



# Outdoor Recreation Plan

**2007-2011**

Effective January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011

Also covering the municipalities within Juneau County



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

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## **ABSTRACT**

**TITLE:** JUNEAU COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
2007-2011 Effective January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011

**SUBJECT:** This report 1) Assesses the existing recreation system in Forest County; 2) Identifies recreation needs based upon public input, past plans, and recreation standards; and 3) Establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.

Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids to purchase land and to add facilities to existing outdoor recreation lands. The Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan is required to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and Wisconsin Stewardship Grant funding.

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

**DATE:** April 2007

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**DISCLAIMER:** This plan was prepared by the staff of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission under agreement with the above contact.

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

# 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 Juneau County Board and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), will continue eligibility of the county and its local units of government for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), and Stewardship Funds. Adoption by all municipalities is not necessary if they wish to cooperate with Juneau County to use this plan for grant applications. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Juneau County applies on their behalf.

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

## STATUTORY BASE

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

## PLAN COMPONENTS

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

Background information on Juneau 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 2011. A combination of public survey compilation, standards analysis, and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were utilized to define recreational and open space needs. Goals and objectives were created to guide the direction of recreational planning efforts within Juneau County.

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

forth in Chapter 8. This plan concludes with a note on updating to insure that it remains relevant to the needs of the county over the entire five-year span.

## PAST PLANS

Juneau County has been involved with recreation planning since 1971 when an *Outdoor Recreation Plan for Juneau County* was compiled and written by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In 1977, Comprehensive Planning Services developed a five-year outdoor recreation plan for the County. In 1989, the City of Elroy developed a plan for the City to address the specific issues relating to bike trail systems in the Elroy area. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) has prepared the *Juneau County Outdoor Recreation Plan* since 1990.

### ***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 by each county that trails existed to facilitate how the plan can become reality cost effectively.

The routes for Juneau County are mainly a series of on-road routes throughout the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and on-road routes throughout Juneau County connecting the Omaha, Elroy-Sparta, Hillsboro, and 400 state trails. These trails are shown on Map 1.

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

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

### **Segment 53—Wyeville to Mauston to Adams County Hwy Z**

This potential trail corridor is a combination of rail line and highway right-of-way that links via Juneau County's Omaha Trail to the Elroy-Sparta and "400" State Trails in Elroy. Rail line would provide the linkage from Wyeville to Mauston, and various roadways from Mauston east to the Wisconsin River.

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.

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

**BN Badlands**

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

**MW Middle Wisconsin River**

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

**BO Baraboo River**

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

**NC Necedah National Wildlife Refuge**

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

**CF Central Wisconsin Forests**

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

**SM Meadow Valley State Wildlife Area**

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

**GC Greensand Cuesta**

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

**YW Yellow (Juneau) River**

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

**LL Lower Lemonweir River**

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

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

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

***Juneau County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan***

This 2006-2020 document contains the Juneau County Forest Access Plan. Maps were created from the data in this plan.

***Juneau County Land and Water Resource Management Plan***

The Juneau County Land Conservation Department developed this plan in 2006. 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.

***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.

***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 is described and how state parks need improvement to meet that need.

***City of Mauston Comprehensive Plan 2000-2020***

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

***Village of Wonevok Comprehensive Plan 2004-2024***

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

# DESCRIPTION OF JUNEAU COUNTY

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### **Introduction**

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

### **Geography and Land Use**

Juneau County in west central Wisconsin has a total of 513,758 acres; of which 35.3% is forested, 31.8% is used for agriculture, 5.0% is water, 23.8% is wetlands, 2.0% for open space, 1.5% is for transportation (which includes airports and roads), 0.1% for residential, and 0.5% is for commercial and industrial uses. The City of Mauston is the county seat and the largest urban area in Juneau County. Mauston is 135 miles northwest of Milwaukee; 105 miles southwest of Green Bay; 125 miles south of Wausau; 70 miles northwest of Madison; and 70 miles east of La Crosse. Juneau County consists of the Cities of Mauston, Elroy, and New Lisbon; the Villages of Hustler, Necedah, Union Center, Wonewoc, Camp Douglas, and Lyndon Station; and 19 Towns. See Map 2.

### **Climate**

Juneau County has a continental climate that is conducive to year-round recreation opportunities. Summers are characterized by warm but not excessively hot days and cool nights, while winters are long and relatively snowy. In the winter, the average daily temperature is 18 degrees, while in the summer it is 69 degrees. The average annual precipitation is about 31 inches of which 60 percent falls from May through September. For the growing season, the interval between the last 32-degree freeze in the spring and the first one in the fall averages about 131 days. The sun shines 40 percent of the time possible in summer and 20 percent in winter. The prevailing winds are from the west and have the highest average wind-speed in March, April, and November.

### **Topography and Geology**

The northeastern 75 percent of Juneau County is part of extinct Glacial Lake Wisconsin. This area is generally flat or gently undulating topography, except for an occasional sandstone butte. These buttes rise above the basin to a height of 100 to 300 feet, and have a maximum elevation of 1,262 feet, at Sheep Pasture Bluff. Upper Cambrian sandstone is underlain by Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks in this area of the county. These Precambrian rocks are buried 400 to 850 feet beneath the Upper Cambrian sandstone with the exception of the Necedah quartzite. This hill at Necedah is an extrusion of Precambrian quartzite surrounded by Upper Cambrian sandstone.

The southeast 25 percent of Juneau County is part of the Driftless Area. This very hilly area has steep sandstone escarpments, which mark the northern and eastern boundaries. The valleys are V-shaped and have relatively narrow bottoms that exist 200 to 350 feet below the ridge tops. The

highest elevation is 1,380 feet, at Johnson Hill in the Town of Plymouth. Upper Cambrian sandstone, shale, and conglomerate are the parent geology in this area of the county. The Upper Cambrian rocks are capped in places by remnants of a more resistant, Ordovician, marine calcitic-dolomite.

## **Surface Water**

The many streams, rivers, and flowages in Juneau County furnish an abundant supply of surface water for power generation, irrigation, recreation, and fish & wildlife habitat. For most users, groundwater is the major source of supply.

Juneau County has a total of about 57 lakes, and 73 streams. Many lakes were artificially created to generate power, used for waterfowl, or as cranberry flowages. Nearly all of the lakes are used for recreation as well as their original purpose. The two largest lakes are Petenwell and Castle Rock; both are flowages on the Wisconsin River. Juneau County has 378 linear miles of streams; all of which drain to the Wisconsin River. Two other important rivers are the Lemonweir and the Yellow.

## **Groundwater**

The quality of groundwater in Juneau County is generally good for most domestic, municipal, and industrial uses. The water is relatively soft in most of the county, but becomes fairly hard in the uplands in the southwestern part of the county. Local differences in the quality of ground water are caused by the composition, solubility, and surface area of particles of soil and rock through which the water moves, and the length of time the water is in contact with these materials. Calcium, magnesium, and bicarbonate ions derived from dolomite are present. Minor water use problems are caused by hardness and locally by high concentrations of iron. Iron is mainly produced by reducing conditions in marshes and swamps.

Glacial lake and outwash deposits make up an aquifer that is the major source of groundwater for private water supplies in the northern 75 percent of the county. Yields are as high as 1,850 gallons per minute, but range mainly from 150 to 840 gallons per minute. The average high capacity well yields 500 gallons per minute.

## **Soils**

Even though Juneau County was never scoured by glaciers, about 75 percent of the county lies in the basin of extinct Glacial Lake Wisconsin. Most of the soils in this part of the county formed in sandy lake deposits, sandy outwash, or local sandy residuum, which all have fewer weatherable minerals than that in other areas of the county. Organic matter is the parent material for a number of soils in the county. Most of the upland soils in the southwestern part of the county formed in loess, in bedrock residuum, or in both.

Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service published the Juneau County Soil Survey in 1991. Updated soil suitability tables for outdoor recreation and other uses are available on the Internet.

Insert Map 2 – General Location

## SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

### **Introduction**

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

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

### **Population**

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

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

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

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

Community	1990 Seasonal + Permanent = Total Pop.	2000 Seasonal + Permanent = Total Pop.	# and % Change
Juneau County	6,309 + 21,650 = 27,959	5,046 + 24,316 = 29,362	1,403 / 5.02%
Mauston, City	30 + 3,439 = 3,469	18 + 3,740 = 3,758	289 / 8.33%
Elroy, City	17 + 1,533 = 1,550	14 + 1,578 = 1,592	42 / 2.71%
New Lisbon, City	13 + 1,491 = 1,504	23 + 1,436 = 1,459	-32 / -2.13%
Camp Douglas, Village	10 + 512 = 522	7 + 592 = 599	78 / 14.85%
Union Center, Village	2 + 197 = 199	0 + 214 = 214	17 / 8.63%
Necedah, Village	77 + 743 = 820	56 + 888 = 944	124 / 15.12%
Wonewoc, Village	14 + 770 = 784	2 + 834 = 836	66 / 8.60%
Hustler, Village	2 + 156 = 158	0 + 113 = 113	-45 / -28.54%
Lyndon Station, Village	20 + 474 = 494	13 + 458 = 471	-23 / -4.65%
Armenia, Town	640 + 592 = 1,232	441 + 707 = 1,148	-83 / -6.78%
Clearfield, Town	388 + 502 = 890	299 + 737 = 1,036	146 / 16.45%
Cutler, Town	109 + 314 = 423	50 + 282 = 332	-91 / -21.51%
Finley, Town	224 + 66 = 290	150 + 84 = 234	-55 / -19.02%
Fountain, Town	69 + 633 = 702	44 + 582 = 626	-77 / -10.90%
Germantown, Town	1,434 + 615 = 2,049	1,693 + 1,174 = 2,867	818 / 39.90%
Kildare, Town	382 + 491 = 873	236 + 557 = 793	-80 / -9.19%
Kingston, Town	48 + 57 = 105	26 + 58 = 84	-21 / -19.62%
Lemonweir, Town	194 + 1,707 = 1,901	169 + 1,763 = 1,932	31 / 1.64%
Lindina, Town	28 + 796 = 824	33 + 730 = 763	-61 / -7.40%
Lisbon, Town	117 + 862 = 979	103 + 1,020 = 1,123	144 / 14.72%
Lyndon, Town	299 + 790 = 1,089	175 + 1,217 = 1,392	303 / 27.83%
Marion, Town	225 + 351 = 576	110 + 433 = 543	-32 / -5.61%
Necedah, Town	1,526 + 1,601 = 3,127	995 + 2,156 = 3,151	24 / 0.77%
Orange, Town	78 + 581 = 659	74 + 549 = 623	42 / 7.30%
Plymouth, Town	57 + 601 = 658	141 + 639 = 780	179 / 29.86%
Seven Mile Creek, Town	75 + 383 = 458	62 + 369 = 431	48 / 12.62%
Summit, Town	116 + 600 = 716	29 + 623 = 652	52 / 8.67%
Wonewoc, Town	0 + 793 = 793	46 + 783 = 829	36 / 4.57%

Source: U.S. Census, and NCWRPC

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

The population in Juneau County increased 9.6 percent from April 2000 through January 1, 2005. Juneau's 9.6 percent growth rate was the seventh fastest growth rate among Wisconsin's 72 counties during this period. The additional 2,340 residents came almost entirely from individuals moving into

the county, as there were only nine more births in the county than deaths during this time period. Many of these new residents converted their seasonal residence to their permanent home.

Juneau County is experiencing an aging residential population. In 1990 it was 34.5, and by the year 2000 the median age of a Juneau County resident had climbed to 39.4 years old. These trends impact the recreation trends in the county, because an older population generally enjoys quieter, lower impact activities such as viewing birds, driving for pleasure, and ice fishing.

**Table 2** **Population Projections**  
**by Juneau County Municipality**

Community	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	# and % Change
Juneau County	25,640	27,677	28,635	29,449	29,807	4,167 / 16.3%
Mauston, City	3,927	4,327	4,558	4,763	4,887	960 / 24.4%
Elroy, City	1,530	1,572	1,550	1,523	1,475	-55 / -3.6%
New Lisbon, City	2,135	2,166	2,139	2,107	2,058	-77 / -3.6%
Camp Douglas, Village	579	600	597	591	578	-1 / -0.2%
Necedah, Village	891	943	957	966	961	70 / 7.9%
Union Center, Village	209	217	216	214	210	1 / 0.5%
Wonewoc, Village	810	834	824	811	786	-24 / -3.0%
Hustler, Village	104	102	96	89	81	-23 / -22.1%
Lyndon Station, Village	451	471	471	470	462	11 / 2.4%
Armenia, Town	748	832	884	930	960	212 / 28.3%
Clearfield, Town	782	874	930	981	1,015	233 / 29.8%
Cutler, Town	269	272	264	255	243	-26 / -9.7%
Finley, Town	87	95	99	103	105	18 / 20.7%
Fountain, Town	568	588	583	577	562	-6 / -1.1%
Germantown, Town	1,296	1,493	1,632	1,759	1,854	558 / 43.1%
Kildare, Town	597	673	721	765	796	199 / 33.3%
Kingston, Town	55	55	52	50	47	-8 / -14.5%
Lemonweir, Town	1,792	1,927	1,984	2,031	2,047	255 / 14.2%
Lindina, Town	696	718	710	699	679	-17 / -2.4%
Lisbon, Town	1,033	1,106	1,135	1,158	1,164	131 / 12.7%
Lyndon, Town	1,332	1,526	1,659	1,781	1,871	539 / 40.5%
Marion, Town	453	499	526	550	564	111 / 24.5%
Necedah, Town	2,362	2,710	2,951	3,172	3,337	975 / 41.3%
Orange, Town	540	563	563	561	551	11 / 2.0%
Plymouth, Town	636	670	678	682	677	41 / 6.4%
Seven Mile Creek, Town	364	380	381	381	375	11 / 3.0%
Summit, Town	620	653	660	664	658	38 / 6.1%
Wonewoc, Town	774	811	815	816	804	30 / 3.9%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2003

# EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

## INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing outdoor recreational facilities in Juneau 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 Recreation Areas; Forested Lands – Not State or County Owned; School District Facilities; City, and Town Facilities; State Facilities; Federal Facilities; and Private Outdoor Recreation Facilities.

## LINEAR FACILITIES

**Water Trails:** A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. This website can help with creating a trail: (<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/publications/watertrails/>). There are over 410 miles of streams and rivers. Portages have been established on the Wisconsin River to get around the dams. All navigable water is available to canoe on. Both the Wisconsin and Lemonweir Rivers have multiple access points.

The Baraboo River is the first river in Wisconsin to have all the dams removed, and now it is a canoeing river with some areas that need widening (Wonewoc Comprehensive Plan 2004).

The **400 State Trail** is a 22-mile rail bed trail between Elroy and Reedsburg. This trail connects to the Elroy-Sparta, Hillsboro, and Omaha Trails. Hiking, bicycle touring, and snowmobiling are possible on this trail.

**Elroy-Sparta State Trail** – A 32.5-mile rail bed trail between Elroy and Sparta. Hiking, bicycle touring, and snowmobiling are possible on this trail.

**Hillsboro State Trail** – A 4.3-mile county-operated hike/bike/snowmobile trail between Hillsboro and the 400 Trail at Union Center.

**Snowmobile Trails** – Juneau County has approximately 239.7 miles of designated snowmobile trails that are part of the State snowmobile aid program, along with approximately 65 miles of club trails. There are no winter designated ATV trails.

**ATV Trails** – Juneau County has approximately 200 miles of ATV routes.

## PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO WATER BODIES

Public Access sites on Juneau County's lakes and streams has been extensively inventoried and catalogued in the *Juneau County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. An updated map of public access areas is available from the Juneau County Forestry Department. Juneau County owns and maintains 17 developed access points. Public access to waterbodies will be ensured when development occurs by state statute. See the Implementation Strategies chapter for more details.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

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

### A) Dam

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

### B) Geologic Sites

Juneau County's topography and geology are described in Chapter 2 – Description of Juneau County. Several land features are named below:

**Cranberry Rock Lookout**, Town of Armenia, National Guard Bombing and Gunnery Range.

**Lone Rock**, Town of Orange, Camp Williams Army National Guard.

**Duckworth Ridge**, Town of Lisbon, privately owned.

**Johnson Hill**, Town of Plymouth, privately owned.

**Mullin Ridge**, Town of Plymouth, privately owned.

**Pleasant Ridge**, Town of Wonewoc, privately owned.

**Potter Ridge**, Town of Summit, privately owned.

**Potato Hill**, Town of Summit, privately owned.

**Sheep Pasture Bluff**, Town of Lemonweir, privately owned.

**Pine Knob**, Town of Seven Mile Creek, privately owned.

**Fairy Bluff**, Town of Seven Mile Creek and Lyndon, privately owned.

**Fitz Bluff**, Town of Seven Mile Creek and Lyndon, privately owned.

**Bald Knob**, Town of Seven Mile Creek and Lyndon, privately owned.

**Moran Bluff**, Town of Seven Mile Creek and Lyndon, privately owned.

**Grubb Hill**, Town of Lyndon, privately owned.

**Castle Rock**, Town of Marion, privately owned.

**Swandas Bluff**, Town of Kildare, privately owned.

**Rogge Bluff**, Town of Kildare, privately owned.

**Fox Point**, Town of Kildare, privately owned.

**Stand Rock**, Town of Lyndon, privately owned.

**Inspiration Point**, Village of Wonewoc, privately owned and available to Spiritualist Campers

## COUNTY FOREST

The Juneau County Forestry Department manages 15,186.44 acres of county forest. This land is managed for multiple uses, and is independently certified as sustainably managed and harvested. Some of the county forest is closed to motorized vehicles. Examples of permitted recreational activities are hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, bough cutting (permit required), firewood collection (permit required), and wildlife observation. Refer to the 15-year Juneau County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

## COMMUNITY FOREST

The Juneau County Forestry Department manages 7,389 acres of forested land that is not part of the state forest tax law program. This land is managed the same way that the county forest is. Many of the parcels are isolated from other county forest blocked areas. Some of the community forest is closed to motorized vehicles. Examples of permitted recreational activities are hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, bough cutting (permit required), firewood collection (permit required), and wildlife observation. Refer to the 15-year Juneau County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

## FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE or COUNTY OWNED

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

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) 1,033 acres are open to the public to hunt and fish in 2006. There are 14,266 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program that are open to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking (make sure the land is enrolled as open), and 31,003 acres that are closed to public access. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation. Snowmobiles, ATVs, bicycles, and other motorized and non-motorized vehicles are prohibited on enrolled lands that are open to the public.

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

## SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Six school districts provide additional local recreation opportunities in Juneau County. School yards often have playgrounds with play equipment, ball diamonds, and basketball hoops. School yards are considered neighborhood parks that range in size from 1 to 15 acres. A few districts also have school forests that are open to the public for a variety of recreational and educational uses.

### Mauston School District

Lyndon Station E.S. – 10 acres with buildings, baseball field, parking, playground equipment and open space.

West Side E.S. – 6 acres with buildings, baseball field, basketball court, parking, playground equipment and open space.

Gordon Olson M.S., Grayside E.S., and Mauston H.S. – 117 acres with buildings, effigy mound display, baseball fields, softball field, basketball court, soccer field, open space, playground equipment, football field and track. Almost 12 acres of parking.

The School District of Mauston has two school forest properties located in Juneau County. There are no facilities on either parcel. Contact the School District of Mauston for rules of use on school forest lands.

- Mauston School Forest (located in Germantown) has 166 acres with snowmobile trails and access roads.
- Mauston School Forest (located in Lemonweir) has 40 acres.

### Tomah Area School District

Camp Douglas E.S. – 1.5 acres, basketball court, parking, playground equipment.

### New Lisbon School District

New Lisbon E.S. – 2.5 acres, open space, parking, playground equipment.

York Athletic Field – 6 acres, baseball field, football field, open space, restrooms, track. No off-street parking.

Tennis Courts – 2 courts in the City of New Lisbon.

### Necedah School District

Necedah H.S. – 5.2 acres, baseball field, basketball court, open space, parking, playground equipment, and tennis court.

### Royall School District

Elroy E.S. – 1.25 acres, basketball court, parking, playground equipment.

Royall H.S. – 13 acres, baseball field, basketball court, football field, open space, playground equipment, and track, with off-street parking.

### Wonewoc-Center School District

Wonewoc E.S. and H.S. – 4.2 acres, baseball field, basketball court, and football field.

Wonewoc Center Outdoor Learning Area – 97 acres located at the end of School Road in Wonewoc, this school forest has a pond and dock, 1 mile hiking trail, 2 mile cross country ski trail, and limited parking available. Contact the Wonewoc-Center School District for rules of use on school forest lands.

## PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

### Private Campgrounds

There are approximately 8 private campgrounds totaling 673 campsites in Juneau County. All of these campgrounds are available for a fee to the public.

SCORP 2005-2010 data report that there are a total of 3,049 public and privately owned campsites in Juneau County.

There are 3 private golf courses that are open to the public for greens fees.

- Castle Rock Golf Course, 18-hole, in the Town of Lisbon.
- Oak Creek Golf Course, 18-hole, in the Village of Necedah.
- Spring Valley Golf Course, 9-hole, in the Village of Union Center.

### Wonewoc Spiritualist Camp

The camp consists of numerous cabins for the camp attendees as well as for the psychics and mediums themselves. The campsite maintains restrooms, a kitchen hall, a main office, and a snack store when the camp is occupied. There is also a motel located on the site that operates year-round. The rustic site is located atop the bluff to the east of the Village of Wonewoc and camp attendees may look down onto the Village of Wonewoc from Inspiration Point high above the valley.

Horseback Riding are available at Red Ridge Ranch just east of Mauston, and at Woodside Ranch, which is situated on a high wooded hillside that offers a panoramic view of the Lemonweir River Valley. Woodside is an operating ranch that offers cross-country ski trails, horseback riding, swimming, square and line dancing, shuffleboard, tennis, mini-golf, table tennis, hayrides, horseshoes and more.

## PARKS and CONSERVANCY AREAS

A summary of all the local and county parks, school grounds, state parks, and conservation areas with the amenities at each are located in the following tables and maps. The following brief descriptions of each park type are from SCORP 2005-2010. Elementary school playgrounds may be categorized as mini parks if only a playground exists. High schools grounds that contain several types of recreation fields would be listed under community parks. School forests are listed as community parks. **Linear Parks** are trails that may have various lengths.

**Mini Parks** – Generally less than 5 acres, these parks are special areas that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. One prominent feature or recreation facility like a playground may be present as the purpose of this park. The service area for this park generally is a ½ mile radius, and a population of 2,000-3,000 people.

**Neighborhood Parks** – An area of 5 to 25 acres that serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Active and passive recreational activities in this park include field, court, and ball games; skating; crafts; and picnicking. Facilities may also include a playground, wading pool, ball field, multi-activity field, ball diamond, tennis courts, skatepark, and shelter. Trees, open fields, and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks. The service area for this park generally is a 1 mile radius, and a population of 2,000-5,000 people.

**Community Parks** – Usually more than 25 acres in size, these parks serve entire communities, and are located adjacent to a collector street to provide community-wide vehicular access. The purposes of this park are to meet the recreational needs of several neighborhoods, as well as to preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. These parks allow for group activities not feasible at the neighborhood level. All of the facilities of a neighborhood park may exist, along with nature trails and scenic areas.

**Special Use Areas** – These areas are for single purpose recreational activities that often are designed as revenue generating enterprises such as for baseball, golf, nature centers, arboreta, formal gardens, gun ranges, festivals, ski areas, or areas that preserve and maintain cultural or archeological sites.

**County Parks** – County parks consist of 100 acres or more that are specifically set aside for active and passive recreation uses to accommodate large gatherings, special events, and individual users. These parks have scenic natural features that preserve the character of the region and provide a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities; and may also provide areas for camping, historic preservation, protection of natural areas, and special use areas.

**State Parks** – State parks are similar to county parks, with two differences: they consist of several hundred acres and preserve natural areas of statewide importance.

**Conservancy Areas** – Conservancy areas are managed for the flora & fauna resources that exist at a site. Activities like hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing may be allowed on these lands that may have labels like state natural areas, forests, or wildlife refuges. Each conservancy area has specific rules of use for public enjoyment.

1. Linear Parks spreadsheet

2. Mini Parks spreadsheet

### 3. Neighborhood Parks spreadsheet

4. Community Wide Parks spreadsheet

5. Special Use Areas spreadsheet

6. County Parks spreadsheet

7. State Parks spreadsheet

8. Conservancy Areas spreadsheet

Insert Map 3 – Outdoor Recreation  
(County, State, Federal, and Town)

Insert Map 4 – City of Mauston Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 5 – City of New Lisbon Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 6 – City of Elroy Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 7 – Village of Necedah Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 8 – Village of Camp Douglas Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 9 – Village of Hustler Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 10 – Village of Union Center Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 11 – Village of Wonewoc Outdoor Recreation

Insert Map 12 – Village of Lyndon Station Outdoor Recreation

# OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## INTRODUCTION

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

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROJECTS COMPLETED FROM 2002-2006

### Juneau County

- Controlled access at both campgrounds, Castle Rock and Wilderness Park.
- Expanded parking areas at boat landings of Castle Rock and Wilderness Parks.
- Added handicapped fishing piers and launch ramps at both Castle Rock and Wilderness Parks.

### City of Mauston

- Purchased 5 new picnic tables.
- Added playground in Marchowsky Park.
- Developed new park with playground in Oak Ridge Subdivision.
- Built additional park shelter and foot bridge at Lions Park.
- Built new baseball diamond at Veterans Memorial Park.

### City of Elroy

- Constructed 2 tennis courts at Schultz Park.
- Created 2 basketball half-courts in downtown Elroy.
- Added a splash pad to the city's pool complex.
- Refurbished swimming pool walls and floor.
- Constructed a canoe landing on the Baraboo River in Schultz Park.
- Scoreboard added to recreational fields at Schultz Park.

### Village of Necedah

- New park established at State Highways 80 and 21.
- Shelter with restrooms was built in 2006.
- Walk path constructed in 2005.
- 12 picnic tables built in 2003.
- New playground installed.
- Replaced baseball field fence.

### Village of Lyndon Station

- Veterans Memorial Park.

Town of Germantown

- Built handicap accessible restroom.
- Purchased and installed picnic tables and benches in park.
- Created concrete and wood chip walking paths in park.

Town of Lyndon

- Completely rebuilt and improved boat launch off Hwy. N on the Wisconsin River.

Town of Orange

- Built shelter, purchased portable toilet, and built picnic tables for Lone Rock Community Park.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**Informal Public Input**

Juneau County Forestry and Parks Department staff has acquired public input about its parks, recreational, natural, and cultural resources both on the road and within the parks.

**Summary of Town Survey Responses**

Surveys were received from Town of Lindina, Germantown, Lyndon, Kildare, Orange, Clearfield, Necedah, Village of Lyndon Station, and the cities of Mauston and Elroy. Survey responses are grouped under the headings below. All respondents did not choose three issues.

Top 3 Outdoor Recreation Issues facing Juneau County

ATV Trails	XXXXXX
Marketing available activities and facilities	XX
Loss of public access to lakes, rivers	XXXX
Tourism/Safety	XXX
Maintaining parks and recreational facilities	XXX
Improving waterways and fishing opportunities	XX

How to Satisfy Juneau County Outdoor Recreational Issues

- ATV: Establish trails on county land, not on town roads
- Better communication between county and township involved
- More police patrolling and enforcing violations
- More education
- Vigilance, joining and cooperation among environmental watch dog groups and enforcing violations.
- More committees to bring viable options to County Board or Entity responsible for completing a project.
- More advertising.

## What Existing Outdoor Recreation Facilities in Juneau County Need Improvement

More parking and boat ramps and improving existing ones

ATV trails being established

Cross Country Ski trails

Walking trail between the park and run along the shoreline, connecting with Germantown Park and beyond for miles.

Upgrade Omaha Trail

### **Summary of Snowmobile Clubs' Resolutions**

- Purchase land to join the Omaha and the 400 trails.
- Feasibility study for a trail from Mill Bluff State Park to Rocky Arbor State Park.
- Purchase railroad property from Omaha Trail to Mill Bluff/Tomah when it becomes available.
- Recommend blacktopping road in both parks.
- Shower house for Area B in Castle Rock Park.

### **Open House Public Input**

One open house meeting was advertised in local newspapers, and a post card reminder was sent to each local government in Juneau County. Area residents were able to view a draft of the proposed plan at the following libraries: Elroy, Hatch (Mauston), Necedah, New Lisbon, & Wonewoc; also at the Forestry, and Parks Department office; and on the Internet.

Comments from Open House meeting held between 3:00-6:00 p.m. on April 11, 2007:

- Open House Meeting Comments
- ATV club notes – Members would like to use existing rail systems as long as there is no conflict with non-motorized users (think multiple use trails). Create a feasibility study for ATV use on the landfill grounds when it closes. ATV use must occur on suitable soils wherever the trails are created.
  - Possible ATV/multiple use trail routes:
    - Town roads in Germantown. Need an east/west water crossing in the CTH G area.
    - A north/south trail west of STH 80 in the Clearfield and Necedah town area.
    - A north/south trail east of the Yellow River.
  - Extend DNR Trail Segment 53 southeast from STH 82 along the railroad corridor that parallels I-90/94 all the way to Sauk County.
  - Create a bicycle trail on paved roads to Wilderness Park.
  - Purchase multiple use trail easements countywide.
  - Snowmobile Council comments submitted and spoken at open house meeting:

### **Juneau County Snowmobile Council**

George Gore, Committee Chair

601 Academy Street

Elroy WI 53929

***Comments on Juneau County 5-Year Recreation Plan, April 11, 2007:***

INTRODUCTION

Open House Meeting Comments

Good afternoon. My name is George Gore. I am a resident of Juneau County and a homeowner in the City of Elroy. I am also an officer of the Juneau County Snowmobile Council, which is the organization comprised of the seven snowmobile clubs with snowmobile trails in Juneau County. Our organization has met and discussed the Juneau County 5-Year Recreation Plan. We wish to make some comments and recommendations. I have been selected as the spokesman for our group. When I speak, I am speaking on behalf of all of the snowmobile club members in Juneau County.

TRENDS

Less Snow

Included in the first draft of the 5-Year Recreation Plan is a section called "Trends". Within the "Trends" section, there is a statement to the effect that; "There is less snowmobiling activity due to less snow". It is true that we have had several consecutive winters with a shortage of snow. As a result, a few people have sold their snowmobiles and got out of the sport. However, there are still lots of enthusiastic snowmobilers who are very active in the sport. We may be snowmobiling less days each year, but our sport is alive and well. Snowmobiling is not dying. We will continue to need snowmobile trails five years from now, ten years from now, and fifteen years from now.

Open House Meeting Comments

I should also comment that there are very few recreational facilities in Juneau County that are solely for snowmobiling. Most of the snowmobile trails are also off-road bicycle trails, and we are merely the off-season users. Certainly, the 5-Year Recreation Plan will accommodate and expand off-road facilities for bicyclists. And we fully endorse those plans.

Property Fragmentation

There is another trend that is not mentioned in the 5-Year Recreation Plan. This trend is having a major impact upon the sport of snowmobiling. The trend is that of private property fragmentation. In Juneau County, only about 17% of snowmobile trails are on public land. The other 83% are on private property. We once had several large tracts of woods and fields where one or two miles of snowmobile trail would be on one parcel of property. Permission from one property owner would give us one or two miles of snowmobile trail. Many of the large parcels are being sold and then divided into smaller parcels. If one 1,000-acre parcel is sold to a developer and divided into 5-acre recreational lots, there are now 200 landowners instead of one. The snowmobile trail probably did not cross all 200 parcels, but possibly did cross 40 or 50 of them. Getting permission to continue the snowmobile trail is not a majority rule situation of the new owners. It requires 100% participation. If only one landowner refuses permission for the trail, the entire segment is lost.

We have already lost significant portions of snowmobile trail due to property fragmentation, especially in the Wisconsin River and Castle Rock Lake area, but elsewhere in the county too. Looking five years or ten years into the future, we foresee a major problem in just

keeping our existing network of snowmobile trails. The primary reason is property fragmentation.

With loss of trails across private property, we foresee greater reliance on public trails than in the past. While the trend may be less snowmobiling (which should result in less pressure for snowmobile trails), the other trend of property fragmentation of private property will cause greater pressure to create more trails on public property.

#### Easements

One possible counteraction to the property fragmentation problem is to obtain permanent easements for snowmobile trails before the property is fragmented. Of course, the landowner needs an incentive to give a permanent easement. He needs to be paid for the easement. At present, there is no funding mechanism for snowmobile clubs to purchase easements. But, according to the first draft of the 5-Year Recreation Plan, governmental bodies can get funding for recreational trail easement purchases and are encouraged to do so. We wish to recommend that Juneau County consider purchasing some permanent easements. We feel that easement purchases can be started with a carefully selected small-scale pilot project, then gradually expanded. The Juneau County Snowmobile Council is willing to work closely with the Juneau County Forestry & Parks Department in selecting the properties to be targeted for easements. Since projects will not be authorized for funding unless listed in the 5-Year Recreation Plan, we recommend that a project to purchase easements be included in the plan.

### OMAHA TRAIL TO 400 TRAIL CONNECTOR

#### Present Situation

A person bicycling from Camp Douglas may ride south to Elroy on the Omaha Trail, which is one of the finest rural bicycle trails in the nation. Her tourism brochure assures her that the Omaha Trail connects to the Elroy-Sparta Trail at Elroy. The Elroy-Sparta Trail is another world-class bicycle trail, and her next destination. When she reaches the City of Elroy, she finds that the beautiful Omaha Trail ends. In its place are some city streets that are not well marked as "bicycle routes", but do eventually lead her to the Elroy-Sparta Trail. This segment of her ride was certainly not a high quality "off-road bicycle trail".

A snowmobiler rides north from Wonewoc on a snowmobile superhighway that we know as The 400 Trail. At Elroy, he decides to continue north to Hustler on another snowmobile superhighway, the Omaha Trail. First, he is routed down an alley, then across a marsh with its clumps of marsh grass, then across some residential lots, then into a cornfield, and finally onto the Omaha Trail. Now he is back on a premium snowmobile trail. The connector segment between the 400 Trail and the Omaha Trail was not a continuation of rail grade trail as he expected. It was more like a farm trail. In fact, it was poorer than most farm trails due to the marsh.

#### Need for Improvement

Too many documents state that the Omaha Trail "connects to" the 400 Trail and the Elroy-Sparta Trail at Elroy. Not enough documents state that the connector link between the trails is substandard, or of poor quality, or deficient, or an embarrassment.

Open House Meeting Comments

Open House Meeting Comments

In a tourism brochure, it is not so serious to gloss over the poor connector link between trails.

The 5-Year Recreation Plan is not one of the documents that should overlook this deficiency. The 5-Year Recreation Plan should admit that the connector link is a flaw in an otherwise superb trail network. This committee is the group that can set a goal for the Omaha Trail to be a first-class off-road bicycle trail "all of the way to the 400 Trail". The 5-Year Recreation Plan is the place to document this goal.

Open House Meeting Comments

Recommendation

We strongly recommend that the 5-Year Recreation Plan include a project to upgrade the connector link as one of its higher priorities. Projects need to be listed in the 5-Year Recreation Plan to be eligible for funding. We feel that this one needs to be listed and funded.

We feel that the project can be broken down into several phases.

The first phase may be to purchase permanent easements along the path where the future trail would be built. This is approximately where the existing snowmobile trail is routed. This is the same project that we recommend for the pilot-run use of easement purchases by Juneau County.

The second phase would be a feasibility or engineering study to define the best route for the trail and determine its cost.

The third phase would be purchase of property and construction of the trail.

City of Elroy Participation

Since the 5-Year Recreation Plan includes Juneau County and all of the governmental bodies within Juneau County, this should possibly be a City of Elroy project that is endorsed by Juneau County or a joint City of Elroy and Juneau County project. The entire connector link lies within the city limits of Elroy, and the City of Elroy already holds permanent easements on two of the parcels. If it does become a City of Elroy project, it should still be listed in the Juneau County 5-Year Recreation Plan.

Open House Meeting Comments

And of course, since funding is easier to obtain for off-road bicycle trails than for other types of recreation, we feel that it should be funded from bicycle grants.

STATE TRAILS NETWORK PLAN

The State Trails Network Plan portion of the Juneau County 5-Year Recreation Plan describes potential trail corridors in Juneau County. It earmarks "Segment 53" as an off-road bicycle trail from Wyeville to Mauston. We fully endorse and support this proposed trail.

We do wonder why the proposed trail segment ends at Mauston. We feel that it should continue along the same railroad and highway corridor to the Sauk County line at Rocky Arbor State Park, and from Camp Douglas to the Monroe County line at Mill Bluff State

Park. Development of this trail will require cooperative agreements with the railroad and the Department of Transportation for the trail to be located on railroad right-of-way and highway right-of-way. With those cooperative agreements already needed for the Wyeville-to-Mauston segment, it just makes sense to us that the trail should continue to Rocky Arbor State Park and Mill Bluff State Park.

### MAP OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

We note that the 5-Year Recreation Plan includes a map showing an inventory of existing recreational facilities. This includes snowmobile trails on private property. We note that the snowmobile trails map is very out-of-date. It shows some trails that no longer exist, and omits many miles of trail that have been added over the last 10 years. We will give you an up-to-date snowmobile trails map and request that the maps in the next draft of the 5-Year Recreation Plan be updated to match our map.

### SUMMARY

In summary, I would like review the main points I have tried to make:

1. Snowmobiling is not dying. We will continue to need trails.
2. Property fragmentation is becoming a major problem in keeping our existing snowmobile trails.
3. We encourage Juneau County to purchase easements for recreational trails. We recommend that purchase of easements be started with the Omaha Trail-to-400 Trail connector as a pilot project.
4. We recommend that a long-range plan be documented that will include a goal to update the Omaha Trail-to-400 Trail connector as a full-fledged off-road bicycle trail like the rest of the Omaha Trail.
5. We fully endorse the proposed "Segment 53" trail corridor.
6. We thank the Juneau County Forestry, Parks, and Zoning Committee for its strong past support of the sport of snowmobiling and welcome its continued strong support.

Our comments and recommendations are in writing and a copy will be left for the Committee to review and use as reference.

Respectfully Submitted,  
George Gore, Juneau County Snowmobile Council.

**- End of open house meeting comments -**

### GENERAL COUNTY FACILITY ASSESSMENT

Staff from the Juneau County Forestry and Parks Department projected what needs or issues face Juneau County.

- Promote government (federal, state, and county) purchase of recreational easements on private property to guarantee trail placement in the future.
- ATV recreation is highly controversial in Juneau County.
- Continue to maintain and upgrade all county parks and campgrounds.
- Continue to purchase all abandoned RR grades in Juneau County.

## PAST PLAN SUMMARIES OF PUBLIC COMMENT

### City of Mauston Comprehensive Plan Issues

The City of Mauston created a comprehensive plan in 2000. Below are some of the goals, objectives, and policies identified that relate to outdoor recreation.

**Goal: Provide for a safe, convenient, and efficient multi-modal transportation system.**

**Objective:** Provide for community-wide non-motorized travel;

**Policy:** Provide safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle routes within and between residential areas, schools, shopping areas, parks, medical facilities, employment centers, and mass transit facilities. All neighborhoods should be designed to meet the needs of the pedestrian.

**Goal: Provide for diverse and efficient public facilities.**

**Objective:** Provide for adequate and convenient park sites;

**Policy:** 1) Adopt resource protection standards and coordinate subdivision review (including the location of proposed park areas) with the location of permanently protected environmental features;  
2) Consider park land dedication or fee-in-lieu-of-dedication, and a recreation equipment development fee, as part of the land division and community park sites, located in conjunction with planned residential growth areas on the Comprehensive Plan Map;  
3) Coordinate neighborhood planning with the Park Commission.

### Village of Wonewoc Comprehensive Plan Issues

The Village of Wonewoc created a comprehensive plan in 2004. Below are some of the Community Survey results that relate to outdoor recreation. Scheduled improvements created by the Village Board in this Comprehensive Plan are listed in the Recommendations chapter of the Juneau County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

*The Village of Wonewoc has plenty of parks and open space.*

Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Uncertain	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
42.3%	30.5%	16.6%	7.0%	3.7%

*Would you support a community-funded initiative to create a "rest-stop" break area along the Baraboo River to encourage canoe users to stop in Wonewoc?*

Yes 49.2%    No 21.2%    No opinion 29.6%

*Would you support the use of public funds to sponsor youth activities and other opportunities for family entertainment?*

Yes 55.0%    No 18.5%    No opinion 26.5%

## 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 Juneau County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

## NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

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

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

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

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

1. Physical geography. Does the site have steep hills, woodlands, or wetlands? Such natural features are useful for exploration, conservation, aesthetic buffers, and unprogrammed lands.
2. Park facilities. What activities are allowed or will be allowed? How much land is needed for each use?
3. Unprogrammed buffers. How much land within the park is needed to separate different uses? How much land is needed for future expansion? Maybe a park will not expand within 2-years, but within 10-20 years expansion may be 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.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## INTRODUCTION

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

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

## COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Primitive Camping

Establish primitive campsite with Adirondack Shelters for hiking in camping at Bass Hollow Park and County Forests.



Adirondack Shelter

### Meadow Valley

Meadow Valley Wildlife Area (Central Wisconsin Conservation Area) is a 90 square mile wildlife production area that was leased to the state of Wisconsin and is administered under a cooperative agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This wildlife area does not have a master plan. Seriously consider placing an intensive use ATV area on state lands. ATVs are allowed on the town roads that traverse the Necedah National Wildlife Area.

### Multiple Use Trails

Purchase recreational trail easements countywide.

Conduct a feasibility study about extending a multiple use trail parallel to USH 12 & STH 16 along the railroad right-of-way from Monroe County southeast to Rocky Arbor State Park and on toward the Sauk County line.

Conduct a feasibility study about creating ATV trails in the landfill area when it closes.

Initiate and develop permanent trail segment to connect Omaha Trail to 400 Trail.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT RECOMMENDATIONS

### **New Miner North Unit:**

This unit will continue to be managed as a pine plantation which in years to come will grow into large saw timber and this will improve aesthetics and wildlife habitat

### **New Miner South Unit:**

This unit had major development going on around it because of the lake. Recreation and public access will be one of the primary goals of this unit.

### **Yellow River Unit:**

This unit will be managed primarily for wildlife habitat and primarily aspen and oak. Water resources are a major concern of managing these species because of the Yellow River flowing through it.

### **Cutler North Unit:**

This unit will continue being managed for wildlife habitat, hunting and timber production.

### **Cutler South Unit:**

This unit has large pine saw timber, oak and aspen with an under story of young white pine, which is excellent for wildlife. WE have an extensive cross country ski trail through this unit which is used throughout the winter months.

### **Clearfield Unit:**

This will continue to be managed for jack pine production and much of our snowmobile trail runs through this management unit.

### **Germantown Township:**

With the loss of other public lands in this township, the green space available to the public is very valuable as population has expanded immensely in the last five years.

### **Bass Hollow Unit:**

This unit is considered a prime recreational area because of the park and trails and our only high conservation forest with the many plant communities found within the unit.

## CITY OF MAUSTON RECOMMENDATIONS

- Upgrade Riverside Park with new shelter.
- Continue to replace and add new equipment.
- Plant more trees.

## CITY OF NEW LISBON RECOMMENDATIONS

- At Riverside park: improve boat landing, upgrade campground, construct handicap accessible bathhouse, and develop a walking path.
- Create a walking path along the Lemonweir River.

#### CITY OF ELROY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add permanent outfield fence to Schultz Park baseball field.
- Remodel bath house at swimming pool complex for handicap access.
- Add more shower facilities for campers at Schultz Park.
- Add painted bike path crossings on major highways in City.
- Upgrade electrical service for campers at Schultz Park.

#### VILLAGE OF NECEDAH RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete installation of playground at Old Mill Park.
- Remodel bathrooms at Lions Park's NAB Field.
- Improve parking lot for NAB Field (baseball) at Lions Park.
- Create a bridge across the Yellow River for pedestrians, ATVs, and snowmobiles.
- Develop a park on the east side of the dam.
- Add basketball court in Village Park.
- Develop a skateboard park.
- Upgrade all boat landings.

#### VILLAGE OF LYNDON STATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create new handicap accessible restrooms at Veterans Memorial Park.

#### VILLAGE OF WONEWOC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve South Town Park by rebuilding the ice rink, and installing playground equipment, picnic tables, grills, and power outlets.
- Construct Baraboo River canoe landing with a small park.
- Improve all public parks (Wonewoc Comprehensive Plan 2004).
- Rebuild ice rink in South Town Park (Wonewoc Comprehensive Plan 2004 p.33).

#### TOWN OF GERMANTOWN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Culling all oak wilt diseased trees from Germantown Park and replanting with many hardwood deciduous, and coniferous varieties.
- Extend and create walking paths in Germantown Park.

#### TOWN OF LYNDON RECOMMENDATIONS

- Asphalt pave parking lot of the Hwy N public access on the Wisconsin River.

#### TOWN OF ORANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Storage shed and drinking water (well point driven well) in Lone Rock Community Park.

#### TOWN OF NECEDAH RECOMMENDATIONS

- Coordinate installation of new U.S. Fish & Wildlife historical sign at Hwy 80 wayside 1 mile south of Sprague.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2007 – 2011

Capital improvements to parks are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designed and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Routine maintenance is considered the normal cycle of repair and upkeep for existing facilities. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, however, is usually considered a capital improvement item. For example, upgrading an outdoor restroom facility for universal access would qualify as a capital improvement, while repainting an outdoor restroom would be considered routine maintenance.

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

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

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

### **General Capital Improvements**

- Add a boat landing at USH 12 / STH 16 in Mauston on a tax delinquent establishment that was called "Island Bar," but is now county owned.
- Extend Omaha Trail into Monroe County along railroad corridor from Camp Douglas to Monroe County.
- Rebuild all Omaha Trail bridges to a 12 foot width.

### **Wilderness Park**

- Expand and develop camping area to add additional campsites.
- Create new handicap accessible fishing pier.
- Expand and develop more hiking trails.
- Build an interpretive center.
- Create a fish cleaning station.
- Sign 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue as bicycle routes from Wilderness Park to CTH G.

### **Castle Rock Park**

- Expand and develop camping area to add additional campsites.
- Create new handicap accessible fishing pier.
- Expand and develop more hiking trails.
- Create a fish cleaning station.

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

## INTRODUCTION

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

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

### Shoreland Zoning

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

### Public Access to Waterways

Wisconsin Statute §236.16(3) requires dedication of public access in subdivisions along waterways unless there is a public access within ½ mile of the subdivision.

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

### Use of Easements

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

### Leases

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

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

### Historic Sites

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

### Program Costs

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

### Capital Improvements

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

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

### Monetary Aid Programs

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

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

Lavane Hessler, Community Services Specialist  
1300 West Clairemont Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4001  
(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.

#### 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.

### 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.

### 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**

Essential characteristics of any planning process includes an inventory of what exists, determining what has occurred since the last plan was created, and what is desired locally for the future. Periodic updating of the plan is necessary for continued refinement and course correction to keep the plan current.

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

Annual review of the plan recommendations and capital improvement tables by the Juneau County Forestry and Parks Committee will keep this plan current. This review may also occur after a large turn over in elected officials after a local election.

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

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

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

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

ATTACHMENT A  
OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

ATTACHMENT B

NCWRPC GENERATED SCORP 2005-2010 SUMMARY

ATTACHMENT C  
FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

ATTACHMENT D  
STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS