



Outdoor Recreation Plan

2014-2019

Also covering the City of Eagle River and the Towns within
Vilas County



Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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This plan was prepared under the direction of the Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Department by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: VILAS COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2014-2019 Effective January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018

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

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

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

DATE: January 2014

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTERS:

1. INTRODUCTION	1
- Purpose.....	1
- Statutory Base For This Plan.....	1
- Plan Components.....	1
- Reference Plans & Laws.....	2
2. DESCRIPTION OF VILAS COUNTY	6
- Introduction.....	6
- Topography and Geology.....	6
- Land Use	7
- Forestry.....	7
- Surface Water.....	7
- Groundwater.....	8
- Population & Housing	9
- Demographic Trends.....	11
- Employment	12
3. EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES.....	13
- Introduction.....	13
- Linear Facilities.....	13
- County Parks.....	16
- County Forest.....	17
- County Camping Areas	17
- County Shooting Range	17
- County Swimming Beaches	18
- County Picnic Areas	18
- County Public Access Points to Water Bodies.....	19
- Points of Interest.....	19
- Town & City Facilities.....	20
City of Eagle River.....	20
Town of Arbor Vitae.....	22
Town of Boulder Junction.....	23
Town of Cloverland.....	25
Town of Conover.....	25
Town of Lac du Flambeau.....	26
Town of Land O' Lakes.....	27
Town of Lincoln	28
Town of Manitowish Waters.....	29
Town of Phelps	31
Town of Plum Lake.....	32
Town of Presque Isle.....	35
Town of St. Germain.....	39

Town of Washington.....	39
Town of Winchester.....	40
- School District Facilities	41
- State Facilities	42
- Forested Lands – Not State Owned.....	47
- Federal Facilities.....	48
- Private Outdoor Recreation Facilities.....	49
4. OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT.....	50
- Introduction.....	50
- Public Participation.....	50
- Needs Driven Park Planning.....	52
5. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	54
6. PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.....	55
- Introduction.....	55
- Projects and Recommendations Accomplished 2008-2013.....	55
- Projects Anticipated 2014-2019.....	56
7. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	58
- Introduction.....	58
- County Recommendations	58
8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES.....	61
- Introduction.....	61
- Implementation Strategies	61
9. PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING.....	66

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Park Design and Location Criteria
- B. Facility Development Standards
- C. Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs
- D. Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016 Summary
- E. Online Survey and Summarized Results
- F. Town Survey and Summarized Results
- G. Map of Trout Streams in Vilas County
- H. Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest Maps
- I. Lakeland Discovery Center Maps

- J. Public Hearing Poster and Letter
- K. Great Headwaters Trails System Segments Map

TABLES and FIGURES:

Figure 1	Location	6
Table 1	Vilas County Population Projections.....	9
Figure 2	Vilas County 2010 Population Pyramid	9
Figure 3	Permanent and Seasonal Housing, 2010	10
Table 2	Vilas County’s Quick Demographics.....	11
Table 3	Vilas County Civilian Labor Force Data	12
Table 4	Employment by Industry in Vilas County, 2011.....	12
Table 5	Vilas County Trails	15
Table 6	County Forest Maintained Picnic Areas.....	18
Table 7	County Forest Maintained Swimming Beaches.....	19
Table 8	Improved Fishing Sites in County Forest, Panfishing Piers.....	19
Table 9	School District Recreation Facilities	41
Table 10	NHAL Trails	44
Table 11	Waysides in Vilas County	47

MAPS:

Map 1	Recreational Facilities
Map 2	Countywide Bike/Ped Route and Trail Plan
Map 3	Vilas County Forest
Map 4	Forest Units (White Squaw & Snipe Lake Units)
Map 5	Forest Units (Pioneer Creek, Mud Minnow, & Langley Lake Units)
Map 6	Forest Units (Decker Lake, Torch Lake, Heart Lake, Muskrat Creek, & Ski Hill Units)
Map 7	City of Eagle River

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

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

Adoption of this plan by the Vilas County Board, and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), will continue eligibility of the county and its local units of government for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space Program (UGS) and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP). Adoption by all municipalities is not necessary if they wish to cooperate with Vilas County to use this plan for grant applications. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Vilas County applies on their behalf.

Non-profit conservation organizations (NCOs) are eligible to participate in the Knowles–Nelson Stewardship Program under the Urban Green Space and Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks programs. NCOs may adopt or carry out recommendations from a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan of the local unit of government in which the NCO project is located or use their land management plans that are required for participation in the stewardship programs.

STATUTORY BASE FOR THIS PLAN

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

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

PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs for Vilas County, the City of Eagle River, and the towns of Arbor Vitae, Boulder Junction, Cloverland, Conover, Lac du Flambeau, Land O’ Lakes, Lincoln, Manitowish Waters, Phelps, Plum Lake, Presque Isle, St. Germain, Washington, and Winchester.

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

The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies through the year 2019. A combination of public survey compilation and standards analysis were utilized to define recreational and open space needs. Goals and objectives were created to guide the direction of recreational planning efforts within Vilas County.

The recommendations are general strategies and five-year action programs for recreation facility development. A series of possible tools to aid implementation of these recommendations are set forth in the attachments.

The plan concludes with a note on updating to insure that it remains relevant to the needs of the county over the entire five-year span.

REFERENCE PLANS & LAWS

Vilas County has been involved with outdoor recreation plans since 1972 when the local University of Wisconsin Extension Resource Agent compiled the County's first outdoor recreation plan. Later, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission updated the plan for years 1978-1983, 1984-1988, and 2002-2006.

Additional plans and laws that affect outdoor recreation in Vilas County are referenced below:

Complete Streets Law

Wisconsin's Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations law addressing Complete Streets was codified in 2009. It was incorporated as State statute §84.01(35) and later into administrative rule as Transportation 75.

Complete Streets are roadways designed and operated to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable access and travel for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transport users of all ages and abilities are able to safely and comfortably move along and across a complete street.

All roads receiving state or federal funding through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation must also accommodate bicycles and pedestrians per this law. Local governments may pass their own Complete Streets ordinances to cover their own road networks. Specific guidelines related to traffic counts, and if the road is urban or rural, are used in these ordinances to determine whether a sidewalk, path, or lane is needed to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.

State Trails Network Plan

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

alternative transportation corridors. These trails are shown on Map 1

Segment 15—Ashland to Rhinelander

From Manitowish, a potential trail corridor extends southeast through Vilas County to the City of Rhinelander. The route includes abandoned rail corridors, roadways and existing trails in the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. The segment in Iron County is an existing snowmobile trail. Iron County would like to cooperate with the state forest to repair bridges so the trail can be opened for bicycling.

Part of this segment includes a proposed loop route on abandoned rail line that from Manitowish to Woodruff. From Woodruff, the loop extends north to Boulder Junction and returns to Manitowish. In addition to abandoned rail line, the loop consists of Boulder Junction's community trail, roadways and/or existing forest trails. A spur connector to Sayner is also proposed using forest trails and/or low-use roadways.

Continuing south, a route through Woodruff/Minocqua would connect with the Bearskin/Hiawatha State Trail.

Segment 19—Langlade Co. to Michigan state line

This abandoned rail corridor links the State of Michigan with the Mountain Bay Trail near Eland in Marathon County. It passes through a few state wildlife areas and some county forests. This corridor also links to the proposed Three Lakes to Rhinelander and Crandon to Tomahawk abandoned rail corridors, the Washburn to Rhinelander corridor at Monico and the Antigo to White Lake proposed corridor. The segment includes a loop to the Crandon to White Lake proposed corridor. The grade runs through portions of Langlade County Forest, the lake area around Kempster in Langlade County and the popular tourist areas of Three Lakes and Eagle River in Vilas County.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

Every five years, the Wisconsin DNR publishes a SCORP as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. At its core, this SCORP is used to help allocate federal funds equitably among local communities, but the document also transcends many levels of outdoor recreation discussion and policy. At the national level, this SCORP recognizes the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative, which is based on the idea that the protection of the country's natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans. The AGO encourages state and local communities to develop local conservation and recreation initiatives. This document shows a clear vision of how preserving and improving recreation opportunities in Wisconsin fits within a broader national initiative of conservation and recreation.

America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative is a federal agency to state agency program to create or improve big outdoor recreation projects.

A summary of this SCORP is in Attachment D.

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056

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

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

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

CN Chequamegon-Nicolet Nat'l Forest

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

NA Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest

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

BL Border Lakes Region

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

UW Upper Wisconsin River

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

DK Deerskin River

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

Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan, 2011

This plan is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway and pedestrian system for Vilas County. This plan is a tool designed to make Vilas County more walkable and bikeable. Results of this plan include a bicycle trail and route map, and an implementation action plan.

Vilas County Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030

This plan was created according to the state comprehensive planning law (Sec. 66.1001 WI Stats) and is a compilation of historical data and community created goals, objectives, policies, and programs that will guide future planning and community decisions for a 20-year period. Comprehensive plans incorporate a 20-year vision and provide a rational basis for local land use decisions.

The physical and social characteristics of Vilas County were taken from the comprehensive plan. Maps locating boat access points, and local parks were made from data gathered for the comprehensive plan.

Vilas County Land & Water Resource Management Plan 2010-2015

This plan contains countywide descriptions of land and water resources, strategies to care for the natural resources, and natural resource assessments.

The Vilas County Lake and River Classification System is described in this LWRM plan.

Vilas County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006-2020

The mission of the County Forest is to manage, conserve, and protect the forest resources on a sustainable basis for present and future generations. This plan was created under Sec. 28.11 WI Stats to manage the County Forest.

This plan incorporates or references all county forest policies, pertinent county ordinances, planning documents, and needs and actions to occur from 2006 to 2020 that relate to managing the Vilas County Forest lands.

Chapter 2

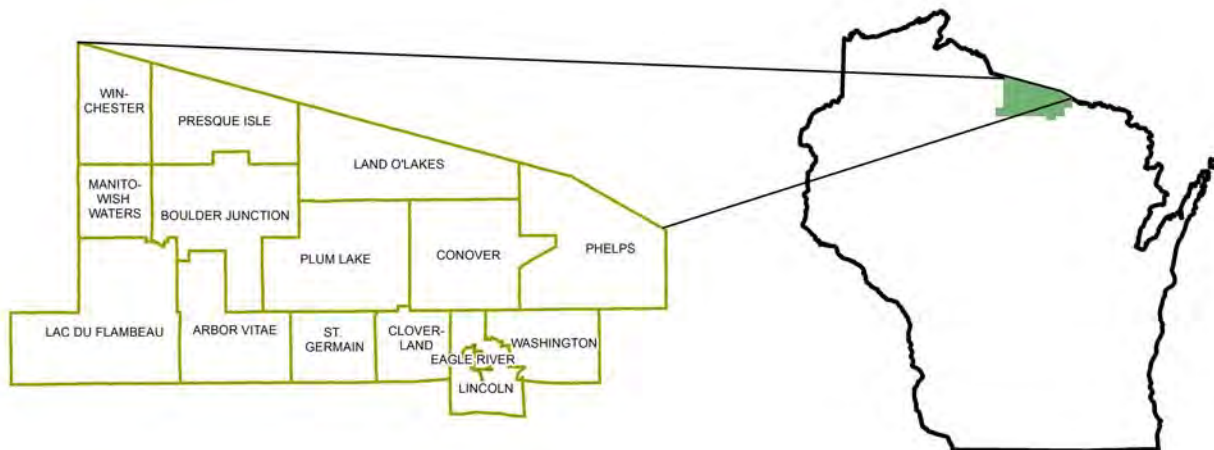
DESCRIPTION OF VILAS COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

Potential opportunities and limitations start with understanding an area. This chapter provides a basic feel for what Vilas County looks like physically, demographically, and economically.

Vilas County is located in northern Wisconsin and is bound by Upper Michigan to the north, Forest County to the east, Oneida County to the south, and Iron and Price Counties to the west. The county is approximately 651,529 acres in size, of which about 85% (553,878 acres) are of land, and about 15% (97,024 acres) are water. Public and private forests cover about 81% of the county.

Figure 1 Vilas County



TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The physiology (physical nature of a geographic area) of the county resulted from glacial activity that occurred 10,000 - 25,000 years ago. The last retreat of the glaciers transformed the formerly uneven, rocky terrain of the county into a diverse landscape.

The county's landscape ranges from broad, nearly level glacial outwash plains to rough, broken glacial moraines and areas of pitted outwash. There are three distinct physiographic regions in the county. The drumlins and ground moraines in the eastern portion of the county are characterized by low, smoothly rounded, elongated, and oval ridges that are nearly level to moderately steep and are interspersed with long, narrow drainageways. The Winegar moraine area in the western portion of the county is characterized by short, steep slopes and ridges, and by numerous wet depressions, most of which have no outlets. Outside of these moraine areas is an outwash plain, characterized by a rolling or hilly topography with many enclosed basins and depressions. In scattered areas on this plain, including the communities of Eagle River, Manitowish Waters, Conover, St. Germain, and Boulder Junction, sand flats are present, while end moraines and drumlins are scattered throughout. The glacial melt is directly related to the amount and location of surface water.

LAND USE

Forests are the dominant land use in the county. Over 81 percent of the county is forested, followed by about 15 percent water. Agriculture covers 2 percent, and all other urban development covers 2 percent.

FORESTRY

Vilas County is characterized by well developed secondary growth forests with a mixture of hardwoods and conifer stands, covering 81% of the County with 528,276 acres.

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) and Managed Forest Law there are 18,317 **open** acres in 2013. There are 20,961 acres that are **closed** under Managed Forest Law (MFL) as of 2013. Much of MFL lands are available to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking. Make sure the land is listed as open. 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. Unless the property owner allows their use, bicycling, snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles are prohibited on enrolled lands that are open to the public.

Care for the natural resource

The primary concern in protecting soil is to make sure areas where soil is exposed are covered as soon as possible. Timber harvests may require either temporary or permanent road construction, which exposes areas to soil erosion.

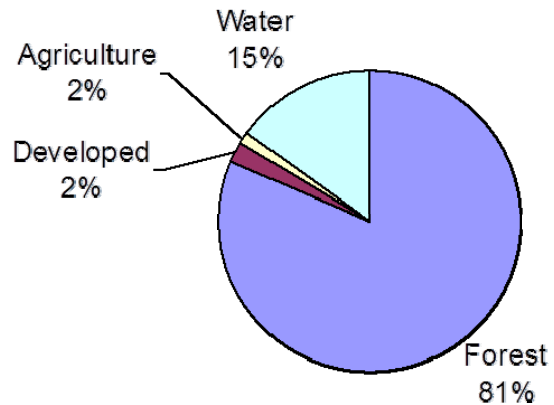
Vilas County Forestry Department requires that all foresters conducting county forest harvests use Best Management Practices to harvest timber responsibly. The county forest is independently certified as sustainable by Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®). The SFI 2005-2009 Standard promotes sustainable forest management through nine principles, 13 objectives, 34 performance measures and 102 indicators developed by professional foresters, conservationists, scientists and others. The standard addresses key environmental, social, and economic forest values – from water quality and biodiversity to harvesting and regeneration.

SURFACE WATER

Vilas County is at the headwaters of the Wisconsin and Flambeau rivers that drain to the Mississippi River; the Brule and Menominee rivers flow into Lake Michigan, and Presque Isle discharges into Lake Superior.

Surface water resources constitute an extremely valuable part of the natural resource base of Vilas County. Vilas County is home to over 1,320 lakes, more than any other county in Wisconsin, resulting in one of the highest concentrations of inland freshwater lakes in the world. Numerous rivers and streams are also located within the county's boundaries. These surface water resources are vital natural resources, which are held in the public trust by the state. The abundance of water

Countywide Land Use



resources provides the public with unique recreational opportunities and the enjoyment of scenic beauty, and therefore plays a primary role in sustaining tourism, the major economic force of Vilas County.

Care for the natural resource:

The quality of these surface water resources is highly susceptible to deterioration from pollutant runoff. Therefore, land uses and related activities must be carefully managed in order to achieve a balance between the level and extent of use, and the maintenance of water quality.

“Overall, there are no major or widespread water quality problems regarding Vilas County surface waters that can be controlled within Vilas County. Pollution of surface water generally occurs from mercury deposition, the source of which is coal fired power plant emissions and automobile road run-off. There is little municipal or industrial waste according to the WDNR Water Quality Management Plan for the Headwaters Basin. The streams exhibit good water quality with the majority supporting cold-water fish communities, or warm-water sport fish communities.” (Vilas County LWRM Plan 2010-2015)

As a prevention measure to address existing and future problems with lakeshore development pressures, the *Vilas County Lake and River Classification System* was established. The Vilas County Zoning and Planning Department established this classification system in 1999 to provide varying degrees of protection in permitting and mitigation standards to water bodies based upon their sensitivity level and existing development. The overall goal of the lake classification system is to manage responsible development based on a specific water body’s ability to accommodate that development and still remain a healthy and viable aquatic ecosystem. Additional information is available in the Vilas County LWRM Plan 2010-2015 and the county zoning and planning department.

GROUNDWATER

Groundwater is an extremely important resource in Vilas County as it is the source of the entire county’s potable water supply and serves many agricultural, commercial, and industrial purposes as well. Because of its importance, a greater understanding of groundwater is needed to gauge existing and potential threats to its quantity and quality.

In the north central Wisconsin region, deposits of sand and gravel are highly permeable and yield large quantities of water for recharging groundwater storage. Less expansive recharge areas also are found in areas where decomposed and fractured granite lies at or near the surface.

Contamination of groundwater almost always results directly from land uses associated with modern society. Almost anything which can be spilled or spread on the land has the potential to seep through the ground and enter the groundwater. The impacts of improper land uses or waste management are usually determined by the physical characteristics of that area. By locating, constructing, and operating development and waste management systems appropriately, these negative effects can be minimized.

Care for the natural resource:

Most groundwater contamination is related to poorly-sited land uses such as agricultural manure,

petroleum, and salt storage in areas of high groundwater tables or fractured bedrock. Contamination of groundwater reserves can also result from such sources as improperly placed or maintained landfill sites, private waste disposal (septic effluent), excessive lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides, and leaks from sewer pipes. Runoff from livestock yards and urban areas, improper application of agricultural pesticide or fertilizers, and leaking petroleum storage tanks and spills can also add organic and chemical contaminants in locations where the water table is near the surface. Once groundwater contamination has occurred, successful remediation can take years, or may never occur, depending upon the pollutant. Therefore, when considering specific land uses for an area, it is vital to consider the relationships between the land, the proposed/actual use, the physical characteristics, and the potential for contamination to help ensure that groundwater contamination does not occur. Protection of these groundwater reserves is necessary to ensure adequate quality water to all users.

POPULATION & HOUSING

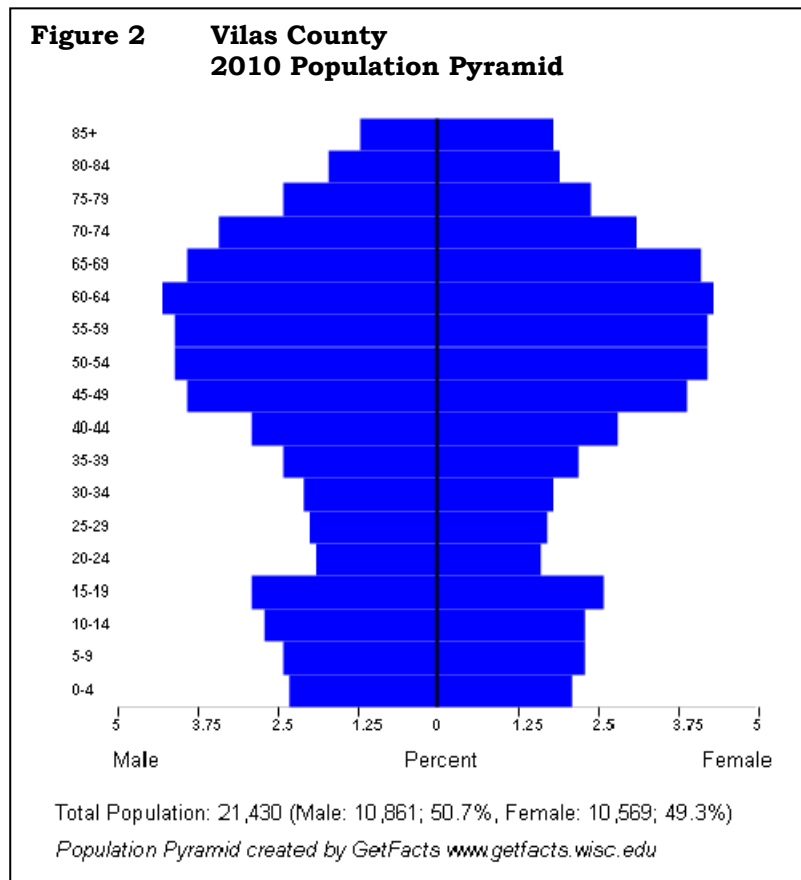
Table 1 Vilas County Population Projections			
Year	2010 Census	2015	2020
Population	21,430	21,140	20,946

Source: U.S. Census, and Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Population is projected to decline slightly over the next 5 years of this plan as seen in Table 1.

Figure 2 illustrates the county's predominantly older population, which is comprised primarily of persons aged 45 and older. Median age in the county increased to 50.7 years old in 2010, from 45.8 years in 2000. The population is almost equally male and female until about 80 years and older when females outnumber males, as is expected due to females naturally longer life spans.

From 2000 to 2012 the population of the 17 and younger group declined from 20.7% to about 17.2% of Vilas County's population.

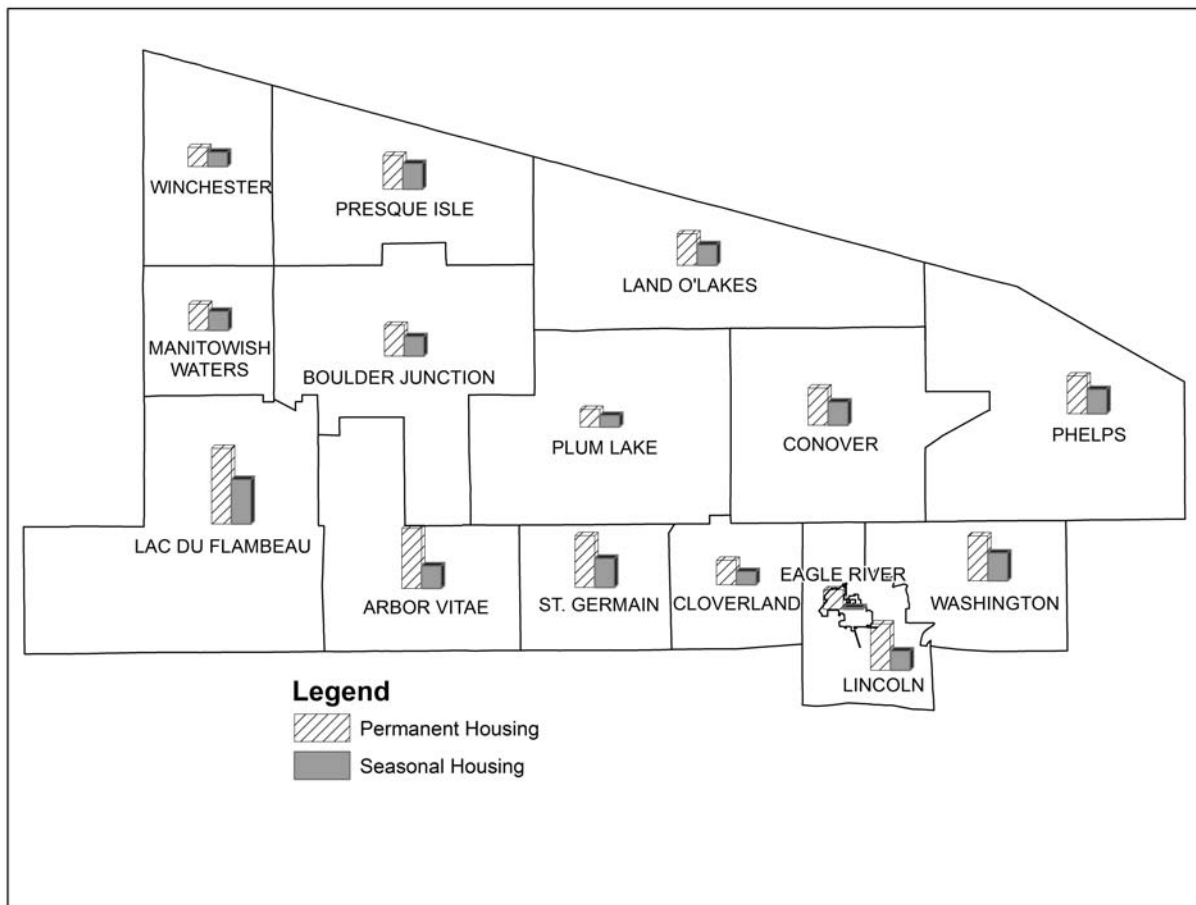


Seasonal dwellings are a significant part of the housing stock in the county (57%); far greater than the 6.1% of housing for the state. Only the City of Eagle River has less than 35% of its housing listed as seasonally occupied.

Figure 3 shows that 9 of the 14 towns, seasonal dwellings are more than 60% of all housing units; with Presque Isle and Winchester both having over 75% of housing that is seasonally occupied.

The trend over the last 20 years has been for seasonal home owners to retire in Vilas County, thus becoming permanent residents in their former “cottages.” New permanent and seasonal homes are being built too. Both of these trends are projected to continue.

Figure 3 Permanent and Seasonal Housing, 2010



Source: 2010 U.S. Census

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Table 2 shows a comparison between the last two U.S. Census counts for Vilas County. There are notable fewer people under 18 years old in the county in 2012 vs. 2000, and notably more residents over 65 now living in the county. The American Indian population has increased by the same percent as the White population has declined over roughly the last decade. Median household income has risen over the last decade, but not faster than inflation.

The Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development creates countywide workforce profiles that include some demographic data. In 2011, OEA provided the following population perspective:

Vilas County's population increased 11.4% between 2000 and 2010. During this time, the county's population grew at a much faster rate than the state or nation and ranked as the 8th fastest-growing county among Wisconsin's 72 counties.

Net migration plus natural increase equals population growth. The negative natural increase is due in part, to the county's comparatively high median age of 51 years (the 2nd highest in the state) and low relative crude birth rate (9th lowest among the state's 72 counties). The key driver to Vilas's population change, net migration, was more than eight times that of the state and more than four times that of the nation, compensating for negative natural increase.

	2000 Census	2012 ACS
Population	21,033	21,338
Persons under 5 years	4.3%	4.2%
Persons under 18 years	20.7%	17.2%
Persons 65 years and over	22.8%	27.6%
Female persons	50.2%	49.4%
White persons (not Hispanic)	89.7%	87.1%
Black persons	0.2%	0.3%
American Indian persons	9.1%	11.0%
Asian persons	0.2%	0.3%
Hispanic or Latino persons	0.9%	1.4%
High school graduates or higher*	85.4%	91.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher*	17.6%	23.5%
Housing units	22,397	25,196
Average household size	2.29	2.01
Median household income	\$33,759	\$41,195

Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2010, & U.S. Census' American Community Survey (ACS) 2007-2011

*percentage of persons age 25 and over

EMPLOYMENT

Overall, the labor force has increased from about 9,800 in 2000 to over 10,600 in 2010 (Table 3). That represents an increase of 7.6 percent. The labor force is defined simply as the number of persons, sixteen and over, employed or looking to be employment. Persons over sixteen who are students, homemakers, retired, institutionalized, or unable/unwilling to seek employment are not considered part of the labor force.

	2000	2010
Labor Force	9,869	10,622
Employed	9,268	9,542
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	5.8%
Participation Rate	57.3%	57.7%

Source: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey; and NCWRPC

Table 4 contains industry level employment data along with annual employment change. Almost 61 percent of the total job base was employed in the Trade, transportation, utilities sector; Education & health sector, or the Leisure & hospitality employment sector.

Industry	Employment	
	Annual Avg.	1-Year Change
Natural Resources	57	-5
Construction	497	-34
Manufacturing	359	-25
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	1,416	-29
Information	NA	NA
Financial Activities	275	0
Professional & Business Services	272	-16
Education & Health	1,002	-52
Leisure & Hospitality	2,110	-139
Other services	380	21
Public Administration	917	52

Source: WI DWD, Bureau of Workforce Training, Quarterly Census Employment and Wages, June 2011

Chapter 3

EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

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

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

LINEAR FACILITIES

Rustic Roads:

Rustic Road 60 is 11.7 miles of County Highway K, between County Highways N and M.
Surface: paved.

Water Trails:

A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and possibly attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. Numerous rivers and streams are also located within Vilas County. There are 35 cold water streams and 116 warm water streams. All navigable water is available to canoe on. The following parks and forests have specific mapped or marked water trail routes.

Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest

- Trip 1 Canoe Route (High-Fish Trap Lake)
- Trip 2 Canoe Route (Boulder Lake)
- Trip 3 Canoe Route (Manitowish River)
- Trip 4 Canoe Route (Manitowish-Turtle Flambeau)
- Trip 5 Canoe Route (Trout Lake)
- Trip 6 Canoe Route (Rainbow Flowage-WI River)

Wisconsin River

The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation (WVIC) has created amenity maps for canoeists down the Wisconsin River. Mile marker signs on maps correspond with actual signs placed on the river. Mile markers are typically located on the right side of the bridges and at portage take out sites.

Burnt Rollways Boat Hoist – Eagle River to Three Lakes

Between the Eagle River Chain-of-lakes and the Three Lakes Chain-of-lakes is this boat hoist. Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company operates this recreational boat lift for the public to enjoy. A fee is charged, and the operational schedule is listed online. The boat lift is operated annually between May and September.

Trout Streams:

The DNR uses three categories to classify the different types of trout streams throughout the state. These are evident in Wisconsin Trout Streams [PUB-FH-806 2002, PDF], which provides a comprehensive list of trout streams throughout the state, and in Wisconsin Trout Stream Maps. See a map of Vilas County's trout streams in Attachment G.

Snowmobile Trails:

Vilas County has approximately 700 miles of established snowmobile trails: 483.2 miles are state funded sponsored public trails, 20 miles of county sponsored public trails, and 197 miles are club trails open to the public. There are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the county. The Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance, comprised of 11 snowmobile clubs, maintain the state funded county sponsored trails and meet monthly to provide continuous input toward the future direction of the county's snowmobile program.

ATV Trails:

Vilas County currently has 0.4 miles of State funded ATV trail in the Land O'Lakes area. A Resolution of Participation for ATV trail maintenance funds makes grants available to the County from the DNR. The County continues to work with other communities to look at the feasibility of developing other ATV trails.

Horse (Equestrian) Trails:

Horseback riding is permitted on all County Forest trails, roads, and fire lanes. There are no designated horseback riding trails in the County Forest.

Hunting, Hiking, and Cross Country Ski Trails:

The Vilas County Forestry Department maintains 89 miles of established hunting, hiking, cross-country ski, and handicapped trails located within the County Forest. Langley Lake is the only cross-country ski trail groomed and the only ski trail with signs.

Hiking is permitted on all County Forest trails, roads, and fire lanes. Hiking or snowshoeing are not allowed on groomed cross-country ski trails.

Trail definitions:

Forest Trail—County Forest paths that may or may not be gated or bermed to restrict vehicle access, depending on the sensitivity of the environment. Those forest trails that are not closed by a berm or gate are open to vehicle access. These forest paths are compacted soil logging roads created for local timber harvest operations.

Hunting & Hiking Trail—County Forest paths that are gated and mowed on a 3 year rotation to provide wildlife habitat and access for non-vehicle outdoor recreation and forest management. These forest paths have a natural forest soil surface free of trees and bushes.

Disabled Access Trail—County Forest game trails that are mowed annually and are walk-in only. Gate keys are made available to Class A or B permit holders to drive vehicles into this area and they are allowed one additional person to assist them.

Cross Country Ski Trail—County Forest *Hunting & Hiking Trails* that are groomed for cross country skiing in winter.

Maps 3 to 6 show the County Forest trail system.

Bicycle Trails

All roads are open to bicycle travel within Vilas County, but some roads are heavily traveled by motorized vehicles, which can make them less safe for bicyclists. Download WisDOT’s Vilas County bike maps for bicycling road conditions.

Several trails have been developed throughout Vilas County. Twelve bike routes or off-road trails are proposed to exist in Vilas County (see *Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan*).

Here are some bicycle facility definitions:

Complete Streets applies to roads that are being reconstructed with state or federal funds. These roads must have accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians on them. In urban areas, a bicycle accommodation may be a bike lane, and a pedestrian accommodation may be a sidewalk. In rural areas, a bicycle accommodation may be a wide paved shoulder, and pedestrians may not need anything in addition to that same wide paved shoulder.

Bicycle Lane—A portion of roadway that has been designated for preferential or exclusive use by bicyclists by pavement markings and, if used, signs. It is intended for one-way travel in the same direction as the adjacent traffic lane.

Bicycle Trail—An off-road path for bicycle and pedestrian use that has an asphalt or packed gravel surface.

Bicycle Route—A road designated by the jurisdiction having authority, either with a unique route designation or with Bike Route signs, along which bicycle guide signs may provide directional and distance information.

Name	Trail Type	Miles of trail
Ski Hill	Hunter	6.67
White Squaw Lake	Hunter	9.12
Pioneer Creek	Hunter	8.99
Snipe/Ewalk/Wood Duck	Hunter	18.78
Heart Lake	Hunter	5.24
Langley Lake	Hunter	9.89
Langley Lake	Handicapped	3.03
Langley Lake	X-C Ski	5.3
Torch Lake	Hunter	6.79
Muskrat Creek	Hunter	6.61
Mud Minnow Lake	Hunter	3.16
Decker Lake	Hunter	5.3
Total		88.88

Source: Vilas County Forestry Department

Existing bike routes and trails are on Map 1, and described in Table 5 below.

Proposed bike routes and trails on Map 2.

For more details see the *Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan, 2011* under “Reference Plans and Laws” in Chapter 1, page 5.

COUNTY PARKS

The amount of usage Vilas County parks receive plays a role in the county’s economy. Vilas county has a very large seasonal population with a high emphasis on recreation. The tourism industry depends on providing adequate facilities for a variety of recreational experiences. These facilities are open for day use from sunrise to sunset unless designated otherwise.

Park facility improvements are listed in Chapter 6. See Map 1 for park locations.

1. Eagle Lake County Park

Eagle Lake Park is approximately 10 acres in size. It is the largest of the County parks. It is located just off of Chain O'Lakes Road near Eagle River. The facility includes a swimming beach and a boat landing with a 6x24' portable pier. Restrooms are provided at this park, along with picnic tables, grills, and a pavilion. The facilities at this park meet ADA standards.

2. Torch Lake Park

Torch Lake Park is approximately two acres in size. It is located two miles south of Conover on Torch Lake Road within the Vilas County Forest. There is a swimming beach and one restroom building with 2 toilets. The picnic area includes tables and grills. There is a swing set for children and two horseshoe pits. A nature trail 6.5 miles in length provides recreation for skiers, hunters, and hikers. No facilities at this park meet ADA standards.

3. Lac Vieux Desert Park

Lac Vieux Desert Park is approximately two acres in size, and is located at the headwaters of the Wisconsin River on the southwest side of Lac Vieux Desert Lake. The Park is owned by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, however is maintained by the County with the aid of periodic grants. There are picnic tables and grills. There is a pathway and bridge into the park, and a restroom facility that meets ADA standards.

4. Hunter Lake Park

Hunter Lake Park is approximately two acres in size. It is located four miles southwest of Conover in the County Forest. The picnic area contains tables and grills. There is one building with two toilets. One boat landing and a swimming beach provide access to the lake.

5. Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park

Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park is approximately one acre in size. It is located next to the Wisconsin River on CTH G. It has one outhouse that meets ADA standards. The picnic area has tables and grills, along with a pathway and boat dock that also meet ADA standards.

6. County Fairgrounds and Riverside Park

Riverside Park is 4.5 acres in size and is located off Hwy. 70 West in Eagle River. This park is within the Vilas County Fairgrounds which is leased to the Softball Association, Fair Board, and Tennis Club. There are restroom facilities at the Fairgrounds that meet ADA standards.

The facility inventory is as follows:

4 toilet buildings	2 pavilions	3 ball fields	1 gate
3 exhibit buildings	2 concession stands	5 bleachers	1 barn
2 tennis courts			

7. Oldenburg Sports Park

Oldenburg Sports Park is a 54 acre sports complex located 3 miles west of Highway 45 on County highway G. This complex is on County owned land. There are 3 baseball fields that are leased to and maintained by Eagle River Baseball. One of the fields is lighted. There are also eleven U10 to U14 soccer fields that are leased to and maintained by the Eagle River Club of Headwaters Youth Soccer Association. There is a shared pavilion, concession stand and restrooms at this facility.

COUNTY FOREST

The Vilas County Forest has 40,991 acres of land within seven townships. This land provides public access for various types of outdoor recreation. There are 47.7 miles of county forest roads to enhance access to these facilities.

Maps 3 to 6 show where the County Forest outdoor recreation facilities (trails, boat launches, piers, parks, and picnic areas) exist for the public to enjoy.

Three swimming beaches and many picnic areas dot the forest, providing excellent swimming and picnicking facilities. Tables, grills, and toilets are available at these sites.

Trails are open to hunting, hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing. There are 79.5 miles of trails that have been developed and closed to motor vehicles. All trail systems have been seeded with a mixture of clover and bluegrass and mowed periodically to provide multiple recreation opportunity. The maintenance of the trails is completed by the County. The trail systems are posted with map boards.

Fishing and boating are allowed on the lakes within the forest. Fishing piers have been placed on eight lakes in the forest to provide an opportunity for pan fishing. Muskies Inc. has provided annual donations toward the improvement of County boat landings. Annual maintenance is provided in the County budget.

COUNTY CAMPING AREAS

See camping areas on Maps 1 and 3.

There is one designated campground in the Vilas County Forest at Tamarack Springs where picnic tables and fire rings are provided along with vault toilets. A wilderness-type campsite is located on White Spruce Lake. There are also three canoe campsites located along the Wisconsin River, north of Eagle River. No facilities at these sites meet ADA standards.

COUNTY SHOOTING RANGE

There is one shooting range within the Vilas County Forest. See “Private Facilities” on page 48 for the other shooting range listings. The 5-acre range is located in the Town of Conover. The range consists of a parking area, shooting lanes and benches at 10, 25, 50, and 100 yards. A shotgun only area is provided for shooting clay targets. The range is accessible for disabled shooters.

COUNTY SWIMMING BEACHES

Vilas County has three swimming beaches, which are described in Table 7, and shown on Map 3. Eagle Lake Park meets ADA standards.

COUNTY PICNIC AREAS

Vilas County maintains 11 picnic areas in addition to the county parks. Each area is composed of at least one picnic table, while some have fire rings, cooking grills, shelters, and sanitary facilities. Picnic areas area shown on Map 3, and are described in Table 6.

Name	Acres	Fire Ring or Grill	Restrooms	Shelter	Tables	Signs
Buckatabon Creek at WI River	1	1 Ring, 2 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets	1	1	1
Buckatabon Lake Landing**	1	1 Ring			1	1
Cranberry Island	40	1 Ring, 2 Grills	1 bldg		2	
Cook’s Lake**	1					2
Deep Lake**	1	1 Ring			1	
McLeod Lake	1	1 Ring			1	1
River Road at WI River	2	1 Ring	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets		3	2
Rummels Road at WI River	1	1 Ring, 2 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets	1	1	1
Snipe Lake	2	3 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets	1	3	1
Snyder Lake	1				1	1
Tamarack Springs	2	3 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets		3	2

**Disabled accessible pier and pathway.
Blank areas in the above table = none available.
Source: Vilas County Forestry Department

Table 7**County Forest Maintained
Swimming Beaches**

Name	Sq. Ft. of Beach	Tables	Restrooms	Fire Ring or Grill
Hunter Lake	100	6	1 bldg. w/ 2 toilets	2 Rings & 2 Grills
Torch Lake	100	8	1 bldg. w/ 2 toilets	1 Ring & 3 Grills
Eagle Lake	440	24	1 bldg. w/ 3 toilets	1 Ring & 7 Grills

Source: Vilas County Forestry Department

COUNTY PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO WATER BODIES

Public access points to water bodies vary from primitive (ex. canoe launch) to well developed (ex. boat launches). Multiple jurisdictions own the access points while the county maintains the majority. All public access points are shown on Map 3.

Table 8 shows where improved **pan fishing sites** exist within the County Forest.

Picnic sites also exist at some boat landings. See the “picnic areas” descriptions and Table 6 on page 18.

Table 8**Improved Fishing Sites in County Forest,
Panfishing Piers**

Name	Acres	Catwalk/Pier	Restrooms	Boat Landing
Boot Lake	1	6'x24' portable pier		x
Buckatabon Lake	1	5'x16' pier		x
Cook's Lake	1	Catwalk/8'x8' pier		
Deep Lake	1	104' Catwalk & 8'x8' pier		
Lake of the Hills	1	8'x16' pier**		x
Muskellunge Lake	1	6'x24' portable pier		x
Mud Minnow Lake	1	Catwalk		
Snipe Lake	2	Portable pier	1 bldg. w/ 2 toilets	x
Tamarack Flowage	1	8'x16' pier		x
Dr. Oldfield Park	1	8'x16' pier**	1 bldg. w/ 1 toilet	x
Rice Lake	1	8'x16' pier		
Wood Duck Lake	1	8'x16' pier		
Eagle Lake	1	6'x30' portable pier**		x
River Road at WI River	2	Catwalk		(canoe)

**Disabled accessible pier and pathway.

POINTS OF INTEREST

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

Find historical buildings in Vilas County by going online to Wisconsin Historical Society and search under: "Research," then under: "Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory."

Chambers of Commerce throughout Vilas County and the Wisconsin Historical Society assist the public with finding a variety of culturally significant sites on an annual basis.

TOWN & CITY FACILITIES

CITY OF EAGLE RIVER

Riverview Park is a 3.9 acre City owned park located on Division Street along Eagle River. Park facilities include: tennis courts, pickle ball courts, playground, picnic tables, benches, restrooms, band shelter and pavilion.

Riverside Park is a County-owned park that extends from Eagle River to Pine Street (State Highway 70) north and south and Forrest Street to Park Street east to west with Division Street running through the park. The park contains baseball diamonds, bathroom facilities, tennis courts and the Vilas County Fairgrounds.

Forrest Street Boat Landing is located at the end of Forrest Street adjacent to Riverside Park and provides access to the Eagle River. Boat docking and fishing access is also available via a dock that parallels the shore. Limited parking is available along the river while more parking is available in and around Riverside Park.

Silver Lake Beach is 2.1 acre park located on Silver Lake Beach Road. It has a swimming beach with a beach house, playground, picnic area, restrooms, boat dock (not a boat launch), and fishing pier.

Dyer Park is 1.25 acres of park on Hirzel Street that is located along the Eagle River. The **T-Dock** is used for fishing, sitting and docking a boat. A picnic area, bike trail, boat landing, pier, and restrooms all exist here. Picnic and restroom facilities are ADA accessible.

Miller Park is a 1.2 acre park in Eagle River on Minnesota Street that is maintained by the City of Eagle River. Facilities include playground equipment and basketball courts.

Gremban Park is 2.2 acres, fully ADA accessible park located at 525 Maple Street. Park amenities include a T-ball area, skateboard rink, picnic tables, playground, and football field. Restrooms are available during business hours in the adjacent City Hall.

Tuss Pond is a privately owned area in the Town of Lincoln on the south side of STH 70.

Cross Country Ski Trails

During the winter months Trees for Tomorrow and Nordmarka Ski Club groom approximately 4 miles of cross country ski trails throughout the Eagle River Golf Course and behind the Northland Pines School Campus.

Eagle River Golf Course

The Eagle River Golf Course is a four star rated 18 hole golf course providing premier golfing to the Northwood's. This course is owned and operated by the City of Eagle River with approximately 110 acres.

Trees For Tomorrow

Trees For Tomorrow is located on over 35 forested acres on the Eagle River Chain near downtown Eagle River, which includes property under permit from the USDA Forest Service. Trees For Tomorrow is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) natural resources specialty school accredited to place people of all ages in direct contact with the natural resources that humans depend on. Trees For Tomorrow's Interpretive Trail is on the west side of campus almost directly across from the Education Hall, and is open to the public and free to visit. Donations are welcome.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- New Bathroom Facilities in Riverview Park.
- Updated existing shower house, beach piers and fishing pier at Silver Lake Beach.
- Bike Trail through Gremban Park.
- Three Eagle Bike Trail Connecting Eagle River to Three Lakes.
- Streets were designated as bike routes.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

Riverside Park Boat Landing

Improve the landing facility, parking, a boardwalk, fishing pier, and restroom facilities. These improvements will involve land owned by each entity. Facilities will be designed for ADA accessibility, and will serve as a training facility for emergency personnel.

Gremban Park

Bathroom, Pavilion and kitchen facility
Pickle Ball Facility

Northland Pines

Bike/Pedestrian Trail

DOT

STH 45 Bridge needs to meet ADA compliance and become bike/pedestrian safe
STH 70 needs bike/pedestrian trail from Park Street to County H on North side

Riverview Park

Band Shell and Pavilion needs repair

Pedestrian path on North side of STH 70 from 4th Street to Tuss Street

Miller Park

Use *crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)* techniques to reduce crime in the park. Some of the park improvements may include a light, 6-8 foot high fence, new basketball court, bathroom and beautification.

Three Eagle Trail to the Depot (GHT 13) The City of Eagle River Common Council has voted to create this bicycle corridor from the northern terminus of the Three Eagle Trail to the historic Depot. This will create a safe passageway for bicyclists to get to the facilities in the Depot, which was restored to be a bike trail center, as well as access to the commercial shopping center of Eagle River. See GHT map in Attachment J.

Riverview Park to County Road G (part of GHT 7) – In partnership with Great Headwaters Trails, a walking and bicycling route/trail is being planned to connect Riverview Park to the southern terminus (at Adams Rd. and County Road G) of the designated on-road bicycle route from Land O' Lakes to Eagle River. This route/trail would utilize the existing recreation bridge that crosses the Eagle River. See GHT map in Attachment J.

Riverview Park to Torch Lake Park (GHT 6 & 7) – Future plans are to partner with Great Headwaters Trails to connect Riverview Park with Torch Lake Park in the Town of Conover. This will link Eagle River to Conover and Phelps via GHT 1-4. See GHT map in Attachment J.

Riverview Park to St. Germain (GHT 10-12) – Future plans are to partner with Great Headwaters Trails to connect Eagle River to St. Germain via a walking and bicycling trail/route, probably parallel to State Highway 70. See GHT map in Attachment J.

TOWN OF ARBOR VITAE

Brandy Lake Park/Skate Park

Brandy Lake Park is in the Town of Arbor Vitae, but also serves the Town of Woodruff in Oneida County. It is the major public park for the two communities. The park has two ball fields, two soccer fields, tennis courts, shelters, a beach (staffed with paid lifeguards), restrooms, play equipment, volleyball courts, basketball courts, trails, a new disc golf course, open space and a skateboard park. A paved path through the park offers accessibility for the disabled, through accessibility is limited to the shelter and the community building.

Fireman's Community Park

Fireman's Community Park (maintained by the Town Fire Department) is equipped with new play equipment, restrooms, a large pavilion, picnic grounds and band shell.

Big Arbor Vitae Boat Landing and Park

Big Arbor Vitae Park is owned by the Department of Natural Resources but maintained by the Town. Picnic tables, grills, a beach, a boat landing, and restrooms are present at the park.

Boat Landings

The Town owns two boat landings. They are at Lake Towanda and Arrowhead Lake.

Town Bike Trail

A bike trail was recently completed by the Town that links Arbor Vitae-Woodruff School to Brandy Park. The trail extends north along Highway 51, then right on Highway 70 East approximately 500', then through the Plantation Subdivision to the school. Future plans include development of bike trails to connect the town to both St. Germain and Boulder Junction.

Shooting Range

State owned M/SGT. M.W. Caywood Memorial Shooting Range is sponsored by Chapter 256, Vietnam Veterans of America, Minocqua.

Public Golf Course

The scenic 18-hole Trout Lake Golf Club is located 10 miles north of Minocqua on Highway 51.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- Firemans Community Park)
- Tractor race course
- 2-Volleyball courts
- Disc golf course – Brady Park

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

Brandy Lake Park/Skate Park

Future plans include an additional set of restrooms.

TOWN OF BOULDER JUNCTION

Town Park is a 7.88 acre facility located adjacent to the Community Center. Amenities include restrooms, two pavilions, a ball field, basketball courts, two tennis courts, skate park, playground equipment meeting ADA standards, picnic grounds with ADA accessible tables and benches. A 13-mile, paved, ADA accessible, multipurpose trail winds throughout the park.

Winter Park is a 6.9 acre facility with a lighted ice skating rink, warming shelter and benches. A sledding hill and 1 mile of cross country ski trail also exist.

Nichols Lake Beach

This beach contains a picnic area with tables and a pit toilet.

Boat Landings are maintained by the Town at Island Lake and Boulder Lake.

Public Shooting Range is located 4 miles south of town on Nebish Road off County Highway M.

Hike & Bike Trails

Lumberjack Trail – This 12 mile long gravel trail travels through pine forest and wetlands. Trailheads exist on Old Road K and off of Concora Road.

Nichol's Beach Trail – This 3 mile gravel trail starts at the Boulder Junction Chamber of Commerce office and runs to Nichols Lake. There is a picnic area at Nichols Beach.

Crystal Lake Trail – This 11-mile trail is a fully paved asphalt trail. The blacktop trail starts in downtown Boulder Junction, travels past Trout Lake and continues to the Crystal Lake Campground in Sayner. The trail connects with the Plum Lake Trail and continues to the St. Germain Hike & Bike Trail. Together, all three trails form the 23-mile paved Heart of Vilas County Hike & Bike Trail.

Escanaba-Palette Lake Trail – This gravel trail ranges from 2 to 8.5 miles. Take Hwy. M 4 miles south from Boulder Junction. Then turn left onto Nebish Road and go 3.5 miles to the Trailhead. The four trail loops offers hilling, rolling woodlands for hikers.

North Trout Lake Trail – This 1-mile gravel loop is on a peninsula on Trout Lake. It is located four miles south of Boulder Junction on Hwy M.

Fallison Lake Trail – The gravel trail loops range from a 1/2 mile to 2.5 miles. This hilly trail offers wonderful views of Fallison Lake and the surrounding area, and is located across from the Crystal Lake Campground on Hwy N, west of Sayner.

Star Lake Nature & Hiking Trail – This gravel trail features 1 and 2.5-mile loops. It is located on a peninsula extending out into Star Lake. From the intersection of Hwy K and Hwy N in Star Lake, head west on Hwy K to Statehouse Road. When you get to the entrance of the West Star Campground, continue straight ahead.

Tom Roberts Memorial Nature Trail – This is a paved, 0.3 mile, handicapped-accessible, nature trail. The trail links to both the Crystal Lake Trail and the Plum Lake Trail. The trailhead is located off of Hwy N at the Crystal Lake Campground beach. This trail offers hikers views of Muskellunge Lake.

Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest (multiple trails) – These trails offer hundreds of miles of paths, trails and logging roads. Boulder Junction is surrounded by the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. Birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts can also explore the 225,000-acre forest.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- Bike trail extension.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

- Bike trail completion and maintenance and improvements
- Improved and updated playground
- Bathrooms

TOWN OF CLOVERLAND

The Town of Cloverland owns no outdoor recreation facilities, but the recreation plan for the Town of Cloverland includes existing walking, hiking, and hunter trails as well as snowmobile trails. There are bike lanes along County Highway G within the town. Oldenburg Sports Park run by Vilas County on Hwy G; A boat landing picnic area at Snipe Lake, run by the Vilas County; A boat landing picnic area on Range Line Lake run by Vilas County. Boot Lake Road and East Hunter Lake Road in the Town of Cloverland are part of a designated and signed bike route that extends from Land O' Lakes to Eagle River. On the Wisconsin River from Otter Rapids Dam to the Town Line there is canoeing and people floating on the river.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

In the future, The Town of Cloverland intends to support multi-use trails for bicycling, walking and equestrian use. In particular, Cloverland, in partnership with Great Headwaters Trails and the adjoining towns, supports a walking and bicycling trail connecting Eagle River and St. Germain. It is also a vision that we look at constructing a Town of Cloverland park on the property adjacent to the Town Hall. This facility could include a walking /nature trail, picnic tables, grills, swing and slide sets, basketball and volleyball courts, Frisbee golf, and restroom facility.

TOWN OF CONOVER

Conover Town Park is a municipal park located on County Highway K. A heated pavilion exists with inside ADA restroom facilities, full kitchen, intercom system and seating area. A BBQ pit is adjacent to the pavilion for cooking. Additional park amenities include an open air shelter, horseshoe pits, soccer field, concession stand, baseball diamond, playground, fishing pond for kids, and a sledding hill.

Boat Landings

Four boat landings are maintained by the Town on North and South Twin, Pioneer, and Stormy Lakes. There are no restrooms at any of these landings.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- Park year round heated ADA restrooms

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

Conover Town Park

Future plans include additional playground equipment, creating a disk golf course, basketball and tennis courts, expanded parking, upgrading the restroom to flush toilets, installation of a new well, a skating pond, and relocation of the baseball diamond.

Would like to utilize the adjacent County Land next to the Town of Conover property and the Town Park complex and have a lengthy nature trail cut through the forest for mountain biking,

walking, etc. A machine that could do this in just one pass exists at a Conover business. It cuts trees up to 6 inch diameter into mulch and mulches routs etc. below ground level so there is no debris cleanup - leaves a mat comfortable for walking etc.

Conover Town Park to Muskrat Creek Road walking and bicycling trail (GHT-1) – The Town of Conover, in partnership with Vilas County, and Great Headwaters Trails, plans to start construction of this trail in 2014. This is the first segment of the Conover to Phelps Trail. See GHT map in Attachment J.

Muskrat Creek Road to Song Hill Lane walking and bicycling trail (GHT-2) – The Town of Conover plans to partner with the Town of Phelps, Vilas County, and Great Headwaters Trails to construct the second segment of the Conover to Phelps Trail in 2014. See GHT map in Attachment J.

In addition, the Town of Conover, in partnership with Great Headwaters Trails, plans to continue the walking and bicycling trail **from the southern end of GHT-1 to Torch Lake Park (GHT-4 & GHT-5)**. Upon completion of GHT-5 there would be a continuous trail from Torch Lake Park to Phelps. See GHT map in Attachment J.

TOWN OF LAC DU FLAMBEAU

Thunderbird Park is located in the downtown area on Waswagon St, this 2.25 acre park has picnic tables and a pavilion.

Leech Beach is a five acre swimming beach located on tribal lands on Crawling Stone Lake off of Moss Lake Road. A sand beach, picnic tables, grills, and swimming rafts are all available here.

Little Trout Lake

This area on tribal land has been traditionally used as a picnic area and boat landing.

LDF Indian Bowl is an area along the shore of Long Interlaken Lake in downtown Lac du Flambeau that is used for pow wows during the summer. George W Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum & Cultural Center is adjacent to the bowl.

Lac du Flambeau Tribal Campground & Marina

The campground and marina are located on a peninsula of Flambeau Lake that is accessible from State Highway 47 North across from the fish hatchery. Amenities include a beach open to the public for swimming, camping sites, RV parking, full hook-ups, a public boat launch, marina with canoe and motor boat rentals. This facility is under management of the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Fish and Game Department.

Playgrounds are maintained by the Tribe at Cemetery Road, Flambeau Lake, Apt. Area Park, Wildcat Circle, and the school maintains their elementary school playground.

Ross Allen Sr. Pavilion is located behind the Lac du Flambeau Elementary School on State Highway 47. There are tennis and basketball courts, a walking/running track, baseball fields, and a pavilion with picnic tables and a place for concessions.

Sand Beach is a four acre wayside on tribal land off State Highway 47. The Wisconsin historical marker titled: “Lac du Flambeau” is located on this Tribally historical site; which is historic because it overlooks Strawberry Island and Medicine Rock and is on Flambeau Lake. Facilities at this site include a beach, ADA restrooms, picnic tables, and grills.

Bike Trail/Snowmobile Trail

The old Northwestern Railway bed parallel to State Highway 47 offers a wonderful bike/hiking trail in the summer months, and serves as part of the state-funded snowmobile trail system in winter. An additional 17.9 miles of road routes also exist for bicycling.

Boat Landings

There are six boat landings on the reservation including Fence Lake, Trout River on County H, Gunlock Lake, White Sand Lake, Middle Sugarbush Lake, and Little Crawling Stone Lake.

YMCA Camp Nawakwa (private) serves youth groups, retreat groups, church groups, specialty clubs, and has cross country skiing.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

None.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

None.

TOWN OF LAND O' LAKES

Land O' Lakes Memorial Park – This 20 acre park is centrally located west of Chippewa Road. The Town Hall is located next to the park. It includes a pathway leading to the Curt Sparks Pavilion with 19 picnic tables, kitchen, bathrooms, along with the Grubel Ball Field with concession stands, scoreboards, and bleachers. There is an ice skating rink behind the Town Hall.

Rev. Fred I. Babcock Kiddie Park – This 5 acre park has two sets of paved, accessible, recently resurfaced tennis courts and horseshoe pits, children’s slide, swings, child’s train and merry-go-round.

Black Oak Lake Park – This ½ acre park is located five miles west of town on Hwy B. The facility includes a swimming beach, boat landing, picnic tables, drinking water, and restrooms meeting ADA standards. This park also has an accessible, paved pathway.

Boat Landings

The town also maintains boat landings with piers and restrooms at Black Oak Lake, Forest Lake, Palmer Lake, Big Lake, and Big Portage Lake.

Public Shooting Range

The Shooting Range, located west of town adjacent to Cemetery Road, has a rifle range, pistol and shotgun ranges, targets, benches and shelter.

Trails

There is a 1/8 mile ATV trail linking to Michigan, a 12 mile bike/walking trail, a 37 mile road bike loop and 62 miles of snowmobile trail. The bike/hike trail includes a rest station at the intersection of County Highways S and B, with picnic tables, benches, bike rack and signs are also available along the path.

Gateway Golf Course (private)

The 9-hole Gateway Golf Club Inc. is located at the intersection of county Highway B and Highway 45 in town.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- New bike trail, new piers at boat landings, work on Snowflake Ice Rink

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

Land O'Lakes Memorial Park

Future plans include remodeling the concession stand and bathrooms and repair of the fencing at the ballpark, and replacement of the swings and monkey bars at the Town Hall, and completion of the ice rink.

Great Headwaters Trails plans to link Conover to Land O' Lakes with an off-road trail (**GHT 8-9**). See GHT map in Attachment J.

TOWN OF LINCOLN

Boat Landing - The Town of Lincoln maintains a boat launching site at Catfish Lake off Catfish Lake Road. The ramp was renovated in 2007, and the parking lot was expanded in 2002. There is an ADA dock on site.

Hike & Bike Trail - The Three Eagle provides hiking/biking opportunities by connecting Three Lakes to the south to the City of Eagle River via an 8.5 mile corridor. Parking is available at either end of the trail.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- Three Eagle Trail was developed and constructed by a private non-profit group.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

- Develop a Pickle Ball Court.

TOWN OF MANITOWISH WATERS

The Community Park is about seven acres in size. Various recreational items are included in this park such as two tennis courts with rebound board, a paddle ball heated floor court with warming hut, a basketball hoop, golf driving range, baseball diamond with bleachers and back-stop, large picnic shelter and pavilion with benches and paved pathway leading to it, tables, 2 of which are ADA accessible, and serving facilities. There is also an ADA accessible playground with a slide, swings, a rope climbing tower, and other pieces. A hexagonal shelter, picnic tables and benches exist next to the playground. An enclosed pavilion can seat up to 150 people. Adjacent to the playground is an area for a flea market or other outdoor events, a golf driving range, and horseshoe pits, and parking for at least 150 vehicles.

Frank B. Koller Park is 1.62 acres located on Rest Lake adjacent to the village area of Manitowish Waters on Highway W. The Park is fully landscaped as is an adjacent privately owned parcel. There is onsite parking and additional parking available on Hw. W. There are picnic tables, benches, a gazebo, charcoal grills, a small band stand, and Manny, the worlds largest bass (good for photo ops). There are five boat docks, a fishing pier, and a swimming area.

Rest Lake Park is located on 10.7 acres of land with 675 feet of frontage on the west shore of Rest Lake off CTH W. There is a 36' x 50' covered pavilion, a concession stand, picnic tables, charcoal grills, toilets and a hand water pump. There are dock and storage facilities for the Skiing Skeeters. They provide free water ski shows during the summer season. There is a boat launching ramp and dock. There is parking for approximately 100 cars.

Star Lake Park is located on the east end of Star Lake a quarter mile off Hwy 51 on Park Road. There is a marked off swimming area with 200-foot wide sand beach, picnic tables, charcoal grills, a hand water pump, toilet facilities, parking for 20 cars, and boat parking on shore adjacent to the swimming area.

North Lakeland Discovery Center

The Discovery Center is a nonprofit organization committed to the facilitation of connections among nature, people and community. The Center is primarily supported by donations from members, businesses and foundations, through fees for programs and site use, and via grant funding and community wide initiatives. This multi-functional facility provides a gathering place for children, families and adults to explore the region's extraordinary natural, cultural and historic resources.

Visitors can hike, bike, classic ski or snowshoe a 12 mile well maintained trail system that highlights unique northwoods habitats, including the Manitowish River, a bog, lake and upland forest. The trails feature an interpretive trail, 22 station breeding bird signs, and a state of the art bog boardwalk. Other sports related amenities include a volleyball court, and a swimming beach with complimentary on site use of canoes and kayaks.

A new multi use silent sport trail system, the WinMan Trails, are managed by the Discovery Center and are open to the public as of summer 2013. The growing trail system features over 4 miles of single-track mountain biking trails, as well as many miles of classic and skate skiing, and both single and double track groomed snowshoeing. The 1200 acre site is a mix of private and state owned lands, and is working to retain the existing snowmobile corridor. The newly adopted Master Plan for

the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest indicates the possibility of utilizing existing state lands and logging roads to develop trails that can provide a link from Presque Isle through Winchester and into Manitowish Waters for further expansion of a regional trail system.

Hike & Bike Trails

The trail is 7.6 miles from the Community Center to Discovery Center to the North Lakeland Elementary School along CTHs W & K. A small parking lot and picnic tables exist at CTH K and Red Feather Road.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

Frank B. Koller Park The gazebo was recently repainted. The seawall was replaced and a new boat dock was installed in addition to renovation of the existing dock and a walkway connecting the two docks was created. New picnic tables and industrial charcoal grills were installed. A building with flush toilets and changing rooms was also constructed.

The Community Playground An \$85,000 upgrade to the playground was completed including the addition of new equipment with ADA panels & swings, and a hexagon shelter. Unsafe equipment was eliminated. New sidewalks were installed along with 350 cubic yards of clean sand. 6 new picnic tables were installed, 2 of which are child size and 2 are wheelchair accessible. New seating benches for supervision were placed around the playground. Also, the baseball field was renovated and now includes an underground sprinkler system.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

The Community Park

Future plans include extension of a walking trail from the area that would include exercise stations along the trail, and ballfield modifications that include: building dugouts, rebuilding the outfield and adding sprinklers there too.

Frank B. Koller Park

Construct modern restrooms in 2014. A pavilion is planned sometime in the 2014-2019 period.

Rest Lake Park

In 2014 the existing pavilion will be replaced with a new pavilion the will include flush toilets, changing rooms and a concession area. Additional plans include construction of a year round building that can be used for both public and private functions..

Hike & Bike Trails

Construction has begun on the 8.3 mile trail from the North Lakeland School along the Hwy. K corridor to connect with the Boulder Junction trail at Camp Manitowish. This link will be completed in the spring of 2014. In addition we plan on extending the trail south along the Hwy. 51 corridor to our South Town Line. During this time Mercer will be constructing their trail to our North Town Line, and we will connect it to our trail at Tower Road.

TOWN OF PHELPS

Wavering Park

Located on County Highway A on the edge of town, this 17.5 acre park is the main community park in Phelps. Facilities within the park include one hardball and one softball field with backstops, fencing, dugouts, bleachers, scoreboards, and one field has lighting; a soccer field; picnic area with grills and 30 tables; two tennis courts; a playground area on a sand base with lighting, park benches, picnic tables; A sand volleyball court; a war memorial; 12 picnic tables throughout the park; storage shed; two portable toilets; and a house used for storage. All these facilities are ADA accessible. The Park has gravel roads and parking. There are two sets of concession stands attached to the restroom facilities, one at either end of the park.

North Twin Beach

This approximately 1/4 acre beach area is located across from Hackley Circle Drive. Existing facilities include picnic tables with grills, safety fencing and limited parking.

Downtown North Twin Access

This approximately 1/3 acre parcel lies between the downtown commercial area and North Twin Lake to provide public access to the lake. This land is not constructed as a boat landing, but it does provide boat docking to access the commercial area. The site includes a removable dock, picnic tables, grills, benches, and a flagpole. Several seaplane mooring buoys are located near this site too.

North Twin Lake Boat Access

This 1/3 acre boat ramp is heavily used by anglers and other boaters. Current facilities include a boat ramp with asphalt parking, a removable launch pier, restrooms, and picnic table.

Smoky Lake Boat Access

This town maintained boat ramp is about 1/3 acre in size. Facilities include a concrete pad ramp with asphalt drive boat landing, gravel parking area, picnic shelter, five picnic tables, and two grills.

Long Lake Boat Access

This town maintained boat ramp is about 1/8 acre in size. Amenities include a concrete pad ramp with asphalt drive boat landing, a roll-in type removable launch pier, picnic table and grill, and picnic shelter.

Kentuck Lake Boat Access

On the west shore of Kentuck Lake is this 1/8 acre boat ramp. Amenities include a boat ramp with limited parking.

Manuel Lake Boat Access

A sand access point exists on this lake for basic public access to the lake for fishing or to carry in a boat or canoe.

The Range

This gun and bow range is located on 40 acres off Highway 17 east of Phelps by Long Lake. The Range offers shooting lanes for 25, 50, 100, and 200 yards. There are shooting benches, an outhouse with a weather shelter, and gravel road with grass parking.

Cross-country Ski Trail

This three mile trail exists on Nicolet National Forest land and links with Afterglow Resort; all of this trail system is open and free for public use. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest and the Town allows the Town to maintain and groom the trail.

Boat Landings

The Town currently maintains 4 public boat landings. Future plans for the landings include improvements on a 10 year revolving schedule. The landings are located at Kentuck Lake (Kentuck Lake Landing Road), Smokey Lake & Long Lake (both off Highway 70 east of town), and North Twin Lake (off Highway 17 at south end of town). The landings provide restrooms or an outhouse, and all are ADA accessible except for Long Lake. All landings were completely renovated within the past few years, including new concrete pads, and improved roadways and restroom facilities.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- Installed three seaplane mooring buoys near the downtown North Twin Lake access site.
- Completed about 22 miles of Vista Lake biking trails as part of the Phelps Trail System, in partnership with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

2014

- Town of Phelps supports the Vilas County Highway Department to pave 5-foot shoulders on CTH K from Song Hill Lane to CTH E.

2014-2019

- Town of Phelps supports completion of the multi-use hiking, biking, and snowmobile trail on the Vilas County rail corridor to the junction of Song Hill Ln and CTH K. The Town also supports a trailhead for parking, along with improvements at the Song Hill Ln and CTH K intersection.
- Work with Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to create 5 additional trail areas.

TOWN OF PLUM LAKE

Melvin & Emma Long Memorial Park is 2.14 acres that are used as a trailhead for the Razorback Ridge Trail system. Amenities include an ice skating rink; picnic area; and a heated & insulated year round building with ADA accessible restrooms, a warming house, workshop space, and storage for the trail grooming equipment.

Sayner Recreation Building & Playground

Several acres of land surrounding the Town Hall within Sayner have been extensively developed and maintained by the Town for outdoor recreation. Facilities located at this park area are ADA

accessible and include the following:

- A lighted ballpark with fencing, concession stand, dugouts, 4 sets of bleachers, and scoreboard.
- A lighted outdoor basketball court with breakaway hoops and safety fencing along the roadway.
- A picnic shelter building 60 feet by 100 feet with 9 full-size picnic tables, 6 picnic tables, 4 fold-up tables, and electric outlets.
- A barbecue shelter with large barbecue pits and electrical hookups for cooking.
- Fenced trout pond for 4th of July.
- Outdoors pit toilets.
- Two tennis courts with perimeter fencing, nets and 2 benches/practice court.
- A playground area with two seating shelters, a youth (8-foot) basketball hoop, two picnic tables, seven swings, a slide unit, two spring horses, a merry-go-round, horizontal bars, and monkey bars.

In addition to these outdoor recreation facilities, a large indoor recreation activity building is also located at this site. This facility features an indoor basketball court, kitchen area, drinking fountain and restrooms.

Old Mill Site Town Park is several acres of parkland adjacent to the Western Star Lake State Forest Campground facility. The facilities consist of a gravel road access to the point area, a picnic shelter building of about 48' x 64', and playground equipment. The grassy park also provides an ADA accessible fishing pier, swimming access to Star Lake, a picnic area, and restrooms.

Plum Lake Public Pier & Boat Landing

A popular paved boat launching area and pier is located on a small parcel (about 1/4 acre) near the Sayner community center area. The Town owns this ADA accessible facility. Area children often use the pier for swimming as well.

Statehouse Point Boat Access and Water-ski Park

This area consists of a couple of acres of land on Plum Lake maintained by the Town. A paved boat launch with concrete ramps, launching pier and informational sign is extensively used. Outdoor pit toilets (ADA accessible) and a public pier are located at the park. The Plum Ski-ers water-ski club conducts regular shows at this area during the summer season. The water-ski club has constructed a storage building for their equipment, a changing house for the show, bleachers, and a ski jump.

Warner's Pier & Trail

This site is located along Hwy. N about one mile west of Sayner. The facility consists of a marked parking lot and a trail that leads to a public fishing pier. The pier is constructed on old railroad track pilings.

Razorback Ridges Trail System

Located two miles west of Sayner, this trail system consists of about 30 miles of brushed and mowed mountain bike trails, and approximately 18 miles of groomed and tracked cross-country ski trails. The majority of the ski trail loops are groomed and tracked for both diagonal stride and ski skating techniques. The system was developed and is maintained by the Sayner-Star Lake Lions Club under

a cooperative land use agreement with the DNR. Upkeep of the trail system depends upon private donations, Lions Club fundraising and numerous volunteer hours. The Town Board has provided financing assistance for ski grooming equipment. Trail maps are printed by the Lions Club with funding provided by paid advertisements from local businesses.

Hike & Bike Trails

In addition to the bike trails at Razorback Ridge, there are approximately 4 miles of paved bike trail from Crystal Lake Campground on Old County N to Froelich Drive in Sayner. Bike trail continues on town roads to connect with St Germain Bike Trail.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- Re-built Public Pier (2012).
- Built new park honoring Veterans in front of Town Hall.
- Replace pier deck on Warner's Pier
- Monitoring boat landings/lakes for invasive species.
- Playground equipment added at Star Lake Picnic Point park.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

Sayner Recreation Building & Playground

Future plans include ADA compliant toilets at the ball park.

Old Mill Site Town Park

Future plans include extension of handicap accessible fishing pier to compensate for lower water levels.

Expand Bike Trail System

- Develop an asphalt paved bike trail system to link Sayner with Boulder Junction's paved trail, then expand to link with other communities including St. Germain, Arbor Vitae, and Eagle River.

TOWN OF PRESQUE ISLE

Please refer to the Town of Presque Isle's 2013-2018 Open Space Plan for more detailed information.

Presque Isle Community Park is a 53 acre park that also includes Historic Shanty Boy Hill Cemetery and the Presque Isle Historical Society facility. Entrance signs to the park welcome visitors to the asphalt parking area. The picnic areas include two shelters: one is a closed shelter (the Community Center) with a kitchen, restrooms, and storage area. The other is an open log shelter. Two grills are provided, along with fifteen picnic tables. Existing pit restrooms meet ADA requirements. Recreational facilities include: playground equipment with safety materials, four lighted horseshoe courts, two lighted volleyball courts, two soccer fields, two softball diamonds, two basketball goals, a sledding hill, ice skating area, and a canoe landing at Stateline Lake. Trails include: a nature trail with a footbridge meeting ADA guidelines, an established brushed and marked cross-country ski trail, routed snowmobile trail, and snowshoe trail.

Pipke Park is an 84 acre park that was established in 2012 with funding from the state Stewardship Grant program. Located on County Highway W just west of County Highway B, the new park's signature feature is a 2,160 square foot shelter building and pavilion designed for year round use. The building is equipped with central heating for winter months, overhead doors that can be raised in the summer for cross ventilation, a potable water system, sanitary on site waste water disposal system, and restrooms. A central meeting and picnic area within the structure can hold eight six-person picnic tables.

Adjacent to the shelter building are amenities including a barbeque grill, outdoor picnic tables, a swimming and wading area along the shore of the south rearing pond, a path that is ADA accessible leading to a fishing pier also ADA equipped, and a parking area. In winter, ice skaters and ice fishers may access the south pond from the heated shelter building.

Surrounding the south pond is a three-quarter mile multi-use trail for hikers, birders, bicyclists, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers. The north rearing pond features a hiking, snowshoe, cross-country ski trail that is an additional three-quarters of a mile in length.

Four physical fitness stations have been installed along the three-quarter mile path surrounding the south pond.

Residents and taxpayers of Presque Isle, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, have cooperated to convert a former profitable logging and lumber processing facility into a significant public multi-use recreational site named Pipke Park.

Sensenbrenner Park is a one acre park established in 1988 on Little Horsehead Lake. Amenities include an open shelter, playground equipment, a pier for shore fishing, picnic tables, a grill, waste containers, and park benches.

Wilderness Park is 10 acres located on Presque Isle Lake off Bay View Road. Amenities include

asphalt parking lot, ADA accessible boat launch, picnic area with tables, grills, water pump, and ADA accessible restrooms. Four shoreland erosion sites were located in the park and were restored cooperatively with the County Land & Water Department in 2011.

Town Boat Landings

The Town owns and maintains the following public access points to water bodies. No town boat landings meet ADA guidelines except the landing at Wilderness Park on Presque Isle Lake.

- **Annabelle Lake** - located in the northwest section of the town and can be reached off highway B. It has a black top landing approach.
- **Crab Lake** – located on Town Dock Road, off Crab Lake Road.
- **Little Horsehead Lake** - located on the northwest part of town; this landing is black top and has a dock.
- **Mud Lake** - can be found on the east side of Highway B; this canoe landing has a gravel launch area and a fishing pier.
- **Lynx Lake** - located in the north central section of the town off Highway B; anglers and canoeists can use concrete planks on gravel to launch.
- **Easement to Cathaline Lake** - located in the northwest section of the town off old W; this landing is a dirt approach.
- **Presque Isle Lake off Hwy P** - has an asphalt approach and a dock.
- **Wilderness Park on Presque Isle Lake** – located off Bay View Road on Presque Isle Lake, is an improved landing.
- **Stateline Lake** - has a canoe landing at the Community Park.

DNR Boat Landings

The following public access points to water bodies are owned and maintained by the DNR.

- **Anne Lake** – A trail leads to the lake and is used quite heavily for portaging canoes.
- **Blue Bill Lake** – Undeveloped but landing is used.
- **Big Lake** – Campground, beach and improved landing available.
- **Little Crab** – Landing available.
- **Horsehead** – Improved ADA accessible landing available.
- **Mabel** – Landing available.
- **Oxbow Lake** – Landing available.
- **Papoose Lake** – Improved landing available.
- **Red Bass** – Unimproved landing available (Two telephone poles).
- **Round** – Improved landing available.
- **Van Vliet Lake** – Improved ADA accessible landing available.
- **Wildcat** – Improved landing available.

Canoe Trails

The Last Wilderness Conservation Association established 12 canoe trails. Maps and flyers of the trails are available at the Presque Isle Chamber office.

- Presque Isle River
- Presque Isle River North
- Crab Lake to Town

- Oxbow-Annabelle-Crab
- East Branch Presque Isle River
- West Branch Presque Isle River
- Palmer-Tenderfoot & Creek
- High Lake-Fish Trap Lake-Manitowish River
- Turtle Chain
- Harris Lake-Creek
- Birch Lake-Tamarack Lake-Rainbow Lake and Creek
- Moosehead Lake-Little Presque Isle Lake and Creek

Bike Trails

- 20-Mile Bike Loop Route – This route is a straight “there and back” which originates at the Town Hall parking lot and extends to Birch Lake boat landing in Winchester. A combination of paved shoulders along CTH W and lightly traveled town roads make up this route. A ¾-mile loop exists around Pipke Park South Pond on compacted gravel that connects to this route.
- 18 Mile Town Bike Route – The Town had laid out the route for this trail to connect Presque Isle to Manitowish Waters and are in the process of applying for DNR and DOT monies to develop the trail.
- The town established a bike route to tie into the Pomeroy/Henry Ottawa National Park mountain bike trail making it a 127 mile bike course.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

PI = Presque Isle

Wilderness Park Erosion Remediation/Control Project was accomplished with a grant from Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Dept., and as a cooperative effort with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the PI Park Committee, the PI Beautification Committee and additional local volunteers. The project included these features: Replacement pier donated/installed by Team Retreat; walkway constructed to shoreline (access point); installed erosion control landscaping with engineered grade improvements, professionally selected native plantings, engineered irrigation system, installed deer fence to protect plantings, and installed signage as an educational tool to advise residents of the erosion problems.

The highly successful Kid’s Fishing Project is conducted annually by the Presque Isle Lions.

The Presque Isle Beautification Committee completed the Landscaping project at the entrance to the Evergreen Cemetery and continues to monitor the area.

Pipke Park, Phase I (former site of the DNR Walleye Rearing Ponds) was completed. Funding for the project was provided through a DNR Stewardship Grant and residents of the town of Presque Isle. These are some of the features included in this project: A community contest was conducted to name the park. Construction of a year-round shelter building with parking spaces, picnic tables and barbeque grill area; a multi-use trail around South Pond; handicapped accessible path to pier; installation of four physical fitness stations and benches around the perimeter of South Pond. Bike/snowmobile compatible trail constructed around the South

Pond in Pipke Park with a donation from PI Pedalers Bicycle Club; signage needed for the multi-use trails was coordinated with the snowmobile club, Sno-Bunnies, and Vilas County.

The PI Town Lakes Committee designed new kiosks which were installed at 8 boat landings (4 Town of PI and 4 DNR) with DNR grant funds awarded to the Town Lakes Committee and built by local volunteers.

The PI Town Lakes Committee developed a curriculum for youth Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) education which has been accepted by the DNR and is currently in use within their programs.

Presque Isle Beautification Committee applied for and was awarded “Bird City” status for the town. Plantings to attract and sustain birds have begun and will continue.

The Presque Isle Historical Society has completed two projects. Members have interviewed and edited oral histories of the town to a DVD for sale and distribution. There is also a Children’s Garden planted and maintained, near the cottage, by the Historical Society and Beautification Committee.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

Year	Project	Location
2013	Complete Phase 1 Grant Requirements	Pipke Park
	Apply for Phase 2 Grant	Pipke Park
	Additional Bike Trail Signage	Bike Trails
	Maintenance and Staining of Log Pavilion	Community
	Install new Wilderness Park Shoreline Restoration Site sign	Wilderness
	Ice Rink Lighting	Pipke Park
	Plan and promote mulch and compost station	Transfer Station Site
	Consider composting outdoor toilet system	High P Boat Landing
2014	Maintenance and Staining Nature Trail Sign	Community
	Maintenance and Staining Nature Trail Bridge	Community
2015	Replace windscreens at ball diamonds	Baseball Diamonds
2016	Ball diamond lights	Baseball Diamonds
	Disc Golf	To be determined
2017	Consider extending trail system by combining Nature Trail with Pipke Park trail (crossing Hwy W)	Community/Pipke Park
	Plan and promote community raised gardens at old town garage site or another site	Community or to be determined
2018	Consideration for golf course	To be determined

TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

Lost Lake Park is a two acre facility located on the north side of Lost Lake. Park facilities include a baseball field and a shelter.

Downtown Park

This six acre park facility is located east of the St. Germain Elementary School. Facilities at the site consist of two baseball fields (one has lights, bleachers and a scorer's booth), two shelters, two soccer fields, playground equipment, two tennis courts, restroom facilities and a walking trail connecting the park to the adjacent elementary school.

St. Germain Golf Course – 18-hole golf course, practice range, putting and chipping green, practice bunker, and full-service golf shop.

Public Access

Boat landings are located at Lost Lake, Big St. Germain Lake and the West Bay of Little St. Germain Lake.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- Extension of bike/hike trail from the Visitor Center east to CTH O.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

Plans have been proposed to connect the St. Germain bike/hike trail to Eagle River, where the Three Eagle Trail comes in from the south and there are trails planned that will come into Eagle River from the north. (This would be GHT 10-12. See GHT map in Attachment J.).

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

Deerskin Lake Boat Landings

The Town maintains one boat landing at Deerskin Lake. There are 2 boat landings, but only one has a pier.

Hike/Bike Trails

The Town currently has no trails.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

We made available a children's sledding hill at our transfer station property on Rangeline Rd. open to all. Publicized this opportunity locally and this hill has done well the past two winters.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

Bike & Hike Trails

The Town currently has no trails; however, future plans may include bike/hike trails to connect to neighboring communities.

TOWN OF WINCHESTER

Winchester Community Park

Located on Townsite Road along the Turtle River, this facility includes new picnic tables, grills, 2 ADA pavilions, basketball and volleyball courts, playground equipment, an ADA fishing pier, and ADA restrooms. One of the pavilions was erected in 2004 by the Town and Winchester Lions. It contains a food prep area with appliances donated by the Lake Association. A sandbox was installed in spring 2008.

Winchester Memorial Garden

The 75' x 100' garden is located adjacent to the Community Building and has benches for seating.

Public Boat Landings

The Town owns and maintains boat landings at South Turtle Lake (new paving in 2007), Harris Lake, Birch Lake, Rock Creek, and Noseeum Lake.

Bike & Hike Trails

There are currently no trails; however, the planning process is underway for a trail to connect to Presque Isle via County Highway W right-of-way and town roads.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- Installed refreshment building with walk-in cooler.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

Winchester Community Park

Future plans include adding:

- Fireman's game area, an ice skating rink, additional landscaping, additions to the pavilion, and roofed outdoor grill building.

Public Boat Landings

Future plans include new boat docks at the 3 main boat landings (Turtle, Harris, and Birch), boat launch improvements including placement of picnic tables, grills, and landscaping improvements. Also long-term planning includes new docks.

Bike & Hike Trails

Future plans include adding a trail to connect Winchester to Presque Isle via County Highway W right-of-way and town roads.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Vilas County has four school districts within its boundaries. Each of the school districts provides additional local recreation opportunities as itemized in Table 9, and available to the public during non-school times unless otherwise listed at each property or on each school’s communications with the community.

Table 9									
School District Recreation Facilities									
School	B-Ball Courts	Ball Field	Play Area	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	School Forest	Play Equip	Track
Northland Pines Elem	X		X		X			X	
Northland Pines MS	3								
Northland Pines HS	4	4	X	2	2	2 indoor	X		X
NP Land O'Lakes Elem	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Phelps Elem & Jr.	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Phelps HS	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Conserve School	5	2			1		1200 acres		
Christ Lutheran			X						
NP St. Germain Elem	X		X		X			X	
North Lakeland Elem	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elem	2	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Lac du Flambeau Elem	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

STATE FACILITIES

Northern Highland American Legion State Forest (NHAL)

Established in 1925 to protect the headwaters of the Wisconsin, Flambeau and Manitowish rivers, the Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest occupies more than 232,000 acres in northern Wisconsin. The forest provides employment and economic support to rural and urban communities through the production of forest products, recreation and tourism.

The NHAL Forest occupies 26.4% of the total land area in Vilas County. Miles of hiking trails, nature trails, sandy beaches, and several state campgrounds are available to the public. Refer to Map 1 for campground general locations.

See full property maps in Attachment H. Trails itemized in Table 10 on page 43. Snowmobile trails also exist, but are administered by County Forestry Department. No ATVs are allowed on the NHAL State Forest.

There are 4 **modern family campgrounds** totaling 351 sites. Crystal Lake, Big Musky, Firefly and Clear Lake campgrounds have a total of 351 sites. These campgrounds have paved roadways, flush toilets and showers but no electrical hookups. There are also hand-pumped water and pit toilets throughout these campgrounds. Clear Lake and Crystal Lake campgrounds have dump stations.

The NHAL has 14 **rustic campgrounds** totaling 513 campsites. These sites may be occupied up to 14 nights per visit. Indian Mounds is the only rustic family campground that has reservable sites.

There are 2 **group campgrounds** with space for up to 80 campers at each location. These campgrounds, at Jag Lake and North Muskellunge Lake, are equipped with pit toilets and hand pumps for drinking water. Group campgrounds provide an important camping opportunity for large groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and church groups to have a rustic camping experience while not affecting other campers. Jag Lake is a tent only group camp.

Canoe campsites are accessible by water, and stays are limited to one night. There are currently 74 canoe campsites located on more than 20 lakes and rivers across the NHAL. Sites are marked with yellow signs displaying a tent. No campsites reservations accepted. No fee is required. Trash must be packed out. A maximum of six people are allowed per campsite.

Remote-reservable campsites are on Allequash, Day, Nebish, Clear Lakes and in the Bittersweet Wild Lakes Area. They are accessible only by water. These sites may be occupied up to 14 nights per visit. Regular nightly camping fees apply. These sites may be reserved from May 1 through Labor Day. After Labor Day these sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A maximum of six people are allowed per campsite. The NHAL has 17 remote-reservable primitive campsites.

The Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest has an outstanding **nature center at the Crystal Lake Campground** picnic area that includes a variety of educational displays and activities for the entire family. Within the NHAL, there are also **five interpretive trails** for those who would like to take a self-guided tour of the forest landscape. The trails traverse varied terrain and expose visitors to a wide range of natural habitats.

Bicycling – Except for the nature trails, Fallison, Trout Lake, Star Lake and Raven's yellow loop, biking is allowed on all roads and trails. This amounts to hundreds of miles of biking opportunities. Designated mountain bike trails require a state trail pass which can be purchased by self-registering at the trail heads. Trails designated for biking are McNaughton, Madeline and Lumberjack. Also see **North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails**, and **Razorback Ridges Trails**.

Cross Country Ski – The NHAL has four beautifully tracked and wonderfully scenic cross-country ski trails: Escanaba, Madeline, McNaughton and Raven. State trail passes are required for these trails. Because they are tracked, snowshoes, hiking and pets are not allowed on these trails in winter.

The Lumberjack and Powell trails are great for skiing. These trails are not groomed, but because they are popular, many times a trail may have already been broken. Also see **North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails**, and **Razorback Ridges Trails**.

Hiking & Snowshoeing

Hiking is a good way to get close to nature and understand your natural environment a little better. In addition to our four nature trails, the NHAL has seven other trails designated for hiking. There are also hundreds of miles of old logging roads, less traveled town roads, forest access roads and snowmobile trails that offer good hiking.

In addition to our winter trails, Lumberjack and Powell, the parking lots at Fallison, North Trout and Star Lake Nature Trails are kept plowed to provide ample opportunities. For those that don't require a trail, the possibilities are endless. But please remember, no snowshoeing on groomed and tracked ski trails. Also see **North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails**, and **Razorback Ridges Trails**.

Equestrian Trails – There are no designated equestrian trails on the state forest. However, there are many places people can ride within the property such as public roads, old logging roads and snowmobile trails when not snow covered.

There are a few things to keep in mind when horseback riding in the NHAL. Horses are not allowed in any campground, beach, designated hiking or nature trail or contrary to other posted notices.

Hunting is permitted on the forest and hunters are reminded to check their regulations for open seasons and contact forest headquarters to confirm open areas. Hunting is not allowed within 100 yards of any state campground, picnic area or other special use area designated by posted notice.

North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails

Enjoy hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing and wildlife watching along the 12-mile trail system in the NHAL in Manitowish Waters. Trails are open to everyone from dawn to dusk. Donations for trail maintenance & upkeep appreciated. Suggested donation \$5/adults \$2/children. Dogs welcome on ski (ungroomed) and snowshoe trails. See trail maps in Attachment I.

Razorback Ridges Ski & Mountain Bike Trails provides 12 miles of trails, which are maintained by the Lions Club on forest property. Razorback Ridges is located two miles west of Sayner at the intersection of Hwy N and Razorback Rd.














Table 10	NHAL Trails
	North Trout Nature Trail (1 mile)
	Fallison Nature Trail (4 miles)
	Raven Nature Trail (1.5 miles)
	Star Lake Nature Trail (2.5 miles)
	Tom Roberts Nature Trail (.55 mile)
	Escanaba Trail (11 miles)
	Madeline Trail (9.5 miles)
	Raven Trail (11 miles)
	McNaughton Trail (10 miles)
	Lumberjack Trail (12.5 miles)
	Powell Trail (8.5 miles)
	Shannon Trail (7 miles)

Table 10 Legend

	Ski Trail		Pets Allowed
	Hiking Trail		Snowshoe Trail
	Nature Trail		Mobility Impaired Access
	Biking Trail		

See full property maps in Attachment H. Snowmobile trails also exist, but are administered by County Forestry Department. No ATVs are allowed on the NHAL State Forest.

State Fishery Areas

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

The following fishery area is owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Department of Natural Resources:

- ***Plum Creek Fishery Area***

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:

- ***Powell Marsh Wildlife Area*** is a 4,303 acre area located in the Town of Lac du Flambeau. The Wildlife Area provides significant, local wildlife-based recreation, particularly waterfowl hunting and birding opportunities. Management emphasizes habitat for waterfowl and species that require open wetland and grassland habitat. A combination of prescribed fire, hand cutting, mowing and shearing is used to limit the growth of shrubs and tamarack, while increasing the abundance of grasses and sedges.

State Natural Areas (SNA)

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

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

- Most SNAs are open to the public year around unless otherwise noted in the SNA site descriptions or posted at the site. SNAs within State Parks are generally open between 6:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M.
- Please recognize and respect the property of private landowners adjacent to SNAs by not trespassing. Seek the landowner's permission before crossing private lands.
- Do not collect plants (including fruits, nuts, or edible plant parts), animals, fungi, rocks, minerals, fossils, archaeological artifacts, soil, downed wood, or any other natural material, alive or dead. Collecting for scientific research requires a permit issued by the DNR.
- Vehicles, including bicycles, ATVs, aircraft, and snowmobiles, are prohibited except on trails and roadways designated for their use. Access is only by foot, skis, snowshoes, and

watercraft. Some trails are wheelchair accessible.

- Pets are allowed on most DNR-owned SNAs, but must be kept on a leash no longer than 8', unless they are dogs being used for hunting purposes. Pets are prohibited on sites owned by The Nature Conservancy and most other private conservation organizations. Horseback riding is not allowed.
- Camping and fires are generally prohibited.
- Rock climbing and rappelling are prohibited, except on SNAs #98 and #164.
- Fishing, trapping, and hunting are allowed on most DNR-owned properties in accordance with state regulations.

The Department of Natural Resources listed the following areas within Vilas County:

CNNF = Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

NHAL = Northern Highland American Legion (State Forest)

1. **Allequash Lake and Pines SNA (No.508)** is 398 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
2. **Anvil Lake Trail SNA (No. 449)** is 980 acres located in the CNNF.
3. **Aurora Lake SNA (No. 127)** is 250 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
4. **Beaver Creek SNA (No. 478)** is 697 acres located in the CNNF.
5. **Bittersweet Lakes SNA (No. 34)** is 1,070 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
6. **Black Tern Bog SNA (No. 49)** is 26 acres located in the Town of Arbor Vitae.
7. **Blackjack Springs SNA (No. 308)** is 1,395 acres located in the CNNF.
8. **Border Lakes SNA (No. 411)** is 2,383 acres located in the Town of Presque Isle.
9. **Camp Lake and Pines SNA (No. 506)** is 243 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
10. **Chippewa Trail SNA (No. 440)** is 897 acres located in the CNNF.
11. **Day Lake SNA (No. 189)** is 209 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
12. **Devine Lake and Mishonagon Creek SNA (No. 507)** is 1,186 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
13. **Dunn Lake SNA (No. 237)** is 954 acres located in the Town of Presque Isle.
14. **Haymeadow Creek SNA (No. 479)** is 957 acres located in the CNNF.
15. **Headwater Lakes SNA (No.)** is 2,893 acres located in the CNNF.
16. **Johnson Lake Barrens and Springs SNA (No. 107)** is 1,125 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
17. **Kentuck Lake SNA (No. 442)** is 291 acres located in the CNNF.
18. **Lake Alva Birch-Hemlock SNA (No. 509)** is 314 acres in the NHAL State Forest.
19. **Lake Laura Hardwoods SNA (No. 500)** is 852 acres in the NHAL State Forest.
20. **Lost Canoe SNA (No. 108)** is 1,119 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
21. **Mary Lake SNA (No. 264)** is 44 acres located in the Town of Presque Isle.

22. **Nixon Lake SNA (No. 186)** is 737 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
23. **Trout Lake Conifer Swamp SNA (No. 21)** is 25 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
24. **Papoose Creek Pines SNA (No. 503)** is 563 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
25. **Pat Shay Lake SNA (No. 446)** is 736 acres located in the CNNF.
26. **Plum Lake Hemlock Forest SNA (No. 26)** is 747 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
27. **Rice Creek SNA (No. 504)** is 435 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
28. **Spruce Grouse Swamp SNA (No. 540)** is 400 acres located in the Town of Conover.
29. **Toy Lake Swamp SNA (No. 22)** is 2,308 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
30. **Trout River SNA (No. 505)** is 108 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
31. **Upper Buckatabon Springs SNA (No. 609)** is 279 acres located in the Town of Conover.

State Waysides

There are a total of 4 waysides in Vilas County. The waysides provide attractive picnicking and relaxation areas for travelers and are maintained by the County Highway Commission with funds from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Table 11 lists waysides and their facilities.

Location	Town	Acres	Facilities
STH 17 & 70	Lincoln	4.1	Picnicking & Restrooms
USH 45 at state line	Land O' Lakes	4.8	Picnicking & Restrooms
USH 51, 3mi N of CTH N, Diamond Lk.	Arbor Vitae	1.6	Picnicking & Restrooms
USH 70, 1.7mi W of St Germain	St Germain	5.0	Picnicking & Restrooms

Source: WisDOT

FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE OWNED

Private forested lands have been enrolled in the Forest Crop Law and can be enrolled in the Managed Forest Law to reduce property taxes in exchange for allowing specific public uses on the land. The Forest Crop Law closed enrollment on January 1, 1986. A landowner may now enroll their land into Managed Forest Law. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources administers these programs, but no land is owned by the state under these programs.

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) and Managed Forest Law there are 18,317 **open** acres in 2013. There are 20,961 acres that are **closed** under Managed Forest Law (MFL) as of 2013. Much of MFL lands are available to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking. Make sure the land is listed as open. 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. Unless the property owner allows their use, bicycling, snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles are prohibited on enrolled lands that are open to the public.

FEDERAL FACILITIES

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Out of more than 1.5 million total acres of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Vilas County contains 54,504 acres within its boundaries, or 9% of its total area. Part of the Chequamegon side of the forest and part of the Nicolet side of the forest both exist in Vilas County, and are shown on Map 1.

Nicolet Side of National Forest

The larger area is found on the eastern side of the County, in the Towns of Phelps, Conover, and Washington. This area is located in the Eagle River-Florence Ranger District totaling 48,017 acres. There are four campgrounds within this area. Lac Vieux Desert has 31 campsites, picnic areas, a boat ramp, and a swimming area. Spectacle Lake has 34 campsites with a disabled access fishing pier. Boat ramp, swimming area, and trail for hiking. Kentuck Lake has 31 campsites, a boat ramp, and a 2 1/2-mile trail that joins the Spectacle Lake hiking trail. Anvil Lake has 18 campsites with a picnic area, a boat ramp, fishing pier (meeting ADA standards), swimming area, and 12 mile trail for hiking, mountain biking and cross country skiing. There is also the Phelps skiing/hiking trail that is one mile in length.

Within this portion of the National Forest is Blackjack Springs Wilderness. This is the only Congressionally-designed Wilderness in Vilas County. It totals 5,886 acres (1% of Vilas County). Motorized use of any kind is prohibited, and no timber harvest or other type of vegetation treatment is allowed unless there is a public safety threat or concern. Camping is allowed in this area and no special permits are required. Hiking, fishing, canoeing, and cross-country skiing are popular activities in this vicinity.

Chequamegon Side of National Forest

The smaller portion of the National Forest in Vilas County contains 6,487 acres, and exists on the west edge of the County. All of this land is located in the Town of Lac du Flambeau, and is part of the Medford-Park Falls Ranger District. There are two campgrounds within this portion. Lake Emily campground on the southern end of the lake has 11 campsites and a picnic area. Wabasso Lake has three campsites with picnic sites and a boat landing. There is also a carry-in boat access site on Squaw and Favil Lake.

PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Private facilities are listed for reference purposes to provide a comprehensive overview of all outdoor recreation in Vilas County. 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.

Private Golf Courses

Vilas County has seven privately operated golf courses located throughout the county.

Private Campgrounds

There are 32 private campgrounds and 2,370 campsites in Vilas County. Many are located on lakes with boat launching facilities.

Shooting Ranges are described under each town, and sometimes have a public-private partnership to maintain the facilities:

- M.W. Caywood Memorial Shooting Range - Arbor Vitae
- Boulder Junction Shooting Range
- Land O' Lakes Shooting Range
- Phelps Shooting Range

Chapter 4

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the county have been identified with input from: 1) public input – informally, survey results; 2) facility assessment; and 3) a review of past plans – including the Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Informal Public Input

Vilas County Forestry Department staff continuously receives public input from users about its parks and forest resources. Valuable input for this report came from these interactions.

Survey to Outdoor Recreation & Lake Groups in Vilas County (Fall 2012)

The survey and results are in Attachment E.

The survey was conducted by NCWRPC in the fall of 2012 to identify outdoor recreation issues in Vilas County for the countywide outdoor recreation plan, 2014-2019. Excellent participation occurred and issues were identified.

115 surveys were mailed or emailed directly to lake group contacts on-record with the Vilas County Land & Water Department. Chambers of commerce in Vilas County also advertised the online survey link. A great response of 144 surveys were completed online and via mail.

This survey is not statistically accurate, because anyone could take the survey. 12 recreational groups replied as groups (motorized, non-motorized, and lake assoc.), but their members may also have completed surveys as individuals.

Survey to Towns & City in Vilas County (Summer 2013)

The survey and results are in Attachment F. Survey results are also on next page.

Towns and the City of Eagle River all received a **survey** and a **questionnaire** in the summer of 2013. The **survey** was accompanied with a meeting announcement poster and instructions for the community to consider completing the survey during a publicly posted meeting for public input. The **questionnaire** listed all the park descriptions of that community for them to edit, along with asking what they have accomplished and what they were planning on improving over the next five years.

Questionnaire responses were used to update park descriptions in Chapter 3.

Survey results were summarized by NCWRPC:
Only question #2 was summarized.

Each town and the City of Eagle River was asked to complete the attached survey in a publicly posted meeting. The following communities returned surveys: City of Eagle River, and the Towns of Arbor Vitae, Boulder Junction, Conover, Land O' Lakes, Plum Lake, Presque Isle, Washington, and Winchester.

The Towns of Boulder Junction and Conover both provided a survey from each town board member (3 per town). The Town of Presque Isle provided 25 surveys, because they opened up the survey for each resident to pick up and return. NCWRPC summarized each batch of surveys separately by community to produce 1 survey.

Only this question (#2) was summarized:

“What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Vilas County?”

- 5 responses – Have bike/multi-use (non-motorized) trails connect to others.
- 3 responses – Need fish stocking/no bag limits.
- 3 responses - Develop and maintain access to lakes, boat landings, campsites, and beaches.
- 2 responses – Look at UTVs/ATVs for trail creation.
- 2 responses – Threat of Aquatic invasive species
- 2 responses – Keep ATVs out of Vilas County
- 1 response – Closure of logging roads.
- 1 response – Increase snowmobile funding.
- 1 response – Only 1 public disc golf course exists.
- 1 response – Need high speed internet.
- 1 response – Money.
- 1 response – Inadequate bridge access for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Input at Public Hearing (November 6, 2013)

The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation & Land Committee held a public hearing on November 6, 2013, from 11:00 a.m. to noon. A public hearing notice was posted in the paper and it noted that the draft plan was available on the NCWRPC website for the public to view and comment on. Each community in Vilas County was also mailed a poster and a letter that asked the community to review their section of the plan (see Attachment J).

Public Notice:

The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee will be accepting public input on the 2014-2018 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). Public comment will be accepted between 11:00 am and noon on November 6th at a regularly scheduled meeting of this committee at the Vilas County Courthouse, conference rooms 2 & 3. The draft CORP can be reviewed at the Vilas County Forestry,

Recreation & Land Department located at 2112 North Railroad Street in Eagle River, also at the Eagle River Public Library, Boulder Junction Public Library and online at <http://www.ncwrpc.org/vilas/orp.html>.

Public Comment Summary:

Seventeen emails of comments and one letter (that was duplicated in an email) were received. Several people showed up to provide comments too.

- NCWRPC staff read all the emails aloud, or paraphrased them, during the public hearing, and copies of the emails were distributed to the Committee and are on file with the Vilas County Forestry Department.
- There were 7 comments requesting removal of “ATV” from the outdoor recreation plan, and 2 comments asking for more ATV trails.
- Several emails were from town officials who revised their park descriptions, and what additional projects they may want to pursue in the next five years.
- Handouts provided by the public at the public hearing showed the rise of pickle ball in the United States. Stories were shared about the rise of pickle ball’s popularity in Vilas County among seniors.
- Support for bicycling trails was reinforced at the public hearing with the request that the Great Headwaters Trail map be added to the plan, in addition to all the trail segments to each of the town sections as projects that will be pursued in the next five years.

The public hearing ended at noon, and everyone in attendance was satisfied with knowing that their concerns were heard. NCWRPC staff noted that all municipally suggested changes would be made to the plan, and also stated what additional changes would be made based upon these public hearing comments.

NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

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

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

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

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

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

Chapter 5

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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

Goal 1 – Protect aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems from invasive species.

Objectives

1. Coordinate with the Land and Water Conservation Department the control of forest based invasive species as part of silviculture (per the Work Plan in the Vilas County Land & Water Resource Management Plan [LWRM Plan]).
2. Support LWRM Plan implementation to control aquatic invasive species.

Goal 2 – Protect surface waters from impacts of land disturbance and degradation.

Objective: Support LWRM Plan to educate the public about the importance of riparian buffers and maintenance of shoreline habitat.

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

Objectives

1. Follow Best Management Practices for erosion control in development of trails and recreation facilities.
2. Protect and preserve the environmental integrity of the natural resources in Vilas County so future generations will enjoy the public lands.
3. Encourage cooperation between municipalities and adjacent towns in providing and utilizing recreational facilities, as a way of avoiding unnecessary duplication of facilities.
4. Provide and maintain recreational facilities in an economically beneficial manner to county, non-county, and non-state residents.
5. Improve and protect access to water resources.

Goal 4 – Support development and connection of trails.

Objectives

1. Support implementation of the Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan.
2. Support snowmobile trail development countywide.
3. Support local government or local group development of trails for hiking, biking, walking, birding, and snowmobiling.

Goal 5 – Gradually Bring Parks Into ADA Compliance.

Objective: Incorporate ADA accessibility into all capital improvements as appropriate. Existing facilities will become accessible as routine maintenance occurs where new fixtures are replaced.

Chapter 6

PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Capital improvements to parks/facility are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park/facility. 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 appreciably increase the value or usefulness of the park/facility, and is traditionally funded through the Recreation Department's operations budget. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, however, is usually considered a capital improvement item. For example, upgrading an outdoor restroom facility for universal access would qualify as a capital improvement, while repainting an outdoor lavatory 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
 - 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.

PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ACCOMPLISHED BETWEEN 2008-2013:

The following is a list of projects that were implemented since the last Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plan:

County Facility Accomplishments

In 2012 the granite handicap accessible path at Dr. Oldfield Park was replaced with asphalt pathways. Several improvement projects were conducted at the Oldenburg Sports Park. Construction of lighting the softball/U-14 soccer field took place in May. The cost of the lighting project, \$40,217.21, was funded by Vilas County. Dugouts were constructed on the 300' ball field. Materials for the dugouts were purchased with funds from the Oldenburg Group and construction was donated by Vilas County businesses Hauswerks Inc. and Maney's Masonry Inc. and Mr. Pat Weber of the Eagle River Baseball Association. Forestry Technician Jefferson mowed the area of the park that is not currently being used for playing fields, which use is planned in the future. As part of the lease agreement, Headwaters Youth Soccer Association is responsible for the grounds maintenance. The Oldenburg Group installed new outdoor light fixtures at the concession stand.

Bleachers for the 300' softball field/U-14 soccer field were purchased by Vilas County at the cost of \$4,336.70. The bleachers will be installed in the Spring of 2013.

In 2011: Vilas County adopted Countywide Bike/Pedestrian Plan. Department continues to work with surrounding communities to develop the County-owned abandoned railroad grade in the Towns of Conover and Phelps into a multi-use trail. The Town of Conover in cooperation with the Great Headwaters Trails applied for and was awarded a transportation enhancement grant totaling \$819,830. This grant will go toward developing the first segment of a bicycle/snowmobile trail from the Conover Town Park to Muskrat Creek Road. The trail would be limestone or similar surface to reduce maintenance costs and wear from snowmobiles. The route of the proposed trail will utilize the County owned railroad grade traveling from Highway 45 east to Muskrat Creek Road. This project will require the construction of 3 bridges at an estimated cost of \$225,000. The Department also applied for and received a grant from the snowmobile program in the amount of \$163,000.00 to cost share the building of bridges and installing culverts and fill.

In 2010: Construction of new backstops and bullet catchers at the Vilas County Shooting Range. County began construction on Oldenberg Sports Park.

In 2009: Improvements were made to the County's .4 mile ATV trail in the Town of Land O' Lakes. Approximately 3.0 miles of abandoned railroad grade was cleared of trees and vegetation for use as a bike/pedestrian trail between Conover and Phelps.

In 2008: The boat landing at Pickerel Creek was rehabilitated with a new permanent piling pier and a 12' x 35' concrete boat ramp.

Town & City of Eagle River Facility Accomplishments

Accomplishments are listed in Chapter 3 under each community.

PROJECTS ANTICIPATED BETWEEN 2014-2019:

The following Capital Improvement Program is proposed for Vilas County's recreational system. The projects listed in priority order were provided by Vilas County's Parks and Recreation Department and are subject to change. All upgrades and new construction will take into consideration meeting ADA standards. As funds become available the following projects will be completed.

Vilas County Projects

Replace pavilion Eagle Lake Park – replace existing 20' x 40' pavilion and slab at Eagle Lake Park. This is a high use day area and is ADA compliant.

Upgrade current boat landings – continue to improve boat ramps and dock facilities at Vilas county maintained sites. Continue to make these facilities ADA accessible where possible.

Multi-use trails – Continue to partner with area recreational groups and towns to promote, plan, construct, and maintain multi-use trails. Provide grant support and sponsorships that assist communities in obtaining multi-use trails that support compatible usage.

Recreational signage – Work with Vilas County Highway Department to develop a recreational sign program to provide recreational visitors with directional information to guide them to County facilities.

Recreational Trail Data – GPS all recreational trails and develop a data base for recreational trails in Vilas County. Continue working with Vilas County Mapping to incorporate those trails into the 911 dispatch system to provide faster response time for emergency personnel and accurate mapping.

Campground – Consider planning and developing a campground at the Torch Lake Park within the county forest.

Town & City of Eagle River Projects

Projects are listed in Chapter 3 under each community.

Chapter 7

RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

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

The recommendations are based on the goals and objectives, past plans, 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.

COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for county-wide outdoor recreation projects were created based upon the Goals & Objectives in Chapter 5.

Create a Smart Phone App

There are many pathways throughout the county forest, and throughout the county that allow a variety of motorized and non-motorized access. Official trail designation for any type of recreation requires a thorough analysis of local conditions before an official trail of any type can be established. Also, creating and stocking physical maps for distribution takes time and money. An additional feature of online based maps is that more detailed locations of actual trails vs. just the trail head, are possible. Access to these online maps is only limited by the computer or cell phone access. A downloadable app would have all the trails loaded in the program.

Better Marketing of Existing Recreation

Advertisement of recreational opportunities is already excellent for visitors. Maybe a “be a visitor in your hometown” campaign by the Vilas County Chambers of Commerce would be a way of showing residents what is available in their own backyards, and get them familiar with using the “visitor” websites as an “insider.”

Recreation Destination Signage

Vilas County is rich in outdoor recreational experiences. Basic on-road signage is necessary for recreational visitors to find their destination, just like finding a restaurant. WisDOT has a sign program for state and federal highways that could be expanded for use along county highways.

Tourist oriented directional signs (TODS) provide motorists with directional information for qualifying tourist-related businesses, services or activities. Tourist-related businesses, whose major portion of income or visitors is derived from visitors who do not reside in the immediate area where the business is located, qualify for TODS. The business cannot have direct access to a state or U.S. highway, but must be located within 5 miles of a state or U.S. highway. The TODS program is self-funded. No state or federal funds support the program. All administration, manufacturing and installation costs are paid by applicants.

To obtain a TODS

1. Contact the county highway department in which the sign will be located to obtain a TODS application.
2. Complete the application and attach a check for \$100 payable to the county (this is the administration fee for a 5-year period). If you don't qualify for the program, or there isn't room for a TODS at the desired location, the check will be returned.
3. Businesses that qualify for a TODS will receive a list of qualified TODS sign manufacturers. Contact as many manufacturers as you wish to get the best price.
4. Bring the sign to the county highway department with a check for \$250 payable to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (this is the installation fee).
5. The county highway department will install the sign.

All county parks should have brown destination signs that direct visitors at major highway intersections. Coordinate sign design, creation, and installation with the Highway Department. The Wisconsin edition of the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) has all of the sign design parameters in it.

County Parks could have brown text signs at major highway intersections.

Boat launches within the County Forest could have boat launch symbol signs at major highway intersections (maybe symbol signs and arrows attached to street sign poles), and at driveways that directly access the boat launch, unless the boat launch is directly visible from the driveway entrance.

Trailheads could have brown text signs directing visitors to these spaces also.

Recreation Safety (911)

Accidents are a part of life. From a physical injury to recreational equipment breaking down, people will need help, and they expect the authorities to find them.

Work with the Emergency Management Department to verify that official County Forest roads and all outdoor recreation facilities in the County Forest are geo-located in the 911 system. For example: if a person calls from the panfishing pier in the Snipe Lake Unit of the County Forest (as seen on Map 3), then a point would show up on the 911 screen, along with the forest roads to access that site.

Bike/Ped Plan Recommendation

Support implementation of recommendations in the Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan. Annually review how trail development is progressing and what to include in the next budget to implement parts of the plan in subsequent years.

Controlling Invasive Species

Compare the Goals & Objectives in Chapter 5 with how the Forestry Department carries out daily tasks. Review with the County Land & Water Conservation Department, and the Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator how the Land & Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP) is being implemented so that Forestry and LWCD may coordinate how to implement the "Forestry" tasks in the LWRMP's Work Plan.

Improve Boat Landings

Consider reviewing the condition of and what facilities exist at each boat launch throughout the county. Having such an inventory will provide a way to determine what boat launches may need capital improvements. Part of that inventory was accomplished with the questionnaire created for this outdoor recreation plan.

Increase Fishing Opportunities

Cooperate with WDNR efforts to increase fishing opportunities based upon the Governor's 2013 fishing initiative.

Explore state Wild River designations

Vilas County is at the headwaters of the Wisconsin and Flambeau rivers that drain to the Mississippi River; the Brule and Menominee rivers flow into Lake Michigan, and Presque Isle discharges into Lake Superior.

The Wisconsin system of state Wild Rivers was established by the 1965 Legislature with the enactment of s. 30.26, Wis. Stats. in order to afford the people of the state an opportunity to enjoy natural streams, to attract out-of-state visitors and assure the well-being of our tourist industry, and to preserve some rivers in a free flowing condition and protect them from development. Only a Legislative Act can designate a Wild River.

The DNR owns land within Pike River, Pine-Popple Rivers and Totagatic River Wild Rivers. Within DNR lands, there is no vegetative control within 150 feet from the bank on either side of the river, walk-in access only, no motorized vehicles, no stream alterations, no maintained trails, and few developed parking lots or canoe put-ins. These rules are intended to preserve the wild and scenic qualities of the river.

Stewardship of the wild rivers is shared by all landowners along the river — small private landowners, commercial timber companies, and county, state, and federal governments.

Pickle Ball

Pickle Ball is an up and coming sport in Vilas County. Due to increasing interest in the sport, support development of pickle ball courts, which may be converted from tennis courts.

Chapter 8

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

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

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

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Natural Resource Zoning

Natural resource zoning may be used to protect shorelands, wetlands, floodplains, agricultural lands, groundwater recharge areas, and recreation lands.

The State of Wisconsin Statutes (Section 59.971) and Administrative Code (NR 115) require shoreland-wetland and floodplain zoning by all counties. Counties are responsible for shoreland zoning in unincorporated areas. The purpose of these regulations is to protect the shoreline, floodplain, and adjacent wetlands of navigable waters from undesirable use and development. The county may zone areas beyond that in addition to the Statutes and Administrative Codes cited above, only by institution county-wide zoning as authorized under the Wisconsin Statutes. Otherwise, villages and cities would remain responsible by regulatory means, i.e., as part of their land-use zoning.

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.

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:

DNR Community Service Specialist
Rhineland Office
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland WI 54501

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. Snow plowing boat launch parking areas provides access to frozen lakes.

Snowmobile/ATV Routes

Designated specific streets or rights-of-way for snowmobile or ATV use. 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.

Specialized Facilities

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

Municipal & 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.

Adopt-A-Park Program

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

Chapter 9

PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING

An essential characteristic of any planning program is that it be on going and flexible. Periodic updating of the plan is necessary for continued refinement and course correction in the planning program.

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 come into demand or the status of existing facilities change.

Review the plan recommendations and action programs on an annual basis or more often if deemed necessary. At the time of this review process the town boards, city and village councils, school districts, and other interested parties may be notified to request input. Obtain the following information for consideration in updating the plan:

1. Improvements needed to existing facilities.
2. Demand for new facilities.
3. Potential projects to fulfill this demand, and project sponsor.

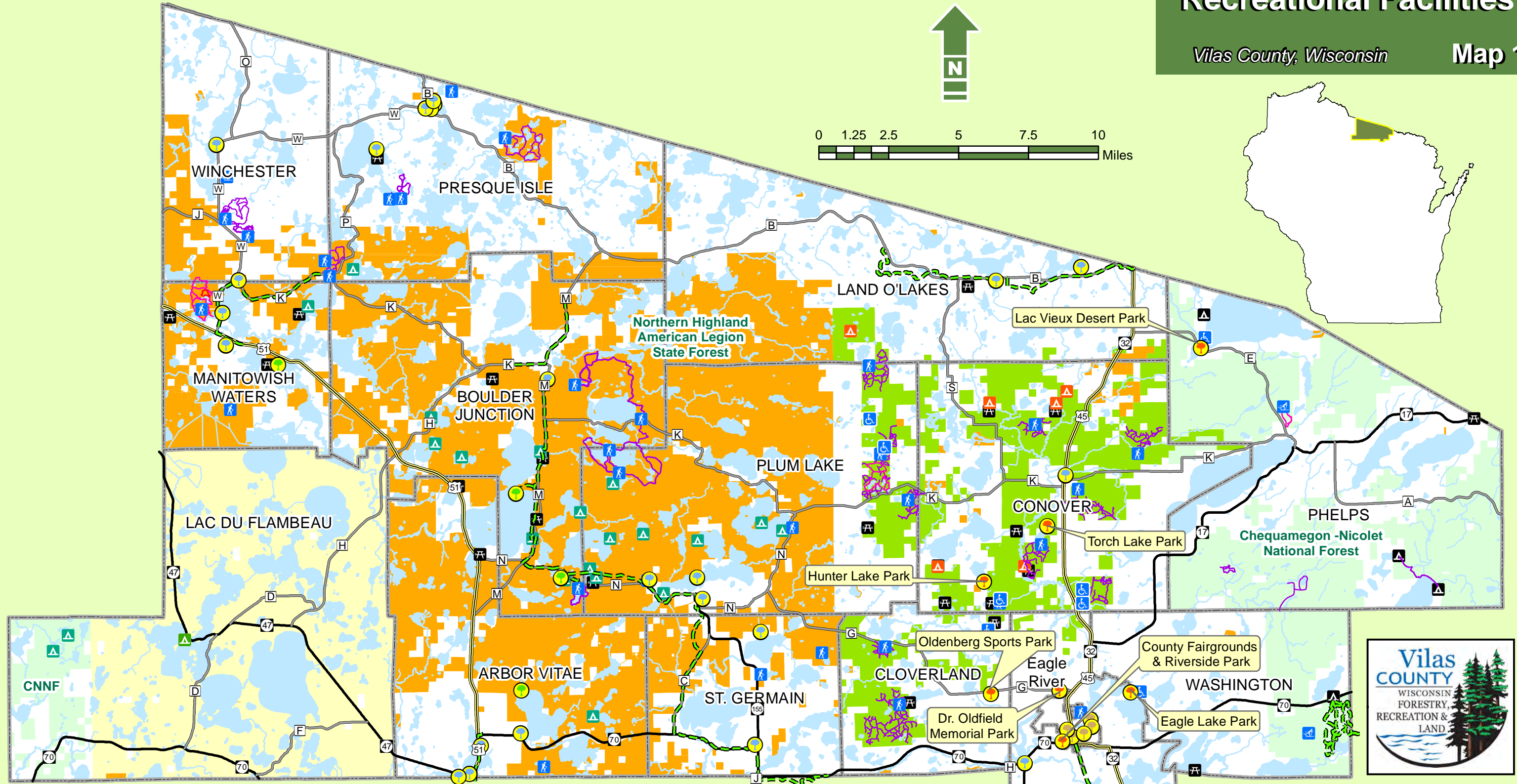
The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation & Land Committee review of this information and evaluation will determine the need for proposed projects based on standards and priorities as outlined in this plan.

Updating the entire plan every five years is necessary to assure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the county and to maintain the county's eligibility for grant programs.

Recreational Facilities

Vilas County, Wisconsin

Map 1



Legend		Parks	Trailheads	Recreation Trails	Campgrounds	Land Ownership
	US Highways					
	State Highways					
	County Highways					
	Minor Civil Divisions					
	Water					

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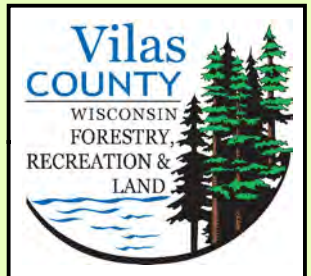
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Prepared By:
North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

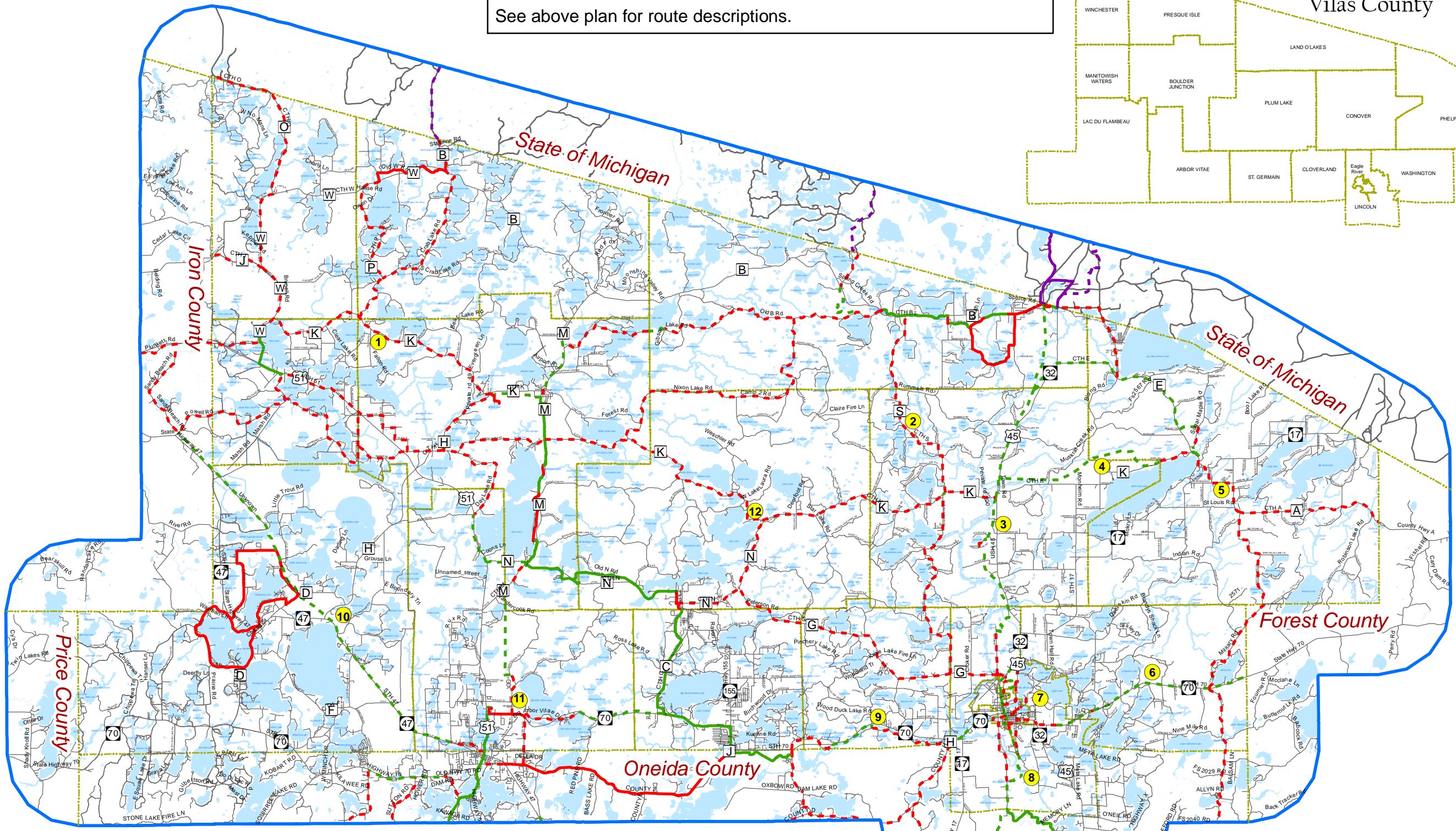
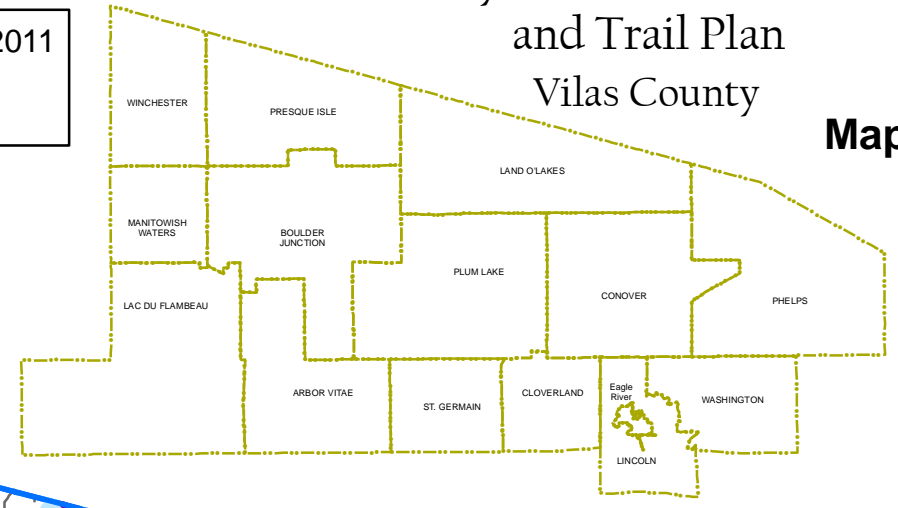
210 McClellan St., Suite 210, Wausau, WI 54403
 715-849-5510 - staff@ncwrpc.org - www.ncwrpc.org



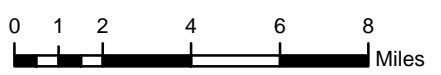
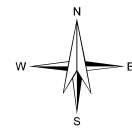
Countywide Bike / Ped. Route and Trail Plan Vilas County

Map 2

Map from: Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan, 2011
See above plan for route descriptions.



- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| Minor Civil Divisions | Trails | Existing Off Road | Existing |
| 3 Mile Buffer | | Existing On Road | Proposed |
| Roads | | Proposed Off Road | |
| Route ID | | Proposed On Road | |
| Water | | | |

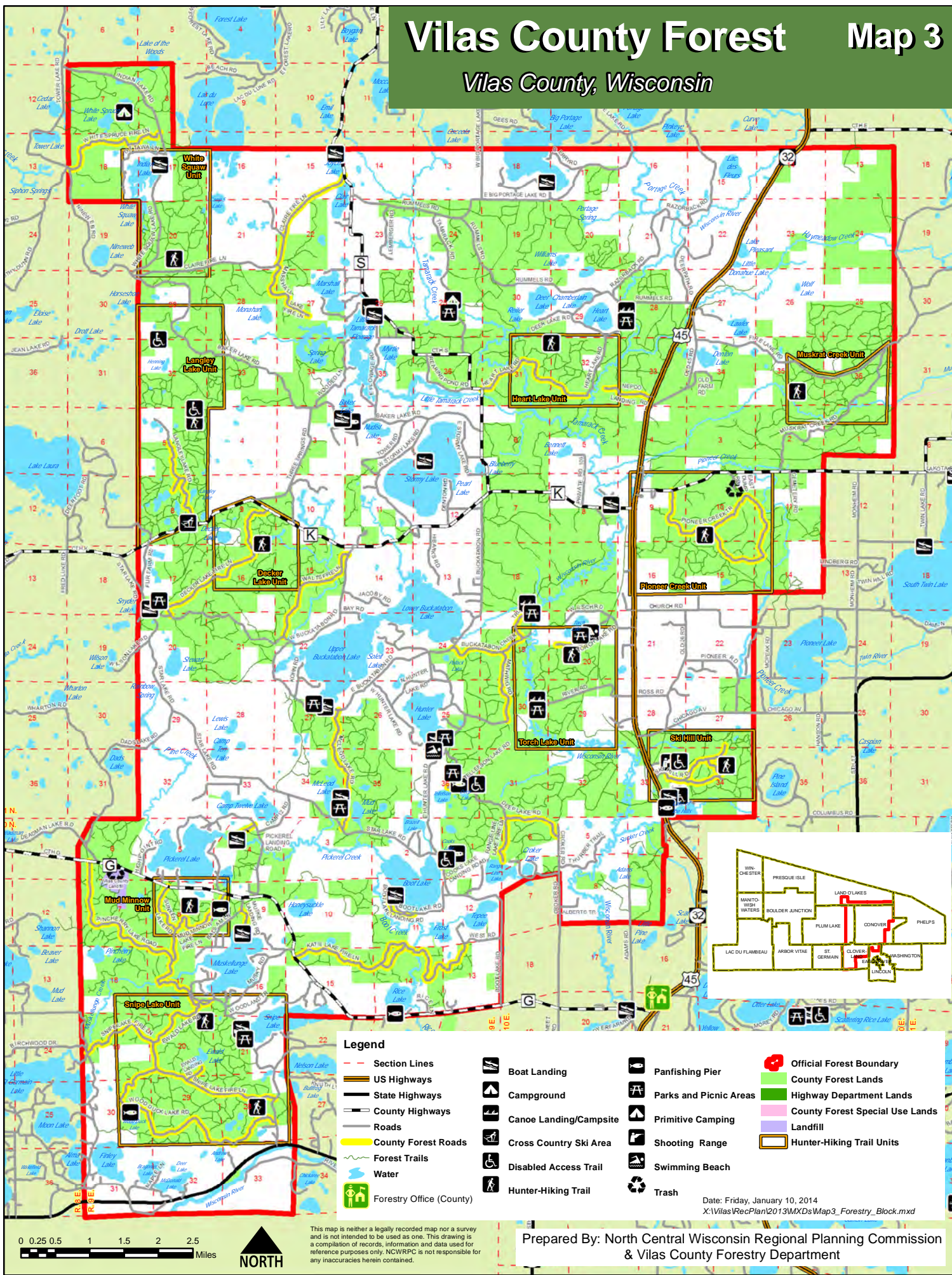


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Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC, Vilas Co

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North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
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Vilas County Forest Map 3

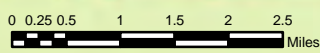
Vilas County, Wisconsin



Legend

- Section Lines
- US Highways
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Roads
- County Forest Roads
- Forest Trails
- Water
- Forestry Office (County)
- Boat Landing
- Campground
- Canoe Landing/Campsite
- Cross Country Ski Area
- Disabled Access Trail
- Hunter-Hiking Trail
- Panfishing Pier
- Parks and Picnic Areas
- Primitive Camping
- Shooting Range
- Swimming Beach
- Trash
- Official Forest Boundary
- County Forest Lands
- Highway Department Lands
- County Forest Special Use Lands
- Landfill
- Hunter-Hiking Trail Units

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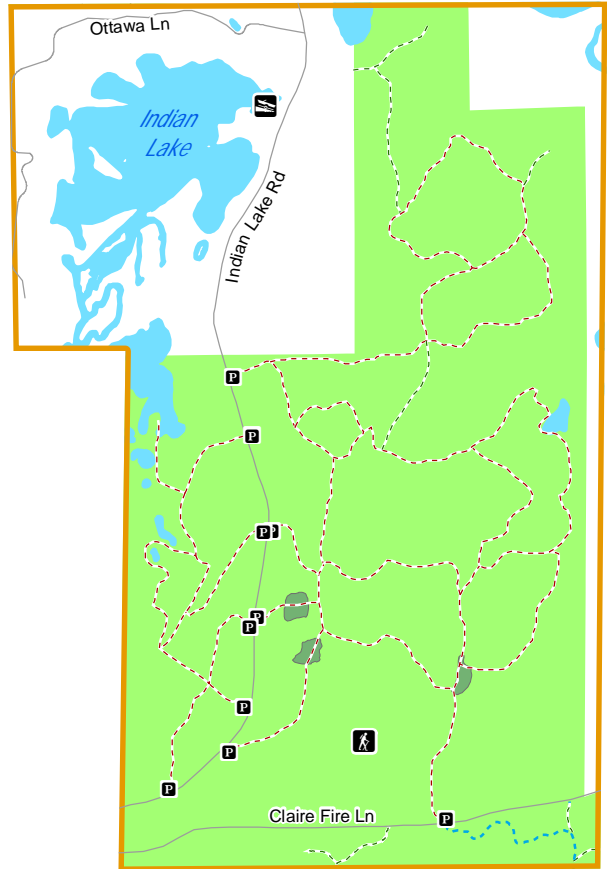
Prepared By: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission & Vilas County Forestry Department

HUNTING - HIKING CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

The forest is ideal for hunting, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Ninety miles of hunter hiking trails have been developed and closed to motor vehicle access for hunting, hiking, and cross-country skiing. These trails were initially created as a result of logging roads built by private contractors harvesting timber on the forest. These trails were widened and connected using monies from county Fish and Game Aids, Habitat Development Grant Funds, and Pittman-Robertson Funds along with county appropriations. All trail systems are seeded with a mixture of clover and grass and are routinely mowed to provide multiple recreation opportunities. The trail systems are posted with map boards. There are two disabled hunter access trails providing vehicle access for Class A & B permit holders. More than half of the forest trails are drivable.



WHITE SQUAW UNIT



Legend

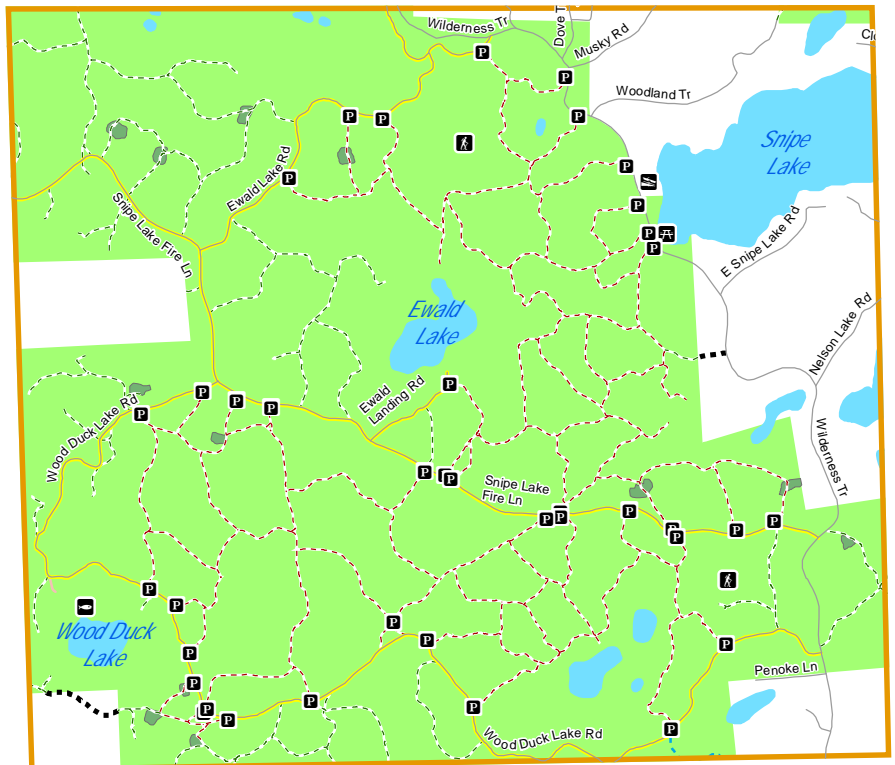
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| US Highways | Swimming Beach |
| State Highways | Canoe Landing/Campsite |
| County Highways | Shooting Range |
| Roads | Panfishing Pier |
| County Forest Roads | Disabled Access |
| Forest Units | Boat Landings |
| Water | Parking Areas |
| Wildlife Openings | Hunter-Hiking Trails |
| County Forest Lands | Trash Drop-off |
| | Cross Country Ski Area |

Forest Trails

- Camping and Recreation Access
- Disabled Hunter Access
- Hunter Hiking Trails
- Private Roads / Trails
- Snowmobile Trails
- Ski Trails
- Forest Trails

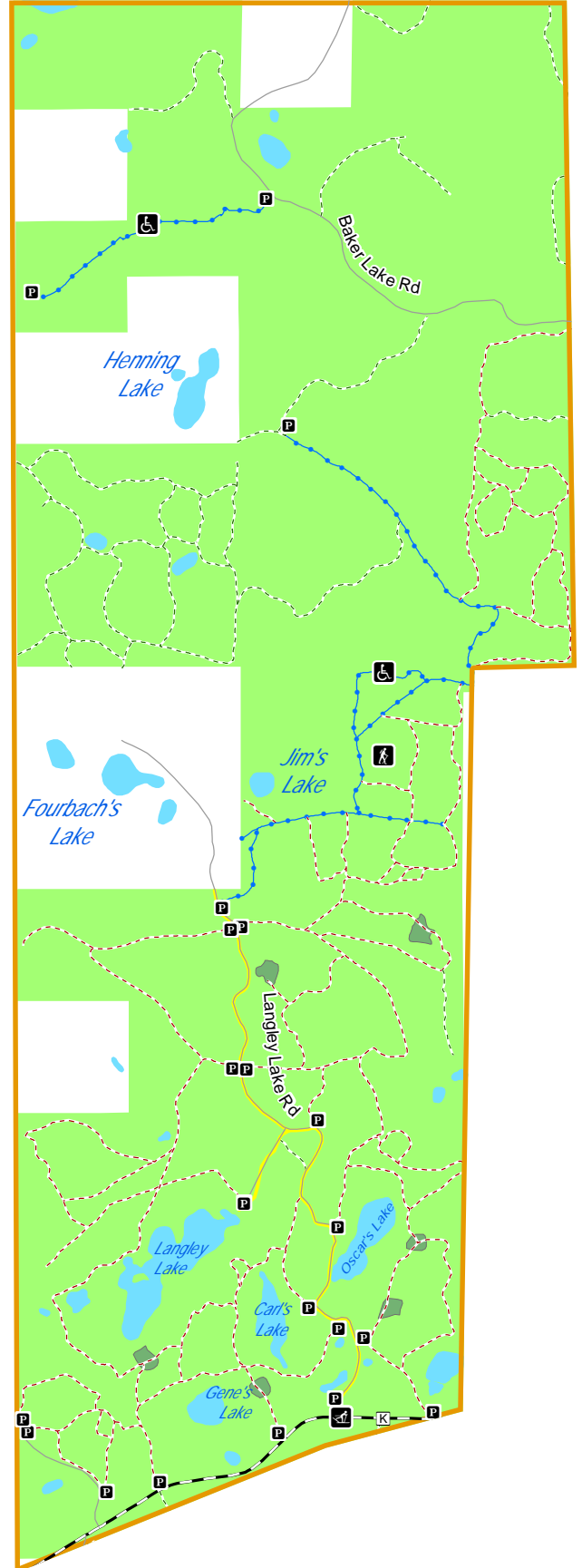
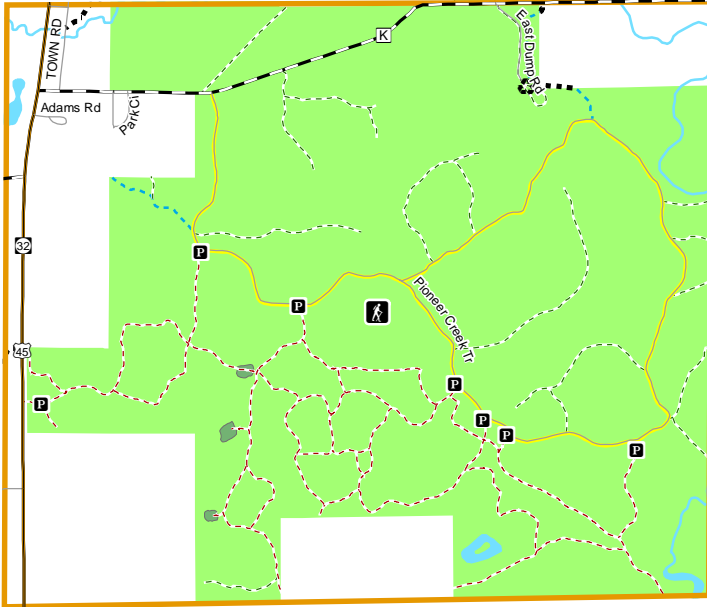


SNIPE LAKE UNIT

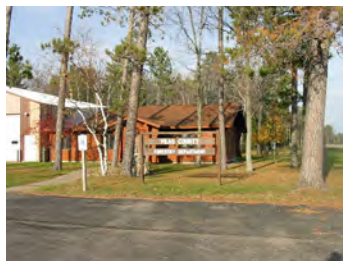
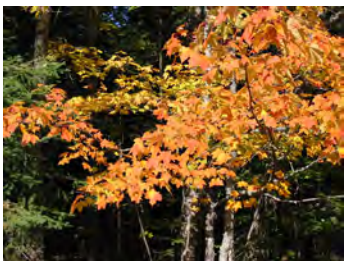
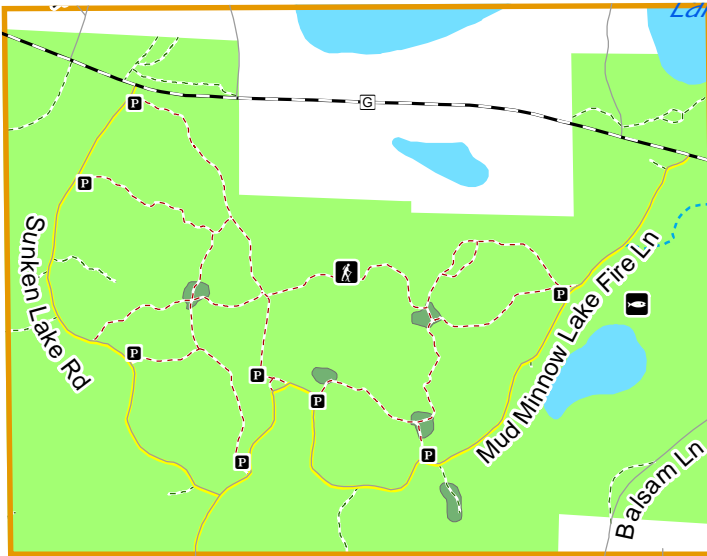


PIONEER CREEK UNIT

LANGLEY LAKE UNIT

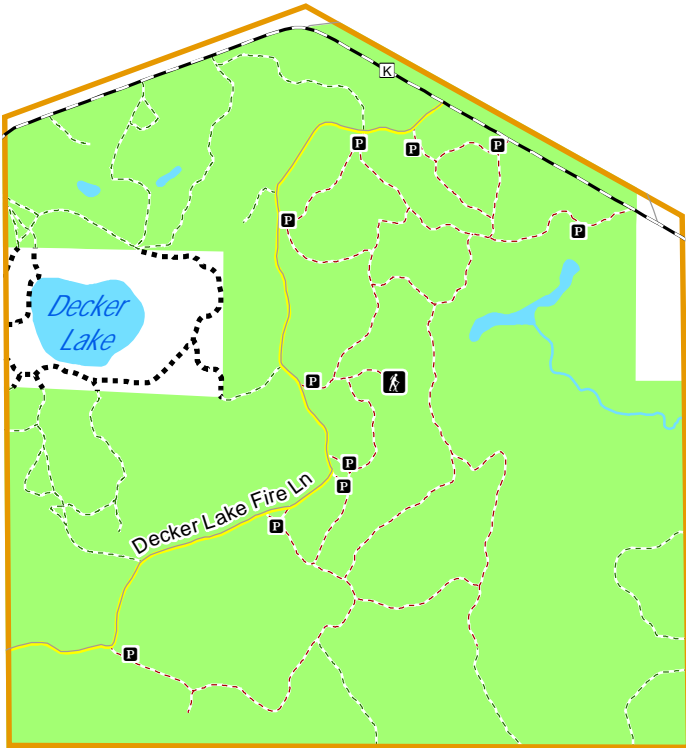


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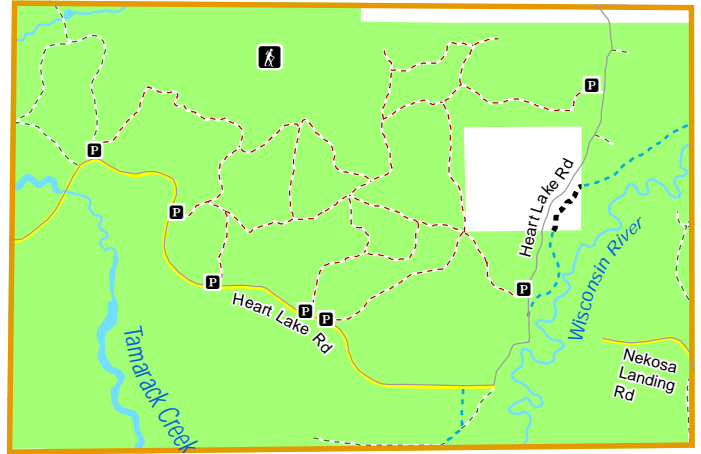


See Map 4 for Legend

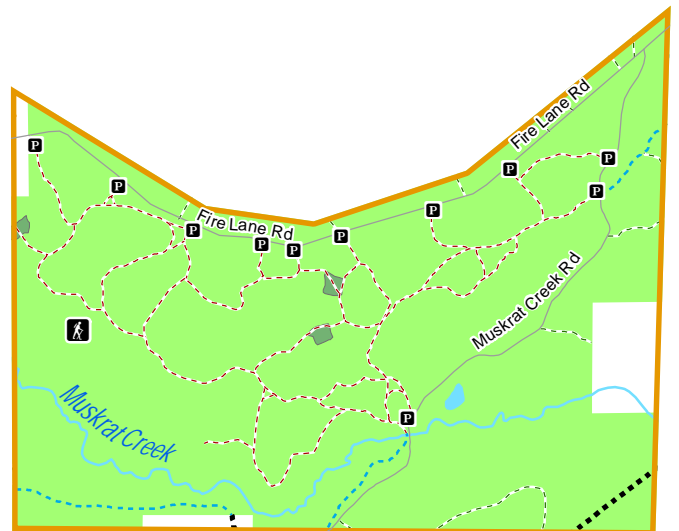
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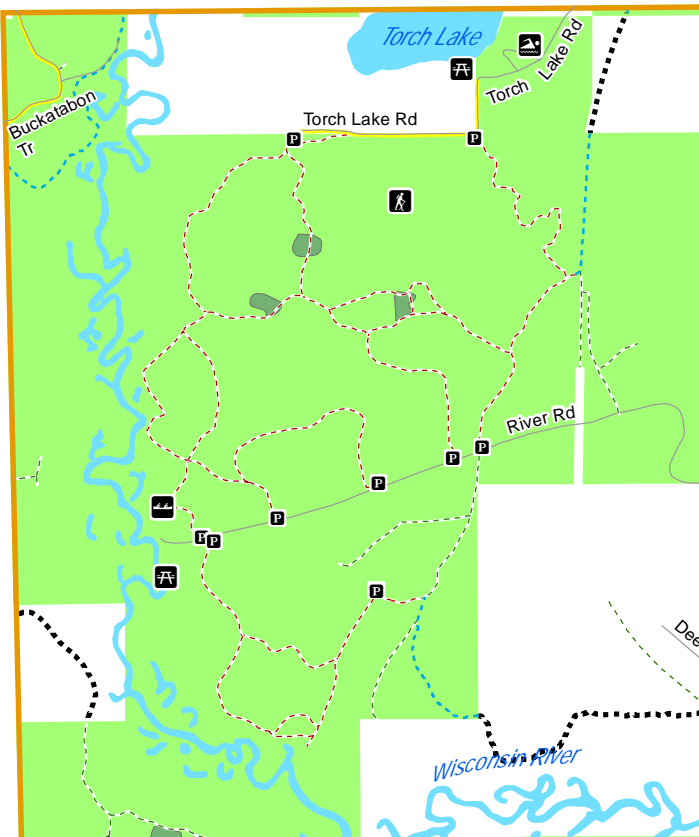
HEART LAKE UNIT



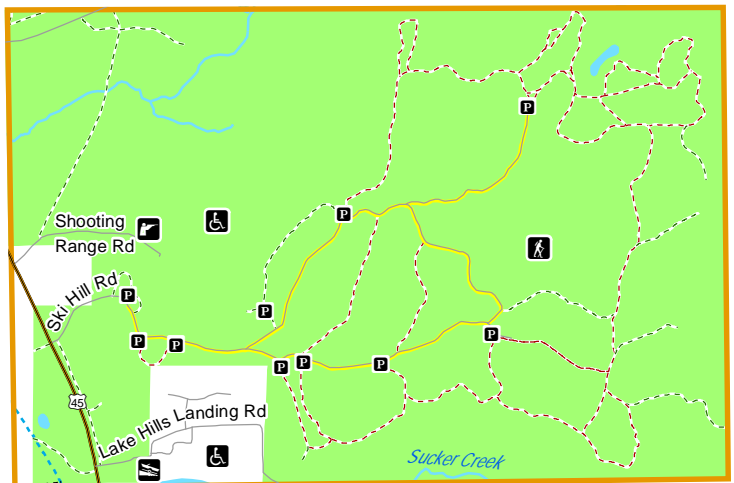
MUSKRAT CREEK UNIT



TORCH LAKE UNIT



SKI HILL UNIT

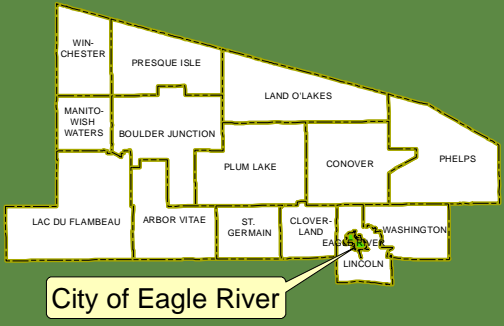


See Map 4 for Legend

City of Eagle River

Map 7

Vilas County, Wisconsin



City of Eagle River



ID	NAME
1	Dr. Oldfield Park
2	T-Docs & Dyer Park
3	Silver Lake Beach
4	Miller Park
5	Gremban Park
6	Riverview Park
7	Coutny Fair Grounds
8	Watersmeet Boat Launch

Legend

- US Highways
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Roads
- Water
- Boat Landing
- Cross Country Ski Area
- Forestry Office
- Trees For Tomorrow
- Three Eagle Bike Trail

Parks

Owner

- City
- County
- Town



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ATTACHMENT A

Park Design and Location Criteria

From:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

Park and Recreation Designs

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

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

Mini Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

0.5 to 1.5 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

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

5. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

Neighborhood Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

5 to 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design and Service Area:

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

Community Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

Usually more than 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives

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

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

Appropriate program elements include:

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

programmed field sports, swimming, and special events.

8) Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

Special Use Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objective:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

g. Recreation programs and classes

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

School Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

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

2. Size Objective

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

established for neighborhood park and community park classifications may apply.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

County Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

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

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

State Forest

1. Definition Summary:

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

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

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

Areas with large blocks of land.

5. Program Objectives:

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

Current Level of Supply:

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

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

State Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

Current Level of Supply:

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

5. Orientation:

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

6. Function:

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

7. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

ATTACHMENT B

Facility Development Standards

From: National Recreation and Park Association

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.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

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.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

ATTACHMENT C

Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

Community Service Specialist
Rhineland Office
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland WI 54501

Acquisition Of Development Rights (a Stewardship Program)

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

Priority parcels criteria:

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

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

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

Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (a Stewardship Program)

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

DNR considers the following factors when evaluating projects:

- Implements priorities contained in state and local comprehensive outdoor recreation plans
- Meets needs and deficiencies identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the approved local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, or the approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plans of other units of government including regional or integrated management plans

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

All Terrain Vehicles (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 Program

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

Nonprofit Grants

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

Local Assistance Grant Programs

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

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

Property Development on State Lands

Development of recreational facilities on state properties.

Baraboo Hills

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

Stewardship Grants for Nonprofit Conservation Organizations

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

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

Natural Areas

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

Habitat Areas and Fisheries

The purpose of the Habitat Areas Program is to protect, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat in Wisconsin in order to expand opportunities for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, bird watching, fishing, nature appreciation, and viewing of game and non-game species. The goals of the program are achieved through the use of easements, land acquisition, and habitat restoration.

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

Streambank Protection

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

Wild Lakes

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

Urban Green Space (a Stewardship Program)

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

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

Planning Considerations, including:

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

Project Considerations, including:

- Serving the greatest population centers
- Serving areas of rapidly increasing populations
- Providing accessibility
- Having unique natural features, threatened or endangered species, or significant ecological value
- Providing open natural linear corridors connecting open natural areas
- Having water frontage
- Containing or restoring wetlands
- Protecting sensitive wildlife habitat
- Protecting an area threatened by development
- Preserving a natural community or one that could be restored
- Having regional or statewide significance
- Relating to brownfield redevelopment

Urban Rivers Grant (a Stewardship Program)

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

Program objectives include:

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

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

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

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

Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs

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

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

ATTACHMENT D

Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016 Summary

Summarized by NCWRPC

The 2011–2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

This SCORP 2011-2016 summary was created by NCWRPC staff as a way of introducing this state plan to all audiences. Most of the text was clipped directly from the SCORP, and table numbers are the same as in the SCORP for easy reference when reading the full SCORP.

Chapter 1 – Wisconsin Natural Amenities, Population Changes, and Recreation Destinations.

The 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as a blueprint for state and local outdoor recreation planning through support of national initiatives, sets the course for recreation within the state by describing current recreation supply and trends, and provides a framework for future recreation development and focus.

Every five years, Wisconsin publishes a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as a requirement by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965. At its core, the document is used to help allocate federal funds equitably among local communities, but the document also transcends many levels of outdoor recreation discussion and policy.

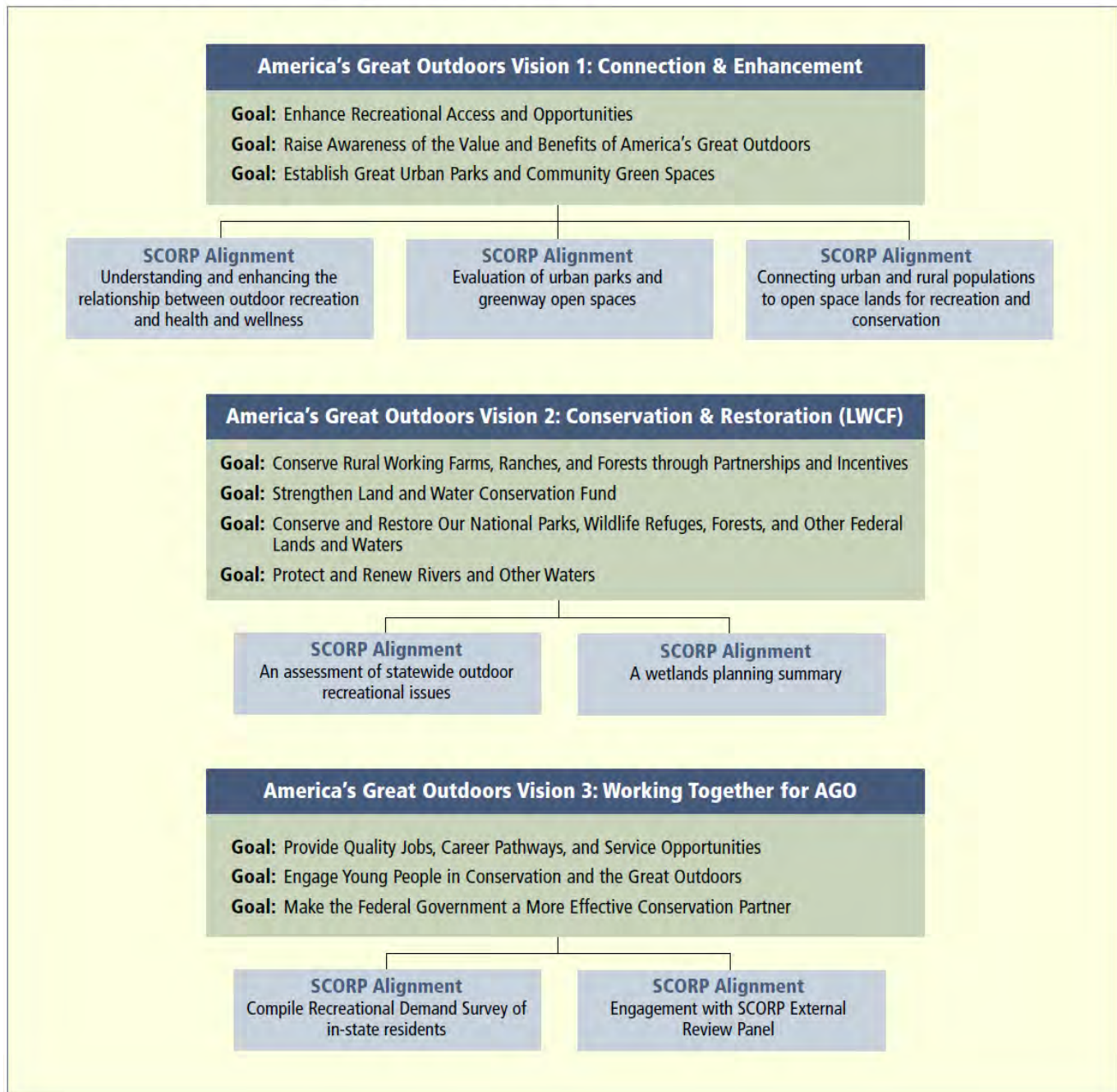
For the 2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP, the State not only met the requirements of the LWCF Act but also reflected on the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, launched in 2010 by President Obama, for an approach that asks the American people to become partners in preserving and enhancing their conservation and recreation heritage for the 21st-century. This SCORP is presented out of the respect to the state's great outdoor recreation resources and their value to the people of Wisconsin.

This document shows a clear vision of how preserving and improving recreation opportunities in Wisconsin fits within a broader national initiative of conservation and recreation. This SCORP further targets assessments on several key relationships that include:

1. public health and wellness,
2. urban access to outdoor recreation, and
3. public and private partnerships.

America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative calls for greater federal support to grassroots conservation efforts through financial and technical assistance. Direction for the AGO Initiative was taken from the American people through 51 public listening sessions held across the country as well as 105,000 submitted comments. Through this public engagement came the visions and goals listed in Figure 1-1.

Figure 1-1: Outline of Wisconsin SCORP Alignment with AGO Visions



Chapter 2 – Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Uses and Trends

As the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative looks to reconnect Americans to the outdoors, Wisconsin must examine its outdoor recreation uses and trends to better understand how Wisconsinites currently connect to the state’s outdoor recreation resources. The second theme of the AGO Report, “Enhance Recreational Access and Opportunities,” was developed out of the public’s desire to remove barriers to recreation and to make recreation a higher priority for land and water management agencies. The survey analyses in this chapter can be used to determine what improvements are needed in regard to access and opportunities in outdoor recreation.

By identifying outdoor recreation demand by demographics and by projecting outdoor recreation activity trends relevant to the immediate future, Chapter 2 of the SCORP gives Wisconsin communities direction in outdoor recreation planning. Under AGO, community-based efforts to increase outdoor recreation access will receive federal government support (AGO Recommendation 2.2). Such support will include technical assistance for local, state, and tribal efforts to enhance recreation (AGO Action Item 2.2a), and backing of community programs that improve safety of open spaces and access routes (AGO Action Item 2.2c).

The 2011 – 2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Fifteen Year Recreation Trends

A number of recreation activities have seen exponential growth over the last 15 years. In terms of sheer numbers, soccer has outpaced every other outdoor recreation activity. This growth can be attributed to the number of youth soccer leagues that have been formed over the last decade. Table 2.7 shows the top 10 recreational activities by total numbers.

Another way to show growth is by percentage change. This method shows a different set of recreation activities that have grown in popularity. Interestingly, most participants in these activities are urban residents. Table 2-8 reflects the top 10 recreational activities by total percentage change.

Activity	1994 Survey*	2009 Survey*	Number of Participants (1,000s)
Soccer outdoors	179.1	1,460.0	+ 1,280.9
View/photograph other wildlife	1,582.9	2,605.8	+ 1,022.9
Golf	888.8	1,882.3	+ 993.5
Handball or racquetball outdoors	96.8	1,058.3	+ 961.5
Walk for pleasure	2,988.0	3,946.9	+ 950.9
Attend outdoor sports events	1,995.2	2,923.5	+ 928.3
Bicycling	1,486.8	2,190.8	+ 704.0
Day hiking	949.0	1,652.8	+ 703.8
Running or jogging	803.8	1,446.8	+ 643.0
View/photograph birds	1,261.4	1,877.5	+ 616.1


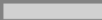

*Each survey represents a rolling average of five previous years.
Source: WI SCORP 2011-2016

Activity	1994 Survey*	2009 Survey*	Percent Difference
Handball or racquetball outdoors	96.8	1,058.3	+ 993.3%
Soccer outdoors	179.1	1,460.0	+ 715.2%
Kayaking	46.6	328.4	+ 604.7%
Surfing	10.3	44.5	+ 332%
Football	282.5	852.4	+ 201.7%
Horseback riding	139.3	389.9	+ 179.9%
Mountain/rock climbing	53.3	122.9	+ 130.6%
Use personal watercraft	131.9	293.7	+ 122.7%
Golf	888.8	1,882.3	+ 111.8%
Snowboarding	77.7	164.4	+ 111.6%

*Each survey represents a rolling average of five previous years.
Source: WI SCORP 2011-2016

Table 2-9 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.

Table 2-9: Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities

Increasing Demand 	Adventure racing	Popular as both an individual and a group activity.
	Driving for pleasure	An easy activity for the aging baby boomer generation.
	Developed/RV camping	Baby boomers are a continued driving force for this growth.
	Kayaking	Cheaper entry points have attracted more participants.
	Visit a dog park	Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas.
	Soccer outdoors	Youth growth is still strong in urban areas.
	BMX biking	X Games popularity may be driving this growth.
	Climbing	Indoor climbing walls have led to an outdoor resurgence.
	Stand up paddling/paddleboarding	A fast growing water sport sweeping the country.
	Triathlon (on- and off-road)	Varying distance events have allowed for growth.
	Off-highway vehicle driving	Post recession growth continues.
	Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	The "grow local" concept is taking hold at many levels.
Stable Demand 	Walk for pleasure	Market saturation does not allow for large growth.
	Running or jogging	Gen Y is replacing the baby boomers for this activity.
	Water parks	Recession may have caused this growth to slow.
	Motorboating	Still easy access in a water-based state.
	Day hiking	Popular with many generations.
	Golf	Time constraints do not allow for growth.
	Tent camping	Continues to be stable, but growth is illusive.
	Snowboarding	May have peaked after 20 years of growth.
	Trail running	A stable niche activity with Gen Y.
	View/photograph wildlife	An easy activity that spans generations.
	Bicycling (road and non-paved)	Popular with many generations – access is still key.
	Snowshoeing	After large growth, this has stabilized.
Decreasing Demand 	Hunting	Continues to struggle with generational loss and private access.
	Inline skating	A large decrease in the last six years, the bottom may be near.
	Skateboarding/skate parks	Gen M is free-skating with longboards.
	Horseback riding on trails	Recession impacts have caused this to decrease with no rebound.
	Softball	Baby boomers continue to leave this sport.
	Downhill skiing	Gen Y does not have the numbers to replace aging baby boomers.

Chapter 3 – Outdoor Recreation and Public Health.

The third goal of the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Report, "Raise Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America's Outdoors," was developed out of the public's concern that youth are lacking exposure to outdoor education. AGO sets out to partner with Let's Move Outside! to instill lasting values of health and wellness, and environmental conservation in youths.

By examining the component of health and wellness that motivates recreation and by comparing the most popular outdoor activities that yield the greatest health benefits, Chapter 3 lays the groundwork for recreation planners seeking to make outdoor recreation relevant to today's youth and Wisconsinites. Wisconsin, too, should raise public awareness of the physical and mental health benefits of the great outdoors (AGO Recommendation 3.1). Communities can look to the federal government for support of campaigns that demonstrate and advertise outdoor recreation for wellness as well as support of parks and outdoor spaces that facilitate physical activity (AGO Action Item 3.1b).

The built environment plays an important role in our ability to affect public health and wellness (Gordon-Larsen et al. 2000; Frumkin et al. 2004). For example, parks, trails, and sports facilities are key local assets that allow for convenient, safe, and attractive places for people to participate in physical activities of all kinds (Sallis et al. 2006). While public health and wellness are affected by a number of social, economic, and environmental determinants, there is increasing evidence that improving access to outdoor locations favorable for physical activity can act to lower obesity levels and improve health outcomes among target populations (Campbell and Cornelssen 2004; Kelly et al. 2007; Lovasi et al. 2009).

Recreation planning and park design have been shown to affect use. Characteristics and specific features found in parks are important in fostering the use of these public spaces for physical activity. Features in trails and parks (playground equipment, sports facilities, etc.) have been shown to enhance that property's use for physical activity (Kaczynski et al. 2008).

Outdoor recreation encompasses a wide variety of activities, each of which has a different level of physical activity. In many cases, health and wellness outcomes can be improved through participation in activities that require higher levels of physical exertion. Table 3-1 shows recreation activity intensities by appropriate facility type. The higher the MET (metabolic intensity) the higher the energy expenditure by a person doing that activity.

Table 3-1 Recreation Intensities by Appropriate Facility Type

Facility	Activity	MET
Water – Lakes, streams, fishery areas, boat launches, marinas, piers, trout streams, waterfalls, whitewater rafting rivers	Canoeing	7
	Rowing	7
	Scuba diving	7
	Ice skating outdoors	7
	Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	6
	Waterskiing	6
	Rafting	5
	Snorkeling	5
	Kayaking	5
	Fishing, general, warm water	3
	Sailing	3
	Windsurfing	3
	Surfing	3
	Boating, power boat	2.5
	Ice fishing	2
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Visit a waterside	2
	Sightseeing	2
	Boat tours or excursions	2
	Family gathering	1.5
Picnicking	1.5	
Beaches, shoreline	Volleyball, outdoors	8
	Walking for pleasure	3.5
	Fishing, general, warm water	3
	Camping	2.5
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Visit a waterside	2
	Sightseeing	2
	Family gathering	1.5
	Picnicking	1.5
Forested land (state parks or natural areas, forest reserves, trust lands, wildlife and wilderness areas)	Rock climbing	9.5
	Orienteering	9
	Mountain biking	8.5
	Mountain climbing	8
	Skiing, cross-country	8
	Snowshoeing	8
	Backpacking	7
	Dog sledding	7
	Hiking, general	6
	Walking for pleasure	3.5
	Geocaching	3.3
	Camping	2.5
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Visit a wilderness or primitive area	2
	Sightseeing	2
	Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	2
	Family gathering	1.5
Picnicking	1.5	

Facility	Activity	MET
Ski hills	Snowshoeing	8
	Sledding	7
	Skiing, downhill	6
	Snowboarding	6
Local parks, parkland	Inline skating	12.5
	Running	9
	Handball outdoors	8
	Bicycling	8
	Volleyball, outdoors	8
	Football	8
	Sledding	7
	Tennis	7
	Racquetball	7
	Soccer	7
	Hiking, general	6
	Basketball	6
	Skateboarding	5
	Softball, or Baseball	5
	Walking for pleasure	3.5
	Disc golf	3
	Visit a dog park to walk a pet	3
	Yard games, e.g., horseshoes	2.5
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Family gathering	1.5
Picnicking	1.5	
Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	1.5	
Attend outdoor sports events	1.5	
Trails – single- or multi-use	Inline skating	12.5
	Running	9
	Mountain biking	8.5
	Bicycling	8
	Cross-country skiing	8
	Snowshoeing	8
	Backpacking	7
	Dog sledding	7
	Hiking, general	6
	Horseback riding	4
	Walking for pleasure	3.5
	Snowmobiling	3.5
	Off-road motorcycling	2.5
	Off-road driving with an ATV	2.5
View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2	
Sightseeing	2	
Trails – snow	Snowshoeing	8
	Skiing, cross-country	8
	Dog sledding	7
	Snowmobiling	3.5
	Off-road driving with an ATV	2.5

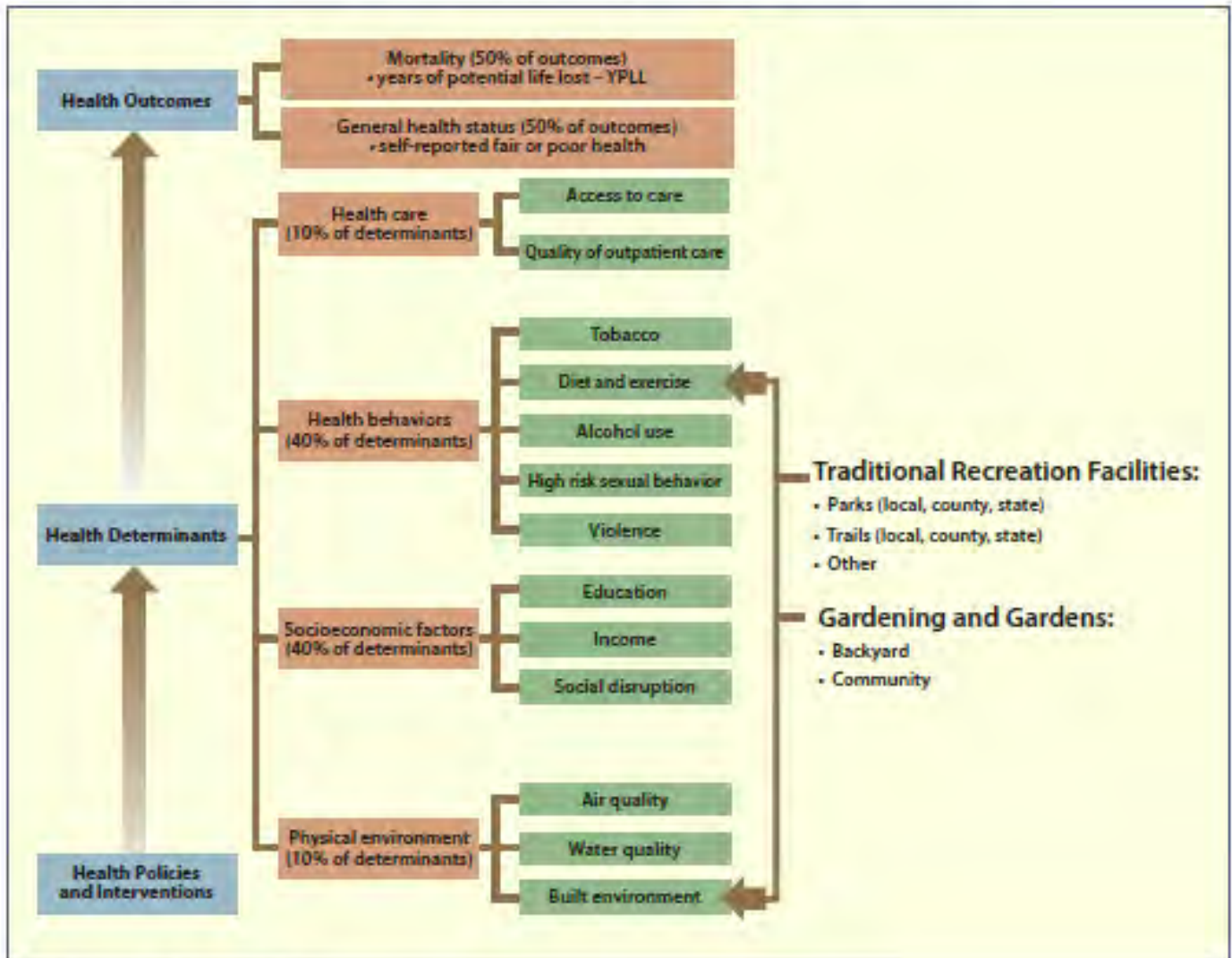
Table 3-1 Recreation Intensities by Appropriate Facility Type (continued)

Facility	Activity	MET
Sports facilities - indoor and outdoor	Football	8
	Volleyball	8
	Handball	7.5
	Soccer	7
	Tennis	7
	Paintball	6
	Basketball	6
	Baseball	5
	Softball	5
	Skateboarding	5
Outdoor ice rinks	Ice hockey outdoors	8
	Ice skating outdoors	7
Public hunting lands	Hunting, big game	6
	Hunting, migratory bird	6
	Hunting, small game	5
Golf courses, driving ranges, resorts, and country clubs	Golf	4.5
Horseback riding stables, facilities, trails	Horseback riding	4
Public outdoor swimming pools	Swimming in an outdoor pool	4
Disc golf courses	Disc golf	3
Dog parks	Visit a dog park to walk a pet	3
ATV parks	Off-road riding with an ATV	2.5
Shooting ranges (archery, guns, etc.)	Target shooting	2.5
Dirt bike/motocross tracks	Off-road motorcycling	2.5
Campgrounds	Camping	2.5
Arboretums	Running	9
	Bicycling	8
	Skiing, cross-country	8
	Snowshoeing	8
	Hiking, general	6
	Geocaching	3.3
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Driving for pleasure	2
	Visit nature centers	2
	Sightseeing	2
	Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	2
	Nature-based educational programs	2
Playgrounds	Basketball	6
	Yard games	2.5
	Picnicking	1.5

Facility	Activity	MET
Lighthouses	View/photograph scenery	2
	Visit historic sites	2
Nature centers	Visit nature centers	2
	Nature-based educational programs	2
Outdoor water/theme parks	Swimming, pool	4
	Visit outdoor theme/water park	2
Zoos	Walking for pleasure	3.5
	View/photograph wildlife	2
	Nature-based educational programs	2
	Visit nature centers	2
Caves	Visiting a cave	2
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Visit prehistoric/archeological sites	2

Improving public health outcomes through policy requires an understanding of health determinants (the factors that affect public health and wellness). These determinants include health care, health behaviors, socioeconomic factors, and the physical environment. Health determinants are in turn associated with a variety of behavioral, demographic, and environmental attributes as summarized in Figure 3-2.

Figure 3-2: **Conceptual Relationships Between Local Public Health and Wellness Outcomes**



Source: Adapted from Peppard et al. 2008.

Gardening: The Winning Combination of Outdoor Recreation and Public Health Benefits

Gardening is one of the most popular recreational activities in the United States and provides many benefits, including improved access to fresh produce, increased physical activity, and community-building. A recent recreation participation survey suggests that almost 70% of Wisconsin adults garden or landscape for pleasure. This makes gardening & landscaping the second most popular recreation activity in the state, second only to walking. General gardening results in a MET value of 4.0, categorizing it as a moderate intensity activity.

Gardening activities can be divided into two categories:

1. backyard and
2. community.

Around 90% of gardening takes place in backyard gardens and recent research suggests that 35% of Wisconsin households maintain a backyard garden.

One particularly valuable aspect of gardening as an outdoor activity is its potential to keep an individual engaged frequently over a growing season.

Among other outdoor recreation activities, gardening is relatively unique in its connection to personal nutrition. Only hunting, fishing, and foraging activities have a similarly direct connection to eating habits. More fresh produce means that gardeners are more likely to make home-cooked meals, which are typically lower in salt and sugar, and contain fewer excess calories.

Communities interested in creating a new garden may consider seeking grant money to help start the project. The federal People's Garden Grant Program (PGGP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is one possible funding source.

Chapter Summary

In order to encourage greater participation in activities that yield greater health benefits, the following recommendations are offered, sorted by facility type:

Trails – Plans should be created for entire corridors. Multi-tread trails should be constructed to avoid conflict between users. For example, walkers and runners can use gravel trails while bikers ride on adjacent paved trails. Signage should indicate the separation of users. **(NCWRPC Note: Gravel trails could be problematic for maintenance, and people may not want them due to dust and mud concerns. WisDOT recommends at least an 8-foot (10-foot preferred) paved multiuse asphalt path).**

Water – The DNR should fund and support improved access to lakes, streams, and other bodies of water, as well as facilities that cater to these activities (such as piers, boat launches, rental facilities, etc.). Wisconsin is home to countless lakes and streams, and it is important to ensure access to these amenities.

Snow – Non-motorized snow sports were generally ranked as moderate to high intensity and are therefore beneficial to health. Motorized uses, while more popular, have fewer health benefits. Trails should be separated between these two usage types, with certain trails designated for non-motorized uses only. This will make users feel safe and help to increase participation.

Ice Rinks – Outdoor rinks cater to ice skating and hockey, both of which are high-intensity activities. Municipalities should involve neighborhood associations and other groups with shoveling and maintenance tasks. The City of Madison started this initiative in 2011, and the program has been successful with active neighborhood groups.

Sports Facilities – Organized sports (such as basketball, soccer, and football) are high and moderate intensity activities with good participation levels. Government entities should try to partner with private sports facility providers in order to increase participation while efficiently managing public funds. For example, a municipality may give a sports complex incentives through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) or other means if they are open one night a week to the public.

Team Sport Leagues – Some high-intensity team sports are growing in popularity (particularly handball, football, volleyball, and soccer). If open space is available, fields should be created for use by recreation sports leagues.

Safety – Feeling safe can be addressed through increased police presence, increased street lighting, traffic safety, and a decrease in the amount of vacant buildings. These changes will make residents feel safer traveling to and from recreation sites, and using parks and open spaces. More people using recreation sites will help to increase physical activity rates of Wisconsin residents. Safety can also be promoted through using bike paths to connect residential areas to local schools, which would provide students with a safe route to walk or bike to school. This is consistent with Wisconsin's Safe Routes To School (SRTS) program, which works to promote healthy lifestyles in young children by giving them options other than cars to get to school. SRTS is funded through the revised federal transportation act – MAP-21.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) theories contend that law enforcement officers, architects, city planners, landscape and interior designers, and resident volunteers can create a climate of safety in a community right from the start. CPTED's goal is to prevent crime by designing a physical environment that positively influences human behavior. The theory is based on four principles: natural access control, natural surveillance, territoriality, and maintenance. **(Source: National Crime Prevention Council – NCWRPC added.)**

Chapter 4 – Access to Outdoor Recreation in Urban Wisconsin.

In response to rural-to-urban population growth and expansion in counties bordering out-of-state metropolitan areas, Wisconsin needs to launch a new generation of urban parks and green spaces. One of America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) goals, “Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces,” was developed out of the public’s demand for outdoor recreation facilities and associated benefits—improved health, community ties, and economy—closer to their home, work, and school.

For urban parks planning insight, Chapter 4 considers various urban recreation barriers and solutions, and analyzes peer-to-peer statistics for 145 municipalities. As AGO encourages use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to create and enhance urban parks and community green spaces (AGO Recommendation 6.1), Wisconsin can develop new parks in overlooked urban waters and former industrial sites to suit emerging urban recreation activities (AGO Action Items 6.3c and 6.3b). Satisfying Wisconsin’s need to unify park systems, AGO will support local, state, and tribal governments and communities to connect federal parks to urban and neighborhood parks by building community paths and sidewalks (AGO Action Items 6.4b and 6.4a).

Theme Overview

Urban recreation themes developed for this SCORP can also be a useful guide to analyze the benefits and availability of urban parklands and greenway open spaces in Wisconsin. These themes also provide an important framework for future recommendations and should be taken into consideration when planning for urban-based recreation.

THEME: The link between urban parks and public health

Health agencies at every level of government acknowledge that local facilities in urban areas are important for public health. Studies question the magnitude of the causal connection between park provisions and public health, recognizing the complex nature of the topic.

THEME: Standardized Metrics for Quality, Distance, and Size of Recreation Areas

Standard metrics for the quality and distribution of urban parklands and greenway open spaces will need to be developed. (**NCWRPC Note:** The DNR already created size metrics in their “Park & Recreation Designs, and Recreation Supply Levels” classification system.)

THEME: Classification of Facilities and Activities

Just as standardized guidelines for urban recreational facilities will help guide future research and development, so too will a classification scheme for types of facilities and recreational activities. The National Parks and Recreation Association has created a park hierarchy (e.g. mini, neighborhood, community, and special use parks), but other facilities may not fit into these categories (e.g. trails and greenways, water trails, zoos, etc). There is no clear distinction between bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are considered recreational and those that provide transportation and access functions. As new classification systems are developed, it will be important to incorporate new and emerging

recreation activities. Numerous articles allude to new trends in parks. Rooftop gardens and repurposed brownfields are becoming prime locations for outdoor recreational space in cities. For example, Brooklyn's High Line trail was created on an abandoned elevated railroad bed; and a tot park in Wausau was created by razing a factory, but keeping the brick chimney as a focal point. These recent trends of non-traditional facility locations and the rise in popular activities like adventure recreation may require innovative or more nuanced classification schemes.

THEME: Accommodating Various Demographic Groups

Related to the above trends, literature repeatedly identifies the importance of catering to the needs of different demographic groups based on age, gender, race, and ethnicity. The preferences of nearby groups should be considered in the design and maintenance of parks and other facilities. Keeping local demographic makeup and associated recreational use patterns in mind should help determine the type and nature of facilities that are provided in a given area.

THEME: The Importance of Safety

Safety was a noted consideration in a number of reviewed studies. The safety of a facility and the ability to get to and from the facility safely can play a critical role in determining the level of use for some outdoor recreational facilities like trails and parkways.

THEME: Aesthetic Appeal and Placement

Two other factors that can help determine the success of parks and urban recreation facilities are a facility's aesthetic appeal and placement. Level of maintenance and design of a facility both lend to its aesthetic appeal. Aesthetic appeal can either attract participants or turn away potential users. (NCWRPC NOTE: No specifics provided for placement)

THEME: Financing Urban Parks and Greenways

While research recognizes the benefits of parks and supports an increase in community recreation facilities, the fact remains that financing these facilities in a sustainable and equitable way is not easy. Creative approaches like public-private partnerships are being employed in some places. The Great Communities Collaborative (2007) discusses a number of possible financing strategies, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches. Recommendations for improving Wisconsin's urban parks and greenways should be sensitive to the fiscal stress of local governmental units.

Urban Park and Trail Accessibility

Recreation that occurs close to home is an important aspect of outdoor recreation that directly affects residents of communities throughout the state.

Walking is by far the most popular outdoor activity in Wisconsin. While much of recreational walking takes place on neighborhood sidewalks, the presence of parks and trails plays a significant role in activities like walking. Research has linked the presence of parks, trails, enjoyable scenery, and other people exercising to increased physical activity (Rosenberger et al. 2005; 2009). These are all environmental factors that are directly or indirectly provided by parks and trails.

Park and trail accessibility can be measured by the percentage of residents that live within walking

distance, which is defined as within ½ mile. Over 70% of Wisconsin residents do not live within a ½-mile walk of a park or trail. Recent data from the CDC point to the fact that Wisconsin is behind the national average in percentage of youth with parks or playgrounds, community centers, and sidewalks or walking paths available in their neighborhoods (USD-HHS 2011).

Focus Groups and Expert Observations

In 2010, a focus group and expert interviews were held to assess urban recreation barriers. From these interactions, the following themes emerged that highlight barriers, as well as opportunities for addressing these barriers. The primary barriers and opportunities are as follows:

- Lack of real and perceived safety from crime and traffic.
 - Create safe spaces by bringing traffic to the park and altering park design so there are no hidden places.
 - Bring foot traffic by offering programming and versatile spaces.
 - Install traffic calming structures on area streets and crosswalks and reduce speed limits.
- Lack of desired facilities and necessary amenities.
 - Create versatile facilities like multipurpose fields and provide basic amenities including unlocked bathrooms and drinking fountains.
 - Rehabilitate or tear down blighted or unsafe infrastructure.
- Lack of connectivity.
 - Increase park connectivity with surrounding communities and other parks via greenways and bike paths.
- Lack of programming.
 - Create programming including walking clubs, which are very popular in urban areas, using neighborhood partnerships.

Programming may also be developed through governmental partnerships and funding strategies. A good example of this is the Center for Resilient Cities (CRC) in Milwaukee. The CRC has a development agreement with Milwaukee County that allows the CRC to oversee final park and recreation design. CRC holds all funds in escrow, and they are able to raise more funds than the city or county because they are a 501(c)(3), meaning that donations to the organization are tax-deductible, the organization is tax-exempt, and CRC projects are eligible for a wider range of grants. In discussions with the CRC, the organization noted that people are often more comfortable donating to a non-profit than the City for specific projects because non-profits are seen as more transparent. The CRC is able to leverage its existing neighborhood connections to build community trust, respond to community desires, and help in the operation of park programming. The County provides money for capital expenditures (such as playground structures or berm removal), and the CRC helps fund the programmatic and operational aspects of a park.

Implementation Strategies

The following implementation strategies have been developed in response to the data presented in this chapter. Adjust these strategies to best meet the goals of individual park systems.

Small Parks, Connectivity, and Conservancy Land

Further park acquisition and development should be strategic and focus on physical unification of the park system. By developing trails and conservancy land corridors, park systems will be able to improve access and increase recreation offerings in underserved areas. Improved connectivity efforts can also be complimented with the strategic placement of mini parks.

Programs, Specialized Facilities, and Versatile Facilities

Park programming tailored to meet the needs of local residents can increase park use and improve the image of a park system. It is also important to achieve a balance between providing specialized facilities and increasing park versatility. While specialized facilities are instrumental parts of park systems, individual parks should strive to improve versatility by, for example, installing multipurpose fields instead of regulation soccer fields.

Partnerships: Public-Public and Public-Private

Government agencies play a primary role in providing high quality, accessible outdoor recreation in urban areas. Potential areas for intergovernmental partnerships include but are not limited to school districts, water utility departments, and metro area park systems (county parks). Public-private partnership opportunities should be considered in order to improve park system offerings and increase park efficiency.

Chapter 5 – Open Space Conservation: Connecting People to Outdoor Recreation Opportunities.

Reflected in America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Report, the goals to “Conserve Rural Working Farms, Ranches, and Forests through Partnerships and Incentives” and to “Protect and Renew Rivers and Other Waters” ensure conservation and recreation enjoyment of beloved lands and waters. Wisconsin shares this view by incentivizing landowners to conserve public recreation opportunities on private lands, and prioritizing safe access to waterways.

Through focus groups discussions, Chapter 5 examines open space conservation roles from public lands and the programs that support them to private lands leveraged financially—deemed necessary by stakeholders—for preservation and public recreation access (AGO Recommendation 7.5). AGO supports expanding federal and state partnerships with private landowners through federal programs (AGO Action Item 7.5a), collaborating with local, state, and tribal governments to conserve and restore large landscapes (AGO Action Item 8.1d), and fostering networking among communities to improve access and enjoyment of waterways (AGO Action Item 9.2b).

Recreation lands and facilities are provided by two major groups in Wisconsin – governments and private landowners. The largest public land category is county parks and forests, accounting for 42.7% of all public lands. For private lands, the largest category is open managed forest lands, accounting for 31.8% or over 1.1 million acres.

Federal recreation providers in Wisconsin include:

- National Park Service (examples: Apostle Islands, and National Ice Age Trail)
- Fish and Wildlife Service (example: Necedah National Wildlife Refuge)
- Bureau of Land Management (*NCWRPC Note: none in Wisconsin*)
- Forest Service (example: Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (example: Blackhawk “campground” Park, Mississippi River)

Recreation provided in these areas are generally nature-based and non-destructive like hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, nature study, canoeing, boating, swimming, and similar activities.

State recreation resources mimic the federal government, but all exist under one entity – the **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**.

- WDNR fisheries
- Natural Areas
- State Forests
- State Parks
- Wildlife Areas
- Wild Rivers
- Other lands

NCWRPC Note: the *Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL)* holds forestland for public education. Nearly all of the School Trust Lands were sold over 100 years ago. The proceeds were used to establish the School Trust Funds, which continue to grow with revenue from unclaimed property, clear proceeds of civil and criminal fees, fines and forfeitures, and timber production on School Trust Lands.

BCPL manages these Funds and the remaining School Trust Lands for the benefit of public school libraries, the University of Wisconsin, and the state’s citizens. See (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/>) and the for details.

All school trust lands are open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other forms of public recreation. Some school trust lands, however, are surrounded by private property and we urge visitors to respect private property rights by requesting permission to cross private lands to access them. On the BCPL website, search for “Maps of BCPL Land by County” to view where School Trust Lands exist.

NCWRPC Note: the **Wisconsin Department of Transportation** also owns some land for the purpose of wetland mitigation of highway projects.

County Parks and Forests

All Wisconsin counties have county parks, but not all have county forest land. State legislation requires enrollment of county forest land under the Wisconsin County Forest Law to be open to hunting, camping, hiking, and bird watching. With the exception of a few sensitive areas, there are no lands enrolled under the County Forests Law that are closed to the public. These county forests

provide more than 1,200 campsites and thousand miles of hiking, skiing, and snowmobile trails, as well as public access to hundreds of lakes and streams.

Enrolled county forests represent the state's largest public forest landholding and are extremely important to Wisconsin's forest products industry and economy. Each year they generate from \$25 to \$30 million in timber revenues for the counties and towns in which they are located. Approximately 16,000 jobs and \$4.6 billion in the generation of forest products result from the timber harvested from county forests.

Wisconsin Stewardship Program

Wisconsin has a long and successful history of bipartisan financial support for the conservation of the state's natural resources and the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities (1961 to the present). Stewardship II (FY2011-FY2020) provides \$86 million of bonding authority for this 10-year period to 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.

Land and Water Conservation Program

Congress established this program in 1965 to assure accessibility to quality outdoor recreation resources and "to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States" (Public Law 88-578). The LWCF Program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities (as well as funding for shared federal land acquisition and conservation strategies). The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States.

School Forests (NCWRPC added.)

Various school districts local governments, and universities own forestland for outdoor educational purposes. Any city, village, town, or school district who owns forested property can register their forest into the School Forest program, which is run by the DNR and UW-Stevens Point. Once registered, the governmental entity is eligible:

- For free trees and seed from the state forest nurseries;
- For technical assistance for DNR foresters for carrying out tree planting and forest management plans;
- To apply for Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) school forest grants; and
- To receive assistance from the Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist.

Wisconsin school forest statistics (2012)

- 214 public schools - 9 private schools - 7 higher education institutions

Contact each school forest for their specific guidelines to how their land is open for public use.

Private Recreation Providers

Managed Forest Law

The Managed Forest Law (MFL) was enacted in 1985 to replace the Woodland Tax Law and the Forest Crop Law. This is a landowner incentive program to encourage sustainable forestry on private woodland. Enrolled program lands must be managed by the landowner in accordance with the forest management plan written by a certified consulting forester. In exchange for following sound forest management, the landowner pays reduced property taxes.

Lands enrolled under MFL can be designated as open or closed to public recreation. Open designation allows public access to the property for hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing, and cross country skiing without additional permission from landowners. Closed designation gives landowners the right to restrict or permit access to their lands (a higher tax is paid on closed lands).

State and Federal Forest Legacy Program

The Natural Resources Board granted the DNR authority to establish the Forest Legacy Program. The goal of the program is to minimize fragmentation and conversion of significant forested areas to non-forest uses. Under this program the DNR purchases conservation easements to the land, which protects it from non-forest development. Another main goal of the program is to allow public access on these lands where appropriate.

Voluntary Public Access Program

The 2008 Farm Bill established this program that leases qualified property in exchange for opening the land to public uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife observation.

Land Trusts

These organizations permanently protect important resources in their communities from overdevelopment. Most often, the resources under protection have natural, recreational, scenic, historic, or productive value. They are organized as non-profits whose mission is determined by their members and volunteers. Land may be open to the public for specific uses.

NCWRPC Note: A large part of this chapter is not summarized because it was based upon 38 people who attended one of six meetings across the state.

The topics missed include:

- Collaborative Approaches to Support and Improve Outdoor Recreation Landscapes
- Collaborative Approaches to Support Outdoor Recreation
- Coordinated Funding and Grants for Outdoor Recreation
- The Role of Education in Aid of Outdoor Recreation

Chapter 6 – Wisconsin SCORP Outdoor Recreation Goals and Actions.

In the collective, cross-country discussion that took place for the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, Americans spoke from their minds and their hearts, and out of that came a clear vision: a future where their children are near safe and clean parks where they can “play, dream, discover, and recreate.” They see a future where everyone shares responsibility for protecting and caring for our natural and cultural heritage, where rural lands are conserved, and public and private lands essential to supporting wildlife and human needs are unified. They see a future where working together to restore and protect rivers and lakes means healthy lives and a healthy economy.

The State of Wisconsin can live up to this vision. The tenth and final theme of the AGO Report, “Make the Federal Government a More Effective Conservation Partner,” was developed out of the public’s plea that the federal government eliminate obstacles created by poor policies and processes that keep Americans from the outdoors. For people to reconnect to the great outdoors, the government at all levels—federal, state, local, and tribal—must improve as a conservation partner to the American public. By creating partnerships, aligning resources, and leveraging funding, government can achieve goals set in outdoor recreation planning.

Overall, the State of Wisconsin strives to align its goals with the AGO, while using AGO resources and assistance to conserve and restore unique lands and waters and to connect its population to the great outdoors. The 2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP provides an extensive framework for merging state and federal visions.

The goals and actions listed in this chapter represent a summation of targeted elements to encourage the citizens of Wisconsin to enjoy more of the state’s great outdoors. For the most part, these actions take a broad approach to expanding outdoor recreation, with no one person or agency being able to accomplish all goals. The intent of this chapter is to provide a list of common goals and actions so that individuals and organizations working in outdoor recreation in Wisconsin may work together to improve and expand outdoor recreation opportunities in our state.

Goal 1: Assess, Understand, and Adapt to Growing Recreation Tourism Demands and Preferences

Wisconsin’s lands and waters are a natural draw for outdoor recreation for both in-state and out-of-state visitors. The Wisconsin outdoor recreation economy contributes over \$9.7 billion annually while supporting 129,000 jobs. State initiatives such as Travel Green Wisconsin make connections between tourism, business, and the outdoors as important partners. These partnerships need to be maintained and enhanced to keep Wisconsin a leader in regional tourism.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Understand the recreation and tourism preferences associated with growing market segments.

2. Identify existing and emerging strategies to evaluate appropriate levels and types of service for expanding user groups.
3. Hold an annual forum on outdoor recreation as part of the Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Tourism.
4. Continue collaborations between the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Tourism as well as other partners to promote outdoor recreation.
5. Continue to promote and expand the Travel Green Wisconsin program for business connections to the outdoors.
6. Maintain funding for tourism marketing to promote high quality outdoor recreation experiences.
7. Acknowledge the potential issues surrounding climate change adaptation with outdoor recreation and tourism.

Goal 2: Improve Integration of Outdoor Recreation Interests and Needs in Land Use and Other Relevant Planning Efforts

One of the primary objectives of a SCORP is to improve the integration between state and local organizations, partners, and other organizations that provide or influence outdoor recreation. The SCORP presents a set of goals and actions that allow organizations to work together toward a common vision of improved outdoor recreation in the state. As recreation continues to place demands on public lands and waters, these partnerships will become even more important. By integrating outdoor recreation interests, decisions on the management of recreation resources and recreation opportunities become more effective, efficient, fair, reasoned, and defensible

Actions and Recommendations

1. Support outdoor recreation access and opportunities on public lands by establishing a State Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation.
2. Support and align state agency programs and initiatives to promote the creation, expansion, and enhancement of urban parks and community green spaces.
3. Manage state lands and waters within a larger landscape context to conserve and restore ecosystems and watershed health.
4. Encourage regional planning efforts for integrated, cost-effective use of recreation lands and facilities.
5. Provide education and awareness of how recreation uses can impact the natural resources along with actions to reduce those impacts.
6. Promote the collaboration of public and private recreation opportunities through integrated management planning.

Goal 3: 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 for many state citizens. In some cases this perception is true; more water/boating access is needed in certain portions of the state. In many cases, however,

public access to recreation resources does exist, but the public is simply not aware of it. Improved and easily accessible maps and signage would aid the public in locating these access points.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Continue to develop a statewide interactive mapping system showing all public lands and water access points within 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 meet Americans with the Disabilities Act standards for accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities.
5. Support community based efforts to increase access to outdoor recreation.
6. Promote sustainable recreation facility design, construction, and maintenance practices.

Goal 4: Conserve Rural Landscapes and Forests through Partnerships and Incentives

More than 80% of Wisconsin land is held in private ownership. Most of this land is farms and forests, and over 500,000 acres is held in trust by the United States for state Indian tribes. In areas where there is a large component of publicly held land, privately owned lands often provide important wildlife habitat and migration corridors. With so much of the state under private ownership, it is vital that we manage and protect these privately held lands to conserve water resources, ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and natural heritage for generations to come.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Support financial and other incentives that increase access to outdoor recreation activities on or across private lands.
2. Encourage large-scale land conservation partnership projects through economic incentives and technical assistance.
3. Support collaborative landscape conservation through competitive processes, including increases in Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), stewardship funding, and other programs.
4. Continue to support the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative for habitat conservation and protection.

Goal 5: Address Funding Challenges Associated with Managing Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Resources

From its early years of establishing state parks, Wisconsin has had an active program of land acquisition. The latest iteration of these programs is the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson 2010 Stewardship Program. Under this program, the State may issue bonds in a total not to exceed \$860 million spread over a 10 year period. The stewardship program targets land acquisition, property development, and local assistance. As Wisconsin recreation has received increasingly less state resources, targeted funding programs have provided vital support to an ever dwindling pool of funds for outdoor park and recreation lands and facilities.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Encourage all local governments to develop park and recreation plans for participation in state and federal cost share programs.
2. Provide more cost share opportunities for local governments to develop and maintain recreational lands and facilities.
3. Provide adequate funding to the Wisconsin State Park System to meet the needs of its 14 million visitors a year.
4. Explore new and innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among many governmental agencies.
5. Increase revenue generating capabilities for outdoor recreation by continuing to update and improve technologies such as automated fee collection systems.
6. Increase the capacity of public lands friends groups to provide and support recreation facilities.

Goal 6: Promote Outdoor Recreation as a Means of Improving Public Health Among Wisconsinites

The United States as a whole (and Wisconsin is no exception) is in the midst of an overweight and obesity epidemic brought on by increasingly inactive lifestyles coupled with high caloric intakes. This epidemic has created rising health care costs and shortened life expectancies. Outdoor park and recreation areas can provide the type of active recreational opportunities key to reversing this trend. Encouraging Wisconsinites to use available lands and facilities will benefit not only park and recreation areas, but also Wisconsin citizens receiving the health benefits of increased activity.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Develop a “Get Fit with Wisconsin Campaign” for public lands and waters that touts the health benefits of using recreational areas and reaches a wide audience of potential users.
2. Educate the public about the health benefits of moderate and enjoyable physical activities such as walking, biking, nature study, etc.
3. Integrate opportunities and incentives for exercise during the workday—give employees 30 minutes a day for exercise, provide exercise equipment, etc.
4. Start a dialogue between public outdoor recreation providers and health agencies to identify other (non-traditional) funding sources for recreational facilities and development.
5. Continue the “Walk with Walker Program” by encouraging citizens to use state parks, forests, and trails for health and wellness.
6. Promote the mission of the "Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health" on informing, promoting and encouraging citizens of Wisconsin to incorporate healthy eating and physical behaviors for a lifetime.

Goal 7: Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces

Frederick Law Olmsted, the central architect of Milwaukee's Grand Necklace of Parks, extolled the virtues of outdoor space, especially for urban communities. Today, urban parks and community green spaces play an even more important role as special public places that promote health, provide economic benefits, and nurture democratic values by inviting casual interaction among citizens. Urban parks and community green spaces are essential for providing places for people to recreate outdoors, to find quiet and solitude, and to generally improve their quality of life.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Create and enhance a new generation of safe, clean, accessible, and connected great urban parks and community green spaces.
2. Connect people with urban parks, trails, and community green spaces.
3. Target technical assistance support to communities as they create and enhance urban parks and community green spaces.
4. Continue to provide funding to communities through the Stewardship Program to acquire and develop local park and greenway spaces.
5. Leverage private community foundations and public funding to increase park acquisitions.
6. Provide funding to restore, preserve, and protect historic outdoor facilities for future generations.

ATTACHMENT E

Online Survey and Summarized Results

**Vilas County
Outdoor Recreation Survey**

Chambers of Commerce and Lake Groups advertised this NCWRPC created online survey that was : Opened: August 22, 2012; and
Closed: October 4, 2012.

Q1

What Vilas County lake do you live on or are closest to?
Even if you are a seasonal resident, please write the lake that you frequently "live" near.

Q2

How did you find out about this survey?

- Lake group contact
- Chamber of Commerce notice
- Town or City bulletin board or notification
- Local media (e.g. newspaper, radio, tv)
- Other (please specify)

Q3

What are the top 3 outdoor recreational issues facing Vilas County?
These issues could be a combination of strengths and desires to maintain what exists.

Issue 1 _____

Issue 2 _____

Issue 3 _____

Q4

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

Q5

What existing outdoor recreation facilities in Vilas County need improvement?

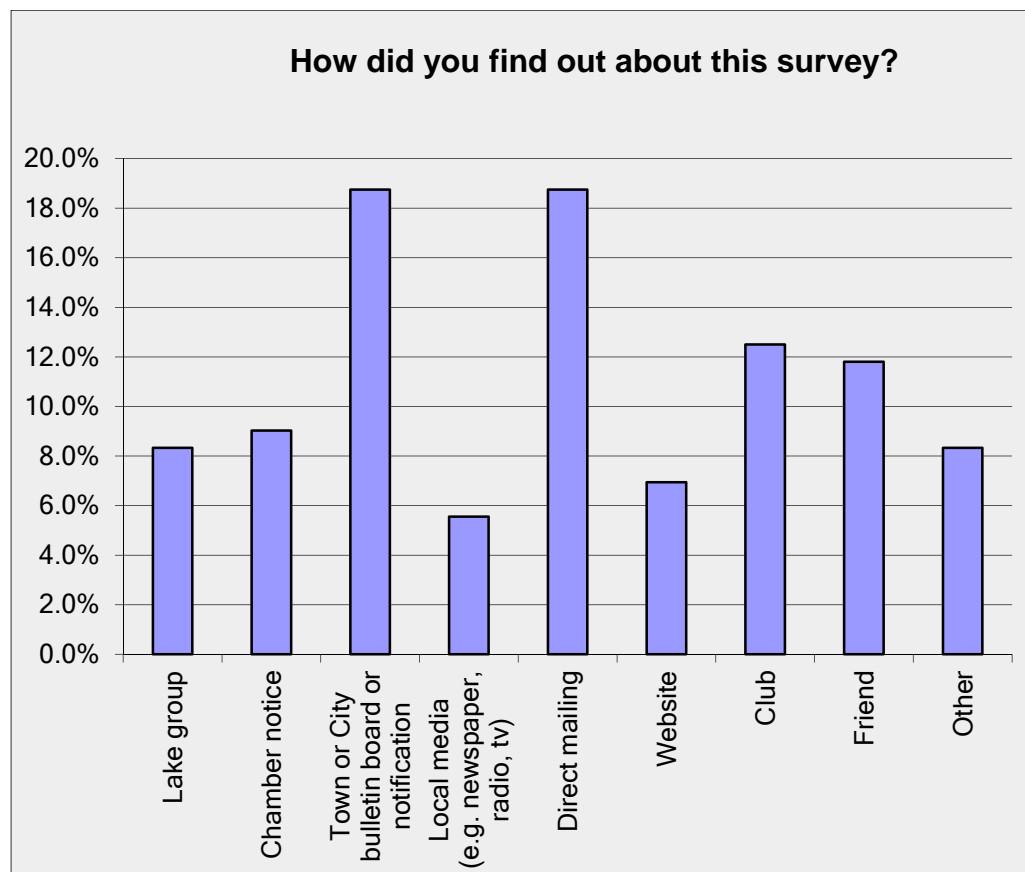
Results for this survey follow...

Vilas County 2012 Outdoor Recreation Survey Results

The Vilas County 2012 Outdoor Recreation Survey was conducted by NCWRPC in the fall of 2012 to identify outdoor recreation issues in Vilas County for updating the countywide outdoor recreation plan for the next five years, 2014-2019. Excellent participation occurred and issues were identified.

This survey is not statistically accurate, because anyone could have chosen to take the survey themselves **or** be part of a group that submitted responses. For example: if 20 people responded the same way and a group representing 100 people voted a different way, then in these results it will look like 20 people want something and 1 person wants something else, whereby the opposite is actually true with 100 people actually wanting something different. 12 recreational groups replied as groups (motorized, non-motorized, and lake groups), and some of these groups encouraged their members to also complete the survey.

115 surveys were mailed or emailed directly to lake group contacts on-record with the Vilas County Land & Water Department. Chambers of commerce in Vilas County also advertised the online survey link. A great response of 144 surveys were completed online and via mail.



Vilas County 2012 Outdoor Recreation Survey Results

Survey respondents noted how they found out about this survey in the following ways:

Lake group – Every organized lake group on the Vilas County Land & Water Department’s mailing list was emailed or mailed a survey. Note: It is possible that “**lake group**” and “**direct mailing**” are all part of “**lake group.**”

Chamber notice – Every chamber of commerce in Vilas County was asked to promote this survey however they saw fit.

Town or City bulletin board or notification – Local governments may have posted notice of the survey on their bulletin boards.

Local media – A story of the survey may have prompted someone to take the survey.

Direct mailing – Many paper surveys were mailed directly to NCWRPC for tabulation. Most likely these completed surveys came from **lake group** contact people.

Website – A couple websites/bloggers advertised the survey on their site.

Club – Some participants noted that they found out about the survey from an organized recreational club.

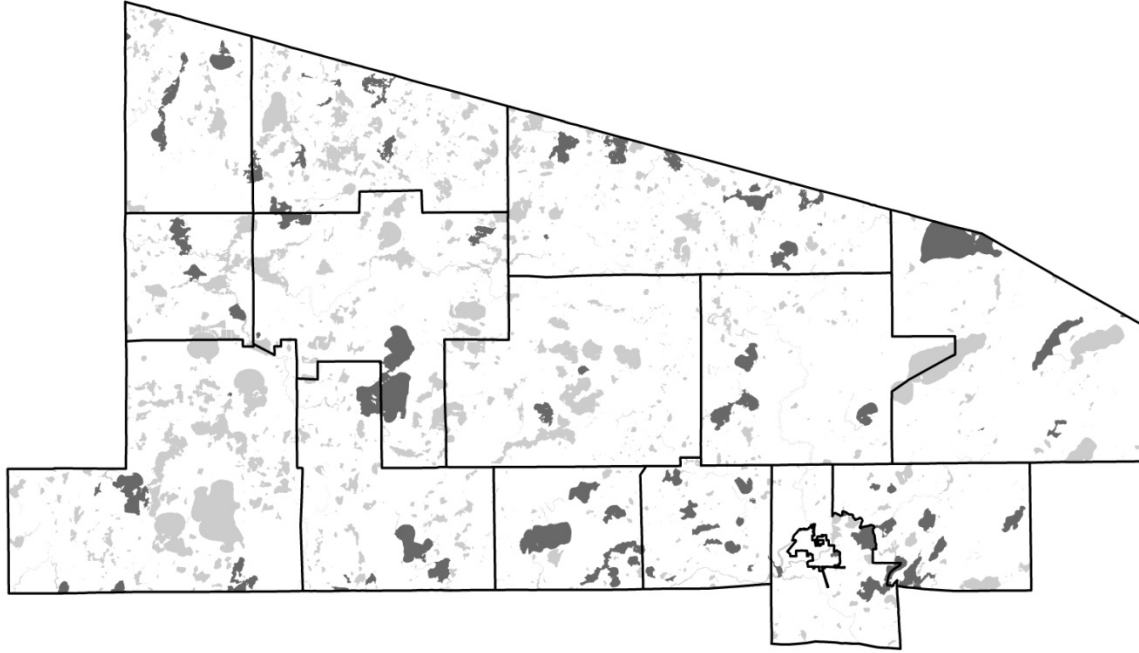
Friend – Co-workers and neighbors encouraged their friends to complete the survey.

Other – A small number of people replied based upon a variety of reasons.

Vilas County 2012 Outdoor Recreation Survey Results

What Vilas County lake do you live on or are closest to?

On the image below, darkened lakes are where survey respondents lived closest to.



Top outdoor recreational issues facing Vilas County:

Number of times issue was stated	Issue
All Terrain Vehicles: 87	
42	ATVs are an issue. <i>(NCWRPC Note: This was a general reference respondents made on the survey. No positive or negative reference could be determined from this listing.)</i>
39	Need ATV routes or trails.
5	Silent sports alone (without ATVs) is missing the economic opportunity of having ATVs.
1	Dirt bike access.
Silent Sports (Overall): 42	
15	Maintain Vilas County as a silent sport destination.
13	Keep ATVs out of Vilas County.
13	Connect recreational trails for hiking, biking, walking, birding, and snowmobiling – not ATVs.

Vilas County 2012 Outdoor Recreation Survey Results

1	Focus on creating "destination" attractions that feature our natural resources and silent recreation
Silent Sports (Bicycling): 28	
6	Biking is an issue.
17	Need bike trails. Connect bike trails.
3	Too many bike routes on paved highways (very dangerous).
1	Educate motorists about the rights of bicyclists.
1	Add 5-foot paved shoulder on roads for bike/run usage.
Silent Sports (Hiking): 15	
5	Hiking is an issue.
1	Jogging and walking trails needed.
1	Need for silent sport trails and parking areas.
2	Need more wilderness trails and interpretive signs.
1	Clear and brush back on existing hiking trails.
4	More cross country ski trails.
1	Increase snowshoe trails.
Invasive Species: 39	
25	Aquatic invasive species concern.
14	Terrestrial Invasive species concern.
Fishing & Boating: 39	
8	Fishing management on lakes in Vilas County.
4	Fish spearing.
5	Fishing.
10	Maintain clean lakes and waters.
3	Shorelines lack buffers on lakes.
4	Enforce boating laws.
1	Allow motor trolling on all lakes.
2	Jet boats.
1	Lake levels dropping.
1	Improving public access points to lakes for boating.
Snowmobiles: 36	
11	Snowmobiling is an issue.
17	Improve or maintain snowmobile trails within county.

Vilas County 2012 Outdoor Recreation Survey Results

Snowmobiles (continued)	
7	Lack of snow in winter. Snowmobile season shortening.
1	Help the Vilas County Snowmobile alliance to help the 11 clubs with increasing cost of fuel.
Land Development: 16	
2	Overdevelopment.
3	Air/noise pollution.
2	Fragmentation of large privately owned forested areas.
2	Preserve dark skies.
1	Continue logging, but eliminate “clear cut” logging
1	Logging around recreational trails.
1	Development of early successional wildlife habitat.
3	Need a comprehensive collaborative plan to tie goals and resources together of towns county and citizen groups.
1	Determine how to derive the most benefits in terms of recreation, health, and economic impact from county’s natural resources.
Hunting: 11	
7	Deer management in Vilas County.
2	Hunting & shooting.
1	Wolf hunting is a controversial issue.
1	high seasonal resident hunting/fishing fees
Camping: 8	
7	Modern camping facilities needed.
1	Campgrounds

NCWRPC Note: The “Other” group below is where all remaining comments from the survey were placed if they did not fit well with any of the above bolded headings.

Other:	
8	Tourism in general.
7	Preserve natural resources and develop tourism.
4	Silent sport people demonize ATV/UTV motorsport people while expanding their sport.

Vilas County 2012 Outdoor Recreation Survey Results

Other: (continued)	
3	Better park amenities
2	Poor economy
2	Horse trails.
1	Providing opportunities for ALL powered and non-powered outdoor sports.
1	With all the bike trails built, we need a registration fee for bicycle users.
1	No clubs funding and maintaining silent sport trails in Vilas County.
1	Work with DNR to educate rather than fine users.
1	Promote outdoor recreation to ensure support for conservation and preservation.
1	Preserve "wild" character of Vilas Co.
1	A Vilas County Board with too many members led or beholden to the Extreme Environmentalis Group.
1	Apprehension and/or lack of knowledge of what's available for outdoor recreation.
1	season residents dictate our economy- they are against the economical growth of Vilas county
1	updating internet access for visitors
1	Too many events, every single weekend
1	The fact that silent sports don't necessarily provide economic stability.
1	Bad economic times require added ideas and initiatives to expand our tourism base -- ATVs are the logical answer.
1	To maintain and enhance the highest quality environmental conditions in our waters and woodlands.
1	Far too many businesses are closing here in Eagle River. We rely on tourism, we should act to attract the large group of ATV sportspeople.
1	A lack of - need for - coordinated financial investment in our outdoor recreational infrastructuree - such as bike/ped trails, campgrounds.
1	Devoting county funds to retaining the expert personnel needed to successfully execute any county recreational plan.
1	Recruit sponsors for silent sports activities similar to snowmobile derby.
1	ignorance to what can be done to improve the area
1	Stop wasting Tax Payer money on Bicycle trails that hardly any one uses.
1	Recreation based primarily on the Silent Sports
1	Local Business is losing out on lots of \$\$ because of the current ATV policy
1	utilization of multi-use recreational trails
1	Suronding counties much freindlier around power sports
1	Need more Motorsports recreation

Vilas County 2012 Outdoor Recreation Survey Results

Other: (continued)	
1	promoting positive features
1	Lack of inforcement of existing regulations
1	Disconnected bike trails
1	Protecting our wildlife
1	Manage loud sports
1	Lake levels dropping - Beaver Dam issues
1	Allowing one user group to dominate resources of the county
1	Have laws in place to regulate ATVs. Once laws are in place, allow ATV activities in townships.
1	Funds to improve, sustain, and create recreational venues and activities.
1	support silent sports
1	warmer climate
1	WOLVES, BEAR AND COYOTE
1	improved grouse habitat
1	Recreation of a 'safe hiking' back-woods environment

ATTACHMENT F

Town Survey and Summarized Results

VILAS COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY



The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, and Land Department is creating an *outdoor recreation plan* for 2014-2019 and we would like your input. The five-year outdoor recreation plan will be used to identify new projects for development as well as which local and county parks or forest segments need additional, repurposed, or reconstructed recreational facilities (e.g. trails, buildings, water access sites, or camp sites). The plan enables County and local government eligibility for competitive grants of 50% from the DNR Stewardship Fund, and other federal sources, and for annual planning and budgeting.

This survey and a planning timeline are available at:

<http://www.ncwrpc.org/vilas/orp.html>

Please complete this survey at a posted public meeting.

1. Community:

Town of Arbor Vitae

2. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Vilas County?

These issues could be a combination of strengths and desires to maintain what exists.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 2 be satisfied?

4. What existing outdoor recreation facilities in Vilas County need improvement?

5. How would you improve outdoor recreation in Vilas County?

Please describe what is needed, and why.

Thank You For Your Participation!

Please feel free to make additional comments on a separate sheet of paper and mail that sheet with this completed survey to be **postmarked by August 31, 2013,**

To: Fred Heider, NCWRPC
210 McClellan St., STE 210
Wausau WI 54403



NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403
Telephone: 715-849-5510 Fax: 715-849-5110
Web Page: www.ncwrpc.org Email: staff@ncwrpc.org



SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY RESULTS:

Each town and the City of Eagle River was asked to complete the attached survey in a publicly posted meeting. The following communities returned surveys: City of Eagle River, and the Towns of Arbor Vitae, Boulder Junction, Conover, Land O' Lakes, Plum Lake, Presque Isle, Washington, and Winchester.

The Towns of Boulder Junction and Conover both provided a survey from each town board member (3 per town). The Town of Presque Isle provided 25 surveys, because they opened up the survey for each resident to pick up and return. NCWRPC summarized each batch of surveys separately by community to produce 1 survey.

Only this question (#2) was summarized:

“What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Vilas County?”

5 responses – Have bike/multi-use (non-motorized) trails connect to others.

3 responses – Need fish stocking/no bag limits.

3 responses - Develop and maintain access to lakes, boat landings, campsites, and beaches.

2 responses – Look at UTVs/ATVs for trail creation.

2 responses – Threat of Aquatic invasive species

2 responses – Keep ATVs out of Vilas County

1 response – Closure of logging roads.

1 response – Increase snowmobile funding.

1 response – Only 1 public disc golf course exists.

1 response – Need high speed internet.

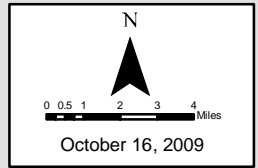
1 response – Money.

1 response – Inadequate bridge access for pedestrians and bicyclists.

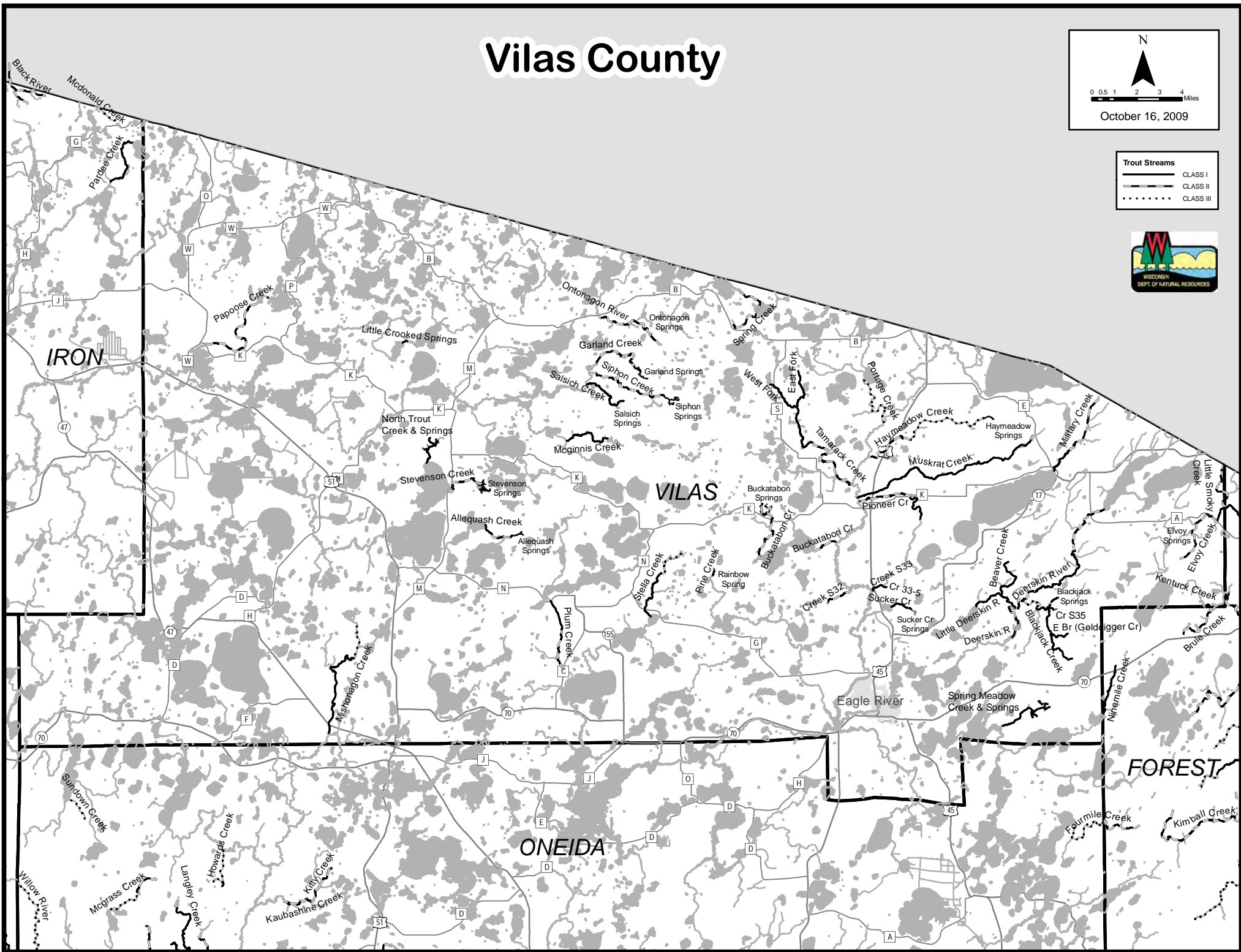
ATTACHMENT G

Map of Trout Streams in Vilas County

Vilas County

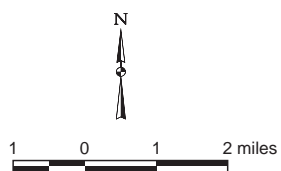
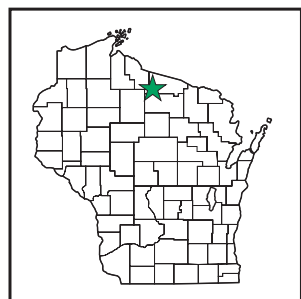


Trout Streams	
	CLASS I
	CLASS II
	CLASS III

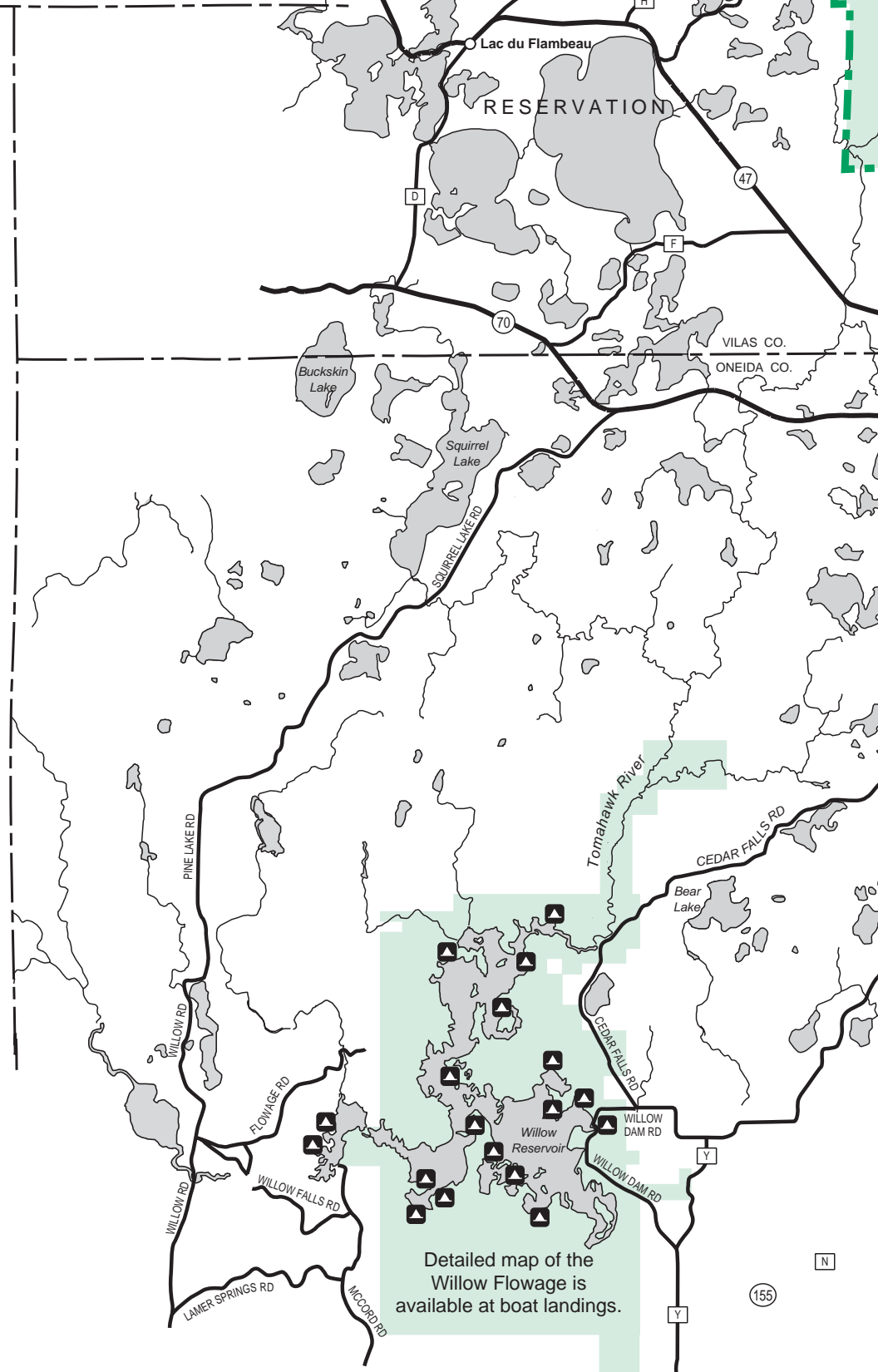
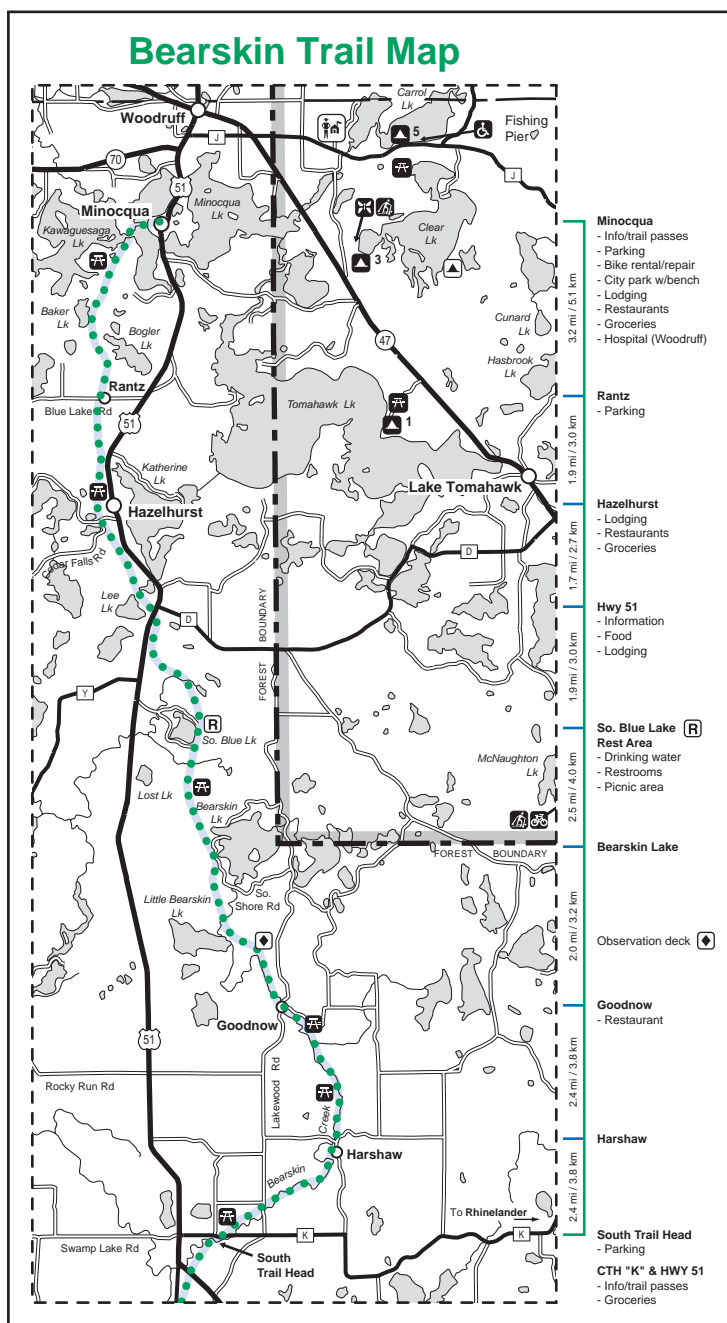
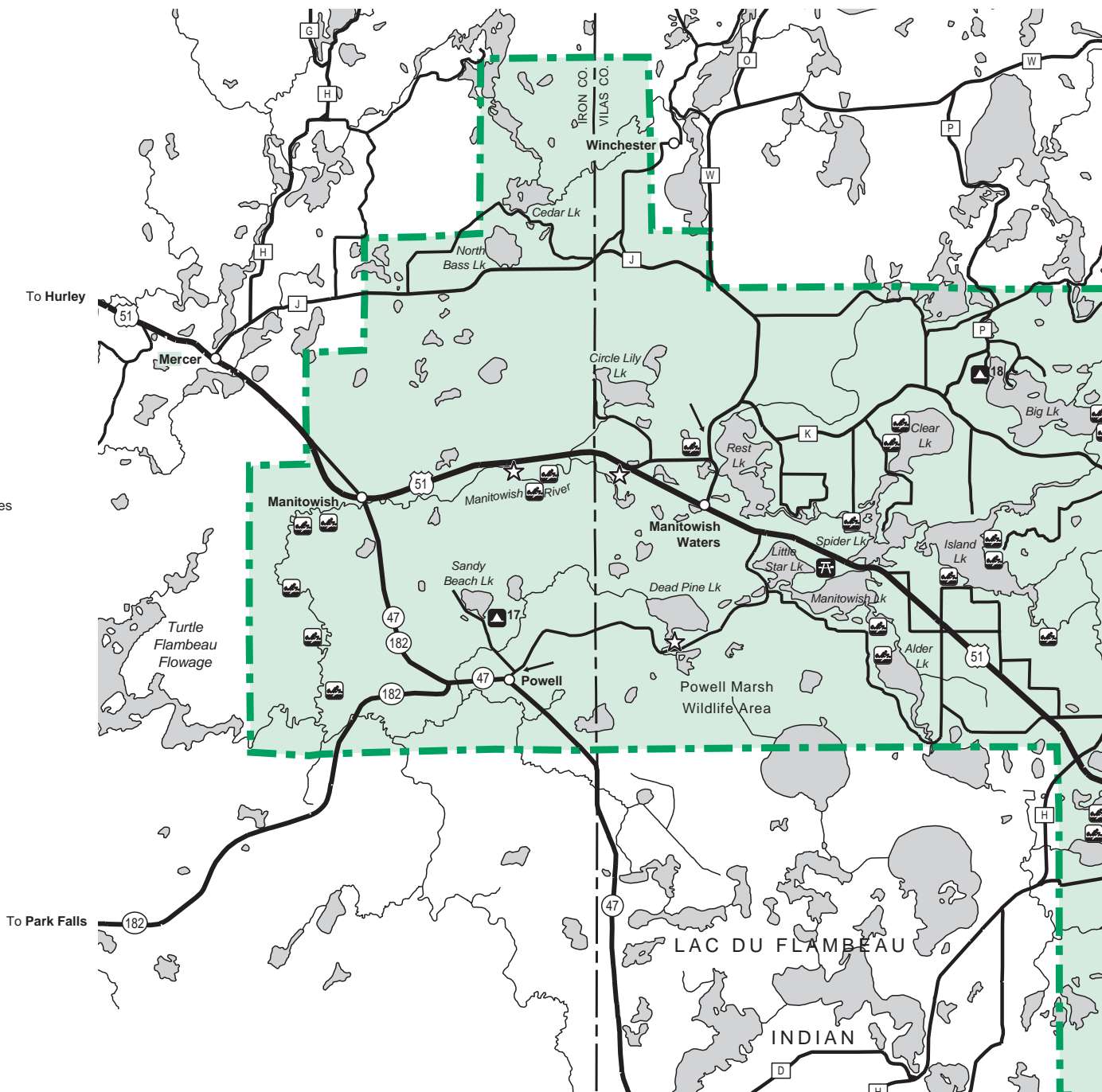


ATTACHMENT H

Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest Maps

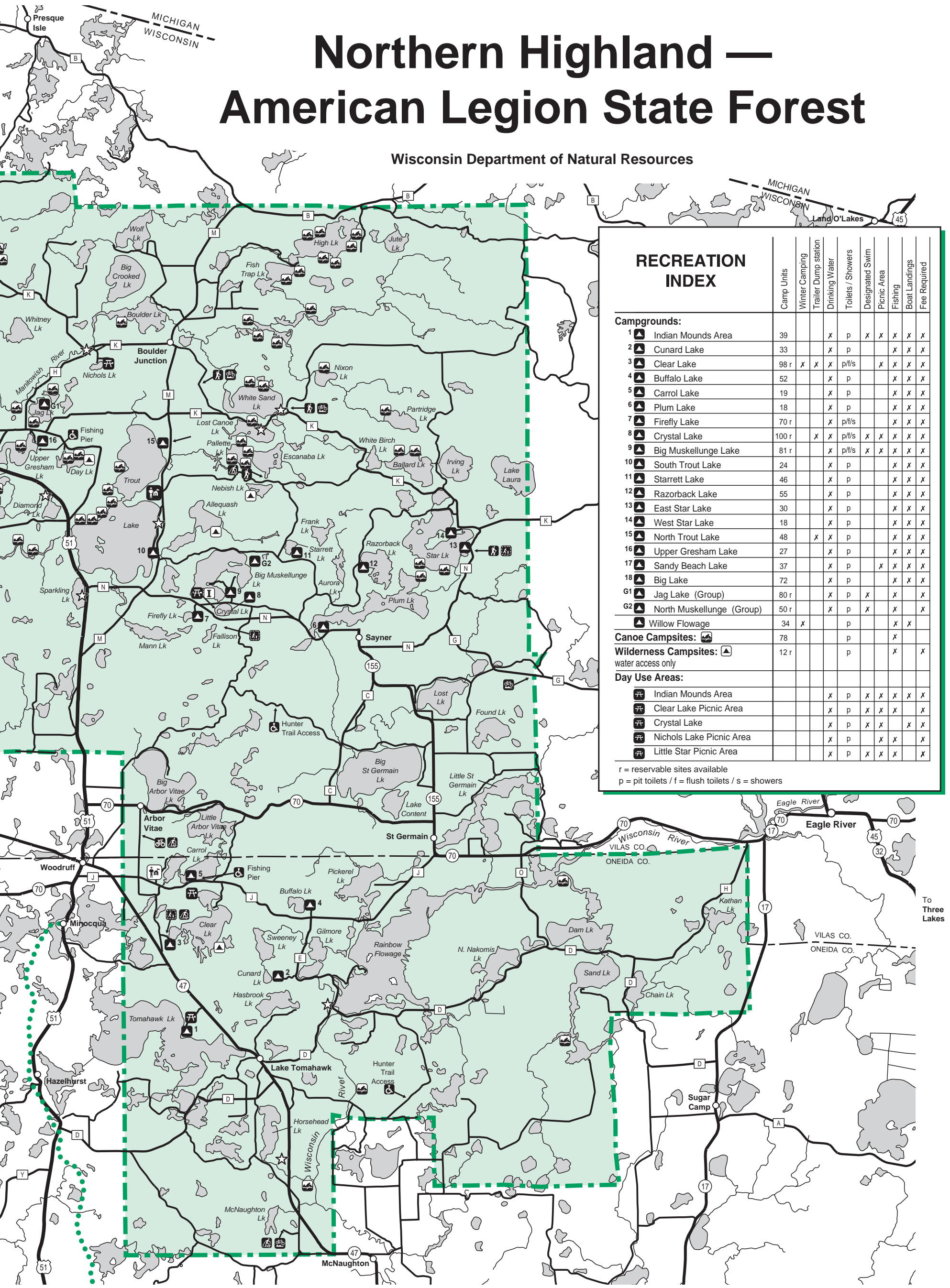


- Forest Boundary
- NHAL Forest Headquarters
- Woodruff Service Center/ Fish Hatchery
- Picnic Area
- Wayside or Vista
- Interpretive Center (Crystal Lake)
- Trail Head;
- Hiking Trail
- Nature Trail
- Mtn Bike Trail
- Ski Trail
- Mobility Impaired Access
- Bearskin State Trail



Northern Highland — American Legion State Forest

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



RECREATION INDEX

	Camp Units	Winter Camping	Trailer Dump station	Drinking Water	Toilets / Showers	Designated Swim	Picnic Area	Fishing	Boat Landings	Fee Required
Campgrounds:										
1	Indian Mounds Area	39		x	p	x	x	x	x	x
2	Cunard Lake	33		x	p			x	x	x
3	Clear Lake	98 r	x	x	p/f/s		x	x	x	x
4	Buffalo Lake	52		x	p			x	x	x
5	Carrol Lake	19		x	p			x	x	x
6	Plum Lake	18		x	p			x	x	x
7	Firefly Lake	70 r		x	p/f/s			x	x	x
8	Crystal Lake	100 r	x	x	p/f/s	x	x	x	x	x
9	Big Muskellunge Lake	81 r		x	p/f/s	x	x	x	x	x
10	South Trout Lake	24		x	p			x	x	x
11	Starrett Lake	46		x	p			x	x	x
12	Razorback Lake	55		x	p			x	x	x
13	East Star Lake	30		x	p			x	x	x
14	West Star Lake	18		x	p			x	x	x
15	North Trout Lake	48	x	x	p			x	x	x
16	Upper Gresham Lake	27		x	p			x	x	x
17	Sandy Beach Lake	37		x	p		x	x	x	x
18	Big Lake	72		x	p			x	x	x
G1	Jag Lake (Group)	80 r		x	p	x		x	x	x
G2	North Muskellunge (Group)	50 r		x	p	x		x	x	x
	Willow Flowage	34	x		p			x	x	
	Canoe Campsites:	78			p			x		
	Wilderness Campsites:	12 r			p			x		x
water access only										
Day Use Areas:										
	Indian Mounds Area			x	p	x	x	x	x	x
	Clear Lake Picnic Area			x	p	x	x	x	x	x
	Crystal Lake			x	p	x	x	x	x	x
	Nichols Lake Picnic Area			x	p		x	x	x	x
	Little Star Picnic Area			x	p	x	x	x	x	x

r = reservable sites available
p = pit toilets / f = flush toilets / s = showers

ATTACHMENT I

North Lakeland Discovery Center Maps

Trail Map

Hiking • Biking • XC Skiing • Snowshoeing

North Lakeland Discovery Center

Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin
(877) 543-2085

TRAIL DISTANCES

Trail distance begins and ends at Trail Head
(Outer Perimeter 4.32 miles)

- Northern Cruise 2.8 miles
- Statehouse Lake Loop 2.5 miles
- Little Bit Longer Loop .7 mile
- Lookout 2.6 miles
- Big River 3.2 miles
- Bog Boardwalk .4 mile
- Snowshoe Loop 1.0 mile



CIRCLE LILY ROAD

TRANSFER STATION ROAD

COUNTY ROAD W

TOWER ROAD

HIGHWAY 51

Northern Cruise
2.8 miles

Statehouse Lake Loop
2.5 miles

Little Bit Longer Loop
.7 mile

Lookout
2.6 miles

Big River
3.2 miles

Bog Boardwalk
(Or Snowshoe Trail)

Interpretive
.5 mile

Trail Head
Office • Parking

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Self-guided nature trail begins at our lakeside amphitheater.

REST LAKE

LEGEND

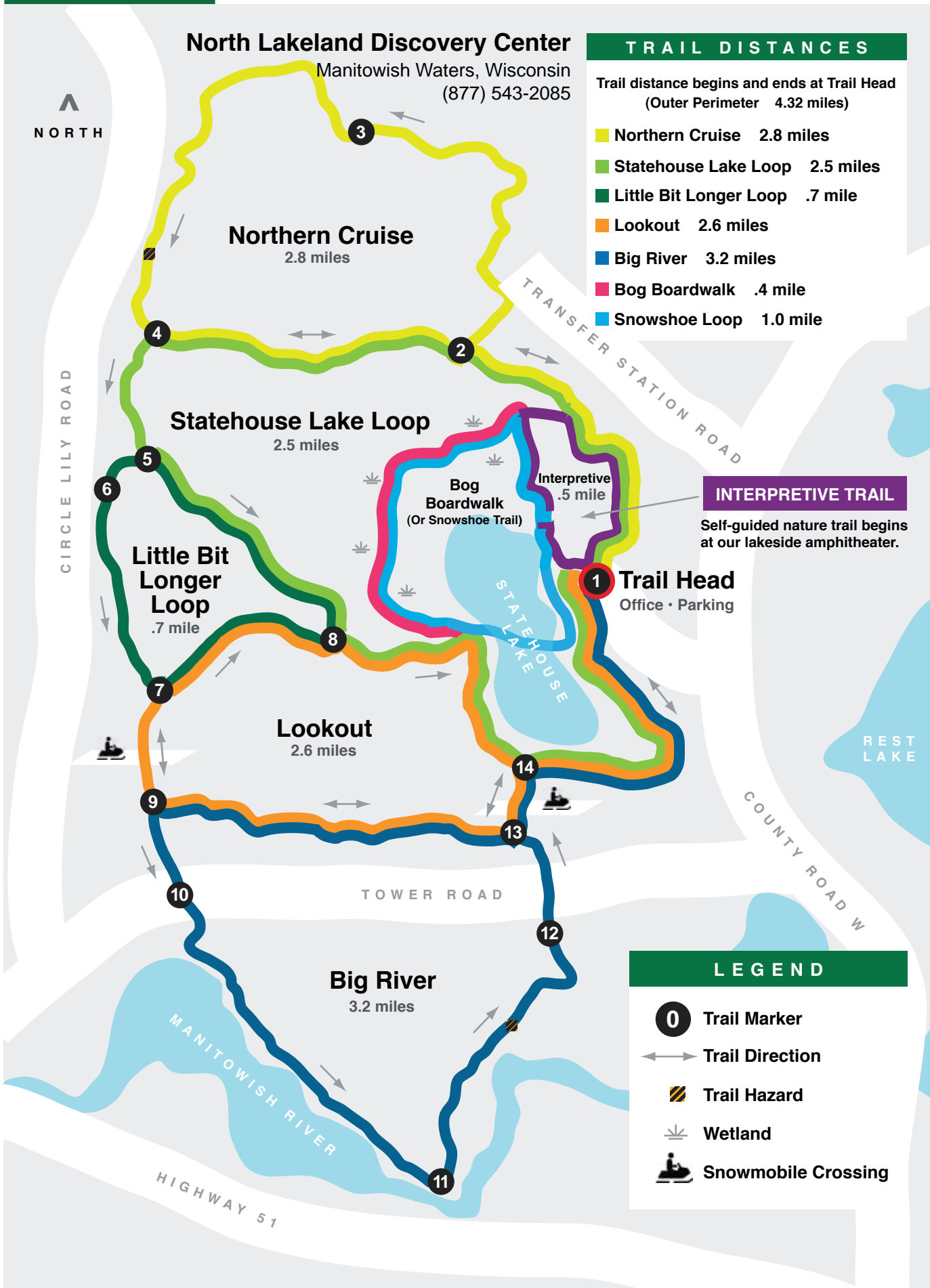
0 Trail Marker

↔ Trail Direction

Trail Hazard

Wetland

Snowmobile Crossing



WinMan Trails

Skiing

6.5 miles groomed classic and skate skiing



Snowshoeing

4.5 miles double-wide groomed



0.7 miles in progress



2.7 miles of mountain bike trails open for ungroomed snowshoeing



Mountain Biking



3.8 miles in progress



2.7 miles finished

6.5 miles of ski trails open for trail riding



Parking



Snowmobile Trail

Van Vliet Hemlocks Trail Map

Hiking • XC Skiing • Snowshoeing

Vilas County
Presque Isle, Wisconsin

TRAIL DISTANCES

- West Outer Perimeter1.3 miles
- East Outer Perimeter 3.2 miles
- Sugarbush Trail1.3 miles
- Bog Loop6 mile
- Hemlock Lake Loop1.3 miles
- Yellow Birch Loop6 mile
- Lake View Loop5 mile
- Lookout Loop4 mile
- Owl Loop5 mile
- Esker Trail5 mile

LEGEND

- You Are Here
- Trail Head and Parking
- ≡ Wetland
- - - Property Boundary



PRIVATE
PROPERTY

Sugarbush
Trail

Bog Loop

Hemlock Lake
Loop

Yellow
Birch
Loop

Lake View
Loop

Lookout
Loop

Owl Loop

Esker
Trail

Section 16 Spur

HEMLOCK LAKE

AVERILL
LAKE

VAN VLIET
LAKE

W. VAN VLIET LAKE RD.

E. VAN VLIET LAKE RD.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

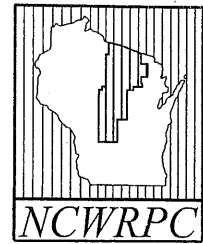
Signs developed and sponsored by Friends of the Van Vliet Hemlocks, an affiliate of the North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin.

ATTACHMENT J

Public Hearing Letter and Poster to Communities

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403
Telephone: 715-849-5510 Fax: 715-849-5110
Web Page: www.ncwrpc.org Email: staff@ncwrpc.org



SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

MEMORANDUM:

To: Vilas County Towns
From: Fred Heider
Re: Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plan – Ready for public review.
Date: October 11, 2013

The Vilas County ORP is ready for public review:
<http://www.ncwrpc.org/vilas/orp.html>

Please review that I transcribed your town's part into the plan accurately:

Town of Conover on page(s) 25

Enclosed is a poster that you may share with everyone.

Please provide comments on the plan by November 6th, by either replying to me or attending the public comment meeting (see enclosed poster for details).

NOTE:

If your town would like to adopt the Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2019, as your town plan too, then:

1. feel free to pass a Town Board Resolution stating that fact, and
2. mail a copy of that Town Board Resolution to:

Jillian Steffes
DNR
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland, WI 54501

Questions? Feel free to call me (Fred Heider 715-849-5510 Ext 310).

TOWN OF CONOVER

Conover Town Park is a municipal park located on County Highway K. A heated pavilion exists with inside ADA restroom facilities, full kitchen, intercom system and seating area. A BBQ pit is adjacent to the pavilion for cooking. Additional park amenities include an open air shelter, horseshoe pits, soccer field, concession stand, baseball diamond, playground, fishing pond for kids, and a sledding hill.

Boat Landings

Four boat landings are maintained by the Town on North and South Twin, Pioneer, and Stormy Lakes. There are no restrooms at any of these landings.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

- Park year round heated ADA restrooms

Proposed Projects for 2014-2019

Conover Town Park

Future plans include additional playground equipment, creating a disk golf course, basketball and tennis courts, expanded parking, upgrading the restroom to flush toilets, installation of a new well, a skating pond, and relocation of the baseball diamond.

Would like to utilize the adjacent County Land next to the Town of Conover property and the Town Park complex and have a lengthy nature trail cut through the forest for mountain biking, walking, etc. A machine that could do this in just one pass exists at a Conover business. It cuts trees up to 6 inch diameter into mulch and mulches roots etc. below ground level so there is no debris cleanup - leaves a mat comfortable for walking etc.

TOWN OF LAC DU FLAMBEAU

Thunderbird Park is located in the downtown area on Waswagon St, this 2.25 acre park has picnic tables and a pavilion.

Leech Beach is a five acre swimming beach located on tribal lands on Crawling Stone Lake off of Moss Lake Road. A sand beach, picnic tables, grills, and swimming rafts are all available here.

Little Trout Lake

This area on tribal land has been traditionally used as a picnic area and boat landing.

LDF Indian Bowl is an area along the shore of Long Interlaken Lake in downtown Lac du Flambeau that is used for pow wows during the summer. George W Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum & Cultural Center is adjacent to the bowl.



Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plan Public Comment Request

The Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plan is a 5-year plan for all municipalities in Vilas County to coordinate local efforts for building outdoor recreation facilities. This plan also establishes DNR eligibility to apply for some capital improvement grants.

Now is the time for you to say if this plan is continuing in the right direction.

1. Review the plan

The draft [Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2019](#) is available at:

- Olson Memorial Library (Eagle River)
- Boulder Junction Library
- Vilas County Forestry Dept., 2112 North Railroad St in Eagle River
- <http://www.ncwrpc.org/vilas/orp.html>

2. Provide your comments by November 6th, 2013.

November 6th, 2013

Vilas County Courthouse, Conference Rooms 2 & 3, in
Eagle River

Public Comment accepted from 11:00 to Noon.

Public Comment also accepted online by November 6th at:

<http://www.ncwrpc.org/vilas/orp.html>

3. Committee will review and consider approving the plan for County Board adoption.



North Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission

ATTACHMENT K

Great Headwaters Trails System Segments Map



Great Headwaters Trails

www.ghtrails.org • www.facebook.com/ghtrails
ghtrails@gmail.com • 715-617-0080

GHT System Segments

Conover - Phelps Trail

- GHT 1. Conover Town Park - Muskrat Creek Rd
- GHT 2. Song Hill Lane Segment
- GHT 3. Song Hill & Cty K into Downtown Phelps

Conover - Eagle River Trail

- GHT 4. Commercial Conover Connector
- GHT 5. Conover to Torch Lake Park
- GHT 6. Torch Lake Park to north end of Adams Rd.
- GHT 7. North end of Adams Rd. to Riverview Park

Conover - Land O' Lakes Trail

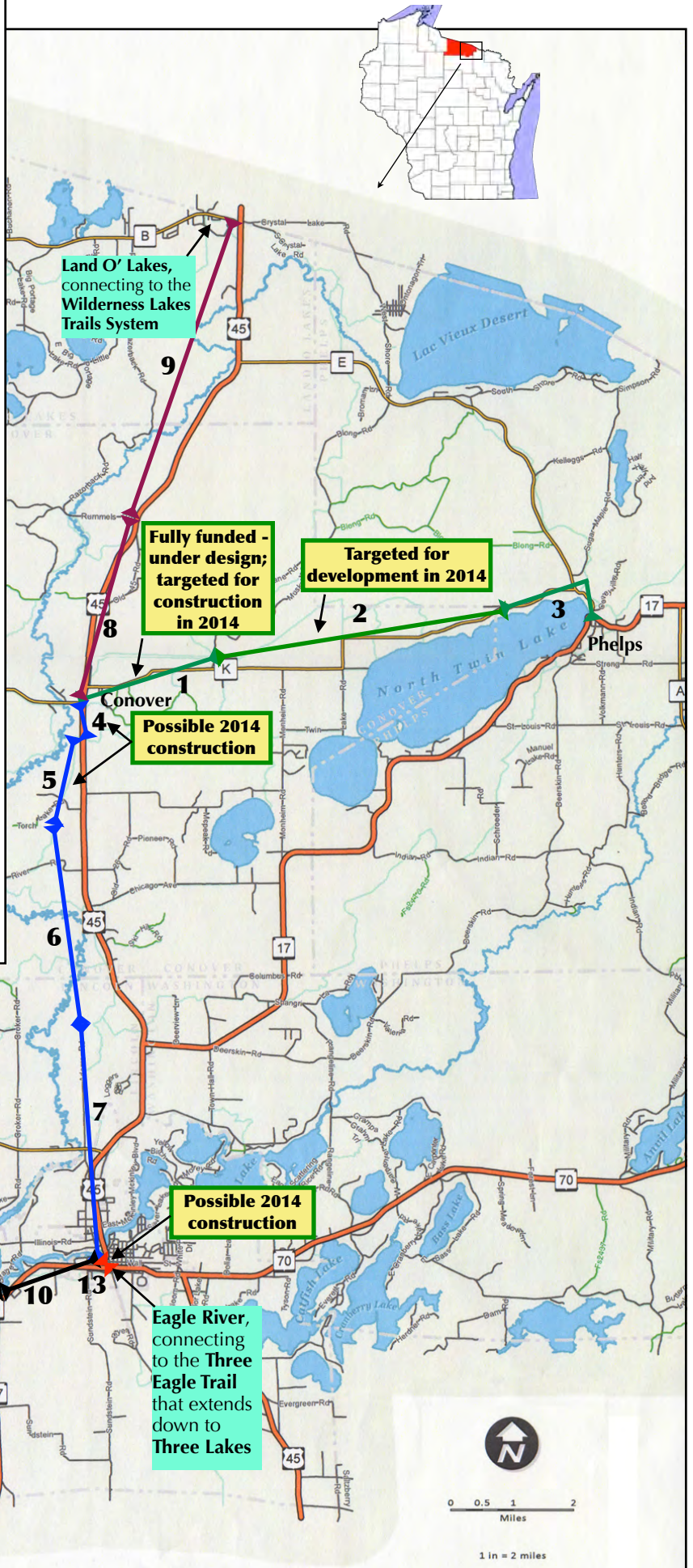
- GHT 8. Conover to Rummels Rd.
- GHT 9. Rummels Rd. to Land O' Lakes and the Wilderness Lakes Trail System

Eagle River - St. Germain Link

- GHT 10. Riverview Park to Eagle River Inn
- GHT 11. Eagle River Inn to Otter Rapids Dam
- GHT 12. Otter Rapids Dam to St. Germain and the Heart of Vilas Trail System
- GHT 13. **Eagle River Connector** - Conceptual design for Phase 1, Dairy Queen to Depot, has been approved by the Common Council; Phase 2, route to Riverview Park, is still in the planning stages

NOTE: The numbered lines on this map denote segments of the GHT System. They do not show specific trail routes.

10-31-2013



Vilas County Wisconsin
LAND INFORMATION & MAPPING

Adam Grass - GIS Technician
Vilas County Land Information & Mapping Dept.
330 Court St., Eagle River, WI 54521
phone: (715) 479-3790 fax: (715) 479-3787
adgrass@co.vilas.wis.us http://vlgis.co.vilas.wis.us

This map is provided courtesy of Vilas County and is to be used for reference purposes only. Vilas County makes every effort to be accurate and complete, but does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein. No liability is assumed for any errors or omissions. The information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. © Vilas County, WI 2013.