Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plan

2012-2016

Also covering the municipalities within Lincoln County

NCWRPC

Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: LINCOLN COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2012-2016 Effective January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2016

SUBJECT: This report assesses the existing recreation system in Lincoln County; identifies recreation needs based upon public input, recreation standards, and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP); 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 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. This requirement can be found in Chapter NR 50, Wisconsin administrative code for the following programs; Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Aids for a the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space Program (UGS) and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP).

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: December 2011

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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 Lincoln 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 Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Aids for a 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 Lincoln County to use this plan for grant applications. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Lincoln County applies on their behalf.

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

STATUTORY BASE

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

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

PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs for county facilities and all 16 towns. The Cities of Merrill and Tomahawk developed their own recreational plans and are included for reference.

Background information on Lincoln 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 2016. A combination of public survey compilation, standards analysis, and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP) were utilized to define

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

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

PAST PLANS

This plan was written to continue the parks and recreation program established in the Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plans since 1971 when a *Recreation Plan for Lincoln County* was developed by the UW-Extension. Additional plans and laws that have parts that were included in this Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plan:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005-2010

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

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

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

Projected completion in Winter of 2011, this plan compliments the 2005-2010 SCORP listed above. A major goal of the 2011-16 SCORP is to identify essential and contemporary issues that affect the future of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. This SCORP will build upon President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative for the 21st Century to include appropriate management recommendations that serve as proactive approaches to address critical issues identified in the process.

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. Workshops were offered throughout the state in Fall 2010 to explain how the law applies to roadways funded with state or federal funds.

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. County forest roads do not apply, because that money comes through DNR, and the traffic counts are very low.

North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan

This 2004 document is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region. Potential trails are identified, and an improvement description was created for each county, which describes how to create the specific trail segments in each county. New regional and county bike plans are scheduled to begin in 2012.

There are two main Lincoln County trails within this regional plan. The on-road scenic bike and auto tour loop includes STH 107 along the Wisconsin River, STH 17 to the east, and CTH B to D in the north. The Hiawatha Trail is a former railroad right-of-way running north-south. These trails are shown on Map 1.

Lincoln County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

This 2006 – 2020 document contains the Lincoln County Forest Access Plan. A summary of this plan's conclusions was inserted into the public participation part of Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment.

State Trails Network Plan

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

<u>Segment 13 – Dresser to Michigan</u>

This 250-mile-long east-west corridor consists of rail line, the Cattail Trail, which is owned by the DNR and operated by Polk and Barron counties, and an optional highway right-of-way. In Lincoln County this is a potential trail that follows a rail line parallel to USH 8.

<u>Segment 69 – Tomahawk to Crandon</u>

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

<u>Segment 18 – Tomahawk to Wausau (Northern Region)</u>

From the end of the Bearskin/Hiawatha Trail in Tomahawk, this corridor would go south to Merrill, and then into the West Central Region terminating in Wisconsin Dells. Part of State Highway 107 has wide shoulders to accommodate bicycles and was identified in the *Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020*. When the remaining section of highway is reconstructed, wide shoulders will be included. Going south this corridor links to Wausau, it could link up to Mountain Bay Trail from there via road corridors.

City of Merrill Comprehensive Plan 2006-2026

A summary of this plan's issues relating to outdoor recreation were inserted into the public participation part of Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment.

City of Tomahawk Comprehensive Plan 2006-2026

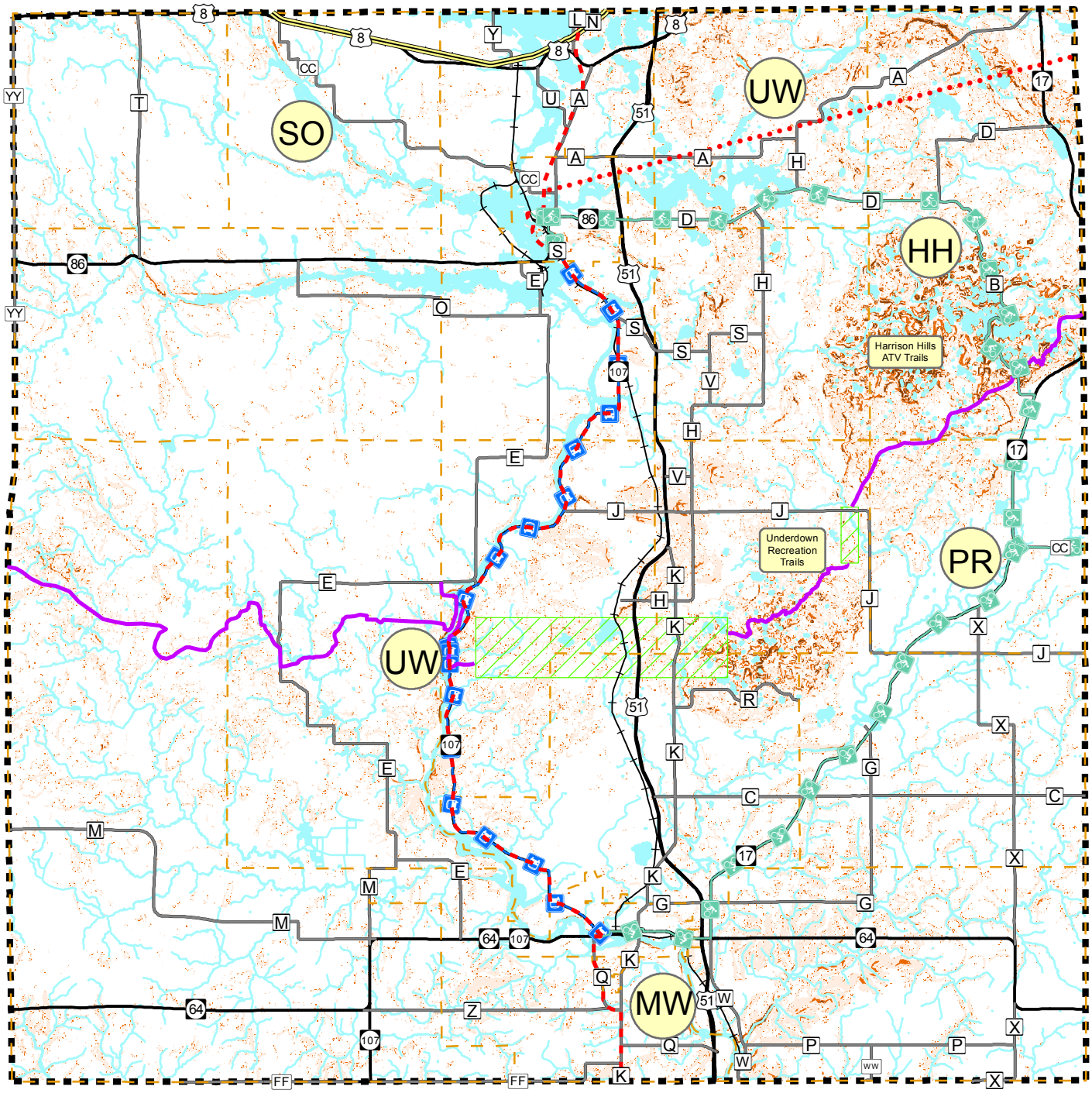
A summary of this plan's issues relating to outdoor recreation were inserted into the public participation part of Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment.

Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan 2000-2020

A summary of this plan's issues relating to outdoor recreation were inserted into the public participation part of Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment.

Potential Trails and Legacy Areas

Map 1



County Border
Minor Civil Divisions
US & State Highways
County Highways
Railroad
Water
UW Wisconsin Land Legacy Area

Potential Trails

Scenic Car and Bike Tour
DNR Seg 18 & Car and Bike Tour
DNR Segment 13
DNR Segment 18
DNR Segment 69
Ice Age Trail
Ice Age Trail Cooridor

Slopes (6-12%)
Modertly Slopes (12-20%)
Steep Slopes (>20%)

0 1 2 3 4 Miles

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

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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.

Recreation prioritization of Land Legacy Areas is described in SCORP Chapter 3 in Attachment B. Each Lincoln County Legacy Area is summarized below with 5 stars representing the highest level for that category:

SO Somo River

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

HH Harrison Hills

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

PR Prairie River

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

UW Upper Wisconsin River

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

MW Middle Wisconsin River

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

Another Area of Interest includes:

- Big Pine Creek

DESCRIPTION OF LINCOLN COUNTY

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

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

Geography

Lincoln County is located in north central Wisconsin and has a total surface area of 584,960 acres, of which approximately 15,000 acres is water. The county is bounded on the north by Oneida County, on the west by Taylor and Price Counties, on the south by Marathon County and on the east by Langlade County. Lincoln County is divided into 16 townships and 2 cities – Tomahawk in the north and Merrill in the south. Refer to Map 2 for Lincoln County's regional geography.

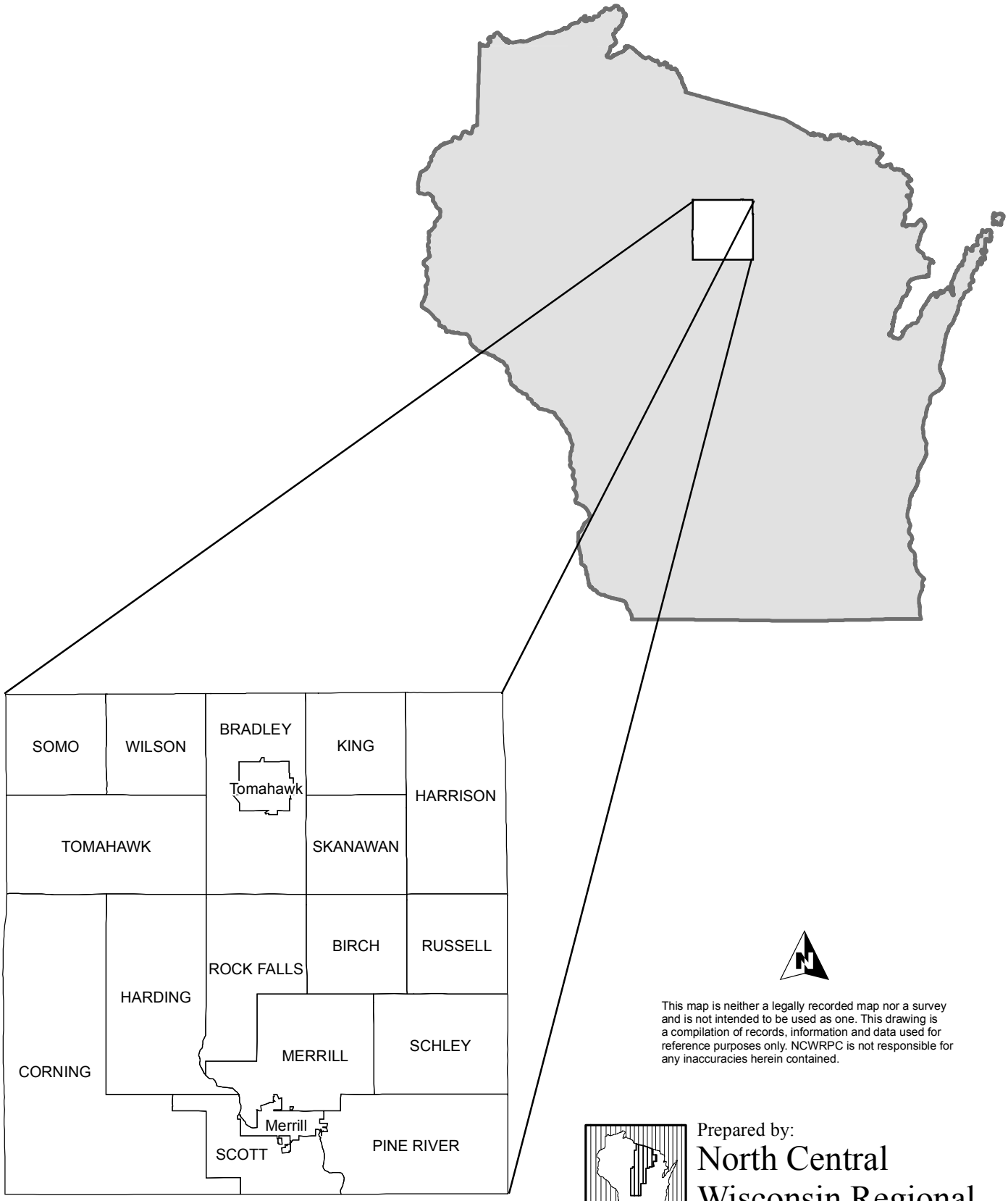
Climate

Lincoln County is classified in the continental climate type. Summers here have warm but not excessively hot days and cool nights. Winters are long, cold, and snowy. Mean annual precipitation is 32 inches. Snow cover on the ground and ice cover on the lakes lasts from December to April. The growing season generally extends from May 22 to September 23, for an average frost-free growing season of 124 days. Prevailing winds come out of the northwest from late fall through spring, and from the south during the remainder of the year. The wind speed generally ranges from 4 to 15 miles per hour.

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

Map 2

General Location



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Topography

All of Lincoln County was covered by glacial ice. Lincoln County's landscape is primarily gently rolling, heavily wooded countryside, with the main exception being the Harrison Hills area in the northeast part of the county and agricultural lands in the south. Altitudes range from 1,257 feet at Merrill, and 1,450 feet in Tomahawk, to over 1,800 feet in the Harrison Hills area.

The Harrison Hills and the Underdown Hills are typical morainic hills and ridges interspersed with many bogs, swamps, ponds, and lakes in kettles that resulted from the melting of buried ice blocks. Most of the kettles have no outlet.

Nine Mile, Irma, and Chase Hills, are distinct ridges or hills of bedrock that are covered by glacial drift. These bedrock areas commonly do not have wet depressions.

Surface Water

Lincoln County contains approximately 14,792 acres of surface water. This area is divided into 726 lakes that cover 12,172 acres, and 246 streams covering 2,620 acres. Artificial impoundments comprise about 58% of total lake area, with the largest, Lake Mohawksin at 1,909 acres. Eighty-six percent of the lakes are less than 10 acres, while only 3% are over 100 acres. The county contains 668 miles of stream, of which about 318 miles are classified as trout streams and 120 as sport fishing river.

All drainage flows to the Wisconsin River, with the Somo, Spirit, New Wood, Copper, Pine, and Prairie Rivers being its major tributaries. Surface waters flow in a southerly direction, with the Wisconsin River draining south through the center of the county, and its tributaries entering from the northeast and northwest.

This extensive water resource provides a great deal of recreational opportunity from boating to sailing, skiing, fishing, swimming, canoeing and ice fishing. Lincoln County's water is also known for its high scenic value. The tranquil ice block lakes of Harrison Hills, the Posey and Bill Cross Rapids on the Wisconsin River, and the magnificent falls at the Prairie Dells are just a few examples of the county's varied scenic potential.

Groundwater

The major aquifer in Lincoln County is the surficial glacial drift and alluvial sand and gravel, which generally furnish an abundant supply to depths of 20 to 50 feet.

In areas where underlying Precambrian bedrock is near the surface, it must be relied upon to provide local supplies. Water in the crystalline rock is only located within fractured zones, and the more the rock is fractured, the larger the water supply obtainable.

Groundwater is generally considered to be of good quality in Lincoln County, though quality varies somewhat by aquifer. Groundwater in the sand and gravel aquifer is higher in iron and more easily polluted than groundwater in the bedrock aquifer. Water hardness varies from mostly soft to moderately hard in both the sand and gravel and bedrock aquifers.

Soils

The soils of Lincoln County are principally the result of weathering of glacial deposits. Considerable variation occurs in soil types within short distances, and is partly due to the variety of materials carried by the ice during the last glacial period. In general, the northeastern part of the county has well drained sandy soils, some of which are quite droughty. Moving southwest, the soils phase into sand and silt loams, ending with poorly drained silty soils. Most agricultural lands are located in the southeastern and southern part of the county.

Soils in the northeast tend to be quite infertile and acidic, as is reflected in the clear, unproductive surface waters, especially in the Harrison Hills. In the western and southern part of the county, where the soils are poorly drained sand and silty loams, waters tend to be darker colored, somewhat more fertile and quite acid. In the better drained soils in the southeast, surface water is more fertile and less acid. Soil types directly influence water quality, i.e., fertile waters are generally associated with fertile soil drainage areas.

Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service publishes a Soil Survey Report. The Lincoln County Survey Report was made available in December 1996. Updated soil suitability tables for outdoor recreation and other uses are available on the Internet.

See the Recommendations chapter of this plan for more description to create motorized trails in the Harrison Hills area based upon these two maps.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

Overall recreation demand within Wisconsin is described under SCORP in Attachment B. Matching social characteristics from this section with different recreation demands as shown in SCORP Chapter 2, will start to reinforce what recreational facilities to provide.

The Great Recession
Analysis provided by WDOA, Demographic Services, July 2009.

As this outdoor recreation plan is written in 2011, the economic recovery from the 2007 recession is a long way from finished. The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) pegged the beginning of the recession at December 2007. This recession will be documented as the longest recession since the Great Depression of the early 1930s. This 2007 recession has lasted more than twice the length of the average post-World War II recession.

Why was this recession so bad? There were two downturns, one on top of the other. The first one started in December 2007 and was an economic recession, based on falling demand for housing construction. The second began in earnest in September 2008 and was a financial crisis, based on weak underlying supports (housing) of new unregulated financial tools and products. The first

downturn led to the second. They are now interdependent. Volumes will be written on this great recession of 2007.

The severity of this recession affected employment in a commensurate manner. Wisconsin's unemployment rate increased from a seasonally adjusted 4.5 percent in December of 2007, when the recession began, to 8.8 as of August 2009, almost doubling over the period. Wisconsin last reached an unemployment rate peak of 11.8 percent in January of 1983, after the harsh recession of 1981-82.

Population

Analysis provided by WDOA, Demographic Services, July 2009.

Lincoln County continues to show population growth. With the addition of 1,040 new residents, the county has grown by 3.5 percent since the 2000 census. This is 2.3 percentage points less than the state and 4.5 percentage points lower than the nation.

Changes in population are made up of two components. More births than deaths produces a natural increase, and more people moving into an area than moving out produces a migration increase. The combination of these two factors makes up increases or decreases in population. Lincoln County's natural increase was a modest 0.1 percent while migration was a much healthier 3.4 percent. Lincoln County's natural increase is much lower than either the state or nation, but the net migration is 1.1 percentage points higher than the state's rate of 2.3 percent, and is 0.7 percentage points higher than the nation's 2.7 percent. The diminished natural increase may be a reflection of the older population in the county.

Land-Use

The dominant land-use in the northern two thirds of Lincoln County is forestry, with the southern third in agriculture. Lincoln County is approximately 72% forested, 22% agricultural lands, 3% surface water, with the remaining 3% mainly in urban land uses. Several large dams in Lincoln County create lakes used for water recreation. Many boat landings exist throughout the county on these reservoirs and other waterbodies.

EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

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

LINEAR FACILITIES

Rustic Roads: Lincoln County has 1 rustic road. Rustic Road 78 is 2 miles of Tesch Road that connects to CTH E at both ends.

Water Trails: A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. This website can help with creating a trail: (http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications/watertrails/). There are over 1,100 miles of streams and rivers in Lincoln County. Portages have been established on the Wisconsin River to get around the dams. All navigable water is available to canoe on. The New Wood River has a canoe access with parking area off Whiskey Bill Road in the Town of Harding. Both the Wisconsin and Prairie Rivers have multiple access points.

Trout Streams: Parts or all of over 110 streams are classified as trout streams in Lincoln County.

Ice Age Trail – Grandfather Falls segment – This section is 4.8 miles in length. It is courtesy of Wisconsin Public Service, Lincoln County Forest, Merrill School Forest, and several private landowners. This segment can be accessed at Camp New Wood County Park and near the Grandfather Dam north of Tug Lake Road on STH 107. Parking is available at these locations. The Grandfather Falls segment of the Ice Age Trail is strictly for hiking, skiing, or snowshoeing.

Ice Age Trail – Harrison Hills segment – Harrison Hills features the highest point on the Ice Age Trail at 1,920 feet. A tower on Lookout Mountain offers tremendous views. This section stretches 15 miles from the Langlade County segment to CTH J. Roadside parking is available at trail and road junctions and a parking lot exists on CTH B about 1 ¼ miles west of STH 17. The Harrison Hills segment of the Ice Age Trail is strictly for hiking, skiing, or snowshoeing. Camping is available along this portion of the trail on county forest lands.

Ice Age Trail – Underdown Segment – This section stretches 7 miles from the Copper Lake Road to Horn Lake Road, and is linked to the Underdown Recreation Area. Parking is available at the trailhead, along with roadside parking at trail and road junctions. Some sections of the trail are used for mountain biking and horseback riding; however most of it is used for foot traffic only. Primitive camping is available on county forest lands.

Ice Age Trail – New Wood segment – This segment provides 9 miles of hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing trails from Conservation Road to Burma Road. Parking is available at the junction of Conservation Road and the trail, along with roadside parking along CTH E.

Ice Age Trail - Turtle Rock Segment – The Turtle Rock segment provides approximately 4 miles of hiking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing through public land from CTH E hooking up with the New Wood segment.

Harrison Hills ATV Trails – This is a two-way trail primarily on old logging roads linked with the Langlade County ATV trail system and the Oneida County ATV trail system. The trail system also provides access to the communities of Gleason, Harrison, Parrish, and Pine Lake in Lincoln County. In addition, a recent connection was also made from the trail system to the City of Tomahawk via open town and county highways. Access and parking are located at three locations: 3/4 mile north of CTH J on Turtle Lake Road, 1-1/4 miles northwest of STH 17 on CTH B, and 1-1/2 miles south of Harrison on CTH B. The Harrison Hills ATV Trail is 45 miles long. The summer ATV trails are closed from December 1st to May 1st of each year. Lincoln County participated in the previous LUV and current UTV pilot program. These programs were designed to study the effects that side by side machines have on ATV trails and routes to evaluate whether it is feasible and appropriate to expand their use and develop a permanent program. The ATV trail system is also open to road licensed vehicles, mountain bikers, hikers, and other recreationists.

The **Bearskin-Hiawatha State Trail** uses a former railroad right-of-way as the trail. The Bearskin Trail starts in Minocqua and travels south 18.3 miles to CTH K. The Hiawatha State Trail starts in Tomahawk and travels about 6.6 miles north, crossing USH 8 to a non-improved segment. The missing section of trail lies between USH 51 (Bearskin Trail) and the Oneida County line (Hiawatha Trail). Work has been done in recent years to complete this connection. It may be in the best interest of the trail to turn maintenance of the Hiawatha over to the State at the time of connection in order to provide uniform procedures over the entire length of the trail.

Snowmobile Trails – Lincoln County has approximately 313 miles of designated snowmobile trails that are part of the State snowmobile aid program, along with approximately 100 miles of club trails. About 196 miles of these snowmobile trails are also winter ATV trails.

PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO WATER BODIES

Public Access sites on Lincoln County's lakes and streams have been extensively inventoried and catalogued by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in the *Lincoln County Public Access Study of 1988*. A study of lakes on the county forest was also completed by Lincoln County Forestry and Land Conservation staff in 2004. An updated map of public access areas is available from the Lincoln County Forestry Department. Lincoln County owns and maintains 112 access points in all – 60 developed, and 52 undeveloped. Public access to waterbodies will be ensured when development occurs by state statute and county zoning ordinances. See the Implementation Strategies chapter under Park Dedication and Use of Easements for more details.

POINTS OF INTEREST

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

A) Historic Buildings

The City of Merrill Intensive Survey Report Architectural and Historical Survey Project, 1992 identifies buildings, sites, or structures within Merrill's city limits that are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as part of a historic district. About 125 structures of historic significance were identified. The majority of these are located in 5 proposed historic districts.

Tomahawk still has many buildings that date from the time around the turn of the twentieth century when the city enjoyed its most rapid growth. There are 80 structures listed on the Architecture & History Inventory (AHI). Particularly in the Wisconsin Avenue business district there is a significant concentration of older and historic buildings that represent a remnant of the city's heyday early in the 20th century. These buildings are an expression of the city's origins in the lumbering era and are an intrinsic part of its character.

B) Geologic Sites

Lincoln County's topography is described in Chapter 2 – Description of Lincoln County. Several land features are named below:

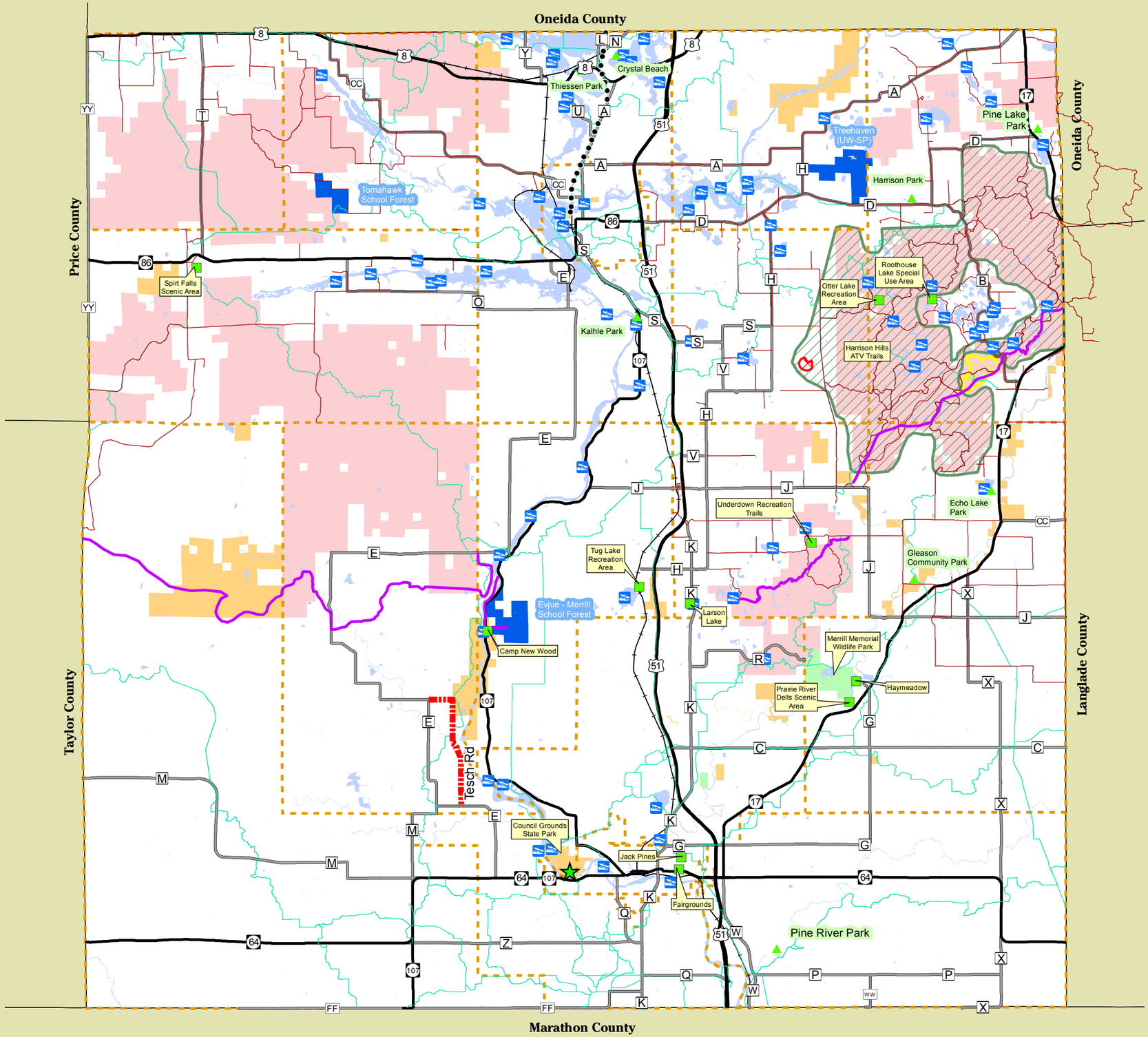
Harrison Hills, Towns of Russell and Harrison, publicly and privately owned.

Lookout Mountain, Town of Harrison, publicly owned.

Porcupine Mountain, Town of Skanawan, privately owned.

C) Dams

The following hydroelectric dams provide cold season nesting grounds for bald eagles by maintaining an open area of water: Rice, Jersey, Kings, Tomahawk, Spirit River Reservoir, Grandmother Falls, Upper Grandfather Falls, and Alexander Dams.



Map 3

Outdoor Recreation

Lincoln County, Wisconsin

- Town Boundary
- US & State Highways
- County Highways
- Railroad
- Rustic Road
- Water
- County Parks
- Town Parks
- Boat Launch

Trails

- Hiawatha
- Ice Age
- Snowmobile Trails
- ATV Trails

Public Lands

- County Forest
- City of Merrill
- DNR Land
- School Forests

Geological Sites

- Harrison Hills
- Lookout Mountain
- Porcupine Mountain
- Krueger Pines SNA

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

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

NCWRPC
North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
210 McClellan St., Suite 210, Wausau, WI 54403
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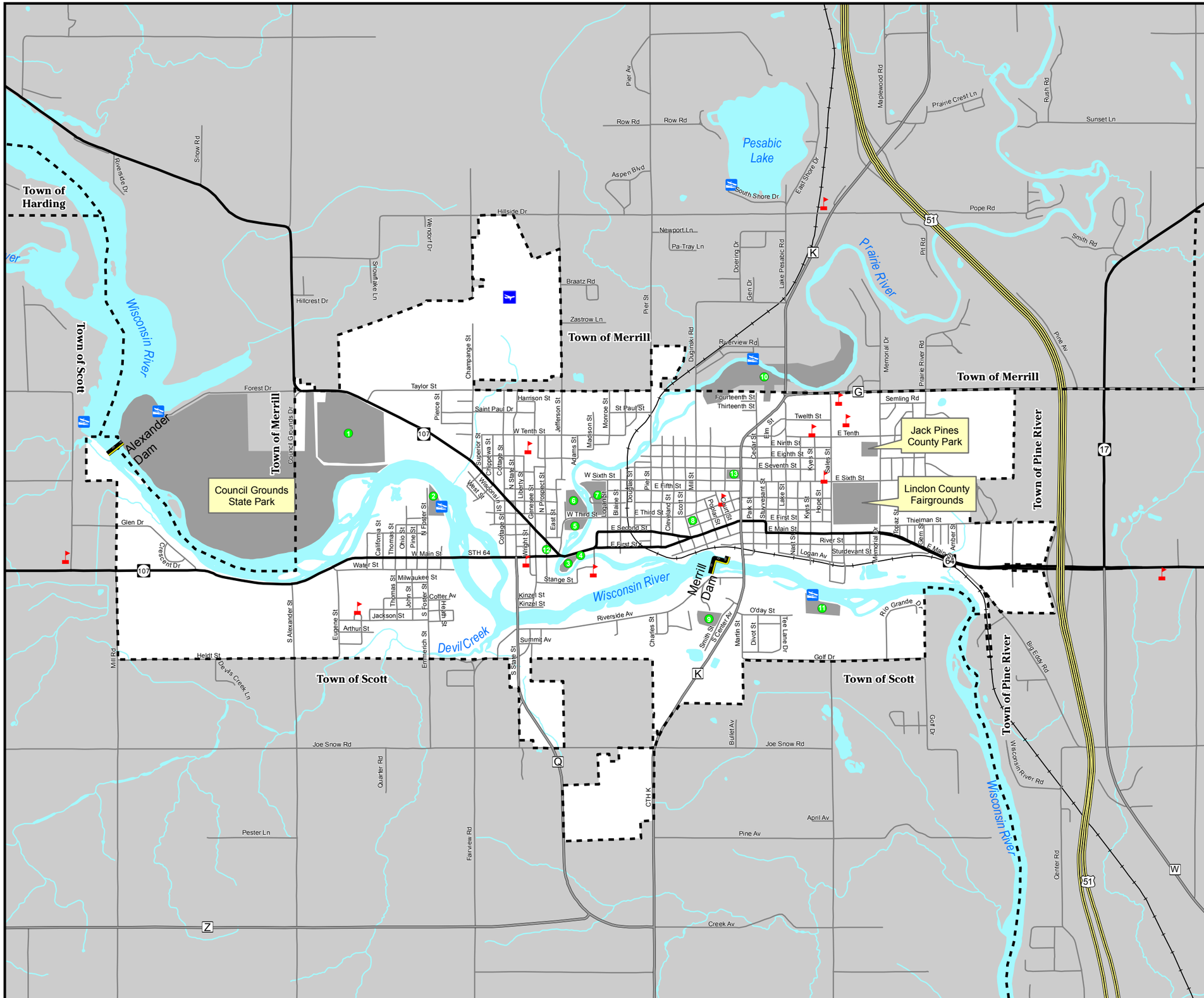
Map 4

City of Merrill

Park Facilities



ID	NAME
1	Merrill Area Recreation Complex
2	Otts Park
3	Strange Kitchenette Park
4	Polk St Tennis Ct & Skate Park
5	Strange Park
6	Lions Park
7	Athletic Park
8	Streeter Square Park
9	Gerbert Park
10	Prairie Trails
11	Riverside Park
12	Cenotaph Park
13	Normal Park

0 0.5 1 Miles

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North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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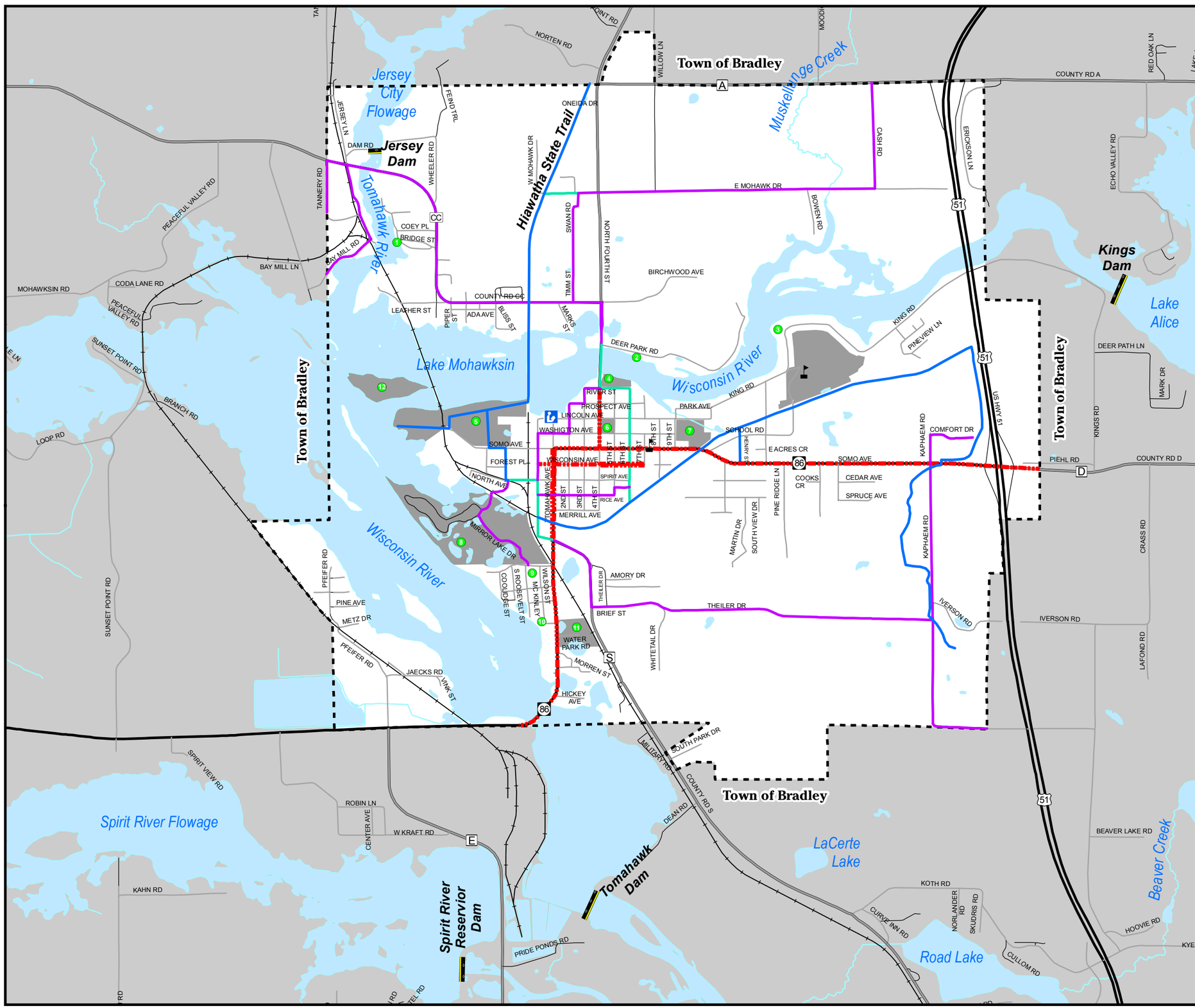

Map 5

City of Tomahawk

Park Facilities

- City Limits
- US & State Highways
- County Highways
- Local Roads
- Private / Other
- Railroad
- Proposed Bike & Walk Trails
- Hiawatha State Trail
- ATV Trails
- ATV & Snowmobile Trails
- Snowmobile Only Trails
- No Access
- Library
- Schools
- Dams
- Park & School Areas
- Water

ID	NAME
1	Jersey City Park
2	Kwahomot Water Ski Park
3	Squaw Point Park
4	Memorial Park
5	SARA Park
6	Washington Park
7	Pride Park
8	Bradley Park
9	Frenchtown Park
10	Frenchtown Beach
11	Water Utility Park

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0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles

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COUNTY RECREATION FACILITIES

Camp New Wood County Park is a 15.7 acre facility located 10 miles northwest of Merrill. This area has seven campsites, a hiking trail, an ADA accessible picnic area with tables and grills, playground equipment (meeting CPSC standards), a well, and an ADA compliant restroom. Two covered shelters, a boat landing, and fishing area also exists at this vicinity.

Haymeadow County Park is a 6 acre park located in the Town of Schley. This area is primarily open space having picnic tables and an ADA compliant restroom.

Jack Pines County Park is a 20 acre park located in the northeast portion of the City of Merrill. This park is used in winter mainly for sledding, and walking during the other seasons.

Otter Lake Recreation Area is a 20 acre facility located in the Towns of Harrison and Skanawan. This area has a camping section with 25 campsites, two wells, and ADA compliant restrooms. There is also a picnic area with tables, grills, and a beach. The picnic area has a changing house and ADA compliant restrooms. A hunting, nature, and snowmobile trail also exist at this recreation area, as well as an area for fishing.

Tug Lake Recreation Area is a 25 acre facility located 10 miles north of Merrill. This area has a shelter, an ADA compliant restroom and changing house, a picnic area with tables and grills, playground equipment (meeting CPSC standards), swimming beach, fishing area, and parking for approximately 100 vehicles.

Roothouse Lake Special Use Area is a 320 acre facility located in the Town of Harrison. Existing facilities at this site include a parking area, and a trail that leads to the lake. Primitive camping is allowed, however, there are no sanitary facilities or wells available. Hunting and trapping are not allowed in the northern 160 acres. No motorized uses are allowed.

Larson Lake County Park is a 7 acre park located about one mile south of the junction of CTHs K and H. It provides a picnic area, well, fishing area, an ADA compliant restroom, and parking.

Prairie River Dells Scenic Area is a 25 acre facility located about 8 miles northeast of Merrill. Primarily this area is open space for trout fishing and nature viewing. A parking area is provided, along with 2 platforms for scenic viewing, one of which is ADA compliant.

Spirit Falls Scenic Area is a 30 acre site located in the Town of Tomahawk. Primarily this area is open space and provides access to the Spirit River.

Underdown Recreation Forest and Multi-purpose Recreation Area is a recreation area with more than 7,000 acres located in the Towns of Birch, Schley, and Merrill. Trails exist for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horse riding, snowmobiling, winter ATV and mountain biking. The Underdown Horse Club and Lincoln County Forestry Department provide horse trail markers and maps for guidance on 22 miles of equestrian trails. The Lincoln County Forestry Department signs and maintains the three loops of ski trails that cover 20 miles. The mountain biking trails cover 30 miles, including 10 miles of single track. The Northcentral Chapter of Wisconsin Off-Road Bicycling Association (WORBA) and Lincoln County have produced maps for these trails. All trails

allow hiking, and are open to hunting and fishing during the open seasons. The trail head area is 6 acres and has a primitive camping area with 11 sites, a well and ADA sanitary facilities. Parking is available for over 100 vehicles.

The **Lincoln County Fairgrounds** is approximately a 26 acre facility located in Merrill. Existing facilities include a grandstand; three restrooms (two of them are ADA compliant); a livestock barn with 5 wings for cattle, horses, pigs, and sheep; a poultry and rabbit exhibition building; 3 exhibition structures for displays; a historical school house; and an office building. This facility is maintained by Lincoln County Maintenance Department.

Table 1 lists existing county parks and their facilities and Map 5 identifies their location in the county.

Table 1 Lincoln County Recreation Facilities

Facilities	New Wood	Haymeadow	Jack Pines	Otter Lake	Tug Lake Recreation Area	Roothouse	Larson Lake	Underdown Trail Head
# of Camping Sites	7	-	-	25	-	-	-	11
Acres	15.7	6	7	20	25	320	7	6
Town	Rock Falls	Schley	City of Merrill	Harrison, Skanawan	Rock Falls	Harrison	Birch	Birch
Restroom	X	X		X	X		X	X
Picnic Area with grills	X	X		X	X		X	
Fishing	X			X	X	X	X	
Boating	X			X	X	X	X	
Boating Ramp	Good Condition			Good Condition	Good Condition			
Swimming Beach				X	X			
Trails	X		X	X		X		X
Usage Pressure	Heavy	Moderate	Moderate	Heavy	Heavy	Moderate	Heavy	Heavy
Playground	X				X			
Shelter	2				X			

Normal Park's ownership was transferred from Lincoln County to the City of Merrill in 2009.

COUNTY FOREST

The Lincoln County Forestry Department manages 100,845 acres of county forest. This land is managed for multiple uses, and is open to public access. Some of the county forest is closed to motorized vehicles. Examples of permitted recreational activities are hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, ATVing, camping, bough cutting (permit required), firewood collection (permit required), and wildlife observation. Refer to Map 6 for Lincoln County Forest Land.

The Lincoln County Forest Access Plan was created in 2004 to provide direction to the present and future Forestry Committees and resource managers working on the County Forest. The Access Plan provides balanced access to a wide variety of groups while still protecting the natural resource. The responsibility to protect those natural resources is a shared duty between Lincoln County and the public who use this forest. The Access Plan was developed over a 2 ½ year process by a 10 member Citizen Advisory Group and a Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee member. The representatives of all groups were elected by their peers. This group was assisted, for technical information, by a support team comprised of DNR and County staff.

Camping on County Forest Land

Overnight camping, including tents, trailers, cars and trucks may be permitted in the County Forest without charge for a period of no more than 14 days. Any camper who violates the rules of good conduct, including cutting or defacing timber, carelessness with fire, violation of game and fishing laws of the State, or improper disposal of garbage and litter shall be subject to ejection from the County Forest and subject to the penalties provided by County and State laws.

When camping near lakes on the County Forest, blocking roads, parking areas, or lake access is not permitted. Due to the small size of the landings, camping is **not** allowed at the following lakes: High Lake, Fox Lake, Moraine Lake, Henson Lake, and Kordick Lake.

FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE or COUNTY OWNED

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

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) 30,175 acres are open to the public to hunt and fish in August, 2011. As of this date, there are also 47,186 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program that are open for foot travel by the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking (make sure the land is enrolled as open), and 79,302 acres that are closed to public access. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation. Snowmobiles, ATVs, bicycles, and other motorized and non-motorized vehicles are prohibited on enrolled lands that are open to the public. Access is allowed by foot travel only without landowner permission.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

The Merrill and Tomahawk area school districts provide additional local recreation opportunities. School yards often have playgrounds with play equipment, ball diamonds, and basketball hoops. These neighborhood parks range in size from 1 to 15 acres. The Tomahawk district has 3 such facilities, while the Merrill district contains 8 sites. Both school districts have school forests. These forests are open to the public for a variety of recreational and educational uses.
The Evjue Memorial Forest is owned and operated by the Merrill Area Public School District. The forest includes 764 acres located off of Hwy 107 across from New Wood County Park. Most of the land and most of the funds to build the present lodge were provided by William Evjue, an 1899 Merrill graduate. Nels P. Evjue, his father was a lumber scaler in Merrill. There are over 10 miles of maintained logging trails which double as hiking and cross country ski trails. The trails may be used by the public and are used every school day by students. There is a woodland pond, many bridges, the Ice Age Trail, a Cordwood Shelter and many signs and sightings of wildlife. Trail maps are available. No hunting is allowed. The forests are logged with the assistance of a DNR forester. Contact the Merrill school district (www.maps.k12.wi.us or 715-536-4581) for rules of use on school forest lands and renting the facilities.

The Tomahawk School Forest is 440 acres located off from Wilson School Drive in sections 29 and 32 of T35N R5E. The forests are logged with the assistance of a DNR forester. Contact the Tomahawk school district (715-453-5555) for rules of use on school forest lands.

The Merrill School District maintains the following outdoor facilities:
5 elementary school playgrounds and 1 Head Start/Early Childhood Facility
1 Middle School Facility
1 High School Facility
Varsity football field & track
1 softball field
1 baseball field
3 soccer fields

The Tomahawk School District maintains the following outdoor facilities:
1 elementary school playground
1 Middle School Facility
1 High School Facility
Varsity football field & track
3 softball fields
1 baseball field
An open play/practice area the size of about 1 football field

Treehaven is a residential natural resources education and conference facility that is owned and operated by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources (CNR). The Treehaven certified Tree Farm is a 1,400 acre working forest, with on-going research projects, education activities, and forest management demonstration areas. All CNR Students majoring in natural resources attend one of two six-week summer field experiences at the UWSP-Treehaven Campus. Treehaven has two newly remodeled dormitory style lodging facilities, and two upscale cottages that can comfortably sleep a total of 120 participants. The Young Lodge provides on-site

food service, a recreation lounge, and study library. The classroom center contains offices, 8 classroom/meeting rooms, and a computer lab. The Vallier Auditorium can accommodate up to 150 people and is complete with the latest in audio/visual equipment. Over 10 miles of trails traverse the property and are open to the public for hiking and cross country skiing for a nominal fee. Treehaven is open to the public for a variety of recreational and educational uses. Contact Treehaven for availability, and rules of use on their property (phone: 715-453-4106) or via the web at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/treehaven.

CITY and TOWN FACILITIES

City of Merrill Park System

City of Merrill Comprehensive Plan Issues related to outdoor recreation are listed in Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment. Parks described here are maintained by the City, which also has a separate Outdoor Recreation Plan where recommendations are also listed.

Memorial Forest Wildlife Area (Refer to Map 4) – This 920 acre facility is located about 6 miles northeast of the City along the Prairie River, and partially adjoins the Underdown block of county forest. This area provides for hunting and nature site seeing and has gated access the majority of the time. In addition, a snowmobile trail passes through the property.

Normal Park – Ownership of this park transferred from Lincoln County to the City of Merrill in 2009. This 2 acre facility is located in the City of Merrill and contains a gazebo, an outdoor ice skating rink with warming shelter, disabled accessible picnic area, and a youth baseball/softball field.

Gerbert Park – This facility is 15 acres and is located south of the Wisconsin River. It is a conservation park and has nature trails available.

Athletic Park – Athletic Park is a 5 acre, community-wide special park located on the corner of Sixth and Logan Streets. Athletic Park has a lighted baseball field, restrooms and a concession stand with an announcer's booth.

Cenotaph Park – This is a 0.25 acre memorial dedicated to veterans. It is located on the corner of Prospect Street and Highway 64.

Polk Street Tennis Court & Skate Park – This one acre park is located along the Prairie River just east of Stange Kitchenette Park. The park contains a lighted tennis court and lighted skate park.

Otts Park – This 9 acre park is located on the west side of the City along the Wisconsin River. This park has playground equipment, a softball field, boat landing, picnic areas, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, sheltered picnic area with water and electricity, and tennis courts. Restroom facilities are available.

Riverside Park – This 22 acre park is located in the southeast portion of the City along the south shore of the Wisconsin River. This park has a boat landing, picnic areas, volleyball court,

horseshoe pit, disc golf, playground, and picnic shelter with water and electricity. Restroom facilities are available.

Stange Kitchenette Park – This 6 acre park is located just south of Stange Park along the Prairie River. This park has a kitchen shelter (meeting ADA standards) with water and electricity that people can rent out, restroom facilities, parking, playground equipment, volleyball court, and horseshoe pit.

Streeter Square Park – This 2 acre park is located just north of downtown. A playground, basketball court, and youth baseball field are available at this park.

Lions Park – This 13.8-acre park is located in the central portion of the City. It has an outdoor ice skating rink, and warming shelter. In addition, there is a hill for sledding during the winter months. In the summer, there are five little league baseball diamonds. Restroom facilities and a parking lot with handicap reserve spots are also available.

Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC) – This facility covers 96 acres and is located on the west side of the City north of the Wisconsin River. The Smith Center in the MARC houses the ice rink, community room, a convention area during non-ice months, and a concession kitchen. The MARC also includes four softball fields for youth, 2 multi-purpose baseball/softball fields, one baseball field, two sand volleyball courts; three soccer fields, playground equipment, a picnic shelter, and a 2.5 mile trail (walking, biking, skiing) that connects to the adjacent Council Grounds State Park.

Stange Park – This 11.6-acre park is located in the central portion of the City along the Prairie River. This park has an outdoor swimming pool and wading pool, tennis courts, basketball court, playground, a picnic shelter with water and electricity, cooking grills, walking bridge over the lagoons, and restrooms.

City of Tomahawk Park System

City of Tomahawk Comprehensive Plan Issues related to outdoor recreation are listed in Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment. Parks described here are maintained by the City, which also has a separate Outdoor Recreation Plan where recommendations are also listed. Refer to Map 5.

Kwahomot Water Ski Park – This 2 acre facility has boat access, restrooms, bleachers for viewing the ski shows, concession stand, and a swimming beach.

Memorial Park – This 4 acre park has fishing areas, informal play area, picnic area, restrooms, playground, shelter, and volleyball courts.

Frenchtown Park – This 3 acre park has informal play area, playground, picnic area, softball field, and tennis court.

Sunset Boulevard (Squaw Point) – This 6 acre park along Kings Drive by the school complex is undeveloped land.

Jersey City Park – This 5 acre park has a fishing area, informal play area, picnic area, and a swimming beach.

Water Utility Park – This 7 acre park has a picnic area.

Frenchtown Beach – This 2 acre park has a basketball court, fishing area, picnic area, and swimming beach.

Washington Square – This 2 acre park has basketball court, informal play area, picnic area, playground, shelter, and restroom facility.

Bradley Park – This 110 acre park is located in the southwest corner of the City on Lake Mohawksin. It has a number of amenities for winter and summer activities: biking trails, boat access, fishing areas, hiking trails, informal play area, nature trails, picnic area, playground, restrooms, a picnic shelter and an enclosed shelter, and a swimming beach.

Pride Park – This 7 acre park has an outdoor hockey rink, ice rink, informal play area, picnic area, playground, restrooms, skateboarding facility, and Tyler Kahle Field (a fee-use facility).

SARA Park – This 26 acre park is located on Lake Mohawksin. It has biking trails, boat access, fishing area, indoor ice rink, playground, picnic area, restrooms, softball field, swimming beach, dog park, volleyball courts, and 10 open air camping pads. Banquet and exhibition activity building is also present.

Town Park

Many of the towns maintain public access points to water bodies. Most public access points are shown on Map 3.

Echo Lake Park – T. Russell – This wayside park has a picnic area, boat landing, and a swimming beach.

Gleason Community Park –T. Russell – This 20 acre park includes an informal play area, picnic area, restrooms, three softball fields, volleyball courts, and race track, and concession stand. There is also a building with indoor restroom, kitchen, and bar facilities.

Harrison Park – T. Harrison – This park has a picnic area, restrooms, and softball fields.

Pine Lake Park –T. Harrison – This wayside park's amenities include a boat access, picnic area, privy facility, and swimming beach.

Pine River Park – T. Pine River – This park's amenities includes a boat access, picnic area, and snowmobile trails.

Crystal Beach – T. Bradley – This 7.7 acre park, located in the extreme north central portion of the Town has a boat access, restrooms, shelter, picnic area, and swimming beach.

Kahle Park – T. Bradley – This 7.9 acre park, located south of the intersections of STH 107 and CTH S, in the southeastern portion of the Town, has an informal play area, picnic area, playground, restrooms, shelter, softball fields, and tennis courts.

Thiesen Park – T. Bradley – This 17 acre park, located in the north central portion of the Town, has an informal play area, picnic area, playground, restrooms, shelter, and softball fields.

STATE FACILITIES

The State of Wisconsin, primarily through the Department of Natural Resources, holds several tracts of land within Lincoln County as shown on Map 3. This land is open to the public for a variety of uses. Boundary signs posted near parking lots and along borders explain the uses on that parcel.

State Park

Council Grounds State Park consists of 508 acres and is located near the City of Merrill. Facilities include a 52 site family campground, group campground, showers, restroom, swimming beach, picnic areas, shelter house, boat landing, hiking and cross country ski trails and a playground.

State Wayside

There is a 1 acre State DOT wayside at the intersection of CTH A and USH 8.

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.

Alta Springs Fishery Area – Size: 138 acres located in the Town of Birch among the Prairie River Fishery Area.

Big Rib River Fishery Area – Size: 93,747 acres located in the Town of Corning.

Spring Lake & Prairie River Fishery Area – Size: 1,840 acres. These are parcels scattered along the Prairie River available to the public for hunting, fishing, and hiking. Also provided are parking lots at different locations.

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.

New Wood Wildlife Area – Size: 4,635 acres. The Ice Age Trail coincides with this property, along with approximately 25 miles of hunter/hiking trails. Hiking and bird watching are available recreation at this site. Deer, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, and timber wolves inhabit the area.

Bill Cross Wildlife Area – Size: 1,522 acres. This area is 5 miles northwest of Merrill off of STH 107. Hiking, berry picking, snowmobiling, winter ATV'ing and fishing are available recreation at this site. Deer, ruffed grouse, woodcock, snowshoe hare, waterfowl, bald eagles, and furbearers inhabit the area.

State Natural Area (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 one area within Lincoln County:

Krueger Pines SNA is located in the southeast corner of Council Grounds State Park.

Other State Land

Menard Island Resource Area – Size: 2,354 acres. This corridor is preserved by the DNR along the Wisconsin River in northern Lincoln County above Lake Alice. This area protects about 5.6 miles of river frontage plus an additional 7.8 miles of frontage in easements. It is open for day use

only providing public hunting, trapping, fishing, canoeing, picnicking, and nature observation. Motorized vehicles are restricted to the road network.

PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Several private individuals have land holdings that are open to the public for recreational purposes The Wisconsin Public Service Corporation owns sections of varying sizes throughout the county. The Grandfather Falls Dam site is the most significant from a recreational stand point. Public Service has established the Grandfather Falls Recreation Area with ample parking, boat/canoe access, snowmobile trails, nature trails, and the Ice Age Scenic Trail.

The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company operates recreational facilities and owns land on two reservoirs - the Rice and the Spirit. On the Rice, WVIC operates 3 access sites between Oneida and Lincoln Counties. The Rice Dam access offers fishing access, a canoe portage and parking; The Nokomis Drive Landing provides a boat launch, ADA fishing platform, picnic tables, an ADA accessible porta-potty and parking; and the Klade Road site offers walk or carry in access and parking. On the Spirit, there is a developed boat landing with parking, two ADA gravel fishing platforms and an ADA accessible porta-potty south of Highway 86 along with another site north of Highway O providing an ADA fishing platform along with walk in fishing access, a canoe portage and parking. WVIC published: Recreation Plan for Project Lands and Reservoirs in 2009.

Packaging Corporation of America also has two sites on the Spirit Reservoir. One site off Highway E offers a boat landing, picnic area, swimming beach and parking, while the Pride Pond access area includes a boat landing, restroom, hiking trails and parking. Tenneco Packaging also developed an outdoor recreational area in the summer of 1997 encompassing approximately 50-70 acres, which includes a duck pond, nature trails, and observation locations.

Many private corporations or citizens hold forested land under the State's Forest Crop Law. Large companies such as Spirit Falls Timber, LLC, Minocqua Timber, LLC, and Wausau-Mosinee Paper Timberland hold extensive tracts scattered over the County. This land is used primarily for logging, however, lands under the Forest Crop Law are required to be open to the public for hunting, fishing.

There are 4 private golf courses – Merrill, Inshalla, Edgewater, and Club X to C.

Private Campgrounds

There are approximately 7 private campgrounds totaling 307 campsites in Lincoln County. All of these campgrounds are available for a fee to the public.

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

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

Recreational needs within the county were identified in three ways: 1) public input – informally, survey results, open house comments, local and county comprehensive plans, and the County Forest Access Plan; 2) an assessment of county maintained outdoor recreation facilities; and a summary of public comment from past plans.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROJECTS COMPLETED FROM 2007-2011

Lincoln County

- Hired and maintained the services of a County Recreational Officer.
- Trails have received extensive signage and upgrades to identify each trail and appropriate uses.
- Numerous lake access improvements were made on the county forest and countywide.
- Assistance was provided to improve Town lake access sites.
- Developed and improved trail maps using GPS data to identify trail systems and describe acceptable uses on each system.
- Access roads were developed into the Highway 8 Block.
- The Underdown Campground was licensed and improved.
- Completed Mail Route and New Wood Road Ruffed Grouse walking trails.
- Multi-use shelter and restroom facilities were constructed at the CTH B south ATV trailhead.
- Several segments of the Harrison Hills ATV trail were rehabilitated and widened to improve trail and prepare them for UTV (side by side) traffic.
- Removed old cabin and removed trash on Ghost Lake in the Roothouse Lake Special Use Area.
- Constructed new restrooms and changing house, replaced roof on shelterhouse and renovated parking lot at Tug Lake County Park.
- An emergency signing system that is compatible with the County's 911 system was developed and implemented on the Harrison Hills ATV Trail.
- Assisted with Regional ATV route connections on northern portion of county.
- Opened access to Otter Lake campground for ATV's.
- The Ice Age Trail continues to be developed as lands become available within the corridor.
- Hiawatha Trail maintenance is coordinated by the Lincoln County Forestry Department.
- Developed, signed and maintained snowshoe trails in the Underdown with volunteer assistance.
- Re-routed single track bike trails away from the horse trails and campground in the Underdown.
- Controlled garlic mustard, expanded and renovated parking lot, improved campsites and well and developed western road for possible future campground expansion at Underdown trailhead.
- Completed third and final phase of Merrill to Tomahawk snowmobile trail from North Star Road to Irma along the western Highway 51 corridor.

Town of Rock Falls and Birch

- Improvement to Irma Ball Park diamond.

Town of Bradley

- Installed 2 swing sets and 2 teeter totters.

The Cities of Merrill and Tomahawk both have outdoor recreation plans where their accomplishments are listed in the previous 5-years.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Informal Public Input

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

Summary of User Group, County Board and Land Managers Survey Responses

Top 3 Outdoor Recreational Issues Facing Lincoln County

Priority #1

- Trail maintenance by volunteers may become unsustainable as more is logged every year. 60+ hours per year just mowing.
- Development of safe and adequate walking/biking trail that would connect Merrill and Tomahawk, preferably along State Highway 107.
- Limited funding – unlimited wants by recreators.
- Lack of ATV trails in Lincoln County.
- Snow trails.
- Waterway access – many formerly open access points are still blocked and others need to be made available.
- More ATV trails in the western and north-western part of the county, so that routes are not used.

Priority #2

- Resolution of conflicts between the various user groups on county forest.
- Recreational uses vs. "don't disturb" syndrome.
- The need for ATV trail maintenance.
- ATV campsite access.
- Environmental blunders such as the destruction of the Prairie River fishery via the swift removal of the Ward Dam. No controlled release of sediment or removal.

Priority #3

- Nothing else – Lincoln County is great!
- Development of primitive campsites along Ice Age Trail.
- Fed. & state agencies not working together with local governments on recreational wants.
- Completion of the previous Outdoor Recreation Plan recommendations.
- Multi-use trails.
- Intolerance of user groups that feel their chosen recreational pursuit is of higher importance.

<u>How to Address the Top 3 Issues Facing Lincoln County</u>

- More trail must be mowed each year as canopies are removed and weeds/brush are allowed to grow. This is done by a few volunteers with weed whackers twice a year for the first 5 years after logging and once after that. A reprieve, like the county taking over maintenance, or creating a no-harvest corridor would help. Overall cooperation with loggers and foresters has been excellent, and initial impact from logging has been minimized.
- In addition to safety issues, the attached article explains why allowing horses on bike/hike trails essentially excludes everyone else. Better planning of new trails should solve this problem. There are plenty of places for new horse trail that will not close trails already used by bikes. Prior to a new trail just opened, cooperation between groups was excellent. Both had separate trail systems.
- Obtain information from some of the northern counties on how they have their funding sources: private and governmental.
- Re-address the concept of compatible multiple use. Some uses are not environmentally and user compatible. Address the history of trail development on county forest lands.
- Locate and develop simple and safe camp sites along the Ice Age Trail (IAT). Provide a level tent site and fire ring. Encourage the WDNR to do the same when the IAT is on state lands.
- Create cooperative partnerships with clubs to proceed.
- Allow "multiple use, sustainable forestry" on all county/public lands.
- Get rules changed to allow acceptable uses of land to be decided by local units of government.
- Complete the ATV trail from Pine Lake Road to the Enterprise trail system. Also complete the Underdown ATV trail.
- Complete trail maintenance by utilizing private entities if needed.
- Revisit the needs of the previous Outdoor Recreation Plan and complete those recommendations before beginning new recommendations.
- Get the different groups together.
- Restoration of access by removing rocks and gates. Also develop new public water access points for primitive and trailer landings.
- Bring the DNR to account for the Ward Dam removal. Remove sediment that destroyed an excellent trout stream.
- Pass a resolution to stop the year round destruction of waterbodies, wells, roads, and bridges with the use of aggressive corrosives (calcium & magnesium chloride).
- User groups need to be tolerant of the right to use and access public land. The idea that motorized access is to blame for everything is biased and misleading. We need to use

"coordination," not forced cooperation for all land rights issues. All towns, stakeholders, and taxpayers have a right to coordinate for their investment.

- Open more county forest lands and use existing logging roads where applicable to create more ATV trail in western and north-western part of the county.

Improvements Needed on Parks and Forest

- Underdown campground needs sites scaled to tents rather than horse pastures. People don't want to pitch tents where a horse has been, and usually just sleep in the parking lot. We are willing to do all of the work.
- Hiking trails around Prairie Dells could be improved. I think only informal trails exist now.
- A collection of 16 lakes around Beaver Trail Road in Harrison Hills could be connected with portage trails for canoes and hikers, maybe bikers.
- Historic trail for hikers/bikers on historic railroad grade near Mist Lake in the Underdown to existing trail. Underdown is rated as one of Wisconsin's top 5 trails by fattireguides.com but cumulative maintenance tasks don't allow us to add more trail. Locations from the lumberjack era could be marked. (Some research attached).
- Lincoln County has the potential for numerous ski, snowshoe, bike, triathlon and adventure events.
- Develop parking area at trailheads on town, county and forest roads. Parking areas need to be maintained, summer and winter. Parking on roadways is not safe for people or vehicles.
- Create avenues for funding through user fees. Open up loans for clubs for capital funding.
- Open mindedness on all rec. vehicles. Open up all county lands.
- Look at other states rules not focus on one fish species (i.e. muskies) but all fish.
- Expand Otter Lake campground by upgrading to a larger area with better facilities. This is necessary because the current area is too small for its users.
- Create an ATV campground by Parking Lot B shelter area similar to the Underdown horseman's park. There is not enough camping in the Harrison forest block.
- Underdown needs: 1) electric, 2) additional campsites, 3) exterminate garlic mustard, and 4) build a shelter in an different location. All of these improvements would enhance multi-user access. Day users would be more likely to become weekend users. The horse club is able to assist with grant writing and labor.
- Make parking lot larger at CTH J and Turtle Lake.
- Prairie Dells needs to be brought back to its former status as a valuable county park.
- Underdown Campground – More needs to be done to insure this is available for all user groups and eradicate the garlic mustard infestation introduced via horse manure and feed.
- The Wisconsin River south of Merrill needs protection from constant draw downs from the Wausau Kayak Park. Access at Riverside Park needs to be maintained or improved to ensure access to what once was the number #3 musky water in the State.
- Mist Lake – while another access road was restored on the backside, both former primitive landings are still not available for reasonable motorized access. The access that is available now needs to be improved to provide easier launch of small boats.

Summary of Town Board Survey Responses

None of the following towns (Bradley, Harding, Harrison, Birch, Corning, Merrill, Rock Falls, Pine River and Somo) had outdoor recreation issues with county facilities or their own facilities.

Bradley – Town to continue adding playground equipment to Kable & Thursen Parks.

Rock Falls and Birch – Town will continue improvements to Irma Ball Park.

Pine River- Town will consider adding playground equipment at Pine River Park (possible Boy Scout project).

Open House Public Input

Two open house meetings were held. Area residents were able to view a draft of the proposed plan at the Merrill and Tomahawk libraries, the Forestry, Land, and Parks Department office, and on the Internet.

Comments from Tomahawk Open House meeting held between 6:00-8:00 p.m. on October 11, 2011 at SARA Park:

- Otter Lake – make boat landing area wider so trailers can operate smoothly around corners.
- Consider creating a new ATV camping area on County Highway B or another location along the trail.
- Have more shared routes: hiking/biking/ATV/Snowmobile

Comments from the Merrill Open House meeting held between 6:00-8:00 p.m. on October 13, 2011 at the Lincoln County Service Center:

- Consider how to provide ATV clubs with funding to brush trails.
- Consider repaving the Hiawatha Trail with gravel instead of rotten granite to maintain snow cover in winter. Do not repave with blacktop.
- Consider if ATV use on the Hiawatha Trail from Tomahawk north to County Highway N (Heafford Junction) could be allowed.
- Reauthorize Pine Lake ATV Trail to become multi-use trail if possible.
- Consider how to make county forest roads into town roads. County would maintain the roads and sign an agreement with the towns, so the county could collect the local road aid from these new town roads. Forest roads are paid about 75% less money than town roads.

GENERAL COUNTY FACILITY ASSESSMENT

Staff from the Lincoln County Forestry Department projected what needs face Lincoln County. Specific park assessments exist by the capital improvement tables that start on page 46.

- Providing for a balance of legitimate recreational opportunities to a wide variety of diverse groups and reducing user conflict by keeping incompatible uses separate from one another while still protecting the natural resources of the county in a sustainable manner.

- Protecting lakes, water resources and sensitive areas from damage and environmental degradation so future generations will have use and enjoyment of our public lands.
- Meeting the demands the public places on our county forest land with decreased staffing and budgets.
- Monitoring trail use in order to prioritize expansion or improvement requests so that work done is justified and goal achieving due to limited funds/staff time and also does not displace other users.

PAST PLAN SUMMARIES OF PUBLIC COMMENT

City of Tomahawk Comprehensive Plan Issues

The City of Tomahawk created a comprehensive plan in 2006. Below are some of the transportation issues that residents identified. Only issues that relate to outdoor recreation were listed.

- Creation of a walking and biking trail between the library and SARA Park.
- Establishing a second road into the hospital from the west.
- Truck traffic through intersections not designed for trucks, and traffic signals needed at:
    - Somo & North 4th St.
    - Mohawk Dr. & North 4th St.
- Groom cross-country ski trails at Bradley Park & the Tomahawk School Forest area.

Chapter 4 in the City of Tomahawk Comprehensive Plan also includes the following statement under "Comprehensive Trail Plan:"

"As part of the Comprehensive Plan process the Committee considered a bike and walk trail plan that would link together parks along the Lake Mohawksin waterfront, and connect to surrounding recreational trails. This trail Plan was presented to the Parks & Recreation Committee of the City Council as well as to representatives of DNR. Approval of the Plan, including adoption as the official Tomahawk Trail Plan, was received and the Plan is included here as official City policy."

In 2011, the City adopted a policy that permits snowmobiles and ATVs to use some city streets and certain designated trails within the city. These routes are shown on Map 5. Not all routes noted on Map 5 allow both snowmobile and ATV use.

City of Merrill Comprehensive Plan Issues

The City of Merrill created a comprehensive plan in 2006. Below are some of the transportation issues that residents identified. Only issues that relate to outdoor recreation were listed.

- Abandoned rail corridors and spurs are not available to adjacent landowners to own. Abandoned rail bridges over the Wisconsin River.
- Snowmobile trails need better access to local businesses. A comprehensive review of the snowmobile network is needed, because it keeps changing every other year, and some corridors may need permanent protection.
- There are some discussions of a riverwalk system in the downtown.

- A recreation trail could connect Prairie River Park to Stanges Park.
- Additional issues relate to aging infrastructure and the cost to improve, high-speed areas, congestion areas, overall flow of traffic or network, funding transit system, lack of intra-city bus service, and the need for an integrated pedestrian/bike plan.

Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan Issues

Lincoln County created a comprehensive plan in 2001. A survey was administered and part G. Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources relates to outdoor recreation. When asked which of nine different types of parks and recreational facilities were needed (more than one could be selected), the most common responses were "multi-use trails for bicyclists, pedestrians, skiers, and snowmobilers..." (43%) and "natural areas such as nature trails, wildlife viewing areas, [and] interpretive centers..." (40%). These were followed by waterfront parks (31%) and campgrounds (23%). Just under 31% of respondents believed that no additional parks or recreational facilities were needed. Responses from town and city residents were not significantly different.

A Public Land Users Focus Group was also created during the comprehensive planning process and their key recommendations are described below:

- Acquire gaps of available private forest land to add to the County forest system, particularly before larger private tracts are further broken up and developed.
- Provide clear guidelines that specify where exactly recreational opportunities within the County forest exist, and where different recreational uses (e.g., motorized verses non-motorized) will be allowed.
- Form a citizens advisory subcommittee comprised of public land users to advise the County Forestry Lands and Parks Committee on an ongoing basis (e.g. to identify potential use conflicts).
- Participants in this focus group represented a wide range of interests including forestry, logging, environmental, active recreation (e.g. snowmobilers), and "quiet sport" recreation (e.g. hikers). Participants began by describing what they thought to be the most important natural resources in Lincoln County, which included:
    - Lakes and rivers
    - Groundwater
    - Wetlands
    - Forests (for environmental and economic benefits)
    - Unique glaciated lands in the County (e.g. the Harrison Hills and the Ice Age Trail)

Participants had numerous comments and recommendations on the size, uses, and management of the County forest.

Regarding the size of the County forest, participants agreed that the County should be active in acquiring available private forest lands before they are broken up for other uses. The group suggested that the County should focus on acquiring gaps of privately owned forest land in between larger sections of the existing County forest system. Participants expressed concerns over the future use of private forest lands currently owned by industry, but which are now starting to be sold off

and developed residentially. They identified substantial tracts of forest land that could be acquired very soon in the towns of Wilson and Bradley.

Participants believed that County purchase of more forest lands is and will be justified for these reasons:

- Anticipated growth in local population and tourism activity will place additional pressure on both private and public forest lands for development and recreational use.
- Increasing popularity of recreational activities such as snowmobiling, ATVs, and hunting will increase the amount of recreational demand.
- Anticipated removal of some private forest lands from production and/or recreational use will create greater pressure on the County forest for logging and recreation if the County forest is not expanded.

Participants believed that the County needs to be proactive in specifying where motorized verses non-motorized recreational uses should be allowed within the County forest. For example, often bicyclists want asphalt trails but snowmobile riders need natural trails – in some cases, these types of uses may need to be separated. The County should then actively enforce these decisions. The County could also better educate the public as to the availability of various recreational opportunities in the County forest. Signage indicating where public access is located and what types of recreational uses are allowed in each area would be helpful. Greater organization, coordination, and communication among the different recreational user groups are also advisable. Participants were concerned about ATV use in the County forest. Many believed that ATVs have a greater impact on the land than snowmobiles. Some indicated that ATV users have yet to be organized in the same way as snowmobile users; encouraging such organization may lessen the impact of ATVs.

Participants generally agreed that modern logging practices are consistent with long-term conservation and multiple use of the County forests. However, some felt that certain logging practices could interfere with recreational use – for example, where logging in the past has actually blocked trails. The consensus was that the County Forestry Lands and Parks Committee should better recognize and prioritize recreational use. Participants suggested the formation of a citizens' standing advisory subcommittee to the County Forestry Lands and Parks Committee that would work with their Committee and inform it of any real or potential use conflicts. Many conflicts could be resolved at the subcommittee level. Membership could be very similar to that of the Public Land Users Focus Group (e.g., different recreationalists, loggers, environmentalists).

With regard to water resource issues, participants indicated that committing resources for better enforcement of existing regulations could best mitigate impacts of shoreland development. Public education was also seen as an important tool to protect shoreland areas and adjacent waterways. Participants believed that clear guidelines for the protection of shorelands and wetlands within municipalities were also needed.

Preservation of the rural character of Lincoln County was an important goal of group members, with expansion of County forest lands being viewed as an important way to achieve that goal. Other ideas included providing rural schools in the towns encouraging consumption of local agriculture products within the region, and making cities attractive centers to encourage development there instead of rural areas.

In 2010 and 2011, Lincoln County began to update their comprehensive plan. The emphasis of this updated plan, which is scheduled to be reviewed and approved by the Lincoln County Board by early 2012, is on economic development. The plan makes several broad economic development recommendations that relate to and/or have the potential to impact Lincoln County public recreation and forests. The recommendations detailed below were developed by two stakeholder groups. One formulated the Transportation portion and the other the Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources element of the updated draft comprehensive plan. Summaries of recent recreational activities are included along with the planning groups' recommendations.

Lincoln County ATV and Snowmobile Trails

Over the past several years, ATV and snowmobile usage has increased throughout the county. In 2010, there was just over 400 miles of groomed ATV and snowmobile trails in the county. By mid-2011, the City of Tomahawk had approved an ordinance to open city roads to ATV traffic, with a 10 mile per hour maximum speed limit. The primary purposes for doing so was to increase ATV rider access to local businesses and to make travel from one rural trail to another shorter.

In 2011, the Lincoln County Forestry Department maintained nearly 45 miles of funded summer ATV trails. For the department, this was an increase in maintenance of about 30 miles of summer ATV trails since 2000. Lincoln County snowmobile clubs maintained about 195 miles of funded winter ATV trails. In Lincoln County, most winter ATV trails are also used by snowmobiles. Winter ATV and snowmobile trails link Tomahawk and Harrison, Tomahawk and Tripoli, and Tomahawk and Irma. Also linked are Spirit Falls and Harrison, Harrison and Merrill (city), Merrill and Spirit Falls, and Merrill and Irma. About 315 miles of funded and 100 miles of non-funded snowmobile trails exist in the county. These miles are maintained by local snowmobile clubs.

In 2010, Lincoln County began participating in a UTV pilot program which makes it legal for side by side recreational vehicles to utilize the summer ATV trail system on county forest and ATV routes within participating townships until June 30, 2012, when the program ends. Lincoln County was also one of five counties in Wisconsin to participate in the original LUV pilot program which ran from May 1, 2008–Sept. 30, 2009. These pilot programs are being used as guidance to possibly develop a permanent UTV program in the state. In 2010, the County Board designated 31 county highway miles as ATV routes.

Knowledgeable about these statistics and trends, the group developing the Transportation portion of the county comprehensive plan felt that there is an opportunity for additional businesses to open near or along trails to provide more services to ATV and snowmobile enthusiasts. Business opportunities will be reinforced by efforts to allow wherever feasible more snowmobile and especially ATV traffic on regular roads, helping to create the linkages that were emphasized during planning session discussions.

Bicycle and Pedestrian

For several years, various groups throughout the county have been working to promote bike and pedestrian friendly routes. Lincoln County's 2001 Comprehensive Plan recommended that density type development, or concentrating new development in areas that are already developed, take place. This kind of approach creates a need to make it easier for people to get around in alternative, "non-car" ways in especially the cities of Merrill and Tomahawk and continued to be a point of emphasis for the various comprehensive planning groups.

Although very little progress toward creating pedestrian and bike friendly areas and linkages of those modes took place over the last 10 years, much more discussion and planning around the issue of connecting/lengthening existing pedestrian and bike trails and developing new ones occurred toward the end of that period. Entities as varied as the Merrill Area Healthy Lifestyles Network - a group of health care professionals and citizens interested in promoting exercise - to both city governments located in the county were pretty consistently involved in discussions to extend and link pedestrian and bike trails. Lincoln County, with the assistance of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was, in mid- 2010, getting ready to develop a Bicycle Facilities Network Plan. In 2011, new bike lanes were constructed as part of the North 4th Street project in Tomahawk. These efforts make it likely that additional work on developing pedestrian and bike lanes in the county will occur in the coming years.

In 2010, the City of Tomahawk completed park improvement plans which called for linking trails throughout the park system and extending them into the city. Bradley Park was designated the city's primary silent sports park where much of the work to promote pedestrian friendly, non-motorized travel would begin. (A Bradley Park campgrounds feasibility study was being developed in 2011.) Some specific steps that were suggested to help promote these linkages in Tomahawk were:

- Extend the river walk.
- Construct an underpass at 4th Street and Memorial Bridge (was completed as part of the North 4th Street construction project).
- Link Bradley Park with the natural geologic trail behind the park where old ski jump and snowmobile trails are located.
- Improve trailheads, installing amenities (water fountains, bathrooms, etc.) in those locations to help encourage trail usage.

In addition, the State Trails Network Plan (2001, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources) recommended an extension of Tomahawk's Bearskin/Hiawatha Trail through Merrill along Highway 107. Tomahawk's 2006 Comprehensive Plan along with the State Trails Network Plan developed five years before also called for the development of a trail using abandoned railroad corridor from Tomahawk northeast to Crandon and a joining of the Bearskin/Hiawatha Trail going north from Tomahawk to County K in Oneida County. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan (2004) also endorsed similar extensions in the effort to create a regional trail system throughout north central Wisconsin.

Also, in 2009 the City of Merrill commissioned a river development study which called for a trail to be installed along the north bank of the Wisconsin River of just over a mile long from near Big Eddy Road on the east side of town to the Business 51 Bridge near the city's central retail district. It was proposed that the trail would be multi-purpose in nature, including the possibility that it could be used by snowmobilers seeking to travel to downtown retail and service destinations.

The river walk would also be linked, it was proposed by the city's Parks and Recreation Department, to a city wide network of interconnected trails using primarily existing road arteries. Main routes would be accessible from residential, park and business areas across the city. Starting on Highway 64 near Pine Ridge Road at the east end of town, the network would utilize newly designated bike lanes and pedestrian walkways on Merrill's main arteries including Center Avenue (County K), Memorial Drive, 6th Street, and 3rd Street. Trails and lanes would run across the nearly seven miles

that the city spans from east to west. North/south arteries would also be developed allowing pedestrians and bikers to easily access various points across the city. Accessibility using alternative, non-motorized forms of transportation was the chief goal of the proposed system.

The Transportation planning group also identified the following broad goals related to recreation and public forests:

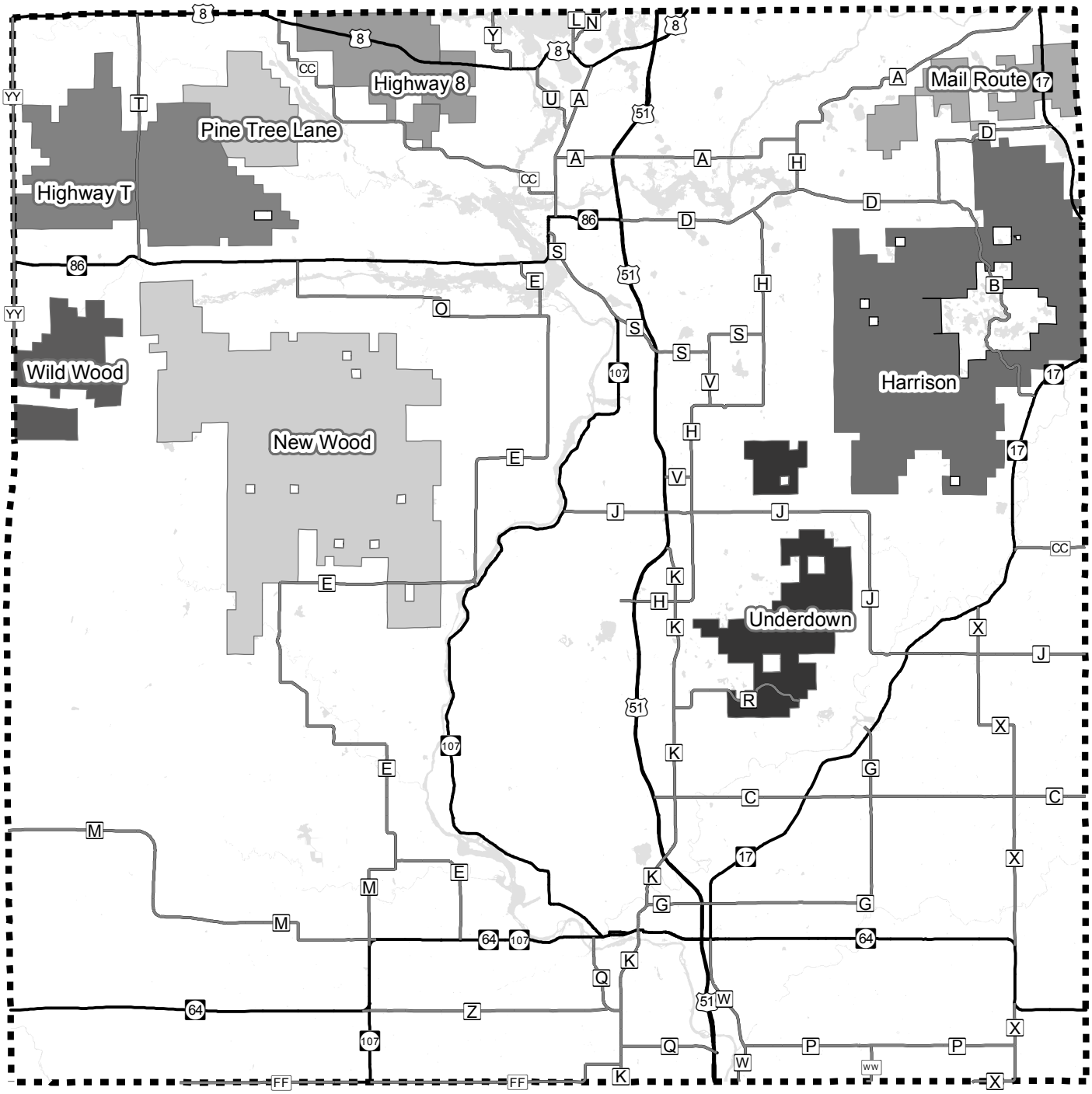
- Trails of various types (e.g. ATV, snowmobile, walking, biking, horse, etc.) will be joined together and linked with other transportation modes such as roads both inside and outside the county to support greater regional economic activity.
- County departments will coordinate the development of a plan that effectively promotes Lincoln County trail systems.
- Install bike and pedestrian lanes wherever feasible to encourage a more sustainable approach to community development. These amenities will also be developed in such a way as to promote quality of life and healthy lifestyle practices. Work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to create economical, safe, and efficient designs of bike and pedestrian lanes that also improve the flow of traffic.

In addition to the details above, the Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources planning committee made the following broad recommendations related to local recreation and forest issues.

- The relative economic contribution of the county's forestry and agricultural resources will not only be maintained but expanded by accessing new and more diverse markets.
- We will attract more tourists because of enhanced recreational trail corridors.
- Public recreation resources will be improved through the encouragement of accessibility to public and private lands, further enhancing our recreational trail corridors.
- The county will be more engaged in marketing its wealth of naturally grown biomass while adhering to sound ecological principles that assure sustainable production for generations to come.
- Our forests and natural areas will be managed for multiple uses, optimizing their income potential while using best management practices that assure their productivity and environmental benefits for generations to come.
- There will be more equitable balance between the income opportunities for our natural resources and their conservation and preservation.
- The preservation of large, contiguous parcels of land will be encouraged in order to support the sustainable development of the county's agricultural, forestry, recreation and wildlife resources.
- The county's water resources will be protected so residents and tourists can be ensured a high quality of life and enjoy the environmental benefits.
- Unique and culturally important natural areas will be carefully selected and preserved.
- Resource conservation ideas and tools that are already present in local codes need to be refined and promoted, such as conservation subdivisions.
- The county will have programs in place to continually monitor and manage threats from invasive species.
- There will be better balance between wildlife preservation and the controls needed to reduce their negative impacts on agricultural and forest crops.

Lincoln County Forest Blocks

Map 6



0 1 2 3 4 Miles

Forest Block Name

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

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Lincoln County Forest Access Plan Focus Group Results

Lincoln County created this plan with extensive public input over the course of 2 ½ years. Map 6 identifies each county forest block described below.

Harrison Block:
Construct multi-use shelter building in Hwy B south parking area with restroom.
Develop nature/hiking trails on Roothouse Lake property.
Reclaim Otter Run Ski Trail if/when appropriate.

Hwy 8 Block:
Work with local ATV Club to explore possibility of ATV trail in this block. ATV trail would connect to Oneida County trails.

Hwy T Block:
Work with local ATV Club to explore possibility of ATV trail in this block. ATV trail would connect Tripoli and Spirit Falls to Price County.
Continue to explore development of Spirit River property in Spirit Falls.
Monitor and plan for Spirit River property in Tripoli.

Mail Route Block:
Improve grouse habitat and hunter/walking trail system.
Maintain and make necessary improvements to Harrison Flowage habitat, dam and boat landing.

New Wood Block:
Development and maintenance of hunter/walking trails in the ruffed grouse management area.
Monitor use for possible future development at the Lincoln County Forest New Wood River access.

Pine Tree Lane Block:
Potential exists for future development on County Forest adjacent to Somo River.

Underdown Block:
Consider construction of a shelter in this block.
Monitor campground use to help plan for future needs.
Reroute trails off from roads where possible.
Continue development of single track bike trails.

Wildwood Block:
Maintain and improve where necessary snowmobile and ATV trails and routes.

OTHER PLAN REFERENCES

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

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

NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

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

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

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

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

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

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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

Goal 1
Protect, restore, and enhance Lincoln County's natural resources for outdoor recreation.

Objectives
1. Follow Best Management Practices for water quality and for invasive species control in development of trails and recreation facilities.
2. Purchase land within county forest blocking.
3. Continue Recreational Officer position.
4. Provide for a balance of legitimate recreational opportunities to a wide variety of diverse groups and reduce user conflict by keeping incompatible uses separate from one another while still protecting the natural resources of the county in a sustainable manner.
5. Protect and preserve the environmental integrity of the natural resources in Lincoln County so future generations will have use and enjoyment of our public lands.

Goal 2
Continue to improve and develop Lincoln County's outdoor recreation facilities.

Objectives
1. Develop new facilities as outlined in 5-year Capital Improvement tables and as opportunities and funding sources become available and the ability to maintain these facilities is established.
2. Maintain and improve existing recreational facilities as outlined in 5-year capital improvement tables and as opportunities and funding sources become available.
3. Work with user groups to meet specific needs and desires for recreation on the Lincoln County Forest.
4. Continue to develop and improve all types of recreational trails.
5. Cooperate with various governmental agencies to improve all outdoor recreation facilities within Lincoln County.
6. Improve and protect access to water resources.
7. Continue to qualify Lincoln County and local governmental units for eligibility of state and federal financial aid programs which require outdoor recreational planning.
8. Continue planning and developing recreational facilities to accommodate the elderly and handicapped.

RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

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

The recommendations are based on the goals and objectives, and the public comment documented in Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment. Although it is unlikely that all recommendations presented in this plan will be undertaken in the next five years, they should be recognized as causes for action if the opportunity or need arises.

PRIORITY CRITERIA

Local officials will determine which projects will have the highest priority for funding and implementation.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

ATV Trail Development and Enhancement

ATV use and the need for places for users to ride continue to increase. Regional development of routes and trails can connect communities to each other and provide a potential economic boost to our area. Other public entities should be encouraged to help meet the needs of expanding ATV use by developing riding opportunities on the property that they manage. Lincoln County will continue to look at ways to enhance its current ATV trail system and will consider developing new ATV trails that will achieve community goals and not displace other recreational users. Expanding available opportunities to new uses such as UTV's will also be examined.

Access to Water Resources

Providing for access to water has been a goal of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land, and Parks Department for many years. Access to water resources for recreational opportunities will continue to be a high priority project. Full consideration to the degree of access that is capable of being provided will be given to each individual site in order to protect these resources for current and future generations. Signage should be improved to direct users to public access sites. Wisconsin Statutes [236.16(3)] requires dedication of public access in subdivisions along waterways unless there is a public access within ½ mile of the subdivision.

Handicapped and Elderly Access

With Wisconsin's aging population, access and recreational opportunities for the handicapped and elderly will become a vital part of how recreation is managed in the state. As the population ages, the demand for more passive outdoor recreational activities and facilities may become more prevalent. Upgrades and new construction will take into consideration meeting ADA standards and fulfilling the needs of the elderly and handicapped.

Fairgrounds

The 1999 *Lincoln County Fairgrounds Utilization Study* prepared by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission recommends several capital improvements to the fairgrounds if the County wishes to continue with activities at its current use. These recommendations include building a new grandstand and expanding the existing area along with landscaping. The county is currently re-visiting this issue. Recent discussions have taken place to replace the two older restrooms with a more up to date facility. A fairground's user group has been working with the county to look into ways to improve and more effectively market the fairgrounds.

Bicycle Lanes

Complete Streets are roads and highways that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users: motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, and walk to shops in urban areas; and for bicycling to work and for pleasure throughout the county. Traffic calming, road diets, sidewalks, and bike lanes are strategies that make a street complete. Instituting a complete streets policy or ordinance would ensure that highways within Lincoln County become bicycle and pedestrian friendly as they become refurbished. Creating a bicycle facilities plan would determine what locally approved roads and highways would become bike routes. Applying for transportation enhancement grants could pay for much of those improvements.

Ice Age Trail Development

There are still gaps in the Ice Age Trail in Lincoln County as shown on Map 1. The local chapter remains active and is encouraged to continue working with the county and private landowners to complete the trail. Since the Ice Age Trail and an ATV trail in the Harrison Hills area cross at several points, then it is recommended that the Lincoln County Forestry, Lands, and Parks Department verify that both trails are clearly marked for the continued enjoyment of both user groups.

Scenic Automobile/Bicycle Route

The 2002-2006 Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2002-2006 ORP), and the North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan 2004 (2004 Bike Plan) both describe the possibility of creating a scenic auto and bicycle route loop through the county. Public input through this county outdoor recreation planning process shows a need for a bicycle path or route along State Highway 107, which would create half of a county loop trail. This recommendation suggests installing signs along the roadways shown on Map 1, and possibly creating a map outlining the route, scenic sites, and visitor amenities.

Primative Camping

Public comment shows a desire for creation of primitive camping along the Ice Age Trail. Primitive un-reservable camping will continue to be allowed throughout the Lincoln County Forest.

Krull Island on Lake Alice

Pursue purchasing this island in the Town of King to maintain the natural lake aesthetic.

CITY OF TOMAHAWK RECOMMENDATIONS

See Tomahawk's 2010-2015 Outdoor Recreation Plan for more details on any of the points listed:

- Install signs at major road crossings to identify that the trail is open to the public. Each sign could identify the acceptable uses of the "Trail Corridor" path.
- Consider creating a SARA Park master plan.
- In SARA Park - Create an indoor display and learning center about boats.
- In SARA Park – Create an outdoor stage for events like concerts, weddings, or demonstrations.
- Develop a variety of trails within the City.
- Develop a fee system for boat launch access.

Map 5 shows all of the existing and proposed parks and trails in the City of Tomahawk. On Map 5, Trail Corridor was identified without any one use associated with it, because it is a snowmobile route in the winter, and is recommended to become a bike & walk trail in summer.

The City Park and Recreation Committee has approved the following recommendations.

Sunset Boulevard Park

- Develop a switchback path leading down to the river.

SARA Park

- Construct open-sided shelter for picnicking.
- Create more campsites, and retrofit existing camping pads with electric hookups. Provide drinking water in camping areas.
- Construct a sanitary dump station for RV camping.
- Create boat docks.
- Develop plans for a band shell.
- Develop plans for a boat museum.

Pride Park

- Install drinking fountain near picnic area (Scheduled for 2007).
- Expand skatepark.
- Replace tennis court.

Frenchtown Park

- Site may need restrooms

Bradley Park

- Sledding/tobogganing area developed to expand winter use.
- Ski trail needs improved maintenance and grooming.
- Disk golf course.

Frenchtown Beach

- Install restrooms.

CITY OF MERRILL RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Merrill has its own Outdoor Recreation Plan (2008-2013) and passed a resolution to have that plan added to the current county outdoor recreation plan. Most recommendations from that plan exist solely within the city limits and are not listed in this plan. Refer to Map 4.

- General concern about snowmobile trail routes exists. A comprehensive review of snowmobile trails within the City may show a need to develop permanent trail corridors.

TOWN RECOMMENDATIONS

Bradley – Town to continue adding playground equipment to Kable & Thursen Parks.

Rock Falls and Birch– Town will continue improvements to Irma Ball Park.

- Add water service.
- Add Bleachers
- Add electrical service.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2012 – 2016

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

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

1. Improvements to existing facilities:
   a) To correct health and safety hazards;
   b) To update deficient facilities; and
   c) To modernize adequate but outdated facilities.

2. Installation of facilities as deemed necessary through citizen participation.

3. Development of new facilities as found necessary through comparison to park and recreation standards, and public comment.

The following Capital Improvement Plans are proposed for the Lincoln County recreational system. The projects are listed in a priority and are subject to change. The Lincoln County Forestry, Land, and Parks Department created each capital improvement plan. All upgrades and new construction will take into consideration meeting ADA standards. As funds become available, the following projects will be completed.

Haymeadow County Park is a former DOT wayside with a small picnic area and restrooms. This park may see increased usage due to development at Prairie Dells Scenic Viewing Area.

Table 2	**Haymeadow County Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan**
Start Year of Plan 2011	Estimated Cost
1st Year	
Replace restrooms if warranted – use may increase as a result of the Prairie Dells Scenic Viewing Area construction and signage.	$50,000
2nd Year	
Upgrade or add to amenities and facilities depending on use numbers.	$10,000
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	**$60,000**

Harrison Hills Forest Block is approximately 26,000 acres in size. This block contains the Lincoln County funded ATV trail system, Ament Lake quiet area, Roothouse Lake special use area, several miles of Ice Age Trail and Otter Lake Park & Campground.

Table 3	**Harrison Hills Forest Block Five Year Capital Improvement Plan**
Start Year of Plan 2011	Estimated Cost
1st Year	
Continue with Lake Access and Boat Landing Improvements	$12,500
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	**$12,500**

Larson Lake County Park is a former DOT wayside with a picnic area and restrooms. The lake is a popular shore fishing spot.

Table 4	**Larson Lake County Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan**
Start Year of Plan 2011	Estimated Cost
1st Year	
Possibly construct campsites if IAT system makes the connection to the lake.	$30,000
3rd Year	
Replace restroom facilities in park.	$30,000
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	**$60,000**

New Wood County Park is located on the Ice Age Trail system, and is a well-used park on the Wisconsin River.

Table 5	**New Wood County Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan**
Start Year of Plan 2011	Estimated Cost
1st Year	
Replace restroom facilities in campground area.	$40,000
3rd Year	
Replace surface material in playground area.	$5,000
5th Year	
Renovate both shelter houses	$20,000
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	**$65,000**

Roothouse Lake special use area was acquired from a private party. Stipulations were placed on the management of the property by the previous owners.

Table 6	**Roothouse Lake Special Use Area Five Year Capital Improvement Plan**
Start Year of Plan 2011	Estimated Cost
5th Year	
Develop nature trail on property.	$15,000
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	**$15,000**

Plans for development at Spirit Falls have been delayed in recent years due to county budget constraints.

Table 7	**Spirit Falls Scenic Area Five Year Capital Improvement Plan**
Start Year of Plan 2011	Estimated Cost
4th Year	
Possible construction of shelter and picnic area; it may be incorporated with ATV trail development.	$70,000
5th Year	
Depending on use, possibly construct support facilities with water and rest rooms.	$20,000
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	**$90,000**

Tug Lake Park is a popular park and beach destination for many Lincoln County residents.

Table 8	**Tug Lake County Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan**
Start Year of Plan 2011	Estimated Cost
3rd Year	
Replace surface material in playground area.	$5,000
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	**$5,000**

Underdown Recreation Area continues to see increased usage for year round non-motorized activities. Trailhead and campsite improvements were completed in 2011.

Table 9	**Underdown Recreation Area Five Year Capital Improvement Plan**
Start Year of Plan 2011	Estimated Cost
1st Year	
Control Garlic Mustard at Trailhead	$10,000
3rd Year	
Possible shelter construction and second restroom.	$50,000
5th Year	
Possible expansion of camping area to include tent sites only.	$15,000
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	**$75,000**

Lincoln County's 45 mile funded ATV trail system connects with Langlade and Oneida County ATV trails and provides access to Gleason, Parrish, Pine Lake, Harrison and the City of Tomahawk.

Table 10	**Lincoln County ATV Trail System Five Year Capital Improvement Plan**
Start Year of Plan 2011	Estimated Cost
1st Year	
Continue improving currently funded ATV trail system and preparing for side by side use.	$30,000
3rd Year	
Possible open sided shelters on ATV trail	$25,000
4th Year	
Continue to explore trail development in the towns of Wilson, Somo and	unknown
Harrison (Trail development would be funded with ORV/ATV dollars)	
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	**$55,000+ unknown**

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

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

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Shoreland Zoning

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

Public Access to Waterways

Lincoln County Subdivision Ordinance and State regulations require dedication of public access in subdivisions along waterways.

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

Use of Easements

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

Leases

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

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

Historic Sites

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

Program Costs

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

Capital Improvements

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

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

Monetary Aid Programs

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

The Stewardship Fund is a comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of several older aid programs such as LAWCON and Local Park Aids, combined with new programs, such as the Urban Rivers Program. Appendix D gives an explanation of the Stewardship Fund. For additional information obtain the most current booklet titled Open Project Selection Process from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

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

Community Services Specialist
Rhinelander Service Center
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhinelander, 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.

Snowmobile/ATV Routes

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

Specialized Facilities

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

Municipal and School District Cooperation

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

Senior Citizen Involvement

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

Youth Programs

Few recreational opportunities have been planned for the communities' high school age youth. School activities provide most recreational outlets 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 areas 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 trial 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.

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.

It is recognized that 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.

The plan recommendations and action program should be reviewed by the Lincoln County Forestry, Land, and Parks Committee 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 should be notified to request input. The following information should be obtained 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.

Lincoln County Forestry, Land, and Parks Committee analysis of this annual update information may determine the need for proposed projects based on standards and priorities as outlined in this plan.

The entire plan should be updated no less than every five years, to assure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the county, and to maintain the county's eligibility for grant programs.

ATTACHMENT A

OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEYS

FIRST SURVEY – TOWNS

SECOND SURVEY – OUTDOOR RECREATION GROUPS

THIRD SURVEY – COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

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

LINCOLN COUNTY
OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

NCWRPC

Community name (Town, City of): _____

A list of projects for your community that was in the 2006-2011 Plan is included with this survey.

1. Please list outdoor recreational purchases (i.e. purchased 3 picnic tables, upgraded restrooms to be handicap accessible, purchased land for a park) that were completed by your community from 2006 and anticipated through the end of 2011.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

OVER

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Thank You For Your Participation!

Please feel free to make comments on a separate sheet of paper and mail that sheet with this completed survey to be **postmarked by September 20, 2011,**

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

NCWRPC

LINCOLN COUNTY
OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Lincoln County is updating its Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2012-2016 and we would like your input. The new five-year outdoor recreation plan will be used to identify new projects for development as well as which county parks or county forest segments need to add additional recreation facilities (like trails, buildings, or camp sites). The plan enables Lincoln County and the towns within the county to be eligible for competitive federal and state outdoor recreation grant money. Both Tomahawk and Merrill have their own outdoor recreation plans.

We will collect public comment in several ways. All Lincoln County outdoor recreation related organizations, and town boards have received a survey. Both cities will be consulted. Public comment summaries will be collected from comprehensive plans. All public comment will be presented to the Lincoln County Forestry, Land, & Parks Committee to create goals and objectives for what projects to include in the 2012-2016 Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Please complete this survey with other members of your group.

1. Please list the contact person's name and group represented: _____

_____

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

1. _____
_____

2. _____
_____

3. _____
_____

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

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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

Thank You For Your Participation!

Please feel free to make additional comments on a separate sheet of paper and mail that sheet with this completed survey to be **postmarked by October 8, 2011**, (or bring it to an open house),

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

Two **OPEN HOUSE MEETINGs** are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on:
Tuesday Oct. 11, 2011 at SARA Park in Tomahawk; and
Thursday Oct. 13, 2011 at the Lincoln County Service Center in Merrill

LINCOLN COUNTY
OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Lincoln County is updating its Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2012-2016 and we would like your input. The new five-year outdoor recreation plan will be used to identify new projects for development as well as which county parks or county forest segments need to add additional recreation facilities (like trails, buildings, or camp sites). The plan enables Lincoln County and the towns within the county to be eligible for competitive federal and state outdoor recreation grant money. Both Tomahawk and Merrill have their own outdoor recreation plans.

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County Board members: Please contact the towns and outdoor recreation groups in your district to make sure that they each complete a survey. A list of outdoor recreation groups that this survey was mailed to is enclosed.

1. Please write your name: _____

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

1. _____
_____

2. _____
_____

3. _____
_____

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

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

4. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing **your district**?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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

_____

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

_____

Thank You For Your Participation!

Please feel free to make comments on a separate sheet of paper and mail that sheet with this completed survey to be **postmarked by October 8, 2011**, (or bring it to an open house),

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

NCWRPC

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ATTACHMENT B

NCWRPC GENERATED SCORP **2005-2010** SUMMARY

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

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

The 2005–2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

SCORP

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

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

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

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

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

SCORP Planning Regions

Non-Metro Recreation Counties

SCORP Planning Boundaries

0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles

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

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

NCWRPC

210 McClellan St., Suite 210, Wausau, WI 54403

715-849-5510 - staff@ncwrpc.org - www.ncwrpc.org

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

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

General SCORP conclusions for Chapter 1 include:

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

Chapter 2 – Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Demand and Uses.

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

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

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

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

These two following sheets were taken directly from SCORP.

SCORP

The 2005 – 2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Wisconsin Demand Use Highlights

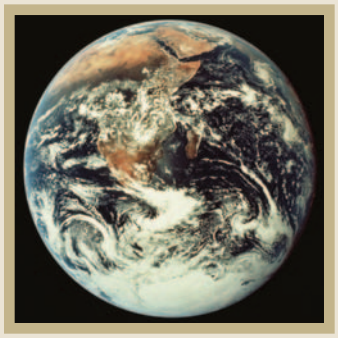
ATVing

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

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

Geocaching

Most Wisconsinites have probably never heard of geocaching. For those that participate in the sport, though, it represents a new and exciting form of ultra-modern, technologically advanced recreation. Geocaching may be described as a modern day treasure hunt. The sport relies on Global Positioning System (GPS) units, small devices that are able to determine, within 6-20 feet, the location of any spot on the planet. With these devices in hand, geocachers set out to find caches—small treasures set up and maintained by a worldwide network of individuals and organizations. The location of a cache is posted on the internet so geocachers need only record the location (in latitude and longitude) of their treasure and set out to find it. Though the sport sounds simple, it often involves a good deal of trekking and searching as geocachers make their way over hills and rocks, forests and streams to find their treasure. The location of a cache is up to the individual who establishes it, thus they are often placed somewhere the hider deems special—a scenic vista, a rocky cliff-face, even the bottom of a shallow lake. Upon arriving at a cache—generally a small bag containing trinkets and a logbook—the visitor takes a treasure, leaves a treasure, and records his visit in the book. He then replaces the cache and returns home, ready to start his next quest. Geocaching has become popular not only for its sense of adventure, but also its flexibility. Caches can be hidden anywhere—city streets, remote wilderness areas, suburban front yards. The rules, like the treasures in the caches themselves, are loose and adaptable, allowing geocachers to create traveling caches, group treasure hunts, and many other variations. As the sport gains more exposure from associations like the Wisconsin Geocaching Association (http://www.wi-geocaching.com/), it is expected to continue to increase in popularity.



Walking for Pleasure

Of all recreational activities offered in Wisconsin, walking for pleasure is by far the most popular, with over 85% of state residents (3.5 million people) participating. The reasons are obvious; walking is an easy, accessible activity requiring only your own two feet and a good pair of shoes (sometimes those are even negotiable!). Walking can be done nearly anywhere, whether in the heart of downtown Milwaukee or in the most remote portion of northern Wisconsin. Walking is also a multitasker's dream, allowing us to sightsee, chat with friends, or simply enjoy the scenery as we stroll. As exercise becomes an increasing concern for the Wisconsin population, walking can provide a good source of activity during a hectic workday just as easily as during a leisurely weekend outing.

Motorboating

In a state that is nearly surrounded by water—Lake Superior to the north, Lake Michigan to the east, the Mississippi River to the west, and thousands of smaller lakes and rivers in between—it is not surprising that watersports are popular among Wisconsinites. With 1,513,000 people (36% of the population) participating, motorboating is a favorite pastime of many state residents, and with good reason: Every one of our 72 counties has at least 4 lakes with the most—1,327 lakes—occurring in Vilas County. Our boat-to-resident ratio is the second in the nation with one boat for every nine residents (Minnesota is number one, with one boat for every six residents). Our state ranks 6th in the nation for boat registrations and 7th in the nation for money spent on boating. The many varieties of lakes within Wisconsin accommodate nearly every form of motorboat, from small runabouts to large

Wisconsin Demand Use Highlights

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

Outdoor Ice Skating

Although cold and sometimes dreary, Wisconsin's winter does provide state residents with a wide variety of winter recreation. With 16.6% of state residents participating, outdoor ice skating is an especially popular winter activity. Skating is available in nearly all parts of the state, whether in the highly developed outdoor rinks of urban areas or the crystalline surfaces of frozen northern lakes. While ice skating appeals to all ages, the physical demands involved in the sport tend to attract a younger crowd. Among this demographic skating is done recreationally and competitively, ice skating being a popular activity, especially among girls. The cost of participation for ice skating is generally low, a quality that has made the activity popular among families looking for an economical form of recreation. In recent years there has been a push to develop more outdoor ice skating rinks at the local level, a move that would make the activity accessible and popular to an even wider range of state residents.

Viewing/Photographing Birds

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

Disc Golf

Begun as a sport in the 1970s, disc golf has exploded in popularity. What started with a single course in Pasadena, California in 1975 has now expanded to a global phenomenon with courses on all continents but Africa, passionate players across the globe, and a professional sporting association, the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA). The rules of disk golf are much like traditional golf: get the disc to the target—an above ground, metal, net-like structure—in as few throws as possible. The course is also very similar, with a fairway, terrain changes, and obstacles (trees, shrubs, water traps) all dotting the landscape of the typically 9 or 18 hole course. 8.8% of Wisconsinites (366,000 people) now participate in disc golf, with more joining these ranks every year. The sport is popular for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the ease in which it is played. A beginner at the sport needs only 3 discs (a driver, a mid-range, and a putter) and access to a course. Courses are found in most cities and entrance fees are generally low-cost or free. The sport itself is very friendly towards beginners as all players move from hole to hole at their own pace. Many participants play in groups and the sport provides a moderate amount of exercise and an opportunity to be outside.

Attending an Outdoor Sporting Event

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

Outdoor Resource Type

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

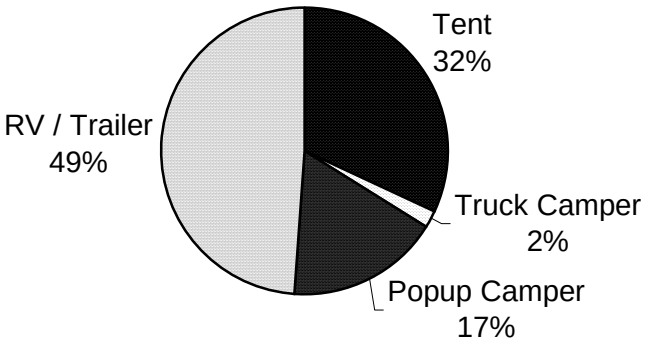
Nature based land activities are those outdoor recreation activities that occur in undeveloped settings. While limited developed facilities may be used in conjunction with these activities, the typical nature based land activity participant wants to experience natural surroundings. Visiting wilderness areas is the most popular nature based land activity in Wisconsin with 38.3% of Wisconsinites participating. Hiking and camping are also popular with approximately 1/3 of state residents participating in each. Table 14 shows the percent of state residents participating in Wisconsin nature based land activities from age 16 on up.

Table 14 State Resident Participation in Nature Based Land Activities

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

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Wisconsin Camper Type



Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

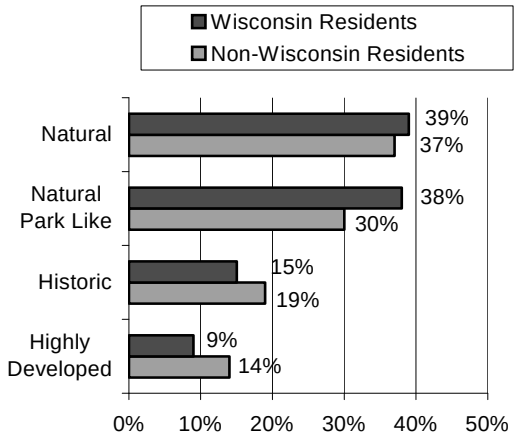
Snow and Ice based activities are those that involve some form of frozen water. These activities are very popular among Wisconsinites with just over 44% of state residents participating. Sledding is the most popular of these activities, with just over a quarter (29.3%) of the state participating. Ice related activities are also very popular in the state, with almost 700,000 Wisconsinites participating in ice skating and nearly 500,000 participating in ice fishing. Table 15 shows the percent of state residents participating in Wisconsin snow and ice based activities from age 16 on up.

Table 15 State Resident Participation in Snow and Ice Based Activities

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

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Figure 1: Outdoor Recreation Setting Preferences



Preferences in Outdoor Recreation Settings

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

Outdoor Recreation Segmentation by Experiences

Another way of understanding recreation activity preferences – the type of experience a person seeks from participating in a given recreational activity. The WDNR and the 1999-2004 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) examined people's preferences and participation in a range of outdoor recreational activities. From this data, several outdoor recreation participation segments were identified:
1. Inactives; 2. Passives; 3. Non-Consumptive Moderate; 4. Nature Lovers; 5. Active Nature Watchers; 6. Water Bugs; 7. Motorized Consumptives (Hunt and Fish); and 8. Enthusiasts.

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

- Walk for pleasure.
- Attend family gathering.

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

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

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

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

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

Primary Activities:

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

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

Primary Activities:

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

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

Primary Activities:

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

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

Primary Activities:

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

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

Primary Activities:

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

Recreation Demand from Outside Wisconsin

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

Status of Health and Barriers to Recreation in Wisconsin

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

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

Personal barriers to increasing physical activity in order of importance are:
1. Lack of time, 2. Family commitments, 3. Job/work, 4. Crowding, 5. Conflicts with motorized uses, 6. Cost, 7. Age, and 8. Fuel prices.

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

Accessibility Recreation Considerations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chapter 3 – The Supply of Outdoor Recreation in Wisconsin.

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

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

Public and Private Recreation Providers

The major public recreation provider in Lincoln County is the Forestry, Land, and Parks Department of Lincoln County. County forest lands are far greater than state lands or local government lands in the county. Other counties in the Northwoods Region have large state or federal forests.

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

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

Elements of Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Supply

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

Recreation Prioritization of Land Legacy Areas

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

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

1. Potential Visitors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local Park and Recreation Needs

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

The top five planning recommendations of each municipality were summarized. These recommendations were then compiled into a larger list, and categorized into three areas – 1. Park and Open Space Acquisition Needs, 2. General Recreation Improvements, 3. New Recreation Developments – and are listed in Table 16

Table 16	Summary of Local Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations
Park and Open Space Acquisition Needs:	**New Recreation Developments:**
• Community parks	• Bike trails
• Dog parks	• Boat launches
• Ice Age Trail	• Camping
• Mini parks	• Disc golf courses
• Neighborhood parks	• Ice skating rinks
	• Indoor recreation complexes
General Recreation Improvements:	• Nature trails
• ADA accessible facilities	• Park shelters
• Athletic field upgrades and improvements	• Picnic areas
• Better signage	• Scenic drives
• Playground equipment upgrades	• Skateboard parks
• Restroom upgrades	• Sledding hills
	• Soccer fields
	• Swimming pools
	• Tennis court development
	• Trail connections
	• Volleyball courts
	• Water access
	• Water trails
	• Water spray parks

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Warren Knowles – Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Fund

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

Stewardship 2000 is administered by the WDNR and provides $60 million annually through FY 2010. As shown in Table 17, the program acts as an umbrella organization for several subprograms, each with its own goals and priorities. These subprograms provide funds to improve visitor amenities at state and local parks; restore wetlands and prairies; and acquire land for trails, natural areas, state and county forests, wildlife habitat, urban green space, state and local parks, river and stream corridors, and flowages and wild lakes.

Stewardship 2000 has four major components:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 17 — Stewardship 2000 Fund Subprograms and Expenditure Plan

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

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Summary

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

Chapter 4 – The Supply of Outdoor Recreation in Wisconsin.

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

Outdoor Recreation Conflict Reporting in Wisconsin and Surrounding States

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Spectrum of Interaction Types

Recreation activities interact in a variety of ways. Some activities positively impact one another and are called complementary. Camping facilities, for example, often attract many visitors, thereby increasing the number of people who hike on an adjacent trail network. Other recreation activities are merely compatible, having a neutral impact on the pursuit of another recreation activity. These activities are called supplementary. Most activities, however, experience some form of conflict when encountering other activities. Users from these different groups may experience conflicts over competition for space, trail infrastructure, viewscapes, and soundscapes. In minor cases, these conflicts are called competitive interactions. In more extreme cases, two activities may be completely incompatible and interactions between them are described as antagonistic. Table 18 outlines the spectrum of recreation interactions.

Table 18 Interaction Types and Their Recreational Outcomes

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

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Expert Based Focus Groups

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

Using a ten-point scale developed specifically for this study participants were asked to complete a matrix comparing recreation activities to other recreation activities. Given an interaction between two activities, participants were asked to assess their relative level of compatibility. Ten different land-based activities were included for consideration in this matrix, these activities representing the primary recreation groupings relevant to outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. Table 19 activities included were ATV riding, camping, cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, linear trail biking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and wildlife watching. A separate matrix compared six water-based activities, as shown in Table 20. These activities included canoeing/kayaking, fishing, personal watercraft, motorboating/water skiing, sailing, and swimming. Recognizing the asymmetrical nature of outdoor recreation conflict, respondents were asked to rate the degree of compatibility in both directions of recreational interactions. In this way, conflict was rated for users of the first activity interacting with users of the second activity, and users of the second activity interacting with users of the first activity.

Table 19	Average Land-Based Recreation Activity Compatibility Ratings										
PRIMARY USE:	INTERACTS:										
	ATV Riding	Hunting	Snow-mobiling	Horseback Riding	Mountain Biking	Cross-Country Skiing	Linear Trail Biking	Hiking	Wildlife Watching	Camping	Average Compatibility
ATV Riding	X	5.3	6.5	5.1	5.5	4.9	5.5	6.1	6.9	7.5	6.0
Hunting	3.3	X	3.7	4.7	4.3	5.3	5.7	5.4	6.0	6.3	5.0
Snowmobiling	4.3	4.0	X	4.0	4.8	4.3	5.8	5.3	6.3	7.2	5.1
Horseback Riding	2.2	3.5	3.0	X	3.8	4.9	4.5	6.3	7.3	7.7	4.8
Mountain Biking	3.1	3.6	4.7	4.8	X	5.7	8.1	6.1	7.4	8.0	5.7
Cross-Country Skiing	1.8	3.6	2.6	3.3	4.2	X	5.6	4.9	8.1	8.5	4.7
Linear Trail Biking	2.6	3.9	5.5	5.3	8.2	7.1	X	7.4	8.0	8.7	6.3
Hiking	2.4	3.5	3.5	5.7	4.7	6.1	6.5	X	8.9	9.2	5.6
Wildlife Watching	2.2	3.2	2.9	6.4	5.2	7.6	6.8	8.6	X	8.3	5.7
Camping	3.9	4.1	5.0	7.5	7.8	8.2	8.2	8.9	8.5	X	6.9
Average Compatibility	2.9	3.9	4.2	5.2	5.4	6	6.3	6.6	7.5	7.9	

Ratings below 4.0 are highly competitive or antagonistic.	Ratings between 4.0 and below 7.0 are moderately to mildly competitive.	Ratings 7.0 and above are supplementary or complementary

Source: WI SCORP 2005

Table 20	Average Water Based Recreation Activity Compatibility Ratings						
PRIMARY USE	INTERACTS						
	Personal Water Craft	Motorboating/ Water Skiing	Swimming	Fishing	Sailing	Canoeing/ Kayaking	Average Compatibility
Personal Water Craft	X	7.1	5.4	5.9	6.5	6.2	6.2
Motorboating/Water Skiing	6.5	X	4.9	5.6	5.8	5.9	5.7
Swimming	2.9	3.5	X	6.1	6.2	7.4	5.2
Fishing	2.5	3.0	5.4	X	6.5	7.7	5.0
Sailing	3.4	4.3	6.4	7.0	X	7.6	5.7
Canoeing/Kayaking	2.6	3.2	7.6	7.9	7.4	X	5.7
Average Compatibility	3.6	4.2	5.9	6.5	6.5	7.0	

Ratings below 4.0 are highly competitive or antagonistic.	Ratings between 4.0 and below 7.0 are moderately to mildly competitive.	Ratings 7.0 and above are supplementary or complementary

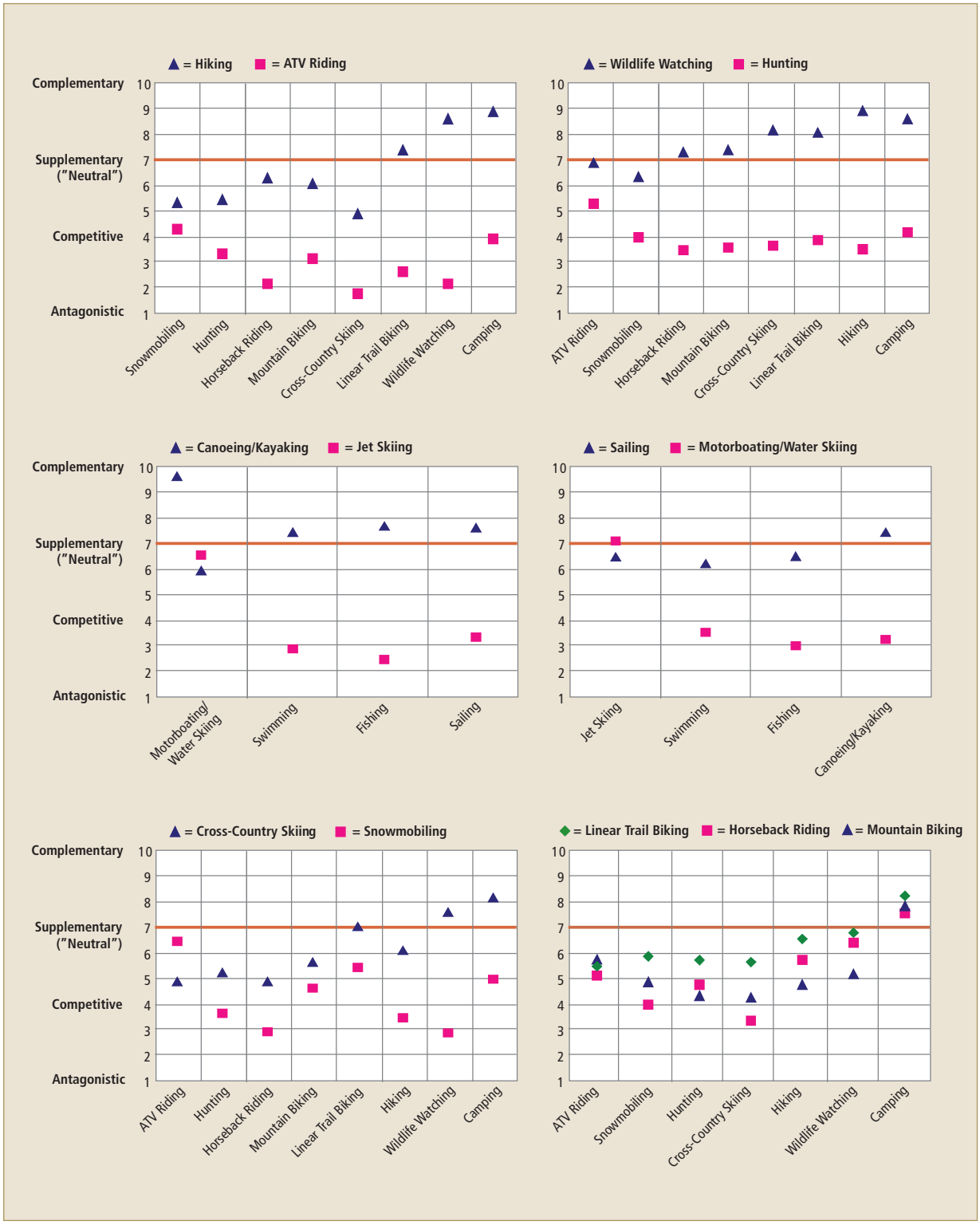
Source: WI SCORP 2005

How to read Tables 19 and 20 – Ratings reflect the perceived level of conflict from the perspective of users listed in the vertical Y axis (labeled as Primary Use). Ratings indicating a user's level of perceived recreation conflict should therefore be read horizontally across rows. For example, hunting interaction ratings range from a low of 3.33 for interactions with ATV riding to a high of 6.30 for interactions with camping. Light gray shading represents generally complementary recreation interactions, no shading represents generally compatible interactions, and dark gray shading represents generally antagonistic interactions.

Results of survey of recreation professionals suggest some interesting patterns in recreation compatibility. While there was some variability in responses gathered, there are clearly some activities that recreation managers feel are complementary or supplementary and others that appear to be much more competitive or antagonistic. The average ratings reported for land-based recreation activity interaction ranged from 9.2, a number representing complementary interactions (recorded for hiking with camping), to 1.8, a number representing antagonistic interactions (recorded for cross-country skiing with ATV riding). For water-based activities, average ratings ranged from 7.9 for canoeing/kayaking with fishing to 2.5 for fishing with personal water craft. The average compatibility rating for land- and water-based outdoor recreational activities are summarized in Tables 19 and 20.

A second observation from Tables 19 and 20 indicates that differences in compatibility between motorized and non-motorized activities becomes less pronounced when more specialized trail based activities such as cross-country skiing, horseback riding, mountain biking and linear trail biking are compared to motorized activities. Because these types of specialized activities need particular kinds of trail infrastructure and have activity styles that are not as compatible with other recreation activities, they are often partially separated from other recreation activities. This may explain the higher levels of compatibility recorded between these activities and motorized uses.

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



Recreation User Perceptions

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

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

Summary

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

Chapter 5 – Wisconsin SCORP Regional Profiles.

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

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

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

In an attempt to quantify out-of-state recreation demand, this SCORP also examined the recreation demands of tourists visiting Wisconsin. In 2004, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism conducted a survey of both the Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul Designated Market Areas (DMAs). This survey gauged reaction demand by asking residents of each DMA what types of Wisconsin recreation they participated in. Data was separated according to SCORP Region and is listed in Table 21.

Table 21	Out-of-State Recreation Demand In Northwoods SCORP Region	
Ranking	**Chicago DMA**	**Minneapolis/St. Paul DMA**
1	Canoeing	Fishing
2	Hiking	Sightseeing
3	Fishing	Boating
4	Downhill Skiing	Camping
5	Camping	Hiking

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Regional Public Perspectives on Top Recreation Issues and Needs

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

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

Northwoods Region summary of most common responses

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

Issues

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

Needs

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

Relative Supply of Recreation by Type Based on Population

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

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

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

Regional Land Legacy Areas for High Recreation Demand

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

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

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

Summary

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

For this SCORP, targeting was done at the regional level, using regional demand, regional supply, local park and recreation plans, and public comment data to determine which recreation supplies are relatively in short supply. In addition, future trends were also considered through a process discussed in Chapter 3. The combining of these methods and techniques has resulted in a summary presented in Table 22. To simplify the targeting technique, recreation needs were divided into nature-based and developed setting categories. This division allows for a clear distinction between recreation niches such as state parks and urban trails.

Table 22	Northwoods Recreation Supply Shortages
Nature Based	
Campsites – electrical	Parks
Developed Setting	
Basketball Courts	Marinas
Bicycling clubs	Outdoor swimming pools
Boats/sailboat rental	Soccer fields
Dog parks (urban areas)	Softball diamonds
Playground facilities	Tennis courts
Horseback riding clubs	Trails – inline skating
Ice skating rings	Volleyball courts

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Chapter 6 – Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Participation Trends and Observations.

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

Key Indicators and General Trends

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

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

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

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

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

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

Health and wellness

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

Environment

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

and a shortened season for cold weather activities. Changes to the landscape resulting from less dependable weather patterns will make seasonal recreation less reliable and planning for this type of recreation more difficult. **(NCWRPC Note: Global warming has some trends that UWEX's Megatrends publication on climate change points out that will affect recreation professionals: 1) severe thunderstorms may double in frequency, increasing the amounts of damage caused by heavy rainfall, hail and strong tornadoes; 2) The winter season is likely to be punctuated with increasingly frequent mid-winter thaws, freezing rains, ice storms, and flooding. We may expect heavier snowfalls, especially over the next few decades, yet the average length of time the ground stays snow covered and our lakes remain ice covered will shrink with each passing decade.)**

Technology

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

Economics

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

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

Government

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

Changing Land Use

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

Wisconsin Trends

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

In Chapter 2 of SCORP, Lincoln County is listed as part of the Northwoods Region, which supports outdoor recreation uses by the natural resource settings that are: Nature Based, and Snow & Ice Based. Table 23 supports a growth scenario for snow and ice based, and nature based activities.

Table 23 **Wisconsin Participation Trends by Resource Type**

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

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

Table 24	Wisconsin Participation Trends by Activity		
Activity	**Number of Participants in Millions***		**Percent Change**
	1994	**2004**	**1994-2004**
Kayaking	0.051	0.262	413.7
Horseback riding	0.136	0.407	199.3
Personal water craft	0.136	0.403	196.3
Snowboarding	0.074	0.195	163.5
Rock climbing	0.097	0.245	152.6
Soccer outdoors	0.175	0.407	132.6
Drive off-road	0.513	1.073	109.2
Orienteering	0.054	0.112	107.4

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Recreation projections can be examined in two ways. The first is simply participation as a numerical total. For the vast majority of recreation activities, this number will increase as the state's population does. To gauge a more accurate view of future participation, it is far more useful to examine a given activity's participation rate as a percentage of the total population. This number gives a better understanding of population growth vs. participation change in an activity. Table 24 considers the percentage changes in recreation participation rates, as well as industry forecasts and opinions from recreation professionals, to suggest which activities will be popular in the future. These observations are made for a five year period, and therefore reflect the most pressing demands on recreation in the immediate future. Some of these activities such as ATVing, RV camping, and geocaching are expected to grow in popularity. Other activities such as swimming, day hiking, and fishing, are expected to remain stable in their popularity. Still others such as personal watercraft, skiing, and mountain biking are expected to decrease in popularity.

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

The next three tables – increasing demand (Table 25), stable demand (Table 26), and decreasing demand (Table 27) – show projected trends in Wisconsin outdoor recreation activities from 2005 to 2010. Each table lists an activity and has a comment to assist with projecting the need for a particular activity.

Table 25	Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities Increased Demand 2005-2010
Activity	**Comment**
ATV	Market saturation may occur by 2010 causing this use to level off.
Bird watching	A popular activity for an aging baby boom population.
Canoeing	Cheap, easy water access for all generations.
Driving for Pleasure	An easy activity for all generations.
Gardening	On the rise with the baby boom population.
Geocaching	Popular both with families and members of the Y Generation.
Kayaking	Better technology has made this an affordable sport for the general public.
Motorboating	Costs have decreased enough to continue to make this a popular activity.
Off-road Motorcycling	Record sales of off-road vehicles continues to fuel this demand.
Paintball Games	Better and cheaper technology attracts the Y Generation.
Picnic	A family activity crossing generation gaps.
Road Biking	Increases will slow do to the retirement of Lance Armstrong and the effect that was felt from his Tour de France wins.
RV Camping	The baby boom population continues to change from tent to RVs, but increasing fuel prices may slow this.
Skateboarding	Popular with urban youth and the Y Generation.
Snowboarding	This may start to level off by 2010 as the next generation looks towards newer technology.
Snowshoeing	Not growing as fast since 2002.
Visit a Dog Park	Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas.
Walking	Popular among all ages, though especially aging baby boomers.
Water Parks	Construction of new water parks continues to fuel the increasing demand for this activity.
Wildlife Viewing/Photography	Often done in conjunction with driving for pleasure, making this activity very popular.

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Table 26	Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities Stable Demand 2005-2010
Activity	**Comment**
Cross-Country Skiing	Stable at this time but mainly driven by the baby boom. Declines may start by 2010.
Day Hiking	An easy, popular activity for all generations.
Disc Golf	Popular with younger urban generations.
Fishing	Very popular with all generations.
Horseback Riding	Continues to be popular with the boomers, but may not be popular with the Y Generation.
Ice Skating	An easy, cheap activity for the mass public.
Inline Skating	After a quick rise in the 1990s this activity has leveled.
Rock Climbing	A small but stable Y Generation niche.
Rowing	A small niche activity with simple equipment.
Run/Jog	The baby boomer generation continues to do this, but Y Generation may not.
Sailing	Equipment demands and skill requirements prevent this from growing.
Scuba/Snorkel	A niche sport that attracts a younger generation.
Swimming	Always popular – water quality issues have caused growth in this activity to stagnate.
Tennis	A recent resurgence has stabilized this activity.
Tent Camping	Still popular but may start to lose ground to the RV trend.

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Table 27	Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities Decreasing Demand 2005-2010
Activity	**Comment**
Backpacking	A popular baby boomer activity not as popular with the Y Generation.
Downhill Skiing	Continues to struggle with attracting the Y Generation.
Golf	Time and expense continue to push players to other recreation.
Hunting	Continues to struggle with generational loss and access issues.
Personal Watercraft	Market saturation occurred in the 1990s with the baby boomers who are now replacing their personal watercraft with motorboats.
Mountain Biking	Baby boomers that made the sport popular in the 1990s have switched to road bikes.
Snowmobile	The industry struggles with how to attract more people with less snow.
Team Sports	Except for soccer, all other sports have declined.

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Chapter 7 – Wisconsin SCORP Outdoor Recreation Goals and actions.

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

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

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

Actions and Recommendations

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

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

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

Actions and Recommendations

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

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

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

Actions and Recommendations

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

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

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

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

Actions and Recommendations

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

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

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

Actions and Recommendations

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

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

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

Actions and Recommendations

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

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

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

Actions and Recommendations

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

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

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

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

Actions and Recommendations

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

The 2005–2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

SCORP

ATTACHMENT C

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

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

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

ATTACHMENT D

STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

Community Service Specialist
Rhinelander Service Center
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhinelander WI 54501

Acquisition Of Development Rights Grants (ADR)

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

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

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

All Terrain Vehicles (ATV)

Funds are available to provide funds to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquiring, insuring, developing and maintaining of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes as per s. 23.33, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities and villages are eligible to apply by April 15 on forms provided by the Department. Up to 100% of costs up to $125 pre mile if ATV trail is available for spring, summer and fall riding. Up to 100% of costs up to $60 per mile if the trail is available for winter riding opportunity. Up to 50% of the approved eligible costs for maintaining an all-terrain vehicle area. Up to 100% of the approved eligible costs to develop ATV trails and areas. Assistance is provided for the following, in priority order: 1) maintenance of existing approved trails and areas, including routes; 2) purchase of liability insurance; 3) acquisition of easements; 4) major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails; and 5) acquisition of land in fee and development of new trails and areas.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Enforcement Patrol

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

Brownfields Green Space and Public Facilities Grant Program

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

Lake Protection Grant

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

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

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

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

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

Recreational Boating Facilities

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

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

River Management Grants

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

Recreational Trails Act (RTA)

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

Eligible projects in order of priority are: maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails with certain restrictions on federal lands, and acquisition of easement or property for trails.

Snowmobile Club Signs

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

Snowmobile Route Signs

Funds are available to provide costs for initial signing of snowmobile routes and trail crossing warning signs as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Towns, cities, and villages are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. No local match is required, but state

funding is limited to no more than $30,000 per year for the route sign program. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season.

Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols

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

Snowmobile Trail Aids

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

Stewardship Grants for Nonprofit Conservation Organizations

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

Urban Green Space

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

Urban Rivers Grant

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

Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs

WisDOT District Bike & Ped Coordinator
510 Hanson Lake Road
Rhinelander, WI 54501-0777

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 pedestrain 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.

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:

Tom Gilbert, Superintendent **or** **Pam Schuler, Trail Manager**
tom_gilbert@nps.gov pam_schuler@nps.gov

National Park Service
700 Rayovac Dr., Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711
608-441-5610