



# Outdoor Recreation Plan

**2007-2011**

Effective January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011

Also covering the municipalities and towns within Adams County



**Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**

---

## **Adams County Board of Supervisors**

**Cynthia Loken, Chair (Dist. 20)**  
**David Grabarski, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair (Dist. 7)**  
**David Renner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair (Dist. 15)**

**Glenn Licitar (Dist. 1)**  
**Robert Dixon (Dist. 2)**  
**Larry Babcock (Dist. 3)**  
**Al Sebastiani (Dist. 4)**  
**Jerry Kotlowski (Dist. 5)**  
**Dean Morgan (Dist. 6)**  
**David Grabarski (Dist. 7)**  
**Fran Dehmlow (Dist. 8)**  
**Patricia Townsend (Dist. 9)**  
**Matthew Sherd (Dist. 10)**

**Bev Ward (Dist. 11)**  
**Florence Johnson (Dist. 12)**  
**Michael Keckeisen (Dist. 13)**  
**Harry Davis (Dist. 14)**  
**David Renner (Dist. 15)**  
**John West (Dist. 16)**  
**Joyce Kirslenlohr (Dist. 17)**  
**Bob Neuenfeldt (Dist. 18)**  
**Dave Repinski (Dist. 19)**  
**Cynthia Loken (Dist. 20)**

## **Adams County Resource and Recreation Committee**

**Dave Repinski, Chair**  
**Fran Dehmlow**  
**Glenn Licitar**  
**Bob Neuenfeldt**  
**Bev Ward**

## **Technical Assistance**

Adams County Parks and Recreation Department Staff  
Fred Nickel, Director  
Rita Kolstad, Administrative Clerk/Bookkeeper

Adams-Friendship School District Staff

NCWRPC Staff  
Fred Heider, Planner  
Andy Faust, GISP  
Matt Guptail, GIS Technician  
Bernie Lewis, Office Coordinator

## **ABSTRACT**

- TITLE:** ADAMS COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
2007-2011 Effective January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011
- SUBJECT:** This report assesses the existing recreation system in Adams County, identifies recreation needs based upon public input and recreation standards, sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating recreation plans, and establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.
- Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids.
- Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.
- DATE:** January 2007
- AGENCY:** Adams County Park and Recreation Department  
402 Main Street  
P.O. Box 196  
Friendship, WI 53934
- CONTACT:** Fred Nickel, Director of Parks and Recreation  
608-339-4230
- DISCLAIMER:** This plan was prepared by the staff of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission under agreement with the above contact.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

CHAPTERS:

1. INTRODUCTION ..... 1

- Purpose..... 1
- Statutory Base ..... 1
- Plan Components..... 1
- Past Plans ..... 2

2. DESCRIPTION OF ADAMS COUNTY ..... 6

- Physical Characteristics ..... 6
- Social Characteristics ..... 10

3. EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES..... 19

- Introduction..... 19
- Linear Facilities..... 19
- Public Access Points to Water Bodies ..... 20
- Points of Interest..... 21
- County Parks..... 22
- School District Facilities ..... 25
- City, Village, and Town Facilities..... 25
- State Facilities ..... 26
- Forested Lands – Not State Owned..... 29
- Federal Facilities..... 30
- Private Outdoor Recreation Facilities..... 30

4. OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT ..... 33

- Introduction..... 33
- Public Participation..... 33
- County Facility Assessment..... 41
- Other Plan References ..... 42
- Needs Driven Park Planning..... 42

5. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES..... 43

6. PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ..... 44

- Introduction..... 44
- Projects and Recommendations Accomplished 2000-2006..... 44
- Projects Anticipated 2007-2011 ..... 46

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

7. RECOMMENDATIONS..... 50  
    - Introduction..... 50  
    - Priority Criteria..... 50  
    - County Recommendations ..... 50  
    - City, Village, and Town Recommendations..... 51  
    - Adams-Friendship School District Recommendations..... 52

8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES ..... 53  
    - Introduction..... 53  
    - Implementation Strategies ..... 53

9. PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING..... 58

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Outdoor Recreation Survey
- B. NCWRPC Summary of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005-2010
- C. Facility Development Standards
- D. State and Federal Programs

TABLES and FIGURE:

Table 1 Permanent and Seasonal Population by County ..... 11

Table 2 County Median Age..... 11

Table 3 County Population Projections 2005-2025 ..... 12

Figure 1 Population by Age Groups in Adams County ..... 13

Table 4 Permanent and Seasonal Population by Adams County Municipality..... 14

Table 5 Population Projections by Adams County Municipality..... 15

Table 6 Adams County Civilian Labor Force Data ..... 16

Table 7 Adams County: Employment by Job Sector by Year..... 16

Table 8 Adams County Parks Facilities ..... 23

Table 9 Waysides in Adams County..... 29

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

Table 10 Lake Arrowhead County Park 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan..... 48

Table 11 Lake Camelot County Park 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan..... 48

Table 12 Lake Manson County Park 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan..... 49

Table 13 Patrick Lake County Park 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan..... 49

MAPS:

Map 1 Land Legacy Areas and Potential Trails ..... 4

Map 2 General Location ..... 7

Map 3 Outdoor Recreation ..... 18

# INTRODUCTION

## PURPOSE

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

Adoption of this plan by the Adams County Board, the City of Adams, the Village of Friendship, and the various Adams County townships and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), will continue eligibility of the county and its local units of government for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), Stewardship Funds, Wisconsin Waterways Commission funds, and other federal and state funding programs.

## STATUTORY BASE

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

## PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs for the entire county, including the City of Adams, the Village of Friendship, and the county’s seventeen townships.

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

The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies through the year 2010. A combination of public survey compilation and standards analysis were utilized to define recreational and open space needs. Goals and objectives were created to guide the direction of recreational planning efforts within Adams County.

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

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

## PAST PLANS

This plan was written to continue the parks and recreation program established in the Adams County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans of 1987-1992, 1993-1998, and 2000-2005.

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

At the same time that this plan was created the Adams County Comprehensive Plan 2005-2025 was being created. The physical and social characteristics of Adams County were taken from the comprehensive plan. Community survey results from individual towns and countywide survey results were summarized from this document. Maps locating boat access points, local parks, abandoned mining pits for gravel and clay, and cemeteries were used in the Adams County Outdoor Recreation Plan from this document. Many of the plans listed below were originally described in this comprehensive plan.

### ***Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005-2010***

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

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

### ***North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan***

This 2004 document is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region. Potential trails are identified, and an improvement description was created for each county, which describes how to create the specific trail segments in each county. These trails are shown on Map 1.

There are three main Adams County trails within this regional plan. The main north-south route is on CTH Z and STH 13. To support this as a bicycle route, CTH Z will need widened shoulders for the entire length, but the section from CTH J to Elk Avenue is a priority for wider paved shoulders. South from STH 82, STH 13 is poor suitability for bicycling, so widened paved shoulders are needed. A long term goal here might be a grade separated trail within the highway right-of-way. From CTH Z, two branch routes are proposed. One links Adams/Friendship to the trail system along CTH J. The other route follows CTH H and CTH A to connect to Marquette County.

### ***Neenah Creek Priority Watershed Project Plan***

The WDNR and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) developed a plan in cooperation with the Adams, Marquette, and Columbia County Land Conservation Departments to control non-point pollution control in the Neenah Creek Watershed.

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

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

#### Segment 18—Tomahawk to Wisconsin Dells

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

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

### ***Adams County Land and Water Resource Management Plan***

The Adams County Land Conservation Committee developed this plan with assistance from the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) in March 1999. The plan provides an inventory of the County's natural resources and a series of goals and objectives intended to improve and protect these resources in the future.

The 2007-2011 Land and Water Resource Management Plan was not available when this comprehensive outdoor recreation plan was created.

### ***Petenwell and Castle Rock Flowages Comprehensive Management Plan***

The WDNR coordinated the creation of this 10-year plan in January 1996, to remediate the Petenwell and Castle Rock Flowages. Recreation, flora & fauna habitats, and aesthetics have been affected by a number of pollutants on both flowages. This plan addresses the water pollution causes, monitoring goals, and funding mechanisms to remediate the flowages.

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

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

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

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

Map 1 – Potential trails and Legacy Areas

**Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056**

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

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

Recreation prioritization of Land Legacy Areas is described in SCORP Chapter 3 in Attachment B on page B-14 of the Adams County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Each Adams County Legacy Area is summarized below with 5 stars representing the highest level for that category:

**CG** Central Wisconsin Grasslands

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

**NN** Neenah Creek

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

**CU** Colburn-Richfield Wetlands

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

**QB** Quincy Bluff and Wetlands

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

**MW** Middle Wisconsin River

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

# DESCRIPTION OF ADAMS COUNTY

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### **Introduction**

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

### **Location**

Adams County is located slightly south of central Wisconsin (See Map 2, page 7). The largest urban areas in the county are the City of Adams, and the Village of Friendship, which border each other and are located in the center of the county. The county courthouse in the Village of Friendship is 150 miles northwest of Milwaukee; 116 miles southwest of Green Bay; 81 miles south of Wausau; 78 miles north of Madison; 87 miles east of La Crosse; 195 miles from Chicago; and 200 miles from the Twin Cities.

### **Geography**

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

### **Climate**

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

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

Insert Map 2 – General Location

## **Topography and Geology**

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

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

## **Surface Water**

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

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

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

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

## **Groundwater**

Groundwater is the primary source of water supply in Adams County. Abundant supplies of groundwater exist in the county from unconsolidated glacial deposits and from underlying sandstone aquifers. Generally, unconsolidated outwash covers the northern half of the county and well yield 500 to 1,000 gallons of water per minute. There are also outwash deposits in the southeastern part of the county and wells adjacent to the terminal moraine in the south with similar yields. Yields decrease in the southwest as the unconsolidated deposits become thinner and more silty. Groundwater in Adams County is generally of good quality although some areas have non-threatening problems with iron, dissolved solids, and hardness. Depths to the water table generally range from 0 to 20 feet in the outwash glacial lake deposits, 50 to 100 feet in the pitted outwash, and up to 170 feet in the end moraines. Depth to water in the area of ground moraines generally ranges from 20 to 30 feet. Regional groundwater flow is generally from the northeast to the southwest towards the Wisconsin River. There is a groundwater divide in the eastern portion of the county where groundwater flow is to the southeast toward the Fox River.

## **Soils**

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

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

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

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

## SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

### **Introduction**

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

### **Population for Regional Parks Consideration**

Petenwell and Castle Rock County Parks in Adams County have a regional user base.

Current population, seasonal population estimates, population projections, and community survey results are important when considering the supply of recreational facilities. This section lists and describes the current, seasonal, and projected population levels specifically for determining regional park facility demands. Community survey results are analyzed later. Petenwell and Castle Rock county parks are both regional facilities, because they consistently draw visitors from outside of Adams County and outside of Wisconsin. The majority of park users, both daily and nightly, come from outside of the eight counties listed in Table 1.

The relationship between population demographics, and supply & demand of recreational facilities is only a bare minimum guide for developing outdoor recreational facilities in Adams County. Luring visitors from the Wisconsin Dells area and directly from other Midwest states is not directly quantifiable, because it is unknown exactly how campers and day-use visitors became aware of Adams County. However, based on active tourism promotion (in and out of Wisconsin), Adams County's recreational facilities are exposed to more than 1.5 million perspective visitors annually. Park user revenue is used as a tool in measuring amount of county and state visitor usage.

A recent telephone survey conducted by ACP revealed the following from seven counties bordering Adams County to include Columbia, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Sauk, Waushara, and Wood Counties. The counties that provided overnight camping between 1995 to 2004 had an average annual park user revenue collection increase of 10.02%. More specifically, Juneau county has county operated parks on both Castle Rock Flowage and Petenwell flowage as Adams County and their park user revenue collection increase for the past nine-year averaged 9.9%.

On a broader spectrum all counties totaling 28 were surveyed in Wisconsin's West Central and South Central Regions, major populated counties included LaCrosse, Eau Claire, Marathon, Dodge, Dane, etc. Every county that had a park user revenue collection rate of \$100,000.00 or more annually was included in the nine year survey from 1995 to 2004. The average annual park user revenue collection increase was 10.68%. Adams County's average park user revenue collection increase for the past nine years was 26.5% annually.

There is one distinct program ACP has implemented and developed differently than all county park systems in the State of Wisconsin. ACP aggressively promotes their recreational facilities by displaying a professional display at tourism shows/events in and out of Wisconsin. The dollar figures are now tabulated and the effectiveness of ACP promotional program is now realized. ACP user revenues have increased – ½ million dollars in nine years.

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

The Wisconsin Dells area includes the City of Wisconsin Dells and the Village of Lake Delton, and lies in parts of three counties – Sauk, Columbia, and Adams. The area can accommodate more than 55,000 visitors nightly. Destination housing consists of 140 hotels containing over 8,000 combined units and 18 campgrounds totaling 3,176 campsites.

Wisconsin Dells destination housing was not included in the Table 1 population counts.

**Table 1 Permanent and Seasonal Population by County**

County	1990 Permanent + Seasonal = Total Pop.	2000 Permanent + Seasonal = Total Pop.	# and % Change
Adams	15,682 + 15,646 = 31,328	18,643 + 13,134 = 31,777	449/1.4%
Columbia	45,088 + 4,157 = 49,245	52,468 + 3,120 = 55,588	6,343/12.9%
Juneau	21,650 + 6,382 = 28,032	24,316 + 5,046 = 29,362	1,330/4.7%
Marquette	12,321 + 7,071 = 19,392	15,832 + 5,466 = 21,298	1,906/9.8%
Portage	61,405 + 1,973 = 63,378	67,182 + 1,415 = 68,597	5,219/8.2%
Sauk	46,975 + 5,083 = 52,058	55,225 + 3,961 = 59,186	7,128/13.7%
Waushara	19,385 + 9,909 = 29,294	23,154 + 8,974 = 32,128	2,834/9.7%
Wood	73,605 + 1,072 = 74,677	75,555 + 603 = 76,158	1,481/2.0%

Source: U.S. Census, NCWRPC calculations

Seasonal populations in Table 1 were calculated from U.S. Census data. The number of seasonal housing units was multiplied by the average household size for the permanently occupied housing units.

Between 1990 and 2000, all of the counties around and including Adams County have experienced an increase in their population (refer to Table 1). The amount of seasonal housing in all Table 1 counties went down, while total population increased, which follows a common trend among seasonal housing owners to retire in their seasonal house. Adams County gained the least total population, because much more seasonal housing existed as compared to other counties.

Table 2 shows that all counties surrounding and including Adams County are aging, because more older people raise the median age. It is unknown why more people are not buying seasonal houses. Are they buying RVs, or are they building their permanent house in remote areas where they commute to their current job and live in their vacation home? An additional possibility is that the 1990s were a strong house building market, and since home mortgage rates between 2000-2005 were at 50-year lows, then more people built a new permanent house, and will sell that house in their retirement to buy a house in a vacation location.

**Table 2 County Median Age**

County	1990	2000
Adams	40.1	44.5
Columbia	35.2	38.0
Juneau	35.5	39.4
Marquette	39.1	40.9
Portage	29.3	33.0
Sauk	34.2	37.3
Waushara	38.6	42.1
Wood	33.3	38.0

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2003

Since the number of seasonal houses is declining in all counties surrounding and including Adams County, then future population projections may become more accurate as a single number to determine total base users of outdoor recreation facilities. Between 2006-2010, Adams County will continue to gain population and loose seasonal housing, but not at the same rate. First, for every seasonal house there are estimated to be about 2.4 people who would occupy that house based upon the permanent population and the number of permanently occupied housing units; and second, more people are moving into Adams County and building houses. So the two actions of seasonal house conversion to permanent housing, and more people moving into the county will continue to increase the population.

Table 3 shows that all surrounding counties including Adams County will gain people through 2025. Juneau, Portage, and Sauk counties all will gain over 7,000 residents each; while all other counties will gain less than 4,000 residents each.

<b>Table 3</b>					
<b>County Population Projections 2005-2025</b>					
County	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Adams	20,796	21,528	21,969	22,137	22,440
Columbia	54,434	56,366	58,135	59,753	61,669
Juneau	25,640	27,677	28,635	29,449	29,807
Marquette	15,052	15,579	16,035	16,293	16,583
Portage	70,175	72,259	73,911	76,170	78,952
Sauk	58,121	60,930	63,520	65,821	68,208
Waushara	25,675	26,548	27,228	27,726	28,136
Wood	76,420	77,455	78,393	79,072	79,026

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2003

### **Population for County and Local Parks Consideration**

All county and local parks except Petenwell and Castle Rock are included in this group.

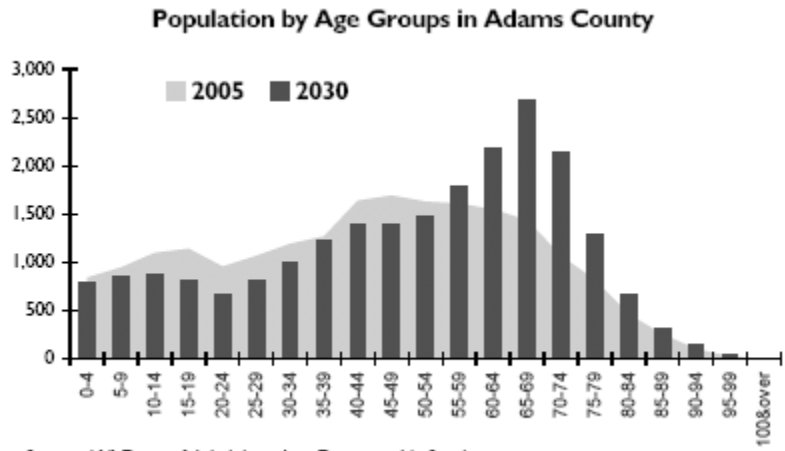
Current population, seasonal population estimates, population projections, and community survey results are important when considering the supply of recreational facilities. This section lists and describes the current, seasonal, and projected population levels specifically for county and neighborhood park facility demands. Community survey results are analyzed later in this plan. Petenwell and Castle Rock county parks are both regional county facilities, because they consistently draw visitors from outside of Adams County, and the State of Wisconsin, so this section is for all remaining county recreational facility planning.

The relationship between population demographics, and supply & demand of recreational facilities is only a bare minimum guide for developing outdoor recreational facilities in Adams County. Luring visitors from outside of the county to most county and local parks is not directly quantifiable because admission is only charged at Petenwell and Castle Rock county parks. As of 2006 all county owned and maintained parks, and boat accesses now charge admission, so now a general county wide usage tally will be available in the future.

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

Figure 1

Figure 1 contrasts Adams County's projected age demographics of 2005 to 2030. Every age group under 55 years old is projected to be smaller in 2030 than in 2005. All age groups 55 and older will grow from about 7,320 people in 2005 to 11,250 in 2030 according to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.



**Table 4** **Permanent and Seasonal Population by Adams County Municipality**

Community	1990 Permanent + Seasonal = Total Pop.	2000 Permanent + Seasonal = Total Pop.	# and % Change
Adams, City	1,715 + 12 = 1727	1,914 + 21 = 1935	208/12.0%
Adams, Town	1,170 + 238 = 1408	1,267 + 263 = 1530	122/8.7%
Big Flats, Town	731 + 498 = 1229	946 + 362 = 1308	79/6.4%
Colburn, Town	154 + 104 = 258	181 + 71 = 252	-6/-2.3%
Dell Prairie, Town	1,063 + 197 = 1260	1,415 + 164 = 1579	319/25.3%
Easton, Town	824 + 228 = 1052	1,194 + 296 = 1490	438/41.6%
Friendship, Village	728 + 23 = 751	698 + 15 = 713	-38/-5.1%
Jackson, Town	641 + 546 = 1187	926 + 521 = 1447	260/21.9%
Leola, Town	217 + 72 = 289	265 + 63 = 328	39/13.5%
Lincoln, Town	318 + 88 = 406	311 + 71 = 382	-24/-5.9%
Monroe, Town	305 + 209 = 514	363 + 226 = 589	75/14.6%
New Chester, Town	1,675 + 297 = 1972	864 + 252 = 1116	-856/-43.4%
New Haven, Town	511 + 92 = 603	657 + 71 = 728	125/20.7%
Preston, Town	1,057 + 390 = 1447	1,360 + 353 = 1713	266/18.4%
Quincy, Town	927 + 1005 = 1932	1,181 + 983 = 2164	232/12.0%
Richfield, Town	159 + 48 = 207	144 + 41 = 185	-22/-10.6%
Rome, Town	1,674 + 914 = 2588	2,656 + 1,095 = 3751	1163/44.9%
Springville, Town	785 + 452 = 1237	1,167 + 346 = 1513	276/22.3%
Strongs Prairie, Town	1,028 + 536 = 1564	1,115 + 423 = 1538	-26/-1.7%
Wisconsin Dells, City*	N/A	19 + 0 = 19	19/100%

Source: U.S. Census & Wisconsin Department of Administration

\* Community partially in county.

Table 4 shows historical permanent and estimated seasonal populations for Adams County municipalities. Seasonal populations were calculated from U.S. Census data. The number of seasonal housing units was multiplied by the average household size for the permanently occupied housing units in that municipality. The city and town of Adams both increased in population, while the village of Friendship went down. Many towns increased in population from 1990 to 2000. The towns of Colburn, Lincoln, Richfield, and Strongs Prairie all lost less than 30 people each. The town of New Chester lost over 800 people from 1990 to 2000.

**Table 5** **Population Projections**  
**by Adams County Municipality**

Community	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	# and % Change
Adams, City	1,812	1,786	1,743	1,685	1,645	-167/-9.2%
Adams, Town	1,282	1,291	1,284	1,265	1,256	-26/-2.0%
Big Flats, Town	1,005	1,056	1,091	1,112	1,138	133/13.2%
Colburn, Town	181	181	179	174	172	-9/-5.0%
Dell Prairie, Town	1,481	1,536	1,569	1,583	1,607	126/8.5%
Easton, Town	1,265	1,325	1,366	1,389	1,419	154/12.2%
Friendship, Village	766	748	723	693	671	-95/-12.4%
Jackson, Town	985	1,035	1,070	1,090	1,116	131/13.3%
Leola, Town	271	275	276	273	273	2/0.7%
Lincoln, Town	306	300	291	280	272	-34/-11.1%
Monroe, Town	385	404	417	424	434	49/12.7%
New Chester, Town	2,203	2,251	2,271	2,265	2,275	72/3.3%
New Haven, Town	683	704	715	718	726	43/6.3%
Preston, Town	1,440	1,508	1,554	1,579	1,613	173/12.0%
Quincy, Town	1,261	1,329	1,378	1,408	1,444	183/14.5%
Richfield, Town	131	118	104	91	80	-51/-38.9%
Rome, Town	2,949	3,205	3,411	3,561	3,716	767/26.0%
Springville, Town	1,262	1,345	1,407	1,448	1,495	233/18.5%
Strong's Prairie, Town	1,123	1,126	1,116	1,095	1,084	-39/-3.5%
Wisconsin Dells, City*	5	5	4	4	4	-1/-20.0%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2003

\* Community partially in county.

Table 5 shows population projections for Adams County municipalities. The city and town of Adams, and the village of Friendship are all projected to lose total population from 2005-2025. Many towns are projected to continue increasing in population from 2005 to 2025. The towns of Colburn, Lincoln, Richfield, and Strong's Prairie are all projected to lose population. The town of New Chester lost over 800 people from 1990 to 2000, but is now projected to gain 72 people from 2005 to 2025.

Mainly the population trends of Tables 4 and 5 are similar with the exception of the town of New Chester, which first lost over 800 people between 1990 to 2000, and is now projected to gain 72 people from 2005 to 2025. Adams County is expected to gain 1,644 people by 2025.

Two additional population growth scenarios exist. One growth scenario assumes a simple doubling of the population change between 1980 to 2000. This scenario projects a 7,733-person population increase from 2000 to 2025 within Adams County. The second growth scenario assumes that the same percentage rate of change from 1980 to 2000 will continue through 2025, which would produce an 11,317-person population increase as of 2025 in Adams County.

## Employment

Considering its population, Adams County has relatively few people participating in the workforce. The county has a labor force participation rate of about 55 percent while the state average is almost 75 percent. This can partially be attributed to the county's high median age.

Overall, the labor force has grown from 5,306 in 1980 to over 8,500 in 2000. That represents a growth of over 60 percent, which exceeds the state's growth rate of about 27 percent. The labor force is defined simply as the number of persons, sixteen and over, employed or looking to be employment. Persons over sixteen who are students, homemakers, retired, institutionalized, or unable/unwilling to seek employment are not considered part of the labor force. In 1980, 3,964 of those were employed and that rose to 7,859 in 2000, an increase of almost 99 percent.

	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1980-2000
Labor Force	5,306	6,310	8,522	60.61%
Employed	3,964	5,640	7,859	98.26%
Unemployed	1,342	670	663	-50.60%
Unemployment Rate	12.65%	10.62%	7.78%	-69.24%
Participation Rate	50.03%	49.55%	55.99%	11.91%

Source: U.S. Census, 1980 to 2000; and NCWRPC

Between 1980 and 2000, the largest segment of the economy in terms of total employment is government followed by services, and retail trade.

It should be noted that the number of employees in certain sectors, particularly those workers engaged in agriculture, and forestry & fishing, may be understated because this information utilizes Department of Workforce Development data; those who are self employed or work in family businesses are not reflected in Table 7 data.

Job Sector	1990	2000	# and % Change 1990 -2000
Government	895	1,108	213/23.8%
Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishing	156	158	2/1.3%
Construction	56	132	76/135.7%
Manufacturing	417	422	5/1.2%
Transportation, Communication,	165	162	-3/-1.8%
Wholesale Trade	55	90	35/63.6%
Retail Trade	376	641	265/70.5%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	85	84	-1/-1.2%
Services	438	761	323/73.7%
Totals	2,643	3,558	915/34.6%

Source: WisDILHR (DWD), Employment and Wages covered by Unemployment Compensation Law, First Quarter (end of March)

## **Transportation**

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

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

The Adams County Transit System operates one route out of Adams/Friendship, and takes workers directly to employers in Wisconsin Dells and Baraboo. Union Pacific provides commercial rail service. Amtrak passenger rail service is available in Wisconsin Dells. The nearest commercial air service is at the Central Wisconsin Airport (CWA) in the City of Mosinee, and in Madison at Dane County Regional Airport (MSN). The Baraboo/Wisconsin Dells Airport provides the nearest air cargo service. There are no water transportation facilities in the area.

## **Land-Use**

The dominant land-use in Adams County is forestry. Land area in the County is approximately 55% forested, comprised of 234,000 acres of commercial forest. Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) 1,882 acres are open to the public to hunt and fish. There are 91,601 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program. Much of MFL lands are available to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking – make sure the land is posted as open. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation. Snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles are prohibited on enrolled lands that are open to the public.

Agricultural land covers another 29% of the county's land area. The main agricultural practices in the county are irrigated vegetables and dairy farming. Recreational, residential, commercial, and industrial development utilizes the remaining 14% of the total county land area.

Map 3 – Outdoor Recreation

# EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

## LINEAR FACILITIES

### Rustic Roads:

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

### Water Trails:

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

### Trout Streams:

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

### Snowmobile Trails:

Adams County has approximately 270 miles of established snowmobile trails: 211 miles are state funded sponsored public trails, 30 miles of county sponsored public trails, and 30 miles are club trails open to the public. There are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the county. The Adams County Snowmobile Association, comprised of twelve snowmobile clubs, maintain the state funded county sponsored trails and meet monthly to provide continuous input toward the future direction of the county's snowmobile program.

### Horse (Equestrian) Trails:

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

### Cross Country Ski Trails:

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

### Hiking Trails:

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

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

About 1 mile of trails are located in Petenwell County Park, and another 2 miles of trails are available within Castle Rock County Park.

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

### All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Trails:

There are approximately 20 miles of state funded ATV trails, with many town roads posted as open for ATV use. Most of the trails/road routes exist within the towns of Strongs Prairie, Monroe, Big Flats, and Rome.

### Off-Road Motorcycle Trails:

Dyracuse Mound Motorcycle Recreation Area in the town of Rome has about 8 miles of trails for ATVs, and off-road motorcycles. The park also includes picnic areas with grills, tables, a playground area, shelter house, and restrooms with hot and cold running water. Daily and annual admissions are charged. This park is established on land owned by paper industries and leased to and managed by the Rapids Angels Motorcycle Club, and financed by entrance fees and grants from the Motorcycle Recreation Program (MRP) administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The MRP is funded by a \$2 fee from motorcycle registration.

### Bicycle Trails

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

## PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO WATER BODIES

Public access points to water bodies vary from primitive to well developed. Multiple jurisdiction own the access points while the county maintains the majority. All public access points are shown on Map 3, page 18.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

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

### A) Historic Buildings

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

### B) Geologic Sites

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

1. Friendship Mound, Town of Adams and Preston, privately owned.
2. Houghton Rock, Town of Adams, privately owned.
3. Lighthouse Rock, Town of Adams, privately owned.
4. Roche-A-Cri Mound, Town of Preston, Part of Roche-A-Cri State Park.
5. Preston Cliffs, Town of Preston, privately owned.
6. Cottonville Rocks, Town of Preston, privately owned.
7. Rabbit Rock, Town of Big Flats, State owned wayside.
8. Minnie Rock, Town of Big Flats, privately owned.
9. Keystone Rock, Town of Big Flats, privately owned.
10. Ship Rock, Town of Lincoln, State owned wayside.
11. Horseshoe Bluff, Town of Lincoln, privately owned.
12. Spring Bluff, Town of Lincoln, privately owned.
13. Pilot Knob Bluff, Town of Lincoln, privately owned.

14. Quincy Bluff, Town of Quincy, Nature Conservancy & State owned with a public observation tower.
15. Lone Rock, Town of Quincy, privately owned.
16. Rattlesnake Mounds, Towns of Easton and Quincy, privately owned.
17. Easton Mounds, Town of Easton, privately owned.
18. Anderson Bluff, Town of Springville, privately owned.
19. Elephants Back, Town of Dell Prairie, privately owned.
20. Steamboat Rock, Town of Dell Prairie, privately owned.
21. Owens Rock, Town of Leola, privately owned.
22. Dyracuse Mound, Town of Rome, privately owned.
23. Hamilton Mound, Town of Rome, privately owned.

C. Petenwell Dam

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

## COUNTY PARKS

The amount of usage Adams County Parks receives plays a major role in the economy of the county. Revenues generated in Adams County by the Parks Department exceed those of surrounding counties. The county's two major destinations campgrounds, Petenwell and Castle Rock County Parks, are located on the second and fifth largest water bodies respectively in Wisconsin.

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

Adams County's smaller outlying non-camping parks also provide an important recreation base at various locations within the county. Usage of the outlying parks is light to moderate mainly due to their undeveloped facilities. Usage is expected to increase once facilities are developed. Table 8 lists existing county parks and their facilities and Map 3, page 18 identifies their location in the county.

**Table 8 Adams County Parks Facilities**

Facilities	Arrowhead	Castle Rock	Deep Lake	Easton Pond	Lake Camelot	Lake Mason	Patrick Lake	Petenwell	Sherwood
# of Camping Sites		200						500	
Acres	5	80	2	1.5	40	2.5	15	240	5
Town	Rome	Quincy	Jackson	Easton	Rome	New Haven	New Chester	Monroe	Rome
Restroom (shower)	X	X(X)				X	X	X(X)	X
Picnic Area (grills)	X(X)	X(X)	X(X)	X	X(X)	X(X)	X(X)	X(X)	X
Fishing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boating	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boating Ramp	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Swimming Beach	X	X			X		X	X	X
Trails		2 miles						2 miles	
Use	Heavy	Heavy	Light	Light	Heavy	Heavy	Moderate	Heavy	Heavy
Playground	X	X					X	X	X
Shelter	X	X					X	X	X
Dump Station		X						X	X

Arrowhead Park

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

Castle Rock Park

Castle Rock Park consists of 80 acres with possible expansion of up to 120 acres, and is located in the Town of Quincy. Camping is permitted randomly in several areas and within many designated sites throughout the park. There is a stated capacity of 200 campsites with 150 electrical outlets. Thirty existing tie-up docks exist for boats. The park is now open year round. Table 8 lists other facilities that also exist in the park. Castle Rock Park is located on the Castle Rock Flowage, Wisconsin's fifth largest body of water. The camping areas are heavily over-used and crowded many weekends throughout the summer. The park is open year-round.

### Deep Lake Park

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

### Easton Pond Park

Easton Pond is 35.4 acres within the Town of Easton. The Park is primitively signed but does provide a paved boat launch approach with a grass parking lot.

### Lake Camelot Park

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

### Lake Mason Park

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

### Patrick Lake Park

The 15 acre park is located directly on Patrick Lake in the Town of New Chester and consists of 47.5 surface acres. The main recreational activities at the park are baseball and swimming, which are light to medium in use. The park will always remain as a community-type park due to its remoteness from any major highways. Baseball, swimming, and picnicking will always be popular while providing a scenic overview of the lake.

### Petenwell Park

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

### Sherwood Park

The 5 acre park is located directly on Sherwood Lake in the Town of Rome. The boat access receives heavy usage, owned by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and maintained by Adams County with a 20-year lease. A small grassy area exists for picnicking.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

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

- 5 elementary school playgrounds
- Varsity football field & track
- 3 softball fields
- 2 baseball fields
- An open play/practice area the size of about 3 football fields

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

## CITY, VILLAGE, and TOWN FACILITIES

### City of Adams Parks

The City of Adams parks receive moderate to heavy use during the summer months by residents of Adams County as well as visitors to the area. The City has two local parks:

1. ***Burt Morris Park*** consists of approximately 10 acres with existing facilities that include three baseball diamonds and bleachers (one baseball diamond contains dugouts), restrooms, play equipment, tennis courts, shelter, picnic tables, grills and walking trails.
2. ***Lions Park*** consists of approximately 0.5 acres with existing facilities that include a skating rink, play equipment, and picnic benches and grills.

### Village of Friendship Parks

The Village of Friendship's existing recreational facilities consists of two parks:

1. ***Friendship Park*** consists of 4 acres with a shelter, restroom, play equipment, and picnic grills.
2. ***Friendship Beach Park*** consists of a swimming beach, flush toilet beach house, and a boat launch.

### Town of Leola Public Access to water body

The Town of Leola has a very limited recreational resource base that mainly consists of trout streams. The Town has a 2 acre park located on the Big Roche a Cri Creek. This park is used mainly as access to the Creek.

### Town of New Haven Public Access to water body

The Town of New Haven has very little in developed recreational facilities. There is a 2 acre boat access on the north shore of Lake Mason.

### Town of Rome Parks

The Town of Rome, being a tri-lake region, experiences continued population growth with an increased influx of people during the summer months. The Town has two recreation parks:

1. ***Dyracuse Motorcycle Park*** consists of approximately 250 acres with restrooms, hot and cold running water, shelter house, picnic area, play equipment, and about 8 miles of trails for ATVs, and off-road motorcycles. Daily and annual admissions are charged. This park is established on land owned by paper industries and leased to and managed by the Rapids Angels Motorcycle Club, and financed by entrance fees and grants from the Motorcycle Recreation Program (MRP) administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
2. ***Walden Park*** consists of 2 acres with two ball diamonds, one of which has dug-outs.

### Town of Strongs Prairie

There are three recreational facilities in the Town of Strongs Prairie.

1. ***Arkdale Lions Park*** has a baseball diamond, vault type restrooms, storage building, two shelters, and bleachers. (Church St., Arkdale)
2. ***Arkdale Boat Landing*** (South Shore Dr., Arkdale)
3. ***Strongs Prairie Boat Landing*** (1773 20<sup>th</sup> Court)

### Town of New Chester

The Grand Marsh Lions Park, located in the Town of New Chester, consists of approximately 3 acres with a shelter, picnic tables, and vault type restrooms.

### Town of Dell Prairie

A wayside park on STH 13 was transferred from WDOT to the town. This wayside consists of 5 acres with picnicking and rest rooms.

### Town of Monroe

A park on Petenwell Lake (18<sup>th</sup> Ave & Bodgen Ct.) provides picnicking and has a boat launch.

## STATE FACILITIES

### State Fishery Areas

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

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

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

#### State Wildlife Areas

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

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

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

#### State Natural Areas (SNA)

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

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

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

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

1. ***Sohlberh Silver Lake SNA (No. 166)*** is 224 acres located in the Town of Quincy.
2. ***Roche-A-Cri Mound SNA (No. 183)*** is 25 acres located within Roche-A-Cri State Park.
3. ***Brooks Bluff SNA (No. 232)*** is 18 acres located in the Town of New Chester. Brooks Bluff SNA is not suited for visitation by the general public. This natural area may have restricted access, require special permission from the landowner, or contain sensitive resources. Contact the State Natural Areas Program for information about visiting this site (608) 266-7012.
4. ***Quincy Bluffs and Wetlands (No. 272)*** is 4,780 acres of ecosystem co-owned and managed with the Nature Conservancy, and Quincy Bluff Fisheries LLC. This natural area is located in the Town of Quincy, and has an observation tower on the mound, which is open to the public for hiking. The Nature Conservancy part of this natural area is described under Private Outdoor Recreational Facilities.
5. ***Dells of the Wisconsin River (No. 283)*** is 1,300 acres located in Adams, Juneau, Columbia, & Sauk counties.
6. ***Roche-A-Cri Woods (No. 362)*** is 440 acres located within Roche-A-Cri State Park.

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

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

State Parks

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

Roche-A-Cri is not a destination type campground and the average length of stay is approximately one night. Use for the park is about 30% capacity based on a 100-day summer season, and it is not open during the winter months.

State Waysides

There are a total of five waysides in Adams County, totaling approximately 16 acres. Two of the waysides are named for their unique rock formations – Rabbit, and Ship Rock. The waysides provide attractive picnicking and relaxation areas for travelers and are maintained by the County Highway Commission with funds from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Table 9 lists waysides and their facilities.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
STH 21 (Ship Rock)	Richfield	2.8	Picnicking
STH 13 & 21	Preston	0.4	Picnicking & Restrooms
STH 13 (Rabbit Rock)	Big Flats	4.0	Picnicking
STH 82	Jackson	0.6	Picnicking
STH 21	Strong's Prairie	5.0	Picnicking & Restrooms

Source: WDOT

**FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE OWNED**

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

Under the Forest Crop Law, approximately 1,882 acres of forested private land is enrolled in the program. Contact the WDNR to find what land is open to the public for the recreational purposes of hunting and fishing only. The Managed Forest Law has opened approximately 91,600 additional acres.

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

Paper and timber companies have large forested land holdings in Adams County that are managed for timber production. The Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPC) owns large tract of land mainly along the Petenwell and Castle Rock Flowages. Most timber company land is enrolled in a forest law program for tax purposes. Contact the WDNR to find what land specifically is open, and what uses are allowed on specific parcels.

## FEDERAL FACILITIES

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

## PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

### Private Natural Area – Quincy Bluff and Wetlands

The Nature Conservancy owns land within Adams County to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth. The Quincy Bluff lands of the Nature Conservancy are open to the public year round, dawn to dusk. Quincy Bluff is a great place to hike – the scenic views from the top of the bluff are well worth the climb. In the winter, the wide trails are ideal for cross-country skiing.

### **Activities that are not allowed:**

- Do not Cook or make camp fires, no fishing or trapping, no horseback riding, no ice skating,
- No hunting except by permit granted by The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Chapter, 633 West Main Street, Madison, WI 53703 Tel: 608-251-8140
- No Pets (even on a leash with the exception of seeing-eye dogs)
- No picking flowers, berries, nuts or mushrooms
- Do not remove any part of the natural landscape (shells, rocks, etc.)
- No rock or ice climbing

See the informational kiosk in the parking area for more information.

### **The following activities are allowed:**

- Bird watching, Cross-country skiing, Hiking, Nature Study, Photography, Snowshoeing.
- Videotaping for personal use (if for commercial use, must obtain permission from Chapter office in Madison- The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Chapter, 633 West Main Street, Madison, WI 53703 Tel: 608-251-8140).
- Deer hunting is allowed without special permit as long as hunters agree with the **Hunting Guidelines**, & **Hunter Safety** listed below.

### **Hunting Guidelines**

To participate in our program, hunters must agree to the following rules:

1. Only white-tailed deer may be hunted (no other animals). Deer baiting and deer drives are not allowed.
2. No fires, camping, littering (including the use of plastic flagging), or dumping of waste on the property.
3. Only temporary, non-damaging deer stands may be used. Put your name and contact info on your stand. You may not put up your stand before the start of bow-season and they must be removed within seven days after the close of the season. No stands shall be placed within 100 feet of a property boundary. The Conservancy assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged stands left unattended.
4. No cutting, breaking or clearing of vegetation.
5. No off-road vehicle use.
6. No hunting is allowed within a 200-yard radius of any inhabited dwelling.
7. Hunters must carry a fully signed permit and wear an assigned I.D. badge at all times while on Conservancy property.
8. Alcohol is not allowed on the preserves or in the parking lot.
9. Unnecessary shooting or shooting at targets is prohibited.
10. The Hunter may allow no more than one of his/her own minor children to hunt with the Hunter on the Preserve. The minor must be at least 12 years of age and have all licenses or permits required to hunt under Wisconsin law. The Hunter agrees to take full responsibility for the minor, to keep the minor within sight and reach, and to directly supervise the minor at all times. The Hunter must pay an additional hunting fee for the minor who is hunting. If the minor is not the child of the Hunter, then the Conservancy must receive a parental consent and release form (available from the Conservancy at [wisconsin@tnc.org](mailto:wisconsin@tnc.org)) signed by the child's parent and the hunter, prior to the minor entering Conservancy property.
11. The hunter may be accompanied by no more than one non-hunting guest while hunting on Conservancy preserves.

In addition to the above rules, hunters must comply with all local, state, and federal laws and ordinances governing hunting activities, including obtaining all required government licenses or permits.

### **Hunter Safety**

For safety reasons, the number of hunters allowed at each Conservancy preserve follows the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' suggested limits of 2 gun hunters and 2 bow hunters per 40 acres. Volunteers monitor parking lots and roads near these preserves during the hunting season. Hunters must wear an I.D. badge at all times while on Conservancy land.

### Private Golf Courses

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

1. ***Mound View Golf Course*** – nine hole course in the Village of Friendship.
2. ***Coldwater Canyon Golf Course*** – eighteen hole course as part of Chula Vista Resort in the Town of Dell Prairie, and City of Wisconsin Dells.
3. ***Lake Arrowhead*** – eighteen hole course in the Town of Rome.
4. ***Northern Bay Golf Course*** – eighteen hole course as part of Northern Bay Golf Resort and Marina

### Private Campgrounds

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

### Private Downhill Skiing

The Skyline Ski Area, one of the county's major winter recreation attractions, is located on Friendship Mound. The ski area has eleven downhill ski runs with a vertical drop of 335 feet. Facility is currently closed for skiing.

### Private Ski Jump Facility

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

# OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the county have been identified in three ways: 1) public input – informally, questionnaire results, open house comments, town level comprehensive plan survey results, and county level comprehensive plan survey results; 2) a facility assessment; and 3) a review of past plans – including the Wisconsin SCORP 2005-2010.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### **Informal Public Input**

Adams County Park and Recreation Department staff has acquired public input about its parks, recreational, natural, and cultural resources both on the road and within the parks. Department staff advertise Adams County's parks at many sports shows and festivals in multiple Midwest states. Comments are received from show attendees in one-on-one discussions. Castle Rock and Petenwell staff constantly interact with park visitors and listen to their concerns about specific amenities. Valuable input for this report also comes from these park visitors.

### **Questionnaire Results & Letter Received**

Questionnaires were distributed to citizens, special interest groups, the Adams-Friendship School District administrator, Town Chairs, Town Clerks, and some County Department heads. There were a total of 10 questionnaires returned out of about 95; 7 were from individuals, 4 were completed by groups, and one letter was submitted. A copy of the questionnaire used is attached in Appendix A. Results from the survey are illustrated below. Questionnaires either represented a group of non-family members, or an individual family.

#### Letter Received

The Village of Friendship Public works Committee wrote a letter of support, dated February 17, 2005, for reinstating the summer swim program.

#### Group Questionnaires

Groups completed four questionnaires. Here are their results.

One group of 24 adults stated that fishing and motor boating were activities that the group engaged in over the past year. The following parks were visited more than 10 times by this group – Castle Rock, Petenwell, Arrowhead, Camelot, Mason, Patrick, and Roche a Cri. This group would like new double wide boat ramps at Arrowhead, Sherwood, and Camelot; new quad wide boat ramps at Castle Rock; and new double wide boat ramps with increased parking at the Hwy 21 landing. General comments stated that most boat landings are in need of significant repairs or replacement, and that boat landings and parking areas in Petenwell and Castle Rock will need to increase in size.

One un-named town board and 23 citizens stated that swimming, fishing, hiking, camping, snowmobiling, ATViing, motor boating, hunting, and picnicking activities were engaged in over the past year. This group would like to see all county parks open to residents free of charge, unless they are camping. This group also wishes to see the county owned land in the Town of Jackson made into an ATV park.

One group of 126 individuals enjoyed these activities over the past year: swimming, fishing, hiking, golfing, camping, snowmobiling, sightseeing, bicycling, ATViing, driving for pleasure, motor boating, hunting, and picnicking. Comments about parks included a need to add filter systems to all drinking water wells countywide. Castle Rock park shelter needs a sink with running water. The boat launch at Patrick Lake needs to be fixed. Throughout the county, bicycle and hiking trails need to be added.

One group of 7 adults and 12 children mainly enjoyed hiking, picnicking, sightseeing, bicycling, sledding/tobogganing, and fewer members enjoyed fishing, golfing, camping, swimming, snowmobiling, bird watching, horseback riding, kite flying, motor boating, hunting, ice skating, and driving for pleasure. This group is concerned that too many boulders exist in the Lake Arrowhead beach, and that the beach is used for ski practice to the detriment of other beach users. These two uses are in conflict. Swimming programs with lessons are missed by this group. An ice skating rink should be made, and a countywide system of bicycle trails is necessary.

### Individual Questionnaires

Individuals completed seven questionnaires. Here are their results.

About 16 adults were represented by the 7 questionnaires received. The outdoor activities respondents participated in over the last year are listed with the number of people in parentheses.

Hunting (11)	Fishing (10)	Swimming (10)
Driving for pleasure (10)		Sightseeing (7)
Canoeing (6)	Bicycling (6)	ATViing (5)
Hiking (5)	Picnicking (5)	Motor Boating (5)
Sailing (4)	Camping (2)	

Many comments were received on the returned questionnaires. *Italicized text like this represents an NCWRPC staff observation when tabulating that particular survey.*

First Questionnaire (Respondent used parks only once last year.)

- There are no ATV trails in the south portion of Adams County.
- Patrick Lake – Why pay taxes to keep parks open and then pay money to get in?
- Make an ATV park at gravel pit off of Hwy 82.

Second Questionnaire (Respondent used parks 4-10 times last year.)

- Friendship Park – Increase size of park.
- Create a hiking trail that crosses the county from south to north.
- Develop the hiking trails so bicycles can use them also.
- Develop a countywide map of hiking and bicycle trails with available facilities listed.

Third Questionnaire (Respondent used parks 4-10 times last year.)  
*Respondent used only Roche-A-Cri State Park.*

Fourth Questionnaire (Respondent used parks more than 10 times last year.)

- Castle Rock – New park office needed.

Fifth Questionnaire (Respondent used parks 4-10 times last year.)

- Possibly acquire WPS flowage frontage to make more shore campsites or minimum impact camping and carry-in boat landing. A good location is Section 15 in the Town of Rome (*Probably T20N R5E Sec 15- the west part of Rome*).

Sixth Questionnaire (Respondent used parks 2-3 times last year.)

- Are Petenwell, & Castle Rock parks permanent trailer parks, or temporary campgrounds?
- Compared to Wilderness Park, our current fees are almost welfare.
- Trails need off road parking.
- Petenwell Pines ATV route cannot legally be accessed, and many ATV violations exist in this area.
- Swimming lessons are needed.
- Bring back the lifeguards.
- Harbor Fest must continue.
- Create organized softball teams, cookouts, picnics, fishing seminars, & boat handling events.
- Current parks staff do an outstanding job.

Seventh Questionnaire (Respondent has not used parks, but lives on Lake Mason.)

- Develop hiking path from Big Springs to park on Big Springs creek and pond.

Many returned questionnaires had rated specific parks, trails, or public access to a water body. None of those results are tabulated in this plan. The Adams County Parks Department will use those ratings to improve administration of a specific park, trail, or public access to water body.

### **Open House Public Input**

The Adams County Community Vision Team was represented at the open house. Their goal is to develop on-road or off-road bicycle and hiking trails that connect existing cultural and natural resource points-of-interest to each other, and to economic facilities like restaurants throughout the county.

The Monroe Prairie ATV Club was represented at the open house. Their goal is to open more roads to ATVs countywide, and to create year-round trails to benefit retail establishments.

Both concur that drawing tourism money into Adams County is very important, and these new and existing recreation routes should be advertised more intensely when a countywide system of routes exist.

## **Adams County Comprehensive Plan Survey Results**

### **Town Survey Results**

Many towns conducted their own surveys for the comprehensive planning process. Below are survey summaries from each town that conducted a survey. Only questions related to outdoor recreation are summarized below.

#### ***Town of Adams***

No survey questions relate to outdoor recreation.

#### ***Town of Big Flats***

- Recreational availability was a land use issue listed as a high priority (48%), medium priority (35%), and low priority (17%) by respondents.
- Saving the environment for future generations (17 respondents), and Recreation (13 responses) were two of six most important land use issues facing the town.

#### ***Town of Colburn***

- Protection and enhancement of existing & new parks was one of four land use issues prioritized by respondents as follows: high priority (64%), medium priority (21%), and low priority (15%).
- Preservation of environmentally sensitive land and natural resources was one of four land use issues prioritized by respondents as follows: high priority (66%), medium priority (30%), and low priority (4%).
- The largest critical land use problem facing the Town of Colburn is the need to maintain the rural aesthetics of the town as described by 26 percent of respondents. A need for zoning came in second with 21 percent of respondents' replies.
- Sixty-six percent of respondents like Colburn because of seclusion. The next reason for liking Colburn was recreation with 14 percent of respondents' replies.

#### ***Town of Dell Prairie***

From 2005-2025, respondents from this town want more, the same amount, or less of the following:

- Number of tourists visiting in Dell Prairie – more (30%), same (43%), less (27%).
- Parks and recreational areas in Dell Prairie – more (40%), same (50%), less (10%).
- Programs to improve Dell Prairie aesthetics – more (65%), same (31%), less (4%).

•

From 2005-2025, respondents' desires for change within Dell Prairie:

- Highways/roads in the Township – need to improve (63%), no change (37%).
- Bicycle paths – need to improve (52%), no change (48%).
- Walking paths – need to improve (51%), no change (49%).
- Lakes/surface water – need to improve (49%), no change (51%).
- Wetlands – need to improve (35%), no change (65%).
- Stream corridors – need to improve (37%), no change (63%).
- Wildlife habitat – need to improve (46%), no change (54%).
- Cooperation between Town & Adams County – need to improve (63%), no change (37%).

### ***Town of Easton***

No survey was conducted.

### ***Town of Jackson***

Survey results indicate that preservation of environmentally sensitive land and natural resources is seen as important with 73 percent of respondents giving it high priority, and 21 percent assigning medium priority, while only 6 percent said it was a low priority.

Protection and enhancement of existing open space had similar response with 70 percent of respondents assigning it a high priority and 30 percent assigning medium priority, while only 5 percent marked low priority.

Lakes/surface water quality was one area that appears to warrant some attention as 46 percent of respondents marked: need to improve versus 38 percent marking: no change, and 16 percent had no opinion.

### ***Town of Leola***

Agreement was strongest for making preservation of forestry, soil, water, wetlands, and open spaces a priority. Those surveyed agree that there should be more zoning and subdivision controls to limit land development. The desire to remain the same and resist population growth was more prevalent. Respondents are against development projects that have a cost to the taxpayer. There is a neutral feeling on designating sites for commercial and industrial development. The feeling is that single-family housing is not needed and strongest against making tourism a top priority.

#### Most Liked in Leola

Peace and quiet, rural atmosphere, country living, centrally located, low traffic, no snowmobile or ATV trails, private, natural resources, lack of development, nice people, friendly town board, community pride, and one that said nothing since the cranberry marshes took over.

#### Least Liked in Leola

High taxes, road maintenance, level of police and fire protection, vandalism, drainage district, need of zoning, snow removal (grader is great, truck is lousy), lack of garbage pickup, lack of ATV and bike trails, lack of respect for ecology and preservation of wildlife, junk cars in yards, moles and mosquitoes, elected officials not responsive enough, nothing we love it here.

### ***Town of Lincoln***

In rating what the Town should identify and protect, woodlands were rated highest; followed by lakes, rivers, and streams; then wetlands, and floodplains. Endangered species habitats were seen as next most important followed by bluffs, then parklands and historic/cultural sites; open prairie; and open fields were seen as least important.

When asked whether the Town should limit development in some areas to protect critical habitats, respondents strongly endorsed this effort.

When asked what should be encouraged as the Town plans for future development, environmental preservation and farmland preservation scored highest by a considerable margin. Residential development was rated as next most important to encourage, then vacation homes, tourism facilities, industrial development, and retail development.

- Best Things in the Town of Lincoln – Rural setting, good roads, Patrick Lake County Park, Access to lakes and recreation, Nature.
- Opportunities for Improvement – Control on industrial and private noise.
- Missing – ATV trails.

### ***Town of Monroe***

The top three issues facing the Town of Monroe are:

1. Preservation of the rural environment (22%)
  2. Water quality & quantity (21%)
  3. Junk accumulation in yards (19%)
- Preservation of environmentally sensitive lands – high priority (80%), medium priority (15%), low priority (5%).
  - Protection and enhancement of parks and open spaces – high priority (80%), medium priority (20%), low priority (0%).

### ***Town of New Chester***

- Preserving natural areas – more important (58%), less important (42%).
- Habitat for fish & wildlife – more important (59%), less important (41%).
- Water quality – more important (88%), less important (12%).
- Preservation of rural character – more important (32%), less important (68%).

When asked what they felt were the top issues facing the Town of New Chester the top issues were, in order of importance: water quality of both lakes and ground water, preservation of the environment, development of forestry zoned property, location of residential growth, location of commercial/business growth, and zoning enforcement. In prioritizing what the Town should identify and protect respondents rated them in order of importance: large tract forests, wetlands and floodplains, endangered species habitat, and prime farmland. To the question of where the Town should do more planning, land use was considered most important by nearly twice as many as the next most important (fire protection).

The forms of recreational development that should be encouraged according to respondents are: a senior center, hunting and fishing areas, park spaces, bicycle/pedestrian trail, playground facilities, and sports fields. Support for snowmobile trails was more mixed (34% encourage to 27% discourage), and against ATV trails (29% encourage to 45% discourage). There was 96 percent support for maintaining existing roads, but low support for increasing transportation facilities.

### ***Town of New Haven***

Most town residents want to see improvements in lakes, wetlands, and streams; but do not want more or fewer campgrounds – they want them to stay the same.

### ***Town of Preston***

No survey was conducted.

### ***Town of Quincy***

Generally, the survey showed that a high priority should be given to preserving environmentally sensitive land and natural resources.

### ***Town of Richfield***

No survey was conducted.

### ***Town of Strongs Prairie***

The top three issues facing the Town of Strongs Prairie are:

1. Preservation of the rural environment (23%)
  2. Water quality of both surface and ground water (20%)
  3. Junk accumulation in yards (20%)
- Preservation of environmentally sensitive lands – high priority (75%), medium priority (20%), low priority (5%).
  - Protection and enhancement of existing and future parks – high priority (73%), medium priority (22%), low priority (5%).

### **County Survey Results**

As part of the Adams County comprehensive planning process a county-wide survey was conducted to solicit input from the public.

If this survey had been done via sampling, to achieve a 95 percent confidence in the findings, with a + or - 3 percent error, only 879 completed surveys would have been needed. Thus, a return of over 1,600 surveys makes the findings valid for planning purposes.

During the last week of February, surveys were mailed and by March 14, the closing date, 518 surveys were received. Responses were made from every local unit in the county. Once the surveys were delivered to the NCWRPC they were tabulated. Every survey was given a unique number and all responses for each questions was input into a database, including open-ended questions 12, 13 and 14. Please note that the comments shown are as written by the respondent. Names of individuals and any profanity have been removed.

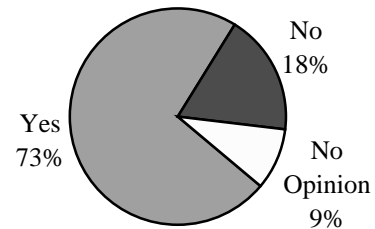
A total of 518 completed surveys were returned, which surpassed the 000 needed for a scientifically significant survey sample. This sample size results in a margin of error of + or - 5 % on all responses, at a 95% confidence level. Stated in different terms, chances are 19 out of 20 that, if all property owners in Adams County were asked, the actual percentage holding similar opinions on any actual question would be within 5% of that reflected in this survey.

Only questions related to outdoor recreation are summarized below.

**Q3. Should units of government use tax dollars to preserve environmentally sensitive areas such as stream buffer areas or steep slopes, in order to protect land and water?**

Seventy-three percent of respondents want taxes to support preservation of environmentally sensitive areas. About 18 percent do not want taxes used to preserve such areas, and 9 percent have no opinion.

**Use Taxes To Preserve Environmentally Sensitive Areas**



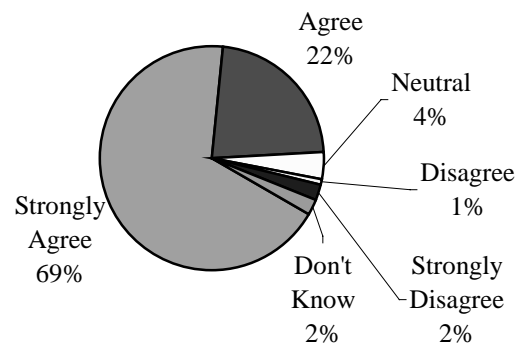
**Q10. Agreement & Disagreement with Comprehensive Planning Goals**

The following displays the level of support for the major goals related to outdoor recreation planning.

**Goal 3. Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habits, lakes, woodlands, open spaces, and groundwater resources.**

Over 90 percent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with this goal. Only 3 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. Four percent were neutral, while 2 percent did not know.

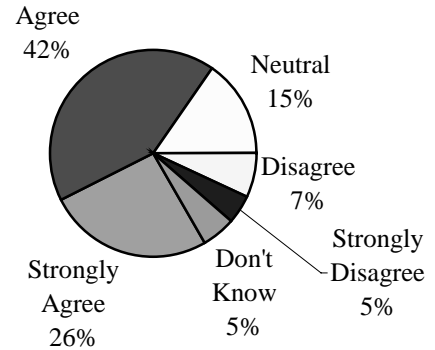
**Protection Of Natural Areas**



**Goal 12. Balancing individual property rights with community interests and goals.**

About 68 percent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with this goal. Only 12 percent disagreed or strongly disagreed. Fifteen percent were neutral, while 5 percent did not know.

**Balance Individual Property Rights With Community Interests**



**COUNTY FACILITY ASSESSMENT**

Staff from the Adams County Parks and Recreation Department projected what needs face Adams County.

- Generally, Adams County lacks facilities or routes for bicycle recreation.
- Public demand for ATV trail expansion is high. Population areas and campgrounds should be connected to provide a more enjoyable experience for ATVing.
- Horse trail expansion may exist in cooperation with Adams County Snowmobile Association.
- Multiple use outdoor activity areas may be satisfied with a band shelter/stage/gazebo in the City of Adams, Petenwell County Park, and Castle Rock Park.

## OTHER PLAN REFERENCES

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

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

## NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

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

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

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

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

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

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing specific recreation and open-space goals and objectives. A goal is a general statement of a desirable end or ultimate purpose toward which planning efforts should be directed. Goals are broad and may apply over a long time frame. An objective is a specific short-range statement of a desired end. The completion of objectives shows progress toward goal achievement.

The goals and objectives are meant to guide county and local officials as they work towards providing a recreation system to meet the needs of Adams County's residents and visitors to the area. These goals were designed to be consistent with the priorities as set forth in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation plan (SCORP) in order to promote better cooperation between local, county, and state efforts.

## **Goal 1**

**To preserve and protect the natural, scenic, and open-space resources for the enjoyment of both present residents and tourists, and for future generations; to strengthen and diversify the economy; and to improve and maintain the environment as an attractive setting in which to live.**

## **Goal 2**

**Implementation of the 2007-2011 Adams County Outdoor Recreation Plan.**

### OBJECTIVES:

Objectives to meet the two goals of this plan are:

1. To provide a planned system of park and recreation areas that offers a diversity of recreational activities by developing future recreation facilities and expanding existing recreation facilities.
2. To provide recreational facilities that are lacking or in short supply, by utilizing all possible existing resources.
3. To encourage cooperation between municipalities and adjacent towns in providing and utilizing recreational facilities, as a way of avoiding unnecessary duplication of facilities.
4. To provide and maintain recreational facilities at a minimal cost to county, non-county, and non-state residents.

These goals generally address what direction Adams County will take with outdoor recreation facilities over the next 5 years. Specific actions to satisfy these goals and objectives exist in the next chapter of this plan titled Planned Capital Improvements.

# PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

## PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ACCOMPLISHED BETWEEN 2000-2006:

### Arrowhead County Park

- Upgraded boat launch.

### Petenwell County Park

- Added more tables, grills, electrical facilities for campers, and created designated campsites.
- Acquired 3 acres of land for park.
- Construction of new boat harbor refuge, parking lots, visitor registration station, new shower restroom complex and support facilities.
- Added additional designated campsites with water and electrical hook-ups.
- Installed additional wells.
- Installed additional boat docks.
- Installed additional campsites for future ATV usage.

#### Lake Camelot County Park

- Increased road signage to park.
- Provided more picnic tables and grills.

#### Patrick Lake County Park

- Added more tables and grills.
- Added more parking.

#### Lake Mason County Park

- Added more tables and grills.
- Upgraded existing restroom facilities to be ADA compliant.

#### Castle Rock County Park

- Added designated camping, electrical, and water to campsites.
- Acquired 30 acres of land for park.
- Docks installed.
- Upgraded restrooms to meet ADA requirements.
- Installed new septic field and RV dump stations.
- Installed new park office building, which also includes a visitor's center, showers, and restrooms.

#### Friendship Park (Village of Friendship)

- Purchased a house and lot to expand the park.
- Stabilized shoreline with rock rip rap.
- Improved electrical service to shelter.

#### Dyracuse Park (Town of Rome)

- Added more trails.
- Expanded park acreage.
- Built new tracks.
- Purchased new playground equipment.

#### Burt Morris Park (City of Adams)

- Added a new picnic shelter and picnic tables.
- Installed a walking trail.
- Purchased new playground equipment.
  - Resurfaced tennis courts.

#### Easton Pond

- Upgraded boat launch and approach ramp.

PROJECTS ANTICIPATED BETWEEN 2006-2011:

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

Petenwell County Park

The *2006 Master Plan for Castle Rock and Petenwell Parks* describes the needs listed below in more detail.

Park Improvements, Project 1

2006 to 2008  
Total Cost: \$1,265,000

- Acquire 40-acre parcel adjacent to Petenwell Park on the northeast corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Drive and Blackhawk Drive
- Install restroom facility, shelter, day use area and parking for 50 cars near the existing harbor
- Install restroom facility with showers and parking for 25 cars in central section of Park, west of 20<sup>th</sup> Drive.
- Install restroom building and parking for 10 cars in the north central area of Park, west of 20<sup>th</sup> Drive
- Install restroom building and parking for 10 cars on the south end of Park, west of 20<sup>th</sup> Drive
- Build ATV trail from the south end of the campground west of 20<sup>th</sup> east to 20<sup>th</sup> Drive
- RV dump station near exit from Park onto 20<sup>th</sup> Drive

Park Improvements, Project 2

2008 to 2010  
Total Cost: \$681,100

- Relocate maintenance shop to a new building on the south side of Bighorn Drive. Include parking and maintenance work area around the building.
- Install a parking area for 200 cars south of Bighorn Drive near main park entrance
- Install a debris storage area
- Add campsites between 20<sup>th</sup> Drive and Bighorn Drive
- Install ball fields and a playground with equipment between 20<sup>th</sup> Drive and Bighorn Drive
- Install a playground with equipment north of Bighorn Drive
- Asphalt roads north of Bighorn Drive

Park Improvements, Project 3

2009 to 2011  
Total Cost: \$1,339,500

- Install restroom facility with showers and parking for 25 cars north of Blackhawk Drive, east of 20<sup>th</sup> Drive, in the center section of the Park area.
- Install restroom facility with showers on southeast corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Drive and Bighorn Drive, near the proposed ball field
- Install restroom facility on south end of the Park, northeast corner of Blackhawk Drive and 20<sup>th</sup> Drive
- Install restroom facility at the Park exit north onto Bighorn Drive
- Install RV dump station at Park exit north onto Bighorn Drive

- Install playground with equipment on northeast corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Drive and Blackhawk Drive
- Asphalt roads on northeast corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Drive and Blackhawk Drive
- Security lights on northeast corner of 20<sup>th</sup> Drive and Blackhawk Drive

Park Improvements, Project 4

2010 to 2012  
Total Cost: \$1,760,000

- Acquire lands on the south side of Blackhawk Drive and west of 20<sup>th</sup> Drive

### Castle Rock County Park

The *2006 Master Plan for Castle Rock and Petenwell Parks* describes the needs listed below in more detail.

Park Improvements, Project 1

2006 to 2009  
Total Cost: \$1,283,800

Improve the 29-acre site east of Castle Rock Park that is currently owned by Adams County.

- Restroom facility with showers and parking for 30 cars to serve about 70 campsites. A shelter building will be incorporated into this facility and a day use area with picnic area and playground will be built near this facility
- Rest room area on the north end of Project 1
- RV dump site near exit
- 20 pull-through RV sites with sewer/water hook-ups; these are to be located away from restrooms near the exit
- 60 campsites, each with picnic table and grill
- Pass system to enter into the park with gates
- Asphalt roads
- Parking for 150 cars
- Security lights

Park Improvements, Project 2

2006 to 2011  
Total Cost: \$877,400

Work with the Adams-Friendship School District to improve the 37-acre site east of Castle Rock boat area.

- Construct an education center with office/visitor center, bathroom and parking for 50 cars and 3 buses at park entrance
- Picnic area with shelter for day use and playground equipment
- Hiking trail system
- Asphalt roads
- Security lights

Construct a safe harbor west of the current beach.

- Acquire property for barrier island
- Construct a barrier island (about 5 acres)
- Restroom facility with showers (same as proposed octagon; add family showers)
- Parking for 100 vehicles with trailers
- Boat launch facilities (4 ramps)
- Picnic area with shelter for day use; playground equipment and parking for 50 cars on south end of the park
- Asphalt roads
- Security lights

Lake Arrowhead County Park

Lake Arrowhead County Park is the heaviest used day-use park in Adams County due to the swimming area. Currently this day-use park is overused.

<b>Table 10 Lake Arrowhead County Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan</b>	
	Estimated Cost
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Year Plan</i>	
Resurface parking lots	\$20,000
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Year Plan</i>	
Security/Safety fence for vehicle traffic.	\$20,000
<b>Total Estimated Costs</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>

Lake Camelot County Park

A forty-acre day use facility that currently receives moderate use based on its limited facilities. Heavy usage is anticipated with possible upgrades to the facilities, parking lot, and picnic areas.

<b>Table 11 Lake Camelot County Park One Year Capital Improvement Plan</b>	
	Estimated Cost
<i>2007</i>	
Regrade beach and install swim buoys	\$8,000
<b>Total Estimated Costs</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>

Lake Mason County Park

The implementation of this plan for Lake Mason County Park may be changed because the County is contemplating relocating the boat landing and day use park because part of the parking for the boat launch area is under private ownership.

<b>Table 12 Lake Manson County Park Two Year Capital Improvement Plan</b>	
	Estimated Cost
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Year Plan</i>	
Replace broken concrete boat launch planks and pier.	\$2,500
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Year Plan</i>	
Resurface boat launch parking lot.	\$10,000
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>

Patrick Lake County Park

A maintenance program should continue due to the potential future use of the park along with the following recommendations:

<b>Table 13 Patrick Lake County Park Four Year Capital Improvement Plan</b>	
	Estimated Cost
<i>1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Plan</i>	
Complete baseball diamond with backstop, dugouts, and lighting.	\$20,000
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Year Plan</i>	
Construct storage and dressing room located at the beach.	\$25,000
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Year Plan</i>	
Develop limited designated camping facilities.	\$10,000
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>

Lake Sherwood Public Access

The Lake Sherwood Public access is 1.5 acres located in the Town of Rome off of State Highway 13. It is currently owned by the Department of Natural Resources and maintained by the Adams County with a 20-year lease. When this transaction takes place the Parks Department would resurface the parking lot and installation of two boat launches at a total cost of \$30,000.

Staffing

It is anticipated that the Parks and Recreation Department will be hiring limited additional staff in the next few years. Park staff will be responsible for implementing this plan. A summary of capital improvement costs is listed in Table 17 for all county parks on an annual basis.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

## PRIORITY CRITERIA

Local officials will have to determine which projects should have the highest priority for funding and implementation. The following criteria are based on public input, established needs, and identified goals. These criteria can be used to satisfy the priority recreation needs of Adams County. The City of Adams, Village of Friendship, and the Towns might have priorities that deviate from these criteria due to their particular situations.

- \* Existing parks should be upgraded to established standards of activity separation. This may involve providing additional facilities or improving existing ones and the enhancement of the natural setting through landscaping when needed.
- \* Provide the basic recreation facilities found in community parks for those Towns and portions of the Village of Friendship and the City of Adams that currently do not have these facilities.
- \* Make facilities more accessible to the older adults and handicapped, including development of more passive use recreation for these people.
- \* Provide adequate public access, parking, and support facilities to water resources.
- \* Provide uniform maintenance and operation of public water accesses in the Town of Rome.
- \* Promote access to publicly owned lands.
- \* Upgrade support facilities found within the park system, especially sanitary facilities, parking, and access roads.

## COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendation for county-wide outdoor recreation projects were compiled from informal public interactions by the Parks Department, the Outdoor Recreation Plan Questionnaire, the open house meeting, and the Comprehensive Plan surveys.

### County-wide trail systems

Establish trails for bicycling, ATVs, and driving tours on existing roads to connect population centers and forest paths county-wide. If roads are moderately unsafe for a proposed alternative use, then paved

shoulders or off-road routes may be required. Two groups of residents are already organized and willing to create county-wide trail systems for bicycles and ATVs. Coordinate their efforts with appropriate county staff and mapping resources so they may create the county-wide trail systems.

#### 100-Foot Strip of Public Access Around Petenwell Flowage

In the mid 1970s, WRPCO established a 100-foot public access strip of land around Petenwell Flowage above the ordinary high water mark. Contact WDNR staff and the Petenwell/Castle Rock Property Owners Association to coordinate how to use this public land.

#### Ice Age Trail

Solicit the community to establish a local chapter of volunteers for the creation and maintenance of the Ice Age Trail in Adams County.

#### Park Growth Boundaries

Project the future needs of all county parks to determine how much land each park should have. Designate a park growth boundary for each park, so that action may be taken when the opportunity arises to purchase additional land.

#### Uniform Town of Rome Water Access Maintenance

Provide uniform maintenance and operation of public water accesses in the Town of Rome by coordinating maintenance activities with the WDNR. Since the county owns and manages all but one public access, maybe a simple land title transfer from the WDNR to the County would simplify maintenance and administration of the property.

#### Draw from Wisconsin Dells

The Wisconsin Dells area attracts about 2.5 million visitors annually, and it can be assumed that some of those visitors venture out of the commercialized area of Wisconsin Dells. Most visitors will remain in the area unless they find direct marketing of Adams County either within the Wisconsin Dells area or in direct marketing brochures.

### CITY, VILLAGE, and TOWNS RECOMMENDATIONS

#### City of Adams

Consider including a picnic shelter and a sprinkling system for the baseball diamonds in Burt Morris Park. Include a picnic shelter, grills, and picnic tables in Lion's Park. Expand ATV trails, and bicycle/pedestrian trails from the City to other parks and population centers. Railroad history of this community will be the starting point for providing an educational center and related outdoor facilities to come. Possibly create a band shell/stage/gazebo for outdoor performances.

#### Village of Friendship

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

#### Town of Leola

Plan recommendations for the Town include enlarging the existing park, include a small picnic area, shelter, drinking water fountain, grills, and a parking area.

### Town of New Haven

It is recommended that the Town consider land acquisition since very little recreational facilities exist in the Town. The boat access on Lake Mason needs to be upgraded with possible land acquisition to enlarge the area into a picnic area with grills, tables, and possibly playground equipment.

### Town of Preston

The Town currently owns no existing recreational lands, so therefore land acquisition is a high priority. Recommendations include establishing public restrooms, improving boat launch, and parking areas at the Big Roche-A-Cri landing.

### Town of Quincy

Recommendations for the Town include, land acquisition for future recreation development, upgrading the existing boat accesses to include parking lots, and concrete slabs, a park with picnic tables, grills, vault type restrooms, and cross-country ski trails.

### Town of Rome

Recommendations for the Town includes the following for each park:

Dyracuse Motorcycle Park – development of approximately ten campsites for tents with grills picnic tables, camping pads, a chip sealed road leading to campsites, a shower addition to the existing restroom, a larger well and septic field, and chip seal the existing gravel road. Additional recommendations are to create ATV trails to gain access to this park.

### Town of Springville

Recommendations for the Town are to acquire some land for recreational development on the Wisconsin River, the Town's main asset.

### Town of Strongs Prairie

Recommendations for the Town are to develop the 2-3 acre unnamed park on the Castle Rock Flowage into a picnic area with a shelter, grills, playground, restrooms, and a swimming beach. The Arkdale Park should develop into a neighborhood park with a tennis court, upgraded basketball courts, and lights for the baseball diamond.

### Grand Marsh Lions Park

Recommendations for the park include the construction of a playground, a storage building, upgrading the electrical wiring to the existing shelter, and drilling a new well for drinking water.

## ADAMS-FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOMMENDATIONS

Grand Marsh Elementary school is planning a 3-phase playground equipment upgrade. One phase will be funded each year from 2005-2007 as money becomes available through a variety of sources.

The Adams-Friendship School District is planning to refurbish the varsity football field and track in 2005.

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

## INTRODUCTION

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

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

### Natural Resource Zoning

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

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

### Park Dedication

Subdivision regulations can be used by counties to require residential subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use in areas which are experiencing significant residential growth. Neighborhood parks may be acquired in this manner in newly developing residential areas. Local landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of small communities.

### Use of Easements

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

### Leases

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

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

### Historic Sites

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

### Program Costs

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

### Capital Improvements

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

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

### Monetary Aid Programs

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

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

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

Community Services Specialist  
1300 West Clairemont Ave.  
Box 4001  
Eau Claire, WI 54801  
(715) 839-3751

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

### Future Planning

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

### Priorities

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

### Lifetime Activities

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

### Winter Activities

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

### Snowmobile/ATV Routes

Designated specific streets or rights-of-way for snowmobile or ATV use. Since snowmobiles and ATVs can be considered a noise nuisance and a hazard for non-users, municipalities may wish to designate specific routes through the municipality for snowmobile/ATV use.

### Specialized Facilities

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

### Municipal & School District Cooperation

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

### Senior Citizen Involvement

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

### Youth Programs

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

### Service Group Involvement

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

### Community Beautification

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

### Adopt-A-Park Program

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

## **PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING**

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

Some of the planning recommendations will not be accomplished within this five year plan period, and additional recommendations may be added as new recreational activities come into demand or the status of existing facilities change.

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

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

The Adams County Parks Committee review of this information and evaluation will determine the need for proposed projects based on standards and priorities as outlined in this plan.

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

ATTACHMENT A  
OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

ATTACHMENT B

NCWRPC GENERATED SCORP 2005-2010 SUMMARY

ATTACHMENT C  
FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

ATTACHMENT D

STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS