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# Adams County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Also covering the municipalities within Adams County



**2019-2023**

Effective January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023



Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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March 2019

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This plan was prepared under the direction of the Adams County Parks & Recreation Department by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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# ABSTRACT

TITLE: ADAMS COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN, 2019-2023  
Effective January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023

SUBJECT: This report assesses the existing recreation system in Adams County, identifies recreation needs based upon public input and recreation standards, sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating recreation plans, and establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.

Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids.

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: March 2019

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# 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 Adams County Board and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), will continue eligibility of the county and its local units of government for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), and Stewardship Funds.

Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if they have an outdoor recreation plan. Individual towns may adopt this plan by resolution to make it their own. The DNR reserves the right to suggest that a community create their own outdoor recreation plan separate from this county outdoor recreation plan.

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 FOR THIS PLAN

This Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP) 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 for outdoor recreation (Chapter NR 50.06(4), Wisconsin administrative code).

### PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs that are satisfied by the Adams County Park & Recreation Department maintained facilities. Other public facilities are also listed to provide a more complete view of all public facilities available in Adams County.

Background information on Adams 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 Chapters 3 and 4 of this plan.

The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies through the year 2023. A combination of public comments, standards analysis, and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were used to define recreational and open space needs.

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 in Chapter 9 – Provisions For Updating. The plan concludes with a note on updating to insure that it remains relevant to the needs of the county over the entire five-year span.

## REFERENCE PLANS

This plan was written to continue the parks and recreation program established in the Adams County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans of 1987-1992, 1993-1998, 2000-2005 through this present plan. This plan has been written to follow the previous Adams County Outdoor Recreation Plan covering the period 2013-2018. In addition, the findings of the 2005-2010 and 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP) were utilized in the development of this county plan.

### ***Adams County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, 2012***

The primary emphasis of this plan is on developing a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly transportation system by establishing a facilities network and bringing all streets up to a minimum level of compatibility. Often the focus of a bicycle plan and pedestrian is solely on a network of improved roads and trails, but it is equally important to consider policies and practices. This is a countywide plan developed to make all of Adams County bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

Results of this plan include:

1. Types of cyclists identified;
2. Existing pedestrian facilities mapped throughout the county;
3. Bikability of all highways was calculated and mapped;
4. Recreational bike rides were created, and walking routes were included;
5. Bicycle routes and road improvements to accommodate bicycles were identified; and
6. Recommendations for bicycle parking, bicycle route signs, and a variety of infrastructure changes were included.

Proposed regional bicycle and walking trails are identified on Map 1.

Proposed bicycle trails in Adams County are on Map 2.

### ***Adams County Comprehensive Plan 2005-2025***

**Note:** *During this ORP's development, the County Comprehensive Plan was undergoing a full update.*

The physical characteristics of Adams County were taken from the comprehensive plan. Maps locating boat access points, local parks, abandoned mining pits for gravel and clay, and

cemeteries were used in the Adams County Outdoor Recreation Plan from this document.

### ***North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan 2018***

The purpose of this 2018 plan is to “recommend policies, programs, and facilities to improve the safety, viability, convenience, and attractiveness of bicycling and walking for transportation.” This plan also serves to bridge the gap between local community planning and State plans, as well as fill in gaps where improvements for bicycling and/or walking end in local community plans, to create a regional network of safe walking and bicycling.

Goals of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan:

- Mobility – The Trail System must enhance bicyclists’ ability to get around the Region including access to key destinations such as schools, parks, retail areas, and other public facilities.
- Functionality – New off-road routes, improved existing street routes, signage and marking, and route promotion must be combined to function as a system that is easy and desirable to use.
- Safety – Every bicyclist and pedestrian in the North Central Region deserves a system that is safe for travel.
- Connectivity – The Trail System must provide a seamless transportation system on multiple levels including; internally to all areas of a community; externally to outlying neighbors around the Region; and becoming a part of the bigger picture of a statewide trails network.

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

This 2001 document clarifies a 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 18—Tomahawk to Wisconsin Dells**

From Stevens Point to Wisconsin Dells, a potential trail route should use roadways that generally follow the Wisconsin River and its flowages and may provide access to Roche-A-Cri and Buckhorn state parks for trail users. With the support of the counties, this could become a designated bike route. Paved shoulders should be included with any future road improvements.

The Ice Age Trail is planned to cross this potential corridor near the intersection of County Highway Z and State Highway 82



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

**NOTE: This plan is being updated in 2016-2018.**

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. At the national level, this SCORP recognizes the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, which is based on the idea that the protection of the country's natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans. The AGO encourages state and local communities to develop local conservation and recreation initiatives.

### **2018:**

Much of the information presented in the Plan is still relevant, but some parts are out of date such as the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, which no longer has federal support.

Development of the 2017-2022 SCORP is underway, and there is a strong emphasis in this SCORP to gather detailed information about Wisconsin residents' participation in 65 specific outdoor recreation activities. Data gathering has included an extensive mail survey and user interviews at state properties focused on understanding activities pursued, features and attributes that lead people to visit the properties, visitors' satisfaction and travel-related spending. The State has also initiated a sub-project of the SCORP, the Recreation Opportunities Analysis (ROA), to assess existing outdoor recreation opportunities, needs and priorities throughout the State. The goal of the project is to develop regional assessments that can directly inform the DNR's property master planning process in each of eight regions across the State. These assessments will be created from feedback at public input meetings held in each region. The DNR's goal is to complete the ROA for each of the eight regions by the summer of 2018. The resulting data will then be used to complete the SCORP by the end of 2018.

## ***Master Plan – Castle Rock and Petenwell Parks 2006***

Completed in November 2006, this plan provides a 10-year timeline of projects with cost estimates and maps for upgrading facilities at both Castle Rock and Petenwell County Parks. The summaries of park facility improvements for both parks are listed in Chapter 6 – Planned Capital Improvements.

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

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

## ***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 meet 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 Adams County Legacy Area is summarized below with 5 stars representing the highest level for that category:

**CG Central Wisconsin Grasslands**

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

**NN Neenah Creek**

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

**CU Colburn-Richfield Wetlands**

Size	Small
Protection Initiated	Substantial
Protection Remaining	Limited
Conservation Significance	☆☆☆
Recreation Potential	☆☆

**QB Quincy Bluff and Wetlands**

Size	Medium
Protection Initiated	Substantial
Protection Remaining	Moderate
Conservation Significance	☆☆☆☆☆
Recreation Potential	☆☆☆

**MW Middle Wisconsin River**

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

## **Chapter 2**

# **DESCRIPTION OF ADAMS COUNTY**

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

#### **Introduction**

This section describes the physical features that make up Adams County. This kind of information is essential in determining the potential, as well as, the limitation of an area for recreation development. Recreation planners should use this kind of data to determine which resources should be developed and which would best be protected or preserved.

#### **Location**

Adams County is located slightly south of central Wisconsin. The largest urban areas in the county are the City of Adams, and the Village of Friendship, which border each other and are located in the center of the county. The county courthouse in the Village of Friendship is 150 miles northwest of Milwaukee; 116 miles southwest of Green Bay; 81 miles south of Wausau; 78 miles north of Madison; 87 miles east of La Crosse; 195 miles from Chicago; and 200 miles from the Twin Cities.

#### **Geography**

The county's total surface area is about 685 square miles or 438,680 acres, and ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in area among Wisconsin's 72 counties. The county is approximately 41 miles north to south and about 21 miles east to west, and narrows at its southern end to 9.5 miles. Marquette and Waushara Counties bound the county on the east, on the north by Portage and Wood Counties, on the west by Juneau County, and on the south by Columbia County. Adams County is divided into 17 towns, the City of Adams, and the Village of Friendship.

#### **Climate**

Adams County is classified in the continental climate type. The summers have warm but not excessively hot days and cool nights. Winters are long, cold, and snowy. Mean annual precipitation is almost 30 inches. Snow cover on the ground and ice cover on the lakes lasts from December to April. The growing season generally extends from late May to early September, for an average frost-free growing season of 135 days. Prevailing winds come out of the northwest from late fall through spring, and from the south during the remainder of the year. The wind speed generally ranges from 4 to 15 miles per hour.

Winter in Adams County is very conducive to snowmobiling and skiing due to its long duration and frequent occurrences of fresh snow. Summer encourages camping, fishing, and other passive and active activities through the not excessively hot days and cool, comfortable nights.

## **Topography and Geology**

Although Adams County was not glaciated, the county was mostly covered by Glacial Lake Wisconsin. The Lake bottom collected sandy sediment until the glacier retreated north, which left behind a broad valley plain and an abundance of wetlands, forests, and sandy plains. Occasionally, the broad plain of sandy soils is interrupted by a sandstone butte. Altitudes range from 850 feet along the Wisconsin River to 1,185 feet at Roche a Cri Mound. The other glacial feature is the end moraine, named the Johnstown moraine. The moraine deposits are composed of glacial till, which is an unsorted mixture of gravel, sand, silt, clay, and occasional boulders.

The majority of the county is underlain by Precambrian bedrock. In most portions of the county, glacial till and outwash make up the soils. In scattered areas of the county, the Wonevoc sandstone is exposed to form the conspicuous mounds and buttes.

## **Surface Water**

Adams County contains approximately 38,695 acres of surface water. This area is divided into 51 lakes for 3,100 acres and 73 streams for 450 acres. The Petenwell and the Castle Rock Flowages of the Wisconsin River represent the remaining 35,595 acres. About 18,000 acres of the flowages are attributable to Adams County, but all of the flowages are part of the Counties resource base. The county contains 234 miles of streams, of which about 93 miles are classified as trout streams. The Wisconsin River deserves special mention as a prime recreational resource. Even after deductions for the Castle Rock and Petenwell Flowages, the Wisconsin River's 1,274 surface acres are three times the total of the surface acres of the interior streams. Abundant fish, game, and scenic qualities associated with the river are major county recreation assets.

The Johnstown moraine in the southeastern part of the county divides the drainage between the Wisconsin and the Fox Rivers. The principal drainage in the county is westward toward the Wisconsin River. The Little Roche a Cri, Big Roche a Cri, and Fourteen Mile Creeks are the major tributaries to the Wisconsin River in Adams County. The drainage to the east of the moraine is primarily from the Neenah, and Widow Green Creeks.

This extensive water resource provides a great deal of recreational opportunity from boating to sailing, skiing, fishing, swimming, canoeing, and ice fishing. Adams County's water is also known for its high scenic value, primarily along the Wisconsin River.

Surface water is an important resource to Adams County, however it is threatened by non-point source pollution. Excess nutrients entering water bodies from agricultural runoff (non-point) causes algae blooms, which suffocates fish by using up available oxygen in the water. Algae blooms negatively affect tourism, which is important to Adams County economy.

## **Groundwater**

Groundwater is the primary source of water supply in Adams County. Abundant supplies of groundwater exist in the county from unconsolidated glacial deposits and from underlying sandstone aquifers. Generally, unconsolidated outwash covers the northern half of the county and well yield 500 to 1,000 gallons of water per minute. There are also outwash deposits in the southeastern part of the county and wells adjacent to the terminal moraine in the south with similar yields. Yields decrease in the southwest as the unconsolidated deposits become thinner and more silty. Groundwater in Adams County is generally of good quality although some areas have non-

threatening problems with iron, dissolved solids, and hardness. Depths to the water table generally range from 0 to 20 feet in the outwash glacial lake deposits, 50 to 100 feet in the pitted outwash, and up to 170 feet in the end moraines. Depth to water in the area of ground moraines generally ranges from 20 to 30 feet. Regional groundwater flow is generally from the northeast to the southwest towards the Wisconsin River. There is a groundwater divide in the eastern portion of the county where groundwater flow is to the southeast toward the Fox River.

### **Soils**

The soils of Adams County are principally the result of weathering of glacial deposits. Considerable variation occurs in soil types within short distances, and is partly due to the variety of materials carried by the ice. In general, the northern part of the county has well drained sandy soils, some of which are quite doughy. Moving southeast, the soils phase into sand and silt loams.

Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the US Soil Conservation Service publishes a Soil Survey Report. Currently, Adams County has a soil survey that was completed and issued in July 1984.

Soil surveys contain an abundance of information regarding soil suitability for outdoor recreation site planning. The soil types identified are to be evaluated for a wide range of recreational uses including the following:

- \* Athletic Fields
- \* Campsites
- \* Golf Courses
- \* Hunting lands
- \* Manmade ponds
- \* Open space or nature study areas
- \* Parks
- \* Picnic Areas
- \* Recreational Trails
- \* Ski areas
- \* Wetland refuges for waterfowl
- \* Wildlife management

## SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Introduction

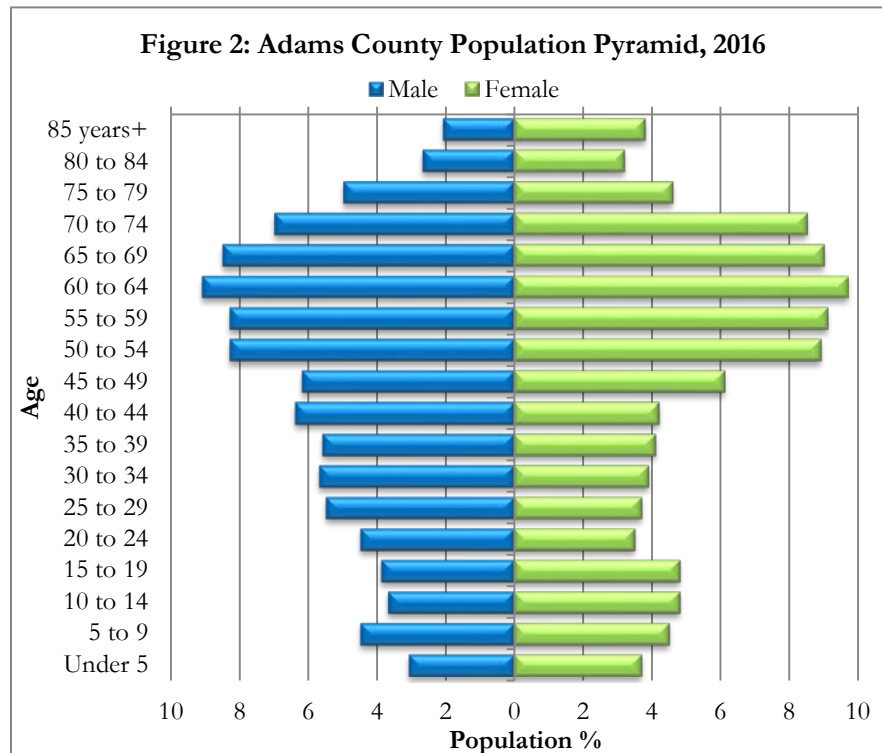
This section describes the social and economic factors that shape Adams County. This type of information can give a general feeling of how trends in recreational needs might be changing. Developing an understanding of these characteristics and their changes will help direct future planning efforts in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

### Population

The population is projected to increase between 2015 and 2030, resulting in a total population incline, see **Table 1**. As of 2015 Adams County’s population estimate is 21,410, which was conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Administration – the same agency that created the 2013 population projections.

Table 1 Adams County Population Projections				
Year	2015	2020	2025	2030
Population	21,410	22,035	23,120	23,830

Source: WI DOA, 2013



**Figure 2** illustrates the county’s 2016 population by age and gender. Adams County’s largest population cohorts, for both males and females, are the 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, and 70-74 year olds. Median age in the County increased from 49.2 years old in 2010 to 52.2 years old in 2016. 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.

**Table 2** compares percent composition of age cohorts within Adams County for the years 2010 and 2016. Since 2010, Adams County has experienced an increase in the proportion of individuals over the age of 50. Adams County has also experienced a decrease in the proportion of individuals between the ages of 25 and 49 during this time as well. These changes help explain the increase in median age within the County between 2010 (when the median age was 49.2) and 2016 (median age of 52.2).

<b>Table 2 Adams County Age Characteristics</b>		
<b>Age Cohort</b>	<b>2010 Percent</b>	<b>2016 Percent</b>
85 years +	2.10%	2.90%
80 to 84	3.00%	2.90%
75 to 79	4.10%	4.80%
70 to 74	6.20%	7.70%
65 to 69	8.10%	8.70%
60 to 64	8.40%	9.40%
55 to 59	8.40%	8.70%
50 to 54	8.20%	8.50%
45 to 49	8.00%	6.20%
40 to 44	5.80%	5.40%
35 to 39	5.50%	4.90%
30 to 34	5.10%	4.90%
25 to 29	4.70%	4.70%
20 to 24	4.00%	4.00%
15 to 19	5.10%	4.30%
10 to 14	4.90%	4.20%
5 to 9	4.30%	4.50%
Under 5	4.10%	3.30%

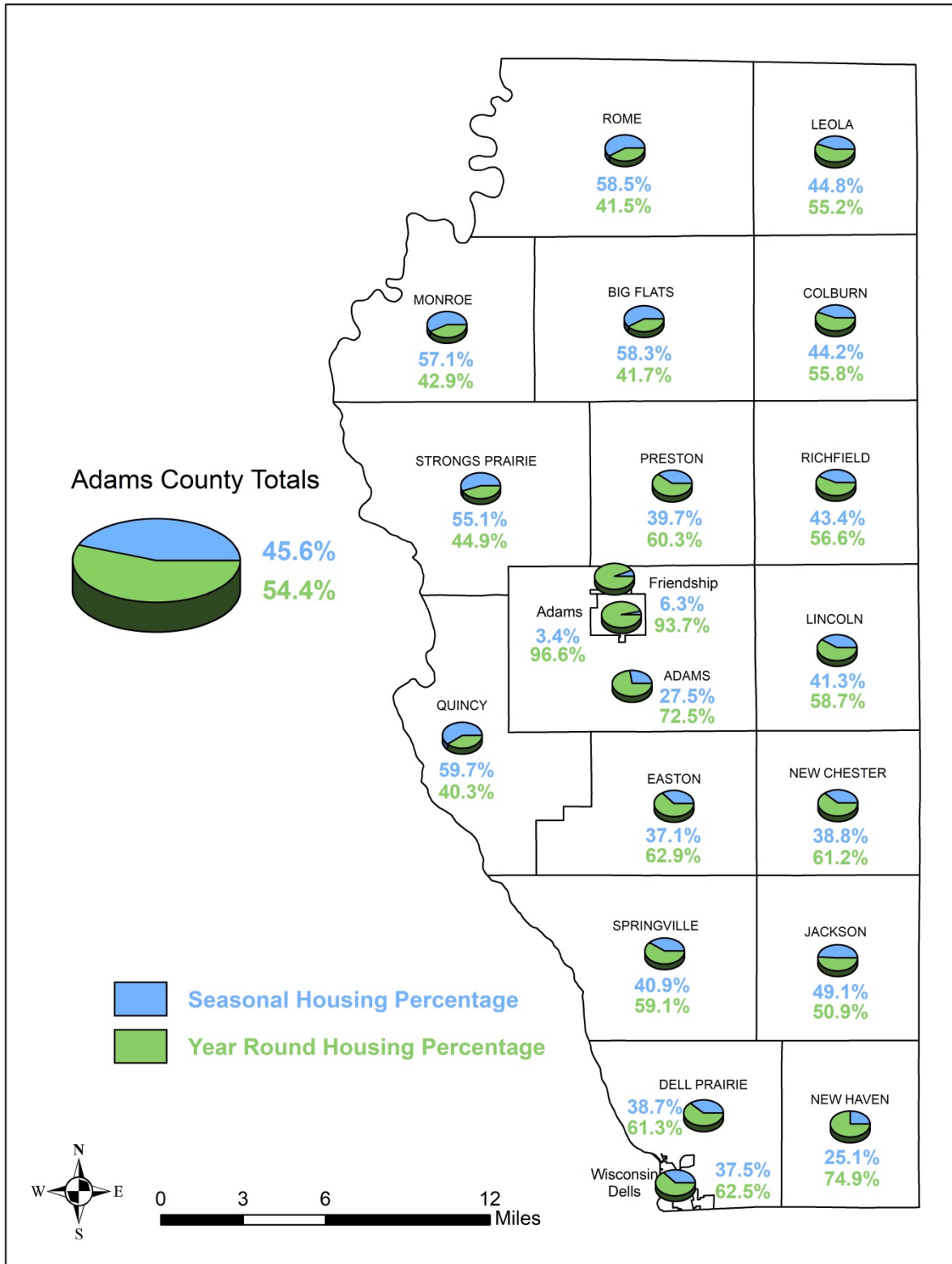
Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2012-2016

## Housing

The total number of housing units decreased from 17,436 units in 2010 to 17,419 units in 2016. Seasonal housing units are a significant part of the housing stock, making up about 46% of all housing units in 2016; greater than the 7.1% of units for the state. Seasonal housing units are found in all municipalities in the County.

**Figure 3** shows the percentage of seasonal housing units to total housing units in each of the municipalities in Adams County. All of the towns in Adams County have seasonal housing rates over 25%, while Adams has 3.4% and Friendship has 6.3%. 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, 2016





## Demographic Trends

**Table 3** shows a comparison within Adams County of demographic indicators from the 2010 Census and the Census' 2016 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. The total population decreased by 145 persons. The percentage of persons below the age of 5 and below the age of 18 have 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 decreased slightly, with the percentage of White, Non-Hispanic persons increasing from 94.7% to 94.9%. Despite the decrease in diversity within the County, the percentages of persons identifying as American Indian and Hispanic both increased, while the percentage of those who identified as Asian experiencing no change, and those who identified as Black or African American decreased slightly.

<b>Table 3 Adams County Demographics</b>		
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2016</b>
Population	20,875	20,730*
Persons under 5 years	849	1,600
Persons under 18 years	3,421	6,178
Persons 65 years and over	4,899	8,564
Median Age	49.2	52.2
Female Persons	46.2	49.6%
High School Graduates or Higher**	84.0%	87.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher**	10.8%	12.7%
Housing Units	17,436	17,419
Average Household Size	2.41	2.55
Median Household Income	\$39,885	\$43,554

Source: US Census

\*DOA population estimate

\*\*Percentage of persons age 25 and over

Educational attainment has increased in the County since 2010. The percentage of persons with a high school degree or higher increased from 84.0% to 87.3%, and those with a Bachelor's degree or higher increased from 10.8% to 12.7%. These trends are increasing, however the State 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 2017 profile provided the following population perspective:

Adams County lost 145 residents from April 2010 to January 2016, decreasing at a rate of -0.7%, contrary to the statewide growth rate of 1.5%. This ranks Adams as the 4<sup>th</sup> slowest growing county in Wisconsin. Rome remained the most populous municipality and increase by 1.0% over this 6-year period. The Town of Dell Prairie experienced the fastest growth rate (2.3%) and gained 36 new people over the 6-year period.

Adams County’s population decline was due to a low natural increase (births over deaths) of -3.3%, which overtook net migration (2.7%) into the County. Low natural growth typically indicates an older population. The high migration rate is an indication that Adams County continues to be an attractive destination for retiring individuals.

## Employment

Overall, the labor force has decreased from 2010 to 2016 by 10.4%; see **Table 4**. The labor force is defined as the number of persons, 16 years old and over who are either employed or looking for work. People over 16 years old who are students, homemakers, retired, institutionalized, or unable/unwilling to seek employment are not considered part of the labor force. The unemployment rate in Adams County increased slightly from 4.3% in 2010 to 4.4% in 2016. Even though the employment rate has gone down, there are fewer employed individuals in 2016 vs. 2010.

	2010	2016
<b>Labor Force</b>	9,139	8,188
<b>Employed</b>	8,354	7,411
<b>Unemployed</b>	4.3%	4.4%
<b>Participation Rate</b>	50.9%	46.4%

Source: U.S. Census

**Table 5** shows trends in the industry sector composition of Adams County from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. While labor market information examines the employment status of Adams County residents, this information is based on establishments located within Adams County.

These three industries have the largest share of jobs in Adams County:

- Leisure & Hospitality
- Education & Health
- Trade, Transportation, Utilities

Together, these industry sectors accounted for 63.6% of jobs in Adams County in 2016.

	Average Employment	1-yr Change
Natural Resources	582	44
Construction	168	3
Manufacturing	300	6
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	735	5
Information	21	-2
Financial Activities	88	-5
Professional & Business Services	183	-7
Education & Health	757	16
Leisure & Hospitality	916	1
Other Services	105	0
Public Administration	665	4

Source: WI DWD, QCEW, June 2017

## Transportation

Adams County is served by five State Highways, 13, 21, 23, 73, 82, which provide 92 miles of highway access. Highway 13 runs north-south through the center of the county. Highway 21 runs east-west through the northern third of the county. Highway 23 runs east-west near the southern border of the county. Highway 73 runs east-west along the northern border of the county. Highway 82 runs east-west through the southern third of the county. The county also maintains an additional 224 miles of its own highway system.

These highways link the county with some of Wisconsin's major cities: Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield, Stevens Point, Wausau, Madison, Tomah, Portage, and Oshkosh just to name a few. They are also the arteries, which feed Adams County its tourists and other visitors from across the country. There is no doubt how important these roadways are to the vitality of the county. The usage of these roadways will only increase, bringing more tourists to Adams County.

Union Pacific provides commercial rail service. Amtrak passenger rail service is available in Wisconsin Dells. The nearest commercial air service is at the Central Wisconsin Airport (CWA) in the City of Mosinee, and in Madison at Dane County Regional Airport (MSN). The Baraboo/Wisconsin Dells Airport provides the nearest air cargo service. There are no water transportation facilities in the area.

## Land Use

Woodlands are dominant land use in the county. Over 56 percent of the county is considered woodlands, followed by agriculture with about 25 percent of the total. Combined, these two uses represent 80 percent of the land use in the county. Residential uses make up just over 7 percent of the total.

<b>Land Use</b>	<b>2015</b>
Agriculture	22.1%
Cranberry Bogs	0.4%
Commercial	0.4%
Industrial	0.1%
Government / Public / Institutional	0.2%
Open Lands	4.4%
Parks & Outdoor Recreation	0.4%
Residential	4.4%
Transportation	3.4%
Water	6.3%
Woodlands	57.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Adams County Comprehensive Plan, 2018

## Chapter 3

# EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

### INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing outdoor recreational facilities in Adams County, which will focus primarily upon public facilities. Some private facilities may 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.

Existing recreation facilities are grouped under the following headings: Linear Facilities; Public Access Points to Water Bodies; Points Of Interest; County Parks; School District Facilities; City, Village, and Town Facilities; State Facilities; Forested Lands – Not State Owned; Federal Facilities; and Private Outdoor Recreation Facilities.

Outdoor recreation opportunities are provided by Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO) along the Castle Rock and Petenwell Lakes.

### LINEAR FACILITIES

#### Rustic Roads:

Adams County has 2 rustic roads. Rustic Road 14 is 2 miles of Ember Drive between County Highway A and County Highway B. Rustic Road 50 is 4.6 miles of Cottonville Avenue (Old State Road), from Eighth Drive east to Fourth Avenue.

#### Water Trails:

A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. There are over 100 miles of streams and rivers providing canoeists more than 22 miles of routes. One canoe route is promoted on the Wisconsin River south of the Castle Rock Dam. Portages have been established on the Wisconsin River to get around the Petenwell and Castle Rock dams. All navigable water is available to canoe on.

#### Trout Streams:

Parts or all of the following streams are classified as trout streams: Lawrence Creek, Neenah Creek, Big Spring Creek, O'Keefe Creek (Widow Green Creek), Gulch Creek (Witches Gulch Creek), Plainville Creek, Corning Creek, White Creek, Campbell Creek (Reed Creek), Fairbanks Creek, Risk Creek, East Castle Rock Ditch, Little Roche a Cri Creek, Carter Creek, Fordham Creek, Big Roche a Cri Creek, Chester Creek, and the Leola Ditch.

#### Snowmobile Trails:

Adams County has approximately 281 miles of established snowmobile trails: 221 miles are state funded sponsored public trails, 30 miles of county sponsored public trails, and 30 miles are club trails open to the public. There are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the county. The Adams County Snowmobile Association, comprised of eleven snowmobile clubs, maintain the state funded county sponsored trails and meet monthly to provide continuous input toward the future direction of the county's snowmobile program.

### Horse (Equestrian) Trails:

There are approximately 7 miles of Equestrian or horseback riding trails that have been established in the Town of Strong's Prairie.

### Cross Country Ski Trails:

Adams County has approximately 20 miles of established cross-country ski trails throughout the county available to the public. The majority of these trails are not adequately marked or groomed on a regular basis. There are also no sheltered rest areas along these trails.

### Hiking Trails:

There are approximately 13 miles of established marked hiking trails open to the public in Adams County. The Van Kuren trail is a 2.7 mile trail through wetlands and affords views of Petenwell Lake. Interpretive markers, a shelter, and fire ring also exist along this trail. The Van Kuren Trail is located off Brown Deer Drive in Monroe.

The Nature Conservancy owns and manages Quincy Bluff and adjacent lands with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Hiking on trails only is allowed during daylight hours year-round at Quincy Bluff. A parking area and established trails exist off of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Edgewood Avenue to the north, and Elk Avenue to the south.

Roche-A-Cri State Park has 5 miles of hiking trails.

About 1 mile of trails are located in Petenwell County Park, and another ¼-mile trail is available within Castle Rock County Park.

***Songbird Trail (private, open to the public)*** exists on the Sand Valley Golf Course and consists of a 1.2-mile pedestrian loop.

***Ridge Trail (private, open to the public)*** exists on the Sand Valley Golf Course and consists of a 3-mile pedestrian loop.

The National Ice Age Trail is slated to exist on a route through Adams County. A local Ice Age Trail chapter does not exist. The general potential route is shown on Map 1.

### All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)/Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Trails and Road Routes

There are approximately 32 miles of state funded ATV/UTV trails, with many town roads posted as open for ATV use per town ordinance. Additionally some county highway segments are posted via county ordinance as open for ATV/UTV travel. Most of the off-road trails are in the towns of Big Flats and Rome. Road routes exist within the City of Adams, and the Towns of Big Flats, Colburn, Easton, Jackson, Leola, Monroe, New Haven, Preston, Richfield, Rome, and Strong's Prairie. Additional municipalities are also exploring trail or road route options.

### Off-Road Motorcycle Trails:

Dyracuse Mound Recreation Area in the Town of Rome has over 10 miles of trails for ATVs, UTVs, and off-highway motorcycles. The park also includes picnic areas with grills, tables, a playground area, shelter house, and restrooms with hot and cold running water. Daily and annual admissions are charged. This park is established on land owned by paper industries and

leased to and managed by the Rapids Angels Motorcycle Club, and financed by entrance fees and grants from the Motorcycle Recreation Program (MRP) – a DNR program. The MRP is funded by a \$2 fee from motorcycle registration.

### Bicycle Trails

All roads are open to bicycle travel within Adams County, but some roads are heavily traveled by motorized vehicles which makes them unsafe for bicyclists.

Fifteen bike routes are proposed to exist on county and state highways. See proposed regional routes on Map 1 and proposed Adams County routes on Map 2.

For more details see the *Adams County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, 2012* under “Reference Plans and Laws” in Chapter 1, page 3.

## PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO WATER BODIES

Public access points to water bodies vary from primitive to well developed. Multiple jurisdiction own the access points while the county maintains the majority. All public access points are shown on Map 3.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

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

### A) Historic Buildings

The Adams County Courthouse in Friendship is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Wisconsin. Strongs Tavern (Town of Preston) was established in 1846 as a trading post between Portage and Stevens Point, and Walworth Tavern (Town of New Haven), was also a trading post established in 1836. These two locations are designated as County Historical Sites. The Adams County Historical Society has a website (<http://www.adamshistory.com/>) to disseminate current historical community events to the general public.

### B) Geologic Sites

Adams County is generally characterized by its flat to slightly undulating topography. However, there are occasional pinnacles and hills of resistant sandstone, such as many of the land features listed below:

1. Friendship Mound, Town of Adams and Preston, privately owned.
2. Houghton Rock, Town of Adams, privately owned.
3. Lighthouse Rock, Town of Adams, privately owned.

4. Roche-A-Cri Mound, Town of Preston, Part of Roche-A-Cri State Park.
5. Preston Cliffs, Town of Preston, privately owned.
6. Cottonville Rocks, Town of Preston, privately owned.
7. Rabbit Rock, Town of Big Flats, public owned (town maintained former wayside).
8. Minnie Rock, Town of Big Flats, privately owned.
9. Keystone Rock, Town of Big Flats, privately owned.
10. Ship Rock, Town of Lincoln, State owned wayside.
11. Horseshoe Bluff, Town of Lincoln, privately owned.
12. Spring Bluff, Town of Lincoln, privately owned.
13. Pilot Knob Bluff, Town of Lincoln, privately owned.
14. Quincy Bluff, Town of Quincy, State owned
15. Lone Rock, Town of Quincy, State owned.
16. Rattlesnake Mounds, Towns of Easton and Quincy, State owned.
17. Easton Mounds, Town of Easton, privately owned.
18. Anderson Bluff, Town of Springville, privately owned.
19. Elephants Back, Town of Dell Prairie, privately owned.
20. Steamboat Rock, Town of Dell Prairie, privately owned.
21. Owens Rock, Town of Leola, privately owned.
22. Dyracuse Mound, Town of Rome, privately owned.
23. Hamilton Mound, Town of Rome, privately owned.

C. Petenwell Dam

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

## COUNTY PARKS

The amount of usage Adams County Parks receives plays a major role in the economy of the county. Revenue generated in Adams County by the Parks Department far exceeds those of surrounding counties.

The county's two major destinations campgrounds, Petenwell and Castle Rock County Parks, are located on the second and fifth largest water bodies respectively in Wisconsin.

Petenwell and Castle Rock County Parks combined allow a maximum of 700 camping units per day. Heavy day use and overnight camper usage is directly related to several factors, but most importantly, both parks are directly located on flowages.

Adams County's smaller outlying non-camping parks also provide an important recreation base at various locations within the county. Usage of the outlying parks is light to moderate mainly due to their undeveloped facilities. Usage is expected to increase once facilities are developed. Table 5 lists existing county parks and their facilities and Map 3, page 18 identifies their location in the county.

**Table 5 Adams County Parks Facilities**

Facilities	Arrowhead	Big Roche-A-Cri Lake	Crooked Lake	Fawn Lake	Castle Rock	Deep Lake	Lake Camelot	Hwy 21 Boat Ramp	Jordan Lake	Lake Mason	Patrick Lake	Petenwell	Sherwood
	# of Camping Sites					200							500
Acres	5	2.5	1	2	80	2	40	5.5	2	2.5	15	240	5
Town	Rome	Preston	Jackson	Dell Prairie	Quincy	Jackson	Rome	Strongs Prairie	Jackson	New Haven	New Chester	Monroe	Rome
Restroom (shower)	X				X(X)			X		X	X	X(X)	X
Picnic Area (grills)	X(X)				X(X)	X(X)	X(X)	X(X)		X(X)	X(X)	X(X)	X
Fishing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boating	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boating Ramp	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swimming Beach	X				X		X				X	X	
Trails (miles)					2							2	
Use	Heavy	Light	Light	Light	Heavy	Light	Moderate	Heavy	Heavy	Moderate	Moderate	Heavy	Moderate
Playground	X				X						X	X	
Shelter	X				X						X	X	
Dump Station					X							X	

Arrowhead Park

Arrowhead Park is a 5 acre park located in the Town of Rome. Existing facilities include a beach, shelter, handicap accessible restrooms, boat launch, picnic tables, grills, and play equipment.



### Castle Rock Park

Castle Rock Park consists of 80 acres and is located in the Town of Quincy. Camping is permitted year-round and the park has both reservable and non-reservable campsites. There is a stated capacity of 200 campsites with 150 electrical outlets. There are 34 existing tie-up docks for boats, and handicap accessible restrooms. Table 5 lists other facilities that also exist in the park. Castle Rock Park is located on the Castle Rock Flowage, Wisconsin's fifth largest body of water. The camping areas are heavily over-used and crowded many weekends throughout the summer.

### Deep Lake Park

This undeveloped and partially maintained park consists of 2 acres on steep terrain located on the south shore of Deep Lake, with surface acreage of 35.4 acres. Deep Lake is located in the Town of Jackson and its current usage is very low due to the heavily wooded area and steep terrain. This is the only public access on Deep Lake, which affords excellent fishing opportunities.

### Highway 21 Boat Ramp

Acquired as a county park in 2011, this former wayside has a heavily used boat launch that sits on the western edge of the county right off of Hwy 21 with access to the Wisconsin River. This 5.5 acre park has paved parking for up to 20 vehicles with boat trailers. The park has picnic tables and grills, a restroom that needs to become handicapped accessible, and area lighting. The ramp receives heavy use year-round as the river typically remains ice free in the winter months.

### Jordan Lake Park

Clear water and good fishing makes this two acre park popular for those seeking public access to Jordan Lake. The park features a concrete boat launch with a long pier making boat access easy. The gravel lot can accommodate up to 20 vehicles with boat trailers.

### Lake Camelot Park

Lake Camelot Park, a 40 acre heavily wooded park, has direct access to Lake Camelot, a lake having 415 acres of surface water. Lake Camelot is located in the Town of Rome and consists of a concrete boat launch, a limited paved parking area, several picnic tables, and an undeveloped beach which receives light to moderate use.

### Lake Mason Park

The 2.5 acre park is located directly on Lake Mason, which consists of 857 surface acres located in the Town of New Haven. The heavily fished lake is the third largest in the county, and provides recreational activities for many users. The Park provides a handicap accessible restroom, picnic tables and grills, a concrete boat launch, and a gravel parking lot.

### Patrick Lake Park

The 15 acre park is located directly on Patrick Lake in the Town of New Chester and consists of 47.5 surface acres. The main recreational activities at the park are baseball and swimming, which are light to medium in use. The park will always remain as a community-type park due to its remoteness from any major highways. Baseball, swimming, and picnicking will always be popular while providing a scenic overview of the lake. The restroom is not handicap accessible.

### Petenwell Park

Petenwell Park is located on the Petenwell Flowage of the Wisconsin River in the Town of Monroe, which contains 23,040 surface acres of water. This park is the largest park in the county. It consists of 240 acres of land, with possible expansion of up to 400 acres. The existing campground, three separate areas, are much like Castle Rock Park and does have limited designated campsites. The Park is currently licensed for 500 camping units with approximately 420 electrical outlets. The camping areas are heavily over-used and crowded at peak camping periods. The park is open year round. Petenwell Park has day-use picnic ground areas located along the waters edge and various locations throughout the park, handicap accessible restrooms, boat ramp, and 94 tie-up docks along with a designated car/trailer parking area.

### Sherwood Park

The 5 acre park is located directly on Sherwood Lake in the Town of Rome. The boat access receives heavy usage. A small grassy area exists for picnicking.

## STATE FACILITIES

### State Fishery Areas

State fishery areas have been purchased to help preserve and manage headwaters and springs that often form the biological base for stream fisheries. These lands protect and improve spawning grounds for lake fisheries and prevent private blocking of important waterways, game lands, and lakes. Boundary signs posted near parking lots and along borders explain the uses on that parcel.

The following fishery areas are owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Department of Natural Resources:

1. ***Big Roche a Cri Fishery Area*** is 310 acres and located in the Town of Leola.
2. ***Campbell Creek Fishery Area*** is 21 acres located in the Town of Easton.
3. ***Carter Creek Fishery Area*** is 300 acres located in the Town of Colburn.
4. ***Fordam Creek Fishery Area*** is 169 acres located in the Towns of Preston and Adams.
5. ***Little Roche a Cri Fishery Area*** is 320 acres located in the Town of Preston.
6. ***Risk Creek Fishery Area*** is 15 acres located in the Town of Easton.
7. ***Upper Neenah Creek Fishery Area*** is 226 acres located in the Towns of Jackson and New Chester.

### State Wildlife Areas

State wildlife areas were acquired by the state to protect and manage important habitat for wildlife and to preserve unique wild land features for hikers, wildlife watchers, hunters, trappers, and all people interested in the out-of-doors. Wildlife areas have only minor facility development like a very small gravel parking lot.

The following wildlife areas are owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Department of Natural Resources. There is one federal wildlife area, and three state wildlife areas in Adams County:

1. ***Colburn Public Wildlife Area*** located in the Town of Colburn is a public hunting area that consists of 4,965 acres. Ruffed grouse, deer, squirrels, fox, and small furbearers inhabit the area.
2. ***Leola Marsh Wildlife Area*** is located in the Town of Leola and was purchased as a habitat and management area for prairie chickens. It consists of 880 acres and is one of the few areas remaining in the Midwest still supporting a prairie chicken population.
3. ***Lawrence Creek Wildlife Area*** is approximately 428 acres and located in the Towns of New Chester and Lincoln.

#### State Natural Areas (SNA)

State natural areas were acquired to protect the state's natural diversity, provide sites for research and environmental education, and serve as benchmarks for assessing and guiding use of other lands in the state. Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water, which have native biotic communities, unique natural features, or significant geological or archeological sites. These sites do not have much facility development, though there may be a designated trail on the site.

The restrictions and guidelines that follow are applicable to most SNAs, though sites owned by agencies and organizations other than the DNR may have additional rules.

- Most SNAs are open to the public year around unless otherwise noted in the SNA site descriptions or posted at the site. SNAs within State Parks are generally open between 6:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M.
- Please recognize and respect the property of private landowners adjacent to SNAs by not trespassing. Seek the landowner's permission before crossing private lands.
- Do not collect plants (including fruits, nuts, or edible plant parts), animals, fungi, rocks, minerals, fossils, archaeological artifacts, soil, downed wood, or any other natural material, alive or dead. Collecting for scientific research requires a permit issued by the DNR.
- Vehicles, including bicycles, ATVs, aircraft, and snowmobiles, are prohibited except on trails and roadways designated for their use. Access is only by foot, skis, snowshoes, and watercraft. Some trails are wheelchair accessible.
- Pets are allowed on most DNR-owned SNAs, but must be kept on a leash no longer than 8', unless they are dogs being used for hunting purposes. Pets are prohibited on sites owned by The Nature Conservancy and most other private conservation organizations. Horseback riding is not allowed.
- Camping and fires are generally prohibited.
- Rock climbing and rappelling are prohibited, except on SNAs #98 and #164.
- Fishing, trapping, and hunting are allowed on most DNR-owned properties in accordance with state regulations.

The Department of Natural Resources listed six areas within Adams County:

1. ***Sohlberg Silver Lake SNA (No. 166)*** is 308 acres located in the Town of Quincy.
2. ***Roche-A-Cri Mound SNA (No. 183)*** is 22 acres located within Roche-A-Cri State Park.
3. ***Roche-A-Cri Woods (No. 362)*** is 442 acres located within Roche-A-Cri State Park.
4. ***Brooks Bluff SNA (No. 232)*** is 20 acres located in the Town of New Chester. Brooks Bluff SNA is not suited for visitation by the general public. This natural area may have restricted access, require special permission from the landowner, or contain sensitive resources. Contact the State Natural Areas Program for information about visiting this site (608) 266-7012.
5. ***Quincy Bluffs and Wetlands (No. 272)*** is 6,523 acres of ecosystem co-owned and managed with the Nature Conservancy, and WDNR. This natural area is located in the Town of Quincy, and has an observation tower on the mound, which is open to the public for hiking. The Nature Conservancy part of this natural area is described under Private Outdoor Recreational Facilities.
6. ***Dells of the Wisconsin River (No. 283)*** is 1,386 acres located in Adams, Juneau, Columbia, & Sauk counties.

There are two other WDNR properties that are undeveloped lands, which are open to the public for passive recreation. Always review the posted uses for a property to help maintain the property.

1. ***Lake Camelot*** located in the Town of Rome and has approximately 200 acres.
2. ***Amey Lake*** located in the Town of New Haven is a waterfowl refuge and northern pike spawning marsh with approximately 165 acres open to the public.

#### State Parks

Roche-A-Cri State Park consists of approximately 605 acres and is located in the Town of Preston. Existing recreational development at Roche-A-Cri consists of 41 rustic campsites, with pit-type restrooms, three picnic areas, over 5 miles of hiking trails, a dumping station, three sites for water, and a pay phone. There is also a State Historical Marker describing the history of the area, interpretive panels along a trail, and Indian petroglyphs.

Roche-A-Cri is not a destination type campground and the average length of stay is usually only a night or two. Use for the park is about 30% capacity based on a 100-day summer season. The park is open on a limited basis during the winter months with access to cross county ski trails. The campground is closed from late fall to late spring.

#### State Waysides

There are a total of three waysides in Adams County. Ship Rock wayside is named for its unique rock formation. The waysides provide attractive picnicking and relaxation areas for travelers and are maintained by the County Highway Commission with funds from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Table 6 lists waysides and their facilities.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
STH 21 (Ship Rock)	Richfield	2.8	Picnicking
STH 13 & 21	Preston	0.4	Picnicking & Restrooms
STH 82	Jackson	0.6	Picnicking

Source: WisDOT

## FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE OWNED

The forested lands in Adams County are comprised of state lands and private lands held by individuals and corporations. The Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO) owns large tract of land mainly along the Petenwell and Castle Rock Flowages. Most corporate lands are enrolled in either the Forest Crop Law or the Managed Forest Law. Currently, lands can only be re-enrolled in Managed Forest Law.

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) 472 acres are open to the public to hunt and fish as of 2018. Of the 95,566 acres enrolled as of 2018 in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program 27,033 acres are open to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking, and the remaining acres are closed to public 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.

The DNR’s Forest Legacy Program purchased or acquired by donation the development rights to land adjacent to the Sand Valley Golf Resort. In essence, the Forest Legacy Program provides permanently “open” MFL land. Sand Valley Restoration Trust LLC is creating an 8,900-acre (~4,800-acres in 2018) restoration project to convert pine plantation land to sand barrens with black oak and jack pine; they used the Forest Legacy Program to permanently protect this land from non-forested development. Landowners in the Forest Legacy Program must practice sustainable forestry according to a management plan prepared by a natural resource professional.

Contact the WDNR to find what land is available to the public for the recreational purposes of hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, and sightseeing.

## FEDERAL FACILITIES

New Chester Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) is 339 acres in Section 23 of the Town of New Chester. This property is owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The New Chester WPA is open to hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife observation, hiking, cross-country skiing, nature study, and photography, subject to all applicable federal and state laws. The Leopold Wetland Mgnt. Dist. office at Portage, WI directs local management.

## PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

### Private Golf Courses

The several golf courses in Adams County are open to the public for a fee:

1. ***Mound View Golf Course*** – nine hole course in the Village of Friendship.
2. ***Coldwater Canyon Golf Course*** – eighteen hole course as part of Chula Vista Resort in the Town of Dell Prairie, and City of Wisconsin Dells.
3. ***Lake Arrowhead*** – two – 18-hole courses in the Town of Rome.
4. ***Northern Bay Golf Course*** – eighteen hole course as part of Northern Bay Golf Resort and Marina.
5. ***Pine Crest Golf Course*** – nine hole, par 3 course in the Town of Dell Prairie.
6. ***Sand Valley Golf Course*** – two 18-hole public courses, one 17-hole par-3 course, and plans for up to 3 additional courses.

### Private Campgrounds

There are approximately seventeen private campgrounds totaling 1,160 campsites in Adams County. Eleven of the seventeen have boat launching facilities. All of these campgrounds are available for a fee to the public.

### Private Ski Jump Facility

The Tri Norse Ski Club owns and operates a ski jump on Dyracuse Mound.

### Private Shooting Ranges

- Dells Rifle Club (T. Dell Prairie)
- Point Bluff Sportsman’s Club (T. Springville)
- Wisconsin Trap Shooters Association (T. Rome)
- Sporting clays (T. Colburn)
- Sporting clays (T. Jackson)
- Roche-A-Cri Bowman (T. Adams)
- Indoor archery range (T. Richfield)

***Wisconsin Trapshooting Association*** consists of approximately 280 acres located at 1312 Akron Drive. Thirty trap fields offer a variety of trapshooting experiences; including American-style trapshooting and an Olympic bunker for international-style trapshooting.

### Private Nature Preserve

***Sand Valley Restoration Trust*** consists of approximately 7,200 acres. The objective for the land owned by the Trust is to restore native plant communities and help recover several rare species. The land is open under permanent MFL for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking.

## Chapter 4

# OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the county have been identified in three ways: 1) public input – informally, questionnaire results, open house comments, town level comprehensive plan survey results, and county level comprehensive plan survey results; 2) a facility assessment; and 3) a review of past plans

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### **Informal Public Input**

Adams County Park and Recreation Department staff has acquired public input about its parks, recreational, natural, and cultural resources both on the road and within the parks. Castle Rock and Petenwell staff constantly interact with park visitors and listen to their concerns about specific amenities. Valuable input for this report also comes from these park visitors.

#### **Online Survey (April 2018)**

See *Attachment A* for additional survey results.

NCWRPC mailed survey posters to each town, and either emailed or mailed survey notices to a whole list of outdoor recreation groups provided by the Adams County Parks & Recreation Department.

We received 862 responses to the Survey. This survey was sent out for customer feedback and is not statistically significant. Listening to the public's thoughts gives valuable perspectives for use in developing this outdoor recreation plan. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had smaller response groups.

About 81% of 844 respondents own of home in Adams County.

Through an IP address & related answer analysis of who took the survey it appears that 28 IP addresses are at least duplicated, which could mean that a husband and wife both took the survey. One IP address repeated 65 times, but all the answers appeared from different people; another IP address repeated 12 times, but all the answers appeared from different people; and another IP address repeated 9 times, but the answers also appeared to be from different individuals. So it appears that nobody “stuffed the ballot box.”

Respondents were 53% male and 46% female; and came from all age groups, with a strong showing of at least 20% in the 45 to 54 age group, the 55 to 64 age group, and the More than 64 age group.

Responses came heavily from the Town of Rome (38.3% of responses), with the second highest amount of responses coming from the Towns of Quincy (8.4%), Strongs Prairie (7.8%), Preston

(7.4%), and the City of Adams (5.3%). The next highest response rate came from the Village of Friendship (4.7%) and the Towns of Monroe (4.7%), Big Flats (4.6%), Easton (4.6%), and Jackson (2.2%). All other communities provided less than 2% each of total survey responses.

**Key Findings of the ORP Survey:**

**Q1. Most frequent outdoor recreational activities respondents participated in:**

- |                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Boating                    | 69% of responses |
| 2. Walking/hiking             | 67% of responses |
| 3. Events / Festivals / Fairs | 58% of responses |
| 4. Fishing                    | 57% of responses |
| 5. Swimming                   | 55% of responses |
| 6. ATV/UTV/OHM Riding         | 53% of responses |

**Q2. Where in Adams County did you go for outdoor recreation in 2017?**

*Answered: 762 people.*

Roche A Cri State Park	136 responses
Castle Rock Lake	119 responses
Castle Rock Lake County Park	60 responses
Lake Petenwell	90 responses
Lake Petenwell County Park	66 responses
Lake Camelot	106 responses
Lake Arrowhead	99 responses
Lake Sherwood	57 responses
Rome dog park	27 responses
Rome splash pad	8 responses
Rome mini golf	6 responses
ATV/UTV riding on routes and trails	163 responses
Snowmobile riding on trails	55 responses
Bicycling on roads and trails	19 responses
Wisconsin River	40 responses
Friendship Lake	37 responses
Friendship Park	36 responses
Burt Morris Park	37 responses



Quincy Bluff trails	31 responses		
Sand Valley golf & hiking trails	43 responses		
Northern Bay Resort	12 responses		
Moundview golf	7 responses		
Chula Vista golf	2 responses		
Hunting or trapping	17 responses		
Big Roche Lake (Cottonville Lake)	21 responses		
Jordan Lake	9 responses	Patrick Lake	5 responses
		Mason Lake	3 responses

**Q3. What potential outdoor recreational opportunities should be developed in Adams County?**     *Answered: 648 people.*

1. ATV/UTV trails/routes 324 responses
2. Mtn. Bike/Bike trails/routes 175 responses
3. Hiking/walking area/trails 122 responses
4. Chlorinated swimming area: 93 responses
  - a. *Swimming pool (53 responses)*
  - b. *Splash pad in Adams-Friendship area (40 responses)*
5. Algae free swimming and fishing beaches/clean up lakes 85 responses
6. More snowmobile trails 59 responses
7. Improved boat landings 20 responses
8. Dog park 16 responses
9. Public shooting range 13 responses
10. Playground improvements 9 responses

See **Attachment A** for additional survey results.

## 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 for a park. A standard land measure is only useful for specific facilities like determining how much land is needed for a specific use like a baseball diamond. The number of baseball diamonds and other facilities are not the same 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 & 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 residential housing. Determining the space needs for unprogrammed land is subjective and objective 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 upon how aesthetically pleasing an area should be, 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, and aesthetic buffers.
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 may be imminent. When the opportunity to buy land exists, then reaction must be swift to seize the opportunity. A park growth boundary should be created for this reason.

## Chapter 5

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives are meant to guide the Adams County Parks and Recreation Department as they work towards providing a recreation system to meet the needs of Adams County's residents and visitors.

The following goals and objectives were created from public comments received and Committee feedback. **The goals and objectives are not in priority order:**

### **Goal 1 – Support development and connection of trails.**

#### Objectives

1. Support continued development of ATV/UTV/OHM routes and trails.
2. Support implementation of the Adams County Bike & Pedestrian Plan.
3. Support continued development of snowmobile trails.
4. Support local government or local group development of trails for hiking, biking, birding, ATV/UTV/OHMing, and snowmobiling.

### **Goal 2 – Continue improving outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Adams County.**

#### Objectives

1. Continue improving Castle Rock County Park and Petenwell County Park as regionally significant parks.
2. Continue upgrading facilities to reasonably accommodate the elderly and disabled.
3. Cooperate with local governments to improve their recreation facilities by including their projects in this County Outdoor Recreation Plan.
4. Encourage land acquisition and development strategies for parks and wildlife areas, boat launch and related facilities, outdoor education centers, as well as other possibilities. [Policy #6, Utilities & Community Facilities Chapter, Adams County Comprehensive Plan.]

### **Goal 3 – Protect, restore, and enhance Adams County's natural resources for outdoor recreation.**

#### Objectives

1. Cooperate with Land & Water Department to assist landowners with improving water quality for recreation on lakes.
2. Partner with hunting and trapping groups to promote hunting and trapping more within Adams County.
3. Consider creating a county forest to conserve forested lands for public hunting, public recreation, and harvested timber for revenue generation to the wood products industry.

## Chapter 6

# RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

### INTRODUCTION

The following recommendations are aimed at satisfying needs identified to improve Adams County's outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents and visitors.

The recommendations are based on the goals and objectives (Chapter 6), past plans (Chapter 1), and the public input (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.

### GENERAL COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **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 Adams and Juneau Counties is the Wisconsin River. Juneau 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.

#### **ATV/UTV/OHM Trails**

The demand for ATV/UTV/OHM areas and trails continues to increase in Adams County. Question #3 on the October 2018 ORP survey found out that the most important recreational opportunity to develop would be ATV/UTV trails/routes (324 responses).

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Develop a countywide map/plan of existing and potential local dirt/gravel roads and off-road trails that are or could be open to ATV/UTV/OHMs.
2. Encourage communities to consider if opening their roads, or specific roads, to ATV/UTV/OHM traffic would be a benefit to their residents or cross-county travel.
3. As trail networks continue to be developed, trail development groups (ex. ATV, bicycle, snowmobile) should come together to coordinate on mutually agreeable shared use plans at trail intersection and overlap (aka "pinch points") areas.
4. Consider if creating a Motorized Recreation Area of several hundred acres would be feasible in Adams County.

### **Bicycle Routes & Trails**

The Adams County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, 2013 has recommendations for a countywide bike route system, and additional recommendations for pedestrian improvements. Question #3 on the October 2018 ORP survey found out that the second most important recreational opportunity to develop would be mountain bike/bike trails/routes (175 responses), with the third highest response requesting more hiking/walking area/trails (122 responses).

#### **Recommendation:**

- Continue implementing the Adams County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, 2013.
- Signage and pavement improvements to county-wide Be Healthy Adams County walking and bicycling routes (created after above Bike and Pedestrian Plan was adopted).
  - Cottonville area to Petenwell Dam;
  - Quincy Bluff - Castle Rock Dam loop;
  - Friendship to the Sand Valley Restoration Area; and
  - Northern Friendship Lake-City of Adams-County Fair Grounds loop.
- Create bicycle trail between Friendship and Roche-A-Cri State Park
- Create pedestrian/bicycle crossing between Friendship Park and Friendship Lake.

### **Snowmobile Trails**

There are many snowmobile clubs in Adams County that maintain all the trails (state funded and club funded) within their part of the county. Question #3 on the October 2018 ORP survey found out that the sixth most important recreational opportunity to develop would be more snowmobile trails (59 responses). Note: The snowmobile trails in Adams County did not open in 2017.

**Recommendation:** Continue cooperating with snowmobile clubs for grant administration and trail development.

### **Forested Lands**

Adams County owns and maintains land for county parks, and hunting and trapping is allowed by permit through County Parks Department. Private landowners (e.g. individuals, timber companies, and land trusts) have provided vast stretches of land for hunting and trapping. In exchange for providing this land for selected public uses they receive a large property tax break – lands enrolled in FCL or MFL. Even though enrolled lands are initially planned to be in the program for at least 25 years, a landowner can pay a nominal fee and remove part or all of their enrolled lands from the program.

**Recommendation** – Consider what it would take to establish a county forest in Adams County. WDNR continues to allow counties to add or subtract from their county forests and provides financial assistance with purchasing land and a nominal annual amount for administration.

### **Hunting & Trapping**

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan notes that hunting is in decline statewide: “[Hunting – ] *Continues to struggle with generational loss and private access.*” Question #3 on the October 2018 ORP survey found out that 13 respondents want a public shooting range

developed. Obviously 13 responses is not very many, but it is worth attention because no other county outdoor recreation surveys that NCWRPC has created showed this as a need. The Property & Recreation Committee also noted that somehow developing public access to shooting ranges would be a good idea.

**Recommendation** – Develop a public shooting range or partner with clubs to make their ranges available for a fee to the public for a couple weeks prior to gun-deer season.

### **Public Pool**

Question #3 on the October 2018 ORP survey found out that the fourth most important recreational opportunity to develop would be a chlorinated swimming area (93 responses – the total of 53 responses wanting a swimming pool, and 40 responses wanting a splash pad specifically in the Adams-Friendship area).

#### **Recommendations**

1. Financially support development of a municipal pool in partnership with the City of Adams, the Village of Friendship, and the A-F School District.
2. Financially support partnering with adjacent school districts or municipalities to allow Adams County residents to pay the resident-rate at public pools adjacent to Adams County.

### **Lake Water Quality**

Question #3 on the October 2018 ORP survey found out that the fifth most important recreational opportunity to develop would be algae free swimming and fishing beaches/clean up lakes (83 responses).

**Recommendation** – Support implementation of the Adams County Land & Water Resource Management Plan, 2016-2025.

### **Boat Landings**

Question #3 on the October 2018 ORP survey found out that the seventh most important recreational opportunity to develop would be improved boat landings (20 responses). Adams County Parks & Recreation will continue to focus resources on improving boat launches within Petenwell County Park and Castle Rock County Park, along with other county parks that have boat launches.

**Recommendation** – continue making capital improvements at all county owned boat ramps.

### **Dog Parks**

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan notes that visiting a dog park is increasing statewide: *“Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas.”* Question #3 on the October 2018 ORP survey found out that the eighth most important recreational opportunity to develop would be dog parks (16 responses). Note: The Town of Rome provided 38% of the survey responses, and the Town has a new dog park that was noted earlier in the survey as a place that people went for recreation, therefore this need for a dog park(s) is coming from elsewhere in the county. The City of Adams also completed an ORP survey in 2018, which had 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of respondents living in the City, and 19 respondents wanted a dog park.

**Recommendation** – Encourage the City of Adams, the Village of Friendship, and the A-F School District to consider attaching dog friendly undeveloped spaces adjacent to the existing Be Healthy Adams-Friendship Walking Routes. What this could look like is diverting some of the walking routes onto newly created trails through parks and undeveloped areas (park-like settings) with pet stations (pet waste bags and garbage can) at one of the entrances to each undeveloped area.

## COUNTY FACILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2019-2023

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 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.

### Castle Rock Park

Finish campground development on 28.5 acre site east of Castle Rock Park

- Additional 30-35 campsites with water and electric hook-ups
- Centrally located ADA accessible shower/restroom facility and parking for 30 vehicles
- Construct septic drain field and adjacent RV dump station facility near exit
- Sealcoat roads
- Playground facility
- Open air shelter

### Petenwell County Park

Project 1; Completion of west end campground expansion

- Electric and water hook-up to the existing 44 sites in the south loop of the park; west of 20<sup>th</sup> Dr.
- ADA accessible shower/restroom facility and parking for 25 vehicles in central section of the park; west of 20<sup>th</sup> Dr.
- Install RV dump station near exit from the park onto 20<sup>th</sup> Dr.
- Vault style restroom and parking for five vehicles in the north central area of the park, west of 20<sup>th</sup> Dr. and additional vault style restroom with parking on the south end of the park west of 20<sup>th</sup> Dr. Both ADA accessible.
- Install hard surface (asphalt or sealcoat) roadways and parking areas in park west of 20<sup>th</sup> Dr.
- Playground facility west of 20<sup>th</sup> Dr. and walking / hiking trails

#### Project 2; ATV Campground Completion

- Add approximately 40 campsites to existing ATV Campground
- Playground structure

#### Project 3; Overall improvements and south side of Bighorn Dr. phase of expansion

- Relocate maintenance shop to a new building on the south side of Bighorn Dr. Include parking and maintenance work area around the building.
- Install a debris storage area; Camper storage
- Add 75-100 campsites to southeast corner 20<sup>th</sup> and Bighorn Dr. with two designated ADA accessible sites.
- Install ball fields and a playground facility between 20<sup>th</sup> Dr. and Bighorn Dr.
- ADA accessible restroom facility, shelter, and day use area with parking for 50 vehicles near the existing harbor

#### Project 4; Beach Parking and roadway improvements

- Reshape beach and parking area creating green space between them correcting drainage and providing parking

#### Arrowhead County Park

Reconstruct boat launch; install new planks and new pier  
Sealcoat two parking lots and road

#### Big Roche-a-Cri Lake

No major improvements anticipated

#### Crooked Lake County Park

No major improvements anticipated

#### Deep Lake County Park

Reconstruct stairway to lake

#### Fawn Lake

Reconstruct boat launch planking

#### Highway 21 Boat Ramp

No major improvements anticipated

#### Jordan Lake

Pave parking lot and roadway entering park

#### Lake Camelot County Park

Install culvert near the entrance off 10<sup>th</sup> Ave and re-sealcoat roadway



Lake Mason County Park

Install new pier to replace existing one, reconstruct and add new planks to boat launch

Patrick Lake County Park

Install new pier to replace existing one

Sherwood County Park

Reconstruct boat launch; install new planks

Re-sealcoat road

ATV/UTV/OHM Trails

Extend state funded trails in cooperation with private land owners.

Acquire land for future development of ATV/UTV/OHM trails.

Snowmobile Trails

Extend state funded trails in northeast and southeast parts of the county

Snowmobile access on the proposed STH 21 bridge connecting Adams and Juneau Counties.

## Chapter 7

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

### INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing public outdoor recreation facilities that are managed by federal, state, town, village, or city governments. Local governments have also provided lists of what they wish to improve in the next five years.

The following inventory was added to provide a comprehensive view of publicly managed outdoor recreation facilities within Adams County.

#### ADAMS-FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Adams-Friendship School District maintains the following outdoor facilities:

- 3 elementary school playgrounds, and Middle School playground
- Varsity football field & track
- 3 softball fields
- 2 baseball fields
- An outdoor skate park for rollerblading, skateboarding, and BMX style cycling
- An open play/practice area the size of about 3 football fields
- Lewis and Clark Replica Trail owned and operated in Grand Marsh by the school

Four other school districts cover parts of Adams County, but no school facilities from those districts exist within the county.

#### Proposed Projects for 2019-2023

An outdoor education center may be constructed near Castle Rock County Park.

#### CITY OF ADAMS

The City of Adams has their own outdoor recreation plan.

City facilities are listed here for reference:

***Burt Morris Park*** consists of approximately 10 acres with existing facilities that include four baseball diamonds and bleachers (two baseball diamonds contain dugouts), restrooms, play equipment, tennis courts, shelter, picnic tables, grills, security lighting, and walking trails.

***Lions Park*** consists of approximately 0.5 acres with existing facilities that include a skating rink, play equipment, basketball area, and picnic benches and grills.

#### Proposed Projects for 2019-2023

See the City of Adams Outdoor Recreation Plan.

## VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP

*Friendship Park* consists of 4 acres with an ADA accessible shelter, restroom (ADA), play equipment, and picnic grills (ADA). A small sledding hill is also maintained during the winter months.

*Friendship Beach Park* consists of a swimming beach (ADA), flush toilet beach house (ADA), handicap fishing pier, and a boat launch.

### **Proposed Projects for 2019-2023**

If floodplain properties become available for purchase that may allow the Village to expand its parkland. Structures would be demolished, and the land could become available for passive recreation.

Friendship Park – Restroom floor refurbishment, and add picnic shelter.

Friendship Beach Park – Replace boat ramp while lake is drawn down. Improve restroom entry doors, stall doors, floors, showers. Install a boat wash station and another ADA accessible boat dock.

## TOWN OF BIG FLATS

*Rabbit Rock Park* consists of a 5 acre former wayside located at 1159 STH 13. Rabbit Rock butte is the focus of this park. Picnic tables, parking lot and open space all exist at this Town park.

### **Proposed Projects for 2019-2023**

None.

## TOWN OF DELL PRAIRIE

A wayside park on STH 13 was transferred from WisDOT to the Kilborne Fire Department. This wayside consists of 5 acres with picnicking and rest rooms.

### **Proposed Projects for 2019-2023**

None.

## TOWN OF JACKSON

*Jordan Lake Park* consists of about 5 acres with picnic tables.

*Goose Lake Park and Beach* consists of 0.39 acres with benches. All amenities are provided by the lake district.

Three of the boat landings are Town-owned sites on Goose, Peppermill and Wolf Lakes. Landings on Jordan and Crooked lakes are state and county owned, respectively.

### **Proposed Projects for 2019-2023**

- Renovate boat landings at Goose Lake.
- Create handicap accessible fishing pier at Peppermill Lake; and replace planks.

## TOWN OF LEOLA

### Public Access to water body

The Town of Leola has a recreational resource that mainly consists of trout streams.

The Town has a 2 acre park located on the Big Roche a Cri Creek. This park is used mainly as access to the Creek.

### **Proposed Projects for 2019-2023**

None.

## TOWN OF MONROE

A park on Petenwell Lake (18<sup>th</sup> Ave & Badger Ct.) provides picnicking and has a boat launch. Vault toilets are available as well.

### **Proposed Projects for 2019-2023**

None.

## TOWN OF NEW CHESTER

*Grand Marsh Development Corporation* holds some acreage utilized for an annual festival, consisting of parking and basic picnic grounds.

### Proposed Projects for 2019-2023

None.

## TOWN OF NEW HAVEN

### Public Access to water body

There is a 2 acre boat access on the north shore of Lake Mason.

### Proposed Projects for 2019-2023

None.

## TOWN OF ROME

The Town of Rome has their own outdoor recreation plan.

### Town managed facilities are listed here for reference:

*Splash Pad Park* is located on a 4.77 acre parcel in the Alpine Village development. Existing facilities include a splash pad, gazebo, shelter, trail, open space.

*Room to Roam Dog Park* is located at 1351 Apache Way, on about 10 acres. Existing facilities include a dog agility equipment, chairs, benches, picnic shelter, picnic tables, and open space.

*Walden Park* consists of 1.58 acres with ball diamond and dugouts.

*Alpine Village Trail* consists of 2.79 miles of pedestrian and bicycle trail through the Alpine Village development.

### **Boat Launches:**

- Barnum Bay
- Chester Creek
- Devil's Elbow
- Lake Arrowhead
- Lake Camelot

- Lake Sherwood

**Carry-in Access Landings:**

- Petenwell Lake Carry-in
- Fourteenmile Creek Access
- Twin Lakes Bridge

**Nekoosa School District Facilities are listed here for reference:**

*Chester Outdoor Learning Center / School Forest* consists of approximately 40 acres on Alpine Drive. Planned facilities include a shelter building, extensive trail system, flora and fauna markers, and an outdoor theater for naturalist programs and entertainment.

**Non-Profit Facilities are listed here for reference:**

*Twin Lakes Nature Preserve* consists of approximately 45 acres, located between Apache Avenue and Aniwa Court on CTH Z. The Central Wisconsin Nature Foundation owns the property with a mission to provide natural resources education to the public in a hands-on interactive environment.

**Privately-Owned Facilities are listed here for reference:**

*Dyracuse Recreational Area* consists of approximately 334 acres with restrooms, hot and cold running water, shelter house, picnic area, play equipment, and over 10 miles of trails for ATVs, and off-road motorcycles. Daily and annual admissions are charged. This park is established on land owned by paper industries and leased to and managed by the Rapids Angels Motorcycle Club, and financed by entrance fees and grants from the Motorcycle Recreation Program (MRP) administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

*Sand Valley Restoration Trust* consists of approximately 7,200 acres. The objective for the land owned by the Trust is to restore native plant communities and help recover several rare species. The land is open under permanent MFL for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking.

*Songbird Trail* exists on the Sand Valley Golf Course and consists of a 1.2-mile pedestrian loop.

*Ridge Trail* exists on the Sand Valley Golf Course and consists of a 3-mile pedestrian loop.

*Wisconsin Trapshooting Association* consists of approximately 280 acres located at 1312 Akron Drive. Thirty trap fields offer a variety of trapshooting experiences; including American-style trapshooting and an Olympic bunker for international-style trapshooting.

**Proposed Projects for 2019-2023**

See the Town of Rome Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

## TOWN OF STRONGS PRAIRIE

*Roche-a-cri Lions Park* has a baseball diamond, modern restrooms, storage building, two shelters, and bleachers. (Church St., Arkdale)

*Arkdale Boat Landing* (South Shore Dr., Arkdale)

*Strongs Prairie Boat Landing* (1773 20<sup>th</sup> Court)

*Roche-a-cri Tube Hill*

*Club ATV trail exists*

### **Proposed Projects for 2019-2023**

- Add an ADA accessible restroom to Arkdale Park.
- Extend local ATV trail to state funded trail.

## Chapter 8

# 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, adopting techniques to carry out the general recommendations, and to move towards attainment of the goals and objectives set forth in Chapter 6.

A variety of commonly used state and federal funding programs are described in Attachment D.

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The following strategies are listed in alphabetical order.

#### 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.

#### 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 subjected to annual review.

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.

#### 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.

#### Historic Sites

Historical sites can be rewarding additions to any community's recreation program. This is especially true in areas oriented to serving a significant tourist trade. Nearly all communities in North Central Wisconsin are in this category and they should all 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 local County Historical Society.



### Leases

Leases may be used as measures to use or protect land until more permanent measures may be found. By leasing parcels of land, the land remains on the county's and the community's tax rolls and can be renegotiated or non-renewed by the property owner if the monetary prospects for another use proves overpowering.

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.

### 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.

### 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. Appendix D gives an explanation of the Stewardship Fund. For additional information obtain the most current booklet titled Open Project Selection Process from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

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 the remaining program requirements, or additional information contact:

Community Services Specialist  
1300 West Clairemont Ave.  
Box 4001  
Eau Claire, WI 54801

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

### 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 municipal use of existing school facilities during non-school

hours should also be encouraged.

### 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. 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. Forest County will focus efforts to provide connectivity between developments/subdivisions and recreation areas through trail development. The County will support development of other recreation areas within developments/subdivisions where feasible.

### 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.

### Senior Citizen Involvement

Involve senior citizens in community park development and beautification and provide recreational facilities for their use. Although senior citizens often 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 the senior citizens. Small, passive use parks and garden 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 group life.

### 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 could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources and providing organization and volunteer labor.

### Shoreland Zoning

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

County to find out about their development standards.

#### Specialized Facilities

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

#### Public Access via Subdivision Regulations (Platting Lands)

Lake and stream shore plats can provide public access to the adjacent water bodies. The Wisconsin Statutes 236.16(3) require that all subdivisions abutting a navigable lake or stream provide at least a sixty-foot-wide access to the low watermark from existing public roads at not more than one-half mile intervals (excluding shore areas where public parks or open-space streets are provided).

#### 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 to which an owner may put their land. For example, the rights to establish public hiking or fishing access to a waterway may be purchased through an easement.

#### 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.

## Chapter 9

# PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING

Essential characteristics of any planning process include 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 improvements by the Adams County Property & Recreation Committee will keep this plan current. This review may also occur after a large turn over in elected officials after a local election.

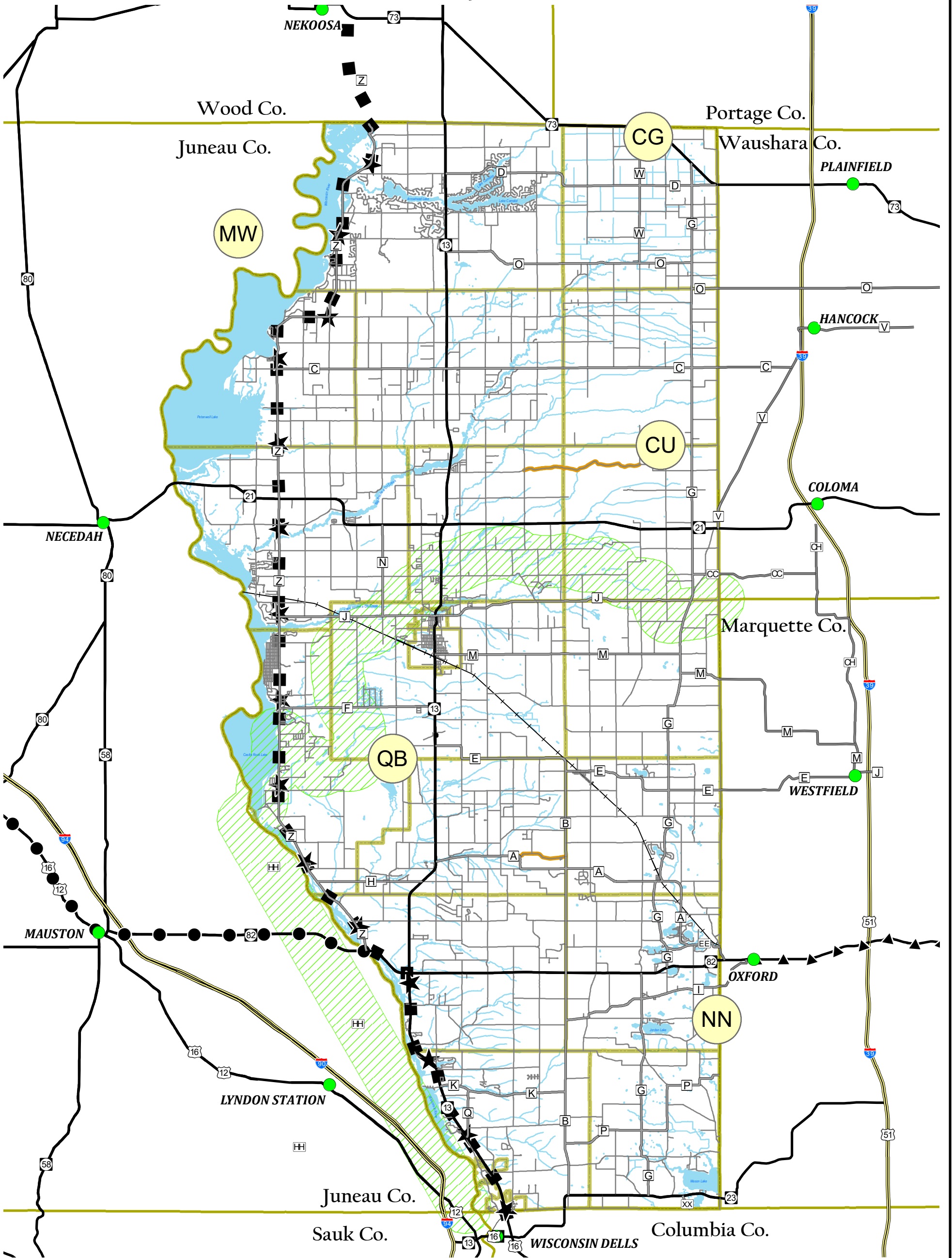
Process:

1. Adams County Property and Recreation Committee reviews plan and takes a vote on what changes to make.
2. County Board adopts changes by resolution.
3. Those changes and a copy of the approval resolution are forwarded to the DNR's Community Financial Assistance staff in Eau Claire. Submission of the changes and resolution automatically constitutes DNR grant eligibility for those changes.

Conducting a **full plan update every five years** is required by the DNR to maintain the county's eligibility for grant programs.

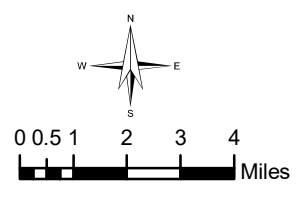
Submission of 1) the revised plan, and 2) the County Board resolution approving the plan, to the DNR is the final step to extending the ORP for another 5 years. DNR approval of the ORP will come if the correct process was followed.

# Map 1 Proposed Regional Trails & Legacy Areas Adams County, Wisconsin



- County Boundaries
  - Minor Civil Divisions
  - US Highways
  - State Highways
  - County Highways
  - Local Roads
  - Railroad
  - Water
- DNR Potential Trail Network**
- Segment 53
  - ▲ Segment 60
  - Segment 18

- Rustic Roads
- ★ Proposed Wisconsin River Scenic Byway
- Proposed Ice Age Trail Area
- NN Wisconsin Land Legacy Areas



Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.



Prepared By:  
**North Central  
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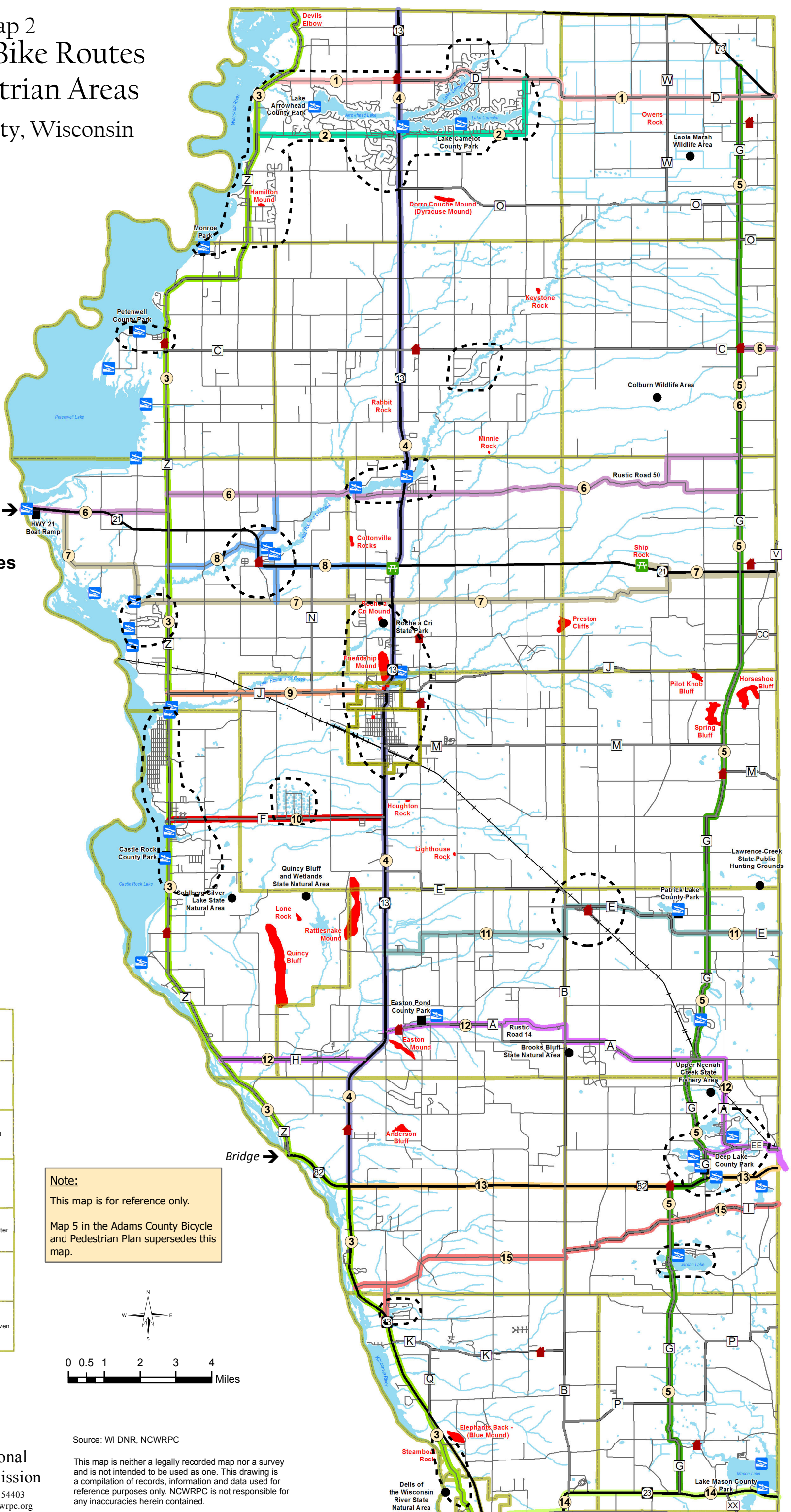
# Map 2 Proposed Bike Routes and Pedestrian Areas Adams County, Wisconsin

## Legend

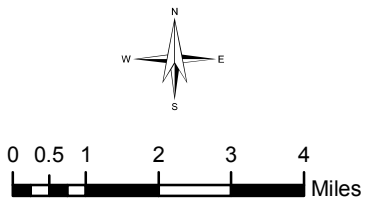
- Minor Civil Divisions
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Local Roads
- Railroad
- Pedestrian Area
- Picnic Areas
- Boat Launches
- County Parks
- State Parks
- Buttes
- Bridge

## Proposed Bike Routes

- Segment 1
- Segment 2
- Segment 3
- Segment 4
- Segment 5
- Segment 6
- Segment 7
- Segment 8
- Segment 9
- Segment 10
- Segment 11
- Segment 12
- Segment 13
- Segment 14
- Segment 15
- Water



**Note:**  
This map is for reference only.  
Map 5 in the Adams County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan supersedes this map.


















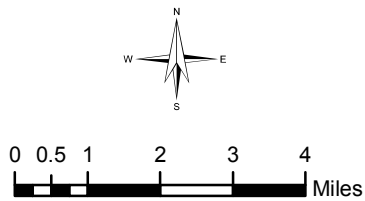
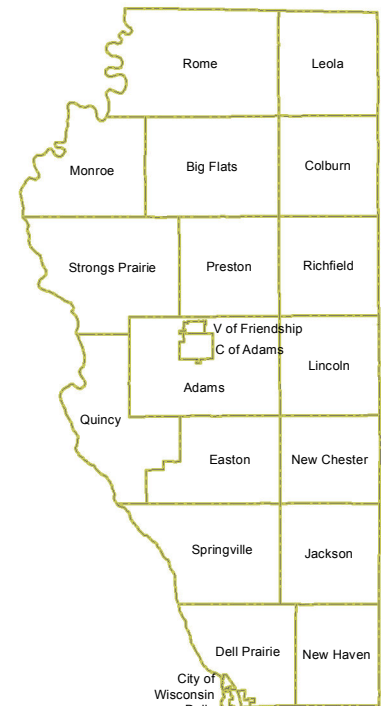
Prepared By:  
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Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC  
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# Map 3 Outdoor Recreation Adams County, Wisconsin

## Legend

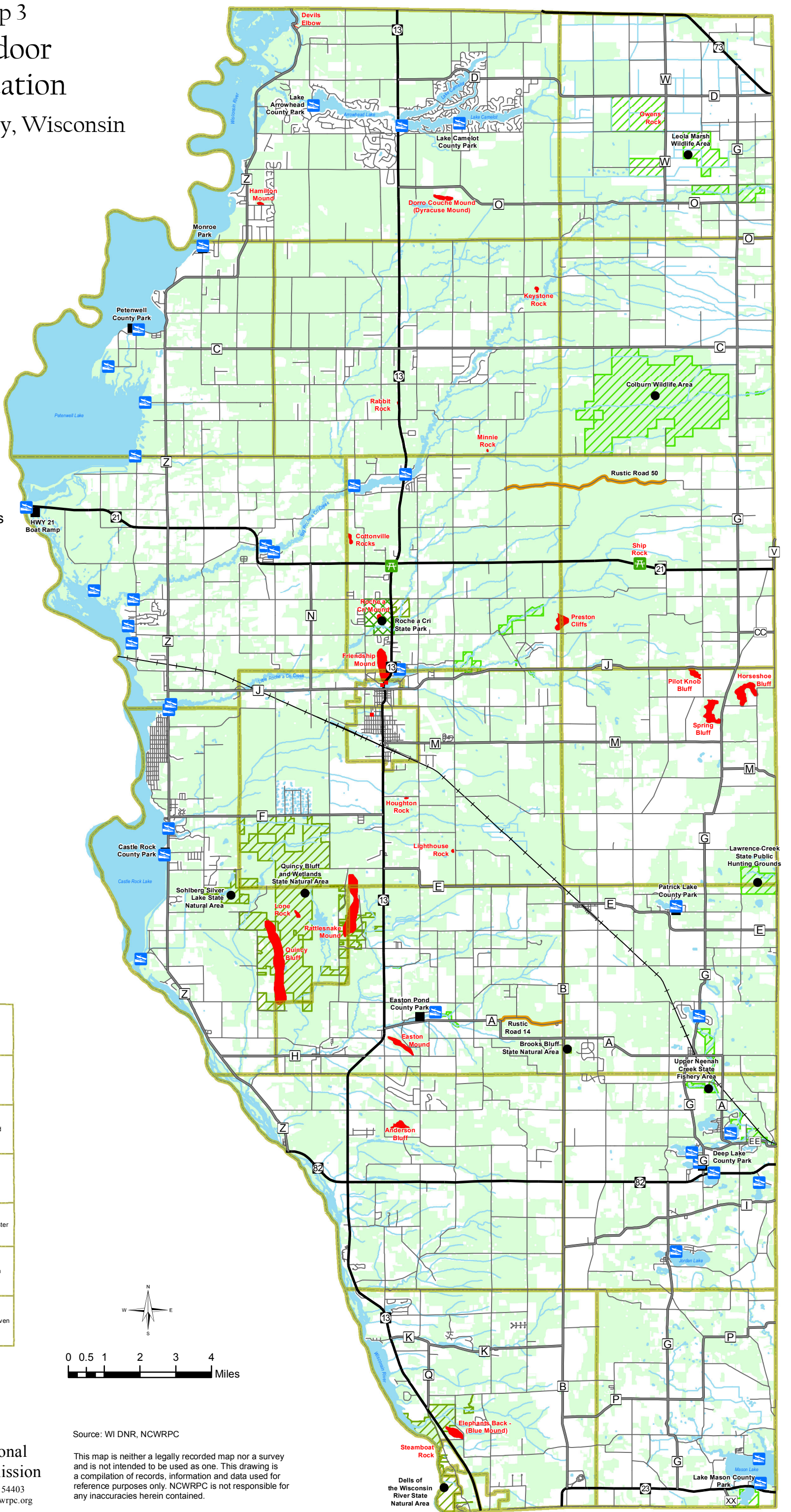
-  Minor Civil Divisions
-  State Highways
-  County Highways
-  Local Roads
-  Railroad
-  Rustic Roads
-  Picnic Areas
-  Boat Launches
-  County Parks
-  State Parks
-  Buttes
-  Water
-  State Park
-  State Natural Area
-  Wildlife Area



Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC

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# ATTACHMENT A

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## Summary of Countywide Outdoor Recreation Online Survey Results

Compiled by: NCWRPC



## 2018 Adams County Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP) Survey Results Summary

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NCWRPC mailed survey posters to each town, and either emailed or mailed survey notices in October 2018 to a whole list of outdoor recreation groups provided by the Adams County Parks & Recreation Department.

We received 862 responses to the Survey. This survey was sent out for customer feedback and is not statistically significant. Listening to the public's thoughts gives valuable perspectives for use in developing this outdoor recreation plan. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had smaller response groups.

About 81% of 844 respondents live in, or own of home in Adams County.

Through an IP address & related answer analysis of who took the survey it appears that 28 IP addresses are at least duplicated, which could mean that a husband and wife both took the survey. One IP address repeated 65 times, but all the answers appeared from different people; another IP address repeated 12 times, but all the answers appeared from different people; and another IP address repeated 9 times, but the answers also appeared to be from different individuals. So it appears that nobody “stuffed the ballot box.”

Respondents were 53% male and 46% female; and came from all age groups, with a strong showing of at least 20% in the 45 to 54 age group, the 55 to 64 age group, and the More than 64 age group.

Responses came heavily from the Town of Rome (38.3% of responses), with the second highest amount of responses coming from the Towns of Quincy (8.4%), Strongs Prairie (7.8%), Preston (7.4%), and the City of Adams (5.3%). The next highest response rate came from the Village of Friendship (4.7%) and the Towns of Monroe (4.7%), Big Flats (4.6%), Easton (4.6%), and Jackson (2.2%). All other communities provided less than 2% each of total survey responses.

### **Key Findings of the ORP Survey:**

#### **Q1. Most frequent outdoor recreational activities respondents participated in:**

- |                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Boating                    | 69% of responses |
| 2. Walking/hiking             | 67% of responses |
| 3. Events / Festivals / Fairs | 58% of responses |
| 4. Fishing                    | 57% of responses |
| 5. Swimming                   | 55% of responses |
| 6. ATV/UTV/OHM Riding         | 53% of responses |



**Q2. Where in Adams County did you go for outdoor recreation in 2017?**

*Answered: 762 people.*

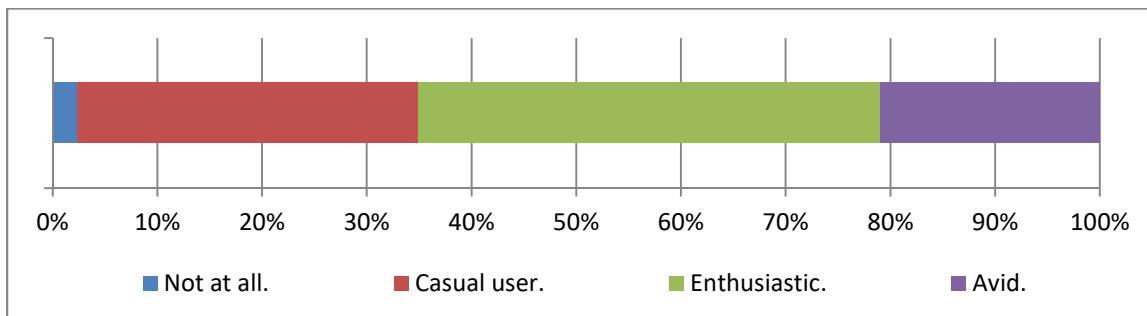
Roche A Cri State Park	136 responses	
Castle Rock Lake	119 responses	
Castle Rock Lake County Park	60 responses	
Lake Petenwell	90 responses	
Lake Petenwell County Park	66 responses	
Lake Camelot	Lake Arrowhead	Lake Sherwood
106 responses	99 responses	57 responses
Rome dog park	Rome splash pad	Rome mini golf
27 responses	8 responses	6 responses
ATV/UTV riding on routes and trails	163 responses	
Snowmobile riding on trails	55 responses	
Bicycling on roads and trails	19 responses	
Wisconsin River	40 responses	
Friendship Lake	37 responses	
Friendship Park	36 responses	
Burt Morris Park	37 responses	
Quincy Bluff trails	31 responses	
Sand Valley golf & hiking trails	43 responses	
Northern Bay Resort	12 responses	
Moundview golf	7 responses	
Chula Vista golf	2 responses	
Hunting or trapping	17 responses	
Big Roche Lake (Cottonville Lake)	21 responses	
Jordan Lake	Patrick Lake	Mason Lake
9 responses	5 responses	3 responses



**Q3. What potential outdoor recreational opportunities should be developed in Adams County?** *Answered: 648 people.*

1. ATV/UTV trails/routes 324 responses
2. Mtn. Bike/Bike trails/routes 175 responses
3. Hiking/walking area/trails 122 responses
4. Chlorinated swimming area: 93 responses
  - a. Swimming pool (53 responses)
  - b. Splash pad in Adams-Friendship area (40 responses)
5. Algae free swimming and fishing beaches/clean up lakes 85 responses
6. More snowmobile trails 59 responses
  
7. Improved boat landings 20 responses
8. Dog park 16 responses
9. Public shooting range 13 responses
10. Playground improvements 9 responses

**Q4. What type of water enthusiast are you?** *Answered: 852 people.*



**Not at all.** (I'm not interested in water recreation at all, not even with friends.)

**Casual user.** (I like to use the water, but only do so occasionally.)

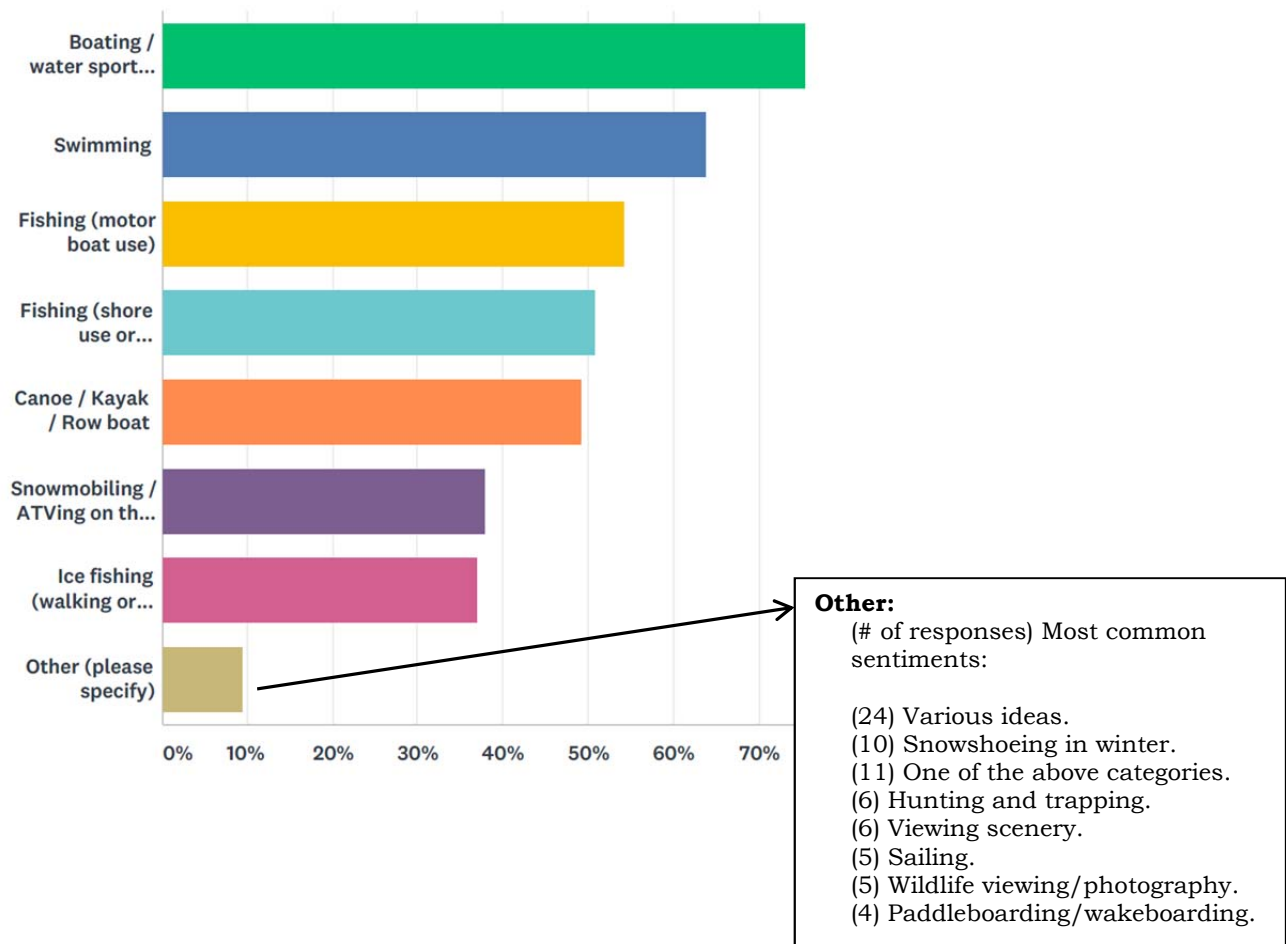
**Enthusiastic.** (I access or go on the water regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)

**Avid.** (I am always on the water or ice every chance I get.)



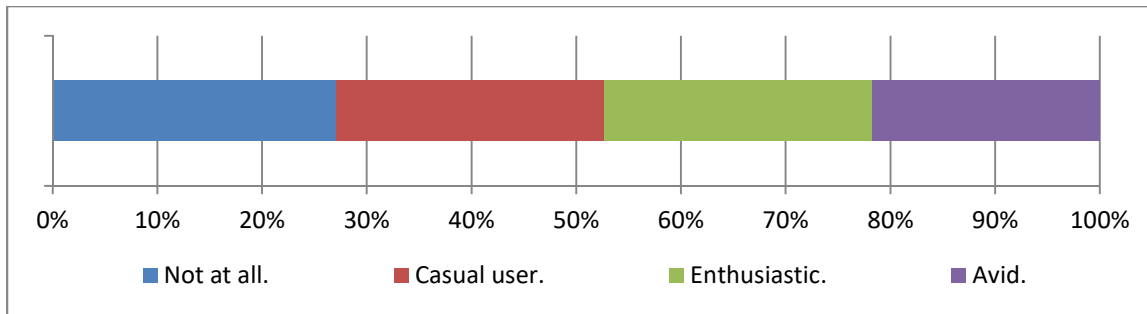
**Q5. How do you use the water?**

Answered: 827 people.



**Q6. What type of motorized vehicle (ATV/UTV/OHM) enthusiast are you?**

Answered: 846 people.



**Not at all.** (I’m not interested in motorized recreation at all, not even with friends.)

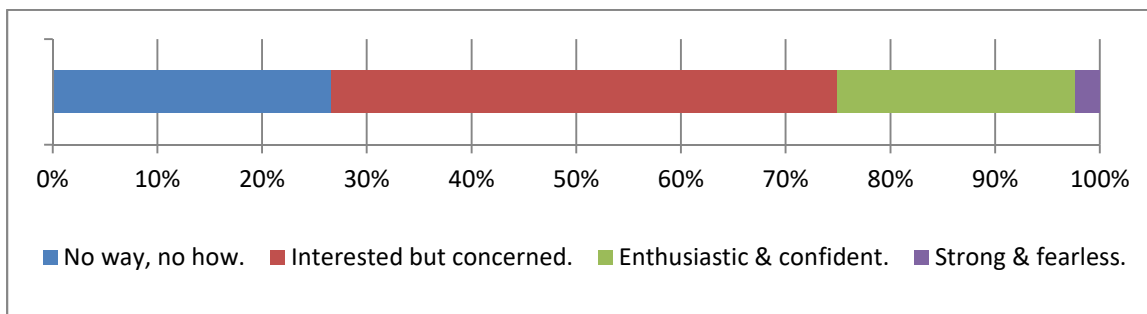
**Casual user.** (I like to use motorized vehicles for fun, but only do so occasionally, OR only on my own land.)

**Enthusiastic.** (I access or go on motorized routes and trails regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)

**Avid.** (I am always on a motorized vehicle every chance I get – all year long.)

**Q7. What type of bicyclist are you?**

Answered: 846 people.



**No way, no how.** (I’m not interested in biking at all, not even for recreation.)

**Interested but concerned.** (I like riding, but don’t do it regularly. I’m generally concerned that my route is not safe to ride, so I don’t ride often. I definitely do not ride when the weather is bad.)

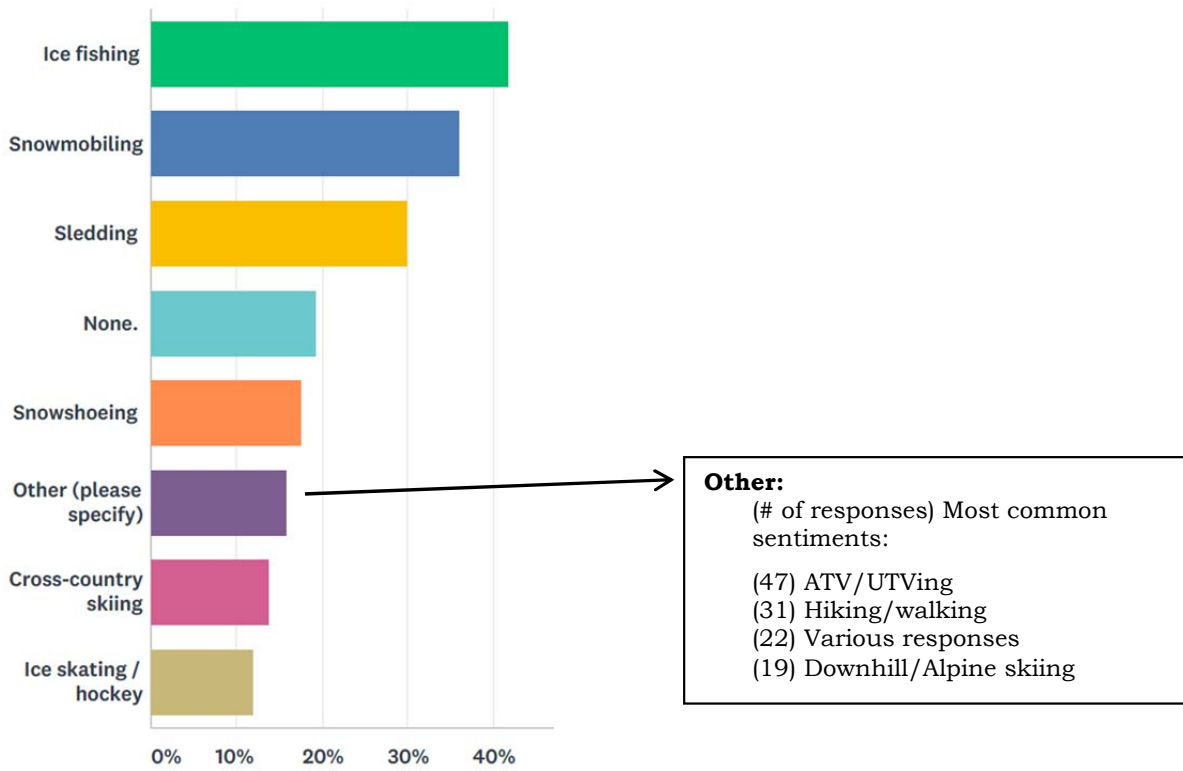
**Enthusiastic and confident.** (I feel comfortable sharing the road with motor vehicles, but I prefer to ride on separate facilities like bike lanes. I may or may not ride in inclement weather.)

**Strong and fearless.** (I am confident in my abilities and will ride regardless of roadway conditions, amount of traffic, or inclement weather.)



**Q8. What winter recreation activities do you participate in?**

Answered: 846 people.



\*\*\*\*\* End of summary \*\*\*\*\*



# ATTACHMENT B

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## **Park Design and Location Criteria**

From:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

## Park and Recreation Designs

This section is presented in the interest of assisting park and recreation agencies in the development of a system of parks and recreation areas. A recreation system is composed of many different components, the combination of which provide facilities and landscapes for outdoor recreation. Many entities are involved in the development and management of recreational areas and facilities for a community or region. Facilities provided by these entities should be complementary and serve a particular geographic area or recreational need. For this plan, parks and recreation areas have been classified on the basis of their service areas. They are described as the following:

▪ Mini Park	▪ School Park
▪ Neighborhood Park	▪ County Park
▪ Community Park	▪ State Park
▪ Special Use Park	▪ State Forest

### Mini Park

#### 1. Definition Summary:

A play lot or playground provides space for parental supervised recreation of toddlers and young children within a neighborhood, or as part of a larger neighborhood or community park and urban center, including retail shopping areas.

#### 2. Size Objectives:

0.5 to 1.5 acres.

#### 3. Service Area Objectives:

Generally within a neighborhood of a half mile radius or population of 2,000-3,000. Mini parks may be included in parks that serve a larger population or service area.

#### 4. Location Objectives:

Located in protected areas with separation from street traffic and high visibility; serving local neighborhoods and adjoining schools, libraries, or police and fire facilities.

- Population Ratio to Acreage: 0.25 to 0.5 acre per 1,000 population to achieve a park unit size that serves 2,000 to 3,000 people.

#### 5. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The size of a play lot or playground may range from as small as 2,500 sq. ft. to 1.5 acres.\* Amenities offered by these facilities generally include sand play areas, play apparatus, play equipment, and other special child-oriented features. The service radius for these parks in

terms of distance from population served is limited to less than a quarter mile, or within a super block space, unless the playground is incorporated into a larger park. (\*Stand-alone play lots require more land area than play lots incorporated into larger parks.)

#### 6. Orientation:

Small geographic areas, sub-neighborhoods, or neighborhoods, when combined with a larger park unit, serves youth ranging in age from toddler to 12 years, with adult supervision. Playgrounds also serve important needs in city business districts and inner city areas where a mix of commercial and recreation activity is desired.

#### 7. Function:

Provides outdoor play experiences for youth under parental supervision. Generates neighborhood communication and provides diversion from work and domestic chores. Promotes neighborhood solidarity.

### Neighborhood Park

#### 1. Definition Summary:

A neighborhood park, by size, program, and location, provides space and recreation activities for the immediate neighborhood in which it is located. It is considered an extension of neighborhood residents' "out-of-yard" and outdoor use area.

#### 2. Size Objectives:

5 to 25 acres.



### **3. Service Area Objectives:**

Generally a one mile radius, but actually defined by collector street patterns which form the limits of a neighborhood or recreation service area. Population served may range from 2,000 up to 5,000.

### **4. Location Objectives:**

Centrally located for equitable pedestrian access within a definable neighborhood service area. Adjoining or adjacent to an elementary school, middle school, high school, fire station, or library, if possible.

### **5. Program Objectives:**

Compatible with the neighborhood setting and park site constraints. Generally includes the following facilities, which are determined with public input as to use and activities:

- a. Parking for 10 to 20 vehicles.
  - 1) On-street parking is acceptable if negative impact to residential units can be mitigated. On-site parking is preferable as a planning objective.
  - 2) Bike racks with Class II trail connections where possible.
- b. Restrooms
  - 1) Men's restroom with 2 water closets, 2 urinals, 2 lavatories.
  - 2) Women's restroom with 3 water closets and 2 lavatories.
  - 3) Utility and minimum park janitorial storage space.
- c. Tot lot/children's play area
- d. Family event/group picnic facility
- e. Informal family picnic area with benches and tables
- f. Unstructured turf grass play area/play or practice field for children, young adults, and families.
- g. Sport facilities—compatible with neighborhood setting and park site constraints.
  - 1) Basketball—half court, full court, or tri-court configuration
  - 2) Volleyball area
  - 3) Softball field/soccer practice or game overlay
  - 4) Other features as needs or site conditions allow

### **6. Orientation:**

Serves all age groups, with an emphasis on youth and families in neighborhood settings.

### **7. Function:**

To provide a combination of active recreation and passive activities, both outdoor and indoor facilities and special features as required or needed.

### **8. Space, Design and Service Area:**

A minimum size of 5 to 25 acres with amenities including sports facilities, picnic areas, swim facilities, cultural activities, arts, crafts, and individual passive activities. The park should primarily serve a defined neighborhood area population of 2,000-5,000. Distance from this neighborhood will vary depending on urban development pattern, zoning, and densities in the respective neighborhoods being served. Efforts should be made to allow easy pedestrian access to the park.

## **Community Park**

### **1. Definition Summary:**

A community park, by size, program, and location, provides space and recreation activities for a defined service area, the entire city, or significant geographic segment of the city's population.

### **2. Size Objectives:**

Usually more than 25 acres.

### **3. Service Area Objectives:**

Generally a 2 to 5 mile radius within the city and adjacent neighborhoods outside of city limits.

### **4. Location Objectives:**

Centrally located if planned to serve a particular geographic segment of the city. Located adjoining or immediately adjacent to a collector street providing community-wide vehicular access, thereby reducing neighborhood traffic impacts. Connected with Class II on-street and/or off-street community trail and bike lane system. Adjoining or adjacent to an elementary, middle, or high school if possible.

## 5. Program Objectives

Elements that fulfill the service area, park facilities and recreation program demands. The following facilities may be compatible with community setting and park site constraints:

- a. Off-street parking calculated to satisfy demand of park and recreation activities provided. Includes bike racks and a public transit station at the site as well as both on-site and street parking.
- b. Restrooms designed to accommodate the level of park and recreation activities provided and the number of people served. Restrooms should be located within a reasonable walking distance from children's play equipment and other high-use areas.
- c. Community recreation center
- d. Park maintenance and equipment storage building
- e. Tot lot/children's play area
- f. Group picnic shelters
- g. Family picnic facilities
- h. Sport/recreation facility fulfilling the overall city demand

*Appropriate program elements include:*

- 1) Community pool/water feature
- 2) Soccer fields
- 3) Softball, little league baseball, junior pony league baseball
- 4) Football
- 5) Roller hockey/skateboard area
- 6) Tennis courts
- 7) Basketball courts
- 8) Amphitheater/performing arts center
- 9) Volleyball (indoor and outdoor)
- 10) Jogging trails
- 11) Other facilities as desired and as permitted under park site plan
- 12) Concessions (food and beverage)

## 6. Orientation:

Multi-purpose service area or community-wide recreation resource serving most or all of the population.

## 7. Function:

Provides opportunities for a diverse mix of indoor and outdoor recreation, including walking and bicycling, outdoor performances, various programmed and non-

programmed field sports, swimming, and special events.

## 8) Space, Design, and Service Area:

The minimum space for a community park is 15 acres. Facilities typically provide for some sports activities, through emphasis is on passive cultural and community centers with recreational programming and organized activities. The community park may serve populations within a 2 to 5 mile radius, a scope that would allow residents of other communities to use the park as well.

## Special Use Park

### 1. Definition Summary:

A special use park is often designed as a revenue-generating enterprise created to satisfy demand for a particular sport, recreational activity, or special event. A special use park may also be a sports park combined with enterprise activities and administered as a community recreation resource.

### 2. Size Objective:

The actual size of a special use park is determined by land availability and facility/market demand for special uses or recreation programs.

### 3. Service Area Objectives:

Community or area-wide and determined by the type of recreation program, special events or use activities.

### 4. Location Objectives:

Determined by the property opportunity, service area and size objectives.

### 5. Program Objectives:

Special use parks require facility programming that is user- or market-driven and based on community needs or economic and service principles for public and private partnerships. The magnitude and type of special use facilities may include:

- a. Water play park
- b. Amphitheater
- c. Festival/swap meet/farmers market
- d. League/individual sports complex
- e. Fitness/entertainment center
- f. Skateboard/in-line hockey park

g. Recreation programs and classes

**6. Orientation:**

Provides recreation programming, sports and special event attractions and activities for all age groups.

**7. Function:**

Special events, fairs, festivals, expositions, symposiums, sports, community gatherings, ethnic/cultural celebrations, plays and numerous other recreational programs and activities.

**8. Space, Design, and Service Area:**

The minimum size for special parks varies depending on intended use and programming.

**School Park**

**1. Definition Summary:**

By combining the resources of two public agencies, the school park classification allows for expanding the recreational, social, and educational opportunities available to the community in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Depending on the circumstances, school park sites often complement other community recreation or open lands. As an example, an elementary/middle school site could also serve as a neighborhood park. Likewise, middle or high school sports facilities could do double duty as a community park or as youth athletic fields. Depending on its size, one school park site may serve in a number of capacities, such as a neighborhood park, youth athletic fields, and a location for recreation classes. Given the inherent variability of type, size and location, determining how a school park site is integrated into a larger park system will depend on case-by-case circumstances. The important outcome in the joint-use relationship is that both the school district and park system benefit from shared use of facilities and land area.

**2. Size Objective**

The optimum size of a school park site depends on its intended use. The size criteria

established for neighborhood park and community park classifications may apply.

**3. Service Area Objectives:**

Neighborhood park and community park classifications criteria should be used to determine school park functions and area served. For planning purposes, the degree to which school lands, including building or facilities, meet community needs depends on the specific inter-local agreements formed.

**4. Location Objectives:**

The location of a school park site will be determined by the school district based on district policy. Coordinated city and school district planning allows for siting, acquisition, and facility development to be responsive to community needs. Service areas for school park sites will depend on the type of use and facilities provided.

**5. Program Objectives:**

The criteria established for neighborhood parks and community parks should be used to determine how a school park site is developed and programmed. If athletic fields are developed at a school park site, they should, where feasible, be oriented toward youth rather than adult programs. Establishing a clearly defined joint-use agreement between involved agencies is critical to making school park relationships workable. This is particularly important with respect to acquisition, development, maintenance, liability, use, and programming of facility issues.

The orientation of school park projects is typically for neighborhood and community recreation services. The functions may include sports, recreation classes, passive recreation activities, and other recreation programs suitable to an elementary or secondary education school.

**County Park**

**1. Definition Summary:**

A county park provides sufficient park and recreation area to meet the needs of county residents. County parks consist of land that is specifically set aside for active and passive

recreation uses, and that accommodates large gatherings, special events, and individual users. County parks offer a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities, and may provide areas that do not primarily serve a recreational purpose such as protected natural areas, historic areas, and special use areas.

## **2. Size Objectives:**

The size of recreation parks varies greatly from park to park, but with the exception of those parks that serve a special use or are trail corridors, a recreation park should consist of a minimum of 100 acres of land. Each park should be of sufficient size to accommodate the estimated use and to allow for the operation and maintenance of planned recreational facilities.

## **3. Service Area Objectives:**

County parks provide for a regional user group and serve primarily county residents. Special facilities like camping and trails are also used by tourists and visitors to the county.

## **4. Location Objectives:**

The land should have high recreational potential and be able to withstand intensive and extensive recreational activities. Land should have potential to accommodate large groups of people. Land for corridors should be located so as to connect to communities, parks, and open spaces. The potential for future land acquisition should be taken into account.

## **5. Program Objectives:**

Development should be appropriate for intended use and should accommodate moderate to high use. Development and planning should consider the physical condition and characteristics of the land and recognize potential environmental or structural limitations that might require intensive maintenance. County parks may include the following facilities:

- a. Camping/group camping
- b. Picnic areas
- c. Recreational trails (hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, equestrian, cross-country ski, snowmobile, etc.)
- d. Play areas

- e. Swimming beaches
- f. Water access
- g. Fishing access
- h. Shelters
- i. Restrooms
- j. Shower facilities
- k. Sport fields (basketball, volleyball, softball, etc.)
- l. Pet exercise area

## **6. Orientation:**

Multi-purpose service area and regional recreation resource serving a significant portion of a county or multi-county population.

## **7. Function:**

To provide sufficient parks and recreation areas to meet the needs of the people of the county.

## **8. Space, Design, and Service Area:**

The size of a county park should be a minimum of 100 acres. Facilities vary by park. Some parks offer active recreation (camping, recreational trails, etc.), while others provide passive recreation (scenic lookouts, picnic areas, beaches, etc.). Most parks provide both active and passive recreation. County parks provide for a regional user group and serve primarily county residents, through special facilities also serve tourists and visitors to the county.

## **State Forest**

### **1. Definition Summary:**

A state forest consists of well blocked areas of state owned lands that are managed to benefit present and future generations of residents, recognizing that forests contribute to local and statewide economics and to a healthy natural environment. State forests practice sustainable forestry. The management of state forests is consistent with the ecological capability of state forest land and with the long-term goal of maintaining sustainable forest communities and ecosystems. Benefits of maintaining these ecosystems include soil protection, public hunting, protection of water quality, production of recurring forest products, outdoor recreation, native biological

diversity, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and aesthetic value. The range of benefits provided in each state forest reflect its unique character and position in the regional landscape.

**2. Size Objectives:**

Typically between 1,000 and 250,000 acres, but can be larger or smaller.

**3. Service Area Objectives:**

Generally a 100 mile radius. State forests typically provide close-to-home recreational area. Day users typically travel approximately 50 miles one-way to reach state forests, while overnight users tend to travel further, approximately 100-150 miles one-way. Travel to state forests can, however, exceed 160 miles for longer vacation stays and travel to "destination areas."

**4. Location Objectives:**

Areas with large blocks of land.

**5. Program Objectives:**

State forests must meet ecological, economic, social, and cultural needs. Elements are compatible with the natural resource setting and park site constraints. Facilities may include the following:

**Current Level of Supply:**

Hiking trails	1,256 acres per linear mile of trail
Cross-country ski trails	2,551 acres per linear mile of trail
Snowmobile trails	639 acres per linear mile of trail
Equestrian trails	559 acres per linear mile of trail
ATV trails	1,795 acres per linear mile of trail
Camping sites	1 campsite per 265 acres

**6. Orientation:**

Multi-purpose service area and regional recreation resource serving a significant portion of a state or regional population.

**7. Function:**

To provide for nature conservation, provide income to forest owners, supply raw materials to the wood processing industry, and provide public recreation.

**8. Space, Design, and Service Area:**

The size of a state forest is determined by the extent of the area's natural resources and

recreation capabilities. There is no minimum or maximum size for a state forest. Facilities are not universal and vary by forest. The geographic location of the forest and the natural resources present dictate recreation available at the site. State forests serve large geographic areas of a state or region.

**State Park**

**1. Definition Summary:**

A state park, by size, program, and location, provides space for outdoor recreation and education about nature and conservation. These parks serve a significant geographic segment of a state or regional population. State parks aim to preserve, protect, interpret and enhance the scenic and cultural resources of the state.

**2. Size Objectives:**

Parks must be large enough to accommodate a reasonable mix of outdoor recreational activities. Typically, parks are between 500 and 3000 acres, but can be smaller (<20 acres) or larger (>10,000 acres).

**3. Service Area Objectives:**

Generally a 100-mile radius. State parks typically provide close-to-home recreational areas. Day users generally travel approximately 50 miles one-way to reach state parks, while overnight users tend to travel further, approximately 100-150 miles one-way. Travel distances to state parks can often exceed 160 miles for longer vacation stays and trips to "destination areas."

**4. Location Objectives:**

Siting of Wisconsin State Parks is typically based on five criteria developed by John Nolen. These criteria are: 1) large size to serve a large number of citizens, 2) accessibility to major population areas, 3) a healthful, natural setting, 4) reasonable cost for land acquisition, 5) land possessing "decidedly uncommon charm and beauty." All, or a combination of these criteria are used to determine where to site a state park.

**5. Program Objectives:**

Elements that fulfill the service area, park facilities and recreation program demands.

Elements are compatible with the natural resource setting and park site constraints. Developments may include the following facilities:

**Current Level of Supply:**

Hiking trails	196 acres per linear mile of trail
Surfaced bicycle trails	860 acres per linear mile of trail
Mountain bike trails	549 acres per linear mile of trail
Nature trails	1,871 acres per liner mile of trail
Cross-country ski trails	430 acres per linear mile of trail
Snowmobile trails	426 acres per linear mile of trail
Equestrian trails	400 acres per linear mile of trail
Picnic sites	0.05 acres per picnic table
Camping sites	1 campsite per 29 acres
Parking stalls	Year-Round = 1 stall for every three visitors
Swimming beaches	17 linear feet per 1,000 users

**5. Orientation:**

Multi-purpose service area and regional recreation resource serving a significant portion of a state or regional population.

**6. Function:**

To provide for public recreation and education of conservation and nature study. To preserve, protect, interpret and enhance the scenic and cultural resources of the state.

**7. Space, Design, and Service Area:**

The size of a state park is determined by the extent of the area's natural resources and recreation capabilities. There is no minimum or maximum size for a state park. Facilities are not universal and vary by park. Some parks offer active recreation (camping, boating, mountain biking trails, hunting etc.), while others offer passive recreation (scenic lookouts, picnic areas, beaches, etc.). Most provide both active and passive recreation. The geographic area and the natural resources present dictate recreation uses and facilities present in the park. State parks serve large geographic areas of a state or region.

# ATTACHMENT C

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## **Facility Development Standards**

From: National Recreation and Park Association

<b>SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS</b>				
<b>Activity Format</b>	<b>Recommended Size and Dimensions</b>	<b>Recommended Space Requirements</b>	<b>Recommended Orientation</b>	<b>Service Radius and Location Notes</b>
<b>Badminton</b>	Singles--17' x 44' Doubles-20' x 44' with 5' unobstructed area on both sides	1622 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	¼ - ½ mile. Usually in school recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking or biking access.
<b>Basketball</b> 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	46' - 50' x 84' 50' x 84' 50' x 94' with 5' unobstructed space all sides.	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	¼ - ½ mile. Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood/community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
<b>Handball (3-4 wall)</b>	20' x 40' with a minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance.	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall, 1000 sq. ft. for 3-wall.	Long axis is north - south. Front wall at north end.	15 - 30 min. travel time, 4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose building. 3-2 all usually in park or school setting.
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	Rink 85' x 200' (Min. 85' x 185') Additional 5000 22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	Long axis is north - south if outdoors.	½ - 1 hour travel time. Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multipurpose facility.
<b>Tennis</b>	36' x 78'. 12 ft. clearance on both ends.	Min. of 7,200 sq. ft. single court area (2 acres per complex)	Long axis north - south	¼ - ½ mile. Best in batteries of 2 - 4. Located in neighborhood/community park or near school site.
<b>Volleyball</b>	30' x 60'. Minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 4,000 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	½ - 1 mile.
<b>Baseball</b> 1. Official  2. Little League	Baselines - 90' Pitching distance-60.5' Foul lines - min. 320' Center field - 400'+  Baselines - 60' Pitching distance - 46' Foul lines - 200' Center field - 200' - 250'	3.0 - 3.85 A min.  1.2 A min.	Locate home plate so pitcher is not throwing across sun, and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound to run east-northeast.	¼ - ½ mile. Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
<b>Field Hockey</b>	180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 1.5 A	Fall season - Long axis northwest or southeast. For longer periods, north/south	15 - 30 minute travel time. Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
<b>Football</b>	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 1.5 A	Same as field hockey.	15 - 30 min. travel time. Same as field hockey.
<b>Soccer</b>	195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with 10' minimum clearance on all sides.	1.7 - 2.1 A	Same as field hockey.	1 - 2 miles. Number of units depends on popularity. Youth popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to fields or neighborhood parks.
<b>Golf - Driving Range</b>	900' x 690' wide. Add 12' width each additional tee.	13.5 A for min. of 25 tees.	Long axis is southwest - northeast with golfer driving northeast.	30 minute travel time. Park of golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately operated.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association



<b>SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (continued)</b>				
<b>Activity Format</b>	<b>Recommended Size and Dimensions</b>	<b>Recommended Space Requirements</b>	<b>Recommended Orientation</b>	<b>Service Radius and Location Notes</b>
<b>¼ mile running track</b>	Over-all width - 276' length - 600'. Track width for 8 - 4 lanes is 32'.	4.3 A	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest - southeast, with finish line at north end.	15 - 30 minute travel time. Usually part of a high school or community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
<b>Softball</b>	Baselines - 60' pitching distance - 45' men. 40' women Fast pitch field radius from plate - 225' Slow pitch - 275' (men) 250' (women)	1.5 - 2.0 A	Same as baseball. indimensions for 16".	¼ - ½ mile. Slight difference. May also be used for youth baseball.
<b>Multiple use court (basketball, tennis, etc.)</b>	120' x 80'	9,840 sq. ft.	Long axis of court with primary use north and south.	1 - 2 miles, in neighborhood or community parks.
<b>Archery range</b>	300' length x minimum 10' between targets. Roped, clear area on side of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90' x 45' with bunker.	Minimum 0.65 A	Archer facing north + or - 45 degrees.	30 minutes travel time. Part of a regional/metro complex.
<b>Golf</b> <b>1. Par 3 (18 hole)</b> <b>2. 9-hole standard</b> <b>3. 18-hole standard</b>	Average length varies -600 - 2700 yards.  Average length 2250 yards  Average length 6500 yards.	50 - 60 A  Minimum of 50 A  Minimum 110 yards	Majority of holes on north/south axis	½ - 1 hour travel time  9-hole course can accommodate 350 people/day  500 - 550 people/day.  Course may be located in community, district or regional/metro park.
<b>Swimming pools</b>	Teaching - min. 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3-4 ft.  Competitive - min. 25 m x 16 m. Min. of 25 sq. ft. water surface per swimmer. Ration of 2 to 1 deck to water.	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually 1 - 2 A sites.	None, but care must be taken in siting life stations in relation to afternoon sun.	15 to 30 minutes travel time. Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching competitive and recreational purposes with enough to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
<b>Beach areas</b>	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sa. ft . of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be a 3-4 A supporting area per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	½ to 1 hour travel time. Should have a sand bottom with a maximum slope of 5%. Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas. In regional/metro parks.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

## **ATTACHMENT D**

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

Compiled by: NCWRPC

## **Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs**

DNR Community Service Specialist  
1300 West Clairemont Avenue  
P.O. Box 4001  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4001

*The following program descriptions are for reference. On the DNR's website, search for: "Department grant programs" for the most current information.*

### **Acquisition Of Development Rights (a Stewardship Program)**

The program's purpose is to buy development rights (easements) to protect natural, agricultural, or forest lands from development that enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis.

Priority parcels criteria:

- Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, or estuaries;
- Property that creates a buffer between land that has been permanently protected for natural resource and conservation purposes and potential or existing residential, commercial, or industrial development;
- Property that is within the boundaries of an acquisition project established by the DNR, a government unit, or a NCO where the uses of the property will complement the goals of the project and the stewardship program.

DNR considers the following factors when evaluating acquisition of development rights:

- Recreational opportunities provided or enhanced;
- Proximity to other permanently protected land;
- Natural, scenic, geologic, and archaeological values of the property;
- The degree of development pressure;
- Whether the project has been identified in a comprehensive plan pursuant to s. 66.1001, WI Stats., another plan that has as one of its purposes the protection of natural resources, or the natural heritage inventory database.

### **Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (a Stewardship Program)**

Funds may be used for both land acquisition projects and development projects for nature-based outdoor recreation, such as fishing piers, hiking trails and picnic facilities. Applicants compete for funds on a regional and county basis. NCOs may only apply for funds for land acquisition; they are not eligible for funds for development on property.

DNR considers the following factors when evaluating projects:

- Implements priorities contained in state and local comprehensive outdoor recreation plans
- Meets needs and deficiencies identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the approved local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, or the

approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plans of other units of government including regional or integrated management plans

- Acquires land where a need for additional land acquisition is supported by an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan
- Is regional or statewide in nature and can be documented as such
- Documentation shows benefits to tourism
- Results in a first of a kind facility for the project sponsor or service area
- Provides or supports a water-based activity
- Serves the greatest population
- Involves volunteers, local donations or cooperation by two or more service clubs
- Applicants that have never received an outdoor recreation program grant
- Provides for completion of a project already started where the sponsor has shown the ability to provide quality outdoor recreation facilities for its citizens without grant assistance
- Sponsor has completed prior LWCF, ADLP, UGS, URGP or projects successfully.
- Involves two or more governmental agencies
- Acquires land where a need for additional land acquisition is supported by an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan;
- Serves as a demonstration project for other project sponsors
- Corrects a documented health or safety problem
- Renovates existing facilities which are in danger of being lost for public use
- Sponsor is able to adequately maintain and operate the area or facility
- Provides multiple season, multiple activity use
- Serves the recreation needs of elderly persons, minorities and disabled persons. Facilities provided must exceed those required by state or federal regulations

### **All Terrain Vehicles/Utility Terrain Vehicle (ATV / UTV) Trail Aids**

Counties, towns, cities, villages and tribes can apply for funds to acquire, insure, develop and maintain ATV/UTV trails, areas and routes.

Specific changes to NR 64 created Hybrid Trails ("Troutes") or all-terrain vehicle trail and route combinations.

Eligible items and funding levels:

- ATV trails available for spring, summer, and fall riding may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible maintenance costs (up to \$600 per mile).
- ATV trails available for winter riding may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible maintenance costs (up to \$100 per mile).
- Development of ATV trails and areas may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible costs.

- Major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible costs.
- Maintenance of ATV intensive use areas may be reimbursed up to 50 percent of eligible costs.

Assistance is provided for the following, in priority order: 1) maintenance of existing approved trails and areas, and routes; 2) purchase of liability insurance; 3) acquisition of easements; 4) major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails; and 5) land acquisition and development of new trails and areas.

### **All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Enforcement Patrol**

This grant is issued to Wisconsin sheriff departments that participate in ATV enforcement efforts. The DNR can provide up to 100 percent of county net costs for the enforcement of ATV regulations. Actual funding received is based on total allotted funds split between participating agencies.

### **Lake Protection Grant**

Funds assist eligible applicants with implementation of lake protection and restoration projects that protect or improve water quality, habitat or the elements of lake ecosystems. There are four basic Lake Protection subprograms:

- Fee simple or Easement Land Acquisition
- Wetland and Shoreline Habitat Restoration
- Lake Classification and Local Ordinance Development
- Lake Plan implementation
- Healthy Lakes

### **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

This is a federal program administered in all states that encourages creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the DNR for this program are split between DNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities. Grants cover 50 percent of eligible project costs.

### **Off-Highway Motorcycle Trail Aids – *Not Available Yet (Jan. 2017).***

Under Wisconsin statutes, Off-highway motorcycle trail grants may only be awarded after administrative code have been promulgated. The DNR is in the process of developing a timeline for development of the OHM administrative code. Rule development typically takes 31 months to complete.

Funds for grant awards will come from OHM registration fees. As this is a new program, we expect that it will be a few years before fees are collected in sufficient amounts to allow for the first grant cycle. While we wait for fee collection to mount, an administrative code will be developed.

## **Recreational Boating Facilities**

These grants may be used by counties, towns, cities, villages, tribes, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts and qualified lake associations for recreational boating facility project.

Past projects have included ramps and service docks to gain access to the water, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, navigation aids and dredging waterway channels.

## **River Protection Grants**

These grants provide assistance in the formation of river management organizations and provides support and guidance to local organizations that are interested in helping to manage and protect rivers, particularly where resources and organizational capabilities may be limited. In addition, this grant program protects rivers by:

- providing information on riverine ecosystems;
- improving river system assessment and planning;
- increasing local understanding of the causes of river problems; and
- assisting in implementing management activities that protect or restore river ecosystems.

The River Protection Grants have three subprograms:

- River Planning
- River Management
- Land/Easement Acquisition

## **Recreational Trails Act (RTA)**

This is a federal program administered in all states. Municipal governments and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of eligible project costs. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with funds from the state snowmobile or ATV grant programs and Knowles-Nelson Stewardship development projects.

Eligible projects in order of priority are:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails;
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages;
- Construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands); and
- Acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors (must comply with the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended).

## **Snowmobile Trail Aids**

Snowmobile trail aids are entirely funded by snowmobilers. The money awarded in grants to Wisconsin Counties comes from snowmobile registrations, trail pass revenue and gas tax from some of the gas used in snowmobiles.

Trail funds are distributed according to the following priority-ranked purposes:

- Maintenance of existing approved trails, including purchase of county liability insurance and acquisition of easements of less than three years.

- Club signing program (obsolete program).
- Major bridge reconstruction or rehabilitation.
- Route signing program.
- Trail rehabilitation (prioritized by mandatory relocation, discretionary relocation, new bridges).
- Development of new trails, including acquisition of land interests for a period of 3 years or greater or in fee simple.

## **Snowmobile Enforcement Patrol**

This grant is issued to Wisconsin sheriff departments that participate in snowmobile enforcement efforts. The DNR can provide up to 100 percent of county net cost for the enforcement of snowmobile regulations. Actual funding received is based on total allotted funds split between participating agencies.

## **Stewardship Program**

The Stewardship Program is a comprehensive program that addresses a broad spectrum of land conservation and recreation needs across the state. Stewardship has four major components:

### **Nonprofit Grants**

Acquisition of land and easements for a wide range of conservation and outdoor recreation purposes.

### **Local Assistance Grant Programs**

Grants for local governments or NCOs to acquire land and conservation easements of land and development projects that support nature-based outdoor recreation.

- Acquisition and Development of Local Parks
- Urban Rivers
- Urban Green Spaces
- Acquisition of Development Rights

### **Property Development on State Lands**

Development of recreational facilities on state properties.

### **Baraboo Hills**

Conservation of the hardwood forests of the Baraboo Hills through easements and acquisition. This category closed to new applications.

## **Stewardship Grants for Nonprofit Conservation Organizations**

Review specific guidelines for each of the following programs online at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/LR/Stewardship/subprogram.html>

### **Natural Areas**

State Natural Areas are set aside for protection of their natural values for future generations, scientific research, and teaching conservation and natural history. They are not intended for intensive recreational use such as picnicking or camping.

### **Habitat Areas and Fisheries**

The purpose of the Habitat Areas Program is to protect, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat in Wisconsin in order to expand opportunities for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting,

bird watching, fishing, nature appreciation, and viewing of game and non-game species. The goals of the program are achieved through the use of easements, land acquisition, and habitat restoration.

**State Trails**, including the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail. The goal of the State Trails Program is to establish a balanced system of state trails for use by hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, and cross-country skiers.

**Streambank Protection**

The purpose of the Streambank Protection Program is to protect the water quality and fish habitat of Wisconsin streams by establishing buffers along selected streams. Whenever possible, these buffers should be at least 66 feet from either side of the stream and at least 66 feet beyond riparian wetlands.

**Wild Lakes**

The purpose of the Wild Lakes Program is to protect and preserve high quality endangered wild lakes. The goals of the program are achieved through the use of easements and land acquisition.

**Urban Green Space (a Stewardship Program)**

Funds are available to provide open natural space within or in proximity to urban areas; to protect land from development with scenic, ecological or natural values in urban areas, and to provide land for noncommercial gardening in urban areas.

Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

Planning Considerations, including:

- Specifically implementing a priority of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Implementing the approved master plans of 2 or more units of government or regional planning agencies
- Preserving land that is listed on the natural heritage inventory database
- Implementing elements of water quality plans or initiatives

Project Considerations, including:

- Serving the greatest population centers
- Serving areas of rapidly increasing populations
- Providing accessibility
- Having unique natural features, threatened or endangered species, or significant ecological value
- Providing open natural linear corridors connecting open natural areas
- Having water frontage
- Containing or restoring wetlands
- Protecting sensitive wildlife habitat
- Protecting an area threatened by development



- Preserving a natural community or one that could be restored
- Having regional or statewide significance
- Relating to brownfield redevelopment

### **Urban Rivers Grant (a Stewardship Program)**

Funds are available to restore or preserve the character of urban riverways through the acquisition of land or easements adjacent to rivers.

Program objectives include:

- To provide for economic revitalization through the restoration or preservation of urban rivers or riverfronts
- To improve outdoor recreational opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers for a variety of public uses, including but not limited to, fishing, wildlife observation, enjoyment of scenic beauty, canoeing, boating, hiking and bicycling
- To preserve or restore significant historical, cultural, or natural areas along urban rivers

There is a cap of 20% which means that no sponsor can receive more than 20% of the funds that are available in any fiscal year.

This is a very competitive program. Projects with the following attributes will rank higher:

- Acquires land or land rights that preserve or restore natural values, including aesthetic values, and enhance environmental quality along urban waterways.
- Provides new or expanded diverse recreational opportunities to all segments of urban populations.
- Provides new or expanded access to urban waterways.
- Acquires blighted lands that will be restored to complement riverfront redevelopment activities.
- Encourages comprehensive riverway planning within and between municipalities and other agencies.
- Provides opportunities for increasing tourism.
- Acquires lands that through proper management will improve or protect water quality

## **Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs**

Bike & Ped Coordinator  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
1681 Second Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

### **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**

*(Formerly the Transportation Enhancement Program)*

*Objective:* To promote activities which enhance the surface transportation system. Program funds are intended to accomplish something "above and beyond" what is normally done on highway projects. Eligible federal categories include: Safe Routes To School, bicycle & pedestrian facilities, historic transportation structures, and landscaping/streetscaping projects.

### **Surface Transportation Program – Discretionary (STP-D)**

*Objective:* To encourage projects that foster alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips, such as facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, development of bicycle/pedestrian plans, purchase of replacement vehicles for transit systems, and other transportation demand management (TDM) projects. Funding is 80% federal; 20% local.

### **Other Wisconsin DOT Funding Sources**

***Hazard Elimination Program*** - Bicycle and pedestrian projects are now eligible for this program. This program focuses on projects intended for locations that should have a documented history of previous crashes.

***Incidental Improvements*** - Bicycle and pedestrian projects are broadly eligible for funding from most of the major federal-aid programs. One of the most cost-effective ways of accommodating bicycle and pedestrian accommodations is to incorporate them as part of larger reconstruction, new construction and some repaving projects. Generally, the same source of funding can be used for the bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as is used for the larger highway improvement, if the bike/ped accommodation is "incidental" in scope and cost to the overall project. Overall, most bicycle and pedestrian accommodations within the state are made as incidental improvements.

## **Federal Assistance Programs**

All other federal programs are listed under Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs.

### **Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) – National Park Service**

The purpose of the Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) is intended to increase participation by qualified partners in the preservation and improvement of National Park Service natural, cultural, and recreational resources; in all authorized Service programs and activities; and on national trails. NPS and partners should work together on projects with mutually beneficial, shared outcomes.

The CCSP is a matching fund program. An equal amount of eligible and matching share (minimum 50%) of cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources is required. The maximum CCSP award is \$30,000. Projects selected should generally be able to be completed within one year.

One-third of the CCSP pot is earmarked for National Trails System Projects. Thus supporting work under the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241-51), such as: National Scenic and Historic trails, National Scenic and Historic Trails in parks, National Recreation Trails, and rail-trail projects.

For additional information about this program and the application process, please contact the CCSP Program Coordinators for Wisconsin:

National Park Service  
700 Rayovac Dr., Suite 100  
Madison, WI 53711