

# Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan

## 2014-2018

Effective January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018



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

Projects also listed for some local governments within  
Oneida County.



Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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**May 2014**

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

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# ABSTRACT

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

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

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

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

DATE: May 2014

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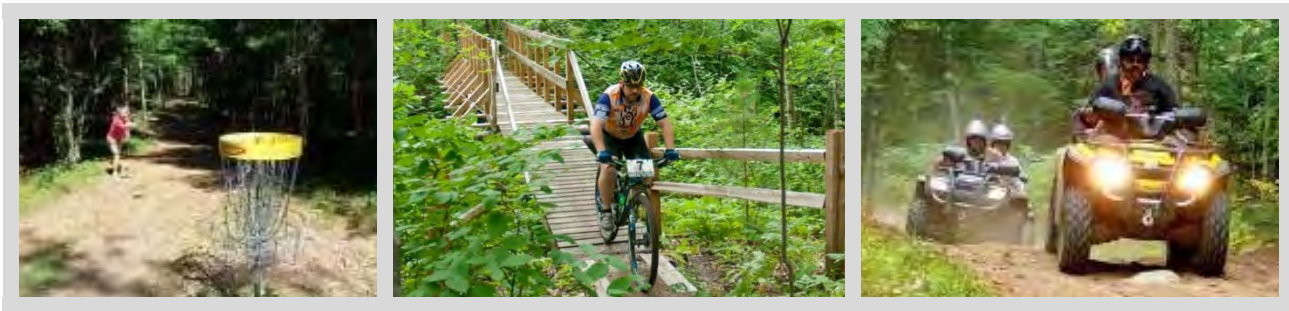
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- A. Park Design and Location Criteria
- B. Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016 Summary
- C. Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs
- D. Facility Development Standards
- E. Outdoor Recreation Survey and Summarized Results from Groups
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# Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION



## 1.1 PURPOSE

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

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

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

## 1.2 STATUTORY BASE

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

### 1.3 PLAN COMPONENTS

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

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

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

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

### 1.4 PAST PLANS

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

#### ***Oneida County Countywide Biking & Walking Routes & Trails Plan***

In 2002 (updated in 2010), Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council developed this bike route plan with assistance from NCWRPC. This

plan established a number of scenic, on-road bike routes throughout the County.

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

### ***Oneida County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan***

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

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

### ***Oneida County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2012-2016***

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

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

#### Goal 1: Slow the spread of invasive species.

Obj. B, Action 1: Distribute educational materials about non-native terrestrial invasive species to the public.

**Obj. B, Action 5:** Encourage use of BMPs for preventing the spread of invasive species by outdoor recreation.

#### Goal 7: Improve forest silviculture for multiple uses.

**Obj. C, Action 1:** Assist clubs by providing educational materials for users.

### ***North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan***

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

Facilities along the new STH 17 route around Rhinelander will link with other existing and proposed routes in the City of Rhinelander to serve a number of bicyclists traveling to and from shopping areas, the YMCA, or the hospital. The proposed Rhinelander–Crandon trail is a multiuse trail



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

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

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

This document shows a clear vision of how preserving and improving recreation opportunities in Wisconsin fits within a broader national initiative of conservation and recreation.

A summary of this SCORP is in Attachment B.

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

This 2001 document (revised in 2003) clarifies the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) role and strategy in the provision of all types of trails. The plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors that would link existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. This statewide network of interconnected trails would be owned and maintained by municipalities, private entities, and partnerships of the two. Preserving

transportation corridors, such as old rail lines, is specifically discussed as a very important strategy in the creation of recreational and alternative transportation corridors. These trails are shown on Map 2.

#### Segment 15—Ashland to Rhinelander

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

#### Segment 19—Langlade Co to Michigan

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

#### Segment 68—Rhinelander to Three Lakes

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

#### Segment 69—Tomahawk to Crandon

This abandoned corridor would link these two communities by an off-road connector. This corridor intersects the Langlade County to Michigan corridor at Pelican Lake and links the Argonne to Shawano corridor in the east with the Tomahawk to Wausau corridor in the west. **NCWRPC Note:** *Cannot find the rail corridor that supposedly makes up this segment.*

## **2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CN** Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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

**MF** Monico Forest

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

**NA** Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest

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

**SO** Somo River

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

**SQ** Squirrel and Tomahawk Rivers

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

**TM** Thunder Marsh

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

**UW** Upper Wisconsin River

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

**UP** Upper Wolf River

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

**WF** Willow Flowage

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

# Chapter 2 DESCRIPTION OF ONEIDA COUNTY



## 2.1 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### Introduction

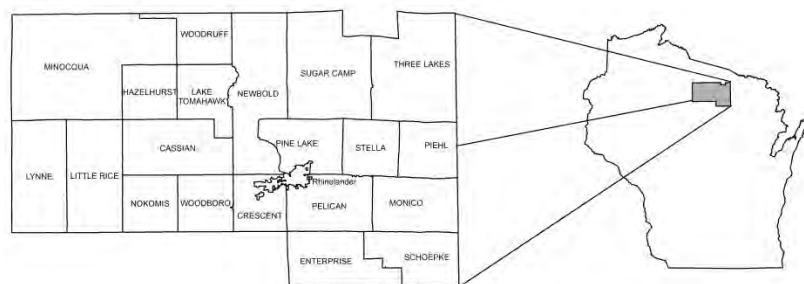
This section describes the physical features that make up Oneida County. Recreation planners use this kind of data to determine which resources to develop and which resources to protect or preserve.

### Geography

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

Figure 1

Oneida County



## **Topography**

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

## **Surface Water**

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

## **Groundwater**

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

## **Soils**

The soils of Oneida County are primarily comprised of eroded glacial deposits. Considerable variation occurs in soil types over short distances partly due to

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

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

## **Climate**

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

## 2.2 SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

### **Introduction**

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

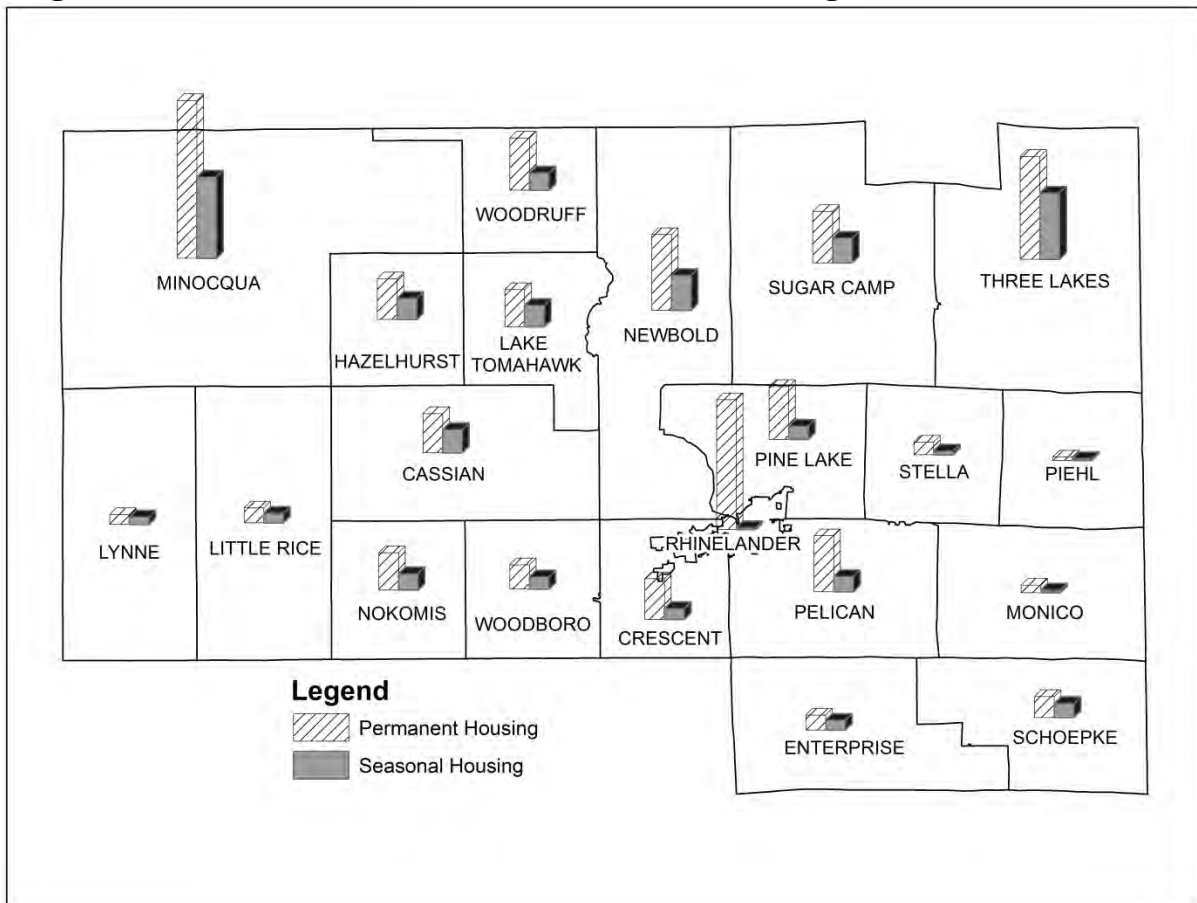
Matching social characteristics from this section with different recreation demands as shown in SCORP Chapter 2, will start to reinforce what recreational facilities to provide.

## Population & Housing

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

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

Figure 2 Permanent and Seasonal Housing, 2010



Source: 2010 U.S. Census



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

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

<b>Table 1</b>		<b>Oneida County Population Projections</b>		
Year	2010	2015	2020	
Population	35,998	40,003	41,029	

Source: U.S. Census, and WDOA

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

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

From 2000 to 2010 the population of the 17 and younger group declined from 23.3 percent to about 18.4 percent of Oneida County's population. This age group decreased in all but one town – Woodboro. Overall, Persons 17 and younger decreased by 1,563 persons over the decade.

Figure 3 Oneida County 2010 Population Pyramid

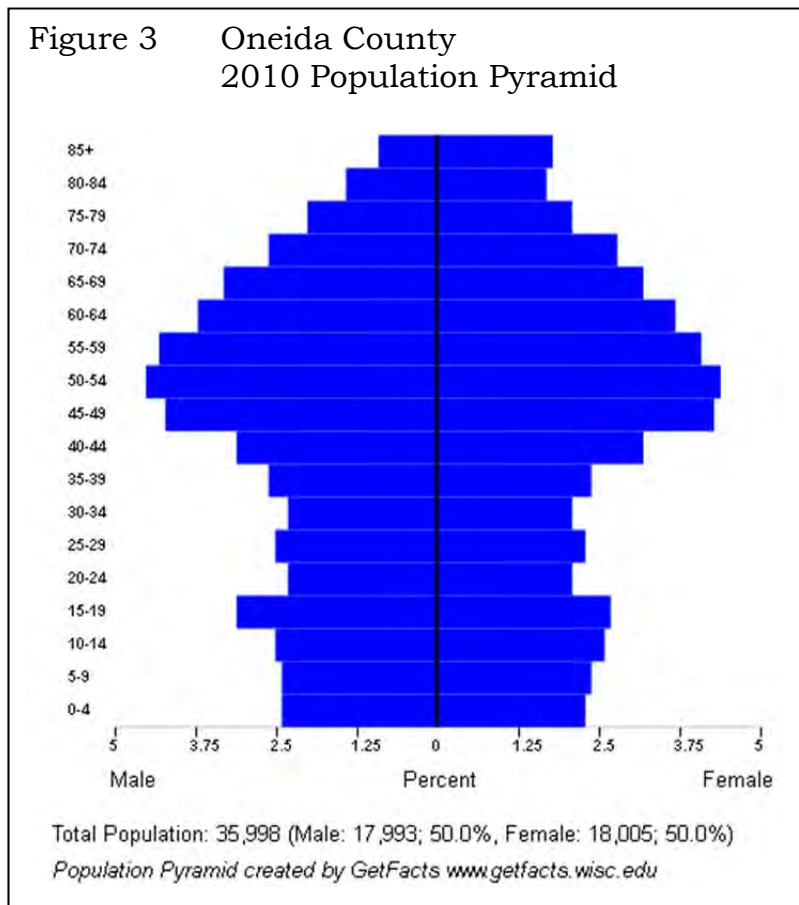


Table 2 shows some basic demographic changes in Oneida County’s population over roughly the last decade. Population is declining, and there are fewer young people. Slightly more ethnic diversity now exists, with White (non-Hispanic) persons continuing to make up over 95% of the population. The amount of residents who have a high school diploma has increased dramatically (over 7%), and there has been a slight increase in the number of residents with bachelor’s degrees or higher too. About 3,500 more housing units (houses and apartments) have been built. The median household income has risen, but not as fast as inflation (per the Bureau of Labor Statistics calculator).

**Table 2: Oneida County’s Quick Demographics**

	2000 Census	2012
Population	36,776	35,714
Persons under 5 years	4.7%	4.5%
Persons under 18 years	18.4%	17.6%
Persons 65 years and over	21.7%	22.8%
Female persons	50.2%	50.1%
White persons (not Hispanic)	97.7%	96.7%
Black persons	0.3%	0.5%
American Indian persons	0.7%	1.0%
Asian persons	0.3%	0.5%
Hispanic or Latino persons	0.7%	1.2%
High school graduates or higher*	85.1%	92.5%
Bachelor’s degree or higher*	20.0%	21.0%
Housing units	26,627	30,125
Average household size	2.34	2.21
Median household income	\$37,619	\$45,184

Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2010, & American Community Survey (ACS) 2007-2011

\*percentage of persons age 25 and over

## **Outdoor Recreation and Public Health**

The built environment plays an important role in our ability to affect public health and wellness. For example, parks, trails, and sports facilities are key local assets that allow for convenient, safe, and attractive places for people to participate in physical activities of all kinds. While public health and wellness are affected by a number of social, economic, and environmental determinants, there is increasing evidence that improving access to outdoor locations favorable for physical activity can act to lower obesity levels and improve health outcomes among target populations.

Recreation planning and park design have been shown to affect use; characteristics and specific features found in parks are important in fostering the use of these public spaces for physical activity. Features in trails and parks (playground equipment, sports facilities, etc.) have been shown to enhance that property's use for physical activity. Alternative forms of outdoor recreation have differing levels of physical activity as measured by metabolic rate (calories burned in a given period of exercise) standardized using relative metabolic intensity (MET). The MET of a variety of physical activities has been thoroughly documented within the sports medicine literature and includes both non-motorized and motorized forms of outdoor recreation. The exercise quality and happiness elements play a role in public health and wellness outcomes.

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

## **Outdoor Recreation and the Oneida County Economy**

Analysis by Timothy S. Brown, Oneida County UW Extension

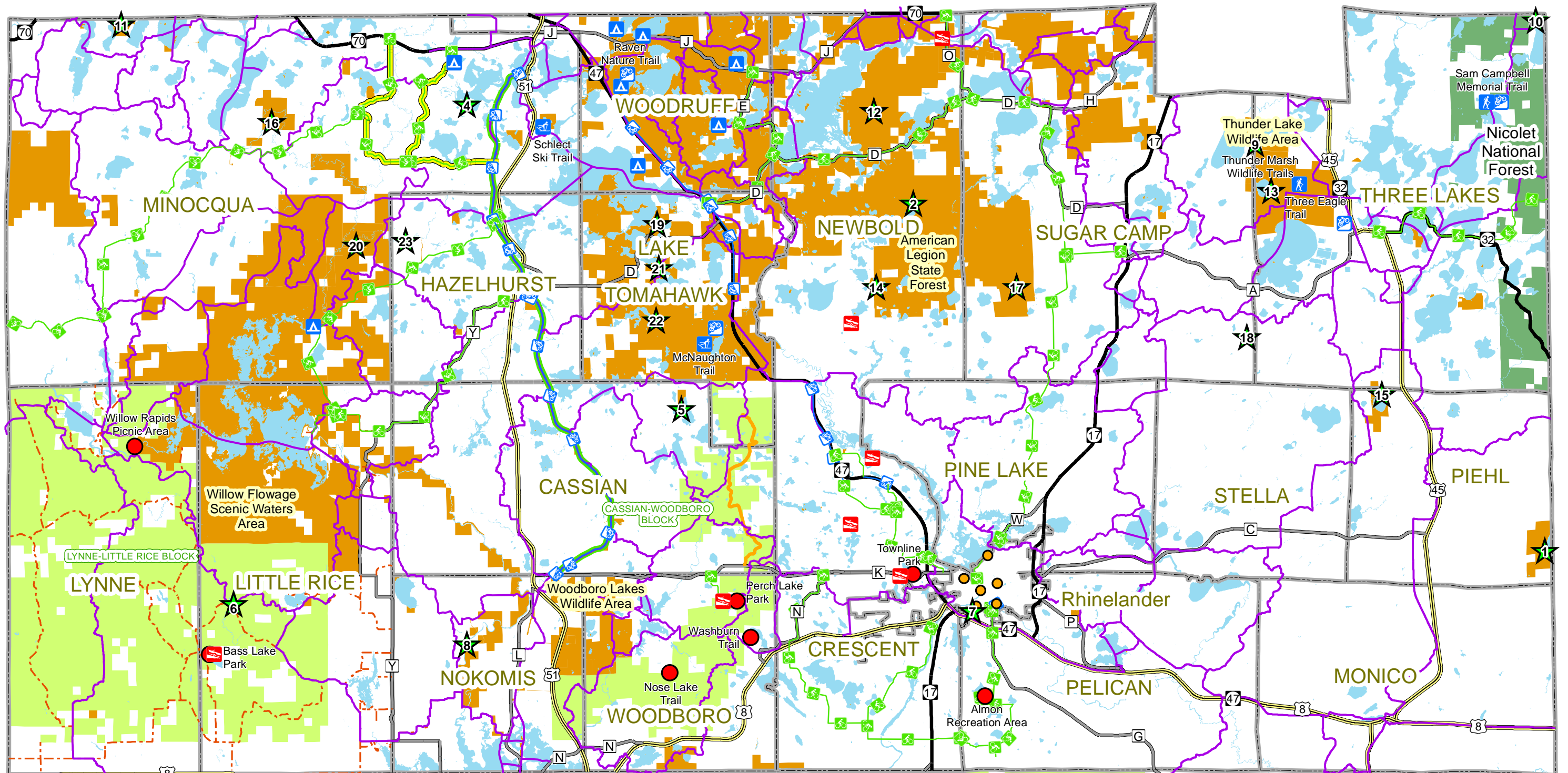
The Oneida County economy is diverse, being home to significant manufacturing and professional sectors. Outdoor recreation, though, is intimately connected with several sectors that are critical to the health of the local economy.

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

recreational activities. Indeed, outdoor recreation is the primary reason that vacationers are drawn to Oneida County in such large numbers.

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

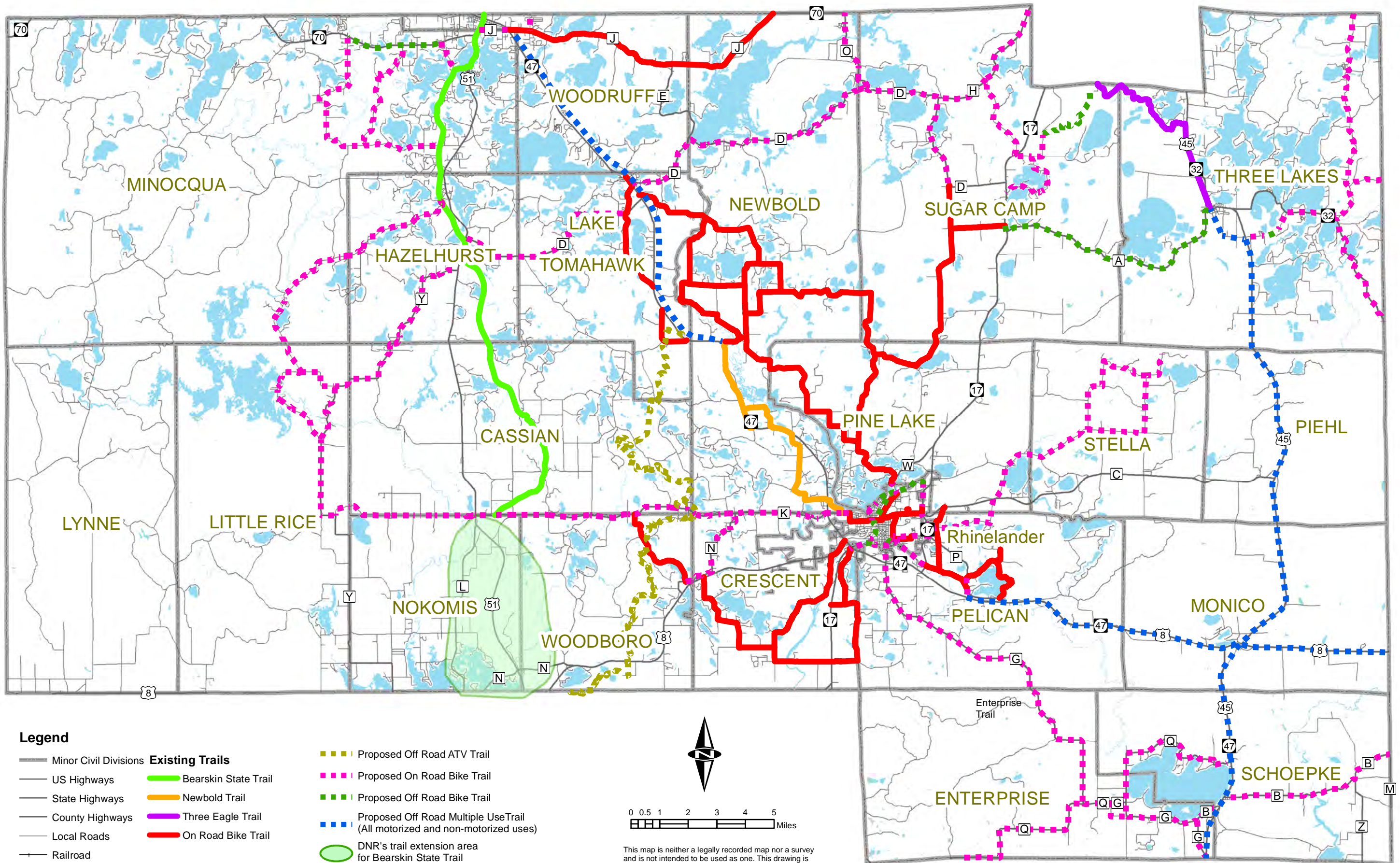
Given the combined importance of Tourism and Second Home Ownership to the Oneida County economy, it is reasonable to conclude that the quality and availability of outdoor recreational activities is of critical importance to the cultural and economic vitality of the county.



- Minor Civil Divisions
  - US Highways
  - State Highways
  - County Highways
  - Railroad
  - Water
  - Federal Land
  - State Land
  - County Forest
  - Lynne / Little Rice ATV Trail
  - Enterprise ATV Trail
  - Snowmobile Trail
  - Rustic Roads (WisDOT)
  - Existing - On Road Trails
  - Existing - Off Road Trails
  - Bearskin - Hiawatha State Trail
  - Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail
- Parks**
- City
  - County
  - County Boat Landing
  - State Campgrounds
  - XC Ski Trail
  - Mtn. Bike Trail
  - Hiking Trail
  - State Natural Areas

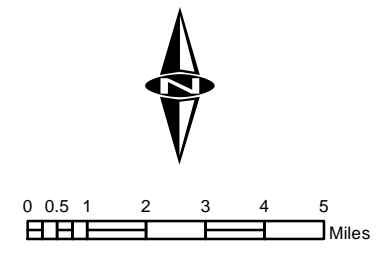
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Source: WI DNR, Oneida County, NCWRPC  
 Date Printed: 4/9/2014



**Legend**

- Minor Civil Divisions
  - US Highways
  - State Highways
  - County Highways
  - Local Roads
  - Railroad
  - Water
- Existing Trails**
- Bearskin State Trail
  - Newbold Trail
  - Three Eagle Trail
  - On Road Bike Trail
- Proposed Trails**
- Proposed Off Road ATV Trail
  - Proposed On Road Bike Trail
  - Proposed Off Road Bike Trail
  - Proposed Off Road Multiple Use Trail (All motorized and non-motorized uses)
  - DNR's trail extension area for Bearskin State Trail



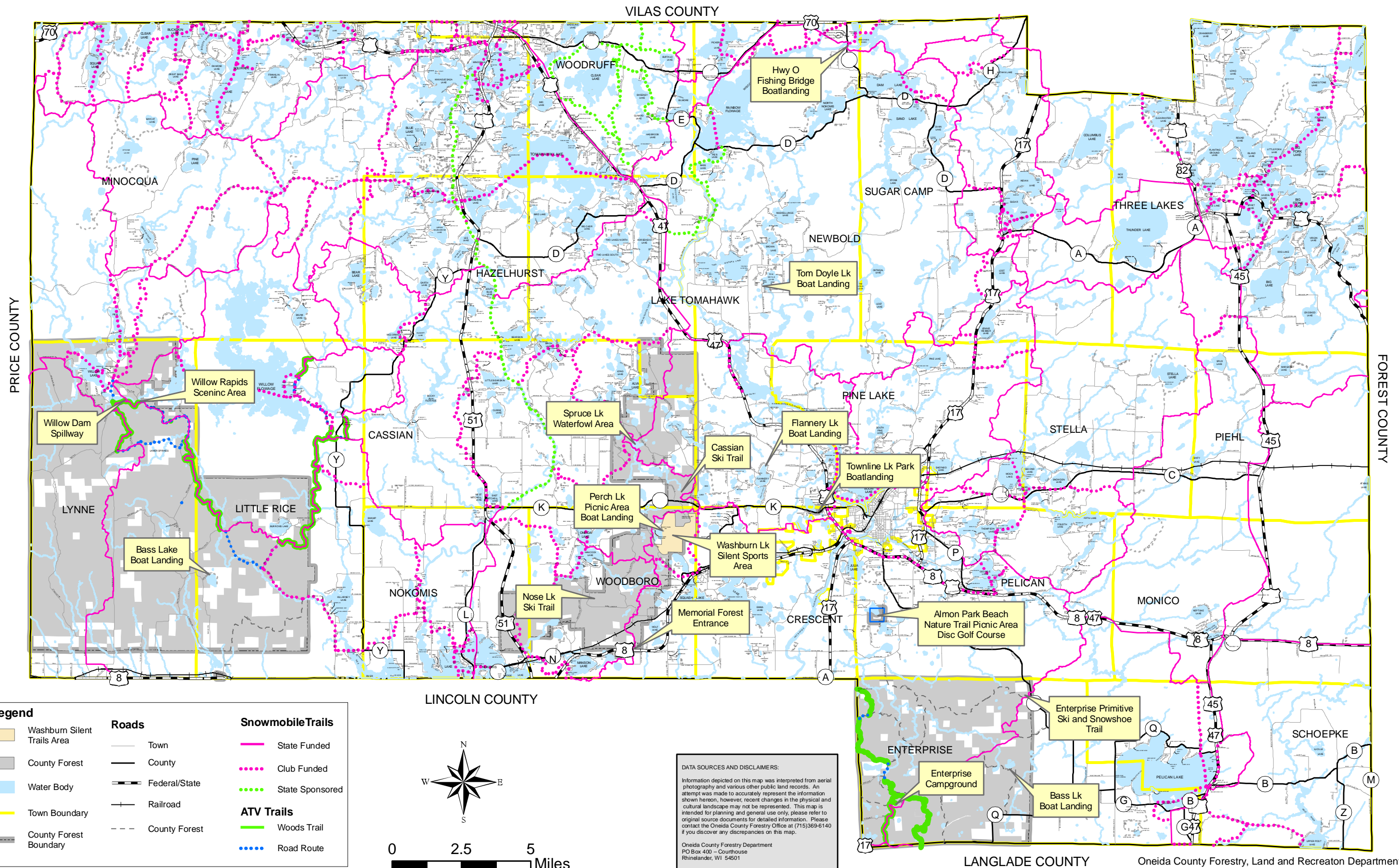
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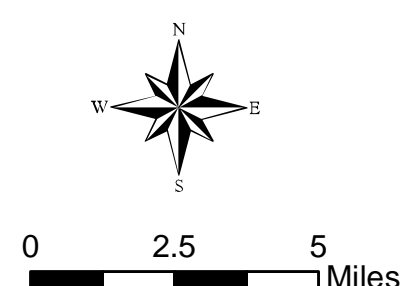
Prepared By:  
North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
210 McClellan St., Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403  
(715) 849-5510 www.ncwrpc.org

# RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT



**Legend**

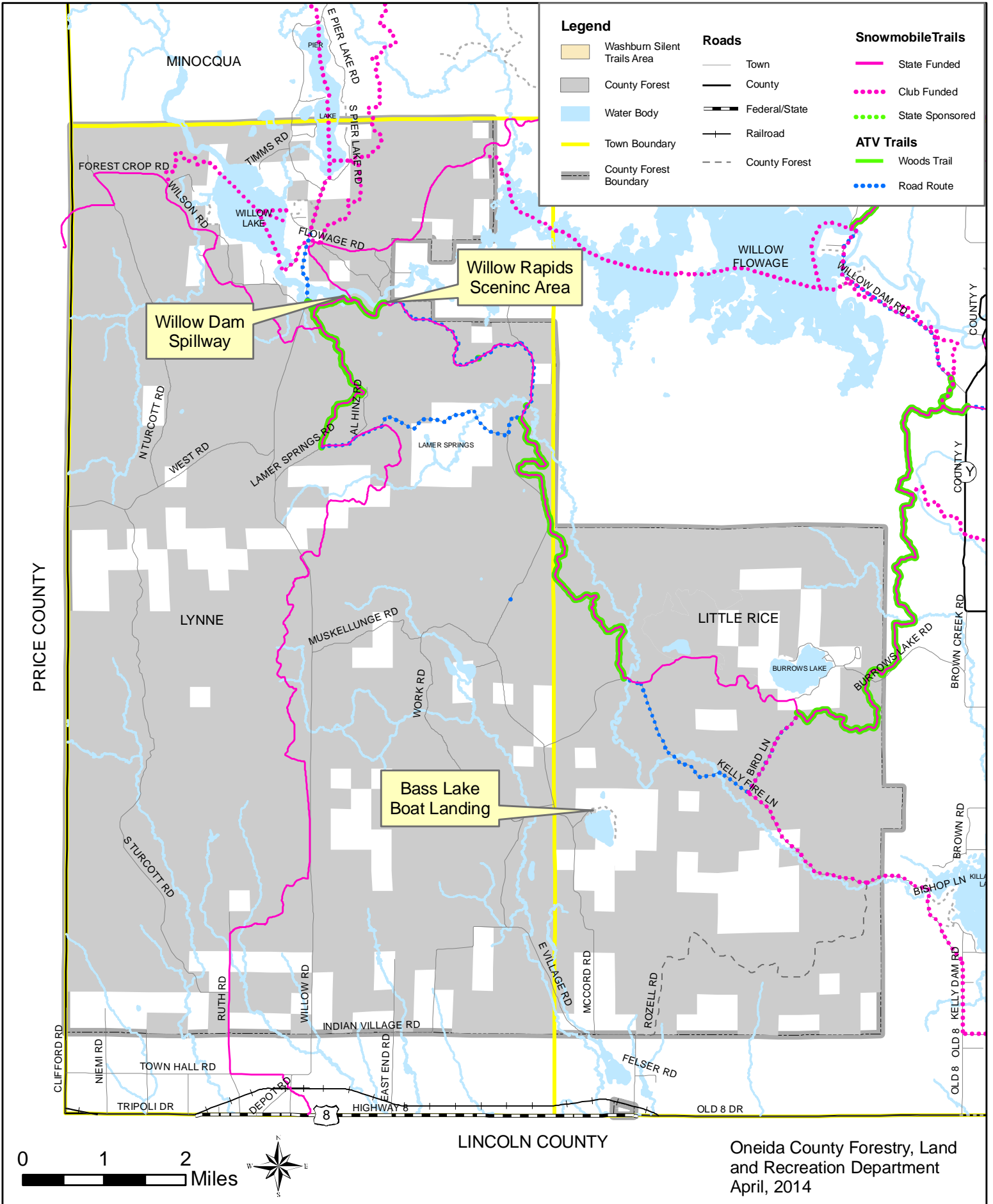
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Washburn Silent Trails Area	<b>Roads</b>	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid magenta;"></span> State Funded
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #cccccc; border: 1px solid black;"></span> County Forest	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> Town	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dotted magenta;"></span> Club Funded
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #add8e6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Water Body	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid black;"></span> County	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dotted green;"></span> State Sponsored
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid yellow;"></span> Town Boundary	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px dashed black;"></span> Federal/State	<b>ATV Trails</b>
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dashed black;"></span> County Forest Boundary	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> Railroad	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px solid green;"></span> Woods Trail
	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 1px dashed black;"></span> County Forest	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; border-bottom: 2px dotted blue;"></span> Road Route



**DATA SOURCES AND DISCLAIMERS:**  
 Information depicted on this map was interpreted from aerial photography and various other public land records. An attempt was made to accurately represent the information shown hereon, however, recent changes in the physical and cultural landscape may not be represented. This map is intended for planning and general use only, please refer to original source documents for detailed information. Please contact the Oneida County Forestry Office at (715)369-6140 if you discover any discrepancies on this map.

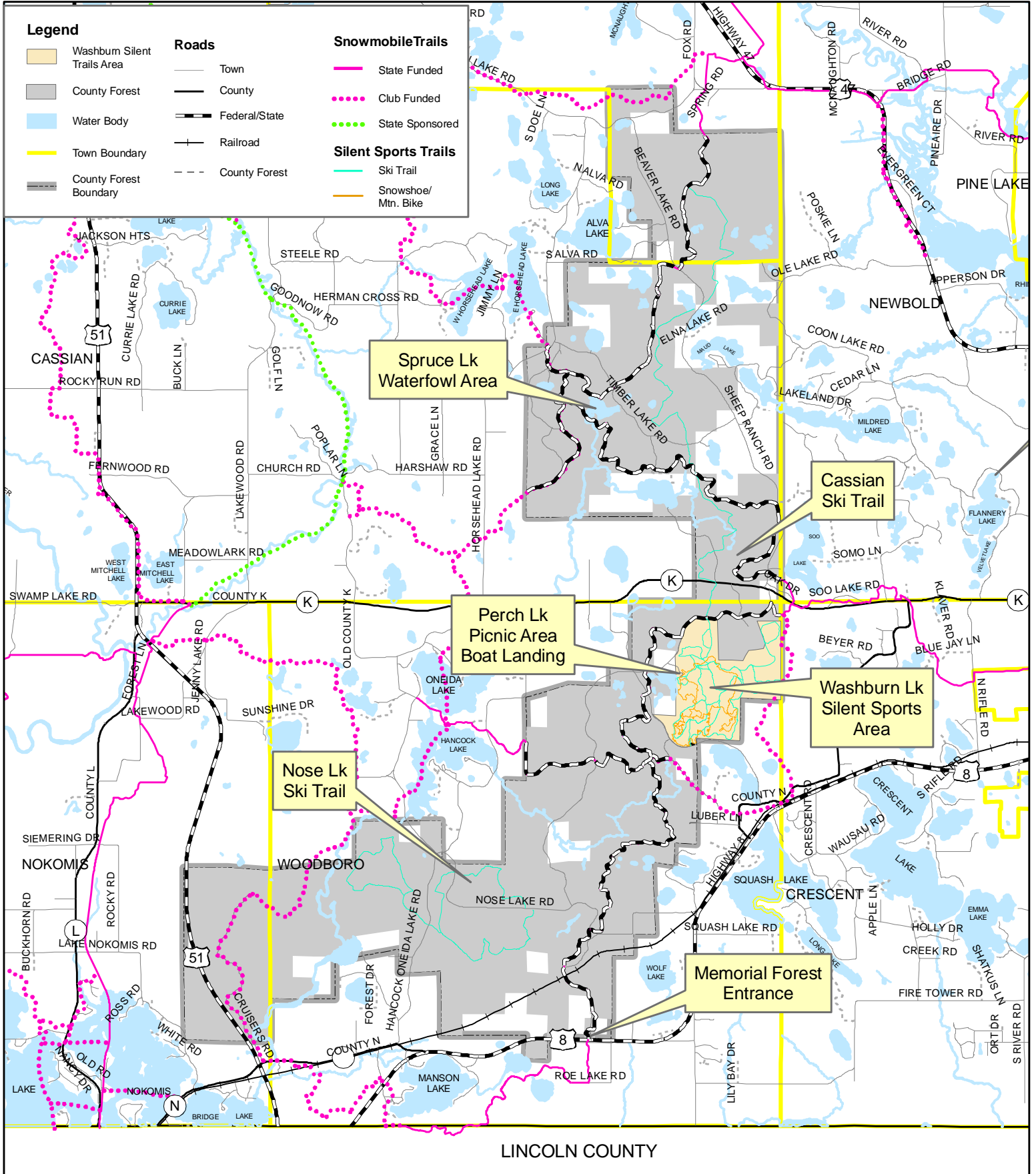
Oneida County Forestry Department  
 PO Box 400 - Courthouse  
 Rhinelander, WI 54501

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE  
ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT  
LYNNE/LITTLE RICE BLOCK**

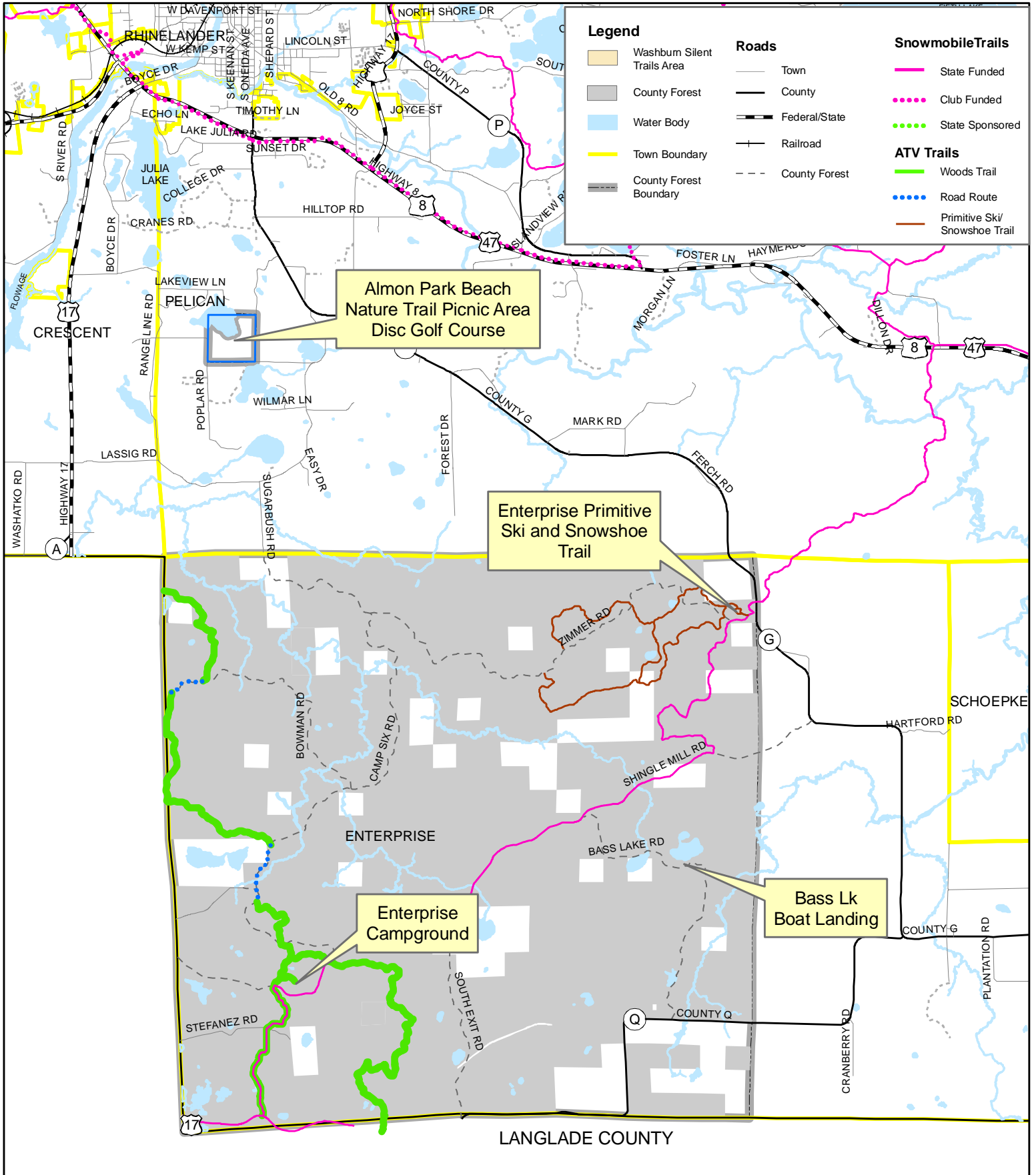


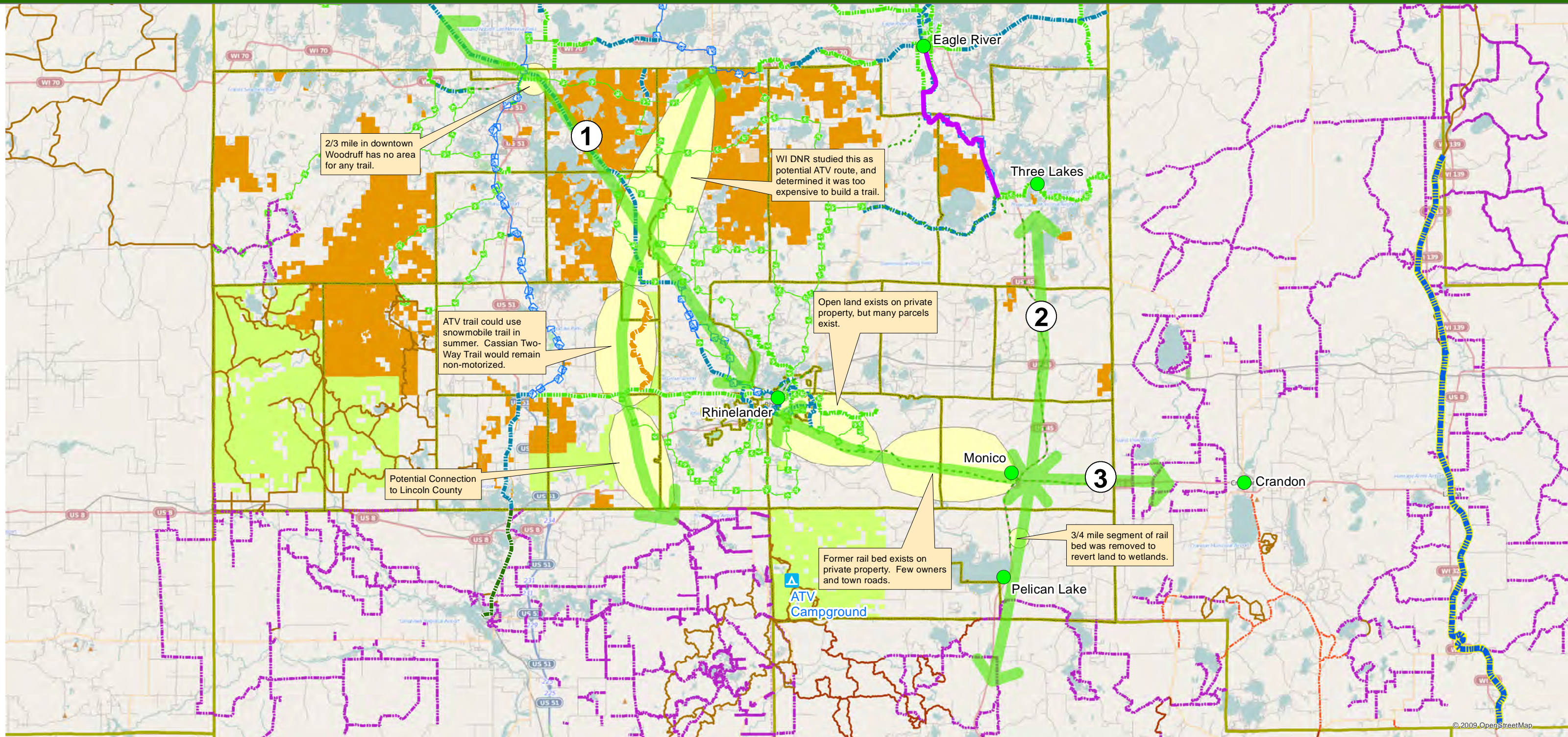


**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE  
ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT  
CASSIAN WOODBORO BLOCK**



**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE  
ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT  
ENTERPRISE BLOCK**





- |                 |                     |   |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>ATV</b>      | <b>Bike</b>         | Possible off-road ATV & Bike Trail Corridors    |
| ATV Road Routes | Existing - On Road  | Nicolet State Trail (Motorized & Non-Motorized) |
| ATV Trails      | Proposed - On Road  | Three Eagle Trail (Non-Motorized)               |
| Proposed Routes | Existing - Off Road | Hiawatha State Trail (Non-Motorized)            |
|                 | Proposed - Off Road | Cassian Two Way (Non-Motorized)                 |


Oneida County

WI DNR

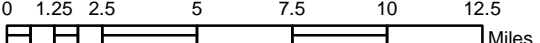
**1** Entact Public Trail Bed. Potential Multi-Use ATV Trails on Page 29.


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Source: WI DNR, Oneida County, NCWRPC  
Date Printed: 4/9/2014



0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 Miles

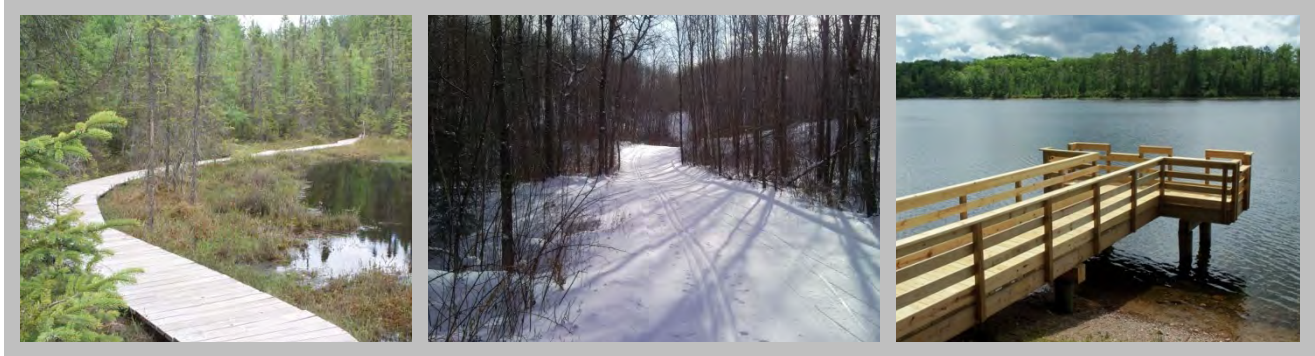




Prepared By:  
North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
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(715) 849-5510 www.ncwrpc.org

## Chapter 3

# EXISTING COUNTY FACILITIES



### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

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

### 3.2 COUNTY FOREST

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

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

Cross country ski trails, snowshoe trails, hiking/hunter walking trails, mountain bike trails, general motorized trails, snowmobile trails, and ATV

trails all exist within the county forest. Each of these trail types are described below:

### **Silent Sport Trails**

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

#### **Cross Country Ski Trails**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Snowshoe Trails**

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

*The Washburn Non-Motorized Trail* – The Washburn snowshoe trail totals approximately 6 miles in length. The snowshoe trail was designed with

multiple loops that can be accessed at either the Perch Lake Park, or the Washburn Lake Road trailheads.

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

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

### **Hiking/Hunter Walking Trails**

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

### **Mountain Bike Trails**

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

### **General Purpose Motorized Trails**

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

### **Snowmobile Trails**

Oneida County has approximately 1,000-miles of established public snowmobile trails: 452-miles are **state-funded** (of which 398-miles are county sponsored and 54-miles are state sponsored) and 535-miles are **club-funded**, non-sponsored snowmobile trails. Map 3 shows the location of the state-funded and club-funded trails, but there are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the County. The state-funded trails sponsored by Oneida County FLRD are maintained by the Oneida County Snowmobile Council. The Council is comprised of ten snowmobile clubs that

meet monthly during the snowmobile season to provide continuous input to FLRD about the future direction of the County's snowmobile program.

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

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

- **Segment 1** is located in southwestern Oneida County and consists of 19 miles of off-road trail. These trails are open for public ATV use from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>. These trails are located on County, State, and Private Industrial Forest lands.
- **Segment 2** is located in south central Oneida County and consists of 12 miles of off-road trails that connect to approximately 75 miles of additional ATV trails located in Lincoln and Langlade Counties to the south and west. These trails are open for public ATV use from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>. All trail miles within this segment are located on Oneida County Forest Land.

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

### 3.3 OTHER COUNTY MANAGED FACILITIES

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

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

***Highway O Fishing Bridge*** – Originally, the Highway O Fishing Bridge was a county highway bridge used to cross the Wisconsin River. In the early 1980's the County Highway Department abandoned the bridge and transferred it's ownership to the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department for use as a recreational bridge. In 2007 the FLRD replaced the old

deteriorating bridge with a new steel clear span structure. The new clear span bridge is primarily used as a pedestrian fishing bridge.

### 3.4 COUNTY PARKS

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

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

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

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

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

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



### 3.5 COUNTY MAINTAINED PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

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

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

## Chapter 4

# OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

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

### 4.2 PUBLIC COMMENT

#### **Informal Public Input**

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

#### **Survey to Outdoor Recreation Groups (June 2013)**

*The survey and results are in Attachment E.*

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

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

#### **Survey and Questionnaire to Towns in Oneida County (June 2013)**

*The questionnaire, survey and survey results are in Attachment F.*

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

**Questionnaire** responses were used to update park descriptions and community project lists in Chapter 7.

### **Input at Public Comment Meeting (February 11, 2014)**

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

#### Public Notice:

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

### **Public Comment Summary:**

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

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

- Bob Martini, County Lakes & Rivers Group Chair, and County Supervisor, stated: Plan lacks 7 components: 1. Economic analysis of outdoor recreation; 2. Health issues that could be solved by outdoor recreation; 3. 10 to 1 ratio of motorized trail miles to non-motorized trail and route miles; 4. Natural resources in county need better protection, because that is why so many people have their second homes in the county; 5. Land & Water Res. Mgnt. Plan calls for natural resource protections, and this plan should reinforce that plan; 6. 272 acre parcel in the Town of Crescent needs a new planned use, and this county outdoor recreation plan should include that parcel as a possible outdoor recreation facility; 7. All Oneida County communities should be connected by bike trails.
- Tim Brown, UWEX Oneida County, stated: I agree with most of what the previous speaker said. No connection was made in the plan between the economic benefit of outdoor recreation on Oneida County's economy.

\$186 million – 2012 dollars spent by tourists in the county; 10,627 – Number of seasonal homes in the county; and 90% - UWEX Oneida County survey asked residents why they live here. Natural beauty and outdoor activities were chosen by 90% of survey respondents.

- Brian Hegge, RASTA President, stated: I agree with about 90% of what the previous two speakers said. The Sawyer County outdoor recreation plan had a section about the economic impact of outdoor recreation on the county's economy.
- Jack Sorenson, Committee Chairperson, stated: This plan hardly mentions hunting as an outdoor recreational pursuit. Very good hunting facilities exist in this county.
- Tom Rulseh, Three Eagle Trail Foundation President, stated: Agreed with many of the previous comments. We are in support of the bike routes that are referenced in this plan from the work that went into creating the Oneida County Countywide Biking & Walking Routes & Trails Plan.
- Denny Thompson, Committee Member, stated: Another boat ramp may be possible in the Town of Newbold along the Rhinelander Flowage.
- Tom Rudolph, Committee Member, stated: The Town of Crescent former business park property had a plan to create walking trails among the unique topography. Great potential exists for that parcel to have outdoor recreational facilities on it. Many motorized trails have been created, but now bicycle trails are needed.
- Jay Joppa, Northern Paddle & Trail member, stated: Potentially add the following water trails into the plan: 1. Pelican River (class 2 rapids in parts); 2. Hat Rapids down to Lake Alice; 3. Rice Creek; and 4. Wisconsin River.
- Bob Martini again stated: The Town of Crescent is reviewing the 272 acre property usage options, including what type of recreation activities may be possible on it.
- Joel Knutson, Town of Crescent Board Member, stated: The Town of Crescent is considering options for the 272 acre parcel. Crescent has begun discussion with local residents about what to do with several parcels, including the 272 acre parcel, as to what outdoor recreation to provide.
- Fred Heider, NCWRPC planner, read all the emails aloud, or paraphrased them, during the end of the public hearing. Copies of the emails and telephone notes were distributed to the Committee and are on file with the Oneida County Forestry and Parks Department.

The following comments were received prior to February 11, and were paraphrased by NCWRPC:

- Dick Dvorak, Town of Schoepke Chairman, (Full letter in Attachment G) wrote:
  - Include a hiking/biking trail in the old railroad corridor along Highway 45, and design it to connect with future trails in the adjacent T. Monico, T. Enterprise, Langlade County, and Forest County.
  - Develop a county park adjacent to Pelican Lake.
  - Add to recreational assets in the Town (list of existing facilities to be included in the plan, along with proposed projects).
- Ron and Jan Eckstein, (Full letter in Attachment G) wrote:
  - The plan is well done.
  - Almon Park is being invaded by common and glossy buckthorn. Please take the minimal action to eradicate it in 2014.
  - Please maintain a mix of open and closed logging roads on County Forest, to balance the desires of those who wish to only walk, and those who wish to drive.
  - Work to maintain and improve water quality and shoreland protection.
  - Continue the good work maintaining the high quality County Forest to benefit wildlife, hunting, trapping, and birding.
- Dave Schmitz wrote: Add another boat landing in the T. Newbold to the Rhineland Flowage. On the west side of this flowage there is online one boat launch and it is off of Apperson Drive. A new boat launch would be a shorter boat ride to the west end of the flowage.
- Gary Garton wrote: Please take much care when awarding logging contracts in intensively used recreational areas like the Washburn Lake ski, bike, and snowshoe trail system. (NCWRPC Note: Aesthetic Management Zone possibility.)
- Sue Lietz wrote: The Nose Lake trail system used to be much larger prior to the 2013/2014 ski season. Please reinstate the full course.
- Kim Gauthier, Town of Newbold Clerk, wrote: The Town of Newbold would like the county to consider turning Townline Park into a county campground.
- Larry Hendrickson, Town of Cassian Chairperson, called to update town facility descriptions in the plan.

- o Les Felbab, Oneida County ATVs, called to request that the Club be listed in the plan to resurface existing ATV trails in the county with gravel.

### 4.3 NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

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

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

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

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

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

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

## **Chapter 5**

# **ONEIDA COUNTY FACILITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

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

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

### **Goal 1 – Protect aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems from invasive species.**

#### Objectives

- Coordinate with the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department the control of forest based invasive species as part of silviculture (per the Work Plan in the Oneida County Land & Water Resource Management Plan [LWRM Plan]).

### **Goal 2 – Protect, restore, and enhance Oneida County's natural resources for outdoor recreation.**

#### Objectives

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

### **Goal 3 – Support development and connection of trails.**

#### Objectives

1. Support approval of the Oneida County Countywide Biking & Walking Routes & Trails Plan.
2. Support ATV/UTV trail development.
3. Support snowmobile trail development countywide.
4. Support local government or local group development of trails for hiking, biking, walking, birding, ATV/UTVing, and snowmobiling.



**Goal 4 – Gradually Bring Parks Into ADA Compliance.**

Objective: Incorporate ADA accessibility into all capital improvements as appropriate. Existing facilities will become accessible as routine maintenance occurs where new fixtures are replaced.

## **Chapter 6**

# **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

### 6.2 GENERAL COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

#### **Multi-Use Trails**

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

#### **Silent Sport Trails**

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

#### **Trail Maintenance**

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

#### **Aesthetic Management Zones**

The County Forest has several aesthetic management zones (AMZs), which prescribe different ways of harvesting timber in forest areas that are adjacent

to several County and Town Roads, as well as several recreation and scenic areas. This recommendation is to review existing intensive use areas in the County Forest, and to consider whether or not to add new AMZs around those uses.

### **Hunting & Trapping**

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

### **Water Routes**

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

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

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

### **What was eliminated?**

Table 3 is a list of capital improvement projects from the 2009-2013 Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan that are no longer being pursued by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD).

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

### **What was accomplished?**

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

<b>Project Location</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Townline Park	Removed toilet buildings, picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, and shelter buildings. Discontinued the Townline Park swimming beach maintenance program.	\$1,500
Enterprise Campground	Construct covered firewood storage area	\$1,000
Bass Lake Picnic Area	Removed toilet buildings, picnic tables, and grills.	\$1,000
Almon Park	Brought electric power into park.	\$12,000
	Replaced old shelter building.	\$45,000
	Developed a new 18 hole disc golf course	\$7,000
ATV Trails	Developed 4.5 miles of new ATV Trail which included the construction of 4 new ATV bridges	\$255,000
Washburn Silent Sports Trail	Developed 4.0 miles of addition single track mountain bike trail.	\$15,000
Washburn Silent Sports Trail	Rehabilitated and/or rerouted 3.0 miles of existing single track mountain bike trail.	\$15,000
Snowmobile trail	Constructed a 250-foot snowmobile bridge across the Rainbow Flowage Channel.	\$350,000
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>\$702,500</b>

**What is projected to occur?**

The following tables are Capital Improvement Plans proposed for the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD) managed recreational system. The projects are not listed in a priority and are subject to change. The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department created each capital improvement plan. All upgrades and new construction will take into consideration meeting ADA standards. As funds become available, the following projects will be completed.

<b>Table 5 Townline Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan</b>	
Start Year of Plan 2014	Estimated Cost
Shoreline restoration/erosion repair	\$30,000
<b>Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

<b>Table 6 Perch Lake Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan</b>	
Start Year of Plan 2014	Estimated Cost
Expand parking lot	\$25,000
Develop addition silent sport trails (mountain bike & cross country ski trails).	\$15,000
<b>Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>

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

<b>Table 8 Nose Lake Ski trail Five Year Capital Improvement Plan</b>	
Start Year of Plan 2014	Estimated Cost
Expand parking area.	\$5,000
<b>Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>

## **Chapter 7**

# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES**

### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

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

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

### 7.2 LINEAR FACILITIES

#### **Chequamegon–Nicolet National Forest (Forest) ATV Policy**

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

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

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

#### **Biking and Hiking Trails**

Oneida County Countywide Biking and Walking Routes and Trails plan was last updated in 2010 with assistance from NCWRPC. This plan refers to potential routes for bike and pedestrian traffic using existing and proposed paths and trails. Existing and potential trails are shown on Map 2.

### **Rustic Roads**

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

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

### **Water Trails**

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

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

## 7.3 HISTORICAL MARKERS

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

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

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

## 7.4 SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

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

School Forests are listed for each district:

### **Minocqua, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk (MHLT) School District**

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

### **School District of Elcho**

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

### **School District of Tomahawk**

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

### **School District of Rhinelander**

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

1. North Rifle Road S.F., 39 acres, ~NENW, sec. 4 T36NR8E
2. Flag Lake S.F., 53 acres, sec. 4 & 5 T36NR8E
3. Bullhead Lake S.F. 79 acres, S1/2SW, Sec. 3 T36NR9E
4. Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC) 160-acres, NE1/4, sec 10, T36N R10E

CAVOC consists of Rominsky Lodge and classroom, outdoor pavilion, camp fire ring, silent sports area, primitive bog lake, high and low ropes challenge course, 5 miles of trails, paved handicapped accessible trails, hiking, biking, snowshoeing and groomed cross country ski tails, reserve and managed forest areas, lake vista, self guided nature trail, bog walk, osprey nesting plate form, research projects, orienteering course, and many other education opportunities.

5. Flannery Lake S.F. 80 acres, N1/2SW, sec. 34, T37N R8E



6. Cross Country East S.F. 120 acres, sec.1, T37N R9E
7. Cross Country West S.F., 158 acres, sec 2 & 11, T37N R9E
8. Crystal Lake Road S.F., 160 acres, SW1/4, sec. 7 T37N R9E
9. Bear Trail Road S.F., 360 acres, sec 5, 7, 8, T37N R9E

**Three Lakes School District**

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

**Woodruff School District**

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

7.5 CITY and TOWN FACILITIES

**CITY OF RHINELANDER**

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

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

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

**Sarocka Field** – This ball field is located on N Eastern Ave. Facilities include a sledding hill, tennis court, softball diamond with dugouts, playground equipment, and picnic tables.

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

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

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

## TOWN OF CASSIAN

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

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

### Public Access:

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

### Other Facilities:

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

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

None.

**TOWN OF CRESCENT**

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

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

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

**TOWN OF ENTERPRISE**

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

The WDNR has a boat landing and pier.

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

None.

**TOWN OF HAZELHURST**

***Hazelhurst Ballpark*** – Facilities include playground equipment, a lighted baseball diamond (used by Little League and men's and women's baseball leagues during the summer), basketball, tournaments, the Lions Club flea market fundraiser, training for the volunteer Fire Department, and tennis court.

**Lake Katherine Beach Park** – Facilities include swimming beach, picnic area with tables and grills, 2 piers, playground, dry fire hydrant, restroom facilities, changing building, volleyball pit, and a large paved parking lot.

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

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

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

None.

## **TOWN OF LAKE TOMAHAWK**

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

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

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

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

The town's outdoor recreational facilities are complemented by facilities in the Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest. DNR facilities within the town include campgrounds, groomed cross-country ski trails, a nature

interpretive trail, and numerous boat landings. The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company maintains boat landings and a river access at the nearby Rainbow Flowage.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

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

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

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

## **TOWN OF LITTLE RICE**

### ***Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area***

(Described under “State Facilities.”)

### ***Lynne-Little Rice County Forest Block***

(Described under “County Facilities.”)

## **TOWN OF LYNNE**

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

The town also maintains a boat access on Pier Lake.

## **TOWN OF MINOCQUA**

***Torpy Beach and Park*** – This 4 acre park, located in downtown at 705 Hwy 51, includes a beach, restrooms, pavilion, concession, picnic shelters, grills and tables, tennis courts, playground, sand volleyball court, parking area, stone paths, ice skating rink during the winter months and warming area.

**Dorwin Park** – This ½ acre park is located in downtown at 503 Flambeau St. on the grounds of the Minocqua Museum. Facilities include a shelter, benches, planters, and walkways.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bearskin Trailhead Park** – This park is located downtown behind the U.S. Post Office, and serves as the trailhead for the Bearskin State Trail.

**Veterans Park** – This ½ acre park has year-round ADA accessible restrooms, benches, and a small pavilion area.

Public Access Points to Water Bodies:

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

Other Recreational Facilities:

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

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

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

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- Completed initial build-out of Minocqua Park Complex
- New roof on Torpy Park pavilion
- New flag array installed at Veterans Park
- New light poles, lighting, sound system, speakers, walkway and railing at the Aqua Bowl
- Windscreen installed on tennis court enclosure at Torpy Park
- Removed trees and seeded upper level of Torpy Park
- New dugouts at Minocqua Ball Park
- New dugouts at Minocqua Park Complex
- Snow tubing and ice skating pond added at Minocqua Winter Park
- Pedestrian outlooks with benches added on Lake Minocqua along Highway 51 causeway

- Entered into lease with zip line tour operator to develop and operate zip tour on town property

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

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



## TOWN OF MONICO

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

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

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

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

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

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

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

## TOWN OF NEWBOLD

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

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

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

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

The Stone Lake area is managed by the DNR as a hunting trail system.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

Park area with playground equipment at the town hall.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

Possibly add a larger recreational shelter at the town hall or fire department.

## **TOWN OF NOKOMIS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

#### *Nokomis Community Park*

- Pavilion improvements made;
- Ball field improvements.
  
- Parking for ATV trail users and Tomahawk River users.
  
- Road work to improve bike route connecting segments of Bearskin State Trail;

- Approved use of ATVs on town roads.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

#### Community Park

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

#### Mary's Park

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

#### Town Hall Park

- Removal and replacement of old and worn playground equipment.

### **TOWN OF PELICAN**

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

### **TOWN OF PIEHL**

The Town maintains two boat launches.

## TOWN OF PINE LAKE

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

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

Possible improvement to boat launch on Moen Lake.

## TOWN OF SCHOEPKE

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

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

Other Recreational Facilities:  
Mecikalski Stovewood Museum

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

The youth ball park was updated with new dugouts, scoreboard, pavilion building, and parking lot.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

A small memorial park is planned next to the fire house.

## TOWN OF STELLA

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

## TOWN OF SUGAR CAMP

**Town of Sugar Camp/Lions Park** – Facilities include three ball fields with lighting and bleachers on two fields; two soccer fields with fencing along west side; two basketball courts with lights and fencing; lighted tennis courts;

concession stand/announcer booth; ADA accessible playground equipment; picnic shelter; pavilion with kitchen, bathroom facilities, concession stand, picnic area; horseshoe pits; two lighted volleyball courts; asphalt parking lot; restroom; drinking fountain; and 18-hole disc golf course with concrete pads.

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

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

## TOWN OF THREE LAKES

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

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

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

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

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

**Don Burnside Recreational Park**

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

**TOWN OF WOODBORO**

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

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

None.

**TOWN OF WOODRUFF**

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

The Town's outdoor recreation facilities are augmented by facilities provided by the Northern Highland–American Legion State Forest, the local school system, numerous private resorts and attractions, and youth camps. The WDNR maintains public campground facilities at Lake Cunard, Carrol Lake, Clear Lake, Tomahawk Lake, and Buffalo Lake within the Town of Woodruff. The Raven Trail system and the Madeline Lake Trail system are groomed cross-country ski trails maintained by the WDNR. Boat landings provided by the WDNR exist on Minocqua, Tomahawk, Clear, Madeline, Carrol, Dorothy, Sweeney, Cunard, Hasbrook, Gilmore, and Buffalo lakes.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2018**

None.

## 7.6 STATE FACILITIES

Each listing is located on Map 3.

### **State Wildlife Areas**

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

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

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

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

### **State Natural Areas (SNA)**

State natural areas were acquired to protect the state's natural diversity, provide sites for research and environmental education, and serve as benchmarks for assessing and guiding use of other lands in the state. Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water, which have native biotic communities, unique natural features, or significant geological or archeological sites. These sites do not have much facility development, though there may be a designated trail on the site.

The restrictions and guidelines that follow are applicable to most SNAs. The complete guidelines for visiting SNAs is on the DNRs website.

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

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

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



11. **Patterson Hemlocks SNA (No. 216)** is 304 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
12. **Rainbow Wetlands SNA (No. 513)** is 2,357 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Newbold.
13. **Rice Lake SNA (No. 40)** is 1,030 acres located in the Thunder Lake Wildlife Area.
14. **Shallow Lake SNA (No. 514)** is 103 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Newbold.
15. **Spur Lake SNA (No. 537)** is 71 acres located in the Town of Piehl.
16. **Squirrel River Pines SNA (No. 244)** is 643 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
17. **Stone Lake Pines SNA (No. 185)** is 65 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sugar Camp.
18. **Sugar Camp Hemlocks SNA (No. 594)** is 80 acres located near Thunder Lake in the Town of Sugar Camp.
19. **Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks SNA (No. 510)** is 244 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
20. **Tomahawk River Pines SNA (No. 239)** is 1,040 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
21. **Two Lakes Pine-Oak Forest SNA (No. 511)** is 112 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
22. **Wind Pudding Lake SNA (No. 188)** is 340 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
23. **Upper Kaubashine Creek SNA (No. 650)** is 264 acres located within the Town of Hazelhurst.

### **State Forest**

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

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

**Camping** is another popular activity on the NH-AL. The forest offers 18 family campgrounds, plus two outdoor group camping areas. Two handicap accessible sites (one at Crystal Lake Campground and one at Firefly) have electrical hook-

ups, and four campgrounds in all offer special facilities for disabled campers. In addition, 131 canoe and remote-reservable campsites are scattered throughout the forest for people wanting more private and primitive camping conditions. Backpack camping is also allowed by permit and deer hunter camping is seasonally available.

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

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

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

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

### **Scenic Waters Area**

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

## 7.7 FEDERAL FACILITIES

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

Recreational opportunities found on the Forest at-large include small- and big-game **hunting and trapping opportunities**. Hundreds of miles of logging

roads and non-designated trails are open to all types of non-motorized uses, like **hiking, skiing, horseback riding and mountain biking**. Some unimproved roads are open and accessible to licensed motor vehicles, as well. Finally, the Forest provides **wilderness** recreation for those seeking a pristine and quiet backcountry experience in areas with few support facilities, motorized vehicles, or signs of management activities.

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

## 7.8 FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE or COUNTY OWNED

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

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

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

## **Chapter 8**

# **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

### 8.1 INTRODUCTION

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

### 8.2 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The following strategies are listed in alphabetical order.

#### Capital Improvements

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

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

#### Community Beautification

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

#### Future Planning

At a minimum, all communities should reassess their recreational needs near the end of the five-year period covered by this plan. More frequent appraisal of needs may be called for under certain conditions such as extreme variations in funding capability, rapid population changes, actions of other units of government and private enterprise, and the recognition of new legislation, laws, and public programs.

### Historic Sites

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

### Leases

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

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

### Lifetime Activities

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

### Monetary Aid Programs

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

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

Requirements for application to the Stewardship Fund include the requirement that the applicant submits an approved comprehensive recreation plan. This

plan is designed to meet that requirement. For the remaining program requirements, or additional information contact:

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

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

#### Municipal and School District Cooperation

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

#### Park Dedication

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

#### Priorities

The need for community officials to establish priorities within their recreation program is emphasized by the scope of the previous recommendations. Although it is unlikely that all of these recommendations will be undertaken within the time period of this plan, there is an outstanding opportunity for inroads to be made. Recognition of increasing demands for recreation, space and facilities should prompt immediate action.

### Program Costs

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

### Senior Citizen Involvement

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

### Service Group Involvement

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

### Shoreland Zoning

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

### Snowmobile/ATV Routes

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

### Specialized Facilities

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

### Public Access via Subdivision Regulations (Platting Lands)

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

### Use of Easements

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

### Winter Activities

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



## **Chapter 9**

### **PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# ATTACHMENT A

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## **Park Design and Location Criteria**

From:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

## Park and Recreation Designs

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

▪ 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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## Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016 Summary

Summarized by NCWRPC

# The 2011–2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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

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

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

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

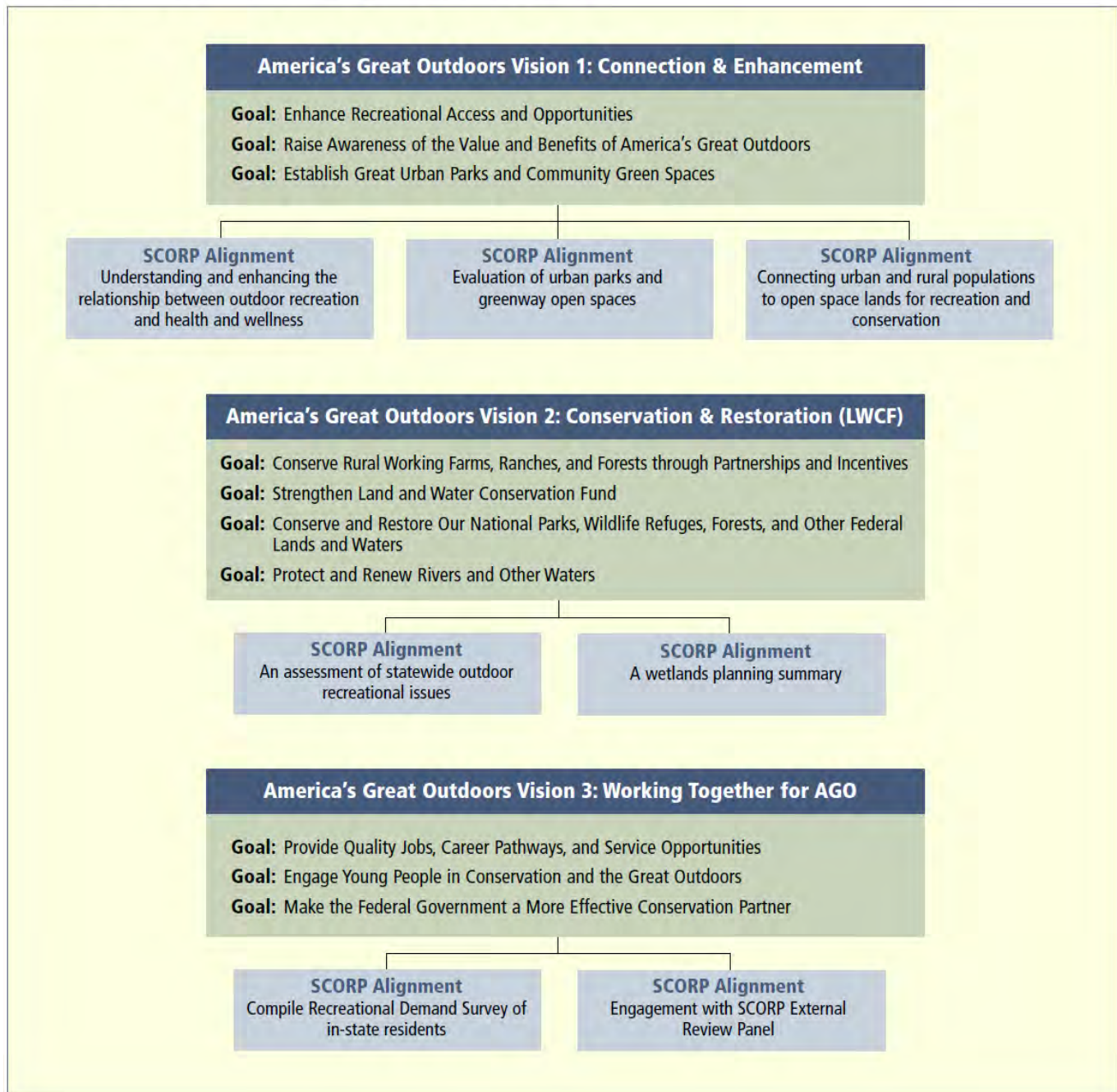
For the 2011-2016 Wisconsin SCORP, the State not only met the requirements of the LWCF Act but also reflected on the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative, launched in 2010 by President Obama, for an approach that asks the American people to become partners in preserving and enhancing their conservation and recreation heritage for the 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.

Activity	1994 Survey*	2009 Survey*	Number of Participants (1,000s)
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

Activity	1994 Survey*	2009 Survey*	Percent Difference
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

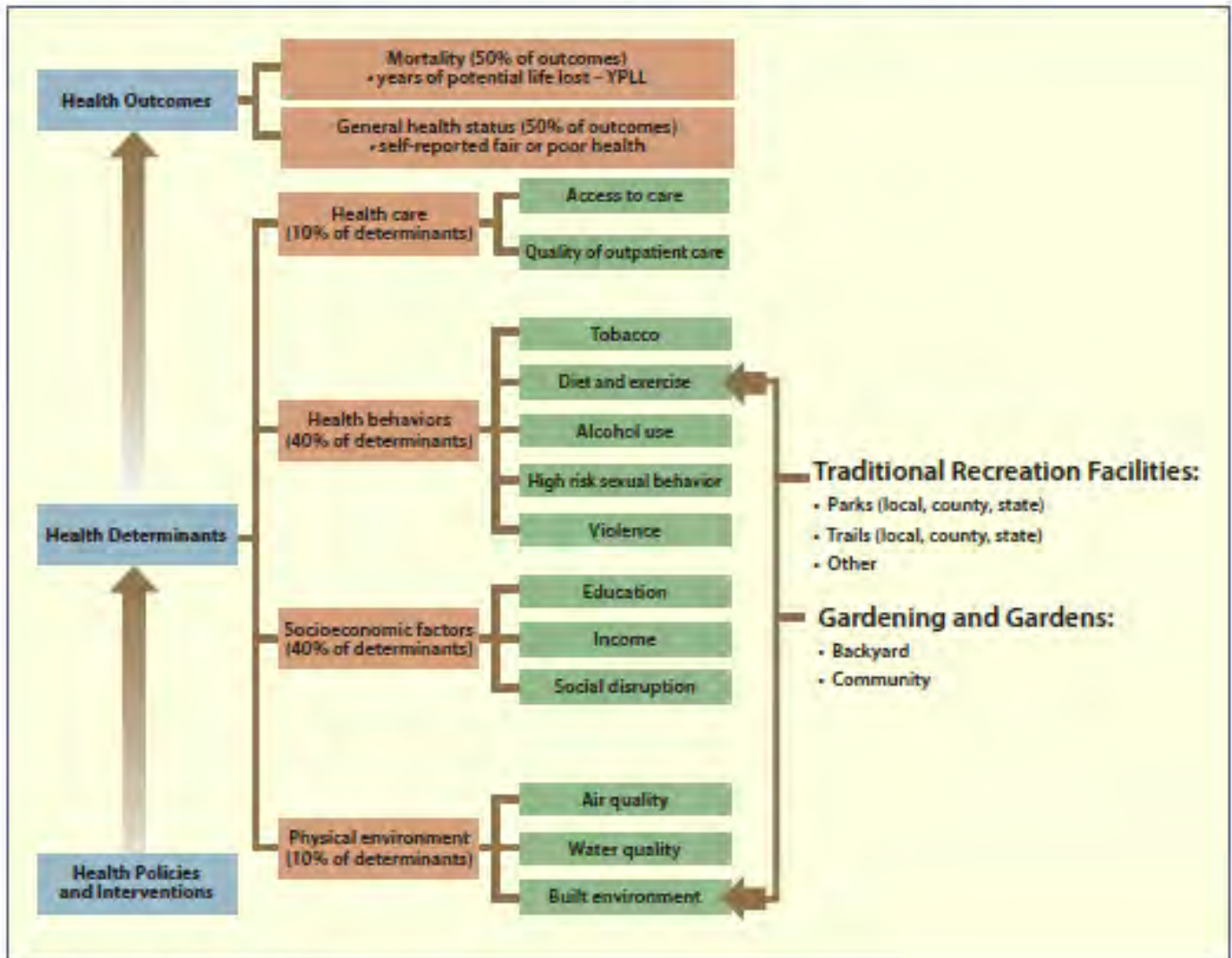
Table 3-1 Recreation Intensities by Appropriate Facility Type (continued)

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 C

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

Compiled by: NCWRPC

## **Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs**

Community Service Specialist  
Rhineland Office  
107 Sutliff Ave  
Rhineland WI 54501

### **Acquisition Of Development Rights (a Stewardship Program)**

The program's purpose is to buy development rights (easements) to protect natural, agricultural, or forest lands from development that enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis.

Priority parcels criteria:

- Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, or estuaries;
- Property that creates a buffer between land that has been permanently protected for natural resource and conservation purposes and potential or existing residential, commercial, or industrial development;
- Property that is within the boundaries of an acquisition project established by the DNR, a government unit, or a NCO where the uses of the property will complement the goals of the project and the stewardship program.

DNR considers the following factors when evaluating acquisition of development rights:

- Recreational opportunities provided or enhanced;
- Proximity to other permanently protected land;
- Natural, scenic, geologic, and archaeological values of the property;
- The degree of development pressure;
- Whether the project has been identified in a comprehensive plan pursuant to s. 66.1001, WI Stats., another plan that has as one of its purposes the protection of natural resources, or the natural heritage inventory database.

### **Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (a Stewardship Program)**

Funds may be used for both land acquisition projects and development projects for nature-based outdoor recreation, such as fishing piers, hiking trails and picnic facilities. Applicants compete for funds on a regional and county basis. NCOs may only apply for funds for land acquisition; they are not eligible for funds for development on property.

DNR considers the following factors when evaluating projects:

- Implements priorities contained in state and local comprehensive outdoor recreation plans
- Meets needs and deficiencies identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the approved local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, or the approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plans of other units of government including regional or integrated management plans

- Acquires land where a need for additional land acquisition is supported by an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan
- Is regional or statewide in nature and can be documented as such
- Documentation shows benefits to tourism
- Results in a first of a kind facility for the project sponsor or service area
- Provides or supports a water-based activity
- Serves the greatest population
- Involves volunteers, local donations or cooperation by two or more service clubs
- Applicants that have never received an outdoor recreation program grant
- Provides for completion of a project already started where the sponsor has shown the ability to provide quality outdoor recreation facilities for its citizens without grant assistance
- Sponsor has completed prior LWCF, ADLP, UGS, URGP or projects successfully.
- Involves two or more governmental agencies
- Acquires land where a need for additional land acquisition is supported by an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan;
- Serves as a demonstration project for other project sponsors
- Corrects a documented health or safety problem
- Renovates existing facilities which are in danger of being lost for public use
- Sponsor is able to adequately maintain and operate the area or facility
- Provides multiple season, multiple activity use
- Serves the recreation needs of elderly persons, minorities and disabled persons. Facilities provided must exceed those required by state or federal regulations

### **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. Eligible levels of reimbursement are:

- ATV trails available for spring, summer, and fall riding may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible maintenance costs (up to \$450 per mile).
- ATV trails available for winter riding may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible maintenance costs (up to \$100 per mile).
- Development of ATV trails and areas may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible costs.
- Major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible costs.
- Maintenance of ATV intensive use areas may be reimbursed up to 50 percent of eligible costs

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 Program**

The Stewardship Program is a comprehensive program that addresses a broad spectrum of land conservation and recreation needs across the state. Stewardship has four major components:

### **Nonprofit Grants**

Acquisition of land and easements for a wide range of conservation and outdoor recreation purposes.

### **Local Assistance Grant Programs**

Grants for local governments or NCOs to acquire land and conservation easements of land and development projects that support nature-based outdoor recreation.

- Acquisition and Development of Local Parks
- Urban Rivers
- Urban Green Spaces
- Acquisition of Development Rights

### **Property Development on State Lands**

Development of recreational facilities on state properties.

### **Baraboo Hills**

Conservation of the hardwood forests of the Baraboo Hills through easements and acquisition. This category closed to new applications.

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

Review specific guidelines for each of the following programs online at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/LR/Stewardship/subprogram.html>

### **Natural Areas**

State Natural Areas are set aside for protection of their natural values for future generations, scientific research, and teaching conservation and natural history. They are not intended for intensive recreational use such as picnicking or camping.

### **Habitat Areas and Fisheries**

The purpose of the Habitat Areas Program is to protect, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat in Wisconsin in order to expand opportunities for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, bird watching, fishing, nature appreciation, and viewing of game and non-game species. The goals of the program are achieved through the use of easements, land acquisition, and habitat restoration.

**State Trails**, including the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail. The goal of the State Trails Program is to establish a balanced system of state trails for use by hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, and cross-country skiers.

### **Streambank Protection**

The purpose of the Streambank Protection Program is to protect the water quality and fish habitat of Wisconsin streams by establishing buffers along selected streams. Whenever possible, these buffers should be at least 66 feet from either side of the stream and at least 66 feet beyond riparian wetlands.

### **Wild Lakes**

The purpose of the Wild Lakes Program is to protect and preserve high quality endangered wild lakes. The goals of the program are achieved through the use of easements and land acquisition.



## **Urban Green Space (a Stewardship Program)**

Funds are available to provide open natural space within or in proximity to urban areas; to protect land from development with scenic, ecological or natural values in urban areas, and to provide land for noncommercial gardening in urban areas.

Priority is given to projects that have one or more of the following characteristics:

Planning Considerations, including:

- Specifically implementing a priority of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Implementing the approved master plans of 2 or more units of government or regional planning agencies
- Preserving land that is listed on the natural heritage inventory database
- Implementing elements of water quality plans or initiatives

Project Considerations, including:

- Serving the greatest population centers
- Serving areas of rapidly increasing populations
- Providing accessibility
- Having unique natural features, threatened or endangered species, or significant ecological value
- Providing open natural linear corridors connecting open natural areas
- Having water frontage
- Containing or restoring wetlands
- Protecting sensitive wildlife habitat
- Protecting an area threatened by development
- Preserving a natural community or one that could be restored
- Having regional or statewide significance
- Relating to brownfield redevelopment

## **Urban Rivers Grant (a Stewardship Program)**

Funds are available to restore or preserve the character of urban riverways through the acquisition of land or easements adjacent to rivers.

Program objectives include:

- To provide for economic revitalization through the restoration or preservation of urban rivers or riverfronts
- To improve outdoor recreational opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers for a variety of public uses, including but not limited to, fishing, wildlife observation, enjoyment of scenic beauty, canoeing, boating, hiking and bicycling
- To preserve or restore significant historical, cultural, or natural areas along urban rivers

There is a cap of 20% which means that no sponsor can receive more than 20% of the funds that are available in any fiscal year.

This is a very competitive program. Projects with the following attributes will rank higher:

- Acquires land or land rights that preserve or restore natural values, including aesthetic values, and enhance environmental quality along urban waterways.
- Provides new or expanded diverse recreational opportunities to all segments of urban populations.
- Provides new or expanded access to urban waterways.
- Acquires blighted lands that will be restored to complement riverfront redevelopment activities.
- Encourages comprehensive riverway planning within and between municipalities and other agencies.
- Provides opportunities for increasing tourism.
- Acquires lands that through proper management will improve or protect water quality

### **Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs**

Bike & Ped Coordinator  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
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. Chuck Thiede at 608-266-3341 is the statewide coordinator.

**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:

National Park Service  
700 Rayovac Dr., Suite 100  
Madison, WI 53711

# ATTACHMENT D

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## **Facility Development 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. Part 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 E**

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### **Outdoor Recreation Survey and Summarized Results from Groups**

# ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY



The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department is creating the **Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2014-2019** and we would like your input. The five-year outdoor recreation plan will be used to identify new projects for development as well as which local and county parks or forest segments need additional, repurposed, or reconstructed recreational facilities (e.g. trails, buildings, water access sites, or camp sites).

**This survey is mainly for County facilities and how to better utilize them.** Local governments may create their own plan or join with the County. This plan enables County and possibly local government eligibility for competitive grants of 50% from the DNR Stewardship Fund, and other federal sources, and for annual planning and budgeting.

This survey and maps of existing recreational facilities are available at:  
<http://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/orp.html>

***Please complete this survey with other members of your group.***

1. Please list the group represented and your name:

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2. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County as a whole?  
*These issues could be a combination of strengths and desires to maintain what exists.*

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 2 be satisfied?  
*You may be as general or specific as you want. Feel free to attach a sheet with your answers.*

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# NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403  
Telephone: 715-849-5510 Fax: 715-849-5110  
Web Page: [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org) Email: [staff@ncwrpc.org](mailto:staff@ncwrpc.org)



SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

## LOCAL GROUP SURVEY RESULTS:

Each outdoor recreation group on-file with Oneida County Forestry, Land, & Parks were asked to complete the attached survey. The following groups/people returned surveys:

1. Northern Trails Unlimited, Inc; snowmobile club – Steve Moran;
2. Bob Martini, Dist. 11 Supervisor;
3. Oneida County Biking & Walking Trails Council, Jackie Cody;
4. Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA), Brian Hegge; and
5. Oneida County ATV, William C. Welsh.

Only this question (#2) was summarized:

### **“What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County?”**

- 1 response – Loss of easements to keep trails open.
- 1 response – Funding to maintain trails at expected rate for users.
- 1 response – Develop bike trails.
- 1 response – Develop walking trails.
- 1 response – Control extent of ATV trails and keep some of county ATV free.
- 1 response – County generating income from facilities that groups already maintain.
- 1 response – Use of county forest to generate revenue and not necessarily to support tourism.
- 1 response – Growing demand for silent sports and motorized sports on public land.
- 1 response – Rough ATV trails.
- 1 response – Washouts on ATV trails.
- 1 response – ATV and snowmobile need to work together to map all areas.

## ATTACHMENT F

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### Outdoor Recreation Survey and Summarized Results from Communities



### **Town of Monico Questionnaire**

*Feel free to attach a sheet with the answers, or mark on here and return to NCWRPC.*

#### **1. Please verify the following facility descriptions:**

***NCWRPC Question: Are any of these facilities ADA accessible? (Please note: "ADA" next to accessible features listed below.)***

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Lake Venus* – This facility includes swim ropes and buoys, beach, picnic tables, grills, a unisex toilet, and benches.
- *Baseball Park/Pavilion* – This facility includes a concession area with electrical hookups, and pit toilets. The ball field includes a backstop, six sets of bleachers, and shelters for the players.
- *Mars Lake Boat Landing* – This facility includes a launch area and asphalt parking lot.
- *Town Hall Park* – This facility includes a basketball court and benches, surfaced play area, skatepark, and playground.

Public accesses exist on Neptune, Mars, Venus, and Tank Lakes.

There is public access to Lake Venus for swimming, but no boat access.

#### **2. Please list any projects your community completed from 2009-2013.**

#### **3. Please describe what projects your community would like listed in the plan as possibly completing over the next 5 years.**

# ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY



The Oneida County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Department is creating the **Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2014-2019** and we would like your input. The five-year outdoor recreation plan will be used to identify new projects for development as well as which local and county parks or forest segments need additional, repurposed, or reconstructed recreational facilities (e.g. trails, buildings, water access sites, or camp sites).

This plan enables County and possibly local government eligibility for competitive grants of 50% from the DNR Stewardship Fund, and other federal sources, and for annual planning and budgeting.

This survey and maps of existing recreational facilities are available at:  
<http://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/orp.html>

***Please complete this survey at a posted public meeting.***

1. Community:

Town of Monico

2. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County as a whole?  
*These issues could be a combination of strengths and desires to maintain what exists.*

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 2 be satisfied?  
*You may be as general or specific as you want. Feel free to attach a sheet with your answers.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403  
Telephone: 715-849-5510 Fax: 715-849-5110  
Web Page: [www.ncwrpc.org](http://www.ncwrpc.org) Email: [staff@ncwrpc.org](mailto:staff@ncwrpc.org)



SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY RESULTS:

Each town and the City of Rhinelander were asked to complete the attached survey in a publicly posted meeting.

The following communities returned surveys: the City of Rhinelander, and the Towns of Crescent, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Newbold, Nokomis, Pelican, Schoepke, and Sugar Camp.

Only this question (#2) was summarized:

### **“What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County?”**

6 responses – Develop bike trails / walk trails.

3 responses – Promoting outdoor recreation through cooperation w/ advocacy groups & non-profits.  
Create maps & website.

3 responses – Create ATV / UTV trails

2 responses – Improve water access for boating / creating water trails.

2 responses – More financial support for silent sports (beyond bicycling).

1 response – Snowmobiling.

1 response – Cross country skiing.

1 response – Facilities in parks (e.g. restrooms, tennis courts, and handicap accessibility).

1 response – Continue forest blocking for hunting access.

1 response – Support Governor’s fish stocking plan.

1 response – Lack of county campgrounds with or without water access.

1 response – Planning for a wide range of uses & minimizing conflicts on shared spaces is an issue.

1 response – Aquatic invasive species are a problem.

## **ATTACHMENT G**

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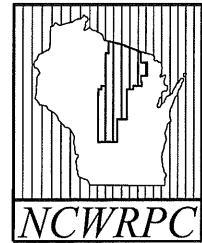
**Public Meeting Notice to Towns**

**Public Comment Letters Received From Public**



# NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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SERVING ADAMS, FOREST, JUNEAU, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, ONEIDA, PORTAGE, VILAS AND WOOD COUNTIES

## MEMORANDUM:

**To:** Oneida County Towns  
**From:** Fred Heider, AICP  
**Re:** Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan – Ready for public review.  
**Date:** January 22, 2014

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The Oneida County ORP is ready for public review:  
<http://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/orp.html>

Please respond by February 10<sup>th</sup> if the Town has any comments. If you have any projects you would like added to your section, then now is the time to add them.

Please review that I transcribed your town's outdoor recreation facilities into the plan accurately:

Town of Crescent on page(s) 38.

Enclosed is a poster that you may share with everyone.

Please provide comments on the plan **by February 10th**, by either replying to me or attending the public comment meeting (see enclosed poster for details).

## NOTE:

If your town would like to adopt the **Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2019**, as your town plan too, then:

1. feel free to pass a Town Board Resolution stating that fact, and
2. mail a copy of that Town Board Resolution to:

Jillian Steffes  
DNR  
107 Sutliff Ave  
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Questions? Feel free to call me (Fred Heider 715-849-5510 Ext 310).

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

None.

TOWN OF CRESCENT

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

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

- Rennovating squash lake boat landing. A new retaining wall may be needed, since it is leaning.
- Develop plans for public access park on Town Hall & Fire Dept. property.

TOWN OF ENTERPRISE

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

The WDNR has a boat landing and pier.

**Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

None.

TOWN OF HAZELHURST

***Hazelhurst Ballpark*** – Facilities include playground equipment, a lighted baseball diamond (used by Little League and men's and women's baseball leagues during the summer), basketball, tournaments, the Lions Club flea market fundraiser, training for the volunteer Fire Department, and tennis court.



## Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan Public Comment Request

The Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan is a 5-year plan for the County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Department and towns to identify what recreation projects each local government would like to accomplish. This plan also establishes DNR eligibility to apply for some capital improvement grants to implement those listed projects. Rhinelander will start their own supplemental plan at a later date this year.

Now is the time for you to say if this plan is continuing in the right direction.

### 1. Review the plan

The draft Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2019 is available at:

- Rhinelander District Library
- Minocqua Public Library
- Oneida County Forestry & Outdoor Recreation Dept.,
- <http://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/orp.html>



### 2. Provide your comments by February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

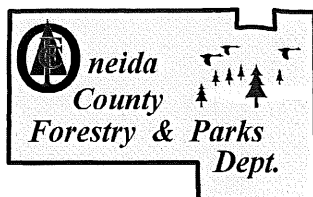
**February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

County Board Room, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Oneida County  
Courthouse in Rhinelander

6:30 p.m. – Brief overview of plan provided,  
then public comment will be accepted.

Public Comment also accepted online by February 10<sup>th</sup> at:  
<http://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/orp.html>

### 3. Committee will review and consider approving the plan for County Board adoption.



North Central Wisconsin  
Regional Planning Commission

February 11, 2014

John Bilogan  
Oneida County Forestry Department  
P.O. Box 400  
Courthouse  
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Hi John,

Here are my comments on the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan

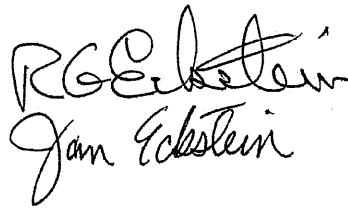
- The Plan is well done and I support it.
- Almon Park is being invaded by common and glossy buckthorn. If action is taken in the next year or two the problem can be addressed with a minimum effort. If left alone it would take an expensive, huge project to address the problem. As part of the facilities plan for Almon Park, please add a work item to control the invasive buckthorn. I would be willing to help you plan, assess and solve this problem.
- On the County Forest, please maintain a mixture of open and closed logging roads to best meet the needs of people who prefer to drive and those who prefer to walk. This also meets the needs of many wildlife species.
- A key to outdoor recreation is a clean, aesthetic environment. Please work to maintain and improve water quality and shoreland protection.
- On the County Forest, please continue the high quality forestry and silvicultural practices that benefit wildlife populations, hunting, trapping, and birding. Maintaining a mix of early successional forests as well as forests with old forest characteristics (large trees, snags, den trees and coarse woody debris). Please continue your efforts to maintain and expand white pine and red oak trees and stands.

Many thanks for this chance to comment.

Ron and Jan Eckstein  
5059 Sunset Dr.  
Rhinelander, WI 54501

715-369-2979

[bentleydog@charter.net](mailto:bentleydog@charter.net)

Handwritten signature of Ron and Jan Eckstein in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and includes the names 'Ron Eckstein' and 'Jan Eckstein' stacked vertically.

# Town of Schoepke

Oneida County  
Pelican Lake, Wisconsin

February 3, 2014

Fred Heider  
North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
210 McClellan Street, Suite 210  
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

RE: Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan

My comments to be included in this plan are as follows:

- 1) Include a hiking/biking trail in the old railroad corridor along Highway 45 and design it to connect with future trails in the adjacent Town of Monico, Town of Enterprise, Langlade County and Forest County. Include ATV and snowmobile trails in the plans.
- 2) Develop a County Park adjacent to Pelican Lake, the largest lake in Oneida County. This park should include hiking trails, picnic areas, shelters, bathrooms, swimming beach, fishing pier and quiet types of activities. The location could be in Recreation Zoned areas between Highway 45 and Pelican Lake.
- 3) Add to recreation assets in the Town of Schoepke

***Town Hall Park*** – Located adjacent to the Schoepke Town Hall sandwiched between Highway 45 and Pelican Lake. It has an impressive oversight of Pelican Lake, walking and sitting areas, dock for water access, fishing from shore, brick fireplace and large wood carvings of wild animals.

***Mecikalski Stovewood Museum*** – Unique folk architecture construction methods of this 1900's era general store make it a memorable visitor experience. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places deem it an outstanding representation of rare construction methods utilizing "stovewood". Is the only known commercial building of its kind.

***Youth Ball Park*** – This ball field is a gem for players and fans alike. Has a manicured playing surface with dugouts, fencing, concession building, warm up cages, electronic scoreboard, parking lot and public facilities.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

A small memorial park is planned next to the firehouse to celebrate contributions by local volunteer firefighters.

A shoreline restoration project located in Town Hall Park will feature a natural vegetation barrier reducing water runoff into Pelican Lake.

Dick Dvorak  
Chairman, Town of Schoepke  
715-487-5250