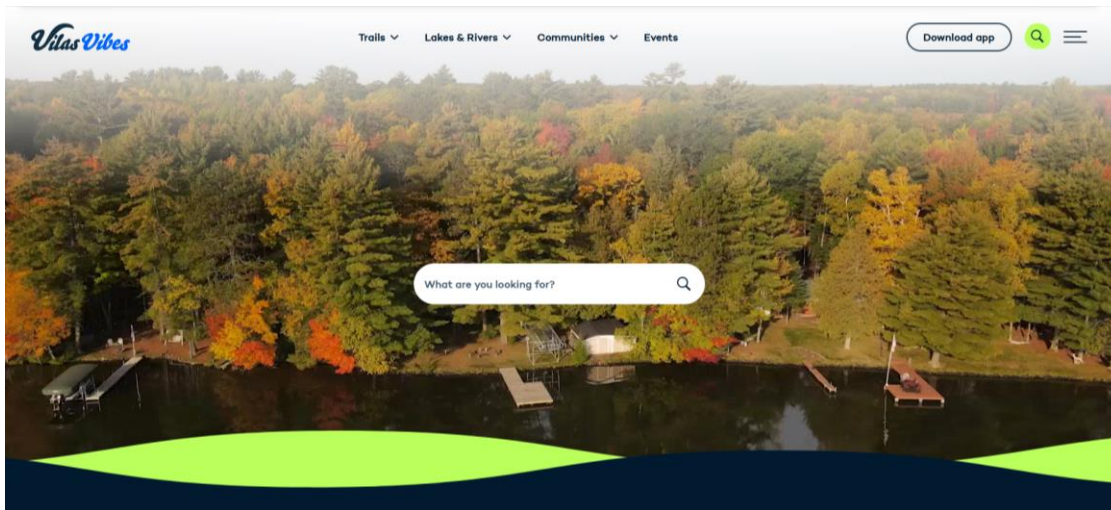




Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023-2027

Also covering the municipalities within Vilas County



Trails & Lakes
Discover the Northwoods

Effective January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2027



Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Acknowledgements

Vilas County Board of Supervisors

Gerald Burkett, Chair

Carolyn Ritter, Vice-Chair

Michael A. Biszak, 2nd Vice-Chair

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Cover photo: Vilas County Tourism (<https://vilaswi.com/>)

March 2023

This plan was prepared under the direction of the Vilas County Forestry, Recreation & Land Committee by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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Attachments

- A. Park Design and Location Criteria
- B. Facility Development Standards
- C. Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs
- D. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Identified Outdoor Recreation Needs
- E. Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway Route
- F. Shared Use Trail Study – Route/Trail Interactions MAP
- G. Great Headwaters Trails – System Segments MAP

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The primary purpose of this outdoor recreation plan is to provide continued direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of Vilas County. This is accomplished through an inventory and analysis of outdoor recreational facilities, asking the public what they are looking for, and the establishment of recommendations to meet identified needs.

Adoption of this plan by the Vilas County Board and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), will continue eligibility of the County and its local units of government for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space Program (UGS) and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP).

All municipalities that wish to apply for DNR grants need to adopt this Plan as their own.

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

1.2 Provisions for Updating Plan

Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They frequently represent good implementation or plan usage and should be acceptable for consideration by local decision makers.

Annual review of the plan recommendations and capital improvement list by the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee will keep this plan current. This review may also occur after a large turn over in elected officials after an election.

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

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

Annual Review Process:

1. The Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee reviews plan and takes a vote on what changes to make.
2. County Board adopts changes by resolution.
3. Those changes are now part of the original plan. Make sure those changes, the original plan and the approval resolution are available to submit to DNR's Community Financial Assistance staff when applying for any financial assistance.

Establishing a **full plan update every five years** will assure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the County and will extend the county's eligibility for grant programs for another 5 years.

1.3 Reference Plans

Vilas County has been involved with outdoor recreation plans since 1972 when the local University of Wisconsin Extension Resource Agent compiled the County's first outdoor recreation plan. Later, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission updated the plan for years 1978-1983, 1984-1988, 2002-2006, and since the 2014-2019 plan.

Plan summaries that affect outdoor recreation in Vilas County are referenced below:

Vilas County Comprehensive Plan, 2019

This plan is a combination of nine chapters. Within the Utilities & Community Facilities Chapter are the following goals and objectives that relate to outdoor recreation

Goal:

3. Maintain and enhance year round recreational opportunities and facilities within the county while minimizing user conflicts.

Objectives:

9. Support integration and implementation of the Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plan and future updates adopted by Vilas County and/or local communities.
10. Follow the recommendations of the County's Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP) when making park acquisitions and development decisions.
11. Monitor and update the ORP based on recommendations of this Comprehensive Land Use Plan and any other local opportunity to maintain relevance and grant potential.
13. Pursue state and federal funding programs, which can aid in the development and acquisition of parks, trails, scenic areas, open space, and environmentally significant areas.
14. Recognize the need to accommodate all age groups and abilities in recreational pursuits..
15. Work with and support service clubs and organizations related to the maintenance and development of recreational facilities and activities.

Policies:

4. Encourage land acquisition and development strategies for parks, as outlined in the County Outdoor Recreation Plan.
5. Encourage the development of a comprehensive county-wide multiuse trail plan that includes facilities for hikers, bikers, ATVs, snowmobiles, as well as the disabled and elderly, and that ties together attractions and natural and cultural resources throughout the county.

NCWPC NOTE: The next Comprehensive Plan should include “off-highway motorcycling” into **policy 5**, since the County ORP has included OHM since the 2019 revision.

Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan, 2011

This plan is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway and pedestrian system for Vilas County. This plan is a tool designed to make Vilas County more walkable and bikeable. Results of this plan include a bicycle trail and route map, and an implementation action plan. See **Map 2**.

Vilas County Shared Use Route & Trail Study, 2018

This study provides guidance to assist governmental entities, route & trail interest groups and individual trail users within Vilas County in working together to plan, develop and maintain a comprehensive and sustainable route and trail network for diverse outdoor recreation. See map in **Attachment F**.

Vilas County Land & Water Resource Management Plan, 2015-2024

The Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Committee developed this plan in 2014. 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.

Vilas County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, 2021–2035

This plan is a management guide for the Vilas County Forest and is updated every fifteen years. The mission of the plan is to manage and protect natural resources within the county forest on a sustainable basis for the ecological, economic, educational, recreational, and research needs of present and future residents throughout the county. The report includes a number of recommendations for timber management, wildlife habitat and game management, land acquisition and forest boundary management, biodiversity management, watershed management and tourism.

Chapter 2000 identifies parks and recreation improvements planned for during the 15 year planning timeframe.

Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway's Corridor Management Plan (CMP)

The Byway's CMP is a written document authored by the local government sponsor that serves as the coordinating plan by which the scenic, historical, recreational, cultural, archeological and natural qualities on a designated byway are maintained and promoted.

The Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway runs through the Towns of Washington and Three Lakes. See the Byway map in **Attachment E**.

North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan, 2018

The purpose of this 2018 plan is to “recommend policies, programs, and facilities to improve the safety, viability, convenience, and attractiveness of bicycling and walking for transportation.” This plan also serves to bridge the gap between local community planning and State plans, as well as fill in gaps where improvements for bicycling and/or walking end in local community plans, to create a regional network of safe walking and bicycling.

Goals of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan:

- Mobility – The Trail System must enhance bicyclists’ ability to get around the Region including access to key destinations such as schools, parks, retail areas, and other public facilities.
- Functionality – New off-road routes, improved existing street routes, signage and marking, and route promotion must be combined to function as a system that is easy and desirable to use.
- Safety – Every bicyclist and pedestrian in the North Central Region deserves a system that is safe for travel.
- Connectivity – The Trail System must provide a seamless transportation system on multiple levels including; internally to all areas of a community; externally to outlying neighbors around the Region; and becoming a part of the bigger picture of a statewide trails network.

State Trails Network Plan

This 2001 document (revised in 2003) clarifies a 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.

Segment 15—Ashland to Rhinelander

From Manitowish, a potential trail corridor extends southeast through Vilas County to the City of Rhinelander. The route includes abandoned rail corridors, roadways and existing trails in the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. The segment in Iron County is an existing snowmobile trail. Iron County would like to cooperate with the state forest to repair bridges so the trail can be opened for bicycling.

Part of this segment includes a proposed loop route on abandoned rail line from Manitowish to Woodruff. From Woodruff, the loop extends north to Boulder Junction and returns to Manitowish. In addition to abandoned rail line, the loop consists of Boulder Junction’s community trail, roadways and/or existing forest trails. A spur connector to Sayner is also proposed using forest trails and/or low-use roadways.

Continuing south, a route through Woodruff/Minocqua would connect with the Bearskin/Hiawatha State Trail.

Segment 19—Langlade Co. to Michigan state line

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, the Washburn to Rhinelander corridor at Monico and the Antigo to White Lake proposed corridor. The segment includes a loop to the Crandon to White Lake proposed corridor. The grade runs through portions of Langlade County Forest, the lake area around Kempster in Langlade County and the popular tourist areas of Three Lakes and Eagle River in Vilas County.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023

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.

This SCORP lays out five overarching goals for outdoor recreation:

1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation.
 2. Grow partnerships.
 3. Provide high-quality experiences.
 4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits.
 5. Enhance funding and financial stability.
- Park Design and Location Criteria from SCORP are described in **Attachment A**.
 - SCORP identified outdoor recreation needs are in **Attachment D**.

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 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 draft comprehensive plans, or offering different types of technical assistance.

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

CN Chequamegon-Nicolet Nat'l Forest

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

BL Border Lakes Region

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

DK Deerskin River

Size	Small
Protection Initiated	Moderate
Protection Remaining	Limited
Conservation Significance	☆☆☆
Recreation Potential	☆

NA Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest

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

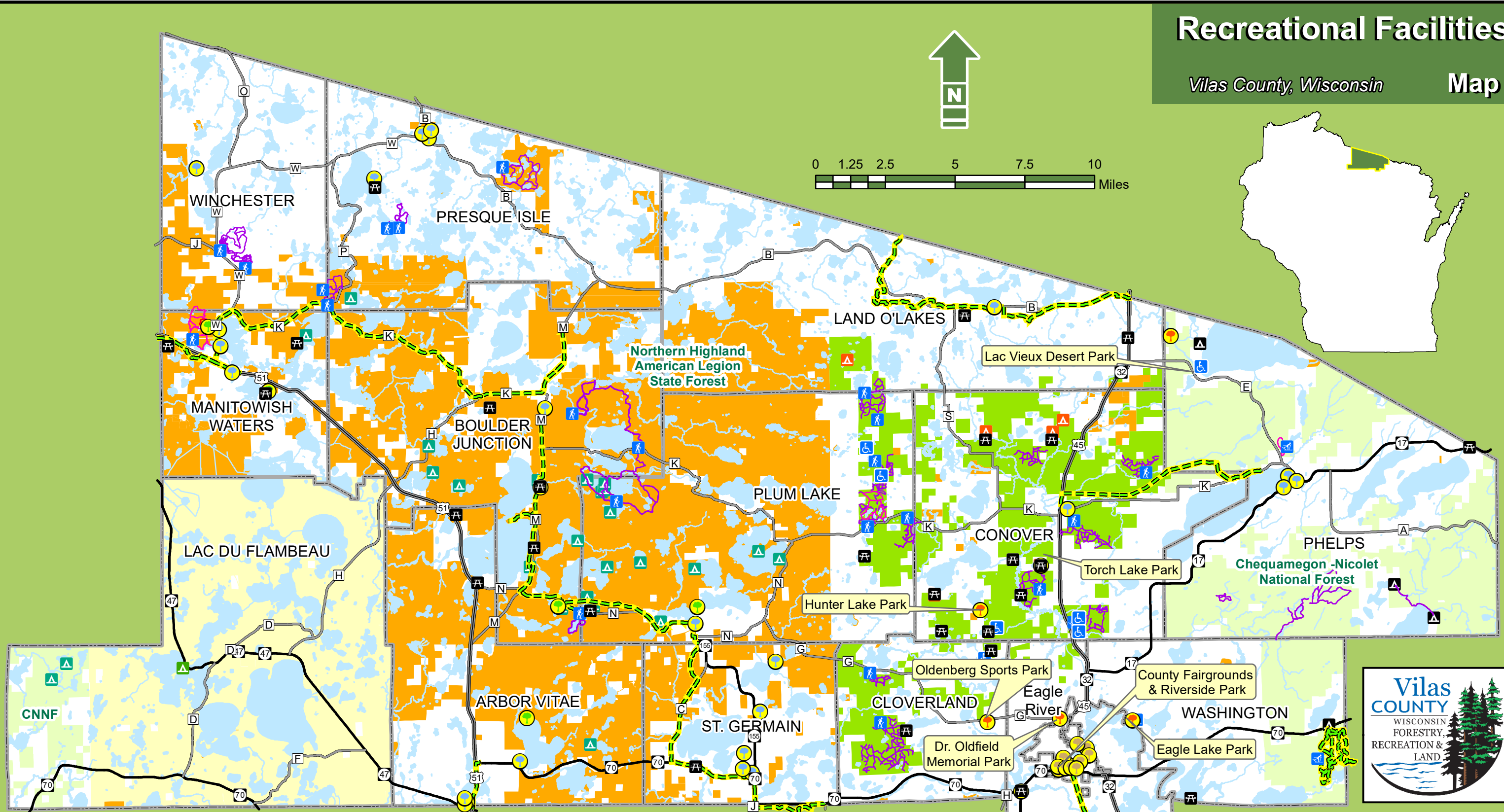
UW Upper Wisconsin River

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

Recreational Facilities

Vilas County, Wisconsin

Map 1



Legend		Parks		Trailheads		Recreation Trails		Campgrounds		Land Ownership	
	US Highways		City		Hunter-Hiking Trail		Bike Trail		County		Federal
	State Highways		County		XC Trail		Cross Country Ski Trail		Federal		Lac du Flambeau
	County Highways		State		Disabled Access Trail		Hiking Trail		Tribal		Vilas County Forest
	Minor Civil Divisions		Town				Snowshoe Trail		State		WI DNR
	Water						Snowmobile Trails		Picnic Area		

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SOURCE: NCWRPC, Vilas County Mapping Dept., WDNR

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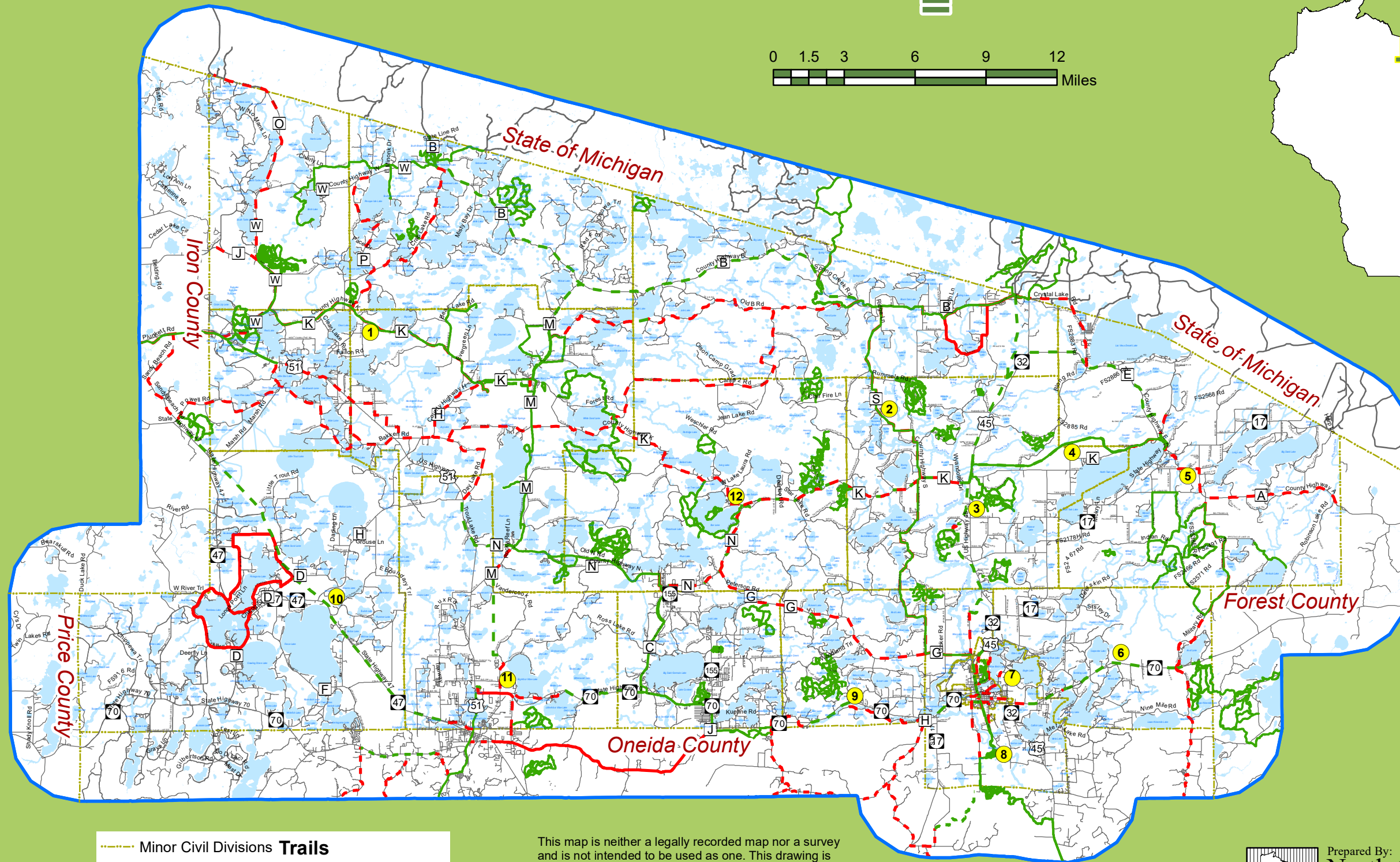
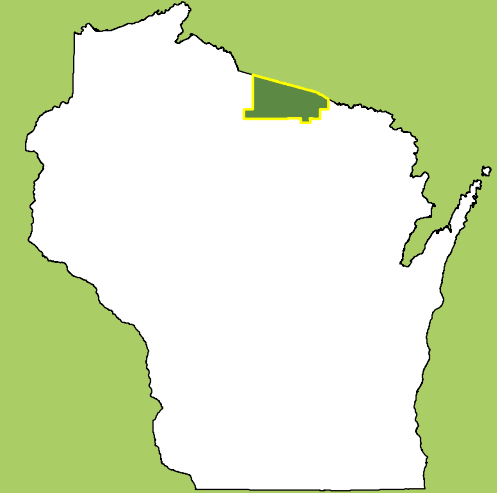
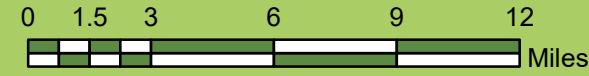
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North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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 715-849-5510 - staff@ncwrpc.org - www.ncwrpc.org

Proposed routes and trails from: Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan, 2011
 Existing routes and trails from: Vilas County Mapping Dept.

Countywide Bike / Ped. Routes and Trails

Vilas County, Wisconsin **Map 2**



- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| --- Minor Civil Divisions | Trails |
| — Roads | — Existing Off Road |
| ● Route ID | — Existing On Road |
| Water | - - - Proposed Off Road |
| | - - - Proposed On Road |

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SOURCE: NCWRPC, Vilas County Mapping Dept., WDNR

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

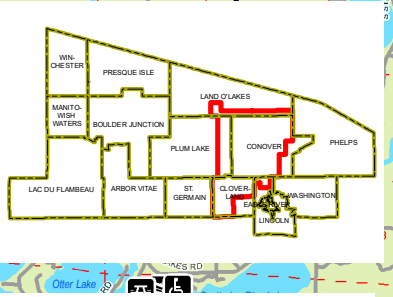
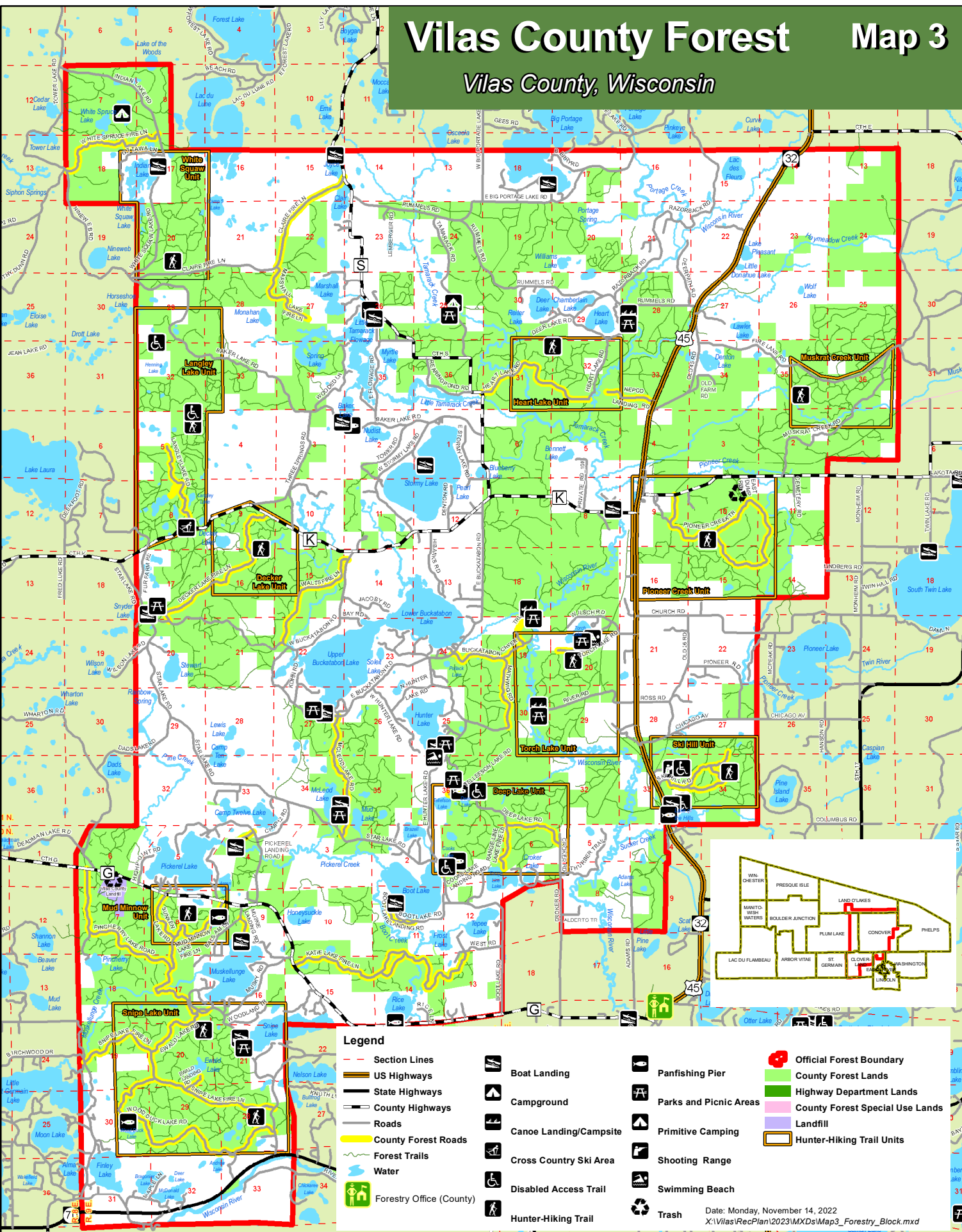


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Vilas County Forest Map 3

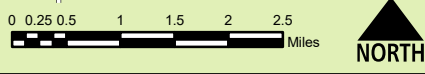
Vilas County, Wisconsin



Legend

- Section Lines
- US Highways
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Roads
- County Forest Roads
- Forest Trails
- Water
- Forestry Office (County)
- Boat Landing
- Campground
- Canoe Landing/Campsite
- Cross Country Ski Area
- Disabled Access Trail
- Hunter-Hiking Trail
- Panfishing Pier
- Parks and Picnic Areas
- Primitive Camping
- Shooting Range
- Swimming Beach
- Trash
- Official Forest Boundary
- County Forest Lands
- Highway Department Lands
- County Forest Special Use Lands
- Landfill
- Hunter-Hiking Trail Units

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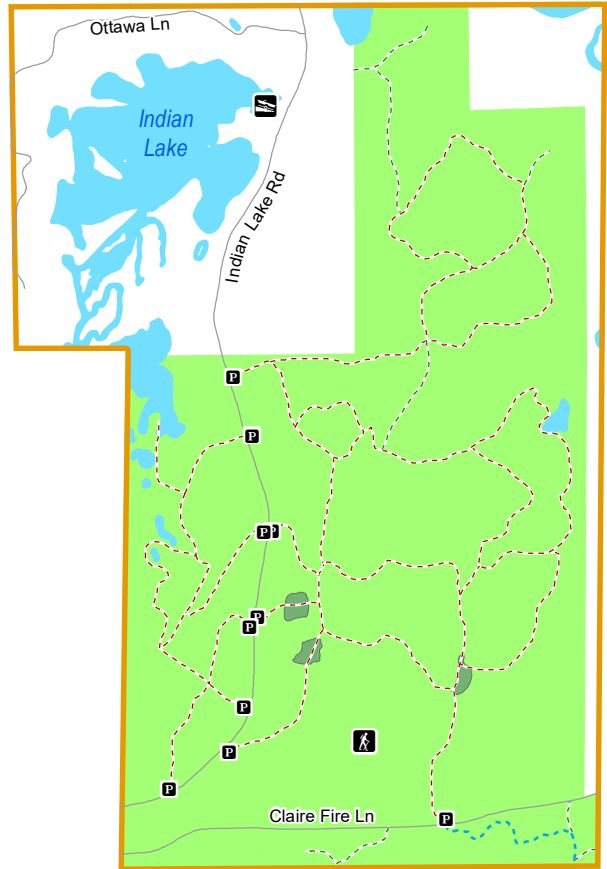
Prepared By: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission & Vilas County Forestry Department

HUNTING - HIKING CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

The forest is ideal for hunting, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Ninety miles of hunter hiking trails have been developed and closed to motor vehicle access for hunting, hiking, and cross-country skiing. These trails were initially created as a result of logging roads built by private contractors harvesting timber on the forest. These trails were widened and connected using monies from county Fish and Game Aids, Habitat Development Grant Funds, and Pittman-Robertson Funds along with county appropriations. All trail systems are seeded with a mixture of clover and grass and are routinely mowed to provide multiple recreation opportunities. The trail systems are posted with map boards. There are two disabled hunter access trails providing vehicle access for Class A & B permit holders. More than half of the forest trails are drivable.



WHITE SQUAW UNIT



Legend

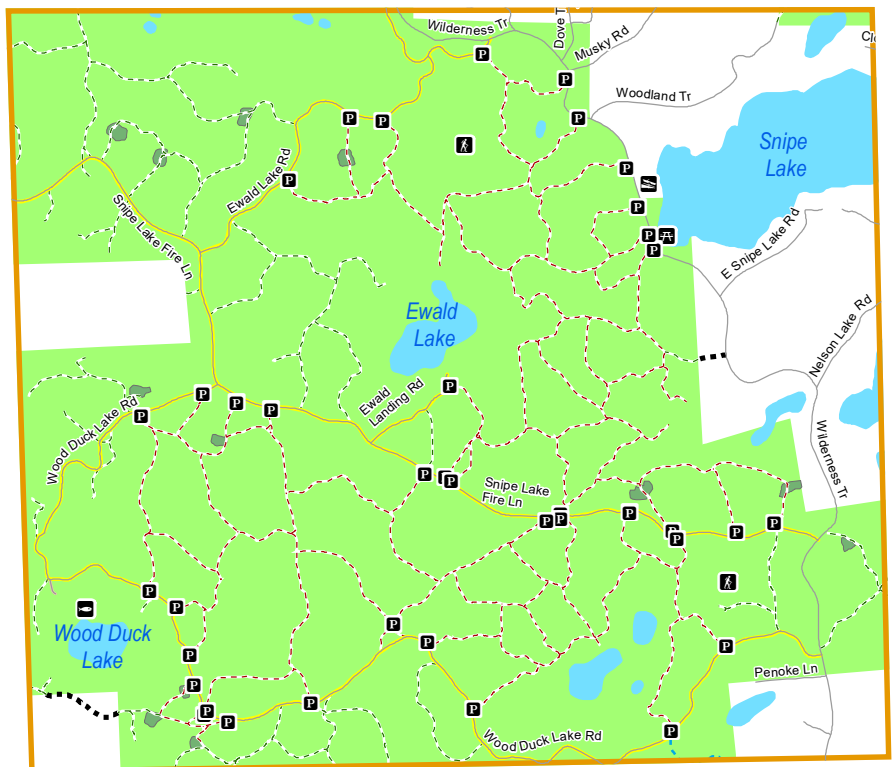
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| US Highways | Swimming Beach |
| State Highways | Canoe Landing/Campsite |
| County Highways | Shooting Range |
| Roads | Panfishing Pier |
| County Forest Roads | Disabled Access |
| Forest Units | Boat Landings |
| Water | Parking Areas |
| Wildlife Openings | Hunter-Hiking Trails |
| County Forest Lands | Trash Drop-off |
| | Cross Country Ski Area |

Forest Trails

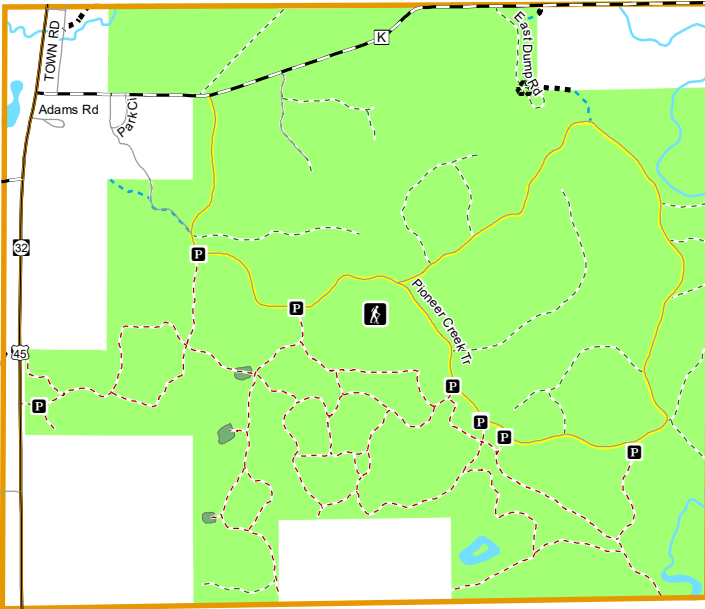
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- Disabled Hunter Access
- Hunter Hiking Trails
- Private Roads / Trails
- Snowmobile Trails
- Ski Trails
- Forest Trails



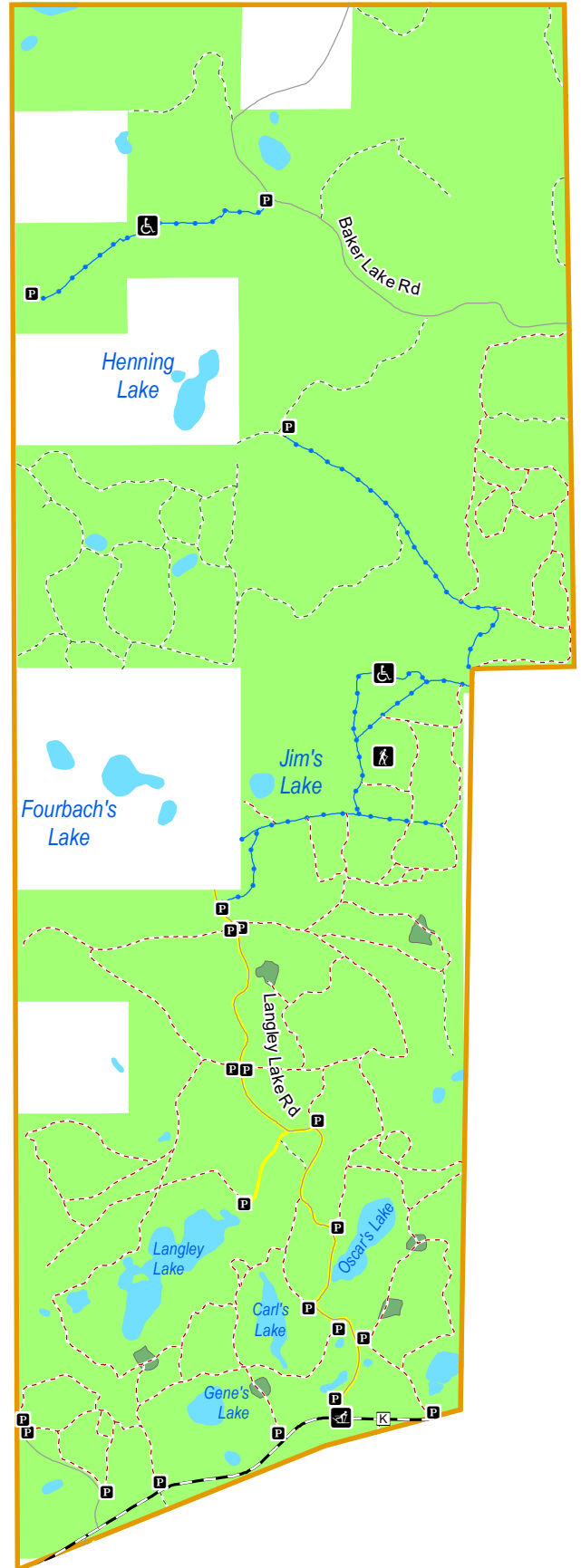
SNIPE LAKE UNIT



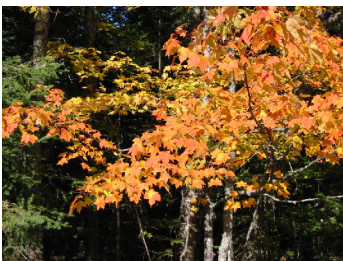
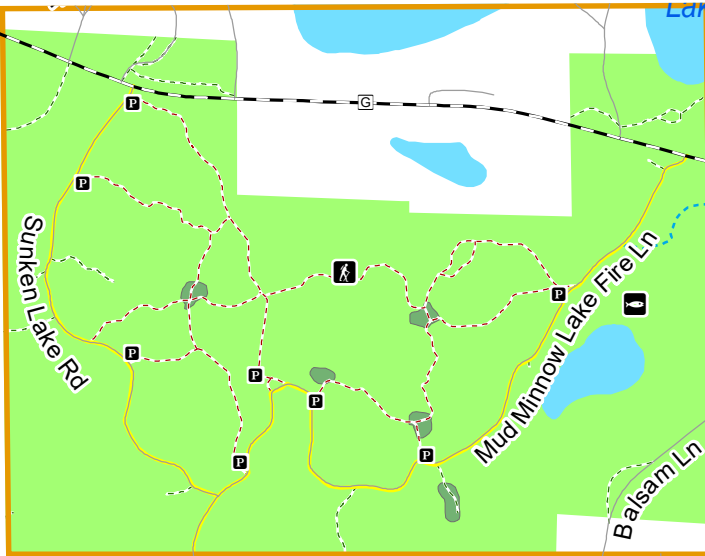
PIONEER CREEK UNIT



LANGLEY LAKE UNIT

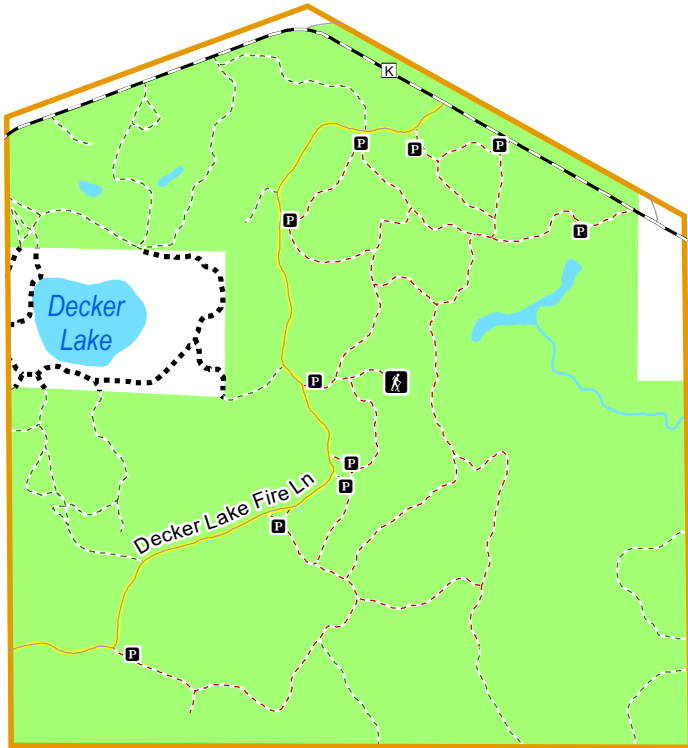


MUD MINNOW UNIT

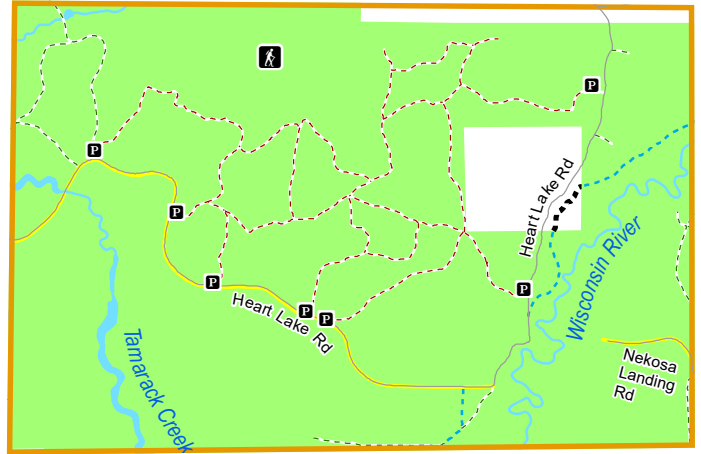


See Map 4 for Legend

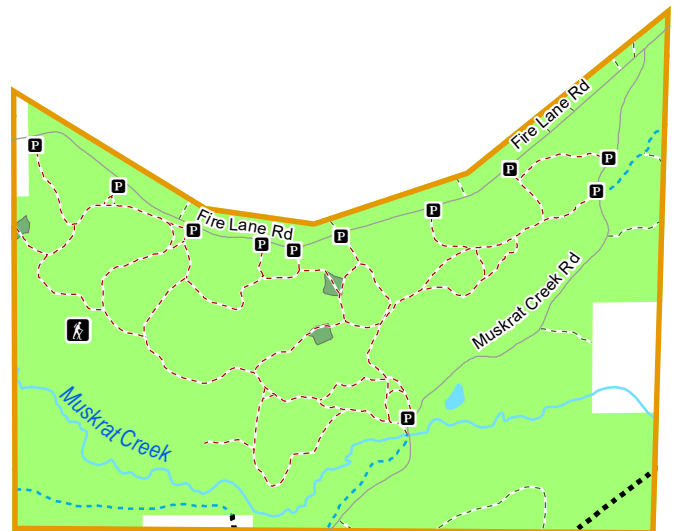
DECKER LAKE UNIT



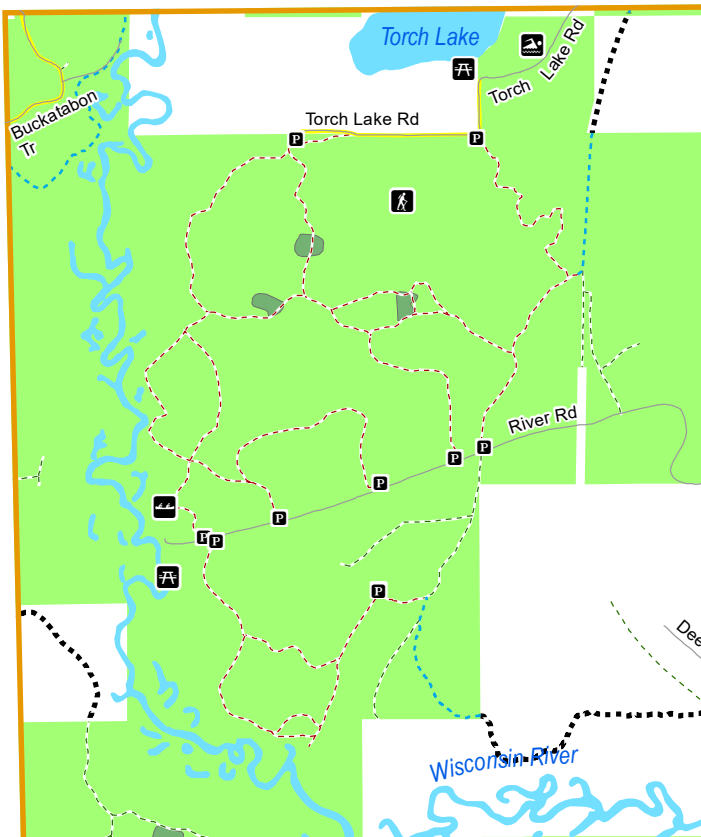
HEART LAKE UNIT



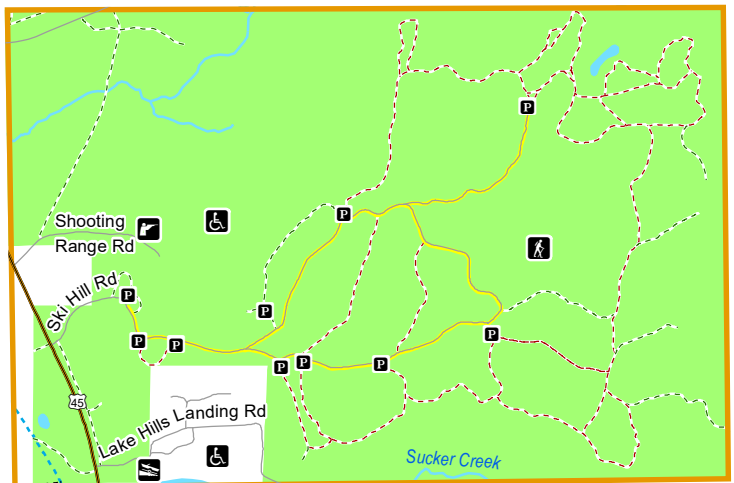
MUSKRAT CREEK UNIT



TORCH LAKE UNIT



SKI HILL UNIT



See Map 4 for Legend

HUNTING - HIKING CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

The forest is ideal for hunting, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Ninety miles of hunter hiking trails have been developed and closed to motor vehicle access for hunting, hiking, and cross-country skiing. These trails were initially created as a result of logging roads built by private contractors harvesting timber on the forest. These trails were widened and connected using monies from county Fish and Game Aids, Habitat Development Grant Funds, and Pittman-Robertson Funds along with county appropriations. All trail systems are seeded with a mixture of clover and grass and are routinely mowed to provide multiple recreation opportunities. The trail systems are posted with map boards. There are two disabled hunter access trails providing vehicle access for Class A & B permit holders. More than half of the forest trails are drivable.

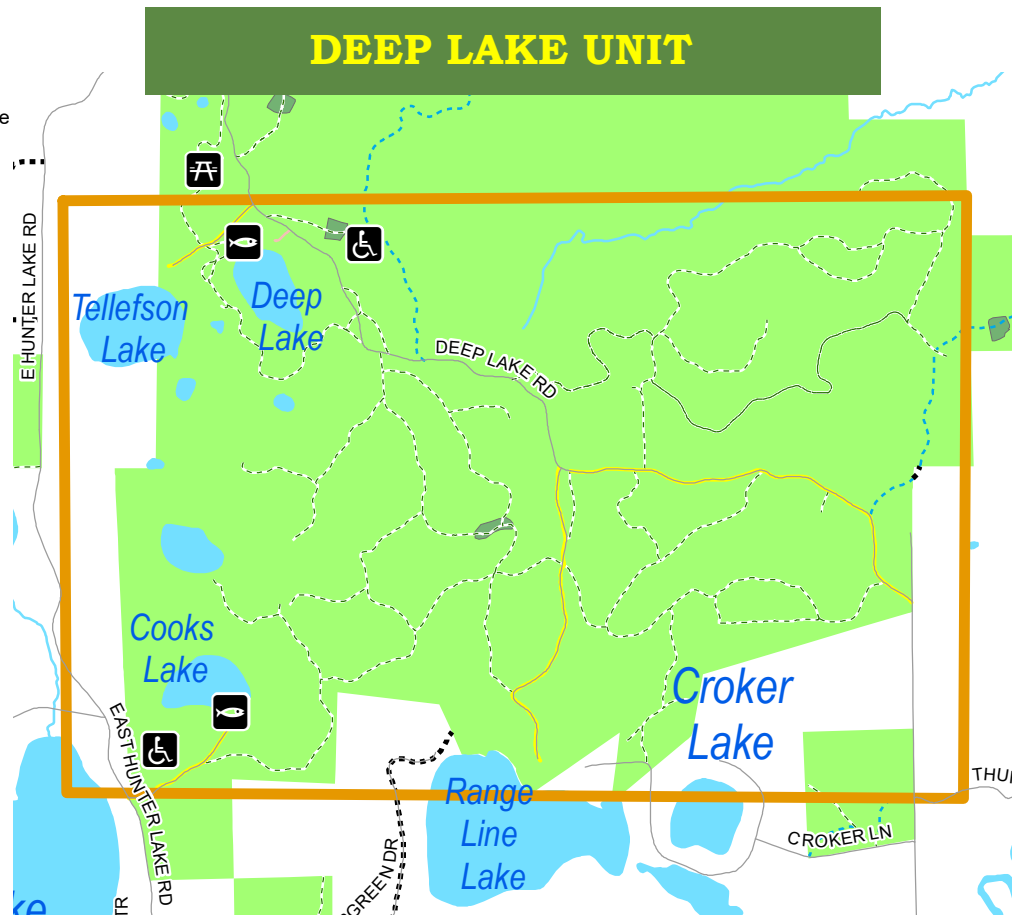


Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| | US Highways | | Swimming Beach |
| | State Highways | | Canoe Landing/Campsite |
| | County Highways | | Shooting Range |
| | Roads | | Panfishing Pier |
| | County Forest Roads | | Disabled Access |
| | Forest Units | | Boat Landings |
| | Water | | Parking Areas |
| | Wildlife Openings | | Hunter-Hiking Trails |
| | County Forest Lands | | Trash Drop-off |
| | | | Cross Country Ski Area |

Forest Trails

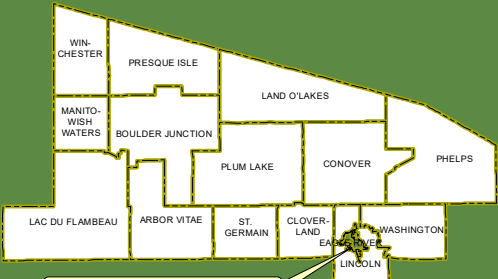
- Camping and Recreation Access
- Disabled Hunter Access
- Hunter Hiking Trails
- Private Roads / Trails
- Snowmobile Trails
- Ski Trails
- Forest Trails



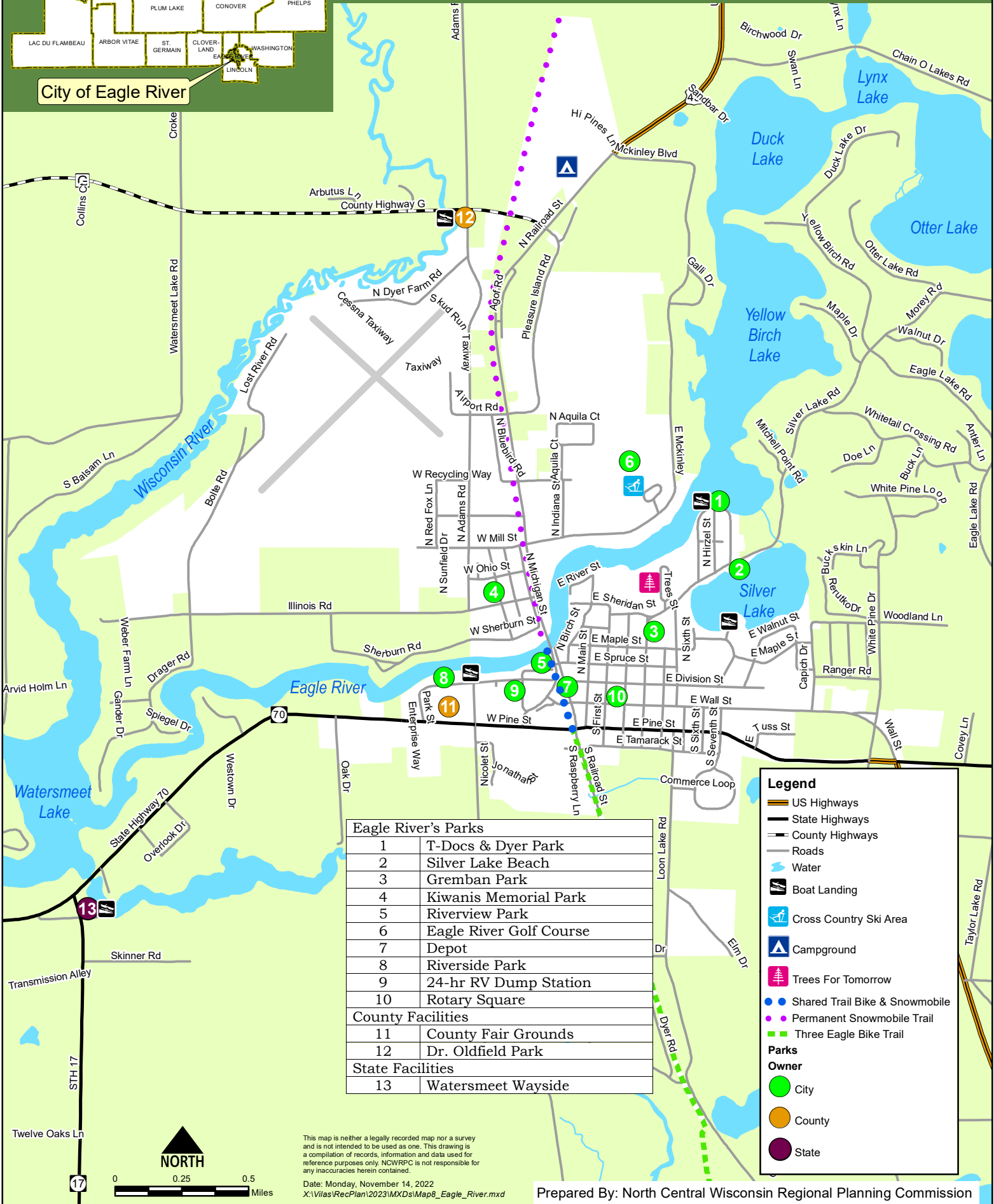
City of Eagle River

Map 8

Vilas County, Wisconsin



City of Eagle River



Eagle River's Parks	
1	T-Docs & Dyer Park
2	Silver Lake Beach
3	Gremban Park
4	Kiwanis Memorial Park
5	Riverview Park
6	Eagle River Golf Course
7	Depot
8	Riverside Park
9	24-hr RV Dump Station
10	Rotary Square
County Facilities	
11	County Fair Grounds
12	Dr. Oldfield Park
State Facilities	
13	Watersmeet Wayside

Legend

- US Highways
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Roads
- Water
- Boat Landing
- Cross Country Ski Area
- Campground
- Trees For Tomorrow
- Shared Trail Bike & Snowmobile
- Permanent Snowmobile Trail
- Three Eagle Bike Trail

Parks

Owner

- City
- County
- State



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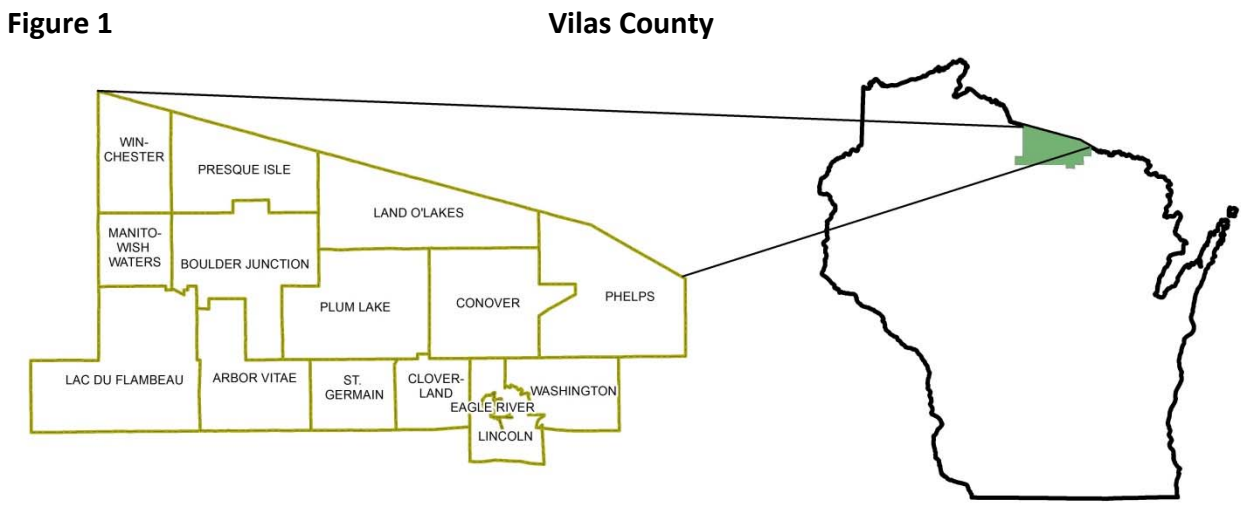
Chapter 2: BACKGROUND OF VILAS COUNTY

2.1 Physical Characteristics

This section describes the physical features that make up Vilas County. This information is essential in determining the potential as well as the limitations of an area for recreation development. Recreation planners use this kind of data to determine which resources to develop and which resources to protect or preserve.

Potential opportunities and limitations start with understanding an area. This chapter provides a basic feel for what Vilas County looks like physically, demographically, and economically.

Vilas County is located in northern Wisconsin (**Figure 1**) and is bound by Upper Michigan to the north, Forest County to the east, Oneida County to the south, and Iron and Price Counties to the west. The county is approximately 651,529 acres in size, of which about 85% (553,878 acres) are of land, and about 15% (97,024 acres) are water. Public and private forests cover about 81% of the county.



Topography and Geology

The physiology (physical nature of a geographic area) of Vilas County resulted from glacial activity that occurred 10,000 - 25,000 years ago. The last retreat of the glaciers transformed the formerly uneven, rocky terrain of the county into a diverse landscape.

Vilas County's landscape ranges from broad, nearly level glacial outwash plains to rough, broken glacial moraines and areas of pitted outwash. There are three distinct physiographic regions in the county. The drumlins and ground moraines in the eastern portion of the county are characterized by low, smoothly rounded, elongated, and oval ridges that are nearly level to moderately steep and are interspersed with long, narrow drainageways. The Winegar moraine area in the western portion of the county is characterized by short, steep slopes and ridges, and by numerous wet depressions, most of which have no outlets. Outside of these moraine areas is an outwash plain, characterized by a rolling or hilly topography with many enclosed basins and depressions. In scattered areas on this plain, including the communities of Eagle River, Manitowish Waters, Conover, St. Germain, and Boulder Junction, sand flats are present, while end moraines and drumlins are scattered throughout. The glacial melt is directly related to the amount and location of surface water.

Forestry

Forest cover is a key environmental, economic, and aesthetic feature. Expansive forest lands provide recreational and aesthetic opportunities for residents and tourists, and also function as sources of commercial timber production.

State Forest Land

The Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest (NHAL) comprises the majority of state owned land in the county [149,733.6 acres (27% of land in the county)].

Federal Forest Land

Nicolet National Forest, and Chequamegon National Forest lands total about 54,504 acres (9.8% of land in the county).

County Forest Land

Vilas County owns approximately 42,000 acres (7.1% of land in the county), most of which is the Vilas County Forest.

Forested Lands – Not Publicly Owned

As of 2022, there were about 38,095 acres of privately-owned forestland enrolled in either the Forest Crop Law (FCL) or Managed Forest Law (MFL) program, both administered by WDNR. In exchange for following an approved forest management plan, the landowner pays reduced property taxes. An even greater tax reduction is provided to those who open their enrolled lands to the public for the recreational purposes of hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, and sightseeing.

Surface Water

Vilas County is at the headwaters of the Wisconsin and Flambeau rivers that drain to the Mississippi River; the Brule and Menominee rivers flow into Lake Michigan, and Presque Isle discharges into Lake Superior.

Surface water resources constitute an extremely valuable part of the natural resource base of Vilas County. Vilas County is home to over 1,320 lakes, more than any other county in Wisconsin, resulting in one of the highest concentrations of inland freshwater lakes in the world. Numerous rivers and streams are also located within the county's boundaries. These surface water resources are vital natural resources, which are held in the public trust by the state. The abundance of water resources provides the public with unique recreational opportunities and the enjoyment of scenic beauty, and therefore plays a primary role in sustaining tourism, the major economic force of Vilas County.

Groundwater

Groundwater is an extremely important resource in Vilas County as it is the source of the entire county's potable water supply and serves many agricultural, commercial, and industrial purposes as well. Because of its importance, a greater understanding of groundwater is needed to gauge existing and potential threats to its quantity and quality.

In the north central Wisconsin region, deposits of sand and gravel are highly permeable and yield large quantities of water for recharging groundwater storage. Less expansive recharge areas also are found in areas where decomposed and fractured granite lies at or near the surface.

Contamination of groundwater almost always results directly from land uses associated with modern society. Almost anything which can be spilled or spread on the land has the potential to seep through the ground and enter the groundwater. The impacts of improper land uses or waste management are usually determined by the physical characteristics of that area. By locating, constructing, and operating development and waste management systems appropriately, these negative effects can be minimized.

Soils

The soils of Vilas County are primarily sandy and loamy soils which are suited to, and do support, forested/woodland uses. Due to the sandy and droughty nature of the soils, most are of relatively low agricultural value; in addition, the growing season in the county is rather short.

Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service publishes a Soil Survey Report. The Vilas County Soil Survey Report was made available in 1988. Soil suitability tables for outdoor recreation and other uses are available on the Internet.

2.2 Social Characteristics

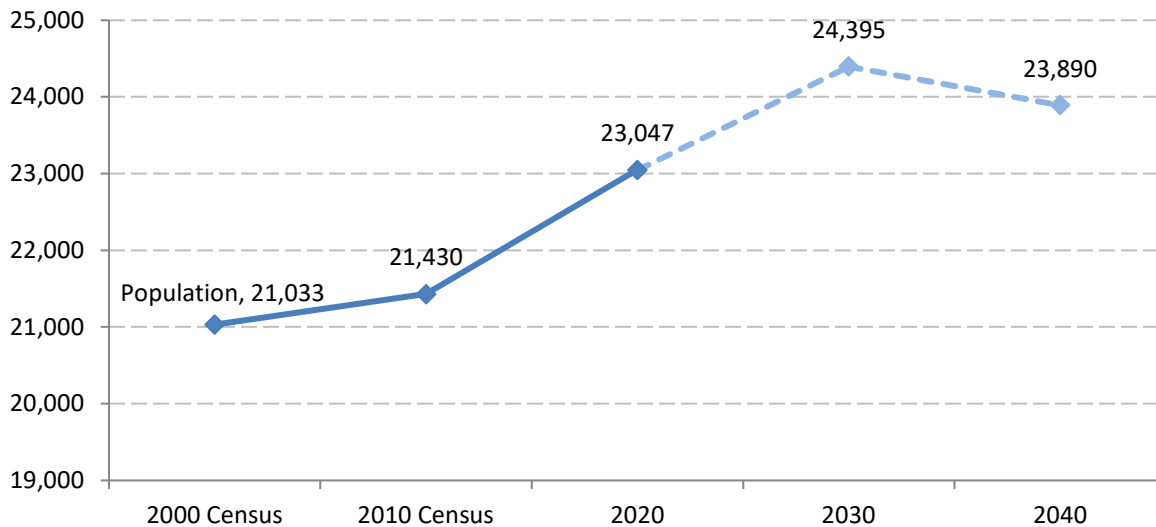
Introduction

This section describes social and economic demographic information that influences Vilas County. Overall recreation demand within Wisconsin is described in SCORP, under Past Plans in Chapter 1. The social characteristics and growth projections from this section combined with recreation demands as shown in SCORP’s Chapter 2 can help determine the appropriate recreation investments in the County.

Population and Households

The 2020 Census population of Vilas County is 20,047 people. This 2020 Census number shows an increase of about 1,617 people since the 2010 Census, as shown in **Figure 2**. In 2013, the Wisconsin Department of Administration projected that Vilas County would continue growing in population through 2030. The 2020 Census number shows that those 2013 projections are still accurate. The population of Vilas County is expected to continue to grow through 2030, and then begin declining in population.

Figure 2: Vilas County Population Change



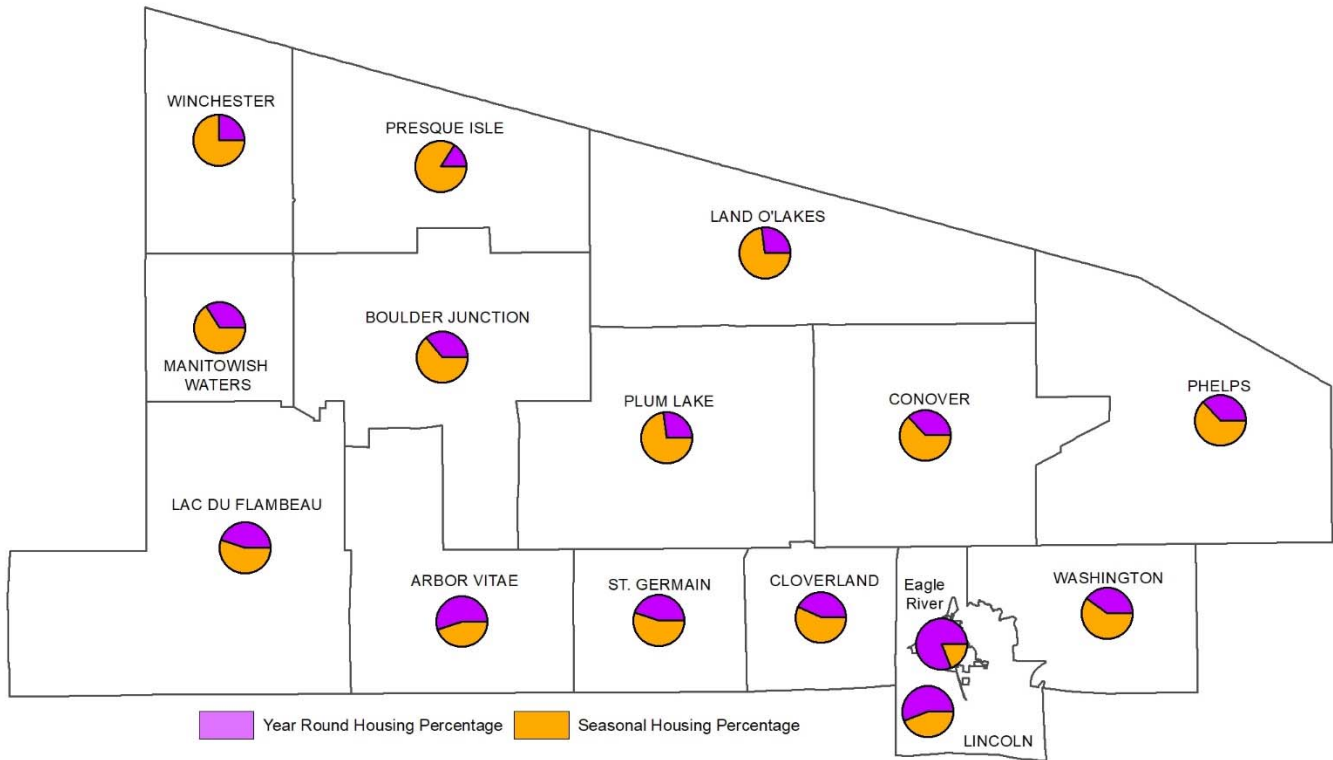
Source: U.S. Census (2000, 2010, & 2020)
Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2013 projections.

The Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development creates countywide workforce profiles that include some demographic data. In 2021, OEA provided the following population perspective:

Population change can be broken down into two components: net migration and natural increase. Net migration, which is defined as people moving into the county minus those leaving, came in at a rate of 7%, considerably higher than both the statewide rate (.3%) and the nationwide rate (2.7%). Natural increase, which is defined as births minus deaths, came in at a rate of -5.4%, far below the statewide rate (2.7%) and nationwide rate (4%).

Vilas County has a larger proportion of vacant housing than Wisconsin or the United States. Much of this vacant housing is seasonal, recreational, and occasional use housing (see **Figure 3**). In 2020, approximately 58% of the housing in Vilas County is vacant for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, compared to approximately 7.1% in Wisconsin and 4.0% in the United States. Only three municipalities have more year round housing than seasonal housing—the City of Eagle River, and the Towns of Arbor Vitae and Lincoln. The towns with high proportions of seasonal housing will have greater fluctuations in population throughout the year, and these seasonal residents must be included when determining the demand for recreation facilities.

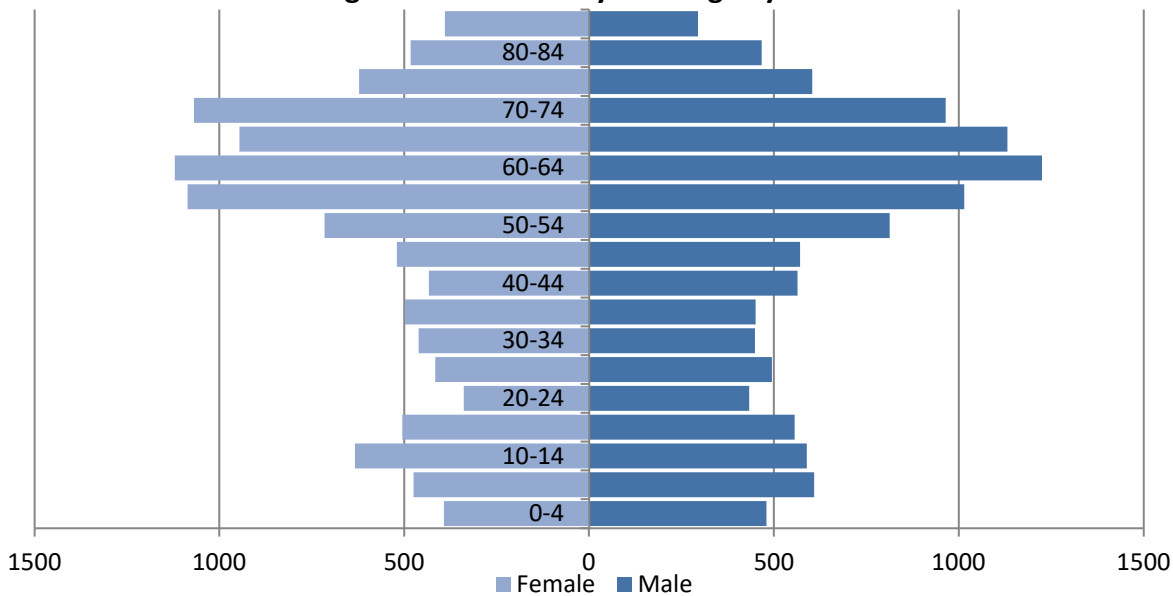
Figure 3: Permanent and Seasonal Housing, 2020



Age

The median age of Vilas County in 2020 was 55.1 years old, while Wisconsin was 39.6. The median age has increased in both Vilas County and Wisconsin between 2010 and 2020, from 49.8 and 38.1 years old, respectively. It is evident that the median age in Vilas County has grown faster than the state. **Figure 4** shows the 2020 age distribution in Vilas County. The age distribution in Vilas County is concentrated in the 55-75 year old age groups. The most heavily concentrated age groups are very near to the typical retirement age, which will likely have a great effect on the parks and recreation needs of the County.

Figure 4: Vilas County 2020 Age Pyramid



Source: ACS 5-year Estimates, 2020

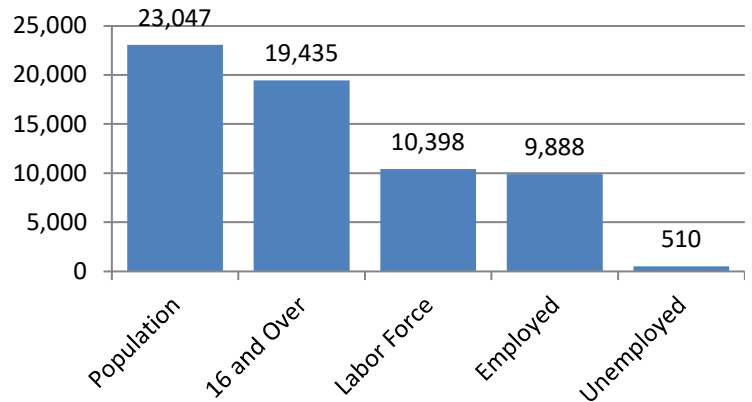
Ethnic Background

The people of Vilas County mostly identify as white, at approximately 85.5% of people. About 9.8% identify as Native American, and about 0.3% each identify as either African American or Asian, with about 4.2% identifying as some combination of races.

Employment and Economy

According to the 2021 ACS 5-year estimates, Vilas County has 19,435 people aged 16 and over, 53.3% of which are in the labor force, e.g., actively working or seeking work. See **Figure 5**. The labor force participation rate for Wisconsin as a whole is 65.1%, significantly higher than Vilas County. The unemployment rate in Vilas County in 2021 was 2.6%, which is only slightly higher than 2.3% in the state and lower than the 3.9% in the United States.

Figure 5: Vilas County Employment (2021)



Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year

Even though much of the recent attention on the labor market has focused on the difficulty employers face with finding and retaining workers, it is important to remember that some of those pressures were building up well before the pandemic – and will likely persist afterward. One important labor market measure, called the labor force participation rate (LFPR), looks at the relative labor resources available and is expressed as the percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and older that is working or actively looking for work. This rate faces downward pressure anytime there is an aging population. Vilas County's LFPR has been trending steadily downward since 2000 when the oldest members of the Baby Boomer generation were in the latest stages of their prime working years (see **Figure 6**). The local LFPR was 64.3% in 2000 and has diminished to 55.3% in 2020. (OEA, 2021)

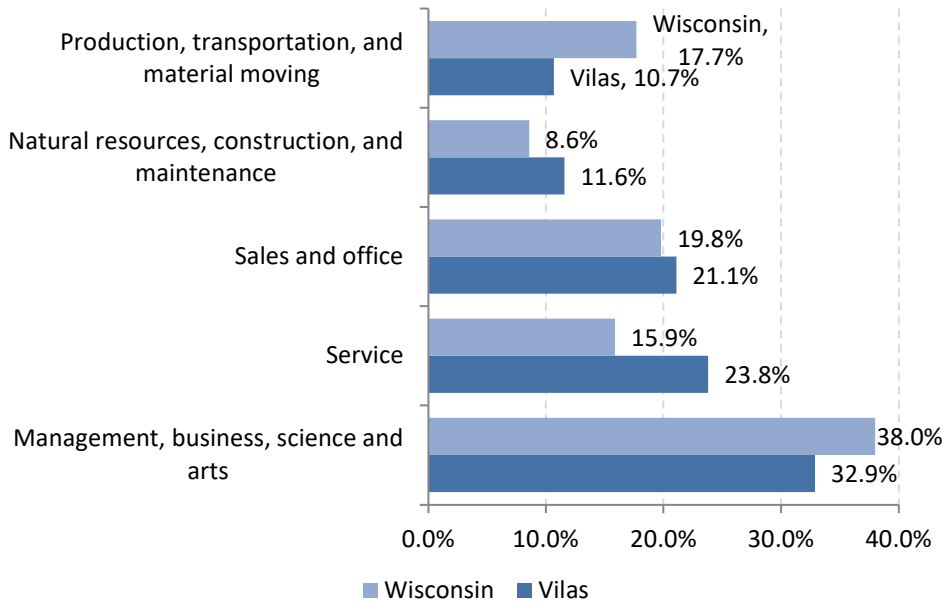
Figure 6: Labor Force Participation Rate



Source: WI DWD, Office of Economic Advisors (OEA), Vilas County

As shown in **Figure 7**, most residents of Vilas County are employed in Management, business, science and arts occupations at 32.9%; Service occupations at 23.8%; Sales and Office occupations at 21.1%.

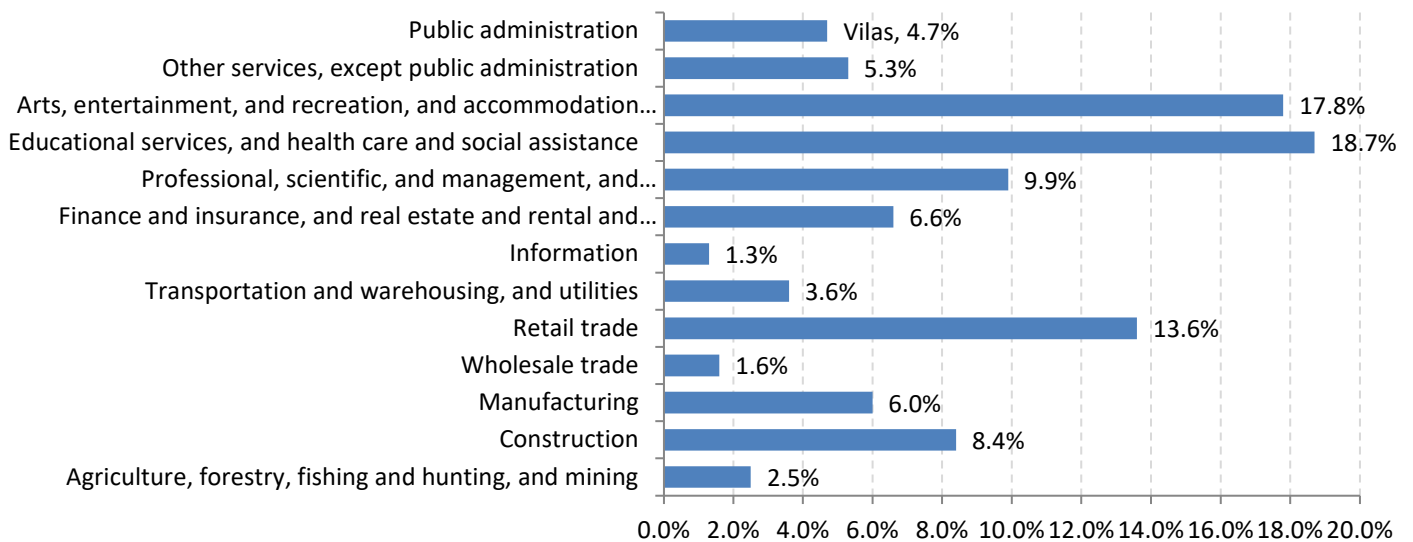
Figure 7: Vilas County Resident Occupation



Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year

The most common industry for Vilas County residents is Education services, health care and social assistance at 18.7%, followed by the Arts, entertainment industry at 17.8%, and then the Retail Trade industry at 13.6%. See **Figure 8**.

Figure 8: Vilas County Resident Industry

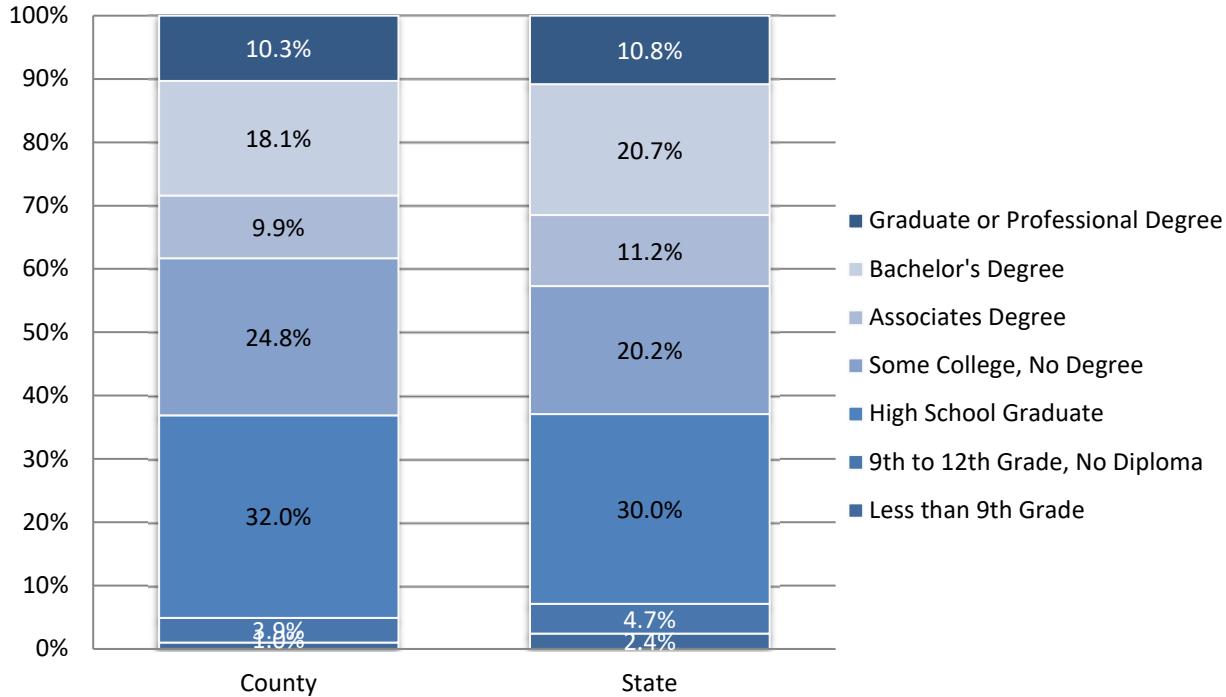


Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year

As of the 2021 ACS 5-Year estimates, median household income in Vilas County was \$56,837, with the State median at \$67,080. Vilas County’s 2021 per capita income was \$36,758, vs the State at \$36,754.

Figure 9 notes that about 95.1% of Vilas County residents 25 years and over have graduated high school; a few percentage points higher than the 92.9% of State residents. About 28.4% of Vilas County residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher, while 31.5% of Wisconsin residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Figure 9: Educational Attainment, Age 25 and Older, 2021



Source: 2021 ACS 5-Year

Chapter 3: OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

3.1 Introduction

This section is an inventory of the existing outdoor recreational facilities in Vilas County, which will focus primarily upon public facilities. Some private facilities may be listed for reference purposes. The private sector provides many recreational opportunities, but this plan's purpose is to identify public facility improvements that may qualify for state and federal money.

Intensively used outdoor recreation facilities are generally located near population concentrations like the City of Eagle River, the school district properties, and town centers. In towns with low population densities, there may not be any park-like facilities. Since there are abundant outdoor recreation facilities located within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest, then there is less demand for local governments to provide those similar types of facilities.

3.2 County Maintained Recreation Facilities

See Chapter 4 for Vilas County owned and maintained outdoor recreation facilities. Some of the trails below may be maintained by Vilas County also.

3.3 Linear Facilities

Various entities maintain the following public facilities:

Rustic Roads:

Vilas County has one rustic roads.

- **Rustic Road 60** is an 11.7-mile stretch of CTH K, between CTH M south out of Boulder Junction to Star Lake, the intersection of CTHs N & K.

Scenic Byway:

The **Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway** is located in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and home to the headwaters of the Wolf River. This 145-mile route that winds through the counties of Forest, Langlade, Oneida and Vilas. See the map in **Attachment E**.

Water Trails:

A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of watercraft on lakes and rivers.

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 use any exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian (i.e., landowner) only 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.).

The following parks and forests have specific mapped or marked water trail routes:

Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest

- Trip 1 Canoe Route (High-Fish Trap Lake)
- Trip 2 Canoe Route (Boulder Lake)
- Trip 3 Canoe Route (Manitowish River)
- Trip 4 Canoe Route (Manitowish-Turtle Flambeau)
- Trip 5 Canoe Route (Trout Lake)
- Trip 6 Canoe Route (Rainbow Flowage-WI River)

Wisconsin River

The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation (WVIC) has created amenity maps for canoeists down the Wisconsin River. Mile marker signs on maps correspond with actual signs placed on the river. Mile markers are typically located on the right side of the bridges and at portage take out sites.

Burnt Rollways Boat Hoist – Eagle River to Three Lakes

Between the Eagle River Chain-of-lakes and the Three Lakes Chain-of-lakes is this boat hoist. Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company operates this recreational boat lift for the public to enjoy. A fee is charged, and the operational schedule is listed online. The boat lift is operated annually between May and September.

Trout Streams:

The DNR uses three categories to classify the different types of trout streams throughout the state (Class 1, Class 2, & Class 3). The Wisconsin Trout Stream Maps on the DNR's website provide a comprehensive list of trout streams and a set of trout stream maps covering most of the state. Efforts have been made to list all trout streams in the State of Wisconsin, but it is recognized that this listing is not exhaustive.

Trail definitions:

Forest Trail—County Forest paths that may or may not be gated or bermed to restrict vehicle access, depending on the sensitivity of the environment or designated use. Those forest trails that are not closed by posting or use of a berm or gate are open to licensed motor vehicle access. These forest paths are compacted soil logging roads created for local timber harvest operations.

Hunting & Hiking Trail—County Forest paths that are gated and mowed on a 3 year rotation to provide wildlife habitat and access for non-vehicle outdoor recreation and forest management. These forest paths have a natural forest soil surface free of trees and bushes.

Disabled Access Trail—County Forest paths that are gated and mowed annually and are either walk-in or open to licensed motor vehicles for persons with mobility disabilities only. Gate keys are made available to Class A or B permit holders to drive vehicles into this area and they are allowed one additional person to assist them.

Cross Country Ski Trail—County Forest *Hunting & Hiking Trails* that are groomed for cross country skiing in winter.

Maps 3 to 7 show the County Forest trail system.

Equestrian (Horse) Trails:

Horseback riding is permitted on all County Forest trails, roads, and fire lanes. There are approximately 20 miles of maintained equestrian trails on the County Forest.

Hunting, Hiking, and Cross Country Ski Trails:

The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Department maintains 89 miles of established hunting, hiking, cross-country ski, and handicapped trails located within the County Forest. Pioneer Creek is the only cross-country ski trail groomed and the only ski trail with signs. See **Table 1**.

Hiking is permitted on all County Forest trails, roads, and fire lanes. Hiking or snowshoeing are not allowed on groomed cross-country ski trails.

Bicycle Trails

All roads are open to bicycle travel within Vilas County, but some roads are heavily traveled by motorized vehicles, which can make them less safe for bicyclists. Download WisDOT's Vilas County bike maps for bicycling road conditions.

Several trails have been developed throughout Vilas County. Twelve bike routes or off-road trails are proposed to exist in Vilas County (see *Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan, 2011* under "Reference Plans" in Chapter 1.

Existing bike routes and trails are on **Map 1**.

Table 1 Vilas County Maintained Non-Motorized Trails

Name	Trail Type	Miles of trail
Ski Hill	Hunter	6.67
White Squaw Lake	Hunter	9.12
Pioneer Creek	X-C Skiing/Hunter	8.99
Snipe/Ewald/Wood Duck	Hunter	18.78
Heart Lake	Hunter	5.24
Langley Lake	Hunter	9.89
Langley Lake	Handicapped	3.03
Langley Lake	Hunter	5.3
Torch Lake	Hunter	6.79
Muskrat Creek	Hunter	6.61
Mud Minnow Lake	Hunter	3.16
Decker Lake	Hunter	5.3
Total		88.88

Snowmobile Trails:

Vilas County has approximately 600 miles of established snowmobile trails: 501 miles are state funded sponsored public trails, 20 miles of county sponsored public trails, and 70 miles are club trails open to the public. There are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the county. The Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance, comprised of 11 snowmobile clubs, maintain the state funded county sponsored trails and meet monthly to provide continuous input toward the future direction of the county's snowmobile program.

ATV Trails:

Vilas County currently has 48.5 miles of State funded ATV trails. A Resolution of Participation for ATV trail maintenance funds makes grants available to the County from the DNR. The County continues to work with other communities and the 8 ATV clubs to look at the feasibility of developing other ATV trails.

OHM Trails:

Vilas County currently has 22 miles of State funded single-track OHM trails. A Resolution of Participation for OHM trail maintenance funds makes grants available to the County from the DNR. The County continues to work with other communities and the OHM clubs to look at the feasibility of developing other OHM trails.

3.4 Points of Interest

Vilas County contains both historic and contemporary points of interest of cultural, aesthetic, recreational, and scientific importance. A number of private sites are open to the public, while others in private ownership are closed.

Find historical buildings in Vilas County by going online to Wisconsin Historical Society and search under: "Research," then under: "Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory."

Chambers of Commerce throughout Vilas County and the Wisconsin Historical Society assist the public with finding a variety of culturally significant sites on an annual basis.

3.5 Public Access Points to Water Bodies

Public access points to water bodies vary from primitive (ex. canoe launch) to well developed (ex. boat launches). Multiple jurisdictions own the access points while the county maintains the majority. All county forest public access points are shown on **Map 3.**, and these county access points are described under 4.6 in Chapter 4.

Table 2 shows where improved **pan fishing sites** exist within the County Forest.

Name	Acres	Catwalk/Pier	Restrooms	Boat Landing
Boot Lake	1	6'x24' portable pier		x
Buckatabon Lake	1	5'x16' pier		x
Cook's Lake	1	Catwalk/8'x8' pier		
Deep Lake	1	104' Catwalk & 8'x8' pier		
Lake of the Hills	1	8'x16' pier**		x
Muskellunge Lake	1	6'x24' portable pier		x
Mud Minnow Lake	1	Catwalk		
Snipe Lake	2	Portable pier	1 bldg. w/ 2 toilets	x
Tamarack Flowage	1	8'x16' pier		x
Dr. Oldfield Park	1	None	1 bldg. w/ 1 toilet	x
Rice Lake	1	8'x16' pier		
Wood Duck Lake	1	8'x16' pier		
Eagle Lake	1	6'x30' portable pier**	1 bldg. w/ 1 toilet	x
River Road at WI River	2	None	1 bldg. w/ 2 toilets	(canoe)

**Disabled accessible pier and pathway.

3.6 School District Facilities

Vilas County has four school districts within its boundaries. Each of the school districts provides additional local recreation opportunities as itemized in **Table 3**, and available to the public during non-school times unless otherwise listed at each property or on each school’s communications with the community.

Table 3									
School District Recreation Facilities									
School	B-Ball Courts	Ball Field	Play Area	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	School Forest	Play Equip	Track
Northland Pines Elem	X		X		X			X	
Northland Pines MS	3								
Northland Pines HS	4	4	X	2	2	2 indoor	X		X
NP Land O'Lakes Elem	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Phelps Elem & Jr.	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Phelps HS	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Conserve School	5	2			1		1200 acres		
Christ Lutheran			X						
NP St. Germain Elem	X		X		X			X	
North Lakeland Elem	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elem	2	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Lac du Flambeau Elem	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

3.7 Local Government Facilities

City of Eagle River

Recreational opportunities that exist in the City of Eagle River include:

Riverview Park is a 3.9 acre City owned park located on Division Street along Eagle River. Park facilities include: pickle ball courts, playground, picnic tables, benches, restrooms, band shelter, pavilion, and boat docking facility.

Riverside Park is a County-owned park that extends from Eagle River to Pine Street (State Highway 70) north and south and Forrest Street to Park Street east to west with Division Street running through the park. The park contains baseball diamonds, bathroom facilities, tennis courts and the Vilas County Fairgrounds.

Forrest Street Boat Landing is located at the end of Forrest Street adjacent to Riverside Park and provides access to the Eagle River. Boat docking and fishing access is also available via a dock that parallels the shore. Limited parking is available along the river while more parking is available in and around Riverside Park. Across the street from this boat landing are the tennis courts at Forrest and Division Streets.

Silver Lake Beach is 2.1 acre park located on Silver Lake Beach Road. It has a swimming beach with a beach house, playground, picnic area, restrooms, and fishing pier.

Dyer Park is 1.25 acres of park on Hirzel Street that is located along the Eagle River. The T-Dock is used for fishing, sitting, docking and launching a boat to the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. A picnic area, boat landing, fishing pier, and restrooms all exist here. Picnic and restroom facilities are ADA accessible.

Miller Park is a 1.2 acre park in Eagle River on Minnesota Street that is maintained by the City of Eagle River. Facilities include playground equipment and basketball courts. This park needs a bathroom and pavilion facility along with improvements to the basketball and volleyball courts. Drainage issues also cause flooding when significant rain events occur.

Gremban Park is 2.2 acres, fully ADA accessible park located at 525 Maple Street. Park amenities include a T-ball area, skateboard rink, picnic tables, playground, and football field. Restrooms are available during business hours in the adjacent City Hall.

Tuss Pond is a privately owned area in the Town of Lincoln on the south side of STH 70.

Cross Country Ski Trails

During the winter months the Nordmarka Ski Club groom approximately 4 miles of cross-country ski trails throughout the Eagle River Golf Course and behind the Northland Pines School Campus.

Eagle River Golf Course

The Eagle River Golf Course is a four-star rated 18-hole golf course providing premier golfing to the Northwood's. This course is owned and operated by the City of Eagle River with approximately 110 acres.

Trees For Tomorrow

Trees for Tomorrow is located on over 35 forested acres on the Eagle River Chain near downtown Eagle River, which includes property under permit from the USDA Forest Service. Trees for Tomorrow is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) natural resources specialty school accredited to place people of all ages in direct contact with the natural resources that humans depend on. Trees for Tomorrow's Interpretive Trail is on the west side of campus almost directly across from the Education Hall and is open to the public and free to visit. Donations are welcome.

Rotary Square

The City of Eagle River, in conjunction with Eagle River Revitalization Program and the Eagle River Rotary Club, are working to transition a formerly derelict service station on Wall and First Streets into a 0.3 acre urban community square park ("Rotary Square") that will benefit local businesses, and provide a spot for locals and visitors to sit and relax while enjoying downtown. In 2023 a pavilion is being added to the updated property to provide restrooms, a covered seating area and serving space for nonprofit organizations to sell food during events.

Town of Arbor Vitae

The Town of Arbor Vitae maintains the following facilities:

Brandy Lake Park/Skate Park

Brandy Lake Park is in the Town of Arbor Vitae, but also serves the Town of Woodruff in Oneida County. It is the major public park for the two communities. The park has two ball fields, two soccer fields, tennis courts, shelters, a beach, restrooms, play equipment, volleyball courts, basketball courts, trails, a new disc golf course, open space and a skateboard park. A paved path through the park offers accessibility for the disabled, through accessibility is limited to the shelter and the community building.

Fireman's Community Park

Fireman's Community Park (maintained by the Town Fire Department) is equipped with new play equipment, restrooms, a large pavilion, picnic grounds and band shell.

Big Arbor Vitae Boat Landing and Park

Big Arbor Vitae Park is owned by the Department of Natural Resources but maintained by the Town. Picnic tables, grills, a beach, a boat landing, and restrooms are present at the park.

Boat Landings

The Town owns two boat landings. They are at Lake Towanda and Arrowhead Lake.

Town Bike Trail

A bike trail was recently completed by the Town that links Arbor Vitae-Woodruff School to Brandy Park. The trail extends north along Highway 51, then right on Highway 70 East approximately 500', then through the Plantation Subdivision to the school. Future plans include development of bike trails to connect the town to both St. Germain and Boulder Junction.

Shooting Range

State owned M/SGT. M.W. Caywood Memorial Shooting Range is sponsored by Chapter 256, Vietnam Veterans of America, Minocqua.

Public Golf Course

The scenic 18-hole Trout Lake Golf Club is located 10 miles north of Minocqua on Highway 51.

Town of Boulder Junction

The Town of Boulder Junction maintains the following facilities:

Town Park is a 7.88 acre facility located adjacent to the Community Center. Amenities include restrooms, two pavilions, a ball field, basketball courts, two tennis courts, skate park, playground equipment meeting ADA standards, picnic grounds with ADA accessible tables and benches. A 13-mile, paved, ADA accessible, multipurpose ADA trail winds throughout the park.

Winter Park is a 6.9 acre facility with a lighted ice skating rink, warming shelter and benches. A sledding hill and 1 mile of cross country ski trail also exist.

Nichols Lake Beach

This beach contains a picnic area with tables, a pit toilet (ADA), and volleyball court.

Boat Landings are maintained by the Town at Island Lake, Boulder Lake, and Trout Lake.

Public Shooting Range is ADA accessible and is located 4 miles south of town on Nebish Road off County Highway M.

Hike & Bike Trails

Lumberjack Trail – This 12 mile long gravel trail travels through pine forest and wetlands. Trailheads exist on Old Road K and off of Concora Road.

Nichol’s Beach Trail – This 3 mile gravel trail starts at the Boulder Junction Chamber of Commerce office and runs to Nichols Lake. There is a picnic area at Nichols Beach.

Crystal Lake Trail – This 11-mile trail is a fully paved asphalt trail. The blacktop trail starts in downtown Boulder Junction, travels past Trout Lake and continues to the Crystal Lake Campground in Sayner. The trail connects with the Plum Lake Trail and continues to the St. Germain Hike & Bike Trail. Together, all three trails form the 23-mile paved Heart of Vilas County Hike & Bike Trail.

Escanaba-Palette Lake Trail – This gravel trail ranges from 2 to 8.5 miles. Take Hwy. M 4 miles south from Boulder Junction. Then turn left onto Nebish Road and go 3.5 miles to the Trailhead. The four trail loops offers hilling, rolling woodlands for hikers.

North Trout Lake Trail – This 1-mile gravel loop is on a peninsula on Trout Lake. It is located four miles south of Boulder Junction on Hwy M.

Fallison Lake Trail – The gravel trail loops range from a 1/2 mile to 2.5 miles. This hilly trail offers wonderful views of Fallison Lake and the surrounding area, and is located across from the Crystal Lake Campground on Hwy N, west of Sayner.

Star Lake Nature & Hiking Trail – This gravel trail features 1 and 2.5-mile loops. It is located on a peninsula extending out into Star Lake. From the intersection of Hwy K and Hwy N in Star Lake, head west on Hwy K to Statehouse Road. When you get to the entrance of the West Star Campground, continue straight ahead.

Tom Roberts Memorial Nature Trail – This is a paved, 0.3 mile, handicapped-accessible, nature trail. The trail links to both the Crystal Lake Trail and the Plum Lake Trail. The trailhead is located off of Hwy N at the Crystal Lake Campground beach. This trail offers hikers views of Muskellunge Lake.

Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest (multiple trails) – These trails offer hundreds of miles of paths, trails and logging roads. Boulder Junction is surrounded by the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. Birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts can also explore the 225,000-acre forest.

Town of Cloverland

The Town of Cloverland does not own any outdoor recreation facilities, but the recreation plan for the Town of Cloverland includes existing walking, hiking, and hunter trails, as well as snowmobile trails. There are bike lanes along County Highway G within the Town. Oldenburg Sports Park, which is operated by Vilas County, is on County Highway G. A boat landing and picnic area exists at Snipe Lake and on Range Line Lake, both of which are operated by Vilas County. Boot Lake Road and East Hunter Lake Road in Cloverland are part of a designated and signed bike route that extends from Land O' Lakes to Eagle River. On the Wisconsin River, from Otter Rapids Dam to the Town line, is canoeing and people floating on the river.

Town of Conover

The Town of Conover maintains the following facilities:

Conover Town Park is a municipal park located on County Highway K. A new ADA accessible enclosed heated and open pavilion exists. A BBQ pit is adjacent to the pavilion for cooking. Additional park amenities include an open air shelter, soccer field, concession stand, baseball diamond, playground, basketball/pickleball court, skating rink, bike trail and ski trail trailheads, a sledding hill; and a park and ride lot for equestrians, snowmobiles, and ATVs. There is a stand-alone ADA accessible restroom that serves these park amenities.

Boat Landings

Four boat landings are maintained by the Town on North and South Twin, Pioneer, and Stormy Lakes. There are no restrooms at any of these landings.

Town of Lac du Flambeau

All of the following parks are owned and managed by the Lac du Flambeau Tribe, and not Town government:

Thunderbird Park is located in the downtown area on Waswagon St, this 2.25 acre park has picnic tables and a pavilion.

Leech Beach is a five-acre swimming beach located on tribal lands on Crawling Stone Lake off of Moss Lake Road. A sand beach, picnic tables, grills, and swimming rafts are all available here.

Little Trout Lake

This area on tribal land has been traditionally used as a picnic area and boat landing.

LDF Indian Bowl is an area along the shore of Long Interlaken Lake in downtown Lac du Flambeau that is used for pow wows during the summer. George W Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum & Cultural Center is adjacent to the bowl.

Lac du Flambeau Tribal Campground & Marina

The campground and marina are located on a peninsula of Flambeau Lake that is accessible from State Highway 47 North across from the fish hatchery. Amenities include a beach open to the public for swimming, camping sites, RV parking, full hook-ups, a public boat launch, marina with canoe and motor boat rentals. This facility is under management of the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Fish and Game Department.

Playgrounds are maintained by the Tribe at Cemetery Road, Flambeau Lake, Apt. Area Park, Wildcat Circle, and the school maintains their elementary school playground.

Ross Allen Sr. Pavilion is located behind the Lac du Flambeau Elementary School on State Highway 47. There are tennis and basketball courts, a walking/running track, baseball fields, and a pavilion with picnic tables and a place for concessions.

Sand Beach is a four acre wayside on tribal land off State Highway 47. The Wisconsin historical marker titled: "Lac du Flambeau" is located on this Tribally historical site; which is historic because it overlooks Strawberry Island and Medicine Rock and is on Flambeau Lake. Facilities at this site include a beach, ADA restrooms, picnic tables, and grills.

Bike Trail/Snowmobile Trail

The old Northwestern Railway bed parallel to State Highway 47 offers a wonderful bike/hiking trail in the summer months, and serves as part of the state-funded snowmobile trail system in winter. An additional 17.9 miles of road routes also exist for bicycling.

Boat Landings

There are six boat landings on the reservation including Fence Lake, Trout River on County H, Gunlock Lake, White Sand Lake, Middle Sugarbush Lake, and Little Crawling Stone Lake.

YMCA Camp Nawakwa (private) serves youth groups, retreat groups, church groups, specialty clubs, and has cross country skiing.

Town of Land O' Lakes

The Town of Land O' Lakes maintains the following facilities:

Land O' Lakes Memorial Park – This 20 acre park is centrally located east of Chippewa Road. It includes the Curt Sparks Pavilion that has 19 picnic tables, a kitchen, and bathrooms. The Grubel Ball Field has concession stands, scoreboards, and bleachers. The Rev. Fred I. Babcock Kiddie Park has children's slide, swings, train, and merry-go-round. Tennis courts and horseshoe pits also exist in the park. Also has Storybook Garden where kids do activities with their favorite story books.

Black Oak Lake Park – This ½ acre park is located five miles west of town on Hwy B. The facility includes a swimming beach, boat landing, picnic tables, drinking water, and restrooms meeting ADA standards. This park also has an accessible, paved pathway.

Snowflake Ice Rink – This 50ft x 100ft enclosed ice rink is located behind the Town Hall and is open in the winter months for the perfect skating experience. Includes a warming house, rest rooms, observation deck, and Wi-Fi to play your favorite music or work while watching kids skate.

Boat Landings

The Town also maintains boat landings with piers and restrooms at Black Oak Lake, Forest Lake, Palmer Lake, Big Lake, Wood Lake, and Big Portage Lake.

Public Shooting Range

The Shooting Range, located west of town adjacent to Cemetery Road, has a rifle range, pistol and shotgun ranges, targets, benches and shelter.

Trails

Town offers a preferred route ATV/UTV trail linking Michigan and connecting communities. A 12 mile bike/walking trail, a 37 mile road bike loop, and 62 miles of snowmobile trails. The bike/hike trail includes benches and a rest pavilion at the corner of HWY S and HWY B, with picnic tables and a parking area. Trails are all appropriately signed.

Gateway Golf Course (private)

The 9-hole Gateway Golf Club Inc. is located at the intersection of county Highway B and Highway 45 in Town.

Town Hall

The town is in the process of installing a large new playground. Phase I of II is completed with completion in 2023.

Town of Lincoln

The Town of Lincoln maintains the following facilities:

Boat Landing

The Town of Lincoln maintains a boat launching site at Catfish Lake off Catfish Lake Rd. The ramp was renovated in 2007 and the parking lot was expanded in 2002. There is an ADA dock on site.

Hike & Bike Trail

The Three Eagle trail provides hiking/biking opportunities by connecting Three Lakes to the south, to the City of Eagle River via an 8.5 mile corridor. Parking is available at either end of the trail.

Town of Manitowish Waters

Town facilities listed below are all ADA accessible.

Non-profits also provide outdoor recreation in Manitowish Waters. See their listings at the end.

Community Center Park is about seven acres in size and is located on US Highway 51 next to the Manitowish Waters Airport & Town Hall. Various recreational items are included in this park such as two tennis courts with rebound board, a paddle ball court with heated floor with warming hut, a basketball hoop, golf driving range, baseball diamond with bleachers and back-stop. There is a large ADA accessible playground with a slide, swings, a rope climbing tower, and many other pieces. The playground also includes a hexagonal shelter, picnic tables, and benches. An enclosed pavilion can seat up to 150 people. Adjacent to the ball field is a large open area that hosts a weekly flea market and other outdoor events. The large parking lot for about 90 cars and modern bathroom facilities make it a natural trailhead to access the adjacent Heart of Vilas County Bike Trail.

The old fire hall has been developed as a Youth Rec Center with a batting cage, basketball hoop, and table games.

Frank B. Koller Park is 1.63 acres located on Rest Lake in the village area of Manitowish Waters on Highway W. The Park is fully landscaped with an expansive lawn for large group events. There is onsite parking and additional parking is available on Highway W. There are modern bathroom facilities, picnic tables, benches, a gazebo, charcoal grills, a small band stand, and Manny—the world’s largest bass (good for a photo ops). There are five boat docks, a fishing pier, and a sand beach swimming area. The Heart of Vilas County Bike Trails goes through the park. Music in the Park is a weekly event here during the summer months.

Rest Lake Park is located on 10.7 acres of land with 675 feet of frontage on the west shore of Rest Lake, about ¼-mile north of downtown off Highway W. Picnic tables, charcoal grills, a large grass lawn, and parking lot all exist in the park. In 2015 a new 40’ x 88’ pavilion was constructed that includes bathrooms, a vending room, and a 40’ x 40’ open area with fireplace. A concrete boat ramp with parking for boat trailers is located at the south edge of the park. The Heart of Vilas County Bike Trail goes through the park. The Manitowish Waters Skiing Skeeters put on a weekly ski show at the park during the summer.

Little Star Lake Park is located on the east end of Little Star Lake, a quarter mile off Hwy 51 on Park Road. There is a roped off swimming area with 200-foot wide sand beach, picnic tables, charcoal grills, a hand water pump, bathroom facilities. Boat parking is on shore adjacent to the swimming area.

Hike & Bike Trails

The Manitowish Waters Bike Trail is part of the Heart of Vilas County Bike Trail System. This is an asphalt paved trail that starts in Mercer and continues through Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction, Sayner/Star Lake and ends in St. Germain. The Trail is approximately 55 miles long and goes through some of the most scenic areas in the Northern Highland State Forrest.

In addition, there is a new 5 mile loop trail system that starts in downtown Manitowish Waters and goes through the woods and across the Manitowish River before looping back to the downtown area.

North Lakeland School Trails offer 10 miles of trails through towering evergreens and are suitable for trail running, and cross country skiing in the winter. Trails may be accessed from the north side of the North Lakeland School's football field, or from the North Lakeland hut located ½ mile north of Highway K on Papoose Lake Road. The hut is heated, offers complimentary coffee/cocoa, and has a restroom.

Non-profits that provide outdoor recreation in Manitowish Waters are listed below:

North Lakeland Discovery Center

The Discovery Center, located 1 mile north of downtown Manitowish Waters on Highway W, is a nonprofit organization committed to the facilitation of connections among nature, people, and community. The facility features a 12-mile trail system, kid's nature playscape, discovery gardens, nature center, canoe and snowshoe rental, educational classes, recreation programs, facility rental, and membership opportunities.

WinMan Trails is a destination trail system located on Highway W, 3.5 miles north of downtown Manitowish Waters. This public nonprofit, silent sport trail system spans 1,300 acres of private and public land. In the summer and fall, WinMan Trails offers 21 miles of mountain biking and 6 miles of hiking trails. In the winter they offer over 13 miles of cross-country skiing (both classic and skate), 10 miles of fat tire biking, and 8 miles of snowshoeing. In addition to their vast network of trails, they offer several amenities. A modern chalet with indoor restrooms, changing rooms, free Starlink Wi-Fi, a masonry fireplace, waxing bench and iron, bar and comfortable tables and chairs for gathering. Outside in WinMan Park they have multiple fire pits, shaded seating areas, hammocks for lounging, kids nature play space, bike wash, and a pump track and skills park. Ample parking also provides access to the Heart of Vilas County paved trails which can be accessed directly from WinMan Trails.

Town of Phelps

The Town of Phelps maintains the following facilities:

Wavering Park

Located on State Highway 17 on the eastern edge of town, this 21.7-acre park hosts many recreational venues. Facilities include two ball diamonds with backstops, fencing, dugouts, bleachers, scoreboards, and one field provides lighting; a soccer field, picnic area and a pavilion containing picnic tables. There are two tennis courts that are lined for tennis, basketball and several pickleball courts. A playground area on a sand base with woodchips and a Veterans memorial. There is a concession stand with restroom facilities. All facilities are ADA accessible.

Lakefront Pines Park

This approximately 3.7-acre park is located in the downtown area and on the east shore of North Twin Lake. The shoreland area provides a fishing pier with boat docking capability and a handicapped accessible kayak/canoe launch. There is a small lake viewing parking area. Away from the shoreline, the park provides an old growth stand of white and red pine and a large, graveled fest grounds containing restrooms and a stage with electrical outlets for festivals and Music on the Lake events in the summer. Parking is available on the eastern end of the park off CTH E.

North Twin – Old Beach Park

This ¼ acre beach area is located off STH 17 across from Hackley Circle Drive. Existing facilities include picnic tables with grills and limited parking.

Manuel Lake Water Access

A sand access point exists off of South Manuel Lake Road on this lake for basic public access to the lake for fishing or to carry in a boat or canoe.

Boat Landings

The town currently maintains four public boat landings. The landings are located on the western side of Kentuck Lake (Kentuck Lake Landing Road), Smoky Lake and Long Lake (both off STH 17 east of town), and North Twin Lake (off STH 17 on the west end of town). The landings provide restrooms or portable toilets (Long Lake) and all are ADA accessible except for Long Lake. Landings are monitored and updated as necessary.

1. North Twin Lake Boat Landing

This 1/3 acre boat ramp is heavily used by anglers and other boaters. Current facilities include a concrete boat ramp with paved parking, a removable launch pier, restroom, picnic table and a handicap fishing dock.

2. Smokey Lake Boat Landing

The Town maintains a boat ramp on this third acre site. Facilities include a concrete ramp pad with paved landing and parking area.

3. Long Lake Boat Landing

This boat landing is about an 1/8 acre in size. Amenities include a concrete ramp pad with gravel drive and a roll-in type removable launch pier.

4. Kentuck Lake Boat Landing

On the west shore of Kentuck Lake, this 1/8 acre landing has a concrete ramp pad and a removable dock. Amenities include a vault toilet and limited paved parking.

Shooting Range

The shooting range is located on a 40-acre parcel at the north end of Shooting Range Road east of the town off of STH 17. The range offers shooting lanes for 25, 50 and 100 yards. There are four shooting benches on concrete pads and a weather shelter.

Military Hill Fire Lookout Tower

The 120' tower was constructed by the U.S. Forest Service in 1936 as a fire lookout tower. The tower is one of the last remaining structures associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of that era. The Town plans to restore the tower and open it to the public. The town has acquired 10 acres of land adjacent to the tower that will be developed into a campground, nature walk and parking area.

Spectacle Lake Campground and Boat Landing

Spectacle Lake is a 174-acre lake with a maximum depth of 35 feet. The northeast shoreline is part of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and has a public boat landing and a campground with 34 sites for tent camping, camping trailer, picnic tables, restroom facilities and two freshwater hand pumps. From the campground, there is a 2.5-mile hiking trail connecting Spectacle Lake with Kentuck Lake. There is also a handicapped accessible fishing pier.

Military Creek Trailhead

This trailhead for Snowmobilers and ATV/UTV riders is located approximately a quarter mile north of Phelps off CTH E. This 22.8-acre site provides for parking vehicles trailering snowmobiles and ATV/UTVs. The site provides loading ramps, a parking area, direct access to the snowmobile trail and access to local ATV/UTV route on CTH E.

ATV/UTV Trails and Routes

The Landover ATV/UTV Club, which includes the Towns of Land O' Lakes, Conover and Phelps, has approximately 130 miles of trails/routes. Access to the trails/routes may be made at a number of locations in these towns.

Snowmobile Trails

The Phelps Snowmobile Club has approximately 32 miles of state funded trails. The trails are routinely groomed.

Phelps Non-motorized Trail System

- **The Conover – Phelps Trail**

This 10.2-mile hike and bike trail offers stunning views of wetlands, meadows, woodlands and connects the parks in Conover and Phelps. Points of interest along the way have been identified. The Conover trailhead is located in the Conover Park on CTH K, just east of STH 45. Parking, drinking water, picnic area, bicycle repair station and restrooms are available. The western 8.3 miles from Conover is

constructed mostly on the old Chicago & Northwestern Railroad bed and is composed of finely crushed gravel. The final 1.9 miles is rolling hills and mostly paved. The trailhead in Phelps is located in Lakefront Pines Park. Amenities include restrooms, picnic table and a stunning view of North Twin Lake. An ice cream shop is located adjacent to the park.

- **The Vista Lake Biking Trails**

These trails consist of three loops located on town roads and U.S. Forest Service roads. All trails originate at the Vista Lake Parking area located off Forest Road 2178 (Indian Road). Trail loops range from 2.9 miles to 13.1 miles in length and vary from paved, to gravel, to hard-packed sandy loam soils. The roads are gently rolling to hilly in some places.

- **The Deerskin Snowshoe Trails**

The trailhead for these trails is a parking area along Forest Road 2178 (Indian Road). The trails consist of four loops ranging in length from 1.6 miles to 3.7 miles. Used by snowshoers in the winter and hikers the rest of the year, the trails are gently rolling with some steep areas. A map depicting the trails is located next to the parking area. Informational brochures are also located there. Access to this recreational site can be gained from STH 17 on the north in Phelps or STH 70 on the south. White arrow boards are located on these state roads.

While not part of the Phelps Trail System, across FR 2178 (Indian Road) from the Deerskin Snowshoe Trail parking area there is a trail into the **Blackjack Springs Wilderness Area** that provides access to Whispering Lake and the Blackjack Springs Natural Area. There is a map board and brochures depicting the Wilderness area and trail next to the parking area. The 5,800-acre Blackjack Springs Wilderness Area is part of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest which was officially designated as a Wilderness in 1978. The main feature is a series of four large crystal clear springs that form the headwaters of Blackjack Creek in the midst of dense forest cover. This Wilderness contains diverse vegetation typical of the Northern Highland Ecological Landscape of northern Wisconsin. The terrain is somewhat rolling and uneven. Wildlife such as deer, bear, fisher, ruffed grouse, and various species of songbirds are common. One lake and three streams associated with spring ponds and wetlands are also found here, and the northern and western boundaries are formed by the Deerskin River. Fishing, hunting, hiking, canoeing, kayaking and nature study are popular recreational uses.

Also within the Town of Phelps is the **Beaver Creek Hunter Hiking Trail**, which is maintained by the U.S. Forest Service for grouse hunting. There are two loops and four wildlife openings within aspen and other early successional forest vegetation species. The trail loops range from 0.5 miles to 1.5 miles of mowed paths and are an excellent place to hike or snowshoe and view wildlife. Access is off Forest Road 2470.

Town of Plum Lake

The Town of Plum Lake maintains their own outdoor recreation plan where additional detail and recommendations are listed. Recreational opportunities that exist in the Town of Plum Lake include:

Community Center Recreation Park

Several acres of land surrounding the Town Hall within Sayner have been extensively developed and maintained by the Town for outdoor recreation. Facilities located at this park area are ADA accessible and include the following:

- Lighted ballpark with fencing, concession stand, dugouts, bleachers, and scoreboard.
- Lighted outdoor basketball court with breakaway hoops and safety fencing along the roadway.
- Picnic shelter building 60 feet by 100 feet with picnic tables, and electrical outlets.
- Barbecue shelter with large barbecue pits and electrical hookups for cooking.
- Fenced trout pond for 4th of July festivities.
- Ice skating rink area with water outlet.
- Two tennis/pickleball courts with perimeter fencing, nets and benches.
- Playground area with 2 seating shelters, a small pavilion, a youth basketball hoop, swings, a slide unit, spring horses, merry-go-round, horizontal bars, and monkey bars.

In addition to these outdoor recreation facilities, a large indoor recreation activity building is also located on this site. The facility features an indoor basketball court, which is also used for pickleball, a kitchen area, drinking fountain and restrooms.

Plum Lake Public Pier and Boat Landing

A popular boat launching area and pier is located on a small parcel (about ¼ acre) near the community center area. This facility is owned by the town. The pier is often used for swimming by area children as well. The site features a paved boat landing.

Plum Lake State House Point Boat Access and Water Ski Park

This area consists of a couple of acres of State Forest land on Plum Lake maintained by the Town under a Land Use Agreement with the Wisconsin DNR. A paved boat launch with concrete ramps, launching pier and informational signage is extensively used. Outdoor pit toilets are located at the park. The Plum Ski-ers water ski club conducts regular shows at this area during the summer season. The water ski club has constructed a storage building for their equipment, a changing house for the show, bleachers, and ski ramp.

Plum Lake Public Fishing Pier and Trail (Warner's Pier)

This site, also known as Warner's Pier, is located on State Forest land, along Highway N about 1 mile west of Sayner. The facility consists of a marked parking lot and a trail that leads to a public fishing pier. The trail and pier are located on a portion of a railroad corridor originally built in the early 1900's as part of the first timber harvesting in the area.

Star Lake Picnic Point

Star Lake Picnic Point is located on several acres of State Forest land on Star Lake maintained by the Town under a Land Use Agreement with the Wisconsin DNR, and is adjacent to the northern Star Lake State Forest

Campground facility. This park is primarily used by area residents, seasonal residents and visitors living or staying near the community of Star Lake. The facilities consist of a gravel road access to the point area, a picnic shelter building about 48' by 60', and playground equipment including swings and spring horses. The grassy park also provides a short pathway to a fishing pier, and an access point for swimming in Star Lake, as well as a picnic area for boaters.

Razorback Ridges Trail System

Located two miles west of Sayner, the trail system consists of about 30 miles of brushed and mowed mountain bike trails, and approximately 18 miles of groomed and tracked cross country ski trails. The facility was built primarily on the State Forest land with a Land Use Agreement with the Wisconsin DNR and the Sayner Star Lake Lions Club, with the trailhead built on Town property. The majority of the ski trail loops are groomed and tracked for both diagonal stride and ski skating techniques.

The trail system is maintained by the Sayner Star Lake Lions Club under a cooperative agreement with the DNR. Upkeep of the system depends upon private donations, Sayner Star Lake Lions Club fund raising, and numerous volunteer hours. Trail maps are printed by the Sayner Star Lake Lions Club with funding provided by paid advertisements from local businesses.

Hike & Bike Trails

The popularity of biking throughout Vilas County inspired the Town of Plum Lake to build a paved biking and hiking path connecting the community of Sayner with campgrounds on Plum Lake and at Crystal/Muskellunge Lakes, and westerly to the Boulder Junction Area Trail System (BATS). These trail systems continue to be developed, creating an infrastructure similar in scope to that of the snowmobile trails.

Trampers Trail Hiking Path

Trampers Trail is a hiking path developed on State Forest land by the Star Lakers Club, a group of individuals that are residents, seasonal residents, and visitors to the greater Star Lake area. The trail is maintained by the Club and is authorized under a Land Use Agreement between the Town and the Wisconsin DNR. The trail travels along the shoreline of portions of Lone Tree Lake, and Star Lake, with a portage trail linking Star Lake with Plum Lake. A recent addition to the trail system includes a trail loop between Ballard Lake and Partridge Lake, with access off Camp Two Road.

Town of Presque Isle

The Town of Presque Isle maintains the following facilities:

Please refer to the Town of Presque Isle's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for more detailed information.

Presque Isle Community Center Park is a 53 acre park that also includes Historic Shanty Boy Hill Cemetery and the Presque Isle Historical Society facility, the Town Library, the Town Offices, and the Fire Station. Entrance signs welcome visitors to the park, which has asphalt parking areas. The picnic areas include three shelters: one is an enclosed shelter (the Community Center) with a kitchen, restrooms, and storage area. The other two are open pavilions, one between the ball diamonds and the other adjacent to the Community

Garden. Two grills are provided, along with fifteen picnic tables. Existing vault restrooms meet ADA requirements. Recreational facilities include: playground equipment with safety materials, two lighted horseshoe courts, two softball diamonds, two basketball goals, a community garden, a sledding hill, and a portage-in canoe landing at Stateline Lake. Trails include: an improved nature trail and three other rustic foot trails, which intersect and partially run on routed snowmobile trails.

Pipke Park is an 84 acre park that was established in 2012 at the site of a former lumber mill/processing facility. Residents and taxpayers of Presque Isle leveraged state funds managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship fund to develop this significant public multi-use recreational site. Located immediately west of the unincorporated village of Presque Isle, the park is on County Highway W, just west of County Highway B. A central feature of the park is two ponds which were created by the DNR at the site of the former lumber mill and used for many years for rearing walleye and other game fish. The park has a 2,160 square foot shelter building/pavilion designed for year round use. This building is equipped with central heating for winter months, overhead doors that can be raised in the summer for cross ventilation, a potable water system, sanitary on site waste water disposal system, and restrooms. A central meeting and picnic area within the structure can hold eight six-person picnic tables.

Adjacent to the shelter building are amenities including a fire pit, a barbeque grill, outdoor picnic tables, a wading area along the shore of the south rearing pond, an ADA accessible path leading to an ADA fishing pier, and a parking area. In winter, sledders, ice skaters, and ice fishers may access the south pond from the heated shelter building.

Surrounding the south pond is a three-quarter mile multi-use trail for hikers, birders, bicyclists, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers. The north rearing pond features a hiking, snowshoe, cross-country ski trail that is an additional three-quarters of a mile in length. A 2.8 mile Wilderness Trail is located on the west side of the Presque Isle River, which features boardwalks through natural low areas and diverse scenery.

Four physical fitness stations have been installed along the path surrounding the south pond. In addition, the Town has leveraged a Wisconsin Healthy Lakes Grant to improve shoreline vegetation along a portion of the south pond.

American Legion Post 480 shares the southern shore of the south pond with Pipke Park as well as road access and parking. In 2017, the Post sponsored the installation of a very handsome ADA accessible Veterans Memorial. Parking for the Memorial is in Pipke Park.

Sensenbrenner Park is a one acre park established in 1988 where a small dam controls water flowing out of Little Horsehead Lake. Located on Main Street (CTH B) in the unincorporated village of Presque Isle, it is centrally located and has convenient parking and access to commercial establishments. Amenities include an open shelter, playground equipment, a pier for shore fishing, picnic tables, a grill, and park benches.

Wilderness Park is 10 acres located on Presque Isle Lake off Bay View Road. Amenities include asphalt parking lot, ADA accessible boat launch, picnic area with tables, grills, water pump, and ADA accessible

restrooms. Four shoreland erosion sites, one of which includes a trail with stairs down to the lake, were restored cooperatively with the County Land & Water Department in 2011.

Town Boat Landings

The Town owns and maintains the following public access points to water bodies. The town boat landings at Little Horsehead Lake and Wilderness Park on Presque Isle Lake meet ADA guidelines.

- **Annabelle Lake** - located in the central portion of the town and can be reached off highway B. It has a black top landing approach.
- **Crab Lake** – located on Town Dock Road, off Crab Lake Road, this landing is an easement to an unimproved gravel/dirt approach.
- **Little Horsehead Lake** - located on County Highway B in the north-central part of the town; this landing includes ADA parking, a recently reconstructed asphalt approach, and a dock.
- **Mud Lake** - can be found on the east side of County Highway B; this carry-in landing has a gravel launch area and a fishing pier.
- **Lynx Lake** - located in the central section of the town off County Highway B; has an unimproved gravel/dirt approach.
- **Easement to Cathaline Lake** - located in the northwest section of the town off old W; this landing is a dirt approach.
- **Presque Isle Lake off Hwy P** - has an asphalt approach and a dock.
- **Wilderness Park on Presque Isle Lake** – located off Bay View Road on Presque Isle Lake, is an improved, ADA compliant landing.
- **Stateline Lake** - has an unimproved portage-in canoe landing at the Community Center Park.

DNR Boat Landings

The following public access points to water bodies are owned and maintained by the DNR.

- **Anne Lake** – A trail leads to the lake and can be used to portage-in canoes.
- **Big Lake** – Campground, beach and improved landing available.
- **Little Crab Lake** – Landing available.
- **Horsehead Lake** – Improved ADA accessible landing available.
- **Mabel Lake** – Landing available.
- **Oxbow Lake** – Landing available.
- **Papoose Lake** – Improved landing available.
- **Red Bass Lake** – Unimproved landing available.
- **Round Lake** – Improved landing available.
- **Van Vliet Lake** – Improved ADA accessible landing available.
- **Wildcat Lake** – Improved landing available.

Canoe Trails

Paddlers have navigated the waters of Presque Isle for years. The best established paddling trails consist of:

- South Branch Presque Isle River – begins at Presque Isle Lake and flows to Pipke Park in Presque Isle.
- Northern stretch of the South Branch Presque Isle River – begins at Pipke Park in Presque Isle and continues north into Michigan.
- Crab Lake to Little Horsehead Lake – begins at Oxbow Lake, can include a loop into Annabelle Lake,

and continues to Crab Lake.

- Oxbow-Annabelle-Crab – begins at Oxbow Lake, can include a loop into Annabelle Lake, and continues to Crab Lake.
- Palmer-Tenderfoot & Creek – begins at Palmer Lake (in Land-O-Lakes) connecting to Tenderfoot Lake via the Ontonogan River. This trail is the public access to the Guido Rahr, Sr. Tenderfoot Forest Reserve.

Bike Trails

- 20-Mile Bike Loop Route – This route is a straight “there and back” which originates at the Town Hall parking lot and extends to Birch Lake boat landing in Winchester. A combination of paved shoulders along CTH W and lightly traveled town roads make up this route. A ¾-mile loop exists around Pipke Park South Pond on compacted gravel that connects to this route.

Non-Town Owned Parks or Recreational Areas

Catherine Wolter Wilderness Area is a 2,641 acre wilderness accessed from East Bay Road. The Wilderness is owned by The Nature Conservancy and contains 15 lakes and ponds and numerous trails for hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and exploring. The Wisconsin DNR has designated this property as the Border Lakes State Natural Area (SNA) in its SNA program.

Guido Rahr, Sr. Tenderfoot Forest Reserve is a 500 acres wilderness accessed by water from Palmer Lake and the Ontonogan River. The reserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy and contains old-growth forest, nearly four miles of undeveloped shoreline on the pristine waters of Tenderfoot, Roach, and Mirror Lake, and 4.2 miles of hiking trails.

Van Vliet Hemlocks is a 412 acre wilderness accessed from Crab Lake Road. The Hemlocks is part of the state’s Northern-Highland American Legion State Forest and has been designated as a State Natural Area. It includes numerous trails for hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and exploring.

Town of St Germain

The Town of St Germain maintains the following facilities:

Vandervort Park is a two-acre facility located on the north side of Lost Lake. Park facilities include a baseball field, a pavilion and a pier.

Downtown Park is a 34-acre facility adjacent to the east side of the St. Germain Elementary School. Features include two baseball diamonds, two soccer fields, two tennis courts, pickle ball, a skateboard arena, playground structures, picnic pavilions and immediate access to non-motorized and motorized public recreation trails. The park is situated directly on the "Heart of Vilas County Bike Trail System" which offers 52 miles of paved trails connecting the towns of St. Germain, Sayner, Boulder Junction and Manitowish Waters within Vilas County and Mercer in Iron County (and more being considered) and additional points beyond Vilas County. Trail users are welcome to stop in the park and enjoy any of its features.

The park is also the site of weekly summer flea market which hosts hundreds of vendors and attracts thousands of shoppers weekly from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The park is also the host site for many community events, large and small, throughout each spring, summer and fall.

Twenty-eight acres adjacent to the Town Park features a winter only fat bike trail and May through October it is used as an ATV trail. Further development of that land is being considered.

Fern Ridge is located on approximately 80 acres at 2005 Forest Lane. This land has both snowmobile and ATV/UTV trails connecting to additional trails beyond Fern Ridge. There are 4.5 miles mountain bike trails for multi-skill levels, improved walking trails of various distance, and 1.5 miles of hike/snowshoe trails on this property.

St. Germain Golf Club is an 18-hole course featuring a practice range, putting and chipping green, practice bunker, on course snack facility and a full-service golf shop.

The Awassa Lands are accessible from Highway 70 near the St. Germain Elementary School on the west side of St. Germain consist of 231 acres with approximately 6.8 miles of walking and 4.8 miles of, cross country ski and snowshoe trails. Planned further development includes one mile of interpretative trail. The land is also available for hunting and trapping, subject to applicable State regulations. The close proximity to the elementary school provides educational opportunities for the students.

Non-motorized recreation trails include:

- Approximately 12 miles of “Heart of Vilas County” biking and walking trails maintained by the Town from near Sayner to County Highway O, and five miles of “Awassa Nature Preserve” trails within the Town .
- Newly developed 4.5 miles mountain bike trails for multi-skill levels, improved walking trails of various distance and 1.5 miles of hike/snowshoe trails at Fern Ridge. Parking lot is located at 2005 Forest Lane.
- Several “Shannon Lake” hiking loops of two to seven miles in length maintained by the WDNR.
- Loop trails in conjunction with some neighboring towns.

The municipalities of Cloverland, St. Germain, and Eagle River signed a Joint Intergovernmental Agreement in June of 2018 with the intent of building a new “River Trail” along the Wisconsin River to connect the City of Eagle River and the Three Eagle Trail to the Heart of Vilas Biking and Walking Trail System in St. Germain. The project will hopefully be completed within the next five years.

Motorized recreation trails include:

- Approximately 100 miles of snowmobile trails in and around St. Germain maintained by the “Bo-Boen Snowmobile” club.
- All “Town” roads within St. Germain are designated as either ATV / UTV Trails or Routes from May through October. Additional trails maintained by the St. Germain ATV Club include County forest game trails and other connecting off road routes.

Public lake access includes boat landings at Big and Little St. Germain, Lost, Found, Stella Lake, Little Bass and Shannon Lakes.

Town of Washington

The Town of Washington maintains the following facilities:

Deerskin Lake Boat Landings

The Town maintains one boat landing at Deerskin Lake. There are 2 boat landings, but only one has a pier.

Scattering Rice Lake Boat Landing

The Town maintains one boat landing at Scattering Rice Lake.

Hike/Bike Trails

The Town currently has no trails.

Town of Winchester

The Town of Winchester maintains the following facilities:

Winchester Community Park

Located on Townsite Road along the Turtle River, this facility includes new picnic tables, grills, 2 ADA pavilions, basketball and volleyball courts, playground equipment, an ADA fishing pier, and ADA restrooms. One of the pavilions was erected in 2004 by the Town and Winchester Lions. It contains a food prep area with appliances donated by the Lake Association. A sandbox was installed in spring 2008.

Winchester Memorial Garden

The 75' x 100' garden is located adjacent to the Community Building and has benches for seating.

Public Boat Landings

The Town owns and maintains boat landings at South Turtle Lake (new paving in 2007), Harris Lake, Birch Lake, Rock Creek, and Noseeum Lake.

Bike & Hike Trails

There are currently no trails; however, the planning process is underway for a trail to connect to Presque Isle via County Highway W right-of-way and town roads.

3.8 State Facilities

The State of Wisconsin, primarily through the Department of Natural Resources, holds several tracts of land within Vilas County as shown on **Map 1**. Boundary signs posted near parking lots and along borders explain the uses that are open to the public on that parcel.

Northern Highland American Legion State Forest (NHAL)

See full property maps online. Snowmobile trails also exist but are administered by County Forestry, Recreation, and Land Department. No ATVs are allowed on the NHAL State Forest.

Established in 1925 to protect the headwaters of the Wisconsin, Flambeau and Manitowish rivers, the Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest occupies more than 232,000 acres in northern Wisconsin. The forest provides employment and economic support to rural and urban communities through the production of forest products, recreation and tourism.

The NHAL Forest occupies 26.4% of the total land area in Vilas County. Miles of hiking trails, nature trails, sandy beaches, and several state campgrounds are available to the public. Refer to **Map 1** for campground general locations.

See full property maps online. Trails itemized in **Table 4**. Snowmobile trails also exist, but are administered by County Forestry Department. No ATVs are allowed on the NHAL State Forest.

There are 4 **modern family campgrounds** totaling 351 sites. Crystal Lake, Big Musky, Firefly and Clear Lake campgrounds have a total of 351 sites. These campgrounds have paved roadways, flush toilets and showers but no electrical hookups. There are also hand-pumped water and pit toilets throughout these campgrounds. North Trout, Clear Lake, and Crystal Lake campgrounds have dump stations.

The NHAL has 14 **rustic campgrounds** totaling 513 campsites. These sites may be occupied up to 14 nights per visit. Big Lake, Carrol Lake, Indian Mounds, Plum Lake, Sandy Beach, and South Trout are rustic campgrounds that have reservable sites, with Buffalo and Cunard to soon begin taking reservations also.

There are 2 **group campgrounds** with space for up to 80 campers at each location. These campgrounds, at Jag Lake and North Muskellunge Lake, are equipped with pit toilets and hand pumps for drinking water. Group campgrounds provide an important camping opportunity for large groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and church groups to have a rustic camping experience while not affecting other campers. Jag Lake is a tent only group camp.

Canoe campsites are accessible by water, and stays are limited to one night. There are currently 74 canoe campsites located on more than 20 lakes and rivers across the NHAL. Sites are marked with yellow signs displaying a tent. No campsites reservations accepted. No fee is required. Trash must be packed out. A maximum of six people are allowed per campsite.

Remote-reservable campsites are on Allequash, Day, Nebish, Clear Lakes and in the Bittersweet Wild Lakes Area. They are accessible only by water. These sites may be occupied up to 14 nights per visit. Regular nightly camping fees apply. These sites may be reserved from May 1 through Labor Day. After Labor Day these sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A maximum of six people are allowed per campsite. The NHAL has 17 remote-reservable primitive campsites.














Table 4	NHAL Trails
	North Trout Nature Trail (1 mile)
	Fallison Nature Trail (4 miles)
	Raven Nature Trail (1.5 miles)
	Star Lake Nature Trail (2.5 miles)
	Tom Roberts Nature Trail (.55 mile)
	Escanaba Trail (11 miles)
	Madeline Trail (9.5 miles)
	Raven Trail (11 miles)
	McNaughton Trail (10 miles)
	Lumberjack Trail (12.5 miles)
	Powell Trail (8.5 miles)
	Shannon Trail (7 miles)

Table 4 Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Ski Trail |  Pets Allowed |
|  Hiking Trail |  Snowshoe Trail |
|  Nature Trail |  Mobility Impaired Access |
|  Biking Trail | |

The Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest has an outstanding **nature center at the Crystal Lake Campground** picnic area that includes a variety of educational displays and activities for the entire family. Within the NHAL, there are also **five interpretive trails** for those who would like to take a self-guided tour of the forest landscape. The trails traverse varied terrain and expose visitors to a wide range of natural habitats.

Bicycling – Except for the nature trails, Fallison, Trout Lake, Star Lake and Raven's yellow loop, biking is allowed on all roads and trails. This amounts to hundreds of miles of biking opportunities. Designated mountain bike trails require a state trail pass which can be purchased by self-registering at the trail

heads. Trails designated for biking are McNaughton, Madeline and Lumberjack. Also see **North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails**, and **Razorback Ridges Trails**.

Cross Country Ski – The NHAL has four beautifully tracked and wonderfully scenic cross-country ski trails: Escanaba, Madeline, McNaughton and Raven. State trail passes are required for these trails. Because they are tracked, snowshoes, hiking and pets are not allowed on these trails in winter.

The Lumberjack and Powell trails are great for skiing. These trails are not groomed, but because they are popular, many times a trail may have already been broken. Also see **North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails**, and **Razorback Ridges Trails**.

Hiking & Snowshoeing

Hiking is a good way to get close to nature and understand your natural environment a little better. In addition to our four nature trails, the NHAL has seven other trails designated for hiking. There are also hundreds of miles of old logging roads, less traveled town roads, forest access roads and snowmobile trails that offer good hiking.

In addition to our winter trails, Lumberjack and Powell, the parking lots at Fallison, North Trout and Star Lake Nature Trails are kept plowed to provide ample opportunities. For those that don't require a trail, the possibilities are endless. But please remember, no snowshoeing on groomed and tracked ski trails. Also see **North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails**, and **Razorback Ridges Trails**.

Equestrian Trails – There are no designated equestrian trails on the state forest. However, there are many places people can ride within the property such as public roads, old logging roads and snowmobile trails when not snow covered.

There are a few things to keep in mind when horseback riding in the NHAL. Horses are not allowed in any campground, beach, designated hiking or nature trail or contrary to other posted notices.

Hunting is permitted on the forest and hunters are reminded to check their regulations for open seasons and contact forest headquarters to confirm open areas. Hunting is not allowed within 100 yards of any state campground, picnic area or other special use area designated by posted notice.

North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails

Enjoy hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing and wildlife watching along the 12-mile trail system in the NHAL in Manitowish Waters. Trails are open to everyone from dawn to dusk. Donations for trail maintenance & upkeep appreciated. Suggested donation \$5/adults \$2/children. Dogs welcome on ski (ungroomed) and snowshoe trails.

Razorback Ridges Ski & Mountain Bike Trails provides 12 miles of trails, which are maintained by the Lions Club on forest property. Razorback Ridges is located two miles west of Sayner at the intersection of Hwy N and Razorback Rd.

State Fishery Areas

State fishery areas have been purchased to help preserve and manage headwaters and springs that often form the biological base for stream fisheries. These lands protect and improve spawning grounds for lake fisheries and prevent private blocking of important waterways, game lands, and lakes. Boundary signs posted near parking lots and along borders explain the uses on that parcel.

The following fishery area is owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Department of Natural Resources:

- ***Plum Creek Fishery Area***

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:

- ***Powell Marsh Wildlife Area*** is a 4,303 acre area located in the Town of Lac du Flambeau. The Wildlife Area provides significant, local wildlife-based recreation, particularly waterfowl hunting and birding opportunities. Management emphasizes habitat for waterfowl and species that require open wetland and grassland habitat. A combination of prescribed fire, hand cutting, mowing and shearing is used to limit the growth of shrubs and tamarack, while increasing the abundance of grasses and sedges.

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, though sites owned by agencies and organizations other than the DNR may have additional rules.

- 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.
- Please recognize and respect the property of private landowners adjacent to SNAs by not trespassing. Seek the landowner's permission before crossing private lands.
- Do not collect plants (including fruits, nuts, or edible plant parts), animals, fungi, rocks, minerals, fossils, archaeological artifacts, soil, downed wood, or any other natural material, alive or dead. Collecting for scientific research requires a permit issued by the DNR.

- 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, but must be kept on a leash no longer than 8', unless they are dogs being used for hunting purposes. Pets are prohibited on sites owned by The Nature Conservancy and most other private conservation organizations. Horseback riding is not allowed.
- Camping and fires are generally prohibited.
- Rock climbing and rappelling are prohibited, except on SNAs #98 and #164.
- Fishing, trapping, and hunting are allowed on most DNR-owned properties in accordance with state regulations.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) listed the following State Natural Areas in Vilas County. Each site was given a statewide identification (**No. #**) by the DNR. The Department of Natural Resources listed the following areas within Vilas County:

CNNF = Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

NHAL = Northern Highland American Legion (State Forest)

1. **Allequash Lake and Pines SNA (No.508)** is 398 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
2. **Anvil Lake Trail SNA (No. 449)** is 980 acres located in the CNNF.
3. **Aurora Lake SNA (No. 127)** is 250 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
4. **Beaver Creek SNA (No. 478)** is 697 acres located in the CNNF.
5. **Bittersweet Lakes SNA (No. 34)** is 1,070 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
6. **Black Tern Bog SNA (No. 49)** is 26 acres located in the Town of Arbor Vitae.
7. **Blackjack Springs SNA (No. 308)** is 1,395 acres located in the CNNF.
8. **Border Lakes SNA (No. 411)** is 2,383 acres located in the Town of Presque Isle.
9. **Camp Lake and Pines SNA (No. 506)** is 243 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
10. **Chippewa Trail SNA (No. 440)** is 897 acres located in the CNNF.
11. **Day Lake SNA (No. 189)** is 209 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
12. **Devine Lake and Mishonagon Creek SNA (No. 507)** is 1,186 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
13. **Dunn Lake SNA (No. 237)** is 954 acres located in the Town of Presque Isle.
14. **Haymeadow Creek SNA (No. 479)** is 957 acres located in the CNNF.
15. **Headwater Lakes SNA (No.)** is 2,893 acres located in the CNNF.
16. **Johnson Lake Barrens and Springs SNA (No. 107)** is 1,125 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
17. **Kentuck Lake SNA (No. 442)** is 291 acres located in the CNNF.
18. **Lake Alva Birch-Hemlock SNA (No. 509)** is 314 acres in the NHAL State Forest.
19. **Lake Laura Hardwoods SNA (No. 500)** is 852 acres in the NHAL State Forest.

20. **Lost Canoe SNA (No. 108)** is 1,119 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
21. **Mary Lake SNA (No. 264)** is 44 acres located in the Town of Presque Isle.
22. **Neil Lake SNA (No. 672)** is 117 acres in the NHAL State Forest.
23. **Nixon Lake SNA (No. 186)** is 737 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
24. **Trout Lake Conifer Swamp SNA (No. 21)** is 25 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
25. **Papoose Creek Pines SNA (No. 503)** is 563 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
26. **Pat Shay Lake SNA (No. 446)** is 736 acres located in the CNNF.
27. **Plum Lake Hemlock Forest SNA (No. 26)** is 747 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
28. **Rice Creek SNA (No. 504)** is 435 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
29. **Spruce Grouse Swamp SNA (No. 540)** is 400 acres located in the Town of Conover.
30. **Toy Lake Swamp SNA (No. 22)** is 2,308 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
31. **Trout River SNA (No. 505)** is 108 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
32. **Upper Buckatabon Springs SNA (No. 609)** is 279 acres located in the Town of Conover.
33. **Van Vliet Hemlocks (No. 673)** is 412 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.

State Wildlife Areas

There are a total of 4 waysides in Vilas County. The waysides provide attractive picnicking and relaxation areas for travelers and are maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. **Table 5** lists waysides and their facilities.

Location	Town	Acres	Facilities
STH 17 & 70	Lincoln	4.1	Picnicking & Restrooms
USH 45 at Wisconsin River	Land O' Lakes	4.8	Picnicking & Restrooms
USH 51, 3mi N of CTH N, Diamond Lk.	Arbor Vitae	1.6	Picnicking & Restrooms
USH 70, 1.7mi W of St Germain	St Germain	5.0	Picnicking & Restrooms

Source: WisDOT

3.9 Federal Facilities

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Out of more than 1.5 million total acres of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Vilas County contains 54,504 acres within its boundaries, or 9% of its total area. Part of the Chequamegon side of the forest and part of the Nicolet side of the forest both exist in Vilas County and are shown on **Map 1**.

Nicolet Side of National Forest

The larger area is found on the eastern side of the County, in the Towns of Phelps, Conover, and Washington. This area is located in the Eagle River-Florence Ranger District totaling 48,017 acres. Within this area there are 13 campgrounds; 10 mountain biking areas; 29 day hiking areas; 1 area for horse riding; 3 cross-country skiing and snowshoeing areas.

Blackjack Springs Wilderness – Officially designated as a Wilderness in 1978, this 5,800 acre area is located 7 miles northeast of Eagle River, Wis. in Vilas County. Blackjack Springs main feature is a series of four large, crystal clear springs that form the headwaters of Blackjack Creek, in the midst of dense forest cover. This Wilderness contains diverse vegetation typical of the Lake Superior Highlands of northern Wisconsin. The terrain is somewhat rolling and uneven. Wildlife such as deer, bear, fisher, ruffed grouse, and various species of songbirds are common. One lake, three streams with associated spring ponds and wetlands are also found here. Fishing, hunting, hiking, canoeing and nature study are popular recreational uses. All motor vehicles, bicycles, outboard and electrical motors, and any wheeled device for transporting canoes, boats, or equipment are prohibited.

Chequamegon Side of National Forest

The smaller portion of the National Forest in Vilas County contains 6,487 acres, and exists on the west edge of the County. All of this land is located in the Town of Lac du Flambeau, and is part of the Medford-Park Falls Ranger District. There are two campgrounds within this portion. Emily Lake campground on the southern end of the lake has 11 campsites equipped with a parking spur, campfire rings with grill, picnic table, vault toilets and drinking water. Wabasso Lake has five walk/canoe-in campsites equipped with fire grills, picnic tables, drinking water and toilets are at the boat landing.

3.10 Forested Lands – Not State or County Owned

Forested lands that may be open to the public but are not part of the county forest are privately held lands by individuals and corporations that are enrolled in either the Forest Crop Law or the Managed Forest Law. Currently, lands can only be newly enrolled in Managed Forest Law.

As of 2022 there are about 601.54 acres enrolled under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) in Vilas County, which are open to the public to hunt and fish.

As of 2022 there are about 37,493 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program in Vilas County. Of that MFL acreage, there are about 14,351 acres designated “open” to the public for hunting (not trapping), fishing, hiking, sightseeing, and cross-country skiing only (s. 77.83(2)(a), Wis. Stats.).

Other than the following exception, MFL lands enrolled as open must not be posted as to restrict 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. Access by motor vehicles or snowmobiles may be prohibited by the landowner on open lands. Open MFL lands can be found on the DNR website. It is the responsibility of the user to know where they are and which land is open to the public.⁵

Chapter 4: COUNTY MAINTAINED RECREATION FACILITIES

4.1 Introduction

This section is an inventory of the existing outdoor recreational facilities that are managed by the Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, and Land Department. Developed recreation areas that the County maintains or owns are listed and described by type.

The amount of usage Vilas County parks receive plays a role in the county's economy. Vilas County has a very large seasonal population with a high emphasis on recreation. The tourism industry depends on providing adequate facilities for a variety of recreational experiences.

4.2 County Parks

Most of these facilities are not in the Vilas County Forest. These facilities are open for day use from sunrise to sunset unless designated otherwise. ***See Map 1 for park locations. Park facility capital improvements are listed in Chapter 7.***

Eagle Lake Park

Eagle Lake Park is approximately 16.5 acres in size. It is located on the north shore of Eagle Lake, just off of Chain O'Lakes Road, near the City of Eagle River. Park facilities include a swimming beach (400 sq. ft.) and a boat landing with a 6'x24' portable pier, restrooms, 20 picnic tables, grills, a fire ring, and a pavilion. The facilities at this park meet ADA standards.

Torch Lake Park

Torch Lake Park is about 5 acres in size within the County Forest. Torch Lake Campground & RV Park is located to the south of Torch Lake Park. The entire designated area within the County Forest of Torch Lake Park and Torch Lake Campground & RV Park encompasses 56.42 acres. Both are located two miles south of Conover on Torch Lake Road within the Vilas County Forest.

Torch Lake Park has a swimming beach (100 sq. ft.), one restroom building with 2 toilets, a picnic area with 8 tables, a fire ring, and 3 grills, a swing set for children, and two horseshoe pits. A nature trail 6.5 miles in length provides recreation for skiers, hunters, and hikers. No facilities at this park meet ADA standards.

Lac Vieux Desert Park

Lac Vieux Desert Park is approximately 2 acres in size, and is located at the headwaters of the Wisconsin River on the southwest side of Lac Vieux Desert Lake. The Park is owned by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, however it is maintained by the County with the aid of periodic grants. There is a pathway and bridge into the park, picnic tables, grills, and a restroom facility that meets ADA standards.

Hunter Lake Park

Hunter Lake Park is approximately 23 acres in size in the County Forest, and is located four miles southwest of Conover. A swimming beach (100 sq. ft.) and a boat landing provide access to the lake. The picnic area contains tables, grills and a restroom building with two toilets.

Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park

Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park is approximately one acre in size. It is located next to the Wisconsin River on CTH G. It has one outhouse that meets ADA standards. The picnic area has tables and grills, along with a pathway and boat dock that also meet ADA standards.

County Fairgrounds and Riverside Park

Riverside Park is 4.5 acres in size and is located off Hwy. 70 West in Eagle River. This park is within the Vilas County Fairgrounds. There are restroom facilities at the Fairgrounds that meet ADA standards.

The facility inventory is as follows:

4 restrooms 2 pavilions 1 gate/ticket booth
3 exhibit buildings 2 concession stands 5 bleachers 1 barn
1 band stand 4 tennis courts

Oldenburg Sports Park

Oldenburg Sports Park is a 54 acre sports complex located 3 miles west of Highway 45 on County Highway G. This complex is on County owned land. There are 3 baseball fields that are leased to and maintained by Eagle River Baseball. One of the fields is lighted. There are also eleven U10 to U14 soccer fields that are leased to and maintained by the Eagle River Club of Headwaters Youth Soccer Association. There is a shared pavilion, concession stand and restrooms at this facility.

Vilas County Shooting Range

There is one shooting range within the Vilas County Forest. See "Private Facilities" on page 48 for the other shooting range listings. The 5-acre range is located 5.5 miles north of Eagle River, off Highway 45 in the Town of Conover. The range includes eight shooting benches with backstops with various ranges for rifle and handguns, one clay target area for trap and skeet shooting, one fire ring, and parking. Rules for the range are posted at the site. A donation tube is also on the site for users to contribute to cost of maintenance. The range is accessible for disabled shooters. There are no toilet facilities on site.

Snipe Lake Park

This 4.52 acre park is located on the west end of Snipe Lake on Wilderness Trail, about 5.5 miles west of Eagle River. The established facilities includes a small pavilion, picnic tables, grills, shelter, restroom, and boat access to Snipe Lake.

Cranberry Island

Cranberry Island Park is located on the north one-third of Cranberry Island, and is only accessible by boat on Cranberry Lake. A permanent pier provides boat access to the park. Within the park are picnic sites with tables, and an old privy that has reached its useful life.

McLeod Lake Park

McLeod Lake Park is about a 2 acre park, located on McLeod Lake Road off Star Lake Road approximately 8 miles northwest of Eagle River. This recreation site is located on the east shore of 52 acre McLeod Lake, which is completely surrounded by Vilas County Forest lands. Facilities in the park include a picnic table and fire ring with cooking grill. McLeod Lake is accessible by an unimproved landing site. There are no toilet facilities on site.

River Road Park

This 2 acre park is located where River Road ends at the Wisconsin River, about 5 miles north of Eagle River on STH 45, then 1 ½ miles west to the river. There is access to the Wisconsin River, restroom facilities, picnic tables, and fire ring.

Snyder Lake Park

This 12.73 acre park is located in the Town of Plum Lake, off Star Lake Road, on the north end of Snyder Lake. The park contains a fire ring with cooking grate, a picnic table, and an unimproved landing onto the lake. There are no toilet facilities on site.

Forrest Street River Park

This 0.15-acre park is located in the City of Eagle River where Forrest St. terminates at the Eagle River and North of West Division St. This lot is used for parking for the Forrest St. Landing that is owned by the City of Eagle River.

Lake of the Hills Park

Lake of the Hills Park consists of 2.3 acres and is located off of Lake Hills Landing Rd., which is 1.5 miles north of STH 17, north of Eagle River, in the Town of Conover. This Park is also the public boat landing for Lake of the Hills. There is a paved drive, launching dock and fishing pier. There are no toilet facilities on site.

Pickerel Creek Park

This 23.41-acre Park is located at the end of Pickerel Landing Rd. in the Town of Cloverland. Pickerel Rd. is 6.8 miles west on CTH G from USH 45. It has a gravel road and parking area. 1 pier and no toilet facility on site.

Muskellunge Lake Park

Muskellunge Lake Park is 1.14 acres in size. The Park is located off of Balsam Ln which is 7 miles west of USH 45 on CTH G. There is a boat launch, pier, and parking for vehicles and trailers. There are no toilet facilities on site.

Upper Buckatabon Lake Park

This 1.16-acre Park/ Boat Landing is located on East Buckatabon Rd. in the Town of Conover. East Buckatabon Rd. is located off of CTH K, about 9.25 miles west of USH 45. There is a pier, picnic table, kiosk, ADA parking and a paved road and parking are for vehicles and trailers. There are no toilet facilities on site.

Tamarack Flowage Park

This 1.19-acre Park is located on Flowage Landing Rd. in the Town of Conover. Flowage Landing Rd is located 3.9 miles north of CTH K off of CTH S. It has a paved parking area with limited space and a pier. There are no toilet facilities at this park.

Cooks Lake Park

Cooks Lake Park is located 2.75 north of CTH G o of East Hunter Lake Rd. in the Town of Cloverland. This 1.10-acre Park is the walk-in access to Cooks Lake. There are no toilet facilities.

Range Line Lake Park

This 3.12-acre Park is located at the end of Range Line Lake Fire Ln. on the border of the Towns of Lincoln and Cloverland. There is a walk-in access to Range Line Lake, a picnic table and access to a county forest hiking trail. There are no toilet facilities.

Tellefson Lake Park

Tellefson Park is located .5 miles from East hunter Lake Rd. on Deep Lake Rd. to Tellefson Lake Rd. in the Town of Conover. This 8.42-acre Park has a walk-in access to Tellefson Lake and parking area. There are no toilet facilities.

Deep Lake Park

Deep Lake Park consist of 2.58 acres and is located .6 miles east of East Hunter Lake Rd on Deep Lake Rd. in the Town of Conover. There is a boardwalk out to the lake, a picnic table and a parking area. There are no toilet facilities.

Mud Minnow Lake Park

This Park consists of 1.81 acres. Mud Minnow Lake Park is .4 miles south of CTH G on Mud Minnow Lake Fire Ln. in the Town of Cloverland. There is a gravel parking area and a walk-in access to Mud Minnow Lake. There are no toilet facilities.

Wood Duck Lake Park

Wood Duck Lake Park is a 1.52-acre Park located on Wood Duck Lake Rd. in the Town of Cloverland. This is a walk-in access to Wood Duck Lake and fishing pier are on site. There are no toilet facilities.

Ewald Lake Park

This 4.84-acre Park is located at the end of Ewald Landing Rd which is off of Snipe Lake Fire Ln. in the Town of Cloverland. There is a parking area and a walk-in access to Ewald Lake. There are no toilet facilities on site.

Tamarack Springs Park

Tamarack Springs Park consists of 17.63 acres and is located .75miles north of CTH S off of Tamarack Rd in the Town of Conover. The Park also is part of the Tamarack Springs Campground and serves as the trailhead for the county's OHM trail system and snow-shoe trail in the winter months. There is a pavilion, picnic tables, Tamarack Creek carry-in access, gravel parking area and two restrooms on each side of the creek.

Rice Lake Park

Rice lake Park is not so much as a park as it is a fishing pier on CTH G right of way. The site is 0.56 acres in size and is located 3.75 miles west of USH 45 on CTH G in the Town of Cloverland. There is a pier and parking is on the road edge. There are no toilet facilities on site.

4.3 County Forest

The Vilas County Forest has 41,151.19 acres of land within seven townships. This land provides public access for various types of outdoor recreation. There are 48.37 miles of county forest roads to enhance access to these facilities. **Maps 3 to 7** show where in the County Forest are outdoor recreation facilities (e.g., trails, boat launches, piers, parks, and picnic areas) exist for the public to enjoy.

Recreational Use of the County Forest

Pedestrian access, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and other non-motorized uses are currently permitted throughout the County Forest.

Trails are open to hunting, hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing. There are 104.4 miles of trails that have been developed and closed to motor vehicles. All trail systems have been seeded with a mixture of perennial grasses and/or clover and mowed periodically to provide multiple recreational opportunities. The maintenance of the trails is completed by the County with financial assistance from the Wisconsin DNR through County Conservation Aids. The trail systems are posted with map boards.

Hunting and Trapping

The Vilas County Forest encompasses land with diverse forest age classes. Forest cover types within the County Forest provides a wide range of wildlife habitat. Abundant deer, bear, turkey, grouse, squirrel, cottontail rabbit, and snowshoe hare can be found on the highlands. Ducks of many species, geese including Canadian and Snow, can be found in the wetlands, lakes, and streams. Trappers can find fur-bearing animals in the uplands and lowlands. The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department manages and maintains 11 hunter walking trail units with over 90 miles of improved accesses, closed to motor vehicles, for hunters of various mobility levels.

Hunter/Hiking Trails

- Decker Lake Unit – (5.3 miles of trail) See Map 6.
- Deep Lake Unit – (6.0 miles of trail) See Map 7.
- Heart Lake Unit – (5.24 miles of trail) See Map 6.
- Langley Lake Unit – (18.22 miles of trail) See Map 5.
- Muskrat Creek Unit – (6.61 miles of trail) See Map 6.
- Pioneer Creek Unit – (8.99 miles of trail) See Map 5.
- Ski Hill Unit – (6.67 miles of trail) See Map 6.
- Snipe Lake and Ewald Lake Unit – (18.78 miles of trail) See Map 4.
- Torch Lake Unit – (7.08 miles of trail) See Map 6.
- White Squaw Lake Unit – (9.12 miles of trail) See Map 4.

- Mud Minnow Lake Unit – (3.16 miles of trail) See Map 5.

Fishing and Remote Lake Access

All lakes and streams within the County Forest are available for fishing unless otherwise listed in state regulations.

The following improved fishing sites provide shore fishing opportunities:

- Cook’s Lake – fishing pier (8’X8’), access catwalk
- Deep Lake – fishing pier (8’X8’), access catwalk, fire ring
- Lake of the Hills – ADA fishing pier (6’X20’)
- Mud Minnow Lake – fishing pier (4’X8’), access catwalk, fire ring, grill
- Rice Lake – fishing pier (6’X16’)
- Tamarack Flowage – fishing pier (4’X16’)
- Wood Duck Lake – fishing pier (8’X16’)

4.4 County Camping Areas in County Forest

The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, and Land Department currently manages 3 designated campgrounds and 2 remote areas as campsites which are open to the public with a use fee. See camping areas on **Maps 1 and 3**.

Dispersed Camping within the County Forest.

A permit is required to camp outside of developed campgrounds on the County Forest. Permits may be refused due to high fire danger.

Torch Lake Campground & RV Park

Torch Lake Campground & RV Park is located at 5105 Torch Lake Rd., Conover, Wisconsin. The entire designated area of this development including Torch Lake Park encompasses 56.42 acres. The established campground facilities include 42 campsites with fire pits and tables, electricity, water, shower house with flush toilets, 1 pit toilet, on-site Wi-Fi, on-site dump station and firewood sales. 21 of the sites are full hook up including sewer. A trail connects the campground to Torch Lake Park which provides a beach, a picnic area and playground. A motorized recreation trail connects the campground to 100+ miles of established ATV/UTV Trails and Routes. The campground facility is fee based for camping with use of campground facilities limited to registered campers.

Tamarack Springs Campground

Tamarack Springs Campground is located at 5019 and 5025 Tamarack Rd., Conover, Wisconsin. The entire designated area of this development encompasses 17.63 acres. The established campground facilities includes 10 campsites and 2 restroom facilities. Some campsites may be utilized by RV and some campsites are recommended for tent camping only. A trail connects the campground to 20+ miles of established single Track Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM) Trails. The campground facility is fee based for camping with use of campground facilities limited to registered campers.

River Road Equestrian Campground

The River Road Equestrian Campground is located at 5056 River Road, Conover, Wisconsin. The entire designated area of this development encompasses 9.16 acres. The established park facilities include 8 open layout campsites, 4 campsites inside the road loop share two firepits, 4 campsites have no fire pits. There is a total of 5 highline hitches for horse tie-out with various distances from campsites, a manure bunker is available on the north end of the campground. All users are welcomed at this facility; however, this campground is designed for use by equestrian users including truck and trailer parking. The campground facility is fee based for camping with use of campground facilities limited to registered campers.

Remote Areas as Campsites

Two canoe-in campsites are located along the Wisconsin River, north of Eagle River. These are the Rummels Road and Buckatabon Creek Campsites. Both sites have a small shelter, fire ring, and a restroom. Both sites do not meet ADA standards.

4.5 County Picnic Areas in County Forest

The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, and Land Department maintains 11 picnic areas in addition to the county parks. Each area is composed of at least one picnic table; and some have fire rings, cooking grills, shelters, and possibly sanitary facilities. Picnic areas are shown on **Map 3** and are described in **Table 6**.

Name	Acres	Fire Ring or Grill	Restrooms	Shelter	Tables	Signs
Buckatabon Creek at WI River	1	1 Ring, 2 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets	1	1	1
Buckatabon Lake Landing**	1	1 Ring			1	1
Cranberry Island	40	1 Ring, 2 Grills	1 bldg w/ 1 toilet		2	
Cook's Lake**	1					2
Deep Lake**	1	1 Ring			1	
McLeod Lake	1	1 Ring			1	1
River Road at WI River	2	1 Ring	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets		3	2
Rummels Road at WI River	1	1 Ring, 2 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets	1	1	1
Snipe Lake	2	3 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets	1	3	1
Snyder Lake	1				1	1
Tamarack Springs	2	3 Grills	2 bldgs w/ 4 toilets		3	2

**Disabled accessible pier and pathway.

Blank areas in the above table = none available.

4.6 County Public Access Points to Water Bodies

Public access points to water bodies vary from primitive (e.g., canoe launch) to well developed (e.g., boat launches). Multiple jurisdictions own the access points while the County maintains the majority. See **Map 3**.

Undeveloped water access points for canoes and boats currently exist in the County Forest. These are used routinely to hand launch boats or canoes but have not been developed for boat trailer launching. These sites are not routinely maintained and may be closed if erosion damage becomes severe. All new sites for developed water access must be reviewed and approved by the County Forestry, Recreation & Land Committee.

Picnic sites also exist at some boat landings. See the “picnic areas” descriptions and Table 6.

Boot Lake Boat Landing

Facilities include blacktopped parking area, an informational kiosk, a blacktopped approach with ramp and pier (8’X16’).

Upper Buckatabon Lake Boat Landing

Facilities include an informational kiosk, a picnic table, a fire ring, a blacktopped approach with ramp and pier (5’X24’).

Lake of the Hills Boat Landing

Facilities include an informational kiosk, a blacktopped approach with ramp, ADA pier (6’X20’), and adjacent fishing pier.

Muskellunge Lake Boat Landing

Facilities include an informational kiosk, a blacktopped approach with ramp, some blacktopped parking area and an ADA pier (4’X40’).

Pickereel Creek Boat Landing

Facilities include an informational kiosk, a gravel road and gravel parking area, a ramp, and a pier (6’X20’).

Tamarack Flowage Boat Landing

Facilities include a gravel road, an informational kiosk, a blacktopped approach and boat ramp, a small blacktopped parking area and a pier (4’X16’).

Eagle Lake Boat Landing

Facilities include a blacktopped approach with ramp, ADA pier (6’X40’), trailer parking, and restroom.

Forrest Street Boat Landing

Facilities include a blacktopped approach with ramp (city owned), ADA pier (city owned), trailer parking area (county owned). The site has recently been renovated to improve the erosion of the seawall. Actual boat landing is owned by the City of Eagle River. Boat ramp and pier improvements will be dependent upon the City.

Hunter Lake Boat Landing

Facilities include an informational kiosk, a sand/gravel approach and gravel parking area. Adjacent Hunter Lake Park provides a beach, picnic sites, and a restroom.

Tamarack Springs Access

Facilities include a gravel access road and parking area and carry-in access path to the Tamarack Creek.

Chapter 5: OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

Recreational needs within Vilas County are identified in the Recommendations & Capital Improvement chapter. Those needs were identified primarily by gathering public input via a survey; the results of that survey are in this chapter.

5.2 Public Participation

Informal Public Input

In the regular course of business, Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, and Land Department staff have received public input about its parks, campgrounds, trails, and forest. That input and staff's professional experience will also shape what changes are implemented.

Summary of Survey Responses

In late summer of 2022, this survey was sent out for customer feedback. Survey notices were mailed to each town, emailed to Eagle River city staff, and emailed to a whole list of outdoor recreation groups and lists of Torch Lake Campground reservation holders. All Chambers of Commerce were contacted. The survey was open for over 6-weeks. The survey was also available via a link on the Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, and Land Department's website and NCWRPC's website for this ORP.

We received **1,116 responses** to the survey. Although not statistically significant of the whole population, this survey does provide a much deeper understanding of the wants and needs for outdoor recreation than a public hearing, so the results are still very valuable. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had smaller response groups.

About 73% of respondents live in Vilas County or have a summer home in the County; and 939 people marked what zip code they live in (mostly in 54521, 54558, 54545, 54557, & 54554). All municipalities were represented with about 84% of respondents answering this question.

Through an IP address analysis of who took the survey it appears that 75 IP addresses are at least duplicated, which could mean that a husband and wife both took the survey. Seventy IP address repeated twice, one repeated 3 times, one repeated 4 times and one other IP address repeated 8 times. Many duplicate IP addresses appeared to be from those who started but did not finish the survey, and also those who did take the survey twice. Most duplicates appeared to be husbands and wives, and people with different answers; so, it appears that nobody "stuffed the ballot box."

A majority of the respondents were male (56% male, 44% female). Respondents came from all age groups, with a strong showing of at least 60% from Baby Boomers (57 to 75), and about 20% from Generation X (41 to 56). All other age groups provided about 16% of responses.

For the Full Survey Results (211 pages) go online here: <https://www.ncwrpc.org/vilas/orp/>

Key Findings of the ORP Survey:

Answered: 1,116 Skipped: 0

- The most frequent outdoor recreational activities respondents participated in:
 1. Walking / Hiking 83% of responses
 2. Boating 70% of responses
 3. Canoeing / Kayaking 67% of responses
 4. Fishing 59% of responses
 5. Swimming 58% of responses
 6. Events / Festivals / Fairs 57% of responses
 7. Bicycling 53% of responses

Q2. What potential outdoor recreational opportunities should be developed in Vilas County?

Answered: 626 Skipped: 490

1. Bike trails/paths 202 responses
2. ATV/UTV trails 62 responses
3. Hiking/walking trails 62 responses
4. Groomed X-C trails 44 responses
5. More campsites 28 responses
6. Horseback trails 27 responses
 - a. Horse campsites 16 responses
7. OHM trails 24 responses
8. Pickleball courts 21 responses
9. Dog park 21 responses

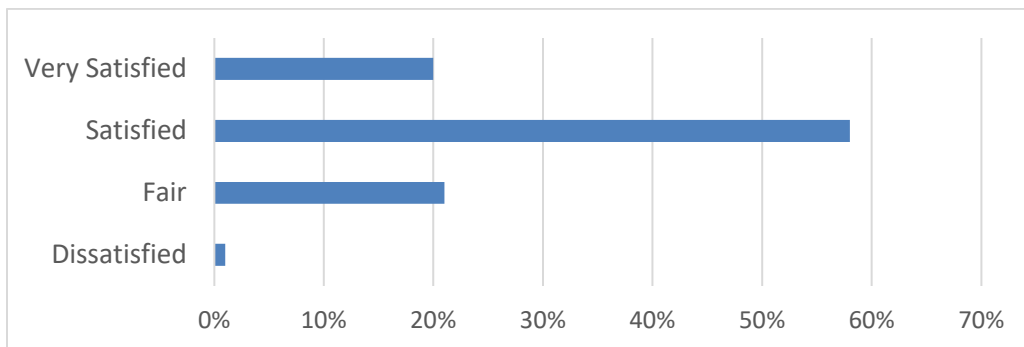
Q3. How often do you use Eagle Lake County Park?

Answered: 1,100 Skipped: 16

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never [Skip to next park.]	80.36%	884
Occasionally	17.27%	190
Monthly	1.27%	14
Weekly	0.55%	6
Multiple times per week	0.55%	6
TOTAL		1,100

Q4. Rate your overall satisfaction with Eagle Lake County Park?

Answered: 193 Skipped: 923



Q5. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Eagle Lake County Park?

Answered: 175 Skipped: 941

	NOT APPLICABLE (I DO NOT USE THIS.)	VERY SATISFIED	GOOD	FAIR	DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Swimming Beach	24.71% 42	26.47% 45	37.06% 63	10.59% 18	1.18% 2	170
Changing Rooms	57.49% 96	9.58% 16	20.36% 34	10.78% 18	1.80% 3	167
Restrooms	21.43% 36	20.83% 35	35.71% 60	19.05% 32	2.98% 5	168
Boat Landing	35.88% 61	17.06% 29	33.53% 57	11.18% 19	2.35% 4	170
Nature Trails	50.62% 82	13.58% 22	24.07% 39	9.88% 16	1.85% 3	162
Pavilion Reservation Process	68.29% 112	4.88% 8	21.95% 36	3.66% 6	1.22% 2	164
Picnic Tables, Grills, and Pavilion	40.36% 67	16.27% 27	36.14% 60	6.63% 11	0.60% 1	166
Parking Facilities	21.56% 36	25.15% 42	40.12% 67	11.38% 19	1.80% 3	167

Q6. 52 people commented on what additional improvements they would like to see in Eagle Lake County Park. **Read those comments in Full Survey Results online.**

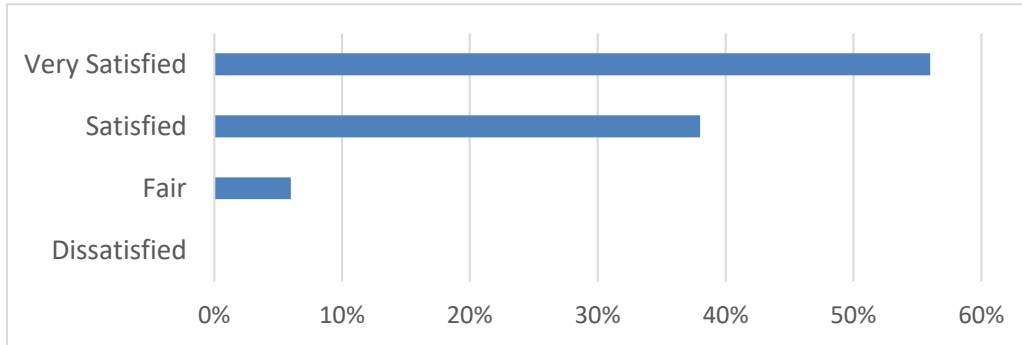
Q7. How often do you use Torch Lake County Park?

Answered: 1,066 Skipped: 50

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never [Skip to next park.]	83.30%	888
Occasionally	15.01%	160
Monthly	1.03%	11
Weekly	0.28%	3
Multiple times per week	0.38%	4
TOTAL		1,066

Q8. Rate your overall satisfaction with Torch Lake County Park?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 946



Q9. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Torch Lake County Park?

Answered: 164 Skipped: 952

	NOT APPLICABLE (I DO NOT USE THIS.)	VERY SATISFIED	GOOD	FAIR	DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Swimming Beach	28.75% 46	35.63% 57	23.13% 37	11.25% 18	1.25% 2	160
Toilet Building	16.25% 26	53.13% 85	21.25% 34	9.38% 15	0.00% 0	160
Nature Trails	30.77% 48	36.54% 57	24.36% 38	5.77% 9	2.56% 4	156
Picnic Tables & Grills	16.46% 26	48.10% 76	29.11% 46	6.33% 10	0.00% 0	158
Swing Set	60.78% 93	14.38% 22	20.26% 31	3.27% 5	1.31% 2	153
Horseshoe Pits	78.52% 117	7.38% 11	10.07% 15	2.68% 4	1.34% 2	149
Parking Facilities	11.95% 19	48.43% 77	33.96% 54	4.40% 7	1.26% 2	159

Q10. 50 people commented on what additional improvements they would like to see in Torch Lake County Park. **Read those comments in Full Survey Results online.**

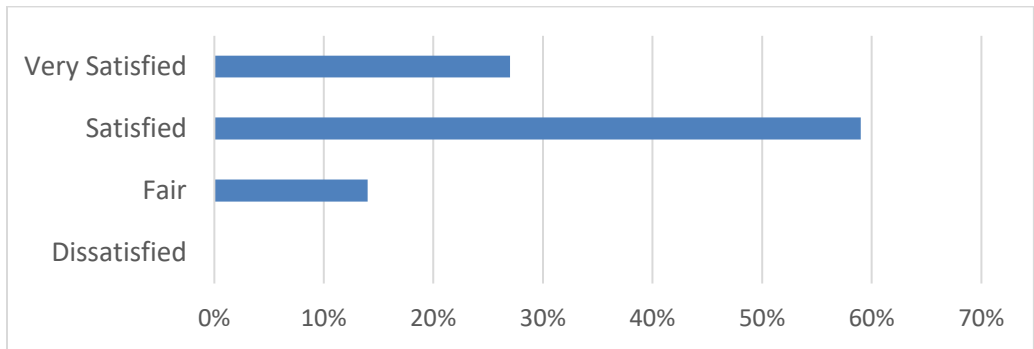
Q11. How often do you use Hunter Lake County Park?

Answered: 1,052 Skipped: 64

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never [Skip to next park.]	93.73%	986
Occasionally	5.42%	57
Monthly	0.67%	7
Weekly	0.19%	2
Multiple times per week	0.00%	0
TOTAL		1,052

Q12. Rate your overall satisfaction with Hunter Lake County Park?

Answered: 64 Skipped: 1,052



Q13. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Hunter Lake County Park?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 1,058

	NOT APPLICABLE (I DO NOT USE THIS.)	VERY SATISFIED	GOOD	FAIR	DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Picnic Tables & Grills	22.81% 13	36.84% 21	29.82% 17	10.53% 6	0.00% 0	57
Toilet Building	14.29% 8	30.36% 17	42.86% 24	12.50% 7	0.00% 0	56
Boat Landing	17.86% 10	26.79% 15	26.79% 15	19.64% 11	8.93% 5	56
Swimming Beach	22.81% 13	38.60% 22	33.33% 19	3.51% 2	1.75% 1	57

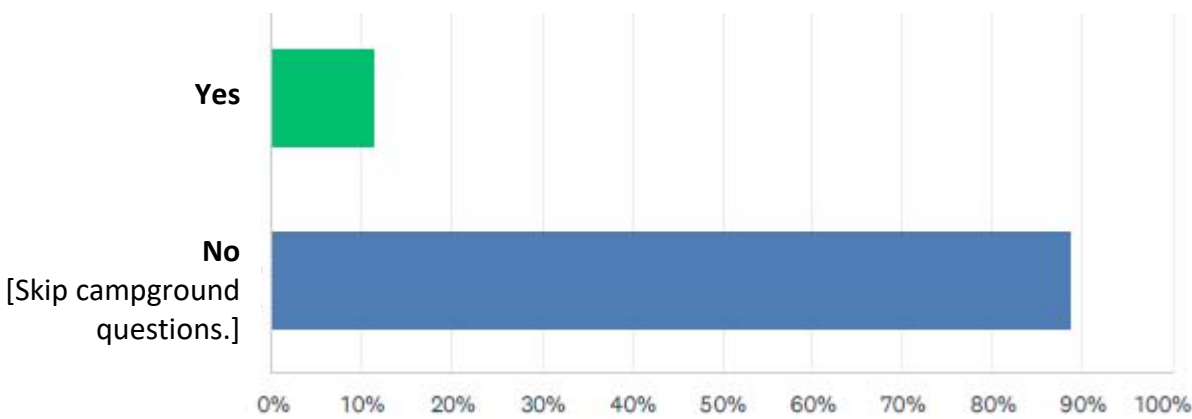
Q14. 18 people commented on what additional improvements they would like in Hunter Lake County Park. Read those comments in Full Survey Results online.

Vilas County maintains the following campgrounds:

- Torch Lake Campground & RV Park;
- Tamarack Springs;
- Buckatabon Creek;
- Rummels Road; and
- River Road Equestrian Campground.

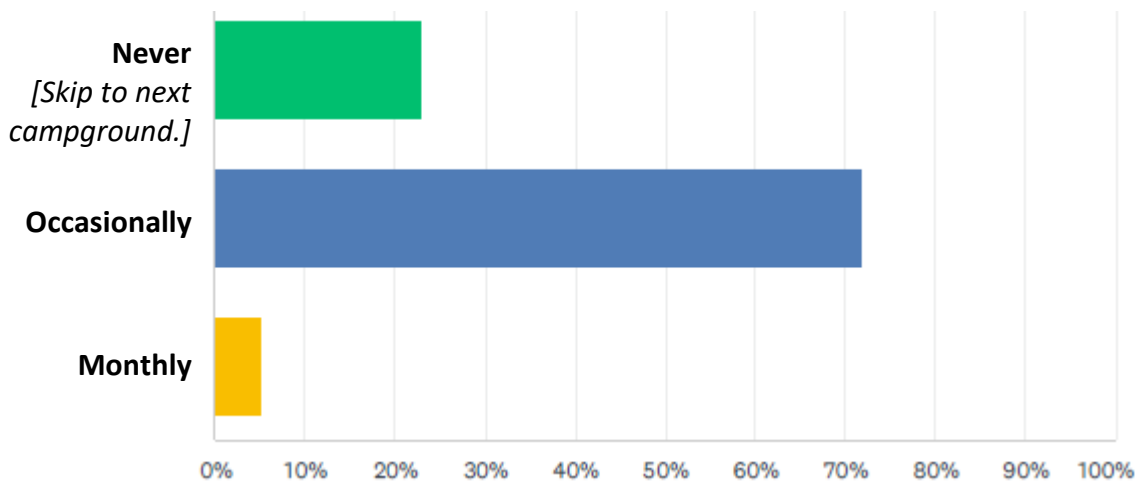
Q15. In 2021, did you camp at any of the above campgrounds?

Answered: 1,045 Skipped: 71



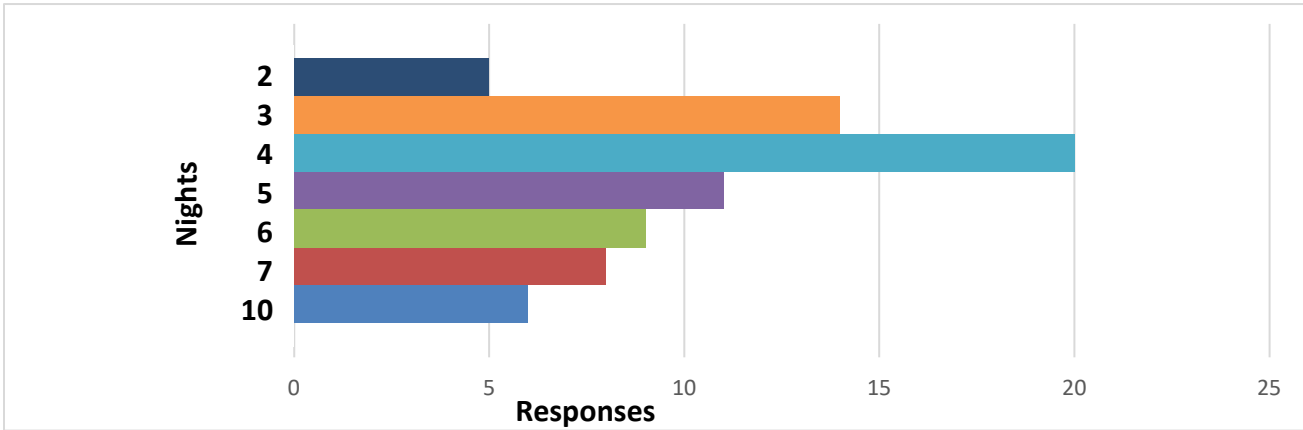
Q16. How often do you use Torch Lake Campground & RV Park?

Answered: 117 Skipped: 999



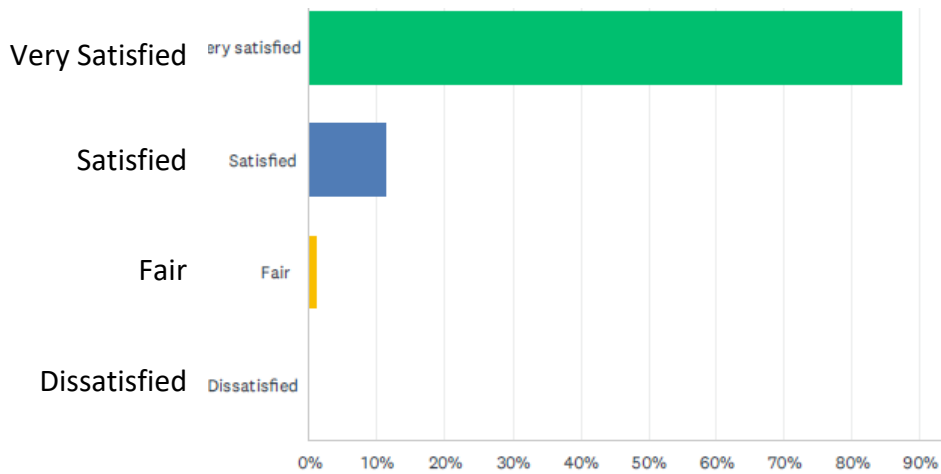
Q17. Estimate how many nights you spent camping at Torch Lake Campground & RV Park in 2021:

Answered: 85 Skipped: 1,031



Q18. Rate your overall satisfaction with Torch Lake Campground & RV Park?

Answered: 88 Skipped: 1,028



Q19. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Torch Lake Campground & RV Park:

Answered: 87 Skipped: 1,029

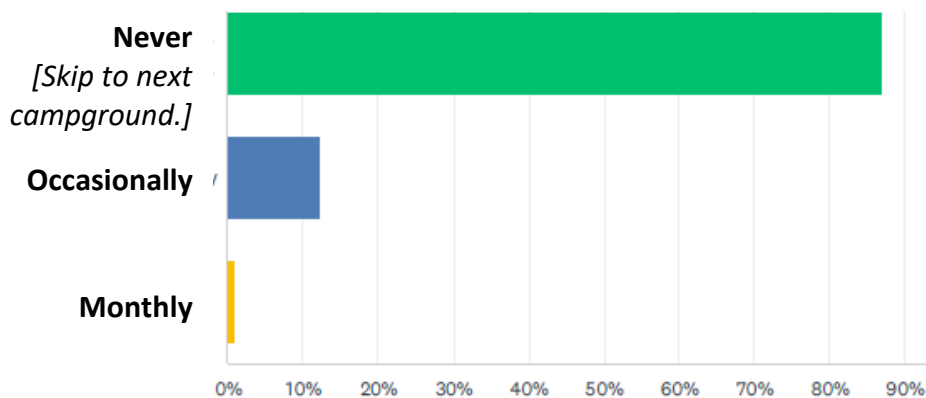
	NOT APPLICABLE (I DO NOT USE THIS.)	VERY SATISFIED	GOOD	FAIR	DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Individual campsite size	1.15% 1	93.10% 81	5.75% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	87
Water & electrical hookups at campsites	4.60% 4	86.21% 75	9.20% 8	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	87
Wi-Fi availability	11.63% 10	45.35% 39	34.88% 30	6.98% 6	1.16% 1	86
Number of campsites	2.30% 2	71.26% 62	20.69% 18	5.75% 5	0.00% 0	87
Comfort station building (restrooms)	8.05% 7	80.46% 70	11.49% 10	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	87
Picnic tables & fire rings at campsites	1.15% 1	87.36% 76	9.20% 8	1.15% 1	1.15% 1	87
Firewood availability	18.60% 16	52.33% 45	24.42% 21	3.49% 3	1.16% 1	86
Trail access	17.24% 15	56.32% 49	20.69% 18	4.60% 4	1.15% 1	87
Registration process	1.15% 1	85.06% 74	12.64% 11	1.15% 1	0.00% 0	87
Campsite fees	1.15% 1	64.37% 56	28.74% 25	5.75% 5	0.00% 0	87

Q20. 31 people commented on what additional improvements they would like to see regarding Torch Lake Campground & RV Park.

Read those comments in [Full Survey Results](#) online.

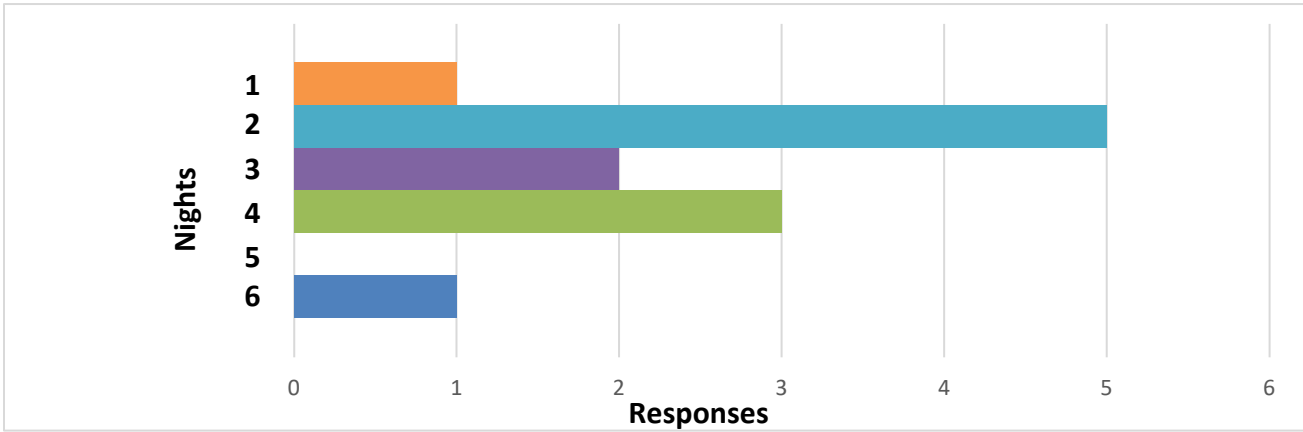
Q21. How often do you use Tamarack Springs Campground?

Answered: 115 Skipped: 1,001



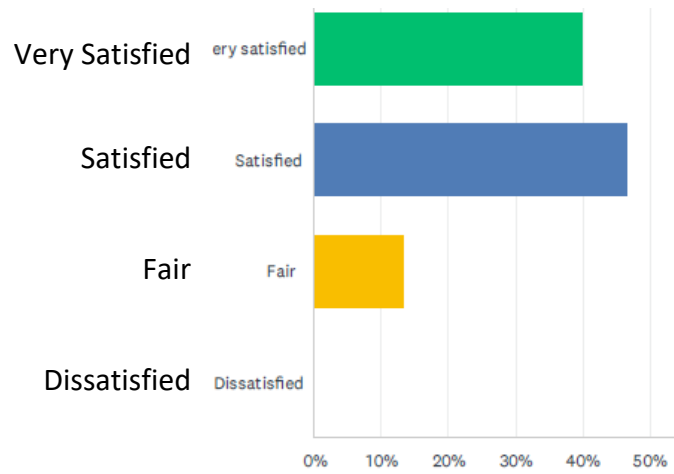
Q22. Estimate how many nights you spent camping at Tamarack Springs Campground in 2021:

Answered: 15 Skipped: 1,101



Q23. Rate your overall satisfaction with Tamarack Springs Campground:

Answered: 15 Skipped: 1,101



Q24. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Tamarack Springs Campground:

Answered: 15 Skipped: 1,101

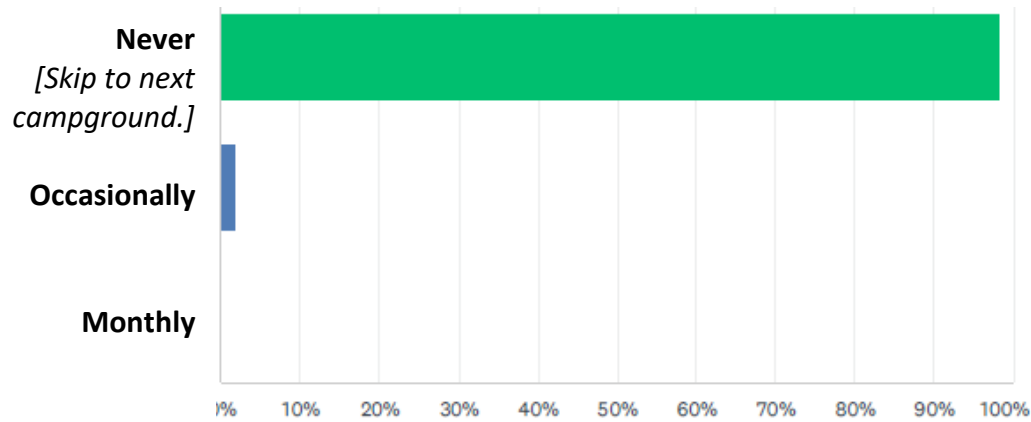
	NOT APPLICABLE (I DO NOT USE THIS.)	VERY SATISFIED	GOOD	FAIR	DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Individual campsite size	0.00% 0	66.67% 10	20.00% 3	13.33% 2	0.00% 0	15
Number of campsites	0.00% 0	40.00% 6	53.33% 8	6.67% 1	0.00% 0	15
Latrines (toilet buildings)	0.00% 0	33.33% 5	60.00% 9	6.67% 1	0.00% 0	15
Water hand pump	0.00% 0	26.67% 4	60.00% 9	6.67% 1	6.67% 1	15
Picnic tables & cooking grills	0.00% 0	33.33% 5	46.67% 7	13.33% 2	6.67% 1	15
Firewood availability	26.67% 4	0.00% 0	46.67% 7	20.00% 3	6.67% 1	15
Trail access	6.67% 1	53.33% 8	26.67% 4	13.33% 2	0.00% 0	15
Registration process	6.67% 1	60.00% 9	26.67% 4	6.67% 1	0.00% 0	15
Campsite fees	0.00% 0	46.67% 7	46.67% 7	6.67% 1	0.00% 0	15

Q25. 7 people commented on what additional improvements they would like to see regarding Tamarack Springs Campground.

Read those comments in [Full Survey Results](#) online.

Q26. How often do you use Buckatabon Creek Canoe Campsite?

Answered: 115 Skipped: 1,001



Q27. Estimate how many nights you spent camping at Buckatabon Creek Canoe Campsite in 2021:

Answered: 4 Skipped: 1,112

- 0 nights (3 responses)
- 1 night (1 response)

Q28. Rate your overall satisfaction with Buckatabon Creek Canoe Campsite:

Answered: 1 Skipped: 1,115

- Very satisfied (1 response)

Q29. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Buckatabon Creek Canoe Campsite:

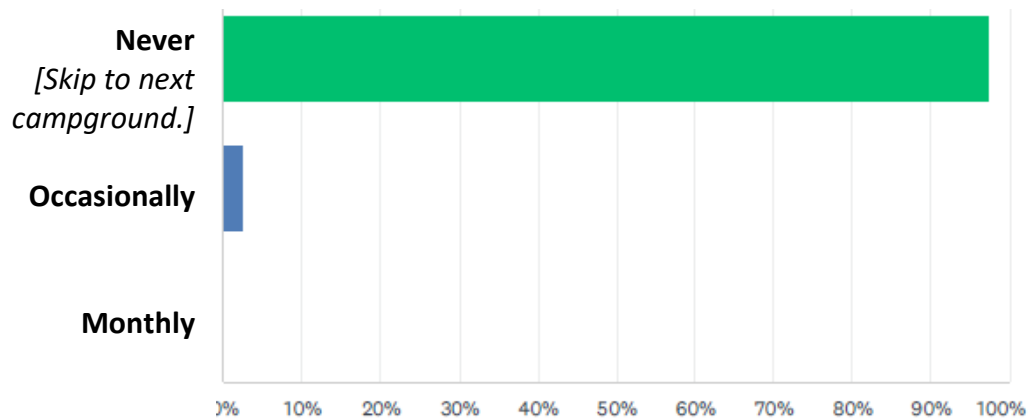
Answered: 1 Skipped: 1,115

See satisfaction comments in [Full Survey Results](#) online.

Q30. No comments about what additional improvements they would like to see regarding Buckatabon Creek Canoe Campsite.

Q31. How often do you use Rummels Road Canoe Campsite?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 1,002



Q32. Estimate how many nights you spent camping at Rummels Road Canoe Campsite in 2021:

Answered: 4 Skipped: 1,112

- 0 nights (2 responses)
- 1 night (2 responses)

Q33. Rate your overall satisfaction with Rummels Road Canoe Campsite:

Answered: 3 Skipped: 1,113

- Very satisfied (2 responses)
- Satisfied (1 response)

Q34. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Rummels Road Canoe Campsite:

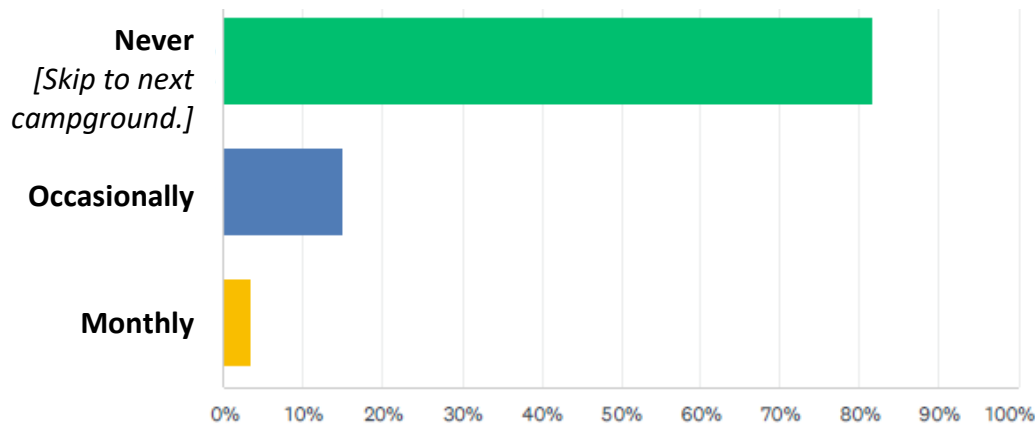
Answered: 3 Skipped: 1,113

See satisfaction in [Full Survey Results](#) online.

Q35. No comments about what additional improvements they would like to see regarding Rummels Road Canoe Campsite.

Q36. How often do you use River Road Equestrian Campground?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 1,002



Q37. Estimate how many nights you spent camping at River Road Equestrian Campground in 2021:

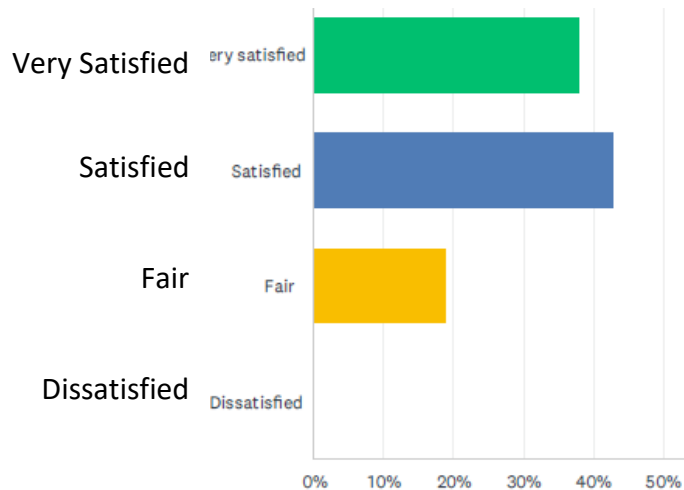
Answered: 18 Skipped: 1,098

- 2 nights (5 responses)
- 4 nights (2 responses)
- 5 nights (2 responses)
- 8 nights (3 responses)

See [Full Survey Results](#) online for full results.

Q38. Rate your overall satisfaction with River Road Equestrian Campground:

Answered: 21 Skipped: 1,095



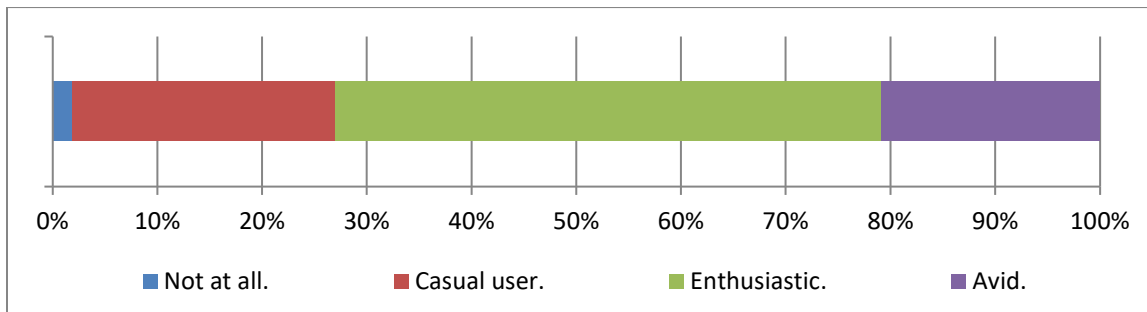
Q39. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at River Road Equestrian Campground:

Answered: 21 Skipped: 1,095

	NOT APPLICABLE (I DO NOT USE THIS.)	VERY SATISFIED	GOOD	FAIR	DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Individual primitive campsite size	4.76% 1	47.62% 10	33.33% 7	14.29% 3	0.00% 0	21
Number of campsites	4.76% 1	38.10% 8	33.33% 7	14.29% 3	9.52% 2	21
Toilet building	5.00% 1	65.00% 13	25.00% 5	0.00% 0	5.00% 1	20
Water hand pumps	14.29% 3	23.81% 5	23.81% 5	19.05% 4	19.05% 4	21
Picnic tables & fire rings	5.00% 1	35.00% 7	30.00% 6	15.00% 3	15.00% 3	20
Firewood availability	31.58% 6	5.26% 1	21.05% 4	26.32% 5	15.79% 3	19
Registration process	0.00% 0	57.89% 11	31.58% 6	5.26% 1	5.26% 1	19
Campsite fees	5.00% 1	45.00% 9	40.00% 8	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	20

Q40. 18 people commented on what additional improvements they would like to see regarding River Road Equestrian Campground.
Read those comments in Full Survey Results online.

Q41. What type of water enthusiast are you? Answered: 1,031 Skipped: 85



Not at all. (I'm not interested in water recreation at all, not even with friends.)

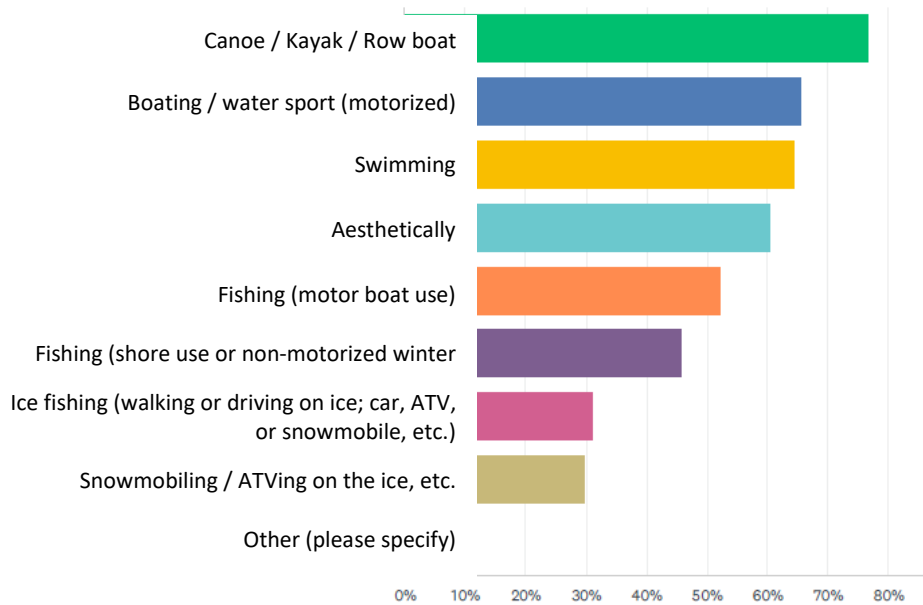
Casual user. (I like to use the water, but only do so occasionally.)

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.)

Q42. How do you use the water?

(Choose all that apply.) Answered: 1,031 Skipped: 85



Q43. What public boat landings or water access improvements are needed in Vilas County? Answered: 323 Skipped: 793

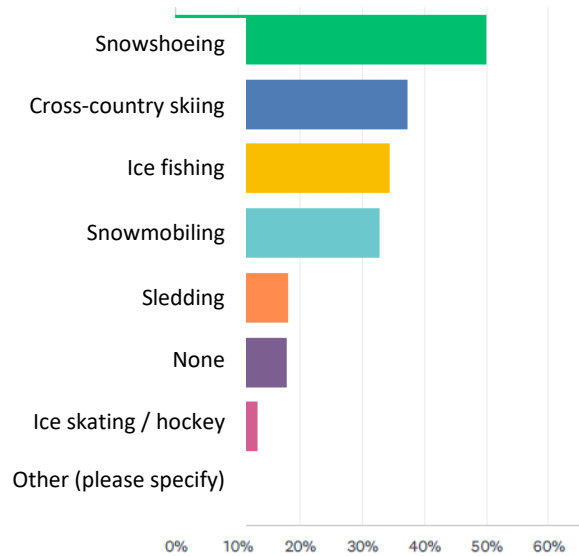
Read those 323 comments in [Full Survey Results](#) online.

(Word Cloud – The larger the word the more mentions)



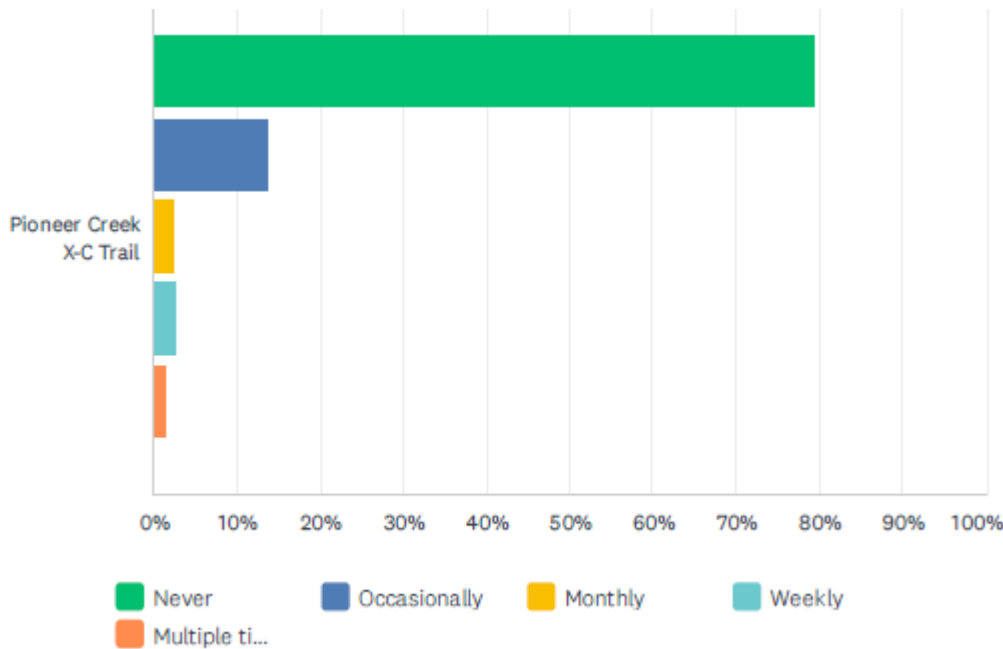
Q44. What winter recreation activities do you participate in?

(Choose all that apply.) Answered: 1,018 Skipped: 98



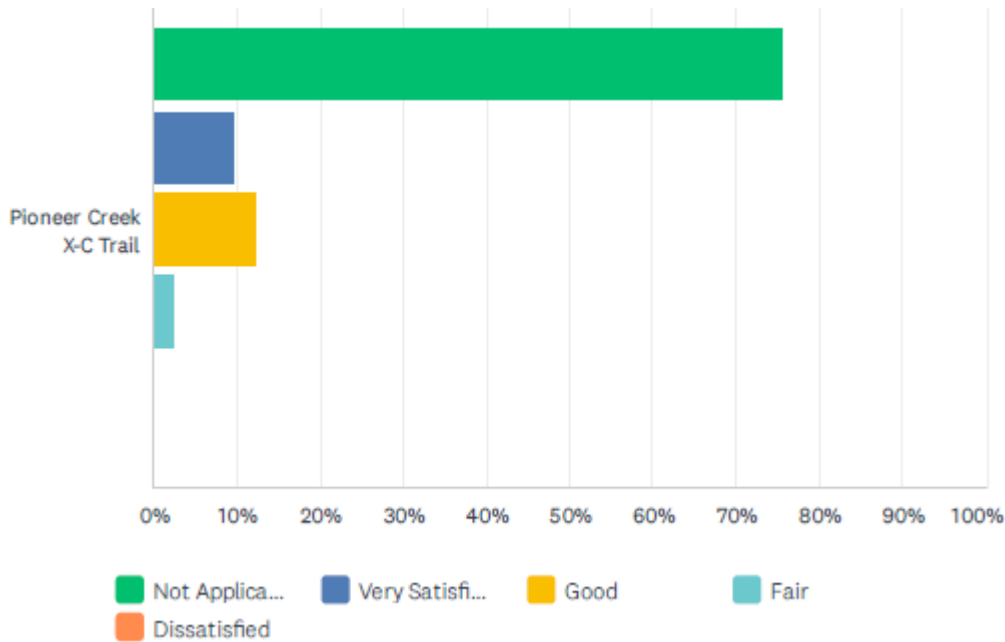
Q45. How often do you use the following Winter Silent Sport Trails?

Answered: 1,018 Skipped: 98



Q46. Rate your overall satisfaction with the Winter Silent Sport Trails?

Answered: 1,018 Skipped: 98



Q47. What improvements to Winter Silent Sport Trails would you like to see?

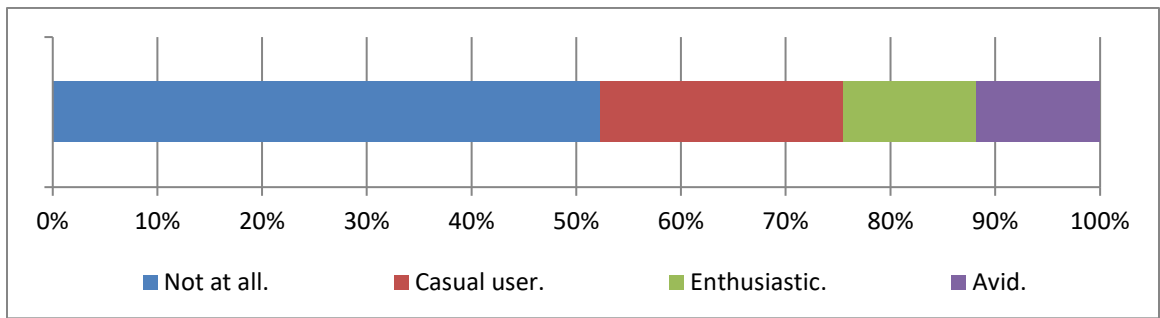
Answered: 138 Skipped: 978

Read those 138 comments in Full Survey Results online.

(Word Cloud – The larger the word the more mentions)



Q48. What type of motorized vehicle (Snowmobile / ATV/UTV/ Off-Highway Motorcycle) enthusiast are you? Answered: 1,002 Skipped: 114



Not at all. (I'm not interested in motorized recreation at all, not even for recreation.)

Casual user. (I like using 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.)

Q49. How often do you use the following Motorized Sport Trails?

Answered: 1,002 Skipped: 114

	NEVER	OCCASIONALLY	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	MULTIPLE TIMES PER WEEK	TOTAL
Vilas County ATV / UTV Trails	72.12% 701	15.64% 152	4.12% 40	4.01% 39	4.12% 40	972
Vilas County Snowmobile Trails	61.05% 583	15.18% 145	4.92% 47	8.06% 77	10.79% 103	955
Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM) trails	91.45% 824	5.55% 50	1.66% 15	0.78% 7	0.55% 5	901

Q50. Rate your overall satisfaction with the Motorized Sports Trails?

Answered: 1,002 Skipped: 114

	NOT APPLICABLE (I DO NOT USE THIS.)	VERY SATISFIED	GOOD	FAIR	DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Vilas County ATV / UTV Trails	68.85% 672	7.79% 76	13.63% 133	6.05% 59	3.69% 36	976
Vilas County Snowmobile Trails	59.98% 568	25.24% 239	11.30% 107	1.90% 18	1.58% 15	947
Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM) trails	88.70% 801	2.44% 22	4.65% 42	1.66% 15	2.55% 23	903

Q51. What improvements to Motorized Sport Trails would you like to see?

Answered: 337 Skipped: 779

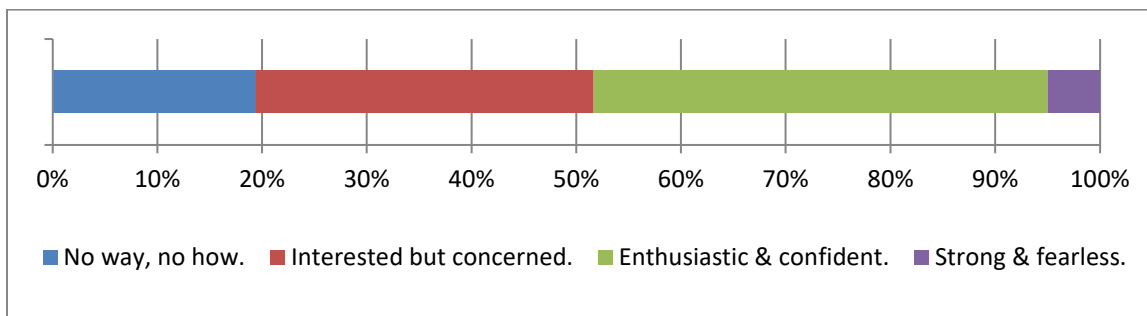
Read those 337 comments in [Full Survey Results](#) online.

(Word Cloud – The larger the word the more mentions)



Q52. What type of bicyclist are you?

Answered: 995 Skipped: 121



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.)

Q54. How often do you use the following Summer Silent Sport Trails?

Answered: 899 Skipped: 217

	NEVER	OCCASIONALLY	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	MULTIPLE TIMES PER WEEK	TOTAL
Ski Hill (hunter / hiking trail)	86.33% 764	9.72% 86	2.15% 19	0.90% 8	0.90% 8	885
White Squaw Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	94.14% 820	4.94% 43	0.46% 4	0.23% 2	0.23% 2	871
Pioneer Creek (hunter / hiking trail)	89.33% 779	8.72% 76	1.03% 9	0.57% 5	0.34% 3	872
Snipe/Ewalk/Wood Duck (hunter / hiking trail)	90.67% 787	7.72% 67	0.81% 7	0.58% 5	0.23% 2	868
Heart Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	92.85% 805	5.88% 51	0.92% 8	0.23% 2	0.12% 1	867
Langley Lake (handicapped trail)	96.52% 831	2.79% 24	0.35% 3	0.23% 2	0.12% 1	861
Langley Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	93.79% 815	5.41% 47	0.46% 4	0.23% 2	0.12% 1	869
Torch Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	86.75% 753	12.21% 106	0.58% 5	0.23% 2	0.23% 2	868
Muskrat Creek (hunter / hiking trail)	90.70% 790	7.81% 68	1.03% 9	0.23% 2	0.23% 2	871
Mud Minnow Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	91.44% 801	7.19% 63	0.91% 8	0.34% 3	0.11% 1	876
Decker Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	94.34% 816	4.86% 42	0.46% 4	0.23% 2	0.12% 1	865

Q55. Rate your overall satisfaction with the Summer Silent Sport Trails?

Answered: 874 Skipped: 242

	NOT APPLICABLE (I DON'T USE THIS TRAIL.)	VERY SATISFIED	GOOD	FAIR	UNACCEPTABLE	TOTAL
Ski Hill (hunter / hiking trail)	87.47% 754	5.22% 45	5.92% 51	1.39% 12	0.00% 0	862
White Squaw Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	94.06% 792	2.38% 20	2.85% 24	0.71% 6	0.00% 0	842
Pioneer Creek (hunter / hiking trail)	89.93% 759	4.38% 37	4.74% 40	0.95% 8	0.00% 0	844
Snipe/Ewalk/Wood Duck (hunter / hiking trail)	91.11% 769	3.32% 28	4.50% 38	1.07% 9	0.00% 0	844
Heart Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	92.65% 782	2.25% 19	4.50% 38	0.59% 5	0.00% 0	844
Langley Lake (handicapped trail)	94.99% 797	1.55% 13	2.86% 24	0.60% 5	0.00% 0	839
Langley Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	93.79% 785	2.51% 21	2.99% 25	0.60% 5	0.12% 1	837
Torch Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	86.53% 726	5.84% 49	6.79% 57	0.83% 7	0.00% 0	839
Muskrat Creek (hunter / hiking trail)	90.56% 758	3.35% 28	5.38% 45	0.60% 5	0.12% 1	837
Mud Minnow Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	92.24% 773	2.39% 20	4.53% 38	0.84% 7	0.00% 0	838
Decker Lake (hunter / hiking trail)	93.55% 769	2.68% 22	3.04% 25	0.61% 5	0.12% 1	822

5.3 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 1,000 population, for park planning. A standard amount of land for parks and recreation nationwide is no longer recognized as universal for a park.

A standard land measure is still used to determine how much land is needed for a specific use like a baseball diamond. Facility standards are used for this purpose (**Attachment B**). The number of baseball diamonds and other facilities are not the same among similar sized communities nationally; therefore a Level of Service should be created locally.

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

Universal accessibility is making facilities (e.g., tables, drinking fountains, and restrooms) accessible to people with limited mobility. Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards are followed when purchasing or modifying facilities for universal accessibility. Each park and its park facilities are described in Chapters 3 & 4. If changes to park facilities are necessary to make them ADA compliant, then suggested improvements will be listed under each park in Chapter 7.

Park Design Criteria

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

Park design criteria is described in **Attachment A** for the full variety of park types.

Each park classification contains the following:

- Definition,
- Size Objectives;
- Service Area Objectives;
- Location Objectives;
- Space, and Design;
- Orientation; and
- Function.

Park Acreage

The size of a park is determined by two 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 buffers between uses.
2. Park facilities. *What activities are allowed or will be allowed?* This is determined by physical inventory and by asking for public input.

How much land is needed for each use? This is determined by Facility Development Standards in **Attachment B** for a large variety of activity types.

Chapter 6:

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing specific recreation and open-space goals and objectives from public participation and Forestry, Recreation & Land Committee revision and refinement. These goals and objectives are meant to guide County and local officials as they work towards providing a recreation system to meet the needs of Vilas County's residents and visitors to the area. The Northern Highland American Legion State Forest has its own goals and objectives that are not included here.

Goal 1 – Support development and connection of trails.

Objectives

1. Support implementation of the Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan.
2. Support implementation of the Vilas County Shared Use Route & Trail Study.
3. Support local government or local group development of trails for hiking, biking, birding, ATV/UTVing, off-highway motorcycling, and snowmobiling.
4. Support development of ATV / UTV routes and trails countywide.
5. Support development of off-highway motorcycling routes and trails countywide.
6. Support snowmobile trail development countywide.

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

Objectives

1. Follow Best Management Practices for erosion control in development of trails and recreation facilities.
2. Protect and preserve the environmental integrity of the natural resources in Vilas 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.

Goal 3 – 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 7:

RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The recommendations and capital improvements are based on the goals and objectives (Chapter 6), and the public comment documented in Chapter 5-Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment. 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.

7.1 Countywide Recommendations

Develop Additional Trails

The Vilas County Forest has a variety of un-marked roads. Some roads are available to all non-motorized and motorized uses. There may be opportunities to develop these un-marked roads that would connect existing trails and routes. Since there are so many wetlands throughout the county, road development becomes more expensive due to establishing a good road base. Developing boardwalks may be a solution for creating additional trails over wet soils.

Recommendations:

1. As trail networks continue to be developed, trail development groups should come together to coordinate on mutually agreeable shared use plans at trail intersection and overlap (aka "pinch points") such as those inventoried on the map in **Attachment F**. Further guidance and direction can be found in the Vilas County Shared Use Route & Trail Study, 2018.
2. Review a GIS coverage of all un-marked county forest roads that are open to all uses; consider mapping routes that would be useful to various uses; and work with trail development groups (motorized and silent sport) to install route signs.

Snowmobile Club Trails

There are eleven snowmobile clubs in Vilas County that maintain all the trails (state funded and club funded) within their part of the county.

Recommendation: Continue cooperating with snowmobile clubs for grant administration and trail development.

ATV/UTV Trails

There are currently eight ATV clubs in Vilas County that are contracted to maintain the state-funded trail system.

Recommendation: Continue cooperating with ATV clubs and local communities for grant administration and trail development.

OHM Trails

There is currently one Off-Highway Motorcycle club in Vilas County that is contracted to maintain the state-funded trail system.

Recommendation: Continue cooperating with OHM club and local communities for grant administration and trail development.

Great Headwaters Trails

The Great Headwaters Trails Foundation Inc. (GHT) is a local 501©(3) volunteer organization created to help facilitate construction and maintenance of off-road walking and biking trails.

Recommendation: Continue cooperating with GHT to develop trails. See the most recent map in **Attachment G**.

7.2 County Facility Capital Improvements, 2023-2027

Capital improvements to parks are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park facility. Routine maintenance is considered the normal cycle of repair and upkeep for existing facilities and is traditionally funded through the Forestry, Recreation, and Land Department's operations budget. Upgrading an outdoor restroom facility for universal access would qualify as a capital improvement, while repainting an outdoor restroom would be considered routine maintenance.

Staff from the Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Department projected what recreational needs face each county facility and the capital improvements needed to improve the facility. Due to budget constraints, the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities has priority over new development.

5-Year Capital Improvement Tables below provide a general list of items, their cost, and approximate time frame for completion at each County maintained outdoor recreation facility.

Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Item to build or remodel in a park or forest area or trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High (1-3 years) ○ Medium (3-5 years) ○ Low (5+ years) 	An estimate made with 2022 prices.

Eagle Lake County Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Eagle Lake Park is one of higher use parks and has seen upgrades in the past few years. It is located in the Town of Washington, about 2 miles north of Eagle River off of Chain O' Lakes Rd. and on the shore of Eagle Lake which is part of the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. This facility has new vault toilets, new pier, a swim beach, pavilion and green space for activities. The pavilion is available to be reserved. This is a popular destination for boaters to anchor off and use the swim area.

Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Sealing of parking lot and walking paths	High	\$10,000
Playground Equipment	High	\$75,000
Electrical Service, lights and outlets in pavilion	Medium	\$20,000
Benches	Medium	\$3,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 108,000

Torch Lake County Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

This Park is located on Torch Lake Rd. approximately 1 mile from USH 45 in the Town of Conover. This is another popular park featuring a vaulted toilet, swim beach and picnic areas. Residents and visitors alike use this popular park due to its swim area. There are currently swings at the site that could be upgraded.

Table 8 Torch Lake County Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Playground Equipment	High	\$75,000
Pave parking lot and path towards campground	Medium	\$50,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 125,000

Lac Vieux Desert County Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Lac Vieux Desert Park is located at the headwaters of the Wisconsin River on the shores of Lac Vieux Desert in the Town of Phelps. Parking is approximately ¼ mile in on West Shore from CTH E. The Park is accessed only by a walking path which has a bridge crossing of one of the branches of the Wisconsin River. Vault toilet, benches and picnic tables are there for use.

Table 9 Lac Vieux Desert County Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Improvements to walking path	High	\$10,000
New Vault Toilet	Low	22,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 32,000

Hunter Lake County Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

This Park is located just off of East Hunter Lake Rd. in the Town of Conover. This Park has a swimming area, newer vault toilet, swing set, picnic tables and a nice green space. There is also a boat launch at the park but due to shallow water conditions and a predominate west wind, the landing is difficult for launching boats.

Table 10 Hunter Lake County Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Parking barriers to keep vehicles out of green space	High	\$5,000
Break wall on water's edge needs replacing	High	\$15,000
Playground Equipment	Medium	\$35,000
Kiosk	Low	\$1,500
New Boat Launch	Low	\$40,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 96,500

Dr. Oldfield Memorial County Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

This County Park is located at the intersection of Adams Rd. and CTH G in the Town of Lincoln. It is a popular spot for canoes, kayaks, and small motor boats. A vault toilet and picnic tables are at this facility.

Table 11 Dr. Oldfield Memorial County Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Pavement repair and washout at boat ramp	High	\$15,000
Floating dock	Medium	\$15,000
Vault Toilet	Low	\$22,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 52,000

County Fairgrounds

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Vilas County Fair Grounds are leased to the Vilas County Agriculture Society. Any improvements are done through this organization. The Fairgrounds are located on STH 70 between Forrest St. and Park St. in the City of Eagle River. These grounds are used for the county fair and several other festivals throughout the year.

Vilas County, as of now, has no upgrades planned.

Riverside Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Riverside Park is located just to the north of the Fairgrounds at the intersection of Park St. and Forrest St. in the City of Eagle River. The Park overlooks Eagle River and has a toilet facility, picnic tables and nice green space. This Park also abuts City of Eagle River property and is used as the parking area for the Forrest St. Boat Landing on the Eagle River.

Table 12 Riverside Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Flush toilet building	Medium	\$35,000
Electrical service	Medium	\$10,000
River Boardwalk	Low	\$25,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 70,000

River Road Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The River Road Park is located off USH 45 at the end of River Road in the Town of Conover. This Park is on the shores of the Wisconsin River and is a popular canoe and kayak destination. Currently there is a vault toilet, picnic tables and an old water access point.

Table 13 River Road Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Bank and shoreline erosion repair	High	\$60,000
Canoe/kayak access and pier	Medium	\$12,000
Vault toilet	Medium	\$22,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 94,000

Oldenburg Sports Park

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Oldenburg Sports Park is a county owned facility that is leased to the Headwaters Youth Soccer Association and Eagle River Youth Baseball Association. Most of the development at this park has been completed by these organizations. There are eleven U10 to U14 full size soccer fields, one Little League baseball diamond, two baseball diamonds with one being lighted, batting cage, flush toilets, concession stand, 9-hole disc golf course, and a Gaga ball pit. The Park is located at 5625 CTH G in the Town of Cloverland.

See **Table 14** (next page).

Table 14 Oldenburg Sports Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Playground equipment	Low	\$60,000
Walking path	Medium	\$60,000
Fitness court/equipment	Low	\$45,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 165,000

Cranberry Island

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Cranberry Island is located on Cranberry Lake, in the Town of Washington and is only accessed by boat. This is a popular and high use area and is popular with boaters. There is a pier, picnic area and toilet.

Table 15 Cranberry Island 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Toilet	High	\$22,000
Shoreline erosion repair	High	\$45,000
Pier repair	Low	\$3,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 70,000

Deep Lake Access

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Deep Lake is a fishing Pier that is located at 0.6 miles east of East Hunters Lake Rd off of Deep Lake Rd. in the Town of Conover. There is a parking area and a boardwalk out to the fishing pier.

Table 16 Deep Lake Access 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Boardwalk (ADA Standard)	High	\$33,700
Rotten Granite for pathway	High	\$5,000
Gravel for rehabbing parking area	Medium	\$5,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 43,700

Rice Lake Access

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Rice Lake access is approximately 3.8 miles west of USH 45 on CTH G in the Town of Cloverland. There is limited highway parking and a pier.

Table 17		
Rice Lake Access 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Pier	Medium	\$10,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 10,000

Cooks Lake Access

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Cooks Lake access is a boardwalk that leads to the lake from a parking area located on the end of Cooks Lake Landing Rd. in the Town of Cloverland. It is a scenic view and a nice walk to the lake.

Table 18		
Cooks Lake Access 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Replace Board Walk	Medium	\$20,000
Gravel for parking Area and entry road	Low	\$10,000
Pier	Medium	\$10,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 40,000

Mud Minnow Access

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Mud Minnow Access is located off of Mud Minnow Fire Lane about 0.8 miles south of CTH G in the Town of Cloverland. There is a boardwalk access to Mud Minnow Lake.

Table 19		
Mud Minnow Access 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Replace boardwalk	Medium	\$20,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 20,000

Tellefson Lake Access

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Tellefson Lake access is located on Tellefson Lake Rd in the Town of Conover. The access is located south of Deep Lake Rd. There is a parking area and a hiking path to the lake.

At this time, there are no planned improvements.

Ewald Lake Access

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Ewald Lake Access is located at the end of Ewald Landing Rd in the Town of Cloverland. This area has parking and walking access to Ewald Lake.

There are no improvements planned at this time.

Rangeline Lake Access

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Rangeline lake Access is located off of Rangeline Lake Landing Fire Ln. on the boarder of the Town of Cloverland and the Town of Lincoln. This access has a parking area and walk-in access.

There are no planned improvements at this time.

McLeod Lake Landing

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

McLeod Lake Landing is located at 2865 McLeod Lake Landing Rd. in the Town of Conover. It is a secluded access with few amenities.

At this time there are no additions in the foreseeable future.

Torch Lake Campground

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Torch Lake campground is a 42 site RV Campground, located at 5130 Torch Lake Rd. in the Town of Conover. Sites 1-20 have electric and water hook-ups. Sites 21-40 are full hook-up including sewer. All sites have Wi-Fi. Other features include a shower building, vault toilet, flush toilet building, playground, paved roadways, RV dump station and a host site.

Table 20 Torch Lake Campground 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Finish office/storage building	High	\$12,500
Wood shed	Medium	\$7,500
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 20,000

Tamarack Springs Campground

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Tamarack Springs Campground is located at 5019 and 5025 Tamarack Rd. in the Town of Conover. This primitive 9 site campground has a hand pump for water, 2 vault toilets and a pavilion. This campground also doubles as a trail head for the Off-Highway Motorcycle trail system.

Table 21 Tamarack Springs Campground 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Add Sites	Medium	\$20,000
Enhanced river access	Low	\$20,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 40,000

River Road Equestrian Campground

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The River Road Equestrian Campground is located at 5056 River Rd. in the Town of Conover. This 8-site campground is located and serves as a trail head to the county equestrian trails. The campground has a hand pump for water, a vault toilet, campfire rings and highlines for horses.

Table 22 River Road Equestrian Campground 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Electrical to campground and sites	Medium	\$45,000
Water hookups to sites	Medium	\$15,000
Corrals for horses	Medium	\$10,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 70,000

Rummels Road Campground

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The campground is for primitive camping, and includes a free standing cooking grill, a fire ring with attached grill, and a picnic table. This campground may be accessed via the Wisconsin River. There is a bathroom and small shelter located at the Campground.

Table 23 Rummels Road Campground 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Vault Toilet	Medium	\$30,000
Erosion and river access improvements	High	\$40,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 70,000

Buckatabon Creek Campground

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Buckatabon Creek Campground is located near the junction of Buckatabon Creek and the Wisconsin River, about 1½ miles southwest of the junction of STH 45 and CTH K in the Town of Conover. The campground is for primitive camping, and includes two free standing cooking grills, a fire ring with attached grill, and a picnic table. There is no motor vehicle parking at this campground. This campground is walk-in or canoe access only, and may be accessed via the Wisconsin River or Buckatabon Creek, providing canoeing, kayaking, and fishing opportunities

Table 24 Buckatabon Creek Campground 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Replace vault toilet	Medium	\$30,000
Improve river access	Low	\$10,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 40,000

Boot Lake Landing

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Boot Lake Landing is located at 6100 Boot Lake Landing Rd. in the Town of Cloverland. This landing has limited parking for vehicles and trailers. Currently there is no bathroom facility.

Table 25 Boot Lake Landing 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Vault Toilet	High	\$22,000
Pier	Medium	\$11,000
Pads	Medium	\$15,000
Add more parking and repave existing	Medium	\$98,440
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 146,440

Buckatabon Landing

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Buckatabon Landing is located at 3285 E. Buckatabon Rd. in the Town of Conover. This is the only public access to both Upper and Lower Buckatabon Lakes. This landing has a single ramp, a paved parking area, and a pier. Upgrades are needed.

Table 26 Buckatabon Landing 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Vault toilet	High	\$22,000
Pier	High	\$14,000
Adding parking and rehab of old	High	\$145,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 181,000

Eagle Lake Landing

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Eagle Lake Landing is located at 1830 Eagle Lake landing Rd. in the Town of Washington. This landing has 1 boat ramp, vault toilet, pier and parking area. This is one of 2 public launches on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. It is heavily used year around for lake access.

Table 27 Eagle Lake Landing 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Reconstruct landing with 2 ramps	Medium	\$80,000
Add more parking and enhance what is there	Medium	\$120,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 200,000

Lake of the Hills Landing

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Lake of the Hills landing is located at 4745 Lake Hills Landing Rd. in the Town of Conover. The landing has a ramp, fishing pier, launch pier and parking area.

Table 28 Lake of the Hills Landing 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Pier	High	\$15,000
Walking path to fishing pier	High	\$6,500
Paving parking lot	Medium	\$65,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 86,000

Muskellunge Lake Landing

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Muskellunge Lake Landing is located on Muskie Landing Rd. which is .2 miles on Balsam Ln. off of CTH G in the Town of Cloverland. The landing is paved with a pier and kiosk.

Table 29 Muskellunge Lake Landing 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Pier	Medium	\$15,000
New pads	High	\$15,000
Replace paving	Medium	\$69,021
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 99,021

Pickerel Lake Landing

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Pickerel Lake Landing is located at 6580 Pickerel Landing Rd. in the Town of Cloverland. The landing has a gravel parking area and a pier.

Table 30 Pickerel Lake Landing 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
New Pier	Low	\$10,200
Rehab parking area	Medium	\$10,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 20,200

Snipe Lake Landing

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Snipe Lake Landing is located at 1770 Wilderness Trail in the Town of Cloverland. This landing has paved parking, single ramp, pier and picnic area. This landing has an issue of user's power loading their boats onto trailers which has created a deep washout at the end of the ramp and the ramp going down with it.

Table 31		
Snipe Lake Landing 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Pier	Medium	\$15,000
Washout hole	High	\$30,000
New pads	High	\$15,000
Repave	Low	\$42,750
Vault Toilet	Medium	\$22,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 124,750

Tamarack Flowage Landing

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Tamarack Flowage Landing is located at 4950 Flowage Landing Rd. in the Town of Conover. This is the only public landing on the Tamarack Flowage. It has a small parking area which needs repair.

Table 32		
Tamarack Flowage Landing 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Pier	Medium	\$10,000
New pads	Medium	\$10,000
New paving	High	\$47,500
Removal of dead trees	High	\$5,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 72,500

County Shooting Range

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The County Shooting Range is located at 4668 Shooting Range Rd. in the Town of Conover. The range has target backstops in 25-, 50-, and 100- yard options. Shooting benches and a parking area rounds out the amenities at the range.

Table 33 County Shooting Range 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Replace shooting benches and replace with a covered benches and catch screens	High	\$15,000
Vault Toilet	High	\$22,000
Trap shooting area	Low	\$35,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 72,000

Vilas County ATV/UTV Trail System

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The ATV/UTV trail system consist of trails, troutes and routes in Vilas County. Trail maintenance is taken care of by the 8 ATV clubs in Vilas County. Most of the trails are on the county forest. Currently there are 35 miles of funded trails and 12.7 miles of funded troutes. Also, there are many miles of routes available in certain Towns in the county. Not all towns have their roads and county highways open. Please check with the town you are wanting to ride in before you go out. Many of the trails have soft and sandy soils which causes a maintenance issue. Grant funding with maintenance and trail rehabilitation are applied for to make this more sustainable. Issues with the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest and the Nicolet National Forest has not allowed for more funded trails in those areas. Steps are being taken and will continue to expand into those areas of public lands. All funding and projects applications are done through the State of Wisconsin Off-road Vehicle Council (ORV Council).

Table 34 Vilas County ATV/UTV Trail System 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Trail maintenance of funded trails (Grant funding)	High	\$30,368.65
Addition of trails in the NHAL and Nicolet (Grant Funding)	High	Unknown
Development of an intensive use area	Low	Unknown
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 30,368.65+

Vilas County OHM Trail System

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Vilas County Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM) trail system is entirely located in the Vilas County Forest lands in the Town of Conover. There are 22.2 miles of OHM trail and it is maintained by the Landover Dual-sporters OHM Club. This system is a closed loop type and has several levels of difficulty. The system has a trailhead which is located at the Tamarack Springs Campground at 5019 Tamarack Rd. There are two restrooms, parking and pavilion.

Table 35 Vilas County OHM Trail System 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Trail Maintenance of funded trail (Grant funding)	High	\$2,176.60
Additional trail development (Grant Funding)	Low	Unknown
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 2,176.60+

Vilas County Snowmobile Trail System

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Vilas County Snowmobile Trail System is made up of 501 miles of funded trails and over 100 miles of club (non-funded) trails. These trails are maintained by the 11 snowmobile clubs in Vilas County. These trails are on both private and public properties. Several communities have trail head/parking area for vehicles and trailers.

Table 36 Vilas County Snowmobile Trail System 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Trail Maintenance of funded trails (Grant funding)	High	\$450,900
Additional trail development (Grant Funding)	High	Unknown
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 450,000+

Vilas County Equestrian Trail System

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

Horseback riding is permitted on all County Forest trails, roads, and fire lanes. There are approximately 20 miles of maintained equestrian trails on the County Forest.

Table 37 Vilas County Equestrian Trail System 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Maintenance funding application (RTP)	High	\$19,405.96
Additional trail development (Grant Funding)	Low	Unknown
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 19,405.96+

Vilas County Hunting, Hiking, & X-C Ski Trail System

County Forestry Staff Assessment:

The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Department maintains 89 miles of established hunting, hiking, cross-country ski, and handicapped trails located within the County Forest. Pioneer Creek is the only cross-country ski trail groomed and the only ski trail with signs. Hiking is permitted on all County Forest trails, roads, and fire lanes. Hiking or snowshoeing are not allowed on groomed cross-country ski trails. The Pioneer Creek Cross-Country Ski Trail trailhead is located in the Conover Town Park, 1/4 mile east of U.S. Highway 45 on the south side of County Highway K. The system contains 4 loop trails, please see map linked below for distances. This ski trail is groomed as needed and signed, and additions to the trail are anticipated in the future. Amenities in this family-friendly park include access to the Conover Town Park with its heated restrooms.

Table 38 Vilas County Equestrian Trail System 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Maintenance funding application (RTP & Conservation grants)	High	\$19,405.96
Additional trail development (Grant Funding)	Low	Unknown
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 19,405.96+

7.3 Local Government Capital Improvements, 2023-2027

Capital improvements to parks are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park facility. Routine maintenance is considered the normal cycle of repair and upkeep for existing facilities and is traditionally funded through local government operating budgets. Upgrading an outdoor restroom facility for universal access would qualify as a capital improvement, while repainting an outdoor restroom would be considered routine maintenance.

Improvements that are projected to occur from 2023-2027

The projects are not listed in a priority and are subject to change. Each local government created the following capital improvement items. All upgrades and new construction will take into consideration meeting ADA standards. As funds become available, the following projects will be completed.

City of Eagle River

Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

DOT

STH 45 Bridge needs to meet ADA compliance and become bike/pedestrian safe with a separate bridge crossing from the south shore at River Street to the north shore by the White Spruce with distinct separation from vehicle traffic.

STH 70 needs bike/pedestrian trail from Park Street to County O on North side in St Germain, WI

Riverview Park

The boat docking shore area is need of repair/replacement.

Miller Park

Use *crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)* techniques to reduce crime in the park. Some of the park improvements may include a light, 6-8-foot-high fence, new basketball court, and beautification. This park also needs bathroom facilities installed.

Riverview Park to County Road G (part of GHT 7) – In partnership with Great Headwaters Trails, a walking and bicycling route/trail is being planned to connect Riverview Park to the southern terminus (at Adams Rd. and County Road G) of the designated on-road bicycle route from Land O’ Lakes to Eagle River. This route/trail would utilize the existing recreation bridge that crosses the Eagle River. See GHT map in Attachment G.

Riverview Park to Torch Lake Park (GHT 6 & 7) – Future plans are to partner with Great Headwaters Trails to connect Riverview Park with Torch Lake Park in the Town of Conover. This will link Eagle River to Conover and Phelps via GHT 1-4. See GHT map in Attachment G.

Riverview Park to St. Germain (GHT 10-12) – Future plans are to partner with Great Headwaters Trails to connect Eagle River to St. Germain via a walking and bicycling trail/route, probably parallel to STH 70. See GHT map in Attachment G.

River Trail – The City of Eagle River along with the Towns of Cloverland and St. Germain are establishing a nine-mile-long intermunicipal bike trail connecting Eagle River to the St. Germain bike trail at County O in St. Germain. The trail will run along the Wisconsin River and follows STH 70 from Eagle River to St. Germain. At County O the trail connects to an established trail that runs all the way to Mercer – the total trail from Eagle River to Mercer will be over 60 miles long.

“T-Docks” – Research the feasibility of adding a second boat launch to the existing facility in the City of Eagle River, known far and wide as the “T-Docks” on Bond Boulevard; and to try to provide additional parking.

Rotary Square – The City of Eagle River, in conjunction with Eagle River Revitalization Program and the Eagle River Rotary Club, will be adding a pavilion building in 2023 to the updated property to provide four restrooms (2 will be ADA compliant), a covered seating area and serving space for nonprofit organizations to sell food during events. The Square will be/is ADA compliant.

Silver Lake Beach – The fishing pier built by the Lions Club is in need of repair. New pilings will be installed, and the pier will be rebuilt so access is safe and available for ADA compliance.

Town of Arbor Vitae

Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

Arbor Vitae bike trail

Connect current bike trail (Brandy Park to AV-W School) to the Heart of Vilas Trail at the intersection of CTH M & N in Boulder Junction.

Town of Boulder Junction

Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

Winter Park – Add hockey goal net and soccer goal.

Nichols Lake Beach – Improve access equipment, and make landscaping improvements.

Strum Ball Field – Install completely new ADA accessible playground equipment.

Expand Bike Trail System

- Complete North Creek Loop.
- Continue maintaining existing trail.
- Continue adding to and improving the bike trail system.

Overall Town Projects:

- Add a winter ski trail in the Town.
- Continue improving playground equipment in the Town’s parks.

Town of Cloverland

Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

- In the future, The Town of Cloverland intends to support multi-use trails for bicycling, walking and equestrian use. In particular, Cloverland, in partnership with Great Headwaters Trails and the adjoining towns, supports a developing walking and bicycling trail connecting Eagle River and St. Germain.
- It is also a vision that the Town of Cloverland construct a park on the property adjacent to the Town Hall. This facility could include a walking /nature trail, picnic tables, grills, swing and slide sets, basketball and volleyball courts, Frisbee golf, and restroom facility.

Town of Conover

Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

Conover Town Park

Future plans include:

- Internet expansion
- Security cameras in public areas
- Playground upgrade
- Sound system
- Sand volleyball court
- Park lighting
- Upgraded baseball diamond
- Recreation trails through the park
- Acquire additional land to expand Town Park

The Town of Conover, in partnership with Great Headwaters Trails, plans to explore the feasibility to continue the walking and bicycling trail **from the southern end of GHT-1 to Torch Lake Park (GHT-4 & GHT-5)**. Upon completion of GHT-5 there would be a continuous trail from Torch Lake Park to Phelps.

Walking/biking trail – Continue developing more north-south bike/walk trails. Connecting to Eagle River is a goal.

Boat landings – Upgrade and enhance Town maintained boat landing facilities.

Town of Lac du Flambeau Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

All of the parks in Lac du Flambeau are owned and managed by the Lac du Flambeau Tribe, and not Town government.

Town of Land O' Lakes Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

- Ice mat addition to the ice rink for longer skating months.
- Black Oak Lake Park & Beach: Improve boat ramp and pier to meet ADA standards, upgrade or replace restroom facilities, repave roadway and parking, add sand to the beach area, new signage and repair area lighting.
- In Town Walking Path: Complete walking path with gravel and signage.
- Big Portage Lake: Improve boat ramp and pier.
- Forest Lake Boat Landing: Improve boat ramp, pier, and restroom facilities.
- Bike Trail Parking Area on Deer Farm Road: Resurface parking area.
- Palmer Lake Boat Landing: Improve boat ramp and pier.

Town of Lincoln Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

- Currently there are no proposed projects.

Town of Manitowish Waters Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

Community Center Park

- Construct paddle ball courts.

Frank B. Koller Park

- Construct new docks.

Hike & Bike Trails

- Continue to expand trail system to include:
 - Extending the trail south on the Highway 51 corridor to the town line.
 - Loop trails in conjunction with some neighboring towns.

Little Star Lake Park

- Add modern toilet facilities and a small pavilion.

Non-profit property improvements (not town facilities):

WinMan Trails

- Add 8 additional miles of mountain bike trails
- Add 10 kilometers of cross-country ski trails
- Add 2 miles of snowshoe trails
- Expand the chalet with additional space for groups to gather
- Additional parking at both the main trailhead on Highway W and the secondary trailhead on Papoose Lake Road
- Add camping and lodging options
- Add employee accommodations for seasonal staff
- Develop land use agreements to help expand the current trail system
- Connect WinMan to the surrounding communities of Winchester, Presque Isle, Boulder Junction, and Manitowish waters through the development of new trails and routes
- Connect to North Lakeland School and Discovery Center through the development of new trails and routes
- Develop more inclusive trails and amenities for all ages and abilities including the expansion of adaptive friendly mountain bike trails
- Add two skills park as part of the mountain bike trail system

Town of Phelps

Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

Military Hill Fire Lookout Tower – The Town of Phelps is in the process of updating the Fire Tower to make it accessible to the public and is also planning to develop 10 acres of adjacent donated land that will be used for a small parking area, campgrounds and a nature walk.

The four town boat landings – Future plans include upgrading as required by the frequency of usage and changes in boat types and other recreational demands.

Lakefront Pines Park – The Town is in the process of addressing erosion issues and the lack of native plant buffer along the shoreline, and is developing plans for a walking path loop to provide access to the old growth pine area of the park, a Veterans memorial, and a forest regeneration plan.

Shooting Range – The Town plans to renovate the shooting range which is located on 40 acres off Highway 17, east of Phelps. The shooting range will offer lanes for 25, 50, 100, and 200 yards, benches, a weather shelter, and a trap house and trap lanes made with concrete.

Town of Plum Lake Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

Community Center Recreation Park

1. New and upgraded playground equipment has been proposed by the Sayner Star Lake Lions Club, to include ADA compliant structures. Fund raising for these upgrades is currently underway.
2. New restroom facilities are needed which would meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for accessibility.
3. Access to safe drinking water fountain.
4. Baseball field repairs, including replacing the roof on the home team dugout, repairing the backstop and outfield fencing, repairing the bleachers, and upgrading the infield area.
5. Surface repair/treatment of the basketball court area.
6. Improving doors and security of the indoor recreation building.

Plum Lake State House Point Boat Access and Water Ski Park

1. Upgrade the outdoor pit toilets to meet ADA requirements.
2. Improve/upgrade the waterski show facilities in conjunction with the ski club.
3. Improve security systems.

Plum Lake Public Fishing Pier and Trail (Warner's Pier)

- Repair or replace pier deck boards as needed.

Star Lake Picnic Point

1. Improve the picnic area by providing electric service to the park.
2. Upgrade/add playground equipment.
3. Improve restroom facilities.

Hike and Bike Trails

1. Evaluate biking activities within the community of Sayner, to determine how to better connect trip generating areas within the Town with the existing trail system.
2. Complete a planning study to determine facility possibilities to link the communities of Sayner and Star Lake, and possibly from Star Lake to the Boulder Area Trail System (BATS).

Razorback Ridges Trail System

- Evaluate and develop and trail system to better link mountain bike systems in the area. Potentially linking Razorback Ridges, with the Escanaba Lake trails, and trails under development near Witches Lake.

The Town of Plum Lake would like to expand the opportunities the public experiences by increasing the number of trails if additional sponsoring groups were to come forward. To further entice new trail development, the Town would propose that the initial trail clearing could be completed utilizing work crews from the Camp McNaughton Correctional Facility, and would consider offering small yearly stipends to help offset the costs incurred by club members of routine maintenance.

Potential trail opportunities could include:

1. A trail system through the Alva Lake State Natural Area, off Camp 2 Road, northeast of the community of Star Lake.
2. A trail system through the Salsich Lake State Natural Area, and could include a trail along the west shore of Laura Lake.
3. An expansion of Trampers Trail, by adding a trail along the Plum Lake shoreline, potentially including a path on Hook's Point. This system also is located in a State Natural Area.
4. A trail system along the western shoreline of Plum Lake, traveling from State House Point (the site of water ski shows), southwesterly to Aurora Creek and return.
5. A trail system between Frank Lake and Aurora Lake through another State Natural Area.
6. A trail system along Plum Creek, with a link to the community of Sayner.

Town of Presque Isle

Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

Please refer to the Town of Presque Isle's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for more detailed information.

Boating

- Evaluate/pursue improvements to Town boat landings at Cathaline Lake, Crawford Lake, Annabelle Lake, and Lynx Lake.

Fishing

- Add another public fishing pier at Pipke Park and improve ADA access to fishing facilities.
- Following restoration of Pipke Park ponds, restock the south pond with panfish and gamefish as part of restoring a community fishing pond designation.
- Continue to coordinate with regional experts and DNR fisheries officers to enhance the fish habitat in the ponds at Pipke Park.

Events/Festivals/Fairs

- Sustain maintenance of the pavilion used for picnics and events at the Community Park.
- Develop a bandstand/public performance stage at Pipke Park.

Canoeing/kayaking

- Better document available paddling trails in Presque Isle and increase their visibility by having them included in Vilas County tourism and publicity resources.

Swimming

- Add a picnic and swimming area at a lake in the Town.

Bicycling

- The Town supports the efforts of a group of local citizens (the Wilderness Pedalers) to extend existing bike routes and sustain outreach with regional bike path organizations.
- 18 Mile Town Bike Route – The Town had endorsed a route developed by the Wilderness Pedalers to connect Presque Isle to the Heart of Vilas County trail network. The near-term priority segment for

this route would run along CTH P from its junction with CTH K, north to the intersection of CTH P and Crab Lake Road. Funding, design, and development opportunities are being pursued.

Pipke Park

- In the summer of 2021, a 1960's era water control structure failed on the Pipke Park south pond and water has been drawn down since that time. Presque Isle has engaged an engineering design firm to advise and establish a plan to restore the waters of the park's ponds. The Town is also coordinating closely with the DNR to repair and restore all dam(s) and water control structures associated with the two ponds to make them fully compliant with DNR safety requirements and able to support community recreation and a healthy natural environment.
- Residents of the Town of Presque Isle have initiated planning, design, and fundraising for the development of a band shelter adjacent to the south pond and the park pavilion. This initiative is fully supported and partially underwritten by the Town and the hope is this facility can be completed within the next two years. Current planning is looking at having this band shelter on the water of the south pond, where it could serve as a handicapped accessible fishing resource (fully ADA compliant).
- Presque Isle intends to pursue additional initiatives to improve the vegetation and habitat associated with the shoreland, the waters, and the fisheries of the Pipke Park ponds.
- Develop a kiosk with historical photos from when a saw mill operated at the location of the park.
- Add nature signage to the wilderness trails.
- Improve drainage where the walking trail is shared with the snowmobile trail on the east side of the north pond.
- Add guard rails on the sides of the entrance road and upgrade culvert capacity for the creek flowing under the entrance road.
- Work with local property owners to establish an authorized walking trail between Main Street and the trails around the Pipke Park ponds.

Wilderness Park

- Add protection for the shoreline restoration area to protect the area from snowmobiles and prevent future erosion. Add a railing to the steps and railing/fencing in this area.
- Adding amenities such as play equipment and a fishing pier at Wilderness Park.

Sensenbrenner Park

- Develop a kiosk with historical photos from the period when the lumber company build and supported a very active company town.

Community Center Park

- Add nature signage to the Community Center Trails.
- Add a dog park where residents and visitors can exercise their dogs.

Other areas to be considered

- Continue to improve signage at all public parks and landings. This is part of an overall effort to upgrade signage throughout the town.
- Determine which public parks and landings are ADA compliant and what work could be accomplished to bring them up to ADA standards.

Town of St. Germain

Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

- Replacement of existing pavilion with general park upgrade to Vandervort Park.
- Rebuild/relocate skate park.
- Consider amending existing park features and/ or adding new features to meet the needs of the community.
- The municipalities of Cloverland, St Germain and Eagle River signed a Joint Intergovernmental Agreement in June 2018 with the intent of building a new “River Trail” along the Wisconsin River to connect the City of Eagle River and the Three Eagle Trail to the Heart of Vilas Biking and Walking Trail System in St Germain.
- Continue development at the Fern Ridge Recreational Area with shelter, permanent bathroom and additional trails for mountain bike trails and hiking trails.
- Expansion of a walking/biking trail from Downtown Park to Half Mile Road.

Town of Washington

Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

- **ADA Accessible Boat Landing at Deerskin Lake**
- The Town currently has no trails; however, future plans may include bike/hike trails to connect to neighboring communities.

Town of Winchester

Proposed Projects for 2023-2027

Winchester Community Park

Future plans include adding:

- Fireman's game area, an ice skating rink, additional landscaping, additions to the pavilion, and roofed outdoor grill building.

Public Boat Landings

Future plans include new boat docks at the 3 main boat landings (Turtle, Harris, and Birch), boat launch improvements including placement of picnic tables, grills, and landscaping improvements. Also long-term planning includes new docks.

Bike & Hike Trails

Future plans include adding a trail to connect Winchester to Presque Isle via County Highway W right-of-way and town roads.

Chapter 8:

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

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 and adopting techniques to carry out the general recommendations and to move towards attainment of the goals and objectives set forth in this plan.

Attachment C provides a list of commonly used state and federal government financial assistance programs.

Adopt-A-Park Program

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

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.

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. A list of these programs exists in **Attachment C**.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program is a federal program administered by WDNR to encourage the creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Since passage of the Great American Outdoors Act of 2020, LWCF is permanently and fully funded at \$900 million annually, nationwide. What this means in Wisconsin is that more park projects that include splash pads, playgrounds, and skateparks are now more easily fundable up to 50%.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is a comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of a variety of programs such as Local Park Aids, and the Urban Rivers Program, along with many others.

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

For the remaining program requirements, or additional information contact:

Community Service Specialist
DNR's Northern Region
Rhinelander WI

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

Municipal & 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.

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 standards for shoreland development. Counties are required to adopt and administer shoreland zoning ordinances that meet these requirements. The statewide standards for county shoreland zoning ordinances are found in Chapter NR 115, Wis. Admin. Code.

Specialized Facilities

Encourage development of specialized facilities by the private sector. Specialized facilities such as golf courses, 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.

Attachment A

Park Design and Location Criteria

From:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023

Park Design and Location Criteria

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, though 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

Facility Development Standards

From: National Recreation and Park Association

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes
Badminton	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.
Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	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.
Handball (3-4 wall)	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.
Ice Hockey	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.
Tennis	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.
Volleyball	30' x 60'. Minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 4,000 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	½ - 1 mile.
Baseball 1. Official 2. Little League	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.
Field Hockey	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.
Football	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.
Soccer	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.
Golf - Driving Range	900' x 690' wide. Add 12' width each additional tee.	13.5 A for min. of 25 tees.	Long axis is southwest - northeast with golfer driving northeast.	30 minute travel time. Park of golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately operated.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS *(continued)*

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes
¼ mile running track	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.
Softball	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.
Multiple use court (basketball, tennis, etc.)	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.
Archery range	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.
Golf 1. Par 3 (18 hole) 2. 9-hole standard 3. 18-hole standard	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.
Swimming pools	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.
Beach areas	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sa. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be a 3-4 A supporting area per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	½ to 1 hour travel time. Should have a sand bottom with a maximum slope of 5%. Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas. In regional/metro parks.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

Attachment C

Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

Community Service Specialist
DNR's Northern Region
Rhinelander WI

Go online to find specific DNR staff contact information along with their areas of expertise.

Note: Various program application periods may exist. Check online for each program's requirements and deadlines.

Note: Contact your local Community Service Specialist if you are thinking of applying for a 50% Stewardship or 50% LWCF grant, so they can assist you with the application for the best chance of success.

Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) Grants [Stewardship]

ADLP grants (up to a 50% cost share) are awarded to improve community recreation areas and acquire land for public outdoor recreation. Priority is given to land acquisition where a need for additional recreational land is supported by an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR) [Stewardship]

The purpose of the acquisition of development rights (ADR) subprogram is to protect natural, agricultural or forest lands that enhance and/or provide nature-based outdoor recreation. ADR grants can only fund conservation easement purchases up to a 50% cost share.

ATV/UTV Enhancement

This funding is issued bi-annually to non-profit organizations that promote the safe and wise use of all terrain vehicles (ATVs)/utility-terrain vehicles (UTVs), ATV/UTV riding and ATV/UTV education.

ATV Patrols

This grant is issued to Wisconsin sheriff departments that participate in ATV enforcement efforts. The DNR can provide up to 100% of county net costs for the enforcement of ATV regulations. Actual funding received is based on total allotted funds split between participating agencies.

Patrol requirements are contained in NR 50.125, Wis. Adm. Code.

ATV/UTV Trails

Counties, towns, cities, villages and tribes can apply for funds to acquire, insure, develop and maintain ATV/UTV trails, areas and routes.

Specific changes to NR 64 created Hybrid Trails ("Troutes") or all-terrain vehicle trail and route combinations.

Boat Enforcement Patrol

Eligibility & Purpose: This grant is issued to Wisconsin counties or municipalities that participate in boating enforcement efforts. Eligible agencies may receive law enforcement aids for up to 75% of their net costs.

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program

The purpose of BIG is to construct, renovate, and maintain boating infrastructure facilities for transient recreational vessels at least 26 feet long.

Tier 1 - State

Provides up to \$200,000 per year to each state. Projects are competitively ranked within the state.

Tier 2 - National

Provides up to \$1,500,000 per project. Projects are competitively ranked at the national level.

Natural Areas [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

Stewardship natural area grants complement the State Natural Areas (SNA) Program, dedicated to the preservation of Wisconsin's native natural communities and habitat for rare plant and animal species.

Land purchased with natural area grants must be open to the public for low-impact nature-based recreation and scientific study. Natural areas are not intended for intensive recreational use such as mountain biking, motorized vehicle use, horseback riding or camping.

Habitat Areas [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

Habitat area grants are awarded to conserve wildlife habitat in Wisconsin in order to expand opportunities for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, trapping, hiking, bird watching, fishing, nature appreciation and wildlife viewing.

Land purchased with habitat area grants must be open to the public for low-impact nature-based recreation. Habitat areas are not intended for intensive recreational use such as mountain biking, motorized vehicle use, horseback riding or camping.

Stream Bank protection [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

Streambank protection grants are awarded to protect water quality and fish habitat.

Priority is given to land or easement purchases along designated Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters, projects that connect sections of protected stream corridor, and projects that will mitigate the impact of agricultural runoff.

State trails [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

State trail grants are awarded to purchase lands or easements identified as part of the State Trail system including designated State Water Trails. Priority is given to lands

along nationally designated Ice Age and North Country trail corridors and to lands that connect established trail systems.

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – State Side Program

This is a federal program administered in all states that encourages the creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the DNR for this program are split between DNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities. Since passage of the Great American Outdoors Act of 2020, LWCF is permanently and fully funded at \$900 million annually, nationwide. What this means in Wisconsin is that more park projects that include splash pads, playgrounds, and skateparks are now more easily fundable up to 50%.

Motorized Stewardship Grants [Stewardship]

ATV/UTV grants are available to counties, towns, cities, villages and tribes to apply for funds to acquire, insure, develop and maintain ATV/UTV trails, areas and routes.

Snowmobile trail grants are available to counties and tribes to apply for funding to provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment.

Match Requirement: 20 percent

Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM) Grants

OHM grants are available to counties, towns, cities, villages and tribes to apply for funds for development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of OHM trails.

Recreational Boating Facilities Grants

These grants may be used by counties, towns, cities, villages, tribes, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts and qualified lake associations for recreational boating facility projects.

Past projects have included ramps and service docks to gain access to the water, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, navigation aids and dredging waterway channels.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

This is a federal program administered in all states. Municipal governments and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses.

Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed for up to 80% of eligible project costs. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with funds from the state snowmobile or ATV grant programs and Knowles-Nelson Stewardship development projects.

Shooting Range Grant Program

Counties, cities, villages, townships, other governmental agencies or units, clubs or organizations, businesses or corporations and educational institutions can apply for assistance in outdoor shooting range construction, including backstops and berms, target holders, shooting benches, baffles, protective fencing, signs, trenches, gun racks, platforms, restrooms and other items considered essential for the project by the

department. Indoor ranges may be eligible as well, including classroom, storage and restroom facilities.

Snowmobile Patrols

This grant is issued to Wisconsin sheriff departments that participate in snowmobile enforcement efforts. The DNR can provide up to 100% of county net cost for the enforcement of snowmobile regulations. Actual funding received is based on total allotted funds split between participating agencies.

Snowmobile Trail Aids

These grants are used to reimburse the over 600 snowmobile clubs in Wisconsin for some of their expenses.

Snowmobile trail aids are entirely funded by snowmobilers. The money awarded in grants to Wisconsin counties comes from snowmobile registrations, trail pass revenue and gas tax from some of the gas used in snowmobiles.

Sport Fish Restoration (SFR)

These grants may be used to construct fishing piers and motorboat access projects. Eligible components include boat ramp construction and renovation, along with related amenities such as parking lots, accessible paths, lighting, and restroom facilities. Funding for this program comes from federal excise taxes on fishing equipment and a portion of the federal gas tax.

Surface Water Grants

[Formerly: Lake Management Planning and Lake Classification and Lake Protection Grants.]

The surface water grant program provides cost-sharing grants for surface water protection and restoration. Funding is available for education, ecological assessments, planning, implementation, and aquatic invasive species prevention and control. With many different projects eligible for grant funding, you can support surface water management at any stage: from organization capacity development to project implementation.

Urban Green Space [Stewardship]

The intent of the Urban Green Space Program (UGS) is to provide open natural space within or in proximity to urban areas; to protect from development areas within or in proximity to urban areas that have scenic, ecological or other natural value; and to provide land for non-commercial gardening for the residents of an urbanized area.

Urban Rivers [Stewardship]

The urban rivers subprogram program aims to restore or preserve the character of urban riverways through the acquisition or development of land adjacent to rivers. Purposes of the program include supporting economic revitalization through the restoration or preservation of urban riverfronts and improving outdoor recreational opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers.

Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs

District Bike & Ped Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Purpose: The Transportation Alternatives Program allocates federal funds to transportation improvement projects that “expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life, and protect the environment.”

TAP is a legislative program authorized by Congress through the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act signed into law in 2015. With certain exceptions, projects that met eligibility criteria for the Safe Routes to School Program, Transportation Enhancements, and/or the Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program are eligible TAP projects.

As of 2022, construction projects eligible for TAP must have a total projected expense of \$150,000 or more, while non-construction projects must have a total projected expense of at least \$20,000. These TAP application minimums may change in any given application year. There is a 20% local match required.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

[A Transportation Alternatives Program]

Purpose: Safe Routes to School programs encourage children in grades K-8 to walk and bike to school by creating safer walking and biking routes. Projects must be within 2 miles of a school and listed in a SRTS plan.

Local Transportation Enhancements (TE)

[A Transportation Alternatives Program]

Purpose: Funds projects to increase multi-modal transportation alternatives and enhance communities and the environment. Projects include bicycle or pedestrian facilities, landscaping or streetscaping, and the preservation of historic transportation structures.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program (BPFP)

[A Transportation Alternatives Program]

Purpose: Funds projects that construct or plan for bicycle or bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

While HSIP does not pertain to bicycle and pedestrian transportation, this WisDOT program can help improve safety measures on problematic stretches of highway where crashes have occurred in the past, thereby creating a safer and more hospitable transportation network. HSIP improvements generally require a ten percent match of state or local funds. The program generally funds low-cost options that can be implemented quickly.

Federal Assistance Programs

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

Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) – National Park Service

Purpose: The Challenge Cost Share Program supports local projects that promote conservation and recreation, environmental stewardship, education and engaging diverse youth participants. Local project partners work with National Park Service parks and programs to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. NPS administered parks and programs are eligible such as National Trails, Heritage Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

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
608-441-5610

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program – National Park Service

Purpose: The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. The national network of conservation and recreation planning professionals partner with community groups, nonprofits, tribes, and state and local governments to design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreation opportunities.

Attachment D

SCORP Identified Outdoor Recreation Needs

Compiled by:
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
in their 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
(SCORP)



GAPS AND NEEDS IN OUR EXISTING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

In developing the following statewide needs and gaps in our recreation opportunities, the department incorporated information from:

- The SCORP recreation participation survey question regarding needed recreation opportunities in residents' home county (Appendix 6).
- Recreation Opportunities Analysis, which identified recreation needs for each of the eight regions of the state (Appendix 8).
- The SCORP survey of county park directors, which asked about needs at the county level (Appendix 4).
- The SCORP Advisory Team and department staff.

Statewide Recreation Needs:

Places near population centers

Because of the inverse distribution of our population and public lands as well as the limited amount of time people have to participate, there is a very large need to provide more places for people to participate in outdoor recreation near where they live. In particular is the need to provide opportunities for residents to visit places after work or for a couple of hours on a weekend. Places that provide opportunities for hiking, all types of bicycle riding, dog walking, picnicking, and different water-related activities such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking are likely to be heavily used.

Trails

By nearly every measure, the largest need throughout the state is for more trails that enable people to experience natural settings, visit the vibrant downtowns of our cities and villages, commute to work, and access favorite sites. All types of trails are in demand – hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, snowmobiling, ATV/UTV and motorcycle riding, and 4WD vehicle trails.

Water access – shoreline and boat launches

Lakes, streams and rivers are a defining feature of Wisconsin. From the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River, from the thousands of inland lakes and the tens of thousands of miles of flowing water, residents and visitors have been drawn to the water's edge to fish, hunt, launch any manner of watercraft, bird watch and beach walk. Access to water remains a universal need throughout the state.

Camping opportunities

With a large cohort of retirees travelling in RVs combined with an adventurous younger generation, demand for camping has grown in recent years and is likely to remain popular for years to come. Given the divergence in desired experiences – some campers wanting access to hot showers and WiFi while others wanting neither – recreation providers will need to collaborate and coordinate on providing the camping experiences best suited to different public lands.

Statewide Recreation Needs: (cont.)

Dog parks and exercise areas

Taking care of a dog has many benefits, not the least of which is the exercise people get in walking their pets. With the steady rise in dog ownership (75% of people in their thirties own a dog) and an urbanizing population has come an increasing demand for places to walk, play with, socialize and train our canine friends. Many municipal and county dog parks are among their most visited properties.

Target shooting ranges

Many hunters and shooting sports participants live in rural areas or belong to gun clubs and practice their craft on their or the club's property. However, as our population continues to urbanize there is a growing need for places where people can practice gun and archery marksmanship and safety. By their nature, firearm ranges generate considerable sounds and siting new ranges has been a challenge in more populated areas of the state.

Statewide Policy Needs:

Better understand place-based recreation and associated outcomes

The survey conducted for this SCORP on recreation participation generated considerable data on which outdoor activities residents pursue and how often (see Appendix 6). What is not well known is where these "participation days" actually take place – that is, where, when, and why they occur at different places. Questions for which more detailed, property-specific, place-based data are needed include:

- How many people visit the place or property?
- When and what are the patterns of visitation?
- What recreation activities do they pursue?
- How far do visitors travel to reach the property and why did they visit the particular property (as opposed to other options)?
- What would improve their satisfaction?
- What are the economic, health, and social benefits associated with their visit?

With a more complete understanding of property use and the features and attributes that draw people, agencies can make more informed decisions about what types of recreation facilities to build and maintain at different places. And the public can better understand their "return on investment."

Better understand the nature-based recreation preferences of our diversifying population

Data are needed on the recreation preferences of our changing population. For a range of reasons, people of varying ages, residential settings, incomes, and social, racial, ethnic and cultural identities participate in different types of outdoor activities in different places. More information is needed on the types of activities and settings sought by the diversity of Wisconsin residents. In addition, data on how and where to most effectively provide quality experiences for people with varying backgrounds and cultures are needed.

Enhance and stabilize funding for outdoor recreation

Funding for conservation and recreation is derived from many sources and the overall total has fluctuated considerably from year to year. This has complicated efforts to plan, develop, and maintain recreation facilities. Some states have implemented funding sources that provide a more stable source of money for conservation and recreation projects. In addition to more consistent funding, there is a need to broaden the network of people and sources that help pay for the management of public lands in the state.

Expand collaborations among recreation providers

Each recreation provider has unique capabilities and their lands offer different types of experiences, features, facilities, and opportunities. There would be substantial benefit in continuing and expanding collaborations among federal, county and local governments. Focus should be placed on identifying ways to coordinate recreation experiences in each region of the state, minimizing duplicative efforts, and maximizing the benefits of recreation investments.

Together, providing well-planned, safe and enjoyable recreation opportunities that visitor's value will increase support for local communities and businesses, strengthen tourism, respond to evolving demographic and visitor needs, reduce user conflicts and improve natural settings.

Regional Recreation Needs (high needs identified in the Recreation Opportunities Analysis – see Appendix 8)

Great Northwest Region

ATV/UTV riding
 Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
 Bird or wildlife watching
 Camping - developed and primitive
 Canoeing or kayaking
 Fishing
 Four-wheel vehicle driving
 Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
 Hunting - big game
 Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
 Off-highway motorcycle riding
 Swimming in lakes and rivers

Western Sands Region

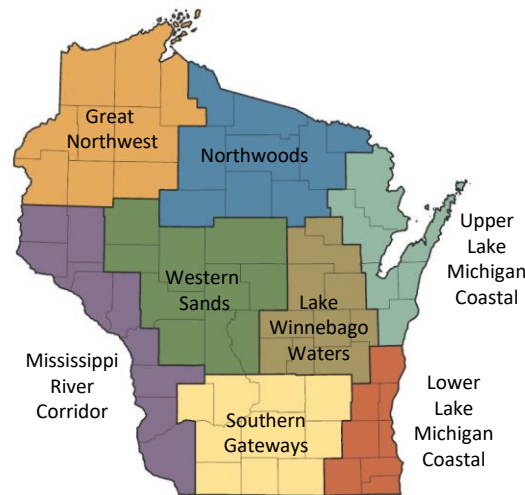
Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
 Bird or wildlife watching
 Camping - developed and primitive
 Canoeing or kayaking
 Cross country skiing
 Dog walking
 Fishing
 Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
 Horseback riding
 Hunting - big game
 Picnicking
 Snowshoeing
 Swimming in lakes and rivers

Mississippi River Corridor Region

Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
 Bird or wildlife watching
 Camping - developed and primitive
 Canoeing or kayaking
 Cross country skiing
 Dog walking
 Fishing
 Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.
 Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
 Hunting - big game
 Nature photography
 Participating in nature-based education programs
 Picnicking
 Snowshoeing
 Visiting a beach, beach walking

Northwoods Region

ATV/UTV riding
 Bicycling – bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
 Camping – developed and primitive
 Canoeing or kayaking
 Fishing
 Four-wheel vehicle driving
 Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
 Hunting – big game
 Off-highway motorcycle riding
 Participating in nature-based education programs
 Snowmobiling



Southern Gateways Region

ATV/UTV riding
 Bicycling – bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
 Bird or wildlife watching
 Camping – developed and primitive
 Canoeing or kayaking
 Fishing
 Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.
 Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
 Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
 Picnicking
 Snowshoeing
 Swimming in lakes and rivers

Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region

Bicycling – bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
 Bird or wildlife watching
 Camping – developed and primitive
 Canoeing or kayaking
 Fishing – all types
 Hiking, walking, trail running or backpacking
 Horseback riding
 Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
 Visiting a beach, beach walking

Lake Winnebago Waters Region

Bicycling – bicycling touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
 Bird or wildlife watching
 Camping – developed and primitive
 Canoeing or kayaking
 Cross country skiing
 Dog walking
 Fishing
 Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
 Hunting – big game
 Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
 Nature photography
 Participating in nature-based education programs
 Picnicking
 Swimming in lakes and rivers
 Visiting a beach, beach walking

Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region

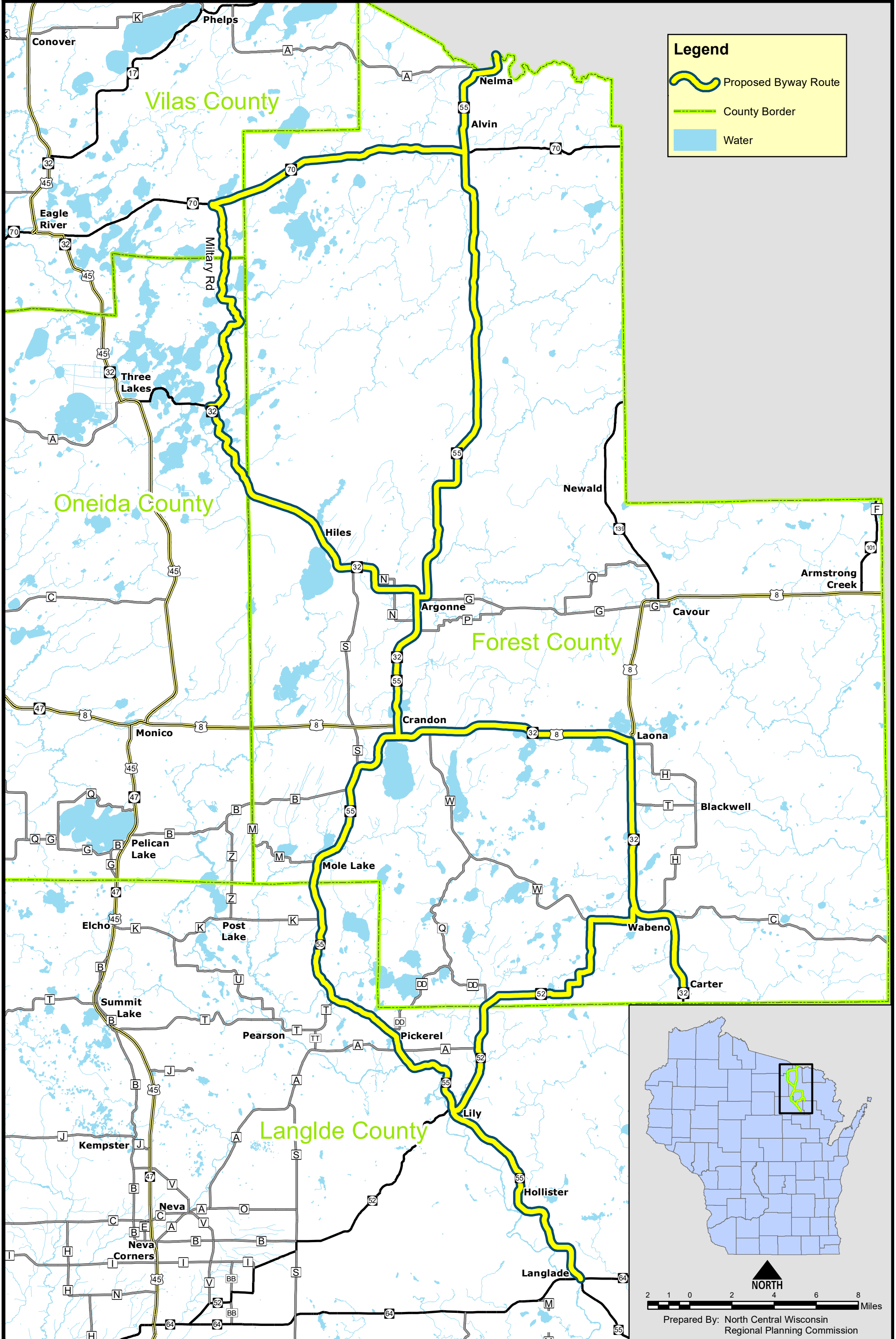
Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
 Bird or wildlife watching
 Camping - primitive
 Canoeing or kayaking
 Cross country skiing
 Fishing
 Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.
 Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
 Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
 Nature photography
 Picnicking
 Snowshoeing
 Swimming in lakes and rivers

Attachment E

Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway Route

Compiled by: NCWRPC

NICOLET-WOLF RIVER SCENIC BYWAY ROUTE



Attachment F

Shared Use Trail Study Route/Trail Interactions Map

Compiled by: NCWRPC

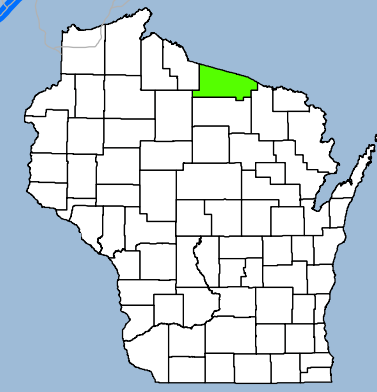
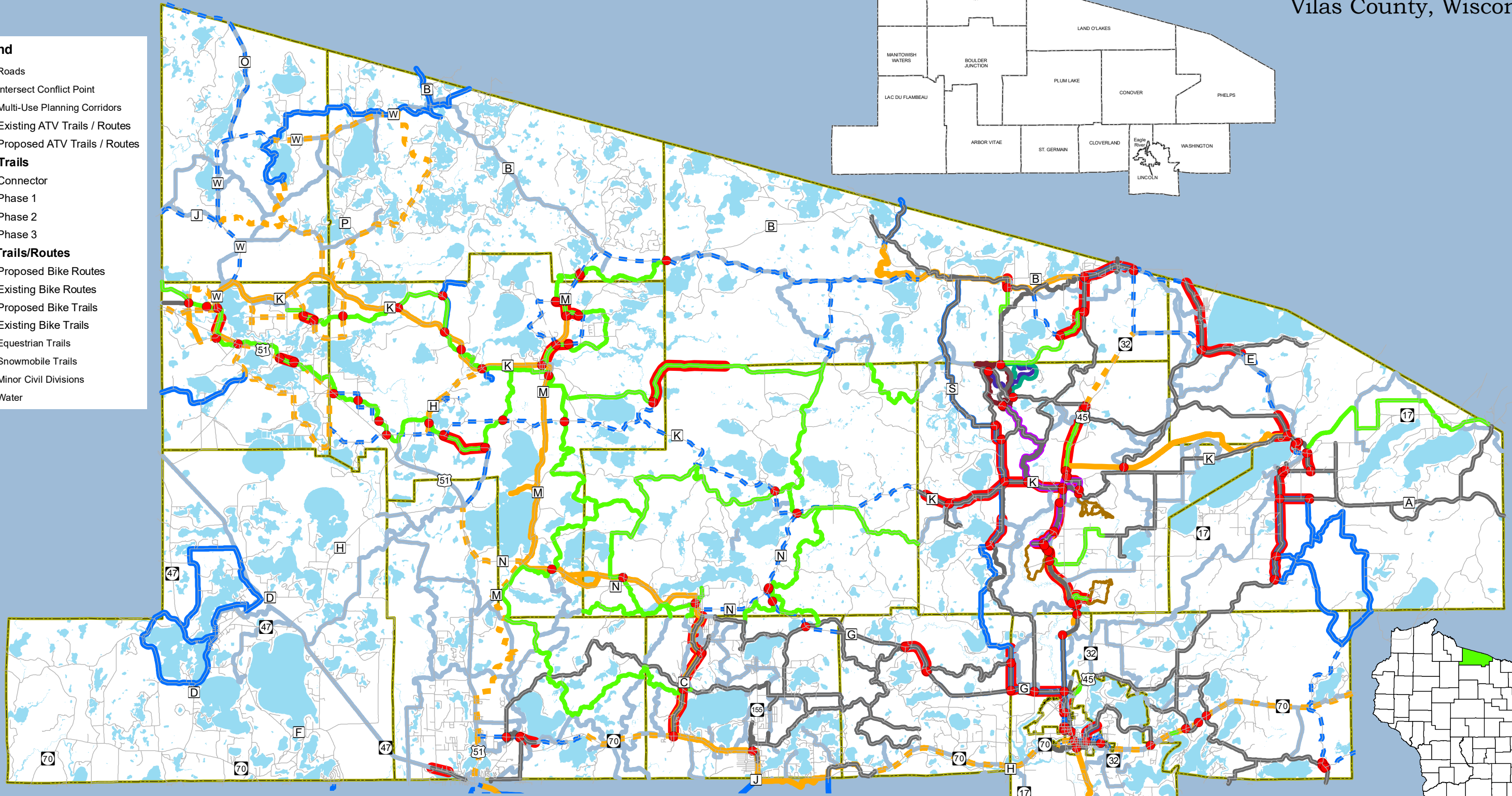
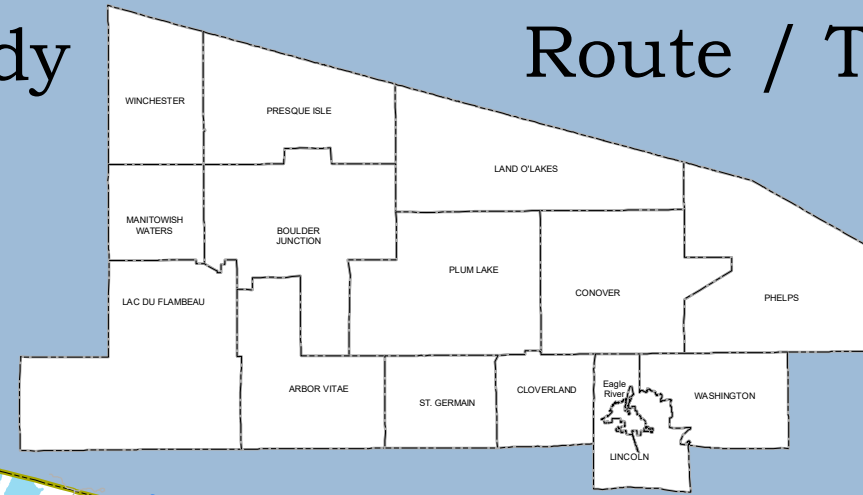
Vilas County Shared Use Trail Study

Route / Trail Interaction

Vilas County, Wisconsin

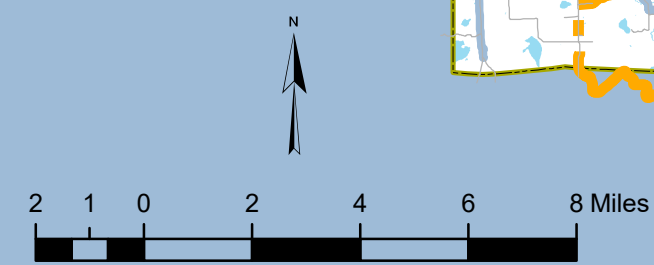
Legend

- Roads
- Intersect Conflict Point
- Multi-Use Planning Corridors
- Existing ATV Trails / Routes
- Proposed ATV Trails / Routes
- OHM Trails**
- Connector
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Bike Trails/Routes**
- Proposed Bike Routes
- Existing Bike Routes
- Proposed Bike Trails
- Existing Bike Trails
- Equestrian Trails
- Snowmobile Trails
- Minor Civil Divisions
- Water



Prepared By:
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 NCWRPC
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 715-849-5510 - staff@ncwrpc.org - www.ncwrpc.org

Note: May not represent all existing or proposed routes/trails. Some routes/trails shown may not maintain viability long term. Group networks are in developmental stages, and mapping is fluid - changing regularly. NCWRPC dataset may contain differences from Vilas County datasets due to differences in timing of compilation and sources of data.



Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC, Vilas Co, FEMA, NRCS
 This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

Attachment G

Great Headwaters Trails System Segments Map

Compiled by: Great Headwaters Trails Foundation, Inc.



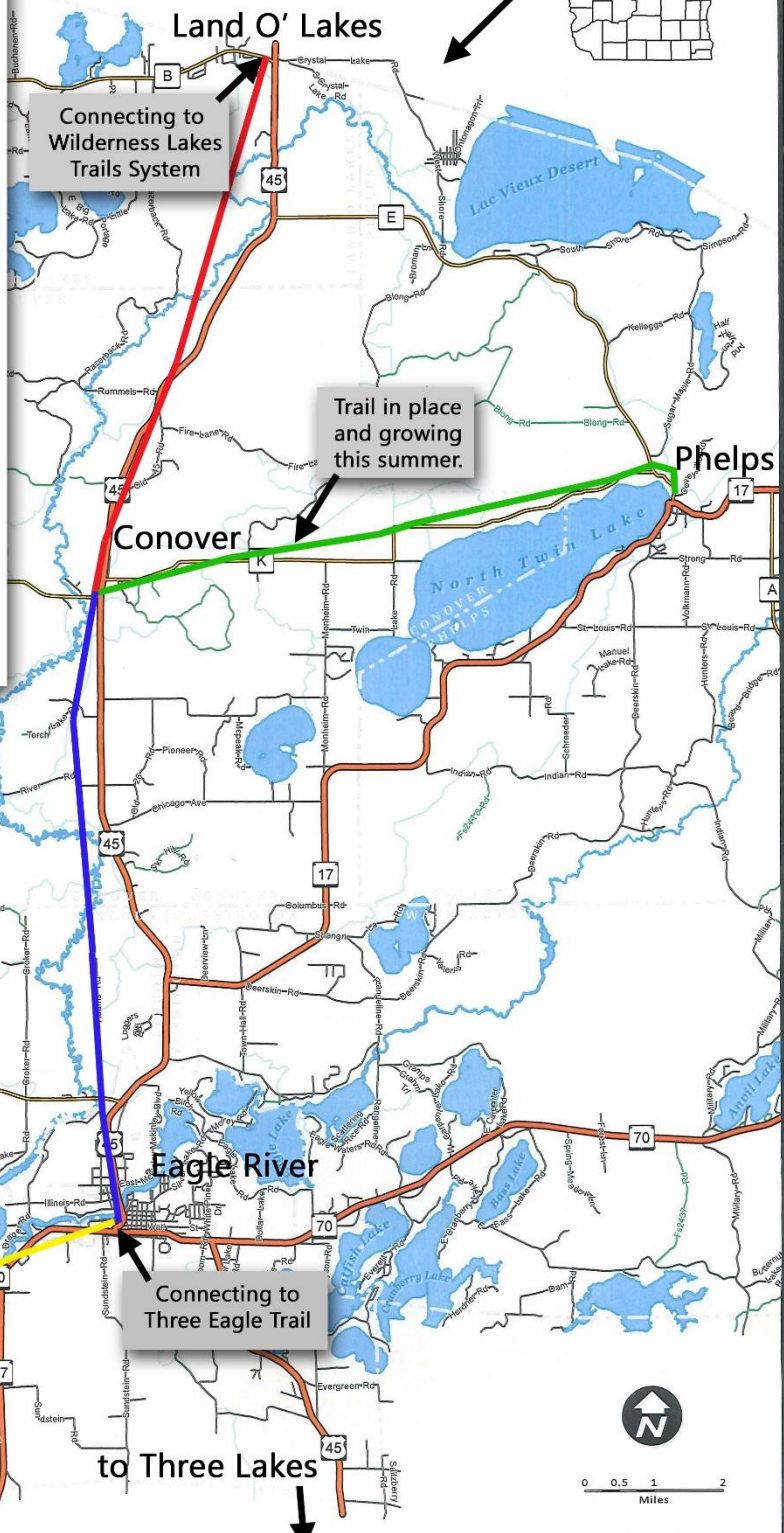
Great Headwaters Trails

www.ghtrails.org www.facebook.com/ghtrails
ghtrails@gmail.com 715-617-0080

GHT System Trails

- █ Conover - Phelps Trail
- █ Conover - Land O' Lakes Trail
- █ Conover - Eagle River Trail
- █ River Trail - the Eagle River - St Germain Link

NOTE: The colored lines indicate the four trails and their connections. They do not show specific trail routes.



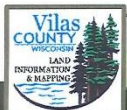
Connecting to Heart of Vilas Trail System

to St Germain

Eagle River

Connecting to Three Eagle Trail

to Three Lakes



Adam Grassl - GIS Technician
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adgrass@co.vilas.wi.us http://vilgis.co.vilas.wi.us

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0 0.5 1 2
Miles

1 in = 2 miles

5-25-2017