2018 Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP)
Survey Results Summary

In the spring of 2018 NCWRPC mailed survey notices to each town, and either emailed or mailed survey notices to a whole list of outdoor recreation groups provided by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD). The survey was also available via a link on the Oneida County FLRD’s website and on NCWRPC’s website.

We received 676 responses to the Survey. This survey was sent out for customer feedback and is not statistically significant. Listening to the public’s thoughts gives valuable perspectives for use in developing this outdoor recreation plan. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had smaller response groups.

About 77% of respondents answered the question about living in Oneida County or having a summer home in the County – with most of them (76.9%) “living” in the County; and 79 people marked what zip code they live at. Most municipalities were represented, with the towns of Minocqua, Three Lakes, and Lake Tomahawk all having at least 10% of respondents. See Q36 results for other municipal percentages.

Through an IP address analysis of who took the survey it appears that 53 IP addresses are at least duplicated, which could mean that a husband and wife both took the survey. One IP address repeated 5 times, and another 3 IP addresses repeated 3 times. So it appears that nobody “stuffed the ballot box.”

A majority of the respondents were male (68% male, 31% female). Respondents came from all age groups, with a strong showing of at least 20% in the 45 to 54 age group, the 55 to 64 age group, and the More than 64 age group.

For the full survey results (113 pages) go online here:
http://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/orp/

Key Findings of the ORP Survey:

- The most frequent outdoor recreational activities respondents participated in:
  1. Boating 75% of responses
  2. Walking/hiking 67% of responses
  3. Fishing 63% of responses
  4. ATV / UTV / OHM Riding 60% of responses
  5. Snowmobiling 59% of responses

- What potential outdoor recreational opportunities should be developed in Oneida County?
  1. ATV/UTV trails/routes 321 responses
  2. Mtn. Bike/Bike trails/routes 137 responses
3. Hiking/walking area/trails  
   50 responses

4. Snowmobile trails/routes  
   45 responses

5. Cross country skiing  
   28 responses

6. Campgrounds  
   23 responses

7. Winter fat bike  
   18 responses

8. Snowshoe trails  
   18 responses

9. Boat access/launches  
   17 responses

10. Fishing  
    17 responses

11. More public hunting land  
    17 responses

12. Dog friendly places  
    13 responses

13. Canoe/kayak  
    11 responses

14. Remote camping  
    9 responses

15. Shooting range  
    9 responses

16. More festivals  
    8 responses

17. Swimming beaches  
    7 responses

18. Bird watching  
    7 responses

19. Develop Heal Creek property  
    7 responses

Questions 3 through 14 are for specific county parks or campgrounds.
- Each Committee member received the full 113 page summary, which is also available here: http://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/orp/

Q6 What improvements would you like in Almon County Park?

Answered: 45 people. (# of responses) Most common sentiments:

(6) Repair current trails from high water damage. Nature trails under water and no repairs.
(5) It’s pretty good.

Bike related:
(3) Bike trails to connect to Rhinelander.
(2) Allow bikes on trails.
(1) Separate mountain bike and fat bike trails groomed in the winter.
(1) Potable drinking water needed – no place to get a drink if you are biking and stopping by the park or for any other activity.

(3) More nature trails; nature trails with descriptions.
(3) Upgrade the bathrooms. Better changing rooms – a hook would be nice.
(2) Update facilities.

(2) Allow dogs to go swimming.
(2) ATV and snowmobile facilities.
(2) Open fairways on disk golf course.

Q10 What improvements would you like in Perch Lake County Park?
Answered: 115 people. (# of responses) Most common sentiments:

(57) Never been there.

(20) Trail improvements. (4 of 20) Mow ski trail more frequently in summer.
   - More entry level bicycle trails.
   - Improved trail signs for not getting lost.
   - The snowshoe trails should be [non-motorized] multi use trails.
   - More trails for skiing and mountain bikes.

(9) I like it as is. Thanks for recent improvements.

(5) Larger parking lot.
(5) Better forest management. Have loggers do a nicer job when doing a cut so it
doesn’t look like a storm blew through. Ran into some confusion when logger’s paint
slashes were same color as red trail marks.
(4) ATV access.

Q14 What improvements would you like in Enterprise Campground?
Answered: 9 people. (# of responses) Most common sentiments:

(9) Various responses.
Q15 What type of water enthusiast are you?  
Answered: 540 people.

Not at all.  (I’m not interested in water recreation at all, not even with friends.)
Casual user.  (I like to use the water, but only do so occasionally.)
Enthusiastic.  (I access or go on the water regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)
Avid.  (I am always on the water or ice every chance I get.)

Q16 How do you use the water?
Answered: 525 people.  (# of responses) Most common sentiments:

Other:
- (1) Snowshoeing in winter.
- (7) Paddleboarding.
- (7) Wildlife watching/Birding/Photography.
- (6) Cross-country skiing.
- (5) Sailing.
Q17 What boat landings/access points need improvement?
Answered: 159 people. (# of responses) Most common sentiments:

(25) None.

(4) Better ramps. Concrete landings.
(4) Toilets at boat landings would be a bonus.
(4) Kayak friendly landings. Some of the smaller lakes in the upper part of the county could use carry-in trails for canoes and kayaks.
(4) West Horsehead Lake – launch improvement, needs a turnaround spot so loaded trailers don’t have to be backed in.
(3) East Horsehead Lake – dock improvement.
(3) Hancock Lake – pier & landing improvements.
(2) Manson Lake – landing is horrible; brush out areas to cast a line from shorelines on county land.
(2) Nokomis Lake – improve parking.

(1 each) Specific lakes listed:
- Medicine Lake – turnaround and better parking;
- Thunder Lake – pier is needed;
- Sevenmile Lake – toilet;
- Booth Lake – it is a muck bottom. Hard to land a boat;
- Gary Lake – access improvement;
- Flannery Lake – landing and sock are barely adequate;
- Crescent Lake – need more parking for vehicles/trailers;
- Pelican River – could use a few canoe landings;
- Moen Lake – launch improvements;
- many other specific comments…
Q18 What winter recreation activities do you participate in?
Answered: 536 people. (# of responses) Most common sentiments:

Q19 How often do you use the following Winter Silent Sport Trails?
Answered: 494 people. 75-85% of respondents don’t use these trails (not shown for legibility).
Q20  Rate your overall satisfaction with the Winter Silent Sport Trails:
Answered: 494 people.

75% of respondents don’t use these trails (not shown for legibility).

Q21  What improvements to Winter Silent Sport Trails are needed?
Answered: 100 people. (# of responses) Most common sentiments:

(23) None.

(15) Open more fat tire bike trails that are groomed. Washburn trails could benefit from groomed fat bike trails.

(17) Very specific trail improvement suggestions:
- (6) Paragraphs worth of comments.
- The signage is baffling at Washburn – the other trails are great.
- Red Raven trail lost a portion of the trail running along Clear Lake – please bring it back.
- I’d like to see the Enterprise trail groomed for cross country skiing.
- Use the golf course out of Rhinelander for cross country skiing.
- The trails could be groomed more often. Nose trail wasn’t groomed much late season.

(8) Get rid of them.

(4) More dog friendly areas.

(3) Lighted ski trail.
Q22 What type of motorized vehicle (ATV/UTV/OHM) enthusiast are you?

Answered: 524 people.

- **Not at all.** (I'm not interested in motorized recreation at all, not even with friends.)
- **Casual user.** (I like to use motorized vehicles for fun, but only do so occasionally, OR only on my own land.)
- **Enthusiastic.** (I access or go on motorized routes and trails regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)
- **Avid.** (I am always on a motorized vehicle every chance I get – all year long.)
Q23 How often do you use the following Motorized Sport Trails?
Answered: 384 people.

Q24 Rate your overall satisfaction with the Motorized Sports Trails:
Answered: 384 people.
Q25  What improvements to Motorized Sport Trails (ATV/UTV or Snowmobile) are needed?

Answered: 236 people. (# of responses) Most common sentiments:

(119) More ATV/UTV trails, instead of routes.
  - (4) Lake Tomahawk/Woodruff area;
  - (2) town of Newbold area;
  - (2) Three Lakes area;
  - eastern part of the county;
  - to get around Minocqua;
  - finish the loop from Lake Tomahawk to 51 East;
  - access to area by St Germain;
  - Squirrel Lake area;

(15) Open more roads to access ATV trails.
  - road by Menards;
  - Bo-de-lac Road;
  - Town of Newbold;

(9) Better snowmobile trail grooming.

(7) More snowmobile trails.
  - need a trail from Harrison to Rhinelander;
  - fund trail between The Edge & The Cantina. It is THE link between Northern Trails Unlimited and the Bearskin. Major economic impact of that trail.

(4) Snow should be left along roads that are designated as a snowmobile trail.
  - Oneida Lake Rd; Oscar Jenny Rd; and Fawn Rd;

(5) Paragraphs worth of ATV/UTV comments.

(3) Paragraphs worth of snowmobile comments.
Q26  What type of bicyclist are you? Answered: 383 people.

No way, no how. (I’m not interested in biking at all, not even for recreation.)

Interested but concerned. (I like riding, but don’t do it regularly. I’m generally concerned that my route is not safe to ride, so I don’t ride often. I definitely do not ride when the weather is bad.)

Enthusiastic and confident. (I feel comfortable sharing the road with motor vehicles, but I prefer to ride on separate facilities like bike lanes. I may or may not ride in inclement weather.)

Strong and fearless. (I am confident in my abilities and will ride regardless of roadway conditions, amount of traffic, or inclement weather.)
Q27  How often do you use the following Summer Silent Sport Trails?
Answered: 512 people.

75-84% of respondents don’t use these trails (not shown for legibility).

Q28  Rate your satisfaction with Summer Silent Sport Trails:
Answered: 503 people.

75-82% of respondents don’t use these trails (not shown for legibility).
Q29 What improvements to Summer Silent Sport Trails are needed?

Answered: 95 people. (# of responses) Most common sentiments:

(24) None.
(21) Various individual improvement comments.
(9) More trails.
(8) More single track trails.
(7) Mow trails more frequently.

(2) The Washburn “stone soup” single track segment is clearly a safety hazard. Need to maintain and sign a bypass trail around these technical spots.

Q30 How do you learn about outdoor recreation in Oneida County?

Answered: 511 people.