
Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan

2017-2021

Effective January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021

Also covering the municipalities and towns within Forest County



Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Forest County Board of Supervisors

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Bucky Dailey	Melinda Otto
Don Dehart, Jr.	Scott E Shaffer, Sr.
Kellee Gallion	George Stamper
Kris Houle	Karl Tauer

Forest County Forestry and Recreation Committee

Stephen Bunda
David Campbell
William Chaney
William Connors, Jr.
Don Dehart Jr.
Ronald Karl
Melinda Otto

Principal authors of this plan

David Ziolkowski, Forest County Forestry Administrator
Fred Heider, AICP, NCWRPC Planner

September 2016

This plan was prepared under the direction of the Forest County Forestry and Recreation Committee by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

For more information contact:

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
210 MCCLELLAN STREET, SUITE 210
WAUSAU, WI 54403

Phone: 715-849-5510



www.ncwrpc.org

ABSTRACT

TITLE: FOREST COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2017-2021 Effective January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021

SUBJECT: This report 1) Assesses the existing recreation system in Forest County; 2) Identifies recreation needs based upon public input, past plans, and recreation standards; and 3) Establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.

Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids to purchase land and to add facilities to existing outdoor recreation lands. The Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan is required to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and Wisconsin Stewardship Grant funding.

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

DATE: **September 2016**

AGENCY: Forest County Forestry Department
Forest County Courthouse
200 East Madison Street
Crandon WI 54520

CONTACT: David Ziolkowski, Administrator
Forest County Forestry Department
715-478-3475

DISCLAIMER: This plan was prepared by the staff of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission under agreement with the above contact.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTERS:

1. INTRODUCTION	1
- Purpose	1
- Statutory Base	1
- Plan Components	1
- Past Plans	2
2. DESCRIPTION OF FOREST COUNTY	9
- Physical Characteristics	9
- Social Characteristics	12
3. EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES	24
- Introduction	24
- Trail Facilities	24
- Public Access Points to Water Bodies	28
- Public Campgrounds	29
- Points of Interest	30
- County Forest	31
- City and Town Facilities	31
- School District Facilities	33
- State Facilities	33
- Forested Lands – Not State or County Owned	35
- Federal Facilities	36
- Private Outdoor Recreation Facilities	36
4. OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT	37
- Introduction	37
- Recommendations and Projects Completed From 2012–2016	37
- Public Participation	38
- Other Plan References	39
- Needs Driven Park Planning	39
5. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	41
6. RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	42
- Countywide Recommendations	42
- County Forest Lands Recommendations	43
- Town Recommendations	43
- County Facility Capital Improvements 2017-2021	44
7. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES	45
8. PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING	49

MAPS:

Map 1	Potential Trails and Legacy Areas	7
Map 2	Outdoor Recreation	20
Map 3	City of Crandon Outdoor Recreation.....	21
Map 4	Town of Laona Outdoor Recreation.....	22
Map 5	Town of Wabeno Outdoor Recreation.....	23

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. DRAFT Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway Route
- B. Outdoor Recreation Online Survey Results
- C. Park Design and Location Criteria
- D. State and Federal Financial Assistance Programs
- E. Bog Brook Wildlife Area

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The main purpose of completing the Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plan is to provide direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of Forest County. This is accomplished through an inventory and analysis of outdoor recreational facilities, and the establishment of recommendations to meet identified needs.

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

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

STATUTORY BASE

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

PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs for the entire county, and each local government within Forest County.

Background information on Forest County was compiled to develop an understanding of the environmental and social characteristics of the county and their meaning for outdoor recreation. An inventory of existing recreational facilities exists in Chapter 3 – Existing Recreation Facilities – of this plan.

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

The recommendations are general strategies and five-year action programs for recreation facility development. A series of possible tools to aid implementation of these recommendations are set forth in Chapter 8 – Provisions For Updating. The plan concludes with a note on updating to insure that it remains relevant to the needs of the county over the entire five-year span.

PAST PLANS

This outdoor recreation plan was written to continue the parks and recreation program established in the Forest County Outdoor Recreation Plans of 1977-1982, 1989-1993, 1997-2001, 2002-2006, 2007-2011, & 2012-2016.

Summaries of plans and laws that affect outdoor recreation:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

NOTE: This plan is being updated in 2016/2017.

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

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

State Trails Network Plan

This 2003 document clarifies the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) role and strategy in the provision of all types of trails. The plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors that would link existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. This statewide network of interconnected trails would be owned and maintained by municipalities, private entities, and partnerships of the two. Preserving transportation corridors, such as old rail lines, is specifically discussed as a very important strategy in the creation of recreational and alternative transportation corridors. These trails are shown on Map 1.

Segment 2—Forest Co. to Michigan, Nicolet State Trail (Northern Region)

The DNR partially acquired the Nicolet State Trail corridor from Gillett to Wabeno. The rest of the rail corridor in Forest Co., from Cavour to Wabeno, remains largely DOT-owned, with portions used for private rail by term agreement. The tracks from Wabeno to Laona have been removed as well as the tracks north of Cavour to the Michigan border, and this grade may be available for trail acquisition in the near future. (Note: See page 19 for the description of this completed trail.) This trail was developed in 2010 as a part of the state trails network plan.

Segment 13—Dresser to Michigan

This 250-mile-long east-west corridor consists of rail line, the Cattail Trail, which is owned by the DNR and operated by Polk and Barron counties, and an optional highway right-of-way. It

would link with the proposed Hiles to Crandon snowmobile trail in Forest County. The use of roadways in Oneida and Forest counties are an alternative to the rail line.

Segment 56—Argonne to Shawano

NCWRPC Note: The part of this segment from Crandon to at least White Lake was completed in 2011 as the Wolf River State Trail.

This is an active rail corridor with abandonment expected in fall of 2000 on the segment from Crandon to White Lake. Argonne is on the Dresser to Michigan corridor in the north, and Shawano links to the Mountain Bay Trail in the south of the corridor. The Crandon to Tomahawk corridor and the White Lake to Antigo corridor link to the Langlade County to Michigan corridor to form a loop. An old abandoned corridor east of White Lake in the future could link this corridor to the Nicolet State Trail or connect it to road routes. This corridor runs along the east shore of Lake Metonga at Crandon, then runs south through forested lake areas of the Nicolet National Forest. In Langlade County it follows the Wolf River for about seven miles and continues south through the Northwest portion of the Menominee Indian Reservation, terminating at Shawano and its connection to the Mountain Bay Trail.

Segment 69—Tomahawk to Crandon

This abandoned corridor would link these two communities via an off-road connector. This corridor intersects the Langlade County to Michigan corridor at Pelican Lake and links the Argonne to Shawano corridor in the east with the Tomahawk to Wausau corridor in the west. This short linking corridor provides opportunity to access the very popular Hiawatha-Bearskin Trail from other corridors to the east.

2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

The Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests were combined into one forest in 1998. This 2004 document revised inconsistent policies between the two forests and provides direction for resource management over the next 10 to 15 years.

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

- No off-road or off trail use allowed (implemented on June 14, 2004).
- New trail construction allowed for up to 100 miles of trail on the Chequamegon side, and up to 85 total miles on the Nicolet side.
- All roads and trails closed to ATV use unless identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).
- In general, most Forest Service trails and routes are closed to ATVs yearly from October 31 through April 30. The MVUM is updated yearly and list the operating season for all Forest Service trails and routes. Township designated roads are still open.
- No Intensive Use ("play areas") allowed on the Forest (Open 26 play area closed on June 14, 2004).
- Emergency closures can be issued locally where resources are being damaged or abused, or there are safety concerns.

All Forest Service roads open to ATV use are posted with signs, but the MVUM is the official source of trail and route information. Also, maps containing information on areas open to ATV use can also be obtained at Ranger District Offices.

North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan

NOTE: This plan is being updated in 2016.

This 2004 document is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region. Potential trails are identified, and an improvement description was created for each county, which identifies how to create the specific trail segments in each county. New regional and county bike plans are scheduled to begin in 2012.

Two abandoned rail corridors in Forest County have great potential. The rail line from Crandon to White Lake in Langlade County was recently abandoned, while the DNR and DOT have owned much of the rail corridor from Carter to Popple River for some time. These trails are shown on Map 1. (Note: The rail line from Carter to Popple River is complete and approved for hiking, biking, ATVing, and snowmobiling – Nicolet State Trail.)

Forest County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

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

Forest County Comprehensive Plan, 2011-2031

This plan is a combination of nine chapters. Within the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Chapter are the following goals that relate to outdoor recreation:

1. Protect the County's natural features, including lakes, open space, wetlands, wildlife habitat, woodlands, and unique physical areas.
2. Protect large tract woodlands and enhance County Forests.
3. Reduce contamination of surface and groundwater resources in the County.
4. Encourage and support the preservation of natural areas that minimize flooding, such as grasslands, wetlands and woodlands.
5. Allow for needed non-metallic mining while balancing the interests of adjacent landowners and the County.
6. Enhance and promote sustainable multiple use forest management to benefit the forest industry and improve opportunities for tourism based industry. Work to exclude non-sustainable forest management strategies including no management zones, improper harvesting techniques, or extended rotation harvesting which result in loss of forest health and productivity. These practices put the forest of the neighboring landowners at risk from forest insects, disease and wildfire as well as reducing the raw material supply for the timber industry.
7. Preserve, protect and enhance surface water quality within the County by protecting shorelands and wetlands which provide the natural filters for surface water and protecting from invasive aquatic species introductions. Provide for proper and adequate accesses to lakes and streams for their tourism value. Preservation of water quality will preserve the tourism value of the water resources and maintain future potential of this industry.

8. Support land management practices on the Nicolet National Forest, Industrial Forests, and other lands in the county which provide habitat improvements for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, black bear and waterfowl.

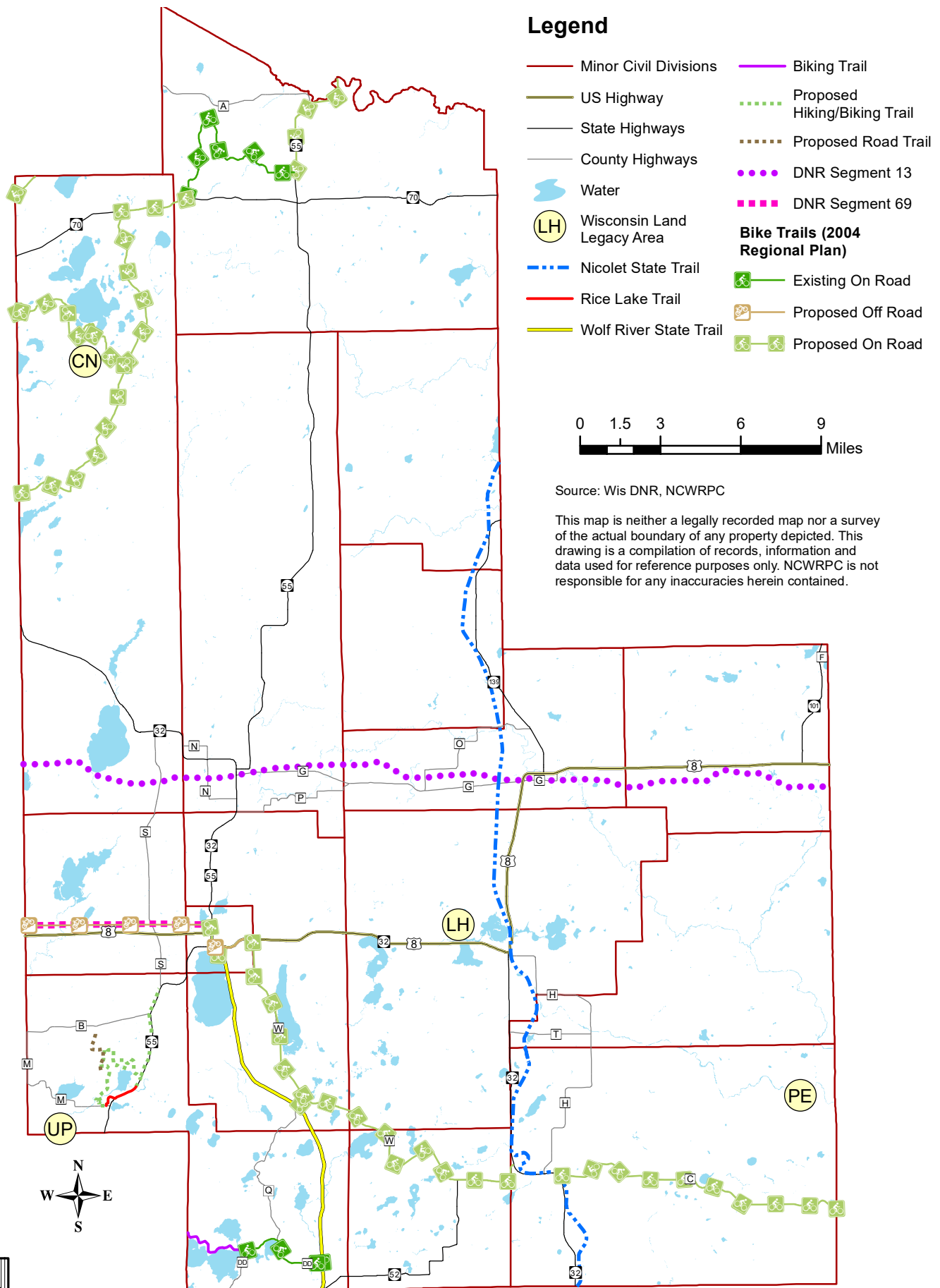
Objectives:

1. New development should not negatively impact natural resources.
2. Protect surface water, groundwater, and shoreline quality.
3. Identify the critical natural resources, such as lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and woodlands.
4. Promote opportunities that support both natural resource protection and economic development.
5. Encourage the development of a natural area network connecting open areas, wetlands, and woodlands.
6. Integrate and implement the County Forest Comprehensive Plan.
7. Balance access to natural areas with resource protection efforts.
8. Promote groundwater protection efforts to maintain and lower nitrate, pesticide, and volatile organic compound pollution.
9. Promote environmentally sound development.
10. Promote proper reclamation techniques in the County for non-metallic mineral mining sites.
11. Minimize impacts to the County's natural resources from non-metallic mineral mining.
12. Encourage proper forest management on National Forest Lands, Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Lands and Industrial Forest Lands within the County. Maintain raw material supply by promotion of sustainable cutting levels to the calculated annual allowable cut on the National Forest Lands.
13. Encourage multiple use forest management on all forest land including uses such as standard multiple uses including hunting, fishing, hiking, and biking as well as wildlife management for game species and motorized recreation including snowmobiles and ATV's to create opportunities to diversify our economy into the tourism based industries.

14. Provide adequate, natural resource friendly water access points to all lakes and streams and landings to maintain public use of water resources and maintain the tourism industry value.
15. Discourage introduction of aquatic invasive species by providing education and support to lake associations in their efforts to limit this disturbance to the surface waters.

Policies:

1. Work cooperatively with the WDNR and other forestry agencies and organizations in sponsoring workshops and educational materials regarding sound forest management practices and programs.
2. Implement the policies as identified in the County's Comprehensive Forest Plan.
3. Explore the development of a destination Motorized Recreational Area compatible with surrounding natural resources.
4. Work with federal, state, and local governments to manage natural resources throughout the county.
5. Reduce and actively seek to reduce eutrophication of our wetlands, lakes and streams.
6. Officially request the National Forest to maintain harvest levels on Forest County lands at their highest calculated annual allowable cut for sustainable forestry to provide sustained raw material flow for industry in the County.
7. Discourage forest management set-asides which limit raw material supply and limit recreational value of lands. Examples of these include non-motorized areas and wilderness areas.
8. Establish formal meetings with US Forest Service and the County Forestry Committee to have input into the determination of the annual allowable cut and other issues related to the National Forest lands within the County.



Prepared By:

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

210 McClellan St., Suite 210, Wausau, WI 54403 715-849-5510 - staff@ncwrpc.org - www.ncwrpc.org

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056

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

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

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

CN Chequamegon-Nicolet

National Forest

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

PE Peshigo River

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

LH Laona Hemlock Hardwoods

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

UP Upper Wolf River

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

Other Areas of Interest includes:

- North Otter Creek
- Elvoy and Brule Creeks

Chapter 2

DESCRIPTION OF FOREST COUNTY

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

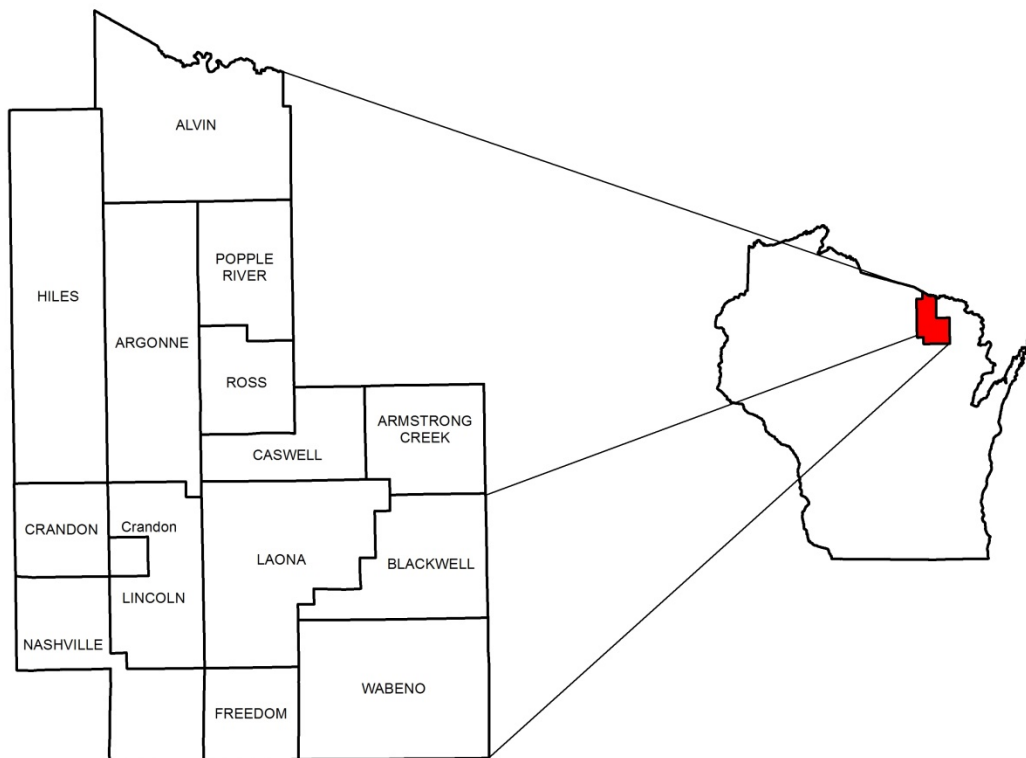
Introduction

This section describes the physical features that make up Forest 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.

Geography

Forest County in northeastern Wisconsin has a total of 669,231 acres; of which 92.0% is forested, 1.8% is used for agriculture, 3.4% is water, 0.6% for open space, 0.8% is for transportation (which includes airports and roads), 1.0% for residential, and 0.1% is for commercial and industrial uses. Forest County is bound on the north by the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the Brule River, which forms the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary; on the east by Florence and Marinette Counties; on the south by Oconto and Langlade Counties; and on the west by Oneida and Vilas Counties.

Figure 1 **Location**



Climate

Winters in Forest County are very cold, and the short summers are fairly warm. The short frost-free period during the summer limits cropping mainly to forage crops, small grain, and adapted vegetables. Precipitation is fairly well distributed throughout the year but reaches a peak in summer. Snow covers the ground much of the time from late fall through early spring. The total annual precipitation is about 30 inches. Of this total, more than 21 inches, or about 70 percent, usually falls in April through September. The growing season for most crops falls within this period. In 2 years out of 10, the rainfall in April through September is less than 18 inches. The sun shines 65 percent of the time possible in summer and 45 percent in winter. The prevailing wind is from the northwest. Average wind speed is highest, 12 miles per hour, in spring.

Topography & Geology

Forest County is located entirely in the Northern Highlands physiographic region, which was glaciated during the Pleistocene Age by the Langlade Lobe. The elevation in the county generally ranges from about 1,800 feet above sea level in the west and northwest to about 1,300 feet in the southeast. The third highest point in the state, Sugar Bush Hill, is a drumlin east of Crandon. It rises about 1,938 feet above sea level. The west end of McCaslin Mountain is about 1,610 feet above sea level.

Forest County is underlain by igneous & metamorphic bedrock that makes up the southern extension of the Canadian Shield. The bedrock surface is irregular throughout the county and slopes generally to the east and southeast. The extreme northwest part of the county near the Michigan border is underlain by metavolcanic and metasedimentary rock and an iron formation. A significant sulfide deposit of zinc and copper is also in the southwestern part of the county, north of Little Sand Lake. Underlying the southeast corner is the Hager porphyry rock and a quartzite and conglomerate rock upland, which includes the prominent relief feature of McCaslin Mountain protruding through the glacial deposits. Bedrock exposed in other areas is typically located in topographic lows surrounded by glaciofluvial deposits, such as the gneiss outcrop on the south shore of Pine Lake.

Surface Water

Forest County has many streams, lakes, and rivers that furnish a good supply of surface water. The county has 24,094 acres of surface water. There are 824 lakes in the county. These lakes make up 22,324 acres of water. Streams in the county have a surface area of 1,770 acres and a total length of 710 miles. The majority of these streams are classified as trout waters. Surface water is used mainly for recreation, stock watering, and wildlife.

The Eastern Continental Divide directs the flow of surface water in Forest County into two major bodies of water – Green Bay and the Mississippi River. The vast majority of the surface water in Forest County flows to the east and southeast and eventually into Green Bay. Three major rivers – the Brule, the Pine, and the Popple – flow in that direction and are part of the Menominee River watershed. Both the Pine and Popple Rivers are designated as "wild" under the Wisconsin Wild River Act (Ch. 30.26 WI Stats.).

The Peshtigo River and its feeder streams encompass the largest watershed in the county. This river flows to the southeast and enters Green Bay in southeastern Marinette County. The Wolf River, whose headwaters originate at Pine Lake, flows southward into Lake Poygan in Winnebago County. Several small streams on the far western edge of the county flow to the west and are part of the Wisconsin River watershed.

The secondary drainage system in Forest County consists mainly of surface runoff and hillside seepage into basins and depressions caused by the last glacial period. Some of these areas have drainage outlets, but most of this system tends to be poorly developed.

This extensive water resource provides a great deal of recreational opportunity like boating, sailing, skiing, fishing, swimming, canoeing and ice fishing.

Groundwater

Glacial drift aquifers are the major source of ground water in most of the county. Large yields of ground water are available where the thickness of the saturated drift is at least 50 feet. The thickness of the glacial drift over most of the county ranges up to about 300 feet. The glacial drift produces well yields ranging from 5 to 1,000 gallons per minute. Yields of at least 500 gallons per minute are common. Most high-capacity wells range from 30 to 300 feet in depth.

Precambrian crystalline rock underlying the county is not considered a significant source of water. The availability of water from the bedrock is difficult to predict and is probably less than 5 gallons per minute. The glacial drift aquifer above the bedrock is the best source of ground water.

The quality of ground water in Forest County is generally good. The ground water is suitable for most domestic, municipal, and industrial uses, but treatment may be required for special purposes. The water in the aquifers is principally a calcium magnesium bicarbonate type. It is moderately hard or hard. A high content of iron is a problem in many wells, but it is not a health hazard. Local differences in the quality of ground water are a result of the composition, solubility, and surface area of soil and rock particles through which the water moves and the length of time the water is in contact with these materials. The least mineralized water is from the glacial drift aquifer.

Soils

Most of the soils in Forest County formed under forest vegetation, which results in a light-colored soil that has a relatively low content of organic matter.

The parent soil materials in Forest County are mainly glacial till or glacial mudflow sediment, glacial outwash, and lacustrine deposits, which in places are covered by a thin layer of silty or loamy windblown material. Some of the soils formed in more recent deposits of organic material or alluvium.

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 Forest County Soil Survey Report was made available in 2003. Soil suitability tables for outdoor recreation and other uses are available on the Internet.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

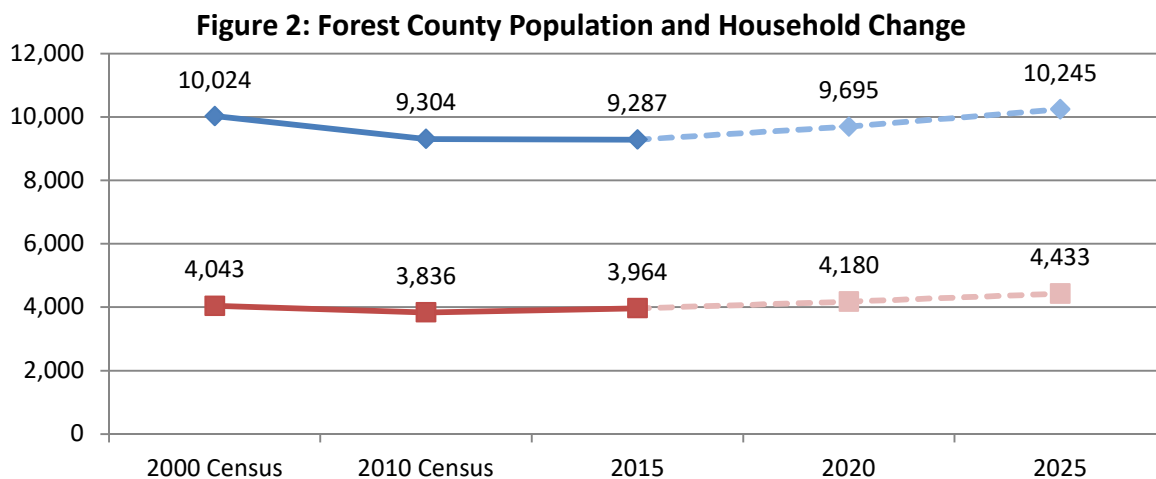
Introduction

This section describes social and economic demographics of Forest County. Overall recreation demand within Wisconsin is described in the 2011-2016 SCORP. The social characteristics from this section in the Forest County CORP 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 relationship between population demographics, and supply & demand of recreational facilities is only a bare minimum guide for developing outdoor recreational facilities in Forest County. Understanding how each park is used, and if specific activities are in demand are better factors to use when determining future recreational facility needs. Combining population demographics from this section with public participation feedback (results are shown in the Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment chapter) will provide a complete understanding of outdoor recreational facility needs. Both permanent and seasonal residents must be counted when considering outdoor recreation facilities. Seasonal residents pay the same amount of property taxes as residents, but the only services they pay for and do not use are the school districts.

The 2015 population estimate for Forest County is 9,287 people, a slight decline from the 2010 census population of 9,304, continuing the decline that has occurred since the 2000 Census when the population was 10,024. See Figure 2. This 7.2 percent decline from 2000 to 2010 is compared to 5.8 percent growth in Wisconsin and 8.0 percent growth the United States during the same time period.



Source: U.S. Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration 2015 Estimate, Wisconsin DOA 2013 projections

Changes in population are made up of two components. More births than deaths produces a natural increase, and more people moving into an area than moving out produces a migration increase. Most of the decline in population in Forest County was due to outmigration. Forest County's natural decrease was -0.3 percent, while outmigration was a much higher -6.9 percent. Forest County is one of eight Wisconsin counties that had a negative net migration between 2000 and 2010.

Forest County is expected to begin growing population between 2015 and 2020, and continues that population growth through 2035, when the population begins declining again. The population growth is expected to come entirely from in-migration. This pattern of growth and decline is in large part due to the aging of the baby boomer generation. Population growth will occur as many boomers retire in Forest County, becoming permanent occupants of existing seasonal housing, then begin to decline again as many will move to more urban counties where services are in close proximity and their needs can be more easily met.

Household sizes in Forest County have been shrinking over time, much like in the State and Nation. In 2010, there were 3,836 households and the average household size was 2.33 people. In 2000 there were 4,043 households and the average household size was 2.39, a 2.5 percent decrease. This trend is expected to continue into the future, leading to faster household growth than population growth. Similar to population, household growth in Forest is expected to continue through 2035, when it begins declining.

Almost 66 percent of households are family households, and about 25 percent are families with their own children under 18 years old. Over 27 percent of households have someone under 18 years old, and 34 percent have someone 65 or older.

Forest County has a very large proportion of seasonally occupied housing compared to the rest of the state. See Figure 3. Over 57 percent of the housing units in Forest are considered vacant, and 52.7 percent are vacant for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Four of the 14 towns in Forest County have over 70 percent of their housing seasonally occupied, while ten towns have over 50 percent of their housing seasonally occupied. These towns will have much greater fluctuations in population throughout the year that needs to be considered and accommodated when planning for outdoor recreation.

**Figure 3:
Year Round and Seasonal Housing, 2014**

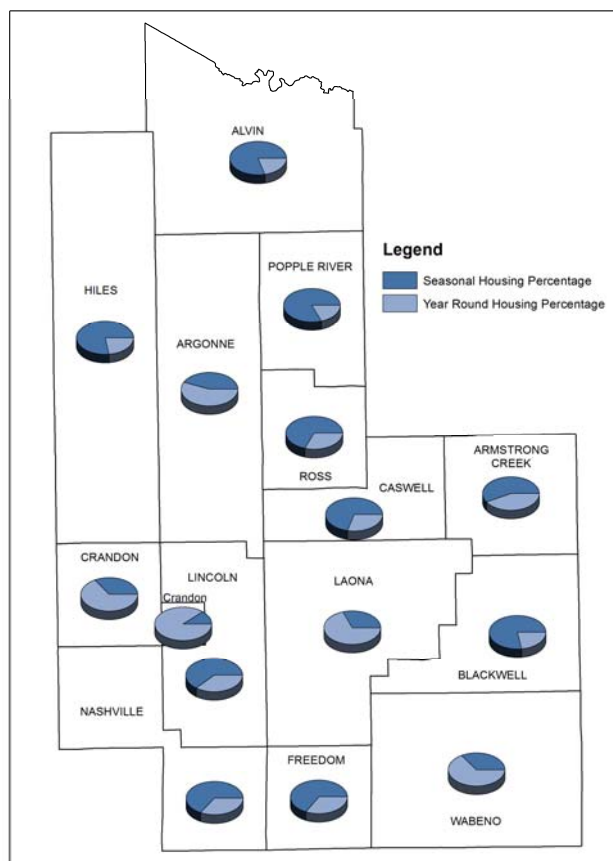


Table 1 shows historical permanent and estimated seasonal populations for Forest County municipalities. Seasonal populations were calculated from U.S. Census data. The number of seasonal housing units was multiplied by the average household size of the permanently occupied housing units in that municipality.

Table 1	Permanent and Seasonal Population by Forest County Municipality							
	2000 Population			2010 Population			Total Pop. Change	Percent Change
	Seasonal Pop.	Permanent Pop	Total Pop.	Seasonal Pop.	Permanent Pop	Total Pop.		
Alvin	572	186	758	714	157	871	113	14.9%
Argonne	274	532	806	458	512	970	164	20.3%
Armstrong Creek	412	463	875	624	409	1,033	158	18.1%
Blackwell	152	347	499	315	332	647	148	29.7%
Caswell	261	102	363	231	91	322	-41	-11.3%
Crandon (Town)	454	614	1,068	394	650	1,044	-24	-2.2%
Freedom	633	376	1,009	718	345	1,063	54	5.4%
Hiles	1,041	404	1,445	1,196	311	1,507	62	4.3%
Laona	545	1,367	1,912	626	1,212	1,838	-74	-3.9%
Lincoln	1,429	1,005	2,434	1,630	955	2,585	151	6.2%
Nashville	1,738	1,157	2,895	2,156	1,064	3,220	325	11.2%
Popple River	193	79	272	227	44	271	-1	-0.4%
Ross	314	167	481	336	136	472	-9	-1.9%
Wabeno	752	1,264	2,016	721	1,166	1,887	-129	-6.4%
Crandon (City)	229	1,961	2,190	238	1,920	2,158	-32	-1.5%
Forest County	8,999	10,024	19,023	10,346	9,304	19,650	627	3.3%

Source: U.S. Census & NCWRPC

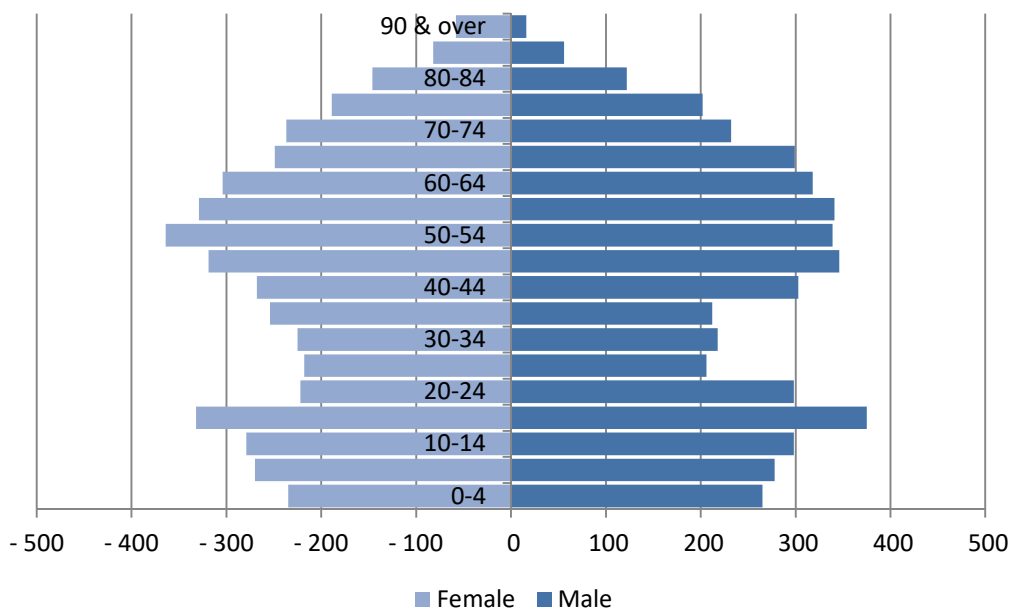
There is a clear pattern county-wide between the seasonal and permanent population changes in Table 1. Between 2000 and 2010 Table 1 shows that each community except of the Town of Crandon experienced a loss in Permanent population. Table 1 also shows that each community except the Towns of Caswell, Crandon and Wabeno experienced growth in seasonal population. The growth of the seasonal population outpaced the decline of the permanent population which results in a population increase of 3.3%.

Age

The 2010 United States Census also indicates that Forest County has an older population. The county median age of 44.1 years is older than Wisconsin's median age of 38.5. The median age has increased in both Forest County and Wisconsin between 2000 and 2010, from 39.9 and 36 years old, respectively. Like many northern Wisconsin counties, it is evident that the median age in Forest has grown faster than the state. Forest County also has 20.3% of its population 65 years or older, which is a higher percentage than Wisconsin who has 13.7% of its residents 65 years or older. Figure 3 shows the distribution of age groups in Forest County. The age distribution in Forest County is concentrated in the middle-aged 45-65 year old groups and the 5-20 year old groups. The most

heavily concentrated age groups are very near to the common retirement age, which will likely have a great effect on the parks and recreation needs of the County. Females outnumber males in the age groups above 80 years old. The fact that Forest County has an older population needs to be considered with all public investments, including recreational facilities.

Figure 3: Forest County 2010 Age Pyramid



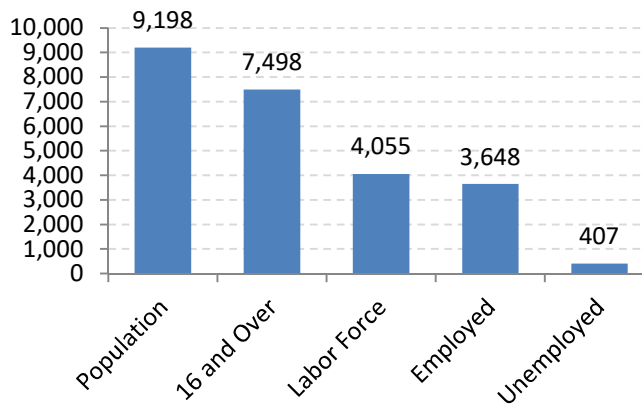
Ethnic Background

The people of Forest County mostly identify as white, at approximately 84.9 percent of the population. The next largest group is Native American and Alaska Native, at 15.5 percent. Following that are Black or African American at 1.1 percent, Asian at 0.3 percent, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander at 0.2 percent, and Some Other Race at 0.5 percent. 1.5 percent of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Employment and Economy

Forest County has 7,498 people age 16 and over, 54.1 percent of which are in the labor force, i.e. actively working or seeking work. According to the 2010-2014 ACS, the unemployment rate in Forest County was 10 percent, compared to 7.2 percent in the state and 9.2 percent in the United States. Forest County has a much lower proportion of people in the labor force and a higher proportion unemployed than the state as a whole. The Wisconsin labor force

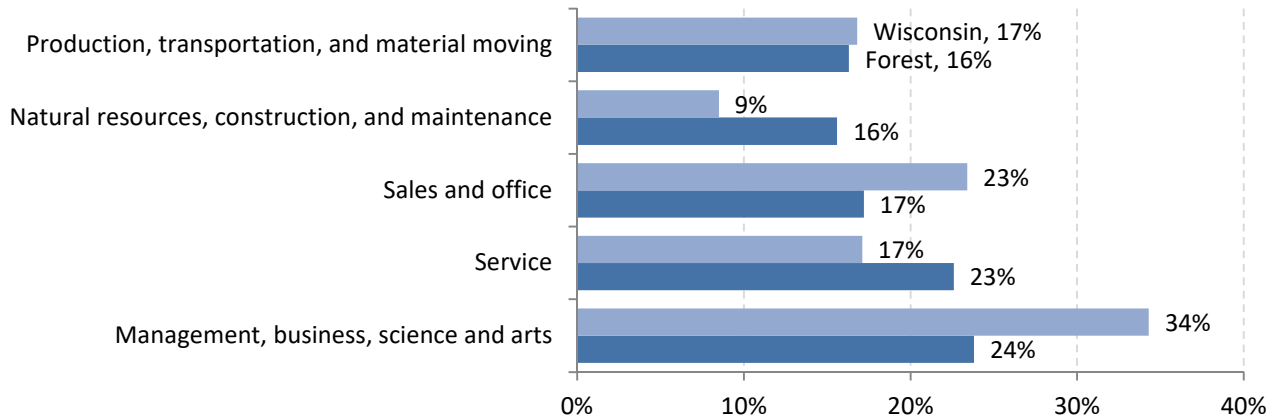
Figure 4: Forest County Employment



Source: 2010-2014 ACS

participation rate is 67.4 percent. Forest County experiences very high fluctuations in unemployment due to the number of jobs in leisure and hospitality and construction.

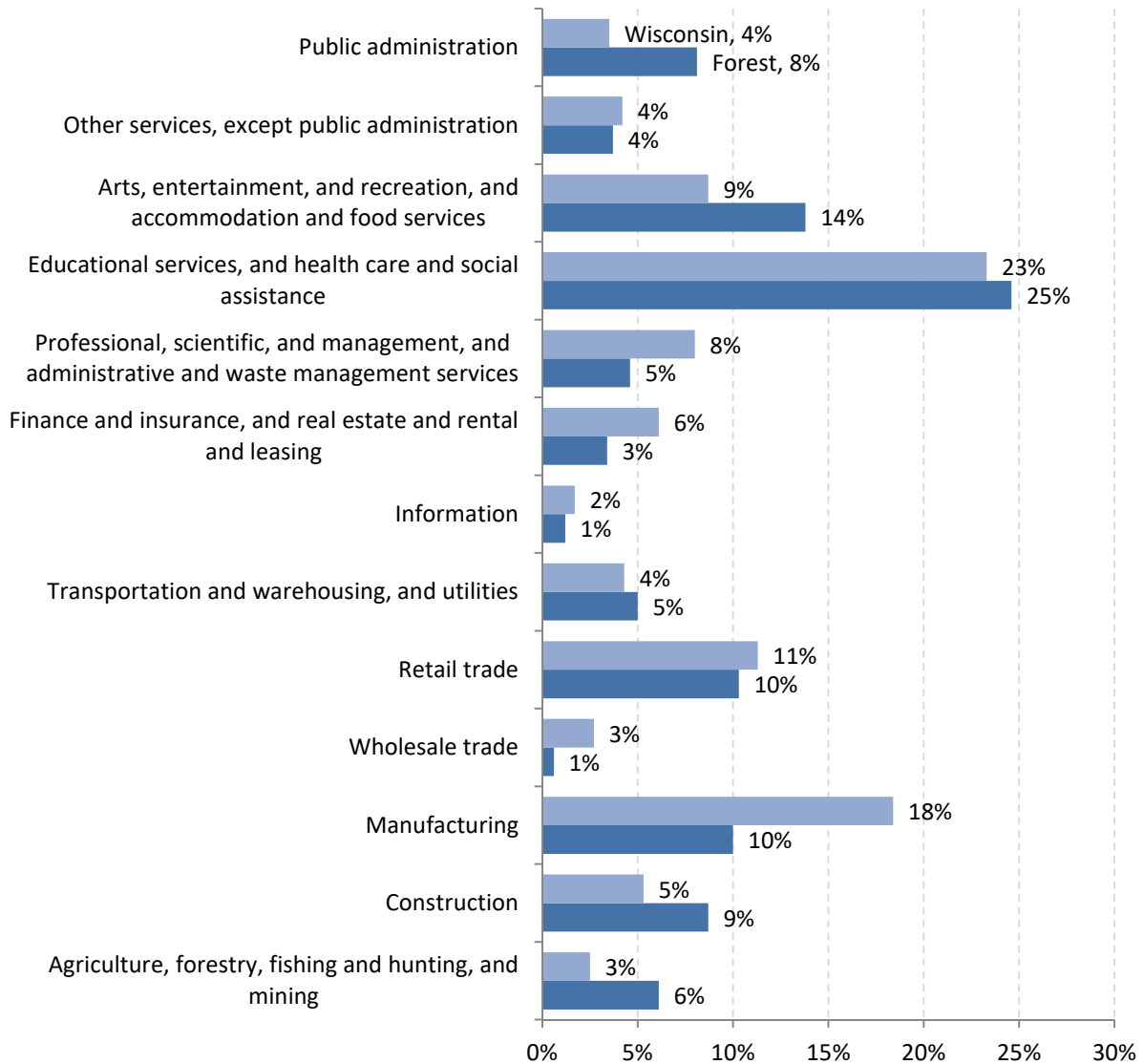
Figure 5: Forest County Resident Occupation



Source: 2010-2014 ACS

Figure 5 shows that most residents of Forest County are employed in management, business, science and arts occupations at 28.3 percent or service occupations at 22.6 percent. Figure 6 shows that the most common industry for Forest County residents is education services, health care and social assistance at 24.6 percent. Forest County has a higher proportion than the State in construction, natural resources, and leisure and hospitality industries, all of which are highly seasonal. This may partially explain Forest County's higher unemployment rate. The state has a much higher proportion of employment in manufacturing and professional, scientific, and management industries.

Figure 6: Forest County Resident Industry



Source: 2010-2014 ACS

Table 2 shows industry employment in Forest County. The highest levels of employment are in the manufacturing and trade, transportation and utilities industries. The one year change shows declines in natural resources, information and other services. Location quotient is a method of measuring the relative concentration of that industry in Lincoln County compared to the nation, with a value of 1 meaning the concentration is identical. Lincoln County has a higher concentration of manufacturing, crop and animal production, finance and insurance, transportation and warehousing, and retail trade.

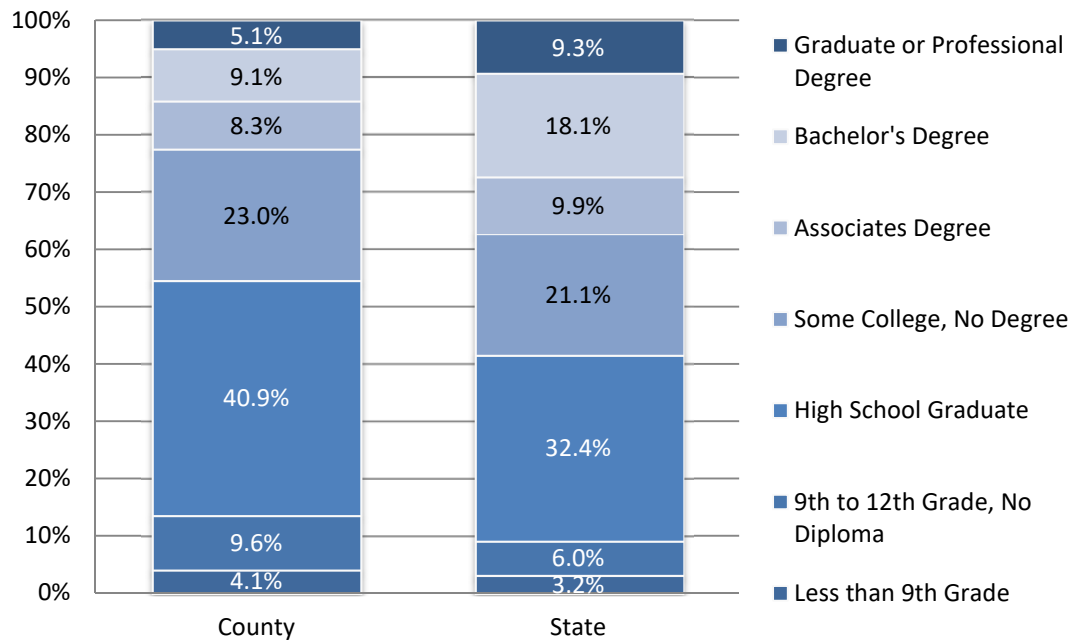
Table 2 Employment by Industry in Forest County, 2014		
Industry	Employment	
	Annual Avg.	1-Year Change
Natural Resources	28	-3
Construction	59	-8
Manufacturing	280	27
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	426	-4
Information	S	N/A
Financial Activities	86	-1
Professional & Business Services	67	-20
Education & Health	543	11
Leisure & Hospitality	556	-18
Other services	S	N/A
Public Administration	1,001	53
Total	3,107	24

Source: WI DWD, Bureau of Workforce Training, QCEW, June 2015

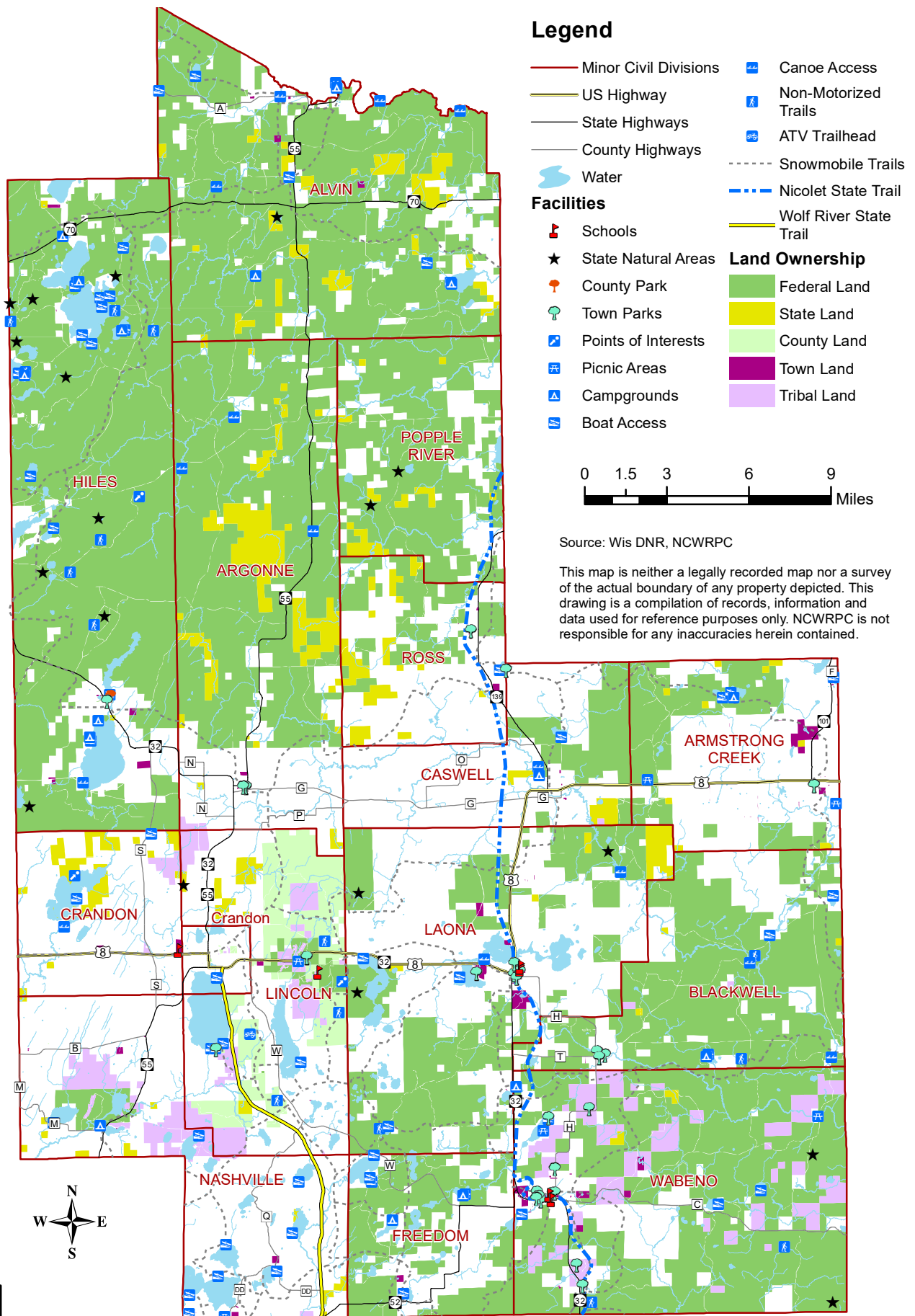
As of the 2010-2014 American Community Survey, median household income in Forest County was \$40,331, and per capita income was \$20,890. This is significantly lower than the state and nation, which can be explained by the lower proportion of people working in Forest County. The distribution of household incomes in Forest are fairly similar to the state, but with far fewer households making \$100,000 or more, and more households making between \$10,000 and \$99,999 annually.

Educational Attainment in Forest County (Figure 7) is generally lower than the State of Wisconsin. 86.3 percent of Forest County residents have graduated high school, while 90.8 percent of Wisconsin residents have graduated high school. 14.2 percent of Forest County have a bachelor's degree or higher, while 27.4 percent of Wisconsin residents have a bachelor's degree or higher. The proportion of people with some college, but no degree is higher in Forest County than the state, and the proportion with an associate's degree is close to the State. The lower educational attainment of the County can also help explain the lower per capita and median incomes discussed earlier.

Figure 7: Educational Attainment, Age 25 and Older, 2010-2014



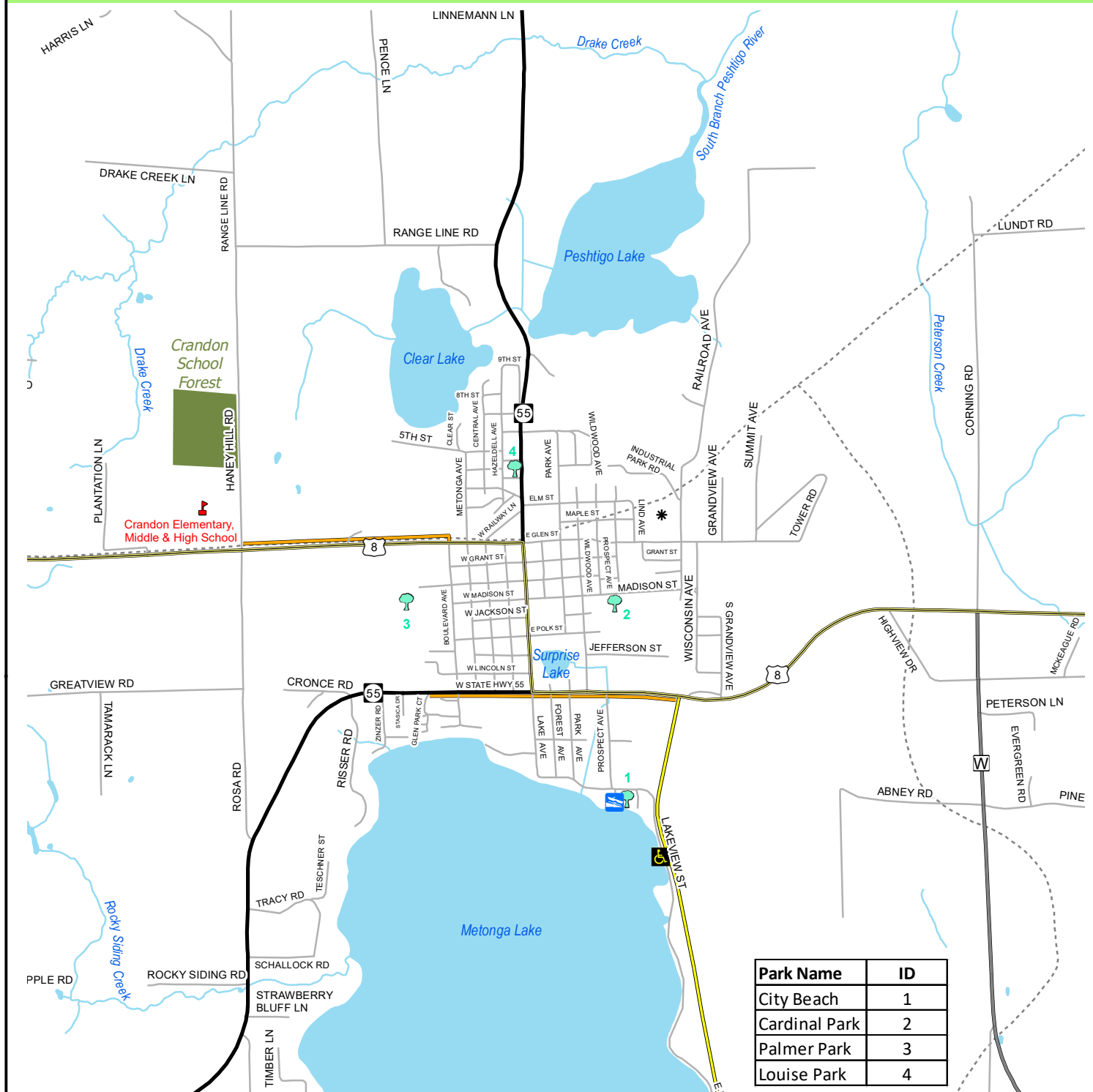
Source: 2010-2014 American Community Survey



Prepared By:















North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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Park Name	ID
City Beach	1
Cardinal Park	2
Palmer Park	3
Louise Park	4

Legend

-  US Highway
-  State Highways
-  County Highways
-  Local Roads
-  Water
-  Boat Access
-  City Parks
-  County Fairgrounds
-  Schools
-  Handicap Accessible Fishing Pier
-  School Forest Land
-  Wolf River State Trail
-  Bike / Ped Path
-  Snowmobile Trails



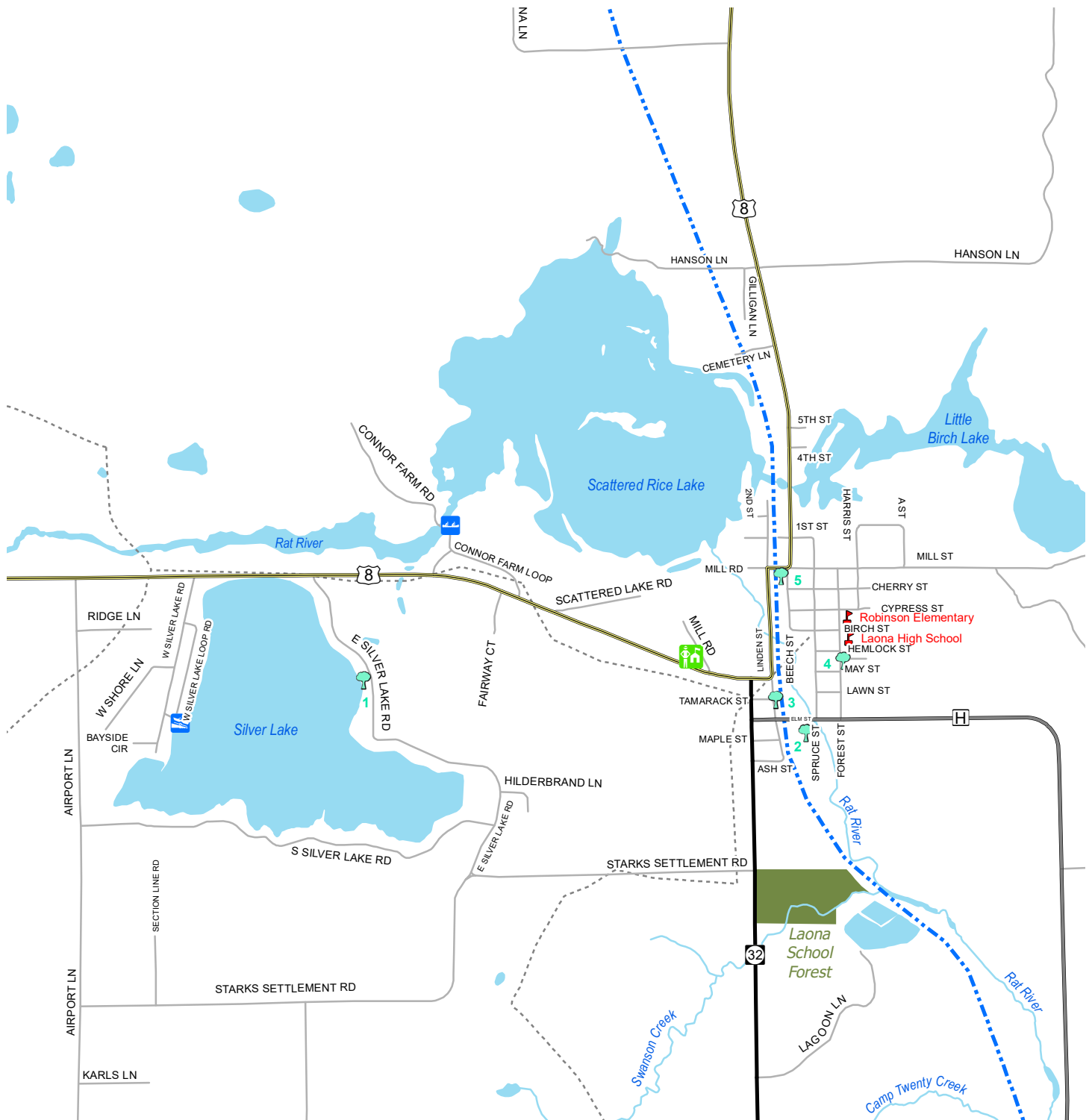
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




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Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey of the actual boundary of any property depicted. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.



Legend

-  US Highway
-  State Highways
-  County Highways
-  Local Roads
-  Water
-  Boat Access
-  Canoe Access
-  Town Parks
-  Schools
-  Ranger Station
-  School Forest Land
-  Nicolet State Trail
-  Snowmobile Trails

Park Name	ID
Silver Lake Park	1
Laona Baseball Field	2
Town Park	3
Football Field	4
Laona Town Park	5



0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 Miles



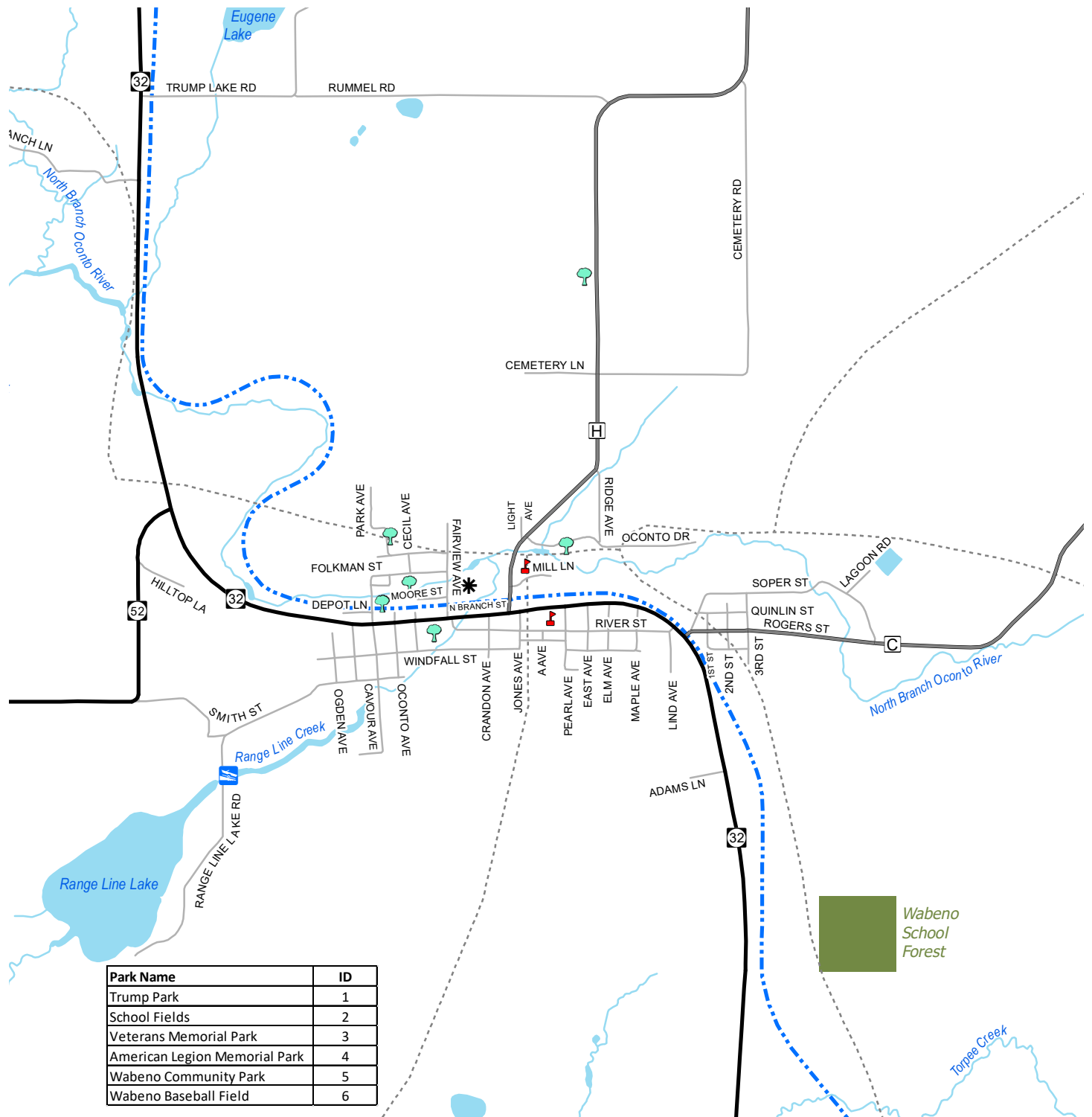
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Legend

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| US Highway | Boat Access | Nicolet State Trail |
| State Highways | Town Parks | Snowmobile Trails |
| County Highways | Schools | |
| Local Roads | Wabeno Fairgrounds | |
| Water | School Forest Land | |



0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 Miles



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Source: Wis DNR, NCWRPC

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Chapter 3

EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing outdoor recreational facilities in Forest County, which will focus primarily upon public facilities. Some private facilities will 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 Crandon, the school district properties, and town centers. In towns with low population densities and relatively low real estate valuation, there typically are no local outdoor recreation facilities. Since there are abundant outdoor recreation facilities located within Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest, then there is less demand for local governments to provide those similar types of facilities.

Existing recreation facilities are grouped under the following headings: Linear Facilities; Public Access Points to Water Bodies; Public Campgrounds, Points Of Interest; County Forest; City and Town Facilities; School District Facilities; State Facilities; Forested Lands – Not State or County Owned; Federal Facilities that are not already listed; and Private Outdoor Recreation Facilities.

TRAIL FACILITIES

Non-Motorized Trails

Forest County Forestry Department

- *Hemlock Lake Trail* – located one mile east and four miles south of Crandon off Hwy W on Hemlock Lake Road. Two miles of gentle and intermediate cross-country trails and parking are available.
- *Otter Springs Recreation Area* – located four miles east of Crandon on Otter Spring Road/Forest Road 2378. Trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking and horseback riding including a 1 1/4 mile loop, 3/4 mile loop for beginners, and an intermediate 3 mile loop. All trails are well groomed and marked. There is also a ski shelter, benches, fire pit and outdoor toilet.
- *Bradley Lake Trail* – There are three different trail sections to this system. One is located one mile south of Potawatomi Trail Road. Another is west of Lake Lucerne off Duff Road. This section includes the ATV trails (see ATV Trails of this section). The other is located west of County W on the west and east sides of Bradley Lake Road. These 12 miles of trails are used primarily for hunting and hiking.

Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest

In addition to designated trails, all logging roads and undesignated/unmarked trails within the Nicolet National Forest are open to non-motorized public use unless otherwise posted.

- *Ed's Lake Trail* – located on County Highway W between Wabeno and Crandon. Cross county ski trails include a 2.3 mile loop for beginners, and a 2.7 mile loop or 3.5 mile loop for intermediate skiers. All trails are groomed. There are also 6 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails in upland hardwoods.
- *Nicolet North Trail* – located 10.5 miles east of Eagle River on Forest Road 2460 to the trailhead. Cross-country ski trails include 13 miles of groomed trails with several loop options. In the summer months, these trails can be used for hiking and mountain biking. The Nicolet North Trail connects with the Anvil Trail.
- *Franklin Nature Lake Trail* – located 9 miles east of Eagle River on Forest Road 2181 to the campground and trailhead. This is a one mile interpretive loop trail that takes you through a tamarack swamp, hemlock cathedral, and 300-year old white pines.
- *Hidden Lakes Trail* – this is a thirteen mile trail which begins at Franklin Nature Lake Trail and eventually joins the Luna-White Deer Trail.
- *Knowles Creek Interpretive Trail* – located 9.5 miles east of Wabeno on Forest Road 3132. This is a one-third mile access interpretive trail which follows the north shore of North Creek impoundment. This is also a state designated Wildlife viewing area.
- *Halley Creek Bird Trail* – located five miles east of Blackwell on Forest Road 2103. It is a one mile loop trail with bird viewing opportunities in four different habitat types.
- *Michigan Rapids Trail* – located 3 miles north of Laona on Forest Road 2134. This is a two mile hike along the Peshtigo River to the rapids.
- *Argonne Forest Trail* – located 1.5 miles east of Hiles on Forest Road 2184. A self-guided loop trail gives a hiker a chance to learn more about the northern hardwoods and forest management. The trail features 17 stops along a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile path.
- *Scott Lake Trail and Shelp Lake Trail* – located on Forest Road 2183. The one-third mile Scott Lake Trail is located on the south side of 2183. The boardwalk to Shelp Lake is located on the north side of 2183. This walk will take you out over a floating bog.
- *Luna-White Deer Trail* – located off Divide Road to the Luna-White Deer Lake campground and trailhead. Hikers can park either at the White Pine swimming area or the boat ramp on Luna Lake.
- *Sevenmile Trail* – located seven and a half miles north of Hiles off Forest Road 2435 to Seven-Mile Lake Campground and trailhead.
- *Giant Pine Trail* – located two miles north of Hiles on off Forest Road 2414 to the trailhead. This is a 1.5 mile loop in the Headwaters Wilderness where white pines overtop the hardwood forest.
- *Bailey Lake Equestrian Trail* – trailhead is located off of Forest Road 3861. This trail is approximately 12 miles used as a designated horse trail. In the winter, parts of the trail are used for snowmobiling.
- *Quartz Hill Trail* – located in the southeast corner of Forest County. From Carter, take State Highway 32 south 1 mile. The parking area is on the west side of the highway. This trail has two sections; one on the east and a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile trail on the west side of State Highway 32. The east section leads across a boardwalk to the top of Quartz Hill.

Table 3		Trail Uses					
County Trails	Miles	Hiking	Mtn. Bike	X-C Ski	Horse	Interpretive	Difficulty
Hemlock Lake Trail	2	X	X	X			Easy
Otter Springs Trail	5	X	X	X	X		Easy - Moderate
Bradley Lake Trail	12	X	X	X	X		Easy

Nicolet Nat'l Trails	Miles	Hiking	Mtn. Bike	X-C Ski	Horse	Interpretive	Difficulty
Ed's Lake Trail	6	X	X	X			Easy - Difficult
Nicolet North Trail	15	X	X	X	X		Medium
Franklin Nature Lake	1	X				X	Easy
Hidden Lakes Trail	13	X					Medium
Knowles Creek Interpretive Trail	2/3	X				X	Easy
Halley Creek Bird Trail	1	X				X	Easy
Michigan Rapids Trail	2	X					Medium
Argonne Experimental Forest Trail	3/4	X				X	Medium
Scott Lake Trail and Shelp Lake Trail	1/2	X					Easy
Luna-White Deer Trail	4	X					Easy
Sevenmile Trail	2	X					Medium
Giant Pine Trail							
Bailey Lake Equestrian Trail	15	X			X		Easy
Quartz Hill Trail	1 1/4	X				X	Medium-Difficult

Source: USDA – Forest Service

ATV Trails

Forest County Forest ATV Trail

A two-way, looping, 8-mile trail is located on old logging roads on the Forest County Forest. This trail system is also open to motorcycles, snowmobiles, hikers, bikers, skiers, loggers, hunters and many other uses. The trail head is a paved parking area at the entrance to the trail system. Please be aware that many towns in Forest County have opened their town roads for ATV use as well. Please be sure that town roads are signed with the green and white “ATV Route” signs before riding your ATV on them.

Nicolet State Trail

The Nicolet State Trail is 32 miles of State funded snowmobile and ATV trail on abandoned railroad grade. The Nicolet State Trail is also open to hiking, biking, cross country skiing, dual sport motorcycles and horseback riding. The Nicolet State Trail connects to Florence County to the North and Oconto County to the South.

Wolf River State Trail

The Wolf River State Trail is open in Forest County and runs for 14.4 miles from the Forest/Langlade county line to Crandon.

Only use roads that are legally marked as ATV routes to leave the corridor. The Nicolet State and Wolf River State Trails are the only trails in Forest County that are currently open to both snowmobile and ATV. No other snowmobile trail in Forest County is open to ATV use at this time.

Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest (Forest)

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

- No off-road or off trail use allowed (implemented on June 14, 2004).
- New trail construction allowed for up to 100 miles of trail on the Chequamegon side, and up to 85 total miles on the Nicolet side.
- All roads and trails closed to ATV use unless identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).
- In general, most Forest Service trails and routes are closed to ATVs yearly from October 31 through April 30. The MVUM is updated yearly and list the operating season for all Forest Service trails and routes. Township designated roads are still open.
- No Intensive Use ("play areas") allowed on the Forest (Open 26 play area closed on June 14, 2004).
- Emergency closures can be issued locally where resources are being damaged or abused, or there are safety concerns.

All Forest Service roads open to ATV use are posted with signs, but the MVUM is the official source of trail and route information. Also, maps containing information on areas open to ATV use can also be obtained at Ranger District Offices.

Snowmobile Trails

Forest County has about 405.8 miles of groomed, state funded trails winding throughout the county. All trails link to both casinos and many hospitality businesses in Forest County. All trail maintenance is contracted to snowmobile clubs. The trail segments that exist within the County include:

- *100 Mile Snow Safari Trails* – 148.7 miles
- *Lumberjack Memorial Trails* – 94.1 miles
- *Three Lakes Trails* – 90 miles
- *Tombstone-Pickrel Trails* – 23.6 miles
- *Black Bear Sportsmen's Club* – 49.4 miles

Water Trails

A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. There are over 317 streams and rivers providing canoeists 710 miles of routes.

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.).

- *Brule River* – one route with a length of 18 miles (Brule Dam – STH 139 bridge).
- *Peshigo River* – four routes with different lengths: 7.5 miles (Big Joe Canoe Landing – CCC Bridge), 9.5 miles (CCC Bridge – Burnt Bridge), 5.75 miles (Burnt Bridge - Burton Wells), and 6.25 miles (Burton Wells – Goodman Park).
- *Pine River* – Two routes: 20 miles (FS Road 2182 near Haystack Corners – FS Road 2168) and 18 miles (FS Road – Chipmunk Rapids)
- *Popple River* – One route (Hwy 55 ten miles north of Argonne – Town of Popple River).
- *Wolf River* – Two routes: 10 miles (Pine Lake – Little Rice Lake Dam), and 15 miles (Little Rice Dam – Hwy B Bridge).

Rustic Road

Forest County has one rustic road. Rustic Road 34 is a combination of Fishel Rd, Cary Dam Rd, and Lakeview Dr near the intersection of STHs 70 and 55.

Auto Tours

Two driving tours exist within the Chequamegon–Nicolet National Forest. The Eagle River Self-Guided Natural History Auto Tour is an 80 mile auto tour that starts in Eagle River, travels through Oneida, Forest, and Vilas counties, and ends in Three Lakes. The Lakewood Auto Tour is a 65 mile auto tour in the south part of Forest County.

PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO WATER BODIES

Public Access sites on Forest County's lakes and streams are catalogued in the *Forest County Visitors Guide* under lakes and streams. Public access to waterbodies is ensured when land subdivision occurs by state statute. See the Implementation Strategies chapter for more details. Forest County and the City of Crandon each have one access point on Lake Metonga. All other access points in Forest County are maintained by the towns or USDA Forest Service.

PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS

Forest County

- *Forest County Veteran's Memorial Park* – 10 tent and 55 trailer spaces, electric hookups, dump station for RV's, one disabled accessible campsite, drinking water, sanitary facilities meeting ADA standards, beachhouse/restroom/shower facility, picnic facilities, two picnic shelters, grills, playground, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, basketball court, swimming beach, boating, boat landing, fishing, fishing pier, and a manager present. Firewood and ice are also available on site.

Tribally Owned

- *Sokaogon Chippewa Community Park* – 20 tent and trailer spaces, drinking water, picnic facilities, boating, boat landing, and fishing.

Chequamegon–Nicolet National Forest

- *Big Joe* – 3 primitive sites – fire rings, and vault toilet. (Note: This site is proposed for reduction. Future management will have only the three dispersed sites, the toilet is currently closed, and will be removed when funding allows.)
- *Bear Lake* – 27 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, picnic facilities, grills, hiking, swimming, boating, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Brule River* – 11 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, grills, fishing, and grocery store.
- *Franklin Lake* – 77 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, flush toilets, picnic facilities, shelter, grills, hiking, swimming, boating, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Laura Lake* – 41 tent and trailer space – drinking water, picnic facilities, grills, hiking, swimming, non-motorized boat restrictions, a five mile bike trail, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Ludington Lake* – 4 tent and trailer spaces – fire rings, vault toilet, swimming, boating, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Luna-White Deer Lake* – 37 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, picnic facilities, grills, hiking, non-motorized boat restrictions, swimming, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Pine Lake* – 12 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, picnic facilities, grills, swimming, boating, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Richardson Lake* – 26 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, picnic facilities, grills, swimming, boat landing, boating, and fishing.
- *Seven Mile Lake* – 27 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, grills, hiking, swimming, boating, boat landing, and fishing.
- *Stevens Lake* – 6 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, grills, boat landing, boating, and fishing.
- *Windsor Dam* – 8 tent and trailer spaces – drinking water, grills, hiking, canoeing, and fishing.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Forest County contains both historic and contemporary points of interest of cultural, aesthetic, recreational, and scientific importance.

Historic Buildings and Sites

Nine sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Forest County:

1. Minertown-Oneva, Town of Wabeno
2. Butternut-Franklin Lakes Archaeological District, Town of Hiles
3. Franklin Lake Campground, Town of Alvin
4. Camp Five Farmstead, Town of Laona
5. Chicago and North-Western Land Office, Town of Wabeno
6. Dinesen-Motzfeldt-Hettinger Log House, Town of Crandon
7. Armstrong Creek Bridge, Town of Armstrong Creek
8. Otter Spring House, Town of Lincoln
9. Butternut Lake Site, Forest County

Wisconsin's Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) lists 73 properties on it within Forest County.

- City of Crandon – 22 sites
- Town of Hiles – 17 sites
- Town of Armstrong Creek – 10 sites
- Town of Alvin – 5 sites
- Town of Blackwell – 5 sites
- Town of Laona – 4 sites
- Town of Lincoln – 4 sites
- Town of Wabeno – 3 sites
- Town of Argonne – 2 sites
- Town of Nashville – 1 site.

The Forest County Historical and Genealogical Society maintains extensive county historical records that are available to the general public.

Historical Markers

A state historical marker titled: **Northern Highland** is located on USH 8, 1.8 miles east of Crandon.

A state historical marker titled: **Battle of Mole Lake** is located on STH 55, in the center of Mole Lake.

A state historical marker titled: **Laona School Forest** is located on STH 32, 1 mile south of Laona.

Geologic Site

Forest County's topography, and geology are described on page 8 in Chapter 2 – Description of Forest County.

Sugar Bush Hill – Located three miles east of Crandon, this is one of the highest points in the State at 1,938 feet above sea level. This site is tribally owned.

COUNTY FOREST

The Forest County Forestry and Recreation Department manages 14,096 acres of county forest. This land is managed for multiple uses, and is independently certified as sustainably managed and harvested. Some of the county forest is closed to motorized vehicles. Examples of permitted recreational activities are hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, bough cutting (permit required), firewood collection (permit required), and wildlife observation. Refer to Map 2 for Forest County Forest Land.

COUNTY WILDLIFE AREA

The Bog Brook Wildlife Area was created by Forest County by constructing an earthen dam across Bog Brook Creek in 1962. The impoundment is about 490 acres and up to 6 feet deep, for the purpose of improving aquatic and terrestrial wildlife conditions.

See Attachment E for additional information.

CITY and TOWN FACILITIES

City of Crandon

Recreational opportunities that exist in the City of Crandon include:

- *City Beach* – The beach is located on Lake Metonga's north shore, on the city's south side. Facilities include a beach house, two boat launches with a pier at each, picnic area, playground, restrooms, shelter, swimming, and volleyball courts.
- *Palmer Park* – This park is located next to City Hall on the west side of city. Facilities include a small ice skating rink, a little league and softball field, basketball court, play equipment with safety surfacing, restroom, and a 0.6-mile bike path.
- *Peshigo Lake* – A boat landing is the only recreation facility at this location at this time
- *Cardinal Park* – This park has two little league fields, a basketball court, a volleyball court, two tennis courts, an ice rink with a warming house, playground, restrooms, two shelters, and hiking/nature/fitness trail.

- *Park Louise* – This undeveloped park is located on the north side of the city.
- *Forest County Fairgrounds (City of Crandon)* – Facilities include three buildings for displays, animal barn, horse arena, and restrooms.

Town Facilities

Various towns throughout Forest County maintain the following recreational facilities:

- *Argonne Town Park* – facilities include two ball fields, a covered pavilion that meets ADA standards, sanitary facilities, and a basketball court
- *Armstrong Creek Town Park* – facilities include a pavilion (meets ADA standards) with picnic tables, playground equipment, basketball court, and sanitary facilities.
- *Buchanan Recreation Area* (Town of Alvin) – facilities include shelter/storage, horseshoe pit, volleyball court, basketball, playground equipment, and nature trail
- *Town of Blackwell Park* – facilities at the Rat River location include a picnic area, an ATV trailhead with parking and ADA compliant privies.
- *Monte's Playground* (Town of Blackwell) – facilities include a playground, shelter, and 2 picnic tables. This land is approximately one acre and is adjacent to the Town Hall. These facilities do not meet ADA standards.
- *Rat River Recreational Trail* (Town of Blackwell) – this non-motorized trail has a limestone base and an ADA accessible privy.
- *Silver Lake Park* (Town of Laona) – facilities include a swimming beach, basketball court, two shelters with picnic tables, volleyball court, sanitary facility, benches, and grills.
- *Laona Town Park* – facilities include a picnic area and ice-skating area.
- *Town of Ross Park* – facilities include a baseball/softball field and a playground area.
- *Lake Van Zile Community Park* (Town of Ross) – facilities include a boat access, picnic area, sanitary facility, and swimming beach.
- *American Legion Park* (Town of Wabeno) – facilities include ADA restrooms, a barrier-free boardwalk and trail along the North Branch of the Oconto River with fishing piers, picnic area, playground, two shelters that meet ADA standards, playground equipment, basketball court, and tennis courts.
- *Trump Lake Park* (Town of Wabeno) – facilities include a boat access, picnic area, sanitary facility, shelter, and swimming beach.

- *Wabeno Fairgrounds* (Town of Wabeno) – facilities include a shelter.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Recreational opportunities in Forest County that are maintained by public schools.

Crandon School District – Facilities include a baseball/softball field, football field, playground, shelter, ice skating rink, and hiking/nature/fitness trail.

- Crandon School Forest, 10 acres, E1/2 NE1/4, S25 T36N R12E;
- Hovind Family School Forest, 40 acres, SE1/4 SE1/4, S28 T36N R12E;

Laona School District – Facilities include a baseball field, football field, and two tennis courts on the east side. The west side of the school provides playground equipment and basketball courts.

- Laona School Forest, 63 acres, N1/2 NW1/4, S6 T35N R15E;

Wabeno School District – Facilities include a baseball/softball field, football field, restrooms, shelter, ice skating area, and sledding.

- Wabeno School Forest, 40 acres, SE1/4 SW1/4, S16 T34N R15E.

STATE FACILITIES

State Wildlife Areas

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

The following wildlife areas are owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Department of Natural Resources. There is one federal wildlife area in Forest County:

Little Rice Wildlife Area located 6 miles northwest of Crandon, is a public hunting area that consists of 1,757 acres. Waterfowl, furbearers, deer, loons, bald eagles, and osprey inhabit the area.

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 Forest County. Each site was given a statewide identification (**No. #**) by the DNR:

Scott Lake and Shelp Lake SNA (No. 117) is 1,674 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T38N R12E).

Giant White Pine Grove SNA (No. 118) is 43 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T38N R12E)

Franklin and Butternut Lakes SNA (No. 119) is 1,548 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T40N R 12E).

Atkins Lake and Hiles Swamp SNA (No. 238) is 2,708 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T37N R11E & R12E).

Bastile Lake SNA (No. 302) is 156 acres located in the Town of Popple River.

McCaslin Mountain SNA (No. 307) is 408 acres located in the Town of Wabeno (T34N R16E).

Alvin Creek Headwaters SNA (No. 443) is 1,048 acres located in the Town of Alvin (T40N R13E).

Anvil Lake Trail SNA (No. 449) is 980 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T40N R11E & R12E).

Argonne Experimental Forest SNA (No. 441) is 1,125 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T38N R12E).

Camp 3 Lake SNA (No. 450) is 1,214 acres located in the Town of Laona (T36N R15E).

Crandon Ribbed Fen SNA (No. 590) is 96 acres located in the Town of Lincoln (T36N R13E).

Deer Mountain SNA (No. 455) is 2,089 acres located in the Town of Wabeno (T35N R16E).

Echo Lake SNA (No. 445) is 657 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T40N R11E & R12E).

Haymeadow Flowage SNA (No. 482) is 1,935 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T39N R12E).

North Otter Creek SNA (No. 448) is 724 acres located in the Town of Laona (T36N R14E).

Pat Shay Lake SNA (No. 446) is 736 acres located in the Town of Hiles (T39N R12E).

Rat Lake Swamp and Popple River Headwaters SNA (No. 444) is 2,517 acres located in the Town of Popple River (T38N-R14E, & T39N-R14E).

Wabikon Lake SNA (No. 447) is 1,105 acres located in the Town of Laona (T35N & T36N R14E).

Wilderness Areas are the federal version of the state natural areas program.

Headwaters Wilderness Area – Officially designated as a wilderness in 1984, this 18,000 plus acre wilderness is located 16 miles southeast of Eagle River, Wis. in Forest County. Portions of this area contain some of the largest and oldest trees in the forest. Kimball Creek, Shelp Lake and the Headwaters of the Pine River are major features within this Wilderness. The terrain is generally flat. Popular recreation uses in this Wilderness are hiking, bird-watching, hunting, fishing and studying nature.

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.

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) 4,019 acres are open to the public to hunt and fish, as of 2015.

There are 119,657 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program as of 2015. Of that 119,657 acres there are 85,985 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. Landowners may prohibit any activity associated with public use of open MFL land which may cause property damage (e.g. cutting trees, brush, building permanent blinds or tree stands, putting nails in trees). Temporary tree stands

and bait stations (where hunting regulations allow) are an accepted and allowable method of hunting conditional upon no damage to the property, including the tree. Access by motor vehicles or snowmobiles may be prohibited by the landowner on open as well as closed lands. Open MFL lands can be found on the DNR website at <http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/opfl/>. It is the responsibility of the user to know where they are and which land is open to the public.

FEDERAL FACILITIES

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest covers over half the land within Forest County. Extensive recreational opportunities within the Forest are described throughout the Existing Recreation Facilities chapter of this CORP.

PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Crandon International Off-Road Raceway – This 1.7-mile course is located on Highway 8 just one mile west of Crandon. Every Labor Day weekend, the raceway is used for the World Championship Off-Road Races, along with the Brush Run 101 held every year on the third weekend in June. Crowds can swell to over 60,000 people in one day of these events.

There is one private golf course in Forest County that is open to the public for a fee.

There are approximately 10 private campgrounds totaling 291 campsites in Forest County. All of these campgrounds are available for a fee to the public.

Chapter 4

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the county were identified by collecting public input, creating a county facility assessment, and reviewing past plans.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROJECTS COMPLETED FROM 2012-2016

Forest County

Veterans Memorial Park

1. Trees – Continue the tree-planting program
2. Pavilion Construction
3. Fire Rings – Continue to purchase fire rings for campsites for cooking and campfires.
4. Park Expansion – Consider development of 25 additional campsites within the existing campground and/or expand into the wooded area adjacent to the existing campground.
5. Pit Toilets – Replace four existing pit toilets with modern, ADA accessible facilities. (Completed)
6. Parking Areas – Increase size of parking areas. Stripe and organize existing parking areas to serve more vehicles. (Completed)
7. Borders/Fences – Replace existing fences and borders with boulders (maintenance free and aesthetically pleasing). (Completed)
8. Electric Service Pedestals – Upgrade existing power pedestals to each campsite for camper safety. Add additional power pedestals for expansion and high use occupancy. (Completed)
9. Playground Equipment – Add ADA accessible playground equipment and upgrade existing playground structures. (Completed)
10. Boat Parking – Designate an area adjacent to the tent camping area for parking and mooring boats and canoes. (Completed)

Town of Blackwell

- Two ADA compliant privies were added to Town parks.
- Seven miles of non-motorized trail were created, along with installing picnic tables, information kiosks, and benches.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Informal Public Input

In the regular course of business, Forestry/Parks Department staff have received public input about its parks, and forests.

Summary of Survey Responses

An overview of the outdoor recreation survey that was created for this CORP exists below. See **Attachment B** for a more detailed survey response summary.

NCWRPC mailed survey notices to each town, the City of Crandon; each library; and emailed or mailed survey notices to a whole list of outdoor recreation groups provided by Forestry/Parks Department.

We received 291 responses to the Survey. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had slightly smaller response groups. Also, if a question did not apply to a respondent, then the survey skipped them ahead to the next relevant question, which also provided smaller responses to some questions.

About 40% of respondents live or have a summer home in Forest County; most of the rest of the respondents probably are members of one of the recreation groups that receive the survey link.

Through an IP address analysis of who took the survey, and by reviewing survey responses, it appears that only a few people took the survey twice, 3 times, 4 times, or 5 times (could be husband and wife, and children/adult children). Responses appeared to be slightly different from these duplicate responses, so nobody appears to have “stuffed the ballot box.”

Almost 84% of the respondents were male (16% female), and they were heavily from the 45 to 54 age group (34%). Also from 35-44 age [21%], 55-64 age [19%], more than 64 [11%], and under 34 [15%].

Key Findings of the CORP Survey:

- The top recreational activities, in order, from respondents are:
 1. Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking 58%
 2. Snowmobiling 58%
 3. Walking/hiking 52%
 4. Fishing 52%
 5. ATV / UTV Riding 50%

- [Q4] About 54% of respondents don't camp, but of the remainder who do 20% say campgrounds are in good condition, 15% say improvements are needed, & 11% say more campground facilities are needed.

They also want to see (# of comments):

1. More rustic/northwoods camping sites (4);
 2. Better/more bathrooms/bath house [better restroom building upkeep] (10);
 3. Better campground upkeep (7);
 4. Electric hook ups (5); and
 5. Bear Lake shoreline erosion problem fixed (4).
- **Three big themes** to the comments were:
 1. Increase ATV / UTV trails (Q2 – 57 comments) and (Question 18 – 92 comments).
 2. Allow dual sport motorcycles on ATV trails (Q2 – 72 comments).
 3. Increase bicycle trails (Q2 – 67 comments) and (Question 24 – 58 comments).

Summary of Public Meeting Input

Local newspapers advertised the public meeting. Outdoor recreation groups were notified about the meeting by mailing them surveys to complete. Area residents were able to view a draft of the proposed plan on the Internet.

Comments from public meeting held at 3:45 p.m. on September 26, 2016:

- Pam LaBine, Land Conservation Department, suggested adding some capital improvements to the Bog Brook Wildlife Area.
- Sheryl Pethers provided the following email on Sept. 13, 2016:
 Congratulations to the town of Blackwell, and especially Jenny Henkel, for establishing 7 miles of non-motorized (hiking and biking) trails.

The plan mentions the Halley Bird Trail, which appears to have had not one wit of attention paid to it in many, many years. It is hardly a trail anymore, what with huge downed trees everywhere. I have hiked this trail for years, with each year getting more difficult. It is now impassable. Please do something about this. Or, take down the signs and stop advertising it and acting as if it exists. It does not. It is an embarrassment the way it is now.

Swimming and boating opportunities at Bear Lake are limited by an overgrown weedy "beach." It seems not to have had any maintenance this year.

Given the survey results showing ATV use at lower levels than other outdoor activities in the county, why is development of even more ATV trails at the top of the "to do" list? Sounds like inherent bias.

Thanks for all the work you do for Forest County. Really.

Sheryl Pethers 9/12/16

OTHER PLAN REFERENCES

Map 1 summarizes the location of DNR Land Legacy areas, potential DNR State Trails, and potential trails from the NCWRPC Regional Bike Plan that are all summarized under Past Plans in Chapter 1 of this CORP.

NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

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

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

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

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

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

Chapter 5

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing recreation and open-space goals and objectives from public participation.

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 Forest County's residents and visitors to the area.

The National Forest Service has specific goals and objectives for CNNF.

Goal 1

Protect, restore, and enhance Forest County's natural resources for outdoor recreation.

Objectives

1. Follow Best Management Practices for water quality and for invasive species control in development of trails and recreation facilities. This will maintain forest certification.
2. Cooperate with those who are implementing the Good Neighbor Authority to improve forest health on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.
3. Provide for a balance of legitimate recreational opportunities to a wide variety of diverse groups and reduce user conflict by keeping incompatible uses separate from one another while still protecting the natural resources of the county in a sustainable manner.

Goal 2

Continue to improve and develop Forest County's outdoor recreation facilities.

Objectives

1. Maintain and improve existing recreational facilities as outlined in 5-year capital improvement tables and as opportunities and funding sources become available.
2. Work with user groups to meet specific needs and desires for recreation on the Forest County Forest, or to connect to Forest County maintained facilities.
3. Continue planning and developing recreational facilities to accommodate the elderly and handicapped.

Chapter 6

RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The recommendations and capital improvements are based on the goals and objectives, and the public comment documented in Chapter 4-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.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

ATV / UTV / Dual Sport Motorcycle Trail Development and Enhancement

The County has a long history with off road vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). For over 40 years the Crandon International Off-Road Raceway has hosted the Brush Run Races and World Championship Races. The Crandon International Off-Road Raceway annually attracts thousands of motorized recreational enthusiasts to Forest County.

ATV & UTV trail use and the need for additional places for users to ride continues to increase. Regional development of routes and trails can connect communities to each other and provide a potential economic boost to the area.

This recommendation is to cooperate with various governments to review how to meet the needs of expanding ATV / UTV / Dual Sport Motorcycle trail use by possibly developing additional riding opportunities within Forest County, and to provide full consideration to connecting privately developed recreation sites or trails to the public trail system.

Scenic Byways

Established in 1999, the Scenic Byways Program represents a cooperative effort between the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and local community groups to conserve, promote and enhance some of our most scenic and historic state highway corridors.

To qualify as a scenic byway, a roadway must be part of a federal, state, or county highway that is not an interstate highway; and must be at least 30-miles long that offers travelers outstanding scenic views or historic resources combined with unique recreational, cultural or other educational opportunities. Some of the benefits include promotion as a state or national Scenic Byway, and associated prestige for obtaining the designation.

This recommendation is to finish establishing a Scenic Byway in Forest County and then to create a tourism campaign that highlights each of the communities along the Scenic Byway. As of this CORP's update, the scenic byway under consideration consisted of a figure 8 of highways (See Attachment A).

Wolf River State Trail Trailhead

Develop a trailhead for the Wolf River State Trail in the City of Crandon. The trail head would include a paved parking area, picnic area with tables and a shower/restroom facility.

Biking/Hiking Trail Development

Develop a hiking-biking trail near the City of Crandon in three separate phases. Phase one connects the Crandon School District to the City of Crandon by developing a surfaced trail adjacent to U.S. Hwy 8. Phase two proceeds through the City of Crandon connecting to the Forest County Potawatomi Community Health and Wellness Center by developing a surfaced trail adjacent to U.S. Hwy 8. Phase three connects the City of Crandon to Mole Lake and the Mole Lake Casino Lodge and Conference Center by developing a surfaced trail adjacent to County Hwy S and U.S. Hwy 55.

COUNTY FOREST LANDS RECOMMENDATIONS

Non-Motorized Use

While there are trails available, consideration needs to be given to making all or a portion of the trails more multi-use year-round facilities. Better trail designation with signs, and trail maintenance of hiking, biking, horseback riding and x-ski trails, will allow more users to enjoy the trails.

Motorized Use

The Forest County Forestry Committee has determined that there is sufficient use of the county forest by designated snowmobile and ATV trails. If local snowmobile or ATV clubs develop new trail adjacent to county forest land, full consideration will be given to develop links or connecting trails across county forest land provided these trails are part of the state funded snowmobile or ATV programs.

Otter Springs

The headwaters of the Otter Creek is a natural springs where two pipes are exposed from the ground and covered by an 8'X8' log spring house. This spring house was placed on the Federal and State Registry of Historic Places list, but is deteriorating due to weathering. The County should consider cooperatively working with the Potawatomi Community in pursuing grant money to restore this shelter.

County Fairgrounds

The County should consider relocation of the fairgrounds. The current site does not provide growth/expansion and is not very visible to the public.

TOWN RECOMMENDATIONS

Each town created the following lists of recommendations for their communities:

TOWN OF BLACKWELL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop pavilion at trailhead.
- Create and post trail wayfinding signs within the Town to find the trailhead.
- Install fishing piers and river walk on new land purchased (17 acres) along the Rat River.

TOWN OF WABENO RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build new bathroom with shower at the Wabeno Fairgrounds.
- Replace the North Branch of the Oconto River bridge on Cavour Street (trout stream improvement project).

COUNTY FACILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2017–2021

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

What is projected to occur from 2017-2021?

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

Veterans Memorial Park

1. Trees – Continue the tree-planting program using either bare rootstock or containerized trees to provide shade as well as sight and sound barriers. This project could be an annual project of 50-100 trees per year.
2. Fire Rings – Continue to purchase fire rings for campsites for cooking and campfires. This could be an annual project of 10-15 rings per year.
3. Playground Equipment – Add ADA accessible playground equipment and continually upgrade existing playground structures.
4. Beach Expansion and Restoration
5. Park expansion – consider development of 25 additional campsites by expanding into the wooded area adjacent to the existing campground.
6. Construct additional pavilions.

Bog Brook Wildlife Area

1. Upgrade pier over dam inlet to become handicapped accessible, and have a beaver screen added.
2. Create an ADA walkway over the spillway.

Mountain Bike Trails

- Develop mountain bike trails in: Otter Springs Recreation Area, and the Forest County Forest ATV Trail (between lakes Metonga and Lucerne).

Chapter 7

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

There are a number of different strategies available for the implementation of this plan. This includes securing funds to carry out the five year planning program 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 D provides a list of state and federal government financial assistance programs.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Shoreland Zoning

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

Park Dedication

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

Use of Easements

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

Leases

Leases may be used as measures to use or protect land until more permanent measures may be found. By leasing parcels of land, the land remains on the 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.

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.

Program Costs

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

Capital Improvements

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

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

Monetary Aid Programs

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

The Stewardship Fund is a comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of several older aid programs such as LAWCON and Local Park Aids, combined with new programs, such as the Urban Rivers Program.

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

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

Attachment D provides a list of state and federal government financial assistance programs.

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

Future Planning

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

Lifetime Activities

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

Winter Activities

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

Snowmobile/ATV Routes

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

Specialized Facilities

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

Municipal and School District Cooperation

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

Senior Citizen Involvement

Involve senior citizens in community park development and beautification and provide recreational facilities for their use. Although senior citizens often compose a significant proportion of the total community's population, they are often neglected in recreational planning. Benches placed near neighborhood parks and play areas and non-intensive sports facilities such as horseshoe pits located in community parks help to provide a place for the senior citizens. Small, passive use parks and 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.

Community Beautification

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

Adopt-A-Park Program

This could be established by a local government to encourage local groups to adopt-a-park or trail segment for routine maintenance like cutting grass or grading a trail. The group could provide volunteers to maintain the recreational facility, which would allow the local government to focus on providing major capital improvements.

Chapter 8

PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING

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

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

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

Process:

1. Forest County Forestry and Parks Committee reviews plan and takes a vote on what changes to make.
2. Those changes and a copy of the meeting minutes are forwarded to the DNR's Community Financial Assistance staff in Rhinelander. Submission of the minutes and changes automatically constitutes DNR grant eligibility for those changes.

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

The review process includes surveying the local units of government, outdoor recreation groups, and the general public about what their needs are regarding outdoor recreation such as:

1. What improvements are needed to existing facilities?
2. What new facilities are necessary to satisfy demand?
3. Which potential projects fulfill this demand?

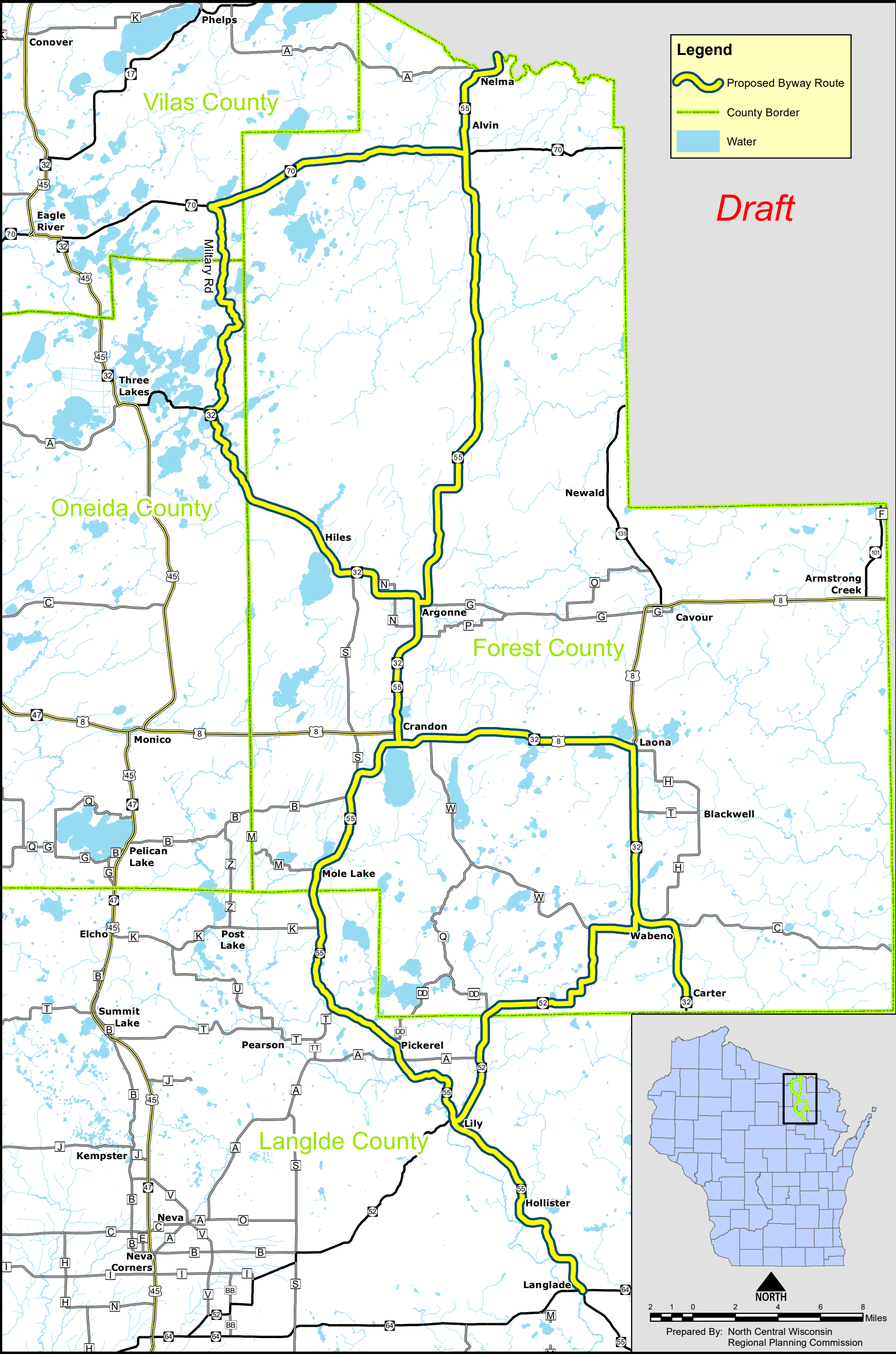
The Forest County Forestry and Parks Committee will review information collected from surveys, and evaluate the need for proposed projects based on standards and Goals & Objectives as outlined in this plan.

Submission of 1) the revised plan, and 2) the County Board resolution approving the plan, to the DNR is the final step to extending the CORP for another 5 years. DNR approval of the CORP will come if the correct process was followed.

ATTACHMENT A

DRAFT Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway Route

From: NCWRPC



ATTACHMENT B

Outdoor Recreation Online Survey Results

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Forest County CORP Survey

Response Summary

Forest County Outdoor Recreation...

Summary

Design Survey

Collect Responses

Analyze Results

DESIGN SUMMARY



Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey
Created on 3/3/2016

✓ Questions: 33, Pages: 27

✓ Survey language: English

✓ Theme: Aqua

No logo added



✓ Logic added

Edit Design

Preview Survey

RESPONSE SUMMARY

🔔 SURVEY ALERTS: OFF

291

Total Responses

CLOSED

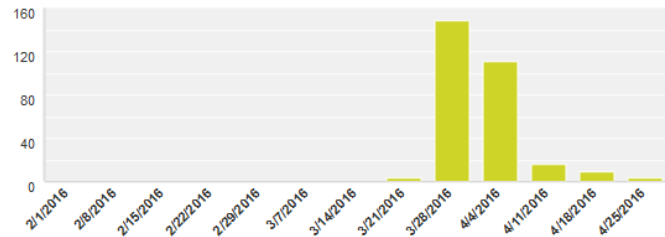
Overall Survey Status

Collectors

🔗 Web Link NCWRPC site	Responses: 1	Since 3/3/2016	CLOSED
📘 Facebook Library	Responses: 0	Since 3/3/2016	CLOSED
🔗 Web Link Forestry Dept	Responses: 3	Since 3/3/2016	CLOSED
🔗 Web Link Town	Responses: 16	Since 3/8/2016	CLOSED
📘 Facebook CITY	Responses: 0	Since 3/21/2016	CLOSED
📘 Facebook Tribes	Responses: 0	Since 4/1/2016	CLOSED
📘 Facebook Rec Groups	Responses: 271	Since 4/1/2016	CLOSED

Responses Volume

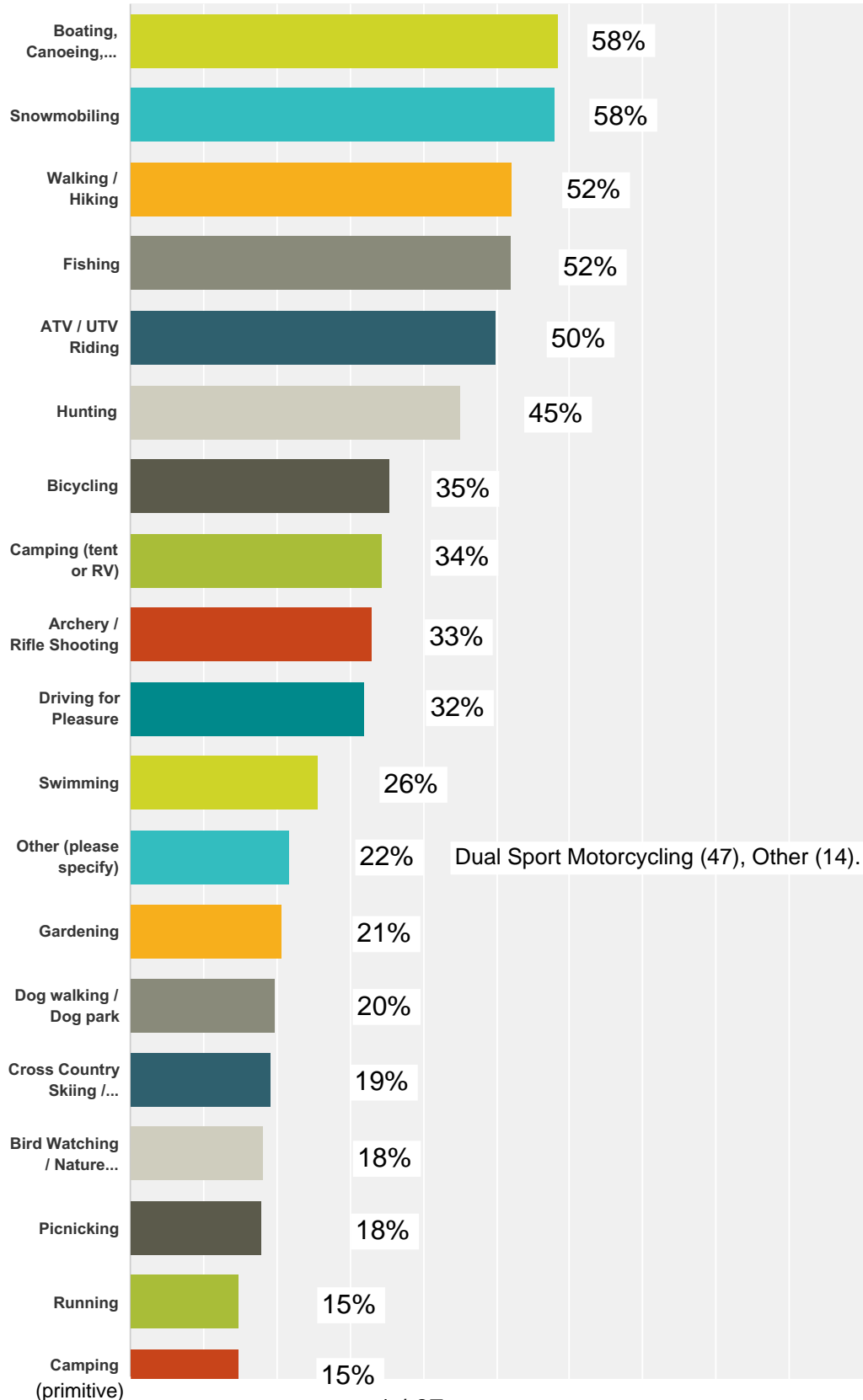
2/1/2016 - 4/25/2016



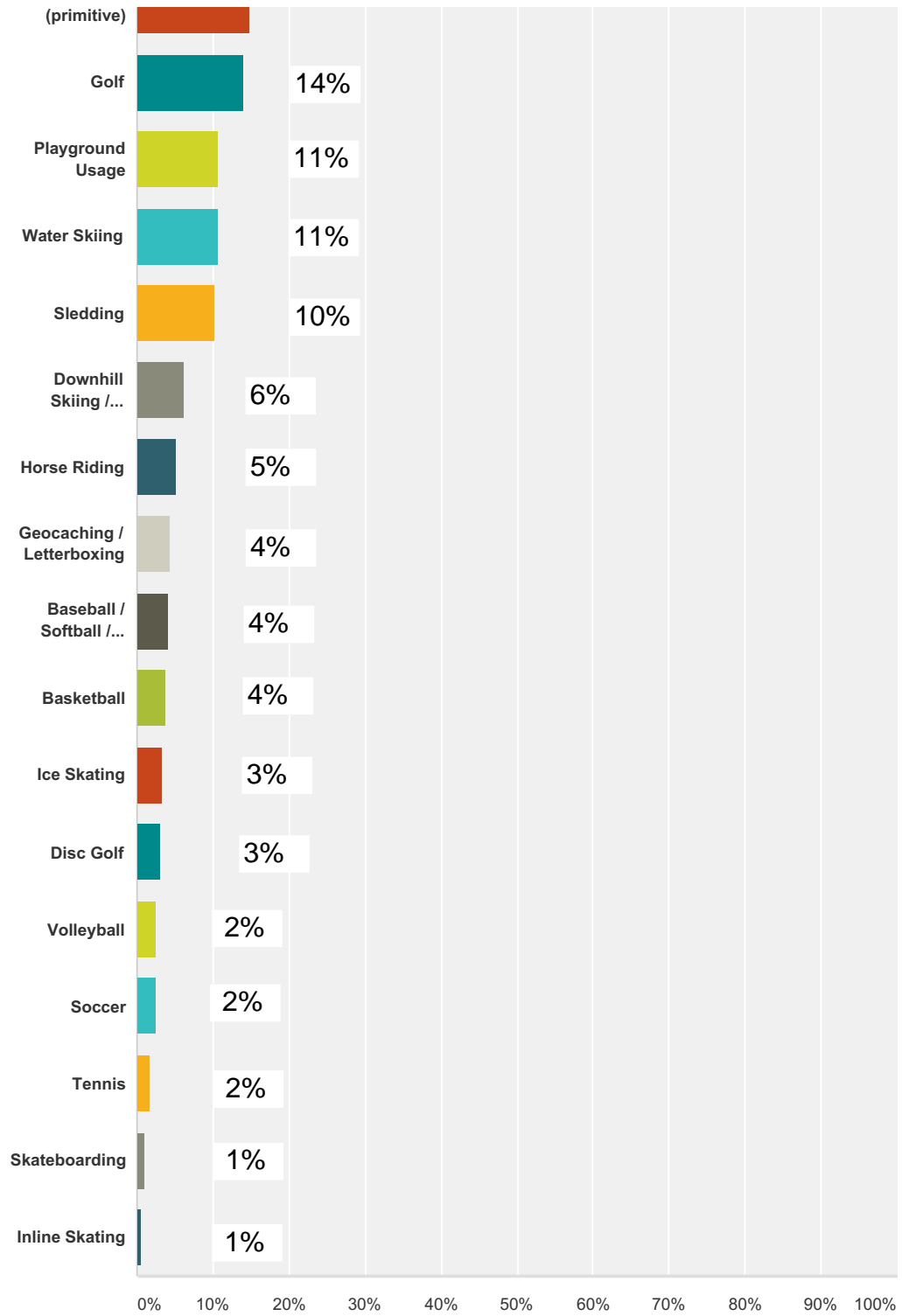
Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q1 Which recreational activities did you participate in during 2015? (Choose all that apply.)

Answered: 291 Skipped: 0



Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey



Answer Choices	Responses	
Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking	58.42%	170
Snowmobiling	58.08%	169
Walking / Hiking	52.23%	152
Fishing	51.89%	151

Q2 What potential outdoor recreational opportunities should be developed?

Answered: 204 Skipped: 87

Increase ATV/UTV trails – 57 responses

Better trails
Less road routes

Increase Off-road Motorcycle trails – 72 responses

Allow off-road motorcycles to access ATV trails
Want the ability to register and ride dirt bikes on ATV trails

Increase Bicycling trails – 67 responses

Mountain biking

Increase Snowmobile trails – 44 responses

Mountain biking

More hiking trails – 21 responses

More cross country skiing trails – 10 responses

More snowshoe trails – 6 responses

Better deer management – 4 responses

Other Comments:

- We have some of the best grouse and woodcock hunting in the state. Publicize and bring more revenue to the area, like the Park Falls area does.
- Open additional Forest Roads to motorized Rec. vehicles.
- Provide silence and sense of wilderness by keeping ATVs, snowmobiles, & trucks off more NF trails; silent sports seem to be a last priority for NFS.

Q3 Where in Forest County did you go for outdoor recreation in 2015?

Answered: 291 Skipped: 0

Various lakes or rivers in Forest County (specifics identified) – 87 responses

Crandon area – 25 responses

Wabeno/Carter area – 15 responses

Laona area – 8 responses

Snowmobile trails – 54 responses

ATV trails – 29 responses

Bear 100 Bike Race – 10 responses

100 miler – 10 responses

LMT trails – 7 responses

100 mile snow safari – 12 responses

Nicolet National Forest – 20 responses

County Forest/hunting – 10 responses

Otter Springs – 8 responses

Otter Creek Trails – 3 responses

Wolf River Trail – 6 responses

Nicolet Trail – 6 responses

Rat River Rec. Trail – 3 responses

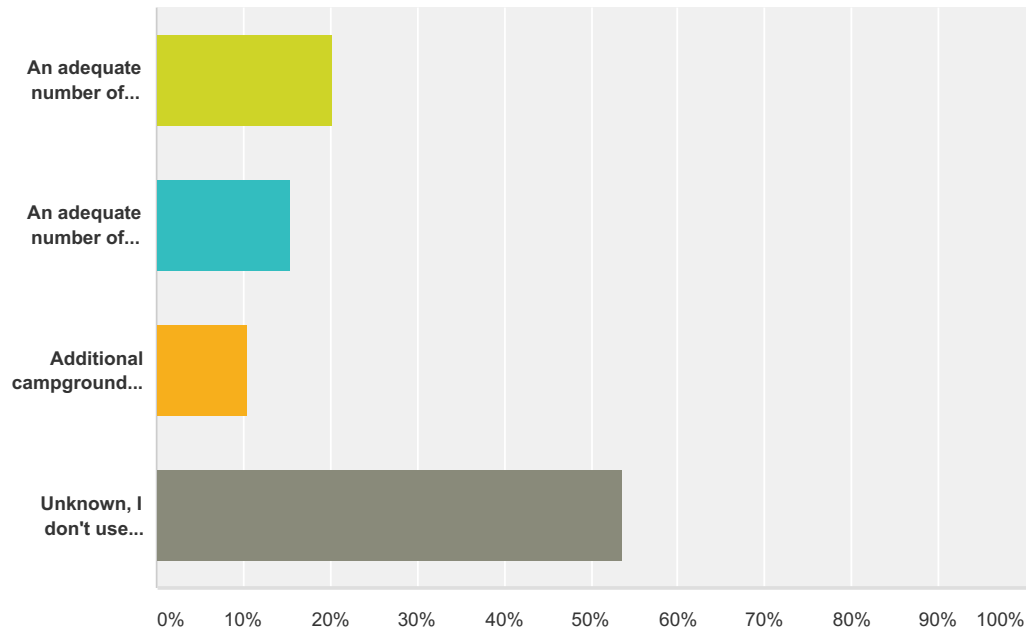
Cross country skiing/snowshoeing – 8 responses

Walking/hiking trails – 8 responses

Not in 2015 – 27 responses

Q4 Regarding campgrounds in FOREST COUNTY, do you think that... (Choose one.)

Answered: 285 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses	
An adequate number of campground facilities exist, and they are in good condition.	20.35%	58
An adequate number of campground facilities exist, but improvements are needed.	15.44%	44
Additional campground facilities are needed.	10.53%	30
Unknown, I don't use campgrounds.	53.68%	153
Total		285

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q5 What improvements are needed at campgrounds in FOREST COUNTY? (Please identify location and improvements needed.)

Answered: 33 Skipped: 258

#	Responses	Date
1	Electricity and hot water	4/23/2016 8:30 AM
2	Just general maintance	4/11/2016 12:41 PM
3	Bigger rev spots	4/10/2016 10:25 AM
4	Better bath houses	4/8/2016 12:09 PM
5	electricity	4/7/2016 3:56 PM
6	showers!!!	4/6/2016 9:36 PM
7	Adequate water, clean restrooms, bike only campsite(s)	4/6/2016 6:50 PM
8	Better upkeep of bathroom facilities and garbage pickup. Better replacement of beach sand from erosion	4/6/2016 6:21 PM
9	more primitive sites	4/6/2016 11:59 AM
10	bathroom maintenance	4/5/2016 2:26 PM
11	More sites with electric hookups	4/4/2016 1:11 PM
12	Better facilities	4/3/2016 8:14 AM
13	Develope, not closures	4/2/2016 10:07 PM
14	Beach areas need more cleaning and more seaweed removed put in showers and better bathrooms	4/2/2016 6:35 PM
15	Better showers & toilets	4/2/2016 5:00 PM
16	Power and hook ups	4/2/2016 12:51 PM
17	Elect and sewer	4/2/2016 10:15 AM
18	Restrooms	4/2/2016 10:07 AM
19	Cleaner facilities	4/2/2016 8:55 AM
20	More of them	4/2/2016 8:38 AM
21	more trash removal,road maintenance,and get ATV trails in to them	4/2/2016 8:11 AM
22	Bathrooms	4/2/2016 7:08 AM
23	More northwoodsy	4/1/2016 8:01 PM
24	More rustic camping	4/1/2016 6:12 PM
25	More rustic camping sites	4/1/2016 6:08 PM
26	Maintance and grounds keeping. Other then veterans memorial	4/1/2016 5:53 PM
27	Property maintenance. And updates to water and toilets.	4/1/2016 5:30 PM
28	Better bathrooms	4/1/2016 5:23 PM
29	strengthen shoreline to prevent erosion; clean-up fire rings	3/31/2016 7:28 AM
30	upkeep on steps around sites boat landings	3/28/2016 4:11 PM
31	Bear Lake - Erosion issues in campground down to the lake.	3/28/2016 8:40 AM
32	Shoreline erosion control-Bear Lake campgrounds	3/26/2016 8:06 PM
33	Beach improvement at Bear Lake	3/25/2016 11:02 AM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

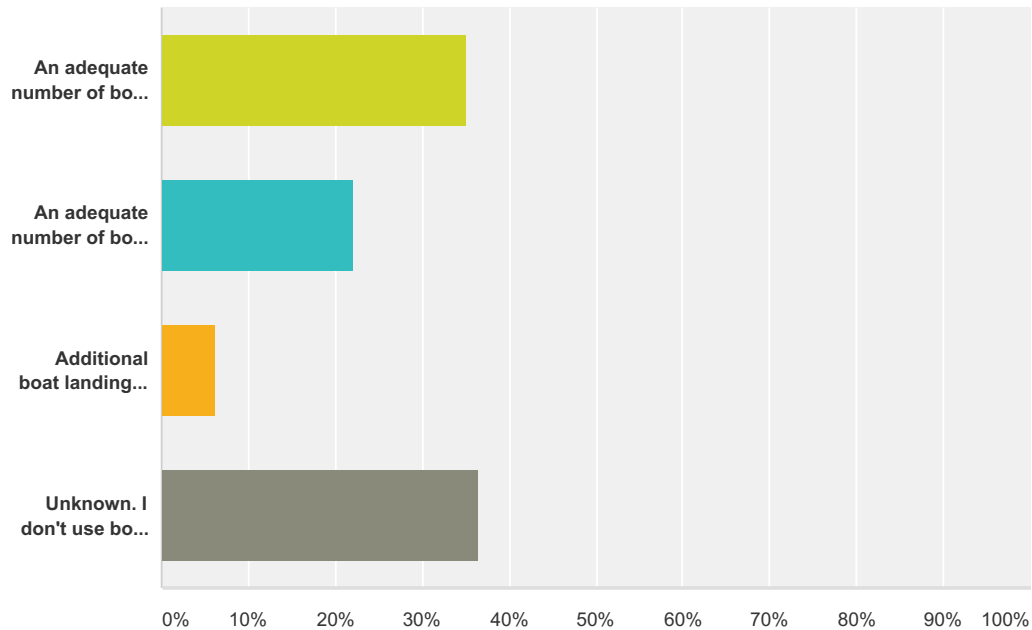
Q6 Where are additional campground facilities needed in FOREST COUNTY, OR what procedures should change that may be limiting camping?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 270

#	Responses	Date
1	Nicolet National Forest.	4/22/2016 11:11 PM
2	We need more campgrounds near Mole Lake and also near Crandon	4/11/2016 9:11 AM
3	Campgrounds could be developed on county forest land. Many potential campers do not necessarily want water, only a northwoods experience. Off lake type campgrounds with hiking and wildlife watching trails would be heavily utilized.	4/9/2016 2:57 PM
4	Campgrounds could be located on county forest lands proximal to area lakes or woodland areas.	4/9/2016 11:56 AM
5	Anywherr	4/7/2016 11:33 AM
6	Pickerel, Townsend	4/7/2016 8:50 AM
7	I think there could be more campgrounds along the local rivers like Peshtigo River. I also believe there are some camp sites that have been discontinued but still would be used if they were once again kept up.	4/5/2016 1:32 PM
8	Wabeno area more places to camp	4/5/2016 10:02 AM
9	forest and surrounding counties	4/5/2016 8:11 AM
10	I don't know	4/4/2016 4:52 AM
11	Showers	4/3/2016 8:00 PM
12	Just more campgrounds overall	4/2/2016 10:12 PM
13	additonal sites in the woods	4/2/2016 8:32 PM
14	north of crandon	4/2/2016 3:40 PM
15	Wabeno	4/2/2016 11:11 AM
16	Camping is needed in conjunction with atv/ motorcycle trails. Development of dedicated single track motorcycle trails with camping brings economic development	4/2/2016 7:24 AM
17	More shower houses and camp ground shoshone available for motorcyclists access to trails	4/1/2016 11:51 PM
18	Dunbar	4/1/2016 10:23 PM
19	Not exactly sure. However while I was working in Crandon area I had multiple people ask if there was camping nearby. To my knowledge there was not. Lost tourist revenue.	4/1/2016 7:28 PM
20	do not know of any good campgrounds in forest county, we go to vilas or oneida county for good camping.	4/1/2016 5:50 PM
21	Laona area needs more campgrounds	4/1/2016 5:38 PM

Q7 Regarding public boat landings and water access, do you think that... (Choose one.)

Answered: 276 Skipped: 15



Answer Choices	Responses	
An adequate number of boat landings exist, and they are in good condition.	35.14%	97
An adequate number of boat landings exist, but improvements are needed.	22.10%	61
Additional boat landings are needed.	6.16%	17
Unknown. I don't use boat landings or water access points.	36.59%	101
Total		276

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q8 What improvements are needed at public boat landings? (Please identify locations and improvements needed.)

Answered: 53 Skipped: 238

#	Responses	Date
1	They need to be deeper @ Lake Hilbert	4/29/2016 2:46 PM
2	better boat launch areas.	4/23/2016 8:31 AM
3	Sanitationnn..Trash bins. Toilets.	4/22/2016 11:12 PM
4	Docks	4/19/2016 10:11 AM
5	The dam launch at Matonga is Too shallow to launch a bigger boat	4/18/2016 9:47 PM
6	Ramps could be a little deeper so motors and/or trailers do no drag	4/13/2016 8:19 AM
7	General maintenance to docks and landings	4/11/2016 12:42 PM
8	repave, parking room.	4/11/2016 12:24 PM
9	More volunteers checking for Invasive Species, and more piers for launching/parking boats on Lake Metonga	4/11/2016 9:13 AM
10	docks to walk out on	4/11/2016 8:32 AM
11	Full time wash downs, more parking, better docks	4/10/2016 10:26 AM
12	Sorry - I mostly fish in Langlade county	4/8/2016 12:07 PM
13	Parking, docks	4/8/2016 11:42 AM
14	Bathroom facilities, limit parking spaces so lake does not get too crowded.	4/7/2016 1:42 PM
15	wash stations	4/7/2016 8:50 AM
16	More docks	4/6/2016 8:26 PM
17	Better ramps and cleaner toilets	4/6/2016 2:23 PM
18	docks should be installed where possible	4/6/2016 11:59 AM
19	Roberts Lake is adequate	4/6/2016 10:14 AM
20	There is no dock at Trump Lake boat landing. Kind of hard on the boat to pull it up onto the rocks and sand when launching.	4/5/2016 5:19 PM
21	They need to be updated each year depending on the highs and lows of the water level. Also there are some local lakes that don't have a landing and one would be used if there were.	4/5/2016 1:33 PM
22	better places to get in to	4/5/2016 10:03 AM
23	Docks conditions and condition of launch area around them. Metonga & flowage	4/4/2016 12:37 PM
24	ramp access at water level for trailer to back-in or pull boat out	4/4/2016 11:24 AM
25	Better parking for sure at some.	4/4/2016 10:09 AM
26	on smaller lakes they need better access at the launch	4/4/2016 9:33 AM
27	a few washouts	4/4/2016 8:25 AM
28	larger parking facilities	4/4/2016 7:53 AM
29	silver lake landing needs improvement	4/4/2016 7:45 AM
30	NO MORE FEES	4/3/2016 8:36 PM
31	Silver Lake boat landing could use a bigger pier and it is in serious need of leveling	4/3/2016 8:56 AM
32	Better landings with docking	4/3/2016 8:15 AM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

33	Better turnarounds better docking system's bigger parking	4/2/2016 6:38 PM
34	The boat launches on many area lakes are inadequate and the potential for damage to boats exists. An example of a decent landing is on Lily Lake and the north end of Lake Metonga. Examples of poor landings are Jungle Lake, Arbutus Lake, Little Sand Lake, Pickerel Lake. All of these landings could use a nice dock or two for launching boats, perhaps a deeper launch area with a concrete pad.	4/2/2016 1:35 PM
35	Arbutus lake landing needs improvement	4/2/2016 11:26 AM
36	Need to be manned	4/2/2016 10:15 AM
37	More	4/2/2016 9:30 AM
38	Easier access/ better parking	4/2/2016 9:19 AM
39	More locations maybe	4/2/2016 9:04 AM
40	Smoother and deeper and more parking	4/2/2016 7:38 AM
41	Wabikan lake	4/1/2016 7:45 PM
42	many need repairs	4/1/2016 6:38 PM
43	Concrete launches to prevent washouts from power-loading	4/1/2016 6:22 PM
44	Walcom boat landing find Johnny's Resort pretty bad shape	4/1/2016 6:13 PM
45	Silver lake launch... A lot of power loading there	4/1/2016 6:04 PM
46	Lengthen a few docks.	4/1/2016 5:58 PM
47	Launches need to Be better marked	4/1/2016 5:53 PM
48	Boat launches on Pickerel are erosion	4/1/2016 5:43 PM
49	Dock upgrades so that people in wheel chairs can wheel on the dock. So the docks are level with the surface that leads up to dock. Maybe better parking,more spots where available.	4/1/2016 5:32 PM
50	The ones on Pickerel need attention. They heavily used. Precast Slabs interlocked would be perfect	4/1/2016 5:25 PM
51	Better upkeep and more regulation on invasive species	4/1/2016 5:22 PM
52	Better docks	4/1/2016 4:45 PM
53	made easier to drive in and out the metal grate should be in the water more on bear lk	3/28/2016 4:15 PM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

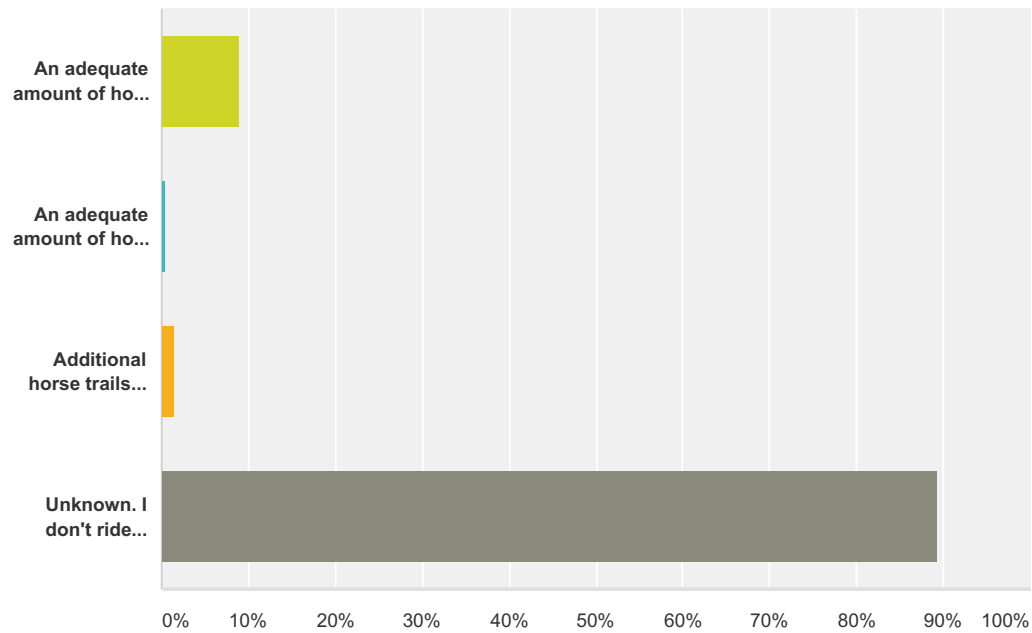
Q9 Where are additional boat landings or access points needed in FOREST COUNTY?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 281

#	Responses	Date
1	NA	4/7/2016 6:32 PM
2	Roberts Lake Access Points and parking for Kayaking the Ruvers	4/7/2016 5:46 PM
3	too many to list	4/6/2016 6:17 PM
4	On the lakes	4/4/2016 8:29 PM
5	Metonga	4/4/2016 2:01 PM
6	Where ever they currently do not exist so the public has access to all lakes as much as possible. A parking area at Silver would be appreciated .	4/4/2016 6:22 AM
7	Pickereel lake	4/2/2016 9:59 PM
8	lake matonga, lake lacerne	4/2/2016 8:33 PM
9	All over	4/2/2016 6:00 PM
10	Northern Forest Co.	4/2/2016 7:07 AM

Q10 Regarding equestrian (horse) trails, do you think that... (Choose one.)

Answered: 214 Skipped: 77



Answer Choices	Responses	
An adequate amount of horse trails exist, and are in good condition.	8.88%	19
An adequate amount of horse trails exist, but improvements are needed.	0.47%	1
Additional horse trails or connections are needed.	1.40%	3
Unknown. I don't ride horses on trails.	89.25%	191
Total		214

Q11 What horse trail improvements are needed? (Please identify locations and improvements needed.)

Answered: 0 Skipped: 291

#	Responses	Date
	There are no responses.	

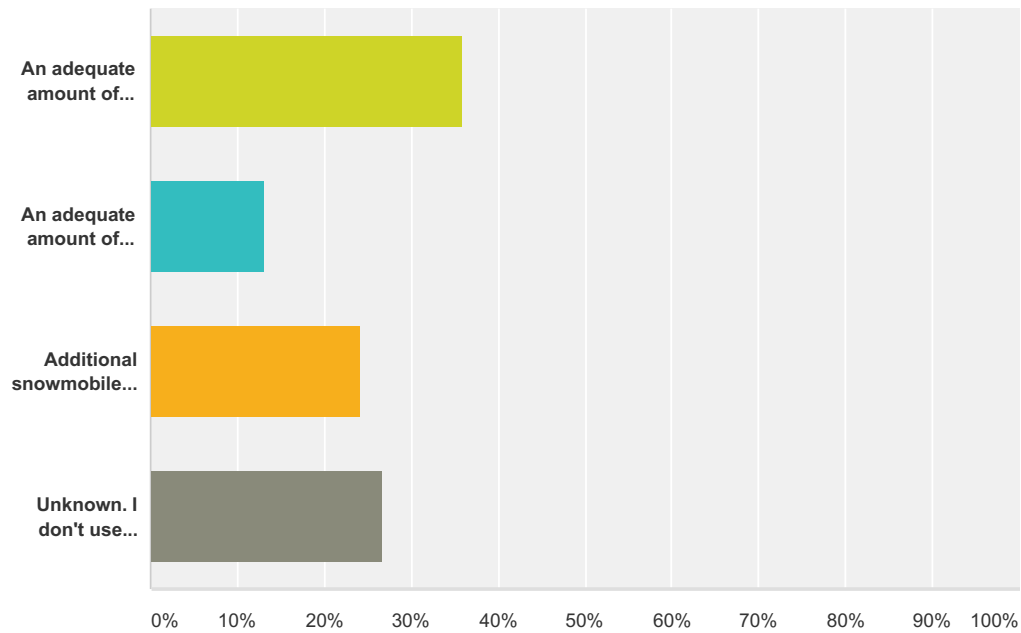
**Q12 Where are additional horse trails
needed in FOREST COUNTY?**

Answered: 3 Skipped: 288

#	Responses	Date
1	Connections are needed, just look at an Atv map.	4/8/2016 10:33 AM
2	Trails are needed without the worries of the ATV flying by and scaring the horses	4/6/2016 6:23 PM
3	All over	4/2/2016 8:39 AM

Q13 Regarding snowmobile trails, do you think that... (Choose one.)

Answered: 273 Skipped: 18



Answer Choices	Responses	
An adequate amount of snowmobile trails exist, and are in good condition.	35.90%	98
An adequate amount of snowmobile trails exist, but improvements are needed.	13.19%	36
Additional snowmobile trails or connections are needed.	24.18%	66
Unknown. I don't use snowmobiles on trails.	26.74%	73
Total		273

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q14 What snowmobile trail improvements are needed? (Please identify locations and improvements needed.)

Answered: 32 Skipped: 259

#	Responses	Date
1	open east/west rr grade to Crandon	4/27/2016 2:16 AM
2	better connectivity and trails along Chitko road. Also need to clean up areas where large rock pose a hazard.	4/23/2016 8:32 AM
3	more trail marking on entire system	4/14/2016 2:45 PM
4	More trails, better grooming	4/13/2016 11:07 AM
5	Sometimes the logging operations ruin the trail	4/11/2016 1:03 PM
6	The snowmobile trail south of Armstrong Creek is all road. It would be nice to get in in the woods even for some of the way.	4/8/2016 11:43 AM
7	better signage on upcoming corners ahead.	4/8/2016 11:20 AM
8	Better marking. Bars signs and small burgs are great, but if you're not local, they're useless. Corridor signage is better for those of us passing through.	4/7/2016 11:35 AM
9	Trail opening and closing, grooming times.	4/7/2016 8:51 AM
10	Better grooming needs to be done during heavy traffic weekends	4/6/2016 6:24 PM
11	Better from hotel in Crandon.	4/6/2016 7:00 AM
12	More funding for groomers/clubs	4/6/2016 6:55 AM
13	Although I am unable to use snowmobiles due to my health I have heard from friends and family members that a lot of the trails are not wide enough or that they are not groomed correctly. I believe there is always room for expansion as well as new development of trails.	4/5/2016 1:35 PM
14	To not plow the area of roads that are designated snowmobile routes.	4/5/2016 1:19 PM
15	all over Forest county	4/5/2016 10:03 AM
16	I do not like ridding on pavement.	4/4/2016 8:30 PM
17	Need to have less trails that follow roads in the Hiles area, the plows take them right down to the blacktop. The snowmobile clubs try to leave snow along the edge but the town plows it off. My feeling is the people working for the town have no respect for snowmobiles.	4/4/2016 7:05 PM
18	wider	4/4/2016 2:02 PM
19	We have to cross alot of roadways and in weal snow periods it's hard on snowmobile euioement	4/4/2016 11:25 AM
20	better signage	4/4/2016 11:10 AM
21	on the LMT trails, the Forest county map and intersections signs do not match. at intersections it is very confusing.	4/4/2016 9:34 AM
22	they needed more snow this year! j/k they were a little rough this year but it was a bad year all around...	4/4/2016 8:26 AM
23	more signage	4/4/2016 7:32 AM
24	Need more funding to have people to improve trails and get paid for far as The hundred miler the LMT and Redball	4/2/2016 6:41 PM
25	Less road designation more groomed trail passage! And communication between snow plow operators and clubs!!!!	4/2/2016 12:27 PM
26	100 miler trails	4/2/2016 10:16 AM
27	a better description of where the trail goes to. Bar or town and miles	4/2/2016 10:00 AM
28	Designated roads for snowmobile trails should remain un-plowed! For example: Grass Lake Rd., Jungle Lake Rd., and Jones Ln. Snowmobile trail LMT3	4/2/2016 9:24 AM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

29	Improved maps especially at post lake. Improved signage. More investment into grooming and Maintenance of the trail in general. The county should contribute in addition to the clubs because the businesses and county benefit from the trails as well	4/1/2016 6:38 PM
30	More grooming. More signs.	4/1/2016 5:59 PM
31	New bridge needed on trail going west out of Crandon, north side of hwy 8 about 1 1/2 mile before Oneida county line, existing bridge is too narrow for grooming equipment and creates a rough and dangerous condition. Trail between Hiles & Argonne needs to be brushed better and widened in many areas, too many blind spots! Helmet slapping brush in multiple areas! Trail from Argonne to Newald has same issues as the aforementioned. Efforts should be explored to improve trail access going to Hiles, both East & West directions. Trail runs on road for over 1 mile in both directions. Consider widening road bed to at least accommodate some snow. eg 100 mile trail along road west of Wibacon Lake near Johnnie's resort. Reroute South trail going into Armstrong Creek, same reasons, way too much road running! These type of conditions are dangerous for riders and hard on equipment. If you want more snowmobile money make riders feel same and welcome! Find a way to reopen the trail from Mole Lake to Hwy 8 trail west of Crandon. Positive the dead end trail drastically reduces snowmobile traffic to Mole Lake Casino.	4/1/2016 5:46 PM
32	Pre-grade trails to fill in ruts.	4/1/2016 5:33 PM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q15 Where are additional snowmobile trails needed in FOREST COUNTY?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 232

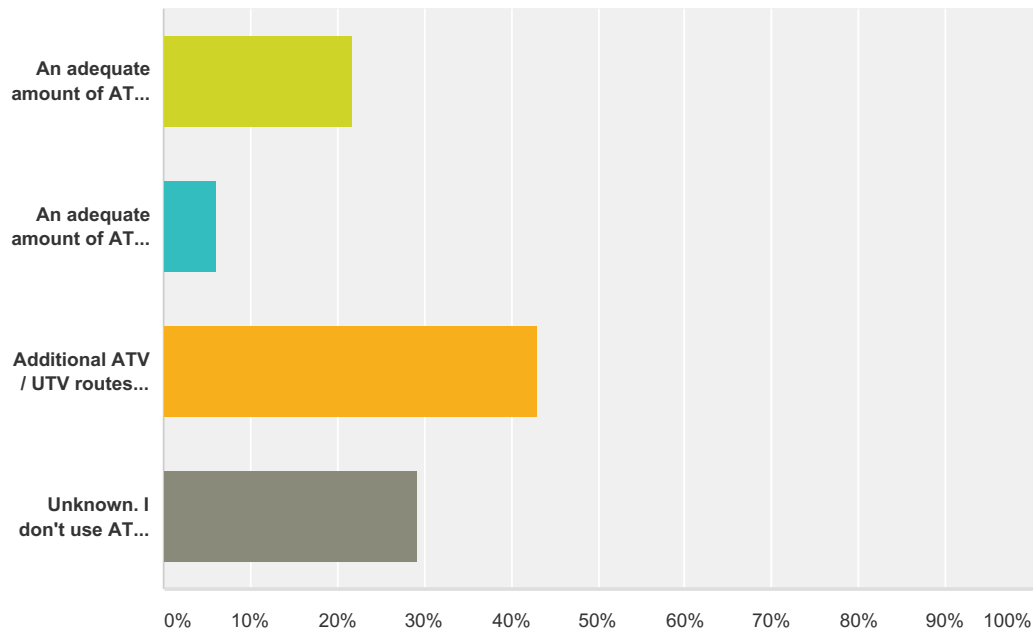
#	Responses	Date
1	ARMSTRONG CREEK. Poor links (trail on roads) South of Armstrong on Old 101 (Bridge over Creek removed ...places miles of trail on paved road. Terrible link East to Goodman (miles on Hyw 8). Hurts business.	4/22/2016 11:18 PM
2	All over	4/22/2016 8:58 PM
3	North and eastern part a of county	4/19/2016 10:12 AM
4	All over	4/15/2016 11:38 AM
5	More trails thru the woods.	4/11/2016 3:28 PM
6	would like more connector trails in the eastern half of the county	4/11/2016 12:25 PM
7	West to east corridors	4/10/2016 10:27 AM
8	Every where	4/8/2016 9:36 PM
9	Any additional trails would be great. Maybe more on the north end of the county.	4/8/2016 12:11 PM
10	Forest county does a great job maintaining their trails. Therefore we enjoy riding there. Any additional trails would be a bonus!	4/8/2016 12:09 PM
11	More forest roads should be marked for riding	4/7/2016 7:55 PM
12	NA	4/7/2016 6:33 PM
13	EVERYWHERE!	4/7/2016 1:43 PM
14	more loops in northern portion of county between grade and Argonne area	4/6/2016 9:37 PM
15	all over	4/6/2016 6:17 PM
16	Between Crandon to the north.	4/6/2016 2:24 PM
17	IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE LESS TRAILS LOCATED ON ROADWAYS AND MORE IN THE WOODED AREAS	4/6/2016 8:06 AM
18	All over	4/6/2016 7:53 AM
19	There is a loop that goes from Wabeno to Armstrong Creek but no cut off trails in between.	4/5/2016 5:21 PM
20	CRANDON MOLE LAKE ARGONNE CRANDON RAIL ROAD	4/5/2016 4:48 PM
21	Southeastern area of the county	4/4/2016 8:25 PM
22	northern part of forest county	4/4/2016 8:18 PM
23	Around Hiles	4/4/2016 8:07 PM
24	West and north toward Dunbar and Armstrong creek areas	4/4/2016 7:24 PM
25	everywhere	4/4/2016 6:38 PM
26	Nicolet National Forest	4/4/2016 1:41 PM
27	Need snow left on the fire roads	4/4/2016 11:50 AM
28	I don't have a map in front of me.	4/4/2016 11:22 AM
29	anywhere	4/4/2016 9:36 AM
30	to east to Marinette co	4/4/2016 7:53 AM
31	There are many north and south trails, could use more east and west trails. More connections off the rail grades are needed. LMT 7 needs to be re-routed to avoid swamp by Laona.	4/4/2016 7:47 AM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

32	North of Newald/Argonne trail to Alvin/Nelma area at the north end. Also west of the Nicolet State Trail to Vilas co. at the west side.This is a huge area that needs connectors. Also Unused RR grades like the Goodman grade would be another trail possibility.	4/4/2016 6:29 AM
33	Everywhere	4/3/2016 10:29 AM
34	Northern half of the county	4/3/2016 9:25 AM
35	Don't know	4/3/2016 7:48 AM
36	Surprize me	4/2/2016 10:08 PM
37	easier access to marinette trail system	4/2/2016 4:29 PM
38	Southern and western area	4/2/2016 4:17 PM
39	All over	4/2/2016 3:55 PM
40	Expand snowmobile trail access.	4/2/2016 12:10 PM
41	Wabeno north	4/2/2016 11:12 AM
42	We need additional trail loops as longer distances are ridden with the new and better touring sleds today.	4/2/2016 10:11 AM
43	Where the current ones run roads that the plow clean for no reason	4/2/2016 10:09 AM
44	Another east/west connection in the north part of county.	4/2/2016 10:00 AM
45	In the forest	4/2/2016 9:04 AM
46	all over	4/2/2016 8:13 AM
47	I seldom ride in forest county because of lack of trails open to atv	4/2/2016 7:27 AM
48	Northern Forest Co. Argonne, Alvin, area	4/2/2016 7:09 AM
49	Better connections in and around crandon to prevent from having to ride directly through town.	4/2/2016 2:22 AM
50	Armstrong and Wabeno	4/1/2016 10:34 PM
51	North	4/1/2016 7:35 PM
52	Around (not through) the City of Crandon, connecting Crandon to Mole Lake	4/1/2016 6:24 PM
53	Better marked trails.	4/1/2016 6:01 PM
54	In the northern part of the county.	4/1/2016 5:48 PM
55	Needs to have trails to bypass crandon.	4/1/2016 5:44 PM
56	North of Crandon	4/1/2016 5:40 PM
57	Between Crandon and Rhinelander	4/1/2016 5:39 PM
58	Any place that is possible easter access to lake Metonga and lake Lucern	4/1/2016 5:24 PM
59	East west connection from Newald to Three lakes area. East west connection from Armstrong Cr area to Laona area	4/1/2016 4:47 PM

**Q16 Regarding ATV / UTV routes and trails,
do you think that... (Choose one.)**

Answered: 267 Skipped: 24



Answer Choices	Responses	
An adequate amount of ATV / UTV routes and trails exist, and are in good condition.	21.72%	58
An adequate amount of ATV / UTV routes and trails exist, but improvements are needed.	5.99%	16
Additional ATV / UTV routes, trails, or connections are needed.	43.07%	115
Unknown. I don't use ATVs / UTVs beyond my property.	29.21%	78
Total		267

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q17 What ATV / UTV trail or route improvements are needed? (Please identify locations and improvements needed.)

Answered: 13 Skipped: 278

#	Responses	Date
1	better signage and dust control along with better law enforcement in towns [10mph]	4/15/2016 10:16 AM
2	Crandon trailhead	4/10/2016 10:28 AM
3	More grooming throughout	4/7/2016 7:56 PM
4	Better signage	4/4/2016 11:10 AM
5	Always like to see more trails through the forests. Not talking about road routes, plenty of those already.	4/4/2016 10:10 AM
6	more signage	4/4/2016 7:33 AM
7	More and improved signage would be helpful.	4/2/2016 7:43 PM
8	Need more of them	4/2/2016 3:55 PM
9	Not familiar with forest county	4/2/2016 6:25 AM
10	Authorized use of off highway motorcycles on atv trails	4/2/2016 12:57 AM
11	Need more trails	4/1/2016 8:20 PM
12	North though woods	4/1/2016 7:36 PM
13	I would like to see less on the road pavement and more dirt trails	4/1/2016 3:47 PM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q18 Where are additional ATV / UTV routes or trails needed in FOREST COUNTY?

Answered: 92 Skipped: 199

#	Responses	Date
1	More connections where ATV routes get off the roads.	4/23/2016 8:33 AM
2	See snowmobile issues previous.	4/22/2016 11:19 PM
3	All over	4/22/2016 8:58 PM
4	Laona to Crandon	4/19/2016 10:13 AM
5	To go from mudslingers to johnnys	4/15/2016 11:39 AM
6	Not nearly enough compared to other areas	4/13/2016 11:07 AM
7	Needed all over. We need to get off the paved roads and more trails off road.	4/11/2016 3:30 PM
8	everywhere!! When we ride in Forest County a majority of the trails are roads and we would like more riding "through the woods"	4/11/2016 8:33 AM
9	There is a need for more convenient connectioning trails to and from all the communities in the county.	4/9/2016 2:59 PM
10	Every where	4/8/2016 9:37 PM
11	wabeno area	4/8/2016 3:14 PM
12	More is always better	4/8/2016 12:09 PM
13	through the Armstrong Creek township. Now they are mostly roads.	4/8/2016 11:44 AM
14	Armstrong Creek area. Would be better off the gravel roads, and in the woods. Go for a ride in Florence and Marinette, they do it right!!!	4/8/2016 10:49 AM
15	ARMSTRONG CREEK Private land owners, Federal land, and swamps make it very hard to get to A/C.	4/8/2016 10:37 AM
16	Don't know forest county very good	4/8/2016 9:40 AM
17	TO SCHOOL ALSO CONNECTION TO CURRENT ATV FROM TOWN DIFFICULT TO ACCESS FROM TOWN STAYING OFF HWY	4/8/2016 9:32 AM
18	Off road motorcycle single track trails	4/7/2016 6:10 PM
19	EVERYWHERE!	4/7/2016 1:43 PM
20	townsend, carter,	4/7/2016 8:51 AM
21	throughout the county	4/6/2016 9:38 PM
22	all over	4/6/2016 6:17 PM
23	Throughout the county and have these trails open to Dual Sport Motorcycles	4/6/2016 2:24 PM
24	I'D LIKE TO SEE ALTERNATIVES TO HAVING TO RIDE THE RAILROAD GRADES. MORE TRAILS IN WOODED AREAS	4/6/2016 8:07 AM
25	All over	4/6/2016 7:53 AM
26	ARGONNE HILES	4/5/2016 4:49 PM
27	I belive there is always room for improvement and redevelopment on these trails. There are areas that end up in dead ends and they should all be able to connect to other trails in the system. For the most part that seems to be the biggest problem.	4/5/2016 1:37 PM
28	all over the county	4/5/2016 10:03 AM
29	more than just rail road grades	4/4/2016 9:27 PM
30	Eagle River, Phelps and Conover area	4/4/2016 8:26 PM
31	all of forest county	4/4/2016 8:18 PM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

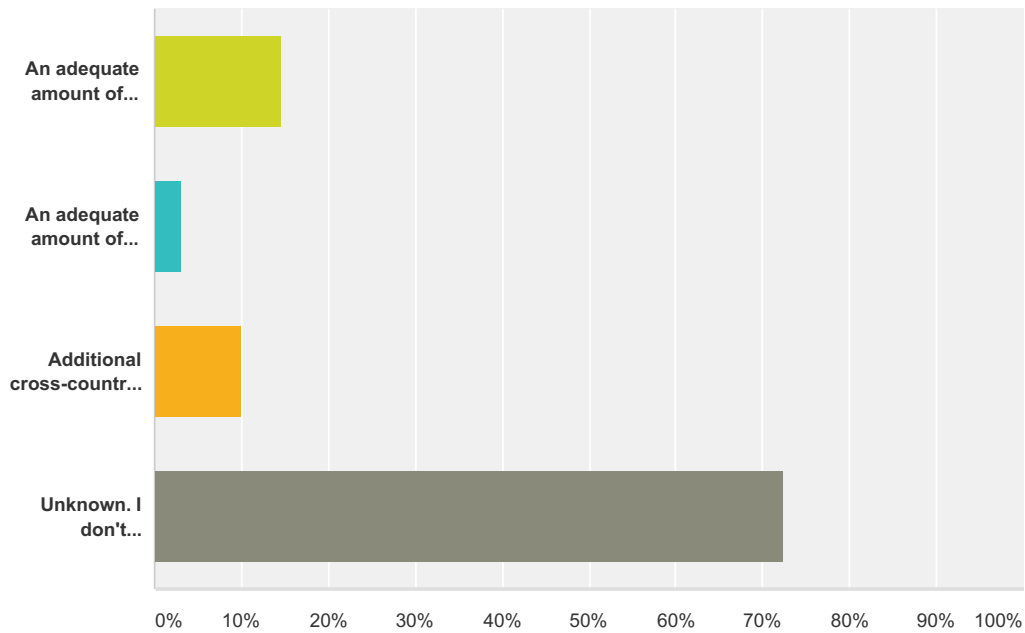
32	Around Hiles	4/4/2016 8:08 PM
33	There needs to be a legal way to get from Scott Lake rd to Double Bend, not on HWY 55. There is also a link up along HWY 70 that needs to have a legal route. I feel that in early spring that all ATV routes should be closed, not just the gates closed on the NST.	4/4/2016 7:12 PM
34	throughout county	4/4/2016 2:03 PM
35	Nicolet National Forest	4/4/2016 1:41 PM
36	Near Crandon, Laona, Wabeno	4/4/2016 1:13 PM
37	connections to west are non-existing. along hwy 55 near lake Metonga. you have to trailer 1/4 mile to legally access trails in Crandon	4/4/2016 9:36 AM
38	anywhere	4/4/2016 9:36 AM
39	Northern portion, connection to UP trails and better connection to Florence/Marinette co trails	4/4/2016 8:13 AM
40	more trails to east and west	4/4/2016 7:54 AM
41	more "off road" routes are needed	4/4/2016 7:48 AM
42	Would like to see more off road trails	4/4/2016 7:09 AM
43	Through the beautiful public forests. Spreading out the atv usage over many more open miles of trail lessens the impact on any one area. It also lessens the offenders who venture where they should not be. Allow ATVS where the snowmobiles ride during the winter would be a good start for improving tourism in Forest Co.	4/4/2016 6:34 AM
44	All over	4/4/2016 4:53 AM
45	From hiles to crandon. Crandon to race track to monico. From crandon to Argonne.	4/3/2016 12:49 PM
46	You need to be able to get to crandon to get fuel	4/3/2016 10:30 AM
47	Laona	4/3/2016 8:57 AM
48	Hiles, Argonne Newald ares	4/3/2016 8:17 AM
49	Everywhere	4/3/2016 8:17 AM
50	Don't know	4/3/2016 7:48 AM
51	Connections to other counties to the West and North.	4/2/2016 10:22 PM
52	Forest county is huge. More trails branching off to various places along the trail	4/2/2016 10:13 PM
53	This is a growing sport, lets stay on top of it.	4/2/2016 10:09 PM
54	expand existing trails	4/2/2016 7:44 PM
55	South of wabeno in freedom	4/2/2016 6:43 PM
56	Need to connect to lower trails n open up road ways for use also..	4/2/2016 6:01 PM
57	On DD and other county road	4/2/2016 5:25 PM
58	everywhere	4/2/2016 3:41 PM
59	As long as motorcycles are allowed on them, the more the merrier!	4/2/2016 2:15 PM
60	work with Florence Cty. and get a more direct route from Armstrong Creek to Fence	4/2/2016 12:57 PM
61	Expand use of trails to include off highway motorcycle access. Additional off highway motorcycle single track trails.	4/2/2016 12:11 PM
62	Almost the whole county. Never enough	4/2/2016 10:09 AM
63	Cavour to Hiles is hard to connect on the trail	4/2/2016 10:04 AM
64	You can always use more! MORE SINGLE TRACK MOTORCYCLE TRAILS!!!!	4/2/2016 9:31 AM
65	In the woods	4/2/2016 9:04 AM
66	As much as possible in my opinion	4/2/2016 8:57 AM
67	all over	4/2/2016 8:13 AM
68	Trails through forest, to much road trails	4/2/2016 7:40 AM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

69	The trails near my family's cottage on Lucerne don't connect to other systems. Riding long distance and to gas, food, bars, scenic locations, campgrounds etc are needed. Underused location could be used as single track motorcycle riding area if landlocked.	4/2/2016 7:33 AM
70	Northern Forest. Alvin , Nelma, - connecting routes	4/2/2016 7:10 AM
71	Opening up more connecting routes and trails since the ATV network in the Northwoods is growing fast.	4/2/2016 2:24 AM
72	Off highway motorcycling trails need to be allowed/developed	4/1/2016 11:52 PM
73	More than just a a old rail road grade and some roads that you can only go so far on and better mapping of Forrest County.	4/1/2016 11:35 PM
74	Anywhere that is available	4/1/2016 11:11 PM
75	Not sure where. Open them more for off road motorcycles	4/1/2016 10:33 PM
76	More woods trails are needed. To many road trails.	4/1/2016 10:24 PM
77	More connectors to adjacent county an up. trail systems	4/1/2016 8:36 PM
78	Too many "routes" exist along roads (unsafe for younger riders) - trails through wooded areas needed	4/1/2016 6:25 PM
79	All over	4/1/2016 6:10 PM
80	would be nice to access fence and armstrong creek	4/1/2016 6:09 PM
81	I would like to see more trails all over the county	4/1/2016 6:02 PM
82	Would be nice to see more road routes and in town routes.	4/1/2016 6:00 PM
83	Maybe more trails through the woods, or an atv park?	4/1/2016 5:57 PM
84	More access to the City of Crandon and other townships	4/1/2016 5:54 PM
85	The entire county. Would be nice if the snowmobile trails were ATV trails in the summer like Florence county.	4/1/2016 5:51 PM
86	Route / Trail connections required: A. Between Scott Lake road and Double Bend Road along Hwy 55 B. Between Pine River road and Long lade road along Hwy 55 C. Between Windsor Dam Road and Cary Dam road along Hwy 70. D. Develop a route trail from Lake Hilbert to Armstrong Creek, that does not require going all the way to Goodman!	4/1/2016 5:47 PM
87	From pickerel to wa be no. From wabikon lake to laona	4/1/2016 5:45 PM
88	near Crandon	4/1/2016 5:40 PM
89	We need more connecting trails to surrounding areas and less road riding. More trails through the woods....	4/1/2016 5:34 PM
90	Better marked trails	4/1/2016 5:27 PM
91	More in forest county we ride alot in oconto and would like more connection trails	4/1/2016 5:25 PM
92	Connections to adjoining counties to Forest	3/26/2016 8:07 PM

Q19 Regarding cross-country ski trails, do you think that... (Choose one.)

Answered: 261 Skipped: 30



Answer Choices	Responses	
An adequate amount of cross-country ski trails exist, and are in good condition.	14.56%	38
An adequate amount of cross-country ski trails exist, but improvements are needed.	3.07%	8
Additional cross-country ski trails are needed.	9.96%	26
Unknown. I don't cross-country ski on maintained trails.	72.41%	189
Total		261

Q20 What cross-country ski trail improvements are needed? (Please identify locations and improvements needed.)

Answered: 7 Skipped: 284

#	Responses	Date
1	Otter Creek	4/19/2016 10:14 AM
2	Better grooming and marking for parking.	4/7/2016 11:36 AM
3	Better grooming	4/6/2016 8:07 PM
4	ALL Forest County trails are not groomed. Skiers do not go to Forest Cty. To ski. Langlade,Oconto,Vilas all have well groomed trails. That is a shame.	4/6/2016 6:08 PM
5	Place to look up conditions and readiness to ski. Brown county does a great job of this for example.	4/6/2016 2:40 PM
6	The biggest improvement would be consistent grooming. Ed's Lake is groomed well but others in the area seem to get hit and miss grooming attention.	4/6/2016 10:02 AM
7	Both Otter Springs and Hemlock Ski Trails are not groomed and well maintained year round.	4/2/2016 9:26 AM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

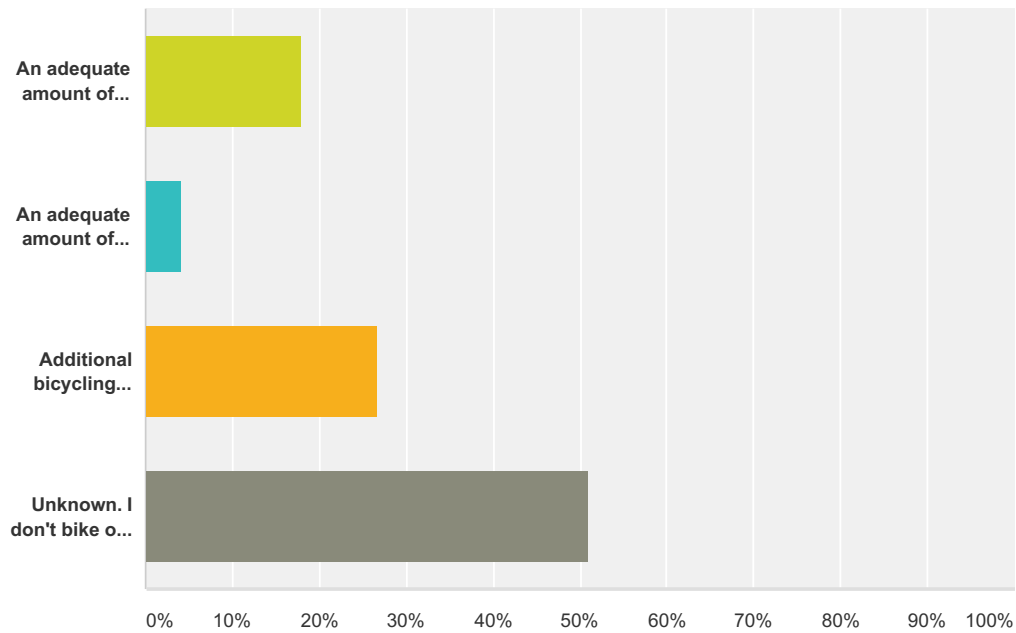
Q21 Where are additional cross-country ski trails needed in FOREST COUNTY?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 273

#	Responses	Date
1	more by lasalle falls & Roberts lake	4/29/2016 2:47 PM
2	Armstrong Creek	4/23/2016 8:33 AM
3	Protect the campground road at Bear Lake and the Rat River Recreational Trail at Bear Lake for cross country. Truck ruts and snowmobiles despoil our grooming efforts.	4/13/2016 4:35 PM
4	Good man Park road areas	4/7/2016 5:48 PM
5	On National Forest lands and county land	4/6/2016 2:24 PM
6	Skate ski trails are needed as well as some long distance point to point trails	4/6/2016 12:00 PM
7	Around the Laona area	4/6/2016 10:53 AM
8	Do not know of any in the Wabeno area.	4/5/2016 5:22 PM
9	trails should be seprate from atv/snowmobile trails	4/5/2016 8:12 AM
10	Freedom area	4/4/2016 7:25 AM
11	Anywhere	4/4/2016 6:07 AM
12	Don't know	4/3/2016 7:49 AM
13	I would like to see additional cross country ski trails as well as longer trails on county, state, and national forest lands with more trails groomed for skate skiing include more novice skate ski trails. The skate ski trails at Otter Springs are advanced in my opinion.	4/2/2016 1:38 PM
14	And snowshoeing.	4/2/2016 10:01 AM
15	All over	4/2/2016 8:39 AM
16	Otter springs needs better grooming. Parking lot has gotten alot better	4/1/2016 4:10 PM
17	Any additional groomed trails.	4/1/2016 3:59 PM
18	not sure - but love the soft-impact this form of recreation has, different from ATV and horseback riding use	3/31/2016 7:29 AM

Q22 Regarding bicycling routes and trails, do you think that... (Choose one.)

Answered: 261 Skipped: 30



Answer Choices	Responses	
An adequate amount of bicycling routes and trails exist, and are in good condition.	18.01%	47
An adequate amount of bicycling routes and trails exist, but improvements are needed.	4.21%	11
Additional bicycling routes, trails, or connections are needed.	26.82%	70
Unknown. I don't bike on roads or trails.	50.96%	133
Total		261

Q23 What bicycling route or trail improvements are needed? (Please identify locations and improvements needed.)

Answered: 7 Skipped: 284

#	Responses	Date
1	Make single tracks for mountain bikes	4/6/2016 8:10 PM
2	All of them	4/6/2016 12:49 PM
3	completion of the Rat River trail, and making sure that it remains non-motorized	4/6/2016 10:03 AM
4	Unknown	4/4/2016 6:08 AM
5	Roberts lake	4/2/2016 11:14 AM
6	Mountain bike trails	4/1/2016 10:35 PM
7	Trails need to be groomed or mowed	4/1/2016 4:11 PM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q24 Where are additional bike routes, trails, or connections needed in FOREST COUNTY?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 233

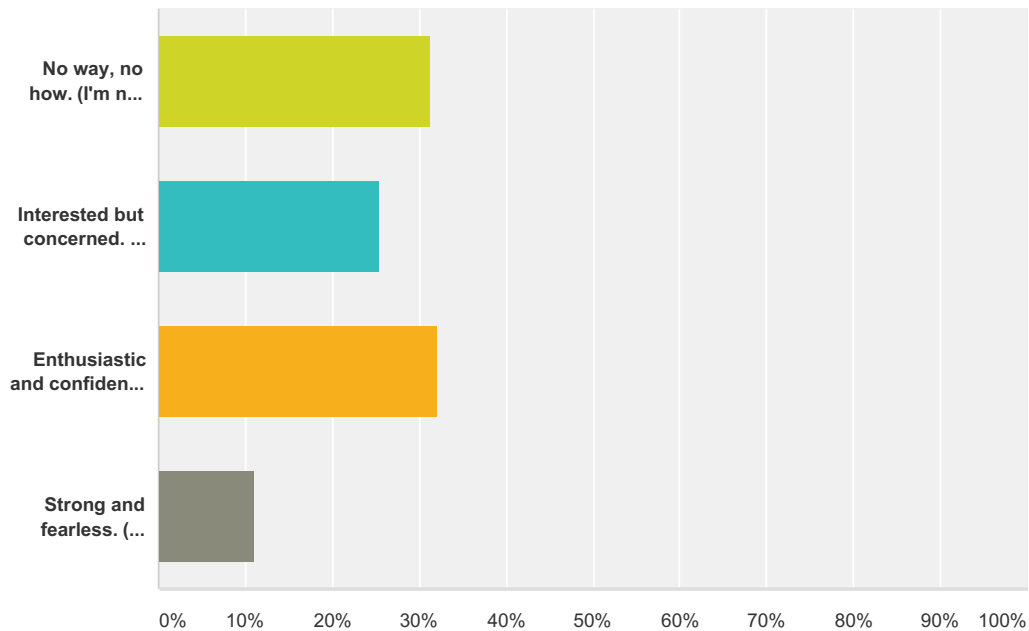
#	Responses	Date
1	by Lasalle falls	4/29/2016 2:48 PM
2	Armstrong Creek. Especially along Hwy 8 so bikers can get to Town roads where they can ride with reduced traffic.	4/23/2016 8:34 AM
3	Blackwell has started one from Blackwell Junction to Bear Lake but need connection to Crandon, Wabeno and Armstrong Creek.	4/19/2016 12:15 PM
4	Everywhere	4/19/2016 10:15 AM
5	Connecting the new trails in Crandon to wooded trails to the west and east of town creating a loop	4/18/2016 9:48 PM
6	Singletrack! 20 plus miles	4/17/2016 7:19 PM
7	The only bike trail I know of it Rat River Trail. We usually bike on paved roads, but more in-forest bike paths would be great.	4/13/2016 4:36 PM
8	throughout the county.	4/11/2016 10:08 PM
9	Not sure where trails would be developed but biking enthusiasts bring in a lot of tourism dollars to communities that have good trails.	4/9/2016 3:00 PM
10	Make the bike trails ATV, walking, and bikes. I think it's a waste of tax dollars funding bike and walking trails. No registration fees to collect.	4/8/2016 10:53 AM
11	ALONG HWY FROM CRANDON TO LOANA AROUND LAKE METONGA ALONG HWY TO MOLE LAKE	4/8/2016 9:34 AM
12	Don't know. Usually ride in Vilas and Sawyer counties.	4/7/2016 11:13 PM
13	Blackwell, Wabeno, Leona, Goldman park road	4/7/2016 5:49 PM
14	use two track trails and mark for mountain biking	4/7/2016 3:37 PM
15	There really aren't any. Anything would be an improvement	4/7/2016 11:37 AM
16	It's difficult to ride on the ATV trails because the ATVs aren't careful about the bikers	4/6/2016 10:21 PM
17	more mountain bike trails all over the county	4/6/2016 6:18 PM
18	Maps, suggested routes, where water points / gas stations etc can be located around forest county roads.	4/6/2016 2:41 PM
19	National forest and county land	4/6/2016 2:25 PM
20	Single track for mountain bikes is badly needed, something in the area of 20-30 miles should be built in the county a point to point trail from Wabeno north would be a good start.	4/6/2016 12:03 PM
21	In the Wabeno area. Do not know of anything beyond the NST trail.	4/5/2016 5:23 PM
22	Here in Blackwell we have constructed new walking and biking trails and I believe these typs of trails are always welcome and encouraged by the public. As for where these trails are needed is up to the population of people who use these trails.	4/5/2016 1:39 PM
23	Anywhere that off road Single-track mtb trails may be possible	4/5/2016 6:29 AM
24	Any county woods.	4/4/2016 8:57 PM
25	Anywhere in woods	4/4/2016 2:37 PM
26	All over the county....I haven't used the trails yet but I know a lot of people who do there should be a lot more biking trails.	4/4/2016 12:39 PM
27	All over the county.	4/4/2016 11:48 AM
28	Parallel to major highways Additional Mountain bike trails Improve and expand existing trails	4/4/2016 10:09 AM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

29	Wabeno laona	4/4/2016 7:30 AM
30	Everywhere	4/4/2016 7:25 AM
31	Need single track and connectors between	4/4/2016 6:05 AM
32	Unable to comment. Always like more of these trails.	4/3/2016 2:53 PM
33	Laona	4/3/2016 8:57 AM
34	Don't know	4/3/2016 7:49 AM
35	Everywhere.	4/2/2016 4:37 PM
36	There really aren't very many bike trails for mountain/hybrid bikes in all of Forest County. So many other counties have miles upon miles of good recreational bike trails on forest land and in state parks. I've tried riding on the Wolf River State Trail but the rocks are too big and it is too rough. Many of the other areas of the state have developed rails into trails and are pleasant to bike ride as well as ATV on. Remove all of the big rocks and that trail would be ok. Maybe turn some of the snowmobile trails on public lands into nicer trails for recreational bike riding.	4/2/2016 1:43 PM
37	I ride on roads. But if the trails were in the woods I would ride them also	4/2/2016 10:16 AM
38	The wolf trail needs a better base for bicycling. It is too coarse.	4/2/2016 10:02 AM
39	According to the Forest County Recreation Map, there aren't any bike trails. In the county, state and national forest lands around Crandon, Laona and Wabeno	4/2/2016 10:00 AM
40	where ever possible...	4/2/2016 9:36 AM
41	I do a fair amount of bike and I do not know of any paved bike trails or bike routes in Forest County. The Arbor Vitae to Boulder Junction similar trail would be very nice in Forest County.	4/2/2016 8:40 AM
42	All over	4/2/2016 8:40 AM
43	Anywhere possible	4/1/2016 8:37 PM
44	You don't have any off road trails. Do not combine silent and motor sports on the same trails.	4/1/2016 8:33 PM
45	It would be great to have some dedicated mountain bike single track in forest county	4/1/2016 8:02 PM
46	Commuting corridors on roads or bike paths. As far as mountain biking. The terrain in forest county would be fabulous. Otter springs would be a good spot. Wave l area would be conducive as well.	4/1/2016 7:32 PM
47	More outdoor trails, such as off road trails in the woods	4/1/2016 5:54 PM
48	there is none that are decent for bikes or single track.	4/1/2016 5:52 PM
49	Crandon	4/1/2016 5:09 PM
50	Mountain Bike Trails	4/1/2016 4:14 PM
51	Th	4/1/2016 4:10 PM
52	Multi purpose limestone trails are not rideable due to the surface being rutted and loosened by ATVs. Have attempted to bike the wolf river and the surface is not bikeable and atvs on the trail go very fast and spit dust and rocks at bikers/walkers.	4/1/2016 4:01 PM
53	Otter Springs area has the perfect topography for an extensive system of top notch singletrack trails, currently there are no singletrack mountain bike trails available in Forest County. Current mountain bike users have to travel outside of the county to access desirable trails. If trails were implemented, they would be a perfect transition for snowshoe and fatbike trails in the winter.	4/1/2016 2:46 PM
54	need more single track mountain biking trails	4/1/2016 2:46 PM
55	to laona	3/28/2016 10:29 AM
56	The trails should loop	3/28/2016 8:03 AM
57	Not sure	3/27/2016 5:49 PM
58	Throughout Forest County	3/26/2016 8:08 PM

Q25 What type of bicyclist are you? (Choose one.)

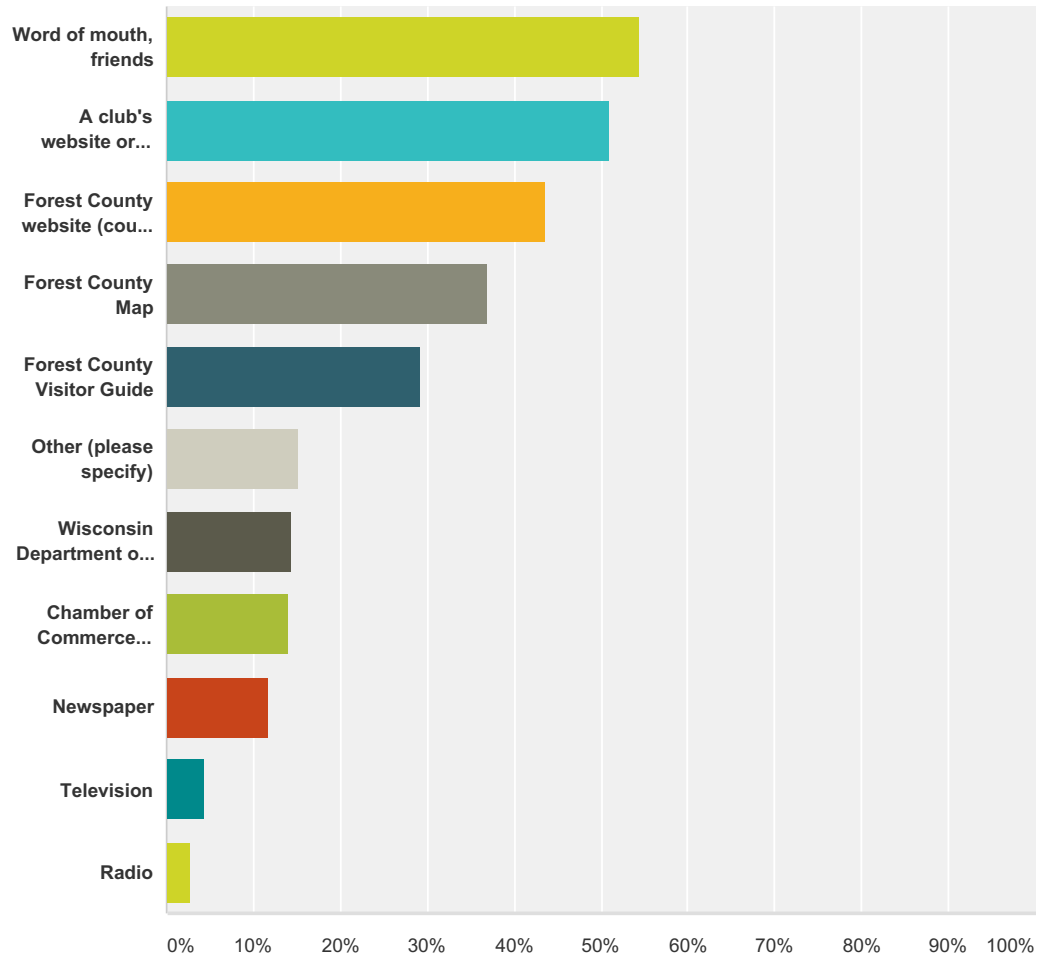
Answered: 255 Skipped: 36



Answer Choices	Responses
No way, no how. (I'm not interested in biking at all, not even for recreation.)	31.37% 80
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.)	25.49% 65
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.)	32.16% 82
Strong and fearless. (I am confident in my abilities and will ride regardless of roadway conditions, amount of traffic, or inclement weather.)	10.98% 28
Total	255

Q26 How do you obtain information about outdoor recreation activities and locations in FOREST COUNTY? (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 257 Skipped: 34



Answer Choices	Responses	
Word of mouth, friends	54.47%	140
A club's website or social media site	50.97%	131
Forest County website (county site or Forestry Dept. web page)	43.58%	112
Forest County Map	36.96%	95
Forest County Visitor Guide	29.18%	75
Other (please specify)	15.18%	39
Wisconsin Department of Tourism	14.40%	37
Chamber of Commerce (website, brochures, visitor's center)	14.01%	36
Newspaper	11.67%	30

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Television	4.28%	11
Radio	2.72%	7
Total Respondents: 257		

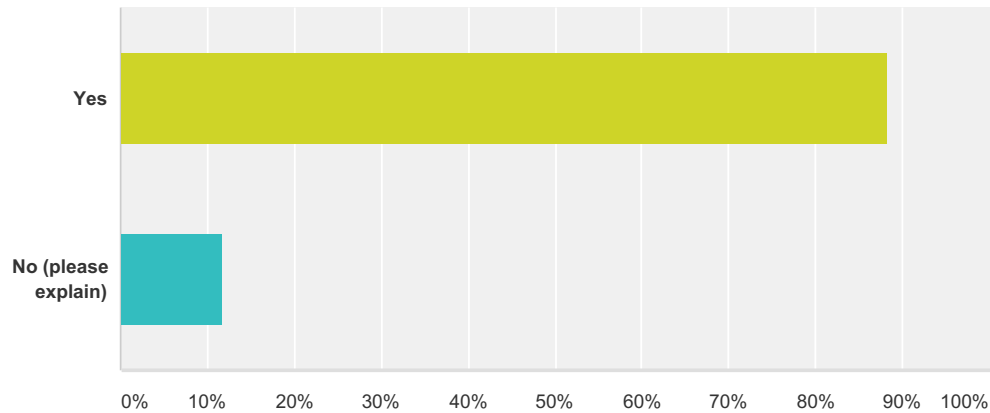
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Web	4/27/2016 10:11 AM
2	USFS. DNR.	4/22/2016 11:25 PM
3	Snowmobile websites	4/19/2016 10:17 AM
4	Facebook	4/18/2016 9:50 PM
5	ATV and Snowmobile maps	4/8/2016 11:46 AM
6	I go to most ATV, Snowmobile club meetings. I believe they are essential to our county's economy.	4/8/2016 11:05 AM
7	Biking events.	4/7/2016 11:14 PM
8	Gazeteer Maps	4/6/2016 6:53 PM
9	Silent sports magazine	4/6/2016 12:50 PM
10	The US forest service Nicolet NF in Laona	4/6/2016 12:06 PM
11	Wisconsin bike fed Facebook groups	4/6/2016 11:43 AM
12	US Forest Service offices and maps	4/6/2016 10:26 AM
13	Sports Show	4/6/2016 7:55 AM
14	Snowmobile club websites	4/6/2016 7:03 AM
15	Johnnies Resort	4/5/2016 2:32 PM
16	Google	4/5/2016 6:32 AM
17	Snowmobile web sights and Facebook page	4/4/2016 8:31 PM
18	Craigslist	4/4/2016 8:31 PM
19	Johndee website winter time summer time weather.gov. Also in the winter the rapids resort is a great resource	4/4/2016 7:33 PM
20	Travel Wi. snow report.	4/4/2016 11:28 AM
21	Forest Service web site	4/4/2016 8:14 AM
22	100 miler snow safari and travel WI website	4/4/2016 6:45 AM
23	Internet	4/3/2016 8:18 AM
24	Local paper Beacon also pioneer	4/3/2016 7:50 AM
25	100milesnowsafari	4/3/2016 2:02 AM
26	Dnr website	4/2/2016 10:14 PM
27	Internet - google	4/2/2016 7:46 PM
28	Facebook	4/2/2016 6:03 PM
29	I own property in the Town of Nashville.	4/2/2016 9:31 AM
30	Google.	4/2/2016 8:41 AM
31	Local friends	4/1/2016 10:14 PM
32	Live there	4/1/2016 6:11 PM
33	Internet	4/1/2016 6:02 PM
34	Dnr,Google	4/1/2016 5:37 PM
35	Wi DSR site	4/1/2016 5:37 PM
36	The 100 mile sno Safari trail report. We live by it	4/1/2016 5:29 PM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

37	Sports show	4/1/2016 5:13 PM
38	Friends familiar with the area	4/1/2016 4:15 PM
39	dnr	3/28/2016 10:31 AM

Q27 Are you satisfied with how you are finding outdoor recreation information for FOREST COUNTY?

Answered: 257 Skipped: 34



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	88.33% 227
No (please explain)	11.67% 30
Total	257

#	No (please explain)	Date
1	An activities website for the county where each type of activity could post their events.	4/18/2016 9:50 PM
2	Need downloadable free GPS maps	4/8/2016 9:40 PM
3	atv trails are hard to find online	4/8/2016 3:15 PM
4	Some times the 100 mile web site is not updated enough.	4/8/2016 11:46 AM
5	probably could use social media for more of a push as I would read those posts	4/8/2016 11:22 AM
6	Need advertising in multiple different medias	4/7/2016 6:12 PM
7	More snowmobile routes are needed.	4/7/2016 1:44 PM
8	I don't see a more centralized resource to find it	4/7/2016 9:28 AM
9	Not really no, but not yes either. I only come up there once a year for one event, so that is the info I look for.	4/6/2016 2:29 PM
10	work with the USFS to push more diverse recreation	4/6/2016 12:06 PM
11	Information seems scattered between Forest County and Nicolet National Forest compared to the structured information available through the Birkie organization in Hayward. The Birkie model seems one that could be replicated in parts or in total in Forest county by focusing efforts to promote local events.	4/6/2016 10:26 AM
12	LESS ATVs PLEASE. Horrific waste of the clean, quiet northwoods! Pollution, noise, dust, rude, stink, SAD that they have been allowed to ruin Forest and Oconto Cty. They really don't add to the economy either! OUTLAW the stupid things! look for yourself at the future of the woods by driving along Hyw 32 near Lakewood etc. Rediculous and disgusting-- the woods that were once closed to those wheeled vehicles for a very obvious reason are now a mess and it's called enjoyment? Snowmobiles are bad enough!	4/5/2016 6:12 PM
13	Would like to see more off road motorcycle trails	4/5/2016 5:04 PM

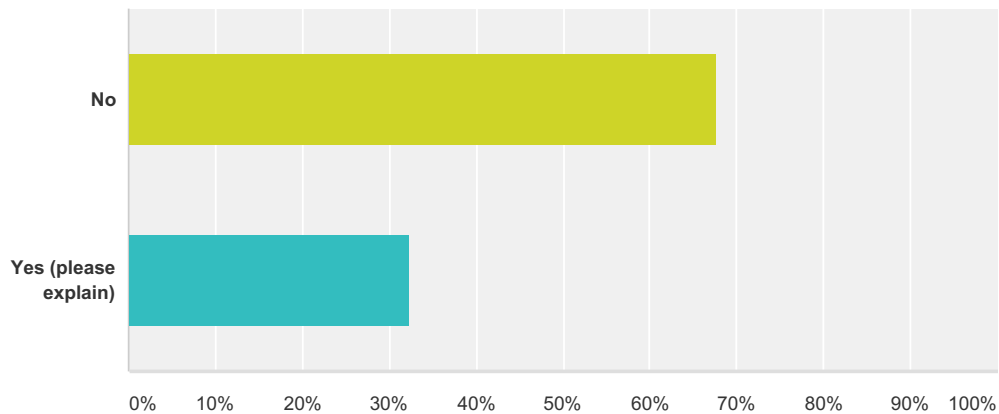
Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

14	I believe there are better ways to reach the general public that is visiting this area. I strongly believe that outdoor advertising in the areas where people are driving to/through is still a large way to reach the general public. Like posting outdoor signs at points entering this area will showing the local tourists website. Now days almost everyone has a phone with access to the web. Once they see a site to look up they will do so as soon as they can. I strongly believe this is true!	4/5/2016 1:48 PM
15	It ok	4/4/2016 7:33 PM
16	Please publish dual-sport GPS routes in your county brochures or on your web site.	4/4/2016 1:15 PM
17	Would like site to post when trails open in spring for atving	4/3/2016 12:52 PM
18	More advertising	4/2/2016 10:12 PM
19	Local business websites are not that great.	4/2/2016 7:46 PM
20	But has the potential to be even better	4/2/2016 1:45 PM
21	I don't have any information on Forest County	4/2/2016 1:20 PM
22	Trail openings and conditions are hard to find. Especially for snowmobiling.	4/2/2016 10:06 AM
23	Social media updates on events, features, weather, trail conditions etc. Keeps the area in the forefront of our minds. More is needed!	4/2/2016 7:39 AM
24	I feel that if more information was available and easier to find Forrest County could bring in more people to use the resources. Trail systems that lead to some of the cool things that are in Forrest County. I have been enjoying Forrest County for about 33 years and would love to be able to ride my off road motorcycle to destinations throughout Forrest County. Off road motorcycles ride much smoother than ATV's and UTV's. They also do less damage to trail systems. Forrest County could look at the way Black River Falls used to be. Allowing an ORV sticker to use the snowmobile trails and a lot of trails that run one way for motorcycles in a loop like fashion.	4/1/2016 11:47 PM
25	I would like to see more map's available for off highway motorcycles	4/1/2016 10:14 PM
26	Usually have to search multiple sites that aren't linked to plan trips	4/1/2016 8:42 PM
27	Seems like everything is unknown	4/1/2016 8:03 PM
28	Only up to date information is from clubs local media is too slow and outdated	4/1/2016 7:47 PM
29	Should have more resources available and make it more known where information can be found	4/1/2016 6:40 PM
30	More adverisment with newer events	4/1/2016 5:56 PM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q28 Do you have any other concerns or comments?

Answered: 257 Skipped: 34



Answer Choices	Responses
No	67.70% 174
Yes (please explain)	32.30% 83
Total	257

#	Yes (please explain)	Date
1	We need places to ride unlicensed dot dirt bikes, OHV	4/27/2016 10:11 AM
2	The biggest issue for me is overly aggressive snowmobile riders who tear up the trails-especially spinning like crazy morons coming out of the corners. A campaign to "put down" this behavior could be started and be somewhat effective-like anti-smoking ads.	4/27/2016 2:24 AM
3	Support to restore or install bridges for snowmobiling. Too many routes on roads.... Not a good draw for my area around Armstrong Creek.	4/22/2016 11:25 PM
4	I like riding bike but not on main highways. The extension of the Rat River Trail can me made to Wabeno and Armstrong Creek can be done without using any major highways. It would be more of a wilderness scenic trail that could go over the existing snowmobile trail. To connect Crandon would be more difficult. It would be nice to have a bike trail system similar to adjacent counties.	4/19/2016 12:26 PM
5	None	4/19/2016 5:35 AM
6	Mountain bike trails would fit this area very well given the face of the land	4/18/2016 9:50 PM
7	This county needs more singletrack mountain biking trails.	4/17/2016 7:20 PM
8	Keep fishermen from spreading millfoil	4/15/2016 11:41 AM
9	bikers need too step up and put some MONEY out for up keep of what they have now before they ask for more, we never see anybody on the bike trails and there don't even cut the weeds down in the middle of the trail, biges bunch of free loaders I have ever seen.	4/15/2016 10:23 AM
10	There could be more cooperation with the DOT as far as usage on right of ways that are safe for use of ATV's. It seems it is OK for snowmobiles but ATV's are held to a much higher standard.	4/13/2016 8:22 AM
11	Would like to emphasize that I believe that more campgrounds and more developed biking and hiking, snowshoing, cross country ski, and any other "silent sport" style trails would definitely help the local economy through increased tourist traffic.	4/9/2016 3:03 PM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

12	It enrages me to see our county ranked last or near last in economic growth every year. Please, please, please find a way to open up the National Forest to ATVs. Get rid of the wild rice that is choking off and warming the water in the Armstrong Creek. Tourist's want to recreate, but we see them driving through our county on way to another.	4/8/2016 11:05 AM
13	The forest has a lot to offer and the need for groceries and restaurants cannot make it with such little recreation traffic	4/7/2016 5:52 PM
14	The county should get involved with events like the Bear 100 biking event.	4/6/2016 10:22 PM
15	I do not want motorized access deminished in any fashion	4/6/2016 9:39 PM
16	To me, when you think of Forest cty. You think of motorsports. I myself enjoy riding your wonderful well groomed snowmobile trails. But that is because of the many clubs. Generates a lot of \$. I also enjoy bicycling&XCskiing. That is where your county has very little to offer. The ski trails are poorly groomed if groomed at all. The surrounding cty's.,langlade,vilas,Oconto all have well maintained trails. Why drive to Forest? Maybe start a ski club? Turning to biking, you have a nice trail called the rat river. We do not have to share with ATVs. Many nice gravel and two track fire lanes for off road riding. Just have to find them.A lot of outdoor resource just need to make it more attractive.	4/6/2016 8:52 PM
17	The proposed use plan needs to make sure it includes all groups. Many times groups get left out. Planners need to take the time to understand these groups.	4/6/2016 2:28 PM
18	Please attempt to diversify recreational opportunity's within forest county. I love Snowmobiling, Hunting and fishing but there are new types of recreation that could attract more visitors like skiing and cycling	4/6/2016 12:06 PM
19	I would encourage Forest County to reach out to event organizers. I created The Bear 100 and Hibernator 100 gravel road cycling events which take place in Laona each Spring and Fall. Surprisingly, no one from Forest County has contacted me regarding the events or how the county may be able to support them. I reached out to the county to have the events put in the visitor's guide, but that has been the extent of county involvement or interest. The Nicolet National Forest is an amazing resource which I believe is being under-utilized regarding recreation and tourism opportunities. Feel free to email me if you are interested in further input: Brent Schmaling brentschmaling@gmail.com thebear100.com	4/6/2016 10:26 AM
20	See above- sorry it's in the wrong box---. I read it as how do I find the Forest Cty recreation in general. Not the Info part.	4/5/2016 6:12 PM
21	If we build it, they will come. Singletrack trails 2016.	4/5/2016 2:32 PM
22	The only thing I could ad about increasing tourism in our area is to again post outdoor signs at points strategically placed where people will see them coming into our area and leave the message short and to the point but promote a "Website" on these signs. people now days all have access to the web and I would bet that if they saw a web site about this area they would certainly check it out as soon as they could.	4/5/2016 1:48 PM
23	I find sharing snowmobile/ATV trails with bicycles, or cross country skiers, is a safety hazard. It would be very easy for someone to get hurt, and they should be restricted to their own trails.	4/5/2016 8:44 AM
24	ATVS and Snowmobiles should have seprate trails for bikes and skiers	4/5/2016 8:13 AM
25	As an avid snowmobile and mtb rider I find the increasing amount of fat bikes on snowmobile trails dangerous	4/5/2016 6:32 AM
26	Keep snowmobile trails for snowmobiles only, no ATV's and no Fat bike riders. Both are a safety hazard on the trails. The ATV's cause ruts, which can cause an inexperienced snowmobile rider to loose control getting a ski caught in them. Also creates more work for the groomer to drop the blade low enough to remove the rut completely from the trail. The Fat bike riders; I have almost hit 1 head on. They were riding side by side around a blind curve. Thankfully I was going slow, and was able to stop. I like to ride bike, it's good exercise, but would never ride on a snowmobile trail, especially in mid winter. Due to the great chance of becoming a hood ornament on a sled.	4/4/2016 11:22 PM
27	keep them dam bikes off the sled trails in winter	4/4/2016 9:29 PM
28	Cross country skiers and fat tire bike rides on snowmobile trails during the winter. This makes it unsafe for all involved.	4/4/2016 8:31 PM
29	Do not whant atv/snowmobile redistratation money going tords bake and horse trials money should be yoused for improving atv/snowmobiles trails	4/4/2016 8:15 PM
30	Fat tire bike in the winter - they do not pay registration fees to help maintain the trail system and they do not provide any physical effort to try to improve the trail system. So it they are not going to financially or physical support the trails why are they using them. 2nd and more important these bikes are extremely unstable on a snowmobile trail thus they are all over the trail plus if you do not see them for example around a blind corner it could be a very dangerous situation. You have 1 vehicle going 20 mph and other going 2 mph it can become a bad situation.	4/4/2016 7:33 PM
31	Please promote OHV recreation in the county, especially for off road motorcycles	4/4/2016 1:15 PM
32	Fat tire bikes seem to be all the rage. These bikes do NOT belong on snowmobile trails. If you let them on the trails, then they should have to pay a user fee, and they should have to brush, clean, and groom, as the snowmobile clubs do. Again fat tire bikes do NOT belong on the snowmobile trails.	4/4/2016 11:28 AM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

33	Sounds like more fat tire bicycle enthusiasts want to share the snowmobile and ATV trails. I feel if this happens your just looking for someone to get seriously hurt on a bicycle. A bicycle needs to be restricted to their own trails for Bicycles ONLY. Thanks	4/4/2016 11:13 AM
34	Though I like biking, I don't think bicycles should be on trails that atvs and snowmobiles are on. To dangerous with the massive differences in speeds on narrow trails. Bicycles should be on their own dedicated trails. I utv and snowmobile more than bike, and I'm terrified of coming around a blind corner at 25+mph and having to bikers side by side in the middle of the trail. They have absolutely no vehicle protection from a collision.	4/4/2016 10:16 AM
35	no more bike trails, no more shared trails with snowmobiles or ATV's.	4/4/2016 9:37 AM
36	Paved portion of Goodman park road in the winter could use a bit more sand since it typically is ice covered most of the winter.	4/4/2016 9:25 AM
37	concerned about losing trails due to dumb snowmobilers going off trail, also concerned about losing trails to bikers or skiers. you can ride a bike all year, stay off the trails for the handful of weekends that you can snowmobile	4/4/2016 8:29 AM
38	It would be great to have a mountain bike trail in forest county. Right now I travel to Green Bay or Wausau to use their trails	4/4/2016 7:37 AM
39	For several decades the so called environmentalists have been attempting to gain a stranglehold on all public lands by locking out humans. I believe man and the rest of nature adapt very well to each other. Accessing these public lands on motorized vehicles is continually under attack even though no real harm can be displayed by the opponents of motorized rec. vehicles. And NO.....a couple of tracks in the mud has NOT devastated anything!....at least no more than any other footprint being man or animal. Motorized recreation can be done responsibly and will boost local economies with much needed tourism dollars.	4/4/2016 6:45 AM
40	We need more silent sports opportunities	4/4/2016 6:06 AM
41	Need off road motorcycle trails, I have drive 3 hours to go to Upper Michigan to ride. If I had closet trails I could ride more often.	4/4/2016 4:56 AM
42	I AM SICK OF FEES AND STICKERS. ABOUT TO SELL BOAT AND SNOWMOBILES !	4/3/2016 8:40 PM
43	Would like to see off highway motorcycles allowed on atv trails or have a trail system for them.	4/2/2016 9:31 PM
44	to many ATV and snowmobiles on city streets	4/2/2016 8:36 PM
45	Forest County recently opened up ATV-only trail to dual sport motorcycles (licensed street legal motorcycles). However, it would be nice to make these same trails available to strictly off-road dirt bikes so my kids can participate.	4/2/2016 8:36 PM
46	I'm an avid off road motorcycles and would like to see more trails	4/2/2016 7:46 PM
47	I would like to see some summer rec sports for kids like soccer, tennis, flag football, ect..	4/2/2016 7:17 PM
48	In regards to offroad motorcycles, Forest County has already added some trails for dualsport motorcycles which is great! More trails would draw more people to the area and would help contribute to the local economy. Also a sticker program is going into effect October 1st which will generate money for new trails and maintenance. It would be great to Work with the local ATV clubs to help gain access to their trails and let's all benefit from the increase in funds!	4/2/2016 7:06 PM
49	Need to have more change not to be scared to have change need more tourist to keep business is going	4/2/2016 6:50 PM
50	Add off road motorcycle trails	4/2/2016 5:02 PM
51	Too many bears :-)	4/2/2016 1:45 PM
52	I would like to see more off road Motorcycle access. My entire family ride motorcycles.	4/2/2016 1:20 PM
53	There should be more snow patrols from DNR and whom ever on Forest Cty. snowmobile trails especially on the weekends. Many people I know do not ride Forest Cty. trails especially the 100 Miler on the weekends because of the reckless driving and because some people think the trail is a race track. I have been riding the 100 Miler for many years and this problem seems worse then years ago and I now ride Florence and Marinette Cty. Trails especially on Saturdays.	4/2/2016 1:18 PM
54	Snow plow operator in pickerel area seems to be exercising his overtime hours more than the need exists to remove snow! Too much sand is spread on DD and sparks are flying most of the time when unnecessarily plowed from dusting of snow! A waste of tax dollars!	4/2/2016 12:36 PM
55	When it comes to motorcycle riders the county is lax in removing the sand salt on the roads for safe riding conditions, wait to long to get it done!!!!	4/2/2016 10:19 AM
56	please add more dual sport motorcycle trails... Wisconsin is finally starting to embrace this sport and it would nice to see Forest County be a destination for this...	4/2/2016 9:38 AM

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

57	SINGLE TRACK MOTORCYCLE TRAILS PLEASE!!!!	4/2/2016 9:32 AM
58	Dualsports and dirtbike trails please	4/2/2016 8:58 AM
59	Less snowmobile and at UTV trails	4/2/2016 8:41 AM
60	Don't see why most of the trails don't allow offroad bikes, even plated dual sports.	4/2/2016 8:39 AM
61	My family rides atv's and motorcycles off road. Shared systems are needed with new OHM law. Please allow motorcycle access and development of single track motorcycle trails. We have a family cottage on Lucerne and the nearby atv trails would be perfect for a single track motorcycle trail system.	4/2/2016 7:39 AM
62	Not familiar with forest county	4/2/2016 6:26 AM
63	I would like to see more trails for motorized vehicles. This includes ATVs, UTVs, Snowmobiles and off-highway motorcycles. Specifically more opportunities for off-highway motorcycles single track trails.	4/2/2016 2:28 AM
64	As an avid outdoor enthusiast, I would like to see more recreation opportunities open to motorcycle use such as opening up atv/utv trails to off highway motorcycle use and maybe single track motorcycle trails.	4/2/2016 1:01 AM
65	Please develop the off highway motorcycling trails	4/1/2016 11:54 PM
66	Guess I should have looked a bit further down before I entered info in the above.	4/1/2016 11:47 PM
67	Need to promote off-highway motorcycling in the area. There is already a significant presence with an important beneficial economic impact to the county. Providing an opportunity for single track motorcycle trails (similar to mountain bike trails) would be a great attraction to the county.	4/1/2016 9:55 PM
68	With the ever growing popularity of motorized trail recreation, it seems that the best way to enhance user experience would be to push for more trail and possibly some user specific trail (I.e.. Mountinbike or motorcycle only)	4/1/2016 8:42 PM
69	The registration fees that atv and snowmobiles pay should be used for there trails NOT bike,walking, cross-country trails. Also Bicyclists and cross-country skiers should be licensed and pay registration fees just like atv, snowmobiles, boats, and people who fish and hunt. All bicyclists and cross-country skiers should be required to take classes regarding use of equipment and safety/road rules just like other recreational sports have to.	4/1/2016 8:36 PM
70	I think there is great potential in making cycling a high demand recreation in the area. For off road we need some trails. For on road we need wider shoulders.	4/1/2016 8:03 PM
71	Snowmobile regestration money used for bike trails.that is not right. they should have to pay regestration money also	4/1/2016 7:39 PM
72	The Bear 100 and the Hibernator are amazing events. Loana and surrounding areas should build on these events.	4/1/2016 7:36 PM
73	Forest County ATV association does not seem to be engaged and or concerned about the entire county! I attended meetings and investigated this club and the Three Lakes club. Became very apparent to me which club I should become involved in, am a supporter of the Three Lakes organization	4/1/2016 5:55 PM
74	I think to many ATV trails are on roads.	4/1/2016 5:54 PM
75	There are no bike trails for avid cyclists (sidewalks; single track; bike friendly trails; etc).	4/1/2016 5:54 PM
76	We need less emphasis on ATV use and more resources devoted to walking and biking trails. Last year I did not use many county trails like at Hemlock Lake because they were never mowed.	4/1/2016 5:11 PM
77	As a county in the bottom 5 for health ratings in the state an effort needs to be made to create safe and pleasurable places for families to participate in recreation that is not motor-based. We need playgrounds that are maintained with more modern equipment for our families, walking/hiking trails that are well marked, easy to find and are mowed. We should embrace the presence of nature in our forests, and create family friendly opportunities for viewing. Bike trails that are shared with motorized vehicles end up being unuseable to bicycles forcing families to ride on roadways.	4/1/2016 4:06 PM
78	Mountain biking, specifically singletrack, popularity is on the rise and many people are actively seeking locations to ride. Some of the most popular destinations in the region are in Cable, WI, Copper Harbor, MI, Marquette, MI and Neilsville, WI. Each of these places have over 20 miles of singletrack trails available and they draw tourists numbers in the 100s annually. A properly implemented and extensive trail network would help draw more tourism to the area, as well as give current residents and tourists a larger option to enjoy the great outdoors.	4/1/2016 2:51 PM
79	need more single track bike trails	4/1/2016 2:49 PM
80	atv and snowmobles driving where they want more fines should be givin out	3/28/2016 4:19 PM
81	too much emphasis on atv trails, which actually spoil other outdoor activities. and ruin native vegetation to boot, by spreading invasive plants.	3/28/2016 10:31 AM
82	New Biking trails from Bear Lake Campground to Town of Blackwell to Laona are great!	3/28/2016 8:42 AM

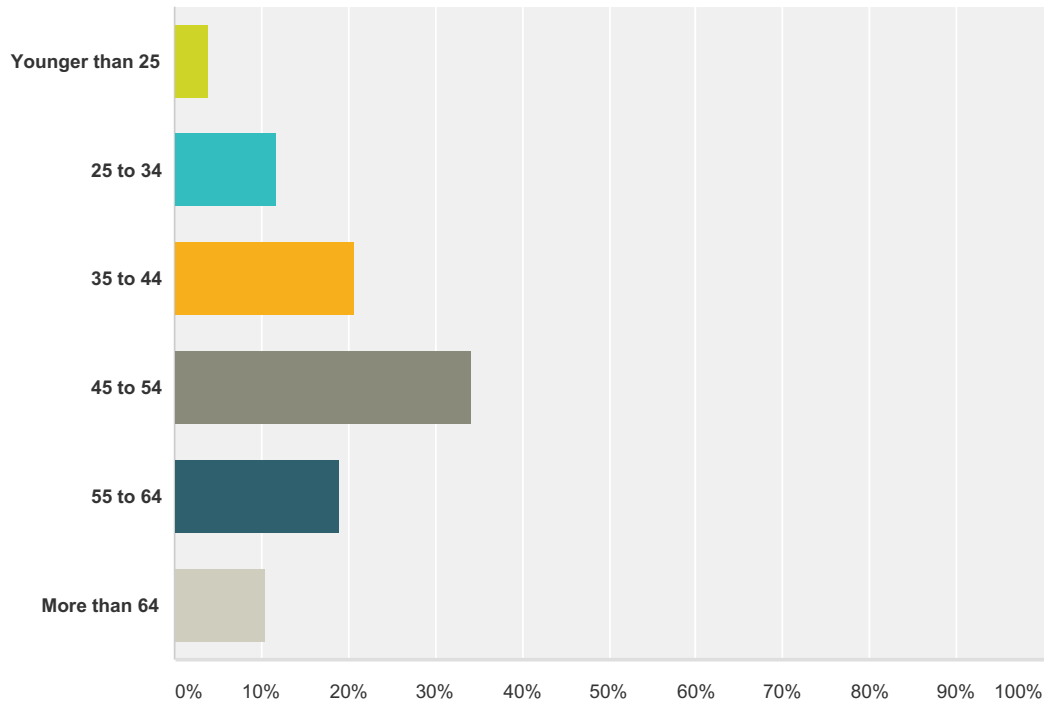
Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

83	In my opinion the Blackwell township management is very responsive and cooperative in pursuing benefits for the residents and visitors!	3/26/2016 8:11 PM
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Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q29 What is your age?

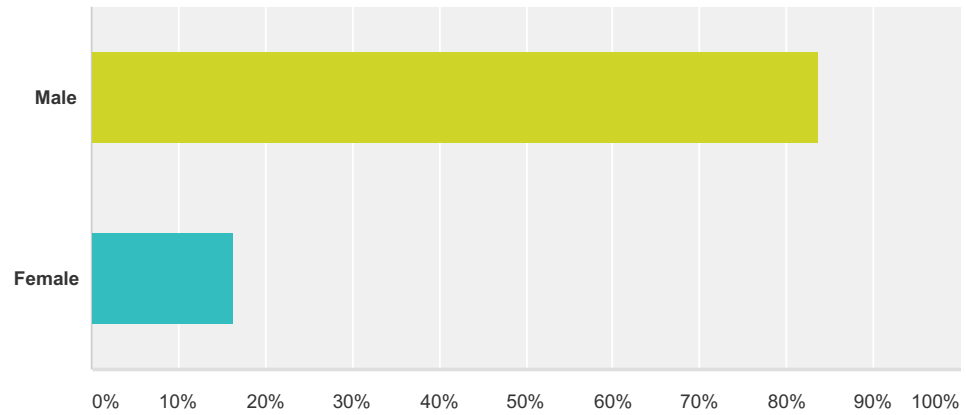
Answered: 257 Skipped: 34



Answer Choices	Responses
Younger than 25	3.89% 10
25 to 34	11.67% 30
35 to 44	20.62% 53
45 to 54	34.24% 88
55 to 64	19.07% 49
More than 64	10.51% 27
Total	257

Q30 What is your gender?

Answered: 257 Skipped: 34

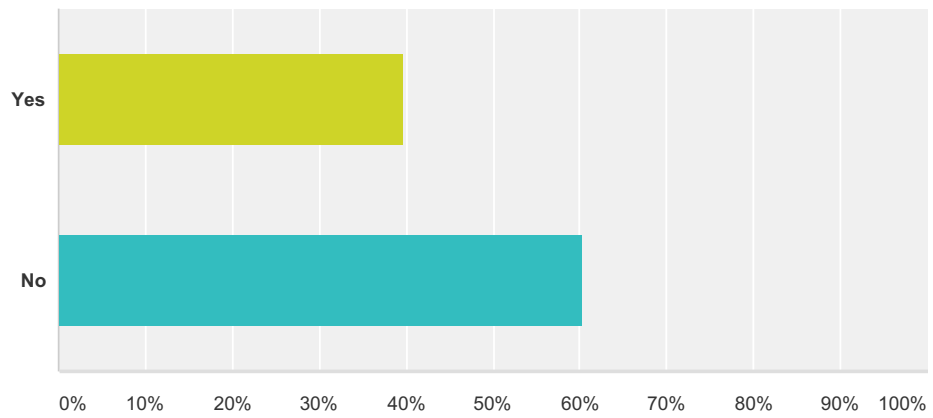


Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	83.66%	215
Female	16.34%	42
Total		257

Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Q31 Do you live in or own a summer home in FOREST COUNTY?

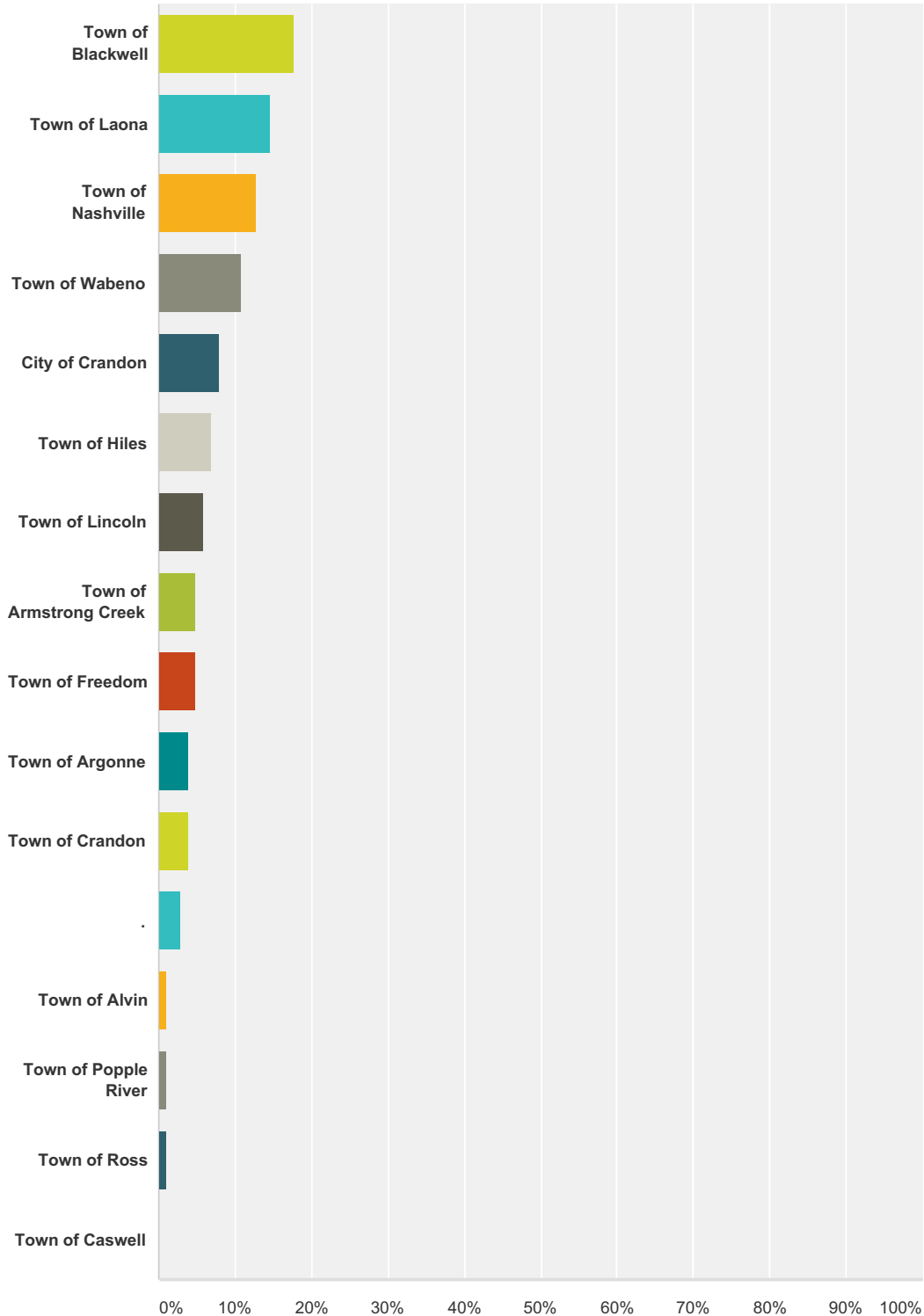
Answered: 257 Skipped: 34



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	39.69%	102
No	60.31%	155
Total		257

Q32 What municipality is your FOREST COUNTY home or summer home located in?

Answered: 102 Skipped: 189



Answer Choices	Responses
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Forest County Outdoor Recreation Survey

Town of Blackwell	17.65%	18
Town of Laona	14.71%	15
Town of Nashville	12.75%	13
Town of Wabeno	10.78%	11
City of Crandon	7.84%	8
Town of Hiles	6.86%	7
Town of Lincoln	5.88%	6
Town of Armstrong Creek	4.90%	5
Town of Freedom	4.90%	5
Town of Argonne	3.92%	4
Town of Crandon	3.92%	4
.	2.94%	3
Town of Alvin	0.98%	1
Town of Popple River	0.98%	1
Town of Ross	0.98%	1
Town of Caswell	0.00%	0
Total		102

ATTACHMENT C

Park Design and Location Criteria

From: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

Park and Recreation Designs

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

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

Mini Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

0.5 to 1.5 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

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

5. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

Neighborhood Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

5 to 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design and Service Area:

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

Community Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

Usually more than 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives

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

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

Appropriate program elements include:

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

programmed field sports, swimming, and special events.

8) Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

Special Use Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objective:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

g. Recreation programs and classes

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

School Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

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

2. Size Objective

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

established for neighborhood park and community park classifications may apply.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

County Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

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

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

State Forest

1. Definition Summary:

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

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

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

Areas with large blocks of land.

5. Program Objectives:

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

Current Level of Supply:

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

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

State Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

Current Level of Supply:

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

5. Orientation:

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

6. Function:

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

7. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

ATTACHMENT D

Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

Community Service Specialist
Rhinelander Office
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhinelander WI 54501

Acquisition Of Development Rights (a Stewardship Program)

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

Priority parcels criteria:

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

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

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

Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (a Stewardship Program)

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

DNR considers the following factors when evaluating projects:

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

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

All Terrain Vehicles (ATV)

Funds are available to provide funds to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquiring, insuring, developing and maintaining of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes as per s. 23.33, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities and villages are eligible to apply by April 15 on forms provided by the Department. Eligible levels of reimbursement are:

- ATV trails available for spring, summer, and fall riding may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible maintenance costs (up to \$650 per mile).
- ATV trails available for winter riding may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible maintenance costs (up to \$100 per mile).
- Development of ATV trails and areas may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible costs.
- Major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails may be reimbursed up to 100 percent of eligible costs.
- Maintenance of ATV intensive use areas may be reimbursed up to 50 percent of eligible costs

Assistance is provided for the following, in priority order: 1) maintenance of existing approved trails and areas, including routes; 2) purchase of liability insurance; 3) acquisition of easements; 4) major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails; and 5) acquisition of land in fee and development of new trails and areas.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Enforcement Patrol

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

Brownfields Green Space and Public Facilities Grant Program

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

Lake Protection Grant

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

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

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Money is available to encourage nationwide creation and interpretation of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities. The program funds both state and local outdoor recreation projects per Public Law 88-578, ch. NR 50.06, Wis. Adm. Code. Counties, cities, villages, towns, school

districts, and Indian tribes are eligible for funding with an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. Up to 50% matching grants from the fund are available to state and local units of government. Priorities include acquisition of land where a scarcity of outdoor recreational land exists. Also, projects that provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for outdoor recreation are also desirable.

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

Recreational Boating Facilities

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

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

River Management Grants

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

Recreational Trails Act (RTA)

The Recreational Trails Act (RTA) provides funds to local units of government through the transfer of federal gas excise taxes paid on fuel used in off-highway vehicles. These funds are used to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized (30% of

RTA funds), non-motorized (30% of RTA funds), and both (40% of RTA funds) types of recreational trail uses. This federal program was reauthorized in 2005 under SAFETEA-LU.

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

Snowmobile Club Signs

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

Snowmobile Route Signs

Funds are available to provide costs for initial signing of snowmobile routes and trail crossing warning signs as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Towns, cities, and villages are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. No local match is required, but state funding is limited to no more than \$30,000 per year for the route sign program. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season.

Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols

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

Snowmobile Trail Aids

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

Stewardship Program

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

Nonprofit Grants

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

Local Assistance Grant Programs

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

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

Property Development on State Lands

Development of recreational facilities on state properties.

Baraboo Hills

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

Stewardship Grants for Nonprofit Conservation Organizations

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

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

Natural Areas

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

Habitat Areas and Fisheries

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

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

Streambank Protection

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

Wild Lakes

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

Urban Green Space (a Stewardship Program)

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

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

Planning Considerations, including:

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

Project Considerations, including:

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

Urban Rivers Grant (a Stewardship Program)

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

Program objectives include:

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

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

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

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

Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs

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

Local Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program

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

Surface Transportation Program – Discretionary (STP-D)

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

Transportation Enhancement Program

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

Program Description: Transportation enhancements (TE) are transportation-related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of transportation systems. The transportation enhancements program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, with examples ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian facilities, to landscaping and scenic beautification, and to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff. Most of the requests and projects awarded in Wisconsin have been for bicycle facilities. Examples of bicycle projects include multi-use trails (in greenways, former rail trails, etc.), paved shoulders,

bike lanes, bicycle route signage, bicycle parking, overpasses/underpasses/bridges, and sidewalks. Transportation enhancement activities must relate to surface transportation. Federal regulations restrict the use of funds on trails that allow motorized users, except snowmobiles. TEA 21 expanded the definition of transportation enhancements eligibility to specifically include the provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists, which had not been clearly eligible under ISTEA.

Other Wisconsin DOT Funding Sources

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

Contact WisDOT District coordinators first for more details. Chuck Thiede at 608-266-3341 is the statewide coordinator.

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

Federal Assistance Programs

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

Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) – National Park Service

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

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

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

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

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

ATTACHMENT E

Bog Brook Wildlife Area

Compiled by: Forest County Land and Water Conservation Department

Bog Brook Wildlife Area

The Bog Brook Wildlife Area was created by the construction of an earthen dam across Bog Brook Creek in 1962. Its permitted purpose was to provide a flowage which can be regulated to obtain the most favorable conditions for wildlife, both terrestrial and aquatic.

The impoundment has a surface area of approximately 490 acres and a maximum depth of 6 feet. Inlet streams from Mud Lake and Bog Brook Lake are present, with the outflow to the Lily River. Originally the entire shore was upland hardwoods. Emergent wetland now occupies large portions of the flowage.

The dam was breached in 1983. The dam was reconstructed to the original design in 1993 by the Forest County Highway Department and a WCC crew under the direction of the Forest County Forestry Department with assistance from a USDA Forest Service engineer.

Because there is one house downstream that may be in the hydraulic shadow of a potential dam failure and neither a floodplain zoning ordinance nor restrictive covenants, easements or legal arrangement restricting further housing development downstream, the Bog Brook Dam is considered a high hazard dam.

In 2015 the Forest County Land Conservation Committee held a hearing to gauge the public's interest in retaining the flowage area and maintaining the dam. More than 25 people attended the hearing with all in favor of not only maintaining the dam at this location, but also improving the surrounding area. Sustainable Resource Industries (SRI), a consulting firm administering Stewardship Contracts for the USFS, granted matching funds to install a dam gate. The gate was installed in 2016 and lessens man and equipment hours required to operate the dam within its working parameters. The height of the dam can now be controlled by turning a wheel instead of using a loader truck to manually lift the steel gate.

Also In 2015, Flambeau engineering was hired to build a dam failure analysis to apply a flood shadow downstream of the dam in an effort to lower the dam hazard rating. Forest County had adopted Floodplain Zoning and was now in a position to restrict downstream development.

It was noted and reported that the pier over the inlet of the dam was available to the public but not handicapped accessible as required. Further improvements would be necessary to make the area ADA accessible by providing a walkway over the spillway and a wheelchair accessible fishing pier. A beaver excluder will be installed under the fishing pier to eliminate a long standing beaver problem.

The Bog Brook Wildlife Area has the potential to be of greater recreational use to area residents and visitors in addition to being a wildlife area. Recreation at the site has great potential in that it has a good site to recreate with canoes and kayaks, hold gatherings and other recreational activities associated with this area and landscape.