
Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Also covering the municipalities within Lincoln County



2022-2026

Effective January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026

Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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Attachments

- A. Park Design and Location Criteria
- B. Facility Development Standards
- C. Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs
- D. Outdoor Recreation Online Survey Results
- E. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
Identified Outdoor Recreation Needs

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The primary purpose of this outdoor recreation plan is to provide continued direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of Lincoln County. This is accomplished through an inventory and analysis of outdoor recreational facilities, asking the public what they are looking for, 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 (WDNR), will continue eligibility of the County and its local units of government for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space Program (UGS) and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP). Adoption by all municipalities is not necessary if they wish to cooperate with 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 conservation organizations (NCOs) are eligible to participate in the Knowles–Nelson Stewardship Program under the Urban Green Space and Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks programs. NCOs may adopt or carry out recommendations from a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan of the local unit of government in which the NCO project is located or use their land management plans that are required for participation in the Stewardship programs.

1.2 Provisions for Updating Plan

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision makers.

Annual review of the plan recommendations and capital improvement list by Lincoln County’s Forestry, Land, and Parks Committee will keep this plan current. This review may also occur after a large turn over in elected officials after an election.

This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 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 CORP to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the local unit of government to apply for a variety of Federal and State Aids for outdoor recreation (Chapter NR 50.06(4), Wisconsin administrative code).

Annual Review Process:

1. Lincoln County's Forestry, Land, and Parks Committee reviews plan and takes a vote on what changes to make.
2. County Board adopts changes by resolution.
3. Those changes and a copy of the approval resolution are forwarded to the DNR's Community Financial Assistance staff in Rhinelander. Submission of the changes and resolution automatically constitutes DNR grant eligibility for those changes.

Establishing a **full plan update every five years** will assure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the County, and will extend the county's eligibility for grant programs for another 5 years. DNR approval of the ORP will come if the correct process was followed during all the steps for the full plan update.

1.3 Reference 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. Lincoln County directed North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) to develop consecutive 5-year outdoor recreation plans starting in 1978. This 2022–2026 Plan was written to continue the parks and recreation program established in the Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plans since 1971.

Plan summaries that affect outdoor recreation in Lincoln County are referenced below, and Map 1 shows any referenced routes:

Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan 2012-2021

This plan is a combination of nine chapters. Within the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Chapter is Goal 2, which relates to outdoor recreation:

Goal 2: Resource Management

Objectives:

- A. The land needed for supporting the sustainable development of the county's agricultural forestry, recreation, and wildlife resources will be carefully conserved and preserved where appropriate.
- B. 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.
- C. Maintain the balance between wildlife preservation, for maintaining the ecosystem and providing recreational opportunities, and the controls needed to reduce their negative impacts on agricultural and forest crops.
- D. More decisions that impact our local resources will be made at the county level.

Lincoln County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, 2021–2035

This plan is a management guide for the Lincoln County Forest and is updated every fifteen years. The mission of the plan is to manage and protect natural resources within the county forest on a sustainable basis for the ecological, economic, educational, recreational, and research needs of present and future residents throughout the county. The report includes a number of recommendations for timber management, wildlife habitat and game management, land acquisition and forest boundary management, biodiversity management, watershed management and tourism.

A framework for how various trail systems will be maintained and expanded is in Chapter 900.

Merrill Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, 2015

The Merrill Park & Recreation Commission prepared the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in 2015. The plan developed strategies for improving bicycle and pedestrian transportation throughout Merrill. Potential policies and infrastructure changes are identified along with a potential improvement time frame and who will initiate the change for each project.

Merrill has one bike route that is outside of the city limits; the proposed Merrill Memorial Forest Bike Route is shown on **Map 1**.

Tomahawk Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, 2022

NOTE: This plan is currently under development in 2021.

The Tomahawk Park and Recreation Committee prepared the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in 2021. The plan developed strategies for improving bicycle and pedestrian transportation throughout Tomahawk. Potential policies and infrastructure changes are identified along with a potential improvement time frame and who will initiate the change for each project.

North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan, 2018

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission created this document to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region at the 10-county level. Potential trail corridors are identified and improvement descriptions were created for each trail that exists to facilitate implementation.

This NCW Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan has connectivity and recommendation maps for each county. The Hiawatha Trail is the primary off-road bike path in the county, which connects Tomahawk with Oneida County due north. Merrill's primary off-road bike and pedestrian path is the River Bend Trail. Other routes for Lincoln County are part of an on-road countywide loop that passes through Merrill and Tomahawk via State Highway 107.

Additional routes are shown on a map in Appendix 1 (not in Lincoln County ORP) titled: Existing & Recommended Network for Lincoln County.

Note: *Local review of recommended routes should occur before installing signs.*

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023

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

This SCORP lays out five overarching goals for outdoor recreation:

1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation.
 2. Grow partnerships.
 3. Provide high-quality experiences.
 4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits.
 5. Enhance funding and financial stability.
- Park Design and Location Criteria from SCORP are described in **Attachment A**.
 - SCORP identified outdoor recreation needs are in **Attachment E**.

State Trails Network Plan

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

Segment 13 – Dresser to Michigan

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

Segment 18 – Tomahawk to Wausau (Northern Region)

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.

Segment 69 – Tomahawk to Crandon

This abandoned corridor would link these two communities via an off-road connector.
(NCWRPC Note: Trail "dead ends" at US Highway 51. There is no underpass.)

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056

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

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

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

SO Somo River

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

UW Upper Wisconsin River

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

HH Harrison Hills

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

MW Middle Wisconsin River

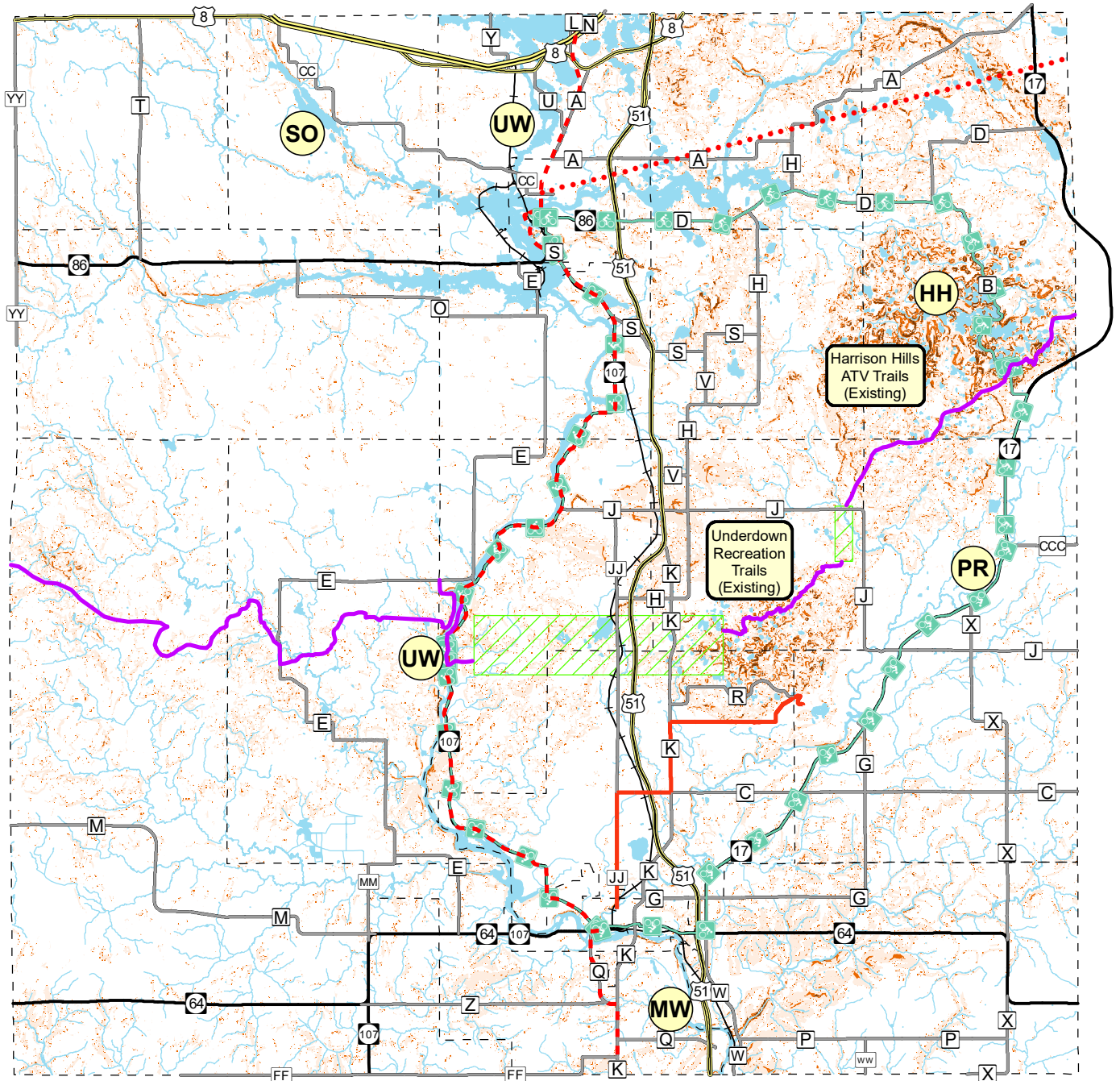
Size	Large
Protection Initiated	Limited
Protection Remaining	Substantial
Conservation Significance	☆☆☆☆
Recreation Potential	☆☆☆☆

PR Prairie River

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

Another Area of Interest includes:

- Big Pine Creek



Legend

- - - Minor Civil Divisions
- US Highway
- State Highways
- County Highways
- + — Railroad
- Water
- Ice Age Trail (Existing)
- Scenic Car and Bike Tour
- DNR Segment 13
- DNR Seg 18
- DNR Segment 69
- Merrill Memorial Forest Bike Route
- Wisconsin Land Legacy Areas
- Ice Age Trail Corridor
- Slopes (6-12%)
- Modertly Slopes (12-20%)
- Steep Slopes (>20%)

Source: Wis DNR, Lincoln County, NCWRPC

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey of the actual boundary of any property depicted. 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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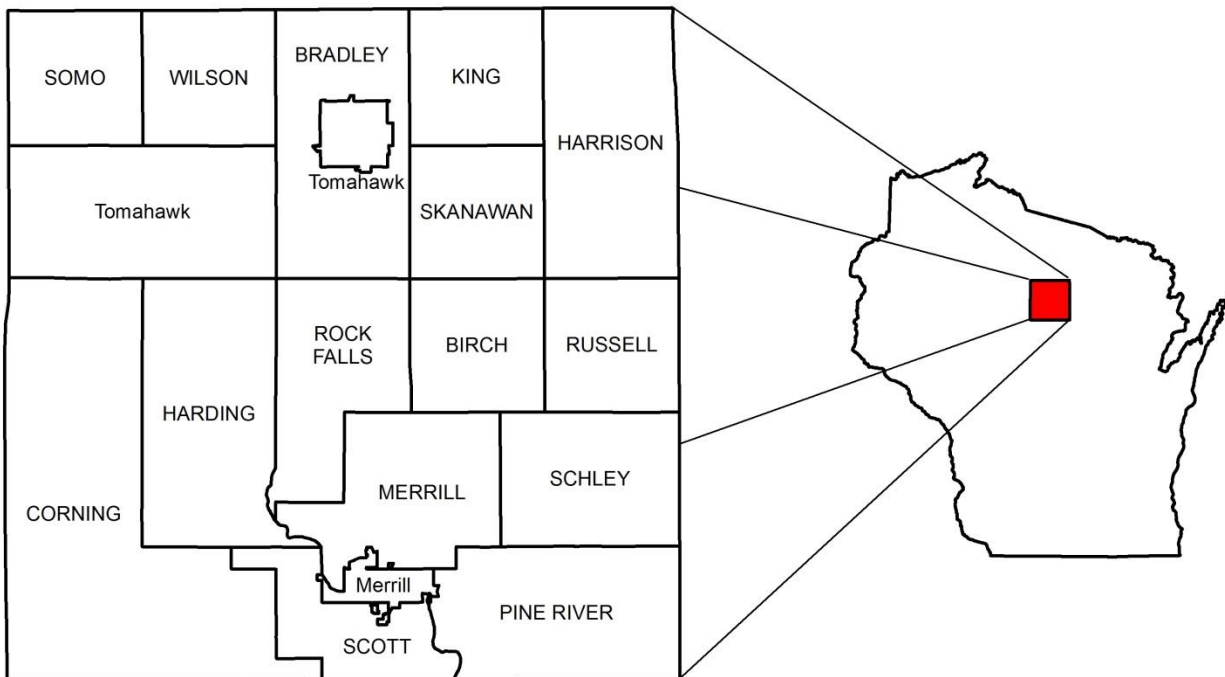
Chapter 2: BACKGROUND OF LINCOLN COUNTY

2.1 Physical Characteristics

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.

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 (see Figure 1). 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.

Figure 1 Lincoln County



Topography and Geology

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.

Forestry

As of 2021, there were about 171,255 acres of privately-owned forestland enrolled in either the Forest Crop Law (FCL) or Managed Forest Law (MFL) program, both administered by WDNR. In exchange for following an approved forest management plan, the landowner pays reduced property taxes. An even greater tax reduction is provided to those who open their enrolled lands to the public for the recreational purposes of hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, and sightseeing.

Forest Legacy Area (FLA) – The WDNR purchased the development rights for two industrial forests mainly in the Town of Corning. All FLA acres are also enrolled in the MFL program.

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.

2.2 Social Characteristics

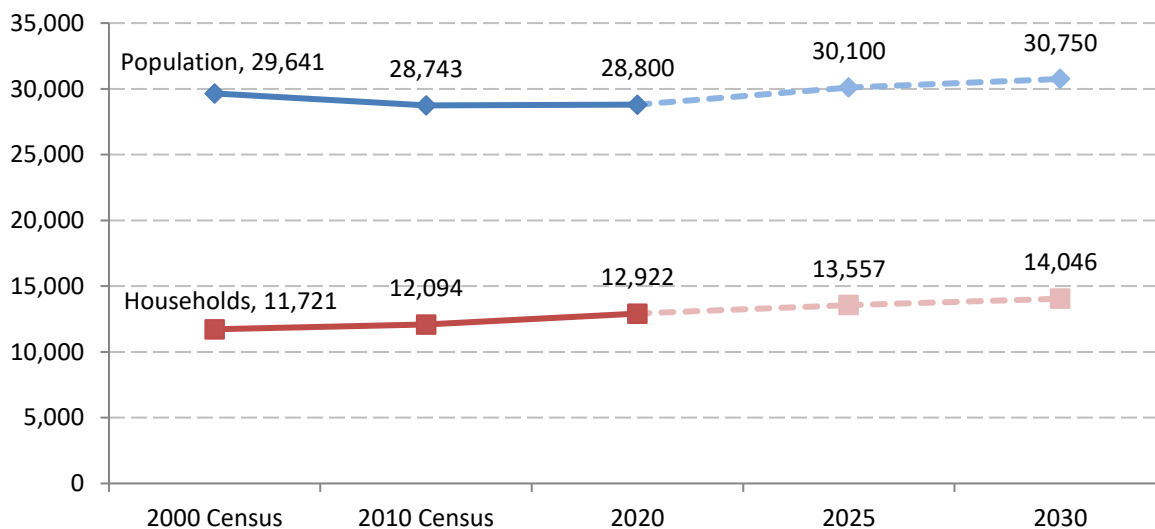
Introduction

This section describes social and economic demographic information that influences Lincoln County. Overall recreation demand within Wisconsin is described in SCORP, under Past Plans in Chapter 1. The social characteristics and growth projections from this section combined with recreation demands as shown in SCORP's Chapter 2 can help determine the appropriate recreation investments in the County.

Population and Households

The 2020 population estimate by WDOA for Lincoln County is 28,800 people. This estimate shows an increase of approximately 60 people since the 2010 Census. Population within the county declined by approximately 900 persons, or 3 percent, between 2000 and 2010, as shown in Figure 2. Lincoln County's decline in population compares to growth rates of 6 percent in the state and 9.7 percent in the nation. The population of Lincoln County is expected to grow through 2030, and then begin a gradual decline in population.

Figure 2: Lincoln County Population and Household Change

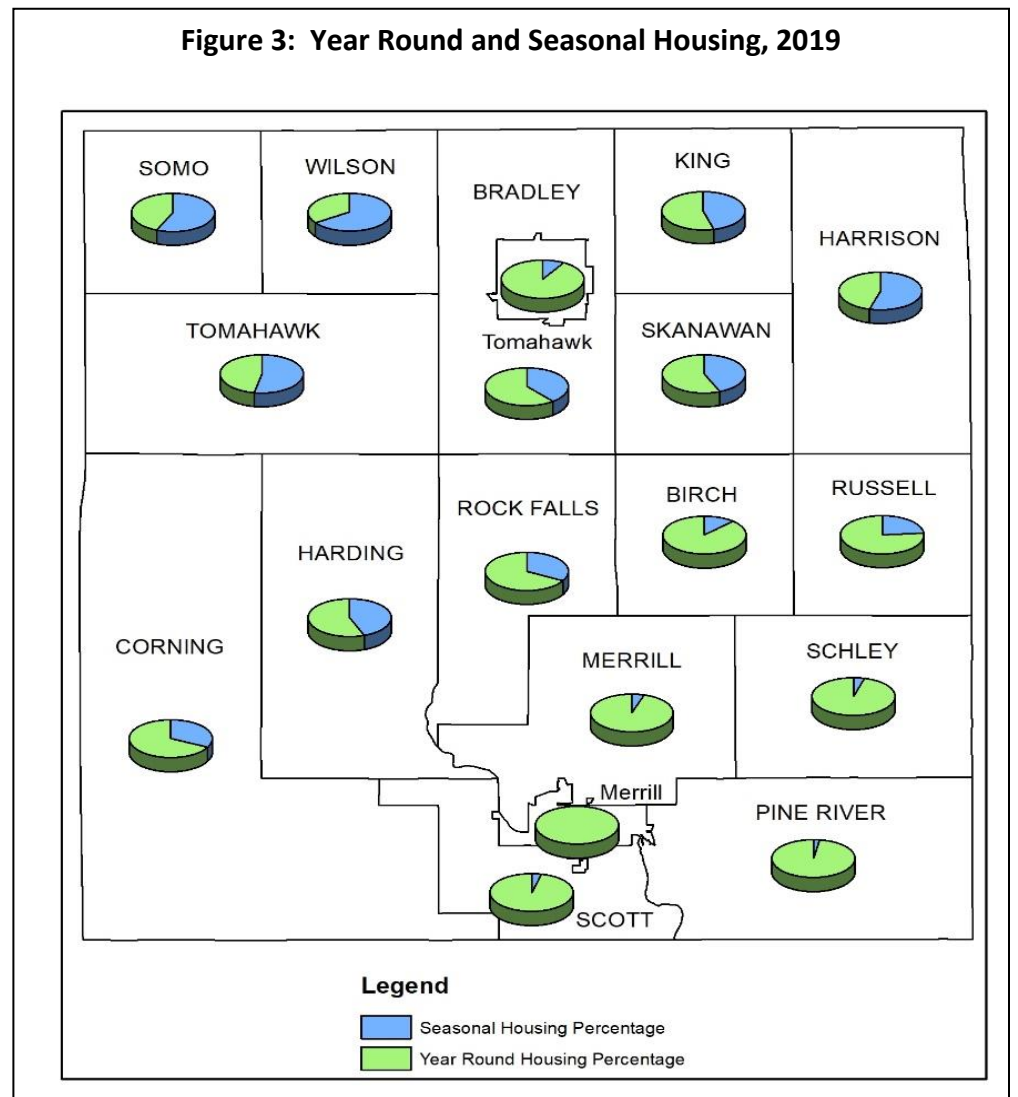


Source: U.S. Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration 2020 Estimate, Wisconsin DOA 2013 projections

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 significantly low at -1.8 percent while migration was a much higher 2.2 percent. Lincoln County's natural increase is much lower than either the state or nation, but the net migration is 2.2 percentage points higher than the state's rate of 0.0 percent and is 0.3 percentage points lower than the nation's 2.5 percent. The diminished natural increase may be a reflection of the older population in the county.

Household sizes have been shrinking over time in Lincoln County, following national and state trends. Lincoln County had 12,094 households as of the 2010 Census, and an average household size of 2.33 people. By 2020, average household size within Lincoln County had shrunk to 2.23 people. Household sizes are expected to continue declining, reaching 2.14 persons per household by 2030. Household growth is also expected to continue until 2030, when households are expected to decline, although slower than population. Over 23 percent of households have someone under 18 years old, and 30 percent of households have someone 65 or older. Over 64 percent of households are families, and just over 22 percent have their own children under 18 years old.

Lincoln County has a larger proportion of vacant housing than Wisconsin or the United States, much of which is seasonal, recreational, and occasional use housing. See **Figure 3**. In 2019, approximately 20 percent of the housing in Lincoln County is vacant for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, compared to approximately 7.1 percent in Wisconsin and 4.0 percent in the United States. There is much variation in seasonal housing within Lincoln County, with high proportions in many of the towns in the northern two-thirds of the County. The Town of Wilson has more than 60 percent seasonal, recreational, or occasional use housing. Seven of the 16 towns have more than 40% of housing that is seasonally occupied. Towns near the southern border with Marathon County have low proportion of seasonally occupied housing, along with the Cities of Tomahawk and Merrill. The towns with high proportions of seasonal housing will have greater fluctuations in population throughout the year, and these seasonal residents must be included when determining the demand for recreation facilities.

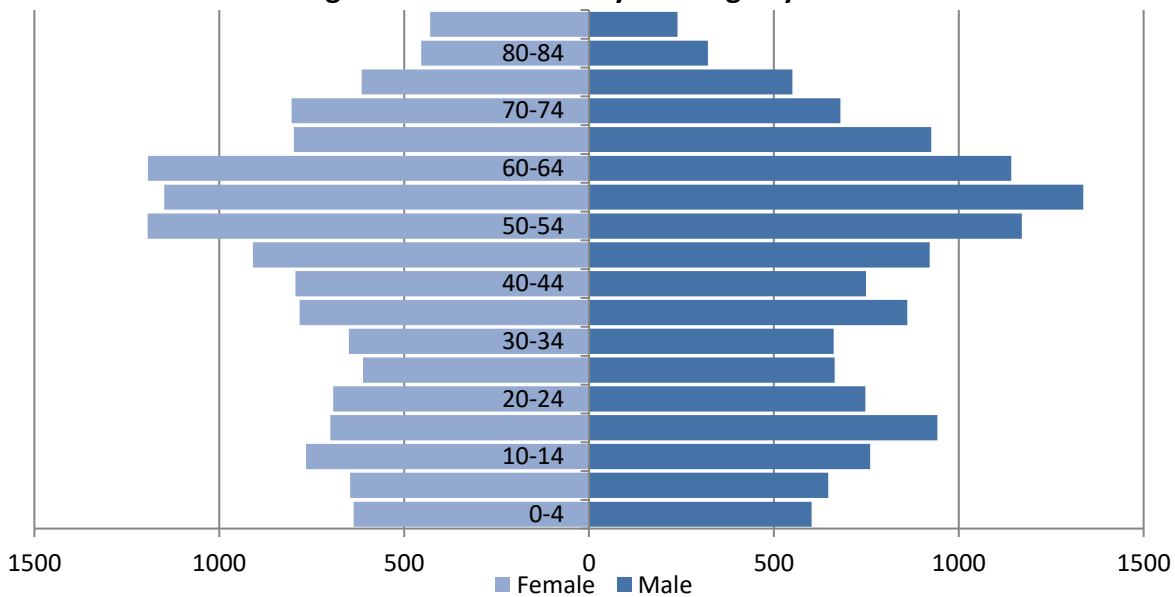


Age

The median age of Lincoln County is 44.7 years old, while Wisconsin is 39.5. The median age has increased in both Lincoln County and Wisconsin between 2010 and 2019, from 44.0 and 38.1 years old, respectively. Figure 3 shows the distribution of age groups in Lincoln County. The age distribution in Lincoln County is concentrated in the middle-aged 45-74 year old age groups (see **Figure 4**). The most heavily concentrated age groups are very near to the typical retirement age, which will likely have a great effect on the parks and recreation needs of the County. Females outnumber males in the age groups above 65.

Research has demonstrated that recently retired people tend to be very active and are attracted to places with recreational amenities. As retirees age they tend to become less active, with many eventually moving to more urban areas where services such as health care are in closer proximity and more accessible. It is apparent from the period that Lincoln has very few 20-24 year olds. People in this age group are more likely to leave the County for education and employment opportunities.

Figure 4: Lincoln County 2019 Age Pyramid



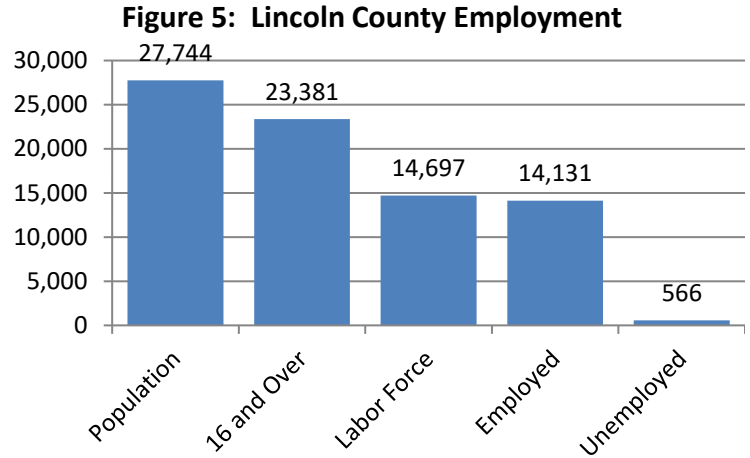
Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019

Ethnic Background

The people of Lincoln County mostly identify as white, at approximately 97 percent of people. About 1.4 percent identify as Black or African American and about 0.9 percent identify as Native American or Alaska Native. About 0.8 percent identify as Asian, 0.2 percent as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 0.1 as some other race. Approximately one percent identify as Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Employment and Economy

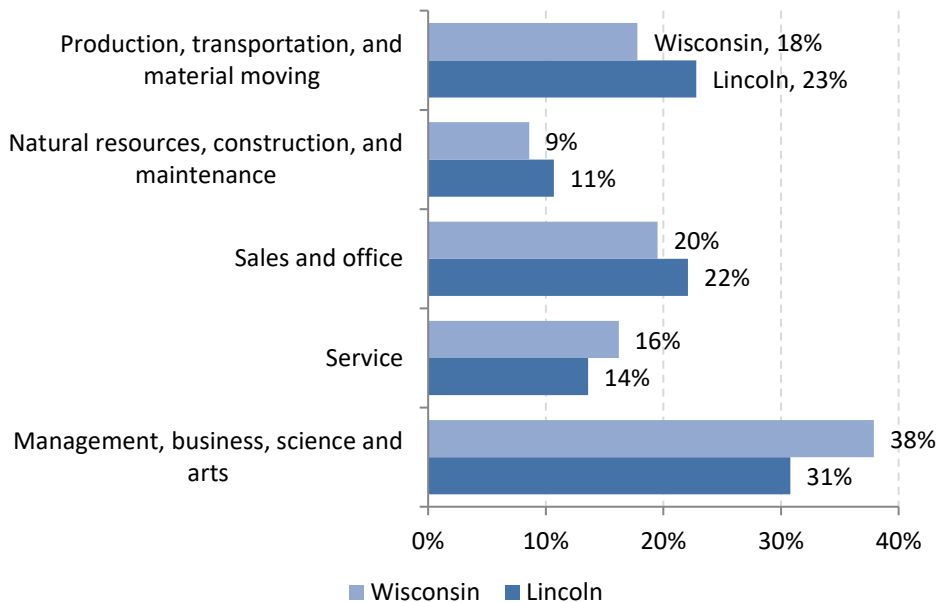
Lincoln County has 23,381 people age 16 and over, 62.9 percent of who are in the labor force, i.e. actively working or seeking work. See **Figure 5**. The labor force participation rate for Wisconsin as a whole is 66.4 percent, slightly higher than Lincoln County. According to the 2015-2019 ACS, the unemployment rate in Lincoln County was 2.4 percent, similar to 2.4 percent in the state and lower than the 3.4 percent in the United States.



Source: US Census, ACS 2015-2019

Figure 6 shows that most residents of Lincoln County are employed in Management, business, science and arts occupations at 30.8 percent; Production, transportation, and material moving occupations at 22.8 percent; or Sales and Office occupations at 22.1 percent.

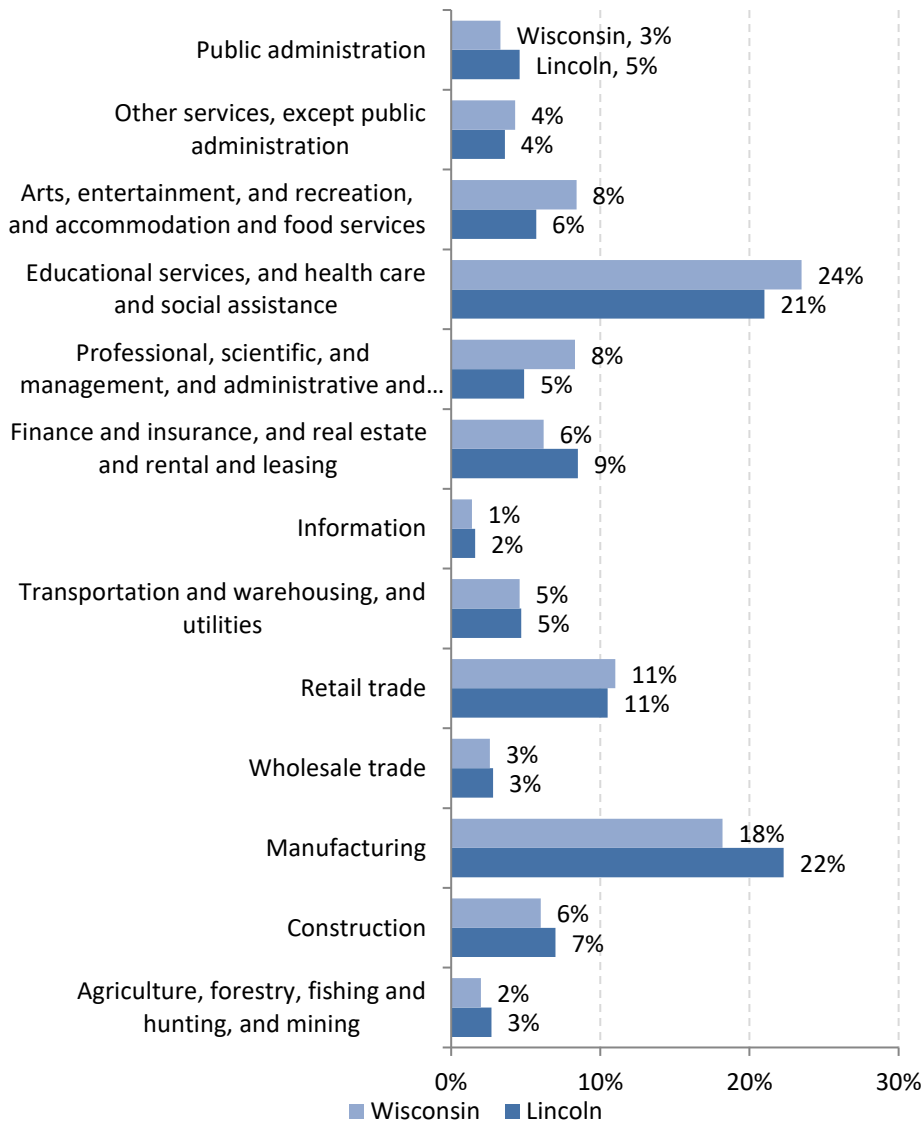
Figure 6: Lincoln County Resident Occupation



Source: US Census, ACS 2015-2019

The most common industry for Lincoln County residents is Manufacturing, at 22.3 percent; and the second is Education services, health care and social assistance at 21.0 percent. See **Figure 7**. Lincoln County has a higher proportion of residents in the Production, transportation, and material moving occupations and the Manufacturing industry than the state.

Figure 7: Lincoln County Resident Industry



Source: US Census, ACS 2015-2019

Table 1 shows industry employment in Lincoln County. The highest levels of employment are in the manufacturing and trade, transportation and utilities industries. The one-year change shows declines in construction; trade, transportation, utilities; information; financial activities; leisure & hospitality; and other services. Location quotient is a method of measuring the relative concentration of that industry in Lincoln County compared to the nation, with a value of 1 meaning the concentration is identical. Lincoln County has a higher concentration of manufacturing, crop and animal production, finance and insurance, transportation and warehousing, and retail trade.

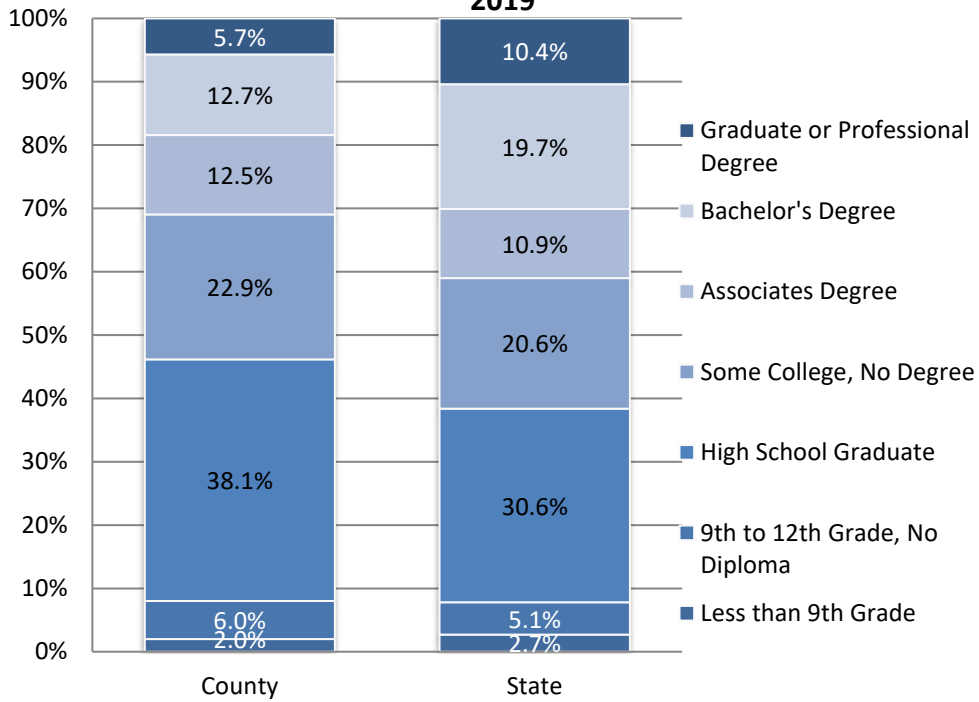
Industry	Employment	
	Annual Avg.	1-Year Change
Natural Resources	209	18
Construction	494	-22
Manufacturing	2,638	6
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	2,137	-39
Information	82	-3
Financial Activities	1,059	-7
Professional & Business Services	453	9
Education & Health	1,712	69
Leisure & Hospitality	1,021	-2
Other services	239	-8
Public Administration	1,046	24
Total	11,090	47

Source: WI DWD, Bureau of Workforce Training, QCEW, June 2019

As of the 2015-2019 American Community Survey, median household income in Lincoln County was \$58,541, and per capita income was \$30,972. This is slightly lower than the state and nation, which can be explained by the lower proportion of people working in Lincoln County. The distribution of household incomes in Lincoln County are fairly similar to the state, but with fewer households making \$100,000 or more, or less than \$10,000, and more households making between \$35,000 and \$74,999 annually.

Educational Attainment in Lincoln County is generally lower than the State of Wisconsin (see **Figure 8**). About 92 percent of Lincoln County residents have graduated high school, similar to in Wisconsin, where 92 percent of residents have graduated high school. About 18.4 percent of Lincoln County have a bachelor’s degree or higher, while 30.1 percent of Wisconsin residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher. While the proportion of high school graduates in Lincoln County is very close to the state proportion, there is a significant gap in higher education achievement levels. The proportion of people with some college, but no degree and those with an associate’s degree are both slightly higher in Lincoln County than the state.

Figure 8: Educational Attainment, Age 25 and Older, 2015-2019



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey

Chapter 3: EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

3.1 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.

3.2 County Forest

The Lincoln County Forestry Department manages 100,843 acres of county forest. This land is managed for multiple uses, and is open to public access. Examples of recreational activities allowed in most areas of the county forest include hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, ATV riding, camping, horseback riding, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and wildlife observation. Some of the county forest is designated as quiet area and has limited motorized vehicle access. Other activities allowed on the county forest require a permit including but not limited to bough picking and firewood cutting. Refer to Map 5 for Lincoln County Forest Blocks.

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 the 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

Dispersed 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 total in a calendar year. Any camper who violates the rules of good conduct, including cutting or defacing trees, 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 on the County Forest, blocking roads, parking areas, or lake access is not allowed. Due to the limited size of the boat landings, camping is **not** allowed at the following lakes: High Lake, Fox Lake, Moraine Lake, Henson Lake, and Kordick Lake.

3.3 County Maintained Recreation Facilities

Camp New Wood County Park is a 15.7 acre facility located 10 miles northwest of Merrill on the Wisconsin River. The campground and day use park are connected by a walking bridge (part of the Ice Age Trail) across Ripley Creek. This campground has seven campsites, vault toilets, and no electric hook ups. The day use area is located on the site of a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp from the 1930's and features an ADA accessible picnic area with tables and grills, playground equipment (meeting CPSC standards), a hand pump well for potable water, and an ADA compliant restroom. The park also features two covered picnic shelters (which can be reserved for a fee) and a boat landing on the river.

Haymeadow County Park is a 6 acre park located just off Highway 17 in the Town of Schley. This area is primarily open space having picnic tables, vault toilets and walking access to the Prairie River and the Big Haymeadow Creek.

Jack Pines County Park is a partially wooded 7 acre undeveloped area located in the northeast portion of the City of Merrill. This site is used in winter for sledding and walking during the other seasons.

Otter Lake Recreation Area is a 20 acre facility located on the shores of Otter Lake in the Towns of Harrison and Skanawan. No motors are allowed on Otter Lake, including electric. This area has a campground on the north end of Otter Lake with 25 campsites (no electricity), a hand pump well for potable water, and ADA compliant restrooms. On the south end of Otter Lake, there is a picnic area with tables, grills, a hand pump well for potable water, and a swimming beach. The picnic area also has a changing house and ADA compliant restrooms. A nature trail encircles Otter Lake providing great fall color viewing. There is also access to the summer ATV trail via town roads and snowmobile trail access.

Tug Lake Recreation Area is a 25 acre facility located 10 miles north of Merrill. This area has a shelter, which may be reserved for a fee, 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. A Lake District is being formed by the residents around Tug Lake to generate revenue in order to fund an aeration system with the goal of reducing algae blooms in the lake.

Roothouse Lake Special Use Area is a 320 acre area located in the Town of Harrison. This area is a special use area purchased from a private party. Specific stipulations on the future management of the property were agreed to at the time of purchase. Improvements at this area include a parking area and a trail to the lake. Primitive camping is allowed, however, there are no sanitary facilities or potable water available. Hunting and trapping are not allowed in the area north of Bear Trail Road. No motorized uses are allowed.

Larson Lake County Park is a 7 acre park located about one mile south of the junction of Highways K and H. It provides a picnic area, shore fishing or carry in access to Larson Lake, an ADA compliant restroom, and parking. Larson Lake has been annually stocked with trout by the DNR, which increases the fishing activity for a few weeks.

Prairie River Dells Scenic Area is a 30 acre facility located on the banks of the Prairie River about 8 miles northeast of Merrill. The Prairie River is a Class 1 trout fishery which passes between high granite walls at this location. This area is primarily open space for fishing and nature viewing. A parking area is provided, along with 2 platforms (one of which is ADA compliant) for scenic viewing the high rock outcrop of the dells. Vault toilets are available at Haymeadow Park approx. ¾ mile away.

Spirit Falls Scenic Area is a 30 acre site located in the Town of Tomahawk. This area is undeveloped open space which provides access to view a small falls on the Spirit River. The majority of the property is isolated by the Spirit River.

Underdown Recreation Forest and Multi-purpose Recreation Area is a 7,000 acre plus recreation area located in the Towns of Birch, Schley, and Merrill. Designated trails exist for hiking, cross-country skiing, fat biking, snowshoeing, horseback riding, snowmobiling, winter ATV and mountain biking. This area is also a Ruffed Grouse Management Area and all hunting is allowed during the open seasons. The trail head area is 6 acres and has a primitive camping area with 11 sites large enough for most horse trailer rigs, a hand pump well for potable water and ADA sanitary facilities. Parking is available for over 100 vehicles. The Underdown Horse Club and Lincoln County Forestry Department provide horse trail markers and maps for guidance on 22 miles of equestrian trails. Mountain biking trails cover over 30 miles and connect with a trail system on the Merrill City Forest. The Northcentral Chapter of Wisconsin Off-Road Bicycling Association (WORBA) and Lincoln County have produced maps for these trails. The Lincoln County Forestry Department signs and maintains approximately 20 miles of cross country ski trails consisting of three loops. A snowshoe/winter fat bike trail is signed and groomed by a local club.

Penny Lake is located off the northwest end of Somo Lake in the Town of Wilson. There is an undesignated camp site, a small wooden foot bridge over the channel connecting Penny Lake to Somo Lake and a short unmarked walking trail. The trail follows an esker separating Somo Lake and Penny Lake. The township maintains a boat landing on the north end of Penny Lake.

Fairgrounds

Lincoln County Fairgrounds' ownership was transferred from Lincoln County to the City of Merrill in 2015 and renamed: Merrill Festival Grounds.

US Hwy 8 Wayside

The Lincoln County Highway Dept. accepted jurisdictional transfer of the 1-acre former State DOT wayside at the intersection of CTH A and USH 8. They receive assistance from the City of Tomahawk to maintain this facility.

Table 2 lists existing county parks and their facilities and Map 2 identifies their location in the county.

Facilities	New Wood	Haymeadow	Jack Pines	Otter Lake	Tug Lake Recreation Area	Roothouse Lake	Larson Lake	Underdown Trail Head
# of Camping Sites	7	-	-	25	-	-	-	11
Acres	15.7	6	7	20	25	320	7	6
Municipality	Town of Rock Falls	Town of Schley	City of Merrill	Towns of Harrison, Skanawa n	Town of Rock Falls	Town of Harrison	Town of Birch	Town of Birch
Restroom	X	X		X	X		X	X
Picnic Area with grills	X	X		X	X		X	
Fishing	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Boating	X			X (No Motors)	X	X	X	
Boating Ramp	Good Condition			Unimproved	Carry in	Carry in	Carry in	
Swimming Beach				X	X			
Trails	X		X	X		X		X
Usage Pressure	Heavy	Moderate	Moderate	Heavy	Heavy	Light	Heavy	Heavy
Playground	X				X			
Shelter	2				X			X

3.4 Linear Facilities

Various entities maintain the following public facilities:

Rustic Roads: Lincoln County has one rustic road. Rustic Road R-78, also known as Tesch Road, is 4 miles long meandering through wooded areas and old farm fields. Near the south end is the historic Copper School and near the north end the road borders the Bill Cross Wildlife Area managed by the WI DNR. A sharp eye can spot an old railroad grade used during Lincoln County's early logging days.

Water Trails: A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. This website can help with creating a trail: (<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/publications/watertrails/>). There are over 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. Development of a water trail on the Wisconsin River through Lincoln County is in progress.

Trout Streams: Parts or all of over 110 streams are classified as trout streams in Lincoln County. The Prairie River is the most well-known trout water 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. 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 and along the Wisconsin River from CTH E to the New Wood segment.

Harrison Hills Summer ATV Trails: This 47.8 mile long trail is a two-way trail primarily utilizing existing logging roads that traverse the area of the Lincoln County Forest known as the Harrison Hills. The heavily forested, hilly terrain is dotted with many lakes and bogs that can be seen along the trail. The trail system is linked with Langlade County and Oneida County ATV trail systems. With the opening of many town roads and county highways to ATVs and UTVs, the Cities of Tomahawk and Merrill and most other small communities in Lincoln County can now be reached from the trail system without having to trailer machines. Three parking areas provide direct access to the trail system: 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 summer ATV trail system is open from May 1st (trail condition dependent) to December 1st of each year. Most of the ATV trail system is also open to road licensed vehicles, mountain bikers, hikers, and other recreationists. The summer ATV trail segments north of CTH D that connect to Theis Rd. and Bowman Rd. are gated and not open to highway licensed vehicles. Immediately north of CTH D, the ATV trail crosses private property for approximately ½ mile. Near the community of Harrison, there are two trail segments that also cross private land. These trail segments are open to ATV/UTV use only.

Hiawatha County Trail: This trail system utilizes an abandoned railroad right-of-way surfaced with crushed granite as the basis for the trail. The Hiawatha Trail starts at Sara Park in Tomahawk and travels about 6.6 miles north to the Oneida County line. This is a hiking/biking trail in the summer and snowmobile trail in winter. Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks maintains the Hiawatha Trail in the summer and the Northwoods Passage snowmobile club maintains the snowmobile trail. The Bearskin State Trail starts in Minocqua and travels south 18.3 miles to CTH K (Oneida County). There is currently a connection gap to the Bearskin Trail in Oneida County. Work has been done in recent years to complete this connection.

At the time of connection, it may be in the best interest of the trail to turn maintenance of the Hiawatha over to the State in order to provide uniform procedures over the entire length of the trail.

Snowmobile Trails: Lincoln County has approximately 305 miles of designated snowmobile trails that are part of the State snowmobile aid program, along with approximately 100 miles of club trails. About 230 miles of these snowmobile trails are also designated winter ATV trails. Most of these trail miles are located on private land requiring easements to use. Trail location and mileage change often due to changes in land ownership. All of the snowmobile and winter ATV trails are maintained by volunteer snowmobile clubs.

3.5 Points of Interest

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

A) Historic Buildings and Sites

Six sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Lincoln County:

1. Lincoln County Courthouse, City of Merrill
2. First Street Bridge, City of Merrill
3. T.B. Scott Free Library, City of Merrill
4. Merrill City Hall, City of Merrill
5. Center Avenue Historic District, City of Merrill
6. Merrill Post Office, City of Merrill

Wisconsin's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) lists 1,050 properties on it within Lincoln County.

- City of Merrill – 888 sites
- City of Tomahawk – 84 sites
- Town of Bradley – 20 sites
- Town of Rock Falls – 13 sites
- Town of Scott – 13 sites
- Town of King – 6 sites
- Town of Pine River – 6 sites
- Town of Harrison – 5 sites
- Town of Skanawan – 5 sites
- Town of Somo – 3 sites
- Town of Corning – 2 sites
- Town of Schley – 2 sites
- Town of Wilson – 2 sites
- Town of Birch – 1 sites

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.

D) Historical Markers

A state historical marker titled: **Merrill City Hall** is located at 715 E 2nd St in Merrill.

A state historical marker titled: **Three Arch Stone Bridge** representing STH 64 over the Prairie River is located at 200 W First St, Merrill.

3.6 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.

3.7 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. CNR Students majoring in natural resources either attend a field station not in Lincoln County, or 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.

3.8 Local Government Facilities

City of Merrill Park System

The City of Merrill maintains the following parks, forest, and fairgrounds. The City maintains their own outdoor recreation plan where recommendations are listed.

Merrill Memorial Forest (Refer to Map 4) – This 920 acre park is off of County Trunk Highway R about 7 miles north of Merrill. Established after World War II to honor returning veterans, Memorial Forest is a wildlife habitat park with walking trails, wildlife habitat, the 80+ acre Don Manthei Wetland Recreation Area, and about 7.5 miles of mountain bike trails (new in 2016), as well as over 8 miles of existing trails throughout the property. The City of Merrill owns this park.

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 an outdoor ice skating rink with warming shelter, picnic areas, and the Bauman Family Memorial Gazebo with walkway.

Gerbert Park – This 15 acre conservation protection area and wildlife habitat includes nature trails and is located south of the Wisconsin River.

Athletic Park – This five acre athletic facility contains a baseball field, announcers booth, concession stand, newly constructed universally accessible restroom facilities, lights, in ground irrigation, new dugouts, and a batting cage. This park has seen a considerable amount of improvements within the past 3 years. The park is used solely for baseball games, older youth leagues, through adult league games. The park has been improved to the point where it will begin to host large scale tournaments.

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.

Ott's Park – This 9 acre park is located on the west side of the City along the Wisconsin River. This park has a children's playground, a softball field, boat landing, picnic areas, volleyball courts, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, concession stand with ADA restrooms, picnic shelter with electric and water service.

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 features a boat landing and boarding dock, picnic areas, sand volleyball court, horseshoes, an ADA accessible playground, ADA restroom facilities, a picnic shelter with water and electric service, and a 9-hole disc golf course.

Stange Kitchenette Park – This 6 acre park is located just south of Stange Park along the Prairie River. It contains a kitchen shelter with electricity and water service, ADA accessible restrooms, a playground, horseshoe pits, and a sand volleyball court.

Streeter Square Park – This 2 acre park is located just north of downtown. It contains a playground, smaller-than-youth-regulation basketball court, benches, and youth baseball field.

Lions Park – This 13.8-acre park is located in the central portion of the City. The park consists of 5 little league baseball fields that are used very heavily from the first weeks in April through August. The park is used very heavily by the Prairie River Middle School for Physical Education Classes as well as their football team for practices. In the winter months, the park has an outdoor ice rink and the existing building is used as a warming shelter and restrooms.

Merrill Area Recreation Complex (MARC) – This complex covers 96 acres and is located on the west side of the City, north of the Wisconsin River on Marc Drive. The MARC includes four youth softball/baseball fields, an announcer's booth/score booth, two multi-purpose baseball/softball fields, and one baseball field. Concessions and restrooms exist by the varsity soccer fields. All of the ball fields have covered dugouts. The park also includes three soccer fields, two sand volleyball courts, outdoor concession stand/restroom, and outdoor hockey rink. About 2.5 miles of multi-purpose walking/hiking/biking trails connect to Council Grounds State Park, and connect by a temporary route to the River Bend Trail.

Smith Center – This building at the MARC houses an indoor ice skating rink, locker rooms, a weight room, a multi-purpose community room, a 17,000 foot convention area during non-ice months, and a concession kitchen. Indoor walking around the rink is also offered.

New in 2016, the MARC now hosts the Bierman Family Aquatic Center and a dog park.

Stange Park – This 11.6-acre park is located in the central portion of the City along the Prairie River. The park includes tennis courts, a smaller-than-youth-regulation basketball court, playground equipment, restrooms, picnic shelter with electric and water service, walking bridges over the lagoons.

Bierman Family Aquatic Center – This outdoor pool facility at the MARC was made possible through City tax revenue and a \$4 million donation from the Bierman Foundation.

Features of this aquatic center include:

- Double slide
- Family slide
- Two diving boards
- Basketball area
- Rock climbing wall
- Floatable play structures
- 6-lane competitive lap swim area
- Recreational swimming
- Shade umbrellas & lounge area
- Zero depth splash pad with playground
- Concession area
- Changing facility with ticketing, changing rooms/rest rooms, and two family changing rooms

Prairie Trails – In the 99 acre flood fringe and banks of the Prairie River is this silent sport recreation park located on the north side of the City. The park features 2.5 miles of multi-purpose hiking/walking/biking trails, picnic areas, picnic shelter, bridge, two canoe landings, overlook, fishing pier, boardwalk, and interpretive signage.

Merrill Festival Grounds (formerly the: Lincoln County Fairgrounds) – The festival grounds are a 25 acre facility located in Merrill. Existing facilities include 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; 2 exhibition structures for displays; a 14,000 sq. ft. expo hall; a 6,000 sq. ft. Enrichment Center (senior center); a 3,000 seat grandstand with stadium seating; a rodeo arena; a historic school house; and an office building. In 2015 ownership and maintenance of this facility was transferred from Lincoln County to the City of Merrill.

City of Tomahawk Park System

The City of Tomahawk maintains the following parks. The City maintains their own outdoor recreation plan where recommendations are listed.

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 a fishing pier, informal play area, picnic area, restrooms, playground, shelter and volleyball courts. Also at the park is a memorial to America’s war veterans.

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

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

Jersey City Park – This ¾-acre park on Murphy Ave has a fishing area, informal play area, picnic area, and a swimming beach.

Frenchtown Beach – This ¾-acre park located on Lake Mohawksin, south of Bradley Park. The park has a basketball court, fishing area, informal play area, picnic area, and swimming beach.

Washington Square – This 1.8 acre park in downtown is the site of the Tomahawk Historical Museum. The park has a basketball court, informal play area, picnic area, playground, shelter and restroom facility.

Bradley Park – This 110 area 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, snowmobile trails, cross country ski trails, and a swimming beach.

Pride Park – This 7 acre park has basketball courts, ice rink, informal play area, picnic area, playground, restrooms, skateboarding/rollerblade 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 building is also present.

Town Parks

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.

3.9 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 Department of Natural Resources listed the following SNAs within Lincoln County:

- **Krueger Pines SNA (No. 20)** is 21 acres located in the southeast corner of Council Grounds State Park.
- **Lily Lake SNA (No. 555)** is 80 acres located in the Town of King (T35N R7E, Sec.17).

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.

3.10 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 newly enrolled in Managed Forest Law.

As of 2021 there are about 5,571 acres enrolled under the Forest Crop Law (FCL), which are open to the public to hunt and fish.

As of 2021 there are about 165,683 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program. Of that MFL acreage, there are about 69,712 acres designated “open” to the public for hunting (not trapping), fishing, hiking, sightseeing, and cross-country skiing only (s. 77.83(2)(a), Wis. Stats.).

Other than the following exception, MFL lands enrolled as open must not be posted as to restrict access. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation. Access by motor vehicles or snowmobiles may be prohibited by the landowner on open lands. Open MFL lands can be found on the DNR website at <http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/opfl/>. It is the responsibility of the user to know where they are and which land is open to the public.

3.11 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. Wisconsin 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.

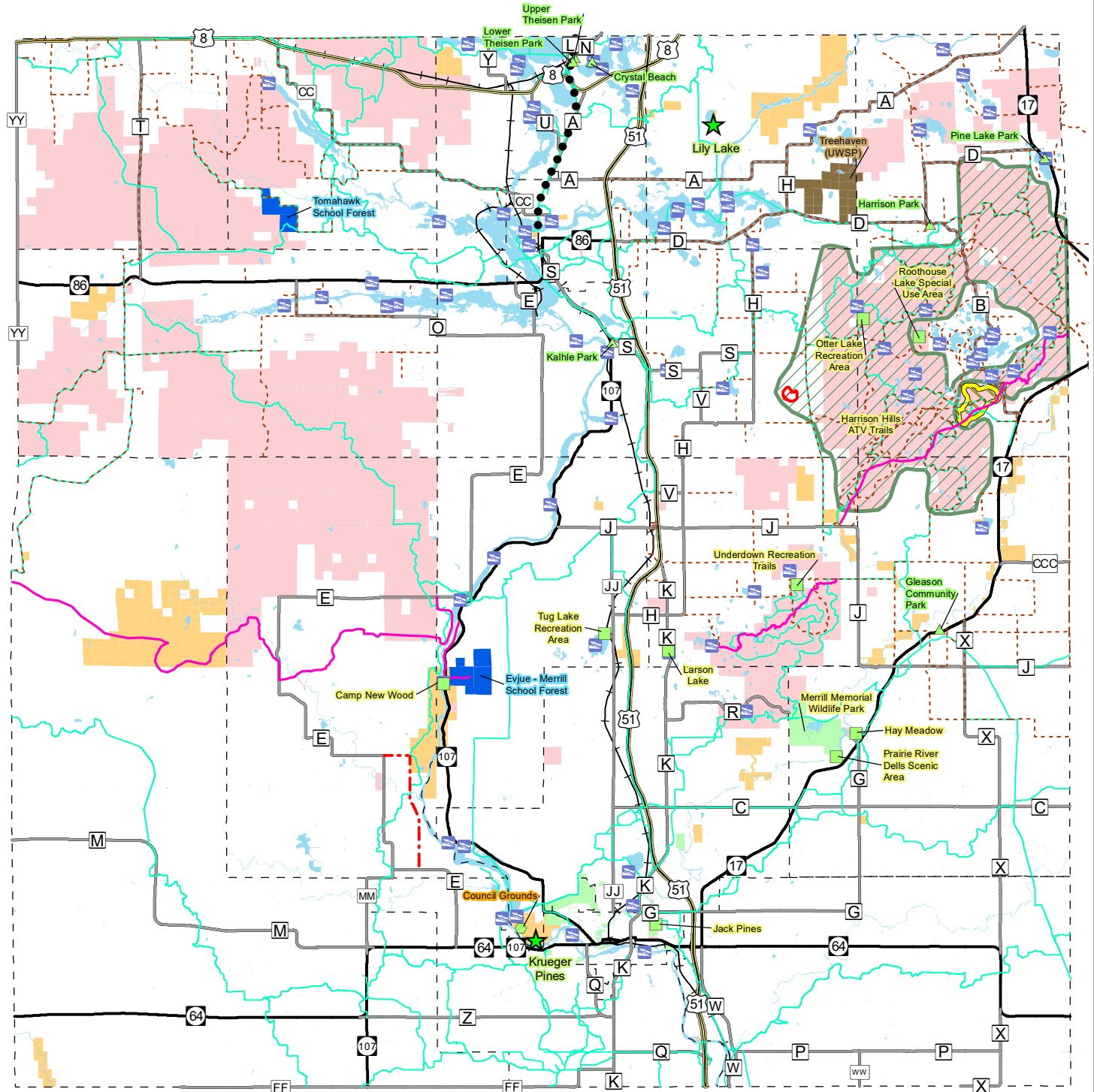
The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company operates recreational facilities and owns land on two reservoirs - the Rice and the Spirit. On the Rice, WVIC operates 3 access sites between Oneida and Lincoln Counties. The Rice Dam access offers fishing access, a canoe portage and parking; The Nokomis Drive 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.

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

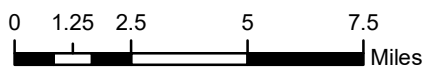
Private Campgrounds

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



Legend

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - - Minor Civil Divisions — US Highway — State Highways — County Highways — Railroad Water — Rustic Roads County State Town State Natural Areas Boat Launch | <p>Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● Hiawatha County Trail — Ice Age Trail — ATV Trails / Routes — Snowmobile Trails <p>Geological Sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harrison Hills Lookout Mountain Porcupine Mountain | <p>Public Lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lincoln County School Forest Treehaven (UWSP) WI DNR City of Merrill |
|--|---|---|



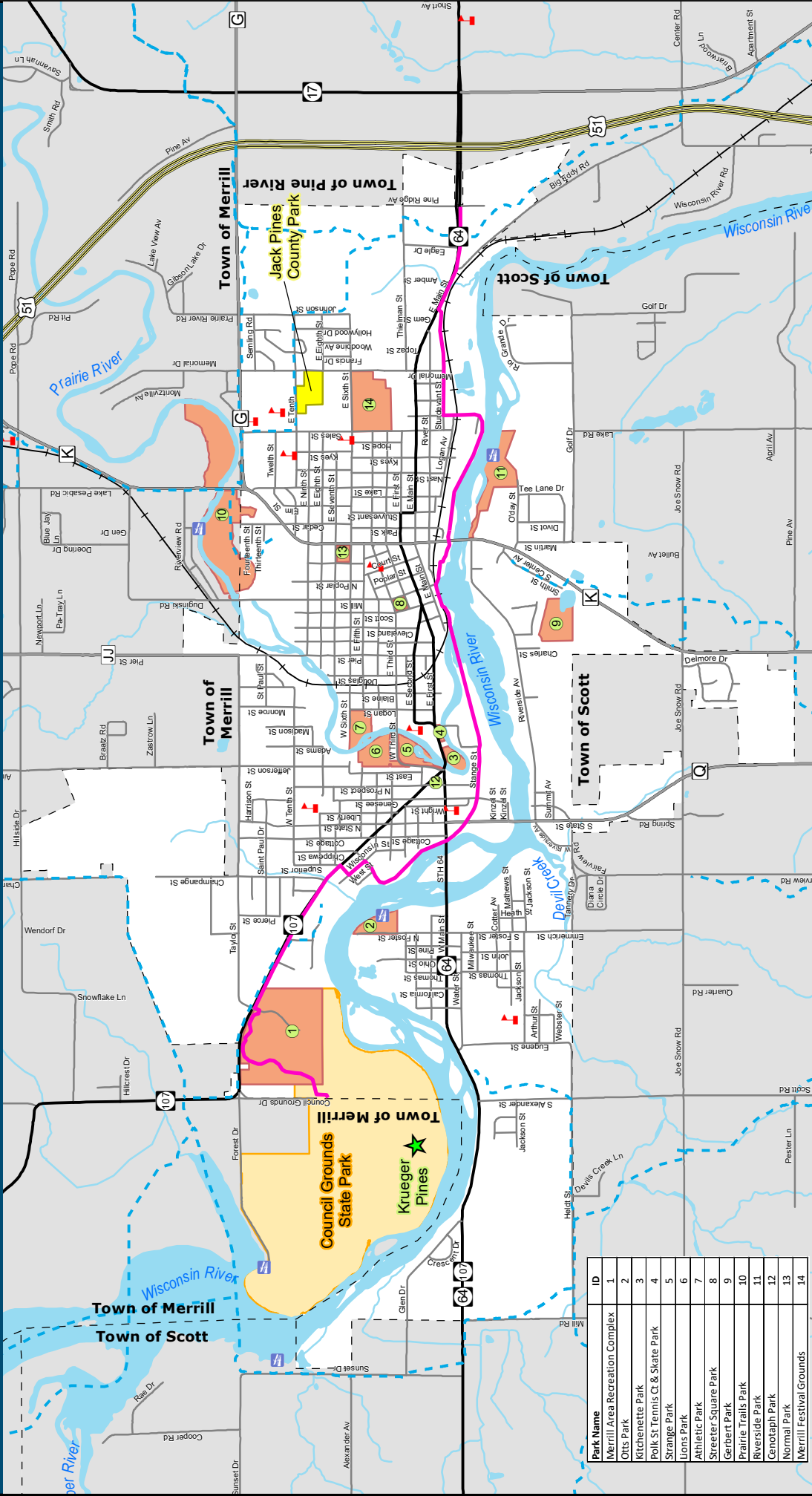
Source: Wis DNR, Lincoln County, NCWRPC

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey of the actual boundary of any property depicted. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.



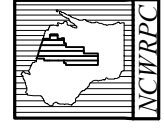
Prepared By:
North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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



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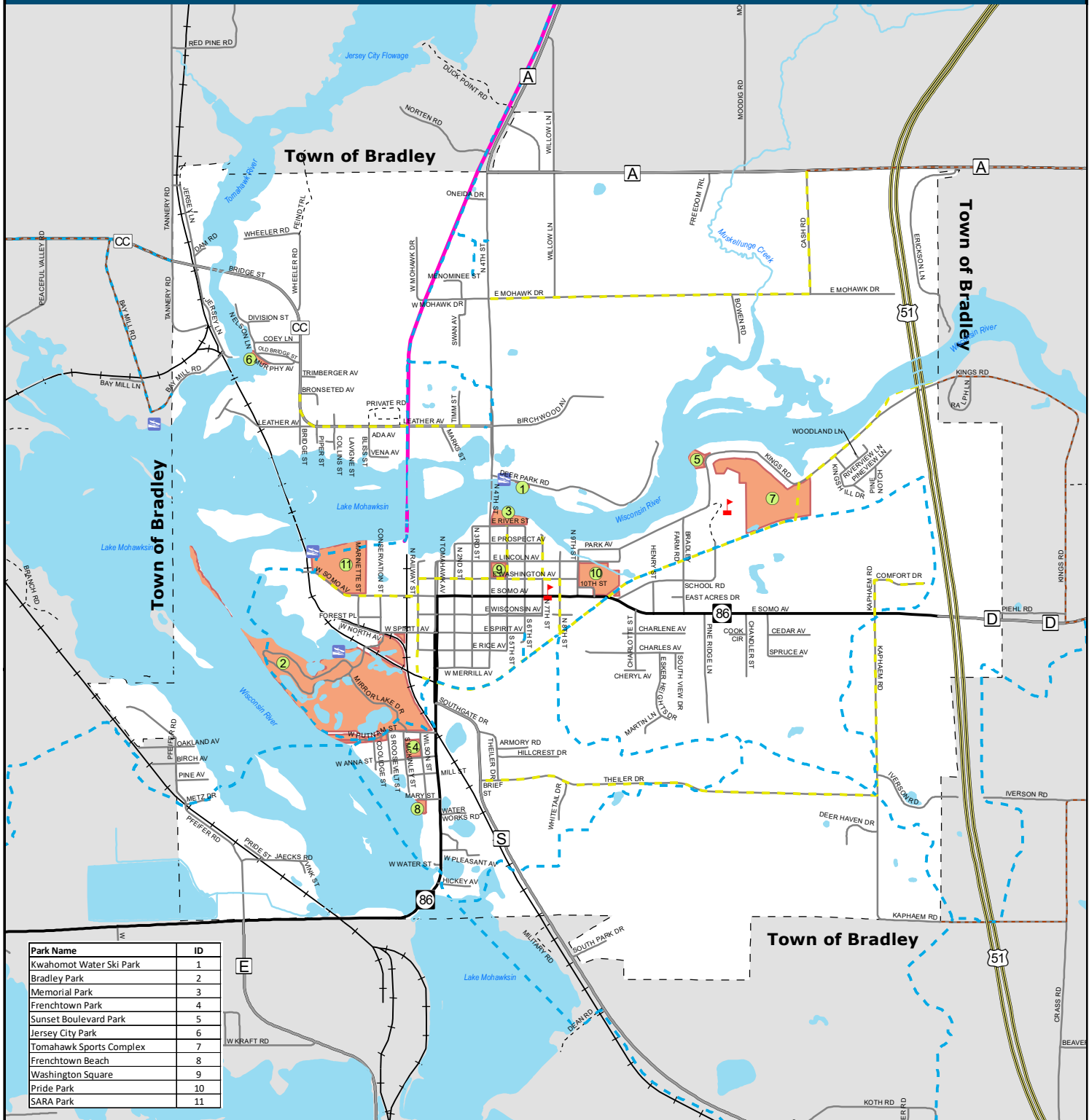
- Minor Civil Divisions
- US Highway
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Local Roads
- Railroad
- ★ State Natural Areas
- ☒ Boat Launch
- ☒ Schools
- ☒ Merrill Parks
- ☒ Water
- River Bend Trail
- Snowmobile Only Trails
- ☒ County Parks
- ☒ State Park
- ☒ City Parks



Prepared By:

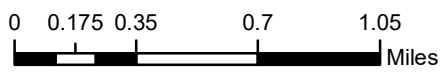
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Legend

- - - Minor Civil Divisions
- US Highway
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Local Roads
- - - Private Roads
- Railroad
- Water
- City Parks
- Boat Launch
- Schools
- Tomahawk Parks
- Hiawatha County Trail
- Bike Routes
- ATV Trails / Routes
- Snowmobile Trails



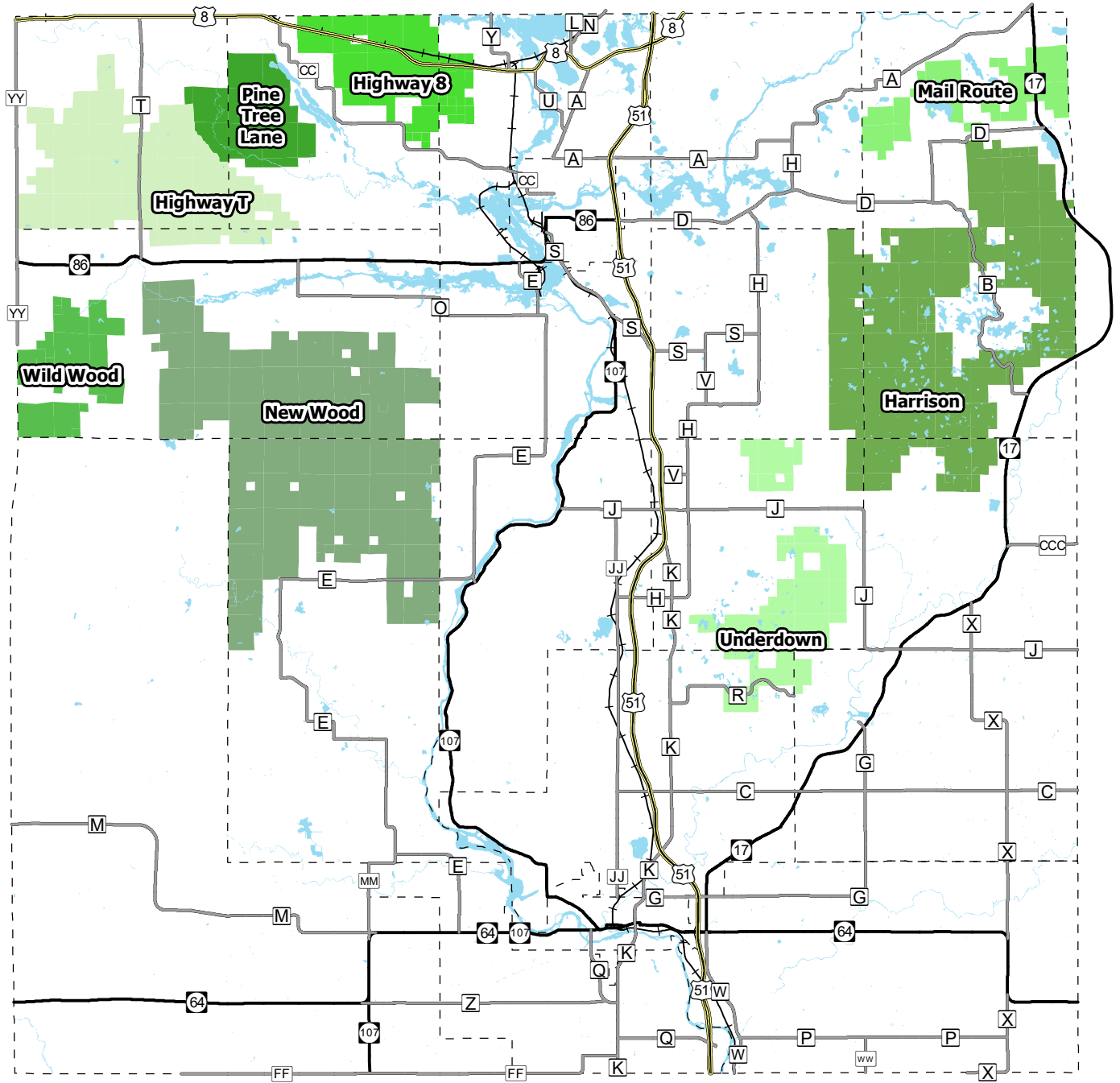
Source: Wis DNR, Lincoln County, NCWRPC

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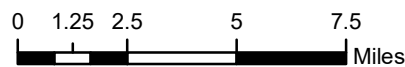
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Legend

- - - Minor Civil Divisions
- US Highway
- State Highways
- County Highways
- + + Railroad
- Water

Forest Block Name



Source: Wis DNR, Lincoln County, NCWRPC

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Chapter 4: OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

Recreational needs within Lincoln County are identified in the Recommendations & Capital Improvement chapter. Those needs were identified primarily by gathering public input via a survey; the results of that survey are in this chapter.

4.2 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, trails, and forests. That input and staff's professional experience will also shape what changes are implemented.

Summary of Survey Responses

In the spring of 2021, this survey was sent out for customer feedback. NCWRPC mailed survey notices to each town, emailed to Merrill and Tomahawk city staff, and emailed survey notices to a whole list of outdoor recreation groups provided by the Lincoln County Forestry, Land, and Parks Department. The survey was open for 1-month. The survey was also available via a link on the NCWRPC's website for this ORP.

We received **165 responses** to the survey. Although not statistically significant of the whole population, this survey does provide a much deeper understanding of the wants and needs for outdoor recreation than a public hearing, so the results are still very valuable. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had smaller response groups.

About 71% of respondents live in Lincoln County or have a summer home in the County; and 28 people marked what zip code they live in (mostly in 54452, 54487, & 54401). Most municipalities were represented with about 64% of respondents answering this question.

Through an IP address analysis of who took the survey it appears that 2 IP addresses are at least duplicated, which could mean that a husband and wife both took the survey. One IP address repeated twice, and the other IP address repeated 39 times. All of those duplicate IP addresses did not have the same answers, so it appears that nobody "stuffed the ballot box."

A majority of the respondents were female (56% female, 44% male). Respondents came from all age groups, with a strong showing of at least 35% in the 41 to 56 age group, and the 57 to 75 age group.

The full survey results (36 pages) are in Attachment D.

Key Findings of the ORP Survey:

Answered: 165 Skipped: 0

- The most frequent outdoor recreational activities respondents participated in:
 1. Walking / Hiking 88% of responses
 2. Canoeing / Kayaking 72% of responses
 3. Events / Festivals / Fairs 59% of responses
 4. Fishing 58% of responses
 5. Boating 55% of responses
 6. Bicycling 55% of responses

Q2. What potential outdoor recreational opportunities should be developed in Lincoln County?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 55

1. Bike trails 28 responses
2. Hiking/Walking trails 25 responses
3. Campgrounds (RV too) 12 responses
4. Mtn. Bike trails 12 responses
5. ATV/UTV trails 10 responses
6. X-C ski trails 9 responses
7. Snowshoe trails 8 responses
8. Ice Age Trail 8 responses + 4 other comments



(Word Cloud – The larger the word the more mentions)

Q3. How often do you use Lincoln County managed parks, trails, or forests?

Answered: 155 Skipped: 10

	I DON'T USE THESE FACILITIES.	RARELY	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	ON MANY WEEKENDS	MOST DAYS	TOTAL
PARKS	7.24% 11	36.18% 55	32.24% 49	10.53% 16	12.50% 19	1.32% 2	152
TRAILS	3.29% 5	23.68% 36	28.95% 44	20.39% 31	18.42% 28	5.26% 8	152
FOREST UNITS	16.67% 25	31.33% 47	26.00% 39	10.00% 15	15.33% 23	0.67% 1	150

Q4. What is your overall satisfaction with the conditions of the Lincoln County managed facilities you normally visit?

Answered: 154 Skipped: 11

	I DON'T USE THESE FACILITIES.	VERY SATISFIED	GOOD	FAIR	UNACCEPTABLE	TOTAL
PARKS	14.57% 22	37.09% 56	41.06% 62	7.28% 11	0.00% 0	151
TRAILS	7.19% 11	43.79% 67	41.83% 64	5.88% 9	1.31% 2	153
FOREST UNITS	23.49% 35	32.89% 49	39.60% 59	4.03% 6	0.00% 0	149

Q5. What improvements are needed at Lincoln County managed campgrounds?

Answered: 151 Skipped: 14

- 93 responses Unknown / I don't use County campgrounds.
- 26 responses An adequate number of campground facilities exist, and they are in good condition.
- 32 responses Improvements are needed.

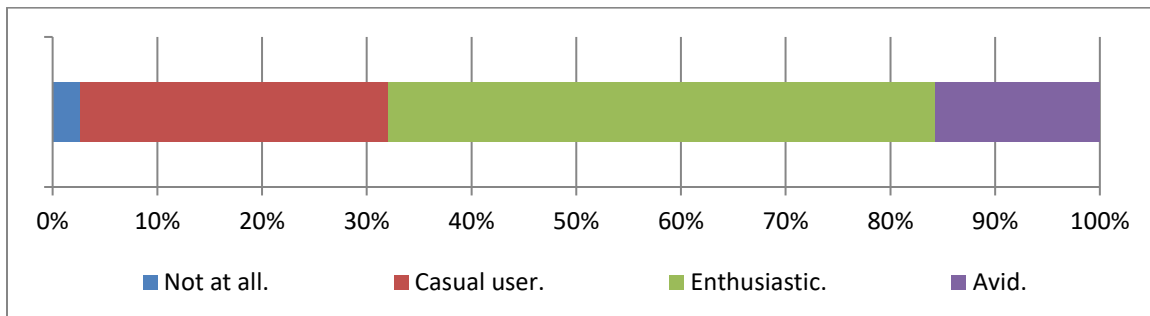
Q6. What improvements are needed at Lincoln County managed campgrounds?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 124

areas Upgrade water better campgrounds Need sites site
use improve facilities campsites

(Word Cloud – The larger the word the more mentions)

Q7. What type of water enthusiast are you? Answered: 153 Skipped: 12



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

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

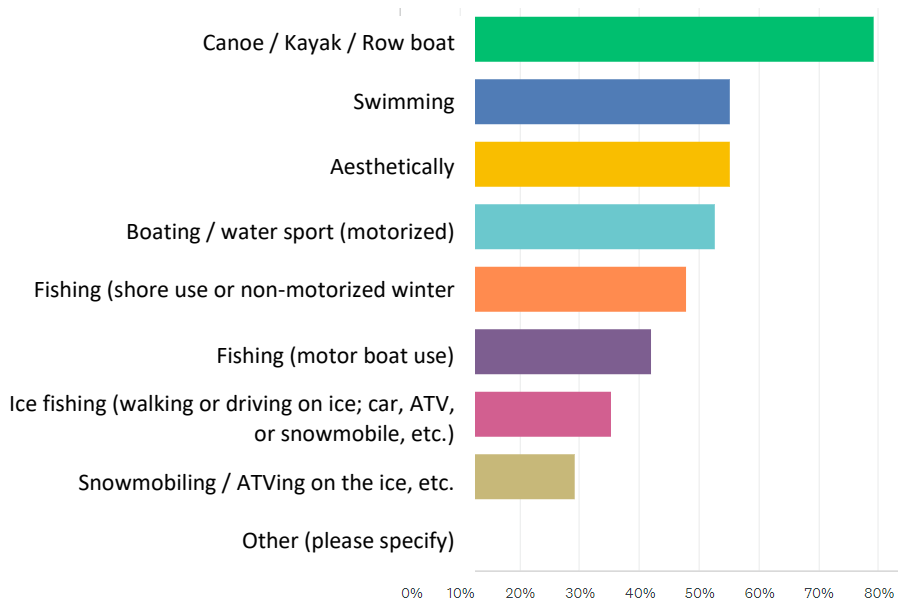
Enthusiastic. (I access or go on the water regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)

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

Q8. How do you use the water?

(Choose all that apply.)

Answered: 150 Skipped: 15

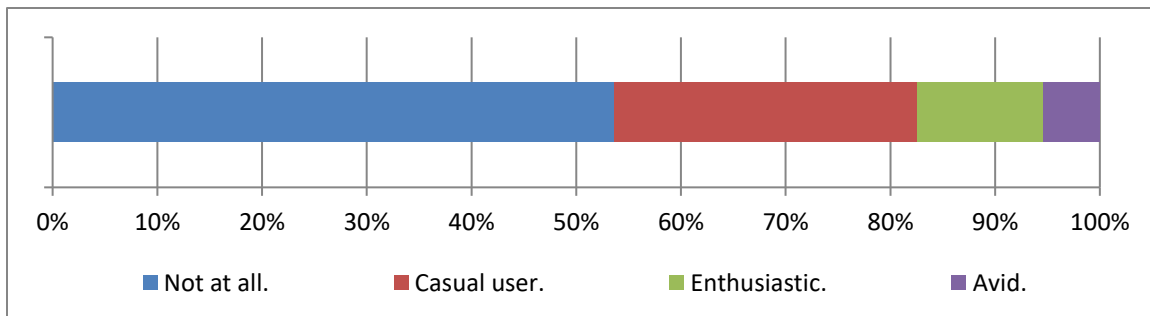


Q9. What boat landings need improvements? Answered: 46 Skipped: 119



(Word Cloud – The larger the word the more mentions)

Q10. What type of snowmobile enthusiast are you? Answered: 149 Skipped: 16



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

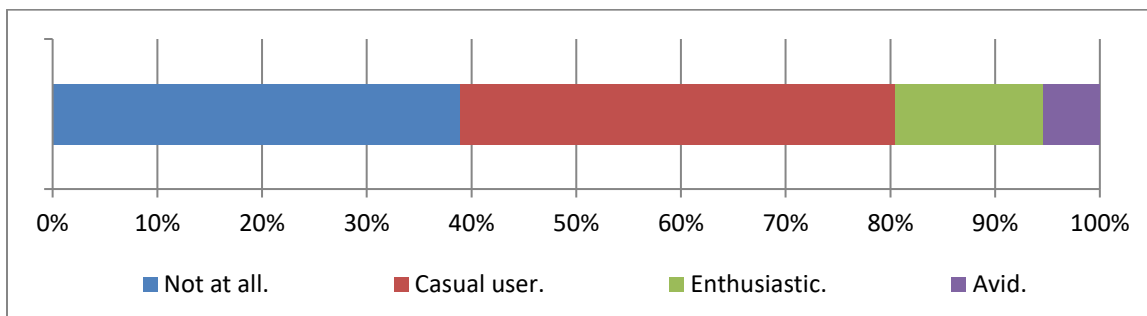
Casual user. (I like snowmobiling for fun, but **only** do so occasionally, **OR only** on my own land.)

Enthusiastic. (I access or go on snowmobile routes and trails regularly.)

Avid. (I am always on a snowmobile every chance I get – all season long.)

Q11. What type of motorized vehicle (ATV/UTV/ Off-Highway Motorcycle) enthusiast are you?

Answered: 149 Skipped: 16



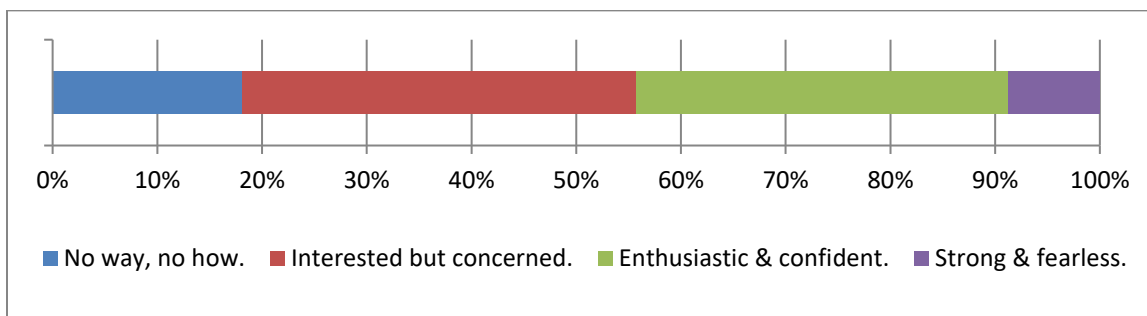
Not at all. (I'm not interested in motorized recreation at all, not even for recreation.)

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

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

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

Q12. What type of bicyclist are you? Answered: 149 Skipped: 16



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

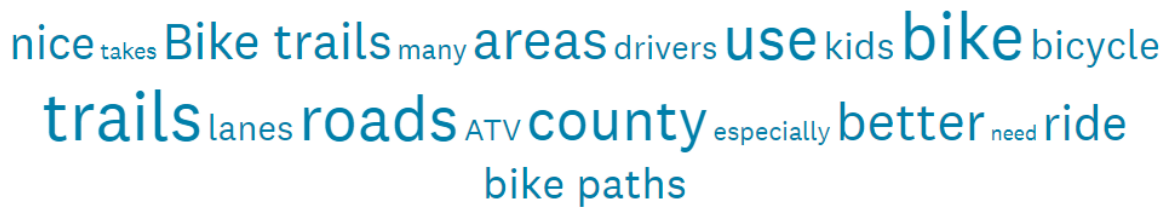
Interested but concerned. (I like riding, but don't do it regularly. I'm generally concerned that my route is not safe to ride, so I don't ride often. I definitely do not ride when the weather is bad.)

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

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

Q13. Any other concerns?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 131



(Word Cloud – The larger the word the more mentions)

4.3 Needs Driven Park Planning

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

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

A needs driven and facilities based park planning approach presents the current demand for park and recreation opportunities. The size of a park site is determined by the number of facilities needed to satisfy the active recreation demand within the service area of each park, and the unprogrammed recreation land that buffers different uses within a park, and which buffers the park from other non-park uses such as residential housing. Determining the space needs for unprogrammed land is subjective and objective based on firsthand 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? (See **Attachment B**)
3. Unprogrammed buffers. How much land within the park is needed to separate different uses? How much land is needed for future expansion? Maybe a park will not expand within 2-years, but within 10-20 years expansion may be imminent. When the opportunity to buy land exists, then reaction must be swift to seize the opportunity. A park growth boundary should be created for this reason.

Chapter 5:

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing specific recreation and open-space goals and objectives from public participation and forestry committee revision and refinement. 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. Continue to purchase land within the county forest blocking boundary from willing sellers.
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

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

Objectives

1. County should investigate the creation of a countywide tourism bureau.
2. Encourage both the Merrill Chamber and the Tomahawk Chamber to create significant website links to the Forestry, Land, & Parks website for outdoor recreation information.
3. Develop a new set of maps showing existing outdoor recreation both countywide and within each county recreation area.

Goal 3

Continue developing all types of recreational trails.

Objectives

1. Develop a map of existing county forest roads of various types and what uses are allowed on each of them.
2. Work with user groups to meet specific needs and desires for recreation on the Lincoln County Forest

Goal 4

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. Cooperate with various governmental agencies to improve all outdoor recreation facilities within Lincoln County.
4. Improve and protect access to water resources.
5. Continue to qualify Lincoln County and local governmental units for eligibility of state and federal financial aid programs which require outdoor recreational planning.
6. Continue upgrading existing recreational facilities to accommodate the elderly and handicapped.

Chapter 6:

RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The recommendations and capital improvements in this chapter come from reviewing past plans (Chapter 1), survey results (Chapter 4) which created the goals & objectives in Chapter 5, along with Lincoln County Forestry staff assessments and NCWRPC staff analysis.

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.

6.1 Countywide Recommendations

Ice Age National Scenic Trail Development

The 2021 ORP survey shows that about 88% of respondent's most frequent outdoor recreational activity is Walking / Hiking. 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.

Recommendation A: Continue cooperating with the local chapter of the Ice Age Trail to complete the trail wherever county assistance may be useful.

Recommendation B: 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 continue to be clearly marked for the continued enjoyment of both user groups.

Increase the Number of Carry-In Launches Countywide

The 2021 ORP survey shows that about 80% of respondents use the water in a non-motorized way (canoe / kayak / rowboat). Several people commented about specific water access improvements.

Recommendation: Cooperate with DNR and WVIC to increase carry-in access points along the Wisconsin River throughout the County.

Improve Boat Launches Countywide

The 2021 ORP survey shows that about 55% of respondent's most frequent outdoor recreational activity is **Boating**. The 2021 ORP survey shows that about 53% of respondents use the water by motor boating or motorized water sports. 46 people commented about specific boat landing or water access improvements that are needed. Some comments suggested things like a lack of parking, better regulatory signage at boat ramps, or repairs needed due to "power launches." This recommendation is to update the DNR's current inventory, and to provide recommendations to be added to this Lincoln County ORP when they become available.

Recommendation: Cooperate with DNR and WVIC to inventory conditions of boat launches countywide and recommend specific improvements. Include these recommendations in the Lincoln County ORP.

Establish Wisconsin River Bike Path

The 2021 ORP survey shows that about 55% of respondent's most frequent outdoor recreational activity is Bicycling. The 2021 survey also showed that by far the #1 and #2 opportunities that should be developed in Lincoln County are **Bike trails** and **Hiking/Walking trails**.

Full reconstruction of STH 107 is not scheduled yet, but that would be the time to install a paved off-road walking and bicycling path parallel to the highway.

Recommendation 1: When WisDOT is in the initial design phase for upgrading STH 107, then inform them of the need for a paved off-road walking & bicycling path alongside the highway.

On page 4 of this plan is reference to off-road trail potential between Tomahawk and Wausau (Segment 18). If Recommendation 1 is completed, then it would connect Tomahawk to the River Bend Trail in Merrill.

Recommendation 2: Consider pursuing off-road bike & pedestrian trail development between Merrill and Wausau per Segment 18 reference.

ATV / UTV Trail Development and Enhancement

The 2021 ORP survey shows that about 32% of respondent's most frequent outdoor recreational activity is ATV / UTV / OHM Riding. The 2021 survey also showed that the #5 opportunity that should be developed in Lincoln County is **ATV / UTV trails**.

Recommendation: Continue to look at ways to enhance the current ATV trail system and consider developing new ATV trails that will achieve community goals and not displace other recreational users.

Establish Scenic Byway Along Wisconsin River

Lincoln County has had a casual un-marked scenic automobile circle route in the county for decades. Only those in-the-know realize the great scenic beauty that residents have known for years. This tour route includes STH 107, STH 17, highways through both Merrill and Tomahawk, and a few county highways.

Established in 1999, the Scenic Byways Program represents a cooperative effort between the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and local community groups to conserve, promote and enhance some of our most scenic and historic highway corridors.

To qualify as a scenic byway, a roadway must be part of a federal, state, or county highway that is not an interstate highway; and must be at least 30-miles long that offers travelers outstanding scenic views or historic resources combined with unique recreational, cultural or other educational opportunities. Some of the benefits include promotion as a state or national Scenic Byway, and associated prestige for obtaining the designation.

Recommendation: Consider creating a State Scenic Byway along the Wisconsin River and through the Cities of Merrill and Tomahawk.

Create Countywide Tourism Bureau

A countywide tourism bureau does not exist, and neither the Merrill Chamber, nor the Tomahawk Chamber websites link to the Lincoln County Forestry, Land, & Parks website. The Merrill Chamber website does not have any link to Merrill's parks either. Tomahawk's tourism website does not have maps for many recreational features.

Recommendation: This recommendation is for an entity in the County to create a countywide tourism bureau to collectively promote what recreation exists and to update users on changing conditions (example: extensive tree damage in this park, closed till further notice). Organizing to establish a Wisconsin River Scenic Byway may be an initial project for this entity.

Update All County Forestry Recreation Maps

Many of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land, & Parks recreation maps are difficult to read and have a variety of inconsistent formats.

Recommendation: This recommendation is to create new outdoor recreation maps to better identify the great resources that the County maintains.

6.2 Local Government Recommendations

City of Merrill Recommendations

The City of Merrill has its own Outdoor Recreation Plan (2018-2022) 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 3** (City of Merrill Outdoor Recreation).

City of Tomahawk Recommendations

The City of Tomahawk has its own Outdoor Recreation Plan (2020-2024) 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** (City of Tomahawk Outdoor Recreation).

Town of Harrison Recommendations

- Improve restrooms at Pine Lake Beach.

Town of King Recommendations

- 5 boat launches all need upgrading.

Town of Merrill Recommendations

- Improve drainage and access road, develop parking area, and improve boat launch to Lokemoen Landing.

Town of Schley Recommendations

- Town fully supports County improvements at Hay Meadow Park and Prairie Dells Scenic Area.

6.3 County Facility Capital Improvements 2022-2026

Staff from the Lincoln County Forestry, Land, and Parks Department projected what recreational needs face each county facility and the capital improvements needed to improve the facility. Due to budget constraints, maintenance and improvement of existing facilities has priority over new development.

5-Year Capital Improvement Tables below provide a general list of items, their cost, and approximate time frame for completion at each County maintained outdoor recreation facility.

Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Item to build or remodel in a park or forest area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ High (1-3 years)○ Medium (3-5 years)○ Low (5+ years)	An estimate made with 2020 or 2021 prices.

Camp New Wood County Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Camp New Wood is a rustic camping facility with seven campsites, vault toilets, no electric hook ups and hand pump well for potable water. Use of the facility is moderate with most campsites occupied on weekends. The vault toilets in the campground were scheduled for replacement in 1996 and have not been at this point. The two covered shelters in the day use area of the park are occasionally reserved through the summer months. The shelters were re-roofed in 2018.

Table 3		
Camp New Wood County Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Replace toilet facility	High	\$50,000
Add topsoil to cover exposed tree roots	High	\$1,500
Add gravel to access road	Medium	\$2,000
Replace wood chips under playground equipment	Medium	\$3,000
Participate in development of a Wisconsin River Water Trail	High	\$0
Total Estimated Cost		\$56,500

Haymeadow County Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Haymeadow County Park is a former DOT wayside with a small picnic area and vault toilets. The park also provides a parking area for walking access to fish the Big Haymeadow Creek and Prairie River. The existing toilets were scheduled for replacement in 1985. Prairie River Dells Scenic Area is located approximately ¾ of a mile away. Future use and funding may dictate development at one of these parks and not the other.

Table 4		
Haymeadow County Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Replace toilet facility	High	\$35,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$35,000

Jack Pines County Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

This partially wooded location is regarded as open space for walking and sledding in winter. No improvements exist at this location. Development of a designated walking trail is a possibility if demand exists and funding becomes available.

Table 5 Jack Pines County Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Development of a designated walking trail	Low	\$2,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$2,000

Otter Lake Recreation Area

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Otter Lake Recreation area is heavily used throughout the summer. Most of the campsites are occupied on weekends and many people use the beach area to swim and picnic. Some of the individual campsites are difficult to distinguish and can get muddy after a rain. There is some erosion taking place at a few sites as well. Two hand pump wells provide potable water. The well at the beach, which is in need of replacement, can be pumped dry and has discolored water.

Table 6 Otter Lake Recreation Area 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Replace well at picnic/beach area	High	\$10,000
Add Gravel to sites and enlarge selected sites for larger rigs	Medium	\$3,000
Place boulders to delineate site boundaries	High	\$1,000
Fill in/correct eroded areas at lake side sites	High	\$2,000
Fill/Level picnic/beach area	Medium	\$2,000
Rehabilitate Nature Trail around the lake	Medium	\$5,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$23,000

Tug Lake Recreation Area

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Tug Lake Park is a popular beach destination for many Lincoln County residents. The shelter is often reserved for social gatherings on weekends throughout the summer. The roof on the shelter will need to be redone and well pump replaced in the near future.

Table 7 Tug Lake Recreation Area 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Re-roof shelter	Medium	\$3,500
Replace surface material in playground area	High	\$3,000
Install Electric water pump/open shower	Medium	\$5,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$11,500

Roothouse Lake Special Use Area

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

This area is a special use area purchased from a private party. Specific stipulations on the future management of the property were agreed to at the time of purchase.

Table 8 Roothouse Lake Special Use Area 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Develop a nature trail around the lake	Low	\$10,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$10,000

Larson Lake County Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Larson Lake Park is a former DOT wayside with a picnic area and restrooms. The lake drains through a culvert under the park access road, the culvert was recently replaced. The vault toilets are scheduled for replacement in 2024. Minor roof repairs have been made recently. Garbage is often dumped along the access road on the back side of the park. This road could be closed off to prevent garbage dumping and reduce future maintenance expenses.

Table 9 Larson Lake County Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Replace vault toilets	Medium	\$35,000
Road Closure	Medium	\$2,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$37,000

Prairie River Dells Scenic Area

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Prairie River Dells Scenic Area is located about 8 miles northeast of Merrill off Highway 17 toward Rhinelander. Viewing platforms and short walking trails were constructed approx. 13 years ago and are the only amenities at the park. A bridge across the Prairie River and trails connecting to the Merrill City Forest were proposed many years ago but were sidelined in 2004. Haymeadow Park is approximately ¾ mile away with picnic area and vault toilets. Future use and funding may dictate development at one of these parks but not the other.

Table 10 Prairie River Dells Scenic Area 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Vault toilets	Medium	\$35,000
Picnic area development (rustic)	Medium	\$5,000
Open shelter	Medium	\$30,000
Biking/hiking trail development	Medium	\$10,000
Bridge across Prairie River connecting to City Forest trails	Low	\$100,000
Exploration of the development of a disc golf course	Low	Unknown
Total Estimated Cost		\$180,000

Spirit Falls Scenic Area

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Spirit Falls Scenic area is located in the northwest part of Lincoln County. Development has not been done due to limited budgets and lack of interest for development.

Table 11		
Spirit Falls Scenic Area		
5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Construct shelter and picnic area	Low	\$70,000
Water and vault toilets, if deemed needed	Low	\$45,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$115,000

Underdown Recreation Forest and Multi-purpose Recreation Area

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Underdown Recreation Area has seen several developments the past several years with the most noticeable being the shelter house in 2016. An electric well pump, powered by a generator, was installed in 2016 as well. Several more miles of bike trails have been added, connecting to the Merrill City Forest to the south. Trail improvements and re-routes have been done when necessary. With continued increase in use, expansion of the camping area may be needed.

Table 12		
Underdown		
5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Garlic mustard control	High	\$10,000
Possible tent site camping area expansion	Moderate	\$15,000
Second well for water	Moderate	\$10,000
Second vault toilet	Moderate	\$50,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$85,000

Hiawatha Trail

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

This abandoned railroad right-of-way has a crushed granite surface which was re-graded in 2020. The surface is good for the most part but adding gravel may be necessary in a few areas. The decking and railings were replaced on the railroad trestle crossing Lake Mohawksin in 2018 with Snowmobile and RTP grant money. Invasive species including buckthorn and garlic mustard have been found along the trail. The buckthorn is widespread throughout the area while the garlic mustard is more isolated to one area with potential for control. The individual trail segment is closed to users when spraying occurs.

Table 13		
Hiawatha Trail		
5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Garlic mustard control	High	\$1,500 annually
Re-surface trail	Medium	\$80,000
Re-deck trestle	Low	unknown
Total Estimated Cost		\$81,500

Lincoln County ATV/UTV Trail System

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Lincoln County’s ATV/UTV trail system is based primarily on logging roads open to other highway licensed vehicles. Located on light soils and hilly terrain, these trails require erosion control devices and continuous maintenance. Initially, ATVs were lightweight, low powered machines that didn’t create much soil disturbance. With the tremendous rise in popularity and the advent of larger, heavier, more powerful, multi-person UTVs, the trail tread experiences a lot of disturbance. Grant funding has increased over the years but it is still difficult to keep up with maintenance. Department staff is exploring options to re-route problem sections of trail when possible. Maintenance of the existing trail and facilities has priority over new development. New trail development is dependent on approval of the Forestry Department, wetland/water crossing permit approval, and funding support from the ORV Council.

Table 14		
Lincoln County ATV/UTV Trail System		
5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Maintenance/improvement of existing system (mostly grant funded re-hab and re-routes)	High	\$70,000
Exploration of trail development in northwestern Lincoln County	Medium	unknown
Exploration of development of an intensive use area in a county gravel pit when no longer in use	Low	unknown
Total Estimated Cost		\$70,000+

Chapter 7:

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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.

Attachment C provides a list of commonly used state and federal government financial assistance programs.

Adopt-A-Park Program

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

Capital Improvements

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

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

Community Beautification

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

Historic Sites

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

Leases

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

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

Lifetime Activities

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

Monetary Aid Programs

Take advantage of state and federal financial and technical aid programs, which are designed, to assist communities in meeting recreational, needs, and maintain community eligibility for such programs. A list of these programs exists in **Attachment C**.

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

Requirements for application to the Stewardship Fund include the requirement that the applicant submits an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. This plan is designed to meet that requirement.

For the remaining program requirements, or additional information contact:

Community Services Specialist
Rhineland Service Center
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland, WI 54501

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

Municipal & School District Cooperation

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

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.

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.

Senior Citizen Involvement

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

Service Group Involvement

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

Shoreland Zoning

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

Specialized Facilities

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

Public Access via Subdivision Regulations (Platting Lands)

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

Use of Easements

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

Winter Activities

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

Attachment A

Park Design and Location Criteria

From:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023

Park Design and Location Criteria

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

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

Mini Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

0.5 to 1.5 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

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

5. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

Neighborhood Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

5 to 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design and Service Area:

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

Community Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

Usually more than 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives

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

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

Appropriate program elements include:

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

Provides opportunities for a diverse mix of indoor and outdoor recreation, including walking and bicycling, outdoor performances, various programmed and non-programmed field sports, swimming, and special events.

8) Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

Special Use Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objective:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

School Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

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

2. Size Objective

The optimum size of a school park site depends on its intended use. The size criteria established for neighborhood park and community park classifications may apply.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

County Park

1. Definition Summary:

A county park provides sufficient park and recreation area to meet the needs of county residents. County parks consist of land that is specifically set aside for active and passive recreation uses, and that accommodates large gatherings, special events, and individual users. County parks offer a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities, and

may provide areas that do not primarily serve a recreational purpose such as protected natural areas, historic areas, and special use areas.

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

- a. Camping/group camping
- b. Picnic areas
- c. Recreational trails (hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, equestrian, cross-country ski, snowmobile, etc.)
- d. Play areas
- e. Swimming beaches
- f. Water access
- g. Fishing access
- h. Shelters
- i. Restrooms

- j. Shower facilities
- k. Sport fields (basketball, volleyball, softball, etc.)
- l. Pet exercise area

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

State Forest

1. Definition Summary:

A state forest consists of well blocked areas of state owned lands that are managed to benefit present and future generations of residents, recognizing that forests contribute to local and statewide economics and to a healthy natural environment. State forests practice sustainable forestry. The management of state forests is consistent with the ecological capability of state forest land and with the long-term goal of maintaining sustainable forest communities and ecosystems. Benefits of maintaining these ecosystems include soil protection, public hunting, protection of water quality, production of recurring forest products, outdoor recreation, native biological diversity, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and aesthetic value. The range of benefits provided in each state forest reflect its unique character and position in the regional landscape.

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

Areas with large blocks of land.

5. Program Objectives:

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

Current Level of Supply:

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

State Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

Elements that fulfill the service area, park facilities and recreation program demands. Elements are compatible with the natural resource setting and park site constraints. Developments may include the following facilities:

Current Level of Supply:

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

5. Orientation:

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

6. Function:

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

7. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

Attachment B

Facility Development Standards

From: National Recreation and Park Association

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

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

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS *(continued)*

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

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

Attachment C

Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

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

Note: Various program application periods may exist. Check online for each program's requirements and deadlines.

Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) Grants [Stewardship]

ADLP grants are awarded to improve community recreation areas and acquire land for public outdoor recreation. Priority is given to land acquisition where a need for additional recreational land is supported by an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR) [Stewardship]

The purpose of the acquisition of development rights (ADR) subprogram is to protect natural, agricultural or forest lands that enhance and/or provide nature-based outdoor recreation. ADR grants can only fund conservation easement purchases.

ATV/UTV Enhancement

This funding is issued bi-annually to non-profit organizations that promote the safe and wise use of all terrain vehicles (ATVs)/utility-terrain vehicles (UTVs), ATV/UTV riding and ATV/UTV education.

ATV/UTV Patrols

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

Patrol requirements are contained in NR 50.125, Wis. Adm. Code.

ATV/UTV Trails

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

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

Boat Enforcement Patrol

Eligibility & Purpose: This grant is issued to Wisconsin counties or municipalities that participate in boating enforcement efforts. Eligible agencies may receive law enforcement aids for up to 75% of their net costs.

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program

The purpose of BIG is to construct, renovate, and maintain boating infrastructure facilities for transient recreational vessels at least 26 feet long.

Tier 1 - State

Provides up to \$200,000 per year to each state. Projects are competitively ranked within the state.

Tier 2 - National

Provides up to \$1,500,000 per project. Projects are competitively ranked at the national level.

Natural Areas [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

Stewardship natural area grants complement the State Natural Areas (SNA) Program, dedicated to the preservation of Wisconsin's native natural communities and habitat for rare plant and animal species.

Land purchased with natural area grants must be open to the public for low-impact nature-based recreation and scientific study. Natural areas are not intended for intensive recreational use such as mountain biking, motorized vehicle use, horseback riding or camping.

Habitat Areas [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

Habitat area grants are awarded to conserve wildlife habitat in Wisconsin in order to expand opportunities for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, trapping, hiking, bird watching, fishing, nature appreciation and wildlife viewing.

Land purchased with habitat area grants must be open to the public for low-impact nature-based recreation. Habitat areas are not intended for intensive recreational use such as mountain biking, motorized vehicle use, horseback riding or camping.

Stream Bank protection [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

Streambank protection grants are awarded to protect water quality and fish habitat.

Priority is given to land or easement purchases along designated Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters, projects that connect sections of protected stream corridor, and projects that will mitigate the impact of agricultural runoff.

State trails [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

State trail grants are awarded to purchase lands or easements identified as part of the State Trail system including designated State Water Trails. Priority is given to lands along nationally designated Ice Age and North Country trail corridors and to lands that connect established trail systems.

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – State Program

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

Motorized Stewardship Grants [Stewardship]

ATV/UTV grants are available to counties, towns, cities, villages and tribes to apply for funds to acquire, insure, develop and maintain ATV/UTV trails, areas and routes.

Snowmobile trail grants are available to counties and tribes to apply for funding to provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment.

Match Requirement: 20 percent

Recreational Boating Facilities Grants [Stewardship]

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

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

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

This is a federal program administered in all states. Municipal governments and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed for up to 50% of eligible project costs. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with funds from the state snowmobile or ATV grant programs and Knowles-Nelson Stewardship development projects.

Shooting Range Grant Program

Counties, cities, villages, townships, other governmental agencies or units, clubs or organizations, businesses or corporations and educational institutions can apply for assistance in outdoor shooting range construction, including backstops and berms, target holders, shooting benches, baffles, protective fencing, signs, trenches, gun racks, platforms, restrooms and other items considered essential for the project by the department. Indoor ranges may be eligible as well, including classroom, storage and restroom facilities.

Snowmobile Patrols

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

Snowmobile Trail Aids

These grants are used to reimburse the over 600 snowmobile clubs in Wisconsin for some of their expenses.

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

Sport Fish Restoration (SFR)

These grants may be used to construct fishing piers and motorboat access projects. Eligible components include boat ramp construction and renovation, along with related amenities such as parking lots, accessible paths, lighting, and restroom facilities. Funding for this program comes from federal excise taxes on fishing equipment and a portion of the federal gas tax.

Surface Water Grants

[Formerly: Lake Management Planning and Lake Classification and Lake Protection Grants.]

The surface water grant program provides cost-sharing grants for surface water protection and restoration. Funding is available for education, ecological assessments, planning, implementation, and aquatic invasive species prevention and control. With many different projects eligible for grant funding, you can support surface water management at any stage: from organization capacity development to project implementation.

Urban Green Space [Stewardship]

The intent of the Urban Green Space Program (UGS) is to provide open natural space within or in proximity to urban areas; to protect from development areas within or in proximity to urban areas that have scenic, ecological or other natural value; and to provide land for non-commercial gardening for the residents of an urbanized area.

Urban Rivers [Stewardship]

The urban rivers subprogram program aims to restore or preserve the character of urban riverways through the acquisition or development of land adjacent to rivers. Purposes of the program include supporting economic revitalization through the restoration or preservation of urban riverfronts and improving outdoor recreational opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers.

Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs

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

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Purpose: The Transportation Alternatives Program allocates federal funds to transportation improvement projects that “expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life, and protect the environment.”

TAP is a legislative program authorized by Congress through the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act signed into law in 2015. Safe Routes to School Programs, Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities programs, and transportation enhancements are all TAP-eligible projects, including this plan. WisDOT facilitates TAP program and funding management

Construction projects eligible for TAP must have a total projected expense of \$300,000 or more, while non-construction projects must have a total projected expense in excess of \$50,000.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

[A Transportation Alternatives Program]

Purpose: Safe Routes to School programs encourage children in grades K-8 to walk and bike to school by creating safer walking and biking routes. Projects must be within 2 miles of a school that has a SRTS plan, and funding requires a 20% match.

Local Transportation Enhancements (TE)

[A Transportation Alternatives Program]

Purpose: Funds projects to increase multi-modal transportation alternatives and enhance communities and the environment. Projects include bicycle or pedestrian facilities, landscaping or streetscaping, and the preservation of historic transportation structures.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program (BFPF)

[A Transportation Alternatives Program]

Purpose: Funds projects that construct or plan for bicycle or bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

While HSIP does not pertain to bicycle and pedestrian transportation, this WisDOT program can help improve safety measures on problematic stretches of highway where crashes have occurred in the past, thereby creating a safer and more hospitable transportation network. HSIP improvements generally require a ten percent match of

state or local funds. The program generally funds low-cost options that can be implemented quickly.

Federal Assistance Programs

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

Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) – National Park Service

Purpose: The Challenge Cost Share Program supports local projects that promote conservation and recreation, environmental stewardship, education and engaging diverse youth participants. Local project partners work with National Park Service parks and programs to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. NPS administered parks and programs are eligible such as National Trails, Heritage Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.,

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

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

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

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program – National Park Service

Purpose: The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. The national network of conservation and recreation planning professionals partner with community groups, nonprofits, tribes, and state and local governments to design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreation opportunities.

Attachment D

Outdoor Recreation Online Survey Results

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Lincoln County, 2021 ORP Survey

Response Summary

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Insights

TOTAL RESPONSES

165

COMPLETION RATE

90%

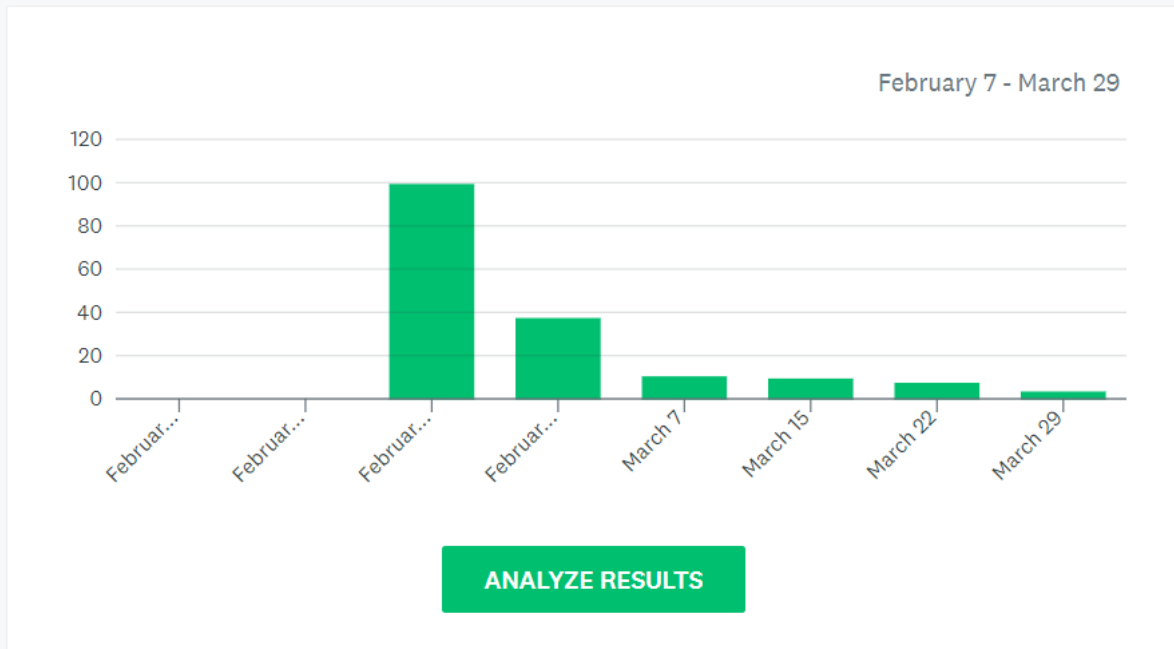


TYPICAL TIME SPENT

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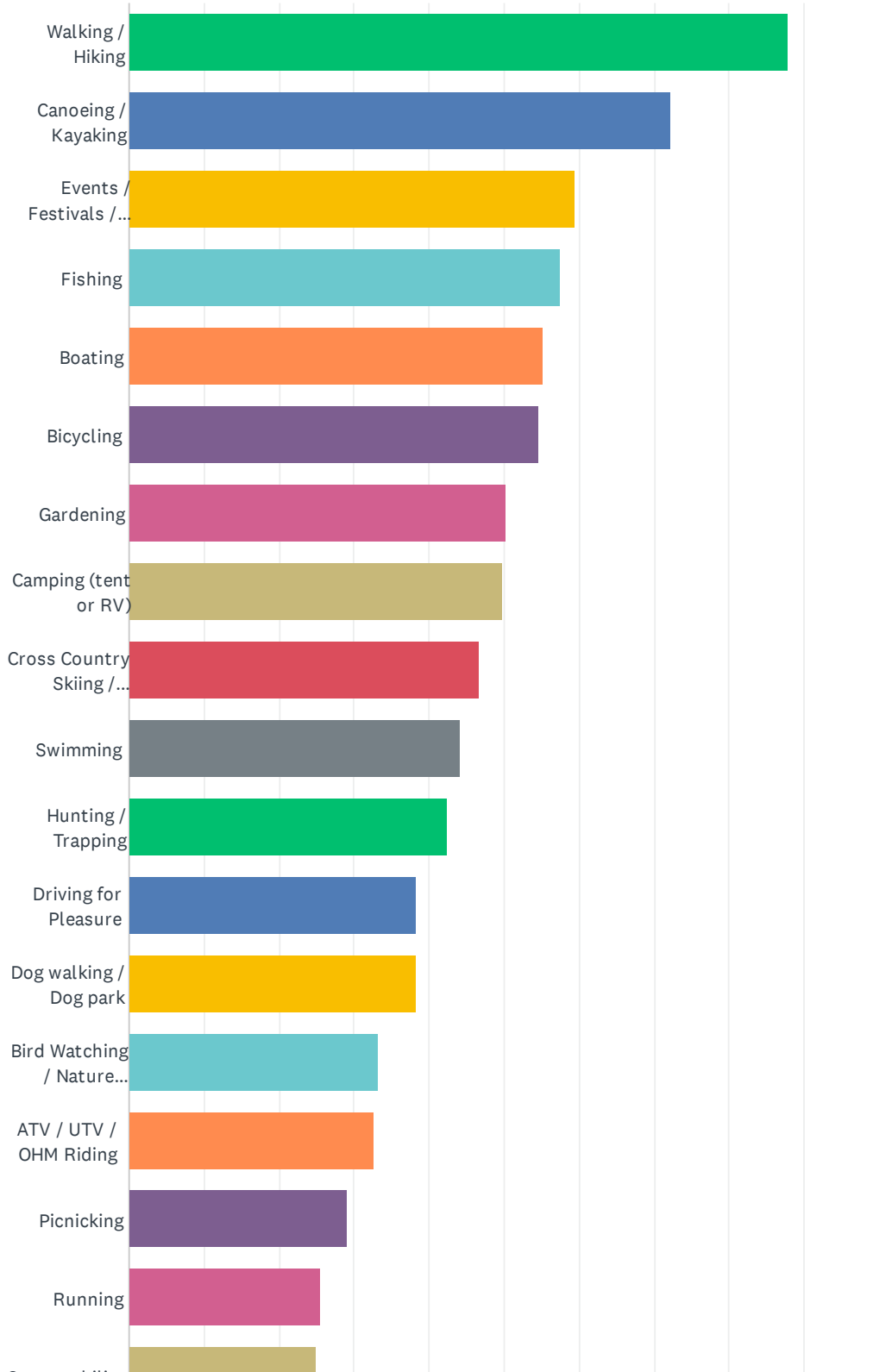


Responses Volume

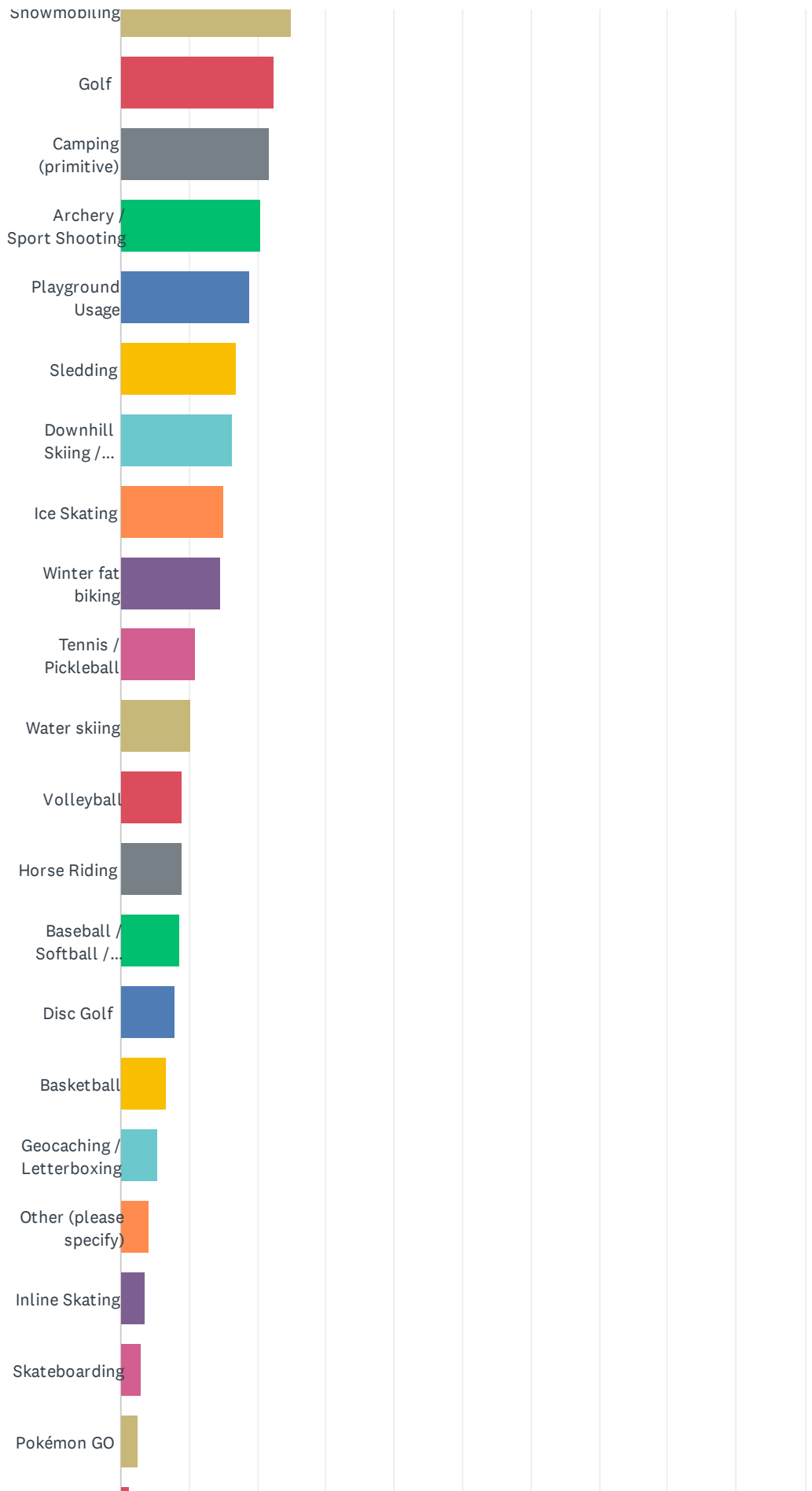


Q1 2020 was not a regular year...Normally, in an average year, which outdoor recreational activities do you participate in? (Choose all that apply.)

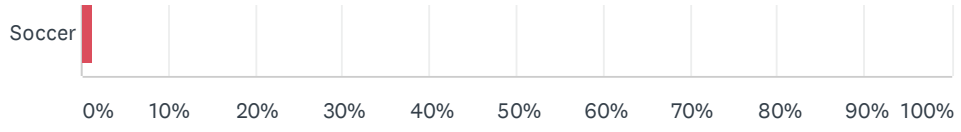
Answered: 165 Skipped: 0



Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey



Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey



Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking / Hiking	87.88%	145
Canoeing / Kayaking	72.12%	119
Events / Festivals / Fairs	59.39%	98
Fishing	57.58%	95
Boating	55.15%	91
Bicycling	54.55%	90
Gardening	50.30%	83
Camping (tent or RV)	49.70%	82
Cross Country Skiing / Snowshoeing	46.67%	77
Swimming	44.24%	73
Hunting / Trapping	42.42%	70
Driving for Pleasure	38.18%	63
Dog walking / Dog park	38.18%	63
Bird Watching / Nature Viewing	33.33%	55
ATV / UTV / OHM Riding	32.73%	54
Picnicking	29.09%	48
Running	25.45%	42
Snowmobiling	24.85%	41
Golf	22.42%	37
Camping (primitive)	21.82%	36
Archery / Sport Shooting	20.61%	34
Playground Usage	18.79%	31
Sledding	16.97%	28
Downhill Skiing / Snowboarding	16.36%	27
Ice Skating	15.15%	25
Winter fat biking	14.55%	24
Tennis / Pickleball	10.91%	18
Water skiing	10.30%	17
Volleyball	9.09%	15
Horse Riding	9.09%	15
Baseball / Softball / T-ball	8.48%	14
Disc Golf	7.88%	13

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Basketball	6.67%	11
Geocaching / Letterboxing	5.45%	9
Other (please specify)	4.24%	7
Inline Skating	3.64%	6
Skateboarding	3.03%	5
Pokémon GO	2.42%	4
Soccer	1.21%	2
Total Respondents: 165		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Gravel biking/bikepacking	3/19/2021 11:25 PM
2	rollerkskiing	3/1/2021 9:55 PM
3	Mountain Biking	3/1/2021 4:10 PM
4	Harvesting	3/1/2021 10:19 AM
5	Wondering why bicycling is 2nd last listed, almost couldn't find it; photography	2/25/2021 10:30 PM
6	Dogsledding/ racing and skijoring	2/25/2021 7:44 AM
7	Snowshoeing	2/25/2021 7:43 AM

Q2 What potential outdoor recreational opportunities should be developed in Lincoln County?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 55

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
a.	100.00%	110
b.	53.64%	59
c.	29.09%	32

#	A.	DATE
1	Continue working on connection of ATV/UTV trails	3/31/2021 7:24 PM
2	snowmobiling	3/31/2021 3:52 PM
3	Kayak/canoe drop off/pick up, listed public access points, rentals	3/25/2021 4:00 PM
4	Kayak launches along all rivers with parking and portapotties	3/24/2021 7:26 PM
5	More tourism	3/23/2021 7:58 PM
6	More ATV trails	3/22/2021 5:34 PM
7	Bike trails	3/22/2021 11:25 AM
8	Long paved bike trails	3/21/2021 2:49 PM
9	Mountain biking	3/19/2021 11:25 PM
10	More Walking Trails	3/18/2021 9:22 AM
11	Adult pool. Current one is too small for adults	3/15/2021 6:19 PM
12	More cross country ski trails	3/11/2021 8:55 PM
13	Cross country skiing	3/11/2021 8:23 AM
14	increase atv/utv connecting and primary trails	3/11/2021 8:07 AM
15	Paved bike trails	3/10/2021 5:14 PM
16	More areas without motorized traffic. Handicap accessible.	3/9/2021 3:54 PM
17	camp10 ski area	3/9/2021 8:18 AM
18	Senior activities to improve health	3/8/2021 1:41 PM
19	bike trails- not mountain bike- but improvements to ones like the Hiawatha	3/8/2021 12:18 PM
20	f	3/5/2021 9:07 AM
21	Biking trails (winter, single track, beginner trails)	3/4/2021 5:04 PM
22	More marked trails for hiking and snowshoeing	3/3/2021 1:46 PM
23	Camping	3/3/2021 8:27 AM
24	more bike & hiking trails	3/2/2021 3:12 PM
25	more walking/hiking trails and bike trails	3/2/2021 10:21 AM
26	Connectivity to Wausau bike trails	3/1/2021 9:55 PM
27	more ATV trails closer to Tomahawk	3/1/2021 7:57 PM

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

28	More hiking trails	3/1/2021 6:45 PM
29	Jeep Trails	3/1/2021 6:44 PM
30	More river walks	3/1/2021 6:23 PM
31	Additional hiking trails	3/1/2021 5:54 PM
32	Hiking and biking trails	3/1/2021 4:40 PM
33	Mountain Biking	3/1/2021 4:10 PM
34	Promote, maintain, create non-motorized trails	3/1/2021 3:53 PM
35	More bike trails	3/1/2021 3:20 PM
36	Increased and continued mountain biking opportunities	3/1/2021 2:17 PM
37	More mountain bike trails	3/1/2021 1:52 PM
38	Camp grounds including RV	3/1/2021 1:42 PM
39	Bike Trails	3/1/2021 1:37 PM
40	Atv trails in Newwood	3/1/2021 11:10 AM
41	atv trail system	3/1/2021 7:29 AM
42	ATV trails, not on roads but real trails	2/27/2021 10:51 PM
43	Mountain bike trails	2/27/2021 11:30 AM
44	More ATV trails	2/27/2021 10:45 AM
45	Survival schools	2/26/2021 7:24 PM
46	Hiking	2/26/2021 5:10 PM
47	Ice Age Trail group hikes	2/26/2021 4:26 PM
48	The only time I've been in Lincoln County was to hike the Ice Age Trail.	2/26/2021 1:53 PM
49	Keep and supporttge Ice Age Trail	2/26/2021 12:01 PM
50	Small game hunting	2/26/2021 11:34 AM
51	Ice Age Trail improvement and extension, parking areas	2/26/2021 10:49 AM
52	Events etc..	2/26/2021 9:36 AM
53	Multi use scenic trail along Hwy 107	2/26/2021 7:36 AM
54	disc golf	2/26/2021 7:09 AM
55	Lincoln county could use some Bike trails.	2/25/2021 11:03 PM
56	Mountain biking	2/25/2021 10:30 PM
57	More hiking trails	2/25/2021 8:39 PM
58	More MTB /fat tire trails	2/25/2021 8:27 PM
59	Connecting the Ice Age Trail the rest of the way!	2/25/2021 8:19 PM
60	Dog park	2/25/2021 7:45 PM
61	Better access to the Ice Age Trail	2/25/2021 7:29 PM
62	Continued trail (IAT) instead of roads	2/25/2021 7:28 PM
63	Purchasing land to finish the Ice Age Trail.	2/25/2021 6:53 PM
64	Keep the hiking trails for hiking & silent sports.	2/25/2021 5:38 PM
65	Camping	2/25/2021 4:39 PM

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

66	biking trails that connect to the River Bend Trail	2/25/2021 1:49 PM
67	Better pathways for the Ice Age Trail	2/25/2021 10:24 AM
68	None	2/25/2021 10:23 AM
69	Disc golf- more in the woods	2/25/2021 8:07 AM
70	developed nature trails	2/25/2021 8:02 AM
71	Parks	2/25/2021 8:00 AM
72	skate ski groomed trails alongside classic tracks.	2/25/2021 7:44 AM
73	Snowshoe trails	2/25/2021 7:43 AM
74	mountain biking	2/25/2021 7:31 AM
75	Kick sledding (no dog version)	2/25/2021 6:58 AM
76	Answers above	2/25/2021 6:16 AM
77	Bicycle lanes - road biking is dangerous here	2/25/2021 5:45 AM
78	more walking trails	2/25/2021 5:23 AM
79	Mountain biking	2/24/2021 10:15 PM
80	Horseback trails	2/24/2021 9:25 PM
81	More mountain biking	2/24/2021 9:09 PM
82	More silent sport trails	2/24/2021 8:37 PM
83	More bike trails	2/24/2021 8:18 PM
84	Fun run events	2/24/2021 8:05 PM
85	Mountain biking	2/24/2021 7:42 PM
86	Amateur tennis competition	2/24/2021 7:26 PM
87	Parks	2/24/2021 7:22 PM
88	Long bike trail	2/24/2021 7:21 PM
89	Paddle trails from Prairie Dells to Wausau	2/24/2021 7:12 PM
90	lights for the girls softball complex (Merrill)	2/24/2021 6:07 PM
91	More Trails for Hiking	2/24/2021 6:04 PM
92	More bike trails	2/24/2021 5:57 PM
93	An ATV Friendly Camp Ground	2/24/2021 4:58 PM
94	Cross country Ski trails in the far north part of the county	2/24/2021 4:57 PM
95	More public camping grounds	2/24/2021 4:13 PM
96	we're at what we can afford now	2/24/2021 3:56 PM
97	Rock climbing	2/24/2021 3:54 PM
98	A modern campground with shower and electric hook ups	2/24/2021 3:42 PM
99	Public swim area	2/24/2021 3:33 PM
100	Regional Bike/Hike trail going from Marathon Co to Oneida Co.	2/24/2021 3:24 PM
101	River rafting	2/24/2021 3:08 PM
102	More public horse riding trails besides the under downs	2/24/2021 3:04 PM
103	more hiking trails	2/24/2021 2:58 PM

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

104	Foraging	2/24/2021 2:58 PM
105	Bike trails	2/24/2021 2:37 PM
106	More trails for walking	2/24/2021 12:49 PM
107	Campground with water toys	2/24/2021 12:41 PM
108	Snowmobiling	2/24/2021 12:36 PM
109	Hiking	2/24/2021 12:22 PM
110	Expand River Bend bike trail.	2/24/2021 12:11 PM
#	B.	DATE
1	camping	3/31/2021 3:52 PM
2	More RV camping sites	3/25/2021 4:00 PM
3	Better grooming on the XC trails at the underdown	3/24/2021 7:26 PM
4	More Snowmobile trails	3/22/2021 5:34 PM
5	UTV/ATV trails	3/22/2021 11:25 AM
6	pickleball courts	3/21/2021 2:49 PM
7	Bike trail Merrill to Tomahawk	3/19/2021 11:25 PM
8	Park Tour for Families to visit parks throughout the county	3/18/2021 9:22 AM
9	construct dedicated pickleball courts or dome similar to Rhinelander	3/11/2021 8:07 AM
10	Wildlife viewing. Handicap accessible.	3/9/2021 3:54 PM
11	Scenic walking paths along waterways	3/8/2021 1:41 PM
12	marked snowshoeing trails	3/8/2021 12:18 PM
13	Hiking	3/4/2021 5:04 PM
14	More bike trails	3/3/2021 1:46 PM
15	Playgrounds for Handicap	3/3/2021 8:27 AM
16	better public boat landings on Lake Alice	3/1/2021 7:57 PM
17	Campgrounds	3/1/2021 6:44 PM
18	Ice age trail promoted more	3/1/2021 6:23 PM
19	Cross country ski and snowshoe trails	3/1/2021 4:40 PM
20	Trail Running	3/1/2021 4:10 PM
21	More snowshoeing trails	3/1/2021 3:20 PM
22	Increased and continued winter biking	3/1/2021 2:17 PM
23	Cross and snowshoe trails	3/1/2021 1:42 PM
24	Playgrounds	3/1/2021 1:37 PM
25	Skate skiing at Underdown	3/1/2021 11:10 AM
26	Better public boat launching especially on smaller lakes	2/27/2021 10:51 PM
27	Fat bike trails	2/27/2021 11:30 AM
28	You could promote the trail more.	2/26/2021 1:53 PM
29	Trail systems (walking and atv)	2/26/2021 9:36 AM
30	Add some more county parks. Lincoln is a beautiful county.	2/25/2021 11:03 PM

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

31	Gravel biking	2/25/2021 10:30 PM
32	Better parking lot access for ice age trail segments	2/25/2021 8:39 PM
33	Ice age trail	2/25/2021 7:45 PM
34	Nature trails	2/25/2021 4:39 PM
35	Places that are great for Kayaking	2/25/2021 1:49 PM
36	Concessions at Council Grounds during beach hours	2/25/2021 10:24 AM
37	update campgrounds/bathrooms	2/25/2021 8:02 AM
38	Playgrounds	2/25/2021 8:00 AM
39	Bike trails: fat tire, gravel, road shoulders	2/25/2021 7:43 AM
40	winter fat biking	2/25/2021 7:31 AM
41	Community Gardens	2/25/2021 6:58 AM
42	Snow show trails	2/25/2021 5:45 AM
43	splash pad for kids	2/25/2021 5:23 AM
44	Picnicking	2/24/2021 10:15 PM
45	More winter fatbiking	2/24/2021 9:09 PM
46	More fat biking	2/24/2021 8:18 PM
47	Winter fat biking	2/24/2021 7:42 PM
48	Hiking	2/24/2021 7:22 PM
49	Paddle trail from Newwood Park to Bill Cross	2/24/2021 7:12 PM
50	Paved Trails for longboarding/biking	2/24/2021 6:04 PM
51	Paved bicycle trail to connect to Vilas County Heart of the North trail via a connector through Oneida County.	2/24/2021 4:57 PM
52	Hiking trails aside from Underdowns and Ice Age Trail	2/24/2021 4:13 PM
53	Go kart racing	2/24/2021 3:54 PM
54	More hiking/walking trails	2/24/2021 3:33 PM
55	Public pool/manmade lake organized swimming area in Tomahawk	2/24/2021 3:08 PM
56	Atv/Utv	2/24/2021 12:41 PM
57	Boating	2/24/2021 12:36 PM
58	Snowshoeing	2/24/2021 12:22 PM
59	Kayak/Canoe Launches	2/24/2021 12:11 PM
#	C.	DATE
1	hiking	3/31/2021 3:52 PM
2	Bike trails, seperate or expanded along road ways, connecting to other cities	3/25/2021 4:00 PM
3	Paved bike trail along HWY 107 from council grounds to New Wood (and beyond!)	3/24/2021 7:26 PM
4	bird watching shelters	3/21/2021 2:49 PM
5	Bike trail Merrill to Wausau	3/19/2021 11:25 PM
6	Deep forest walking trails.	3/9/2021 3:54 PM
7	Nature areas	3/4/2021 5:04 PM
8	Better maps for what we already have	3/3/2021 1:46 PM

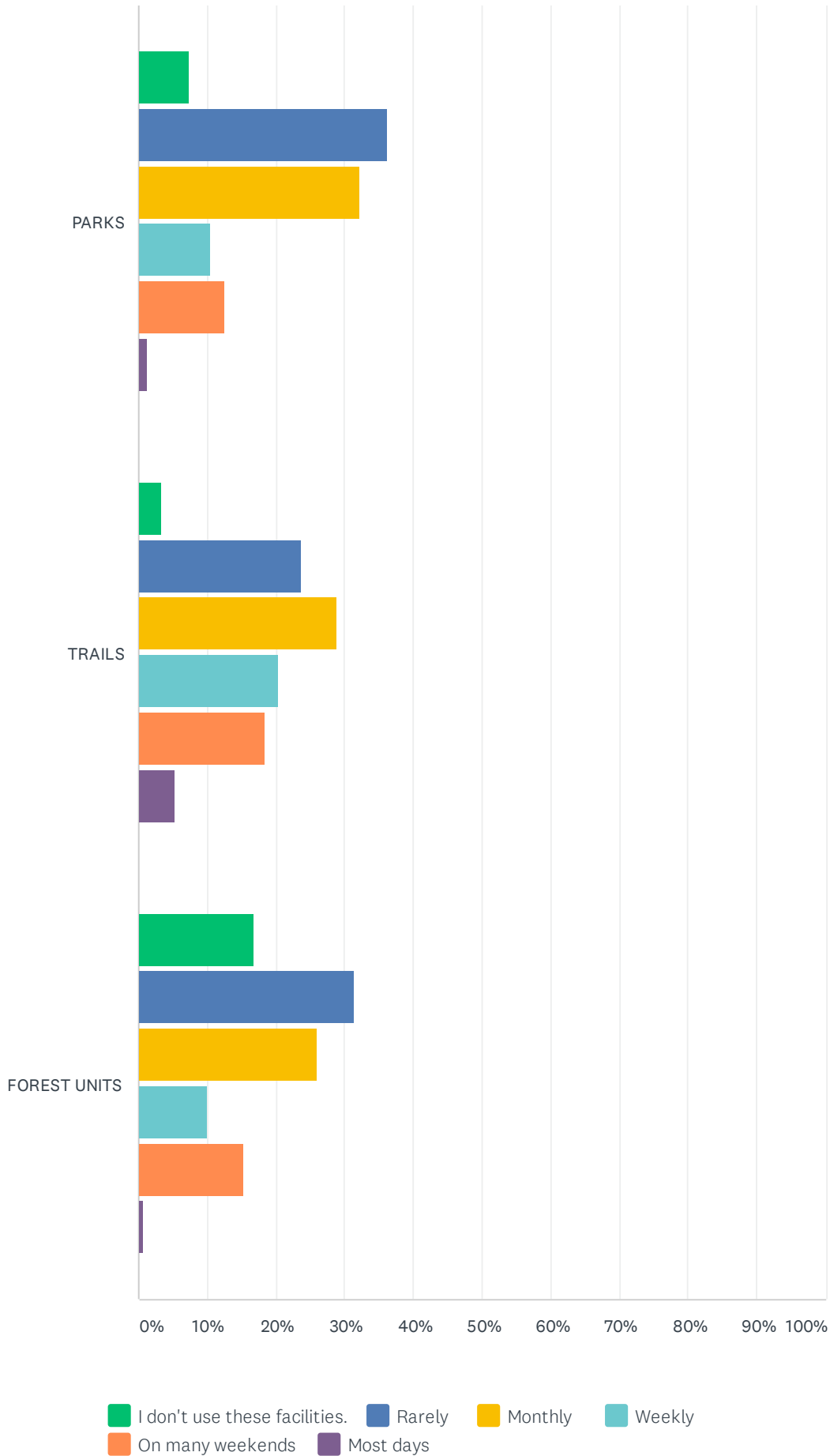
Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

9	Picnic areas	3/1/2021 6:44 PM
10	Hiking	3/1/2021 4:10 PM
11	Beaches	3/1/2021 1:37 PM
12	Drivable roads Into interior areas for hunters in Newwood	3/1/2021 11:10 AM
13	Shore fishing access	2/27/2021 10:51 PM
14	Primitive camping	2/27/2021 11:30 AM
15	Golf in the off season	2/26/2021 9:36 AM
16	Skate cross country skiing	2/25/2021 10:30 PM
17	Kayak/canoe launches	2/25/2021 4:39 PM
18	increase playground equipment	2/25/2021 8:02 AM
19	Hiking Trails	2/25/2021 8:00 AM
20	Kayak put in/take outs	2/25/2021 7:43 AM
21	Paved bicycle trails	2/25/2021 5:45 AM
22	another water park for kids the one at the Marc is normally packed	2/25/2021 5:23 AM
23	Camping	2/24/2021 10:15 PM
24	Kayak maps	2/24/2021 8:18 PM
25	Biking	2/24/2021 7:22 PM
26	Bike routes from Wausau to Merrill to Underdown	2/24/2021 7:12 PM
27	Some type of silent sports complex similar to what is offered at Nine Mile in Wausau, or WinMan in Vilas County, or Washburn in Oneida County.	2/24/2021 4:57 PM
28	Mini golf	2/24/2021 3:54 PM
29	Trampoline park	2/24/2021 12:41 PM
30	Camping	2/24/2021 12:36 PM
31	Biking trails	2/24/2021 12:22 PM
32	Zip line	2/24/2021 12:11 PM

Q3 In a normal year, how often do you use Lincoln County managed parks, trails, or forests for outdoor recreation?

Answered: 155 Skipped: 10

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

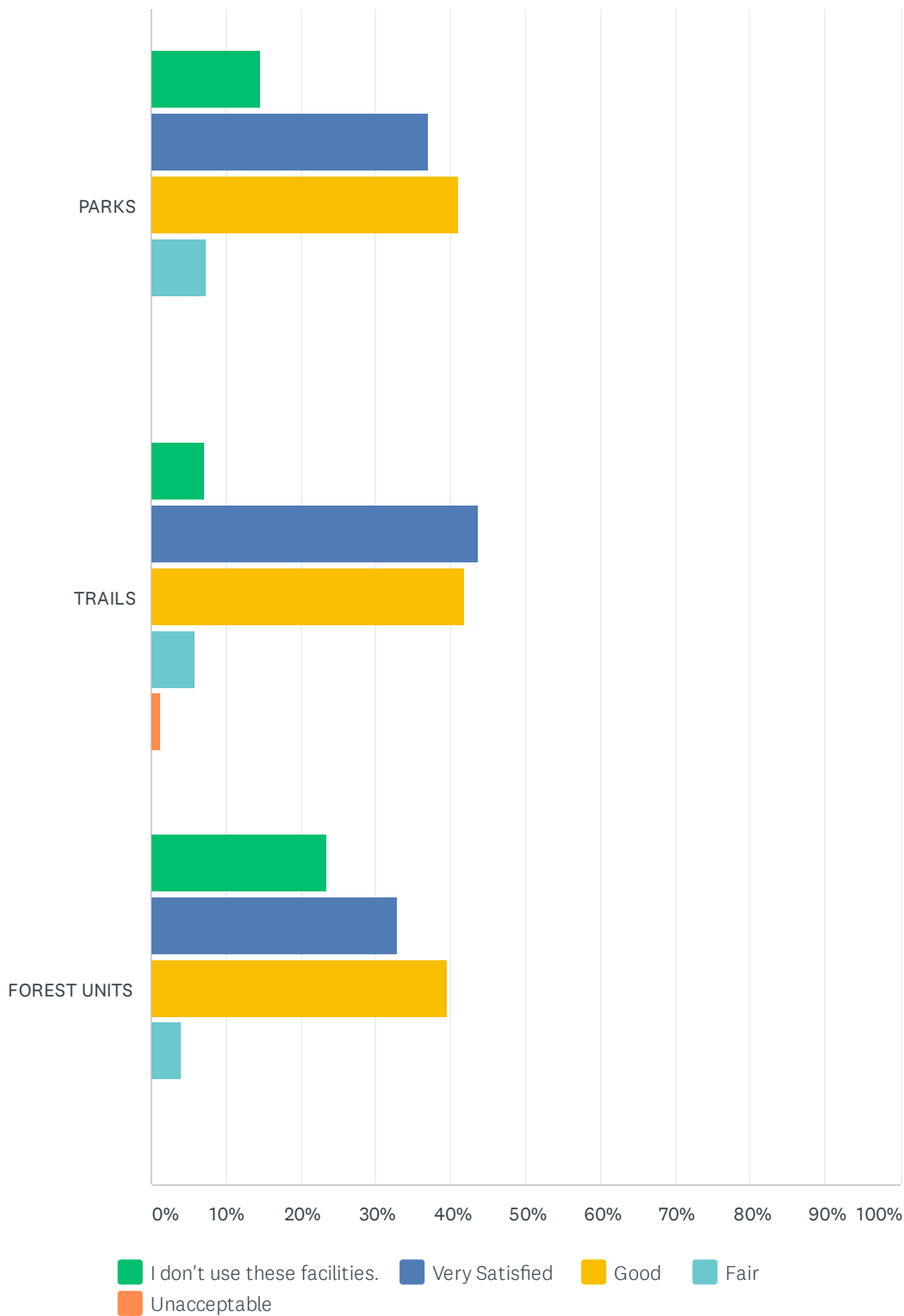


Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

	I DON'T USE THESE FACILITIES.	RARELY	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	ON MANY WEEKENDS	MOST DAYS	TOTAL
PARKS	7.24% 11	36.18% 55	32.24% 49	10.53% 16	12.50% 19	1.32% 2	152
TRAILS	3.29% 5	23.68% 36	28.95% 44	20.39% 31	18.42% 28	5.26% 8	152
FOREST UNITS	16.67% 25	31.33% 47	26.00% 39	10.00% 15	15.33% 23	0.67% 1	150

Q4 What is your overall satisfaction with the conditions of the Lincoln County managed facilities you normally visit?

Answered: 154 Skipped: 11

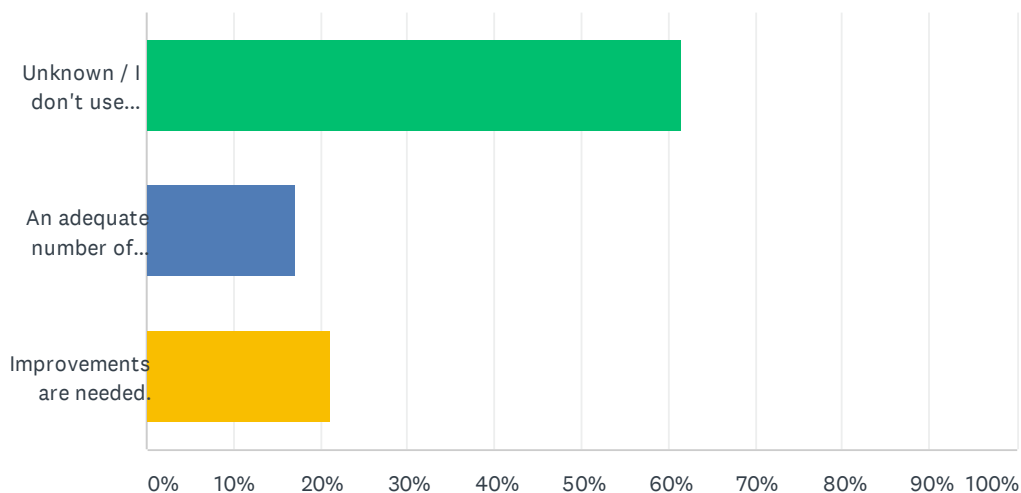


Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

	I DON'T USE THESE FACILITIES.	VERY SATISFIED	GOOD	FAIR	UNACCEPTABLE	TOTAL
PARKS	14.57% 22	37.09% 56	41.06% 62	7.28% 11	0.00% 0	151
TRAILS	7.19% 11	43.79% 67	41.83% 64	5.88% 9	1.31% 2	153
FOREST UNITS	23.49% 35	32.89% 49	39.60% 59	4.03% 6	0.00% 0	149

Q5 Regarding Lincoln County managed campgrounds, do you think that... (Choose one.)

Answered: 151 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Unknown / I don't use County campgrounds.	61.59%	93
An adequate number of campground facilities exist, and they are in good condition.	17.22%	26
Improvements are needed.	21.19%	32
TOTAL		151

Q6 What improvements are needed at Lincoln County managed campgrounds?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 124

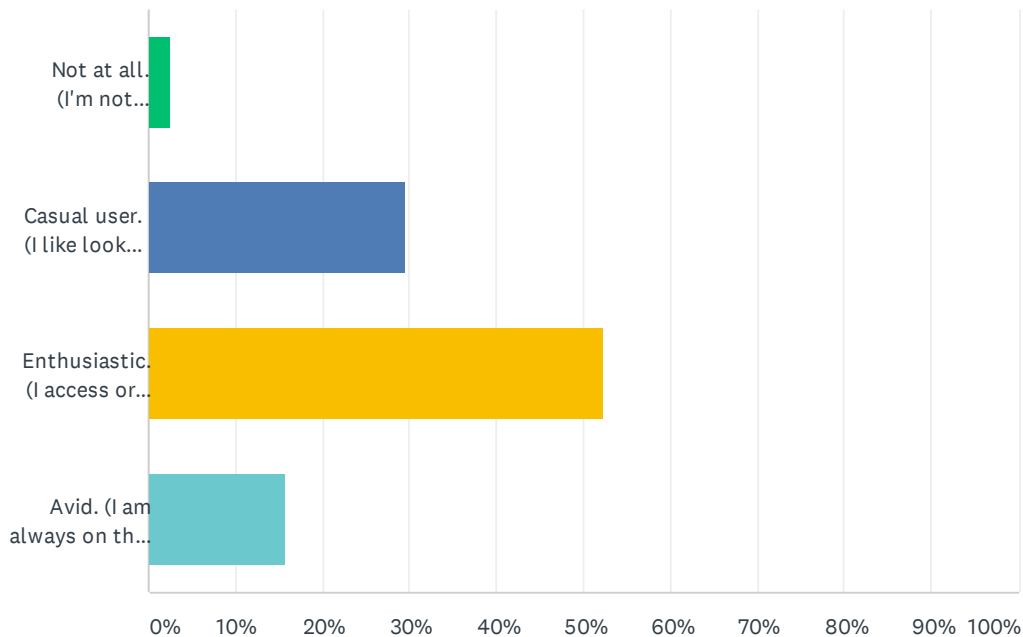
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	More campgrounds with access to river/lake. Advertise them better. Value and work with clubs that are helping to make them better.	3/25/2021 4:03 PM
2	Need more amenities and better facilities	3/24/2021 7:28 PM
3	More	3/21/2021 2:51 PM
4	More options. Also L.C. could be a tourist destination if there were more campsites, leading to cabins.	3/19/2021 11:28 PM
5	Could use larger sites with water/electric for rv use.	3/9/2021 3:58 PM
6	Improved toilet facilities at new wood campground	3/3/2021 7:47 PM
7	More campground areas, all areas of Lincoln County	3/3/2021 8:28 AM
8	More information on where these are to answer better.	3/2/2021 3:14 PM
9	le otter lake could use some maintenance	3/1/2021 6:46 PM
10	More outlined sites and more campsites all together	3/1/2021 6:25 PM
11	Otter lake has become less than desired due to people treating it as party ground for drugs and alcohol not family friendly. Development of the underdown has been great but wish more effort was in place to help Bradley park in tomahawk	3/1/2021 4:13 PM
12	More sites and possibly power would be nice	3/1/2021 1:45 PM
13	Could use more campsites because of expanded public use in this area.	3/1/2021 11:13 AM
14	Didn't know there were any	2/27/2021 10:53 PM
15	Need more of them. They always seem crowded. Maybe have designated times/dates when county residents can use them as a test. If they don't do well then re-open to everyone.	2/26/2021 7:26 PM
16	Showers	2/26/2021 11:35 AM
17	More campgrounds with water and toilets	2/26/2021 7:38 AM
18	Get the word out that there are outdoor activities in Lincoln County.	2/25/2021 11:04 PM
19	More of them. Also on the question two previous that was a terrible choice. you have four choices of almost never but then it's weekly, weekend or every day? Many of us go 2-3 times per week. No option.	2/25/2021 10:35 PM
20	Upgrade/new restroom at Newwood	2/25/2021 12:37 PM
21	Additional sites could be added.	2/25/2021 10:26 AM
22	electrical sites	2/25/2021 10:25 AM
23	More sites and update bathrooms	2/25/2021 8:03 AM
24	N.A	2/25/2021 6:59 AM
25	Fresh drinking water accessibility	2/24/2021 10:16 PM
26	I went to bus lake campground via bikepacking and was put off by the amount of travel trailers that are just parked and left there as if they just keep them there as a "permanent" site. I feel that this dispersed camp site was made of people who come in by bike or foot. There are probably other sites that have this problem too	2/24/2021 8:22 PM

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

27	More remote campsites could be added on the Ice Age Trail and tent sites would be helpful at Underdown and Prairie Dells.	2/24/2021 7:14 PM
28	promotion	2/24/2021 6:07 PM
29	Dont use campgrounds	2/24/2021 6:04 PM
30	Spread out the sites, have them patrolled, enforce quiet hours, keep a volunteer campground host on site, improve trails, improve signage.	2/24/2021 5:00 PM
31	Patrolled by Sherriff dept.	2/24/2021 4:59 PM
32	Need more small campgrounds	2/24/2021 4:14 PM
33	Updates to facilities to provide more modern accomodations.	2/24/2021 3:55 PM
34	more modern sites	2/24/2021 3:44 PM
35	Council grounds needs to revamp their swimming area, almost no sand left.	2/24/2021 3:34 PM
36	Upgraded utilities and facilities	2/24/2021 2:59 PM
37	maintenance on the grounds.	2/24/2021 2:58 PM
38	Not enough facilities	2/24/2021 12:50 PM
39	Water, sewer hookups. Water toys.	2/24/2021 12:43 PM
40	Bathroom upgrades	2/24/2021 12:39 PM
41	Restrooms.	2/24/2021 12:13 PM

Q7 What type of water enthusiast are you?(Choose one.)

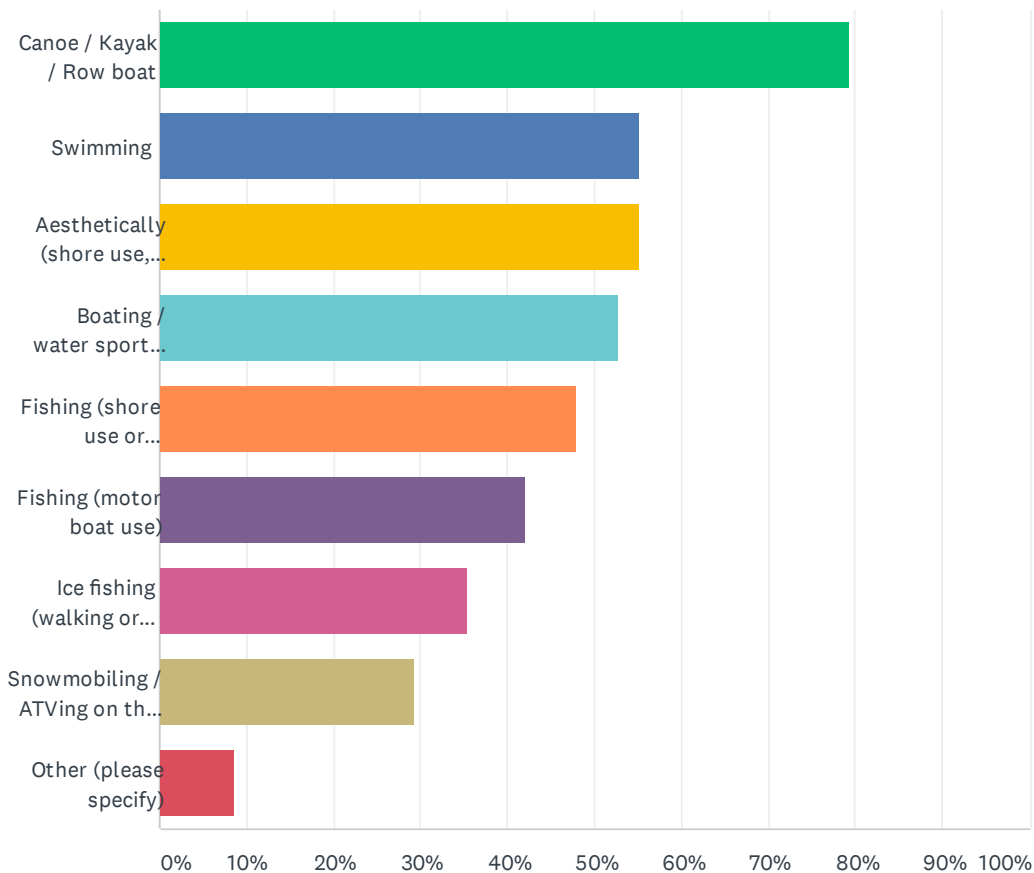
Answered: 153 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not at all. (I'm not interested in water recreation at all, not even with friends.)	2.61%	4
Casual user. (I like looking at or using the water, but only do so occasionally.)	29.41%	45
Enthusiastic. (I access or go on the water regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)	52.29%	80
Avid. (I am always on the water or ice every chance I get.)	15.69%	24
TOTAL		153

Q8 How do you use the water?(Choose all that apply.)

Answered: 150 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Canoe / Kayak / Row boat	79.33%	119
Swimming	55.33%	83
Aesthetically (shore use, walking or sitting along the water)	55.33%	83
Boating / water sport (motorized)	52.67%	79
Fishing (shore use or non-motorized winter use)	48.00%	72
Fishing (motor boat use)	42.00%	63
Ice fishing (walking or driving on ice; car, ATV, or snowmobile, etc.)	35.33%	53
Snowmobiling / ATVing on the ice, etc.	29.33%	44
Other (please specify)	8.67%	13
Total Respondents: 150		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Biking on ice	3/19/2021 11:31 PM
2	Bird and wildlife watching.	3/9/2021 4:07 PM

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

3	Wildlife viewing/monitoring	3/1/2021 6:46 PM
4	I dont typically do water events	2/26/2021 7:27 PM
5	Fatbiking when it's frozen	2/25/2021 10:36 PM
6	Skating in the winter	2/25/2021 4:58 PM
7	Ice Skating	2/25/2021 8:01 AM
8	Fly fishing	2/24/2021 8:38 PM
9	Winter fat biking	2/24/2021 8:23 PM
10	Fat tire biking on lakes	2/24/2021 7:16 PM
11	Trapping	2/24/2021 5:00 PM
12	duck hunting	2/24/2021 3:58 PM
13	Ice skating on frozen Lakes	2/24/2021 3:06 PM

Q9 What public boat landings or water access improvements are needed in Lincoln County? (Please identify location and improvement needed at that site.)

Answered: 46 Skipped: 119

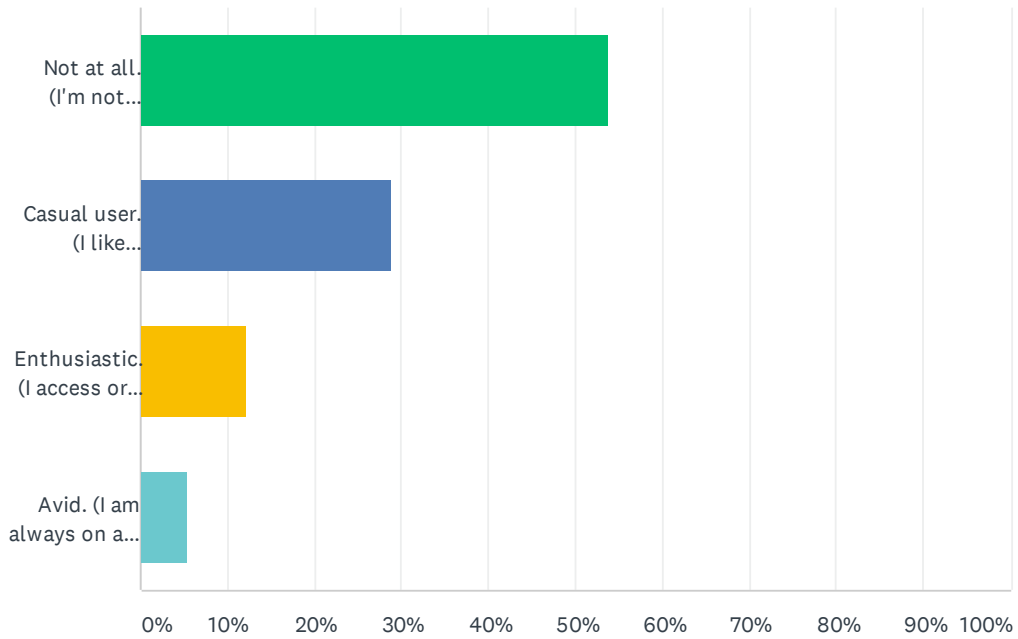
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Somo Lake only has private boat landing for boats, pontoons etc. that luckily has been available for use, but if that would change access to the lake would be cut off for a lot of people that live and vacation on the lake. Would be nice if the county could enter into an agreement or even purchase the landing.	3/31/2021 7:28 PM
2	?	3/31/2021 3:55 PM
3	More kayak/canoe access sites to rivers. Advertise public boat landings and access better. Best Kayak rivers, with ratings.	3/25/2021 4:05 PM
4	Kayak/canoe launches along the rivers!!!!!!!!!! Look at Ross Avenue on the Eau Claire River in Wausau. There a numerous perfect locations for public launches in Lincoln county and it's a shame we aren't taking advantage of that.	3/24/2021 7:31 PM
5	Launch needs repair off of Hwy E south of the E bridge in Rock Falls	3/22/2021 5:36 PM
6	waterfront camping sites	3/21/2021 2:53 PM
7	Sliver lake needs a new landing	3/11/2021 8:56 PM
8	All boat landings need to be supervised to prevent spread of aquatic invasive species. Need more and larger signs to raise awareness as well as ample cleaning stations.	3/11/2021 8:11 AM
9	Some of the launches on smaller lakes are in need of repair, such as Gerbick Lake. The fisheries on the smaller lakes can be improved. It appears that the lakes that have a heavy tourist presence are stocked and maintained, while smaller, less popular lakes are neglected.	3/9/2021 4:07 PM
10	More benches and picnic tables at boat launch sites.	3/8/2021 1:44 PM
11	areas to fish from shore would be great for the grandkids	3/8/2021 12:19 PM
12	Access to River from Sunset, is dangerous at times (summer/rocks winter/ice)	3/3/2021 8:30 AM
13	Lake Alice needs more landings and improvements at them - docks, parking, restrooms, garbage cans	3/1/2021 8:02 PM
14	More kayak access to water	3/1/2021 4:51 PM
15	Would love to rent a boat slip for a day or week instead of pulling the boat out after each use... a lift station would be awesome but a slip is good to.	3/1/2021 4:14 PM
16	Better landing at Camp Newood Better landing at Tug Lake	3/1/2021 3:23 PM
17	The boat landings I use they have improved and no complaints!!	3/1/2021 1:47 PM
18	Maintenance on existing sites.	3/1/2021 11:14 AM
19	Would be nice if there was a pier at one of the public boat landings on the Spirit Flowage.	3/1/2021 10:23 AM
20	we need more.	3/1/2021 7:31 AM
21	Better launch and parking on Nokomis	2/27/2021 10:59 PM
22	From what I have seen, there are quite a few and in pretty good shape for what they are used for. Some might need better parking areas	2/26/2021 7:27 PM
23	Don't typically use public boat landings. Have private access where I boat.	2/26/2021 3:13 PM

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

24	I haven't used water in Lincoln County.	2/26/2021 1:55 PM
25	Council grounds and public landings along highway 107	2/26/2021 9:38 AM
26	Probably a lot. Lincoln county is a tightly held secret and nobody seems to know about it.	2/25/2021 11:06 PM
27	It would be helpful to put signs up on lakes that are no wake lakes. There was a major issue with bigger boats ripping around on no wake lakes this past summer.	2/25/2021 4:58 PM
28	Upgrade existing access to Lake Alexander. It is difficult to find parking on busy days at Council Grounds because the other landings aren't sufficient for larger boats to launch.	2/25/2021 10:29 AM
29	Both Council Grounds and Lokemoen's are in need of improvements.	2/25/2021 10:29 AM
30	Better public access parking for Lake Alexander use. Council Grounds has limited number of stalls for parking vehicles with trailers. Need other landings with adequate parking for Lake Alexander.	2/25/2021 10:28 AM
31	Clear Lake in Tomahawk	2/25/2021 10:24 AM
32	better water access to Otter Lake	2/25/2021 8:05 AM
33	Kayak put in and take outs.	2/25/2021 7:46 AM
34	Parking on N (Lake Nokomis))	2/25/2021 5:47 AM
35	Primitive paddle trails in the Beaver Trail area of Harrison Hills	2/24/2021 7:16 PM
36	public awareness & promotion	2/24/2021 6:07 PM
37	More small piers at boat launches.	2/24/2021 5:59 PM
38	N/A	2/24/2021 4:14 PM
39	Landing at Ott's park is in poor condition, Riverside park could use	2/24/2021 3:56 PM
40	Boat landing across from council grounds beach.	2/24/2021 3:35 PM
41	Public beaches in Tomahawk are not maintained well - could be improved. The only kind of "nice" beach is Sara Park and the sand is still pretty terrible.	2/24/2021 3:10 PM
42	Public access to Lake Alexander that doesn't have such a steep grade.	2/24/2021 3:00 PM
43	updating signs.	2/24/2021 2:58 PM
44	Some of the smaller lakes have terrible landings that need some TLC. Some you can hardly get on or you can easily ruin your boat/trailer. Parking parking parking! Sometimes we like to just put canoes/kayaks in and with 1 or 2 vehicles with boat trailers there is nowhere even to park.	2/24/2021 12:53 PM
45	Fixing washouts at the landings due to power loading.	2/24/2021 12:40 PM
46	Kayak/Canoe launches at boat ramp sites.	2/24/2021 12:15 PM

Q10 What type of snowmobile enthusiast are you? (Choose one.)

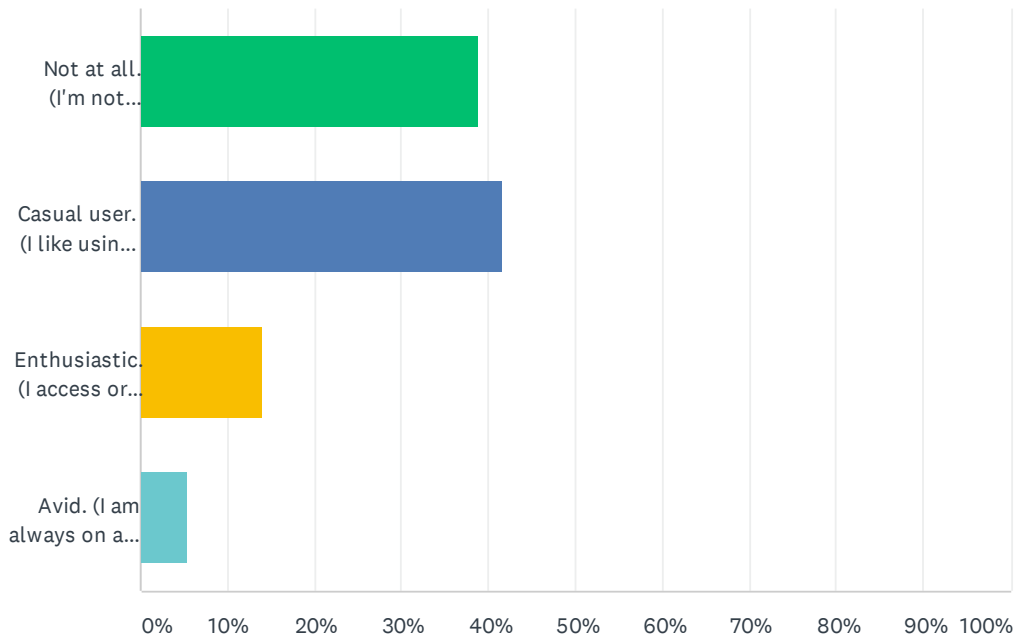
Answered: 149 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not at all. (I'm not interested in snowmobiling at all, not even with friends.)	53.69%	80
Casual user. (I like snowmobiling for fun, but only do so occasionally, OR only on my own land.)	28.86%	43
Enthusiastic. (I access or go on snowmobile routes and trails regularly.)	12.08%	18
Avid. (I am always on a snowmobile every chance I get - all season long.)	5.37%	8
TOTAL		149

Q11 What type of motorized vehicle (ATV/UTV/Off-Highway Motorcycle) enthusiast are you? (Choose one.)

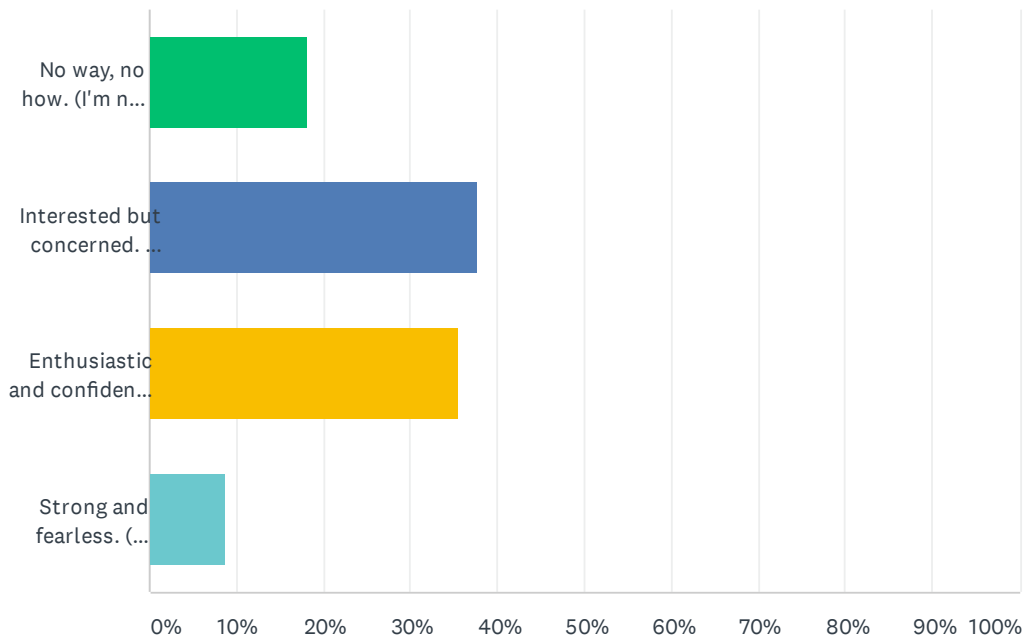
Answered: 149 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not at all. (I'm not interested in motorized recreation at all, not even for recreation.)	38.93%	58
Casual user. (I like using motorized vehicles for fun, but only do so occasionally, OR only on my own land.)	41.61%	62
Enthusiastic. (I access or go on motorized routes and trails regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)	14.09%	21
Avid. (I am always on a motorized vehicle every chance I get - all year long.)	5.37%	8
TOTAL		149

Q12 What type of bicyclist are you? (Choose one.)

Answered: 149 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No way, no how. (I'm not interested in biking at all, not even for recreation.)	18.12%	27
Interested but concerned. (I like riding, but don't do it regularly. I'm generally concerned that my route is not safe to ride, so I don't ride often. I definitely do not ride when the weather is bad.)	37.58%	56
Enthusiastic and confident. (I feel comfortable sharing the road with motor vehicles, but I prefer to ride on separate facilities like bike lanes. I may or may not ride in inclement weather.)	35.57%	53
Strong and fearless. (I am confident in my abilities and will ride regardless of roadway conditions, amount of traffic, or inclement weather.)	8.72%	13
TOTAL		149

Q13 (Optional) Do you have any other concerns or comments?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 131

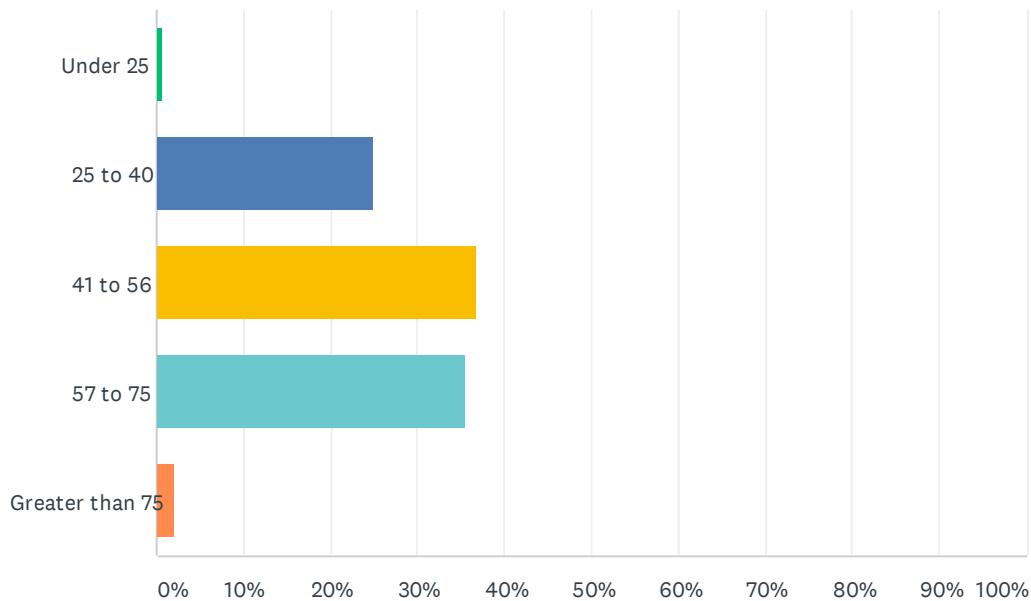
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	snowmobiling is my biggest passion, I think we need to do better on winter use of getting trails in areas that are not so wet and swampy that it takes so long to get them to freeze. Maybe it means the County cutting and bulldozing new areas around the wet spots on County land. Our season is to short and weather relative to getting trails open.	3/31/2021 4:02 PM
2	It would be great to have a paved shoulder on some popular county roads, especially those connecting to other counties trails, or in a loop that is advertised.	3/25/2021 4:09 PM
3	We need to develop more bike routes (not mountain bike)	3/24/2021 7:32 PM
4	Please expand paved bike designated trails like Vilas county	3/21/2021 2:55 PM
5	Bicyclists need to pay a user fee.	3/20/2021 5:33 PM
6	When you asked how often use county lands, the options were weekly, weekend, daily, but none fit me, my friends and others, who use them 2-3 times per week.	3/19/2021 11:34 PM
7	Deepest bike paths should be top priority for safety. I've had too many friends and acquaintances dead or severely injured by motorists.	3/19/2021 7:39 PM
8	Updated maps and a single site for information would be helpful	3/10/2021 7:38 AM
9	It seems that everywhere we go, there are UTV, ATV or some other motorized traffic. It would be nice to have areas that are quiet and not choked with gas fumes or drivers attempting to break the sound barrier. Personally, I believe that allowing these vehicles to travel the highway system is an unsafe and bad idea.	3/9/2021 4:15 PM
10	More & better bike paths & lanes	3/2/2021 3:15 PM
11	A lot of our recreational areas end up being dumping grounds for people who opt not to pay for refuse collection. It would be nice if this would be addressed.	3/1/2021 8:05 PM
12	More safe trails for bikes would be helpful	3/1/2021 4:52 PM
13	I love riding but motorists the further north you go are less and less likely to share the road. More trails like the Hiawatha-Bearskin would draw more users that feel comfortable.	3/1/2021 4:17 PM
14	Prefer non-motorized trails for biking. The shoulders on many roads are narrow and drivers often have little regard for bicyclists.	3/1/2021 3:56 PM
15	Bike trails off the road like up by Boulder Junction is nice especially with my grandchildren you don't have to worry about car traffic with the younger kids and they feel safer	3/1/2021 1:52 PM
16	Develop atv trails in Newwood.	3/1/2021 11:15 AM
17	Would love to use atvs on public trails but cant access from our property	2/27/2021 11:01 PM
18	The Underdown trails, and the Prairie Dells are hidden gems that should be taken care of and promoted.	2/27/2021 11:35 AM
19	Would like to see more bike paths. Especially since my kid is getting older. Too many bad drivers out there for him to ride like I did when I was young.	2/26/2021 7:28 PM
20	Are there bike trails for just regular bikers? I take my bike on vacations when there are good bike trails like the BuckSkin Trail.	2/26/2021 4:28 PM
21	Not aware of any roads where I feel safe biking. Typically bike in other countries if I am using trails.	2/26/2021 3:16 PM
22	12. is poor wording. Enjoy biking, just haven't done it in awhile.	2/26/2021 2:08 PM

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

23	I am opposed to ATV use on trails	2/26/2021 12:03 PM
24	I may be strong and fearless, but keeping us safe is a big concern. You are doing much better; more can be done. Not all are as fearless as me. Build more mountain bike trails. Put up a structure at Prairie Dells and people will come.	2/25/2021 10:41 PM
25	I would rate MTB biking very differently.	2/25/2021 8:32 PM
26	I would amend the bicycle question for myself. I'm interested but not concerned. I just don't find the time.	2/25/2021 10:31 AM
27	Mountain bike trails are Amazing!! Would be nice to have some help with storm damage (downed trees) or equipment maintenance used on the maintenance of these trails.	2/25/2021 7:49 AM
28	As I get older, my confidence in road safety is dwindling. If there is a paved shoulder, then I welcome the chance to ride.	2/25/2021 7:48 AM
29	Bike trails are the best	2/25/2021 6:19 AM
30	Poor shoulders for bicycling. Would like to toad ride more but there isn't enough space or a bike lane.	2/25/2021 5:49 AM
31	Make the area a weekend destination for mountain bike use.	2/24/2021 10:19 PM
32	More bicycle awareness campaigns. When county roads are repaved, bike lanes are important and much appreciated.	2/24/2021 8:09 PM
33	Our road is not paved so kids cannot ride bikes down the street safely.	2/24/2021 3:11 PM
34	No, but I am glad you are asking these questions.	2/24/2021 12:41 PM

Q14 What is your age?

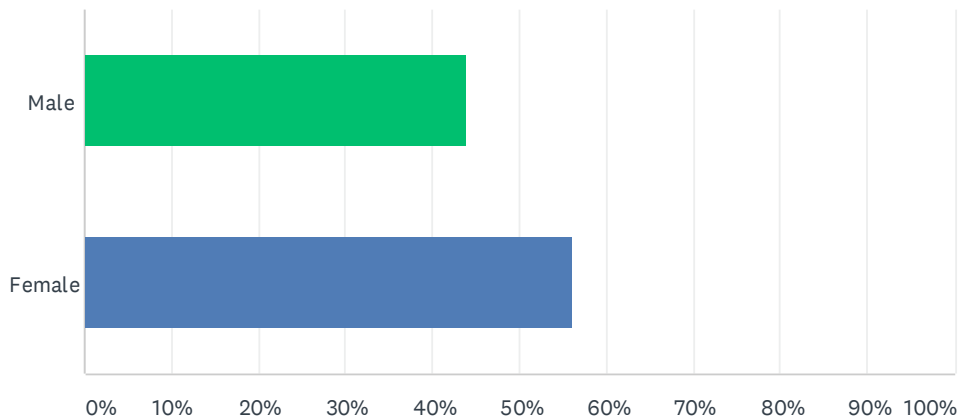
Answered: 149 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 25	0.67% 1
25 to 40	24.83% 37
41 to 56	36.91% 55
57 to 75	35.57% 53
Greater than 75	2.01% 3
TOTAL	149

Q15 What is your gender?

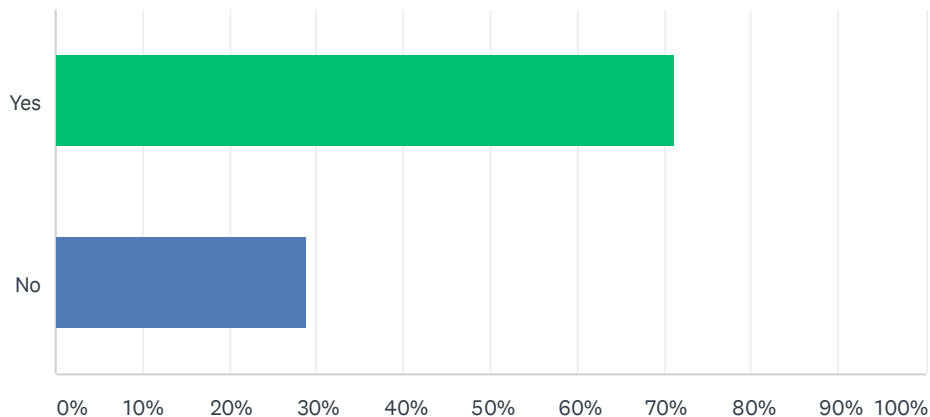
Answered: 148 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Male	43.92% 65
Female	56.08% 83
TOTAL	148

Q16 Do you live in or own a summer home in Lincoln County?

Answered: 149 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.14%	106
No	28.86%	43
TOTAL		149

#	IF NO, THEN PLEASE LIST YOUR HOME ZIP CODE:	DATE
1	54414	3/22/2021 8:24 PM
2	54487	3/11/2021 8:12 AM
3	54487	3/10/2021 5:16 PM
4	54487	3/1/2021 7:24 PM
5	54487	3/1/2021 7:33 AM
6	54435	2/27/2021 11:35 AM
7	54401	2/26/2021 5:12 PM
8	54701	2/26/2021 1:57 PM
9	54452	2/26/2021 1:37 PM
10	54494	2/26/2021 12:03 PM
11	54481	2/26/2021 10:50 AM
12	54451	2/26/2021 7:12 AM
13	53718	2/25/2021 8:23 PM
14	54401	2/25/2021 6:57 PM
15	54937	2/25/2021 4:41 PM
16	54452	2/25/2021 1:51 PM
17	54455	2/25/2021 11:18 AM
18	54501	2/25/2021 8:08 AM
19	54452	2/25/2021 8:06 AM

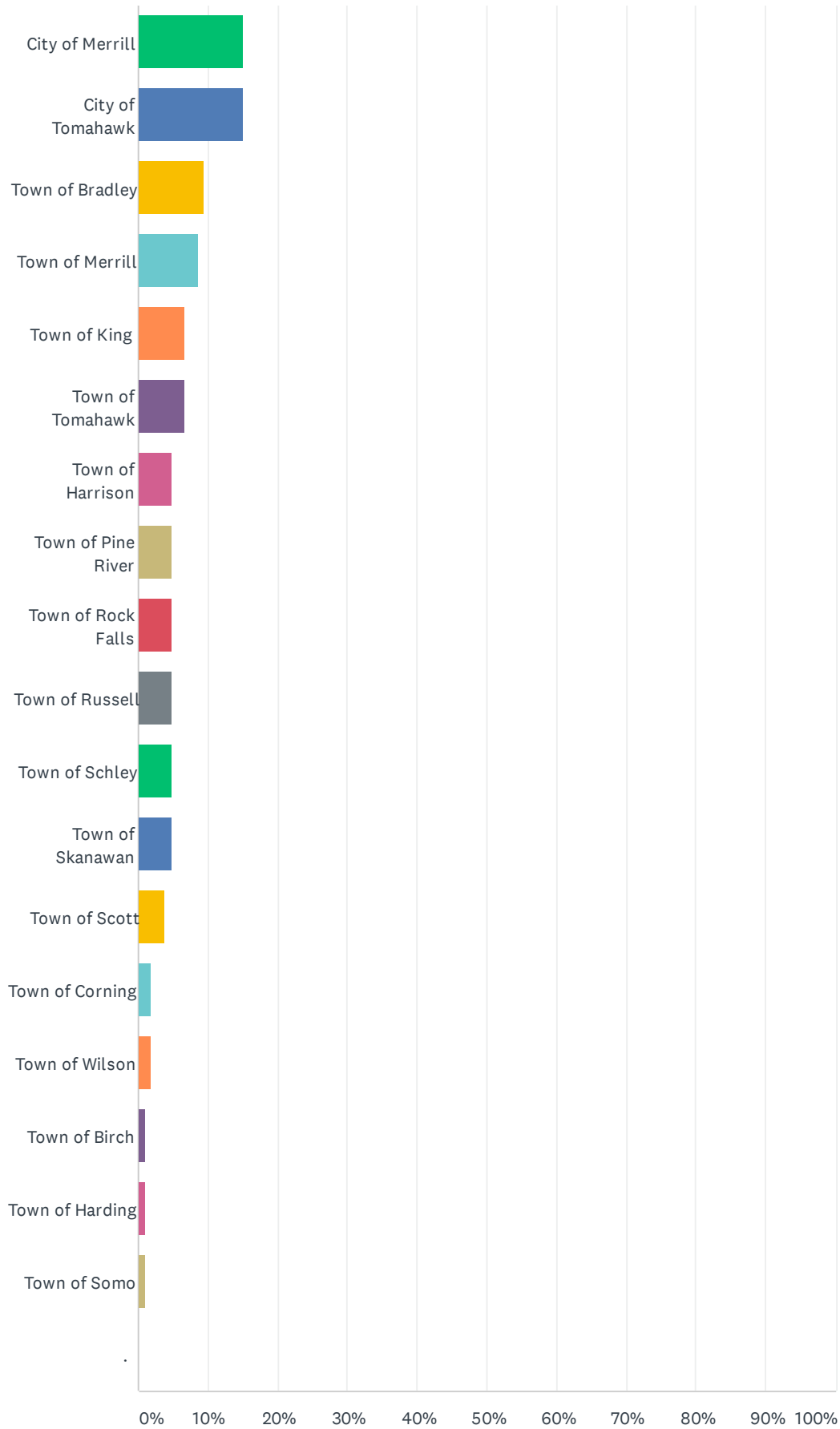
Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

20	54409	2/25/2021 7:32 AM
21	54475	2/24/2021 9:11 PM
22	54401	2/24/2021 8:38 PM
23	54452	2/24/2021 7:30 PM
24	54487	2/24/2021 6:30 PM
25	54411	2/24/2021 3:45 PM
26	54451	2/24/2021 3:27 PM
27	54442	2/24/2021 3:26 PM
28	54452	2/24/2021 3:09 PM

Q17 What municipality is your Lincoln County home or summer home located?

Answered: 106 Skipped: 59

Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey



Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City of Merrill	15.09%	16
City of Tomahawk	15.09%	16
Town of Bradley	9.43%	10
Town of Merrill	8.49%	9
Town of King	6.60%	7
Town of Tomahawk	6.60%	7
Town of Harrison	4.72%	5
Town of Pine River	4.72%	5
Town of Rock Falls	4.72%	5
Town of Russell	4.72%	5
Town of Schley	4.72%	5
Town of Skanawan	4.72%	5
Town of Scott	3.77%	4
Town of Corning	1.89%	2
Town of Wilson	1.89%	2
Town of Birch	0.94%	1
Town of Harding	0.94%	1
Town of Somo	0.94%	1
.	0.00%	0
TOTAL		106

Attachment E

SCORP Identified Outdoor Recreation Needs

Compiled by:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
in their 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
(SCORP)

GAPS AND NEEDS IN OUR EXISTING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

In developing the following statewide needs and gaps in our recreation opportunities, the department incorporated information from:

- The SCORP recreation participation survey question regarding needed recreation opportunities in residents' home county (Appendix 6).
- Recreation Opportunities Analysis, which identified recreation needs for each of the eight regions of the state (Appendix 8).
- The SCORP survey of county park directors, which asked about needs at the county level (Appendix 4).
- The SCORP Advisory Team and department staff.

Statewide Recreation Needs:

Places near population centers

Because of the inverse distribution of our population and public lands as well as the limited amount of time people have to participate, there is a very large need to provide more places for people to participate in outdoor recreation near where they live. In particular is the need to provide opportunities for residents to visit places after work or for a couple of hours on a weekend. Places that provide opportunities for hiking, all types of bicycle riding, dog walking, picnicking, and different water-related activities such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking are likely to be heavily used.

Trails

By nearly every measure, the largest need throughout the state is for more trails that enable people to experience natural settings, visit the vibrant downtowns of our cities and villages, commute to work, and access favorite sites. All types of trails are in demand – hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, snowmobiling, ATV/UTV and motorcycle riding, and 4WD vehicle trails.

Water access – shoreline and boat launches

Lakes, streams and rivers are a defining feature of Wisconsin. From the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River, from the thousands of inland lakes and the tens of thousands of miles of flowing water, residents and visitors have been drawn to the water's edge to fish, hunt, launch any manner of watercraft, bird watch and beach walk. Access to water remains a universal need throughout the state.

Camping opportunities

With a large cohort of retirees travelling in RVs combined with an adventurous younger generation, demand for camping has grown in recent years and is likely to remain popular for years to come. Given the divergence in desired experiences – some campers wanting access to hot showers and WiFi while others wanting neither – recreation providers will need to collaborate and coordinate on providing the camping experiences best suited to different public lands.



Statewide Recreation Needs: (cont.)

Dog parks and exercise areas

Taking care of a dog has many benefits, not the least of which is the exercise people get in walking their pets. With the steady rise in dog ownership (75% of people in their thirties own a dog) and an urbanizing population has come an increasing demand for places to walk, play with, socialize and train our canine friends. Many municipal and county dog parks are among their most visited properties.

Target shooting ranges

Many hunters and shooting sports participants live in rural areas or belong to gun clubs and practice their craft on their or the club's property. However, as our population continues to urbanize there is a growing need for places where people can practice gun and archery marksmanship and safety. By their nature, firearm ranges generate considerable sounds and siting new ranges has been a challenge in more populated areas of the state.

Statewide Policy Needs:

Better understand place-based recreation and associated outcomes

The survey conducted for this SCORP on recreation participation generated considerable data on which outdoor activities residents pursue and how often (see Appendix 6). What is not well known is where these "participation days" actually take place – that is, where, when, and why they occur at different places. Questions for which more detailed, property-specific, place-based data are needed include:

- How many people visit the place or property?
- When and what are the patterns of visitation?
- What recreation activities do they pursue?
- How far do visitors travel to reach the property and why did they visit the particular property (as opposed to other options)?
- What would improve their satisfaction?
- What are the economic, health, and social benefits associated with their visit?

With a more complete understanding of property use and the features and attributes that draw people, agencies can make more informed decisions about what types of recreation facilities to build and maintain at different places. And the public can better understand their "return on investment."

Better understand the nature-based recreation preferences of our diversifying population

Data are needed on the recreation preferences of our changing population. For a range of reasons, people of varying ages, residential settings, incomes, and social, racial, ethnic and cultural identities participate in different types of outdoor activities in different places. More information is needed on the types of activities and settings sought by the diversity of Wisconsin residents. In addition, data on how and where to most effectively provide quality experiences for people with varying backgrounds and cultures are needed.

Enhance and stabilize funding for outdoor recreation

Funding for conservation and recreation is derived from many sources and the overall total has fluctuated considerably from year to year. This has complicated efforts to plan, develop, and maintain recreation facilities. Some states have implemented funding sources that provide a more stable source of money for conservation and recreation projects. In addition to more consistent funding, there is a need to broaden the network of people and sources that help pay for the management of public lands in the state.

Expand collaborations among recreation providers

Each recreation provider has unique capabilities and their lands offer different types of experiences, features, facilities, and opportunities. There would be substantial benefit in continuing and expanding collaborations among federal, county and local governments. Focus should be placed on identifying ways to coordinate recreation experiences in each region of the state, minimizing duplicative efforts, and maximizing the benefits of recreation investments.

Together, providing well-planned, safe and enjoyable recreation opportunities that visitor's value will increase support for local communities and businesses, strengthen tourism, respond to evolving demographic and visitor needs, reduce user conflicts and improve natural settings.

Regional Recreation Needs (high needs identified in the Recreation Opportunities Analysis – see Appendix 8)

Great Northwest Region

- ATV/UTV riding
- Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping - developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Fishing
- Four-wheel vehicle driving
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Hunting - big game
- Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
- Off-highway motorcycle riding
- Swimming in lakes and rivers

Western Sands Region

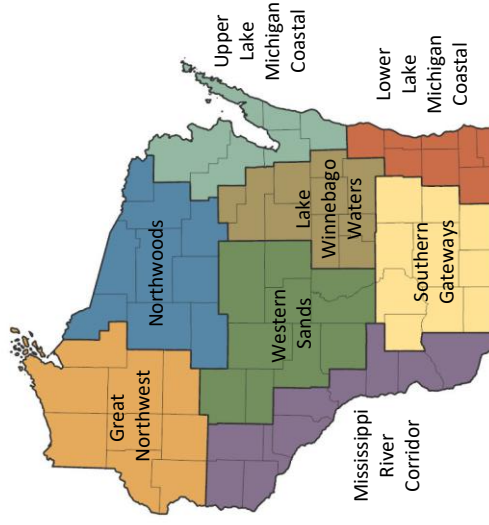
- Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping - developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Cross country skiing
- Dog walking
- Fishing
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Horseback riding
- Hunting - big game
- Picnicking
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming in lakes and rivers

Mississippi River Corridor Region

- Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping - developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Cross country skiing
- Dog walking
- Fishing
- Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Hunting - big game
- Nature photography
- Participating in nature-based education programs
- Picnicking
- Snowshoeing
- Visiting a beach, beach walking

Northwoods Region

- ATV/UTV riding
- Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Camping - developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Fishing
- Four-wheel vehicle driving
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Hunting - big game
- Off-highway motorcycle riding
- Participating in nature-based education programs
- Snowmobiling



Southern Gateways Region

- ATV/UTV riding
- Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping - developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Fishing
- Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
- Picnicking
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming in lakes and rivers

Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region

- Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping - developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Fishing - all types
- Hiking, walking, trail running or backpacking
- Horseback riding
- Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
- Visiting a beach, beach walking

Lake Winnebago Waters Region

- Bicycling - bicycling touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping - developed and primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Cross country skiing
- Dog walking
- Fishing
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Hunting - big game
- Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
- Nature photography
- Participating in nature-based education programs
- Picnicking
- Swimming in lakes and rivers
- Visiting a beach, beach walking

Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region

- Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
- Bird or wildlife watching
- Camping - primitive
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Cross country skiing
- Fishing
- Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.
- Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
- Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
- Nature photography
- Picnicking
- Snowshoeing
- Swimming in lakes and rivers