Oneida County
Outdoor Recreation Plan

2014-2018
Effective January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018

Primarily Responsible for
Oneida County Forestry, Land,
and Recreation Department
Managed Facilities.

Projects also listed for some local governments within
Oneida County.

Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
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May 2014

This plan was prepared under the direction of the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2014-2018   Effective January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018

SUBJECT: This report assesses the existing recreation system in Oneida County, identifies recreation needs based upon public input and recreation standards, sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating recreation plans, and establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.

Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids.

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

DATE: May 2014

AGENCY: Oneida County Forestry, Land and Recreation Department
Oneida County Courthouse
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Oneida County
2014-2018 Outdoor Recreation Plan

North Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission
Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

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

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

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

1.2 STATUTORY BASE

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

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

Background information on Oneida County was compiled to develop an understanding of the environmental and social characteristics of the county and their meaning for outdoor recreation. An inventory of existing recreational facilities exists in Chapters 3 and 4 of this plan.

The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies through the year 2018. A combination of public comments, FLRD analysis, standards analysis, and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were utilized to define recreational and open space needs.

The recommendations are general strategies and five-year action programs for recreation facility development. A series of possible tools to aid implementation of these recommendations are set forth in Chapter 9 – Provisions For Updating. The plan concludes with a note on updating to insure that it remains relevant to the needs of the county over the entire five-year span.

1.4 PAST PLANS

Oneida County first began recreation planning in 1976 when "An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oneida County and the City of Rhinelander" was prepared by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. This plan was updated in 1981 by "An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oneida County and the Town of Minocqua and the Town of Three Lakes," which was prepared by Planning Consultant, Craig Johhanesen. Since then, the Towns of Cassian, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Minocqua, Monico, Newbold, Nokomis, Sugar Camp, Three Lakes, and Woodruff have all developed their own Town Recreation Plans as well. This plan has been written to follow the previous Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan covering the period 2009-2013. In addition, the findings of the 2005-2010 and 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP) are utilized in the development of this county plan.

Oneida County Countywide Biking & Walking Routes & Trails Plan

In 2002 (updated in 2010), Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council developed this bike route plan with assistance from NCWRPC. This
plan established a number of scenic, on-road bike routes throughout the County.

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

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

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

**Oneida County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2012-2016**
The Oneida County Land Conservation Committee developed this plan in 2011. The plan provides an inventory of the County’s natural resources and a series of goals and objectives intended to improve and protect these resources in the future.

Specific actions the Forestry Department may take are listed below. If Forestry was the lead agency, then the action is bolded below:

**Goal 1: Slow the spread of invasive species.**
- **Obj. B, Action 1:** Distribute educational materials about non-native terrestrial invasive species to the public.
- **Obj. B, Action 5:** Encourage use of BMPs for preventing the spread of invasive species by outdoor recreation.

**Goal 7: Improve forest silviculture for multiple uses.**
- **Obj. C, Action 1:** Assist clubs by providing educational materials for users.

**North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan**
This 2004 document is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region. Potential trails are identified and an improvement description was created for each county that trails exist in to facilitate implementation.

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

**Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016**

Every five years, the Wisconsin DNR publishes a SCORP as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. At its core, this SCORP is used to help allocate federal funds equitably among local communities, but the document also transcends many levels of outdoor recreation discussion and policy. At the national level, this SCORP recognizes the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative, which is based on the idea that the protection of the country's natural heritage is a non-partisan objective shared by all Americans. The AGO encourages state and local communities to develop local conservation and recreation initiatives.

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.

A summary of this SCORP is in Attachment B.

**State Trails Network Plan**

This 2001 document (revised in 2003) clarifies the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ (WDNR) role and strategy in the provision of all types of trails. The plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors that would link existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. This statewide network of interconnected trails would be owned and maintained by municipalities, private entities, and partnerships of the two. Preserving
transportation corridors, such as old rail lines, is specifically discussed as a very important strategy in the creation of recreational and alternative transportation corridors. These trails are shown on Map 2.

Segment 15—Ashland to Rhinelander
This potential trail would connect Ashland with Woodruff, Minocqua, Rhinelander, and finally to Crandon. From Woodruff/Minocqua, an old abandoned rail corridor near the route of State Highway 47 may possibly provide the opportunity to connect the City of Rhinelander. If the rail corridor is not intact, it may be feasible to use roadways and existing trails, since the northern half of the route is through the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. **NCWRPC Note:** The former rail bed still exists from Rhinelander to Monico, but the right-of-way is owned by multiple private owners who also own the adjacent land. The Monico to Crandon segment is not abandoned rail, but is an existing snowmobile trail within the USH 8 right-of-way on level land – great potential for a four season multi-use trail.

Segment 19—Langlade Co to Michigan
This abandoned rail corridor links the State of Michigan with the Mountain Bay Trail near Eland in Marathon County. It passes through a few state wildlife areas and some county forests. This corridor also links to the proposed Three Lakes to Rhinelander and Crandon to Tomahawk abandoned rail corridors in Oneida County. **NCWRPC Note:** The Three Eagle Trail (bicycling & walking) uses Segment 19 from Three Lakes, north 3 miles toward Eagle River.

Segment 68—Rhinelander to Three Lakes
This abandoned rail corridor would link these two communities by an off-road connection. At Rhinelander, links to the Washburn to Fond du Lac corridor, and at Three Lakes links to the Langlade County to Michigan corridor are possible. Significant bike trail interest has occurred in Oneida County. **NCWRPC Note:** Cannot find the rail corridor that supposedly makes up this segment.

Segment 69—Tomahawk to Crandon
This abandoned corridor would link these two communities by an off-road connector. This corridor intersects the Langlade County to Michigan corridor at Pelican Lake and links the Argonne to Shawano corridor in the east with the Tomahawk to Wausau corridor in the west. **NCWRPC Note:** Cannot find the rail corridor that supposedly makes up this segment.
2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

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

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

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

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056

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

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

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

Each Oneida County Legacy Area is summarized below with 5 stars representing the highest level for that category:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CN</strong> Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest</th>
<th><strong>MF</strong> Monico Forest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Size</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protection Initiated</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection Remaining</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Significance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Potential</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NA</strong> Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest</td>
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<td>Size</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection Remaining</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Significance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Potential</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SO</strong> Somo River</td>
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<td>Size</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Potential</td>
<td>★</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SQ</strong> Squirrel and Tomahawk Rivers</td>
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<td>Recreation Potential</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TM</strong> Thunder Marsh</td>
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<td><strong>UW</strong> Upper Wisconsin River</td>
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<td>Conservation Significance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Potential</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UP</strong> Upper Wolf River</td>
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<td>Size</td>
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<td>Protection Initiated</td>
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<td>Recreation Potential</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>WF</strong> Willow Flowage</td>
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</table>
Chapter 2
DESCRIPTION OF ONEIDA COUNTY

2.1 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

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

Geography

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

Figure 1
**Topography**

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

**Surface Water**

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

**Groundwater**

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

**Soils**

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

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

Climate

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

2.2 SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

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

Matching social characteristics from this section with different recreation demands as shown in SCORP Chapter 2, will start to reinforce what recreational facilities to provide.
Population & Housing

Homes that are used on a seasonal basis are a significant part of the housing stock in the county (41.7%) more than five-times the level for the state (7.4%). Only in four towns (Crescent, Pelican, Pine Lake, and Stella), three of which are adjacent to Rhinelander, are seasonal dwellings less than a third of the housing stock. In five towns (Enterprise, Little Rice, Lynne, Schoepke, and Three Lake) seasonal dwellings are more than 60% of all housing units, and in only two (Monico 36.8% and Woodruff 33.1%) of the remaining towns are they less than forty percent of the total.

The trend over the last 20 years has been for seasonal home owners to retire in Oneida County, thus becoming permanent residents in their former “cottages.” New permanent and seasonal homes are being built too. Both of these trends are projected to continue.

Figure 2 Permanent and Seasonal Housing, 2010

Legend
- Permanent Housing
- Seasonal Housing

Source: 2010 U.S. Census
County population growth was driven by net migration and moderated by a negative natural increase. See Table 1. Net migration measures the difference between people moving out of a geographic area and those moving in. Natural increase is positive when births exceed deaths and negative when deaths exceed births. Of the 2,596 person increase in county population between 2000 and 2010, net migration accounted for 3,310 individuals and negative natural increase accounted for a decrease of 809 individuals. (WI DWD, WI DOA Demographic Services, 2011)

Comparing the gross in-and out-flows reveals that on an annual average basis, the largest portion of in-flow was concentrated among middle-aged individuals, ages 30 to 64 and the largest portion of out-flow was concentrated among individuals 18 to 29. (WI DWD, WI DOA Demographic Services, 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Oneida County Population Projections</th>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td>Population</td>
<td>35,998</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census, and WDOA

Oneida County’s population is getting older. Median age in the county increased to 46.9 in 2010, from 42.4 years in 2000, and from 38.7 years in 1990.

Figure 3 shows Oneida County’s 2010 population as having mainly equal men and women in each age group, and more people in the older age groups.

From 2000 to 2010 the population of the 17 and younger group declined from 23.3 percent to about 18.4 percent of Oneida County’s population. This age group decreased in all but one town – Woodboro. Overall, Persons 17 and younger decreased by 1,563 persons over the decade.
Table 2 shows some basic demographic changes in Oneida County’s population over roughly the last decade. Population is declining, and there are fewer young people. Slightly more ethnic diversity now exists, with White (non-Hispanic) persons continuing to make up over 95% of the population. The amount of residents who have a high school diploma has increased dramatically (over 7%), and there has been a slight increase in the number of residents with bachelor’s degrees or higher too. About 3,500 more housing units (houses and apartments) have been built. The median household income has risen, but not as fast as inflation (per the Bureau of Labor Statistics calculator).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: Oneida County’s Quick Demographics</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2000 Census</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons under 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons under 18 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persons 65 years and over</td>
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<td>Female persons</td>
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<td>White persons (not Hispanic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduates or higher*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree or higher*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


*percentage of persons age 25 and over
Outdoor Recreation and Public Health

The built environment plays an important role in our ability to affect public health and wellness. 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. 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.

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. Alternative forms of outdoor recreation have differing levels of physical activity as measured by metabolic rate (calories burned in a given period of exercise) standardized using relative metabolic intensity (MET). The MET of a variety of physical activities has been thoroughly documented within the sports medicine literature and includes both non-motorized and motorized forms of outdoor recreation. The exercise quality and happiness elements play a role in public health and wellness outcomes.

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. See the SCORP summary Table 3-1 in Attachment B to see the recreation activity intensities by appropriate facility type. The higher the MET (metabolic intensity) the higher the energy expenditure by a person doing that activity.

Outdoor Recreation and the Oneida County Economy
Analysis by Timothy S. Brown, Oneida County UW Extension

The Oneida County economy is diverse, being home to significant manufacturing and professional sectors. Outdoor recreation, though, is intimately connected with several sectors that are critical to the health of the local economy.

Tourism: In 2012, visitors to Oneida County spent more than $186 million, according to the Wisconsin Department of Tourism. They spent it at restaurants, hotels, retail establishments, and other local businesses, supporting many local jobs. Visitors are drawn to the lakes and woodlands, as well as to the ample opportunities to participate in a wide range of outdoor

Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan
2014-2018
NCWRPC  Page 14
recreational activities. Indeed, outdoor recreation is the primary reason that vacationers are drawn to Oneida County in such large numbers.

**Seasonal and Retirement Home Ownership:** As mentioned earlier, 41.7% of homes in Oneida County are utilized on a seasonal basis, with more of these being converted to year round residents as ever greater numbers of retirees choose to move to Oneida County from elsewhere. The popularity of second or retirement homes in Oneida County is largely due to the appeal of the outdoor environment. There are ample opportunities to participate in the types of outdoor activities that weekenders and retirees enjoy.

Given the combined importance of Tourism and Second Home Ownership to the Oneida County economy, it is reasonable to conclude that the quality and availability of outdoor recreational activities is of critical importance to the cultural and economic vitality of the county.
Insert Map 1 – Countywide Outdoor Recreation
Insert Map 2 – Countywide Multiple Use Trail & Route Plan
Insert Map 3 – Recreation Facilities Administered By FLRD
Insert Map 4 – Lynne–Little Rice County Forest Block
Insert Map 5 — Cassian–Woodboro County Forest Block
Insert Map 6 — Enterprise County Forest Block
Insert Map 7 – Possible Countywide Trails & Routes
Chapter 3
EXISTING COUNTY FACILITIES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing public outdoor recreational facilities that are managed by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department. Facilities are listed by type and also what exists in each county forest block.

3.2 COUNTY FOREST

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department manages 82,279 acres of county forest. The County Forest is organized into three forest blocks: Lynne-Little Rice; Cassian-Woodboro; and Enterprise as shown on Map 1 (outdoor recreation). This land is managed for multiple uses, and is independently certified as sustainably managed and harvested. Some of the county forest is closed to motorized vehicles. Examples of permitted recreational activities are hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, camping, ATVing (on designated trails), wildlife observation, bough cutting (permit required), and firewood collection (permit required). Refer to Maps 3, 4, 5, & 6 for Oneida County Forest land. The 2006-2020 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan explains the policy of public use for recreational purposes within the County Forest.

Outdoor recreation facilities located on Oneida County Forest Land are maintained by the county forestry department, and are shown on Maps 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Cross country ski trails, snowshoe trails, hiking/hunter walking trails, mountain bike trails, general motorized trails, snowmobile trails, and ATV
trails all exist within the county forest. Each of these trail types are described below:

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

**Cross Country Ski Trails**
The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD) maintains approximately 35.5 miles of cross-country ski trails distributed in four areas of the county forest, shown on Maps 1, 5 and 6.

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

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

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

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

**Snowshoe Trails**
The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department maintains approximately 16.5 miles of snowshoe trail distributed in three areas of the county forest, shown on Map 1.

*The Washburn Non-Motorized Trail* – The Washburn snowshoe trail totals approximately 6 miles in length. The snowshoe trail was designed with
multiple loops that can be accessed at either the Perch Lake Park, or the Washburn Lake Road trailheads.

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

*The Enterprise Primitive Trail* - This 8-mile trail is accessed via a trailhead located at the intersection of County Highway G and Zimmer Road in the Enterprise County Forest Block. Dogs are permitted on this trail.

**Hiking/Hunter Walking Trails**
The Forestry Land and Recreation Department maintains approximately 40 miles of hiking/hunter walking trails for recreational purposes. These trails are located throughout the county forest. These trails are typically established on old logging roads that have been seeded with clover and are maintained to serve as wildlife travel paths and as walking trails for hunters and hikers.

**Mountain Bike Trails**
Approximately 5 miles of double track mountain bike trails, and about 8 miles of single-track bike trails are located in the Washburn Non-Motorized Trail system of the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. These trails are maintained by the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA), and administered by the FLRD.

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

**Snowmobile Trails**
Oneida County has approximately 1,000-miles of established public snowmobile trails: 452-miles are *state-funded* (of which 398-miles are county sponsored and 54-miles are state sponsored) and 535-miles are *club-funded*, non-sponsored snowmobile trails. Map 3 shows the location of the state-funded and club-funded trails, but there are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the County. The state-funded trails sponsored by Oneida County FLRD are maintained by the Oneida County Snowmobile Council. The Council is comprised of ten snowmobile clubs that
meet monthly during the snowmobile season to provide continuous input to FLRD about the future direction of the County’s snowmobile program.

**ATV TRAILS** *(Segments are not mapped individually. Trails are on Maps 3, 4, and 6.)*

Oneida County sponsors 31-miles of state-funded All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails. The state funded ATV trails in Oneida County are divided into two segments:

- **Segment 1** is located in southwestern Oneida County and consists of 19 miles of off-road trail. These trails are open for public ATV use from May 22nd to December 2nd. These trails are located on County, State, and Private Industrial Forest lands.

- **Segment 2** is located in south central Oneida County and consists of 12 miles of off-road trails that connect to approximately 75 miles of additional ATV trails located in Lincoln and Langlade Counties to the south and west. These trails are open for public ATV use from May 22nd to December 2nd. All trail miles within this segment are located on Oneida County Forest Land.

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

### 3.3 OTHER COUNTY MANAGED FACILITIES

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

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

**Highway O Fishing Bridge** – Originally, the Highway O Fishing Bridge was a county highway bridge used to cross the Wisconsin River. In the early 1980’s the County Highway Department abandoned the bridge and transferred it’s ownership to the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department for use as a recreational bridge. In 2007 the FLRD replaced the old
deteriorating bridge with a new steel clear span structure. The new clear span bridge is primarily used as a pedestrian fishing bridge.

3.4 COUNTY PARKS

County Parks are maintained by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD). Maps 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 show the locations of these parks and recreation areas:

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

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

**Townline Park** – This park is approximately 21 acres. Facilities include a boat landing and parking lot. Townline Park is essentially undeveloped green space set aside for the public to observe and enjoy nature.

**Willow Rapids Picnic Area** – Improvements include a small gravel parking area located near the scenic Willow Rapids along the Willow River.

**Enterprise Forest Campground** – The Enterprise Forest Campground is located on a 35-acre parcel of County Forest Land approximately 7 miles south of Rhinelander. The campground offers 11 gravel based campsites, toilet buildings, potable water, onsite firewood, and is located immediately adjacent to the Enterprise ATV Trail. Campsites are reserved through an onsite self-registration system at a cost of $10.00 per day, no pre-registration or reservations. All campsites are large enough to accommodate pull behind campers and traditional tents alike. The campground is accessible by both car and ATV.
3.5 COUNTY MAINTAINED PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

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

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

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the county were identified primarily by:
1.) gathering public input, and 2.) through FLRD staff assessment.

4.2 PUBLIC COMMENT

Informal Public Input
Oneida County Forestry and Parks Department staff receive public input from
users about its parks and forest resources. Valuable input for this report came
from these interactions.

Survey to Outdoor Recreation Groups (June 2013)
The survey and results are in Attachment E.

The survey was conducted by NCWRPC in June 2013 to identify outdoor
recreation issues in Oneida County to determine what goals and objectives to
create for this plan.

32 surveys were mailed directly to outdoor recreation group contacts on-record
with the Oneida County Forestry and Parks Department. The Department also
issued a public notice in the local paper to make sure any other outdoor
recreation groups were also registered. Only 5 surveys were completed.

Survey and Questionnaire to Towns in Oneida County (June 2013)
The questionnaire, survey and survey results are in Attachment F.

Towns and the City of Rhinelander all received a survey and a questionnaire
in the summer of 2013. The survey was accompanied with a meeting
announcement poster and instructions for the community to consider
completing the survey during a publicly posted meeting for public input. The
questionnaire listed all the park descriptions of that community for them to
edit, along with asking what they have accomplished and what they were
planning on improving over the next five years.

Questionnaire responses were used to update park descriptions and
community project lists in Chapter 7.
Input at Public Comment Meeting (February 11, 2014)
The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Committee held a public meeting on February 11, 2014, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. A public comment meeting notice was posted in the paper and it noted that the draft plan was available on the NCWRPC website for the public to view and comment on. Each outdoor recreation group in Oneida County was mailed a poster with cover letter announcing the meeting. Each Oneida County community was also mailed a poster and a letter that asked the community to review their section of the plan (see Attachment G).

Public Notice:
The Oneida County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Committee will be accepting public input on the 2014-2019 Outdoor Recreation Plan. A brief presentation about the plan will begin at 6:30 p.m., then public comment will be accepted. The public comment meeting is on February 11, 2014, in the Oneida County Courthouse, conference room 2. The draft plan can be reviewed at the Oneida County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Department located in the Oneida County Courthouse, the Rhinelander District Library, the Minocqua Public Library and online at http://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/orp.html.

Public Comment Summary:
Five emails of comments, two letters (that were attached to emails), and two phone calls were received. Several people showed up to provide comment too.

The following summarized comments were received at the February 11 Public Comment Meeting:

- Bob Martini, County Lakes & Rivers Group Chair, and County Supervisor, stated: Plan lacks 7 components: 1. Economic analysis of outdoor recreation; 2. Health issues that could be solved by outdoor recreation; 3. 10 to 1 ratio of motorized trail miles to non-motorized trail and route miles; 4. Natural resources in county need better protection, because that is why so many people have their second homes in the county; 5. Land & Water Res. Mgmt. Plan calls for natural resource protections, and this plan should reinforce that plan; 6. 272 acre parcel in the Town of Crescent needs a new planned use, and this county outdoor recreation plan should include that parcel as a possible outdoor recreation facility; 7. All Oneida County communities should be connected by bike trails.

- Tim Brown, UWEX Oneida County, stated: I agree with most of what the previous speaker said. No connection was made in the plan between the economic benefit of outdoor recreation on Oneida County’s economy.
$186 million – 2012 dollars spent by tourists in the county; 10,627 – Number of seasonal homes in the county; and 90% - UWEX Oneida County survey asked residents why they live here. Natural beauty and outdoor activities were chosen by 90% of survey respondents.

- **Brian Hegge, RASTA President, stated:** I agree with about 90% of what the previous two speakers said. The Sawyer County outdoor recreation plan had a section about the economic impact of outdoor recreation on the county’s economy.

- **Jack Sorenson, Committee Chairperson, stated:** This plan hardly mentions hunting as an outdoor recreational pursuit. Very good hunting facilities exist in this county.

- **Tom Rulseh, Three Eagle Trail Foundation President, stated:** Agreed with many of the previous comments. We are in support of the bike routes that are referenced in this plan from the work that went into creating the Oneida County Countywide Biking & Walking Routes & Trails Plan.

- **Denny Thompson, Committee Member, stated:** Another boat ramp may be possible in the Town of Newbold along the Rhinelander Flowage.

- **Tom Rudolph, Committee Member, stated:** The Town of Crescent former business park property had a plan to create walking trails among the unique topography. Great potential exists for that parcel to have outdoor recreational facilities on it. Many motorized trails have been created, but now bicycle trails are needed.

- **Jay Joppa, Northern Paddle & Trail member, stated:** Potentially add the following water trails into the plan: 1. Pelican River (class 2 rapids in parts); 2. Hat Rapids down to Lake Alice; 3. Rice Creek; and 4. Wisconsin River.

- **Bob Martini again stated:** The Town of Crescent is reviewing the 272 acre property usage options, including what type of recreation activities may be possible on it.

- **Joel Knutson, Town of Crescent Board Member, stated:** The Town of Crescent is considering options for the 272 acre parcel. Crescent has begun discussion with local residents about what to do with several parcels, including the 272 acre parcel, as to what outdoor recreation to provide.

- **Fred Heider, NCWRPC planner,** read all the emails aloud, or paraphrased them, during the end of the public hearing. Copies of the emails and telephone notes were distributed to the Committee and are on file with the Oneida County Forestry and Parks Department.
The following comments were received prior to February 11, and were paraphrased by NCWRPC:

- Dick Dvorak, Town of Schoepke Chairman, (Full letter in Attachment G) wrote:
  - Include a hiking/biking trail in the old railroad corridor along Highway 45, and design it to connect with future trails in the adjacent T. Monico, T. Enterprise, Langlade County, and Forest County.
  - Develop a county park adjacent to Pelican Lake.
  - Add to recreational assets in the Town (list of existing facilities to be included in the plan, along with proposed projects).

- Ron and Jan Eckstein, (Full letter in Attachment G) wrote:
  - The plan is well done.
  - Almon Park is being invaded by common and glossy buckthorn. Please take the minimal action to eradicate it in 2014.
  - Please maintain a mix of open and closed logging roads on County Forest, to balance the desires of those who wish to only walk, and those who wish to drive.
  - Work to maintain and improve water quality and shoreland protection.
  - Continue the good work maintaining the high quality County Forest to benefit wildlife, hunting, trapping, and birding.

- Dave Schmitz wrote: Add another boat landing in the T. Newbold to the Rhinelander Flowage. On the west side of this flowage there is online one boat launch and it is off of Apperson Drive. A new boat launch would be a shorter boat ride to the west end of the flowage.

- Gary Garton wrote: Please take much care when awarding logging contracts in intensively used recreational areas like the Washburn Lake ski, bike, and snowshoe trail system. (NCWRPC Note: Aesthetic Management Zone possibility.)

- Sue Lietz wrote: The Nose Lake trail system used to be much larger prior to the 2013/2014 ski season. Please reinstate the full course.

- Kim Gauthier, Town of Newbold Clerk, wrote: The Town of Newbold would like the county to consider turning Townline Park into a county campground.

- Larry Hendrickson, Town of Cassian Chairperson, called to update town facility descriptions in the plan.
Les Felbab, Oneida County ATVs, called to request that the Club be listed in the plan to resurface existing ATV trails in the county with gravel.

4.3 NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

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

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

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

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:
1. Physical geography. Does the site have steep hills, woodlands, or wetlands? Such natural features are useful for exploration, conservation, aesthetic buffers, and unprogrammed lands.
2. Park facilities. What activities are allowed or will be allowed? How much land is needed for each use?
3. Unprogrammed buffers. How much land within the park is needed to separate different uses? How much land is needed for future expansion? Maybe a park will not expand within 2-years, but within 10-20 years...
expansion may be imminent. When the opportunity to buy land exists, then reaction must be swift to seize the opportunity. A park growth boundary should be created for this reason.
Chapter 5
ONEIDA COUNTY FACILITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

These goals and objectives are meant to guide the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD) as they work towards providing a recreation system to meet the needs of Oneida County’s residents and visitors to the area.

Specific capital improvement plan tables created to satisfy these goals and objectives exist in Chapter 6—Recommendations.

Goal 1 – Protect aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems from invasive species.
Objectives
- Coordinate with the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department the control of forest based invasive species as part of silviculture (per the Work Plan in the Oneida County Land & Water Resource Management Plan [LWRM Plan]).

Goal 2 – Protect, restore, and enhance Oneida County's natural resources for outdoor recreation.
Objectives
1. Follow Best Management Practices for erosion control while developing trails and recreation facilities. (LWRM Plan and forest certification)
2. Protect and preserve the environmental integrity of the natural resources in Oneida County so future generations will enjoy the public lands.
3. Encourage cooperation between municipalities and adjacent towns in providing and utilizing recreational facilities, as a way of avoiding unnecessary duplication of facilities.
4. Provide and maintain recreational facilities in an economically beneficial manner to county, non-county, and non-state residents.
5. Improve and protect access to water resources.
6. Increase chances of having a quality fishing experience.

Goal 3 – Support development and connection of trails.
Objectives
1. Support approval of the Oneida County Countywide Biking & Walking Routes & Trails Plan.
2. Support ATV/UTV trail development.
4. Support local government or local group development of trails for hiking, biking, walking, birding, ATV/UTVing, and snowmobiling.
Goal 4 – Gradually Bring Parks Into ADA Compliance.
Objective: Incorporate ADA accessibility into all capital improvements as appropriate. Existing facilities will become accessible as routine maintenance occurs where new fixtures are replaced.
Chapter 6
RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

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

The recommendations are based on the goals and objectives (Chapter 6), past plans (Chapter 1), and the public comment (Chapter 4).

Although it is unlikely that all recommendations presented in this plan will be undertaken in the next five years, they should be recognized as causes for action if the opportunity or need arises.

6.2 GENERAL COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for county-wide outdoor recreation projects were created based upon: the Goals & Objectives in Chapter 5; and public comments received and documented in Chapter 4.

Multi-Use Trails
Develop trails and routes throughout Oneida County per Map 2 (Multiple Use Trail & Route Plan).

Silent Sport Trails
Develop silent sport trails in the Washburn Lakes Silent Sports area as presented by RASTA to the Forestry Committee.

Trail Maintenance
Continue to work with volunteer groups to maintain trails. The Oneida County Forestry Department has an active working relationship with RASTA to maintain silent sport trails, and a similar working relationship with over a dozen motorized recreational clubs that maintain snowmobile throughout Oneida County and ATV trails on the Oneida County Forest. This recommendation is to continue those relationships.

Aesthetic Management Zones
The County Forest has several aesthetic management zones (AMZs), which prescribe different ways of harvesting timber in forest areas that are adjacent
to several County and Town Roads, as well as several recreation and scenic areas. This recommendation is to review existing intensive use areas in the County Forest, and to consider whether or not to add new AMZs around those uses.

**Hunting & Trapping**
The Forestry Land and Recreation Department maintains approximately 40 miles of hiking/hunter walking trails for recreational purposes. These trails are located throughout the county forest. These trails are typically established on old logging roads that have been seeded with clover and are maintained to serve as wildlife travel paths and as walking trails for hunters and hikers. This recommendation is to continue to manage the county forest for hunting and trapping opportunities.

**Water Routes**
A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. Many of the surface waters in Oneida County are available to canoe on. Portages have been established to get around the Biron Dam, Wisconsin Rapids dam, Centralia Dam, and Port Edwards Dam. All navigable water is available to canoe on. There are many public water access points that are maintained by the county, state, and local governments. This recommendation is to encourage local residents to design their own trails and to advertise them to local clubs and chambers of commerce.

**6.9 COUNTY FACILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2014–2018**

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

**What was eliminated?**
Table 3 is a list of capital improvement projects from the 2009-2013 Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan that are no longer being pursued by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRDP).
Table 3  
**Projects No Longer Being Pursued By FLRD From 2009-2013 Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Location</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Townline Park</td>
<td>Design small campground facility</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop small overnight campground</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replace 2 toilet buildings (upper level)</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perch Lake Park</td>
<td>Surveillance system</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise Campground</td>
<td>Pave campground loop road</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almon Park</td>
<td>Surveillance system</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asphalt maintenance road to lower level of park</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$205,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What was accomplished?**

Table 4 is a list of capital improvement projects described in the 2009-2013 Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan that have been completed by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD). Many more projects were completed that are not listed in the plan.

Table 4  
**FLRD Completed Projects, 2009-2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Location</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Townline Park</td>
<td>Removed toilet buildings, picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, and shelter buildings. Discontinued the Townline Park swimming beach maintenance program.</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise Campground</td>
<td>Construct covered firewood storage area</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Lake Picnic Area</td>
<td>Removed toilet buildings, picnic tables, and grills.</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almon Park</td>
<td>Brought electric power into park. Replaced old shelter building. Developed a new 18 hole disc golf course</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV Trails</td>
<td>Developed 4.5 miles of new ATV Trail which included the construction of 4 new ATV bridges</td>
<td>$255,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washburn Silent Sports Trail</td>
<td>Developed 4.0 miles of addition single track mountain bike trail.</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washburn Silent Sports Trail</td>
<td>Rehabilitated and/or rerouted 3.0 miles of existing single track mountain bike trail.</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile trail</td>
<td>Constructed a 250-foot snowmobile bridge across the Rainbow Flowage Channel.</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$702,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is projected to occur?
The following tables are Capital Improvement Plans proposed for the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD) managed recreational system. The projects are not listed in a priority and are subject to change. The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department created each capital improvement plan. All upgrades and new construction will take into consideration meeting ADA standards. As funds become available, the following projects will be completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5</th>
<th>Townline Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start Year of Plan 2014</td>
<td>Estimated Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreline restoration/erosion repair</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>$30,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 6</th>
<th>Perch Lake Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start Year of Plan 2014</td>
<td>Estimated Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand parking lot</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop addition silent sport trails (mountain bike &amp; cross country ski trails)</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>$40,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 7</th>
<th>Almon Recreational Area Five Year Capital Improvement Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start Year of Plan 2014</td>
<td>Estimated Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground equipment</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop new asphalt access road to upper level shelter building</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair, resurface, seal existing asphalt infrastructure</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>$50,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 8</th>
<th>Nose Lake Ski trail Five Year Capital Improvement Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start Year of Plan 2014</td>
<td>Estimated Cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand parking area</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 7
LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGED
OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing public outdoor recreation facilities that are managed by federal, state, town, or city governments. Towns have also provided lists of what they have accomplished and what they wish to improve in the next five years.

The following inventory was added to provide a comprehensive view of publicly managed outdoor recreation facilities within Oneida County.

7.2 LINEAR FACILITIES

Chequamegon–Nicolet National Forest (Forest) ATV Policy
In 2004, the Forest revised its forest management plan. The revised plan contains a consistent ATV policy for both sides of the Forest:

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

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

Biking and Hiking Trails
Oneida County Countywide Biking and Walking Routes and Trails plan was last updated in 2010 with assistance from NCWRPC. This plan refers to potential routes for bike and pedestrian traffic using existing and proposed paths and trails. Existing and potential trails are shown on Map 2.
**Rustic Roads**
Rustic Roads 58 and 59 are a combination of Mercer Lake Road, Sutton Road, and Blue Lake Road near the intersection of STH 70 and USH 51, and are shown on Map 3. Rustic Roads are designated by the WisDOT Rustic Roads program. Additional Rustic Roads may be designated if they meet the criteria available online at:  
http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/scenic/rusticroads.htm

**Water Trails**
A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. There are many streams and rivers providing canoeists 830 miles of routes. This website can help with creating a trail: http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/publications/watertrails/.

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

7.3 **HISTORICAL MARKERS**

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

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

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

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

School Forests are listed for each district:

**Minocqua, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk (MHLT) School District**
- MHLT School Forest, 40 acres, Sec. 34 T38N R6E; and
- Minocqua School Forest, 193 acres, Sec. 22, 23, & 26 T39N R6E.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.5 CITY and TOWN FACILITIES

CITY OF RHINELANDER

The City of Rhinelander is creating their own outdoor recreation plan. City facilities are listed here for reference:

**Hodag Park** – The park is located on Boom Lake, north of downtown. Facilities include the John T. Stafford Babe Ruth Field; Huber Little League Field; a little league/softball field; a picnic shelter with tables and grills; rest benches; an ADA accessible path; playground equipment; ADA accessible restrooms; ADA accessible fishing pier with path; boat landing with three launch piers; water ski show area with storage and concession building, 5 sets of bleachers, and ski jump; tennis court; two sand volleyball courts; and a swimming beach with pier, and ADA accessible changing and restroom building.

**West Side Park** – This park is located on the northwest side of the Wisconsin River. Facilities include a lighted ball field with four sets of bleachers, scorer booth, dugouts, and storage room; lighted women's slow pitch ball field with five sets of bleachers, dugouts, and storage shed; playground equipment; ADA accessible restroom/shelter building; picnic tables and grills; three tennis courts; and a BMX track with fencing.

**Sarocka Field** – This ball field is located on N Eastern Ave. Facilities include a sledding hill, tennis court, softball diamond with dugouts, playground equipment, and picnic tables.
**Pioneer Park** – This park is located along a former rail line several blocks south of the County Courthouse. Facilities include a logging museum inside the old depot; CCC museum; old school museum; two lighted tennis courts; the Virgil Hoffhein Softball Field that includes lighting, bleachers, dugouts, concession stand, scorekeepers stand, and scoreboard; restroom/ice skating warming room; three picnic shelters; picnic area with tables and grills; playground equipment; a second restroom; six horseshoe pits and benches; and a hockey rink.

**Shepard Park Wayside** – This park is located on Boyce Dr (STH 17). Facilities include a restroom, drinking fountain, picnic tables, grills, and playground equipment.

**Rhinelander's Northwoods Golf Course and Cross-Country Ski Trail** – This public golf course is owned by the City of Rhinelander and is located along USH 8 by the airport. Facilities include an 18-hole golf course, a clubhouse with restaurant, locker rooms, and pro shop; a tubing hill exists in winter; along with groomed cross-country ski trails.

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

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

**Public Access:**
The Town of Cassian owns and maintains boat accesses on East Horsehead Lake, West Horsehead Lake, and Little Bearskin Lake. County Forestry Department owned and maintained boat access exists on Timber Lake, Spruce Lake, and Goodyear Lake. The State of Wisconsin owns and maintains boat accesses to Long Lake and Big Bearskin Lake.

**Other Facilities:**
The Cassian–Woodboro School has a soccer field and baseball diamond, outdoor basketball court, and a playground area. The Sand Lake beach has changing rooms, restrooms, and a beach for swimming. Faith Lutheran Church has a playground that is available to residents after school hours.

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**
None.
**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**
None.

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**TOWN OF CRESCENT**

The Town maintains a boat access on the south shore of Squash Lake with a gravel parking area.

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**
None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**
- Renovate Squash Lake boat landing. A new retaining wall may be needed, since it is leaning.
- Develop plans for public access park on Town Hall & Fire Dept. property.

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**TOWN OF ENTERPRISE**

**Keeler Landing** – The Town maintains this boat landing with outhouse.

The WDNR has a boat landing and pier.

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**
None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**
None.

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**TOWN OF HAZELHURST**

**Hazelhurst Ballpark** – Facilities include playground equipment, a lighted baseball diamond (used by Little League and men's and women's baseball leagues during the summer), basketball, tournaments, the Lions Club flea market fundraiser, training for the volunteer Fire Department, and tennis court.
Lake Katherine Beach Park – Facilities include swimming beach, picnic area with tables and grills, 2 piers, playground, dry fire hydrant, restroom facilities, changing building, volleyball pit, and a large paved parking lot.

Bike Trails – The Bearskin State Trail, maintained by the DNR, runs north to south through the town. There are also two bike trails maintained by the DNR that connect to Highway 51: one on Oneida Street and the other along Lee Road.

McCormick Lake Landing – The Town maintains this boat landing. The launching pier and pit toilet are maintained by the lake association.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013
None.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2018
None.

TOWN OF LAKE TOMAHAWK

Rainbow Park – Facilities include picnic area, accessible restrooms, parking lot, storage shed, and a ball diamond with fencing, dugout and bleachers with lighting.

Snowshoe Park – Facilities include a large picnic shelter with concession and food area, restrooms, playground, basketball hoop; lighted ball diamond with fencing, bleachers, announcer stand/scoring booth; ice-skating rink with storage shed and lighting system.

Lake Tomahawk Park – Facilities include a picnic area with 6 tables and 4 grills; paved parking; security lights; public restroom, sand volleyball court, and swimming beach with launching pier, map board, sign for launch fees, and collection box.

Bearfoot Park – Facilities include a pull-off graved parking area from the highway, picnic tables and grills, a slide & swing set, American flag, and sculpture.

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

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**
- Constructed a pavilion with picnic tables and grills at Lake Tomahawk Park in 2012.
- Ice skating rink adjacent to snowshoe Park in 2011 & 2012.
- Maintained sledding hill at Lake Tomahawk Park.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**
- Construct a handicapped accessible fishing pier and restroom facilities at Lake Tomahawk Park.
- Connect downtown Lake Tomahawk to Indian Grounds Campground to Clear Lake via bike trail.

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**TOWN OF LITTLE RICE**

**Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area**
(Described under “State Facilities.”)

**Lynne-Little Rice County Forest Block**
(Described under “County Facilities.”)

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**TOWN OF LYNNE**

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

The town also maintains a boat access on Pier Lake.

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**TOWN OF MINOCQUA**

**Torpy Beach and Park** – This 4 acre park, located in downtown at 705 Hwy 51, includes a beach, restrooms, pavilion, concession, picnic shelters, grills and tables, tennis courts, playground, sand volleyball court, parking area, stone paths, ice skating rink during the winter months and warming area.
**Dorwin Park** – This ½ acre park is located in downtown at 503 Flambeau St. on the grounds of the Minocqua Museum. Facilities include a shelter, benches, planters, and walkways.

**Minocqua Park Complex** – This former “Circle M Corral” property of 27 acres, located at 10295 Highway 70 West, has the following facilities: 4 baseball fields with concession stand, two sand volleyball courts, football/soccer field, covered pavilion with kitchen and ADA accessible restrooms, and multipurpose green space.

**Minocqua Ball Park** – This park is located on Highway 51 South. Facilities include baseball field, playground, sand volleyball court and rest rooms. The park also serves as the staging area for the Minocqua 4th of July Parade.

**Minocqua Winter Park** – This 40 acre park is owned by the Town, and is situated within a 6,500 acre wilderness area. Facilities include 80 kilometers of professionally groomed cross-country ski trails for both skating and diagonal, a heated chalet with restrooms, concession, lighted trails, equipment rental and sales, waxing room, parking, and storage space for grooming equipment and a trail shelter. Recently added are lift-assisted snow tubing runs, a snowshoe trail, and ice skating pond.

**Aqua Bowl** – This facility is located at 395 W Park Ave. This is the site of the longest-running water ski show in the nation and includes bleachers, rest rooms and concession. In the winter, a youth pond hockey tournament is held on the ice of Lake Minocqua in front of the Aqua Bowl.

**Fishing Pier** – The Town of Minocqua and the WDNR jointly maintain an extensive, lighted, handicapped accessible fishing pier, and non-accessible dock for 14 boats, adjacent to U.S. Highway 51 bridge on Lake Minocqua. This fishing pier and dock were formerly the Highway 51 bridge. The pier is well used by the public and has 11 asphalt public parking spots, hand railings with slots for wheelchair accessible fishing, over 5,400 square feet of deck on the pier and a section of decking that is wheelchair friendly.

**Cedar Park** – This half-acre wooded shoreline park is located east of the Schoolhouse Bay boat landing on Lake Minocqua. This park has landscaping, a walkway down the slope to the lake, a picnic table, grill, and pier for fishing and docking.

**Bearskin Trailhead Park** – This park is located downtown behind the U.S. Post Office, and serves as the trailhead for the Bearskin State Trail.
**Veterans Park** – This ½ acre park has year-round ADA accessible restrooms, benches, and a small pavilion area.

**Public Access Points to Water Bodies:**
There are several public accesses/landings maintained by the Town of Minocqua. Three accesses to Lake Minocqua are located on the "Island"; others include Bear Lake, Squirrel Lake, Swamsauger Lake, Squaw Lake, Buckskin Lake, Thoroughfare Channel, and many other undeveloped accesses.

**Other Recreational Facilities:**
**Schlecht Lake Ski Trail** – This WDNR maintained 10km trail has 3 km lit for night skiing in winter, and is available for hiking in summer. This trail's natural grassy knolls wind around three lakes and through hardwood forests, making it a spectacular sight in the fall. Located on Leary Rd., just south of downtown Minocqua.

**Minocqua Gun Club** – This facility is located 1.5 miles south of the bridge on Hwy 51 on Gun Club Road. A newly remodeled clubhouse exists, along with four trap fields, a skeet range, sporting clays, a wobble trap, and double birds. Minocqua Gun Club is a not-for-profit, public shooting facility.

**Lakeland Ice Arena** – The Lakeland Hawks Ice Arena is a non-profit skating facility that supports the development of skating among people of all ages and abilities. The Arena offers various programs for youth to adults including hockey leagues, open skating, figure skating, and learn to skate programs. A new outdoor ice rink has recently been added to the facility. Located at 7961 Old Highway 51.

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**
- Completed initial build-out of Minocqua Park Complex
- New roof on Torpy Park pavilion
- New flag array installed at Veterans Park
- New light poles, lighting, sound system, speakers, walkway and railing at the Aqua Bowl
- Windscreen installed on tennis court enclosure at Torpy Park
- Removed trees and seeded upper level of Torpy Park
- New dugouts at Minocqua Ball Park
- New dugouts at Minocqua Park Complex
- Snow tubing and ice skating pond added at Minocqua Winter Park
- Pedestrian outlooks with benches added on Lake Minocqua along Highway 51 causeway
• Entered into lease with zip line tour operator to develop and operate zip tour on town property

Proposed Projects for 2014-2018
• Add playground and outdoor exercise equipment to Minocqua Park Complex
• Develop bicycle/pedestrian trail along Highway 70 from S Morgan Rd to Minocqua Park Complex (enabling a connection to Bearskin State Trail)
• Coordinate with DNR and property owners to promote recreational use of the Tomahawk River (canoe, kayak routes)
• Install boardwalk and mooring area along Highway 51 causeway on Lake Minocqua (improve opportunities to fish from shore and for the public to park boats and walk to stores)
• Complete installation of "poured-in-place" ground cover in playground area at Torpy Park
• Replace windows in lower level of Torpy Park pavilion
• Build concession stand between ball fields at Minocqua Park Complex
• Install new visitor information map/directory at Veterans Park
• Complete construction of multi-use path from downtown Minocqua north to County Highway J
• Complete installation of sidewalks on both sides of Highway 51 between downtown Minocqua and County Highway J
• Replace concrete boat ramp pads at Thoroughfare boat landing
• Construct streetscaping project on W Milwaukee St downtown, widening sidewalk and connecting main street to performing arts center
• Repair Schoolhouse Bay boat landing dock slips
• Widen Old Highway 70 to include 4-foot bike lanes on each side between Highway 51 and S Morgan Rd.
• Widen County Highway J to include 4-foot bike lanes on each side between Highway 51 and Highway 47
• Install electronic scoreboards on ball fields at Minocqua Park Complex and Minocqua Ball Park
**TOWN OF MONICO**

*Lake Venus* – This facility includes swim ropes and buoys, beach, picnic tables, grills, a unisex toilet, and benches.

*Baseball Park/Pavilion* – This facility includes a concession area with electrical hookups, and pit toilets. The ball field includes a backstop, six sets of bleachers, and shelters for the players.

*Mars Lake Boat Landing* – This facility includes a launch area and asphalt parking lot.

*Town Hall Park* – This park is next to the town hall. This facility includes a basketball court and benches, surfaced play area, skatepark, and playground.

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

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**
None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**
Create a fishing pier and improve boat landing on Mars Lake. A shelter is needed for the beach and a water slide will be installed too.

**TOWN OF NEWBOLD**

*Town Hall* – A two-section picnic/cooking shelter, picnic tables, and playground equipment exist near the Town Hall.

*Newbold Trail* – An eight-mile hiking/bike trail that uses both on-road and off-road routes.

*Newbold Memorial Park* – This 2 acre park is located at River Rd. and Black Lake Road. Facilities include a canoe landing, fishing area, and outhouse.

*Two Sisters Lake* – Facilities include a boat landing, a small beach, outhouse, and parking area.

The Stone Lake area is managed by the DNR as a hunting trail system.
**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**
Park area with playground equipment at the town hall.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**
Possibly add a larger recreational shelter at the town hall or fire department.

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**TOWN OF NOKOMIS**

**Town Hall Park** – This park is located next to the town hall and is on the Bearskin State Trail. Facilities include a picnic shelter area; 24 picnic tables; a variety of playground equipment; play house; and 2 basketball hoops on paved parking lot; and the town hall has indoor accessible restrooms.

**Nokomis Community Park** – Facilities include Pavilion with concession stand and storage; four sets of bleachers; restrooms; electrical hookups; memorialized trees with markers; water pump and hoses for watering the ball field inside the pump house structure; security lighting; playground; two fenced-in ball fields with backstops; sand box; third ball field, grass area, with back stop; batting cage and pitching machine; dugouts for one ball field; storage building; scoreboard on one ball field; volleyball court; electric outlets by ball diamonds; paved walking trail; and disc golf course.

**County L/Highway 51 Wayside Park** – This park is located next to the Bearskin Creek and the Tomahawk River. There is a picnic shelter with picnic tables and grills.

The Town also owns a boat landing on Lake Nokomis off Point O' Pines Road. This is a narrow, 30-foot wide strip that is graveled with a concrete ramp.

**Rice Reservoir Public Landing and Picnic Area** – This facility is maintained by WVIC and includes picnic tables, pit toilets, a paved boat landing, and wide concrete launch pad.

**Mary’s Park** – This is a dog park with fenced in area, wood chipped walking & nature trails, restrooms, and picnic shelter.

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**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

**Nokomis Community Park**

- Pavilion improvements made;
- Ball field improvements.

- Parking for ATV trail users and Tomahawk River users.

- Road work to improve bike route connecting segments of Bearskin State Trail;
• Approved use of ATVs on town roads.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

Community Park
1. Improvements to the pavilion to make it usable during foul weather and extend seasons it can be used; possibly adding retractable walls.
2. Construction of a new restroom that will be ADA accessible.
3. Improvements to the current walking trail. This will include sealing cracks and resurfacing.
4. Adding to the current walking trail. Currently the part of the trail is through a parking lot and along a town road. We would like to have the trail start and end at the parking area to ensure that people who are using it do not have to walk with traffic or among parked cars. We also want to tie all current and proposed facilities and play areas together with the trail to ensure that all trail users can access the pavilion (shelter) and restroom, even in a wheelchair.
5. Updating parking areas.
6. Ball field improvements.
7. Landscaping improvements to ensure proper water drainage.

Mary’s Park
1. Improvements to the walking trail.
2. Thinning of jack pine to allow hardwoods to continue to grow.

Town Hall Park
• Removal and replacement of old and worn playground equipment.

**TOWN OF PELICAN**

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

**TOWN OF PIEHL**

The Town maintains two boat launches.
TOWN OF PINE LAKE

The Town of Pine Lake has six boat launches: one on Moen Lake, one on Boom Lake, and three on the Wisconsin River, and one on Creek Lake. The town also has a softball diamond with a restroom facility on Trail's End Road.

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**
None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**
Possible improvement to boat launch on Moen Lake.

TOWN OF SCHOEPEKE

**Youth Ball Park** – This park is located adjacent to the town hall on Pelican Lake and has a youth ball field.

Three boat launches are maintained by the Town on Pelican Lake.

Other Recreational Facilities:
Mecikalski Stovewood Museum

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**
The youth ball park was updated with new dugouts, scoreboard, pavilion building, and parking lot.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**
A small memorial park is planned next to the fire house.

TOWN OF STELLA

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

TOWN OF SUGAR CAMP

**Town of Sugar Camp/Lions Park** – Facilities include three ball fields with lighting and bleachers on two fields; two soccer fields with fencing along west side; two basketball courts with lights and fencing; lighted tennis courts;
concession stand/announcer booth; ADA accessible playground equipment; picnic shelter; pavilion with kitchen, bathroom facilities, concession stand, picnic area; horseshoe pits; two lighted volleyball courts; asphalt parking lot; restroom; drinking fountain; and 18-hole disc golf course with concrete pads.

**Sugar Camp Lake Beaches** – Facilities include a beach area, off-highway parking, a unisex bathroom and changing room, and park benches.

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

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**TOWN OF THREE LAKES**

**Don Burnside Recreational Park** – This 40 acre park is located on County Road A. Facilities include one baseball and two softball/little league diamonds with dugouts, bleachers and fencing, one diamond also includes lighting and an electric scoreboard; two T-ball backstops/fields; multipurpose field used for soccer; two horseshoe pits; sand volleyball courts; full-sized basketball court; heated indoor/outdoor pavilion with restrooms, picnic and folding tables; restroom & shelter building with drinking fountain, and concession/announcer stand located by the lighted ball diamond; five tennis courts with lighting; paved volleyball court and half-court basketball hoop also lighted; playground equipment; soccer goals; paved parking area; and snowmobile storage room/cook shack facility and announcer stand in the connected Snowmobile Park area.

**Cy Williams Park** – This 2 acre park is located on Superior Street. Facilities include a playground; swimming beach and pier; ADA accessible restroom/changing room facility; picnic shelter with 10 picnic tables; grill; benches; volleyball court; and paved parking.

**Phyllis B. Felland Memorial Water Ski Park** – Facilities include a log toilet facility/shelter with drinking water fountain; bleachers and announcer stand; storage building/concession stand with electric hookups.

**Three Eagle Trail** – The southern segment of the trail is 8.4 miles long, ten feet wide and surfaced with crushed limestone. The trail also includes two boardwalks and one bridge.

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.
Proposed Projects for 2014-2018

Don Burnside Recreational Park

Future plans include a new concession stand, developing a shared tennis/pickle ball court, and upgrading the electrical grid.

TOWN OF WOODBORO

Hancock Lake boat landing and parking lot.
Manson Lake boat landing and parking lot.
Washburn Lake boat landing and parking lot.

Projects Completed from 2009-2013

None.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2018

None.

TOWN OF WOODRUFF

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

The Town's outdoor recreation facilities are augmented by facilities provided by the Northern Highland–American Legion State Forest, the local school system, numerous private resorts and attractions, and youth camps. The WDNR maintains public campground facilities at Lake Cunard, Carrol Lake, Clear Lake, Tomahawk Lake, and Buffalo Lake within the Town of Woodruff. The Raven Trail system and the Madeline Lake Trail system are groomed cross-country ski trails maintained by the WDNR. Boat landings provided by the WDNR exist on Minocqua, Tomahawk, Clear, Madeline, Carrol, Dorothy, Sweeney, Cunard, Hasbrook, Gilmore, and Buffalo lakes.
Projects Completed from 2009-2013
None.

Proposed Projects for 2014-2018
None.

7.6 STATE FACILITIES

Each listing is located on Map 3.

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

The following wildlife areas are owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Department of Natural Resources. There are no federal wildlife areas in Oneida County:

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

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

State Natural Areas (SNA)
State natural areas were acquired to protect the state’s natural diversity, provide sites for research and environmental education, and serve as benchmarks for assessing and guiding use of other lands in the state. Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water, which have native biotic communities, unique natural features, or significant geological or archeological sites. These sites do not have much facility development, though there may be a designated trail on the site.
The restrictions and guidelines that follow are applicable to most SNAs. The complete guidelines for visiting SNAs is on the DNRs website.

- Most SNAs are open to the public year around unless otherwise noted in the SNA site descriptions or posted at the site. SNAs within State Parks are generally open between 6:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M.
- Vehicles, including bicycles, ATVs, aircraft, and snowmobiles, are prohibited except on trails and roadways designated for their use. Access is only by foot, skis, snowshoes, and watercraft. Some trails are wheelchair accessible.
- Pets are allowed on most DNR-owned SNAs. Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 8', unless they are being used for hunting purposes in areas that are open to hunting during the established season. Pets are prohibited on sites owned by The Nature Conservancy and most other private conservation organizations. Horseback riding is not allowed.
- Fishing, trapping, and hunting are allowed on most DNR-owned properties in accordance with state regulations.
- Additional guidelines on the DNR website.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) listed twenty-three SNAs within Oneida County. Each site has a DNR identification (No.), and is shown on Map 1 in the order found below (for example: #1 on Map 1 will represent Atkins Lake SNA).

1. **Atkins Lake SNA (No. 238)** is 2,644 acres partially located in the Town of Piehl.
2. **Big Swamp SNA (No. 512)** is 2,914 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sugar Camp.
3. **Enterprise Hemlocks SNA (No. 608)** is 601 acres located within the Town of Enterprise.
4. **Finnerud Pine Forest SNA (No. 31)** is an UW-Madison Arboretum holding of old growth red pine. Contact the Arboretum at 608-263-7344 for access permission.
5. **Germain Hemlocks SNA (No. 355)** is 88 acres located in the Town of Cassian.
6. **Gobler Lake SNA (No. 115)** is 470 acres located in the Town of Little Rice.
7. **Holmboe Conifer Forest SNA (No. 79)** is 32 acres located in the Town of Pelican.
8. **Lower Tomahawk River Pines SNA (No. 588)** is 272 acres located in the Town of Nokomis.
9. **One Stone Lake Hemlocks SNA (No. 629)** is 342 acres located near Columbus Lake in the Town of Sugar Camp.
10. **Pat Shay Lake SNA (No. 446)** is 736 acres partially located within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in the Town of Three Lakes.
11. **Patterson Hemlocks SNA (No. 216)** is 304 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.

12. **Rainbow Wetlands SNA (No. 513)** is 2,357 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Newbold.

13. **Rice Lake SNA (No. 40)** is 1,030 acres located in the Thunder Lake Wildlife Area.

14. **Shallow Lake SNA (No. 514)** is 103 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Newbold.

15. **Spur Lake SNA (No. 537)** is 71 acres located in the Town of Piehl.

16. **Squirrel River Pines SNA (No. 244)** is 643 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.

17. **Stone Lake Pines SNA (No. 185)** is 65 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sugar Camp.

18. **Sugar Camp Hemlocks SNA (No. 594)** is 80 acres located near Thunder Lake in the Town of Sugar Camp.

19. **Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks SNA (No. 510)** is 244 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.

20. **Tomahawk River Pines SNA (No. 239)** is 1,040 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.

21. **Two Lakes Pine-Oak Forest SNA (No. 511)** is 112 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.

22. **Wind Pudding Lake SNA (No. 188)** is 340 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.

23. **Upper Kaubashine Creek SNA (No. 650)** is 264 acres located within the Town of Hazelhurst.

**State Forest**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Scenic Waters Area**

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

7.7 **FEDERAL FACILITIES**

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

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

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

7.8 FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE or COUNTY OWNED

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

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) 9,098.72 acres are open to the public to hunt and fish in 2013. Of the 197,097 acres enrolled in 2013 in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program 143,167.59 are open to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking, and the remaining acres are closed to public access. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation.

Contact the WDNR to find what land is available to the public for the recreational purposes of hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, and sightseeing.
Chapter 8
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

8.1 INTRODUCTION

There are a number of different strategies available for the implementation of this plan. This includes securing funds to carry out the five year planning program, adopting techniques to carry out the general recommendations, and to move towards attainment of the goals and objectives set forth in Chapter 6.

8.2 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The following strategies are listed in alphabetical order.

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

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

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

Future Planning
At a minimum, all communities should reassess their recreational needs near the end of the five-year period covered by this plan. More frequent appraisal of needs may be called for under certain conditions such as extreme variations in funding capability, rapid population changes, actions of other units of government and private enterprise, and the recognition of new legislation, laws, and public programs.
Historic Sites
Historical sites can be rewarding additions to any community's recreation program. This is especially true in areas oriented to serving a significant tourist trade. Nearly all communities in North Central Wisconsin are in this category and they should all identify their historic sites. A study of potential areas is encouraged. Assistance and guidance for the study can be obtained from the Wisconsin Council for local History, an organization affiliated with the State Historical Society and the local County Historical Society.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Park Dedication
Subdivision regulations can be used by counties to require residential subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use in areas which are experiencing significant residential growth. Neighborhood parks may be acquired in this manner in newly developing residential areas. Local landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of small communities. Forest County will focus efforts to provide connectivity between developments/subdivisions and recreation areas through trail development. The County will support development of other recreation areas within developments/subdivisions where feasible.

Priorities
The need for community officials to establish priorities within their recreation program is emphasized by the scope of the previous recommendations. Although it is unlikely that all of these recommendations will be undertaken within the time period of this plan, there is an outstanding opportunity for inroads to be made. Recognition of increasing demands for recreation, space and facilities should prompt immediate action.
Program Costs
A community should carefully watch operations and maintenance costs when setting up a parks program. A too ambitious acquisition and/or development program can easily lead to annual costs larger than the community can afford to meet. Recreation facilities like golf courses and swimming pools, for example, require large annual maintenance investments to continue.

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

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

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

Snowmobile/ATV Routes
Since snowmobiles and ATVs can be considered a noise nuisance and a hazard for non-users, municipalities may wish to designate specific routes through the municipality for snowmobile/ATV use instead of designating all roads open to snowmobiles and ATVs.
Specialized Facilities
Encourage development of specialized facilities by the private sector. Specialized facilities such as golf clubs, intensive use ATV areas, and ski resorts can be an important adjunct to public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

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

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

Winter Activities
All communities should provide winter outdoor recreation facilities. Skating and sliding sports (sledding, tobogganing, and skiing) can generally be provided without large investments. Skating, for example, can be as involved as providing rinks for ice hockey or as simple as flooding a small area of a school playground. Likewise, merely blocking off a lightly traveled street with a suitable slope can frequently provide a sliding area.
Chapter 9
PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016 Summary

Summarized by NCWRPC
Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs

Compiled by: NCWRPC
ATTACHMENT D

Facility Development Standards

From: National Recreation and Park Association
ATTACHMENT E

Outdoor Recreation Survey and Summarized Results from Groups
Public Meeting notice to Towns

Letters received from public
ATTACHMENT G

Public Meeting Notice to Towns

Public Comment Letters Received From Public