
Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan

2012-2016

Effective January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2016

Also covering the municipalities and towns within Forest County



Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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ABSTRACT

- TITLE:** FOREST COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2012-2016 Effective January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2016
- SUBJECT:** This report 1) Assesses the existing recreation system in Forest County; 2) Identifies recreation needs based upon public input, past plans, and recreation standards; and 3) Establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.
- Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids to purchase land and to add facilities to existing outdoor recreation lands. The Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan is required to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and Wisconsin Stewardship Grant funding.
- Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.
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- AGENCY:** Forest County Forestry Department
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- DISCLAIMER:** This plan was prepared by the staff of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission under agreement with the above contact.

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- A. Outdoor Recreation Surveys
- B. NCWRPC Generated SCORP 2005 – 2010 Summary
- C. Facility Development Standards
- D. State and Federal Grant Programs

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The main purpose of completing the Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan is to provide direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of Forest 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 Forest 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 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), and Stewardship Funds. Adoption by all municipalities is not necessary if they wish to cooperate with Forest County to use this plan for grant applications. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Forest County applies on their behalf.

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

STATUTORY BASE

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

PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs for the entire county, and each local government within Forest County.

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

The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current deficiencies and identify potential future projects through the year 2016. A combination of public survey compilation, standards analysis, and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were utilized to define recreational and open space needs.

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 7 – 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.

PAST PLANS

This outdoor recreation plan was written to continue the parks and recreation program established in the Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plans of 1977-1982, 1989-1993, 1997-2001, & 2002-2006.

Forest County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

This 2006 – 2021 document was used to inventory existing recreation facilities shown on Map 3.

Forest County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2012-2016

The Forest County Land and Water Conservation Committee developed this plan in 2011. The plan provides an inventory of the County's natural resources and a series of goals and objectives intended to improve and protect these resources in the future.

North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan

This 2004 document is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region. Potential trails are identified and an improvement description was created for each county that trails exist in to facilitate implementation.

Two abandoned rail corridors in Forest County have great potential. The rail line from Crandon to White Lake in Langlade County was recently abandoned, while the DNR and DOT have owned much of the rail corridor from Carter to Popple River for some time. These trails are shown on Map 1. (Note: The rail line from Carter to Popple River is complete and approved for hiking, biking, ATVing, and snowmobiling – Nicolet State Trail.)

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005-2010

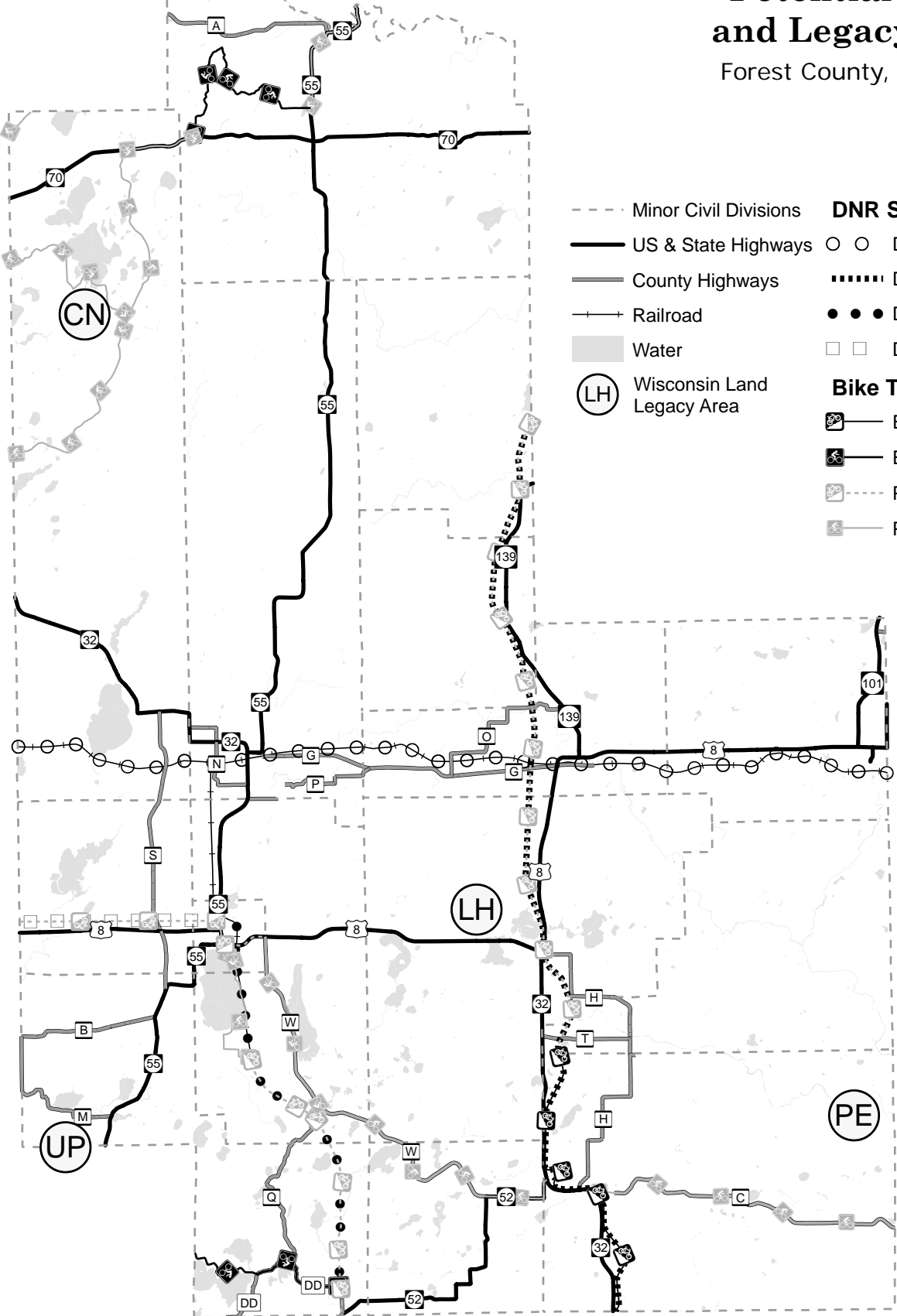
Completed in August 2006, this plan attempts to classify, measure, and ultimately provide for the preferences and needs of a statewide recreating public. Many factors, from changing demographic and land use trends, to recreational supply, and conflict with other recreation uses, affect the quality, supply, and demand for outdoor recreation.

This plan is summarized in Attachment B, and is what the State will use to determine where to approve grants.

Forest County Comprehensive Plan

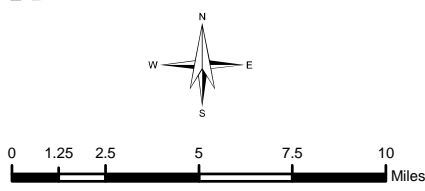
Adopted in 2011, this plan meets the smart growth requirement for the state of Wisconsin.

Map 1
**Potential Trails
 and Legacy Areas**
 Forest County, Wisconsin



- - - Minor Civil Divisions
- US & State Highways
- County Highways
- + + Railroad
- Water
- (LH) Wisconsin Land Legacy Area
- DNR Segments**
- ○ DNR Segment 13
- DNR Segment 2
- ● ● DNR Segment 56
- □ DNR Segment 69
- Bike Trails**
- ⊗ Existing Off Road
- ⊗ Existing On Road
- ⊗ Proposed Off Road
- ⊗ Proposed On Road

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State Trails Network Plan

This 2001 document clarifies the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) role and strategy in the provision of all types of trails. The plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors that would link existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. This statewide network of interconnected trails would be owned and maintained by municipalities, private entities, and partnerships of the two. Preserving transportation corridors, such as old rail lines, is specifically discussed as a very important strategy in the creation of recreational and alternative transportation corridors. These trails are shown on Map 1.

Segment 2—Forest Co. to Michigan, Nicolet State Trail (Northern Region)

The DNR partially acquired the Nicolet State Trail corridor from Gillett to Wabeno. The rest of the rail corridor in Forest Co., from Cavour to Wabeno, remains largely DOT-owned, with portions used for private rail by term agreement. The tracks from Wabeno to Laona have been removed as well as the tracks north of Cavour to the Michigan border, and this grade may be available for trail acquisition in the near future. (Note: See page 19 for the description of this completed trail.) This trail was developed in 2010 as a part of the state trails network plan.

Segment 13—Dresser to Michigan

This 250-mile-long east-west corridor consists of rail line, the Cattail Trail, which is owned by the DNR and operated by Polk and Barron counties, and an optional highway right-of-way. It would link with the proposed Hiles to Crandon snowmobile trail in Forest County. The use of roadways in Oneida and Forest counties are an alternative to the rail line.

Segment 56—Argonne to Shawano

This is an active rail corridor with abandonment expected in fall of 2000 on the segment from Crandon to White Lake. Argonne is on the Dresser to Michigan corridor in the north. This corridor runs along the east shore of Lake Metonga at Crandon, then runs south through forested lake areas of the Nicolet National Forest. This trail was completed in 2011 as a part of the state trails network plan.

Segment 69—Tomahawk to Crandon

This abandoned corridor would link these two communities by an off-road connector. This corridor intersects the Langlade County to Michigan corridor at Pelican Lake and links the Argonne to Shawano corridor in the east with the Tomahawk to Wausau corridor in the west. This short linking corridor provides opportunity to access the very popular Hiawatha-Bearskin Trail from other corridors to the east.

2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

The Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests were combined into one forest in 1998. This 2004 document revised inconsistent policies between the two forests and provides direction for resource management over the next 10 to 15 years.

In 2004, the Forest revised its forest management plan. The revised plan contains a consistent ATV policy for both sides of the Forest

- No off-road or off trail use allowed (implemented on June 14, 2004).
- New trail construction allowed for up to 100 miles of trail on the Chequamegon side, and up to 85 total miles on the Nicolet side.

- All roads and trails closed to ATV use unless posted open with signs.
- All trails and Forest Service roads will be closed to ATV's every year from March 15 through April 30. Township designated roads are still open.
- No Intensive Use ("play areas") allowed on the Forest (Open 26 play area closed on June 14, 2004).
- Emergency closures can be issued locally where resources are being damaged or abused, or there are safety concerns.
- Management of timber to sustain wildlife an recreation.

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 Land Legacy 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 craft comprehensive plans, or offering different types of technical assistance.

Prioritization of Land Legacy Areas is described in SCORP Chapter 3 located in Attachment B.

Each Forest County Legacy Area is summarized below with 5 stars representing the highest level for that category:

**CN Chequamegon-Nicolet
National Forest**

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

PE Peshtigo River

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

LH Laona Hemlock Hardwoods

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

UP Upper Wolf River

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

Other Areas of Interest includes:

- North Otter Creek
- Elvoy and Brule Creeks

CHAPTER 2 FOREST COUNTY OVERVIEW

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

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

Geography and Land Use

Forest County in northeastern Wisconsin has a total of 669,231 acres; of which 92.0% is forested, 1.8% is used for agriculture, 3.4% is water, 0.6% for open space, 0.8% is for transportation (which includes airports and roads), 1.0% for residential, and 0.1% is for commercial and industrial uses. Forest County is bound on the north by the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the Brule River, which forms the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary; on the east by Florence and Marinette Counties; on the south by Oconto and Langlade Counties; and on the west by Oneida and Vilas Counties. See Map 2.

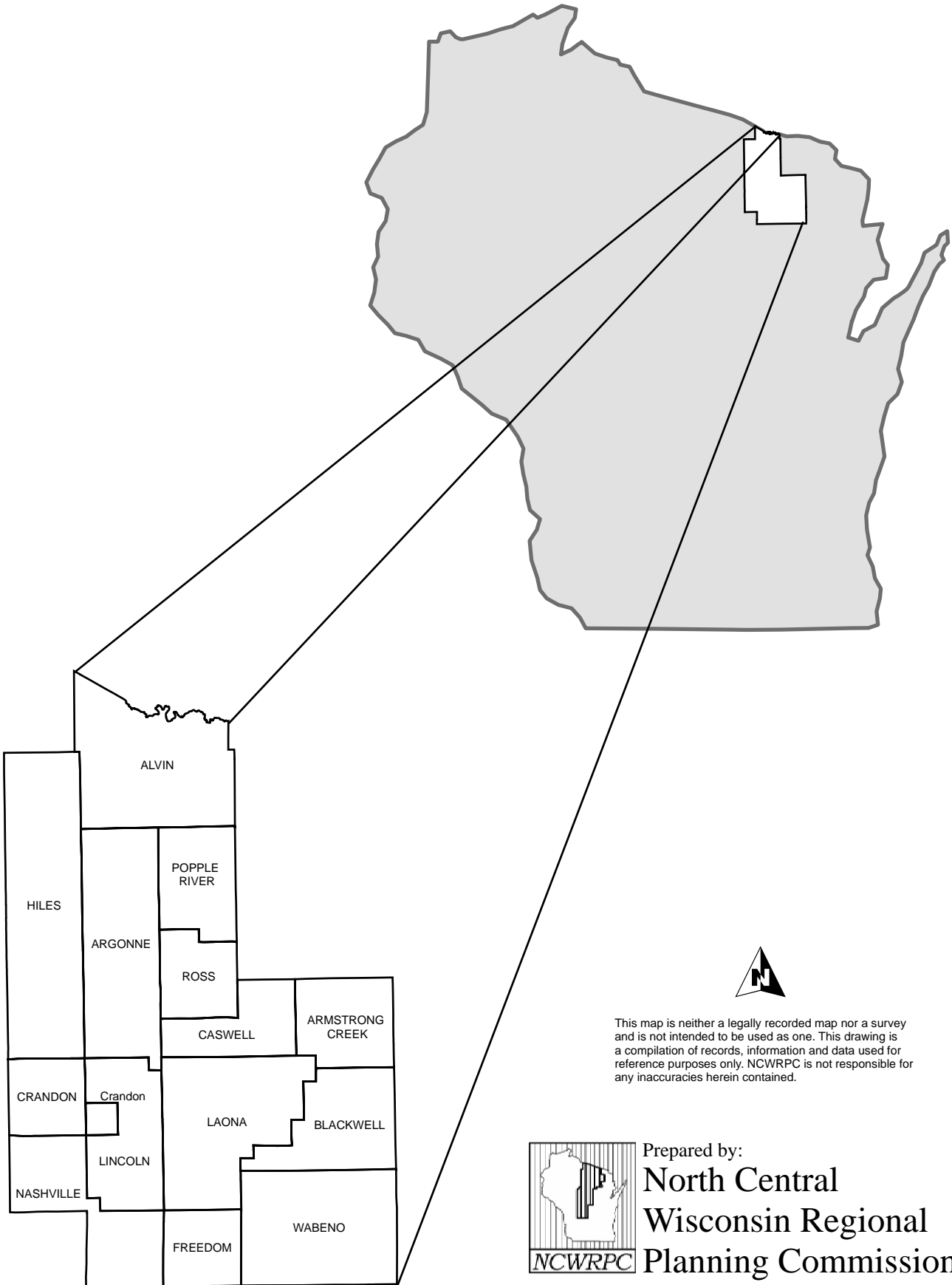
Topography and Geology

Forest County is located entirely in the Northern Highlands physiographic region, which was glaciated during the Pleistocene Age by the Langlade Lobe.

The elevation in the county generally ranges from about 1,800 feet above sea level in the west and northwest to about 1,300 feet in the southeast. The third highest point in the state, Sugar Bush Hill, is a drumlin east of Crandon. It rises about 1,938 feet above sea level. The west end of McCaslin Mountain is about 1,610 feet above sea level.

Forest County is underlain by igneous & metamorphic bedrock that makes up the southern extension of the Canadian Shield. The bedrock surface is irregular throughout the county and slopes generally to the east and southeast. The extreme northwest part of the county near the Michigan border is underlain by metavolcanic and metasedimentary rock and an iron formation. A significant sulfide deposit of zinc and copper is also in the southwestern part of the county, north of Little Sand Lake. Underlying the southeast corner is the Hager porphyry rock and a quartzite and conglomerate rock upland, which includes the prominent relief feature of McCaslin Mountain protruding through the glacial deposits. Bedrock exposed in other areas is typically located in topographic lows surrounded by glaciofluvial deposits, such as the gneiss outcrop on the south shore of Pine Lake.

General Location



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Surface Water

Forest County has many streams, lakes, and rivers that furnish a good supply of surface water. The county has 24,094 acres of surface water. There are 824 lakes in the county. These lakes make up 22,324 acres of water. Streams in the county have a surface area of 1,770 acres and a total length of 710 miles. The majority of these streams are classified as trout waters. Surface water is used mainly for recreation, stock watering, and wildlife.

The Eastern Continental Divide directs the flow of surface water in Forest County into two major bodies of water – Green Bay and the Mississippi River. The vast majority of the surface water in Forest County flows to the east and southeast and eventually into Green Bay. Three major rivers – the Brule, the Pine, and the Popple – flow in that direction and are part of the Menominee River watershed. Both the Pine and Popple Rivers are designated as "wild" under the Wisconsin Wild River Act (Ch. 30.26 WI Stats.).

The Peshtigo River and its feeder streams encompass the largest watershed in the county. This river flows to the southeast and enters Green Bay in southeastern Marinette County. The Wolf River, whose headwaters originate at Pine Lake, flows southward into Lake Poygan in Winnebago County. Several small streams on the far western edge of the county flow to the west and are part of the Wisconsin River watershed.

The secondary drainage system in Forest County consists mainly of surface runoff and hillside seepage into basins and depressions caused by the last glacial period. Some of these areas have drainage outlets, but most of this system tends to be poorly developed.

This extensive water resource provides a great deal of recreational opportunity like boating, sailing, skiing, fishing, swimming, canoeing and ice fishing.

Groundwater

Glacial drift aquifers are the major source of ground water in most of the county. Large yields of ground water are available where the thickness of the saturated drift is at least 50 feet. The thickness of the glacial drift over most of the county ranges up to about 300 feet. The glacial drift produces well yields ranging from 5 to 1,000 gallons per minute. Yields of at least 500 gallons per minute are common. Most high-capacity wells range from 30 to 300 feet in depth.

Precambrian crystalline rock underlying the county is not considered a significant source of water. The availability of water from the bedrock is difficult to predict and is probably less than 5 gallons per minute. The glacial drift aquifer above the bedrock is the best source of ground water.

The quality of ground water in Forest County is generally good. The ground water is suitable for most domestic, municipal, and industrial uses, but treatment may be required for special purposes. The water in the aquifers is principally a calcium magnesium bicarbonate type. It is moderately hard or hard. A high content of iron is a problem in many wells, but it is not a health hazard. Local differences in the quality of ground water are a result of the composition, solubility, and surface area

of soil and rock particles through which the water moves and the length of time the water is in contact with these materials. The least mineralized water is from the glacial drift aquifer.

Soils

Most of the soils in Forest County formed under forest vegetation, which results in a light-colored soil that has a relatively low content of organic matter.

The parent material of the soils in Forest County varies greatly, sometimes within small areas, depending on how the material was deposited. The parent materials in Forest County are mainly glacial till or glacial mudflow sediment, glacial outwash, and lacustrine deposits, which in places are covered by a thin layer of silty or loamy windblown material. Some of the soils formed in more recent deposits of organic material or alluvium.

Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service publishes a Soil Survey Report. The Forest County Soil Survey Report was made available in 2003. Soil suitability tables for outdoor recreation and other uses are available on the Internet.

Soil surveys contain an abundance of information on appropriate site planning in respect to soil suitability and developmental properties by soil type. The soil types identified are to be evaluated for a wide range of recreational uses including the following:

- wetland refuges for waterfowl
- wildlife management
- open space or nature study areas
- parks
- athletic fields
- designated farmland preservation areas
- ski areas
- golf courses
- campsites, hiking trails, and picnic areas
- woodlands
- hunting preserves
- manmade ponds

Climate

Winters in Forest County are very cold, and the short summers are fairly warm. The short frost-free period during the summer limits cropping mainly to forage crops, small grain, and adapted vegetables. Precipitation is fairly well distributed throughout the year but reaches a peak in summer. Snow covers the ground much of the time from late fall through early spring. The total annual precipitation is about 30 inches. Of this total, more than 21 inches, or about 70 percent, usually falls in April through September. The growing season for most crops falls within this period. In 2 years out of 10, the rainfall in April through September is less than 18 inches. The sun shines 65 percent of the time possible in summer and 45 percent in winter. The prevailing wind is from the northwest. Average wind speed is highest, 12 miles per hour, in spring.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

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

Overall recreation demand within Wisconsin is described under SCORP in Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment – of this plan. Matching social characteristics from this section with different recreation demands as shown in SCORP Chapter 2, will start to reinforce what recreational facilities to provide.

Population

Current population, seasonal population estimates, population projections, and public participation results are all important criteria to use when considering the supply of recreational facilities. This section lists and describes the current, seasonal, and projected population levels for county and neighborhood park facility demands.

The relationship between population demographics, and supply & demand of recreational facilities is only a bare minimum guide for developing outdoor recreational facilities in Forest County. Understanding how each park is used, and if specific activities are in demand are better factors to use when determining future recreational facility needs. Combining population demographics from this section with public participation feedback (results are shown in the Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment chapter) will provide a complete understanding of outdoor recreational facility needs.

Both permanent and seasonal residents must be counted when considering outdoor recreation facilities. Seasonal residents pay the same amount of property taxes as residents, but the only services they pay for and do not use are the school districts.

The 2010 United States Census also indicates that Forest County has an older population. The county median age of 44.1 years is older than Wisconsin's median age of 38.5. Forest County also has 20.3% of its population 65 years or older which is a higher percentage than Wisconsin who has 13.7% of its residents 65 years or older. The fact that Forest County has an older population needs to be considered with all public investments, including recreational facilities.

Table 1	Permanent and Seasonal Population by Forest County Municipality								
	Community	2000 Population			2010 Population			Total Pop. Change	Percent Change
		Seasonal Pop.	Permanent Pop	Total Pop.	Seasonal Pop.	Permanent Pop	Total Pop.		
Alvin	572	186	758	714	157	871	113	14.9%	
Argonne	274	532	806	458	512	970	164	20.3%	
Armstrong Creek	412	463	875	624	409	1,033	158	18.1%	
Blackwell	152	347	499	315	332	647	148	29.7%	
Caswell	261	102	363	231	91	322	-41	-11.3%	
Crandon (Town)	454	614	1,068	394	650	1,044	-24	-2.2%	
Freedom	633	376	1,009	718	345	1,063	54	5.4%	
Hiles	1,041	404	1,445	1,196	311	1,507	62	4.3%	
Laona	545	1,367	1,912	626	1,212	1,838	-74	-3.9%	
Lincoln	1,429	1,005	2,434	1,630	955	2,585	151	6.2%	
Nashville	1,738	1,157	2,895	2,156	1,064	3,220	325	11.2%	
Popple River	193	79	272	227	44	271	-1	-0.4%	
Ross	314	167	481	336	136	472	-9	-1.9%	
Wabeno	752	1,264	2,016	721	1,166	1,887	-129	-6.4%	
Crandon (City)	229	1,961	2,190	238	1,920	2,158	-32	-1.5%	
Forest County	8,999	10,024	19,023	10,346	9,304	19,650	627	3.3%	

Source: U.S. Census & NCWRPC

Table 1 shows historical permanent and estimated seasonal populations for Forest County municipalities. Seasonal populations were calculated from U.S. Census data. The number of seasonal housing units was multiplied by the average household size of the permanently occupied housing units in that municipality.

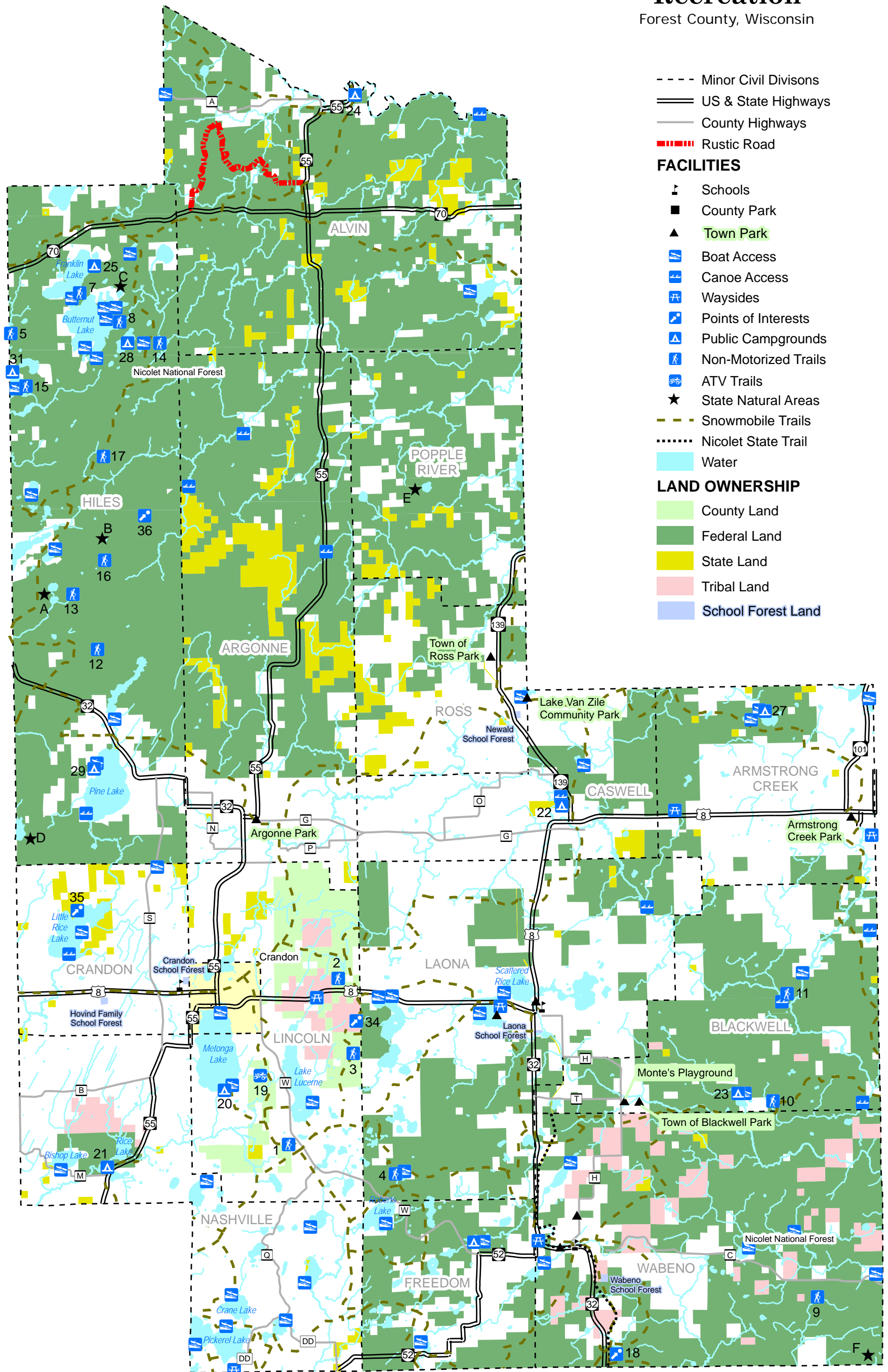
There is a clear pattern county-wide between the seasonal and permanent population changes in Table 1. Between 2000 and 2010 Table 1 shows that each community except of the Town of Crandon experienced a loss in Permanent population. Table 1 also shows that each community except the Towns of Caswell, Crandon and Wabeno experienced growth in seasonal population. The growth of the seasonal population outpaced the decline of the permanent population which results in a population increase of 3.3%.

Table 2	Population Projections by Forest County Municipality						
	Census 2010	2015 Projection	2020 Projection	2025 Projection	2030 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Alvin	157	206	209	211	211	54	34.4%
Argonne	512	587	596	600	599	87	17.0%
Armstrong Creek	409	456	447	436	421	12	2.9%
Blackwell	332	305	290	273	255	-77	-23.2%
Caswell	91	96	94	92	89	-2	-2.2%
Crandon (Town)	650	641	644	642	637	-13	-2.0%
Freedom	345	416	426	433	436	91	26.4%
Hiles	311	439	448	454	456	145	46.6%
Laona	1212	1315	1279	1238	1189	-23	-1.9%
Lincoln	955	1145	1195	1234	1261	306	32.0%
Nashville	1064	1301	1345	1379	1399	335	31.5%
Popple River	44	108	114	118	122	78	177.3%
Ross	136	161	158	152	146	10	7.4%
Wabeno	1166	1335	1348	1351	1343	177	15.2%
Crandon (City)	1920	1909	1870	1820	1759	-161	-8.4%
Forest County	9,304	10,420	10,463	10,433	10,323	1,019	11.0%

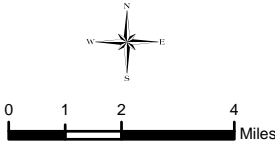
Source: Wisconsin DOA & U.S. Census

Over the 20 year period shown in Table 2 the Wisconsin Department of Administration projects the county population to increase by 11.0%. The Towns of Blackwell, Caswell, Crandon, and Laona and the City of Crandon are projected to experience population losses over the next 20 years. The remaining communities in Forest County are projected to experience population increases over the next 20 years. The Towns of Lincoln and Nashville are projected to gain over 300 people each, with the Towns of Wabeno and Hiles projected to gain over 140 people over this time period. The Wisconsin Department of Administration completed these population projections before the 2010 census numbers were completed. They will complete new projections in 2012 which will reflect the 2010 census numbers and the population decrease experienced by Forest County.

Map 3
**Outdoor
 Recreation**
 Forest County, Wisconsin

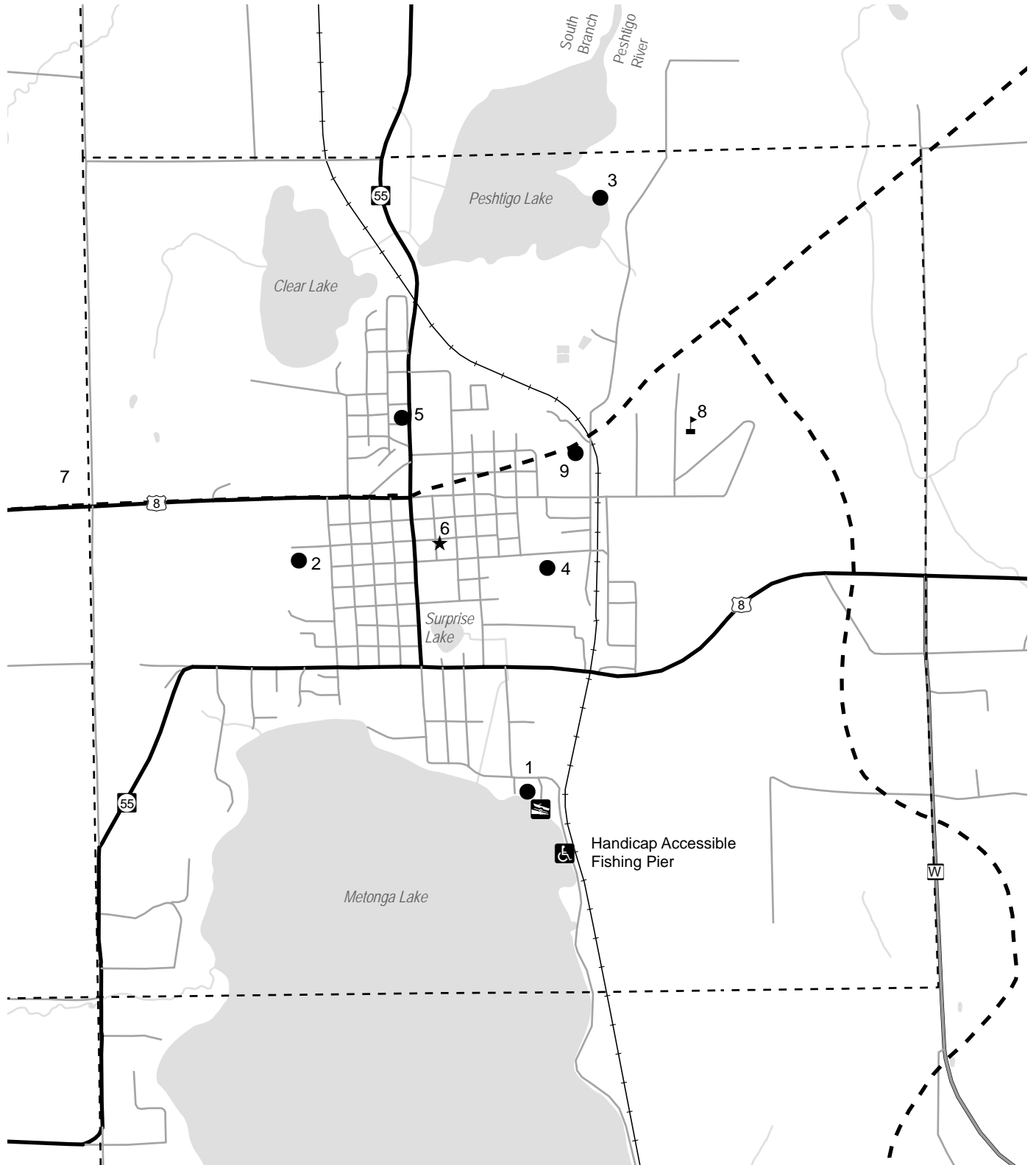


- - - - Minor Civil Divisions
- == US & State Highways
- County Highways
- ▬▬▬ Rustic Road
- FACILITIES**
- 🏫 Schools
- County Park
- ▲ Town Park
- 🚤 Boat Access
- 🚣 Canoe Access
- 🚶 Waysides
- 📍 Points of Interests
- 🏕️ Public Campgrounds
- 🚰 Non-Motorized Trails
- 🛵 ATV Trails
- ★ State Natural Areas
- Snowmobile Trails
- ⋯ Nicolet State Trail
- 💧 Water
- LAND OWNERSHIP**
- County Land
- Federal Land
- State Land
- Tribal Land
- School Forest Land



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 Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC, Forest Co

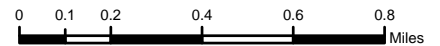
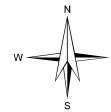
City of Crandon - Outdoor Recreation



- Minor Civil Divisions
- US & State Highways
- County Highways
- Railroad
- Snowmobile Trails
- Water
- ▮ Schools
- ★ Special Use Area
- Neighborhood Park

 Boat Access

Number	Name
1	City Beach
2	Palmer Park
3	Peshtigo Park
4	Cardinal Park
5	Louise Park
6	Tennis Courts
7	Crandon School Dist.
8	New Hope Christian
9	County Fairgrounds



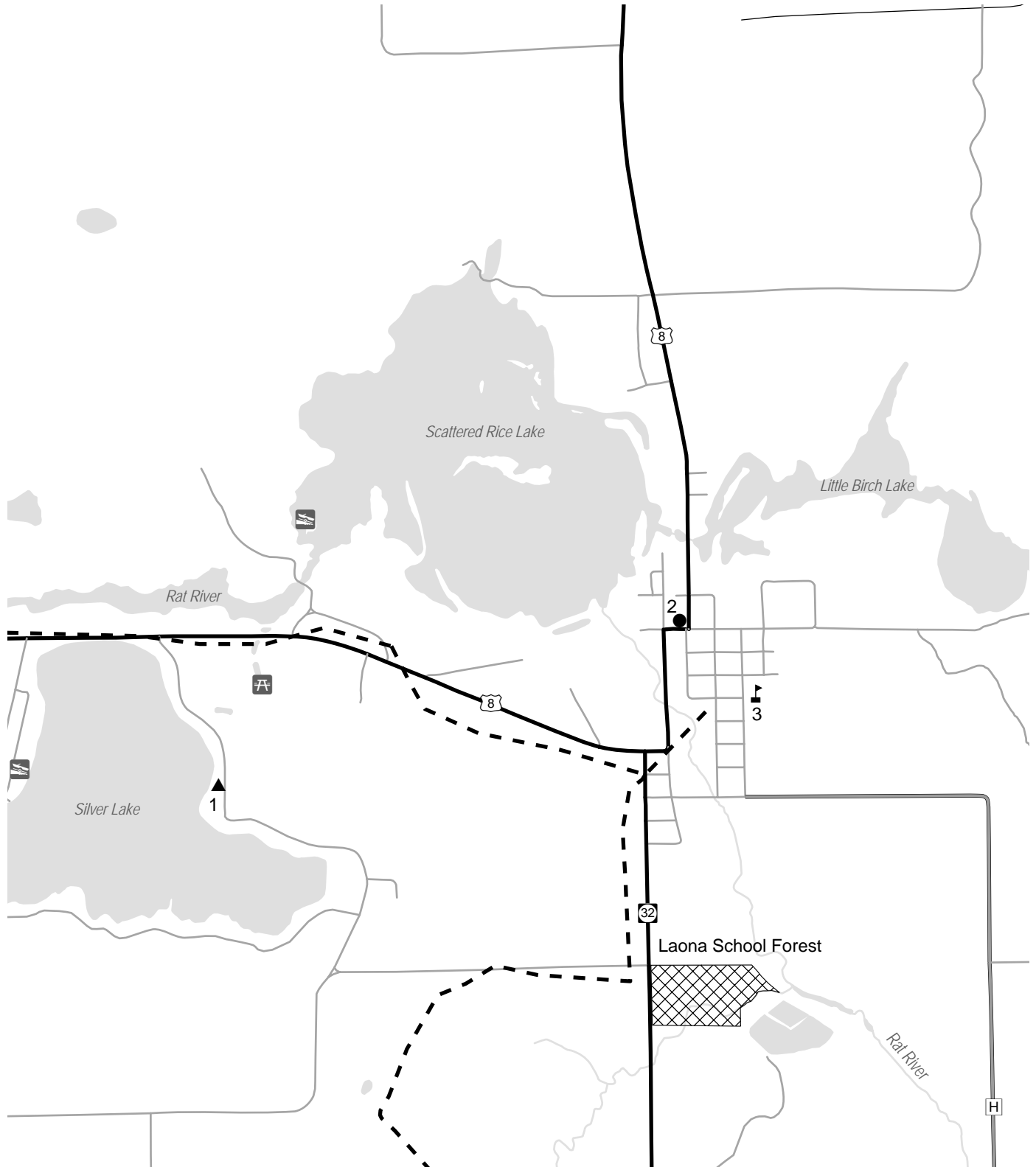
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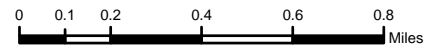
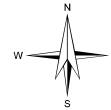
Town of Laona - Outdoor Recreation



- - - Minor Civil Divisions
- US & State Highways
- County Highways
- Railroad
- Snowmobile Trails
- Water
- Schools
- Neighborhood Park
- Town Park

- Boat Access
- Waysides

Number	Name
1	Silver Lake Park
2	Laona Park
3	Laona School Dist



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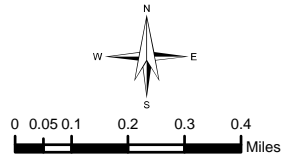
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**North Central Wisconsin
 Regional Planning Commission**

Town of Wabeno - Outdoor Recreation



- Minor Civil Divisions
- US & State Highways
- County Highways
- Railroad
- · - Snowmobile Trails
- Water
- Schools
- ★ Special Use Area
- ▲ Town Park
- ⚓ Waysides
- ⚓ Boat Access

Number	Name
1	Wabeno Neighborhood Park
2	Wabeno Fairgrounds
3	Trump Park
4	Wabeno School Dist.



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North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
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 Source: WI DNR, Forest Co & NCWRPC

CHAPTER 3 EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

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

Intensively used outdoor recreation facilities are generally located near population concentrations like the City of Crandon, the school district properties, and town centers. In towns with low population densities and relatively low real estate valuation, there typically are no local outdoor recreation facilities. Since there are abundant outdoor recreation facilities located within Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest, then there is less demand for local governments to provide those similar types of facilities.

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

TRAIL FACILITIES

Each listing has a *title in italics* and a (#). The (#) represents the location on Map 3.

Non-Motorized Trails

Forest County Forestry Department

- *Hemlock Lake Trail* (1)– located one mile east and four miles south of Crandon off Hwy W on Hemlock Lake Road. Two miles of gentle and intermediate cross-country trails and parking are available.
- *Otter Springs Skiing and Hiking Trail* (2)– located four miles east of Crandon on Otter Spring Road/Forest Road 2378. Trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking include a 1 1/4 mile loop, 3/4 mile loop for beginners, and an intermediate 3 mile loop. All trails are well groomed and marked. There is also a ski shelter, benches, and fire pit.
- *Bradley Lake Trail* (3) – There are three different trail sections to this system. One is located one mile south of Potowatomi Trail Road. Another is west of Lake Lucerne off Duff Road. This section includes the ATV trails (see ATV Trails of this section). The other is located west of County W on the west and east sides of Bradley Lake Road. These 12 miles of trails are used primarily for hunting and hiking.

Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest

In addition to designated trails, all logging roads and undesignated/unmarked trails within the Nicolet National Forest are open to non-motorized public use unless otherwise posted.

- *Ed's Lake Trail* (4)– located on County Highway W between Wabeno and Crandon. Cross county ski trails include a 2.3 mile loop for beginners, and a 2.7 mile loop or 3.5 mile loop for intermediate skiers. All trails are groomed. There are also 6 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails in upland hardwoods.
- *Nicolet North Trail* (5)– located 10.5 miles east of Eagle River on Forest Road 2460 to the trailhead. Cross-country ski trails include 13 miles of groomed trails with several loop options. In the summer months, these trails can be used for hiking and mountain biking. The Nicolet North Trail connects with the Anvil Trail.
- *Franklin Nature Lake Trail* (7)– located 9 miles east of Eagle River on Forest Road 2181 to the campground and trailhead. This is a one mile interpretive loop trail that takes you through a tamarack swamp, hemlock cathedral, and 300-year old white pines.
- *Hidden Lakes Trail* (8)– this is a thirteen mile trail which begins at Franklin Nature Lake Trail and eventually joins the Luna-White Deer Trail.
- *Knowles Creek Interpretive Trail* (9)– located 9.5 miles east of Wabeno on Forest Road 3132. This is a one-third mile access interpretive trail which follows the north shore of North Creek impoundment. This is also a state designated Wildlife viewing area.
- *Halley Creek Bird Trail* (10)– located five miles east of Blackwell on Forest Road 2103. It is a one mile loop trail with bird viewing opportunities in four different habitat types.
- *Michigan Rapids Trail* (11)– located 3 miles north of Laona on Forest Road 2134. This is a two mile hike along the Peshtigo River to the rapids.
- *Argonne Forest Trail* (12)–located 1.5 miles east of Hiles on Forest Road 2184. A self-guided loop trail gives a hiker a chance to learn more about the northern hardwoods and forest management. The trail features 17 stops along a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile path.
- *Scott Lake Trail and Shelp Lake Trail* (13)– located on Forest Road 2183. The one-third mile Scott Lake Trail is located on the south side of 2183. The boardwalk to Shelp Lake is located on the north side of 2183. This walk will take you out over a floating bog.
- *Luna-White Deer Trail* (14) – located off Divide Road to the Luna-White Deer Lake campground and trailhead. Hikers can park either at the White Pine swimming area or the boat ramp on Luna Lake.
- *Sevenmile Trail* (15) – located seven and a half miles north of Hiles off Forest Road 2435 to Seven-Mile Lake Campground and trailhead.
- *Giant Pine Trail* (16) – located two miles north of Hiles on off Forest Road 2414 to the trailhead. This is a 1.5 mile loop in the Headwaters Wilderness where white pines overtop the hardwood forest.
- *Bailey Lake Equestrian Trail* (17) – trailhead is located off of Forest Road 3861. This trail is approximately 12 miles used as a designated horse trail. In the winter, parts of the trail are used for snowmobiling.
- *Quartz Hill Trail* (18) – located in the southeast corner of Forest County. From Carter, take State Highway 32 south 1 mile. The parking area is on the west side of the highway. This trail has two sections; one on the east and a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile trail on the west side of State Highway 32. The east section leads across a boardwalk to the top of Quartz Hill.

Table 3		Trail Uses						
County Trails	Miles	Hiking	Mtn. Bike	X-C Ski	Horse	Interpretive	Difficulty	
Hemlock Lake Trail	2	X	X	X			Easy	
Otter Springs Trail	5	X	X	X	X		Easy - Moderate	
Bradley Lake Trail	12	X	X	X	X		Easy	
Nicolet Nat'l Trails	Miles	Hiking	Mtn. Bike	X-C Ski	Horse	Interpretive	Difficulty	
Ed's Lake Trail	6	X	X	X			Easy - Difficult	
Nicolet North Trail	15	X	X	X	X		Medium	
Franklin Nature Lake	1	X				X	Easy	
Hidden Lakes Trail	13	X					Medium	
Knowles Creek Interpretive Trail	2/3	X				X	Easy	
Halley Creek Bird Trail	1	X				X	Easy	
Michigan Rapids Trail	2	X					Medium	
Argonne Experimental Forest Trail	3/4	X				X	Medium	
Scott Lake Trail and Shelp Lake Trail	1/2	X					Easy	
Luna-White Deer Trail	4	X					Easy	
Sevenmile Trail	2	X					Medium	
Giant Pine Trail								
Bailey Lake Equestrian Trail	15	X			X		Easy	
Quartz Hill Trail	1 1/4	X				X	Medium- Difficult	

Source: USDA – Forest Service, & Forest County Forestry Department

ATV Trails

Forest County Forestry Department

A two-way, 8-mile trail (19) is located on old logging roads and is also open to motorcycles, snowmobiles, hikers, skiers, loggers, and many other users. A loading dock is available at the trailhead parking area. Also available to the public are picnic areas. Many towns in Forest County have opened their town roads for ATV use as well. Please be sure that town roads are signed with "ATV Route" signs before riding your ATV on them.

Nicolet State Trail

The Nicolet State Trail is 25 miles of State funded snowmobile and ATV trail on abandoned railroad grade. The southern section starts at the Forest/Oconto County line in the Town of Carter and proceeds 12 miles north to the Town of Laona. The northern section starts at CTH O in the Town of Cavour and proceeds 13 miles north to the Forest/Florence County line, then continues through Florence County and connects with a railroad corridor in Upper Michigan.

Wolf River State Trail

The Wolf River State Trail is open in Forest County and runs for 13.6 miles from the Forest/Langlade county line to Crandon. The trail is currently under development in Langlade County. The trail will be developed in phases, in part dependent on funding. Once complete, the Wolf River State Trail in Langlade County will run for 23.4 miles and begin at the Menominee/Langlade county line, travel north through White Lake, Hollister and Lily and connect to the trail in Forest County for a total of 37 miles.

Only use roads that are legally marked as ATV routes to leave the corridor. The Nicolet State and Wolf River State Trails are the only trails in Forest County that are currently open to both snowmobile and ATV. No other snowmobile trail in Forest County is open to ATV use at this time.

Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest (Forest)

In 2004, the Forest revised its forest management plan. The revised plan contains a consistent ATV policy for both sides of the Forest:

- No off-road or off trail use allowed (implemented on June 14, 2004).
- New trail construction allowed for up to 100 miles of trail on the Chequamegon side, and up to 85 total miles on the Nicolet side. The Nicolet side covers Forest County.
- All roads and trails closed to ATV use unless posted open with signs.
- All trails and Forest Service roads will be closed to ATV's every year from March 15 through April 30. Township designated roads are still open.
- No Intensive Use ("play areas") allowed on the Forest.
- Emergency closures can be issued locally where resources are being damaged or abused, or there are safety concerns.

All Forest Service roads open to ATV use will be posted with signs. Also, maps containing information on areas open to ATV use can also be obtained at Ranger District Offices.

Snowmobile Trails

Forest County has about 405.8 miles of groomed, state funded trails winding throughout the county. All trails link to both casinos and many hospitality businesses in Forest County. All trail maintenance is contracted to snowmobile clubs. The trail segments that exist within the County include:

- *100 Mile Snow Safari Trails* – 148.7 miles
- *Lumberjack Memorial Trails* – 94.1 miles
- *Three Lakes Trails* – 90 miles
- *Tombstone-Pickeral Trails* – 23.6 miles
- *Black Bear Sportsmen's Club* – 49.4 miles

Water Trails

A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. This website can help with creating a trail: (<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/publications/watertrails/>). There are over 317 streams

and rivers providing canoeists 710 miles of routes.

All navigable water is available to canoe on according to the Public Trust Doctrine (Art. 1, §1, WI Constitution). Wisconsin law recognizes that owners of lands bordering lakes and rivers - "riparian" owners - hold rights in the water next to their property. These riparian rights include the use of the shoreline, reasonable use of the water, and a right to access the water. Members of the public may use any exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian (i.e., landowner) only if it is necessary to exit the body of water to bypass an obstruction. In addition, a member of the public may not enter the exposed shore area except from the water, from a point of public access on the stream, or with the permission of the riparian landowner. Obstructions could consist of trees or rocks, shallow water for boaters or deep water for wading trout anglers. The bypass can involve areas up to the ordinary high water mark and should be by the shortest possible route. Under this law, using the exposed shoreline for purposes such as picnicking and sunbathing is not allowed (Ch. 30.134, WI Stats.).

- *Brule River* – one route with a length of 18 miles (Brule Dam – STH 139 bridge).
- *Peshigo River* – four routes with different lengths: 7.5 miles (Big Joe Canoe Landing – CCC Bridge), 9.5 miles (CCC Bridge – Burnt Bridge), 5.75 miles (Burnt Bridge - Burton Wells), and 6.25 miles (Burton Wells – Goodman Park).
- *Pine River* – Two routes: 20 miles (FS Road 2182 near Haystack Corners – FS Road 2168) and 18 miles (FS Road – Chipmunk Rapids)
- *Popple River* – One route (Hwy 55 ten miles north of Argonne – Town of Popple River).
- *Wolf River* – Two routes: 10 miles (Pine Lake – Little Rice Lake Dam), and 15 miles (Little Rice Dam – Hwy B Bridge).

Rustic Road

Forest County has one rustic road. Rustic Road 34 is a combination of Fishel Rd, Cary Dam Rd, and Lakeview Dr near the intersection of STHs 70 and 55.

Auto Tours

Two driving tours exist within the Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest. The Eagle River Self-Guided Natural History Auto Tour is an 80 mile auto tour that starts in Eagle River, travels through Oneida, Forest, and Vilas counties, and ends in Three Lakes. The Lakewood Auto Tour is a 65 mile auto tour in the south part of Forest County.

PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO WATER BODIES

Public Access sites on Forest County's lakes and streams are catalogued in the *Forest County Visitors Guide* under lakes and streams. Public access to waterbodies is ensured when land subdivision occurs by state statute. See the Implementation Strategies chapter for more details. Forest County and the City of Crandon each have one access point on Lake Metonga. All other access points in Forest County are maintained by the towns or USDA Forest Service.

PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS

Each listing has a *title in italics* and a (#). The (#) represents the location on Map 3.

Forest County

- *Forest County Veteran's Memorial Park* (20)– 10 tent and 55 trailer spaces, electric hookups, dump station for RV's, one disabled accessible campsite, drinking water, sanitary facilities meeting ADA standards, beachhouse/restroom/shower facility, picnic facilities, two picnic shelters, grills, playground, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, basketball court, swimming beach, boating, boat landing, fishing, fishing pier, and a manager present.

Tribally Owned

- *Sokaogon Chippewa Community Park* (21) - 20 tent and trailer spaces, drinking water, picnic facilities, boating, boat landing, and fishing.

Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest

- *Big Joe* (22)– 3 primitive sites – picnic table, fire rings, and vault toilets.
- *Bear Lake* (23)– 27 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, picnic facilities, grills, hiking, swimming, boating, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Brule River* (24)– 11 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, grills, fishing, and grocery store.
- *Franklin Lake* (25)– 77 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, flush toilets, picnic facilities, shelter, grills, hiking, swimming, boating, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Laura Lake* (27)– 41 tent and trailer space – drinking water, picnic facilities, grills, hiking, swimming, non-motorized boat restrictions, a five mile bike trail, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Luna-White Deer Lake* (28) – 37 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, picnic facilities, grills, hiking, non-motorized boat restrictions, swimming, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Pine Lake* (29)– 12 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, picnic facilities, grills, swimming, boating, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Richardson Lake* (30)– 26 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, picnic facilities, grills, swimming, boat landing, boating, and fishing.
- *Seven Mile Lake* (31)– 27 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, grills, hiking, swimming, boating, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Stevens Lake* (32)– 6 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, grills, boat landing, boating, and fishing.
- *Windsor Dam* (33) – 8 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, grills, hiking, canoeing, and fishing.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Forest County contains both historic and contemporary points of interest of cultural, aesthetic, recreational, and scientific importance.

Historic Buildings and Sites

Five sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Forest County:

1. Camp Five Farmstead, Town of Laona
2. Chicago and Northwestern Land Office, Town of Wabeno
3. Dinesen – Motzfeldt – Hettinger Log House, Town of Crandon
4. Franklin Lake Campground, Town of Alvin
5. Otter Spring House, Town of Lincoln

Wisconsin's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) lists 10 properties on it, all within the City of Crandon:

1. Crandon Ranger Station
2. Crandon Creamery
3. Crandon Grade School
4. Methodist Episcopal Church
5. Crandon State Bank
6. M. D. Keith House
7. Forest County Courthouse
8. Crandon Theater
9. Page and Landeck Lumber Co
10. Crandon Post Office

The Forest County Historical and Genealogical Society maintains extensive county historical records that are available to the general public.

Historical Marker

A state historical marker titled: **Northern Highland** is located on USH 8, 1.8 miles east of Crandon.

A state historical marker titled: **Battle of Mole Lake** is located on STH 55, in the center of Mole Lake.

A state historical marker titled: **Laona School Forest** is located on STH 32, 1 mile south of Laona.

Geologic Site

Forest County's topography, and geology are described on page 6 in Chapter 2 – Description of Forest County.

Sugar Bush Hill (34) – Located three miles east of Crandon, this is one of the highest points in the State at 1,938 feet above sea level. This site is tribally owned.

COUNTY FOREST

The Forest County Forestry and Recreation Department manages 11,578 acres of county forest. This land is managed for multiple uses, and is independently certified as sustainably managed and harvested. Some of the county forest is closed to motorized vehicles. Examples of permitted recreational activities are hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, bough cutting (permit required), firewood collection (permit required), and wildlife observation. Refer to Map 3 for Forest County Forest Land.

CITY and TOWN FACILITIES

City of Crandon

Each listing has a *title in italics* and a (#). The (#) represents the location on Map 4. Recreational opportunities that exist in the City of Crandon include:

- *City Beach* (1) – The beach is located on Lake Metonga’s north shore, on the city’s south side. Facilities include a beach house, two boat launches with a pier at each, picnic area, playground, sanitary facilities, shelter, swimming, and volleyball courts.
- *Palmer Park* (2) – This park is located next to City Hall on the west side of city. Facilities include a small ice skating rink, a little league and softball field, basketball court, play equipment with safety surfacing, sanitary facility, and a 0.6-mile bike path.
- *Peshigo Lake* (3) – A recently improved boat landing is the only recreation facility at this location at this time
- *Cardinal Park* (4) – This park has two little league fields, basketball courts, volleyball courts, two tennis courts, an ice rink with a warming house, playground, sanitary facility, two shelters, and hiking/nature/fitness trail.
- *Park Louise* (5) – This park is located on the north side of the city.
- *New Hope Christian School* (7) – Facilities include a playground, track, and field for soccer, football, and other activities.
- *Forest County Fairgrounds (City of Crandon)* (8)– Facilities include three buildings for displays, animal barn, horse arena, and sanitary facility.

Town Facilities

Various towns throughout Forest County maintain the following recreational facilities:

- *Argonne Town Park* (Map 3) – facilities include two ball fields, a covered pavilion that meets ADA standards, sanitary facilities, and a basketball court
- *Armstrong Creek Town Park* (Map 3) – facilities include a pavilion (meets ADA standards) with picnic tables, playground equipment, basketball court, and sanitary facilities.
- *Buchanan Recreation Area (Town of Alvin)* – facilities include shelter/storage, horseshoe pit, volleyball court, basketball, playground equipment, and nature trail
- *Town of Blackwell Park* (Map 3) – facilities include the baseball/softball field, tennis court, and sanitary facility. Facilities at the Rat River location include a picnic area and sanitary facility. These facilities do not meet ADA standards.
- *Monte's Playground (Town of Blackwell)* (Map 3) – facilities include a playground, shelter, and 2 picnic tables. This land is approximately one acre and is adjacent to the Town Hall. These facilities do not meet ADA standards.
- *Silver Lake Park (Town of Laona)* (Map 5, #1) – facilities include a swimming beach, basketball court, two shelters with picnic tables, volleyball court, sanitary facility, benches, and grills.
- *Laona Town Park* (Map 5, #2) – facilities include a picnic area and ice-skating area.
- *Town of Ross Park* (Map 3)– facilities include a baseball/softball field and a playground area.
- *Lake Van Zile Community Park* (Town of Ross) (Map 3)– facilities include a boat access, picnic area, sanitary facility, and swimming beach.
- *Wabeno Neighborhood Park* (Map 6, #1)– facilities include sanitary facilities meeting ADA standards, a fishing area, picnic area, playground, two shelters (meet ADA standards), new playground equipment, tennis court, and volleyball court. The town has also recently installed lighting at the park.
- *Trump Lake Park* (Town of Wabeno) (Map 6, #3)– facilities include a boat access, picnic area, sanitary facility, shelter, and swimming beach.
- *Wabeno Fairgrounds* (Town of Wabeno) (Map 6, #2)– facilities include a shelter.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Recreational opportunities in Forest County that are maintained by public schools.

Crandon School District (Map 4, #6) – Facilities include a baseball/softball field, football field, playground, shelter, ice skating rink, and hiking/nature/fitness trail.

- Crandon School Forest, 10 acres, E1/2 NE1/4, S25 T36N R12E;
- Hovind Family School Forest, 40 acres, SE1/4 SE1/4, S28 T36N R12E;

Laona School District (Map 5, #3)– Facilities include a baseball field, football field, and two tennis courts on the east side. The west side of the school provides playground equipment and basketball courts.

- Laona School Forest, 63 acres, N1/2 NW1/4, S6 T35N R15E;

Wabeno School District (Map 6, #4)– Facilities include a baseball/softball field, football field, sanitary facility, shelter, ice skating area, and sledding.

- Wabeno School Forest, 40 acres, SE1/4 SW1/4, S16 T34N R15E.

STATE FACILITIES

Each listing has a *title* and a (#). The (#) represents the location on Map 3.

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 in Forest County:

Little Rice Wildlife Area (35) located 6 miles northwest of Crandon, is a public hunting area that consists of 1,757 acres. Waterfowl, furbearers, deer, loons, bald eagles, and osprey inhabit the area.

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 (DNR) listed six areas within Forest County. Each site was given a statewide identification (**No. #**) by the DNR, and a Map 3 location letter [**_**]:

1. **Scott Lake and Shelp Lake SNA (No. 117) [A]** is 272 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T38N R12E).
2. **Giant White Pine Grove SNA (No. 118) [B]** is 30 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T38N R12E)
3. **Bose Lake Hemlock-Hardwoods SNA (No. 119) [C]** is 25 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T40N R 12E).
4. **Atkins Lake SNA (No. 238) [D]** is 541 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T37N R11E).
5. **Bastile Lake SNA (No. 302) [E]** is 156 acres located in the Town of Popple River.
6. **McCaslin Mountain SNA (No. 307) [F]** is 408 acres located in the Town of Wabeno (T34N R16E).

Wilderness Areas are the federal version of the state natural areas program. Each listing has a **title** and a (#). The (#) represents the location on Map 3.

Headwaters Wilderness Area (36) – Officially designated as a wilderness in 1984, this 18,000 plus acre wilderness is located 16 miles southeast of Eagle River, Wis. in Forest County. Portions of this area contain some of the largest and oldest trees in the forest. Kimball Creek, Shelp Lake and the Headwaters of the Pine River are major features within this Wilderness. The terrain is generally flat. Popular recreation uses in this Wilderness are hiking, bird-watching, hunting, fishing and studying nature.

FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE or COUNTY OWNED

The forested lands in Forest County are comprised of county forest, state lands, and private lands held by individuals and corporations. Most corporate lands are enrolled in either the Forest Crop Law or the Managed Forest Law. Currently, lands can only be enrolled in Managed Forest Law.

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) 4,544 acres are open to the public to hunt and fish as of 2009. There are 101,585 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program that are open to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking, and 26,726 acres that 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. Snowmobiles, ATVs, bicycles, and other motorized and non-motorized vehicles are prohibited on enrolled lands that are open to the public.

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

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest covers over half the land within Forest County. Extensive recreational opportunities within the Forest are described throughout the Existing Recreation System chapter.

PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Crandon International Off-Road Raceway – This 1.7-mile course is located on Highway 8 just one mile west of Crandon. Every Labor Day weekend, the raceway is used for the World Championship Off-Road Races, along with the Brush Run 101 held every year on the third weekend in June. Crowds can swell to over 60,000 people in one day of these events.

There is one private golf course in Forest County that is open to the public for a fee.

There are approximately 10 private campgrounds totaling 291 campsites in Forest County. All of these campgrounds are available for a fee to the public.

CHAPTER 4

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the county were identified by collecting public input, creating a county facility assessment, and reviewing past plans – including the Wisconsin SCORP 2005-2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROJECTS COMPLETED FROM 2007-2011

Forest County

Veterans Memorial Park

1. Trees – Continue the tree-planting program
2. Pavilion Construction
3. Fire Rings – Continue to purchase fire rings for campsites for cooking and campfires.
4. Park Expansion – Consider development of 25 additional campsites within the existing campground and/or expand into the wooded area adjacent to the existing campground.
5. Pit Toilets – Replace four existing pit toilets with modern, ADA accessible facilities. (Completed)
6. Parking Areas – Increase size of parking areas. Stripe and organize existing parking areas to serve more vehicles. (Completed)
7. Borders/Fences – Replace existing fences and borders with boulders (maintenance free and aesthetically pleasing). (Completed)
8. Electric Service Pedestals – Upgrade existing power pedestals to each campsite for camper safety. Add additional power pedestals for expansion and high use occupancy. (Completed)
9. Playground Equipment – Add ADA accessible playground equipment and upgrade existing playground structures. (Completed)
10. Boat Parking – Designate an area adjacent to the tent camping area for parking and mooring boats and canoes.

City of Crandon

- Create a skate park at Palmer Park.
- Create freestyle BMX bicycle track at Palmer Park.
- Install new sport coating on tennis and basketball courts.

Town of Armstrong Creek

- Install new playground equipment at Armstrong Creek Park.
- Upgrade restrooms with ADA modifications.

Town of Alvin

- Shuffle Board Court (Completed)

Town of Argonne

- Built 10 Picnic Tables (Completed)

Town of Blackwell

- Rebuilt gazebo in Town of Blackwell Park. (Completed)
- Resurface and stripe tennis courts in Town of Blackwell Park.

Town of Hiles

- Promote bird watching trails.

Town of Popple River

Purchased two picnic tables for Bastil Lake (Completed)

Purchased Flail mower for mowing trails (Completed)

Made gravel parking lots at trailheads (Completed)

Town of Nashville

- Completed a bicycle and pedestrian lane on Pickerel Lake Road. (Completed)

Town of Wabeno

Trump Lake Park Improvements

- Improve drainage and beautification of beach. (Completed)
- Install trash and recycling cans, and benches. (Completed)
- Resurface tennis court. (Completed)
- Replace roof at boat landing pavilion.
- Construct new shelter for phoenix steam hauler and log shed. (Completed)
- Purchase playground equipment. (Completed)
- Develop a new toilet at the beach. (Completed)
- Purchase picnic tables. (Completed)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Informal Public Input

In the regular course of business, Forest County Forestry, Land, and Parks Department staff have received public input about its parks, and forests.

Summary of City Council and Town Board Survey Responses

Surveys were received from Towns of Alvin, Argonne, Blackwell, Crandon (Town), Nashville, Popple River, and Wabeno. Survey responses are grouped under the headings below. The Towns of Alvin and Nashville did not list any concerns in all categories.

Top Outdoor Recreation Issues facing Forest County
Each "X" represents 1 community agreeing that it is an issue.

Availability	X
Affordability	X
Promotion	X
Economy	X
ATV Trails and Accessibility	XXX
Facilities	X
Hunting Issues	X
Invasive Species at Lakes	X
Cooperation with USFS	X

How to Satisfy Forest County Outdoor Recreational Issues

- More Donations, Fundraisers and Grants
- More Community Recreational Facilities
- Market and Promote the use of existing facilities and the counties recreational assets
- Continue to pursue development of a trail system

What Existing outdoor Recreation Facilities in Forest County Need Improvement

- Lack of ATV Trail system
- Camping sites on Bastil Lake
- Walking Trails off of the Nicolet Trail

Each community described what outdoor recreational issues face their community, and how they plan to satisfy those issues.

Town of Blackwell

Top 3 Outdoor Recreation Issues:

1. USFS is not maintaining campsites
2. USFS is slow to respond to the development of a trail
3. Little to attract recreation at this time.

How to satisfy local issues:

- Continue to attempt to work with Forest Service.

Town of Crandon

Top 3 Outdoor Recreation Issues:

1. ATV Trails.
2. Boat Landings

How to satisfy local issues:

- Identify grants to develop ATV trails
- Improve Boat Landings

Town of Nashville

Top 3 Outdoor Recreation Issues:

1. Lack of Rest rooms at boat landings
2. Improve pads and parking at boat landings
3. Create town park

How to satisfy local issues:

- Build Restrooms at boat landing
- Rebuild launches and increase parking at landings
- Create and furnish equipment for town recreation area

Town of Popple River

Top 3 Outdoor Recreation Issues:

1. Additional Walking Trails
2. Improve Fishing access
3. Facilities at recreational points

How to satisfy local issues:

- Identify funding
- Local Leadership

Town of Wabeno

Top 3 Outdoor Recreation Issues:

1. Activities for Seniors
2. Activities for young people
3. Bicycle safety for young people.

WISCONSIN DUAL SPORT RIDERS

NCWRPC staff has received over 10 letters from members of the Wisconsin Dual Sport Riders. This organization has held dual sport motorcycle events in Wabeno for the past ten (10) years. Wisconsin Dual Sport Riders has worked with Forest County in the past to gain access on the state trails that the county manages. The Wisconsin Dual Sports Riders wants off-highway and dual sport motorcycling be included in the Outdoor Recreation Plan. The issues facing this group is to raise

awareness of off-high and dual sport motorcycling in the county and to have access to county and state trails in the area.

OTHER PLAN REFERENCES

NCWRPC staff created the SCORP 2005-2010 summary that exists in Attachment B.

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

NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

Since the 1960's, an accepted practice has been to adopt a uniform national land standard, such as 10 acres per 1000 population, for park planning. A standard amount of land for parks and recreation cannot be universal 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 and facilities based park planning approach presents the current demand for park and recreation opportunities. The size of a park site is determined by the number of facilities needed to satisfy the active recreation demand within the service area of each park, and the unprogrammed recreation land that buffers different uses within a park and which buffers the park from other non-park uses such as 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, aesthetic buffers, and unprogrammed lands.
2. Park facilities. What activities are allowed or will be allowed? How much land is needed for each use?
3. Unprogrammed buffers. How much land within the park is needed to separate different uses? How much land is needed for future expansion? Maybe a park will not expand within 2-years, but within 10-20 years expansion 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 RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The following recommendations are aimed at satisfying needs identified to build Forest County's status as a prime recreation and natural resource area and to provide recreation facilities for all Forest County residents and the surrounding tourism region.

The recommendations are based on the goals and objectives, and the public comment documented in Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment. 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.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

MRA Park

One of the top priorities for Forest County is the development of a large destination Motorized Recreation Area (MRA). Potential sites will need to be studied further to identify the best location for this park, however this type of development would fit ideally since it would utilize the natural assets of the county and benefit overall tourism and quality of life in the county.

The County has a long history with off road vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles. For over 40 years the Crandon International Off-Road Raceway has hosted the Brush Run Races and World Championship Races. The Crandon International Off-Road Raceway annually attracts thousands of motorized recreational enthusiasts to Forest County. The Motorized Recreation Area would have a synergistic relationship with the Crandon International Off-Road Raceway to make it a premier destination.

Scenic Byways

The county should consider State Highway 55 Wisconsin Scenic Byway program. Forest County has had preliminary discussions regarding Highway 55 as a scenic byway. Currently Langlade County is also exploring a scenic byway designation for Highway 55. The county should explore options to collaborate with Langlade County to obtain a scenic byway designation for Highway 55. In addition any other appropriate State Highways should be considered for this program.

Established in 2005, the Scenic Byways Program represents a cooperative effort between the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and local community groups to preserve, promote and enhance some of our most scenic and historic state highway corridors.

To qualify as a scenic byway, a roadway must be part of the state highway system: a numbered state or federal non-interstate highway at least 30-miles long that offers travelers outstanding scenic views or historic resources combined with unique recreational, cultural or other educational opportunities. Some of the benefits include: Promotion as a state or national Scenic Byway; Associated prestige for

obtaining designation; and Opportunity to compete for federal 80/20 matching funds for trail heads, visitor centers, and historic building restorations.

Single track motorcycle trails

With the increasing demand for dual sport and off highway motorcycling in Forest County the county should support these activities. The county should work with groups like the Wisconsin Dual Sport Riders to locate appropriate areas to designate for dual sport and off highway motorcycling.

Canoe/Kayak Routes

With the popularity of canoe and kayak routes within the County, information signs should be installed at each route site. These signs should provide a map indicating the length of the route, points of interest, and pick-up locations.

National Forest Lands

Forest County should work with the United States Forest Service to keep the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest lands open for recreational use.

ATV Trail Development

Forest County should continue to develop ATV and other off road vehicle trails in the county. The development of new trails should examine new trails will connect with the existing trail network within the county. Connectivity to ATV trails in adjacent counties should also be considered.

Wolf River State Trailhead

Develop a Trail Head for the Wolf River State Trail in the City of Crandon. The trail head would include a paved parking area, picnic area with tables and a shower/restroom facility.

Biking/Hiking Trail Development

Develop a hiking-biking trail near the City of Crandon in three separate phases. Phase one connects the Crandon School District to the City of Crandon by developing a surfaced trail adjacent to U.S. Hwy 8. Phase two proceeds through the City of Crandon connecting to the Forest County Potawatomi Community Health and Wellness Center by developing a surfaced trail adjacent to U.S. Hwy 8. Phase three connects the City of Crandon to Mole Lake and the Mole Lake Casino Lodge and Conference Center by developing a surfaced trail adjacent to County Hwy S and U.S. Hwy 55.

COUNTY FOREST LANDS RECOMMENDATIONS

Non-Motorized Use

While there are trails available, consideration needs to be given to making all or a portion of the trails more multi-use year-round facilities. Better trail designation with signs, and trail maintenance of hiking, biking, horseback riding and x-ski trails, will allow more users to enjoy the trails.

Multiple purpose trails can have snowmobile and ATV use in winter, and hiking & bicycling in summer. SCORP page B-17 starts to describe user conflicts associated with having the same trails designated as both non-motorized and motorized in the same season. So a snowmobile trail in winter will not have user conflicts with ATVs, but will have conflicts with cross country skiers. If a non-motorized trail would allow ATVs in spring/summer/fall, then post an ATV speed limit of 25 mph within a mile of urban trail segments – City of Crandon, & town centers of Laona and Wabeno.

Motorized Use

The Forest County Forestry Committee has determined that there is sufficient use of the county forest by designated snowmobile and ATV trails. If local snowmobile or ATV clubs develop new trail adjacent to county forest land, full consideration will be given to develop links or connecting trails across county forest land provided these trails are part of the state funded snowmobile or ATV programs.

Otter Springs

The headwaters of the Otter Creek is a natural springs where two pipes are exposed from the ground and covered by an 8'X8' log spring house. This spring house was placed on the Federal and State Registry of Historic Places list, but is deteriorating due to weathering. The County should consider cooperatively working with the Potawatomi Community in pursuing grant money to restore this shelter.

County Fairgrounds

The County should consider relocation of the fairgrounds. The current site does not provide growth/expansion and is not very visible to the public.

TOWN OF ALVIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve and expand playground area.
- Build a small shelter
- Need to surface the basketball court and another lot

TOWN OF ARGONNE RECOMMENDATIONS

- New bleachers for the ball parks
- New refreshment stand at the ball park

TOWN OF BLACKWELL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve Rat River trail

TOWN OF CRANDON RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish ATV trail from Crandon to county line and hook up with existing trail system
- Improve Boat landing at Little Rice Lake
- Make Picnic Area at Little Rice Lake

TOWN OF NASHVILLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build a town park and recreation area

TOWN OF POPPLE RIVER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3 Restrooms for trailheads
- 2 Cast Iron fires grills
- 2 Picnic Tables
- 4 miles of walking trails
- Improve Boat/Canoe Landings at Long Lake, Bastil Lake and Pine River
- Build Boat/Canoe Landing on Popple River.

TOWN OF WABENO RECOMMENDATIONS

- Update, replace and purchase playground equipment
- Replace roof at boat landing
- Paint museum and repair leak in roof
- Paint floor of bandshell
- Photograph and re-label items in museum
- Build ramp for loading/unloading ATV's

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2012 – 2016

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 Forestry, Land, and Parks Department's operations budget, and through local town government budgets. 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.

The capital improvement framework for each facility is a combination of several types of projects. These projects are ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the facility. Capital improvements are ranked as follows:

1. Improvements to existing facilities:
 - a) To correct health and safety hazards;
 - b) To update deficient facilities; and
 - c) To modernize adequate but outdated facilities.
2. Installation of facilities as deemed necessary through citizen participation.
3. Development of new facilities as found necessary through comparison to park and recreation standards, and public comment.

The following Capital Improvement Plans are proposed for the Forest County recreational system. The projects are listed in a priority and are subject to change. The Forest County Forestry Department created each capital improvement plan. All upgrades and new construction will take

into consideration meeting ADA standards. As funds become available, the following projects will be completed.

Veterans Memorial Park

1. Trees – Continue the tree-planting program using either bare rootstock or containerized trees to provide shade as well as sight and sound barriers. This project could be an annual project of 50-100 trees per year.
2. Fire Rings – Continue to purchase fire rings for campsites for cooking and campfires. This could be an annual project of 10-15 rings per year.
3. Playground Equipment – Add ADA accessible playground equipment and upgrade existing playground structures.
4. Beach Expansion and Restoration

Development of New County Park

Development of and Equestrian Trail Head

CHAPTER 6 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

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

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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 or exceed 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 Forest County to find out about their development standards.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 to meet. Recreation facilities like golf courses and swimming pools, for example, require large annual maintenance investments to continue.

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.

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:

Jillian Steffes, Community Services Specialist
Rhineland Service Center
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland, WI 54501 (715) 365-8928

Besides state and federal aid programs, there are other sources of funding such as private foundations, trust funds, and civic and recreation organizations. For information on private foundations and trusts see Foundations in Wisconsin: A Directory, compiled by Susan A. Hopewood.

Future Planning

At a minimum, all communities should reassess their recreational needs near the end of the five year period covered by this plan. More frequent appraisal of needs may be called for under certain conditions such as extreme variations in funding capability, rapid population changes, actions of other units of government and private enterprise, and the recognition of new legislation, laws, and public programs.

Priorities

The need for community officials to establish priorities within their recreation program is emphasized by the scope of the previous recommendations. Although it is unlikely that all of these recommendations will be undertaken within the time period of this plan, there is an outstanding opportunity for inroads to be made. Recognition of increasing demands for recreation, space and facilities should prompt immediate action.

Lifetime Activities

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

Winter Activities

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

Snowmobile/ATV Routes

Since snowmobiles and ATVs can be considered a noise nuisance and a hazard for non-users, municipalities may wish to designate specific routes through the municipality for snowmobile/ATV use instead of designating all roads open to snowmobiles and ATVs.

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.

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.

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.

Youth Programs

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

Service Group Involvement

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

Community Beautification

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

CHAPTER 7 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 improvement tables by the Forest County Forestry Committee will keep this plan current. This review may also occur after a large turn over in elected officials after a local election.

The review process includes surveying the local units of government, the school districts, and outdoor recreation groups about the following information:

1. What improvements are needed to existing facilities?
2. What new facilities are necessary to satisfy demand?
3. Which potential projects fulfill this demand?
4. Who is the project sponsor?

The Forest County Forestry Committee will review information collected from surveys, and evaluate the need for proposed projects based on standards and priorities as outlined in this plan.

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

ATTACHMENT A
OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEYS

THE TABULATED RESULTS FOR SURVEYS EXISTS IN:
CHAPTER 4 – OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

FOREST COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Community name (Town, City of): _____

1. Please list outdoor recreational purchases (i.e. purchased 3 picnic tables, upgraded restrooms to be handicap accessible, purchased land for a park) that were completed by your community from 2007 and anticipated through the end of 2011.

2. Please list future outdoor recreational improvements that your community would like to make from January 2012 to December 2016.

3. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Forest County?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 3 be satisfied?

OVER



5. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing your community?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

6. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 5 be satisfied?

7. What existing outdoor recreation facilities in the county need improvement?
Please describe what is needed, and why.

Thank You For Your Participation!

Please feel free to make comments on a separate sheet of paper and mail that sheet with this completed survey to be **postmarked by September 30, 2011.**

To: Matt Schreiber
North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Wausau, WI 54403

ATTACHMENT B

SCORP 2005-2010 SUMMARY

STATE-WIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP) 2005-2010

This SCORP 2005-2010 summary was created by NCWRPC staff. Parts that relate specifically to Forest County are noted throughout this summary. Generally, this summary was created as if it were written directly for Forest County and the Northwoods Region in reference to the statewide data. See the SCORP Planning Regions Map.

The 2005–2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Since passage of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, preparation of a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) has been required for states to be eligible for LWCF acquisition and development assistance. The LWCF is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and provides grants for outdoor recreation projects by both state and local governments.

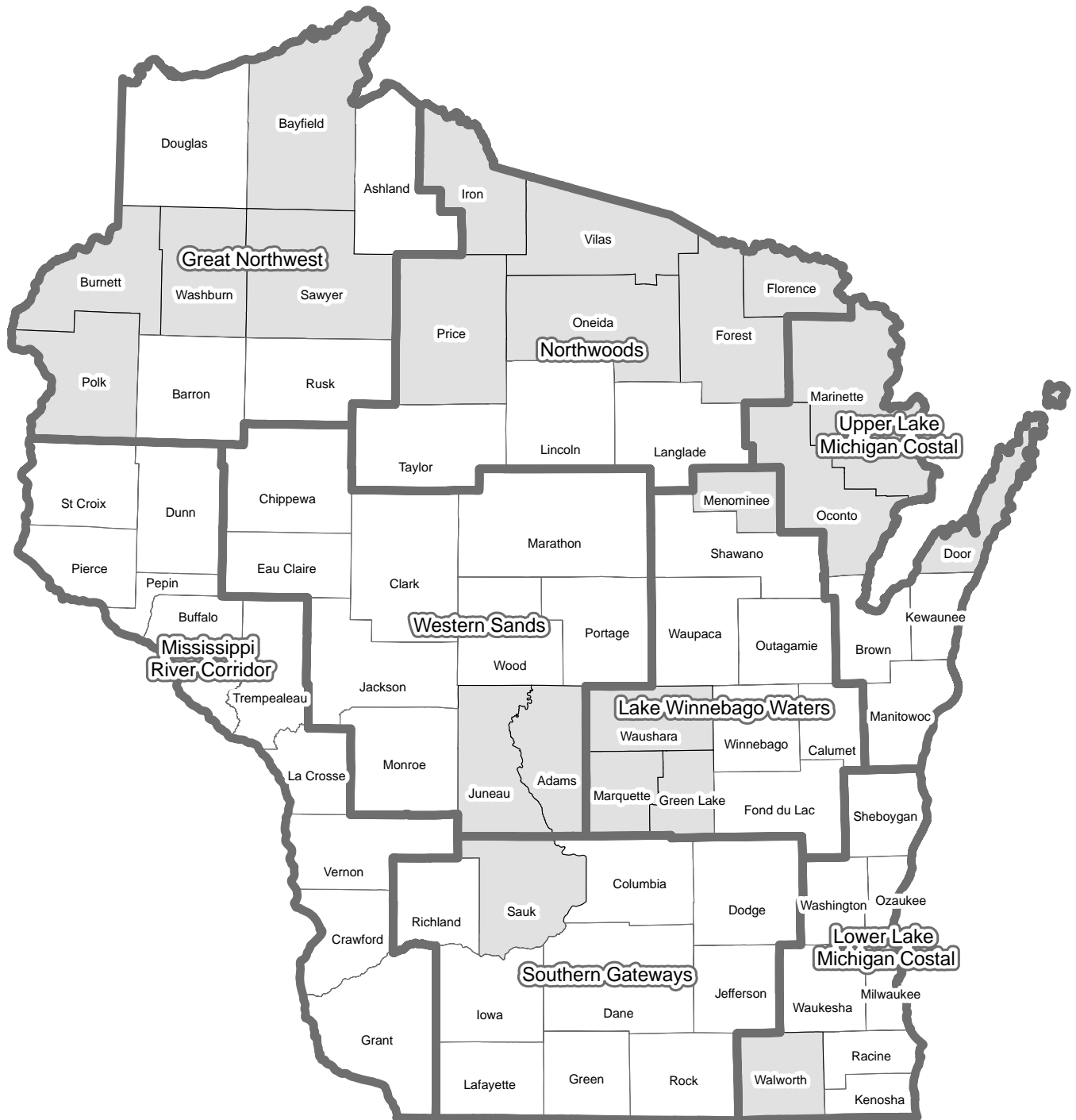
The Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan is required to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding and to apply for Wisconsin Stewardship Grant funding.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005-2010 was developed by the WDNR to assist local units of government with recreation planning. This SCORP examines various trends to assess current and future recreational needs within the state. To aid in this process, Wisconsin was divided into a group of eight planning regions each representing a loose collection of natural resource and tourism based assets. With SCORP's comprehensive statewide and regional focus, it will guide the allocation of limited recreation funds to acquire additional recreation and conservation lands and support the continued development of outdoor recreation opportunities.

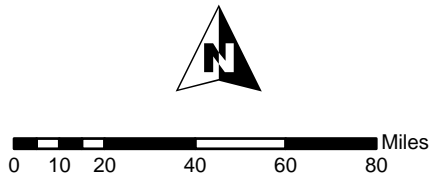
Primary resources in the Northwoods Region are nature, snow, and ice based. The SCORP Planning Regions Map shows that Forest County is in the Northwoods Region.

SCORP consists of 7 chapters and five appendixes that are summarized below.

SCORP Planning Regions



- Non-Metro Recreation Counties
- SCORP Planning Boundaries



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.



**North Central
Wisconsin Regional
Planning Commission**

210 McClellan St., Suite 210, Wausau, WI 54403
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Chapter 1 – Wisconsin Natural Amenities, Population Changes, and Recreation Destinations.

Chapter 1 explores what natural amenities exist in the Northwoods area, and examines the recreation and population changes that have occurred within Wisconsin over the past 50 years. This chapter investigates the ways in which changing demographic trends have impacted recreation supply and demand in Wisconsin.

Forest County data from SCORP and other sources exists in Chapter 2 – Description of Forest County in the Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2007-2011.

General SCORP conclusions for Chapter 1 include:

- Heavily forested (Forest County) or grassland regions, for example, support activities such as hiking, trail-riding, and cross-country skiing, while regions with many lakes and rivers support speed boating, water skiing, canoeing, swimming, etc.
- Southern Gateways and Lake Winnebago Waters areas are expected to have higher population growth than more rural regions. Larger populations generally support a larger supply of recreational opportunities, more people participating in a more diverse range of activities. For this reason, a larger population will also require a larger pool of potential recreational activities and facilities.
- Age – Older residents (Forest County) generally enjoy quieter, lower impact activities such as viewing birds, driving for pleasure, ice fishing, etc. While younger generations will generally participate in more high impact activities such as running, jogging, inline skating, developed camping, disk golf, downhill skiing, kayaking, paintball, mountain biking, and riding ATVs.
- Income – Middle income Wisconsinites often participate in developed camping, snowmobiling, fishing, picnicking, driving for pleasure, and ATV riding.
- Seasonal housing development in the Northwoods (Forest County) and Great Northwest Regions, was highest during the 1970s and has since leveled off. **(NCWRPC note: Between 1990 and 2000, Forest County in Table 1, page 11, has witnessed an increase in seasonal housing and increased permanent population. Seasonal residents are also becoming permanent residents. Forest County had about 48% seasonal residents in 2000.)**
- The SCORP Planning Regions Map shows that Forest County is considered "Non-Metro Recreation Counties" according to a recent research study (Johnson and Beale, 2002). Non-Metro Recreation Counties are generally considered to be vacation destinations and are therefore important to the overall state economy. Yet these counties have value beyond what they provide in tourist dollars. As natural amenity rich areas they provide large areas of land for outdoor recreating, land that is important to an ever developing statewide landscape. High net migration rates and higher population growth rates occurred in these counties.

Chapter 2 – Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Demand and Uses.

Chapter 2 explores user demand for almost 100 popular Wisconsin outdoor recreational activities, and examines which activities are most popular and which environments are the most desirable for outdoor recreation. This plan is the first SCORP to evaluate recreation demand from outside of the state, an evaluation that will prove useful in balancing the demands of in-state and out-of-state residents. In addition, this chapter explores several barriers that prevent people from participating in recreational activities as often as they would like. Finally, this chapter discusses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the continuing challenge of addressing outdoor recreation conflicts for individuals with mobility disabilities.

This chapter explores several of the factors that influence a person's recreation preferences – recreation settings, recreation experiences, and geographic location – and classifies recreational activities and users according to these groupings. While important, recreation preferences are only one component of recreation participation. Barriers to recreation are another important consideration in determining how often and to what extent people recreate – personal, environmental, and disabled barriers.

Recreation participation rates within Wisconsin are higher than most other regions of the country. This may be attributed to the combination of Wisconsin's abundant recreation resources and the state's four season climate.

Wisconsin Demand Use Highlights describes several activities and projects what their future potential is.

These two following sheets were taken directly from SCORP.

The 2005 – 2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Wisconsin Demand Use Highlights

ATVing

Within Wisconsin, ATVing has been one of the fastest growing recreation activities. What started in the 1970s as a small sport has now grown into a multimillion dollar industry with devoted participants across the country. With its abundance of undeveloped land, Wisconsin has proved an ideal location for ATVing; over 23% of Wisconsinites currently participate in ATV recreation and more are riding every year. For many ATV enthusiasts their sport is a social activity—they ride with their friends and families, stopping to shop and eat at different towns along the way. A number of ATV clubs and their members are active in group outings, performing trail maintenance, and promoting vehicle safety and advocacy. For other riders, ATVing is a nature-based activity. These users value the time they spend outside while on their ATVs, the fresh air and peaceful atmosphere they experience riding on a rural trail.



Though increasingly popular, the rise in ATV usage has not been without growing pains. Those objecting to ATVs have continually raised complaints about the noise and displacement of other recreational uses caused by the vehicles. Though the motorsports industry and a number of ATV clubs have addressed these issues with some limited successes in the state, there is still much work to be done to ensure ATVs interact peacefully with other motorized and non-motorized recreational activities.

Geocaching

Most Wisconsinites have probably never heard of geocaching. For those that participate in the sport, though, it represents a new and exciting form of ultra-modern, technologically advanced recreation. Geocaching may be described as a modern day treasure hunt. The sport relies on Global



Positioning System (GPS) units, small devices that are able to determine, within 6-20 feet, the location of any spot on the planet. With these devices in hand, geocachers set out to find caches—small treasures set up and maintained by a worldwide network of individuals and organizations. The location of a cache is posted on the internet so geocachers need only record the location (in latitude and longitude) of their treasure and set out to find it. Though the sport sounds simple, it often involves a good deal of trekking and searching as geocachers make their way over hills and rocks, forests and streams to find their treasure. The location of a cache is up to the individual who establishes it, thus they are often placed somewhere the hider deems special—a scenic vista, a rocky cliff-face, even the

bottom of a shallow lake. Upon arriving at a cache—generally a small bag containing trinkets and a logbook—the visitor takes a treasure, leaves a treasure, and records his visit in the book. He then replaces the cache and returns home, ready to start his next quest. Geocaching has become popular not only for its sense of adventure, but also its flexibility. Caches can be hidden anywhere—city streets, remote wilderness areas, suburban front yards. The rules, like the treasures in the caches themselves, are loose and adaptable, allowing geocachers to create traveling caches, group treasure hunts, and many other variations. As the sport gains more exposure from associations like the Wisconsin Geocaching Association (<http://www.wi-geocaching.com/>), it is expected to continue to increase in popularity.

Walking for Pleasure

Of all recreational activities offered in Wisconsin, walking for pleasure is by far the most popular, with over 85% of state residents (3.5 million people) participating. The reasons are obvious; walking is an easy, accessible activity requiring only your own two feet and a



good pair of shoes (sometimes those are even negotiable!). Walking can be done nearly anywhere, whether in the heart of downtown Milwaukee or in the most remote portion of northern Wisconsin. Walking is also a multitasker's dream, allowing us to sightsee, chat with friends, or simply enjoy the scenery as we stroll. As exercise becomes an increasing concern for the Wisconsin population, walking can provide a good source of activity during a hectic workday just as easily as during a leisurely weekend outing.

Motorboating

In a state that is nearly surrounded by water—Lake Superior to the north, Lake Michigan to the east, the Mississippi River to the west, and thousands of smaller lakes and rivers in between—it is not surprising that watersports are popular among Wisconsinites. With 1,513,000 people (36% of the population) participating, motorboating is a favorite pastime of many

state residents, and with good reason: Every one of our 72 counties has at least 4 lakes with the most—1,327 lakes—occurring in Vilas County. Our boat-to-resident ratio is the second in the nation with one boat for every nine residents (Minnesota is number one, with one boat for every six residents). Our state ranks 6th in the nation for boat registrations and 7th in the nation for money spent on boating. The many varieties of lakes within Wisconsin accommodate nearly every form of motorboat, from small runabouts to large



Wisconsin Demand Use Highlights

Great Lake vessels. Because of its tremendous popularity, motorboating has sometimes been associated with issues of overcrowding and safety. In reaction to these concerns, certain lakes have placed restrictions on the sport. As the powerboat industry continues to push for more affordable boating, the sport is expected to become increasingly popular, cementing its status as a favorite outdoor pursuit.

Outdoor Ice Skating

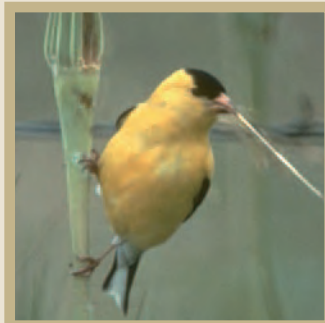
Although cold and sometimes dreary, Wisconsin's winter does provide state residents with a wide variety of winter recreation. With 16.6% of state residents participating, outdoor ice skating is an especially popular winter activity. Skating is available in nearly all parts of



the state, whether in the highly developed outdoor rinks of urban areas or the crystalline surfaces of frozen northern lakes. While ice skating appeals to all ages, the physical demands involved in the sport tend to attract a younger crowd. Among this demographic skating is done recreationally and competitively, ice skating being a popular activity, especially among girls. The cost of participation for ice skating is generally low, a quality that has made the activity popular among families looking for an economical form of recreation. In recent years there has been a push to develop more outdoor ice skating rinks at the local level, a move that would make the activity accessible and popular to an even wider range of state residents.

Viewing/Photographing Birds

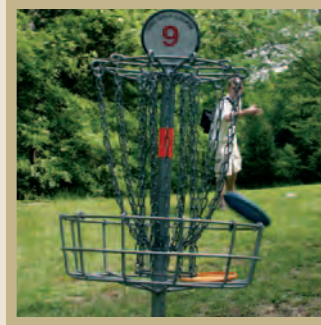
Viewing/photographing birds is an activity popular across all age groups and state regions—over 40% of Wisconsinites (1,700,000 people) participate in the activity. Unlike other forms of more active recreation, birdwatching is a uniquely serene pursuit—quiet, non-destructive, and based in a natural setting. Many birdwatchers value this natural aspect, enjoying the opportunity to be in the fields or woods, away from the noise and sometimes hectic pace of the city. Interestingly, most birdwatchers don't need to go far from home to find this peaceful atmosphere—85% birdwatch within 1 mile of where they live. Other birdwatchers value the educational aspect of the activity, taking the time to search for new species and learn the different behaviors, calls, and appearances of different birds. Birdwatching is often done as a family activity, making the sport a uniquely social way to spend time in nature. As the activity has become more popular, the state has begun to develop birdwatching trails. These trails often feature driving routes with stopping points to observe birds and other wildlife. These new trails are expected to further increase the popularity of birdwatching.



Birdwatching is often done as a family activity, making the sport a uniquely social way to spend time in nature. As the activity has become more popular, the state has begun to develop birdwatching trails. These trails often feature driving routes with stopping points to observe birds and other wildlife. These new trails are expected to further increase the popularity of birdwatching.

Disc Golf

Begun as a sport in the 1970s, disc golf has exploded in popularity. What started with a single course in Pasadena, California in 1975 has now expanded to a global phenomenon with courses on all continents but Africa, passionate players across the globe, and a professional sporting association, the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA). The rules of disc golf are much like traditional golf: get the disc to the target—an above ground, metal, net-like structure—in as few throws



as possible. The course is also very similar, with a fairway, terrain changes, and obstacles (trees, shrubs, water traps) all dotting the landscape of the typically 9 or 18 hole course. 8.8% of Wisconsinites (366,000 people) now participate in disc golf, with more joining these ranks every year. The sport is popular for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is

the ease in which it is played. A beginner at the sport needs only 3 discs (a driver, a mid-range, and a putter) and access to a course. Courses are found in most cities and entrance fees are generally low-cost or free. The sport itself is very friendly towards beginners as all players move from hole to hole at their own pace. Many participants play in groups and the sport provides a moderate amount of exercise and an opportunity to be outside.

Attending an Outdoor Sporting Event

You need not look further than your nearest cheesehead-stocked general store to know that sports are big in Wisconsin. Although only 20% of Wisconsinites participate in sports themselves, nearly 57% (2,365,000 people) watch or attend outdoor sporting events. Large events such as University of Wisconsin–Madison football games have ranked among the nation's top 20 in game attendance for each of the team's last nine seasons. Other events—football, soccer, and baseball games—are also popular year-round activities. Because they generally require developed facilities and large crowds, sporting events usually take place in larger cities, making them one of the few forms of recreation best suited for urban environments. While some skeptics may frown at the idea of classifying sporting event attendance as outdoor recreation, there are many side benefits from this activity. Those attending these events walk to the stadium and often tailgate—an outdoor activity and a chance to socialize with family, friends, and neighbors.



Outdoor Resource Type

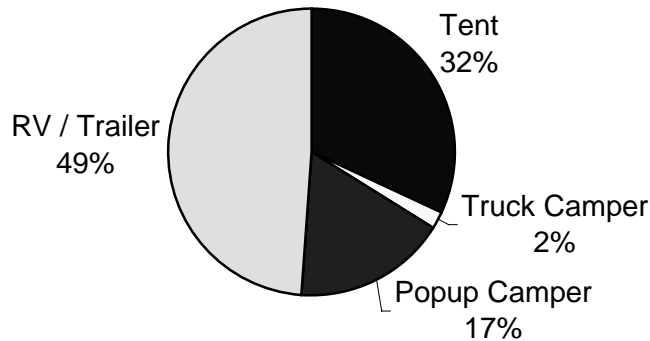
Forest County is part of the Northwoods Region, which supports outdoor recreation uses by the natural resource settings that are: Nature Based, and Snow & Ice Based.

Nature based land activities are those outdoor recreation activities that occur in undeveloped settings. While limited developed facilities may be used in conjunction with these activities, the typical nature based land activity participant wants to experience natural surroundings. Visiting wilderness areas is the most popular nature based land activity in Wisconsin with 38.3% of Wisconsinites participating. Hiking and camping are also popular with approximately 1/3 of state residents participating in each. Table B-1 shows the percent of state residents participating in Wisconsin nature based land activities from age 16 on up.

Activity	Percent Participating	Number of Participants (1,000s)
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	38.3	1,592
Day hiking	35.0	1,455
Camping – developed	32.3	1,343
Visit a farm or agricultural setting	31.8	1,322
Off-road driving with an ATV	23.4	973
Mountain biking (off-road)	20.4	848
Hunting – big game	19.2	798
Trail running	18.6	773
Mountain biking (single track)	18.0	748
Off-road 4-wheel driving	17.7	736
Camping – primitive	16.0	665
Hunting – small game	14.5	603
Hunting – upland birds	10.5	436
Horseback riding on trails	8.1	337
Backpacking	6.9	287
Rock climbing	5.9	245
Off-road motorcycling	5.9	245
Hunting – migratory bird	5.0	208
Mountain climbing	3.4	141
Orienteering	2.7	112
Geocaching	2.0	83

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Wisconsin Camper Type



Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Snow and Ice based activities are those that involve some form of frozen water. These activities are very popular among Wisconsinites with just over 44% of state residents participating. Sledding is the most popular of these activities, with just over a quarter (29.3%) of the state participating. Ice related activities are also very popular in the state, with almost 700,000 Wisconsinites participating in ice skating and nearly 500,000 participating in ice fishing. Table B-2 shows the percent of state residents participating in Wisconsin snow and ice based activities from age 16 on up.

Table B-2 State Resident Participation in Snow and Ice Based Activities

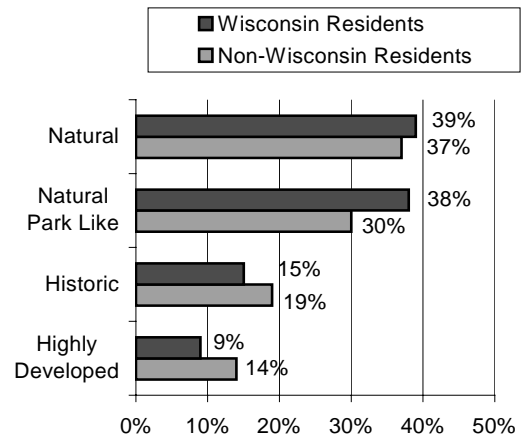
Activity	Percent Participating	Number of Participants (1,000s)
Sledding	29.3	1,218
Snowmobiling	18.3	761
Ice skating outdoors	16.6	690
Skiing – cross-country	11.4	474
Fishing – ice	11.4	474
Skiing – downhill	9.7	403
Snowshoeing	8.0	333
Snowboarding	4.7	195
Ice hockey outdoors	4.0	166
Skiing – telemark	2.4	99
Dog sledding	1.1	46

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Figure 1: Outdoor Recreation Setting Preferences

Preferences in Outdoor Recreation Settings

Understanding both setting and activity preferences can help recreation managers and planners provide for a wide range of recreational opportunities within a given setting. Wisconsin and non-Wisconsin residents were asked which of 4 distinct environments they preferred as a recreational setting. Figure 1 shows that natural settings and natural park like settings came out on top.



Outdoor Recreation Segmentation by Experiences

Another way of understanding recreation activity preferences – the type of experience a person seeks from participating in a given recreational activity. The WDNR and the 1999-2004 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) examined people's preferences and participation in a range of outdoor recreational activities. From this data, several outdoor recreation participation segments were identified:

1. Inactives; 2. Passives; 3. Non-Consumptive Moderate; 4. Nature Lovers; 5. Active Nature Watchers; 6. Water Bugs; 7. Motorized Consumptives (Hunt and Fish); and 8. Enthusiasts.

Inactives comprise about 17% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This is the largest and also the most sedentary group of all market segments. Members may participate in some hunting and fishing, but do not participate in any water sports.

Primary Activities:

- Walk for pleasure.
- Attend family gathering.

Passives comprise about 14.5% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. Unlike most other segments, Passives do not often participate in viewing and photographing activities.

Primary Activities:

- Attend family gathering.
- Visit a nature center
- picnicking
- visit a historic center
- visit a beach

Non Consumptive Moderates comprise about 14% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group represents the average person that is somewhat more involved in recreation. Some members of this group participate in physically demanding activities such as mountain biking and snorkeling. Activities not favored by this group include hunting, fishing, and off-road driving.

Primary Activities:

- Visit a beach
- Swimming
- Downhill skiing
- Visit a nature center
- Mountain biking
- Picnicking
- Day hiking
- Camping

Nature Lovers comprise about 16.2% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group enjoys viewing and photographing nature and are almost twice as likely as the average person to participate in these activities. They generally drive for pleasure rather than hike or backpack into a natural setting. Nature Lovers participate in limited amounts of hunting, fishing, active sports, and muscle powered activities, but these activities are not their passion.

Primary Activities:

- Viewing/Photographing nature
- Drive for pleasure
- Learning/Viewing a nature center
- Walk for pleasure
- Sightseeing
- Attend a family gathering

Active Nature Watchers comprise about 16.5% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group is active when viewing nature as opposed to Nature Lovers. This group hikes or backpacks into natural settings to view wildlife or natural scenery. Members of this group also enjoy water based activities, but prefer to arrive at their viewing destination by human power.

Primary Activities:

- Viewing/Photographing nature
- Learning/Viewing a nature center
- Walking
- Day hiking
- Cross-country skiing
- Swimming
- Kayaking
- Visit a historic site

Water Bug comprise about 8.2% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group is almost as energetic as the Enthusiasts group. Members of this group participate in water based activities twice as often as the average person.

Primary Activities:

- Visit a beach
- Visit a water park
- Swimming
- Boating (all types)
- Drive for pleasure
- Picnicking
- Learning/Visiting a nature center
- Downhill skiing

Motorized Consumptives (Hunt and Fish) comprise about 7.8% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group has the highest participation rates for hunting and fishing with members; four times more likely to hunt, and three times more likely to fish than the average person. Rates of physically demanding activities are relatively low among members of this group, with members preferring consumptive activities (hunting and fishing) and motorized activities to human powered activities.

Primary Activities:

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Motorboating
- Snowmobiling
- Driving off-road
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- Gathering mushrooms, berries, etc.

Enthusiasts comprise about 8.2% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group is the most active of all residents, and they enjoy the broadest array of activities. Members of this group are two to six times more likely to participate in certain activities than most other Americans. Enthusiasts also enjoy activities that are physically challenging and require high levels of skill and endurance.

Primary Activities:

- Cross-country skiing
- Kayaking
- Snowboarding
- Mountain biking
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Sailing
- Rowing

Recreation Demand from Outside Wisconsin

Generally, Forest County has visitors who mainly come from the Chicago, Illinois Direct Marketing Area besides residents from other counties in Wisconsin.

Status of Health and Barriers to Recreation in Wisconsin

No matter what recreation experience, setting, or activity people prefer, one thing is clear: physical activity is important to overall health and well-being. Over the course of the past few decades, national overweight and obesity rates have increased dramatically. Today more than 60% of adults over the age of 20 are overweight or at risk of becoming so. In Wisconsin, 61% of adults are overweight or obese, while 24% of Wisconsin high school students are overweight or at risk of becoming so.

In order to encourage increased physical activity among Wisconsinites we must first understand the barriers to becoming active. As part of SCORP 2005-2010 residents were surveyed, and responses were grouped into two categories – personal, and environmental barriers.

Personal barriers to increasing physical activity in order of importance are:

1. Lack of time, 2. Family commitments, 3. Job/work, 4. Crowding, 5. Conflicts with motorized uses, 6. Cost, 7. Age, and 8. Fuel prices.

Environmental barriers to increasing physical activity in order of importance are:

1. Distance/travel time, 2. Lack of access to public lands, 3. Lack of information about where to go, 4. Not enough campsites/electric sites, 5. Noise from ATVs and other motorized uses, 6. Lack of bike trails, 7. Lack of public transportation, and 8. Lack of snow.

Accessibility Recreation Considerations

This SCORP intends to assess and improve recreation for all recreational participants. One often overlooked group in recreational planning has been those with mobility disabilities. Although accessibility to recreational resources has increased for disabled persons there has been little

research exploring the outdoor recreation participation patterns of people with disabilities. To establish a general understanding of the supply and demand of recreation for disabled persons, the WDNR evaluated several studies conducted by the 1999-2004 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE).

In the NRSE data, the characteristics of activities that influenced recreation participation rates of disabled people included: (a) the physical nature of activities, (b) the degree of adaptation needed for participation, (c) the social expectations, self perceptions, and social fears associated with certain activities, (d) the financial costs of activities, and (e) the accessibility of sites where activities took place. From this work, 15 recreation uses listed alphabetically below were determined to have average or above average participation rates among mobility disabled individuals. Most of these activities are nature based requiring a more natural/undeveloped setting. Viewing and learning activities are also popular with this population.

- Attend concerts
- Backpacking
- Birdwatching
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Drive off-road
- Fishing
- Horseback riding
- Nature study
- Sightseeing
- Sledding
- View fish
- Visiting historic/archeology sites
- Visit nature centers
- Wildlife viewing

As reported in the 2000 U.S. Census, Wisconsin has about 791,000 disabled persons, which is about 14% of the state population. Among residents 65 and older, 36.5% are classified as disabled. As Wisconsin's large baby boomer population continues to age, the demand for disabled recreation facilities is also expected to increase.

Generally, this groups barriers to increased participation in outdoor recreation include: 1. No companions, 2. Not enough money, 3. Not enough time, 4. Outdoor pests, and 5. Personal health.



The demand for disabled recreation facilities is expected to increase with Wisconsin's aging population.

Chapter 3 – The Supply of Outdoor Recreation in Wisconsin.

Chapter 3 explores the supply of recreation in Wisconsin, both in terms of built facilities and outdoor recreation environments. Since outdoor supply comes in many forms, this chapter examines both landscape scale needs, and local park and recreation needs.

Data from this part of SCORP was incorporated and expanded upon in Chapter 3 of the Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Public and Private Recreation Providers

The major public recreation providers in Forest County is the National Park Service. The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest covers over half of Forest County.

The Wisconsin Managed Forest Law (MFL) provides ideal settings for outdoor recreation uses. The majority of privately held land available for limited public use in Forest County is enrolled in MFL.

Some private recreation providers offer campgrounds or golf courses to the public, and charge a fee for their use. Private recreation lands that charge a fee are not enrolled in MFL.

Elements of Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Supply

Data from this part of SCORP was incorporated and expanded upon in Chapter 3 – Existing Recreation System.

Recreation Prioritization of Land Legacy Areas

Wisconsin Land Legacy Areas in Forest County are identified in Chapter 1 of the Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan under Past Plans, and are also generally shown on Map 1.

As Wisconsin works to develop and expand recreation, it is important that the state develop a system for evaluating potential sites with an eye towards their recreational value. Initial work done by the Wisconsin Land Legacy Plan has identified an inventory of places believed to be critical in meeting Wisconsin's conservation and recreation needs over the next 50 years.

1. Potential Visitors

Future recreational areas should be easily accessible to a large number of potential visitors. To determine the number of visitors an area may receive, sites were assessed for the number of people living within an hour's drive of their respective boundaries. Road data was used to create buffer areas which were then placed on a map and compared to the buffer areas of surrounding sites. Areas with the highest amounts of potential visitors were assigned a higher score than those with lower amounts. While these areas certainly receive visitors outside of a one-hour drive, additional work evaluating travel patterns will need to be completed before including this data in Land Legacy designations.

2. Population/Development Pressure

In addition to providing sites that are easily and widely accessible, the WDNR also hopes to preserve Wisconsin's unique and special environments. Sites with especially high development pressures may, therefore, deserve priority in the designation of future protected areas. To determine population and development pressure, projected population growth estimates were assessed for each site. Areas expected to undergo the highest population growth were assigned higher scores than those in which population growth was expected to be minimal.

3. Cost of Land Acquisition

Cost of land acquisition is also an important consideration when evaluating potential Land Legacy sites. Areas in which undeveloped land (land which has not been developed for either urban or agricultural use) is relatively inexpensive were assigned a higher score than those in which land was relatively more expensive.

4. Conservation Significance Value

Though the primary goal of the SCORP is improving and expanding recreation within state-owned lands, the WDNR also hopes to preserve places of special ecological importance. For this reason, sites with significant ecological conservation value were assigned higher scores than those with a lower conservation value.

5. Recreational Potential

Finally, any future site must also facilitate participation in its region's top recreational activities. The top 15 recreational uses in each SCORP region were used as a template against which potential sites were evaluated. Sites that offered the most opportunities for popular recreational opportunities received a higher score than those areas that provided fewer opportunities for these activities.

Data from all five components was then compiled on a site-by-site basis. Sites receiving the highest scores within each region were designated as high recreational potential Land Legacy sites.

Look in the SCORP Chapter 5 summary under **Regional Land Legacy Areas for High Recreation Demand** to view the highest priority Legacy Areas in the Northwoods SCORP Region.

Local Park and Recreation Needs

As another aspect of this planning process, local recreational needs (county, city, village, and town) were also assessed. This process involved a review of 373 local park and recreation plans on file as part of the WDNR recreational grants program.

The top five planning recommendations of each municipality were summarized. These recommendations were then compiled into a larger list, and categorized into three areas – 1. Park and Open Space Acquisition Needs, 2. General Recreation Improvements, 3. New Recreation Developments – and are listed in Table B-3

Table B-3 Summary of Local Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations

Park and Open Space Acquisition Needs:

- Community parks
- Dog parks
- Ice Age Trail
- Mini parks
- Neighborhood parks

General Recreation Improvements:

- ADA accessible facilities
- Athletic field upgrades and improvements
- Better signage
- Playground equipment upgrades
- Restroom upgrades

New Recreation Developments:

- Bike trails
 - Boat launches
 - Camping
 - Disc golf courses
 - Ice skating rinks
 - Indoor recreation complexes
 - Nature trails
 - Park shelters
 - Picnic areas
 - Scenic drives
 - Skateboard parks
 - Sledding hills
 - Soccer fields
 - Swimming pools
 - Tennis court development
 - Trail connections
 - Volleyball courts
 - Water access
 - Water trails
 - Water spray parks
-

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Warren Knowles – Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Fund

The Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program (Stewardship 2000) is the state's primary funding source for the state, local governments (including tribes), and non-profit conservation organizations (NCOs) to acquire land and easements for conservation and outdoor recreation purposes. This program is funded by general obligation bonds.

Stewardship 2000 is administered by the WDNR and provides \$60 million annually through FY 2010. As shown in Table B-4, the program acts as an umbrella organization for several subprograms, each with its own goals and priorities. These subprograms provide funds to improve visitor amenities at state and local parks; restore wetlands and prairies; and acquire land for trails, natural areas, state and county forests, wildlife habitat, urban green space, state and local parks, river and stream corridors, and flowages and wild lakes.

Stewardship 2000 has four major components:

1. Land Acquisition by WDNR and NCOs: Acquisition of land and easements for a wide range of conservation and outdoor recreation purposes.

Qualified NCOs are also eligible to acquire lands and conservation easements with Land Acquisition funds for such purposes as the protection of natural areas, habitat areas, streambank protection, and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

2. *Local Assistance:* Grants to local governments and NCOs for acquisition of land, conservation easements, and development projects that support nature-based outdoor recreation.

3. *Baraboo Hills:* Land and easement acquisition for the conservation of the hardwood forests of the Baraboo area by the WDNR, local governments and NCOs.

4. *Property Development on State Lands by WDNR, Friends groups, and NCOs:* Development of recreational facilities on state properties includes such projects as campground renovations, construction of park support and interpretive facilities, and improved accessibility to recreation areas.

As the state budget fluctuates and funding for programs statewide becomes increasingly scarce, proposals have been made to severely cut or reduce the scope of Stewardship 2000 funding. Public response to these proposals has been overwhelmingly supportive of the existing Stewardship Program. Editorials in support of the program appeared in more than 25 newspapers statewide, indicating that Wisconsinites recognize and support the key role this program has played and will continue to play in the long-term protection of Wisconsin's special places.

Program Category	Subprogram	Annual Funds (\$)	% of Fund
Land Acquisition	WDNR Conservation and Recreation Land and Trails	\$37,000,000	62%
	Nonprofit Conservation Organization (NCO) Conservation and Recreation Land and Trails	\$8,000,000	13%
Bluff Protection	WDNR and NCO land acquisition in the Great Lakes; \$1 million earmarked through FY 2004		
Baraboo Hills	WDNR, NCOs, local governments; \$5 million		
Property Development and Local Assistance	Earmarked over previous years	\$6,750,000	12%
	NCO State Property Development Grants (e.g. Friends of Wisconsin State Parks)	\$250,000	<1%
	Local Assistance Grants: for acquisition and development; local governments and NCOs	\$8,000,000	13%
Total		\$60,000,000	

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Summary

The need for an increased supply of recreation land and facilities is evident on a variety of levels. On a landscape scale, there are a number of important areas within the state that deserve increased attention for environmental protection and preservation. At the local level, municipal and county parks are in need of facility upgrades and continued management.

Chapter 4 – The Supply of Outdoor Recreation in Wisconsin.

Chapter 4 investigates the current status of Wisconsin's outdoor recreation conflicts, and states the difficulties in developing permanent solutions to these issues. This chapter also explores several of the current innovative solutions for resolving recreation conflicts.

Outdoor Recreation Conflict Reporting in Wisconsin and Surrounding States

In order to establish a general understanding of which Wisconsin recreational activities experience conflict, researchers performed a LexisNexis search for Wisconsin popular press articles from the past two years (December 2003 – December 2005) that discussed issues of recreation conflict. A total of 75 different news stories were found. The most frequently cited conflicts included concerns over environmental damage (19 citations), trails (18 citations), conflict with landowners (15 citations), the implementation of activity bans (14 citations), management actions by state or local agencies (12 citations) and disputes over the use of local parks (11 citations). Other issues included, in order of frequency: safety, conflict with wildlife, noise, budget allocation or fee disputes, local ordinances, access to recreational lands and facilities, loss of viewscapes, park creation, water levels, and passage of state bills.

LexisNexis is a database of The Associated Press State & Local Wire, The Capitol Times, The Daily Reporter, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, The Wisconsin Law Journal, and The Wisconsin State Journal. Sources from surrounding states are also included.

The activities most frequently cited as involved in some form of conflict were hunting (31 citations), ATVs (14 citations) and recreational fishing (8 citations). Other activities found to be associated with some form of conflict included, in order of frequency: bicycling, snowmobiling, hiking, boating, cross-country skiing, camping, swimming, boating, kayaking, swimming, wildlife watching, water skiing and horseback riding.

Articles gathered through this search revealed that conflict associated with non-motorized activities is generally associated with trail use. Articles also indicated that conflicts involving hunting are unique in that they rarely involve conflicts with other outdoor recreation activities. Rather, conflicts related to hunting are most often due to conflicts with private landowners over issues of access or trespassing, or conflicts with the state or recreation area over state management actions or use of parks by hunters.

An additional LexisNexis search was completed for articles from the surrounding states of Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota. Results of this search revealed far fewer articles relating to recreation conflict than the search performed in Wisconsin. For the activities of ATV riding, hunting, and fishing, there were 50 articles found in Wisconsin alone and only 38 articles in all other three states combined. These findings beg the question: What causal effects are contributing to more recreation conflicts in Wisconsin than elsewhere in the upper Midwest?

Past research in the field of recreational compatibility has focused on two principle explanations for why recreation conflict occurs. The first of these explanations suggests that conflict occurs when the goals of one recreation participant interfere with the goals of another recreation participant in the same location. For example, the goal of a mountain biker to ride fast through a forest may

conflict with a horseback rider’s goal of a tranquil ride through the same forest. The actual amount of conflict that occurs when the horseback rider and mountain biker actually encounter one another is dependent on a host of factors including each user’s experience level, previous experience with similar situations, feeling of attachment to the trail they are riding, design of the trail, proximity to one another, duration of their meeting, and tolerance of the other person’s behavior. The second explanation for recreation conflict suggests that conflict may occur simply because of differences in social values. A classic example of this type of clash is the conflict that may occur between hunters and other recreation participants when there are differences in opinion about when and where hunting should occur, or differences in the values held towards live animals. This type of value based conflict is more likely to be an issue during planning processes and public meetings than in recreation settings themselves.

Previous research has also documented a number of important generalizations about recreation conflict. First, recreation conflict is often asymmetrical, meaning that one user group is generally more impacted by the conflict than another. For example, cross-country skiers may be very bothered by snowmobile users, but snowmobile users are not generally bothered by the presence of cross-country skiers. Second, asymmetrical conflict is most likely to occur between motorized and non-motorized recreation activities than between either two motorized or two non-motorized activities. Third, because recreation users employ a variety of coping methods when encountering recreation conflict, increased levels of conflict may not necessarily reduce a person’s satisfaction with their experience. An angler encountering more boaters on a lake than he had expected may, for example, move to another lake or revise his expectations for the trip. In this way, the angler still enjoys his fishing expedition regardless of the fact that it did not meet his initial expectations.

Spectrum of Interaction Types

Recreation activities interact in a variety of ways. Some activities positively impact one another and are called complementary. Camping facilities, for example, often attract many visitors, thereby increasing the number of people who hike on an adjacent trail network. Other recreation activities are merely compatible, having a neutral impact on the pursuit of another recreation activity. These activities are called supplementary. Most activities, however, experience some form of conflict when encountering other activities. Users from these different groups may experience conflicts over competition for space, trail infrastructure, viewscapes, and soundscapes. In extreme cases, two activities may be completely incompatible and interactions between them are described as antagonistic. Table B-5 outlines the spectrum of recreation interactions.

Interaction Type	Key Characteristic	Outcome	Example
Complementary	Increasing compatibility with increased use	No conflict	Canoeing and fishing
Supplementary	Neutral interaction – no impact on compatibility	Minor conflict	Snowmobiling and ATV use
Competitive	Decreasing compatibility with increased use	Conflict	Fishing and personal water craft
Antagonistic	Activities completely incompatible	Strong conflict	Wilderness camping and ATV use

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Expert Based Focus Groups

To investigate the compatibility of recreation activities in Wisconsin, a series of expert-based focus groups were held with recreation managers, members of the Wisconsin SCORP External Review Panel, and the leadership team from the “Minimizing Recreational Use Conflicts in Wisconsin’s Forests” session of the Governor’s Conference on Forestry.

Using a ten-point scale developed specifically for this study participants were asked to complete a matrix comparing recreation activities to other recreation activities. Given an interaction between two activities, participants were asked to assess their relative level of compatibility. Ten different land-based activities were included for consideration in this matrix, these activities representing the primary recreation groupings relevant to outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. Table B-6 activities included were ATV riding, camping, cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, linear trail biking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and wildlife watching. A separate matrix compared six water-based activities, as shown in Table B-7. These activities included canoeing/kayaking, fishing, personal watercraft, motorboating/water skiing, sailing, and swimming. Recognizing the asymmetrical nature of outdoor recreation conflict, respondents were asked to rate the degree of compatibility in both directions of recreational interactions. In this way, conflict was rated for users of the first activity interacting with users of the second activity, and users of the second activity interacting with users of the first activity.

PRIMARY USE:	INTERACTS:										
	ATV Riding	Hunting	Snow-mobiling	Horseback Riding	Mountain Biking	Cross-Country Skiing	Linear Trail Biking	Hiking	Wildlife Watching	Camping	Average Compatibility
ATV Riding	X	5.3	6.5	5.1	5.5	4.9	5.5	6.1	6.9	7.5	6.0
Hunting	3.3	X	3.7	4.7	4.3	5.3	5.7	5.4	6.0	6.3	5.0
Snowmobiling	4.3	4.0	X	4.0	4.8	4.3	5.8	5.3	6.3	7.2	5.1
Horseback Riding	2.2	3.5	3.0	X	3.8	4.9	4.5	6.3	7.3	7.7	4.8
Mountain Biking	3.1	3.6	4.7	4.8	X	5.7	8.1	6.1	7.4	8.0	5.7
Cross-Country Skiing	1.8	3.6	2.6	3.3	4.2	X	5.6	4.9	8.1	8.5	4.7
Linear Trail Biking	2.6	3.9	5.5	5.3	8.2	7.1	X	7.4	8.0	8.7	6.3
Hiking	2.4	3.5	3.5	5.7	4.7	6.1	6.5	X	8.9	9.2	5.6
Wildlife Watching	2.2	3.2	2.9	6.4	5.2	7.6	6.8	8.6	X	8.3	5.7
Camping	3.9	4.1	5.0	7.5	7.8	8.2	8.2	8.9	8.5	X	6.9
Average Compatibility	2.9	3.9	4.2	5.2	5.4	6	6.3	6.6	7.5	7.9	

Ratings below 4.0 are highly competitive or antagonistic.	Ratings between 4.0 and below 7.0 are moderately to mildly competitive.	Ratings 7.0 and above are supplementary or complementary
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Source: WI SCORP 2005

Table B-7		Average Water Based Recreation Activity Compatibility Ratings					
PRIMARY USE	INTERACTS						
	Personal Water Craft	Motorboating/ Water Skiing	Swimming	Fishing	Sailing	Canoeing/ Kayaking	Average Compatibility
Personal Water Craft	X	7.1	5.4	5.9	6.5	6.2	6.2
Motorboating/Water Skiing	6.5	X	4.9	5.6	5.8	5.9	5.7
Swimming	2.9	3.5	X	6.1	6.2	7.4	5.2
Fishing	2.5	3.0	5.4	X	6.5	7.7	5.0
Sailing	3.4	4.3	6.4	7.0	X	7.6	5.7
Canoeing/Kayaking	2.6	3.2	7.6	7.9	7.4	X	5.7
Average Compatibility	3.6	4.2	5.9	6.5	6.5	7.0	

Ratings below 4.0 are highly competitive or antagonistic.	Ratings between 4.0 and below 7.0 are moderately to mildly competitive.	Ratings 7.0 and above are supplementary or complementary
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Source: WI SCORP 2005

How to read Tables B-6 and B-7 – Ratings reflect the perceived level of conflict from the perspective of users listed in the vertical Y axis (labeled as Primary Use). Ratings indicating a user’s level of perceived recreation conflict should therefore be read horizontally across rows. For example, hunting interaction ratings range from a low of 3.33 for interactions with ATV riding to a high of 6.30 for interactions with camping. Light gray shading represents generally complementary recreation interactions, no shading represents generally compatible interactions, and dark gray shading represents generally antagonistic interactions.

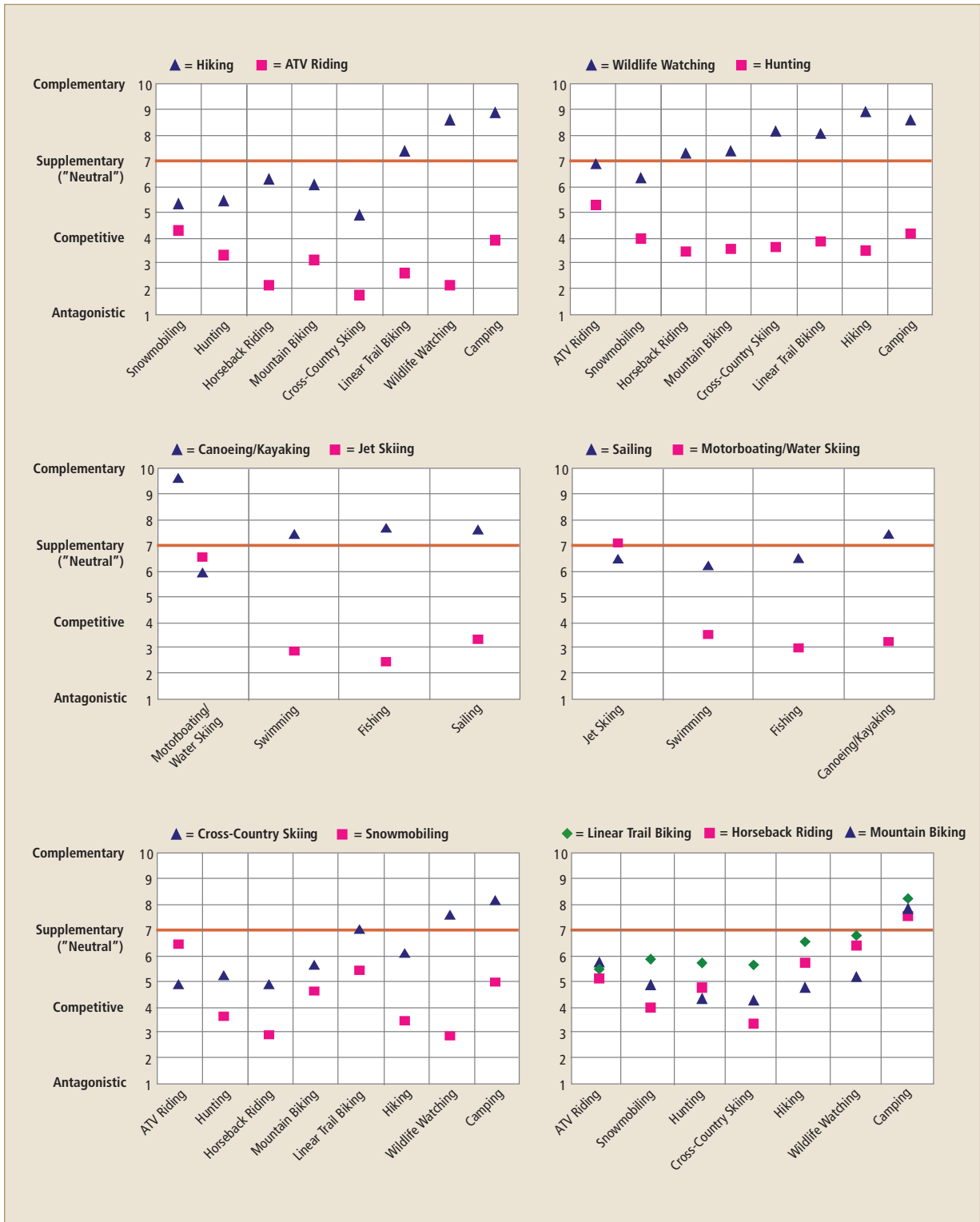
Results of survey of recreation professionals suggest some interesting patterns in recreation compatibility. While there was some variability in responses gathered, there are clearly some activities that recreation managers feel are complementary or supplementary and others that appear to be much more competitive or antagonistic. The average ratings reported for land-based recreation activity interaction ranged from 9.2, a number representing complementary interactions (recorded for hiking with camping), to 1.8, a number representing antagonistic interactions (recorded for cross-country skiing with ATV riding). For water-based activities, average ratings ranged from 7.9 for canoeing/kayaking with fishing to 2.5 for fishing with personal water craft. The average compatibility rating for land- and water-based outdoor recreational activities are summarized in Tables B-6 and B-7.

A second observation from Tables B-6 and B-7 indicates that differences in compatibility between motorized and non-motorized activities becomes less pronounced when more specialized trail based activities such as cross-country skiing, horseback riding, mountain biking and linear trail biking are compared to motorized activities. Because these types of specialized activities need particular kinds of trail infrastructure and have activity styles that are not as compatible with other recreation activities, they are often partially separated from other recreation activities. This may explain the higher levels of compatibility recorded between these activities and motorized uses.

4

Chapter 4: Compatibility and Conflict in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation

Figure 4-3: Average Outdoor Recreation Compatibility Ratings for Interaction with Highlighted Activities



Recreation User Perceptions

One research study focused on forest-based recreation in Wisconsin and rated the compatibility of different recreation activities by surveying a large sample of outdoor recreation participants. Respondents in this study were asked whether they agreed with the statement that other recreational users were not bothersome. Results are displayed on the next page in SCORP Figure 4-3 taken directly from SCORP. Most respondents had some level of agreement with this statement.

In general, compatibility ratings in SCORP Figure 4-3 were lowest with motorized vehicle use or hunting and highest with primitive camping or hiking/skiing. These results suggest that recreation participants may hold a more positive view of outdoor recreation compatibility than recreation managers. In order to develop comprehensive management techniques, future research in the field of recreation conflict will need to elicit input from all groups involved in outdoor recreation – managers and participants alike.

Summary

Both antagonistic and non-antagonistic recreation interactions will best be addressed through proper recreation planning and management, and activities that will maximize positive interactions between non-antagonistic activities and mitigate antagonistic uses.

Chapter 5 – Wisconsin SCORP Regional Profiles.

Chapter 5 divides Wisconsin into eight SCORP planning regions and summarizes the unique characteristics that define each of them. Chapter 5 offers insights into what makes each individual region unique and valuable to statewide recreation, and also summarizes regional recreation needs.

Forest County is part of the Northwoods Region shown on the SCORP Planning Regions Map.

The Northwoods Region counties have abundant natural and recreational resources. In the Northwoods Region these resources include the Northern Highland/American Legion State Forest, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and the Peshtigo River. With its numerous high quality lakes and rivers, the region supports a large number of water-based recreation opportunities. Tourism is an important and growing business in the region as increasing numbers of visitors from Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago make use of the Northwoods environment. With this influx of visitors and an ever-growing population of baby boomers retiring to the region, the Northwoods has experienced a surge in its seasonal housing and recreational property market. These properties and the populations they attract are expected to be an important influence on future recreation uses within the region.

In an attempt to quantify out-of-state recreation demand, this SCORP also examined the recreation demands of tourists visiting Wisconsin. In 2004, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism conducted a survey of both the Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul Designated Market Areas (DMAs). This survey gauged reaction demand by asking residents of each DMA what types of Wisconsin recreation they participated in. Data was separated according to SCORP Region and is listed in Table B-8

**Table B-8 Out-of-State Recreation Demand
In Northwoods SCORP Region**

Ranking	Chicago DMA	Minneapolis/St. Paul DMA
1	Canoeing	Fishing
2	Hiking	Sightseeing
3	Fishing	Boating
4	Downhill Skiing	Camping
5	Camping	Hiking

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Regional Public Perspectives on Top Recreation Issues and Needs

Certain issues are causing impediments to outdoor recreation opportunities within Wisconsin. In order to better understand these issues, the WDNR conducted a series of town meetings across the state. These meetings, conducted in 2005, collected 125 written comments and an additional 1,300 online comments. All survey participants were asked 2 questions:

- “What recreation issues will be growing in significance in the next 5 years?”
- “What barriers are keeping you from recreating outdoors as often as you would like?”

Northwoods Region summary of most common responses

The notes in brackets "(note)" after each point state how common the issue or need is throughout the state, by describing if it is unique to the Northwoods Region or not.

Issues

- Increasing ATV usage and associated impacts (an issue in most regions)
- Loss of public access to lands and waters (an issue in half the regions)
- Noise pollution from motorized activities (only in this region and Lower Lake Michigan)
- The possible loss of silent sport facilities (only in this region)

Needs

- More biking trails (a need in most regions)
- More hiking trails (a need in every region)

Relative Supply of Recreation by Type Based on Population

Recreation demand and recreation supply are fundamentally unique elements built on different units of measurement. Recreation supply represents the extent of physical resources present in a given region and gives some indication of user capacity. Various approaches for standardizing supply components have been developed. These approaches can be generalized into two groups; those that focus on relevant market size (population based) and those that focus on aggregate geographic extent (area based).

For the 2005-2010 SCORP process, a metric was developed to present the relative nature of recreation supply in Wisconsin. The recreation location quotient (RLQ) is the metric that provides comparable measures of a region's recreational resources. An RLQ is a measure of the difference in regional recreational characteristics as compared to a given reference region (the whole state).

Results suggest that regions with high demand for outdoor recreation do not provide opportunities for this recreation in proportion to their physical size. For instance, the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region (including Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, and the northern Chicagoland suburbs) and Southern Gateways Region (including Madison) have overall population based RLQs of less than one (0.52 and 0.92, respectively), which indicate a relative lack of recreation supply within these regions. When comparing these results to those of the less populous northern regions (the Great Northwest and the Northwoods), it is clear that northern regions have comparatively abundant opportunities relative to their low population (population based RLQs of 2.52 and 3.22 respectively).

Regional Land Legacy Areas for High Recreation Demand

Another important consideration for future recreational needs is the preservation and protection of the larger areas that provide space for popular regional activities. As part of the recreational Land Legacy process described in Chapter 3, Land Legacy sites were also identified within each region. These sites were chosen to provide recreational opportunities that could serve the recreational needs of an entire region. These sites should be considered the highest priority recreation areas to preserve and protect within the Northwoods Region.

The top five Land Legacy sites in the Northwoods Region are:

1. Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
2. Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest
3. Upper Wolf River
4. Upper Forks of the Flambeau River
5. Black River

Summary

One of the primary purposes of the SCORP is to identify shortfalls in recreation facilities (supplies) across the state. This identification process relies on both primary data gathering techniques such as surveys, as well as anecdotal comments on recreation user perceptions. By making use of both of these techniques, this SCORP has developed a comprehensive summary of recreation needs across the State of Wisconsin.

For this SCORP, targeting was done at the regional level, using regional demand, regional supply, local park and recreation plans, and public comment data to determine which recreation supplies are relatively in short supply. In addition, future trends were also considered through a process discussed in Chapter 3. The combining of these methods and techniques has resulted in a summary presented in Table B-9. To simplify the targeting technique, recreation needs were divided into nature-based and developed setting categories. This division allows for a clear distinction between recreation niches such as state parks and urban trails.

Table B-9 Northwoods Recreation Supply Shortages
Nature Based

Campsites – electrical	Parks
Developed Setting	
Basketball Courts	Marinas
Bicycling clubs	Outdoor swimming pools
Boats/sailboat rental	Soccer fields
Dog parks (urban areas)	Softball diamonds
Playground facilities	Tennis courts
Horseback riding clubs	Trails – inline skating
Ice skating rings	Volleyball courts

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Chapter 6 – Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Participation Trends and Observations.

Chapter 6 describes several key indicators for outdoor recreation trends and offers insights for future recreation participation and demand.

Key Indicators and General Trends

Demographics are some of the most important indicators of future recreational demand. The aging of the baby boom generation (born between 1946 – 1964) is a significant trend. Improved health, fitness, and lifestyle changes have assisted many baby boomers with continued participation in outdoor recreation well past previous generations. This group also has relatively high disposable incomes, allowing them to travel and participate in a diverse range of recreational activities. As this group continues to age, the demand for less active outdoor recreational pursuits and facilities – walking, gardening, and birding, for example – has become an increasingly important factor in state recreation demand. As more members of this demographic retire, one would expect a higher level of marginally fit recreation users, and more demand for mid-week recreation programs.

While the baby boom generation is important in predicting future recreation demand, Generation Y is also becoming an important group to watch. Members of this generation, born between 1981 and 1995, make up the largest consumer and recreation group in the nation. As Generation Y begins to enter the workforce and have families of their own, their specific demands will increasingly shape recreation supply and demand. Early indicators suggest that this group demands instant information access, has a high level of multi-tasking, and has low rates of physical activity.

More adults now remain single until their 30s and 40s, with many of those that do marry either postponing having children until later in their lives, or choosing to not have children at all. At the same time, single-parent families have also increased. For all of these groups, free time is perceived as an opportunity to spend time with family and friends and as such, they often seek out recreation activities that allow group participation.

While group activities are popular among single parent and no-children families, members of these demographics are often also interested in the more active and unusual recreation available in experiential trips and other non-traditional recreation activities. Traditional team sports such as football have reached a plateau in their growth, while more modern activities such as geocaching and disc golf continue to rise in popularity.

Recreation demand has also been affected by changes in work and leisure trends. Data from this SCORP indicates that Wisconsinites consider time to be their scarcest resource. While dual-income households and flexible work schedules create more flexible recreation and travel patterns, the increasing demands of work often prevent people from participating in recreation as often as they would like. Work hours are longer, leisure hours less. Dual-income households in particular have felt the pinch of increased work hours as many American women (over 50%) now work outside the home. With all adults in a household working, free time available for recreating diminishes significantly. Because of these increased demands on limited spare time and the fact that households are generally busier with work and home life responsibilities, discretionary activities (activities that do not require scheduling) are expected to become increasingly popular in the coming years.

Population has a limited impact on recreation demand because recreational activities and interests vary significantly over a person's lifetime. Rather than examine total populations, it is more useful to examine the profile, size and participation rates within actual user groups to determine future recreation needs. Certain population groups representing potential service needs or demands may be divided into specific user categories called market groups. Once these market groups are defined, additional research can reveal the specific needs and demands of each group.

Health and wellness

Outdoor recreation is a component of physical fitness and a major focus of preventative care. Activity done as a part of outdoor recreational activities leads to a better quality of life physically, mentally, and socially. An examination of the current outdoor recreation industry reveals several trends: increased equipment sales, development of new activities, and growth in activities at both ends of the recreation spectrum. These activities include both those that are close to home and require little gear, such as walking, and those that require a large time commitment, a more adventurous attitude, and more technical gear, such as climbing, kayaking, and backpacking. The exact role public lands, recreational facilities, and outdoor activities will have in the future of health and wellness care is uncertain. It is undeniable that recreation can help maintain wellness. Over time, it is expected that the health benefits of recreation will become a constant feature of programming and investment in park facilities.

Environment

As the general public becomes more aware of environmental issues, concern over environmental quality is growing. Citizen expectations are also evolving with regards to the role regional and national environmental agencies play in local recreation and planning. More citizens are seeking an active role for themselves in environmental protection and conservation, a role that is creating a community-wide revitalization in environmental preservation and the provision of open space. This increased interest in the environment has also affected recreation participation rates as more people visit areas of minimally altered environments and trails. Although environmental awareness is growing, environmental degradation continues. Global warming has begun to impact outdoor recreation, creating longer warm seasons, shorter cold seasons, and unpredictable climatic conditions. In the future, these changes will create an extended season for warm weather activities

and a shortened season for cold weather activities. Changes to the landscape resulting from less dependable weather patterns will make seasonal recreation less reliable and planning for this type of recreation more difficult. **(NCWRPC Note: Global warming has one trend in Wisconsin that affects recreation professionals. The amount of precipitation falling in each season is now falling during extreme events, some of which are called 100-year floods. This is the norm now, and recreation managers may need to consider how erosion and floodwater flow will affect outdoor recreation resources.)**

Technology

Electronic communication innovations have created interactive opportunities for recreation through the Internet, computer simulated games and sports, and other electronic sources. Although this new technology has increased and diversified the overall pool of recreational opportunities for users to choose from, it has also detracted from participation in more traditional recreation activities. In order to compete with non-traditional activities, providers of outdoor recreation must continue to provide and maintain high quality service in all their recreational programming and facilities.

Economics

Increasingly, there is a rift between those that have access to recreation and those that do not. While household income is increasing, individual income in real growth terms is expected to decline. The fact that most homes are now two-income households results in two primary challenges. For affluent households with more discretionary income, additional resources from dual incomes are often used for leisure activities including travel and entertainment. This affluent population has a greater ability to participate in a broader spectrum of recreation. At the same time, however, there has been an increase in the percentage of the population that falls within poverty guidelines. This growing gap between the rich and the poor has prompted an interest in developing separate strategies for the provision of leisure services for these two populations.

This disparity in income levels has created new demands for outdoor recreation as affluent families seek out new and exciting forms of recreation and less affluent families seek out high-quality, low-cost forms of recreation. As recreation activities compete for household recreation dollars and available time, there has been an increased emphasis on value and diversity of choices in recreational activities. To remain competitive with other facilities and to appeal to family households, facilities such as swimming pools must now have the most modern equipment and technologies such as water slides and interactive play areas.

Government

Whether state or locally owned, a large percentage of recreation lands are government owned and managed. Pressures on government lands— greater scarcity and high cost of land, rising operating costs and revenue limits, and increasing anti-taxation sentiment—will all affect the operation and development of recreational facilities and programs on these lands. Recreation is also becoming more market driven, meaning that activities are increasingly subject to competition between private, public, and non-profit recreation providers. A broad issue of what constitutes public access to public sponsored facilities and programs may challenge the financial feasibility of building new facilities and maintaining existing ones. Subsidized programs and minimal use fees could be difficult to maintain in light of these conditions.

Changing Land Use

Over time, Wisconsin's population has shifted from a predominantly rural population to a predominantly urban population. Today, roughly two-thirds of the state's population lives in urban areas, with more people migrating to these areas every year. Because of this shift, urban fringe areas are becoming an increasing hotbed for recreation activities. Facilities and spaces such as local dog parks, urban trails, and green space allocations, are all reflections of this increasing urban/suburban demand. Residential development in rural areas has continued as better highway networks provide for easy access to urban services and workplaces. Regional land use planning will continue to be a primary component in the provision of recreational activities within an ever-changing suburban environment.

Wisconsin Trends

Wisconsin's population grew 7.3% between 1994 and 2004 and is expected to grow another 3.3% by 2010. This growth, along with the state's sizeable population of baby boomers now reaching retirement age, will create a larger demand for passive recreational activities. Land resource-based activities have increased just over 27% in a ten year period. Much of this increase has occurred in the areas of wildlife viewing and off-road driving, both relatively inactive activities. While not generally popular among older participants, the biggest change in recreation participation has been in the area of snow- and ice-based activities. Much of this change may be attributed to recent advancements in equipment technology and an increased interest in snowboarding and ice skating.

In Chapter 2 of SCORP, Forest County is listed as part of the Northwoods Region, which supports outdoor recreation uses by the natural resource settings that are: Nature Based, and Snow & Ice Based. Table B-10 supports a growth scenario for snow and ice based, and nature based activities.

Resource Type	# of Participants in Millions		Percent Change
	1994*	2004**	1994-2004***
Snow and ice based activities	1.29	1.84	43.1
Land resource based activities	3.15	4.02	27.3
Water resource based activities	2.77	2.98	7.8

*1994 population = 5,133,678; **2004 population = 5,509,026; ***% growth = 7.3%
Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Activity	Number of Participants in Millions*		Percent Change 1994-2004
	1994	2004	
Kayaking	0.051	0.262	413.7
Horseback riding	0.136	0.407	199.3
Personal water craft	0.136	0.403	196.3
Snowboarding	0.074	0.195	163.5
Rock climbing	0.097	0.245	152.6
Soccer outdoors	0.175	0.407	132.6
Drive off-road	0.513	1.073	109.2
Orienteering	0.054	0.112	107.4

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Recreation projections can be examined in two ways. The first is simply participation as a numerical total. For the vast majority of recreation activities, this number will increase as the state’s population does. To gauge a more accurate view of future participation, it is far more useful to examine a given activity’s participation rate as a percentage of the total population. This number gives a better understanding of population growth vs. participation change in an activity. Table B-11 considers the percentage changes in recreation participation rates, as well as industry forecasts and opinions from recreation professionals, to suggest which activities will be popular in the future. These observations are made for a five year period, and therefore reflect the most pressing demands on recreation in the immediate future. Some of these activities such as ATVing, RV camping, and geocaching are expected to grow in popularity. Other activities such as swimming, day hiking, and fishing, are expected to remain stable in their popularity. Still others such as personal watercraft, skiing, and mountain biking are expected to decrease in popularity.



Kayaking experienced the highest percentage change in participation from 1994 to 2004, growing 413.7%. But 262,000 people participating are only about 4% of the Wisconsin population.

The next three tables – increasing demand (Table B-12), stable demand (Table B-13), and decreasing demand (Table B-14) – show projected trends in Wisconsin outdoor recreation activities from 2005 to 2010. Each table lists an activity and has a comment to assist with projecting the need for a particular activity.

Table B-12**Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities
Increased Demand 2005-2010**

Activity	Comment
ATV	Market saturation may occur by 2010 causing this use to level off.
Bird watching	A popular activity for an aging baby boom population.
Canoeing	Cheap, easy water access for all generations.
Driving for Pleasure	An easy activity for all generations.
Gardening	On the rise with the baby boom population.
Geocaching	Popular both with families and members of the Y Generation.
Kayaking	Better technology has made this an affordable sport for the general public.
Motorboating	Costs have decreased enough to continue to make this a popular activity.
Off-road Motorcycling	Record sales of off-road vehicles continues to fuel this demand.
Paintball Games	Better and cheaper technology attracts the Y Generation.
Picnic	A family activity crossing generation gaps.
Road Biking	Increases will slow do to the retirement of Lance Armstrong and the effect that was felt from his Tour de France wins.
RV Camping	The baby boom population continues to change from tent to RVs, but increasing fuel prices may slow this.
Skateboarding	Popular with urban youth and the Y Generation.
Snowboarding	This may start to level off by 2010 as the next generation looks towards newer technology.
Snowshoeing	Not growing as fast since 2002.
Visit a Dog Park	Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas.
Walking	Popular among all ages, though especially aging baby boomers.
Water Parks	Construction of new water parks continues to fuel the increasing demand for this activity.
Wildlife Viewing/Photography	Often done in conjunction with driving for pleasure, making this activity very popular.

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Table B-13		Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities Stable Demand 2005-2010	
Activity	Comment		
Cross-Country Skiing	Stable at this time but mainly driven by the baby boom. Declines may start by 2010.		
Day Hiking	An easy, popular activity for all generations.		
Disc Golf	Popular with younger urban generations.		
Fishing	Very popular with all generations.		
Horseback Riding	Continues to be popular with the boomers, but may not be popular with the Y Generation.		
Ice Skating	An easy, cheap activity for the mass public.		
Inline Skating	After a quick rise in the 1990s this activity has leveled.		
Rock Climbing	A small but stable Y Generation niche.		
Rowing	A small niche activity with simple equipment.		
Run/Jog	The baby boomer generation continues to do this, but Y Generation may not.		
Sailing	Equipment demands and skill requirements prevent this from growing.		
Scuba/Snorkel	A niche sport that attracts a younger generation.		
Swimming	Always popular – water quality issues have caused growth in this activity to stagnate.		
Tennis	A recent resurgence has stabilized this activity.		
Tent Camping	Still popular but may start to lose ground to the RV trend.		

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Table B-14		Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities Decreasing Demand 2005-2010	
Activity	Comment		
Backpacking	A popular baby boomer activity not as popular with the Y Generation.		
Downhill Skiing	Continues to struggle with attracting the Y Generation.		
Golf	Time and expense continue to push players to other recreation.		
Hunting	Continues to struggle with generational loss and access issues.		
Personal Watercraft	Market saturation occurred in the 1990s with the baby boomers who are now replacing their personal watercraft with motorboats.		
Mountain Biking	Baby boomers that made the sport popular in the 1990s have switched to road bikes.		
Snowmobile	The industry struggles with how to attract more people with less snow.		
Team Sports	Except for soccer, all other sports have declined.		

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Chapter 7 – Wisconsin SCORP Outdoor Recreation Goals and actions.

Chapter 7 describes eight goals and actions intended to improve the supply of outdoor recreation within Wisconsin, and encourage state residents to participate in more outdoor recreational activities.

Goal 1: Protect, Restore, and Enhance Wisconsin’s Natural Resources for Outdoor Recreation

Wisconsin’s lands and waters are a natural draw for outdoor recreation. Those who use the state’s environments expect clean waters to paddle on and healthy forests to hike in. Increasingly, however, these natural resources are being menaced by threats such as invasive species, environmental degradation, and the continued fragmentation of forest and other natural areas. Left unmanaged, these threats will contribute to a diminished quality of outdoor recreation within the state. Wisconsinites are aware of the danger in these threats and have identified two issues—control of invasive species and poor water quality—as matters of high importance for state management.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Continue to provide protection to lakes, rivers and streams to improve aquatic habitat, water quality, and fisheries.
2. Continue to provide programs and funding for access to industrial forestry lands for outdoor recreation activities.
3. Continue to implement an invasive species control program on Wisconsin lands and waters.
4. Increase protection to wetlands, thereby benefiting the ecological and recreational resources of the state.
5. Continue to provide funding and assistance for the restoration of native prairies and grassland ecosystems.
6. Continue to support and fund the Smart Growth Planning process to help stop the fragmentation of open spaces while also allowing for development.

Goal 2: Continue to Improve and Develop Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Upkeep and development of outdoor recreation facilities continues to be a central component of providing a quality outdoor recreation experience. Without proper facilities—an ice rink to skate on or an outdoor pool to swim in, for example—recreating outdoors becomes a challenge. A variety of publicly funded programs such as the Stewardship 2000 Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund are important partners in the funding and support of these developments. While development helps expand the recreational resources and facilities of an area, maintenance sustains the resources already developed within a region. This efficient use of existing resources allows more money and time to be directed towards development of new facilities. Upkeep can be as simple as painting a building or as complicated as upgrading a water and sewage system within a state park. Because of its important role within any park system, it is important that providers allocate enough resources to support facility maintenance. The State Park system alone has a \$90 million backlog of maintenance projects, all of which are important to the continued health of the system. As this backlog continues to grow, more recreationalists are noticing the effects of limited upkeep: less signage, less restroom monitoring, un-maintained grounds, and earlier seasonal closings.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Continue to maintain and renovate outdoor recreation facilities for future generations.
2. Provide for continued development and enhancements of urban outdoor recreation facilities such as soccer fields and playground equipment.
3. Provide for expansion of the following trail systems: hiking, biking, horse, and water.
4. Enhance and upgrade signage and maps for all outdoor recreational lands and waters.
5. Continue to acquire lands for outdoor recreation at all levels of government.
6. Support publicly funded programs that provide financial assistance for the actions listed above.

Goal 3: Understand and Manage the Growing Issue of Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Conflicts

As demand for different outdoor recreation activities grows, managing the conflict that develops between these uses will become an increasingly important issue of public policy. Two conflict arenas merit continued creative management from those charged with prioritizing public resources. The most obvious conflict arena is that which develops between different users of Wisconsin's finite land and water base. This conflict has developed as a result of both an increased demand for outdoor recreation activities and the development of new recreation technologies that have facilitated activities such as geocaching and ATVing. The second conflict arena is that which develops between outdoor recreation and other forms of land use. This conflict has impacted the development and maintenance of open space, creating struggles in the development of residential, agricultural, and managed forest areas. These conflicts have not gone unnoticed by state residents who have witnessed a rise in noise pollution, an overcrowding of public lands and waters, and increased development pressures on parks and open spaces.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Proactively plan for increased user conflicts and provide for increased recreation uses consistent with the state's growth in population.
2. Develop public and private management tools for addressing user conflicts.
3. Increase funding for outdoor recreation law enforcement authorities so that they may better enforce outdoor rules and regulations.
4. Examine and understand Wisconsin's capacity for local and state recreation growth according to the state's natural resource base.
5. Designate more public land for recreational use to better meet the increasing demand for outdoor recreation.
6. Examine options such as private landowner incentive programs, which would allow public access to private lands.

Goal 4: Continue to Provide Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Education and Programming

Outdoor education and programming continue to be in high demand among Wisconsin citizens. These programs are particularly important for urban populations who have lost opportunities to practice outdoor skills on a regular basis. By providing for structured recreational opportunities such as kayaking and outdoor sports, recreation providers will establish a base user population that will

carry the activity into the next generation. Equally important to this programming is the teaching of environmental ethics. As our society continues to use land in ever more intrusive and environmentally degrading ways, there is a real need to instill the “land ethic” philosophy in all outdoor users.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Provide funding and support for joint outdoor recreation programs between schools, government, and communities.
2. Provide funding and support for more outdoor recreation skills courses.
3. Develop programs that begin to address the state’s diversifying urban populations.
4. Develop and support programs that bring nature based experiences close to home for urban, low income youth.
5. Provide more courses in environmental education and ethics.

Goal 5: Continue to Provide and Enhance Public Access to Wisconsin Recreational Lands and Waters

As recreation continues to place demands on public lands and waters, the lack of public access to these areas has become an increasing concern among many state citizens. In some cases this perception is true; more water/boating access is needed in certain areas of the state. In many cases, however, public access to recreational resources does exist, the public is simply not aware of it. Improved and easily accessible maps and signage would aid the public in locating access points.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Develop a statewide interactive mapping system showing all public lands and water access points across the state.
2. Continue to acquire and develop boating access sites to meet public boating needs.
3. Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities, and opportunities available within a given region.
4. Continue to increase public access to Wisconsin waterways.
5. Continue to improve disabled accessibility for outdoor recreation facilities, and promote the development of facilities using universal design standards.

Goal 6: Understand the Threats and Opportunities of Wisconsin’s Developing Urban Areas and Areas of Rapid Population Growth

While most of Wisconsin’s landscape is rural, most people in Wisconsin (68%) live in a relatively small urbanized area of the state. This population is concentrated in the southern and eastern portions of the state, especially in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region (home to Milwaukee and expanding Chicago suburbs). Urbanization has proved to be a double-edged sword for recreation; it provides many opportunities for diverse recreational opportunities, but it also poses a threat to the environmental and recreational resources of the state. Threats from urbanization include the continued loss of agricultural/ outdoor recreation lands, the increasing tension of urban populations recreating in urban/rural fringe areas, and decreasing water quality and habitat availability.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Continue to protect prime recreation lands through the use of publicly funded programs such as the Stewardship 2000 Program.
2. Develop trail networks that offer easy access from urban/suburban areas to rural areas.
3. Encourage communities to develop park and open space plans that allow for balanced growth while also providing land and facilities for outdoor recreation.
4. Continue to develop and provide active outdoor sports facilities such as soccer fields and tennis courts.
5. Continue to provide and expand community and neighborhood parks for multiple forms of outdoor recreation.

Goal 7: Maintain and Enhance Funding Opportunities for Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation

From its early years establishing the original state parks, Wisconsin has had an active program of state land acquisition. The latest iteration of these programs is the Stewardship 2000 Program. Under this program the state may issue bonds in a total not to exceed \$572 million spread over a ten year period. The Stewardship Program is biased towards land acquisition, with lesser amounts provided for property development and local assistance. As Wisconsin receives an increasingly smaller portion of state resources—Wisconsin State Parks rank 49th in the nation for total percentage of state budget—funding programs have provided vital support to outdoor park and recreation lands and facilities.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Renew the State Stewardship 2000 Program.
2. Encourage all local governments to develop park and recreation plans for participation in state and federal cost share programs.
3. Provide more cost share opportunities for local governments to acquire, develop, and maintain recreational lands and facilities.
4. Increase Wisconsin State Parks funding to the nationwide average of 0.2% of state budget, or \$53 million a year.
5. Explore new and innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among multiple government agencies.
6. Increase revenue generating capabilities for outdoor recreation by continuing to update and improve technologies such as automated fee collection systems.
7. Explore the option of an exercise tax on outdoor recreational equipment to help fund park and recreation developments.

Goal 8: Promote Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation as a Means to Better Health and Wellness for State Citizens

The United States as a whole is in the midst of an overweight and obesity epidemic brought on by increasingly sedate and inactive lifestyles and higher caloric intakes. This epidemic has profound consequences in terms of increased health care costs and shortened life expectancies. Outdoor park and recreation areas can be key partners in reversing this trend as they provide the type of active recreational opportunities that promote physical fitness. Encouraging Wisconsinites to use

recreation lands and facilities will benefit not only park and recreation areas, but also the state citizens themselves who receive the health benefits of increased activity—a true win-win proposal.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Encourage individuals, workplaces, community groups, and schools to become physically active by promoting programs such as the Governor’s Wisconsin Challenge program.
2. Develop a “Get Fit with Wisconsin” campaign for public lands and waters that touts the health benefits of recreation and reaches a wide audience of potential users.
3. Educate the public about the health benefits of moderate and enjoyable physical activities such as walking, biking, nature study, etc.
4. Integrate opportunities and incentives for exercise during the workday—giving employees 30 minutes a day for exercise, providing exercise equipment and changing rooms, etc.
5. Start a dialogue between public outdoor recreation providers and health agencies to identify other (non-traditional) funding sources for recreational facilities and development.



The 2005–2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

SCORP

ATTACHMENT C
FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS				
Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes
Badminton	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.
Basketball 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.
Handball (3-4 wall)	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.
Ice Hockey	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.
Tennis	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.
Volleyball	30' x 60'. Minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 4,000 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	½ - 1 mile.
Baseball 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.
Field Hockey	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.
Football	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.
Soccer	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.
Golf - Driving Range	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.

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (continued)				
Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes
¼ mile running track	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.
Softball	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.
Multiple use court (basketball, tennis, etc.)	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.
Archery range	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.
Golf 1. Par 3 (18 hole) 2. 9-hole standard 3. 18-hole standard	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.
Swimming pools	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.
Beach areas	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.

ATTACHMENT D

STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

Community Service Specialist
Eau Claire Office
PO Box 4001
1300 W Clairemont Ave
Eau Claire WI 54702

Acquisition Of Development Rights Grants (ADR)

Helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values, that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis.

Aids For The Acquisition And Development Of Local Parks (ADLP)

Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATV)

Funds are available to provide funds to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquiring, insuring, developing and maintaining of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes as per s. 23.33, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities and villages are eligible to apply by April 15 on forms provided by the Department. Eligible levels of reimbursement are:

- ATV trails available for spring, summer, and fall riding may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible maintenance costs (up to \$450 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, including routes; 2) purchase of liability insurance; 3) acquisition of easements; 4) major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails; and 5) acquisition of land in fee and development of new trails and areas.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Enforcement Patrol

Funds are available as per s.23.22(9), Wis. Stats. and NR 64.15, Wis. Adm. Code. A county must file a Notice of Intent to Patrol form with the Department on or before July 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the Department on or before September 1 of the year following the 12-month period for which the claim is made. Notice of Intent to Patrol and Claim forms are provided by the Department Bureau of Law Enforcement. Counties may receive up to 100% of their net costs for the enforcement of ch. 23.33, Wis. Adm. Code, at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Salaries of officers engaged in the enforcement of Chapter NR 23.33, Wis. Adm. Code, at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Travel, materials and supplies are reimbursable. Depreciation is calculated at a rate of 12% annually on all equipment over \$100 except ATV's, which is figured at the rate of 20% annually.

Brownfields Green Space and Public Facilities Grant Program

Funds are available per s.292.79, Wis. Stats. to promote the cleanup of brownfields where the end-use has a long-term public benefit, including preservation of green space, development of recreational areas or use by a local government.

Lake Protection Grant

Funds are available to protect and improve the water quality of lakes and their ecosystems as per s. 281.69, Wis. Stats. Grants are available for purchasing land or easements, restoration of wetlands, development of local regulations to protect water quality, lake improvement activities called for in a Department approved plan, and countywide lake classification. Counties, towns, cities, villages, public authorities and qualified lake associations as defined in s. 30.92(1)(br), Wis. Stats., public inland lake districts, non-profit groups, and other local governmental units established for lake management are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. The state cost shares up to 75% of project costs not to exceed \$200,000. Applications are due in the Regional offices by May 1 of each year.

Priorities are set on a statewide basis (see ch. NR 191.08, Wis. Adm. Code) and consider the following factors: 1) lakes which have not previously received a lake protection grant; 2) the degree to which the project provides for the protection or improvement of water quality; 3) the degree to which the project provides for protection or improvement of other aspects of the natural ecosystem such as fish, wildlife or natural beauty; 4) the availability of public access to, and public use of the lakes; 5) the degree to which the proposed project complements other lake and watershed management efforts; 6) the level of support for the project from other affected management units; and 7) the level of financial support provided by the sponsor.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Money is available to encourage nationwide creation and interpretation of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities. The program funds both state and local outdoor recreation projects per Public Law 88-578, ch. NR 50.06, Wis. Adm. Code. Counties, cities, villages, towns, school districts, and Indian tribes are eligible for funding with an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. Up to 50% matching grants from the fund are available to state and local units of government. Priorities include acquisition of land where a scarcity of outdoor recreational land exists. Also, projects that provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for outdoor recreation are also desirable.

Eligible projects include acquisition of land for public outdoor recreational areas and preservation of water frontage and open space. Development of public outdoor park and recreational areas and their support facilities. Applications are available from the DNR regional Community Service Specialist. Completed applications are due to the appropriate DNR regional office by May 1 of each year.

Recreational Boating Facilities

Funds are available for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities as per s. 30.92, Wis. Statutes. Counties, towns, cities, villages, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations are eligible to apply. Cost sharing is provided up to 50% for feasibility studies, construction costs, and certain types of acquisition costs. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the Department.

Eligible projects include: 1) Facilities such as ramps and service docks required to gain access to the water; 2) structures such as bulkheads and breakwaters necessary to provide safe water conditions for boaters; 3) activities such as dredging to provide safe water depths for recreational boating. (Dredging is an eligible project only when it is associated with project development at the project site; maintenance dredging is not eligible.); 4) support facilities limited to parking lots, sanitary facilities and security lighting; 5) acquisition of equipment to cut and remove aquatic plants; 6) acquisition of equipment to collect and remove floating trash and debris from a waterway; 7) dredging of channels in waterways for recreational boating purposes (not more than once in ten years)(inland waters); and 8) acquisition of aids to navigation and regulatory markers. These factors are considered in establishing priorities - distance of proposed project from other recreational boating facilities, demand for safe boating facilities, existing facilities, projects underway, commitment of funds, location of proposed project within the region identified in s. 25.29(7), Wis. Stats.

River Management Grants

River Protection Management grants provide state cost sharing assistance to eligible sponsors for implementing a specific activity or set of activities, other than planning activities, to protect or improve a river ecosystem as per s. 181.70 Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages, non-profit groups and qualified river management organizations, and other local governmental units as defined in s. 66.0131, Wis. Stats., are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. The state cost shares up to 75% of project costs not to exceed \$50,000. Activities eligible for funding include: 1) purchase of land or of an easement subject to certain requirements, 2) development of local ordinances, and 3) restoration of in-stream or shoreland habitat. Applications are due in the Regional offices by May 1 of each year.

Recreational Trails Act (RTA)

The Recreational Trails Act (RTA) provides funds to local units of government through the transfer of federal gas excise taxes paid on fuel used in off-highway vehicles. These funds are used to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized (30% of RTA funds), non-motorized (30% of RTA funds), and both (40% of RTA funds) types of recreational trail uses. This federal program was reauthorized in 2005 under SAFETEA-LU.

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 easement or property for trails.

Snowmobile Club Signs

Funds are available to provide free cardboard trail signs and reflective material to snowmobile clubs agreeing to open their trails to public use as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Funds are limited to no more than \$15,000 per year for the purchase of signs and reflective material. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season.

Snowmobile Route Signs

Funds are available to provide costs for initial signing of snowmobile routes and trail crossing warning signs as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Towns, cities, and villages are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. No local match is required, but state funding is limited to no more than \$30,000 per year for the route sign program. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season.

Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols

Funds are available to encourage county snowmobile patrols to function as a law enforcement unit for the enforcement of State Statute 350 as per s. 350.12(4)(a)(4), Wis. Stats. and NR 50.12, 20.370(4)(ft), Wis. Adm. Code. Counties are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Bureau of Law Enforcement. A county must file a Notice of Intent to Patrol form with the Department on or before July 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the Department on or before June 1 of the year following the 12-month period for which the claim is made. Salaries of officers engaged in the enforcement of ch. 350, Wis. Stats., at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate are eligible. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Travel, materials and supplies are reimbursable. Depreciation is calculated at a rate of 20% annually on all equipment over \$1,000.

Snowmobile Trail Aids

Funds are available to provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment as per s. 23.09(26), and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Counties are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. 100% cost sharing is provided with limits on maintenance costs of \$250, and development costs of \$500 per mile. Applications are due in the appropriate Region Office by April 15 of each year. Eligible projects include maintenance of trails, which includes signing, brushing, and grooming of snowmobile trails, purchase of liability insurance and acquisition of short term easements, development of trails which may include general trail construction, bridges, gates and signs, major rehabilitation of existing snowmobile bridges and rehabilitation of existing trail segments

Stewardship Grants for Nonprofit Conservation Organizations

Funds are available for the acquisition of land or easements for conservation purposes, and restoration of wildlife habitat as per s. 23.096, 23.092, 23.094, 23.17, 23.175, and 23.27, Wis. Stats. and NR 51, Wis. Adm. Code. Nonprofit conservation organizations are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Priorities include acquisition of wildlife habitat, acquisition of lands with special scientific or ecological value, rare and endangered habitats and species, acquisition of stream corridors, acquisition of land for state trails including the Ice Age Trail and North Country Trail and restoration of wetlands

and grasslands. Eligible types of projects include fee simple and easement acquisitions and habitat restoration projects.

Urban Green Space

Funds are available to provide open natural space in proximity to urban development, to protect from development land with scenic, ecological or natural values in urban areas, and to provide land for noncommercial gardening in urban areas as per s. 23.09(19) Wis. Stats. Counties, Towns, Cities, Villages, lake districts, Indian tribes and nonprofit conservation organizations under s. 23.096 Wis. Stats. are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Applications are due in the appropriate Region office by May 1 of each year.

Urban Rivers Grant

Funds are available to improve outdoor recreation opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers for a variety of public uses, economic revitalization through the improvement of the environmental quality in urban river corridors, and preserving and revitalizing historical, cultural, or natural areas as per s. 30.277, Wis. Stats. Counties, Towns, Cities, Villages, and Tribal units of government are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Applications are due in the Region office by May 1 of each year. Eligible projects include acquisition of urban riverfront land that is part of an outdoor recreation plan adopted by the local unit of government. Land that is specifically identified in a river corridor plan for economic revitalization and outdoor recreation.

Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs

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

Local Transportation Enhancement (TE) 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 bicycle and 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.

Transportation Enhancement Program

(Part of the Statewide Multi-modal Improvement Program (SMIP))

Program Description: Transportation enhancements (TE) are transportation-related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of transportation systems. The transportation enhancements program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, with examples ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian facilities, to landscaping and scenic beautification, and to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff. Most of the requests and projects awarded in Wisconsin have been for bicycle facilities. Examples of bicycle projects include multi-use trails (in greenways, former rail trails, etc.), paved shoulders, bike lanes, bicycle route signage, bicycle parking, overpasses/underpasses/bridges, and sidewalks. Transportation enhancement activities must relate to surface transportation. Federal regulations restrict the use of funds on trails that allow motorized users, except snowmobiles. TEA 21 expanded the definition of transportation enhancements eligibility to specifically include the provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists, which had not been clearly eligible under ISTEA.

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.

Contact WisDOT District coordinators first for more details. Chuck Thiede at 608-266-3341 is the statewide coordinator.

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