



# Outdoor Recreation Plan

2014-2019



North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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This plan was prepared under the direction of the Village of Rothschild Public Works Department by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

### A. PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this outdoor recreation plan is to provide continued direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of the Village of Rothschild.

Adoption of this plan by the Village of Rothschild Board and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will continue the Village's eligibility for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), and State Knowles–Nelson Stewardship Program funds under: *Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)*, *Urban Green Space Program (UGS)*, and *Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)*.

Non-profit conservation organizations (NCOs) are eligible to participate in the Knowles–Nelson Stewardship Program under the Urban Green Space and Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks programs. NCOs may adopt or carry out recommendations from a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan of the local unit of government in which the NCO project is located or use their land management plans that are required for participation in the stewardship programs.

This plan is organized by:

1. Reviewing other plans and laws that affect outdoor recreation (Chapter 1);
2. Describing the Village demographics (Chapter 2);
3. Inventorying what park facilities exist within the Village (Chapter 3);
4. Asking the public about their needs for outdoor recreation (Chapters 4 & 5); &
5. Recommendations are made to satisfy identified needs (Chapter 6).

### B. PROVISIONS FOR PLAN UPDATES

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision makers. Amendments must follow the same process as the original plan and generally prolong the effectiveness of the plan.

*This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 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..."*

*Submission of this adopted ORP to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the local unit of government to apply for a variety of Federal and State Aids for outdoor recreation (Chapter NR 50.06(4), Wisconsin administrative code).*

### **C. REFERENCE PLANS & LAWS**

This plan was written to continue the parks and recreation program established in the Village of Rothschild Outdoor Recreation Plans since 1999. Each plan and law listed below affects outdoor recreation in the Village of Rothschild.

#### ***Complete Streets Law***

Wisconsin's Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations law addressing Complete Streets was codified in 2009. It was incorporated as State statute §84.01(35) and later into administrative rule as Transportation 75.

Complete Streets are roadways designed and operated to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable access and travel for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transport users of all ages and abilities are able to safely and comfortably move along and across a complete street.

All roads receiving state or federal funding through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) must also accommodate bicycles and pedestrians per this law. Local governments may pass their own Complete Streets ordinances to cover their own road networks. Specific guidelines related to traffic counts, and if the road is urban or rural, are used in these ordinances to determine whether a sidewalk, path, or lane is needed to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.

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

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

##### Segment 18 – Tomahawk to Wisconsin Dells

A power line corridor along County Trunk Highway X from Wausau to Stevens Point should be considered a component of the statewide "backbone" trail system. This potential trail not only connects the communities of Wausau and Stevens Point, but also could link with the Green Circle State Trail and several other proposed trail corridors. ***NCWRPC Note: This power line corridor is on the west side of the Wisconsin River in the Town of Rib Mountain. No part of this power line corridor that makes this potential trail segment is in Rothschild.***

### ***I-39/Business 51 Interchange, Rothschild, Marathon County***

Planning for this WisDOT project began in 2005 and design work began in 2012. Construction is currently scheduled to begin late summer 2014, with completion by the end of 2015.

Proposed improvements to the I-39 interchange and Business 51 include:

- Reconstruction of Business 51 to a four-lane, divided roadway between Village Way and Eagles Nest Boulevard.
- Reconstruction of the I-39/Business 51 interchange ramps.
- Reconstruction of the Cedar Creek bridge
- **Construction of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations along Business 51.**

### ***I-39/US 51 (Business 51-Foxglove Rd.), Rothschild and Rib Mountain, Marathon County***

Planning for this WisDOT project started in 2003 and design work in 2004. Construction began in 2012.

Proposed improvements to the I-39 interchange and Business 51 include:

- Widen and resurface southbound I-39/US 51 bridge over the Wisconsin River
- Replace 1.9 miles of pavement along southbound I-39/US 51, Business 51 (Rothschild) to Foxglove Rd.
- Reconstruct I-39/US 51 bridge over Business 51
  - **Allows for future on-street bike accommodation on Business 51**
  - **Allows for future multi-use path along Business 51**

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

Every five years, the WDNR 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 SCORP 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 D.

## ***Wisconsin Land Legacy Report, 2006-2056***

This WDNR report is a comprehensive inventory of the special places that will be critical to meet future conservation and outdoor recreation needs in Wisconsin for the next fifty years. 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.

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

### **MW Middle Wisconsin River**

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

As the Wisconsin River meanders across this ecological landscape, it flows through a number of communities, including Merrill, Wausau, Rothschild, and Mosinee. Surrounding land use is a mix of agricultural and forested land. Numerous hydroelectric facilities are found throughout this reach of the river. The middle portion of the Wisconsin River is an important biological and recreation corridor linking northern and southern Wisconsin.

Due to the proximity of several large population centers, this portion of the river receives substantial public use with recreational boating, fishing, and waterfowl hunting being particularly popular activities. Large numbers of anglers take advantage of the river's robust warmwater fishery, which includes muskies in the upper stretches, and walleye, smallmouth bass, and several other species elsewhere. The black redhorse is found below the dam in Wausau, the only place in the state that it is known to occur.

Upland forests in the area typically contain a mix of oaks, aspen, and conifers, while the floodplain forests dominated by silver maple, green ash, and hackberry. In concert with associated marshes, these forests provide important habitat for a variety of resident and migratory wildlife. In addition to its aesthetic value, maintaining natural shoreline along the river is important for maintaining and improving water quality. A protected corridor could possibly allow for the establishment of a network of recreation trails.



### ***Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan, 2005-2015***

The WDNR created this state wildlife action plan in 2005. State wildlife action plans outline the steps that are needed to conserve wildlife and habitat before they become more rare and more costly to protect. Taken as a whole, they present a national action agenda for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered.

Rothschild and all of Marathon County are within the WDNR's *Forest Transition* ecological landscape part of Wisconsin (shown on the map in Attachment E).

The Wisconsin River in Rothschild is listed as having "Upper Midwest" significance as shown on the map in Attachment E. Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) have been found in this stretch of the Wisconsin River. The river itself along with the shoreline habitat are important to retain and restore for the Species of Greatest Conservation Need to thrive.

High Priority SGCN and natural communities; Priority Conservation Actions; and Conservation Opportunity Areas that are significant to the WDNR's *Forest Transition* ecological landscape are listed in Attachment E.

### ***Wausau MPO Bicycle And Pedestrian Plan, 2009***

The Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) prepared the 20-year Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Implementation Guide in 2008. The plan developed strategies for improving bicycle and pedestrian transportation throughout the Wausau area. Potential trails and routes are identified and an improvement schedule was created for each project in 5-year time frames.

See "Bike & Pedestrian Implementation Table" in Attachment F.  
Rothschild's routes are shown on Map 1.

### ***Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2007-2012***

Marathon County has recognized the importance of providing quality recreational opportunities to its residents by developing and updating a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). The Marathon County Parks Department prepared this 5-year plan. The Rothschild area is well served by county parks that exist within a 30-minute driving distance.

The county plan shows that a need exists throughout the county for more non-motorized trails, two additional county parks, and for additional fishing access to the water.

### ***A look into the future, CWOCC Master Plan, 2013***

The Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) created the master plan to make the Wausau area an official IMBA Ride Center.

One specific bicycle facility in Rothschild is mapped for potential development, and that is about creating a *pump track* on land adjacent to Gaska Park.

IMBA Ride Center evaluation criteria were also reviewed to determine other community aspects of what Rothschild could do to help make the whole area more bicycle friendly.

### ***Village of Rothschild Comprehensive Plan, 2006-2026***

The Village of Rothschild cooperated with the County Planning Department that hired URS Inc. and MSA to assist with creating this plan. This comprehensive plan will guide zoning and land division decisions in the Village for many years to come.

### ***Village of Rothschild Pavilion Park Master Plan, 2013***

This park master plan identifies conceptual locations and recommendations for different park improvements within Rothschild Pavilion Park. The plan was created by MSA Professional Services Inc.

#### **Guiding Principles**

- The Village views the park as a sustainable forestry area that is also for public use. The goal is to properly manage the woodlands to protect the health and overall general aesthetics of the area.
- Preserve and enhance historic features of the site. The goal is to incorporate the history of the park within the site improvements, enhancing the park's unique sense of place.
- Site improvements should enhance existing facilities (i.e. Pavilion, Aquatic Center, boat landing, and island). The goal is to enhance the park for weddings, special events, family gatherings, and water recreation.

### ***Village of Rothschild Trails Plan, 2004***

This plan was created to provide a trail system of mainly off-road facilities for the multiple uses of pedestrians, bicyclists, snowshoers, and cross country skiers. This plan was created by Peter Flucke of WE BIKE.

Emphasis was placed on establishing trail connections to existing points of interest within the Village and to adjacent communities and trail systems.

#### **Suggested Trail Segments:**

**#1 West Over Wisconsin River** - Length: About 0.25 miles.

Description: From River Street Park, travel west across the new Wisconsin River bicycle/pedestrian bridge to the western boundary of the Village.

**#2 North to Aquatic Center** - Length: About 1.2 miles.

Description: From River Street Park, travel north in the corridor between Business 51 and the railroad tracks, under the STH 29 overpass to the Rothschild/Schofield Aquatic Center.

**#3a South Loop to Cedar Creek** - Length: About 1.5 – 3.0 miles.

Description: From River Street Park, travel south along Birch St. to Zimpro Park. Continue south through the Zimpro Park property along the Wisconsin River to Cedar Creek. Loop back north following the power line right-of-way adjacent to Business 51 to Military Road, and back to River Street Park.

**#3b South to Cedar Creek Mall** - Length: About 2.0 miles.

Description: From River Street Park, travel south along Birch St. to Zimpro Park. Continue south through the Zimpro property along the Wisconsin River to Cedar Creek, then cross the creek, and cross Business 51 at the Imperial Dr. traffic lights.

**#4 East – South of Cedar Creek Swamp**

(Weston and Mountain Bay Trail)

Length: Varies.

Description: From River Street Park, travel south along Birch St. to Zimpro Park. Continue south through the Zimpro property along the Wisconsin River to Cedar Creek, then go under the railroad tracks, and under Business 51 using the Cedar Creek bridge. Meander east and cross Cedar Creek at the red covered bridge into the Cedar Creek Mall area. Use existing streets to access the major east-west power line corridor for possible connection to Weston.

Power lines exist on a property easement, so new agreements with the underlying property owners would need to be made to allow a trail in the power line corridor to exist. American Transmission Company (ATC) has expressed interest in working with the Village to secure trail easements in existing power line easements among land owners.

The Village of Weston has expressed an interest in connecting the Rothschild trail system with the Village and the Mountain Bay Trail. Exactly where the Rothschild and Weston trail systems will hoop up will need to be determined at a later date, but many possible sites exist along the border.

Connections to Weston and the Mountain Bay Trailhead could also be made using the existing network of rural roads. Both Camp Phillips Rd. and Ryan Rd. cross STH 29 going north. Since Ryan Rd. is grade separated with no interchange, it is the preferred crossing of STH 29.

**#5 East – North of Cedar Creek Swamp**

(Weston and Mountain Bay Trail)

Length: Varies.

Description: From River Street Park, travel east on River St. to Line Rd to Hewitt St/Becker St, across Business 51 to Pflieger Street. On Pflieger St., travel south to the end where the trail could follow the sanitary sewer interceptor to the east. This connection could also be made at Military Rd. if a suitable crossing of Business 51 is ever created. From south of the Village Garage, the trail could continue southeast, roughly following the old snowmobile trail along the north edge of the swamp to just south of Lambert St., and then continue east to Madelyn Court. From here the trail could continue east, parallel to Cedar Creek Sr. to the Village's east border with Weston.

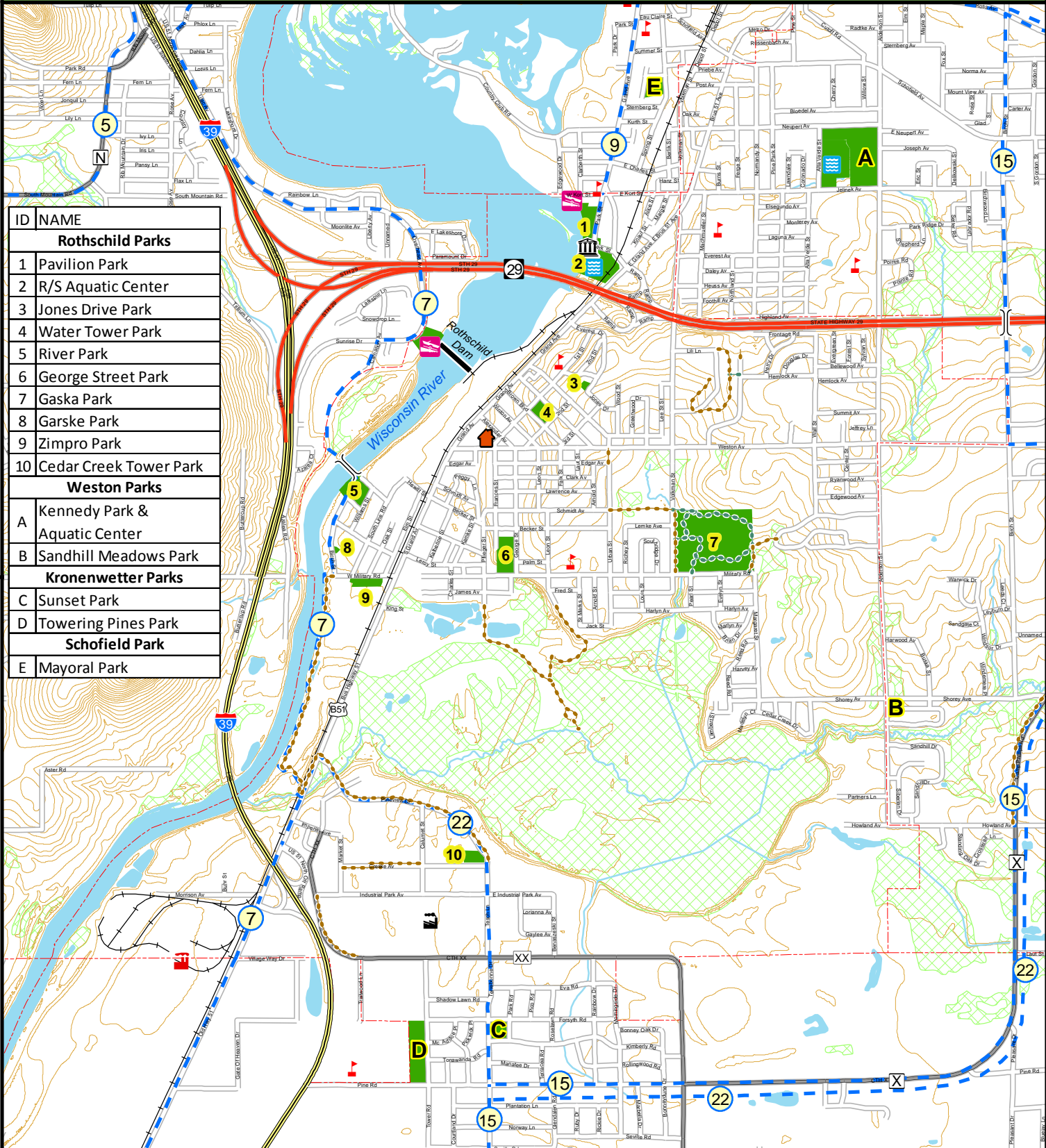
The Village of Weston has expressed an interest in connecting the Rothschild trail system with the Village and the Mountain Bay Trail. Exactly where the Rothschild and Weston trail systems will hoop up will need to be determined at a later date. Weston already has formal plans to connect Weston and the Mountain Bay Trail with Wausau.

From Rothschild's border at Howland Ave., the ATC power line runs northeast to Cedar Creek, where it turns north to Weston Avenue. There is a new hospital being constructed in this area and a 10' wide paved path is planned for the south side of Weston Ave. from Birch St. to Camp Phillips Road. From this location trail users could reach Weston and the Mountain Bay Trail via Weston Ave and CTH X or Ryan Rd to the east. Ryan Rd. crosses STH 29 at an overpass. CTH X is an interchange and therefore is a less desirable crossing.

#### **#6 Cedar Creek Swamp Loop**

Length: Varies.

Description: From River Street Park, travel south along Birch St. to Zimpro Park. Continue south through the Zimpro property along the Wisconsin River to Cedar Creek, then go under the railroad tracks, and under Business 51 using the Cedar Creek bridge. Meander east and cross Cedar Creek at the red covered bridge into the Cedar Creek Mall area. After using the red covered bridge, turn east and travel under the Eagle Nest Blvd. bridge. Continue along the ridge that separates the Cedar Creek Swamp to the north and undeveloped commercial property along the north side of Eagle Nest Blvd. to a point just north of Calumet St. where the trail will meet the storm sewer line. From here the trail could continue north into the swamp on boardwalks to Pflieger Street, then use streets back to River Street Park.



ID	NAME
<b>Rothschild Parks</b>	
1	Pavilion Park
2	R/S Aquatic Center
3	Jones Drive Park
4	Water Tower Park
5	River Park
6	George Street Park
7	Gaska Park
8	Garske Park
9	Zimpro Park
10	Cedar Creek Tower Park
<b>Weston Parks</b>	
A	Kennedy Park & Aquatic Center
B	Sandhill Meadows Park
<b>Kronenwetter Parks</b>	
C	Sunset Park
D	Towering Pines Park
<b>Schofield Park</b>	
E	Mayoral Park

	Boat Launch		Industrial Park		US Highway		Parks
	Ped. Bridge		Power Plant		State Highways		Dam
	Pavilion		Bike Routes		County Highways		Water
	Aquatic Centers		Walking Trails		Local Roads		10 Foot Contours
	School		Bike Trails		Railroad		Wetlands
	Village Hall				Minor Civil Divisions		

## **Chapter 2**

### **BACKGROUND OF ROTHSCHILD**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Potential opportunities and limitations start with understanding an area. This section provides a basic feel for what the Village of Rothschild looks like physically, demographically, and economically.

The Village of Rothschild was established as a Wausau area paper mill site on the Wisconsin River in 1907, and then incorporated in 1917. Rothschild participates with the Marathon County Historical Society to document its history.

Rothschild has a 2010 Census population of 5,269 people and is part of the Wausau urbanized area in Marathon County. Single family and multi-family housing is still being constructed, and commercial properties continue to turn over into new businesses due to their preferred easily accessible locations. The Village's industrial park still has infill properties for development. All the necessary utilities exist at each site, and convenient access to the interstate accommodates the increasing demand for building factories and warehouses.

The natural features (e.g. wetlands, forest, wildlife, and steep slopes) are described and mapped in the Rothschild Comprehensive Plan of 2006 (not part of this plan). The Wisconsin River segment that runs through Rothschild and all of Marathon County is an impaired water, because of atmospheric deposition of mercury mainly from fossil fuel fired power plants and PCB contamination. Waters in Rothschild are not listed as Areas of Special Natural Resource Interest, nor are they designated by DNR as outstanding resource waters or exceptional resource waters. The water resources, park locations, and road layout exist on Map 1.

#### **B. LAND USE**

The Village is located on 6.9 square miles of land along the eastern shore of the Wisconsin River. Cedar Creek and surrounding wetlands bisect the Village. The paper plant (Domtar) along the Wisconsin River is the reason why the Village exists. Company homes were built in the neighborhoods adjacent to the paper plant in the early 1900s. Newer and newer subdivisions were continually built west of this core to the Village. Annexations in the 1990s provided additional housing and commercial growth, both west of the Village core and south of Cedar Creek.

#### **C. DEMOGRAPHICS**

In 5 years, Rothschild's population basically held steady. Kronenwetter has grown faster than Weston, and with almost the same number of houses too. Table 1 displays total population for the Villages of Rothschild, Weston, and Kronenwetter.

**Table 1: Area Population**

Local Government	2005	2010	2005-2010 Change	2005-2010 % Change
Village of Rothschild	5,201	5,269	68	1.3
Village of Kronenwetter	6,162	7,210	1,048	17.0
Village of Weston	13,350	14,868	1,518	11.4

Source: WI DOA, 2010 U.S. Census, & NCWRPC

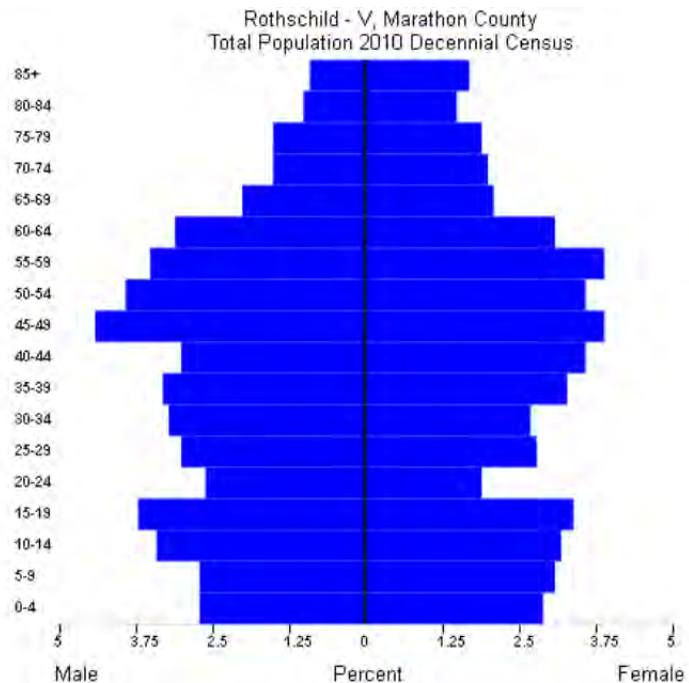
In 2000, Rothschild's Census population was 4,970. By 2010, the Census reported that Rothschild's population increased by 6% to 5,269 residents. Table 2 shows NCWRPC's 5-year projections based upon the last two census counts. The Village's population is projected to grow by less than 500 people by 2025.

**Table 2: Rothschild Population Projections**

2000 Census	2010 Census	2015 Projections	2020 Projections	2025 Projections
4,970	5,269	5,427	5,590	5,758

Source: U.S. Census, & NCWRPC

The Village of Rothschild's population shows a relatively middle aged profile, with more women in young, middle, and senior age categories than is normally identified. Figure 1 is Rothschild's population pyramid that was created with 2010 U.S. Census data. Two thirds of households in Rothschild are families, of which 26.8 percent have children under 18 years old.

**Figure 1****Rothschild's Population in 2010**

Total Population: 5,269 (Male: 2,601; 49.4%, Female: 2,668; 50.6%)

Population Pyramid created by GetFacts [www.getfacts.wisc.edu](http://www.getfacts.wisc.edu)



### Demographic Trends

Table 3 shows a comparison between the last two U.S. Census counts for Rothschild. Families with young children under 5 years old continue to become residents in Rothschild. Latino and Hmong populations have both increased in the Village by a percentage point each. The percentage of people below the poverty level decreased slightly (0.2%). Educational attainment over the last decade of Village residents has risen, with better than a 2 percentage point gain of those having a high school diploma, and a substantial 10% gain in residents with bachelor's degrees. Even though the number of residents with bachelor's degrees rose substantially (10%), median household income rose only 13.4% over the last decade, which did not kept up with inflation. This may be the result of young professionals taking advantage of low mortgage rates to buy many of the starter homes (older housing stock) within the Village. Since these young professionals are just starting their careers, then they are at entry level salaries, and in a decade if they stay, then median household income will be much higher – beyond inflationary gains.

**Table 3: Rothschild's Quick Demographics**

	2000	2010
Population	4,970	5,263
Persons under 5 years	5.5%	5.6%
Persons under 18 years	26.4%	22.4%
Persons 65 years and over	12.3%	16.1%
Female persons	50.2%	50.6%
White persons (not Hispanic)	96.2%	93.9
Black persons	0.3%	0.5%
American Indian persons	0.3%	0.3%
Asian persons	2.9%	3.8%
Hispanic or Latino persons	0.3%	1.2%
High school graduates or higher**	90.2%	92.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher**	18.4%	28.2%
Housing units	1,988	2,332
Persons Per Household	2.56	2.35
Median household income	\$50,543	\$58,372
Persons below poverty level	4.0%	3.8%

Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2010, & American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010

\*\*Percent of the population that is 25 years old and over.

The Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development creates countywide workforce profiles that include some demographic data. In 2009, OEA provided the following population perspective:

Population changes are made up of two components; natural and migration. Natural change computes births minus deaths, and migration looks at how many people moved into and out of an area. Marathon [County] has a balanced mix of both. Marathon [County's] natural growth was 3.8 percent, 0.3 percentage points higher than the state but 0.9 percentage points lower than the nation. Net migration, at 3.7 percent, was higher for the county than either



the state or nation. Natural increases accounted for 4,730 new residents while migration added 4,626, a difference of about 100. The combination of natural and migration increases gives a nice mix of older and younger residents.

#### **D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Rothschild is part of the greater Wausau area, which is the main economic region within Marathon County. The Wausau Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes all of Marathon County.

Residents may not work in the forestry industry per Table 4, but one of the largest employers in the Village per Table 6 – Domtar – needs hundreds of foresters to harvest and deliver logs to make paper.

Table 4 shows employment by industry in Rothschild and the Wausau MSA (Marathon County).

<b>Table 4: Employment by Industry</b>		
	Rothschild	Marathon County
Ag, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	5	2,787
Construction	67	2,909
Manufacturing	527	14,239
Wholesale trade	205	1,782
Retail trade	432	8,835
Transportation, warehousing, & utilities	153	2,962
Information	46	744
Finance & insurance, real estate	332	5,936
Professional, scientific, mgnt., admin., and waste mgnt. services.	223	3,703
Educational, health care, social assistance.	683	15,638
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food service.	208	5,048
Public administration	68	1,448
Other services	62	2,862

*Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2010, & American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010*

Table 5 shows the labor force of Village residents over the last two Census counts. Even through the 2008 Recession, unemployment has remained low among Village residents.

**Table 5: Rothschild's Labor Force Indicators**

	2000	2010
Labor Force	2,760	3,160
Employed	2,696	3,011
Unemployed	64	149
Unemployment Rate	1.7%	4.7%
Participation Rate	73.1%	74.3%

*Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2010, & American Community Survey (ACS) 2006-2010*

**Table 6: Rothschild's Large Employers**

Name	Industry	Size
Domtar	Paper	250 – 499
Wausau Tile	Concrete Products	250 – 499
Wisconsin Public Service Corp.	Electric Generation	100 – 249
Siemens Energy	Engineering	100 – 249
Imperial Industries	Metal Tank Mfg.	100 – 249
Schuette Inc.	Misc. Metal Fabrication	100 – 249
Krueger Wholesale Florist Inc.	Flower, Nursery Stock, Wholesaler	100 – 249

*Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, October 2013*

## **Chapter 3**

### **EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES**

#### **A. PARKS and CONSERVANCY CLASSIFICATIONS**

The following descriptions of each park type are from SCORP 2005-2010. Linear Parks are trails that may have various lengths.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **B. PARK FACILITIES IN ROTHSCILD**

The Village of Rothschild park system consists of approximately 92 acres and about 207 acres of undeveloped land (landfill and wetlands) within the village. This acreage does not include any trails. All parks listed below are owned and maintained by the Village of Rothschild unless stated otherwise. School properties referenced below are owned by the local public or private school district. Map 1 shows outdoor recreational opportunities within the Village.

### **Linear Parks**

**Water Trails** – A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. All navigable water is available to canoe on. The Wisconsin River has a portage established on the west bank around the Rothschild Dam. There are 2 boat landings within the Village, as shown on Map 1, and described under “Special Use Areas” on page 18.

**Snowmobile Trails** – Marathon County has 780 miles of snowmobile trails that are maintained by multiple snowmobile clubs. A spur of these trails passes into Rothschild in the Cedar Creek area to access hotels.

**Bike Trails:** Various roads and off-road paths make up this bike trail system in Rothschild. All bike routes are shown on Map 1. Attachment F has a list showing when and how each bike route may have bike paths or other bike enhancements completed.

**Wausau Area Bike Routes:** Ten color-coded and numbered bike routes cover the Wausau area, of which three are in Rothschild and are described below. Each route in Rothschild is shown on Map 1.

Red Route 7 – This 17.1 mile long bicycle route parallels the Wisconsin River mainly on trails, but also on some residential streets. This route uses the red covered bridge into the Cedar Creek retail area, a red covered structures under the Business 51 railroad tracks also by Cedar Creek, the Cedar Creek Trail, and the Wisconsin River Bike & Pedestrian bridge into the Town of Rib Mountain.

Brown Route 9 – This 8.12 mile long bicycle route starts in Pavilion Park and travels north out of Rothschild on Grand Avenue.

Blue Route 22 – This 10.5 mile long bicycle route connects the Cedar Creek area, and Route 7, along a series of trails and bike lanes into Kronenwetter and Weston, along with Route 15.

**Cedar Creek Bike & Pedestrian Trail:** This 1.3 mile long asphalt trail begins at the end of Zimpro Park (Military Rd at the WI River) and continues in a wooded corridor between the Wisconsin River to the west and industrial properties to the east. This trail is part of Red Route 7. The trail is subject to flooding in the spring, is not maintained during the winter, and has the potential for extreme icing and snow conditions.

### **Mini Parks**

See "mini park" definition on page 11.

**Tower Park:** This 2.5 acre park is under a canopy of oak trees with picnic tables, a playground, and a portable toilet located at the corners of Brown Boulevard, First Street, Wilson Avenue, and Second Street. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

**Zimpro Park:** This is a 4 acre park with a playground and portable toilet located on West Military Road near Siemens Water Technology. In addition to the developed park there is also a natural area to the south and access to the Wisconsin River and the Cedar Creek Bike & Pedestrian Trailhead to the west. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

**Gaska Park:** Open space for play and a playground make this part of the mini parks serving the nearby residents. Map 2 shows this park as both a mini park and a neighborhood park. See description on page 18.

**George Street Park:** Open space for play and a playground make this part of the mini parks serving the nearby residents. Map 2 shows this park as both a mini park and a neighborhood park. See description on page 17.

**River Park:** Open space for play and a playground make this part of the mini parks serving the nearby residents. Map 2 shows this park as both a mini park and a neighborhood park. See description on page 18.

**Evergreen Elementary School:** This school has a 2 acre area with a grass play field, multiple playgrounds, and paved play areas, which are located at 1610 Pine Road. This school yard is available to the public during non-school hours.

**Rothschild Elementary School:** This school has a 2 acre play area and a 2 acre wooded area with trails in it. There are two paved play areas, a grassy play field, and multiple playgrounds, which are located at 810 1st Street. This school yard is available to the public during non-school hours.

**St. Mark Catholic School:** This school has a 1 acre area with a grass play field and a playground, which are located at 602 Military Rd. This school yard is available to the public during non-school hours.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

See "neighborhood park" definition on page 11.

**Gaska Park:** Four acres of this park are developed as a neighborhood park. See description on page 18.

**George Street Park:** This 7.5 acre park was is located at the corner of George Street and Military Road. Facilities at this park include a Little League size ball diamond, a soccer field, tennis court, playground, and grass play field that could be flooded for ice skating. An open air shelter building also contains a concession kitchen, restrooms and drinking fountain. A pedestrian path winds throughout the park, connecting

three street sidewalks. Two paved parking lots exist in the park and are plowed in winter so people can park and use the sledding hill. Pets are not allowed in the park.

**River Park:** This 5 acre park overlooks the Wisconsin River and is located at the corner of River and Williams Streets. Facilities in this park include a Little League size ball diamond, a soccer field, playground, and an open air shelter building with a concession kitchen, restrooms, and drinking fountain. A pedestrian trail with benches at various locations winds throughout the park and along the banks of the Wisconsin River. The pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Wisconsin River connects the trails of the Village of Rothschild and Town of Rib Mountain. Pets are not allowed in the park.

### **Community Parks**

See "community park" definition on page 11.

**Pavilion Park:** This 25.92 acre park fully surrounds Park Street and contains all the shoreline to the Kort Street boat launch. Major features in the park include the Rothschild Pavilion, the Rothschild-Schofield Aquatic Center, the Village's water treatment building and wellhead buildings. Picnic tables exist under an open air shelter, and fishing opportunities are along the east bank of the Wisconsin River. The forested buffer around the park is managed as a sustainable forestry area to maintain the general aesthetic of a pine forest as a backdrop to the Pavilion. Dogs are allowed in the park.

**Gaska Park:** This 40 acre park (4 acres of developed space) is located at the corner of Military Road and Volkman Street. Facilities at this park include a ball diamond, volleyball court, playground, and a small outdoor shelter with restrooms. A year-round trail system with bridges exists that provides cross-country ski opportunities in the winter with a paved area for parking. Although dogs are not allowed in the park, there is a designated pet area in the woods that surrounds the trails.

### **Special Use Areas**

See "special use area" definition on page 11.

**Rothschild-Schofield Aquatic Center:** This outdoor pool facility (2.5 acres at 1104 Park Street in Rothschild) is a joint effort of the Village of Rothschild and City of Schofield which features:

- Recreational swimming
- 225-foot water slide
- Youth slide with water spray
- Log walk
- Lap lanes
- Rock climbing wall
- Children sand play area
- Sand volleyball
- Bath House with coin operated lockers
- Fountains at the zero depth pool entry
- Concession area
- Shade umbrellas & lounge area

**Domtar Company Boat Launch:** This 8 acre boat launch is along the west bank of the Wisconsin River and owned & operated by the Domtar Company. Access to this boat launch is off Sunrise Lane in the Town of Rib Mountain and open to the public,

however, please be aware of Ordinance No. 12.13 relating to boating below the Rothschild Dam in the Wisconsin River.

**Kort Street Boat Launch and Park:** This 0.8 acre park, within Pavilion Park, is located along the Wisconsin River on Kort St at Edgewood Drive. Facilities here include concrete picnic tables, a portable toilet, fishing pier, boat dock and two boat launches. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

**Veterans Memorial Park:** This ¼ acre park is adjacent to the Village Hall, and shares the Village Hall parking lot. Facilities include memorial paver paths around both the Blue Star Memorial bronze statue and the Fallen Soldier's Memorial bronze statue.

### **Conservancy Areas**

See "conservancy area" definition on page 11.

### **Hunting on Village Property**

Hunting on the Alderson Street compost parcel & Cedar Creek lowland parcel south of Village Garage is allowed in accordance to Ordinance 442-18 Firearms, Shotgun, Bow-Arrows, etc. in the Village. Any interested party must register in the Clerk's office located at 211 Grand Avenue, Rothschild during normal business hours.

The Village Garage, yard, and recycling station occupy about 8 acres, and the Cedar Creek lowlands parcels south of the Village Garage occupy about 207 acres.

### **Undeveloped Property (No Park Classification)**

These land parcels have no recreational facilities, and are considered undeveloped land that the Village owns.

**Cedar Creek Water Tower Park:** This 2.26 acre parcel is an undeveloped park located at the corner of Creske Avenue and Tesch Lane. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

**Garske Park:** This 0.5 acre parcel is an undeveloped park and picnic area located on Birch Street. Dogs are not allowed in the park.

**Jones Drive Park:** This 0.5 acre parcel is an unimproved, wooded, residential lot that was deeded to the Village for a park when the surrounding land was platted for a subdivision. No facilities exist within this parcel.

## **Chapter 4**

### **OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Recreational needs within the village were identified by collecting public input, reviewing past plans, and creating a park Level Of Service assessment.

#### **B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

##### **Informal Public Input**

In the regular course of business, Rothschild's staff, and Parks, Grounds, Buildings Committee members have received public input about the parks. That input and staff's professional experience will also shape what changes are implemented.

##### **Public Meeting Results**

Two public meetings (Jan. 13, 2014; and Feb. 19, 2014) and an extended public comment period (all of January and February till Feb. 19) were held to listen to what the public would like for outdoor recreation.

Public notice of those meetings existed in several formats. In December 2013, maps and a notice stating that a to-be-scheduled January meeting on the plan were all posted in the Village Hall's hallway outside the office where everyone comes to pay their taxes. A public notice was posted in the local newspaper advertising both public meetings, along with the regular posting boards at the Village Post Office, Village Hall, and Village Library.

January's meeting had 6 residents in attendance along with 4 staff and elected officials. Since a quorum of the Committee was not present, comments were taken from the public and a second meeting (Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>) was scheduled. February's meeting had 12 residents in attendance along with 7 staff and elected officials.

##### Public Comment Summary:

- a. Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) is in support of the bicycling accommodations listed in this plan. CWOCC would especially like to construct a "pump track" within the Village.
- b. There are so many recommendations, creating a priority order for the improvements would be nice to understand when each project is going to happen. (2 people made this comment.)
- c. Gaska trails need improvement right now for pedestrians. Trails are muddy when it rains.
- d. We need bicycle accommodations for families with small children to ride through the Village. (3 families approved of this comment.)
- e. It would be nice to have a playground in Pavilion Park, since the Schofield one is far away.
- f. Pavilion Park should also have a boardwalk along the water's edge.



- g. A kayak portage at Pavilion Park would be a good idea.
- h. Create a park overlooking the Cedar Creek wetlands, so that newlyweds and their guests can get out of the Holiday Inn and Stoney Creek Inn and take pictures overlooking the wetlands, and getting fresh air.
- i. Creating an off road bicycle trail connecting the Cedar Creek trail and covered bridge with the Cedar Creek wetlands ridgeline trail would be a good idea. Also connect this trail with the apartments along Tesch Lane, just north of CTH XX.
- j. Is there a faster way to create trails within the Cedar Creek wetlands area than waiting for all the property to be in public hands? It would be great to have trails sooner.

### **C. 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 nationwide is no longer recognized as universal for a park. A standard land measure is still used to determine how much land is needed for a specific use like a baseball diamond. Facility standards are used for this purpose. The number of baseball diamonds and other facilities are not the same among similar sized communities nationally; therefore a Level of Service needs to be created locally.

Besides creating a Level of Service for each park classification, other measures such as geographic distribution and universal accessibility, are also used to determine the adequacy of a community's parks.

Universal accessibility is making facilities (e.g.: tables, drinking fountains, and restrooms) accessible to people with limited mobility. Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards are followed when purchasing or modifying facilities for universal accessibility. Each park description starting on page 12 lists specific park facilities. If changes to park facilities are necessary to make them ADA compliant, then they will be listed as recommended improvements in Chapter 6 under "Capital Improvements."

#### **1. Park Design Criteria**

Parks of any size are useful, but when land is set aside in subdivision plats for future parks, then the appropriate size and reason for the park needs to be established. Park design criteria become useful when deciding on a communities' *official map* (§62.23(6) WI. Stats.) where future parks should be.

Park design criteria is described in Attachment A for the full variety of park types. Each park classification contains the following:

- Definition,
- Size Objectives;
- Service Area Objectives;

#### **Park and Recreation Designs**

##### **Attachment A**

The various attributes (e.g. acreage, location, and amenities) of each park classification are described in this attachment. Use these designs as one part of determining if community-wide needs are being met in the parks.

- Location Objectives;
- Space, Design, and Service Areas;
- Orientation; and
- Function.

## **2. Park Service Areas**

Parks must be close to where residents live for people to consider a park useful. Just like schools, park types (mini, neighborhood, and community) are provided for each life cycle, and therefore each park type must cover every resident.

Map 2 illustrates how well the Village of Rothschild is served by the various parks within and adjacent to Village residents. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) provides the following guidelines for park placement:

- Mini park service area: ½-mile radius, or a population of 2,000-3,000;
- Neighborhood park service area: 1 mile radius, or a population of 2,000-5,000;
- Community park service area: 2-5 mile radius, in a village or outside of village limits (shown with a neighborhood service area on Map 2, but they also serve the whole community);
- Special Use park service area is a whole community, and is determined by the type of recreation program, special event, or general activities desired at the park (not on Map 2, because none exist in the community);
- Conservancy park service area is a whole community. Conservancy areas are managed for the flora & fauna resources that exist at a site. Activities like hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing may be allowed on these lands. Each conservancy area has specific rules of use for public enjoyment.

Map 2 shows the service areas for all mini and neighborhood parks. Map 2 shows a 1/2-mile radius service area for each mini park, and a 1-mile radius for neighborhood parks. Every neighborhood park serves as both a mini and a neighborhood park, so George St. Park and Gaska Park both have 2 park service areas (1/2 mile and 1 mile). Special use parks, community parks, and conservancies serve all of Rothschild; therefore no specific service areas are shown for these parks on Map 2.

## **3. Level of Service**

A Level Of Service (LOS) approach is used to identify if enough park land exists for a community's needs. This revised approach is defined by the community's needs rather than an arbitrary acreage-per-1000-people standard. The LOS is generated locally for each park classification (i.e. mini, neighborhood, or community). Public input is collected, and the needs for a particular park, or whole park classification, are determined. If the public is content with the existing parks within a park classification, then the LOS is applied to the whole population. If the public determines that individual parks need more facilities in them, then a particular park needing additional land may become reclassified into the next larger classification. When the community grows in population the LOS is used to calculate how many additional parks are needed.

The size of a park is determined by two criteria:

- Park acreage in TABLE 7 shows how Rothschild's park system (not including schools) compares with state standards for the size of each park as grouped by classification. The average park sizes for Rothschild are in line with State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) recommendations for each classification. Some parks can be classified as both a mini park and a community park (i.e Kort St Boat Launch is a mini park within Pavilion Park).

<b>Classification</b>	<b>SCORP Recommendation</b>	<b>Rothschild average park size</b>
Mini	0.5 – 5* acres	3.25 acres
Neighborhood	5 – 25 acres	5.50 acres
Community	25+ acres	32.96 acres
Special Use	Various based upon facility	2.51 acres

\*SCORP states that a mini park is 0.5-1.5 acres, but a gap from 1.5-5 acres exists, so that gap was added to the mini park size.

This is the formula used in TABLE 8 to create the acres per 1,000 people, which is the Level of Service:

$$\text{LOS by classification} = \frac{\text{Park acres per classification}}{(\text{Village Population} \div 1,000 \text{ population served})}$$

Table 8		Level Of Service		
Park Classification	2000		2010	
	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 people	Total Acres	Acres per 1,000 people
Mini	6.5	1.31	6.5	1.23
Neighborhood	16.5	3.32	16.5	3.13
Community	65.92	13.26	65.92	12.51
Special Use	11.55	2.32	11.55	2.19
Total	315.47	20.21	315.47	19.06

Source: NCWRPC

Rothschild had a 20.21 village-wide Level Of Service (LOS) in 2000, which declined to 19.06 by 2010. The LOS in TABLE 8 declined because the population grew, and park acreage remained the same.

The LOS calculated in TABLE 8 is only adequate if public comment proves that more park land is not needed. Public comment may state that different uses are desired, but that may not affect LOS if the land area for those new uses replaces the old uses, or if unused land within existing parks is used. Chapter 6 will show what projects are planned to improve the parks.

### **Summary of Needs Driven Park Planning**

This is a summary of the above three parts (*park design criteria, park service areas, and level of service*) of *Needs Driven Park Planning* as it applies in Rothschild.

Park Design Criteria – All parks appear to meet these criteria for space and facilities within each park, and that is why they fall into specific park categories. No deficiencies exist within each park.

Park Service Area – Map 2 shows the park service areas. Every neighborhood needs to be covered with each of three types of parks – mini, neighborhood, and community.

Four neighborhoods have barriers to accessing their nearest park.

(Match the Roman numerals below to those on Map 2.)

**1. “I”** – This neighborhood next to Pavilion Park is just outside the ½ mile radius from Mayoral Park in Schofield, but it is still easy to access that park, because the whole area is low volume residential streets, and sidewalks exist throughout. There is also a playground at St. Therese Catholic School, which is available to the public after school hours. No improvements are needed.

**2. “II”** – This neighborhood is bound by STH 29 on the north, Volkman St., Weston Ave., and Alderson Street. One third of this neighborhood is multi-family housing, with the remaining two thirds as single family housing and land for single family homes. This area is not served by a mini park, so the non-pedestrian friendly streets of Weston Ave. and Volkman St. are barriers to Gaska Park. Solution: 1. Make Volkman St. Weston Ave. and Alderson St pedestrian friendly (install sidewalks, multi-use paths, or 5-foot or greater paved shoulders); and 2. Create a

mini park in the neighborhood. Vacant land still exists, and Whitespire Grove housing has a private play area that could be expanded or relocated to better serve the whole neighborhood.

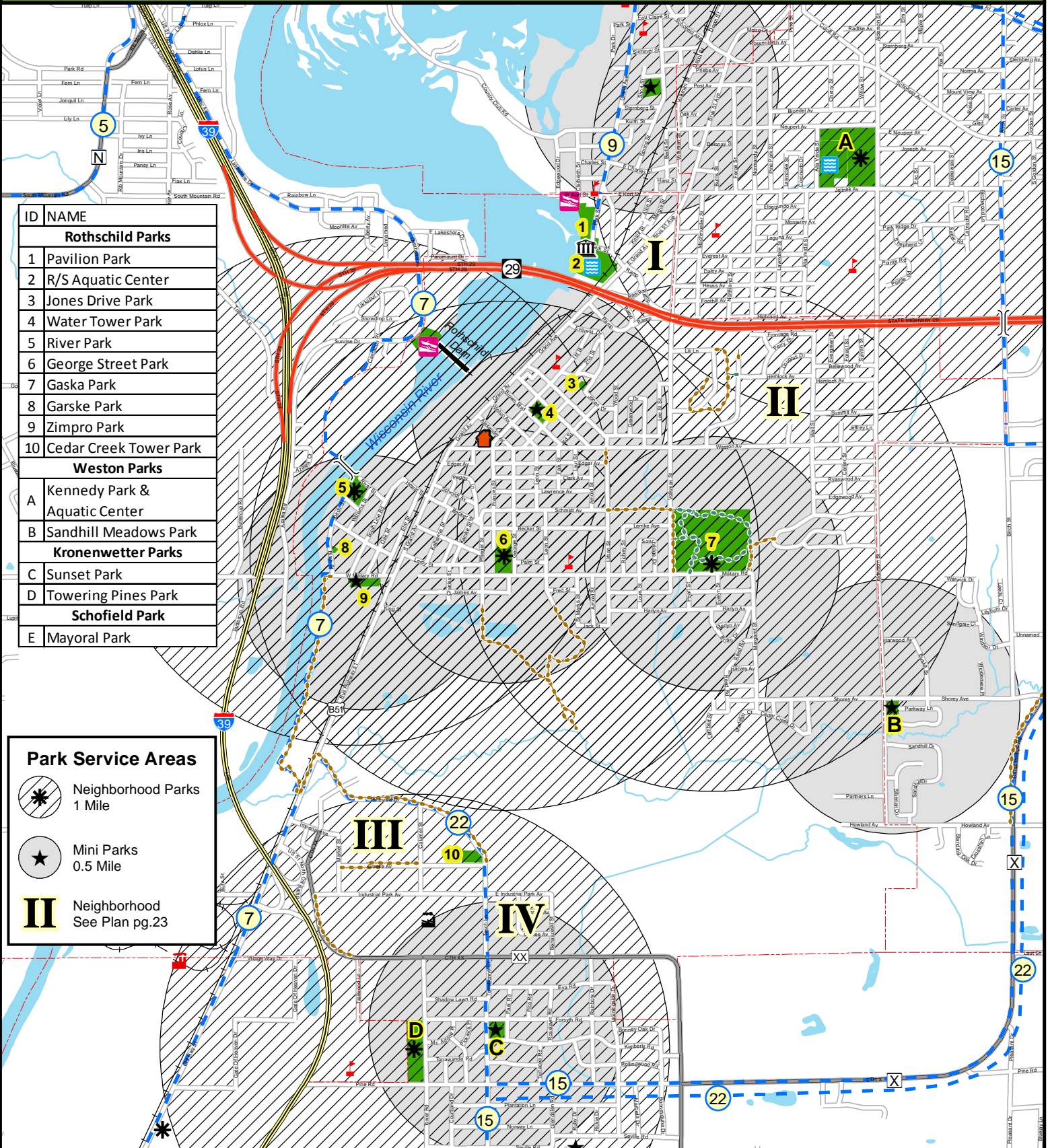
3. **“III”** – Since these apartments are for seniors only, then potential grandchildren who would use mini parks are transported here. For the seniors themselves, a number of studies have found that quiet areas and green or tree-lined areas used for walks and social interaction were important for senior citizens. A multi-use trail runs in front of these apartments. A mini golf course exists almost next to these apartment buildings. Establishing a sidewalk across private property to connect these two destinations would partially serve this use. An outdoor or indoor play area on the mini golf property could become a public use facility if arrangements were made with the property owners/operators.
4. **“IV”** – This neighborhood has apartment buildings along Tesch Ln. and single family homes to the east. The whole neighborhood is served by Sunset Park in Kronenwetter, but CTH XX is a major barrier to cross. No sidewalks or paths exist along Tesch Ln, north or south of CTH XX. Cooperating with Kronenwetter to install a sidewalk or multi-use path along the east side of Tesch Ln to connect the park with this neighborhood would serve this area. There still is the barrier of smaller children crossing CTH XX. Either constructing a pedestrian crossing median on CTH XX at Tesch Ln., or creating a mini park north of CTH XX should be established to serve neighborhoods III and IV.

Level Of Service – Rothschild has an abundance of parks relative to its population. Park acreages within each park are appropriate in size per Table 7 and serve their respective neighborhoods well. Among the developed parks, features within each park (identified in Chapter 3) have enough space to function properly, are well maintained, and have unprogrammed buffer space between uses. Parks are located in areas that have scenic beauty and do not have physical barriers for neighbors to access them. Gaska Park just had a path constructed that connects it to adjacent eastern neighborhoods.

As Map 2 shows, this Level Of Service is good for the neighborhoods that have parks. Other neighborhoods may need parks, and are identified on Map 2 and described with Roman numerals “I” through “IV” above.

If Village residents agree that the existing Level Of Service is good, then Rothschild should make sure its current ordinance requiring park impact fees is adequate to make the additional parks that are needed.

See Chapter 5’s goals and objectives to determine how the Level Of Service will be used.



- |                 |                 |                       |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Boat Launch     | Industrial Park | US Highway            | Parks            |
| Ped. Bridge     | Power Plant     | State Highways        | Dam              |
| Pavilion        | Bike Routes     | County Highways       | Water            |
| Aquatic Centers | Walking Trails  | Local Roads           | 10 Foot Contours |
| School          | Bike Trails     | Railroad              | Wetlands         |
| Village Hall    |                 | Minor Civil Divisions |                  |



## **Chapter 5**

### **OUTDOOR RECREATION GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

The following goals and objectives will guide Village officials and staff as they work towards providing a recreation system to meet the needs of Village residents and visitors to the area over the next 5 years.

#### **Goal 1 – Maintain the existing quality park level of service as the community grows.**

##### **Objectives**

1. Continue utilizing and exploring additional opportunities to work with other public and private entities for services.
2. Continue to add parks to serve new residential developments.
3. Revise subdivision ordinance to provide a larger amount of dedicated parkland per allowed residential development.

#### **Goal 2 – Maintain the natural aesthetic beauty of the Village.**

##### **Objectives**

1. When the Village updates its Comprehensive Plan, work with land owners to consider restricting development in specific groves of mature trees (potentially increasing their land values and preserving the natural aesthetic).
2. Consider establishing a land conservation trust similar to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (see Natural Aesthetic Beauty recommendation).
3. Continue the urban forestry program in the Village.
4. Continue requiring perennial vegetation (not just trees) during site development reviews in the Village.

#### **Goal 3 – Provide facilities for bicycle and pedestrian use.**

##### **Objectives**

1. Cooperate with WisDOT to choose the best bicycling and walking accommodations for WisDOT road projects. State and federal highway projects now comply with the Complete Streets law that requires site specific bicycling and walking accommodations within certain levels of reconstruction.
2. Consider making all roads classified as collectors or arterials pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Many main roads in the Village do not have a safe place to walk or bike outside of the travel lane.
3. Continue requiring pedestrian accommodations in new development.
4. Consider requiring bicycle parking at each employer in the Village.

#### **Goal 4 – Improve water access throughout the Village.**

##### **Objectives**

1. Develop kayak access points within existing parks in Rothschild (e.g. Pavilion Park, River Park, and Domtar Boat Launch).
2. Develop fishing area on Wisconsin River shoreline within Pavilion Park per the master plan.



## POTENTIAL PROJECTS MAP 3

ID	NAME
<b>Rothschild Parks</b>	
1	Pavilion Park
2	R/S Aquatic Center
3	Jones Drive Park
4	Water Tower Park
5	River Park
6	George Street Park
7	Gaska Park
8	Garske Park
9	Zimpro Park
10	Cedar Creek Tower Park
<b>Potential Projects</b>	
A	Cedar Creek Trails
B	Apartment Trail & Tot Lot
C	Marketplace Trail
D	Pavilion Park Improvements (Att. H)
E	Extend Bike Trail to Grand Ave
F	Sell #8 to Improve #9
G	Mountain Bike Pump Track and new Mini Park
H	Natural Area Park and Trails
I	Bus. 51 Bike Trail

The map displays the following features and project locations:

- Rothschild Dam** and **Wisconsin River** are shown in the upper left.
- Trails:**
  - A:** Cedar Creek Trails (red line)
  - B:** Apartment Trail & Tot Lot (dashed line)
  - C:** Marketplace Trail (dashed line)
  - D:** Pavilion Park Improvements (Att. H) (dashed line)
  - E:** Extend Bike Trail to Grand Ave (dashed line)
  - F:** Sell #8 to Improve #9 (dashed line)
  - G:** Mountain Bike Pump Track and new Mini Park (dashed line)
  - H:** Natural Area Park and Trails (dashed line)
  - I:** Bus. 51 Bike Trail (dashed line)
- Road Diet:** Indicated by yellow labels and dashed lines along Grand Ave and near the river.
- 6 Foot Bike Lane:** Indicated by a yellow label and a dashed line along Grand Ave.
- Sidewalks:** Indicated by yellow labels and dashed lines along Grand Ave.
- Project Locations:** Numbered 1 through 10, corresponding to the Rothschild Parks listed in the legend.
- Geographic Features:** The Wisconsin River, Rothschild Dam, and various local streets (e.g., Grand Ave, 15th St, 22nd St) are shown.

- 
- 900 450 0 900 1,800 2,700 3,600 Feet
-  **North Central  
Wisconsin Regional  
Planning Commission**
- 715-849-5510 • staff@ncwrpc.org • www.ncwrpc.org



## **Chapter 6**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Recommendations and Capital Improvements are strategies for satisfying issues identified. 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.

#### **A. RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are a variety of strategies available for implementing this plan. Chapter 7 provides a wide variety of implementation techniques to use. By using the following recommendations, and implementation techniques in Chapter 7, Rothschild can improve and preserve outdoor recreation for current residents and future generations.

##### Cedar Creek Ridge Trail

###### ***“A” on Map 3.***

Since the ridge that separates Cedar Creek wetlands from the light industrial zoned parcels north of Eagle Nest Boulevard is not developed yet, then an opportunity exists to create a trail along the ridge. *Officially mapping [Wis. Stat. § 62.23(6)]* this trail corridor would protect its development into the future without needing to pave it right now. Long term, this trail would be an asset to future business employees who may stroll on this path during their lunch breaks, and also to nearby residents in both Rothschild and Kronenwetter.

##### Cedar Creek Nature Area

###### ***“A” on Map 3.***

Rothschild recognizes the recreation potential in the Cedar Creek wetlands of the third most popular outdoor activity in Wisconsin – *view/photograph natural scenery [birding]*, according to the SCORP in Attachment D. Cedar Creek wetlands are a vast wetland landscape that is rich in wildlife due to the wetlands, uplands, and towering white pines. All the land in the Cedar Creek area is not wet. Creating natural surface trails and boardwalks will direct people where to walk, so the natural area does not get trampled with overuse, while still enjoying it.

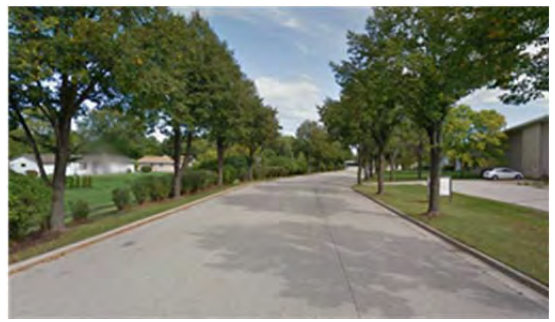
The Cedar Creek wetlands are about 720 acres in size, with the Village owning about 240 of those acres. Cedar Creek could become a local natural area that is enjoyed by the public with better access.

The Village should create a master plan for the Cedar Creek wetlands. The master plan will include an analysis as to how special the natural resource is, where to layout trails and scenic overlooks, and how to transfer additional land into the potential Cedar Creek Nature Area from willing land owners.

An initial way to create trails on a trial basis, would be to acquire easements for winter non-motorized use only (e.g. Dec.-Apr., cross-country skiing and snow showing).

### Beautify Cedar Creek Shopping Neighborhoods **“B” on Map 3.**

Senior apartments, general apartments, and single family homes all exist in the industrial and shopping area of the Cedar Creek development. Efforts to beautify Tesch Ln. and Eagle Nest Blvd. would include street trees (Eagle Nest Blvd has them, but Tesch Ln does not) and clumps of bushes between the trees to visually block the store backs and industrial properties from the street corridor.



Source: Google Street View

Industrial road screened from adjacent residential area with trees and bushes.

### Business 51 Bike Trail **“T” on Map 3.**

Cooperate with WisDOT to locate a bike trail in the Business 51 R-O-W. There are two segments that WisDOT is looking at:

1. From the Pavilion south to Hewitt Street; and
2. From Imperial Drive south to Kowalski Road.

Both trail segments would be off-street, 10-foot wide, asphalt bike trails. Segment #1 would be between the railroad tracks and Business 51, and Segment #2 may be on either side of Old Hwy 51.

### Sidewalks

Walking is by far the most popular outdoor activity in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan lists walking for pleasure as having 87.7% of the population enjoying it.

The Village has an ordinance requiring sidewalks in new residential development, but several existing neighborhoods have incomplete sidewalks. It is most important for people to feel safe walking in their neighborhoods, therefore sidewalks or multi-use paths that also allow bicyclists, should be installed along roads classified as: *collectors* or *arterials*.

#### **Priority sidewalk locations:**

Road diets listed in some of the points below are a way to provide a walking and biking space within the existing roadways. A road diet repurposes either the parking lanes or one travel lane in each direction to become bike lanes.

- East side of Tesch Ln. from CTH XX to Creske Avenue. **“B” on Map 3.** Apartments in this area need a sidewalk or off-street path.
- On Alderson St., coordinate with Weston to perform a road diet to install a bike lane or bike sharrows on each side of the street. Where parking is allowed, paint bike sharrows to show drivers to expect higher bicycle traffic. For example: between Hemlock Ave. and the STH 29 bridge, the Alderson St. road diet could be two travel lanes in the center that are separated from the two outside bicycle lanes with painted hash marked boulevards.

- Pedestrian crossings on all 4 sides at the intersection of Imperial Dr. and CTH XX. Sidewalks only allow crossing on the east side, but all four sides have pedestrian destinations (two hotels, a college, a convenience store, and several restaurants).
- Add sidewalk on west side of CTH XX between Imperial Dr. and Industrial Park Avenue. There are no pedestrian connections to Park Plaza businesses within the Cedar Creek shopping area.
- Place Creske Ave on a *road diet* (two travel lanes, a center turn lane, and two outside bike lanes). Half of Creske Ave has no sidewalks or paths, and part of the other half is missing a connection on the north side of Creske Ave at Market Street. Truck turning radiuses will also improve, because travel lanes will be farther from the curbs.
- Place the 4-lane section of Industrial Park Ave. on a *road diet* (two travel lanes, center turn lane, two outside bike lanes). Restriping the road is cheaper than installing sidewalks or paths, while still providing a safe area for drivers, walkers, and bicyclists. Truck turning radiuses will also improve, because travel lanes will be farther from the curbs.
- Military Rd. east of Volkman St., all of Margaret St, and all of Shorey Ave. are each only 2-lanes of pavement. To maintain the rustic feel of this stretch of Military Rd and still provide a safe walking area, then 6-foot wide paved shoulders or a sidewalk on one side should be installed.
- Weston Ave. should have 6-foot wide paved shoulders to walk and bike on wherever curb and gutter does not exist.
- Extend the off-street bike and pedestrian path along Volkman St. from Schmidt Ave north to Business 51. ***“E” on Map 3.***

#### IMBA Ride Center

The CWOCC chapter of IMBA created their long range plan for mountain biking in the Wausau area, and presented it in the summer of 2013. Generally, the recommendations below are parts of this long range plan that could be implemented in the Village of Rothschild:

#### Gaska Park Area

##### ***“G” on Map 3.***

No change to Gaska Park, because it is mainly for nature viewing. Bicycling is allowed on the paths, but the park is not meant for heavy bicycle traffic as would exist if a bike park were constructed in or adjacent to Gaska Park. There are other privately held parcels about 20 acres in size that may be a better fit in and near Rothschild for a pump track. The Village would like to continue working with CWOCC to find a better location in the same area for a pump track.

### Bicycle Parking

Installing bike racks in each park would provide secure parking for residents and visitors. A set of bicycle parking recommendations from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) is included in Attachment G. The amount of space needed for a bike rack, and how to determine good bike rack designs are included in those guidelines.

### Bike-friendly Lodging

Specific easy to provide bike facilities at each bike friendly hotel is important when enticing people to visit the local trails. Ride Center Evaluation Criteria has this statement for lodging:

*Hotels, motels, or campgrounds must have bike washes, secure bike storage, and/or allow bikes in rooms. At least 25% of available rooms/sites are to be bicycle friendly within the region near the Ride Center.*

NCWRPC Note: A bicycle wash should just use standard municipal water pressure when designating an area to wash bikes. High pressured wash stations could cause damage by forcing abrasives into bike bearings.

### Bicycle Parking

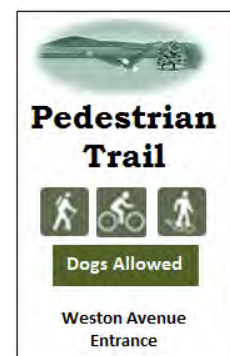
For bikes to be used more often for transportation, everyday destinations like work, school, stores, offices, and restaurants must be within a convenient biking distance. Rothschild was laid out as bicycle friendly over 100 years ago. Destinations are close, but major roads like Business 51 are not perceived by most residents as bicycle friendly.

The Village may want to consider creating a bicycle parking ordinance. Bicycle trails now run throughout several parts of the Village, but few places provide bicycle parking. Therefore, now is the time to provide guidance and a timeline to establishing 1) where, 2) how much, and 3) what type of bicycle parking each employer would provide in the Village (both public and private). Bicycle rack design guidelines in Attachment G are a good start for anyone wanting to provide bicycle parking now that would comply with potential future regulations.

### Consistent Park Signs

The park identification signage is inconsistent from park to park, and many parks do not have any identifying signs (e.g. George Street Park, and River Park). As signage is replaced or upgraded in the Village parks or along its trails, it should be designed to create a constant image for the parks in Rothschild. The Pavilion Park Master Plan identified a sign type that incorporates elements of pine wood beams and blue stone.

Trails that exist throughout the Village should have some minimal signage for several reasons: 1) designating what uses are allowed on them, 2) for basic wayfinding and 911 locating, and 3) to let people know that these paths are open for public use. A simple sign with the Village logo, "Pedestrian Trail", and icons showing what uses are allowed would be helpful to potential users.



Sample trail sign

### Recreation Safety (911)

Accidents are a part of life. From a physical injury to recreational equipment breaking down, people will need help, and they expect the authorities to find them.

Work with the Marathon County Emergency Management Department to verify that official Village trails and parks are geo-located in the 911 system. For example: if a person calls from a path in Gaska Park, then a map of the Gaska Park trails would show up on the 911 screen, along with all the access points into the park.

### Parks on Google Maps

Some of Rothschild's parks are not listed on Google Maps. Working to establish all developed parks on Google Maps will assist residents and visitors. Many mobile device applications use such free online data to assist residents and visitors do things like find out how walkable their community is, buying and selling their homes, along with other useful tools.

### New Park in Northeast Corner of Village

#### ***"G & H" on Map 3.***

The park location analysis of Map 2 shows that the northeast corner of the Village is not served by a neighborhood park – in Rothschild or in Weston. The condo development along Whitespire Road has a mini park on their property next to a stormwater retention basin. The size of that park is too small to add playground equipment and a play field to per the space requirements in Attachments A & B (park size and facility standards). If more land could be added to the potential Whitespire Road park, and if a fence could be installed around the retention basin to keep kids away, then this site would serve this area of Rothschild well.

### Park Impact Fees

Review subdivision ordinance to verify that it is consistent with what this outdoor recreation plan recommends. If a new subdivision is platted, will enough land or money in lieu of land be requested of the subdivider? Does the official Rothschild map show where future parks or trails should go when the facilities are needed? These are just some of the questions to act upon when reviewing the Village's land use regulations (subdivision ordinance, zoning ordinance, and official map).

### Intrinsic Natural Aesthetic Beauty

Rothschild's logo is of a flying bald eagle, whose habitat is tall trees, preferably white pine, and large lakes and flowages that have open water all year long. Many residents greatly appreciate the natural beauty that white pines and woodlands create, but many areas that residents respect are not protected from being sustainably harvested or clear cut for development. Residents have no problem with silvicultural activities (clear cutting and sustainable harvest) that are performed in forests, but viewsheds within the Village could be established for intrinsic natural aesthetic beauty.

There are a variety of land use tools that the Village can use to conserve these forested viewsheds, while maintaining or even improving property values. One example of a

cross between regulation and land donation is the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board ("Agency"). The Wisconsin River ("Riverway") segment that is protected is the segment that extends 92.3 miles from below the dam at Prairie du Sac to the confluence with the Mississippi River near Prairie du Chien and encompasses 79,275 acres. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for administering a land acquisition program within the project boundaries – but Agency rules supercede DNR authority in the Riverway. The Agency administers a system of "performance standards" which are designed to protect the aesthetic integrity of the Riverway. Permits are required for structures, timber harvesting, utility facilities and other activities. A number of activities are now prohibited within the Riverway. However, most activities associated with an agricultural operation are exempt from the new regulations.

#### Pavilion Park

#### ***"D" on Map 3.***

Implement the Pavilion Park's Master Plan Improvements, which has three phases to improvements. See Attachment H to identify specific projects and their locations.

### **B. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2014-2019**

Capital improvements to parks are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. This list of capital improvement projects was created by Village Staff.

#### Pavilion Park

*See Attachment H list of suggested facilities and a map of their locations.*

#### General Village Projects:

- Improve trails for pedestrians within, adjacent to, or provide direct connectivity to Gaska Park.
- Create trails in Pavilion Park and on Pavilion Island.
- Investigate trail sign designs to use on non-paved Village trails in Cedar Creek wetlands to show where the public is allowed, and possibly on paved trails throughout the Village too.
- Acquire easements on private land in the Cedar Creek wetlands to create trails.

## **Chapter 7**

### **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

There are a variety of strategies available for implementing this plan. These strategies include using land use tools and government programs to realize attainment of this plan's goals and objectives.

#### 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. The Village of Rothschild administers the zoning within Rothschild.

#### Public Access to Waterways

Rothschild's Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance and state regulations for subdivisions require dedication of public access when the land along waterways is platted.

#### **LAKE AND STREAM SHORE PLATS [236.16(3) WISCONSIN STATUTES]**

- (a) All subdivisions abutting on a navigable lake or stream shall provide public access at least 60 feet wide providing access to the low watermark so that there will be public access, which is connected to existing public roads, at not more than one-half mile intervals as measured along the lake or stream shore except where greater intervals and wider access is agreed upon by the department of natural resources and the department, and excluding shore areas where public parks or open-space streets or roads on either side of a stream are provided.

**NR 1.93 Access in platted subdivisions.** Under s.236.16 (3), Wis. Stats., the DNR has authority to recommend wider access at less frequent intervals than are prescribed in the statutes. The DNR shall consider waiver of the 60-foot access requirement only where the DNR determines:

- (1) It will be advantageous to public interests in navigable water;
- (2) Adequate space for access users and adequate buffering for private property is assured by access wider than 60 feet where possible; and
- (3) The access that would result provides an equal or greater opportunity for public access than would be provided by dedication at statutorily prescribed intervals and the 60-foot width.

#### Park Dedication

Subdivision regulations can be used to require residential land subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use. 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 some communities.

### Conservation Subdivisions

Conservation subdivisions are characterized by common open space and clustered compact lots. A variety of housing types or the same type of housing may be allowed. The purpose of a conservation subdivision is to protect farmland or natural resource open spaces while allowing for the maximum number of residences under current community zoning and subdivision regulations. In some cases a greater density (density bonus) may be offered in the local ordinance to encourage this approach. Generally, this tool is used for parcels 40 acres and larger, or where the community maps natural resource corridors or natural features that they want to preserve. A conservation subdivision maintains the same level of overall density as a conventional subdivision, but individual lot sizes are smaller, and the community receives open space.

### Use of Easements

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

### Leases

Leases may be used as measures to use or protect land until more permanent measures may be found. By leasing parcels of land, the land remains on the village'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 village. The village then leases the land to a private party or organization with use restrictions placed on the land. Under this method, the village receives some monetary return on its investment and retains control over the use of the land.

### Program Costs

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

### Capital Improvements

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



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

#### Monetary Aid Programs

State and federal financial and technical aid programs are designed to assist communities with meeting recreational needs. A list of these programs exists in Attachment C.

The Stewardship Fund is a state provided comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of several state and federal aid programs such as Local Park Aids and LAWCON, combined with new programs, such as the Urban Rivers Program. Attachment C gives an explanation of the Stewardship Program. For additional information go online to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

A requirement for application to the Stewardship Fund is for the local community to have a DNR approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The Village of Rothschild Outdoor Recreation Plan is designed to meet that requirement. For additional information contact:

Community Services Specialist  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
1300 West Clairemont Avenue  
P.O. Box 4001  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4001

Besides state and federal aid programs, there are other sources of funding such as private foundations, trust funds, and civic and recreation organizations.

#### Lifetime Activities

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

#### Winter Activities

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

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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 gardens 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 park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports areas 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 volunteerism of this type should be encouraged. In addition, service groups could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources by providing organization and volunteer labor.

#### Community Beautification

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

#### Adopt-A-Park Program

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

# **ATTACHMENT A**

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## **Park Design and Location Criteria**

From:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005-2010

## Park and Recreation Designs

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

▪ Mini Park	▪ School Park
▪ Neighborhood Park	▪ County Park
▪ Community Park	▪ State Park
▪ Special Use Park	▪ State Forest

### Mini Park

#### 1. Definition Summary:

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

#### 2. Size Objectives:

0.5 to 1.5 acres.

#### 3. Service Area Objectives:

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

#### 4. Location Objectives:

Located in protected areas with separation from street traffic and high visibility; serving local neighborhoods and adjoining schools, libraries, or police and fire facilities.

- Population Ratio to Acreage: 0.25 to 0.5 acre per 1,000 population to achieve a park unit size that serves 2,000 to 3,000 people.

#### 5. Space, Design, and Service Area:

The size of a play lot or playground may range from as small as 2,500 sq. ft. to 1.5 acres.\* Amenities offered by these facilities generally include sand play areas, play apparatus, play equipment, and other special child-oriented features. The service radius for these parks in

terms of distance from population served is limited to less than a quarter mile, or within a super block space, unless the playground is incorporated into a larger park. (\*Stand-alone play lots require more land area than play lots incorporated into larger parks.)

#### 6. Orientation:

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

#### 7. Function:

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

### Neighborhood Park

#### 1. Definition Summary:

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

#### 2. Size Objectives:

5 to 25 acres.

### **3. Service Area Objectives:**

Generally a one mile radius, but actually defined by collector street patterns which form the limits of a neighborhood or recreation service area. Population served may range from 2,000 up to 5,000.

### **4. Location Objectives:**

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

### **5. Program Objectives:**

Compatible with the neighborhood setting and park site constraints. Generally includes the following facilities, which are determined with public input as to use and activities:

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

### **6. Orientation:**

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

### **7. Function:**

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

### **8. Space, Design and Service Area:**

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

## **Community Park**

### **1. Definition Summary:**

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

### **2. Size Objectives:**

Usually more than 25 acres.

### **3. Service Area Objectives:**

Generally a 2 to 5 mile radius within the city and adjacent neighborhoods outside of city limits.

### **4. Location Objectives:**

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

## 5. Program Objectives

Elements that fulfill the service area, park facilities and recreation program demands. The following facilities may be compatible with community setting and park site constraints:

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

*Appropriate program elements include:*

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

## 6. Orientation:

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

## 7. Function:

Provides opportunities for a diverse mix of indoor and outdoor recreation, including walking and bicycling, outdoor performances, various programmed and non-

programmed field sports, swimming, and special events.

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

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

## Special Use Park

### 1. Definition Summary:

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

### 2. Size Objective:

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

### 3. Service Area Objectives:

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

### 4. Location Objectives:

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

### 5. Program Objectives:

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

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

g. Recreation programs and classes

**6. Orientation:**

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

**7. Function:**

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

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

The minimum size for special parks varies depending on intended use and programming.

**School Park**

**1. Definition Summary:**

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

Depending on the circumstances, school park sites often complement other community recreation or open lands. As an example, an elementary/middle school site could also serve as a neighborhood park. Likewise, middle or high school sports facilities could do double duty as a community park or as youth athletic fields. Depending on its size, one school park site may serve in a number of capacities, such as a neighborhood park, youth athletic fields, and a location for recreation classes. Given the inherent variability of type, size and location, determining how a school park site is integrated into a larger park system will depend on case-by-case circumstances. The important outcome in the joint-use relationship is that both the school district and park system benefit from shared use of facilities and land area.

**2. Size Objective**

The optimum size of a school park site depends on its intended use. The size criteria

established for neighborhood park and community park classifications may apply.

**3. Service Area Objectives:**

Neighborhood park and community park classifications criteria should be used to determine school park functions and area served. For planning purposes, the degree to which school lands, including building or facilities, meet community needs depends on the specific inter-local agreements formed.

**4. Location Objectives:**

The location of a school park site will be determined by the school district based on district policy. Coordinated city and school district planning allows for siting, acquisition, and facility development to be responsive to community needs. Service areas for school park sites will depend on the type of use and facilities provided.

**5. Program Objectives:**

The criteria established for neighborhood parks and community parks should be used to determine how a school park site is developed and programmed. If athletic fields are developed at a school park site, they should, where feasible, be oriented toward youth rather than adult programs. Establishing a clearly defined joint-use agreement between involved agencies is critical to making school park relationships workable. This is particularly important with respect to acquisition, development, maintenance, liability, use, and programming of facility issues.

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

**County Park**

**1. Definition Summary:**

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

recreation uses, and that accommodates large gatherings, special events, and individual users. County parks offer a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities, and may provide areas that do not primarily serve a recreational purpose such as protected natural areas, historic areas, and special use areas.

## **2. Size Objectives:**

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

## **3. Service Area Objectives:**

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

## **4. Location Objectives:**

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

## **5. Program Objectives:**

Development should be appropriate for intended use and should accommodate moderate to high use. Development and planning should consider the physical condition and characteristics of the land and recognize potential environmental or structural limitations that might require intensive maintenance. County parks may include the following facilities:

- a. Camping/group camping
- b. Picnic areas
- c. Recreational trails (hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, equestrian, cross-country ski, snowmobile, etc.)
- d. Play areas

- e. Swimming beaches
- f. Water access
- g. Fishing access
- h. Shelters
- i. Restrooms
- j. Shower facilities
- k. Sport fields (basketball, volleyball, softball, etc.)
- l. Pet exercise area

## **6. Orientation:**

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

## **7. Function:**

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

## **8. Space, Design, and Service Area:**

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

## **State Forest**

### **1. Definition Summary:**

A state forest consists of well blocked areas of state owned lands that are managed to benefit present and future generations of residents, recognizing that forests contribute to local and statewide economics and to a healthy natural environment. State forests practice sustainable forestry. The management of state forests is consistent with the ecological capability of state forest land and with the long-term goal of maintaining sustainable forest communities and ecosystems. Benefits of maintaining these ecosystems include soil protection, public hunting, protection of water quality, production of recurring forest products, outdoor recreation, native biological



diversity, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and aesthetic value. The range of benefits provided in each state forest reflect its unique character and position in the regional landscape.

## **2. Size Objectives:**

Typically between 1,000 and 250,000 acres, but can be larger or smaller.

## **3. Service Area Objectives:**

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

## **4. Location Objectives:**

Areas with large blocks of land.

## **5. Program Objectives:**

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

### **Current Level of Supply:**

Hiking trails	1,256 acres per linear mile of trail
Cross-country ski trails	2,551 acres per linear mile of trail
Snowmobile trails	639 acres per linear mile of trail
Equestrian trails	559 acres per linear mile of trail
ATV trails	1,795 acres per linear mile of trail
Camping sites	1 campsite per 265 acres

## **6. Orientation:**

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

## **7. Function:**

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

## **8. Space, Design, and Service Area:**

The size of a state forest is determined by the extent of the area's natural resources and

recreation capabilities. There is no minimum or maximum size for a state forest. Facilities are not universal and vary by forest. The geographic location of the forest and the natural resources present dictate recreation available at the site. State forests serve large geographic areas of a state or region.

## **State Park**

### **1. Definition Summary:**

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

### **2. Size Objectives:**

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

### **3. Service Area Objectives:**

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

### **4. Location Objectives:**

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

### **5. Program Objectives:**

Elements that fulfill the service area, park facilities and recreation program demands.

Elements are compatible with the natural resource setting and park site constraints. Developments may include the following facilities:

**Current Level of Supply:**

Hiking trails	196 acres per linear mile of trail
Surfaced bicycle trails	860 acres per linear mile of trail
Mountain bike trails	549 acres per linear mile of trail
Nature trails	1,871 acres per liner mile of trail
Cross-country ski trails	430 acres per linear mile of trail
Snowmobile trails	426 acres per linear mile of trail
Equestrian trails	400 acres per linear mile of trail
Picnic sites	0.05 acres per picnic table
Camping sites	1 campsite per 29 acres
Parking stalls	Year-Round = 1 stall for every three visitors
Swimming beaches	17 linear feet per 1,000 users

**5. Orientation:**

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

**6. Function:**

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

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

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

## **ATTACHMENT B**

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### **Facility Design Standards**

From: National Recreation and Park Association

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

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

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

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

## **ATTACHMENT C**

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### **Federal & State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs**

## **Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs**

DNR Community Services Specialist  
1300 West Clairemont Avenue  
P.O. Box 4001  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4001

### **Acquisition Of Development Rights Grants (ADR)**

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

### **Aids For The Acquisition And Development Of Local Parks (ADLP)**

Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis.

### **All Terrain Vehicles (ATV)**

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

### **All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Enforcement Patrol**

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

## **Brownfields Green Space and Public Facilities Grant Program**

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

## **Lake Protection Grant**

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

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

## **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

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

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

## **Recreational Boating Facilities**

Funds are available for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities as per s. 30.92, Wis. Statutes. Counties, towns, cities, villages, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations are eligible to apply. Cost sharing is provided up to 50% for feasibility studies, construction costs, and certain types of acquisition costs. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the Department.



Eligible projects include: 1) Facilities such as ramps and service docks required to gain access to the water; 2) structures such as bulkheads and breakwaters necessary to provide safe water conditions for boaters; 3) activities such as dredging to provide safe water depths for recreational boating. (Dredging is an eligible project only when it is associated with project development at the project site; maintenance dredging is not eligible.); 4) support facilities limited to parking lots, sanitary facilities and security lighting; 5) acquisition of equipment to cut and remove aquatic plants; 6) acquisition of equipment to collect and remove floating trash and debris from a waterway; 7) dredging of channels in waterways for recreational boating purposes (not more than once in ten years)(inland waters); and 8) acquisition of aids to navigation and regulatory markers. These factors are considered in establishing priorities - distance of proposed project from other recreational boating facilities, demand for safe boating facilities, existing facilities, projects underway, commitment of funds, location of proposed project within the region identified in s. 25.29(7), Wis. Stats.

### **River Management Grants**

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

### **Recreational Trails Act (RTA)**

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

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

### **Snowmobile Club Signs**

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

### **Snowmobile Route Signs**

Funds are available to provide costs for initial signing of snowmobile routes and trail crossing warning signs as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Towns, cities, and villages are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. No local match is required, but state

funding is limited to no more than \$30,000 per year for the route sign program. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season.

### **Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols**

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

### **Snowmobile Trail Aids**

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

### **Stewardship Grants for Nonprofit Conservation Organizations**

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

### **Urban Green Space**

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

## **Urban Rivers Grant**

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

## **Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs**

WisDOT District Bike & Ped Coordinator  
1681 Second Avenue South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

### **Local Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program**

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

### **Surface Transportation Program – Discretionary (STP-D)**

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

### **Transportation Enhancement Program**

(Part of the Statewide Multi-modal Improvement Program (SMIP))

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

## **Other Wisconsin DOT Funding Sources**

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

Contact WisDOT District coordinators first for more details.

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

## **Federal Assistance Programs**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tom Gilbert, Superintendent**  
tom\_gilbert@nps.gov

**or Pam Schuler, Trail Manager**  
pam\_schuler@nps.gov

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

## **ATTACHMENT D**

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### **2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP Summary**

# The 2011–2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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

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

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

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

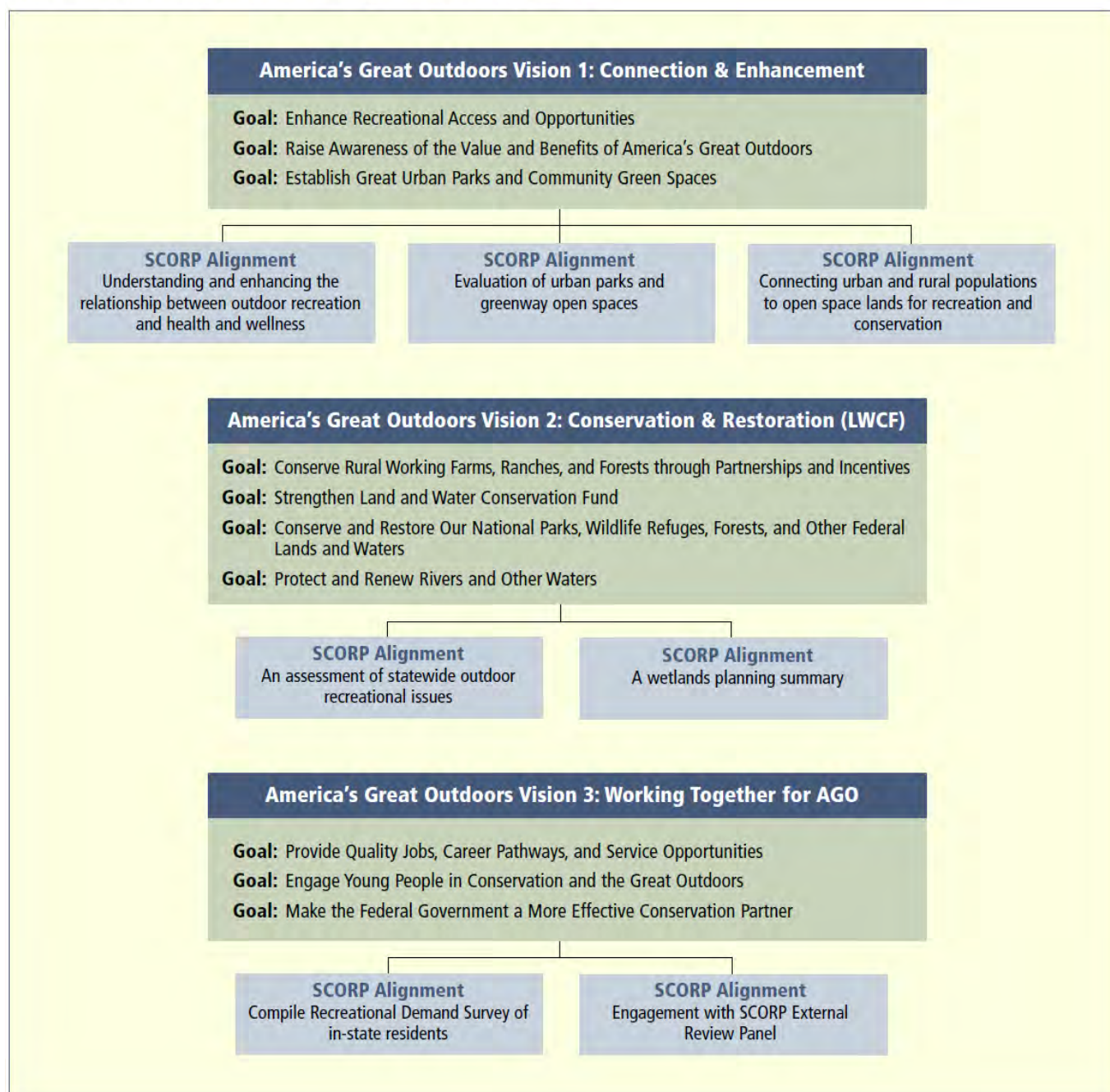
For the 2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP, the State not only met the requirements of the LWCF Act but also reflected on the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, launched in 2010 by President Obama, for an approach that asks the American people to become partners in preserving and enhancing their conservation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

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

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

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

Figure 1-1: Outline of Wisconsin SCORP Alignment with AGO Visions



## **Chapter 2 – Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Uses and Trends**

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

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

The 2011 – 2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



## Fifteen Year Recreation Trends

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

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

<b>Table 2-7 Top Growth Wisconsin Recreation Activities 1994-2009 (Age 16+)</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>1994 Survey*</b>	<b>2009 Survey*</b>	<b>Number of Participants (1,000s)</b>
Soccer outdoors	179.1	1,460.0	+ 1,280.9
View/photograph other wildlife	1,582.9	2,605.8	+ 1,022.9
Golf	888.8	1,882.3	+ 993.5
Handball or racquetball outdoors	96.8	1,058.3	+ 961.5
Walk for pleasure	2,988.0	3,946.9	+ 950.9
Attend outdoor sports events	1,995.2	2,923.5	+ 928.3
Bicycling	1,486.8	2,190.8	+ 704.0
Day hiking	949.0	1,652.8	+ 703.8
Running or jogging	803.8	1,446.8	+ 643.0
View/photograph birds	1,261.4	1,877.5	+ 616.1


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

<b>Table 2-8 Top Growth Wisconsin Recreation Activities by Percent 1994-2009 (Age 16+)</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>1994 Survey*</b>	<b>2009 Survey*</b>	<b>Percent Difference</b>
Handball or racquetball outdoors	96.8	1,058.3	+ 993.3%
Soccer outdoors	179.1	1,460.0	+ 715.2%
Kayaking	46.6	328.4	+ 604.7%
Surfing	10.3	44.5	+ 332%
Football	282.5	852.4	+ 201.7%
Horseback riding	139.3	389.9	+ 179.9%
Mountain/rock climbing	53.3	122.9	+ 130.6%
Use personal watercraft	131.9	293.7	+ 122.7%
Golf	888.8	1,882.3	+ 111.8%
Snowboarding	77.7	164.4	+ 111.6%

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

Table 2-9 considers the percentage changes in recreation participation rates, as well as industry forecasts and opinions from recreation professionals, to suggest which activities will be popular in the future. These observations are made for a five year period, and therefore reflect the most pressing demands on recreation in the immediate future.

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

<b>Increasing Demand</b>  	Adventure racing	Popular as both an individual and a group activity.
	Driving for pleasure	An easy activity for the aging baby boomer generation.
	Developed/RV camping	Baby boomers are a continued driving force for this growth.
	Kayaking	Cheaper entry points have attracted more participants.
	Visit a dog park	Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas.
	Soccer outdoors	Youth growth is still strong in urban areas.
	BMX biking	X Games popularity may be driving this growth.
	Climbing	Indoor climbing walls have led to an outdoor resurgence.
	Stand up paddling/paddleboarding	A fast growing water sport sweeping the country.
	Triathlon (on- and off-road)	Varying distance events have allowed for growth.
	Off-highway vehicle driving	Post recession growth continues.
	Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	The "grow local" concept is taking hold at many levels.
<b>Stable Demand</b>  	Walk for pleasure	Market saturation does not allow for large growth.
	Running or jogging	Gen Y is replacing the baby boomers for this activity.
	Water parks	Recession may have caused this growth to slow.
	Motorboating	Still easy access in a water-based state.
	Day hiking	Popular with many generations.
	Golf	Time constraints do not allow for growth.
	Tent camping	Continues to be stable, but growth is illusive.
	Snowboarding	May have peaked after 20 years of growth.
	Trail running	A stable niche activity with Gen Y.
	View/photograph wildlife	An easy activity that spans generations.
	Bicycling (road and non-paved)	Popular with many generations – access is still key.
	Snowshoeing	After large growth, this has stabilized.
<b>Decreasing Demand</b>  	Hunting	Continues to struggle with generational loss and private access.
	Inline skating	A large decrease in the last six years, the bottom may be near.
	Skateboarding/skate parks	Gen M is free-skating with longboards.
	Horseback riding on trails	Recession impacts have caused this to decrease with no rebound.
	Softball	Baby boomers continue to leave this sport.
	Downhill skiing	Gen Y does not have the numbers to replace aging baby boomers.

## **Chapter 3 – Outdoor Recreation and Public Health.**

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

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

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

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

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

Table 3-1 Recreation Intensities by Appropriate Facility Type

Facility	Activity	MET
Water – Lakes, streams, fishery areas, boat launches, marinas, piers, trout streams, waterfalls, whitewater rafting rivers	Canoeing	7
	Rowing	7
	Scuba diving	7
	Ice skating outdoors	7
	Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	6
	Waterskiing	6
	Rafting	5
	Snorkeling	5
	Kayaking	5
	Fishing, general, warm water	3
	Sailing	3
	Windsurfing	3
	Surfing	3
	Boating, power boat	2.5
	Ice fishing	2
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Visit a waterside	2
	Sightseeing	2
	Boat tours or excursions	2
	Family gathering	1.5
	Picnicking	1.5
Beaches, shoreline	Volleyball, outdoors	8
	Walking for pleasure	3.5
	Fishing, general, warm water	3
	Camping	2.5
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Visit a waterside	2
	Sightseeing	2
	Family gathering	1.5
	Picnicking	1.5
Forested land (state parks or natural areas, forest reserves, trust lands, wildlife and wilderness areas)	Rock climbing	9.5
	Orienteering	9
	Mountain biking	8.5
	Mountain climbing	8
	Skiing, cross-country	8
	Snowshoeing	8
	Backpacking	7
	Dog sledding	7
	Hiking, general	6
	Walking for pleasure	3.5
	Geocaching	3.3
	Camping	2.5
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Visit a wilderness or primitive area	2
	Sightseeing	2
	Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	2
	Family gathering	1.5
	Picnicking	1.5

Facility	Activity	MET
Ski hills	Snowshoeing	8
	Sledding	7
	Skiing, downhill	6
	Snowboarding	6
Local parks, parkland	Inline skating	12.5
	Running	9
	Handball outdoors	8
	Bicycling	8
	Volleyball, outdoors	8
	Football	8
	Sledding	7
	Tennis	7
	Racquetball	7
	Soccer	7
	Hiking, general	6
	Basketball	6
	Skateboarding	5
	Softball, or Baseball	5
	Walking for pleasure	3.5
	Disc golf	3
	Visit a dog park to walk a pet	3
	Yard games, e.g., horseshoes	2.5
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Family gathering	1.5
	Picnicking	1.5
	Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	1.5
	Attend outdoor sports events	1.5
Trails – single- or multi-use	Inline skating	12.5
	Running	9
	Mountain biking	8.5
	Bicycling	8
	Cross-country skiing	8
	Snowshoeing	8
	Backpacking	7
	Dog sledding	7
	Hiking, general	6
	Horseback riding	4
	Walking for pleasure	3.5
	Snowmobiling	3.5
	Off-road motorcycling	2.5
	Off-road driving with an ATV	2.5
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Sightseeing	2
Trails – snow	Snowshoeing	8
	Skiing, cross-country	8
	Dog sledding	7
	Snowmobiling	3.5
	Off-road driving with an ATV	2.5

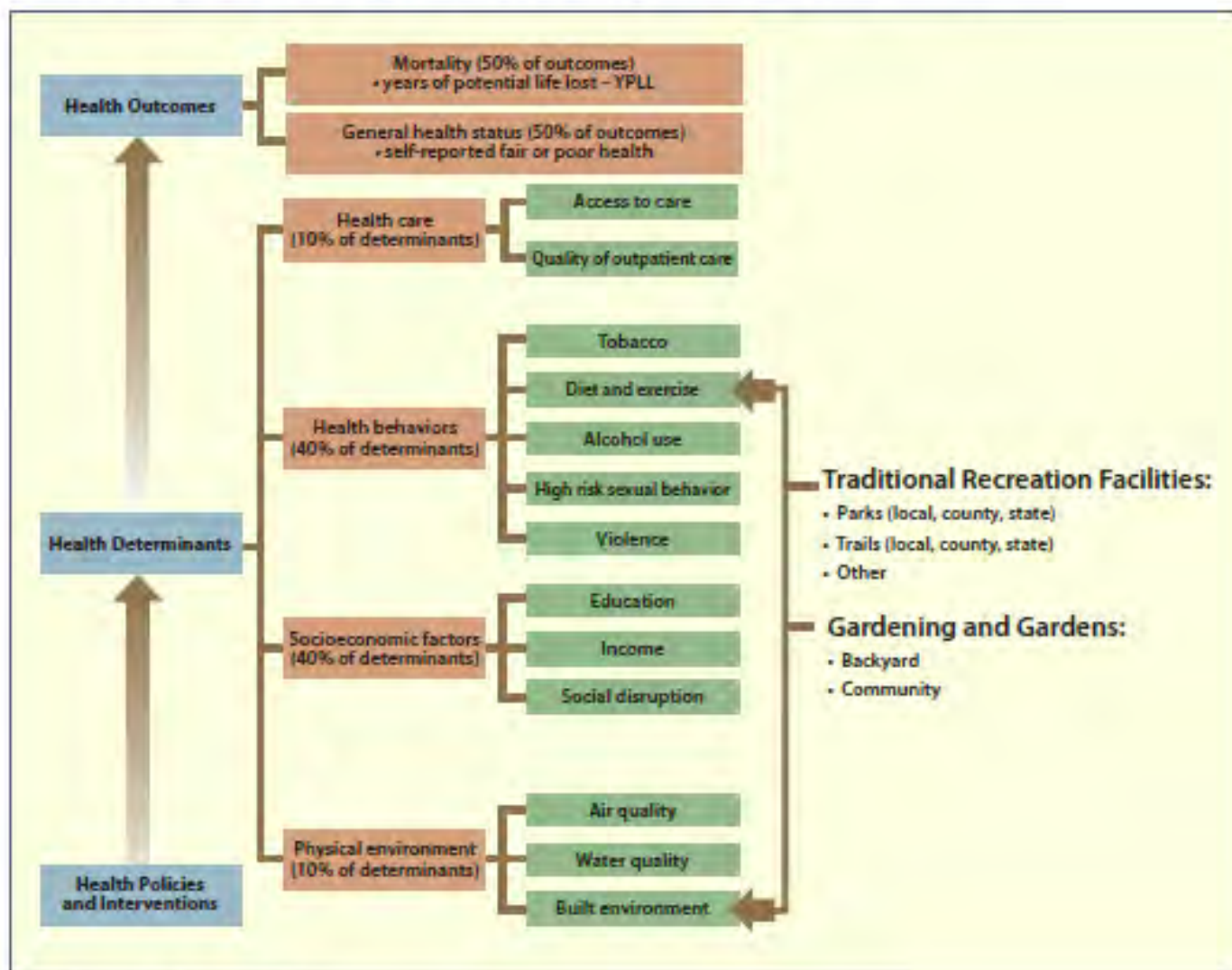
Table 3-1 Recreation Intensities by Appropriate Facility Type (continued)

Facility	Activity	MET
Sports facilities - indoor and outdoor	Football	8
	Volleyball	8
	Handball	7.5
	Soccer	7
	Tennis	7
	Paintball	6
	Basketball	6
	Baseball	5
	Softball	5
	Skateboarding	5
Outdoor ice rinks	Ice hockey outdoors	8
	Ice skating outdoors	7
Public hunting lands	Hunting, big game	6
	Hunting, migratory bird	6
	Hunting, small game	5
Golf courses, driving ranges, resorts, and country clubs	Golf	4.5
Horseback riding stables, facilities, trails	Horseback riding	4
Public outdoor swimming pools	Swimming in an outdoor pool	4
Disc golf courses	Disc golf	3
Dog parks	Visit a dog park to walk a pet	3
ATV parks	Off-road riding with an ATV	2.5
Shooting ranges (archery, guns, etc.)	Target shooting	2.5
Dirt bike/motocross tracks	Off-road motorcycling	2.5
Campgrounds	Camping	2.5
Arboretums	Running	9
	Bicycling	8
	Skiing, cross-country	8
	Snowshoeing	8
	Hiking, general	6
	Geocaching	3.3
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Driving for pleasure	2
	Visit nature centers	2
	Sightseeing	2
	Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	2
	Nature-based educational programs	2
Playgrounds	Basketball	6
	Yard games	2.5
	Picnicking	1.5

Facility	Activity	MET
Lighthouses	View/photograph scenery	2
	Visit historic sites	2
Nature centers	Visit nature centers	2
	Nature-based educational programs	2
Outdoor water/theme parks	Swimming, pool	4
	Visit outdoor theme/water park	2
Zoos	Walking for pleasure	3.5
	View/photograph wildlife	2
	Nature-based educational programs	2
	Visit nature centers	2
Caves	Visiting a cave	2
	View/photograph scenery and wildlife	2
	Visit prehistoric/archeological sites	2

Improving public health outcomes through policy requires an understanding of health determinants (the factors that affect public health and wellness). These determinants include health care, health behaviors, socioeconomic factors, and the physical environment. Health determinants are in turn associated with a variety of behavioral, demographic, and environmental attributes as summarized in Figure 3-2.

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



Source: Adapted from Peppard et al. 2008.

## **Gardening: The Winning Combination of Outdoor Recreation and Public Health Benefits**

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

Gardening activities can be divided into two categories:

1. backyard and
2. community.

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

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

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

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

### **Chapter Summary**

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

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

**Water** – The DNR should fund and support improved access to lakes, streams, and other bodies of water, as well as facilities that cater to these activities (such as piers, boat launches, rental facilities, etc.). Wisconsin is home to countless lakes and streams, and it is important to ensure access to these amenities.

**Snow** – Non-motorized snow sports were generally ranked as moderate to high intensity and are therefore beneficial to health. Motorized uses, while more popular, have fewer health benefits. Trails should be separated between these two usage types, with certain trails designated for non-motorized uses only. This will make users feel safe and help to increase participation.

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

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

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

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

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



## **Chapter 4 – Access to Outdoor Recreation in Urban Wisconsin.**

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

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

### **Theme Overview**

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

#### **THEME: The link between urban parks and public health**

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

#### **THEME: Standardized Metrics for Quality, Distance, and Size of Recreation Areas**

Standard metrics for the quality and distribution of urban parklands and greenway open spaces will need to be developed. (**NCWRPC Note:** The DNR already created size metrics in their "Park & Recreation Designs, and Recreation Supply Levels" classification system.)

#### **THEME: Classification of Facilities and Activities**

Just as standardized guidelines for urban recreational facilities will help guide future research and development, so too will a classification scheme for types of facilities and recreational activities. The National Parks and Recreation Association has created a park hierarchy (e.g. mini, neighborhood, community, and special use parks), but other facilities may not fit into these categories (e.g. trails and greenways, water trails, zoos, etc). There is no clear distinction between bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are considered recreational and those that provide transportation and access functions. As new classification systems are developed, it will be important to incorporate new and emerging

recreation activities. Numerous articles allude to new trends in parks. Rooftop gardens and repurposed brownfields are becoming prime locations for outdoor recreational space in cities. For example, Brooklyn's High Line trail was created on an abandoned elevated railroad bed; and a tot park in Wausau was created by razing a factory, but keeping the brick chimney as a focal point. These recent trends of non-traditional facility locations and the rise in popular activities like adventure recreation may require innovative or more nuanced classification schemes.

#### **THEME: Accommodating Various Demographic Groups**

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

#### **THEME: The Importance of Safety**

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

#### **THEME: Aesthetic Appeal and Placement**

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

#### **THEME: Financing Urban Parks and Greenways**

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

### **Urban Park and Trail Accessibility**

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

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

Park and trail accessibility can be measured by the percentage of residents that live within walking

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

## Focus Groups and Expert Observations

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

- Lack of real and perceived safety from crime and traffic.
  - Create safe spaces by bringing traffic to the park and altering park design so there are no hidden places.
  - Bring foot traffic by offering programming and versatile spaces.
  - Install traffic calming structures on area streets and crosswalks and reduce speed limits.
- Lack of desired facilities and necessary amenities.
  - Create versatile facilities like multipurpose fields and provide basic amenities including unlocked bathrooms and drinking fountains.
  - Rehabilitate or tear down blighted or unsafe infrastructure.
- Lack of connectivity.
  - Increase park connectivity with surrounding communities and other parks via greenways and bike paths.
- Lack of programming.
  - Create programming including walking clubs, which are very popular in urban areas, using neighborhood partnerships.

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

## Implementation Strategies

The following implementation strategies have been developed in response to the data presented in this chapter. Adjust these strategies to best meet the goals of individual park systems.

### ***Small Parks, Connectivity, and Conservancy Land***

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

### ***Programs, Specialized Facilities, and Versatile Facilities***

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

### ***Partnerships: Public-Public and Public-Private***

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

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

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

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

Recreation lands and facilities are provided by two major groups in Wisconsin – governments and private landowners. The largest public land category is county parks and forests, accounting for 42.7% of all public lands. For private lands, the largest category is open managed forest lands, accounting for 31.8% or over 1.1 million acres.

**Federal** recreation providers in Wisconsin include:

- National Park Service (examples: Apostle Islands, and National Ice Age Trail)
- Fish and Wildlife Service (example: Necedah National Wildlife Refuge)
- Bureau of Land Management (*NCWRPC Note: none in Wisconsin*)
- Forest Service (example: Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (example: Blackhawk “campground” Park, Mississippi River)

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

**State** recreation resources mimic the federal government, but all exist under one entity – the **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**.

- WDNR fisheries
- Natural Areas
- State Forests
- State Parks
- Wildlife Areas
- Wild Rivers
- Other lands

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

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

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

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

### **County Parks and Forests**

All Wisconsin counties have county parks, but not all have county forest land. State legislation requires enrollment of county forest land under the Wisconsin County Forest Law to be open to hunting, camping, hiking, and bird watching. With the exception of a few sensitive areas, there are no lands enrolled under the County Forests Law that are closed to the public. These county forests

provide more than 1,200 campsites and thousand miles of hiking, skiing, and snowmobile trails, as well as public access to hundreds of lakes and streams.

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

### **Wisconsin Stewardship Program**

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

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

### **Land and Water Conservation Program**

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

### **School Forests (NCWRPC added.)**

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

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

Wisconsin school forest statistics (2012)

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

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

## **Private Recreation Providers**

### **Managed Forest Law**

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

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

### **State and Federal Forest Legacy Program**

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

### **Voluntary Public Access Program**

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

### **Land Trusts**

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

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

The topics missed include:

- Collaborative Approaches to Support and Improve Outdoor Recreation Landscapes
- Collaborative Approaches to Support Outdoor Recreation
- Coordinated Funding and Grants for Outdoor Recreation
- The Role of Education in Aid of Outdoor Recreation

## **Chapter 6 – Wisconsin SCORP Outdoor Recreation Goals and Actions.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Actions and Recommendations**

1. Understand the recreation and tourism preferences associated with growing market segments.



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

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

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

### **Actions and Recommendations**

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

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

As recreation continues to place demands on public lands and waters, the lack of public access to these areas has become an increasing concern for many state citizens. In some cases this perception is true; more water/boating access is needed in certain portions of the state. In many cases, however,

public access to recreation resources does exist, but the public is simply not aware of it. Improved and easily accessible maps and signage would aid the public in locating these access points.

#### **Actions and Recommendations**

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

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

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

#### **Actions and Recommendations**

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

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

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

### **Actions and Recommendations**

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

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

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

### **Actions and Recommendations**

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

## **Goal 7: Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces**

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

### **Actions and Recommendations**

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

## **ATTACHMENT E**

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### **DNR Forest Transition Ecological Landscape Summary**

**Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan (2005-2015)**  
**Priority Conservation Actions & Conservation Opportunity Areas**

**FOREST TRANSITION ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE**

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<b>HIGH PRIORITY SGCN AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PRIORITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
LARGE BLOCKS OF PREDOMINATELY OLDER NORTHERN FOREST – UPPER MIDWEST/REGNL SIGNIFICANCE ...	2
MEDIUM-SIZED RIVERS AND STREAMS – UPPER MIDWEST/REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE .....	2
EXTENSIVE GRASSLAND COMMUNITIES – STATE SIGNIFICANCE .....	3
DIVERSE AQUATIC COMMUNITIES – STATE SIGNIFICANCE .....	3

**HIGH PRIORITY SGCN AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES**

- |                          |                       |                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| ➤ American Golden Plover | ➤ Black Redhorse      | ➤ Impoundments/Reservoirs |
| ➤ Bobolink               | ➤ Redside Dace        | ➤ Northern Mesic Forest   |
| ➤ Dunlin                 |                       | ➤ Surrogate Grasslands    |
| ➤ Solitary Sandpiper     | ➤ Eastern Red Bat     | ➤ Warmwater Rivers        |
| ➤ Trumpeter Swan         | ➤ West Virginia White |                           |
| ➤ Wilson's Phalarope     |                       |                           |

**PRIORITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS**

- Maintain the largest blocks of northern mesic and oak forest, especially in the identified Conservation Opportunity Areas.
- Increase connectivity of forest patches, especially in the identified conservation opportunity areas.
- Encourage regeneration and reestablishment of eastern hemlock, Canada yew, white cedar, other conifers and yellow birch, where appropriate through adaptive management techniques.
- Work towards a balance of age classes, especially in the oak conservation opportunity area.
- Research Eastern Red Bat life history, including roosting and foraging habitat, population dynamics, trends, migration, and dispersal patterns.
- Identify and protect refuge areas, and restore coolwater stream Conservation Opportunity Areas to conserve Redside Dace.
- This landscape has an especially important role for managing shorebird habitat at the Big Eau Pleine Flowage and other flowages and impoundments. Through dams and dikes, water levels can be raised to flood these areas, and through water control structures, water levels can be manipulated to benefit shorebirds. Migration phenology and specific habitat requirements must be considered when managing for shorebirds.

**Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan (2005-2015)**  
**Priority Conservation Actions & Conservation Opportunity Areas**

**FOREST TRANSITION ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE**

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## **CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREAS**

### **Large Blocks of Predominately Older Northern Forest – Upper Midwest/Regional Significance**

Includes the Lakewood District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and features Northern Mesic Forest, Northern Wet-mesic Forest, Northern Wet Forest, Northern Dry-mesic Forest, Alder Thicket, and Inland Lakes, especially marl.

**COA(s):** Menominee Forest (16.01)

SGCN – Four-toed Salamander, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, Bald Eagle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Canada Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Veery, Wood Thrush, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Northern Flying Squirrel, Silver-haired Bat, Water Shrew and Woodland Jumping Mouse, and West Virginia White.

Public Land – Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Upper Wolf Fishery Area, Evergreen River Fishery Area, Lakewood Rearing Station, Woods Flowage Fishery Area, Statewide Spring Ponds.

Legacy Places – Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Upper Wolf River, Menominee County, Red River.

Important Bird Areas – Menominee Forest.

Features complexes of oak forest and lakes in the northwest – Northern Mesic Forest, Northern Dry-mesic Forest, Southern Dry-mesic Forest, Northern Wet Forest, and Inland Lakes.

**COA(s):** Straight Lake (16.03)

SGCN – Four-toed Salamander, Wood Turtle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Goshawk, Least Flycatcher, Red-shouldered Hawk, Trumpeter Swan, Veery, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Northern Flying Squirrel, and Woodland Jumping Mouse.

Public Land – Balsam Branch Wildlife Area, Clam River Fishery Area, Loon Lake Wildlife Area, McKenzie Creek Wildlife Area, Rice Beds Creek Wildlife Area, Scattered Forest Lands, Sand Creek Fishery Area, Straight Lake Recreation Area.

Legacy Places – Clam River, Balsam Branch Creek and Woodlands, Straight River Channel.

Important Bird Areas – Straight Lake.

### **Medium-sized Rivers and Streams – Upper Midwest/Regional Significance**

Feature Warmwater Rivers, Floodplain Forest, Coldwater/Coolwater streams including stream side communities and Alder Thicket

**COA(s):** Lower St. Croix River [part continental] (A.46); Rib and Little Rib Systems (A.26); Wisconsin River, middle (A.20); Little Wolf River (A.07); Wolf River (A.05)

SGCN – Redside Dace, Greater Redhorse, Lake Sturgeon, Black Redhorse, Redfin Shiner, Four-toed Salamander, Mudpuppy, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, American Golden Plover, Black Tern, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, Dunlin, Forster's Tern, Lesser Scaup, Osprey, Short-billed Dowitcher, Solitary Sandpiper, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Water Shrew, Spectacle Case, Purple Wartyback, Butterfly, Elephant Ear, Snuffbox, Higgin's-Eye, Pink Papershell, Winged Mapleleaf, Monkeyface, Wartyback, Salamander Mussel, Buckhorn, Fawnsfoot, Lancet Clubtail, Pygmy Snaketail, St. Croix Snaketail, Armored Mayflies, Small Square-gilled Mayfly, Flat-headed Mayflies, Primitive Minnow Mayflies, Dubirhopia Riffle Beetles, Riffle Beetles, and Water Measurers.

**Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan (2005-2015)**  
**Priority Conservation Actions & Conservation Opportunity Areas**

**FOREST TRANSITION ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE**

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Public Lands – Upper Wolf Fisheries Area, Langlade County Forest, Marathon County Forest, St. Croix National Scenic River.

Important Bird Areas – St. Croix River.

**Extensive Grassland Communities – State Significance**

Features managed Surrogate Grassland, Impoundments and Northern Mesic Forest.

**COA(s):** Mead (16.02)

SGCN – American Golden Plover, Blue-winged Teal, Bobolink, Brown Thrasher, Dickcissel, Dunlin, Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Henslow's Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Short-billed Dowitcher, Short-eared Owl, Upland Sandpiper, Western Meadowlark, Willow Flycatcher, Regal Fritillary, and Ottoe Skipper.

Public Land – Mead Wildlife Area, Big Eau Pleine Park, Central Wisconsin Grassland Wildlife Area.

Legacy Places – Central Wisconsin Grassland.

Important Bird Areas – George W. Mead Wildlife Area.

**Diverse Aquatic Communities – State Significance**

Features Coldwater/Coolwater Streams including streamside communities Northern Wet-Mesic Forest, and Alder Thicket.

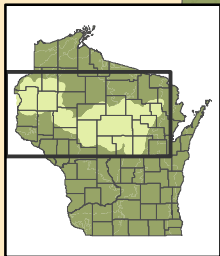
**COA(s):** Plover River (A.25)

SGCN – Redside Dace, Four-toed Salamander, Pickerel Frog, Wood Turtle, Osprey, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Water Shrew, Lancet Clubtail and Sand Snaketail.

Public Lands – Plover River Fisheries Area.

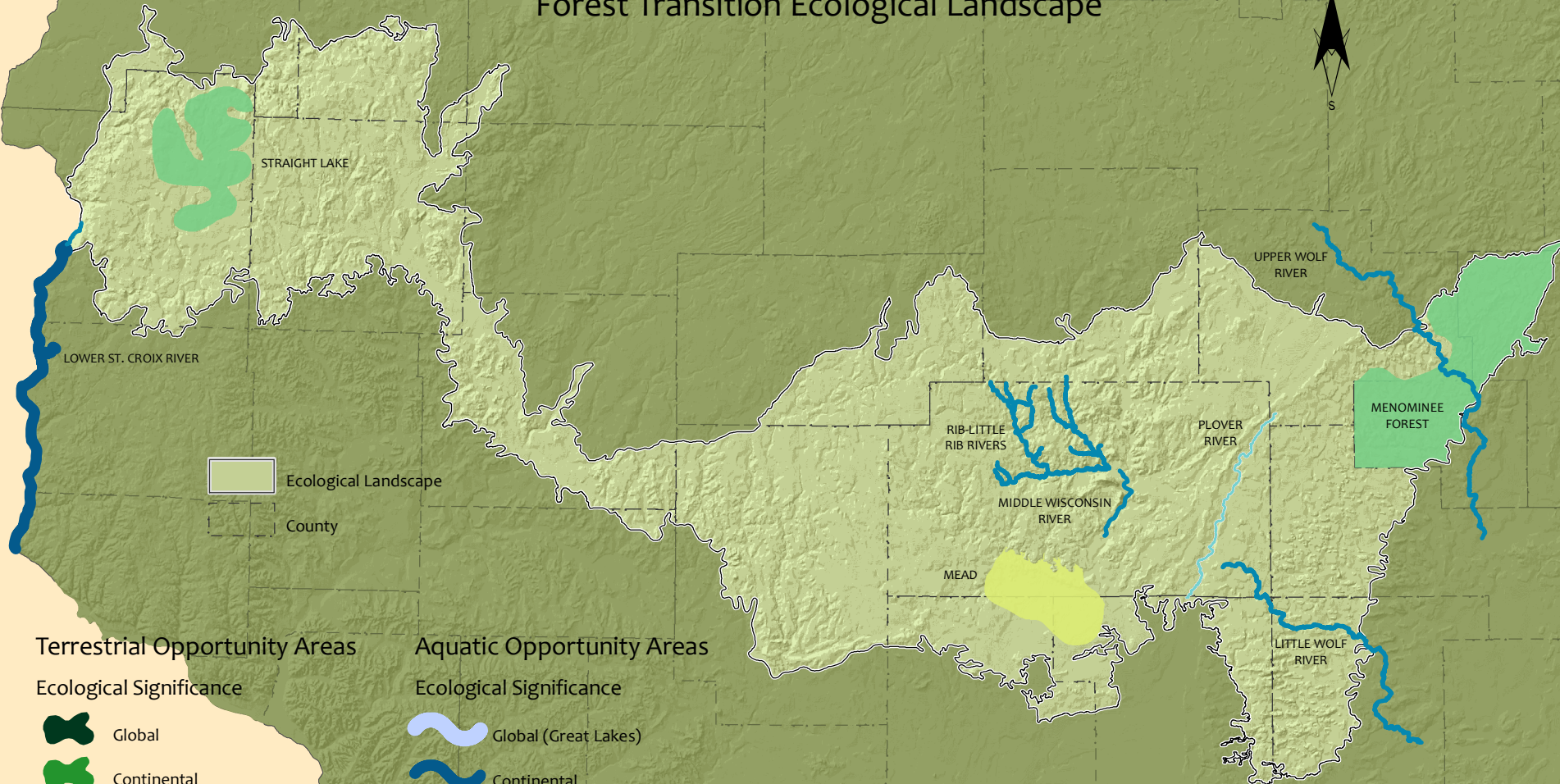
Legacy Places – Plover River.





# Wisconsin's Priority Conservation Opportunity Areas for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need 2008-2015

## Forest Transition Ecological Landscape



### Terrestrial Opportunity Areas

#### Ecological Significance

- Global
- Continental
- Upper Midwest
- State

### Aquatic Opportunity Areas

#### Ecological Significance

- Global (Great Lakes)
- Continental
- Upper Midwest
- State



## **ATTACHMENT F**

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### **Bike and Pedestrian Implementation Table**

From: Wausau MPO's 2009 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

## Bike & Ped Implementation Table For Rothschild

Amendment Process – The *Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* is a staged, multi-year, multimodal program of transportation projects developed to create and enhance the bicycling and walking network in the Wausau area. The *Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* was developed by the Wausau MPO through its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and its Bicycle and Pedestrian Sub-committee.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan should be reviewed in its entirety with a full update every 5 years. The updates should be done to utilize any statistical data that may be obtained from the decennial census. Amendments may be appropriate throughout the lifecycle of the plan, particularly if new issues emerge or trends change, due to new requirements and needs, the implementation of improvements, and the completion of more specific studies or plans in the metro area.

Complete Project By:	Street Name	Limits	Recommendation	Implementing Agency	Length (in feet)	Total Cost	Funding Opportunities
2013	Old Highway 51/Bus 51	Maple Ridge Rd to W Grand Ave	On-street striped bicycle accommodations & sign bicycle route	V Kronenwetter / V Rothschild / WisDOT	28,000	\$448,000	BPFP, RWJF, TE, SRTS, STP-Urban, Local
2013	W. Grand Ave.	Bus 51 to Bus 51	Sign bicycle route	Village or Rothschild/City of Schofield	16,000	\$16,000	BPFP, RWJF, TE, STP-Rural, Local
2018	Military Rd	Bus 51 to Charles St	Off-street path linking W & E Military Rd	Village of Rothschild	1,000	\$27,000	BPFP, RWJF, TE, Local
2018	Weston Ave	Alderson St to Bus. 51	On-street striped bicycle accommodations & sign bicycle route	Village of Rothschild	8,800	\$140,800	BPFP, RWJF, TE, STP-Urban, Local
2018	Volkman St.	Military Rd to STH 29 overpass	On-street striped bicycle accommodations & sign bicycle route	Village of Rothschild	7,000	\$112,000	BPFP, RWJF, TE, STP-Urban, Local, SRTS
2018	Kort St/ Jelinek St	S Grand Ave/Park St to Birch St	On-street striped bicycle accommodations & sign bicycle route	Village of Rothschild/City of Schofield/V of Weston	5,700	\$91,200	BPFP, RWJF, TE, STP-Urban, Local, SRTS

## **ATTACHMENT G**

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### **Bicycle Parking Guidelines**

From: Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP)  
*One page summary sheet.*



## Bicycle Parking Guidelines

*A summary of recommendations from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals*

### 1) Bicycle Parking Space Size, Access Aisles, and Vertical Clearance

- Required bicycle parking spaces shall be at least 2 feet by 6 feet.
- An access aisle of at least 5 feet shall be provided in each bicycle parking facility.
- Such space shall have a vertical clearance of at least 6 feet.

### 2) Bicycle Rack Design

Structures that require a user-supplied locking device

- shall be designed to accommodate U-shaped locking devices.
- All lockers and racks must be securely anchored to the ground or the building structure to prevent the racks and lockers from being removed from the location.
- The surfacing of such facilities shall be designed and maintained to be mud and dust free.

### 3) Bicycle Rack Location on Site

- Bicycle parking facilities shall be located in a clearly designated safe and convenient location.
- The design and location of such facility shall be harmonious with the surrounding environment.
- The facility location shall be at least as convenient as the majority of auto parking spaces provided.

### Examples of Bicycle racks that do not meet the design requirements above:



Grid or Fence Style Racks



Wave or Ribbon Style racks



Racks that hold the bike by the wheel with no way to lock the frame and wheel to the rack with a U-lock



### Examples of Bicycle racks that do meet the design requirements above:



Madrax Spartan Rack



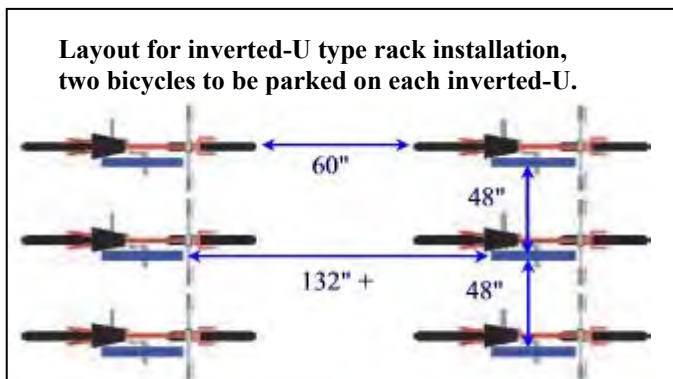
Madrax Sentry Rack



Dero Campus Rack



Saris City Rack



Inverted-U Type Racks



Dero Bike Hitch



Saris Post & Ring



Dero Swerve Rack

If you have questions about whether a particular bicycle parking rack you are considering using meets these requirements, please contact NCWRPC planner: Fred Heider, AICP at [fheider@ncwrpc.org](mailto:fheider@ncwrpc.org).

Layout created by City of Madison

## **ATTACHMENT H**

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### **Pavilion Park Capital Improvement Projects**

From: Rothschild's Pavilion Park Master Plan, 2013.



*Table 2: Pavilion Park Capital Improvement Projects*

	<i>Projects Recommended for the 2014-2020 CIP</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Budget Cost</i>	<i>Stewardship Eligible<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Potential Force Labor<sup>2</sup></i>
S1	Create a comprehensive designed, signage package	2014	\$ 1,000	Yes	Yes
S2	Add gateway/entry features at park entrances	2014	\$ 30,000	Yes	No
S3	Add pedestrian and bicycle directional signage	2014	\$ 3,375	Yes	Yes
S5	Add historical markers and signage	2014	\$ 7,000	Yes	Yes
F1	Remove the existing lion's shelter and surrounding access drives	2015	\$ 3,000	No	Yes
F2	Add (4) picnic shelters with electricity	2015	\$ 124,000	Yes	No
F3	Add (3) restroom facilities with drinking fountains	2015	\$ 195,000	Yes	No
F4	Provide bike racks	2015	\$ 2,100	Yes	Yes
F5	Provide picnic tables, grills, trash and recycling receptacles at designated picnic areas	2015	\$ 10,000	Yes	Yes
F6	Add benches in key locations of new trails	2015	\$ 7,000	Yes	Yes
F8	Enhance the parking lot by planting islands and stormwater management facilities	2015	\$ 4,000	No	Yes
F11	Add public market plaza and realign staircase below Pavilion	2015	\$ 400,000	No	No
F12	Add wharf and pier along the shoreline below the pavilion	2015	\$ 94,500	Yes	No
F13	Replace the existing bridge to the island with a 10 ton support arched bridge	2015	\$ 168,000	Yes	No
F14	Create a lawn amphitheater overlooking the Wisconsin River	2015	\$ 50,000	Yes	No
F17	Add an equipment storage facility to the existing well with service vehicle access	2015	\$ 12,500	No	No
F18	Add overlook with seating along shoreline near aquatic center	2015	\$ 3,000	Yes	No
F19	Add kayak/canoe launch	2015	\$ 3,500	Yes	No
F20	Add water hookup/hose to wash off boats at landing	2015	\$ 3,500	Yes	No
LM	Selectively thin out understory trees to allow for new trail and facilities, removal of hazardous trees, viewshed thinning	2015	\$ 15,000	Yes	Yes
LM	Invasion species removal	2015	\$ 5,000		
LM	Highway screening, shoreline restoration, slope stabilization through new plantings	2015	\$ 50,000	Yes	Yes
T1	Close trail sections that have erosion and accessibility issues and establish a comprehensive, ADA compliant trail system where possible (paved)	2019	\$ 200,000	Yes	No
T3	Connect the existing concrete sidewalk in front of St. Therese Church to the boat launch	2019	\$ 13,750	No	No
T4	Enhancing existing trail(s) on the island with a boardwalk	2019	\$ 160,000	Yes	No
T5	Add a boardwalk bridge over the wetland on the northern shore of the park.	2019	\$ 10,500	Yes	No
T7	Add painted crosswalks where any trail crosses a road, specifically along Park Street	2019	\$ 900	Yes	Yes
O1	Limit vehicle access to the island to service and handicap users. Provide (2) designated stalls for parking	2019	\$ 750	Yes	No
O2	Replace existing light fixtures and add additional lighting	2019	\$ 112,500	Yes	No
O3	Replace existing camera utility poles with a pole similar to selected light fixture pole	2019	\$ -	Yes	No
O5	Bury all electrical lines	2019	\$ 120,000	No	No
O6	Infuse park history through public art installations and naming shelters	2019	\$ 5,000	No	No
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 1,814,875</b>		

Notes: 1. Analysis is for the DNR Stewardship Grant - Acquisition and Development of Local Parks. Other grants may be able to pay for project costs. Eligibility does not guarantee funding

2. Includes assumptions regarding Village Staff's ability to provide labor for projects, the cost of which (including fringe benefits) can be used as part of the Village's 50% match requirement



# PARK MASTER PLAN

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