ATTACHMENT A

Park Design and Location Criteria
From:
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016
**Park and Recreation Designs**

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

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<th>School Park</th>
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<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Park</td>
<td>County Park</td>
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<td>Special Use Park</td>
<td>State Forest</td>
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</table>

**Mini Park**

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

2. **Size Objectives:**
0.5 to 1.5 acres.

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

4. **Location Objectives:**
Located in protected areas with separation from street traffic and high visibility; serving local neighborhoods and adjoining schools, libraries, or police and fire facilities.
- Population Ratio to Acreage: 0.25 to 0.5 acre per 1,000 population to achieve a park unit size that serves 2,000 to 3,000 people.

5. **Space, Design, and Service Area:**
The size of a play lot or playground may range from as small as 2,500 sq. ft. to 1.5 acres.* Amenities offered by these facilities generally include sand play areas, play apparatus, play equipment, and other special child-oriented features. The service radius for these parks in terms of distance from population served is limited to less than a quarter mile, or within a super block space, unless the playground is incorporated into a larger park. (*Stand-alone play lots require more land area than play lots incorporated into larger parks.)

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

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

**Neighborhood Park**

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

2. **Size Objectives:**
5 to 25 acres.
3. **Service Area Objectives:**
   Generally a one mile radius, but actually defined by collector street patterns which form the limits of a neighborhood or recreation service area. Population served may range from 2,000 up to 5,000.

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

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

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

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

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

**Community Park**

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

2. **Size Objectives:**
   Usually more than 25 acres.

3. **Service Area Objectives:**
   Generally a 2 to 5 mile radius within the city and adjacent neighborhoods outside of city limits.

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

Source: 2005-2010 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
5. **Program Objectives**

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

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

6. **Orientation:**

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

7. **Function:**

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

8) **Space, Design, and Service Area:**

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

**Special Use Park**

1. **Definition Summary:**

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

2. **Size Objective:**

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

3. **Service Area Objectives:**

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

4. **Location Objectives:**

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

5. **Program Objectives:**

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

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

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Source: 2005-2010 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
g. Recreation programs and classes

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

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:
The minimum size for special parks varies depending on intended use and programming.

School Park

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

Depending on the circumstances, school park sites often complement other community recreation or open lands. As an example, an elementary/middle school site could also serve as a neighborhood park. Likewise, middle or high school sports facilities could do double duty as a community park or as youth athletic fields. Depending on its size, one school park site may serve a number of capacities, such as a neighborhood park, youth athletic fields, and a location for recreation classes. Given the inherent variability of type, size and location, determining how a school park site is developed and programmed. If athletic fields are developed at a school park site, they should, where feasible, be oriented toward youth rather than adult programs. Establishing a clearly defined joint-use agreement between involved agencies is critical to making school park relationships workable. This is particularly important with respect to acquisition, development, maintenance, liability, use, and programming of facility issues.

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

County Park

1. Definition Summary:
A county park provides sufficient park and recreation area to meet the needs of county residents. County parks consist of land that is specifically set aside for active and passive

Source: 2005-2010 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
recreation uses, and that accommodates large gatherings, special events, and individual users. County parks offer a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities, and may provide areas that do not primarily serve a recreational purpose such as protected natural areas, historic areas, and special use areas.

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

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

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

5. Program Objectives:
Development should be appropriate for intended use and should accommodate moderate to high use. Development and planning should consider the physical condition and characteristics of the land and recognize potential environmental or structural limitations that might require intensive maintenance. County parks may include the following facilities:
   a. Camping/group camping
   b. Picnic areas
   c. Recreational trails (hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, equestrian, cross-country ski, snowmobile, etc.)
   d. Play areas
   e. Swimming beaches
   f. Water access
   g. Fishing access
   h. Shelters
   i. Restrooms
   j. Shower facilities
   k. Sport fields (basketball, volleyball, softball, etc.)
   l. Pet exercise area

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

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

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

State Forest

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

2. **Size Objectives:**
   Typically between 1,000 and 250,000 acres, but can be larger or smaller.

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

4. **Location Objectives:**
   Areas with large blocks of land.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Level of Supply:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiking trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-country ski trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

## State Park

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

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

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

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

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

### Current Level of Supply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Type</th>
<th>Area per Linear Mile of Trail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hiking trails</td>
<td>196 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfaced bicycle trails</td>
<td>860 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain bike trails</td>
<td>549 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature trails</td>
<td>1,871 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-country ski trails</td>
<td>430 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile trails</td>
<td>426 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian trails</td>
<td>400 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic sites</td>
<td>0.05 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping sites</td>
<td>1 campsite per 29 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking stalls</td>
<td>Year-Round = 1 stall for every three visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming beaches</td>
<td>17 linear feet per 1,000 users</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. **Orientation:**

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

6. **Function:**

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

7. **Space, Design, and Service Area:**

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

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

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

Source: National Recreation and Park Association
Both Visioning Session Summaries

September 5, 2012
October 3, 2012
City of Merrill Parks & Recreation Visioning Session
Sept. 5, 2012
Process facilitated and report completed by
Art Lersch
University of Wisconsin-Extension, Lincoln County

Note: Highlighted items were changed per comments at the Oct 3rd Session.

Twenty people, including local residents, City of Merrill Parks & Recreation members, the director of the city’s Parks & Recreation Department, and a planner from North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning attended the first of two visioning sessions on September 5, 2012 related to the Merrill parks system. The conversation was facilitated by Art Lersch, Community Resource Development Educator, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Lincoln County.

I. Primary Discussion Themes

The following ideas were identified as potentially promoting long-term positive change for the entire park system. Many but not all were discussed thoroughly during the evening. Many of these ideas could serve the purpose if implemented of conveying a collective image of how the park system should enhance residents’ quality of life and attract more visitors to the City of Merrill. Those items that were discussed the most and by a relatively broad cross section of attendees are in bold directly below.

- **Build new or upgrade existing bathroom facilities throughout the park system.**
- Improve athletic fields and their amenities such as scoreboards, fencing, etc.
- **Make parks more American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.**
- Establish a city Public Works Department responsible for handling all park maintenance (e.g. City of Plover).
- **Connect parks with pedestrian and bike trails.** Connect these trails to other regional trails (e.g. Bearskin, Hiawatha, Mountain Bay, etc.)
- **Develop and implement a park marketing plan.**
- Volunteer groups will have adopted sections of parks to maintain/improve, and market. (Volunteers who have ownership, who take pride in the section they are maintaining).
- Create a broader definition of what a park is; includes more varied uses; location in other more non-traditional places such as industrial parks, roughage areas, expanded current playground areas, along rivers, etc.
- All parks should be centers of **outdoor educational workshops/events.** Facilities should be developed to make this a reality.
- **Improve communication between the city and current/potential volunteer and user groups.** (Note: Many in the audience agree that positive, visionary improvements must begin with this.)
- Parks and Recreation Department will have to be changed; will need more resources, to achieve any of the suggestions.
II.  Broad Parks & Recreation Vision

In order to get attendees thinking about what the City of Merrill park system should look like in the not so distant future, they were presented with the following scenario.

YOU ARE ASLEEP FOR 15 YEARS. WHEN YOU WAKE UP YOU FIND THAT MIRACLES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ALL OF THE MERRILL PARKS. WHAT HAS HAPPENED THAT MADE MERRILL PARKS THE MOST PLEASANT TO VISIT IN WISCONSIN?

Attendees were also asked to consider the following criteria when discussing this scenario and later on in the session when attempting to identify improvements that can/should be made in specific parks.

A. DEGREE TO WHICH IMPLEMENTED MEASURE HAS THE POTENTIAL OF Generating CONSISTENT PARKS AND RECREATION REVENUE OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME (MANY YEARS).

B. HIGH NUMBER OF POTENTIAL DESIRABLE AND MEASURABLE COMMUNITY IMPACTS (OTHER THAN REVENUE GENERATION).

C. HIGH IMPORTANCE. (WILL THERE BE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES IF THE MEASURE IS NOT IMPLEMENTED SOON?)

D. CAPACITY OF PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO TAKE THE LEAD IN IMPLEMENTING THE MEASURE.

E. POTENTIAL NUMBER OF PARTNER AGENCIES/INDIVIDUALS (IN ADDITION TO PARKS & RECREATION) INTERESTED IN WORKING TOGETHER AND HAVING THE COLLECTIVE CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT THE MEASURE.

F. ABILITY OF PARKS & RECREATION AND/OR OTHER PARTNERS TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP RELATED TO THE NEWLY IMPLEMENTED MEASURE.

Those in attendance mentioned the following ideas.

- Indoor aquatic center with warm water therapy area. A zero/barrier free entrance should also be included. Perhaps this facility can be located at the MARC.

- Toddler Park – a space with toddler sized play structure in an existing park (tot lot). Maybe have a few of these around town.

- Permanent bathroom facilities (no port-a-potties).
  - At the MARC softball and baseball fields
  - Area from parking lot to ball fields - make it handicap accessible
  - Make a better experience by adding automatic score boards and other amenities
  - Not enough ADA parking spots throughout MARC/other park parking lots

- Develop an open space area in the downtown where the old bakery was torn down.
• **Promote the arts in the downtown area,** including the painting of murals along outside walls.

• **Upgrade athletic facilities** at all parks. The primary aim of doing this should be to attract for tournaments (WIAA) to the city. More tournaments generate more revenue for the entire city (hotels, restaurants, other businesses).

• Create areas of serenity in the parks, primarily for folks who want to use the facility and stay away from crowds attending or engaged in athletic activities.

• Develop more **handicap accessible parking spaces** throughout the park system, particularly at the MARC.

• Develop even stronger connections with the Merrill School System (partner in creating park based athletic and educational events).

• Establish a city **Public Works Department** responsible for handling all park maintenance (e.g. City of Plover).

• **Connect parks with pedestrian and bike trails.** Connect these trails to other regional trails (e.g. Bearskin, Hiawatha, Mountain Bay, etc.). Incorporate entertainment, educational opportunities, water access points, etc. along these trails and in parks.

• **Develop and implement a park marketing plan.**
  
  o Market the parks to residents and to potential external audiences (we must compete with other towns for patrons).
  o Establish park fundraising goals.
  o Grow and make better known the existing parks system endowment

• Develop **RV/travel campground** in appropriate parks, such as Riverside. (Capture local tourists who need to stay in area for an event such as the Tomahawk MDA/Harley Ride).

• **Create a park east of Center Avenue** (none currently exist).

• **Create a park in the Johnson Street area (south of the Arena) & another park south of Joe Snow Rd.** Both this area (Johnson St) and east of Center Avenue were designated several years ago as possible places to locate new parks.

• **Volunteer groups will have adopted sections of parks to maintain/improve, and market.** (Volunteers who have ownership, who take pride in the section they are maintaining. Marshfield is a good model).
  
  o More organized collaboration is needed to successfully manage volunteer groups.
  o Central project volunteer manager could be helpful.
Volunteers could take the lead in fundraising for park sections that they are maintaining.

- City should relax rules that make it difficult for or prevents park development.
- Improve communication between the city and current/potential volunteer and user groups.
- Create a broader definition of what a park is; includes more varied uses; location in other more non-traditional places such as industrial parks, roughage areas, expanded current playground areas, along rivers, etc.
- Develop park Emergency Action Plan.
- Connect parks with local Native American reservations; hold educational events in parks teaching non-natives what that culture is about and vice versa.
- All parks should be centers of outdoor educational workshops/events. Facilities should be developed to make this a reality.
- More uses for older children and younger adults.
- Develop access points from parks and connecting trails to rivers.
- Create more opportunities for indoor/outdoor recreation (more disk golf, etc.).
- Parks and Recreation Department will have to be changed; will need more resources, to achieve any of the suggestions made during this meeting.
- Develop Crime Prevention through Environmental Design plan. We need to plan ahead for this purpose.
- More winter utilization for all parks.
- Amphitheater, farmers market near the riverfront.
- Parks dept. does an outstanding job with the limited resources they have.
- 911 access analysis of each park - can you find a 911 caller in a park?
- Collaborate with whole community to satisfy a 1,000 kid event.
- Identify and expand entertainment & cultural opportunities within each park.
• Need a strong positive attitude, so that different ideas can be presented and people not mentally beat up.

• Need a year-round MARC building that does not have ice in it (hockey/ice skating) so others can use it in winter.

III. Ideas for Specific Parks

• Lion’s Park bathroom facilities need upgrading.

• Level ground of the park near the library (prevent high water).

• Park and Recreation kids; there should be better organization of their group so they do not dominate the park, discouraging others from using it.

• MARC; there should be a bathroom facility closer to the ball diamonds.

• A grandstand should be built at Athletic Park.

• Complete the development of Normal Park. It should be developed into and entertainment park. This is perfect because the park is easy to find. Build off of the fact that this is the home of the Merrill City Band. Restrooms and landscaping work should be part of the development.

• Improve existing skateboard park primarily by developing some sound proofing.

• Make Gerbert Park more accessible, much easier to locate (primarily using directional signage).

• Cenotaph “Memorial” Park - needs extensive restoration, it is overgrown now.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place Wednesday, October 3, 2012, 6:00 p.m. (Likely to be held in Council Chambers.) The purposes of the meeting are to prioritize the primary suggestions that were made during the first session and to develop an overarching vision statement for the City of Merrill Parks & Recreation system.
City of Merrill Parks & Recreation Visioning Session
October 9, 2012
Process facilitated and report completed by
Art Lersch
University of Wisconsin-Extension, Lincoln County

Thirteen people, including local residents, City of Merrill Parks & Recreation members, the director of the city’s Parks & Recreation Department, and a planner from North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning attended the second of two visioning sessions on October 3, 2012 related to the Merrill parks system. The conversation was facilitated by Art Lersch, Community Resource Development Educator, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Lincoln County.

I. Prioritizing Concepts

Participants prioritized the list of visionary concepts discussed during the first session. They identified the following priorities for the entire park system. The items are in no particular order.

- **Connectivity** (link pedestrian and bike trails.) Trails should become linear parks that will attract people of all ages throughout the year.

- **Build bathroom facilities** that can be used throughout the year. These facilities should be placed near trails/linear parks. Other new facilities should be built at existing parks.

- **Continue to upgrade athletic facilities.** This should always be done with keeping in mind the potential economic impact additional tournaments could have on the city.

- **Improve communication between parks user groups and the city.** Much of the work to develop connections between trails, build bathrooms, etc. cannot take place unless communication amongst stakeholders is improved. Without better communication, the collaborations necessary to make improvements to the entire system will not happen.

- **Increase park and recreation department resources.** Besides taking the lead on creating improvements in the system, additional resources are needed to help the department provide ongoing maintenance to parks that have undergone those improvements.

The group also emphasized that an effective marketing plan needs to be developed to attract people to the parks. They also indicated that the Parks and Recreation Department focus on growing its existing endowment fund. The department director reminded meeting participants that the fund can and should be used to help finance parks improvements but cannot be utilized for staff salaries/benefits.
There was some additional discussion about getting a better sense of who is using the parks based on age.

II. Other Concepts

The following list is a reminder of the issues not mentioned as priorities but should, the group indicated, be addressed further into the implementation of the new Outdoor Recreation Plan.

- Establish a city Public Works Department responsible for handling all park maintenance (e.g. City of Plover).
- Volunteer groups will have adopted sections of parks to maintain/improve, and market. (Volunteers who have ownership, who take pride in the section they are maintaining).
- Create a broader definition of what a park is; includes more varied uses; location in other more non-traditional places such as industrial parks, roughage areas, expanded current playground areas, along rivers, etc.
- All parks should be centers of outdoor educational workshops/events. Facilities should be developed to make this a reality.

Meeting participants noted that part of the “broader definition of what a park is” is embedded in the desire to develop linear parks throughout the city (trails) that are connected.

III. Vision Statement Development

After reviewing the concepts discussed during the last meeting under the appreciative inquiry scenario and the differences between a vision and a mission statement, the facilitator split the larger group into two work units. Each unit developed a draft vision statement.

During discussion about and wordsmithing of the two draft statements, the large group developed the following vision statement for the City of Merrill Parks System.

"MERRILL CITY OF PARKS IS COMMITTED TO CELEBRATING ITS HERITAGE THROUGH DIVERSIFIED OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE WISCONSIN AND PRAIRIE RIVERS WHICH ENHANCES QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL GENERATIONS."

(Note: The group vacillated over the phrase “outdoor passions” versus “outdoor opportunities.” Although “passions” was chosen, the word does not sound right in the context of the sentence. It will be up to the city Parks and Recreation Commission to change the wording back to “outdoor passions” if it wishes.)
Federal & State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs
Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

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

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

Aids For The Acquisition And Development Of Local Parks (ADLP)
Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis.

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

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

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

Lake Protection Grant

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

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

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

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

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

Recreational Boating Facilities

Funds are available for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities as per s. 30.92, Wis. Statutes. Counties, towns, cities, villages, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations are eligible to apply. Cost sharing is provided up to 50% for feasibility studies, construction costs, and certain types of acquisition costs. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the Department.
Eligible projects include: 1) Facilities such as ramps and service docks required to gain access to the water; 2) structures such as bulkheads and breakwaters necessary to provide safe water conditions for boaters; 3) activities such as dredging to provide safe water depths for recreational boating. (Dredging is an eligible project only when it is associated with project development at the project site; maintenance dredging is not eligible.); 4) support facilities limited to parking lots, sanitary facilities and security lighting; 5) acquisition of equipment to cut and remove aquatic plants; 6) acquisition of equipment to collect and remove floating trash and debris from a waterway; 7) dredging of channels in waterways for recreational boating purposes (not more than once in ten years)(inland waters); and 8) acquisition of aids to navigation and regulatory markers. These factors are considered in establishing priorities - distance of proposed project from other recreational boating facilities, demand for safe boating facilities, existing facilities, projects underway, commitment of funds, location of proposed project within the region identified in s. 25.29(7), Wis. Stats.

**River Management Grants**

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

**Recreational Trails Act (RTA)**

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

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

**Snowmobile Club Signs**

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

**Snowmobile Route Signs**

Funds are available to provide costs for initial signing of snowmobile routes and trail crossing warning signs as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Towns, cities, and villages are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. No local match is required, but state
funding is limited to no more than $30,000 per year for the route sign program. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season.

**Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols**

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

**Snowmobile Trail Aids**

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

**Stewardship Grants for Nonprofit Conservation Organizations**

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

**Urban Green Space**

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

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

**Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs**

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

**Local Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program**  
*Objective:* To promote activities which enhance the surface transportation system. Program funds are intended to accomplish something “above and beyond” what is normally done on highway projects. Eligible federal categories include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, historic transportation structures and landscaping/streetscaping projects.

**Surface Transportation Program – Discretionary (STP-D)**  
*Objective:* To encourage projects that foster alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips, such as facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, development of bicycle/pedestrian plans, purchase of replacement vehicles for transit systems, and other transportation demand management (TDM) projects. Funding is 80% federal; 20% local.

**Transportation Enhancement Program**  
(Par the Statewide Multi-modal Improvement Program (SMIP))

*Program Description:* Transportation enhancements (TE) are transportation-related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of transportation systems. The transportation enhancements program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, with examples ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian facilities, to landscaping and scenic beautification, and to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff. Most of the requests and projects awarded in Wisconsin have been for bicycle facilities. Examples of bicycle projects include multi-use trails (in greenways, former rail trails, etc.), paved shoulders, bike lanes, bicycle route signage, bicycle parking, overpasses/underpasses/bridges, and sidewalks. Transportation enhancement activities must relate to surface transportation. Federal regulations restrict the use of funds on trails that allow motorized users, except snowmobiles. TEA 21 expanded the definition of transportation enhancements eligibility to specifically include the provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists, which had not been clearly eligible under ISTEA.
Other Wisconsin DOT Funding Sources

**Hazard Elimination Program** - Bicycle and pedestrian projects are now eligible for this program. This program focuses on projects intended for locations that should have a documented history of previous crashes.

Contact WisDOT District coordinators first for more details.

**Incidental Improvements** - Bicycle and pedestrian projects are broadly eligible for funding from most of the major federal-aid programs. One of the most cost-effective ways of accommodating bicycle and pedestrian accommodations is to incorporate them as part of larger reconstruction, new construction and some repaving projects. Generally, the same source of funding can be used for the bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as is used for the larger highway improvement, if the bike/ped accommodation is “incidental” in scope and cost to the overall project. Overall, most bicycle and pedestrian accommodations within the state are made as incidental improvements.

**Federal Assistance Programs**

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

**Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) – National Park Service**

The purpose of the Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) is intended to increase participation by qualified partners in the preservation and improvement of National Park Service natural, cultural, and recreational resources; in all authorized Service programs and activities; and on national trails. NPS and partners should work together on projects with mutually beneficial, shared outcomes.

The CCSP is a matching fund program. An equal amount of eligible and matching share (minimum 50%) of cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources is required. The maximum CCSP award is $30,000. Projects selected should generally be able to be completed within one year.

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

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

**Tom Gilbert, Superintendent**  
tom_gilbert@nps.gov

**or**  
**Pam Schuler, Trail Manager**  
pam_schuler@nps.gov

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

Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016 Summary

Summarized by NCWRPC
The 2011–2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

This SCORP 2011-2016 summary was created by NCWRPC staff as a way of introducing this state plan to all audiences. Most of the text was clipped directly from the SCORP, and table numbers are the same as in the SCORP for easy reference when reading the full SCORP.

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

The 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as a blueprint for state and local outdoor recreation planning through support of national initiatives, sets the course for recreation within the state by describing current recreation supply and trends, and provides a framework for future recreation development and focus.

Every five years, Wisconsin publishes a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as a requirement by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965. At its core, the document is used to help allocate federal funds equitably among local communities, but the document also transcends many levels of outdoor recreation discussion and policy.

For the 2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP, the State not only met the requirements of the LWCF Act but also reflected on the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, launched in 2010 by President Obama, for an approach that asks the American people to become partners in preserving and enhancing their conservation and recreation heritage for the 21st-century. This SCORP is presented out of the respect to the state’s great outdoor recreation resources and their value to the people of Wisconsin.

This document shows a clear vision of how preserving and improving recreation opportunities in Wisconsin fits within a broader national initiative of conservation and recreation. This SCORP further targets assessments on several key relationships that include:

1. public health and wellness,
2. urban access to outdoor recreation, and
3. public and private partnerships.

America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative calls for greater federal support to grassroots conservation efforts through financial and technical assistance. Direction for the AGO Initiative was taken from the American people through 51 public listening sessions held across the country as well as 105,000 submitted comments. Through this public engagement came the visions and goals listed in Figure 1-1.
Figure 1-1: Outline of Wisconsin SCORP Alignment with AGO Visions

**America's Great Outdoors Vision 1: Connection & Enhancement**
- Goal: Enhance Recreational Access and Opportunities
- Goal: Raise Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America's Great Outdoors
- Goal: Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces

**SCORP Alignment**
- Understanding and enhancing the relationship between outdoor recreation and health and wellness
- Evaluation of urban parks and greenway open spaces
- Connecting urban and rural populations to open space lands for recreation and conservation

**America's Great Outdoors Vision 2: Conservation & Restoration (LWCF)**
- Goal: Conserve Rural Working Farms, Ranches, and Forests through Partnerships and Incentives
- Goal: Strengthen Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Goal: Conserve and Restore Our National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forests, and Other Federal Lands and Waters
- Goal: Protect and Renew Rivers and Other Waters

**SCORP Alignment**
- An assessment of statewide outdoor recreational issues
- A wetlands planning summary

**America's Great Outdoors Vision 3: Working Together for AGO**
- Goal: Provide Quality Jobs, Career Pathways, and Service Opportunities
- Goal: Engage Young People in Conservation and the Great Outdoors
- Goal: Make the Federal Government a More Effective Conservation Partner

**SCORP Alignment**
- Compile Recreational Demand Survey of in-state residents
- Engagement with SCORP External Review Panel
Chapter 2 – Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Uses and Trends

As the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative looks to reconnect Americans to the outdoors, Wisconsin must examine its outdoor recreation uses and trends to better understand how Wisconsinites currently connect to the state’s outdoor recreation resources. The second theme of the AGO Report, “Enhance Recreational Access and Opportunities,” was developed out of the public’s desire to remove barriers to recreation and to make recreation a higher priority for land and water management agencies. The survey analyses in this chapter can be used to determine what improvements are needed in regard to access and opportunities in outdoor recreation.

By identifying outdoor recreation demand by demographics and by projecting outdoor recreation activity trends relevant to the immediate future, Chapter 2 of the SCORP gives Wisconsin communities direction in outdoor recreation planning. Under AGO, community-based efforts to increase outdoor recreation access will receive federal government support (AGO Recommendation 2.2). Such support will include technical assistance for local, state, and tribal efforts to enhance recreation (AGO Action Item 2.2a), and backing of community programs that improve safety of open spaces and access routes (AGO Action Item 2.2c).
Fifteen Year Recreation Trends

A number of recreation activities have seen exponential growth over the last 15 years. In terms of sheer numbers, soccer has outpaced every other outdoor recreation activity. This growth can be attributed to the number of youth soccer leagues that have been formed over the last decade. Table 2.7 shows the top 10 recreational activities by total numbers.

Another way to show growth is by percentage change. This method shows a different set of recreation activities that have grown in popularity. Interestingly, most participants in these activities are urban residents. Table 2-8 reflects the top 10 recreational activities by total percentage change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2-7</th>
<th>Top Growth Wisconsin Recreation Activities 1994-2009 (Age 16+)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity</strong></td>
<td><strong>1994 Survey</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer outdoors</td>
<td>179.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View/photograph other wildlife</td>
<td>1,582.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>888.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handball or racquetball outdoors</td>
<td>96.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk for pleasure</td>
<td>2,988.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend outdoor sports events</td>
<td>1,995.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling</td>
<td>1,486.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day hiking</td>
<td>949.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running or jogging</td>
<td>803.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View/photograph birds</td>
<td>1,261.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Each survey represents a rolling average of five previous years.
Source: WI SCORP 2011-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2-8</th>
<th>Top Growth Wisconsin Recreation Activities by Percent 1994-2009 (Age 16+)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity</strong></td>
<td><strong>1994 Survey</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handball or racquetball outdoors</td>
<td>96.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer outdoors</td>
<td>179.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking</td>
<td>46.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfing</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>282.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseback riding</td>
<td>139.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain/rock climbing</td>
<td>53.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use personal watercraft</td>
<td>131.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>888.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowboarding</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Each survey represents a rolling average of five previous years.
Source: WI SCORP 2011-2016
Table 2-9 considers the percentage changes in recreation participation rates, as well as industry forecasts and opinions from recreation professionals, to suggest which activities will be popular in the future. These observations are made for a five year period, and therefore reflect the most pressing demands on recreation in the immediate future.

**Table 2-9: Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increasing Demand</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Trend Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adventure racing</td>
<td>Popular as both an individual and a group activity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving for pleasure</td>
<td>An easy activity for the aging baby boomer generation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed/RV camping</td>
<td>Baby boomers are a continued driving force for this growth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking</td>
<td>Cheaper entry points have attracted more participants.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit a dog park</td>
<td>Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer outdoors</td>
<td>Youth growth is still strong in urban areas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMX biking</td>
<td>X Games popularity may be driving this growth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing</td>
<td>Indoor climbing walls have led to an outdoor resurgence.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand up paddling/paddleboarding</td>
<td>A fast growing water sport sweeping the country.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triathlon (on- and off-road)</td>
<td>Varying distance events have allowed for growth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-highway vehicle driving</td>
<td>Post recession growth continues.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening or landscaping for pleasure</td>
<td>The &quot;grow local&quot; concept is taking hold at many levels.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stable Demand</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Trend Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk for pleasure</td>
<td>Market saturation does not allow for large growth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running or jogging</td>
<td>Gen Y is replacing the baby boomers for this activity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water parks</td>
<td>Recession may have caused this growth to slow.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorboating</td>
<td>Still easy access in a water-based state.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day hiking</td>
<td>Popular with many generations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Time constraints do not allow for growth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tent camping</td>
<td>Continues to be stable, but growth is illusive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowboarding</td>
<td>May have peaked after 20 years of growth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail running</td>
<td>A stable niche activity with Gen Y.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View/photograph wildlife</td>
<td>An easy activity that spans generations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling (road and non-paved)</td>
<td>Popular with many generations – access is still key.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
<td>After large growth, this has stabilized.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decreasing Demand</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Trend Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
<td>Continues to struggle with generational loss and private access.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inline skating</td>
<td>A large decrease in the last six years, the bottom may be near.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboarding/skate parks</td>
<td>Gen M is free-skating with longboards.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseback riding on trails</td>
<td>Recession impacts have caused this to decrease with no rebound.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Baby boomers continue to leave this sport.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downhill skiing</td>
<td>Gen Y does not have the numbers to replace aging baby boomers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 3 – Outdoor Recreation and Public Health.

The third goal of the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Report, “Raise Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America’s Outdoors,” was developed out of the public’s concern that youth are lacking exposure to outdoor education. AGO sets out to partner with Let’s Move Outside! to instill lasting values of health and wellness, and environmental conservation in youths.

By examining the component of health and wellness that motivates recreation and by comparing the most popular outdoor activities that yield the greatest health benefits, Chapter 3 lays the groundwork for recreation planners seeking to make outdoor recreation relevant to today’s youth and Wisconsinites. Wisconsin, too, should raise public awareness of the physical and mental health benefits of the great outdoors (AGO Recommendation 3.1). Communities can look to the federal government for support of campaigns that demonstrate and advertise outdoor recreation for wellness as well as support of parks and outdoor spaces that facilitate physical activity (AGO Action Item 3.1b).

The built environment plays an important role in our ability to affect public health and wellness (Gordon-Larsen et al. 2000; Frumkin et al. 2004). For example, parks, trails, and sports facilities are key local assets that allow for convenient, safe, and attractive places for people to participate in physical activities of all kinds (Sallis et al. 2006). While public health and wellness are affected by a number of social, economic, and environmental determinants, there is increasing evidence that improving access to outdoor locations favorable for physical activity can act to lower obesity levels and improve health outcomes among target populations (Campbell and Cornelissen 2004; Kelly et al. 2007; Lovasi et al. 2009).

Recreation planning and park design have been shown to affect use. Characteristics and specific features found in parks are important in fostering the use of these public spaces for physical activity. Features in trails and parks (playground equipment, sports facilities, etc.) have been shown to enhance that property’s use for physical activity (Kaczynski et al. 2008).

Outdoor recreation encompasses a wide variety of activities, each of which has a different level of physical activity. In many cases, health and wellness outcomes can be improved through participation in activities that require higher levels of physical exertion. Table 3-1 shows recreation activity intensities by appropriate facility type. The higher the MET (metabolic intensity) the higher the energy expenditure by a person doing that activity.
## Table 3-1  Recreation Intensities by Appropriate Facility Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Activity</th>
<th>MET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowing</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scuba diving</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice skating outdoors</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterskiing</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rafting</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snorkeling</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing, general, warm water</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsurfing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating, power boat</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice fishing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View/photograph scenery and wildlife</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit a waterside</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sightseeing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat tours or excursions</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family gathering</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaches, shoreline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball, outdoors</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking for pleasure</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing, general, warm water</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View/photograph scenery and wildlife</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit a waterside</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sightseeing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family gathering</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forested land (state parks or natural areas, forest reserves, trust lands, wildlife and wilderness areas)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock climbing</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orienteering</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain climbing</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiing, cross-country</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog sledding</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking, general</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking for pleasure</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geocaching</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View/photograph scenery and wildlife</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit a wilderness or primitive area</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sightseeing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family gathering</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ski hills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sledding</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiing, downhill</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowboarding</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local parks, parkland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inline skating</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handball outdoors</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball, outdoors</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sledding</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racquetball</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking, general</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboarding</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball, or Baseball</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking for pleasure</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc golf</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit a dog park to walk a pet</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yard games, e.g., horseshoes</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View/photograph scenery and wildlife</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family gathering</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend outdoor sports events</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails – single- or multi-use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inline skating</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-country skiing</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog sledding</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking, general</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseback riding</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking for pleasure</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobiling</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-road motorcycling</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-road driving with an ATV</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View/photograph scenery and wildlife</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sightseeing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails – snow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiing, cross-country</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog sledding</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobiling</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-road driving with an ATV</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 3-1  Recreation Intensities by Appropriate Facility Type (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>MET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sports facilities - indoor and outdoor</strong></td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Handball</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paintball</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skateboarding</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outdoor ice rinks</strong></td>
<td>Ice hockey outdoors</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ice skating outdoors</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public hunting lands</strong></td>
<td>Hunting, big game</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hunting, migratory bird</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hunting, small game</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Golf courses, driving ranges, resorts, and country clubs</strong></td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Horseback riding stables, facilities, trails</strong></td>
<td>Horseback riding</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public outdoor swimming pools</strong></td>
<td>Swimming in an outdoor pool</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disc golf courses</strong></td>
<td>Disc golf</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dog parks</strong></td>
<td>Visit a dog park to walk a pet</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ATV parks</strong></td>
<td>Off-road riding with an ATV</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shooting ranges (archery, guns, etc.)</strong></td>
<td>Target shooting</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dirt bike/motocross tracks</strong></td>
<td>Off-road motorcycling</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Campgrounds</strong></td>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arboretums</strong></td>
<td>Running</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bicycling</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skiing, cross-country</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hiking, general</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geocaching</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>View/photograph scenery and wildlife</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Driving for pleasure</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visit nature centers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sightseeing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nature-based educational programs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Playgrounds</strong></td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yard games</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lighthouses</strong></td>
<td>View/photograph scenery</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visit historic sites</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nature centers</strong></td>
<td>Visit nature centers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nature-based educational programs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outdoor water/theme parks</strong></td>
<td>Swimming, pool</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visit outdoor theme/water park</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Zoos</strong></td>
<td>Walking for pleasure</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>View/photograph wildlife</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nature-based educational programs</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visit nature centers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caves</strong></td>
<td>Visiting a cave</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>View/photograph scenery and wildlife</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visit prehistoric/archeological sites</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>
Improving public health outcomes through policy requires an understanding of health determinants (the factors that affect public health and wellness). These determinants include health care, health behaviors, socioeconomic factors, and the physical environment. Health determinants are in turn associated with a variety of behavioral, demographic, and environmental attributes as summarized in Figure 3-2.

Figure 3-2: Conceptual Relationships Between Local Public Health and Wellness Outcomes

Source: Adapted from Peppard et al. 2008.
Gardening: The Winning Combination of Outdoor Recreation and Public Health Benefits

Gardening is one of the most popular recreational activities in the United States and provides many benefits, including improved access to fresh produce, increased physical activity, and community-building. A recent recreation participation survey suggests that almost 70% of Wisconsin adults garden or landscape for pleasure. This makes gardening & landscaping the second most popular recreation activity in the state, second only to walking. General gardening results in a MET value of 4.0, categorizing it as a moderate intensity activity.

Gardening activities can be divided into two categories:
1. backyard and
2. community.

Around 90% of gardening takes place in backyard gardens and recent research suggests that 35% of Wisconsin households maintain a backyard garden.

One particularly valuable aspect of gardening as an outdoor activity is its potential to keep an individual engaged frequently over a growing season.

Among other outdoor recreation activities, gardening is relatively unique in its connection to personal nutrition. Only hunting, fishing, and foraging activities have a similarly direct connection to eating habits. More fresh produce means that gardeners are more likely to make home-cooked meals, which are typically lower in salt and sugar, and contain fewer excess calories.

Communities interested in creating a new garden may consider seeking grant money to help start the project. The federal People’s Garden Grant Program (PGGP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is one possible funding source.

Chapter Summary

In order to encourage greater participation in activities that yield greater health benefits, the following recommendations are offered, sorted by facility type:

**Trails** – Plans should be created for entire corridors. Multi-tread trails should be constructed to avoid conflict between users. For example, walkers and runners can use gravel trails while bikers ride on adjacent paved trails. Signage should indicate the separation of users. (NCWRPC Note: Gravel trails could be problematic for maintenance, and people may not want them due to dust and mud concerns. WisDOT recommends at least an 8-foot (10-foot preferred) paved multiuse asphalt path).

**Water** – The DNR should fund and support improved access to lakes, streams, and other bodies of water, as well as facilities that cater to these activities (such as piers, boat launches, rental facilities, etc.). Wisconsin is home to countless lakes and streams, and it is important to ensure access to these amenities.
Snow – Non-motorized snow sports were generally ranked as moderate to high intensity and are therefore beneficial to health. Motorized uses, while more popular, have fewer health benefits. Trails should be separated between these two usage types, with certain trails designated for non-motorized uses only. This will make users feel safe and help to increase participation.

Ice Rinks – Outdoor rinks cater to ice skating and hockey, both of which are high-intensity activities. Municipalities should involve neighborhood associations and other groups with shoveling and maintenance tasks. The City of Madison started this initiative in 2011, and the program has been successful with active neighborhood groups.

Sports Facilities – Organized sports (such as basketball, soccer, and football) are high and moderate intensity activities with good participation levels. Government entities should try to partner with private sports facility providers in order to increase participation while efficiently managing public funds. For example, a municipality may give a sports complex incentives through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) or other means if they are open one night a week to the public.

Team Sport Leagues – Some high-intensity team sports are growing in popularity (particularly handball, football, volleyball, and soccer). If open space is available, fields should be created for use by recreation sports leagues.

Safety – Feeling safe can be addressed through increased police presence, increased street lighting, traffic safety, and a decrease in the amount of vacant buildings. These changes will make residents feel safer traveling to and from recreation sites, and using parks and open spaces. More people using recreation sites will help to increase physical activity rates of Wisconsin residents. Safety can also be promoted through using bike paths to connect residential areas to local schools, which would provide students with a safe route to walk or bike to school. This is consistent with Wisconsin’s Safe Routes To School (SRTS) program, which works to promote healthy lifestyles in young children by giving them options other than cars to get to school. SRTS is funded through the revised federal transportation act – MAP-21.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) theories contend that law enforcement officers, architects, city planners, landscape and interior designers, and resident volunteers can create a climate of safety in a community right from the start. CPTED’s goal is to prevent crime by designing a physical environment that positively influences human behavior. The theory is based on four principles: natural access control, natural surveillance, territoriality, and maintenance. (Source: National Crime Prevention Council – NCWRPC added.)
Chapter 4 – Access to Outdoor Recreation in Urban Wisconsin.

In response to rural-to-urban population growth and expansion in counties bordering out-of-state metropolitan areas, Wisconsin needs to launch a new generation of urban parks and green spaces. One of America's Great Outdoors (AGO) goals, “Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces,” was developed out of the public’s demand for outdoor recreation facilities and associated benefits—improved health, community ties, and economy—closer to their home, work, and school.

For urban parks planning insight, Chapter 4 considers various urban recreation barriers and solutions, and analyzes peer-to-peer statistics for 145 municipalities. As AGO encourages use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to create and enhance urban parks and community green spaces (AGO Recommendation 6.1), Wisconsin can develop new parks in overlooked urban waters and former industrial sites to suit emerging urban recreation activities (AGO Action Items 6.3c and 6.3b). Satisfying Wisconsin’s need to unify park systems, AGO will support local, state, and tribal governments and communities to connect federal parks to urban and neighborhood parks by building community paths and sidewalks (AGO Action Items 6.4b and 6.4a).

Theme Overview

Urban recreation themes developed for this SCORP can also be a useful guide to analyze the benefits and availability of urban parklands and greenway open spaces in Wisconsin. These themes also provide an important framework for future recommendations and should be taken into consideration when planning for urban-based recreation.

THEME: The link between urban parks and public health
Health agencies at every level of government acknowledge that local facilities in urban areas are important for public health. Studies question the magnitude of the causal connection between park provisions and public health, recognizing the complex nature of the topic.

THEME: Standardized Metrics for Quality, Distance, and Size of Recreation Areas
Standard metrics for the quality and distribution of urban parklands and greenway open spaces will need to be developed. (NCWRPC Note: The DNR already created size metrics in their “Park & Recreation Designs, and Recreation Supply Levels” classification system.)

THEME: Classification of Facilities and Activities
Just as standardized guidelines for urban recreational facilities will help guide future research and development, so too will a classification scheme for types of facilities and recreational activities. The National Parks and Recreation Association has created a park hierarchy (e.g. mini, neighborhood, community, and special use parks), but other facilities may not fit into these categories (e.g. trails and greenways, water trails, zoos, etc). There is no clear distinction between bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are considered recreational and those that provide transportation and access functions. As new classification systems are developed, it will be important to incorporate new and emerging
recreation activities. Numerous articles allude to new trends in parks. Rooftop gardens and repurposed brownfields are becoming prime locations for outdoor recreational space in cities. For example, Brooklyn’s High Line trail was created on an abandoned elevated railroad bed; and a tot park in Wausau was created by razing a factory, but keeping the brick chimney as a focal point. These recent trends of non-traditional facility locations and the rise in popular activities like adventure recreation may require innovative or more nuanced classification schemes.

THEME: Accommodating Various Demographic Groups
Related to the above trends, literature repeatedly identifies the importance of catering to the needs of different demographic groups based on age, gender, race, and ethnicity. The preferences of nearby groups should be considered in the design and maintenance of parks and other facilities. Keeping local demographic makeup and associated recreational use patterns in mind should help determine the type and nature of facilities that are provided in a given area.

THEME: The Importance of Safety
Safety was a noted consideration in a number of reviewed studies. The safety of a facility and the ability to get to and from the facility safely can play a critical role in determining the level of use for some outdoor recreational facilities like trails and parkways.

THEME: Aesthetic Appeal and Placement
Two other factors that can help determine the success of parks and urban recreation facilities are a facility’s aesthetic appeal and placement. Level of maintenance and design of a facility both lend to its aesthetic appeal. Aesthetic appeal can either attract participants or turn away potential users. (NCWRPC NOTE: No specifics provided for placement)

THEME: Financing Urban Parks and Greenways
While research recognizes the benefits of parks and supports an increase in community recreation facilities, the fact remains that financing these facilities in a sustainable and equitable way is not easy. Creative approaches like public-private partnerships are being employed in some places. The Great Communities Collaborative (2007) discusses a number of possible financing strategies, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches. Recommendations for improving Wisconsin’s urban parks and greenways should be sensitive to the fiscal stress of local governmental units.

Urban Park and Trail Accessibility
Recreation that occurs close to home is an important aspect of outdoor recreation that directly affects residents of communities throughout the state.

Walking is by far the most popular outdoor activity in Wisconsin. While much of recreational walking takes place on neighborhood sidewalks, the presence of parks and trails plays a significant role in activities like walking. Research has linked the presence of parks, trails, enjoyable scenery, and other people exercising to increased physical activity (Rosenberger et al. 2005; 2009). These are all environmental factors that are directly or indirectly provided by parks and trails.

Park and trail accessibility can be measured by the percentage of residents that live within walking
distance, which is defined as within ½ mile. Over 70% of Wisconsin residents do not live within a ½-mile walk of a park or trail. Recent data from the CDC point to the fact that Wisconsin is behind the national average in percentage of youth with parks or playgrounds, community centers, and sidewalks or walking paths available in their neighborhoods (USD-HHS 2011).

Focus Groups and Expert Observations

In 2010, a focus group and expert interviews were held to assess urban recreation barriers. From these interactions, the following themes emerged that highlight barriers, as well as opportunities for addressing these barriers. The primary barriers and opportunities are as follows:

- **Lack of real and perceived safety from crime and traffic.**
  - Create safe spaces by bringing traffic to the park and altering park design so there are no hidden places.
  - Bring foot traffic by offering programming and versatile spaces.
  - Install traffic calming structures on area streets and crosswalks and reduce speed limits.

- **Lack of desired facilities and necessary amenities.**
  - Create versatile facilities like multipurpose fields and provide basic amenities including unlocked bathrooms and drinking fountains.
  - Rehabilitate or tear down blighted or unsafe infrastructure.

- **Lack of connectivity.**
  - Increase park connectivity with surrounding communities and other parks via greenways and bike paths.

- **Lack of programming.**
  - Create programming including walking clubs, which are very popular in urban areas, using neighborhood partnerships.

Programming may also be developed through governmental partnerships and funding strategies. A good example of this is the Center for Resilient Cities (CRC) in Milwaukee. The CRC has a development agreement with Milwaukee County that allows the CRC to oversee final park and recreation design. CRC holds all funds in escrow, and they are able to raise more funds than the city or county because they are a 501(c)(3), meaning that donations to the organization are tax-deductible, the organization is tax-exempt, and CRC projects are eligible for a wider range of grants. In discussions with the CRC, the organization noted that people are often more comfortable donating to a non-profit than the City for specific projects because non-profits are seen as more transparent. The CRC is able to leverage its existing neighborhood connections to build community trust, respond to community desires, and help in the operation of park programming. The County provides money for capital expenditures (such as playground structures or berm removal), and the CRC helps fund the programmatic and operational aspects of a park.

Implementation Strategies

The following implementation strategies have been developed in response to the data presented in this chapter. Adjust these strategies to best meet the goals of individual park systems.
Small Parks, Connectivity, and Conservancy Land

Further park acquisition and development should be strategic and focus on physical unification of the park system. By developing trails and conservancy land corridors, park systems will be able to improve access and increase recreation offerings in underserved areas. Improved connectivity efforts can also be complimented with the strategic placement of mini parks.

Programs, Specialized Facilities, and Versatile Facilities

Park programming tailored to meet the needs of local residents can increase park use and improve the image of a park system. It is also important to achieve a balance between providing specialized facilities and increasing park versatility. While specialized facilities are instrumental parts of park systems, individual parks should also strive to improve versatility by, for example, installing multipurpose fields instead of regulation soccer fields.

Partnerships: Public-Public and Public-Private

Government agencies play a primary role in providing high quality, accessible outdoor recreation in urban areas. Potential areas for intergovernmental partnerships include but are not limited to school districts, water utility departments, and metro area park systems (county parks). Public-private partnership opportunities should be considered in order to improve park system offerings and increase park efficiency.

Chapter 5 – Open Space Conservation: Connecting People to Outdoor Recreation Opportunities.

Reflected in America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Report, the goals to “Conserve Rural Working Farms, Ranches, and Forests through Partnerships and Incentives” and to “Protect and Renew Rivers and Other Waters” ensure conservation and recreation enjoyment of beloved lands and waters. Wisconsin shares this view by incentivizing landowners to conserve public recreation opportunities on private lands, and prioritizing safe access to waterways.

Through focus groups discussions, Chapter 5 examines open space conservation roles from public lands and the programs that support them to private lands leveraged financially—deemed necessary by stakeholders—for preservation and public recreation access (AGO Recommendation 7.5). AGO supports expanding federal and state partnerships with private landowners through federal programs (AGO Action Item 7.5a), collaborating with local, state, and tribal governments to conserve and restore large landscapes (AGO Action Item 8.1d), and fostering networking among communities to improve access and enjoyment of waterways (AGO Action Item 9.2b).

Recreation lands and facilities are provided by two major groups in Wisconsin – governments and private landowners. The largest public land category is county parks and forests, accounting for 42.7% of all public lands. For private lands, the largest category is open managed forest lands, accounting for 31.8% or over 1.1 million acres.
Federal recreation providers in Wisconsin include:
- National Park Service (examples: Apostle Islands, and National Ice Age Trail)
- Fish and Wildlife Service (example: Necedah National Wildlife Refuge)
- Bureau of Land Management (NCWRPC Note: none in Wisconsin)
- Forest Service (example: Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (example: Blackhawk “campground” Park, Mississippi River)

Recreation provided in these areas are generally nature-based and non-destructive like hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, nature study, canoeing, boating, swimming, and similar activities.

State recreation resources mimic the federal government, but all exist under one entity – the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- WDNR fisheries
- Natural Areas
- State Forests
- State Parks
- Wildlife Areas
- Wild Rivers
- Other lands

NCWRPC Note: the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) holds forestland for public education. Nearly all of the School Trust Lands were sold over 100 years ago. The proceeds were used to establish the School Trust Funds, which continue to grow with revenue from unclaimed property, clear proceeds of civil and criminal fees, fines and forfeitures, and timber production on School Trust Lands.

BCPL manages these Funds and the remaining School Trust Lands for the benefit of public school libraries, the University of Wisconsin, and the state’s citizens. See (http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/) and the for details.

All school trust lands are open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other forms of public recreation. Some school trust lands, however, are surrounded by private property and we urge visitors to respect private property rights by requesting permission to cross private lands to access them. On the BCPL website, search for “Maps of BCPL Land by County” to view where School Trust Lands exist.

NCWRPC Note: the Wisconsin Department of Transportation also owns some land for the purpose of wetland mitigation of highway projects.

County Parks and Forests
All Wisconsin counties have county parks, but not all have county forest land. State legislation requires enrollment of county forest land under the Wisconsin County Forest Law to be open to hunting, camping, hiking, and bird watching. With the exception of a few sensitive areas, there are no lands enrolled under the County Forests Law that are closed to the public. These county forests
provide more than 1,200 campsites and thousand miles of hiking, skiing, and snowmobile trails, as well as public access to hundreds of lakes and streams.

Enrolled county forests represent the state’s largest public forest landholding and are extremely important to Wisconsin's forest products industry and economy. Each year they generate from $25 to $30 million in timber revenues for the counties and towns in which they are located. Approximately 16,000 jobs and $4.6 billion in the generation of forest products result from the timber harvested from county forests.

**Wisconsin Stewardship Program**

Wisconsin has a long and successful history of bipartisan financial support for the conservation of the state’s natural resources and the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities (1961 to the present). Stewardship II (FY2011-FY2020) provides $86 million of bonding authority for this 10-year period to provide funds to:

- Improve visitor amenities at state and local parks;
- Restore wetlands and prairies; and
- Acquire land for trails, natural areas, state and county forests, wildlife habitat, urban green space, state and local parks, river and stream corridors, and flowages and wild lakes.

**Land and Water Conservation Program**

Congress established this program in 1965 to assure accessibility to quality outdoor recreation resources and “to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States” (Public Law 88-578). The LWCF Program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities (as well as funding for shared federal land acquisition and conservation strategies). The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States.

**School Forests (NCWRPC added.)**

Various school districts, local governments, and universities own forested land for outdoor educational purposes. Any city, village, town, or school district who owns forested property can register their forest into the School Forest program, which is run by the DNR and UW-Stevens Point. Once registered, the governmental entity is eligible:

- For free trees and seed from the state forest nurseries;
- For technical assistance for DNR foresters for carrying out tree planting and forest management plans;
- To apply for Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) school forest grants; and
- To receive assistance from the Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist.

Wisconsin school forest statistics (2012)

- 214 public schools
- 9 private schools
- 7 higher education institutions

Contact each school forest for their specific guidelines to how their land is open for public use.
Private Recreation Providers

Managed Forest Law
The Managed Forest Law (MFL) was enacted in 1985 to replace the Woodland Tax Law and the Forest Crop Law. This is a landowner incentive program to encourage sustainable forestry on private woodland. Enrolled program lands must be managed by the landowner in accordance with the forest management plan written by a certified consulting forester. In exchange for following sound forest management, the landowner pays reduced property taxes.

Lands enrolled under MFL can be designated as open or closed to public recreation. Open designation allows public access to the property for hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing, and cross country skiing without additional permission from landowners. Closed designation gives landowners the right to restrict or permit access to their lands (a higher tax is paid on closed lands).

State and Federal Forest Legacy Program
The Natural Resources Board granted the DNR authority to establish the Forest Legacy Program. The goal of the program is to minimize fragmentation and conversion of significant forested areas to non-forest uses. Under this program the DNR purchases conservation easements to the land, which protects it from non-forest development. Another main goal of the program is to allow public access on these lands where appropriate.

Voluntary Public Access Program
The 2008 Farm Bill established this program that leases qualified property in exchange for opening the land to public uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife observation.

Land Trusts
These organizations permanently protect important resources in their communities from overdevelopment. Most often, the resources under protection have natural, recreational, scenic, historic, or productive value. They are organized as non-profits whose mission is determined by their members and volunteers. Land may be open to the public for specific uses.

NCWRPC Note: A large part of this chapter is not summarized because it was based upon 38 people who attended one of six meetings across the state.

The topics missed include:
- Collaborative Approaches to Support and Improve Outdoor Recreation Landscapes
- Collaborative Approaches to Support Outdoor Recreation
- Coordinated Funding and Grants for Outdoor Recreation
- The Role of Education in Aid of Outdoor Recreation
Chapter 6 – Wisconsin SCORP Outdoor Recreation Goals and Actions.

In the collective, cross-country discussion that took place for the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, Americans spoke from their minds and their hearts, and out of that came a clear vision: a future where their children are near safe and clean parks where they can “play, dream, discover, and recreate.” They see a future where everyone shares responsibility for protecting and caring for our natural and cultural heritage, where rural lands are conserved, and public and private lands essential to supporting wildlife and human needs are unified. They see a future where working together to restore and protect rivers and lakes means healthy lives and a healthy economy.

The State of Wisconsin can live up to this vision. The tenth and final theme of the AGO Report, “Make the Federal Government a More Effective Conservation Partner,” was developed out of the public’s plea that the federal government eliminate obstacles created by poor policies and processes that keep Americans from the outdoors. For people to reconnect to the great outdoors, the government at all levels—federal, state, local, and tribal—must improve as a conservation partner to the American public. By creating partnerships, aligning resources, and leveraging funding, government can achieve goals set in outdoor recreation planning.

Overall, the State of Wisconsin strives to align its goals with the AGO, while using AGO resources and assistance to conserve and restore unique lands and waters and to connect its population to the great outdoors. The 2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP provides an extensive framework for merging state and federal visions.

The goals and actions listed in this chapter represent a summation of targeted elements to encourage the citizens of Wisconsin to enjoy more of the state’s great outdoors. For the most part, these actions take a broad approach to expanding outdoor recreation, with no one person or agency being able to accomplish all goals. The intent of this chapter is to provide a list of common goals and actions so that individuals and organizations working in outdoor recreation in Wisconsin may work together to improve and expand outdoor recreation opportunities in our state.

Goal 1: Assess, Understand, and Adapt to Growing Recreation Tourism Demands and Preferences

Wisconsin’s lands and waters are a natural draw for outdoor recreation for both in-state and out-of-state visitors. The Wisconsin outdoor recreation economy contributes over $9.7 billion annually while supporting 129,000 jobs. State initiatives such as Travel Green Wisconsin make connections between tourism, business, and the outdoors as important partners. These partnerships need to be maintained and enhanced to keep Wisconsin a leader in regional tourism.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Understand the recreation and tourism preferences associated with growing market segments.
2. Identify existing and emerging strategies to evaluate appropriate levels and types of service for expanding user groups.
3. Hold an annual forum on outdoor recreation as part of the Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Tourism.
4. Continue collaborations between the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Tourism as well as other partners to promote outdoor recreation.
5. Continue to promote and expand the Travel Green Wisconsin program for business connections to the outdoors.
6. Maintain funding for tourism marketing to promote high quality outdoor recreation experiences.
7. Acknowledge the potential issues surrounding climate change adaptation with outdoor recreation and tourism.

Goal 2: Improve Integration of Outdoor Recreation Interests and Needs in Land Use and Other Relevant Planning Efforts

One of the primary objectives of a SCORP is to improve the integration between state and local organizations, partners, and other organizations that provide or influence outdoor recreation. The SCORP presents a set of goals and actions that allow organizations to work together toward a common vision of improved outdoor recreation in the state. As recreation continues to place demands on public lands and waters, these partnerships will become even more important. By integrating outdoor recreation interests, decisions on the management of recreation resources and recreation opportunities become more effective, efficient, fair, reasoned, and defensible.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Support outdoor recreation access and opportunities on public lands by establishing a State Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation.
2. Support and align state agency programs and initiatives to promote the creation, expansion, and enhancement of urban parks and community green spaces.
3. Manage state lands and waters within a larger landscape context to conserve and restore ecosystems and watershed health.
4. Encourage regional planning efforts for integrated, cost-effective use of recreation lands and facilities.
5. Provide education and awareness of how recreation uses can impact the natural resources along with actions to reduce those impacts.
6. Promote the collaboration of public and private recreation opportunities though integrated management planning.

Goal 3: Continue to Provide and Enhance Public Access to Wisconsin Recreational Lands and Waters

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

**Actions and Recommendations**

1. Continue to develop a statewide interactive mapping system showing all public lands and water access points within the state.
2. Continue to acquire and develop boating access sites to meet public boating needs.
3. Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities, and opportunities available within a given region.
4. Continue to meet Americans with the Disabilities Act standards for accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities.
5. Support community based efforts to increase access to outdoor recreation.
6. Promote sustainable recreation facility design, construction, and maintenance practices.

**Goal 4: Conserve Rural Landscapes and Forests through Partnerships and Incentives**

More than 80% of Wisconsin land is held in private ownership. Most of this land is farms and forests, and over 500,000 acres is held in trust by the United States for state Indian tribes. In areas where there is a large component of publicly held land, privately owned lands often provide important wildlife habitat and migration corridors. With so much of the state under private ownership, it is vital that we manage and protect these privately held lands to conserve water resources, ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and natural heritage for generations to come.

**Actions and Recommendations**

1. Support financial and other incentives that increase access to outdoor recreation activities on or across private lands.
2. Encourage large-scale land conservation partnership projects through economic incentives and technical assistance.
3. Support collaborative landscape conservation through competitive processes, including increases in Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), stewardship funding, and other programs.
4. Continue to support the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative for habitat conservation and protection.

**Goal 5: Address Funding Challenges Associated with Managing Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Resources**

From its early years of establishing state parks, Wisconsin has had an active program of land acquisition. The latest iteration of these programs is the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson 2010 Stewardship Program. Under this program, the State may issue bonds in a total not to exceed $860 million spread over a 10 year period. The stewardship program targets land acquisition, property development, and local assistance. As Wisconsin recreation has received increasingly less state resources, targeted funding programs have provided vital support to an ever dwindling pool of funds for outdoor park and recreation lands and facilities.
Actions and Recommendations

1. Encourage all local governments to develop park and recreation plans for participation in state and federal cost share programs.
2. Provide more cost share opportunities for local governments to develop and maintain recreational lands and facilities.
3. Provide adequate funding to the Wisconsin State Park System to meet the needs of its 14 million visitors a year.
4. Explore new and innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among many governmental agencies.
5. Increase revenue generating capabilities for outdoor recreation by continuing to update and improve technologies such as automated fee collection systems.
6. Increase the capacity of public lands friends groups to provide and support recreation facilities.

Goal 6: Promote Outdoor Recreation as a Means of Improving Public Health Among Wisconsinites

The United States as a whole (and Wisconsin is no exception) is in the midst of an overweight and obesity epidemic brought on by increasingly inactive lifestyles coupled with high caloric intakes. This epidemic has created rising health care costs and shortened life expectancies. Outdoor park and recreation areas can provide the type of active recreational opportunities key to reversing this trend. Encouraging Wisconsinites to use available lands and facilities will benefit not only park and recreation areas, but also Wisconsin citizens receiving the health benefits of increased activity.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Develop a “Get Fit with Wisconsin Campaign” for public lands and waters that touts the health benefits of using recreational areas and reaches a wide audience of potential users.
2. Educate the public about the health benefits of moderate and enjoyable physical activities such as walking, biking, nature study, etc.
3. Integrate opportunities and incentives for exercise during the workday—give employees 30 minutes a day for exercise, provide exercise equipment, etc.
4. Start a dialogue between public outdoor recreation providers and health agencies to identify other (non-traditional) funding sources for recreational facilities and development.
5. Continue the “Walk with Walker Program” by encouraging citizens to use state parks, forests, and trails for health and wellness.
6. Promote the mission of the "Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Health" on informing, promoting and encouraging citizens of Wisconsin to incorporate healthy eating and physical behaviors for a lifetime.
Goal 7: Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces

Frederick Law Olmsted, the central architect of Milwaukee’s Grand Necklace of Parks, extolled the virtues of outdoor space, especially for urban communities. Today, urban parks and community green spaces play an even more important role as special public places that promote health, provide economic benefits, and nurture democratic values by inviting casual interaction among citizens. Urban parks and community green spaces are essential for providing places for people to recreate outdoors, to find quiet and solitude, and to generally improve their quality of life.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Create and enhance a new generation of safe, clean, accessible, and connected great urban parks and community green spaces.
2. Connect people with urban parks, trails, and community green spaces.
3. Target technical assistance support to communities as they create and enhance urban parks and community green spaces.
4. Continue to provide funding to communities through the Stewardship Program to acquire and develop local park and greenway spaces.
5. Leverage private community foundations and public funding to increase park acquisitions.
6. Provide funding to restore, preserve, and protect historic outdoor facilities for future generations.
ATTACHMENT F

River Bend Trail Map
This project received a technical assistance grant from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation (RTCA) Assistance Program of the National Park Service.

River Bend Trail
of Merrill

River District Development Foundation of Merrill, Inc.