
Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan

2009-2013

Effective January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013

Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation
Department Managed Facilities

Also covering some local governments within Oneida County



Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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ABSTRACT

- TITLE:** ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2009-2013 Effective January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013
- SUBJECT:** This report 1) Assesses the existing recreation system in Oneida 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 Oneida 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.
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- A. Outdoor Recreation Surveys
- B. NCWRPC Generated SCORP 2005–2010 Summary
- C. Public Comment Period Emailed and Mailed Remarks
- D. Facility Development Standards
- E. State and Federal Financial Assistance Programs

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 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 Oneida 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 Oneida County to use this plan for grant applications. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Oneida 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.

1.2 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...”

1.3 PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses outdoor recreation needs that are satisfied by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD) maintained facilities. Other public facilities are also listed to provide a more complete view of all public facilities available in Oneida County.

Background information on Oneida 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 Chapters 3 and 4 of this plan.

The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies through the year 2013. A combination of public comments, FLORD analysis, standards analysis, and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were utilized to define recreational and open space needs.

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 9 – Provisions For Updating. 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.

1.4 PAST PLANS

Oneida County first began recreation planning in 1976 when "An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oneida County and the City of Rhinelander" was prepared by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. This plan was updated in 1981 by "An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oneida County and the Town of Minocqua and the Town of Three Lakes," which was prepared by Planning Consultant, Craig Johhansen. Since then, the Towns of Cassian, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Minocqua, Monico, Newbold, Nokomis, Sugar Camp, Three Lakes, and Woodruff have all developed their own Town Recreation Plans as well. This plan has been written to follow the previous Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan covering the period 2004-2008. In addition, the findings of the 2005-2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) are utilized in the development of this county plan.

Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan

In 2002, Oneida County developed this bike route plan with assistance from NCWRPC. This plan established a number of scenic, on-road bike routes throughout the County.

Proposed trails and on-road routes from this plan are shown on Map 2.

Oneida County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

The mission of the County Forest is to manage, conserve and protect the natural resources within the county forest on a sustainable basis for present and future generations. The Plan contains information about forest resource planning, outdoor recreation planning, silvicultural practices, aesthetic management zones, trails and access control, biological communities, and wildlife species that exist within the county forest.

This 2006 – 2021 document was used to inventory existing recreation facilities shown on Map 3.

Oneida County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2006-2011

The Oneida County Land Conservation Committee 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. Goal 3: Improve forest management to promote productivity of forest products, protect wildlife habitat, water quality, and provide recreational opportunities – has one objective that relates to outdoor recreation: Objective C: Reduce erosion and habitat degradation caused by unauthorized ATV use. Under this objective is one activity to be completed by various agencies: 1. Assist ATV clubs by providing educational materials for users.

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 that trails exist in to facilitate implementation.

Facilities along the new STH 17 route around Rhinelander will link with other existing and proposed routes in the City of Rhinelander to serve a number of bicyclists traveling to and from shopping areas, the new YMCA, or the new hospital. The proposed Rhinelander – Crandon trail is a multiuse trail paralleling USH 8. The proposed trail would utilize Highway 8's wide right-of-way but be grade-separated. Another off road trail is envisioned in the USH 45 corridor, utilizing an abandoned rail right-of-way as much as possible. This route would intersect with the Highway 8 trail as it travels completely through Oneida County between Langlade County's system and Eagle River / Vilas County. Also on this route is Three Lakes. An important goal of the Oneida County plan is linking Three Lakes and Rhinelander. The main route between them is County Highway A, which is not well suited for bicycling and has a constricted right-of-way. However, there is an abandoned local road that has been proposed as a trail. Locals have done considerable groundwork on this proposal and prepared a transportation enhancement grant application, which was turned down. This plan recommends implementation of this concept and encourages WisDOT to fund this application. Both of Oneida's Rustic Roads are included routes, and some existing town roads provide the connection to Price County. A short segment of STH 70 should be improved to better accommodate bicycles between the Rustic Roads in order to complete a "Rustic Roads loop" and facilitate access from this area to Vilas County Highway F bike route. A variety of other on and off road routes are proposed throughout Oneida County.

Healthy People Healthy Oneida County 2007-2011

Healthy People Healthy Oneida County began in 1995 as a community wide initiative with the goal of establishing an ongoing process for identifying and addressing health needs in Oneida County. This new plan is part of the ongoing planning process and commitment to the community. The intent of the plan is to foster successful partnership of many facets of the community in order to improve the community's health.

The ***Nutrition/Physical Activity*** health priority can be reinforced by providing outdoor recreation facilities that allow Oneida County residents and visitors the opportunity to be active.

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 nature-based grants.

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 2.

Segment 15—Ashland to Rhinelander

This potential trail would connect Ashland with Woodruff, Minocqua, Rhinelander, and finally to Crandon. From Woodruff/Minocqua, an old abandoned rail corridor near the route of State Highway 47 may possibly provide the opportunity to connect the City of Rhinelander. If the rail corridor is not intact, it may be feasible to use roadways and existing trails, since the northern half of the route is through the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

Segment 19—Langlade Co to Michigan

This abandoned rail corridor links the State of Michigan with the Mountain Bay Trail near Eland in Marathon County. It passes through a few state wildlife areas and some county forests. This corridor also links to the proposed Three Lakes to Rhinelander and Crandon to Tomahawk abandoned rail corridors in Oneida County.

Segment 68—Rhinelander to Three Lakes

This abandoned rail corridor would link these two communities by an off-road connection. At Rhinelander, links to the Washburn to Fond du Lac corridor, and at Three Lakes links to the Langlade County to Michigan corridor are possible. Significant bike trail interest has occurred in Oneida County. Strong support can be expected for this connector trail.

Segment 69—Tomahawk to Crandon

This abandoned corridor would link these two communities by an off-road connector. This corridor intersects the Langlade County to Michigan corridor at Pelican Lake and links the Argonne to Shawano corridor in the east with the Tomahawk to Wausau corridor in the west.

2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

The Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests were combined into one forest in 1998. This 2004 document revised inconsistent policies between the two forests and provides direction for resource management over the next 10 to 15 years. Even though there is not National forest (the Forest) within Oneida County, any recreation policy change in the Forest will affect Oneida County because of its close proximity.

In 2004, the Forest revised its forest management plan. The revised plan contains a consistent ATV policy for both sides of the Forest

- No off-road or off trail use allowed (implemented on June 14, 2004).
- New trail construction allowed for up to 100 miles of trail on the Chequamegon side, and up to 85 total miles on the Nicolet side.
- All roads and trails closed to ATV use unless posted open with signs.
- All trails and Forest Service roads will be closed to ATV's every year from March 15 through April 30. Township designated roads are still open.
- No Intensive Use ("play areas") allowed on the Forest (Open 26 play area closed on June 14, 2004).
- Emergency closures can be issued locally where resources are being damaged or abused, or there are safety concerns.

At the present time, there are no Forest Service designated trails or roads on the Nicolet side of the forest. The Forest Service has started an implementation process for opening trails and roads to ATV use.

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056

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

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

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

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

CN Chequamegon-Nicolet

National Forest

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

MF Monico Forest

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

NA Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest

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

SO Somo River

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

SQ Squirrel and Tomahawk Rivers

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

TM Thunder Marsh

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

UW Upper Wisconsin River

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

UP Upper Wolf River

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

WF Willow Flowage

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

Insert Map 1 – General Location

Insert Map 2 – Potential Trails and Legacy Areas from Past Plans

Chapter 2

DESCRIPTION OF ONEIDA COUNTY

2.1 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

This section describes the physical features that make up Oneida County. Recreation planners use this kind of data to determine which resources to develop and which resources to protect or preserve.

Geography

Oneida County is located in the north central part of the state and is well known for its physical and natural qualities. This area was once part of a vast forest region covering much of the Great Lakes area. Today, Oneida County serves as a popular vacation area and community center of the north. The physical resources are a key factor in the economic structure of the area evidenced by the number of paper and wood industry factories in the County. The County is easily accessible by both highway and airport. See Map 1 for Oneida County's location within the State of Wisconsin. Oneida County is adjacent to Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Price, and Vilas Counties, and is comprised of twenty towns and one city.

Topography

The surface features of Oneida County have resulted from the various stages of glaciation during the last ice age. Oneida County's landscape is primarily gently rolling, heavily wooded countryside dotted with many small block lakes. The entire county lies within what geologists call the "Northern Highlands" physiographic region of Wisconsin. The topography is rather uniform in elevation ranging between 1,460 feet above sea level in the southeastern part of the county to 1,735 feet above sea level in the northwestern part of the county. The drainage pattern in the county is irregular and characterized by a number of lakes, bogs, and marshes.

Surface Water

Oneida County has a total surface area of approximately 790,963 acres, however, 71,283 acres (9.01%) is comprised of surface water. The majority of this area is comprised of 426 named lakes and 701 unnamed lakes totaling 66,545 acres and 2,056 acres respectively. The largest natural lake is Lake Tomahawk at 3,627 acres and the largest artificial water body is the Willow Reservoir at 5,135 acres. The deepest lake is Clear Lake, which measures approximately 100 feet at its deepest point. The County contains 830 miles of streams, of which about 192 miles are classified as trout streams. The Three Lakes area holds the world's largest chain of freshwater lakes. While most of the County drains into the Wisconsin River, a small area in the southeast drains into the Wolf River. Oneida County's extensive water resource provides a great deal of recreational opportunities such as boating, sailing, skiing, fishing, swimming, canoeing, and ice fishing as well as great aesthetic value. From the tranquil lakes of the northern part of the county to the wild untouched area of the Willow Flowage, Oneida County has a wide variety of options for water recreation. This extensive water

resource provides a great deal of recreational opportunity like boating, sailing, skiing, fishing, swimming, canoeing and ice fishing.

Groundwater

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

Soils

The soils of Oneida County are primarily comprised of eroded glacial deposits. Considerable variation occurs in soil types over short distances partly due to the variety of materials carried by the ice. Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) publishes a Soil Survey Report. The most recent soil survey for Oneida County was completed and issued in February 1993. Soil surveys contain an abundance of information on appropriate site planning in respect to soil suitability and developmental properties by soil type. The soil types identified are to be evaluated for a wide range of recreational uses including the following:

- wetland refuges for waterfowl
- wildlife management
- open space or nature study areas
- parks
- athletic fields
- designated farmland preservation areas
- ski areas
- golf courses
- campsites, hiking trails, and picnic areas
- woodlands
- hunting preserves
- manmade ponds

Climate

Oneida County's climate type is in the continental classification. The summers have warm but not excessively hot days and cool nights. Winters are long, cold, and snowy. Mean annual precipitation is almost 30.66 inches. Snow cover on the ground and ice cover on the lakes lasts from December to April. The growing season generally spans late May to early September, for an average frost-free growing season of 124 days. Prevailing winds come out of the northwest from late fall through spring, and from the southwest during the remainder of the year. Winter in Oneida County is very conducive to snowmobiling and skiing due to its long duration and frequent occurrences of fresh snow. Summer provides a comfortable environment for camping, fishing, and other activities.

2.2 SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

This section describes the social and economic factors that shape Oneida 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.

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.

Oneida County added 1,824 residents from 2000 to 2007, growing to 38,600. All of this growth came from net migration, which added 2,400 new residents. With 576 more residents dying than being born, that cuts Oneida's population growth to 1,824.

Table 1 shows historical permanent and estimated seasonal populations for Oneida 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 general population pattern county-wide in Table 1 shows that from 1990 to 2000 the growth center was centered around Minocqua. All towns touching the Town of Minocqua gained residents. A steep decline in residents occurred in Rhinelander and several towns surrounding it. Two nearby towns gained slightly. Pine Lake gained over 100 people and Crescent gained 31 people. All towns on the eastern border of Oneida County all had increasing populations. Three Lakes gained 79, Piehl gained 28, Monico gained 97, and Schoepke gained 90 people.

Table 1 **Permanent and Seasonal Population**
For Oneida County Municipalities

Community	1990 Seasonal + Permanent = Total Pop.	2000 Seasonal + Permanent = Total Pop.	# and % Change
Oneida County	27,482 + 31,679 = 59,161	24,404 + 35,868 = 60,272	1,111 / 1.9%
Rhineland, City	53 + 7,427 = 7,480	80 + 7,177 = 7,257	-223 / -3.0%
Cassian, Town	1,680 + 668 = 2,348	1,391 + 962 = 2,353	5 / 0.2%
Crescent, Town	824 + 1,790 = 2,614	578 + 2,067 = 2,645	31 / 1.2%
Enterprise, Town	681 + 271 = 952	553 + 274 = 827	-125 / -13.1%
Hazelhurst, Town	1,575 + 927 = 2,502	1,342 + 1,267 = 2,609	107 / 4.3%
Lake Tomahawk, Town	1,407 + 851 = 2,258	1,195 + 1,036 = 2,231	-27 / -1.2%
Little Rice, Town	708 + 196 = 904	648 + 314 = 962	58 / 6.4%
Lynne, Town	414 + 157 = 571	458 + 210 = 668	97 / 17%
Minocqua, Town	4,772 + 3,486 = 8,258	4,360 + 4,853 = 9,213	955 / 11.6%
Monico, Town	183 + 294 = 477	210 + 364 = 574	97 / 20.3%
Newbold, Town	2,817 + 2,281 = 5,098	2,160 + 2,710 = 4,870	-228 / -4.5%
Nokomis, Town	1,174 + 999 = 2,173	1,046 + 1,363 = 2,409	236 / 10.9%
Pelican, Town	918 + 3,202 = 4,120	752 + 2,902 = 3,654	-466 / -11.3%
Piehl, Town	92 + 66 = 158	93 + 93 = 186	28 / 17.7%
Pine Lake, Town	731 + 2,445 = 3,176	676 + 2,605 = 3,281	105 / 3.3%
Schoepke, Town	924 + 378 = 1,302	1,040 + 352 = 1,392	90 / 6.9%
Stella, Town	293 + 525 = 818	188 + 625 = 813	-5 / -0.6%
Sugar Camp, Town	1,802 + 1,375 = 3,177	1,431 + 1,781 = 3,212	35 / 1.1%
Three Lakes, Town	4,285 + 2,004 = 6,289	4,061 + 2,307 = 6,368	79 / 1.3%
Woodboro, Town	796 + 703 = 1,499	581 + 685 = 1,266	-233 / -15.5%
Woodruff, Town	1,333 + 1,634 = 2,967	1,332 + 1,921 = 3,253	286 / 9.6%

Source: U.S. Census & NCWRPC

Table 2 **Population Projections**
For Oneida County Municipalities 2005-2025

Community	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	# and % Change
Oneida County	37,515	38,284	38,846	39,254	39,674	2,159 / 5.8%
Rhineland, City	7,908	7,677	7,428	7,171	6,937	-971 / -12.3%
Cassian, Town	1,032	1,100	1,159	1,211	1,261	229 / 22.2%
Crescent, Town	2,093	2,128	2,152	2,168	2,185	92 / 4.4%
Enterprise, Town	267	261	254	247	241	-26 / -9.7%
Hazelhurst, Town	1,357	1,445	1,521	1,588	1,652	295 / 21.7%
Lake Tomahawk, Town	1,212	1,264	1,307	1,344	1,380	168 / 13.9%
Little Rice, Town	341	368	391	412	431	90 / 26.4%
Lynne, Town	212	214	215	215	215	3 / 1.4%
Minocqua, Town	5,176	5,484	5,752	5,985	6,209	1,033 / 20%
Monico, Town	375	386	394	401	408	33 / 8.8%
Newbold, Town	2,837	2,963	3,068	3,158	3,245	408 / 14.4%
Nokomis, Town	1,435	1,505	1,565	1,616	1,666	231 / 16.1%
Pelican, Town	2,445	2,418	2,382	2,342	2,306	-139 / -5.7%
Piehl, Town	97	101	105	108	111	14 / 14.4%
Pine Lake, Town	2,737	2,759	2,768	2,768	2,770	33 / 1.2%
Schoepke, Town	340	330	319	307	297	-43 / -12.6%
Stella, Town	675	715	750	781	810	135 / 20%
Sugar Camp, Town	1,858	1,934	1,997	2,050	2,102	244 / 13.1%
Three Lakes, Town	2,391	2,444	2,484	2,513	2,544	153 / 6.4%
Woodboro, Town	667	651	634	615	598	-69 / -10.3%
Woodruff, Town	2,060	2,137	2,201	2,254	2,306	246 / 11.9%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2003

Over the 20-year period shown in Table 2, the Minocqua area will gain over 1,000 new residents. The towns of Woodruff, Hazelhurst, Cassian, and Nokomis will all gain over 200 people. Rhineland will continue its population decline by losing almost 1,000 people. Of the towns surrounding Rhineland, only Pelican is projected to lose people.

Insert Map 3 – Outdoor Recreation, Oneida County

Insert Map 4 – Recreation Facilities Administered By FLORD

Insert Map 5 — Lynne–Little Rice County Forest Block

Insert Map 6 — Cassian–Woodboro County Forest Block

Insert Map 7 – Enterprise County Forest Block

Chapter 3

EXISTING COUNTY MANAGED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing public outdoor recreational facilities that are managed by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department.

3.2 COUNTY FOREST

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department manages 82,278.72 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 Maps 3 and 4 for Oneida County Forest land. The 2006-2020 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan explains the policy of public use for recreational purposes within the County Forest. This County Forest Plan is available at the following sites: The Rhinelander Public Library, the Minocqua Public Library, the Three Lakes Public Library, the Nicolet College Library, and the Oneida County Forestry Office. In addition, an electronic final draft version of the plan will be made available for public review on the Oneida County web site. Finally, for those individuals who would prefer to own a personal copy of the plan, a hard copy or CD version of the can be purchased from the Oneida County Forestry Department.

Outdoor recreation facilities in the county forest are shown on Maps 4, 5, and 6. Cross country ski trails, snowshoe trails, hiking/hunter walking trails, mountain bike trails, general motorized trails, snowmobile trails, and ATV trails all exist within the county forest. Each of these trail types are described below:

Silent Sport Trails

Silent sport outdoor recreational trail facilities in the county forest include: **cross-country ski trails, snowshoe trails, hiking/hunter walking trails, and mountain bike trails.** Each of these trail types are described below:

Cross Country Ski Trails

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department maintains approximately 39 miles of cross-country ski trails distributed in four areas of the county forest, shown on Maps 3 and 4.

The Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail – This fifteen-mile (roundtrip) trail originates on County Highway K in the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. There is a shelter and restroom at the halfway point of the trail. This trail is groomed for classic tracked skiing only.

The Washburn Non-Motorized Trail – This trail is nine miles long, with access points located at Perch Lake Park and on Washburn Lake Road in the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. The trail is groomed for both classic tracked skiing and ski skating. Trail amenities include a warming shelter and toilet building. The north end of the Washburn trail connects to the Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail at the Jct. of County Hwy K and Goodyear Lake Road in the Town of Cassian.

The Nose Lake Ski Touring Trail – This eight-mile trail has a trailhead on Nose Lake Road in the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. This trail is groomed for classic tracked skiing only. Dogs are permitted on this ski trail.

The Enterprise Primitive Trail – This seven mile trail is accessed via a trailhead located near the intersection of County Highway G and Zimmer Road in the Enterprise County Forest Block. This trail is not groomed so as to provide a winter trail opportunity for both traditional cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing alike. Dogs are permitted on this ski trail.

Snowshoe Trails

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department maintains approximately 11.5-miles of snowshoe trail distributed in three areas of the county forest, shown on Map 3.

The Washburn Non-Motorized Trail – The Washburn snowshoe trail totals approximately 2 miles in length. The trail is comprised of three small loops and a spur trail that connects the system to the trailhead located at Perch Lake Park.

The Almon Park Nature/Snowshoe Trail – This snowshoe/nature trail is located within Almon Park in the Town of Pelican. The trail totals 2.5-miles in length and is divided into two separate loops with a spur trail connecting the loops and parking area.

The Enterprise Primitive Trail - This 7-mile trail is accessed via a trailhead located near the intersection of County Highway G and Zimmer Road in the Enterprise County Forest Block. Dogs are permitted on this ski/ snowshoe trail.

Hiking/Hunter Walking Trails

There are about 40 miles of FLORD maintained trails for wildlife management and recreational purposes throughout the county forest. The trail network is located on old logging roads that have been seeded with clover and are maintained to serve as wildlife travel paths and as walking trails for hunters and hikers.

Mountain Bike Trails

Approximately 5 miles of traditional mountain bike trails, and about 5 miles of single-track bike trails are located in the Washburn Non-Motorized Trail system of the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. These trails are maintained by FLORD.

General Purpose Motorized Trails

There are approximately 214-miles of unsigned (non-marked) woodland trails located on Oneida County Forest Land that are open to all motorized vehicles year-round. During the winter months (generally December 15th – March 15th), the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department opens all gated trails on County Forest land (with the exception of those trails

maintained for skiing and snowmobiling) to motorized vehicle use. This opens up an additional 63-miles of woodland trail for winter motorized use.

Snowmobile Trails

Oneida County has approximately 1,000-miles of established public snowmobile trails: 466-miles are **state-funded** (of which 391-miles are county sponsored and 75-miles are state sponsored) and 535-miles are **club-funded**, non-sponsored snowmobile trails. Map 3 shows the location of the state-funded and club-funded trails, but there are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the County. The state-funded trails sponsored by Oneida County FLORD are maintained by the Oneida County Snowmobile Council. The Council is comprised of ten snowmobile clubs that meet monthly during the snowmobile season to provide continuous input to FLORD about the future direction of the County's snowmobile program.

ATV TRAILS (Segments are not mapped individually. Trails are on Maps 3 and 4.)

Oneida County sponsors 26-miles of state-funded All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails. The state funded ATV trails in Oneida County are divided into two segments:

- **Segment 1** is located in southwestern Oneida County and consists of 16 miles of off-road trail that is linked to approximately 45 miles of ATV road routes. These trails are usually open for public ATV use from Memorial Day to December 1st. The off road miles of this segment are located on State-owned, and Private Industrial Forest lands that exist under short-term land use agreements with the County for public use of ATVs.
- **Segment 2** is located in south central Oneida County and consists of 10 miles of off-road trails that connect to approximately 75 miles of additional ATV trails located in Lincoln and Langlade Counties to the south. These trails are generally open to public ATV use from Memorial Day to December 1st. All trail miles within this segment are located on Oneida County Forest Land.

In addition to the above described ATV trails, there are approximately 214-miles of unsigned (non-marked) woodland trails located on Oneida County Forest Land that are open to all motorized vehicles year-round. During the winter months (generally December 15th – March 15th), the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department opens all gated trails on County Forest land (with the exception of those trails maintained for skiing and snowmobiling) to motorized vehicle use. This opens up an additional 63-miles of woodland trail for winter ATV use.

3.3 OTHER COUNTY MANAGED FACILITIES

Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area – This area utilizes a dike and water control structure to allow the water level to be manipulated. By raising and lowering the water level, the Forestry Department is able to manage aquatic vegetation for waterfowl to use as food and cover.

Willow Lake Dam/Spillway Area – A dam/spillway regulates water levels on Willow Lake. This area has a recreational trail crossing, and provides beneficial fish and wildlife habitat.

Highway O Fishing Bridge – Originally, the Highway O Fishing Bridge was a county highway bridge used to cross the Wisconsin River. In the early 1980's the County Highway Department

abandoned the bridge and transferred its ownership to the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department for use as a recreational bridge. In 2007 the FLORD replaced the old deteriorating bridge with a new steel clear span structure. The new clear span bridge is primarily used as a pedestrian fishing bridge, and a river crossing for snowmobiles.

3.4 COUNTY PARKS

Due to the large seasonal population, the usage of Oneida County parks has a direct effect on the County's economy. The tourism industry places a heavy emphasis on recreation, and therefore depends upon adequate facilities for a variety of outdoor recreational activities. County forestlands, and day-use county parks form an important foundation of recreational activity in Oneida County.

County Parks are maintained by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, & Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD). Maps 3 and 4 show the locations of these parks and recreation areas:

Almon Recreation Area – This is the largest of the County's parks at 160 acres in size, and is located on the shores of Buck Lake. The park is comprised of two parts: the park area, and the nature trails area. Facilities include a swimming beach, two toilet buildings, changing rooms, nature trails, three picnic shelters, picnic tables, cooking grills, paved parking, and an open area for field games.

Perch Lake Park – Approximately five acres of developed area on Perch Lake make up this park that is surrounded by the county forest. Amenities found at Perch Lake Park include: a large heated shelter building with electricity, picnic tables, cooking grills, toilet building, boat landing, and a soon to be completed handicapped accessible fishing pier with asphalt access trail. The most popular feature of Perch Lake Park is that it serves as the main trailhead to the Washburn Non-Motorized Trail System. For a more detailed description of The Washburn Non-Motorized Trail System see the **Silent Sports Trails** segment of this chapter.

Townline Park – This two part park has approximately 21 acres. The part on the south side of Townline Lake on County Highway K has a swimming beach area with picnic tables, cooking grills, paved parking, and restroom facilities with changing rooms. The part on the east side of the lake has a paved parking area, restroom facilities, play equipment, paved boat landing, and two picnic shelters with picnic tables and cooking grills.

Willow Rapids Picnic Area – This small unimproved picnic area has minimal facilities. It is located near the scenic Willow Rapids along the Willow River.

Bass Lake Picnic Area – This picnic area has picnic tables, cooking grills, a boat landing, a parking area, and toilet buildings.

Enterprise Forest Campground – The Enterprise Forest Campground is located on a 35-acre parcel of County Forest Land approximately 7 miles south of Rhinelander. The campground offers 11 gravel based campsites, toilet buildings, potable water, onsite firewood, and is located immediately adjacent to the Enterprise ATV Trail. Campsites are reserved through an onsite self-registration system at a cost of \$10.00 per day, no pre-registration or reservations. All campsites are

large enough to accommodate pull behind campers and traditional tents alike. The campground is accessible by both car and ATV.

3.5 COUNTY MAINTAINED PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department currently maintains eight public accesses (access points to water bodies):

1. Bass Lake, Town of Enterprise
2. Bass Lake, Town of Little Rice
3. Flannery Lake, Town of Newbold
4. Perch Lake, Town of Woodboro
5. Tom Doyle Lake, Town of Newbold
6. Townline Lake, Town of Newbold
7. Wisconsin River, Town of Newbold, County Highway O
8. Wisconsin River, Town of Pine Lake, Journey's End Road

Chapter 4

EXISTING NON-COUNTY PUBLICALLY MANAGED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing public outdoor recreation facilities that are managed by federal, state, town, or city governments. The following inventory was added to provide a comprehensive view of publicly managed outdoor recreation facilities within Oneida County.

4.2 LINEAR FACILITIES

Chequamegon–Nicolet National Forest (Forest) ATV Policy

In 2004, the Forest revised its forest management plan. The revised plan contains a consistent ATV policy for both sides of the Forest:

- No off-road or off trail use allowed (implemented on June 14, 2004).
- New trail construction allowed for up to 100 miles of trail on the Chequamegon side, and up to 85 total miles on the Nicolet side. The Nicolet side covers Oneida County.
- All roads and trails closed to ATV use unless posted open with signs.
- All trails and Forest Service roads will be closed to ATV's every year from March 15 through April 30. Township designated roads are still open.
- No Intensive Use ("play areas") allowed on the Forest.
- Emergency closures can be issued locally where resources are being damaged or abused, or there are safety concerns.

All Forest Service roads that are open to ATV use are posted with signs. Also, maps containing information on areas open to ATV use can be obtained at Ranger District Offices.

Biking and Hiking Trails

The Oneida County Board of Supervisors approved the Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan in 2002 as part of the community health plan. This plan refers to potential corridors for bike and pedestrian traffic using existing and proposed infrastructure. A copy of the executive summary of the plan may be found in Appendix A, and all the existing and potential trails are shown on Map 2.

Rustic Roads

Oneida County has two rustic roads. Rustic Roads 58 and 59 are a combination of Mercer Lake Road, Sutton Road, and Blue Lake Road near the intersection of STH 70 and USH 51, and are shown on Map 3. Rustic Roads are designated by the WisDOT Rustic Roads program. Additional Rustic Roads may be designated if they meet the criteria available online at:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/scenic/rusticroads.htm>

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 many streams and rivers providing canoeists 830 miles of routes. This website can help with creating a trail:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/publications/watertrails/>.

All navigable water is available to canoe on according to the Public Trust Doctrine (Art. 1, §1, WI Constitution). Wisconsin law recognizes that owners of lands bordering lakes and rivers—"riparian" owners—hold rights in the water next to their property. These riparian rights include the use of the shoreline, reasonable use of the water, and a right to access the water. Members of the public may only use any exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian (i.e., landowner) if it is necessary to exit the body of water to bypass an obstruction. In addition, a member of the public may not enter the exposed shore area except from the water, from a point of public access on the stream, or with the permission of the riparian landowner. Obstructions could consist of trees or rocks, shallow water for boaters or deep water for wading trout anglers. The bypass can involve areas up to the ordinary high water mark and should be by the shortest possible route. Under this law, using the exposed shoreline for purposes such as picnicking and sunbathing is not allowed (Ch. 30.134, WI Stats.).

4.3 HISTORICAL MARKERS

A state historical marker titled: **Nicolet National Forest** is located off State Hwy 32, east of Three Lakes.

A state historical marker titled: **First Rural Zoning Ordinance** is located on the Oneida County Courthouse grounds, Rhinelander.

A state historical marker titled: **The Hodag** is located in Hodag Park, Rhinelander.

4.4 SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Six school districts provide additional local recreation opportunities in Oneida County. School yards often have playgrounds with play equipment, ball diamonds, and basketball hoops. These neighborhood parks 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.

School Forests are listed for each district:

Minocqua, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk (MHLT) School District

- MHLT School Forest, 40 acres, Sec. 34 T38N R6E; and
- Minocqua School Forest, 193 acres, Sec. 22, 23, & 26 T39N R6E.

School District of Elcho

1. Elcho School Forest, 80 acres, E1/2 SW, sec. 30 T35N R10E
2. Elcho School Forest, 160 acres, NE1/4, sec. 29 T35N R11E

School District of Tomahawk

1. Tomahawk School Forest, 40 acres, SWSE, sec. 11, T35NR6E
2. Tomahawk School Forest, 40 acres, NWNE, sec. 27, T35NR6E

School District of Rhinelander

The School District of Rhinelander School Forest is the largest in Wisconsin, consisting of nine parcels ranging in size from 39 to 360 acres. The District has been managing these properties for over 70 years, with the help of a State Forester, Wildlife Biologist, and many other experts. School forest properties are utilized in many different ways. There are over 30 miles of trails for hiking, biking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and skiing, in the school forest for the whole community to enjoy. Hunting, fishing and geocaching are other activities that also take place on the district forest properties.

1. North Rifle Road S.F., 39 acres, ~NENW, sec. 4 T36NR8E
2. Flag Lake S.F., 53 acres, sec. 4 & 5 T36NR8E
3. Bullhead Lake S.F. 79 acres, S1/2SW, Sec. 3 T36NR9E
4. Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC) 160-acres, NE1/4, sec 10, T36N R10E
CAVOC consists of Rominsky Lodge and classroom, outdoor pavilion, camp fire ring, silent sports area, primitive bog lake, high and low ropes challenge course, 5 miles of trails, paved handicapped accessible trails, hiking, biking, snowshoeing and groomed cross country ski trails, reserve and managed forest areas, lake vista, self guided nature trail, bog walk, osprey nesting plate form, research projects, orienteering course, and many other education opportunities.
5. Flannery Lake S.F. 80 acres, N1/2SW, sec. 34, T37N R8E
6. Cross Country East S.F. 120 acres, sec.1, T37N R9E
7. Cross Country West S.F., 158 acres, sec 2 & 11, T37N R9E
8. Crystal Lake Road S.F., 160 acres, SW1/4, sec. 7 T37N R9E
9. Bear Trail Road S.F., 360 acres, sec 5, 7, 8, T37N R9E

Three Lakes School District

- Three Lakes School Forest, 34 acres, Sec. 32 T38N R11E;
- Gagen-Piehl School Forest, 40 acres, Sec. 29 T37N R11E; and
- Sugar Camp School Forest, 40 acres, Sec. 34 T38N R9E.

Woodruff School District

- Arbor Vitae-Woodruff School Forest, 22 acres, Sec. 20 T39N R7E.

4.5 CITY and TOWN FACILITIES

City of Rhinelander

Recreational opportunities that exist in the City of Rhinelander include:

- *Hodag Park* – The park is located on Boom Lake, north of downtown. Facilities include the John T. Stafford Babe Ruth Field; Huber Little League Field; a little league/softball field; a picnic shelter with tables and grills; rest benches; an ADA accessible path; playground equipment; ADA accessible restrooms; ADA accessible fishing pier with path; boat landing with three launch piers; water ski show area with storage and concession building, 5 sets of bleachers, and ski jump; tennis court; two sand volleyball courts; and a swimming beach with pier, and ADA accessible changing and restroom building.
- *West Side Park* – This park is located on the northwest side of the Wisconsin River. Facilities include a lighted ball field with four sets of bleachers, scorer booth, dugouts, and storage room; lighted women's slow pitch ball field with five sets of bleachers, dugouts, and storage shed; playground equipment; ADA accessible restroom/shelter building; picnic tables and grills; three tennis courts; and a BMX track with fencing.
- *Sarockea Field* – This ball field is located on N Eastern Ave. Facilities include a sledding hill, tennis court, softball diamond with dugouts, playground equipment, and picnic tables.
- *Pioneer Park* – This park is located along a former rail line several blocks south of the County Courthouse. Facilities include a logging museum inside the old depot; CCC museum; old school museum; two lighted tennis courts; the Virgil Hoffhein Softball Field that includes lighting, bleachers, dugouts, concession stand, scorekeepers stand, and scoreboard; restroom/ice skating warming room; three picnic shelters; picnic area with tables and grills; playground equipment; a second restroom; six horseshoe pits and benches; and a hockey rink.
- *Shepard Park Wayside* – This park is located on Boyce Dr (STH 17). Facilities include a restroom, drinking fountain, picnic tables, grills, and playground equipment.
- *Rhinelander's Northwoods Golf Course and Cross-Country Ski Trail* – This public golf course is owned by the City of Rhinelander and is located along USH 8 by the airport. Facilities include an 18-hole golf course, a clubhouse with restaurant, locker rooms, and pro shop; a tubing hill exists in winter; along with groomed cross-country ski trails.

Town of Cassian

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Bearskin State Trail* – This is an 18-mile former railroad bed covered in crushed granite for use by hikers, bikers, and snowmobilers.

- *Cassian Ski Trail* – The 15-mile 2-way trail runs from Hwy K to north of Alva Lake. There are wildlife viewing areas off of both Swamp Lake Road and County Highway Y.

Public Access:

The Town of Cassian owns and maintains boat accesses on Timber Lake, Spruce Lake, and Goodyear Lake. All the boat access areas are located on County Forest property. The State of Wisconsin owns and maintains boat accesses to Long Lake and Big Bearskin Lake.

Other Facilities:

The Cassian–Woodboro School has a soccer field and baseball diamond, outdoor basketball court, and a playground area. The Sand Lake beach is available for swimming. Grace Lutheran Church has a playground that is available to residents after school hours.

Town of Crescent

There is one boat access on the south shore of Squash Lake with a parking area.

Town of Enterprise

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Town Community Building* – A building with picnic tables, and a boat access on the west end of Pelican Lake called Keeler Landing.
- The WDNR has a landing and pier.

Town of Hazelhurst

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Hazelhurst Ballpark* – Facilities include playground equipment, a lighted baseball diamond (used by Little League and men's and women's baseball leagues during the summer), basketball, tournaments, the Lions Club flea market fundraiser, training for the volunteer Fire Department, and tennis court.
- *Lake Katherine Beach Park* – Facilities include swimming beach, picnicking area, 2 piers, swimming area raft, playground, picnic tables, grills, dry hydrant, restroom facilities, changing building, volleyball pit, and a large paved parking lot.
- *Bike Trails* – The Bearskin State Bike Trail runs north to south through the town. There are also two new bike trails connecting to Highway 51: one on Oneida Street and the other along Lee Road.
- *McCormick Lake Landing* – The Town maintains this boat landing, and the launching pier and pit toilet are maintained by the lake association.

Town of Lake Tomahawk

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Rainbow Park* – Facilities include a ball diamond with fencing, dugout and bleachers with lighting; picnic area; accessible restrooms; parking lot; storage shed.
- *Snowshoe Park* – Facilities include a large picnic shelter with concession and food area; new public restroom facility, a collection of playground equipment; basketball hoop; lighted ball diamond with fencing, bleachers, announcer stand/scoring booth; ice-skating rink with storage shed, and lighting system.
- *Lake Tomahawk Park* – Facilities include a picnic area with 6 tables and 4 grills; swimming beach with launching pier, map board, sign for launch fees, collection box; paved parking; security lights; public restroom, sand volleyball court.
- *Bearfoot Park* – Facilities include a pull-off graveled parking area from the highway, picnic tables and grills, a slide/swing set playground equipment unit, American flag, and sculpture.

The town's outdoor recreational facilities are complemented by facilities in the Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest. DNR facilities within the town include campgrounds, groomed cross-country ski trails, a nature interpretive trail, and numerous boat landings. The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company maintains boat landings and a river access at the nearby Rainbow Flowage.

Town of Little Rice

The Town of Little Rice currently has no land designated for public parks or recreational development. All outdoor recreation needs are located at facilities existing within Oneida County.

Town of Lynne

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Town of Lynne Park* – The Town maintains a park area adjacent to the Town Hall that includes a lighted basketball court, a ball diamond, and a picnic pavilion. Next to the park, a local sports club operates a trap shooting range and a local ATV trail.
- The town also maintains a boat access on Pier Lake.

Town of Minocqua

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Torpy Beach and Park* – Facilities include a beach, changing rooms, showers, restrooms, band stand, concession, picnic shelters, grills and tables, tennis courts, playground, sand volleyball court, parking area, stone paths, horseshoe pit, ice skating rink during the winter months and warming area.
- *Dorwin Park* – Facilities include a shelter, benches, planters, and walkways.

- *Minocqua Ball Park* – facilities include a baseball field, volleyball courts, lights, restrooms, playground, and parking area.
- *Minocqua Winter Park and Nordic Center* – Facilities include a downhill skiing facility on 40 acres owned by the Town with an additional 1,200 acres leased from private landowners, 60 kilometers of cross-country ski trails groomed and tracked for both skating and diagonal, a heated chalet with restrooms, concession, lighted trails, two ski jumps, equipment rental and sales, waxing room, parking, and storage space for grooming equipment and a trail shelter.
- *Fishing Pier* – The Town of Minocqua and the WDNR jointly maintain an extensive, lighted, handicapped accessible fishing pier adjacent to U.S. Highway 51 and was formerly used as a bridge for that highway. The pier is well used by the public and has public parking, treated hand railings with slots for wheelchair accessible fishing, and a section of decking that is wheelchair friendly.
- *Cedar Park* – This half-acre wooded shoreline park is located east of the municipal dock. This park has landscaping, a walkway down the slope to the lake, a picnic table, and pier for fishing and docking. There are no scheduled improvements for the 2004-2008 period.
- *Bearskin Trailhead Park* – Facilities include a public restrooms, picnic area, a boat dock and fishing pier.
- *Minocqua Gun Club* – This facility is located 1.5 miles south of the bridge on Hwy 51 on Gun Club Road. A newly remodeled clubhouse exists, along with four trap fields, a skeet range, sporting clays, a wobble trap, and double birds.

Public Access Points to Water Bodies:

There are several public accesses/landings maintained by the Town of Minocqua. Three accesses to Lake Minocqua are located on the "Island"; others include Bear Lake, Squirrel Lake, Swansauger Lake, Squaw Lake, Buckskin Lake, Thoroughfare Channel, and many other undeveloped accesses.

Other Recreational Facilities:

- *Schlecht Lake Ski Trail* – This WDNR maintained trail with lights for night skiing in winter, and is available for mountain biking in summer.

Town of Monico

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Lake Venus* – This facility includes swim ropes and buoys, beach, picnic tables, grills, a unisex toilet, and benches.
- *Baseball Park/Pavilion* – This facility includes a concession area with electrical hookups, and pit toilets. The ball field includes a backstop, six sets of bleachers, and shelters for the players.

- *Mars Lake Boat Landing* – This facility includes a launch area and parking lot, newly blacktopped in 2002.
- *Town Hall Park* – This facility includes a basketball court and rest benches, surfaced play area, skatepark, and playground.

Public accesses exist on Neptune, Mars, Venus, and Tank Lakes.
There is public access to Lake Venus for swimming, but no boat access.

Town of Newbold

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Town Hall* – A two-section picnic/cooking shelter and picnic tables exist near the Town hall.
- *Newbold Trail* – An eight-mile hiking/bike trail that uses both on-road and off-road routes.
- *Newbold Memorial Park* – Facilities include a canoe landing and fishing area.
- *Two Sisters Lake* – Facilities include a boat landing, a small beach, and parking area.
- The Stone Lake area is managed by the DNR as a hunting trail system.
- The Newbold elementary school property has playground equipment as well as outdoor basketball and baseball fields.

Town of Nokomis

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Town Hall Park* – Facilities include 3 picnic shelter areas including two attached to the Volunteer Fire Department building; concession stand; 24 picnic tables; a variety of playground equipment; play house; and 2 basketball hoops on paved parking lot; no outdoor restrooms; access to indoor wheel-chair accessible restroom facilities within the town hall.
- *Nokomis Ball Park* – Facilities include Pavilion with concession stand and storage; four sets of bleachers; restrooms; electrical hookups; memorialized trees with markers; water pump and hoses for watering the ball field inside the pump house structure; security lighting; playground; two fenced-in ball fields with backstops; sand box; third ball field, grass area, with back stop; batting cage and pitching machine; dugouts for one ball field; storage building; scoreboard on one ball field; volleyball court; electric outlets by ball diamonds.
- *County L-Business 51 Wayside Park* – There is a picnic shelter with picnic tables and grills.
- The Town also owns a boat landing on Lake Nokomis off Point O' Pines Road. This is a narrow, 30-foot wide strip that is graveled with a concrete ramp.
- *Rice Reservoir Public Landing and Picnic Area* – This facility is maintained by WVIC and includes picnic tables, pit toilets, a paved boat landing, and wide concrete launch pad.

Town of Pelican

The Town of Pelican has a swimming beach and picnic area by the Town Hall.

Town of Piehl

The Town of Piehl currently has two boat access points.

Town of Pine Lake

The Town of Pine Lake has four boat access points: one on Moens Lake, one on Boom Lake, and two on the Wisconsin River. The town also has a softball diamond with a restroom facility on Trail's End Road.

Town of Schoepke

The Town of Schoepke currently has no land designated for public parks. All outdoor recreation needs are located at facilities existing within Oneida County.

Town of Stella

The Town of Stella currently has no land designated for public parks. All outdoor recreation needs are located at facilities existing within Oneida County.

Town of Sugar Camp

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Town of Sugar Camp/Lions Park* – Facilities include three ball fields with lighting and new bleachers on two fields; two soccer fields with cyclone fencing along west side; two new basketball courts with lights and fencing; lighted tennis courts; concession stand/announcer booth; ADA accessible playground equipment; picnic shelter; pavilion with kitchen, bathroom facilities, concession stand, picnic area; horseshoe pits; two lighted volleyball courts; blacktop parking lot; restroom; drinking fountain; and 18-hole disc golf course with concrete pads.
- *Sugar Camp Lake Beaches* – This park includes a beach area, off-highway parking, a unisex bathroom and changing room, and park benches.

Boat landings/access sites are located on Chain, Indian, Lily Bass, Jennie Webber, and Sand Lakes.

Town of Three Lakes

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Don Burnside Recreational Park* – Facilities include one baseball and two softball/little league diamonds with dugouts, bleachers and fencing, one diamond also includes lighting and an electric scoreboard; two T-ball backstops/fields; multipurpose field use for soccer; two horseshoe pits; sand volleyball courts; full-sized basketball court; heated indoor/outdoor pavilion with restrooms, picnic and folding tables; restroom/shelter building with drinking fountain, and concession/announcer stand located by the lighted ball diamond; five tennis courts with lighting; paved volleyball court and half-court basketball hoop also lighted; playground equipment; soccer goals; paved parking area; and Three Lakes Unlimited snowmobile storage room/cook shack facility and announcer stand in the connected Snowmobile Park area.
- *Cy Williams Park* – Facilities include a playground; swimming beach and pier; ADA accessible restroom/changing room facility; picnic shelter with 10 picnic tables; grill; outdoor picnic tables and rest benches; volleyball net and paved parking.
- *Phyllis B. Felland Memorial Water Ski Park* – Facilities include a log toilet facility/shelter with drinking water fountain; bleachers and announcer stand; storage building/concession stand with electric hookups.
- *Three Eagle Trail* – The southern segment of the trail is 8.4 miles long, ten feet wide and surfaced with crushed limestone. The trail also includes two boardwalks and one bridge.

Town of Woodboro

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- Hancock Lake boat landing and parking lot.

Town of Woodruff

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Brandy Park* – The Town of Woodruff and the Town of Arbor Vitae joined to establish the Brandy Park Commission to manage the development and maintenance of the co-owned Brandy Park. Facilities include two baseball fields with fencing and bleachers; soccer field with lighting; large shelter building with grills and picnic tables; two tennis courts with fencing; two sand volleyball courts; paved full basketball court with fencing; an extensive series of playground equipment including a well landscaped fenced-in area for younger children; swimming beach with pier and lifeguard stand; changing house/restroom facility; shoreline picnic area with tables, grills and rest benches; and paved walkway from shelter to beach parking area. Winter facilities include ice skating rink with a warming house and restrooms.

The Town's outdoor recreation facilities are augmented by facilities provided by the Northern Highland–American Legion State Forest, the local school system, numerous private resorts and attractions, and youth camps. The WDNR maintains public campground facilities at Lake Cunard, Carrol Lake, Clear Lake, Tomahawk Lake, and Buffalo Lake within the Town of Woodruff. The

Raven Trail system and the Madeline Lake Trail system are groomed cross-country ski trails maintained by the WDNR. Boat landings provided by the WDNR exist on Minocqua, Tomahawk, Clear, Madeline, Carrol, Dorothy, Sweeney, Cunard, Hasbrook, Gilmore, and Buffalo lakes.

4.6 STATE FACILITIES

Each listing is located on Map 3.

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 are no federal wildlife areas in Oneida County:

Thunder Lake Wildlife Area located 1 mile north of Three Lakes is a public hunting area that consists of 3,000 acres. The following recreational opportunities exist at Thunder Lake Wildlife Area: hunting (except the Waterfowl Closed Area around Rice Lake), trapping, hiking, snowmobiling trail, auto travel, berry picking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, and canoeing.

Woodboro Wildlife Area located about 10 miles west of Rhinelander is a public hunting area that consists of 3,000 acres. The following recreational opportunities exist at Woodboro Wildlife Area: hunting, trapping, hiking, snowmobiling trail, auto travel (high clearance and four-wheel drive vehicles—no ATVs), berry picking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, and canoeing.

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 (DNR) listed eighteen areas within Oneida County. Each site was given a statewide identification (**No. #**) by the DNR, and are shown on Map 3 in the order found below (for example: #1 on Map 3 will represent Finnerund Pine Forest SNA):

1. ***Finnerud Pine Forest SNA (No. 31)*** is an UW-Madison Arboretum holding of old growth red pine. Contact the Arboretum at 608-263-7344 for access permission.
2. ***Rice Lake SNA (No. 40)*** is 1,030 acres located in the Thunder Lake Wildlife Area.
3. ***Holmboe Conifer Forest SNA (No. 79)*** is 32 acres located in the Town of Pelican.
4. ***Gobler Lake SNA (No. 115)*** is 470 acres located in the Town of Little Rice.
5. ***Stone Lake Pines SNA (No. 185)*** is 65 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sugar Camp.
6. ***Wind Pudding Lake SNA (No. 188)*** is 340 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
7. ***Patterson Hemlocks SNA (No. 216)*** is 304 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
8. ***Atkins Lake SNA (No. 238)*** is 2,644 acres partially located in the Town of Piehl.
9. ***Tomahawk River Pines SNA (No. 239)*** is 1,040 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
10. ***Squirrel River Pines SNA (No. 244)*** is 643 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
11. ***Germain Hemlocks SNA (No. 355)*** is 88 acres located in the Town of Cassian.
12. ***Pat Shay Lake SNA (No. 446)*** is 736 acres partially located within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in the Town of Three Lakes.
13. ***Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks SNA (No. 510)*** is 244 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
14. ***Two Lakes Pine-Oak Forest SNA (No. 511)*** is 112 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
15. ***Big Swamp SNA (No. 512)*** is 2,914 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sugar Camp.
16. ***Rainbow Wetlands SNA (No. 513)*** is 2,357 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Newbold.
17. ***Shallow Lake SNA (No. 514)*** is 103 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Newbold.
18. ***Spur Lake SNA (No. 537)*** is 71 acres located in the Town of Piehl.

State Forest

The ***Northern Highland-American Legion (NH-AL) State Forest*** occupies more than 225,000 acres in Vilas, Oneida and Iron counties. Outdoor recreational opportunities are diverse and abundant on the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

Visitors are drawn to the forest's **water resources**. The forest is blessed with one of the highest concentrations of lakes in the world, making sport fishing a major recreational activity.

Camping is another popular activity on the NH-AL. The forest offers 18 family campgrounds, plus two outdoor group camping areas. Two handicap accessible sites (one at Crystal Lake Campground and one at Firefly) have electrical hook-ups, and four campgrounds in all offer special facilities for disabled campers. In addition, 131 canoe and remote-reservable campsites are scattered throughout the forest for people wanting more private and primitive camping conditions. Backpack camping is also allowed by permit and deer hunter camping is seasonally available.

The forest has many **day use areas and trails**, including eight developed picnic areas; five interpretive nature trails totaling nearly eight miles in length; and three designated hiking trails totaling 18.5 miles. Other designated trails include 32 miles of mountain bike trails, 70 miles of cross-country ski trails and about 400 miles of snowmobile trails.

Recreational opportunities may be found on the forest at-large, in addition to those available at developed facilities. There are abundant small- and big-game **hunting and trapping opportunities**.

Hundreds of miles of logging roads and non-designated trails are open to all types of non-motorized uses, like hiking, skiing, horseback riding and mountain biking. Some unimproved roads are open and accessible to licensed motor vehicles, as well.

Finally, the NH-AL provides **"wild land"** recreation for those seeking a pristine and quiet backcountry experience in areas with few support facilities, motorized vehicles or signs of management activities.

Scenic Waters Area

The ***Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area*** is described as "almost Canada," because this flowage in Oneida County has a wild flavor. The area has more than 17,000 acres, 73 miles of shoreline, 106 islands, and seven boat landings. Rustic campsites around the shoreline and on the islands offer scenery and solitude. There are abundant walleye and panfish; northern pike, muskellunge, and bass; hunting and hiking opportunities; deer, bear, ruffed grouse, ducks, loons, and wolves.

4.7 FEDERAL FACILITIES

About 17,280 acres of the ***Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (Forest)*** are located in Oneida County. Many outdoor recreational opportunities are available on the Forest that mainly exists within Forest County and Vilas County. No developed Forest recreational areas exist within Oneida County.

Recreational opportunities found on the Forest at-large include small- and big-game **hunting and trapping opportunities**. Hundreds of miles of logging roads and non-designated trails are open to all types of non-motorized uses, like **hiking, skiing, horseback riding and mountain biking**. Some unimproved roads are open and accessible to licensed motor vehicles, as well. Finally, the Forest provides **wilderness** recreation for those seeking a pristine and quiet backcountry experience in areas with few support facilities, motorized vehicles, or signs of management activities.

Wilderness Areas are the federal version of the state natural areas program. No federal wilderness areas exist in Oneida County.

4.8 FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE or COUNTY OWNED

The forested lands in Oneida County are comprised of county forest, state lands, and private lands held by individuals and corporations. Most corporate lands are enrolled in either the Forest Crop Law or the Managed Forest Law. Currently, lands can only be re-enrolled in Managed Forest Law.

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) 13,776 acres are open to the public to hunt and fish in 2008. There are 152,910 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program that are open to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking, and 41,069 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.

Chapter 5

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the county were identified in several ways. This chapter contains a list of projects and their completion status from the 2004-2008 Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan; public participation results from the Town and County levels; FLORD facility analysis, and a standards analysis to assist with defining recreational and open space needs.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROJECTS COMPLETED FROM 2004-2008

This is a list of recommended projects and their completion status from the 2004-2008 Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Each Oneida County FLORD listing below was either: Done, In Progress, Postponed, or Objective Eliminated. All other listings were completed through 2008.

Oneida County FLORD

Almond Recreational Area

- ADA compliant paved access to swimming beach and erosion control created **(Done)**;
- Playground equipment installed **(Postponed)**;
- Electrical service installation in shelter, at swimming beach, and at parking lot; **(Postponed)**
- Multi-use trail from parking lot to existing trails installed **(Objective Eliminated)**.

Townline Park

- Design campground **(Objective Eliminated or Postponed)**
- Regrade boat landings and asphalt pave **(Done)**;
- Install concrete boat launch pads **(Postponed)**;
- Reconstruct small boat landing pier **(Objective Eliminated or Postponed)**;
- Replace toilet facilities to be ADA compliant **(Postponed)**;
- Develop small overnight campground **(Objective Eliminated or Postponed)**; and
- Purchased additional water frontage **(Ongoing)**.

Perch Lake Park

- Trail development plans **(In Progress)**
- Regrade boat landings and asphalt pave **(Postponed)**;
- Build ADA boat launch pier **(Objective Eliminated or Postponed)**;
- Installed concrete boat launch pads **(Postponed)**; and
- Replaced toilet facilities to be ADA compliant **(In Progress)**.

Washburn Lake Recreational Trail System

- Develop new trail connecting Washburn and Cassian trails to Perch Lake **(In Progress)**;
- Build warming shelter/restroom/maintenance garage facility **(In Progress)**;
- Construct new Hwy K asphalt parking area with lights **(Objective Eliminated)**;
- Grade and widen existing trails **(In Progress)**; and
- Add electricity for lights at parking lots **(Done)**.

ATV Trails

- Add wetland crossing for new trail **(Done)**; and
- Grade and brush new trail **(Done)**.

Bass Lake Park

- Replace restrooms **(Objective Eliminated)**;
- Grade parking lot and boat launch **(Postponed)**;
- Install concrete boat launch pads **(Postponed)**; and
- Construct boat launch pier **(Objective Eliminated)**.

Enterprise Camp Sites

- Design campground in County Forest **(Done)**;
- Grade and seed camping pads **(Done)**; and
- Purchase and installed fire rings and picnic tables **(Done)**.

Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area

- Dredged and riprapped around water control structure **(In Progress)**; and
- Developed a boardwalk across wetland to link summer trail. **(Objective Eliminated or Postponed)**

Highway O Bridge

- Replace existing bridge **(Done)**;
- Grade parking lot **(Done)**; and
- Install concrete boat launch pads **(Postponed)**.

Conversion of Burrows Lake Gravel Pit into intensive use ATV facility

- Grade and slope as necessary **(Objective Eliminated)**;
- Purchase and install 1-mile of chain link fence **(Objective Eliminated)**; and
- Purchase and install access gates at ATV park **(Objective Eliminated)**.

City of Rhinelander

The City has chosen to create its own outdoor recreation plan.

Town of Cassian

- Constructed pavilion with picnic tables on Town owned property;

Sand Lake Beach:

- Added ADA compliant restrooms;
- Added 12'x28' block ADA compliant changing rooms;
- Established a picnic area with wood tables, and speed limit signs on Sand Lake Rd;

West Horsehead Lake Landing:

- Widened existing road leaning to launch area for cars and trailers;
- Created new dock and ramp; and

Tomahawk River Canoe Access Trail:

- Improved surface and solved erosion problems on trail.

Town of Hazelhurst

- Repaired Lake Katherine Beach park docks in 2005; and
- Regraveled McCormick Lake Landing in 2004.

Town of Newbold

- Developed a map/guide and installed signage to designate bicycle path routes.

Town of Lake Tomahawk

Lake Tomahawk Park:

- Expanded the paved parking area;
- Developed a sand volleyball court;
- Installed new boat launch pads for both sides of the new pier;

Other Improvements:

- Investigated developing old railroad bed for use as a hike/bike trail (currently snowmobile);
- Signed a series of on-road bicycle routes.

Town of Three Lakes

Don Burnside Recreational Park:

- Installed new playground equipment;
- Constructed storage building for park maintenance equipment and supplies;
- Constructed a restroom facility adjacent to the snowmobile park area;

Cy Williams Park:

- Developed ADA compliant toilet facility onto the Information Bureau building;
- Hooked up the restroom/changing area to sanitary sewer and water lines; and
- Added playground equipment.

Phyllis B. Felland Memorial Water Ski Park

- Constructed new storage and concession stand; and
- Replaced wood bleachers with two sets of 50-seat aluminum bleachers.

Developed boat ramps at Townline Lake, Medicine Lake, and Big Fork Lake.

Town of Woodruff

Brandy Park:

- Improved existing changing house/restroom facility for better handicapped accessibility;
- Build ADA accessible path linking the changing house/restroom with the parking lot; and
- Developed skate park facility.

Town of Sugar Camp

- Improved third baseball field up to Babe Ruth specifications in Lions Park; and
- Created a classic snowmobile racetrack in 2007.

5.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Informal Public Input

In the regular course of business, Oneida County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Department staff have received public input about its parks, and forests.

Summary of City Council and Town Board Survey Responses

Completed surveys were received from the Towns of Cassian, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Monico, Newbold, Pine Lake, Sugar Camp, Three Lakes, and Woodruff. Each Town that did not reply to the first survey was mailed a second survey, and was called by phone to solicit a response.

Survey responses are grouped under the headings below. The Towns of Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Monico, Newbold, and Pine Lake had no response in any of the following categories. All remaining respondents did not choose three issues.

Top Outdoor Recreation Issues Facing Oneida County
Each "X" represents 1 community agreeing that it is an issue.

Funding problems to complete requested hiking and biking trails	X
Public camping facilities needed on county or state land	X
Snowmobile trail access	X
ATV trail creation	XX
Non-motorized use	X
Budgetary limitations	X
None	X
Ask the people who live in the County	X

How to Satisfy Oneida County Outdoor Recreational Issues

Possibly collecting more registration or user fees	X
Open more ATV trails	X
Secure deeded easements for trails	X
Budgetary limitations	X
Like most things, someone needs to do it	X

What Existing Outdoor Recreation Facilities in Oneida County Need Improvement

None	X
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Some communities described what outdoor recreational issues face their community, and how they plan to satisfy those issues:

Town of Enterprise would like more access to Oneida County Forest land, and would like the berms removed from the trails in the County Forest.

Top 3 Outdoor Recreation Issues in the **Town of Monico** are:

1. Snowmobile trail access
2. ATV trail access
3. Non-motorized use

Securing deeded easements for trails should satisfy these local issues.

Town of Cassian frequently receives calls for completing more biking trails by a small group of activists, along with some requests for more camping and ATV trails in closer proximity to the Town.

Public Meetings Input

Two public meetings and an extended public comment period were held. Local newspapers advertised the public meetings. Outdoor recreation groups were notified directly about the first public comment meeting via a survey with the first meeting advertised on it. Based upon public comment at the second meeting on February 19th, it was conveyed to the Committee that several non-motorized groups were not notified in the same way that the motorized groups were notified of this planning process. The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Committee extended the public comment period to March 20, 2009, to accept more views that may have been missed.

Public Meeting #1

The public meeting was held between 6:00-8:00 p.m. on May 28, 2008 in the Oneida County Board Room in Rhinelander.

An Outdoor Recreation Meeting for the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD) managed facilities was held on May 28, 2008. Each survey sent to the Towns and a variety of outdoor recreation groups advertised this meeting.

NCWRPC note: Many outdoor recreation groups are not organized into clubs. Notice that on page B-7 in Attachment B of this Plan that the first four entries from the top in Table B-1 do not have user groups. These unrepresented groups usually do not attend public meetings if they are tourists or when they think that the existing facilities are adequate. Those four groups represent about 40% of the population. This is why a professional forester or recreation coordinator is needed to understand all user group desires and the natural resource base, then make determinations as to satisfying most users within the County Budget, and also remain consistent with the 15-year Comprehensive Forest Land Use Plan.

The following items were available for downloading from an NCWRPC web page for this plan:

1. List of Projects completed from 2004-2008
2. Possible 2009-2013 Goals and Objectives
3. Past and Proposed Future Recommendations

GENERAL COMMENTS from Public Meeting #1

- Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council read the following statement:

May 28, 2008

Oneida County Forestry, Land and Outdoor Recreation Department
Five Year Recreation Plan for 2009-2013

The Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council is dedicated to making Oneida County more bike-able and walk-able. We work to create and maintain trails, routes and pathways that support people-powered activity. We have cooperated with the Oneida County Health Department to promote outdoor physical activity as a means of improving the quality of life for all people who live in or visit Oneida County.

FLORD's support of "silent sport" trails in the County Forest lands brings great social benefit to all residents and visitors in Oneida County. This includes many documented health benefits as well as economic benefits due to the preservation of the pristine natural environment that attracts visitors to this area.

In contrast, support of motorized "recreation" contributes to air pollution, destruction of fragile ecosystems, wasteful consumption of fossil fuels, transport of exotic invasive species, disruption of an otherwise tranquil environment and increased risk of personal injury and property damage. Clearly, County resources should be reserved for more constructive and socially beneficial forms of recreation. We urge FLORD to increase opportunities for silent sports activities. Please make this the primary focus of the Five Year Recreation Plan.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and others in County government toward the development, maintenance and improvement of biking and walking trails in Oneida County.

Tom Rulseh

Secretary, Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council

- Tourism of silent sport locations is important in Oneida County.
 - Cassian/Woodboro linear trail is very good.
 - Use the Cassian/Woodboro county forest block for a motorized free zone.
 - Don't kick out existing snowmobile trails from this forest block.
 - Hunting is considered a silent sport and an indigenous activity to the area.
 - Add bike lanes or wide paved shoulders to highways.
- Expand ATV trails.

Public Meeting #1 Comments

Public Meeting #1 Comments

- Expanding ATV trails costs nothing to county taxpayers.
- Many people choose motorized vehicles to recreate on.
- Tourism from ATVerS brings money into Oneida County.

- Trout Unlimited.
 - Concerned about any new trails producing erosion into surface waters.

- Biking has brought in tourism dollars to Oneida County.

- Great job FLORD on providing for all outdoor recreation groups.

John Bilogan:

- About bike routes, which do you prefer: a means of alternative transportation, or scenic trails that are off-road?

Public response:

- Health wise, an off-road path would be best.
- Scenic trails would bring in tourism.
- Any location for a bike trail would be welcome.
- Signing some direct paved roads for biking would be a good idea to use local knowledge to help tourists out.

Additional Written Comments

May 28, 2008

Lee Swank

Township of Crescent

I am in strong support of keeping a specific area for silent sports free from year-a-round motorized activity.

May 28, 2008

R. Pantalone

Township of Newbold

I think that those who are interested in "silent sports" are a different group of people than those who prefer ATV's. Both groups should be counted with separate plans. Promoting the more "healthy" activities will in the long run be more beneficial to the county and those who they attract. In general it is a more affluent population who can contribute above and beyond just spending money and buying gas. At the same time the county's economic outlay need not be that significant (bike paths, hiking trails).

May 28, 2008

Ruth Sprovll

Town of Newbold

Continue to encourage and support development, which promotes the health of our natural areas – silent sports. Would fulfill this goal as well as contributing to the physical health of Oneida County Citizens. Motorized use of

City land would NOT be consistent as it would disturb wildlife, soil and forest flora – it would also do nothing to encourage healthy behavior of Oneida County Citizens.

Public Meeting #1 Comments

May 28, 2008

Bob Abel

Township of Crescent

Support more silent sport trails, which are not infringed on by motorized sports.

Strongly support adding bike lane to Hwy K.

May 28, 2008

Brian Hegge

Township of Crescent

Northern Wisconsin – Vilas County – has stood up and voted against any more ATV trails. How about Oneida doing the same? The WDNR committee also discovered a lack of support for trails through the state forests in Vilas and Oneida County. Lets make the Cassia – Woodboro Forest ATV Free!

May 28, 2008

Brian Hegge – Northwoods Chapter of Trout Unlimited

The Northwoods Chapter has recently funded habitat work on Woodboro Springs and along the Bearskin. This work was done to promote our area's coldwater fisheries and improve those resources. To that end, we would hope that future development in the Cassia – Woodboro forest would promote and preserve the "quiet" integrity of the area and maintain "silent sports" in the area. While we are not aware of any future ATV in the area, we would hope that none are planned or proposed that may impact coldwater resources or alter the serenity of the forests!

Public Meeting #1 Comments

FLOR Committee Discussion

- FLORC recognizes that developing County Board support and funding for new recreational facilities and programs can be a major project in itself.
- Some revenue from county forest timber sales should go into FLORD first, then the remainder placed in the general fund.
- The proposed Eco-Industrial Park in Rhinelander should have and maintain recreational trails.

– End of Public Meeting #1 comments –

Public Meeting #2

The public meeting was held between 6:00–8:00 pm on February 19, 2009 in the Oneida County Board room in Rhinelander.

Area residents were able to view a draft of the proposed plan at the Minocqua, Rhinelander, and Nicolet College libraries; the Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Department office; and on the Internet. Each library had posters that announced this meeting, public notices were sent to the media, and a front page story was run in the Rhinelander Daily News before the meeting.

GENERAL COMMENTS from Public Meeting #2

Committee Chair Wilbur Petroskey
Opened the meeting.

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director; and Fred Heider, NCWRPC
Provided some opening comments and an overview of the plan and planning process.

Jack Dunbar
Make ATV trail on property. Not on town roads though. We lost a route from Lake Tomahawk to Sayner. ATV money made the Boulder Junction bike trail. We need a plan to facilitate receiving ATV money to make trails. We need to make places to ride ATVs, like Little Rice to Cassian.

Gary Baier, Committee Member
Nokomis and little Rice Town Board Chairmen are in constant communication about how to create new ATV trails. Bikes and snowmobiles share the same trails. Connect Enterprise Block into Vilas Co. We could have ATV routes in all four corners of the county. Silent sports can easily be accommodated too. Woodboro can make a trail and connect over county land.

Tom Lynn
An ATV Club is forming in Minocqua. Most ATV demographics coming into the Minocqua store are 70+ years old and are local residents who want to use ATVs to visit neighbors. Minocqua ordinance was established to allow winter road use of ATVs and to access frozen lakes. Trying to get county land to link up Little Rice trails to the south part of Willow Flowage. We need to link our ATV trails throughout the county, and connect to other counties. We need a master plan. What happened to this trail: Sheeplake Road ATV trail to ????

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director
We got some stakeholders from Vilas, Iron, and Oneida county board members together to discuss how to connect ATV trails. Potentially parallel to STH 47. I proposed that we follow trail roadbed south through Northern Highland-American Legion (NH-AL) land. Costs came back and they were astronomical so it was shot down. NRB rejected it because of the very high cost.

Ed Cherwinski
Commenting about how much support from construction equipment owners exists to help create trails for ATVs. I have four ATVs. I have nothing against silent sports. Give us a chance to organize and prove ourselves. There will always be a bad apple in every group.

Public Meeting #2 Comments

Public Meeting #2 Comments

Matt Madison

I was on NH-AL ATV trail creating board. Kudos to John Bilogan on the NH-AL board. ATVs and silent sports can co-exist.

Les Felbab

Talking about Stimulus Bill. Could we use Stimulus money to create ATV trails?

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director

Several Stimulus Bill projects came through my office, but no ATV projects.

Les Felbab

There are no snowmobile people at this meeting. I know that ATVing comes from ATV registrations. The county mainly paid for a nice new shelter, only \$30,000 came from donations. ATVs bring in a lot of money that we should use to build ATV trails. You can ride anywhere in Michigan, most of which is on public land. You can ride on road shoulders too.

Pat Harkens

Rhineland native, and a member of ATV and snowmobile clubs. Snowmobile routes took a long time to create. None of these trails came overnight. By state law, we can ride snowmobile to the nearest road, but ATVs don't have the same right. We need to change state law to allow the same. It's an education process to show that ATVs are quieter than loud boats. Maybe we can connect several trails... Some town chairmen are not for it because their residents are against it.

Gary Baier, Committee Member

Most snowmobile owners have ATVs. Airplane crash victim donated money to Nokomis to purchase an ATV for search and rescue. ATVs could be very useful to help access people in ice storms. Story about casually using ends of roads, or the handicapped using ATVs to enjoy the outdoors. Park Falls allows ATVs in downtown, and we can't use ATVs in the forest in Oneida County. I don't think that we have enough ATV trails. We need to connect the ones we have.

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director

Responded to comments. If the ATV clubs come together with a good proposal, then we can get them 100% funded, and there is maintenance money too. We lost trail access when paper company land changed corporate ownership. We may need to try again when new owners may be more favorable. ATVs seem to have a public perception biased against them. The north-south route could have worked, but didn't, but maybe should be pursued again. An east-west route is needed, but that would cross private property, and clubs could organize and then maybe this could result.

Kathleen Joppa

Statement about the cultural understanding about ATVs and snowmobiles. Story about ATVs tearing up trails out west. Story about hiking in Oneida Co. and the ATVer's were very friendly. I understand using ATVs to assist disabled people's mobility. We must be cautious about aggravating one group against another. We must still keep quiet places quiet. This is a quality of life issue. We should not rush so fast that we destroy the woodlands.

Patsy Peters, Committee Member

I am not an outdoor girl, but I want an ATV to ride in the woods.

Public Meeting #2 Comments

Public Meeting #2 Comments

Paul Aster

Silent sport lover. No ATVs ripping up the trails near my property. There were noisy ATVs traveling along power lines, but that has vanished once the trails opened. Ice Age Trail area is very quiet. Not unusual to see heavy use of ATV trails, and the users have kept it clean and stopped problems. We need to have time-share trails. Trails would be quiet on certain days, and then allow ATVs on other days. ATVs are very useful for emergency use on the trails when someone gets hurt. ATVs are very helpful in ice storms. We need restrictions on ATV noise levels, especially when animals are sensitive like during nesting, or mating seasons. Maybe tax credits could assist with private property owners allowing ATVs. This could be done on a trial basis to win over more private landowners. Lincoln County has an extensive ATV system, which has turned out well.

Jay Joppa

Question: Were all outdoor rec. groups notified of this meeting?

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director

We want to get everyone to weigh in on this plan.

Jay Joppa

Not surprised that only ATV trails are being spoken of. If we are talking about ATV corridors, then I agree with that. If we have many tangents off that route, then we really need more input. We should not allow ATVs on paved roads, because of safety concerns. Langlade, Lincoln, Forest Counties all have ATVs, story about personally having negative impressions about how ATVers interacted with me regarding dust and noise pollution.

Gary Baier, Committee Member

Please don't take it out on any one group.

Jay Joppa

Please add these two items to the 5-year plan:

1. Please limit fragmentation of large forest blocks with roads, or cross country ski trails.
2. North end of Cassian trail, please allow dogs.

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director

Reminded committee that many written comments came in and they also will be incorporated into this 5-year plan.

Committee Chair Wilbur Petroskey, and Fred Heider, NCWRPC

Reminded public to provide written comments if they did not want to speak at this meeting.

Catherine Joppa

The forest is very big. When a motor goes down a path, it's affecting a wide swath based upon its noise. A good goal when developing trails is not to fragment the forest.

Al Sachse

Spoke about how the Upper Peninsula and ATVs are co-existing. ATV trails are a great idea.

Gary Baier, Committee Member

Our committee task is to provide for the needs of all Oneida residents. Story about Hwy 51 access, and needing to maintain the land for everyone. Nokomis is very impressed... We all need to work together when trail ideas come in.

Random comment

Is there a part in this plan for food plots for wildlife? We need food plots to maintain wildlife.

Sandy England

Husband is ATV user and a silent sport user. There is plenty of land to allow all users. Regardless of user group, there are bad apples in every group. Bicycles – Bike route in front of house. They would be 4 wide in the middle of the road. They are not supposed to be 4 wide. That is a bad representation for bikes, but most are not bad.

Tom Rudolph, Committee Member

There is probably a place in the county forest for all users. Maybe we should section off the forest to allow non-motorized in Cassian–Woodboro forest block. The Judy Swank pavilion is great. Very happy to see the development of ATV routes in the Enterprise forest block. It is a good example of a well planned trail system, and I applaud the trail group that monitors it. There is a shaky reputation for ATV users. This is a chance to change that attitude, and if routes are planned with other users in mind, then public perception may change. This 5-year plan is not close to final; based upon maybe not enough groups have the opportunity to respond.

Matt Matteson

Many ATV people are in the audience tonight. I am not against silent sports. I will not vote against them. There were personal attacks. I thank the silent sport groups, and I'd like to thank the committee to become more open to all the groups. I don't think it would be practical for every group to have...

Gary Baier, Committee Member

Can we get an outdoor recreation plan copy to each town hall?

Deb Wall

Silent sport enthusiast. Can we get a copy at our next group meeting? I want all groups to be heard when you develop this plan.

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director

Defended process. This is the second meeting.

Paul Fiene, Oneida Forestry Assistant Director

This document does not tell what will happen, but what may occur. Not all noted items may happen in this plan.

Committee Chair Wilbur Petroskey

Closed the meeting by thanking everyone who came tonight.

Additional Written Comments taken at Public Meeting #2:

February 19, 2009

Les Felbab

Please install electric power at the Enterprise Campground. Please put the generator away from the campground so I don't have to listen to the wind blades going around. Thanks.

February 19, 2009

Unidentified female

Please develop information to educate the public about forest health. Maybe describe silvicultural procedures that enhance the forest, and how the flora and fauna are a part of forest health.

– End of Public Meeting #2 comments –

Based upon public comment at Public Meeting #2, it was conveyed to the Committee that several non-motorized groups were not notified in the same way that the motorized groups were notified of this planning process. The Committee extended public comment period to March 20. NCWRPC mailed 2 additional copies of the draft plan to each library for them to loan out, because their original draft plan was only available in the Reference section. NCWRPC and County Forestry staff sought email or postal addresses of additional non-motorized groups, and NCWRPC mailed an outdoor recreation survey and cover letter to each of the additional groups. A survey for outdoor recreation groups was also posted on the Oneida ORP web page. Each town was mailed 2 yellow posters to hang up that publicized the additional public comment period, and where they could check out a copy of the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (February 19–March 20, 2009)

All comments received during this public comment period are in Attachment C, and are summarized in the following paragraphs:

Public Comment Period

Numerous written and oral comments were received from the general public pertaining to the Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan. The vast majority of the comments received could be generally categorized into two groups. Group 1 would represent public comments received from silent sport recreational enthusiasts. The centralized themes repeated in most of these comments were: a) the desire for the County to develop more silent sport trails for hiking, biking, and cross country skiing; and b) for some of these trails to be isolated from motorized uses during the same season of the year. Group 2 would represent public comments received from motorized recreational sport enthusiasts. Most of the comments in this group were from individuals that would like additional All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails developed in Oneida County for enjoyment in the county, and to connect to other trail systems in adjacent counties.

Many individuals and non-motorized groups requested that a non-motorized area exist in the Cassian-Woodboro forest block.

Additional trails of all types were requested. See Table 10 on page 58.

– End of Public Comment Period remarks –

5.4 GENERAL COUNTY FACILITY ASSESSMENT

Staff from the Oneida County Forestry Department projected what recreational needs face Oneida County during the next 5-years. Specific park capital improvement tables start on page 55.

- Use of the Townline Park swimming beach has decreased dramatically over the past 5-years. Decreased use of the Townline Park swimming beach is attributed to several factors: 1) an extended drought over the past 5-years has lowered the lake level several feet below the ordinary high water mark, and 2) a rapid increase in the amount of Purple Bladderwort (*Utricularia pururea*), a free-floating aquatic plant found in the Townline Lake. These two factors have almost completely halted the use of the Townline Park swimming beach. In addition, the toilet building located at the Townline Park swimming beach is approximately 25-years old and in need of repairs. With these factors in mind The Forestry Department is recommending that the Townline Park swimming beach be abandon, and that the existing toilet building be demolished and sealed. Furthermore, money saved by avoiding costly repairs and the associated costs of maintaining of this facility could be better utilized by other County Recreational facilities with much higher public use.
- Use of the Bass Lake Picnic Area has traditionally been low. The existing toilet buildings at the Bass Lake Picnic Area are not ADA accessible, are over 25-years old, and in need of major repairs or replacement. Based upon the observations described above, The Forestry Department is recommending that they Bass Lake Picnic Area be abandon, and that the existing toilet buildings be demolished and sealed. Furthermore, money saved by avoiding costly repairs and the associated costs of maintaining of this facility could be better utilized by other County Recreational facilities with much higher public use.

5.5 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 imminent. When the opportunity to buy land exists, then reaction must be swift to seize the opportunity. A park growth boundary should be created for this reason.

Chapter 6

ONEIDA COUNTY FACILITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

These goals and objectives are meant to guide the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD) as they work towards providing a recreation system to meet the needs of Oneida County's residents and visitors to the area. At a public meeting advertised to the public, these goals and objectives were approved by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Committee. Local governments may have different goals and objectives. Specific capital improvement plan tables created to satisfy these goals and objectives exist in Chapter 7—Recommendations.

The development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing specific recreation and open-space goals and objectives from public participation. 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.

Goal 1: Acquire and develop land for parks, open space, and natural and cultural resource protection.

Objectives: 1. Use county outdoor recreation plan and county forest comprehensive land use plan to guide acquisition and development decisions.
2. Maintain and improve existing recreational facilities as outlined in the 5-year capital improvement tables as opportunities and funding sources become available.

Goal 2: Promote and practice sound resource management to protect lands and waters.

Objective: Use best management practices when developing recreation facilities.

Goal 3: Assist local governments with providing local outdoor recreation facilities.

Objective: Encourage local governments to add their capital improvement projects into county outdoor recreation plan.

Goal 4: Support identification, preservation, and restoration of areas with scientific, cultural, or historic significance.

Objective: Review existing county forest parcels to become new state natural areas.

Chapter 7

RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

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

The recommendations are based on the needs assessments documented in Chapter 5, and the goals and objectives listed in Chapter 6. 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. Various government jurisdictions are named in the following recommendations, but the authority of this plan only relates to applications for state and federal money through the DNR. Projects listed in this chapter receive a higher application rating.

7.2 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- DNR and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company to review and possibly add additional boat landings and campsites to the west side of the Willow Flowage.
- Consider not developing any motorized trail systems in the Cassian-Woodboro forest block. All county forest blocks are active forests, therefore logging trucks and any service vehicles will always be allowed. All existing snowmobile routes will remain. Any future motorized trails needed to connect other motorized trails will be allowed through the Cassian-Woodboro forest block.
- Oneida County Highway Department to review and possibly add paved shoulders, or grade separated trails for bicycles to county highways. Map 2 in this plan shows proposed on road and off road bike trails, many of which are in county highway right-of-ways.

7.3 COUNTY FLORD FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Postponed in the 2004-2008, Recommended between 2009-2013

- Installation of playground equipment at Almon Park.
- Run electricity to Almon Park Upper Shelter.
- Install concrete boat launching pads at Townline Park.
- Replace toilet buildings at Townline Park.
- Rehabilitate boat landing at Perch Lake (grade/gravel).
- Install concrete boat launching pads at Perch Lake.
- Pave trailhead parking lot at Washburn Lake Road.
- Rehabilitate boat landing at Bass Lake (grade/gravel).
- Install concrete boat launching pads at Bass Lake.
- Install concrete boat launching pads at Hwy O Landing.

On Going Recommendations from 2004-2008

- Purchase additional Townline Lake frontage adjacent to Townline Park.

New Recommendations for 2009-2013

- Recognize that developing County Board Support and funding for new recreational facilities and programs can be a major project by itself.
- Repair erosion along Townline Park shoreline.
- Continue program of inspecting and rehabilitation recreational trail bridges as needed.
- Replace shelters at Almon Park.
- Develop a use plan for upper level at Townline Park.
- Pave access road at Enterprise Forest Campground.
- Develop additional campsites at the Enterprise Forest Campground as dictated by usage.
- Repave existing parking lots at day use parks.

7.4 TOWN OF LYNNE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Work with County to have Lynne develop and maintain a campground, restrooms, and park at the Willow Rapids Picnic Area.
- Discuss land ownership of Willow Rapids Picnic Area between County and Lynne.

7.5 TOWN OF MONICO RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add riprap at the beach.
- Construct restroom facilities at the baseball park.
- Construct fishing pier as Mars Lake boat landing.
- Install new playground equipment at Town Hall Park.
- Develop a small park within the Town Center.

7.6 TOWN OF PINE LAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve Moens Lake boat landing.

7.7 TOWN OF THREE LAKES RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop outdoor sand volleyball court, and install horseshoe pit at Don Burnside Recreational Park.
- Remodel concession stand at lighted softball diamond.
- Develop annual horse show events.
- Level and grade existing properties to develop soccer fields.
- Expand park boundaries.
- Complete Phase Two of the Three Eagle Trail (northern segment), which is approximately 3.8 miles long.

7.8 TOWN OF SUGAR CAMP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Install a well for icing the snowmobile track and provide water to ball fields.
- Install 4-foot cyclone fence around snowmobile track.

7.9 COUNTY FLORD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2009–2013

Capital improvements to parks are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designed and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Routine maintenance is considered the normal cycle of repair and upkeep for existing facilities. Routine maintenance does not increase the value or usefulness of the park, and is traditionally funded through the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department's operations budget, and through local government budgets. 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.

What was eliminated?

Table 3 is a list of capital improvement projects from the 2004-2008 Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan that are no longer being pursued by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD).

Table 3 Projects No Longer Being Pursued By FLORD From 2004–2008 Plan		
Project Location	Project Description	Estimated Cost
Almon Park	Develop multi-use trail from parking lot	\$5,000
Townline Park	Construct small boat landing pier	\$2,500
Townline Park	Purchase additional land adjacent to park	\$75,000
Townline Park	Install concrete boat landing trailer pads	\$4,000
Perch Lake Park	Asphalt Perch Lake Boat Landing	\$10,000
Perch Lake Park	Construct small boat landing pier	\$2,500
Washburn Trail	Construct new parking lot (Hwy K area)	\$15,000
Washburn Trail	Install lights at existing parking	\$5,000
Spruce Lake	Develop boardwalk across wetland	\$75,000
Bass Lake	Replace existing toilet buildings	\$30,000
Bass Lake	Install concrete boat landing trailer pads	\$4,000
Hwy O Bridge	Install concrete boat landing trailer pads	\$8,000
Burrows Lake Pit	Conversion of pit into ATV Park	\$52,500
Total Estimated Cost		\$288,500

What was accomplished?

Table 4 is a list of capital improvement projects described in the 2004-2008 Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan that have been completed by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD).

Table 4 Completed Projects By FLORD From 2004–2008 Plan		
Project Location	Project Description	Cost
Almon Park	Prepare Access rehabilitation plan and engineering	\$3,500
Almon Park	Improved asphalt access path to swimming beach	\$35,777
Townline Park	Regrade and asphalt boat landing	\$3,000
Perch Lake Park	Construction/Engineering Plans	Donation
Perch Lake Park	Build new parking lot	\$11,000
Perch Lake Park	Build warming shelter/ maintenance garage	\$134,560
Perch Lake Park	Replace restroom facility (ADA compliant)	\$35,000
Washburn Trail	Develop multi-use connection trails to Perch Lake	\$5,000
Enterprise Campground	Land survey and engineering	\$8,978
Enterprise Campground	Construct campground loop road	\$30,123
Enterprise Campground	Brush grad and develop 11 campsites	\$11,730
Enterprise Campground	Build two pit toilet buildings	\$63,618
Enterprise Campground	Campground wells, fire rings, picnic tables, and signs	\$18,821
Hwy O Bridge	Engineered plans for new clear span bridge	\$35,895
Hwy O Bridge	Replace existing bridge	\$293,623
ATV Trail	Develop new ATV Trail	\$23,500
ATV Trail	ATV Trail Amenities Shelter Building, Loading Ramp	\$9,391
Total Cost		\$723,516

What is projected to occur?

The following tables are Capital Improvement Plans proposed for the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD) managed recreational system. The projects are not listed in a priority and are subject to change. The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor 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.

Table 5 Townline Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan	
Start Year of Plan 2009	Estimated Cost
Design small campground facility	\$5,000
Develop small overnight campground	\$40,000
Shoreline restoration/erosion repair	\$30,000
Replace 2 toilet buildings (upper level)	\$40,000
Abandon toilet building & swimming beach	\$7,500
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	\$122,500

Table 6		Perch Lake Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan	
Start Year of Plan 2009		Estimated Cost	
Expand parking lot		\$15,000	
Pave parking lot		\$20,000	
Surveillance system		\$5,000	
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan		\$40,000	

Table 7		Enterprise Camp Sites Five Year Capital Improvement Plan	
Start Year of Plan 2009		Estimated Cost	
Pave campground loop road		\$60,000	
Construct covered firewood storage area		\$3,000	
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan		\$63,000	

Table 8		Bass Lake Picnic Area Five Year Capital Improvement Plan	
Start Year of Plan 2009		Estimated Cost	
Abandon toilet buildings & close picnic area		\$4,000	
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan		\$4,000	

Table 9		Almon Recreational Area Five Year Capital Improvement Plan	
Start Year of Plan 2009		Estimated Cost	
Prepare plan and engineering		\$8,000	
Asphalt maintenance road to lower level of park		\$50,000	
Playground equipment		\$17,000	
Bring electric power to shelter, swimming beach, and parking lot		\$12,000	
Repair, resurface, seal existing asphalt infrastructure		\$30,000	
Surveillance system		\$5,000	
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan		\$122,000	

Numerous written and oral comments were received from the general public pertaining to the Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan (documented in Attachment C). The vast majority of the comments received could be generally categorized into two groups. Group 1 would represent public comments received from silent sport recreational enthusiasts. The centralized themes repeated in most of these comments were: a) the desire for the County to develop more silent sport trails for hiking, biking, and cross country skiing; and b) for some of these trails to be isolated from motorized uses during the same season of the year. Group 2 would represent public comments received from motorized recreational sport enthusiasts. Most of the comments in this group were from individuals that would like additional All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails developed in Oneida County for enjoyment in the county, and to connect to other trail systems in adjacent counties.

Unfortunately, silent sport enthusiasts and motorized sport enthusiasts are at opposite ends of the recreational spectrum. If a large block of the County Forest is dedicated toward the development of recreational opportunities desired by one group, the recreational opportunities desired by the other group could be perceived as being discriminated against. To that end, the success of future recreational trail development in Oneida County greatly depends on a) a thorough understanding of how each recreational opportunity affects other recreational opportunities; b) a carefully designed and balanced approach to creating trails; and c) a willingness of users to co-exist.

Table 10	
Recreational Trails	
Five Year Capital Improvement Plan	
Start Year of Plan 2009	Estimated Cost
Expand existing network of silent sport trails (skiing, biking, & hiking)	\$25,000
Expand existing network of motorized sport trails (ATV & snowmobile)	\$50,000
Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan	\$75,000

Chapter 8

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

8.1 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.

8.2 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The following strategies are listed in alphabetical order.

Capital Improvements

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

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

Community Beautification

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

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.

Historic Sites

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

Leases

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

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

Lifetime Activities

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

Monetary Aid Programs

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

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
Rhineland Service Center
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland, WI 54501

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

Municipal and School District Cooperation

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

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. Forest 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.

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.

Program Costs

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

Senior Citizen Involvement

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

Service Group Involvement

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

Shoreland Zoning

Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program established statewide 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 Oneida County to find out about their development standards.

Snowmobile/ATV Routes

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

Specialized Facilities

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

Public Access via Subdivision Regulations (Platting Lands)

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

Use of Easements

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

Winter Activities

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

Chapter 9

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 Oneida County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation 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 nature based facilities are necessary to satisfy demand?
3. Which potential projects fulfill this demand?
4. Who is the project sponsor?

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

Conducting a full plan update every five years is required by the DNR to maintain the county's eligibility for grant programs.

ATTACHMENT A

TOWN and OUTDOOR RECREATION GROUP
OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEYS

THE TABULATED RESULTS FOR SURVEYS EXISTS IN:
CHAPTER 5 – OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ATTACHMENT B

NCWRPC GENERATED SCORP 2005-2010 SUMMARY

ATTACHMENT C

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EMAILED AND MAILED REMARKS

ATTACHMENT D

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

ATTACHMENT E

STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS