Lions Park and NAB Field                  | Village of Necedah                 | 10                                       | X              |                  |                |             | X       |         |                      |                         |                |                |                      | X          | X           | X           |                      | X            | X       |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               |       |
| 37. future park                               | Village of Necedah                 | 5+                                       |                |                  |                |             |         |         |                      |                         |                |                |                      |            |             |             |                      |              |         |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               |       |
| 38. Riverside Park, New Lisbon                | City of New Lisbon                 | 8  |                |                  |                | X           | X       | X       | X                    | X                       |                | X              | X                    | X          | X           | X           |                      | X            | X       |           |              |                |               | X       |              | X                |               |       |
| 39. Schultz Park (Fairgrounds)                | City of Elroy                      | 28                                       | X              |                  |                |             | X       | X       | X                    | X                       | X              | X              | X                    | X          | X           | X           |                      | X            | X       | X         | X            | X              | X             | X       | X            | X                | X             |       |
| 40. American Legion Park                      | Village of Wonewoc                 | 7  | X              |                  | X              |             | X       |         |                      |                         |                |                |                      |            | X           | X           |                      | X            | X       |           |              | X              |               |         |              |                  |               | X     |
| 41. Riverside Park, Mauston                   | Mauston School District            | 3.5                                      |                | X                |                | X           |         |         |                      | X*                      |                |                | X                    | X          | X           | X           |                      | X*           | X*      |           |              |                |               |         | X            |                  |               |       |
| 42. Summit Park                               | Town of Summit                     |  | X              |                  |                |             |         |         |                      |                         |                |                |                      |            | X           | X           | X                    |              |         |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               |       |
| 43. Germantown Park                           | Town of Germantown                 | 15                                       |                |                  |                |             |         |         |                      |                         |                |                | X                    | X          | X           |             |                      | X            |         | X         |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               |       |
| 44. Mile Bluff Park                           | City of Mauston                    | 12                                       |                | X                |                |             |         |         |                      |                         | X              | X              | X                    | X          | X           |             |                      |              |         |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               | X     |
| 45. Baker's Field                             | City of Wonewoc                    | 3  | X              | X                | X              |             | X       | X       | X                    | X                       |                | X              | X                    | X*         | X           | X           |                      | X            | X*      |           |              |                |               |         | X            |                  |               |       |
| 46. Elroy Commons                             | City of Elroy                      | 1  |                |                  |                |             | X       |         |                      |                         |                |                |                      | X          | X           | X           |                      | X            | X*      |           |              |                | X*            |         |              |                  |               |       |
| 47. Lone Rock Community Park                  | Town of Orange                     | 2  | X              |                  |                |             | X       |         |                      |                         |                |                |                      |            |             | X           |                      |              |         |           |              |                |               |         |              |                  |               |       |

Source: NCWRPC







Table 12

CLASSIFICATION

Conservancy Lands

| Facility  | Jurisdiction                 | * Meets Disabled Accessibility Standards |         |        |                      |         |                  |         |          |             |                   |               |         |
|---|------------------------------|--|---------|--------|----------------------|---------|------------------|---------|----------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---------|
|   |                              | ACRES                                    | BIRDING | HIKING | CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING | FISHING | WILDLIFE VIEWING | HUNTING | TRAPPING | BOAT ACCESS | CANOEING/KAYAKING | BERRY PICKING | CAMPING |
| 87. Necedah National Wildlife Refuge                    | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 43,656                                   | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       |          | X           | X                 | X             | X       |
| 88. Central Wisconsin Conservation Area (Meadow Valley) | Wisconsin DNR                | 57,612                                   | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       |          | X           | X                 | X             | X       |
| 89. Necedah Oak-Pine Savana SNA                         | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 240                                      | X       | X      |                      |         | X                |         |          |             |                   |               | X       |
| 90. Necedah Oak-Pine Forest SNA                         | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | 100                                      | X       | X      |                      |         | X                |         |          |             |                   |               | X       |
| 91. Blackhawk Island SNA                                | University of Wisconsin      | 245                                      | X       | X      |                      |         | X                |         |          |             |                   |               | X       |
| 92. Bass Hollow SNA                                     | Wisconsin DNR                | 212                                      | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       | X        |             |                   |               | X       |
| 93. Dells of the Wisconsin River                        | Wisconsin DNR                | 1,300                                    | X       | X      |                      |         | X                |         |          |             |                   |               | X       |
| 94. Mill Bluff  | Wisconsin DNR                | 500+                                     | X       | X      |                      |         | X                |         |          |             |                   |               | X       |
| 95. Cranberry Creek Mound Group SNA                     | Wisconsin DNR                | 675                                      | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       | X        |             |                   |               | X       |
| 96. Buckhorn Barrens SNA                                | Wisconsin DNR                | 1,680                                    | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       |          |             |                   |               | X       |
| 97. Yellow River Oxbows SNA                             | Wisconsin DNR                | 820                                      | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       | X        | X           |                   |               | X       |
| 98. Lemonweir Bottomland Hardwood Forest SNA            | Wisconsin DNR                | 323                                      | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       | X        |             |                   |               | X       |
| 99. Blueberry Trail SNA                                 | Wisconsin DNR                | 251                                      | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       | X        |             |                   |               | X       |
| 100. Kingston Pines And Fen SNA                         | Wisconsin DNR                | 535                                      | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       | X        |             |                   |               | X       |
| 101. Meadow Valley Barrens SNA                          | Wisconsin DNR                | 631                                      | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       | X        |             |                   |               | X       |
| 102. Suk Cerney Wetlands SNA                            | Wisconsin DNR                | 3,610                                    | X       | X      | X                    | X       | X                | X       | X        |             |                   |               | X       |

Source: NCWRPC

Insert Map 2 – Outdoor Recreation

(County, State, Federal, and Town)

Insert Map 3 – City of Mauston Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 4 – City of Elroy Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 5 – City of New Lisbon Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 6 – Village of Camp Douglas Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 7 – Village of Hustler Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 8 – Village of Lyndon Station Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 9 – Village of Necedah Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 10 – Village of Union Center Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 11 – Village of Wonewoc Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 12 – County Forest Management Units

## Chapter 4

# OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter starts with a list of projects that were completed over the last five years to recognize what has occurred within the county.

Recreational needs within the county were identified primarily by: 1) gathering public input; and 2) through Juneau County Forestry staff & NCWRPC staff assessments.

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROJECTS COMPLETED FROM 2012-2016

#### Juneau County

- Installed new playground equipment at Wilderness Park.
- Replaced old outhouse with new pit toilet building at Wilderness Park (Camp Host Area).
- Replaced old outhouse with new pit toilet building at Castle Rock Park (Area B).
- Added new restroom and shower building at Castle Rock Park (Area B).
- Added new pit toilet building for campground expansion area at Castle Rock Park.
- Replaced diving platform at Castle Rock Park.
- Replaced three bridges on the Hillsboro State Trail.

#### City of New Lisbon

- Enlarged and re-roofed pavilion at Riverside Park.
- Re-surfaced municipal pool, and replaced pool heater.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### **Informal Public Input**

In the regular course of business, Juneau County Forestry and Parks Department staff receives public input about its parks and forests.

#### **Summary of Survey Responses**

Juneau County Land, Forestry, & Parks had the survey link on their website, and the County website. NCWRPC mailed survey notices to each town, village, & city; each library; and emailed or mailed survey notices to a whole list of outdoor recreation groups provided by Land, Forestry, & Parks.

We received 185 responses to the Survey. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had slightly smaller response groups. Also, if a question did not apply to a respondent,

then the survey skipped them ahead to the next relevant question, which also provided smaller responses to some questions.

Just less than 2/3s of respondents live or have a summer home in Juneau County, with survey respondents homes located in most municipalities within the County.

Through an IP address analysis of who took the survey, and by reviewing survey responses, it appears that only a few people took the survey twice (could be husband and wife). Nobody appears to have “stuffed the ballot box.”

About half of the respondents were male (53% male, 43% female), and they were from a variety of age groups.

Key Findings of the ORP Survey:

- The top recreational activities, in order, from respondents are:
  1. Walking/hiking 74%
  2. Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking 68%
  3. Fishing 63%
  4. Camping (tent or RV) 55%
  5. Gardening 50%
- Respondents were mostly satisfied (~85%) with the condition of Juneau County Managed facilities. Comments said that they would like campground restrooms to be cleaner, and possibly other amenities to be available, which were specific to each campground.
- A big theme to the comments was to increase capacity at Castle Rock County Park for camping and boat launching.
- ATVing is becoming a popular recreational pursuit in Juneau County, with local roads providing the best access to traverse the whole county.
- Bicycling is a popular sport in Juneau County, but comments were split on when or if ATVs should be allowed on the Hillsboro State Trail (43% ok with year-round access, 33% not at all, 8% winter ATV only, 11% summer ATV only, and 6% with other comments).

See **Attachment A** for the full results from this online survey.

## PAST PLAN SUMMARIES OF PUBLIC COMMENT

### **Juneau County Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030**

Juneau County updated their Comprehensive Plan in 2009. As part of the planning process, goals objectives and policies about outdoor recreation and natural resources were created. Those goals, objectives, and policies are in Chapter 1, under “PAST PLANS.”

### **City of Mauston Outdoor Recreation Plan Issues**

See the Mauston Outdoor Recreation Plan 2017-2021 for additional analysis of existing parks, and recommendations for improvement.

## OTHER PLAN REFERENCES

Map 1 summarizes the location of DNR Land Legacy areas, potential DNR State Trails, and potential trails from the NCWRPC Regional Bike Plan that are all summarized in Chapter 1 of the Juneau County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

## NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

Since the 1960's, an accepted practice has been to adopt a uniform national land standard, such as 10 acres per 1000 population, for park planning. A standard amount of land for parks and recreation cannot be universal. A standard land measure is only useful for specific facilities, like determining how much land is needed for a particular use like a baseball diamond. The number of baseball diamonds or other facilities is not identical among similar sized communities nationally.

The basis of this revised approach to park and recreation standards is to create a level of service as defined by the customers' needs rather than an arbitrary standard. The level of service is generated locally for each type of park, trail, or public access to a water body. Public input is collected in multiple ways and the needs for a particular park, trail, or public access to a water body are determined. When specific facilities are needed, then facility standards are used to design the facility and budget for the necessary land, materials, and labor to satisfy that need.

A needs driven and facilities based park planning approach presents the current demand for park and recreation opportunities. The size of a park site is determined by the number of facilities needed to satisfy the active recreation demand within the service area of each park, and the unprogrammed recreation land that buffers different uses within a park and which buffers the park from other non-park uses such as housing. Determining the space needs for unprogrammed land is objective, in that it is based on first-hand knowledge of the area and how community residents and tourists use the parks. Determining how much unprogrammed land to use for buffering parks is subjective based on aesthetic standards of how pleasing an area should be based on community standards, and what the surrounding land uses are.

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

1. Physical geography. Does the site have steep hills, woodlands, or wetlands? Such natural features are useful for exploration, conservation, aesthetic buffers, and unprogrammed lands.
2. Park facilities. What activities are allowed or will be allowed? How much land is needed for each use?
3. Unprogrammed buffers. How much land within the park is needed to separate different uses? How much land is needed for future expansion? Maybe a park will not expand within 2-years, but within 10-20 years expansion, but when the opportunity to buy land presents itself the reaction must be decisive to seize the opportunity. A park growth boundary should be created for this reason.

## Chapter 5

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing specific recreation and open-space goals and objectives from public participation. These goals and objectives are meant to guide county and local officials as they work towards providing a recreation system to meet the needs of Juneau County's residents and visitors to the area.

### Goal 1

**Protect, restore, and enhance Juneau County's natural resources for outdoor recreation.**

#### Objectives

1. Follow Best Management Practices for water quality and for invasive species control in development of trails and recreation facilities.
2. Provide for a balance of legitimate recreational opportunities to a wide variety of diverse groups and reduce user conflict by keeping incompatible uses separate from one another while still protecting the natural resources of the county in a sustainable manner.

### Goal 2

**Create a one stop location for tourism and outdoor recreation information.**

#### Objectives

1. County should create a countywide tourism bureau.  
*Tourism information is incomplete on both the Land, Forestry, & Parks website, and the recreation portion of the JCEDC website.*
2. Encourage each local government with a website to create significant website links to the Land, Forestry, & Parks website for outdoor recreation information.

### Goal 3

**Continue to improve and develop Juneau County's outdoor recreation facilities.**

#### Objectives

1. Maintain and improve existing recreational facilities as outlined in 5-year capital improvement tables and as opportunities and funding sources become available.
2. Work with user groups to meet specific needs and desires for recreation on the Juneau County Forest and other Juneau County land.
3. Improve and protect water access for recreation.
4. Continue planning and developing recreational facilities to accommodate the elderly and handicapped.

## Chapter 6

# RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The recommendations and capital improvements are based on the goals and objectives in Chapter 5, and the public comment documented in Chapter 4. Although it is unlikely that all recommendations presented in this plan will be undertaken in the next five years, they should be recognized as causes for action if the opportunity or need arises. The following recommendations were not prioritized.

### COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Create County Tourism Bureau**

*See Goal 2, page 45.*

Tourism information is incomplete on both the Land, Forestry, & Parks website, and the recreation portion of the JCEDC website. About 25% of ORP Survey respondents noted that it was difficult to find out what was available.

Creating a fully funded tourism bureau, within an existing organization or on its own, would have the full time job of promoting the various types of recreation that are available throughout the county.

#### **County Landfill Recreation**

*See Question 28 in ORP Survey results.*

With 156 people responding to Question 28 of the ORP Survey, most of them want various uses to exist on the soon to be closed county landfill. All closed landfills must keep intact their clay cap that lies over the waste, maintain landfill gas piping & vents, and maintain groundwater test wells around the property. Needing to maintain the clay cap and gas vents restrict what uses can be done on the landfill itself. Supporting lands that were used as a buffer to the landfill or were used for other landfill tasks are open to other uses. See landfill property airphoto in **Attachment D**.

#### **Recommendation:**

1. Review with the DNR what management requirements are needed to maintain the closed landfill;
2. Design a landfill master plan to include the following possible uses:
  - a. Shooting range;
  - b. Hiking trails;
  - c. Dog park;
  - d. Mountain bike trails; and
  - e. Equestrian trails.
3. Consider acquiring additional land adjacent to the landfill from willing sellers to increase the buffer, and to provide more land for less restrictive uses than what can occur on the capped landfills.

### **Create and Implement Countywide Bike & Pedestrian Plan**

A high number of ORP Survey respondents want more bicycle trails. Juneau County received a WisDOT grant to begin a Bike & Pedestrian Plan in 2017.

#### **Recommendation:**

1. Continue to support creation of the countywide Bike & Pedestrian Plan.
2. Work to implement completed plan.

### **Multi-Use Wisconsin River Crossings**

A high number of ORP Survey respondents want more bicycle trails and ATV/UTV trails throughout the county. A major barrier to travel between Juneau and Adams Counties is the Wisconsin River. Adams County is on record as desiring these crossings too.

**Recommendation:** Install a two-way path on the STHs 21 and 82 bridges over the Wisconsin River for year-round use of ATVs, UTVs, and pedestrians; summer use of bicycles; and winter use of fat bikes, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiles.

### **Wisconsin River SNA Expansion**

The Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area's Master Plan established a boundary for expansion of this SNA. More than half of the SNA is protected. See the Master Plan on page 3 under "Past Plans."

The Juneau County Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030 has goals, objectives, and policies relating to outdoor recreation. See pages 5-7 of this Juneau County ORP.

The County's Comprehensive Plan supports the WDNR's goal to increase this SNA area per:

Goal 3. Control development in a manner that sustain recreational opportunities, aesthetics and economic use of resources.

Objective 2. Preserve the role of wetlands and woodlands as essential components of the hydrologic system and as valuable wildlife habitat.

Policy 3. Conduct an inventory to identify valuable recreation, open space, and environmental resources in Juneau County.

Policy 5. Delineate and protect environmental corridors in the county that include stream corridors, woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, and other environmentally and/or potentially hazards areas that should be avoided for future development.

Policy 9. Support efforts by non-profit land trusts and private landowners to preserve forest areas.

**Recommendation:** Continue to support expansion of the Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area per the SNA's master plan.

## **Multiple Use Trail Development**

*See: 1. Question 26 in ORP Survey results, and 2. Hillsboro State Trail, under County Capital Improvements.*

A high number of ORP Survey respondents want more ATV/UTV trails, not just road routes, throughout the county. True multiple use paths that allow motorized and non-motorized uses in the same season have specific maintenance and width clearances necessary to remain enjoyable for both user types.

Review WDNR guidance for designing multi-use trails that allow motorized and non-motorized uses in the summer season to see if particular trails can accommodate such uses.

### **Recommendations for possible Hillsboro State Trail conversion:**

1. Investigate how much it will cost to reconstruct, and then annually maintain, the Hillsboro State Trail to accommodate ATV/UTV traffic, in addition to existing bicycle and pedestrian traffic. These costs will be shared between Juneau and Vernon Counties.
2. Inquire from DNR what the process is to expand the allowable uses on the Hillsboro State Trail. New allowable uses should include: year-round use of ATVs and UTVs.
3. Begin the process of modifying Chapter 900 of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, County ATV Ordinance [05-04], to allow ATVs and UTVs **on this specific trail**.
4. The Union Center side of the Hillsboro State Trail will need to be moved about 100 feet west, so that the trail is grade separated from the 400 Trail, which does not allow ATVs. There appears to be a former railroad corridor about 100 feet west, so this should be an easy fix.  
See diagram in **Attachment E**.

### **Recommendation for possible countywide development:**

- Continue to investigate ATV and UTV trail possibilities in the County.

## CITY, VILLAGE, AND TOWN RECOMMENDATIONS

### VILLAGE OF CAMP DOUGLAS RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create bike trail on 50 acres within the Village.

### CITY OF MAUSTON RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create a bike trail to link Mauston to the Elroy-Sparta trail.
- Extend Gateway Ave Multi-use Path along State Highway 82 to Woodside Ranch.
- Create a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan for Decorah Lake.
  
- Additional recommendations are in the Mauston ORP.

### CITY OF ELROY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Floodplain study – because of the proximity of the City Park to the Baraboo River a portion of the Park is in the floodplain. To better identify what types of projects could be undertaken at the Park we would want to complete a floodplain study along the West side of the Park.
- Connector trail from the Park to Bike Trail – as shown on the map we would like to build a short connector trail, about 300 feet, from the 400 Bike Trail to the City Park. A cross-walk already exists on Hwy 80/82, so the connector trail would make use of that. Could even be a culvert (going under the highway or bridge going over highway).
  - Another option is to bridge the Elroy – Sparta Trail over Hwy 80/82 at Cedar Street
  - Both options make for safer passage of bikers crossing a state highway.
- Campsites – we already have 12 campsites at the Park, some with a pad, fire pit, picnic table and electricity. We want to add 4 to 13 more campsites complete with pad, table, fire pit and electricity.
- Benches – we would want to add benches along the connector trail and at key spots in the park and along the river.
- Upgrade canoe launch – the City installed a simple canoe launch at the City Park about 15 years ago, but it has deteriorated over the years. We want to upgrade this facility to better accommodate canoes and kayaks in the Baraboo River.
- Construct a new canoe launch at the Hwy 71 parking lot for the Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail.
- Clearing of the Baraboo River – Approximately 2 miles of the Baraboo River north of the Park have been cleared of debris to accommodate a kayak. We would like to clear the remaining 5 miles of the river so that it connects to a point further downstream (Union Center at Spring Valley Golf Club) that can accommodate canoes/kayaks.
- Pavement markings for Bike Trails – Provide pavement markings for the Elroy-Sparta Trail, 400 Trail, and Omaha Trail.
- Walking trail around City Park connecting 400 State Trail to campsites, swimming pool and Baraboo River.

## VILLAGE OF NECEDAH RECOMMENDATIONS

- Basketball Court(s) – NW Corner of 6th Street & Bluff Street.
- Cardinal Park – NE Corner of South Main Street & 8th Street.
- Community Center – Conversion of the Old Church to a Recreation Center with outdoor recreation areas.
- Develop a sledding hill on the Necedah Bluff.
- Swimming Area – Site TBD.
- Additional Pieces of Playground Equipment – Lion’s Park & Veteran’s Park.
- Bathroom Remodel – Lion’s Park.
- Park Shelter Rehabilitation (Roof, Siding, Electrical/Lighting & Soffit/Fascia) - Lion’s Park.
- Trail Improvements to Include Benches – Old Mill Park.
- Create a bridge across the Yellow River for pedestrians, bicyclists, ATVs and snowmobiles.
- Develop a park on the east side of the dam.
- Develop a skateboard park.
- Upgrade all boat landings and piers.
- Secure access to baseball diamond adjacent to Lions Park.
- Improve parking lot for NAB Field (baseball) at Lions Park.
- Add basketball court in Village Park.

## CITY OF NEW LISBON RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan for New Lisbon Lake.
- Dredge New Lisbon Lake.

## COUNTY FACILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2017–2021

Capital improvements to parks are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designed and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Routine maintenance is considered the normal cycle of repair and upkeep for existing facilities. Routine maintenance does not increase the value or usefulness of the park, and is traditionally funded through the Juneau County Land, Forestry and Parks Department's operations budget. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, however, is usually considered a capital improvement item. For example, upgrading an outdoor restroom facility for universal access would qualify as a capital improvement, while repainting an outdoor restroom would be considered routine maintenance.

### **What is projected to occur from 2017-2021?**

The following tables are Capital Improvement Plans proposed for the Juneau County Land, Forestry and Parks Department managed recreational system. The projects are not listed in a priority and are subject to change. The Juneau County Land, Forestry and Parks Department created each capital improvement project to meet a growing public demand. All upgrades and new construction will take into consideration meeting ADA standards. As funds become available, the following projects will be completed.

#### **Castle Rock Park**

- Upgrade campground electrical infrastructure to meet public demand
- Upgrade playground equipment
- Increase capacity of boat launch and parking lot to meet public demand
- Develop access to shoreline
- Develop boat slips and harbor
- Upgrade old outhouses
- Develop new enclosed shelter facility with kitchen
- Create a fish cleaning station

#### **Wilderness Park**

- Upgrade campground electrical infrastructure to meet public demand
- Repair shoreline and beach. Add additional rock groins to protect shoreline
- Upgrade old outhouses
- Create a fish cleaning station

#### **Kennedy Park**

- Replace old block outhouse with new pit toilet building
- Upgrade playground equipment
- Repair boat launch ramp

#### **Omaha Bike Trail**

- Resurface rough and degraded sections of the bike trail
- Initiate and develop permanent trail segment to connect Omaha Trail to 400 Trail.
- Extend Omaha Trail into Monroe County along railroad corridor from Camp Douglas

**Bass Hollow**

- Upgrade playground equipment
- Pave parking lot

**Hillsboro State Trail**

- Develop multi-use plan for trail to include ATVs & UTVs

**Yellow River Wildlife Unit of Juneau County Forest**

- Improve access to Yellow River by upgrading forest road
- Develop canoe & kayak access on Yellow River

## Chapter 7

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

### INTRODUCTION

There are a number of different strategies available for the implementation of this plan. This includes securing funds to carry out the five year planning program and adopting techniques to implement the general recommendations and move towards attainment of the goals and objectives set forth in this plan.

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

#### Shoreland Zoning

Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program establishes statewide standards for shoreland development. Counties are required to adopt and administer shoreland zoning ordinances that meet these requirements. The statewide standards for county shoreland zoning ordinances are found in Chapter NR 115, Wis. Admin. Code.

#### Public Access to Waterways

Wisconsin Statute §236.16(3) requires dedication of public access in subdivisions along waterways unless there is a public access within ½ mile of the subdivision.

#### Park Dedication

Subdivision regulations can be used by counties to require residential subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent, park and open space use in areas which are experiencing significant residential growth. Although Juneau County does not currently have land division regulations, neighborhood parks may be acquired in this manner in newly developing residential areas. Local landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of small communities. Juneau County should focus efforts to provide connectivity between developments/subdivisions and recreation areas through trail development, and support development of other recreation areas within developments/subdivisions where feasible.

#### Use of Easements

Open space and public recreation use of private land may be acquired by easement. With an easement, certain rights are granted to the public for a specific period of time and the private owner is compensated for that public use. In purchasing an easement, the public body acquires a right either to use the land in a specific manner or to restrict the use of that land. For example, the rights to establish public hiking or fishing access to a waterway may be purchased through an easement.

#### Leases

Leases may be used as measures to use or protect land until more permanent arrangements can be found. By leasing parcels the land remains on the County's and the community's tax rolls and the

lease can be renegotiated or non-renewed by the property owner if another use proves more rewarding financially.

Another leasing method involves outright purchase of land by the county. The county then leases the land to a private party or organization with use restrictions placed on the land. Under this method, the county receives some monetary return on its investment and retains control over the use of the land.

### Historic Sites

Historical sites can be valuable additions to any community's recreation program. This is especially true in areas oriented to serving the tourist trade. Nearly all communities in Juneau County are in this category and they should identify their historic sites. A study of potential areas is encouraged. Assistance and guidance for the study can be obtained from the Wisconsin Council for Local History, an organization affiliated with the State Historical Society and the County Historical Society.

### Program Costs

A community should carefully watch operations and maintenance costs when setting up a parks program. A too ambitious acquisition and/or development program can easily lead to annual costs larger than the community can afford. Recreation facilities like golf courses and swimming pools, for example, require large annual maintenance investments.

In developing a recreation program, care should be taken that the annual cost of maintenance does not exceed an amount the community can afford to pay. Too often, an ambitious program can lose community support as a result of prohibitive maintenance costs.

### Capital Improvements

Community officials should develop five year capital improvements programs for recreation that reflect implementation of proposals made in their plans, and the priorities they place on them. To be functional, the program must be flexible and be subject to annual review.

### Monetary Aid Programs

Take advantage of state and federal financial and technical aid programs, which are designed, to assist communities in meeting recreational needs and maintain community eligibility for such programs.

The Stewardship Fund is a comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of several older aid programs such as LAWCON and Local Park Aids, combined with new programs, such as the Urban Rivers Program.

Requirements for application to the Stewardship Fund include the requirement that the applicant submits an approved comprehensive recreation plan. This plan is designed to meet that requirement. For other program requirements, or additional information contact:

Community Services Specialist  
1300 West Clairemont Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4001

Besides state and federal aid programs, there are other sources of funding such as private foundations, trust funds, and civic and recreation organizations.

#### Lifetime Activities

Community and school officials responsible for recreation should place greater emphasis on land areas and facilities that can support "lifetime" recreational activities. Falling into this category are activities like golf, tennis, all target sports, horseshoes, cross country skiing, skating, running, volleyball, handball, badminton, back packing, and canoeing. Many schools have programs aimed at teaching recreational activities that people can participate in for a lifetime.

#### Winter Activities

All communities should provide winter outdoor recreation facilities. Skating and sliding sports (sledding, tobogganing, and skiing) can generally be provided without large investments. Skating, for example, can be as involved as providing rinks for ice hockey or as simple as flooding a small area of a school playground. Likewise, merely blocking off a lightly traveled street with a suitable slope can frequently provide a sliding area.

#### Specialized Facilities

Encourage development of specialized facilities by the private sector. Specialized facilities such as golf courses and ski resorts can be an important adjunct to public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

#### Municipal and School District Cooperation

Promote cooperation between municipalities and school districts in meeting recreational needs. With good planning, cooperation may take the form of joint land acquisition and/or facilities development cost sharing. Increased use of existing school facilities during non-school hours should also be encouraged.

#### Senior Citizen Involvement

Involve senior citizens in community park development and beautification and provide recreational facilities for their use. Although senior citizens may compose a significant proportion of the total community's population, they are often neglected in recreational planning. Benches placed near neighborhood parks and play areas and non-intensive sports facilities such as horseshoe pits located in community parks help to provide a place for senior citizens. Small, passive use parks and gardens located near nursing and retirement homes should also be encouraged. In addition, senior citizens can provide invaluable assistance in beautifying parks and open spaces and can thereby become more involved in community life.

#### Youth Programs

Few recreational opportunities exist for the communities' high school age youth. School activities provide most recreational outlet during winter months, but in summer there is a distinct void. This plan recommends a study to determine what recreation activities would be best received by this age and what opportunity there is to provide for them at public parks.

### Service Group Involvement

Involve organized service groups in needed park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports area and neighborhood parks. Traditionally, service groups and recreation organizations, such as Lions Club, V.F.W., softball leagues, and snowmobile clubs have played an active role in the development of such facilities. Continued activity of this type should be encouraged. In addition, service groups can help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources and providing organization and volunteer labor.

### Community Beautification

All communities should recognize that community appearance is an important component of a recreation program. Maintained streets and sidewalks, attractive trees and shrubs, well cared for homes and commercial buildings, and neatly landscaped home lawns, public open space, and parks are principal contributors to community beautification. Such a program is most rewarding to persons engaged in passive recreation.

### Adopt-A-Park Program

A program which encourages local groups to adopt-a-park or segment of trail or stream could be organized similar to the very successful *Adopt a Highway* program. The groups could volunteer their time to maintain and beautify the county's recreational system, allowing more county funds to provide major improvements.

## Chapter 8

# PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING

Essential characteristics of any planning process includes an inventory of what exists, determining what has occurred since the last plan was created, and what is desired locally for the future. Periodic updating of the plan is necessary for continued refinement and course correction to keep the plan current.

Some of the planning recommendations will not be accomplished within this five year plan period, and additional recommendations may be added as new recreational activities are requested or the status of existing facilities changes.

**Annual review** of the plan recommendations and capital improvement tables by the Juneau County Land, Forestry & Parks Committee will keep this plan current. This review may also occur after a large turn over in elected officials after a County Board election.

Process:

1. Juneau County Land, Forestry & Parks Committee reviews plan and takes a vote on what changes to make.
2. Those changes and a copy of the meeting minutes are forwarded to the DNR's Community Financial Assistance staff in Eau Claire. Submission of the minutes and changes automatically constitutes DNR grant eligibility for those changes.

Establishing a **full plan update every five years** will assure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the county, and will maintain the county's eligibility for grant programs.

The review process includes surveying the local units of government, outdoor recreation groups, and the general public about what their needs are regarding outdoor recreation such as:

1. What improvements are needed to existing facilities?
2. What new facilities are necessary to satisfy demand?
3. Which potential projects fulfill this demand?

The Community Financial Assistance Committee will review information collected from surveys, and evaluate the need for proposed projects based on standards and Goals & Objectives as outlined in this plan.

Submission of 1) the revised plan, and 2) the County Board resolution approving the plan, to the DNR is the final step to extending the ORP for another 5 years. DNR approval of the ORP will come if the correct process was followed.

# ATTACHMENT A

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## Outdoor Recreation Online Survey Results

Compiled by: NCWRPC

# ATTACHMENT B

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## **Park Design and Location Criteria**

From: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

# ATTACHMENT C

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## **Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs**

Compiled by: NCWRPC

# ATTACHMENT D

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## Juneau County Landfill Map

Compiled by: NCWRPC

# ATTACHMENT E

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## Potential Hillsboro State Trail Modification In Union Center

Compiled by: NCWRPC