PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACES PLAN

2018

Wood County, Wisconsin

PARKS AND FORESTRY
Wood County
WISCONSIN

Wood County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Plan - 2018

~Acknowledgements~

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I. Introduction

From the rolling highlands of northern Wood County to the sandy central plain of southern Wood County, the county provides a diverse landscape with a significant amount of recreational resources. Lakes, rivers, forests, wetlands, parks, recreation areas, and open spaces allow residents and visitors opportunities to enjoy a variety of recreational activities. This plan represents a comprehensive inventory and analysis of Wood County's recreation system and establishes goals, objectives and recommendations that meet the current and future recreation needs of the community. Primary emphasis is placed on the role the county is expected to play in meeting those needs. Secondary emphasis is placed on those outdoor recreation facilities provided by Wood County's towns, cities and villages, the role of those facilities, and how they might best serve users. By virtue of this plan, Wood County assumes the role of assisting to coordinate outdoor recreation planning and programing within its boundaries.

Purpose

Outdoor recreation planning stems from the core responsibility of Wood County to protect and promote the public health, safety, prosperity, and general welfare of the community. Proper planning is an important step in providing a quality county-wide recreation system. This plan was developed for the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated and harmonious county recreation system. Moreover, proper planning helps organize efforts, financial resources, and time, creating efficiency and economy in the process of implementation. This plan is intended to serve as a guide for decision making and provides direction for recreation providers, elected officials, and stakeholders in regards to recreation management and policy over the next (5) five years. Additionally, the plan provides:

- Continued eligibility to participate in outdoor recreation grant funding programs administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and other applicable federal, state and local financial assistance programs.
- Direction to guide short and long term community recreation decisions.
- A detailed inventory of the existing recreation system and services.
- A practical action program that meets the needs of residents and visitors.
- A foundation for coordinating future recreation improvements.
- A means to create additional economic, social and environmental benefits.
- An integral component of the Wood County Comprehensive Plan

Further, it is the intent of this plan to outline a program that will make wise use of the county's resources, including natural and man-made resources as well as those financial resources available through state, federal and local programs. This plan is not designed to exploit the county's natural resources to the point that a natural resource will be exhausted or to the point of endangering the habitat of the county's abundant wildlife. On the contrary, if properly implemented, the plan should maximize use of these resources while at the same time preserving their functions.

Statutory Basis

This plan was prepared pursuant to § 23.30 of the Wisconsin Statutes: *"The purpose of this section is 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 Organization

- **Section I. Introduction:** Provides an overview of the purpose, planning process and timeframe for the development of the plan.

- **Section II. Goals and Objectives:** Presents the plan's vision along with uniquely defined outdoor recreation goals and objectives.

- **Section III. Past Plans and Accomplishments:** Reviews the history of outdoor recreation planning in Wood County. Additionally, this section summarizes completed projects/improvements since the last plan update in 2011.

- **Section IV. Description of Wood County:** Provides a glimpse into the county's past and present physical and social characteristics, which provides the background to plan for the future.

- **Section V. Inventory of Existing Recreation System and Services:** Provides an overview of the present-day outdoor recreation system focusing specifically on county parks, recreation areas and open spaces.

- **Section VI. Recreation Needs Assessment:** Summarizes gaps between existing and desired recreation system by assessing public input, outdoor recreation standards, and other relevant recreation plans.

- **Section VII. Wood County Recreation Moving Forward:** Presents an action program and implementation strategy to guide community decision making over the next several years. Additionally, this section includes recommendations and a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for outdoor recreation facilities and areas.

- **Section VIII. Appendices:** Contains supplementary reference material that is helpful in providing a more comprehensive understanding of information presented in the plan.

Planning Process

The planning process for the Wood County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan – 2018 spanned a little over a year starting in the fall of 2017. Initially, past plans were reviewed to see what progress had occurred since the last plan update. Updated information and data was collected on the physical and social characteristics of Wood County and their relationship to recreation. Subsequently, an extensive inventory was performed of existing county park and recreation areas/facilities. Information gathered from the inventory was utilized to develop a needs assessment, which shaped a general action/implementation program for recreation improvements for the next 5 years.

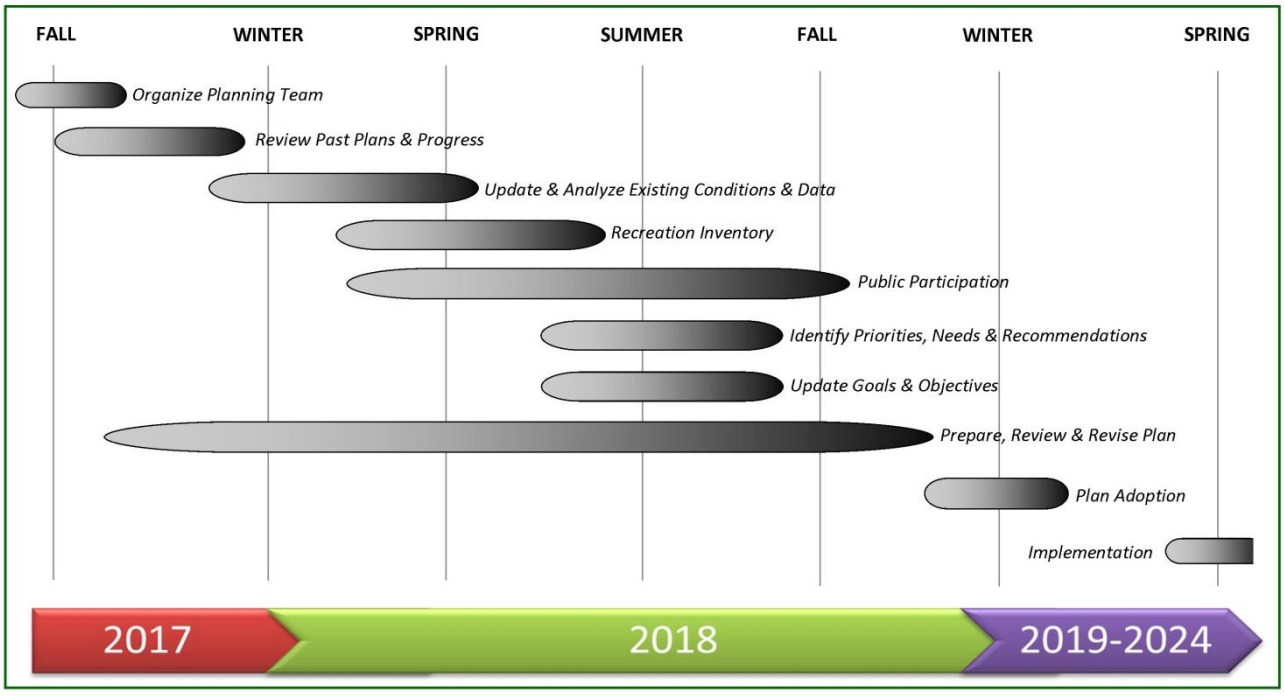
Each of these plan layers builds on the findings and conclusions from the previous to identify goals, objectives and recommendations intended to guide future recreational planning efforts. A timeline of the planning process is presented in (Figure 1) below.

Wood County recognizes public participation as one of the most important aspects of the planning process. High importance was placed on fostering public participation in every stage of the plan update. Public involvement is important to assure that the plan continues to truly reflect community needs and input from the public. Therefore, a public participation strategy was developed to assure public input is responded to and incorporated into the plan. This strategy is presented in (Section VI.) of this plan.

The planning process is not finished with the completion or adoption of this plan. The Wood County Highway Infrastructure and Recreation Committee, in conjunction with Wood County staff, will be responsible for providing direction and guidance to the Wood County Board of Supervisors on outdoor recreation related decisions. This will ensure that implementation of the plan is consistent with its goals, objectives and recommendations.

This plan shall also be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for approval and acceptance.

Figure 1: Planning Process Timeline



Updating & Amending the Plan

This plan should be updated and reassessed every (5) five years to ensure its effectiveness. In fact, changing trends and attitudes in outdoor recreation may require updates sooner.

Should the need arise for unforeseen projects to be added to this document within the 5-year time frame, an amendment to the plan will be needed. Plan amendments are common and should be considered part of the planning process. They represent good plan implementation and should be acceptable for consideration by community decision makers. Amendments can prolong the effectiveness of the initial plan, consequently averting a full comprehensive plan update. Potential amendments should be brought to the attention of the Wood County Highway, Infrastructure and Recreation Committee or the Wood County Conservation, Education and Economic Development Committee. Staff will review the proposal for conflicts or duplication of services and recommend to the committee the inclusion, alteration, or rejection of the project. If accepted, the plan will be updated, and notice of the update will be sent to the Department of Natural Resources for inclusion in their copy.

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II. Goals & Objectives

The goals and objectives identified in this section were defined by the community, and provide a comprehensive basis for Wood County to make outdoor recreation decisions over the next several years. These strategies shall guide state, county, and local recreation decision makers, providers, and stakeholders. The vision of the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department is ambitious and exciting, but is also realistic and achievable.

Vision

To develop, maintain, and operate facilities, resources, and programs that meet the outdoor recreation, environmental, and economic needs of the public; and provide clean, safe, quality family enjoyment at a reasonable cost.

Goals & Objectives

The formulation of goals and objectives provide the foundation on which the planning process is built. They are detailed descriptions of how Wood County would like to be in the future. Goals specifically identify the ideals of Wood County and can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private organizations, and individual citizens. The objectives break down the goal into specific tasks. These tasks in turn serve as a road map to provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities in Wood County and set priorities to improve these opportunities in the future.

*A **Vision** summarizes the ideal state of an organization – or project or resource.*

***Goals** are general statements of desired outcomes of the community.*

Stakeholders, government leaders, private organizations, local businesses, and individual citizens must work together to accomplish these objectives. Collaboration is the key to success. This is the best way to accomplish the plan's goals and bring the vision to fruition. When issues or opportunities arise, they can be responded to by referencing these goals and objectives.

***Objectives** break down a goal into specific tasks – subset of goals.*

The Parks and Forestry Department developed the following goals and objectives through: community input; analysis of the existing recreation system inventory (Section V.); findings from the needs assessment (Section VI.); and recommendations identified in the action/implementation program (Section VII.)

GOAL: **Provide and maintain a high quality recreation system that is available to ALL Wood County residents and visitors.**

OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure outdoor recreation facilities serve people of all ages and physical abilities.
- Encourage municipal cooperation and communication to reduce redundancy and duplication of recreation facilities and services.
- Ensure future improvements are accessible to the greatest extent possible per the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Ensure outdoor recreation opportunities are reflective of the needs and desires identified in the outdoor recreation community survey.
- Ensure improvements to the recreation system are within the maintenance and financial capabilities of the county.

GOAL: **Analyze the current and future outdoor recreation needs of the county's residents and visitors.**

OBJECTIVES:

- Study currently popular recreation activities, compare them to historic activities, and determine changing trends and continuing recreation demand.
- Survey recreation providers, both public and private, and compare their findings and interpretations as to changing trends and needed facilities.
- Utilize available resources such as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association (WPRA) publications, local municipal planning documents, and trade journals and periodicals that help determine trends in recreational needs.
- Encourage the public to identify park issues and opportunities through open meetings and survey questionnaires.

GOAL: **Enhance and properly maintain existing recreation facilities so that they remain usable and attractive to the user.**

OBJECTIVES:

- When necessary or desirable, upgrade facilities to meet or exceed current recommended standards and design. Careful attention should be paid to maintaining equipment and facilities in a manner that addresses

the American's with Disabilities Act requirements and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines.

- Offer an ample supply of popular and standard types of facilities for use by county residents and for attracting out-of-county visitors that will aid the economy of Wood County's communities.
- Identify and preserve sites having scientific, historical or archaeological significance and make use of state and federal funding programs for such purposes whenever possible because these sites will be enjoyed by non-residents as well as residents of Wood County.
- Preserve the county's open space and recreational resources and protect them from visual blight and loss of environmental quality through the use of signing and maintenance.
- Support a good wildlife management program and maintain adequate wildlife habitation through the preservation of wetlands and county forests.

GOAL: **Gather and assess information concerning the potential of Wood County to provide outdoor recreation for residents and non-residents.**

OBJECTIVES:

- Review potential developments with the Highway, Infrastructure and Recreation Committee, and the County Board of Supervisors on an annual basis.
- Develop a 5-year capital improvements program (CIP) for the development of the County's outdoor recreation facilities. Update the CIP annually so that budgeting of improvements can be approved well in advance.
- Identify and make recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors regarding sites that are potentially suitable and desirable for development of new, or expansion of existing county park facilities, or of sites that should be preserved for their natural amenities in the best interest of Wood County's residents, wildlife, economy, health, safety and general welfare.

GOAL: **Make specific recommendations for action by the Wood County Board of Supervisors to fulfill the county's responsibility in providing outdoor recreation opportunities.**

OBJECTIVES:

- Obtain formal adoption of this plan by the Wood County Board of Supervisors.
- Reassess the goals and objectives of the county on a continuing basis and include them as part of the County Parks and Forestry Department annual report to the County Board in an effort to keep the supervisors and public informed and to give them an opportunity to provide suggestions for new or revised goals.
- Encourage members of the Highway, Infrastructure and Recreation Committee to continually familiarize themselves with this plan.
- Update this plan every 5 years to ensure Wood County's eligibility to apply for state and federal recreation acquisition and development programs. Updates should also reflect the evolving recreational needs and desires of the area.
- Develop and maintain a 5-year capital improvements program outlining major anticipated expenditures needed as part of a sound outdoor recreation program and apply for state and federal grants whenever possible to assist in continued upgrading of the County park system.

GOAL: **Recommend ways the county can encourage quality recreation developments by private interests and to help locate these facilities in areas of need and best suited for proper management of the county's natural resources.**

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide technical assistance to potential recreational developers about the value of the natural resources and the impact their development may have on those resources.
- Make available demographic data, topographic maps, needs assessments and other materials that may be pertinent to the particular development proposal.
- When in the best interest of Wood County's residents, provide the developer with a site analysis featuring natural resource, land use, and other information that will assist the developer in designing and building

the facility in a manner best suited for the potential user and the available natural resources.

GOAL: **Through conservation and wise use of resources, preserve, develop and make accessible such quantity and quality of outdoor recreation as will be necessary and desirable for individual enjoyment.**

OBJECTIVES:

- Encourage preservation of scenic areas, natural wonders, primitive areas, wildlife areas and historic areas of significance either through direct or indirect means.
- Manage County lands for the broadest possible recreation benefit consistent with other essential uses.
- Cooperate and coordinate with state and local governments on recreation development to reflect a balance between state, county and municipal facilities.
- Ensure that land devoted to outdoor recreation will be preserved and protected from encroachment by, or conversion to, other uses which might be incompatible with park purposes. When such encroachment or conversion is determined to be in the public interest, replacement of the lost land by an area of equal value for park purposes should be required.
- Periodically review the ultimate goal in park acreage and development taking into account changes in attitudes and participation. Adjustments to the long-range program should include the attempt to meet the greatest needs first and retain sufficient flexibility to cope with sudden changes or opportunities.
- Consider the feasibility of developing recreation uses that will serve the needs and desires of Wood County residents, but that may also serve to attract visitors and regional, state or national events to Wood County as part of the County's economic development goals.

III. Past Plans & Accomplishments

Recreational planning has a long-established history in Wood County. This section will examine past county recreation plans. This provides a clearer understanding of the extent of progress made over the years. There have been many improvements and accomplishments since the first plan was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in 1972.

Past Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans

The first Wood County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan was developed in 1972 as part of a larger county comprehensive development project. Updates of the plan occurred in: 1977, 1984, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2011, and now 2018. This demonstrates Wood County's commitment to providing quality recreational opportunities for its residents and visitors. Reviewing these documents provides a clearer understanding of the extent of progress made over the years. This plan builds off of all previous versions of past recreation plans to provide consistency, but also aims to identify ever changing recreation trends and issues.

Improvements & Accomplishments

Beginning with the original 1972 plan and continuing through the six (6) comprehensive updates, it is very evident of the significant recreation system improvements and accomplishments that have occurred over the years. Review of these early plans reveal that many goals, objectives, and recommendations have been implemented. Some examples include: the acquisition of 360 acres in the Town of Richfield; the development of a new county park on NEPCO Lake; the construction of 25 miles of trails; the reconstruction of boat landings; the construction of ADA compliant facilitates; the protection of natural and cultural resources; and significant improvements to parks at the local municipal level. These are only a few of the significant recreation system improvements. To gain a clearer understanding of the extent of progress made since the 1970's, early plans can be referenced and compared.

Specifically, since the 2011 plan was adopted by the County Board many improvements to the Wood County recreation system have ensued. Improvements are in many cases the result of their inclusion in the 2011 plan. Most noticeably, the county acquired 223 acres of land adjoining Powers Bluff County Park for future facility development. The Red Sands Beach Pavilion was constructed at South Wood County Park in 2012. Lake Wazeecha was dredged in 2016 providing environmental and recreational benefits. (Table 1) Starting on the next page details outdoor recreation improvements and accomplishments for county facilities since the last time the plan was updated. This provides a clearer understanding of the extent of progress made in the implementation of the plan. Additionally, in some cases city, village and town improvement projects received state and federal grant funding due to their inclusion in the plan.

Red Sands Beach Pavilion

Dredging Lake Wazeecha

Table 1 WOOD COUNTY RECREATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS (Since 2011)	
South Wood County Park	▪ Construction of Red Sands Beach Pavilion (removal of old beach house) ▪ New parking lot adjacent to Red Sands Beach Pavilion ▪ Constructed sidewalk , stairway, concrete patio, and retaining wall adjacent to Red Sands Beach Pavilion ▪ Upgraded campground electric to 50 amp in 2nd and 3rd loop ▪ Removed trees and woody vegetation from downstream side of dike structure ▪ Dam improvement project including: retaining wall replacement, rip-rap overlay, dam gate seal replacement, and installation of dam level monitoring equipment with remote gate adjustment controls ▪ Vault toilet remodels including: Buena Vista and Shady Rest ▪ Enclosed shelter improvements including: New steel roof, windows, doors, serving bar, sink, and restroom remodels ▪ Replaced park entrance sign ▪ Dredged east end of Lake Wazeecha ▪ Constructed larger firewood storage structure ▪ Remodeled camp ranger cabin ▪ Added a work bay onto maintenance shop building
North Wood County Park	▪ Shelter building parking lot renovation ▪ Removal of old vault toilet near Disc Golf course ▪ Construction of new vault toilet at Disc Golf course parking lot ▪ Installation of new above ground fuel station at maintenance shop (closure of underground storage tank) ▪ Replaced bulkhead in swimming area, and cleaned out and replaced sections of inlet culvert in order to increase water flow and water quality in beach area ▪ Remodeled camp ranger cabin, lower shower building and vault toilet near beach ▪ Installed new playground equipment in campground ▪ Enlarged firewood storage structure ▪ Relocated “roaming” maintenance worker office and workspace to NP, from Forestry Shop ▪ Upgraded campsites along river to 50 amp ▪ Replaced septic systems for beach house, shelter building, and lower shower building ▪ Replaced park entrance sign
Dexter County Park	▪ Repaved loop 3 in campground ▪ Relocated camper dump station ▪ Constructed 4 full hookup sites ▪ Updated loop 2 and 3 electric to 50 amp ▪ Enlarged firewood storage structure ▪ Constructed new shower building between loop 2 and 3 ▪ Constructed new vault toilet on east side of park ▪ Remodeled overflow camping bathroom and camp ranger cabin ▪ Removed tennis courts and replaced with sand volleyball courts ▪ Installed new playground equipment near the shelter building ▪ Installation of dam level monitoring equipment and remote gate adjustment controls ▪ Constructed new equipment storage building and maintenance/forestry shop on property south of park entrance road ▪ Moved supplies from old Forestry Shop, in Wisconsin Rapids, to new shop. Forestry Shop ownership was transferred to Hwy Dept. and LWCD ▪ Sold old Dexter Park maintenance shop ▪ Replaced park entrance sign
Powers Bluff County Park	▪ Acquired 223 acres adjoining the existing 160 acre park (land trade for 240 acres of county forest land in Seneca and Cranmoor)

	▪ Removed old buildings on new property and created small parking lot ▪ Leased out 80 acres of crop land on new property ▪ Constructed new tow operator building for tube hill ▪ Replaced upper and lower ski tow operator buildings ▪ Remodeled vault toilet building ▪ Removed semi-trailer, which stored tubes, and replaced with new carport structure ▪ Reconstructed bottom of tube hill to create a safer landing area ▪ Created plan to follow through with Powers Bluff Long Range Master Plan; including multi use shelter building renderings and cost estimate, and trails and site plan for new property ▪ Began fundraising efforts and grant applications for the Powers Bluff Development Plan ▪ Began multi-use trail construction on new property ▪ Replaced park entrance sign and park map sign on shelter building
NEPCO Lake County Park	▪ Expanded cross country ski trail ▪ Constructed shelter building storage addition ▪ Milled, shaped and paved boat landing parking lot ▪ Expanded and signed single track trail ▪ Created trailhead parking lot and information board ▪ Installed sound absorption panels in shelter building ▪ Partnered with Consolidated Musky Club in stocking musky on several occasions
Richfield 360 Recreation Area	▪ Replaced decking and handrails on snowmobile bridge ▪ Entered property into the County Forest system
Wood County ATV Area	▪ Replaced park entrance sign ▪ Installed trail head sign with map ▪ New wood stove installed in shelter building ▪ Worked in cooperation with WDNR on trail improvements and re-routes
Wood County Rifle Range	▪ Improved range access path with road base ▪ Improved shooting lane paths with wood chips ▪ Parking lot improvements including: removal of old fence and replacing with boulders, grading
Source: Wood County Parks and Forestry Department - 2018	

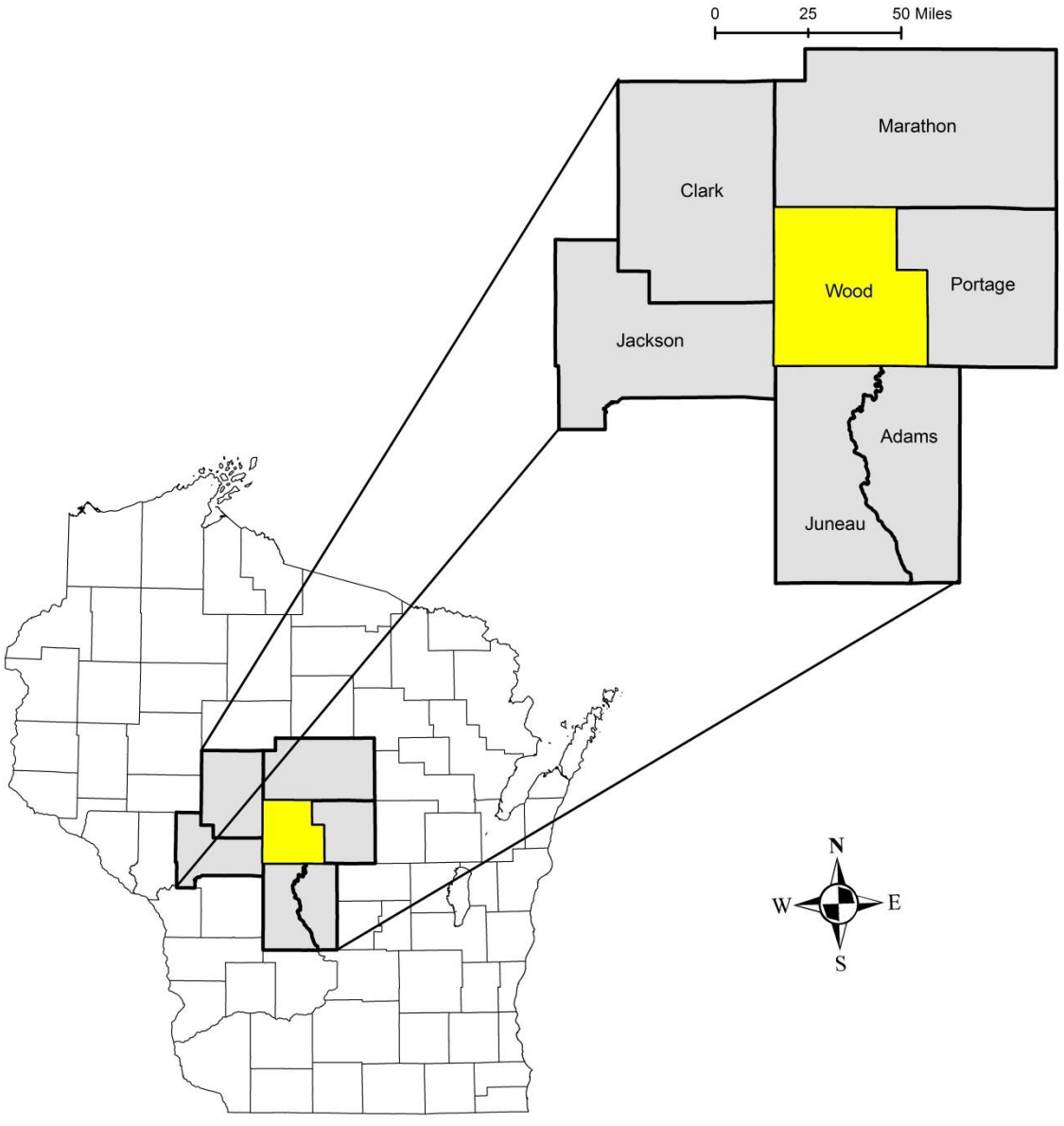
Musky Stocking – Lake Nepco

IV. Description of Wood County

It is important to understand both the physical environment and social characteristics of Wood County and its people to effectively plan for future recreation system improvements. This section presents important community facts and insights into the past and present, to conceptualize future recreational needs and potential. The information presented plays a critical role as Wood County evolves to meet the ever-changing needs of citizens.

Location

Wood County is located in the geographic center of Wisconsin (Map 1). The total area of the county is approximately 517,846 acres, or about 809 square miles. The county boundary measures approximately 30 miles from north to south and 29 miles from east to west. The county is bordered on the north by Marathon County, on the east by Portage County, on the south by Adams and Juneau counties, and on the west by Jackson and Clark counties.



Map 1: Location of Wood County, WI

History

In 1856, Wood County was detached from Portage County by legislation introduced by Joseph Wood, an early pioneer of the area. The county was named "Wood" after Joseph Wood and it also indicated the general character of the area. The first meeting of the board of supervisors was held on October 8, 1856.

Wood County Courthouse

When Wood County was formed, the Town of Grand Rapids covered all its land area. New towns were created from 1856 to the early 1900's. They were: Rudolph (1856); Saratoga and Seneca (1857); Dexter (1859); Lincoln (1861); Sigel (1863); Remington (1869); Wood, Port Edwards and Auburndale (1874); Marshfield (1875); Rock (1878); Richfield (1881); Milladore (1882); Sherry and Hansen (1885); Cary, Arpin and Hiles (1901); and finally Cranmoor and Cameron (1903).

The cities and villages of Wood County developed as the trade, service and industrial centers, providing the nucleus for growth in Wood County. The origin and development of these communities is a very important part of Wood County's history. The four cities and their years of incorporation are: Wisconsin Rapids (1900 - consolidation of Grand Rapids and Centralia); Marshfield (1883); Nekoosa (1926); and Pittsville (1887). The eight villages and their years of incorporation are: Arpin (1978); Auburndale (1881); Biron (1910); Hewitt (1973); Milladore (1933); Port Edwards (1902); Rudolph (1960); and Vesper (1948).

Wood County Today

Today, Wood County is home to an array of industry, beautiful settings, friendly communities and a variety of recreational opportunities. To this day the timber, pulp and paper industry continues to play an important role in the community, as well as manufacturing, agriculture and healthcare. Wood County is the leading producer of cranberries in Wisconsin and even the nation. The small town communities and diverse landscapes of the county provide access to services and amenities residents and visitors desire. Over 96% of survey respondents agreed that parks, recreation, and open spaces improve the quality of life in Wood County.

Lake Dexter Sunset

Demographic Information & Social Characteristics

The purpose of this section is to analyze Wood County's demographics and social characteristics. This information provides the foundation to identify current and future trends affecting recreation in the county. Where appropriate, figures are compared to what is happening statewide.

Demographic data and social characteristics information were appropriated from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA). Please note that the WDOA is an agency that prepares the official population estimates and projections for Wisconsin municipalities. Population projections are not a statement of what will happen, but an inference of what might happen. The agency uses several projection methods in an attempt to get the most accurate numbers. The next national census commences in 2020. 10-year census population data is more accurate than projections and estimates, and is the main source of information to see how communities change over time.

Historical Population

For over a century (1900 to 2000) Wood County experienced constant population growth, averaging an annual growth rate of over 11%. Historical U.S. Census population counts for Wood County are listed in (Table 2).

Table 2
WOOD COUNTY HISTORICAL CENSUS DATA 1900-2000

Year	Population	Percent Change (%)
1900	25,865	--
1910	30,583	18.2
1920	34,643	13.3
1930	37,865	9.3
1940	44,465	14.4
1950	50,500	13.6
1960	59,105	17.0
1970	65,362	10.6
1980	72,799	11.4
1990	73,605	1.1
2000	75,555	2.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population

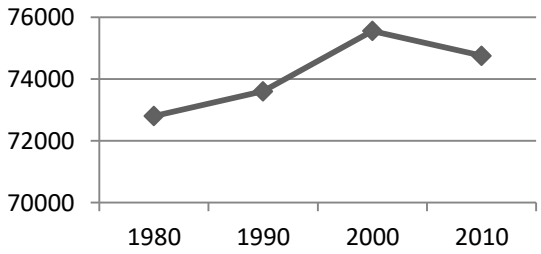
For the past several decades Wood County experienced relatively flat population growth. Official U.S. Census population counts from 1980 to 2010 are detailed in (Table 3) and (Figure 2). From 1980 to 2010 the county's population increased by 1,950 people, or 2.7%. According to the most recent census (2010), the county had a total population of 74,749. From 2000 to 2010 the county experienced a slight decrease in population of approximately 1%.

Table 3
WOOD COUNTY TOTAL POPULATION 1980-2010

Year	Population	Percent Change (%)
1980	72,799	*11.4
1990	73,605	1.1
2000	75,555	2.6
2010	74,749	-1.1

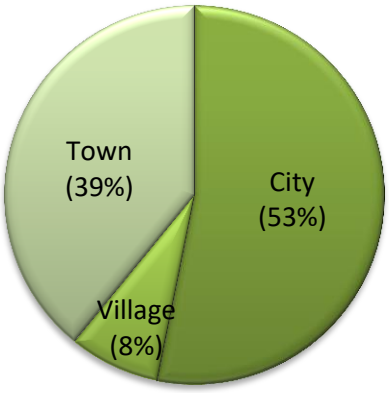
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
*Percent Change from 1970 Census Count

Figure 2
WOOD COUNTY TOTAL POPULATION 1980-2010



According to the most recent census (2010), the county had a population of 74,749. Of that total: 40,039 (53%) lived in cities; 5,820 (8%) lived in a village; and 29,445 (39%) were residents of towns. Shown in (Figure 3) is the 2010 population distribution by political subdivision. Wood County has two major population centers. The City of Marshfield in the northwest corner of the county with a population of 18,218 (2010), and the City of Wisconsin Rapids in the southeast with a population of 18, 367 (2010). Together they account for 49% of the county's population.

Figure 3
POPULATION BY CIVIL DIVISION 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population Estimates

Recent population estimates from 2011 to 2018 indicate that Wood County has experienced relatively flat to stable population growth. Population estimates for the county are presented in (Table 4). The most current population estimates are for the year 2018, with the county having a preliminary total population of 74,817. Again, the next national census commences in 2020 and is the main source of population information to see how Wood County changes over time.

Table 4
WOOD COUNTY POPULATION
(Estimates)
2011-2018

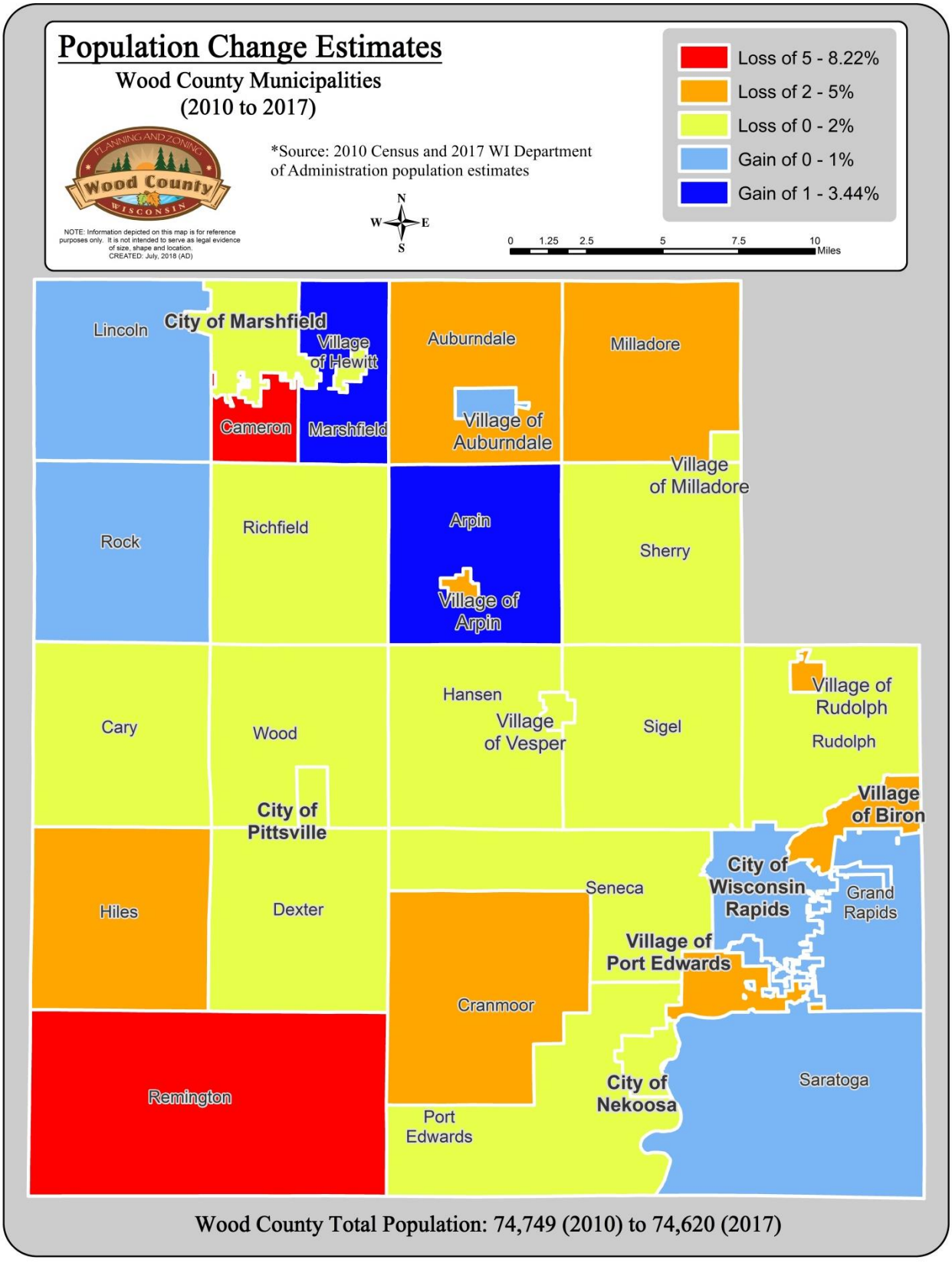
Year	Population	Percent Change (%)
2011	74,669	--
2012	74,587	-0.1
2013	74,583	-0.005
2014	74,954	0.5
2015	74,965	0.01
2016	74,998	0.04
2017	74,620	-0.5
*2018	74,817	0.3

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration
*Preliminary Population Estimate

Final population change estimates prepared by the WDOA (from 2010 to 2017) for all municipalities in Wood County are illustrated in (Map 2) on the following page. To put recent population change estimates into perspective, only 6 of Wood County's 22 townships gained population since the 2010 census. 16 of the 22 total townships decreased in population.

Net migration is defined as people moving into the county minus those leaving. Over the past several years, Wood County has had a negative net migration. Over the past 5 years, over a third of Wisconsin counties experienced negative net migrations. *(source: WDOA)*

Map 2: Wood County Population Change Estimates



Population Projections

To properly plan for future services in Wood County, the County Board must be aware of the changing age structure of the population and of the numbers that are expected to live in the county in the future. Population projections are speculative and no person can forecast a community's future perfectly because of factors such as changing economics, physical demands on the environment, and changing political climate at all levels. However, by using historic data from the community one can foresee with some accuracy what the near future holds for the county as far as expected populations.

Projections of the anticipated future population of Wood County are presented in (Table 5). These projections were prepared back in 2013 by the WDOA. Again, these projections are not a statement of what will happen, but a presumption of what might happen if patterns and trends hold true. Based on population projections from 2020 out to year 2035, the county's population may slightly decrease over time by a half percent.

Table 5
WOOD COUNTY POPULATION (Projections)
2020-2035

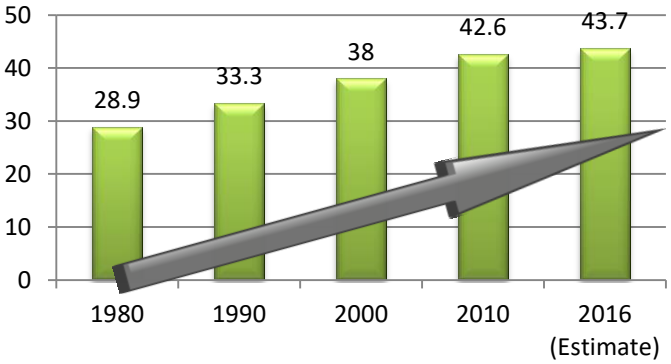
Year	Population	Percent Change (%)
2020	74,435	--
2025	74,370	-0.09
2030	73,930	-0.6
2035	73,270	-0.9

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration (2013)

Age & Gender Distribution

(Figure 4) illustrates the aging population in Wood County since 1980. Wood's current estimated median age of 43.7 (2016) is almost 15 years older than the 1980 median age in the county of 28.9. This similar trend is also the case for other counties, Wisconsin, and the U.S. as a whole. It is interesting to note, the median age for the State of Wisconsin was 38.4 in 2000, compared to the county median age of 42.6 years in 2010.

Figure 4
WOOD COUNTY MEDIAN AGE TRENDS
1980-2016



Source:
1. U.S. Census Bureau
2. 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

What has caused the increase in Wood County's median age? Has it been a drastic reduction in children under the age of 18? Has it been caused by increased longevity of the elderly population? Or, has the change in median age been driven by something else? (Table 6) provides some details about the population of various age groups from 2000 to 2010. The first thing that can be seen in this figure is the substantial drop in individuals under the age of 18 and the substantial increase in population over the age of 50. The increase in the median age of county residents is explained by the changes in these two age cohorts. Contributing factors to the increase includes families having less children and increased life spans of individuals contributing to the general aging county population. The continuation of this trend is expected to be reflected in the 2020 Census numbers when population age group information is released. Some recreation activities tend to be more popular among certain age groups based on a variety of factors, including how physically demanding they are. Demographic trends should continue to be monitored to ensure that recreation supply is aligned to meet demand.

The 2010 Census shows that Wood County's population is approximately 49.2% Male and 50.8% Female.

Table 6
WOOD COUNTY POPULATION PROFILE
2000-2010

	2000	Percent (%)	2010	Percent (%)	Percent Change (2000-2010)
Under 5 Years	4,634	6.1%	4,482	6.0%	-3%
5 to 9 Years	5,217	6.9%	4,451	6.0%	-15%
10 to 14 Years	5,837	7.7%	4,848	6.5%	-17%
15 to 19 Years	5,663	7.5%	4,949	6.6%	-13%
20 to 24 Years	3,859	5.1%	3,913	5.2%	1%
25 to 29 Years	4,122	5.5%	4,279	5.7%	4%
30 to 34 Years	4,904	6.5%	3,970	5.3%	-19%
35 to 39 Years	6,107	8.1%	4,102	5.5%	-33%
40 to 44 Years	6,318	8.4%	4,871	6.5%	-23%
45 to 49 Years	5,614	7.4%	6,090	8.1%	8%
50 to 54 Years	4,801	6.4%	6,191	8.3%	29%
55 to 59 Years	3,681	4.9%	5,375	7.2%	46%
60 to 64 Years	3,202	4.2%	4,466	6.0%	39%
65 to 69 Years	2,789	3.7%	3,429	4.6%	23%
70 to 74 Years	2,733	3.6%	2,851	3.8%	4%
75 to 79 Years	2,424	3.2%	2,339	3.1%	-4%
80 to 84 Years	1,900	2.5%	1,966	2.6%	3%
85 to 89 Years	1,111	1.5%	1,360	1.8%	22%
90 years +	639	0.8%	817	1.1%	28%
Total	75,555	100.0%	74,749	100.0%	-1%
Male	37,030	49.0%	36,777	49.2%	-1%
Female	38,525	51.0%	37,972	50.8%	-1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Race

Shown in (Table 7) Wood County has a population that is predominantly White (95%), according to the 2010 U.S. Census. A small percent of residents are: Black or African American (0.5); American Indian and Alaska Native (0.8) Asian (1.8%); Some Other Race (0.8); Two or More Races (1.1%).

Table 7
WOOD COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE
2010

Race	Number	Percent (%)
One Race	74,749	98.9%
White	73,949	95%
Black or African American	393	0.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	587	0.8%
Asian	1,319	1.8%
Some Other Race	593	0.8%
Two or More Races	800	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a term commonly referring to the highest degree of education an individual has completed. Educational attainment data for Wood County and State of Wisconsin are presented in (Table 8). High school graduate levels for Wood County over the past several decades are similar to state levels. However, bachelor's degree or higher attainment levels for the county over the past several decades have been lower than overall state percentages. According to the most recent census (2010), Wood County had an 89.2% high school graduate and 19.2% bachelor's degree or higher education attainment level.

Table 8
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (%)
(Age 25 and over)
1990-2010

Educational Level	Wood County			Wisconsin		
	1990	2000	2010	1990	2000	2010
High School Graduate	78.3%	84.8%	89.2%	78.6%	85.1%	89.4%
Bachelor's Degree or higher	13.5%	16.9%	19.2%	17.7%	22.4%	25.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income & Poverty

(Table 9) lists the income levels for Wood County and Wisconsin. It is interesting to note that Wood's household, family and per capita income levels are slightly lower than the state of Wisconsin in both 2000 and 2010. This fact is understandable, given the slightly lower college education levels discussed on the previous page.

Table 9
INCOME LEVELS
2000-2010

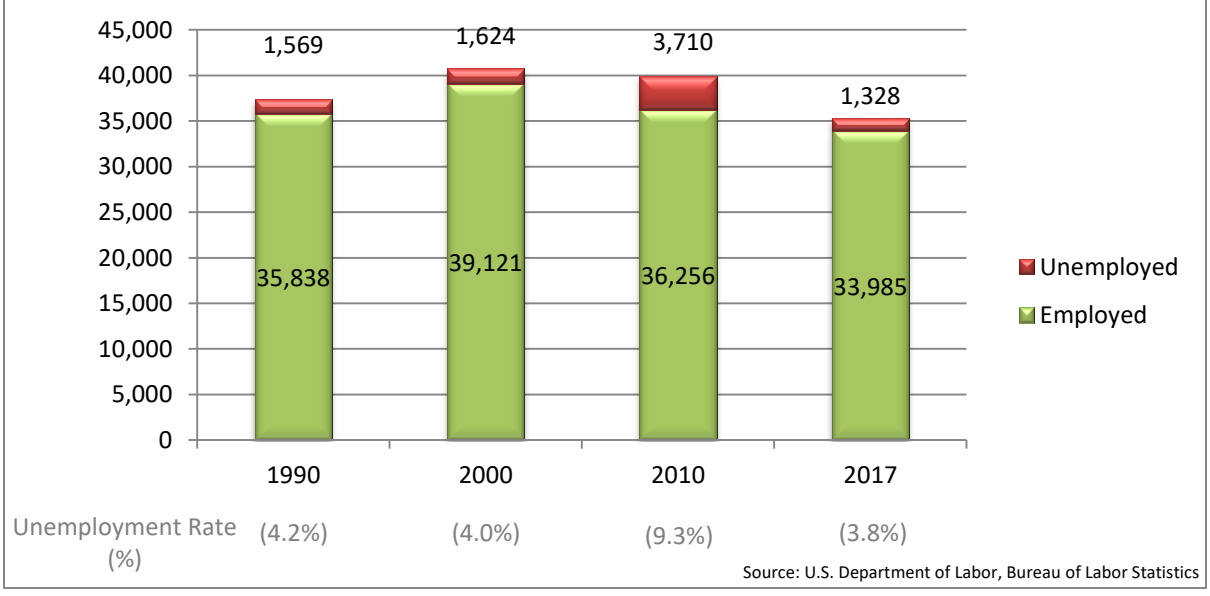
Community	2000			2010		
	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income	Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income
Wood County	$41,595	$50,798	$20,203	$47,204	$58,294	$24,893
Wisconsin	$43,791	$52,911	$21,271	$51,598	$64,869	$26,624

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Employment Characteristics

(Figure 5) illustrates the general labor force characteristics for the Wood County. Overall, the county's labor force (employed and unemployed) has decreased from 1990 to 2017. However, Wood's 2017 unemployment rate of 3.8% is at historic lows. It is lower than the unemployment rates during the area's booming economy of the late 1900's. The county's slightly older median age may increase the impact that retiring baby boomers will have on the community's labor force.

Figure 5
WOOD COUNTY LABOR FORCE
1990-2010



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment Projections

Information on employment forecasts is unavailable at the county level. However, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development produces projections of industry employment at a regional level. (Table 10) examines ten-year employment forecasts for North Central Wisconsin over the 2014 to 2024 time period. Wood County is located within this region.

Employment across all industries is projected to grow by 6% by 2024. The most significant numeral growth is projected in the Education and Health Services industries at 3,892. This trend is important for Wood to identify because of the presence of several large medical facilities located within the county.

Table 10
EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS
North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Area
(2014-2024)

Industry	2014 Employment	Projected 2024 Employment	Percent Change (2014-2024)
All Industries	232,252	245,252	6%
Natural Resources	9,581	9,794	2%
Construction	6,458	6,984	8%
Manufacturing	31,716	31,799	0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	45,327	47,522	5%
Information	2,605	3,141	21%
Financial Activities	13,590	14,808	9%
Professional and Business Services	11,468	12,612	10%
Education and Health Services	50,054	53,946	8%
Leisure and Hospitality	18,379	19,880	8%
Other Services	12,268	12,184	-1%
Public Administration	12,504	12,544	0%
Self-Employed and Unpaid Family Workers	18,302	20,038	9%

Source: Office of Economic Advisors, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Household Characteristics

A household includes all people who occupy a housing unit. A household is different than a housing unit. A housing unit is a structure, i.e., single-family home, duplex, four-plex, etc. (Figure 6 and 7) illustrate two distinct household trends in Wood County. First, the number of households in the county continues to increase, having gone from 25,067 in 1980, growing steadily to its present 31,598 (2010) shown in (Figure 6). The second trend, shown in (Figure 7), is the fact that the average number of persons per household has continuously decreased over the same time period. In 1980, the average household in Wood County had 2.87 persons.

Compare that to the 2.34 average population per household today (2010). Whereas large families were the norm 30-years ago, family size has decreased over the past several decades. There are several reasons for this trend including: more people living alone; more couples without children; and couples having fewer children. As mentioned earlier, the county has lost population in the under 18 years old age cohorts and this attributes to the smaller household size as well. The trend of more households and fewer people per household is likely to continue throughout the planning period as children of the "baby boomers" leave home to start households of their own.

Figure 6
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
1980-2010

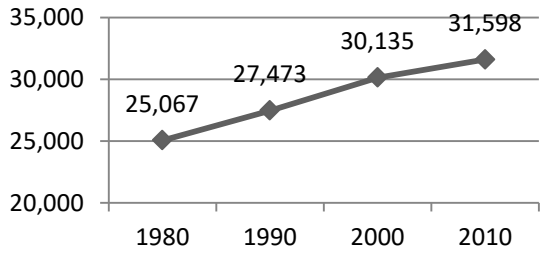
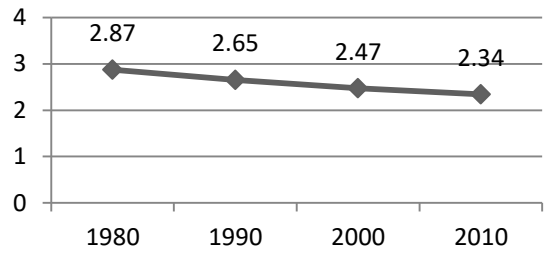


Figure 7
PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLDS
1980-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Housing Projections

The number of households is a function of population and population per household. (Table 11) outlines Wood County's projected household growth and persons per household expected over the next 20 years. As just noted above, the population and total households are expected to continue to increase somewhat, while the number of persons living in each household is expected to continue to decline. In the year 2035, the county is forecasted to have 33,175 households.

Table 11
WOOD COUNTY HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS
2010-2035

Year	Population	Households	Persons Per Household
2010 Census	73,858	31,598	2.34
2015	73,637	32,078	2.30
2020	73,503	32,486	2.26
2025	73,370	32,861	2.23
2030	72,828	33,043	2.20
2035	72,031	33,175	2.17

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Wisconsin Department of Administration

Physical Landscape Characteristics

The purpose of this section is to analyze Wood County's natural environment. It is important to know the physical landscape in which recreation is going to occur in order to responsibly develop future recreation opportunities. Additionally, an analysis of the physical landscape is critical to properly understand unique environmental constraints and limitations.

Physiography

Wood County can be divided into three general physiographic regions. The first area covers the northern portion of the county and consists of broad rolling uplands and some areas of low-lying wetlands. This area lies in the Northern Highland physiographic province of Wisconsin. The second area covers the southeastern portion of the county and contains the Wisconsin River. This area consists of gently sloping, nearly flat topography and lies within the Central Sand Plains physiographic province of Wisconsin. The last region is also located in the Central Sand Plains. This area covers the southwestern portion of the county and is dominated by low-lying marshy/wetland areas. These landscapes are primarily a result of glacial action.

Topography

Wood County ranges from 960 to 1,250 feet above sea level. Surface elevations slope or decrease, from north to south. This slope is interrupted by the Marshfield Moraine (1,360 feet), Powers Bluff (1,481 feet), Cary Bluff (1,182 feet), as well as a few lower hills. The highest point in the county is Powers Bluff located in the Town of Arpin. It rises 300 to 400 feet above the surrounding area and also happens to be a county park.

Powers Bluff County Park

Geology

Wood County contains Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rock, Cambrian sandstone, and a variety of Pleistocene unconsolidated materials. The landform of the county is primarily a result of glacial action. A line from Wisconsin Rapids through Pittsville bounds the northern shore of glacial Lake Wisconsin where deposits are sands and sandstone. The southern and east central portion of the County, while not covered by ice during the glacial period, consists of well-sorted deposits of clays, silts and sands left by glacial outwash and lake deposits. The remainder of the County consists of a ground moraine of unsorted, ice-laid deposits of clay, silt, gravel and boulders.

Soils

Wood County is separated into three main soil groups. The northern portion of the County, roughly north of a line from Pittsville to Rudolph is characterized as silty or loamy soils. This group is associated with uplands on nearly level to moderately steep slopes and commonly have restricted permeability in the subsoil. Agricultural uses are well suited to the loamy soils. Sandy soils dominate the southeastern portion of the county. This area is a former glacial outwash plain which resulted in sandy soils. Most of these soils occur on nearly level slopes and range from somewhat poorly drained to well drained in the town of Saratoga and eastern parts of Port Edwards and Seneca. Organic and alluvial soils are also found in the southern portion of the county in basins and depressions. The Wisconsin and Yellow River floodplains contain poorly drained sandy and loamy soils formed from recent alluvium. Other areas contain very poorly drained organic soils formed from partly decomposed plant remains. Cranberry bogs are well suited to these soils. Much of the southern one third of the county is in forest and wildlife habitat.

Water Resources

Water resources are critical to outdoor recreation, economy, quality of life, and sustainability of living in Wood County. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wood County has 78 lakes totaling over 6,240 acres. Of the 78 lakes, 13 lakes are named and 65 lakes are unnamed. Named lakes in Wood County are listed in (Table 12). Additionally, the county has over 100 unnamed lakes that are smaller than 20 acres. Ross Lake is the one and only named *"seepage lake"* in the county. The remaining named lakes are classified as drainage lakes. These lakes have both an inlet and outlet where the main water source is a stream. The main drainage lakes in the county are contributed to dams and are considered flowages, impoundments or reservoirs. These man-made lakes and flowages provide most of the recreational water in the county. Natural lakes in the county are generally small and very shallow with recreation potential mainly centered around wildlife, waterfowl and fishing.

Lake Wazeecha – South Park

The Wisconsin River is the county's most prominent water feature, and it is identified by 6 flowages; Biron Flowage, Wisconsin Rapids Flowage, Centralia Flowage, Port Edwards Flowage, Nekoosa Flowage, and the tail of the Petenwell Flowage. Although legally considered a river, the Wisconsin River is included with the lake inventory because of the large surface area that it covers that is more typical of a lake than a river. Although contiguous, the Wisconsin River flowages are somewhat confined water features separated by 4 dams that control the rate of water flow for power generation and regulating seasonal flow.

There are 82 named streams/creeks in Wood County totaling approximately 390 miles in length. The Yellow River is the longest in the county, but the Wisconsin River has the largest surface water acreage.

Table 12
NAMED LAKES IN WOOD COUNTY

Name	Area (ac.)	Max Depth (ft.)	Lake Type
Biron Flowage	2,126	23	Drainage Lake
Centralia Flowage	231	19	Drainage Lake
Dexter Lake	298	17	Drainage Lake
Lake Kaunewinne	5	7	Drainage Lake
Manakiki Lake	8	6	Drainage Lake
Nekoosa Flowage	452	17	Drainage Lake
Nepco Lake	494	29	Drainage Lake
Petenwell Lake*	23,040	44	Drainage Lake
Port Edwards Flowage	117	16	Drainage Lake
Quail Point Flowage	28	2	Drainage Lake
Ross Lake (Rose)	25	5	Seepage Lake
South Gallagher Flowage	395	6	Drainage Lake
Wazeecha Lake	148	20	Drainage Lake
Wisconsin Rapids Flowage	447	22	Drainage Lake

Source: *"Wisconsin Lakes"* PUB-FH-800 2009 (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)
*Lake is a border lake and is counted for total number of lakes and acreage in another county

The Wood County recreation system has utilized the surface water of reservoirs extensively. Many cities and villages have also developed park and recreation areas along water fronts.

The quality of water resources is important to sustaining a healthy wildlife population and creating a safe and desirable place for outdoor recreation. Clean water provides an environment for aquatic species to thrive and reproduce in. When a water body experiences problems with pollution or lack of oxygen, many other plants and animal species that live on, in or near water bodies suffer as a result.

Clean surface water is also important to water recreation activities including swimming, boating and fishing. In Wood County water related recreation activities are very popular and are a contributing factor to the overall quality of life of the area. Clean lakes, rivers and streams also help the economy by drawing tourists to the area to recreate and vacation. Generally, the water quality of the lakes, rivers and streams in the county is good.

Groundwater

Groundwater is the source of all drinking water in Wood County. The main sources of groundwater in the county are from saturated sand and gravel deposits, fractured Precambrian rock and Cambrian sandstone. Generally, groundwater in the county is acceptable as far as quality and quantity. Regardless of the source, many factors determine the quality of the groundwater supply. Despite this seemingly inexhaustible supply, there are growing concerns about the quality of groundwater in Wood County.

Climate

The climate in Wood County is continental, characterized by large seasonal and daily ranges in temperature. Winters are usually cold and snowy and summers are generally warm with periods that are hot and humid. Precipitation on average is adequate for agricultural purposes, although some degree of soil moisture deficiency often occurs during the months of July and August. During the winter months prevailing winds are generally from the west and northwest, and from southerly directions in the summer.

Flora & Fauna

Wood County enjoys a very diverse vegetative land cover. The northern two thirds of the county is in the Northern Highland region of Wisconsin and is where most of the agricultural land is situated. Scattered hardwood forest woodlots are common in this area with acreages ranging from 1 acre to several hundred. There are a number of low depressions in this region of the county that create large wooded wetlands providing recreational hunting lands which are publicly owned. Two examples of such wetlands include the Sherry Flats and the Mead Wildlife Area. The southern one third of the county is situated on the lake plain of Glacial Lake Wisconsin. This low, sandy region is home to very large wetland areas, conifer forest tracks, and over 5334 acres of cranberry marshes. While the southeast corner of Wood County is somewhat urbanized, the south central and southwestern regions of the county are sparsely populated and relatively undisturbed.

Wood County's diverse landscape is conducive to a wide range of wildlife species inhabiting the area. Game species found throughout the county include deer, coyote, turkey, bear, fox, beaver, squirrel, rabbit, geese, grouse, duck, pheasant and partridge.

Non-game species found here are typical to most regions of Wisconsin with the exception of our special populations of sandhill cranes in the Sandhill Wildlife Area, and prairie chicken populations in the grasslands of northern Sigel and southern Sherry Townships.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally Sensitive Areas, or ESA's, are defined, generally, as those areas that are unsuitable for certain development because of the potential adverse impacts on the natural environment. These areas include, but are not limited to wetlands, shorelands, floodplain, and other such physical constraints. The exact boundaries of environmentally sensitive areas shall be located through field surveys by appropriate regulatory agencies. Many of the ESA's in Wood County are already protected under current laws and ordinances. Any consideration of development within or adjacent to an ESA must be in conformance with all applicable federal, state, and local rules and regulations.

Certain recreation uses may be compatible in ESA's. If properly developed, recreation uses can even protect and preserve ESA functions while at the same time maximizing use of the resource.

V. Inventory of Existing Recreation System & Services

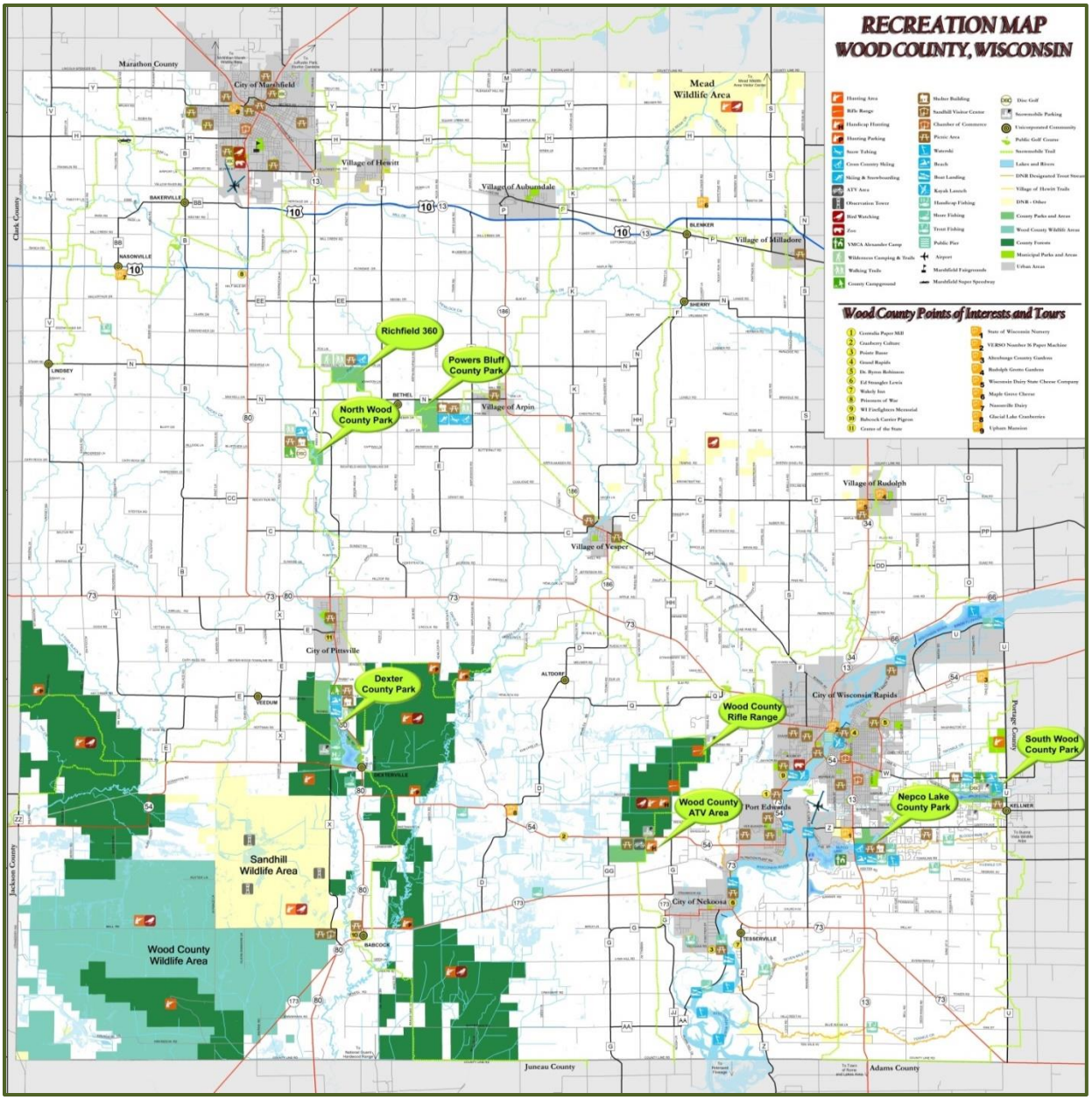
An important initial step in the evaluation of Wood County's recreation system is to inventory existing outdoor recreation opportunities, facilities and services. During the summer of 2018, an inventory of existing county parks, recreation facilities and open space areas was completed. The inventory was completed by the Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning, in conjunction with the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department.

Wood County Park & Recreation Facilities

The following is a summary of the outdoor recreation facilities inventory and general analysis of outdoor recreation opportunities in Wood County. Information includes: general summary; amenity inventory; size and relative location in the county; and other appropriate comments. (Section VII) of this plan details specific recommendations and capital improvements for each feature identified in this section.

Map 3: Wood County Recreation Map

The recreation map shown below is also presented in (Appendix A) and is available online at the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department webpage. Link:
https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/Parks/



Powers Bluff County Park

Size: ±382 acres

Location: Town of Arpin. 6990 Bluff Dr. Arpin, WI 54410

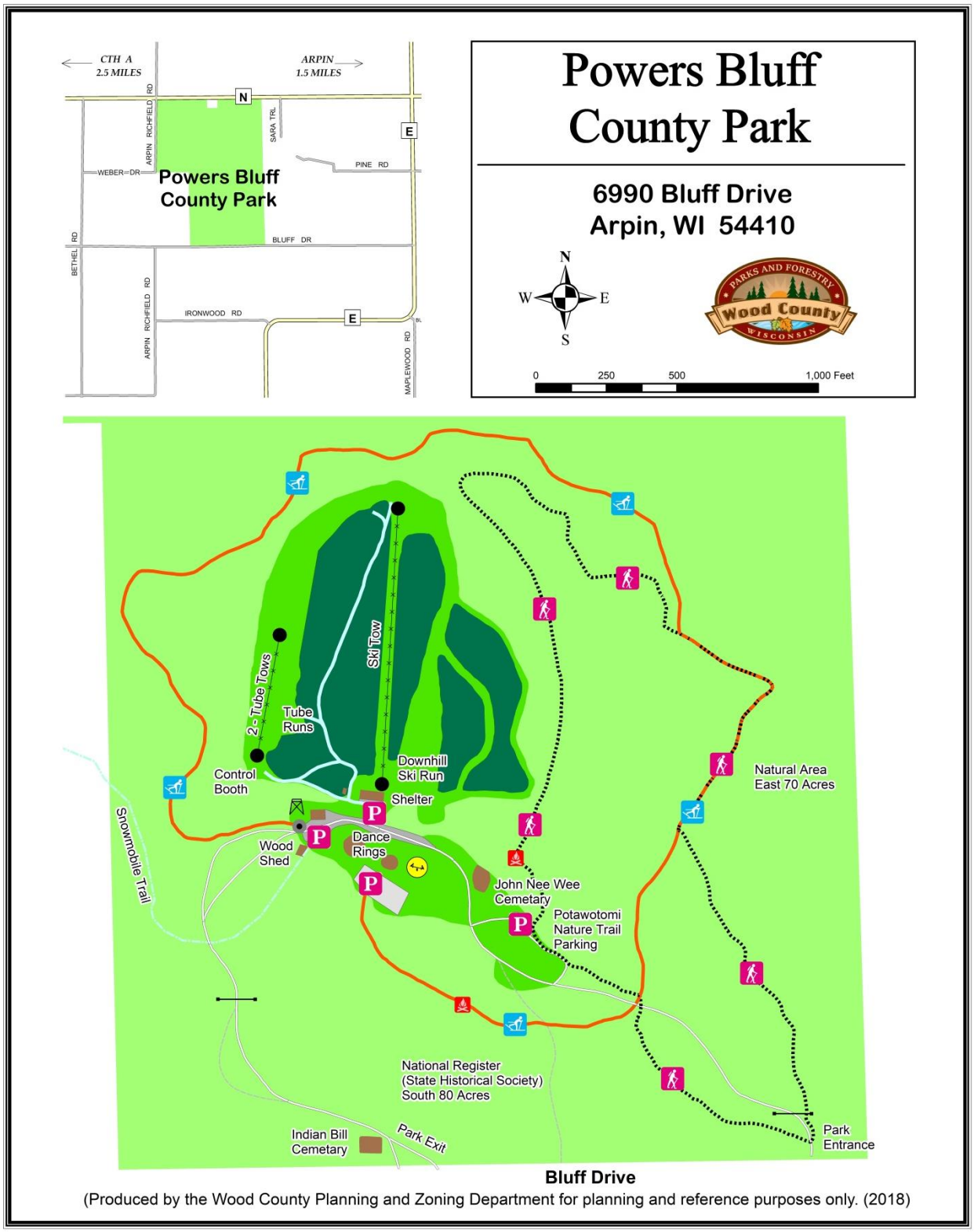
Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

- Snow Tubing Hill (4 runs)
- Downhill Skiing (3 runs)
- Tow Lifts (3)
- Nature Trail (1.5 mi.)
- Picnic Areas/Tables/Grills
- Restroom Facility
- Stone Shelter Building
- Paved Road & Parking Lot
- Play Equipment
- Hunting (certain areas)
- Skiing/X-C Trail (2.5 mi.)
- Snowmobile Trail (1.3 mi.)
- Native American Burial Grounds & Dance Rings
- Gravel Parking Lot (CTH N)
- Signage
- Historical Markers
- Well/Drinking Water

Summary: Powers Bluff is a worn down peak of an ancient mountain range which once covered northern Wisconsin. It is comprised almost entirely of solid quartzite, and the highest point of elevation in Wood County. 70 acres of the park is a designated State Natural Area that features a 1.5 mile nature trail. The south 80 acres of the park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Native American Cultural Sensitivity Area with preserved Native American dance rings, and burial grounds. In 2012, Wood County acquired 223 acres north of the snow tubing/down hill skiing location. This area will be developed in the future for recreational activities. Some of the winter activity highlights of the park include: downhill skiing, tubing, snowboarding, cross-county skiing, snowmobile access, and wooded areas for snowshoeing. Additionally, the park features a two-story stone shelter building with concessions, a fireplace, and restrooms facilities. Rental equipment is available for downhill skiing, snowboarding and tubing.

Map 4: Powers Bluff County Park Map



(Produced by the Wood County Planning and Zoning Department for planning and reference purposes only. (2018)

North Wood County Park

Size: ±172 acres

Location: Town of Richfield. 7500 Park Ln. Arpin WI 54410

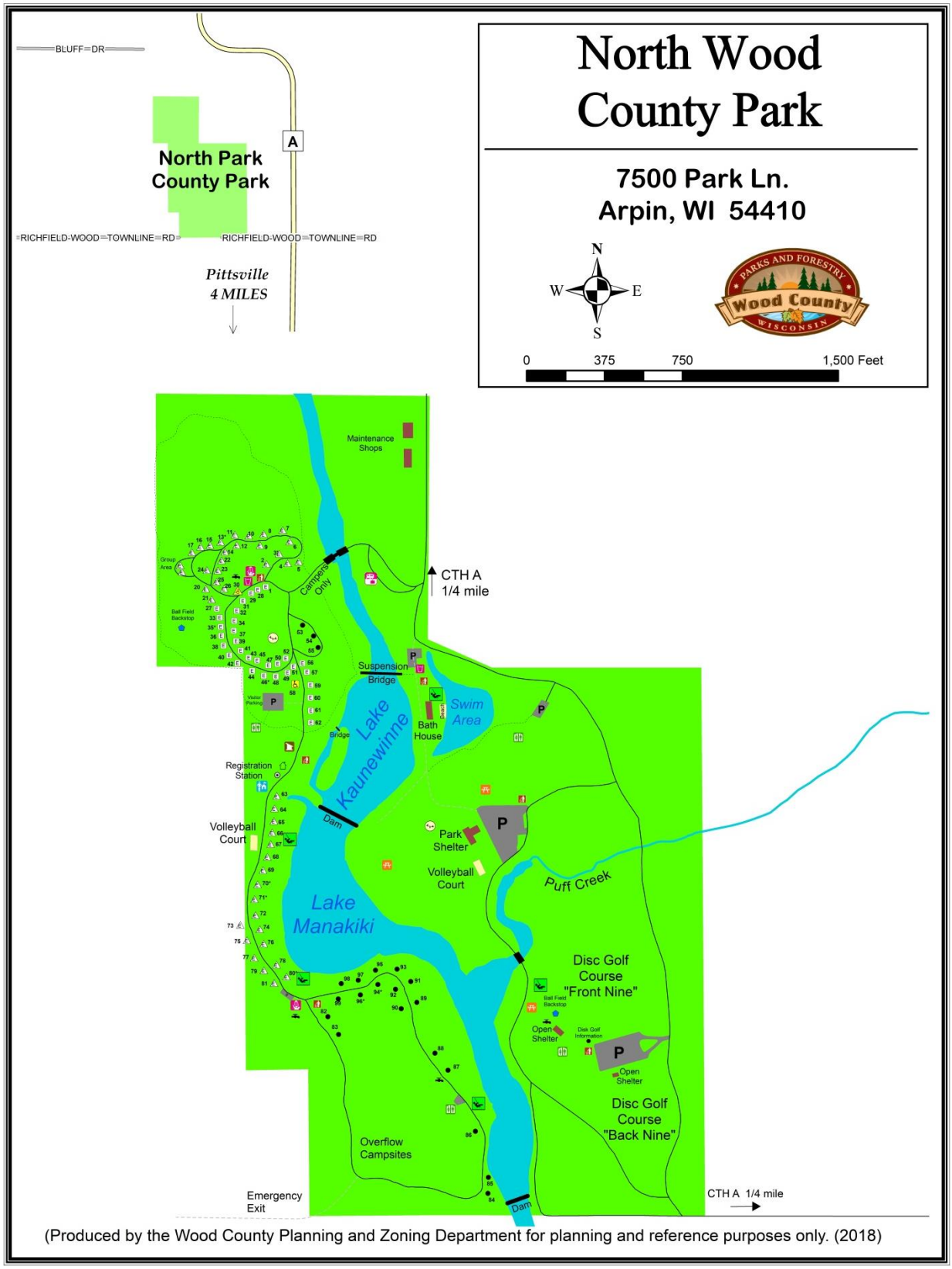
Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

- Suspension Bridge
- Playground Structures & Equipment
- Beach Area
- Hiking Trail
- Picnic Areas/Tables/Grills
- Restroom Facilities (16) & Shower Facilities (2)
- Stone Shelter Building
- Paved Road & Parking Lots
- Disc Golf Course (18 hole)
- Volleyball (2)
- Dams (2)
- Campground (99 units)
- Dump Station
- Well/Drinking Water (12)
- Snowmobile Trail (1 mi.)

Summary: The Yellow River traverses North Wood County Park. Two small manmade dams create Lake Kaunewinne (5 acres) and Lake Manakiki (11 acres) providing scenic beauty throughout the park. One of the main attractions of the park is the 225-foot suspension bridge that spans the river. The park offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. The Yellow River and both lakes provide ample shore fishing opportunities. There are a total of 99 campsites in North Park. Some of the amenities at the campground include: electrical hookups, shower facilities, a dump station, and fresh water are available for registered guests. Other attractions include disc golf, a stone enclosed shelter, beach area, bath house, and scenic walking trails along the river.

Map 5: North Wood County Park Map



Dexter County Park

Size: ±1,235 acres

Location: Town of Dexter. 8220 State HWY 54 Pittsville, WI 54466

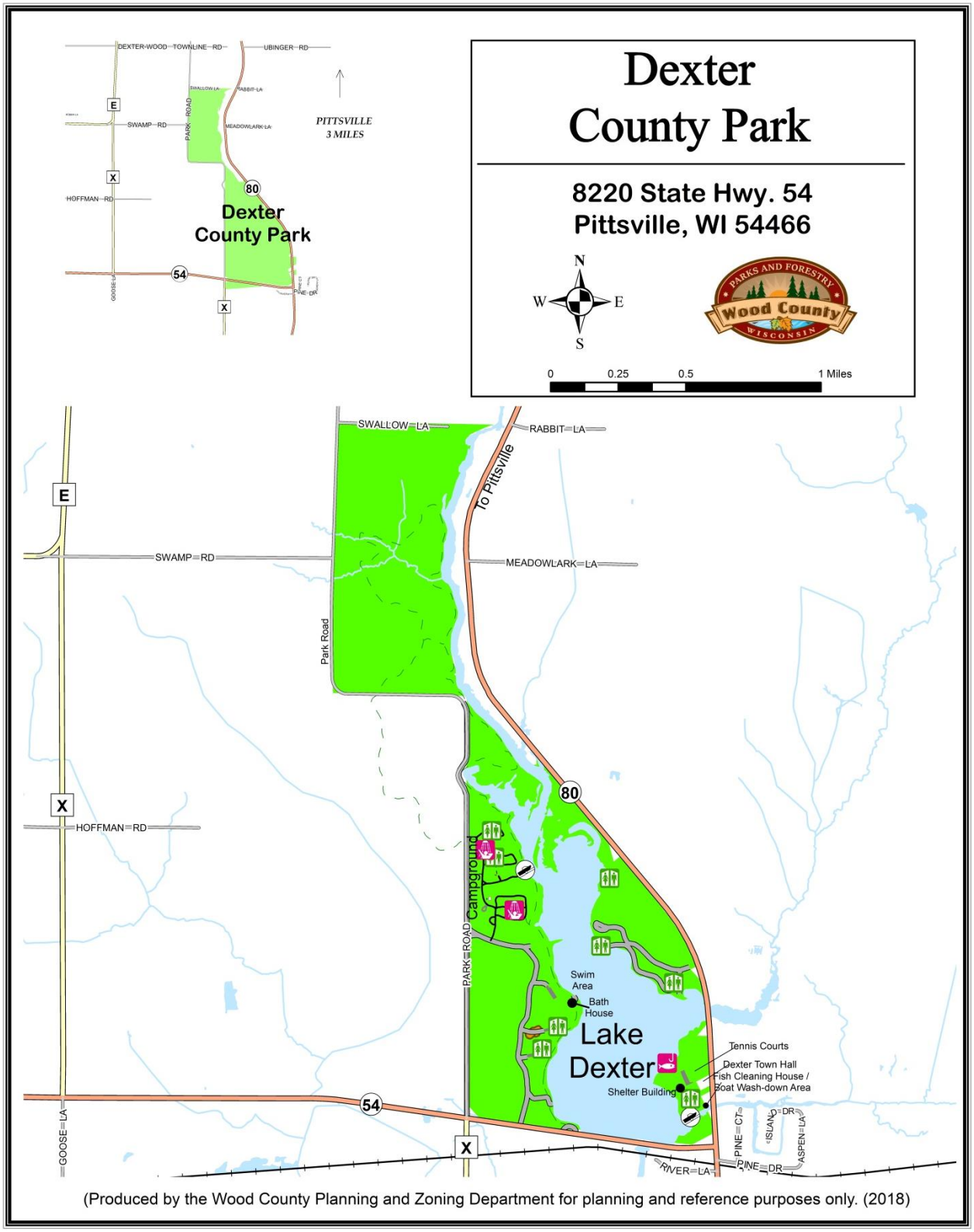
Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

- Beach Area
- Multi-Use Trails
- Boat Landings (2)
- Picnic Areas/Tables/Grills
- Restroom Facilities & Showers
- Open Shelter Building
- Paved Road & Parking Lots
- Campground (96 units)
- Group Campsites (3)
- Accessible Fishing Dock
- Playground Structures & Equipment
- Hunting (certain areas)
- Lake Dexter (298 acres)
- Enclosed Shelter building
- ATV Access and Campsites

Summary: Dexter Park is located around the nearly 300-acre Lake Dexter and is the largest county park in Wood County. Lake Dexter was created in 1962 and has a maximum depth of 17 feet. Dexter County Park has over 1,000 acres of wild, undeveloped land with many trails. With an abundance of natural areas, there are many opportunities to view wildlife. Hunting is permitted in designated areas of the park. Dexter Campground features 93 camping units with improved camp pads and access to shower facilities. Three group camping sites are located south of the main campground. An ATV/UTV camping area is also located south of the main campground. There is access to many miles of ATV/UTV routes and trails from this location. The park features an enclosed shelter, playground, beach, sand volleyball courts, accessible fishing dock areas, hiking trails, and much more. There are two boat launches on Lake Dexter. In addition to boat fishing, there are many shore fishing opportunities.

Map 6: Dexter County Park Map



South Wood County Park

Size: ±332 acres

Location: Town of Grand Rapids. 6411 South Park Rd. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

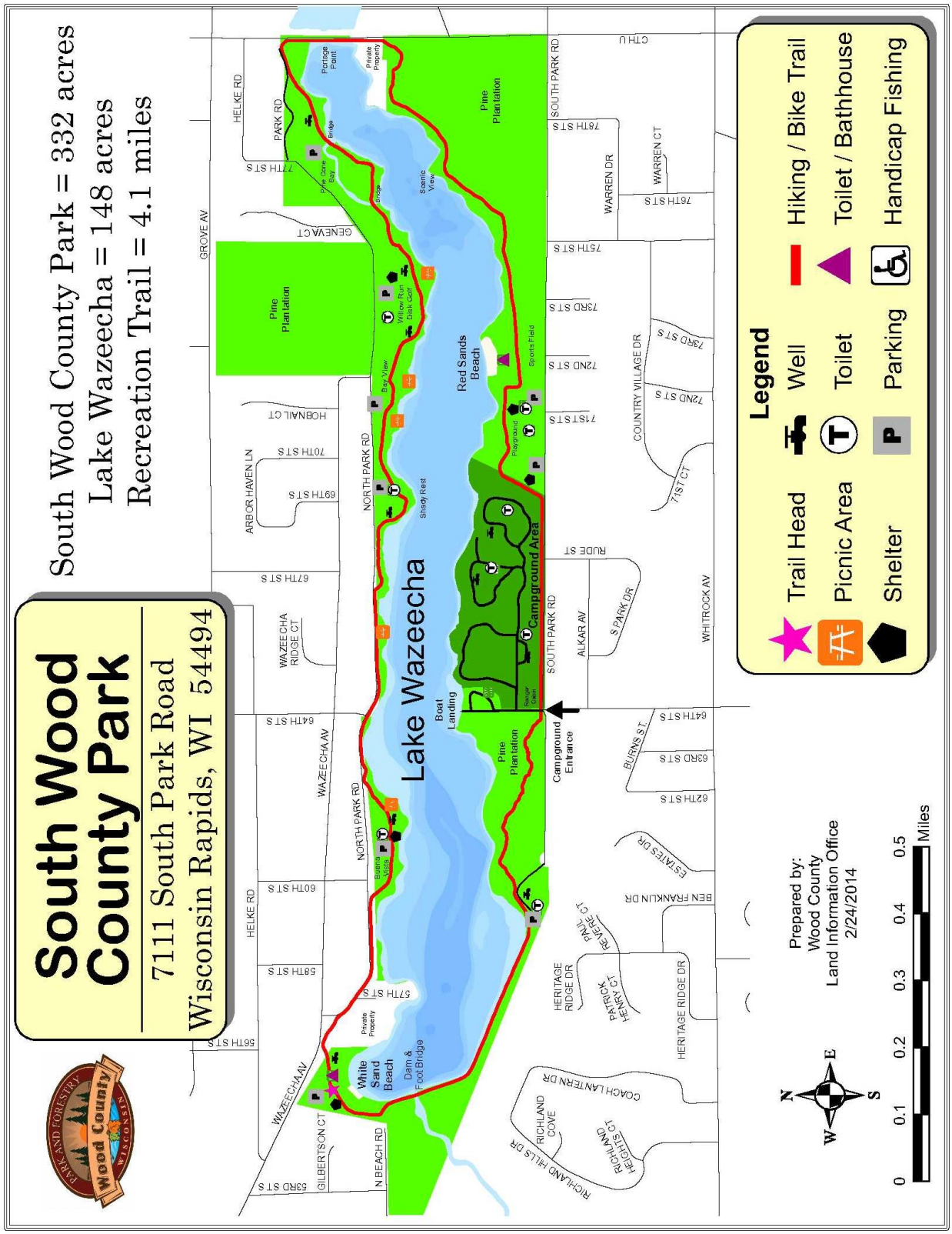
Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

- Red Sands Beach
- White Sands Beach
- Multi-Use Trails
- Picnic Areas/Tables/Grills
- Restroom Facilities & Showers
- Stone Enclosed Shelter Building
- Paved Road & Parking Lots
- Disc Golf Course
- Dump Station
- Campground (73 units)
- Lake Wazeecha (148 ac.)
- Open Shelters (4)
- Playground Structures & Equipment
- Accessible Fishing Dock
- Boat Launch

Summary: South Wood County Park is located around 148-acre Lake Wazeecha. There is a four mile trail encompassing the lake. This multi-use trail is mostly paved, and features community walk/run events annually. Trail users can enjoy scenic views throughout the year. South Wood County Park Campground is located on the south side of the lake. This campground hosts 73 campsites and has shower facilities available to users. Lake Wazeecha is a great place for water skiing, tubing, and other water-sport activities. There are numerous small sandy beaches that are perfect for parking a boat and having a picnic. There are plentiful fishing opportunities by boat and shoreline. The park hosts the State Water Ski Show Tournament, held each July at Red Sands Beach. South Wood County Park is surrounded by suburban neighborhoods providing outdoor recreations opportunities within walking distance. Some other highlights of the park include: Willow Run Disc Golf Course, two beaches, Red Sands Beach Pavilion, a boat launch, and numerous picnic areas.

Map 7: South Wood County Park Map



Nepco Lake County Park

Size: ±125 acres

Location: Village of Port Edwards. 1410 Griffith Ave. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

- Beach Area
- Playground Structures & Equipment
- Enclosed Shelter Building
- Multi-Use Trails
- Picnic Areas/Tables/Grills
- Nepco Lake (196 acres)
- Restroom Facilities & Changing Area
- Open Shelter Building
- Paved Road & Parking Lots
- Boat Landing
- ADA Accessible Fishing Pier
- Ice Fishing Access

Summary: In 1977, this 125-acre park was donated by Nekoosa Papers, Inc. to be used for public outdoor recreation. The park is located on the north side of 196-acre Nepco Lake. The park provides the only public boat landing available on the lake. The park features just over 1-mile of shoreline, which provides ample opportunities to shore fish. Some other highlights include: a beach area, playgrounds, access paths, handicap accessible fishing pier, and an enclosed shelter that is open to rent year-round. One of the most popular attractions at the park is the nearly 10 miles of multi-use trails available. There are several loop trails totaling 4.5 miles that are used by many for hiking and cross-county skiing. Additionally, there are over 5 miles of single-track trails used for bicycling and snowshoeing. Wood County has partnered with Consolidated Musky Club on several occasions to stock musky in Nepco Lake.

Map 8: Nepco Lake County Park Map

Richfield 360 Recreation Area

Size: ±360 acres

Location: Town of Richfield. 8183 Heggelund Ln. Marshfield, WI 54449

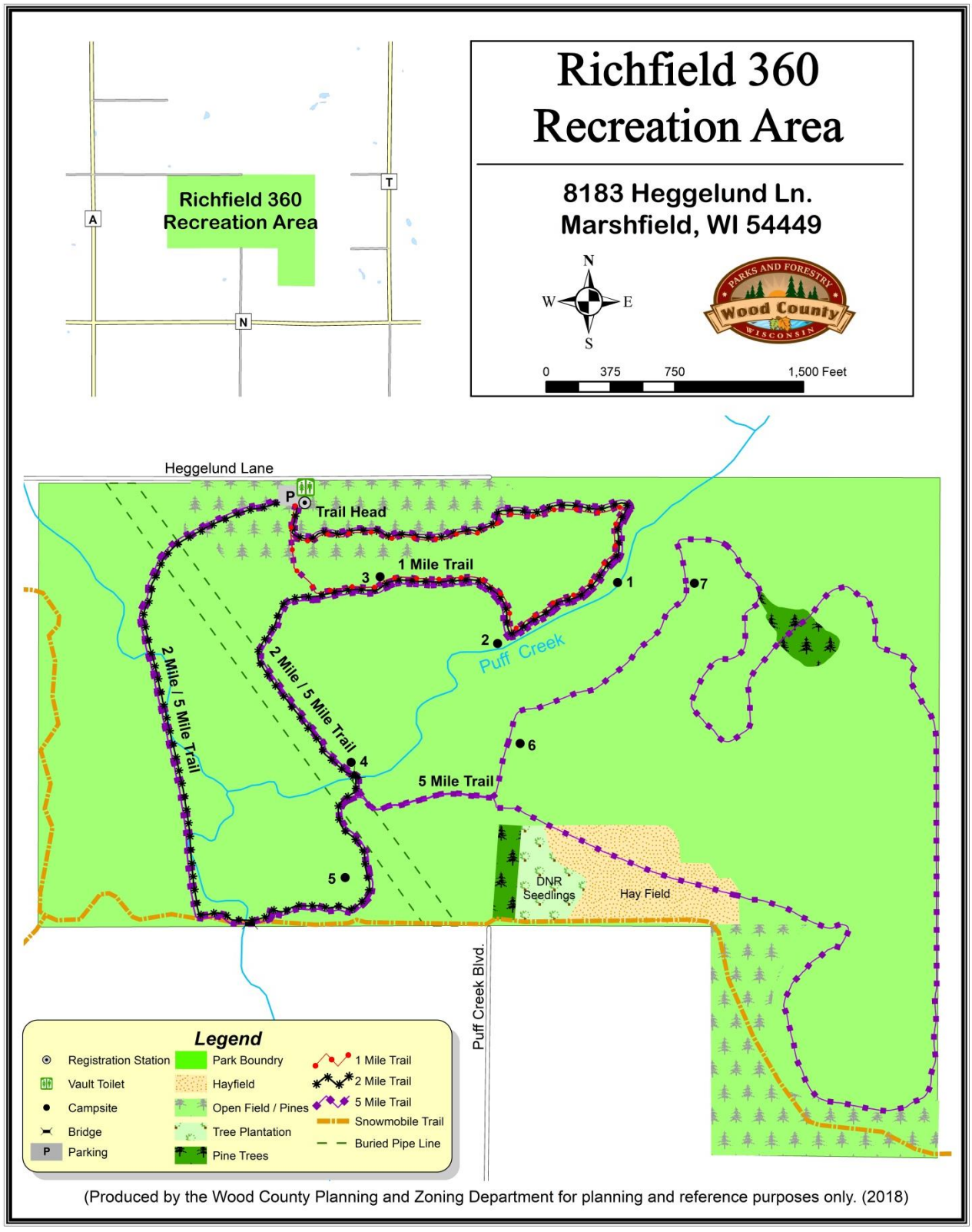
Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

- Primitive Campsites (7)
- Trail Head
- Multi-Use Trails
- Parking Area
- Picnic Areas
- Vault Toilet
- Registration Station
- Horseback Riding
- Cross-county Ski
- Snowmobile Trail
- Hunting
- Puff Creek

Summary: Richfield 360 Area is located 7 miles north of STH 73 and 80 on County Highway A. This 360-acre area has wilderness camping with 7 primitive campsites and is open year-round. The park features 8 miles of nature/cross-country ski trails on gently rolling lands along Puff Creek. The ski trails are broken down into a 1-, 2-, and 5-mile loop. The Wood County snowmobile trail also crosses through the southern portion of the park. Horseback riding is another activity that can be enjoyed at Richfield 360 when there is no snow. This property is part of the County Forest system and is often open for hunting.

Map 9: Richfield 360 Recreation Area Map



Wood County ATV Intensive Use Area

Size: ±400 acres

Location: Towns of Cranmoor & Port Edwards. 4415 State HWY 54, Port Edwards, WI 54469

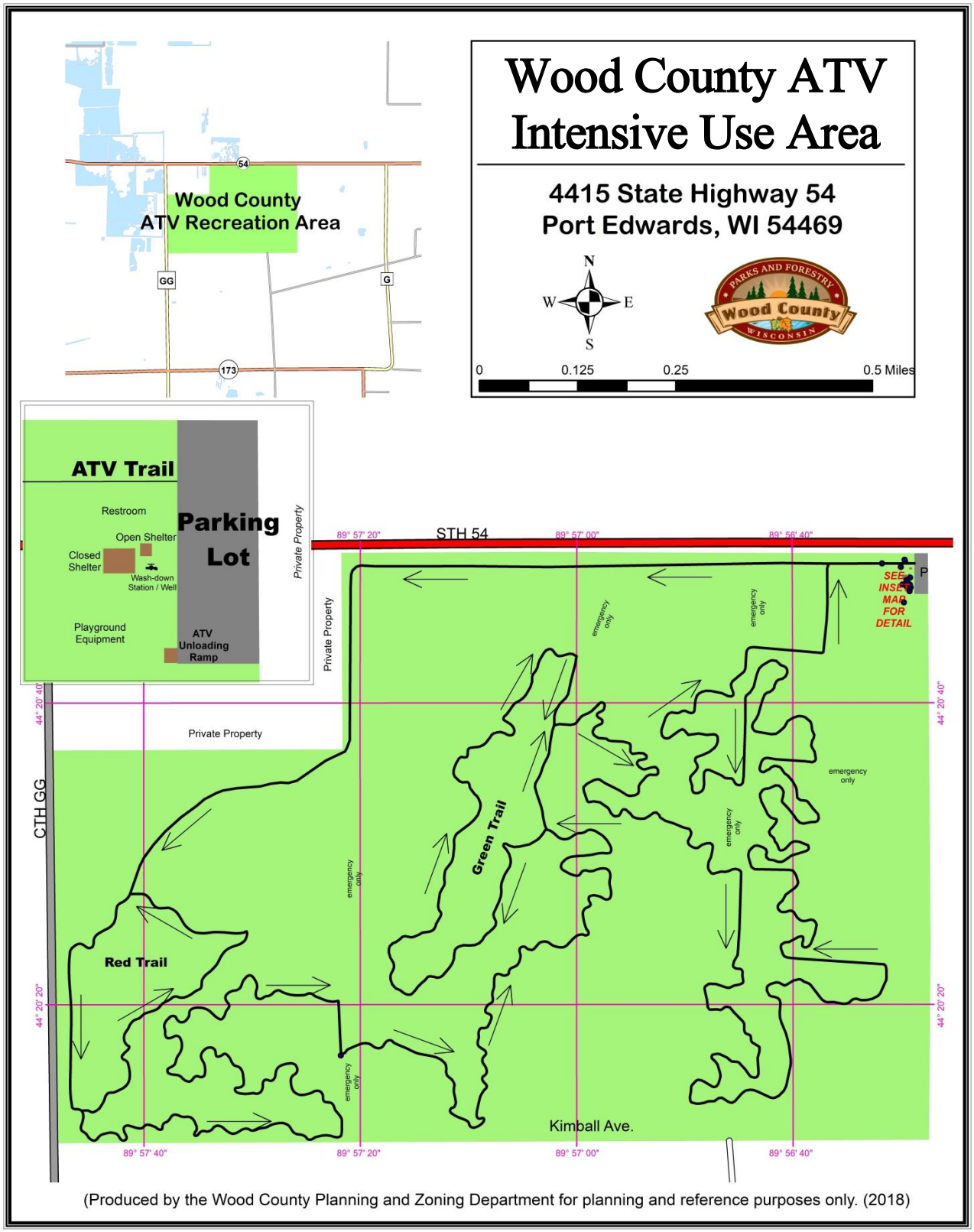
Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

- 10 Miles of ATV Trails
- Trailhead to access Wood County ATV/UTV route system
- Playground Structures & Equipment
- Picnic Area
- Restroom Facility
- Enclosed Shelter Building
- Large Gravel Parking Lot
- Trailhead (ATV & Snow-mobile)
- Loading/Unloading Ramp
- Open Shelter Building
- ATV Wash Station
- Grills
- Fireplace

Summary: The Wood County ATV Area is located 3 miles west of Port Edwards on STH 54. The park provides a central trailhead location to access ATV/UTV, and snowmobile trails and routes in the county. The 400-acre area includes: 10 miles of ATV trails, restroom facilities, wash-down station, loading/unloading ramp, playground equipment, open shelter, and an enclosed shelter. The park is open year-round with the exception of gun deer hunting season. This area offers several loop trails that have varying terrain and conditions.

Map 10: Wood County ATV Intensive Use Area Map



(Produced by the Wood County Planning and Zoning Department for planning and reference purposes only. (2018)

Wood County Rifle Range

Size: ±9 acres

Location: Town of Seneca. 3705 Marsh Rd. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

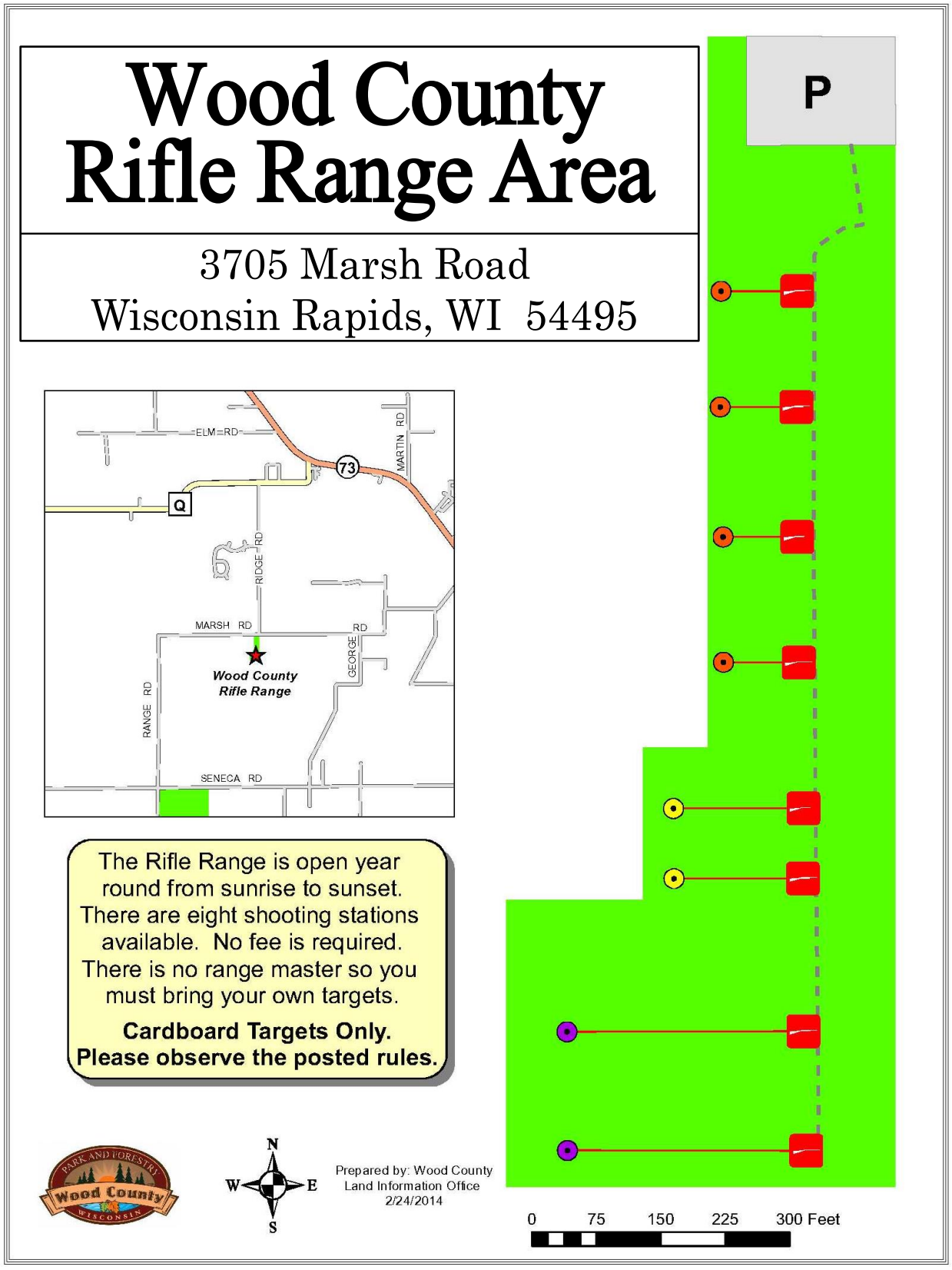
Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

- 25 Yard Shooting Stations
- 50 Yard Shooting Stations
- 100 Yard Shooting Stations
- Gravel Parking Lot
- Natural Surfaced Paths
- Trash Receptacles
- Shooting Benches
- Range Backstop

Summary: The Wood County Rifle Range is open year round from sunrise to sunset. The shooting range is free of charge. Eight shooting stations are available ranging from 25 yards out to 100 yards. There are two 100 yard shooting stations, two 50 yard shooting stations, and four 25 yard shooting stations. Each shooting station is equipped with an ambidextrous shooting bench. There is no range master, and users must provide there own targets (cardboard and paper only). The shooting range is surrounded by Wood County Forest. Additionally, the range features a large gravel parking lot, gravel path to all shooting stations, and trash receptacles to dispose of targets and shell casings.

Map 11: Wood County Rifle Range Map



Wood County Forest Land

Size: ±37,593 acres

Location: Generally located in southern half of Wood County.

Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

- Available for public recreational use
- Timber production
- Wildlife Habitat
- Parking Areas
- Nature Trails
- (+8 miles) County Forest Roads
- Multi-use Trails
- 78% Forested
- 22% Non-forest

Summary: The Wood County Forest originated primarily from tax delinquent lands, with acquisitions beginning in the 1930's. Wood County is one on the first counties to participate under the County Forest Crop Law. The county forest encompasses approximately 37,593 acres and is the 19th largest in the state. Most of the county forest lies in the southern portion of the county in the flat plain of Glacial Lake Wisconsin. The water table is near the surface throughout much of the county forest. Swamps, wetlands, and seasonally wet ground conditions are common and have a major impact on access and forest operations. The Wood County Forest is habitat for wildlife common to Wisconsin. Numerous species of songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and mammals frequent the forest. The county forest also provides tremendous recreational opportunities. These include hunting, fishing, camping, snowmobiling, berry and mushroom picking, bird watching, hiking, mountain biking, sightseeing, and more.

Table 13: Wood County Facilities and Activities

Facilities & Activities	Powers Bluff County Park	Nepco County Park	Richfield 360 Area	North Wood County Park	ATV Area	South Wood County Park	Dexter County Park	County Forest Land
Camping				X		X	X	
Electricity				X		X	X	
Showers				X		X	X	
Toilets	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dump Station				X		X	X	
Wood/Ice				X		X	X	
Camping Wilderness			X					X
Wells		X		X	X	X	X	
Fireplaces/Grills	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Playground Equipment	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Picnic Grounds	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swimming		X		X		X	X	
Boat Landing Ramp		X				X	X	
Boat Wash Station		X				X	X	
Fishing		X		X		X	X	X
Fish Cleaning Station							X	
Canoeing		X				X	X	X
Water Skiing		X				X		
Enclosed Shelter	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Open Shelter		X		X		X		
Handicap Hunting Blinds								X
Hiking Trails	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Downhill Skiing	X							
Snow Tubing	X							
CC-Skiing	X	X	X					
Snowmobiling						X	X	X
Disc Golf				X		X		
Trapping								X
Hunting	X		X		X		X	X
Berry Picking	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Snow Shoeing	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Wildlife Observation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

State Natural Areas

State natural areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations and archeological sites. State Natural Areas serve as excellent outdoor laboratories for environmental education and formal research on natural communities and their component species. These areas are not appropriate for intensive recreation such as camping or mountain biking, but they can accommodate low-impact activities such as hiking, bird watching and nature study. As such, many SNAs contain few or no amenities such as parking areas, restrooms, or maintained trails. The State Natural Areas in Wood County have no developed facilities such as parking areas, restrooms, or paved trails. These sites are open to the public and provide opportunities for a variety of passive recreational activities.

Hiles Wetlands

The Hiles Wetlands State Natural Area (561 acres) is located within the Wood County Forest in the Town of Hiles. This wetland area has seen relatively little human disturbance and contains a large track of tamarack poor fen and sedge meadow. This site was designated a State Natural Area in 2006.

Hog Island Tamaracks

The Hog Island Tamaracks State Natural Area (462 acres) is located within the Wood County Wildlife Area and Wood County Forest in the Town of Remington. This area features a northern wet forest of tamarack and black spruce. It is situated within the flat sandy bed of Glacial Lake Wisconsin. It was established as a State Natural Area in 2008.

Owl Creek Fen Savanna

The Owl Creek Fen State Natural Area (814 acres) is located within the Wood County Forest in the Town of Dexter, Cranmoor and Seneca. This peatland area features a diversity of natural features including central poor fen, tamarack swamp, alder thicket, and upland islands of pine and oak. This site was designated a State Natural Area in 2006.

Powers Bluff Maple Woods

The Powers Bluff Maple Woods State Natural Area (60 acres) is located within Powers Bluff County Park in the Town of Arpin. This 1.6 billion year old bluff features a mature southern mesic forest on a 300 plus foot high monadnock. Powers Bluff Maple Woods is owned by Wood County and was designated a State Natural Area in 1976.

Powers Bluff Understory

Red Oak Bottoms

The Red Oak Bottoms State Natural Area (25 acres) is located within the Wood County Forest in the Town of Cranmoor. This large floodplain forest is situated along Hemlock Creek which flows south and joins the Yellow River south of Babcock. The old-growth forest contains an abundance of red oak and maple trees that provide important habitat for wildlife. Red Oak Bottoms is owned by Wood County and was designated a State Natural Area in 2007.

Skunk Creek Woods

The Skunk Creek Woods State Natural Area (66 acres) is located within the Wood County Forest in the Town of Hiles. This area features a northern dry-mesic forest situated within a large expansive peatland. Medium to large red oak and white pine dominate the canopy. Skunk Creek Woods is owned by Wood County and was designated a State Natural Area in 2007.

Yellow River Floodplain Forest

The Yellow River Floodplain Forest State Natural Area (86 acres) is located within the Sandhill Wildlife Area in the Town of Remington. This mature floodplain forest is situated along the Yellow River. The river runs through the site and is of extremely low gradient, with many meanders, oxbows, sloughs, and ponds. The forest is dominated by silver maple with river birch, basswood, and red oak. Yellow River Floodplain Forest is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 2008.

State Wildlife Areas

Since 1876, the State of Wisconsin has been acquiring land to meet conservation and recreation needs. Many of the lands that have been acquired by the State are considered State Wildlife Areas and managed according to a detailed management plan. State Wildlife areas are open to a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, canoeing, nature study, etc. There are (4) four Wildlife Areas in Wood County that together make up 34,105.71 acres. These areas are shown on (Map 3). The following is a brief description of the properties and the management objective.

Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area

The Paul J. Olson Wildlife Area is a 2,995 acre property comprised of scattered, state-owned, parcels ranging in size from 40 to 860 contiguous acres. The property consists of non-native, cool-season grassland and shrub-carr and is managed as a habitat for Greater Prairie Chickens and other grassland-dependent species.

George S. Mead Wildlife Area

The state-owned Mead Wildlife Area encompasses over 33,000 acres of open marshes, hardwood and aspen forests, and grasslands. It is one of the largest wildlife areas in Wisconsin, and is home to abundance of wildlife species and over 267 bird species have been documented on the property. The Mead is an important resting, feeding, and nesting site for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds.

Sandhill Wildlife Area

The Sandhill Wildlife Area, 9,150 acres of state-owned land in southwest Wood County, features low, sandy upland of oak, aspen and jack pine forests, large marshes, and many flowages. The property is located in the bed of old Glacial Lake Wisconsin and is home to a diverse wildlife habitat and even a small herd of American Bison. The area is intensively managed for wildlife habitat. The Sandhill-Meadow Valley Work Unit Master Plan was completed in 2011 and guided long term management of this property.

Wood County Wildlife Area

The Wood County Wildlife Area is 21,000 acre property that lies within the bed of the old Glacial Lake Wisconsin. The wildlife area is owned by Wood County and leased to the State on a long-term basis. The area is characterized by large expanses of wetlands interspersed with forested uplands and islands. Aspen, oak lowland brush and sedges are the predominant vegetation types, and red, white and jack pine are also found on the area. The natural habitat diversity of the property is conducive to a wide variety of wildlife, including numerous protected species that are attracted to the area. Management of the area will continue to encourage a wide variety of wildlife species, and timber management practices will focus on maximizing habitat diversity for forest wildlife.

Managed Forest Law (MFL)

Approximately, 11,500 acres of private woodland in Wood County is open to the public under the Managed Forest Law (MFL). The MFL program was initiated in response to the negative impact of overcutting and lack of forest management practices in the state. The purpose of the program is to promote good forest management through property tax incentives. Practices that improve forest management are required to be included in an approved forest management plan written by a certified plan writer or DNR Forester. The management plan can address harvesting and thinning timber, tree planting, erosion control, and wildlife measures. Enrollment in MFL is open to all private land owners of 20 or more acres of woodlands. Under Managed Forest Law, the landowner has the choice to enroll the land as either open to the public, or closed at a higher property tax rate. Almost 40,000 acres of woodlands are enrolled in closed MFL.

Historical Sites

Presently (2018), there are 968 Wood County entries on the Architecture and History Inventory (AHI). Most of the properties included in the inventory are the result of systematic architectural and historical surveys that have been completed in the past. Of the 968 Wood County entries, 20 sites are on the National Register of Historic Places. The AHI is housed by the Wisconsin Historical Society and this collection contains over 150,000 historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and historic districts throughout Wisconsin. Detailed information about each Wood County entry can be found at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin web page (www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi/). Other historic sites denoted by roadside signage in Wood County include the Centralia Paper Mill site, Indian cemeteries, a memorial to Ed "Strangler" Lewis (a former world champion wrestler from Nekoosa), Swallow Rock, Grand Rapids, cranberry culture, Babcock passenger pigeons, the State Water Ski Show site, and the site of a Campbell Brothers Circus train wreck near Babcock.

Museums

Wood County is home to two museums that are both located in stately historic homes that have been restored. Items and displays at the museum are of local historical significance.

Upham Mansion

The Upham Mansion is located at 212 West Third Street in the historic district of the city of Marshfield. The restored mansion is the former home of Wisconsin Governor William Henry Upham, and represents mid-Victorian architecture. Victorian furniture is on display and many of the pieces were made at the Upham Manufacturing Company. Another unique feature of the museum is the rose garden with 32 varieties of beautiful roses.

South Wood County Historical Museum

The South Wood County Museum is located at 540 Third Street in Wisconsin Rapids. The building was erected in 1907 by architect Anton Billmeyer for Issac P. Witter. The property was given to the city in 1947 and served as the T.B. Scott Library for a number of years. In 1970, it became The South Wood County Historical Museum under the direction of the South Wood County Historical Corporation. Some of the museum exhibits include: schoolhouse, country kitchen, store, antique cranberry harvest equipment, and Grim Natwick exhibit (creator of the Betty Boop character). The South Wood County Historical Museum contains many displays that tell the story of how people lived in Wood County starting in the early 1800's. The North Wood County Historical Society in Marshfield has identified several historically significant aspects of that area as well.

Historic Attractions & Memorials

Rudolph Grotto Shrine

The Rudolph Grotto Shrine is located in the village of Rudolph. The Grotto was started in 1920 by Father Philip Wagner and consists of over five acres of lush gardens, numerous shrines, museum, and a gift shop. It is constructed using rock and broken glass and is set among meandering paths and crooked bridges, with shady, intimate areas for meditation as well as more formal memorials and open picnic grounds.

Historic Point Basse

One of Wood County's most historically significant areas is located on the east side of the Wisconsin River just south of the City of Nekoosa. Point Basse, as the site is called, is the French term for "low point" or "shallows." Prior to development by Robert and Mary Wakely on June 2, 1837, as a trading post, warehouse, inn, and home for themselves, the site marked the crossing point for Native Americans as they made their way on an east and west trail that ran from Lake Poygan to Black River. Many of the original buildings at Point Basse have been moved, burned or razed. The only original building is the Wakely home, and other structures have been donated or reconstructed. Over the years Point Basse has hosted many events that focus on the history of the area and interpretation of the lives of the eleven Wakely family members that resided there. The site also offers nature education through events and a nature walk and prairie garden. More information on Point Basse and scheduled events can be found at www.historicpointbasse.com

Wisconsin River Papermaking Museum

The Wisconsin River Papermaking Museum is located at 730 First Ave. South in the city of Wisconsin Rapids. The museum is open to the public and features changing exhibits that focus on paper making over the years. Some exhibits include antique papermaking tools and large wooden papermaking vats from China and Japan.

The Alexander House

The Alexander House is located at 1131 Wisconsin River Drive in the village of Port Edwards. It was founded by the Alexander Charitable Foundation of Port Edwards in 1990. It is named for the late John E. Alexander, who was instrumental in establishing the lumbering and paper industry. Since opening in 1991 tens of thousands of people have visited the art and history displays. The art display changes throughout the year and features many local and Midwestern artists. The second floor of the house contains many historic items from the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Company.

Wisconsin State Firefighter Memorial

The Wisconsin State Firefighters Memorial is located on the southwest side of Wisconsin Rapids, in Ben Hansen Park. The memorial at this scenic location along the Wisconsin River was

constructed to pay tribute to the firefighters from the State of Wisconsin who has made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to their communities.

Wood County Veteran's Memorial

The Wood County Veteran's Memorial is located near the courthouse entrance at 400 Market Street. The memorial pays tribute to the veterans that paid the ultimate price in defending the principles and freedoms of the United States of America. Veterans listed by name on the monument served in the following wars: Spanish American; Civil War; World War I; World War II; Vietnam War; Korean War; Gulf War; and Iraq War. The memorial was established by a volunteer committee that wanted to make sure that all Wood County service men and women who died as a result of combat-related wounds, injuries or causes are not forgotten. Inspiration for the monument comes from the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the Highground in Neillsville, Wisconsin.

Archaeological Sites

According to records at the State Historical Society (Office of the State Archaeologist) there are presently 163 archaeological sites in the County. (8) Eight of these sites have been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and all (8) eight sites are located along the Wisconsin River. The archaeological sites are typically sites relating to early Indian villages or burial grounds, such as those at Ross Lake or Powers Bluff, or sites showing signs of an undetermined prehistoric life. The majority of the archaeological sites that have not been considered for application to the National Register of Historic Places, have not been evaluated in enough detail to warrant such application.

Most of the 163 identified sites were found while completing archaeological surveys for proposed highway corridors, or for the relicensing of impoundments on the Wisconsin River. The Historical Society has emphasized that "these sites probably represent only a fraction of the sites actually present within Wood County as little systematic archaeological survey work has been undertaken." Wood County should pursue an archaeological investigation to identify important sites. Such an investigation would be educational for area residents and may uncover archaeological areas of statewide or national significance. Without an archaeological investigation, important sites stand the chance of being inadvertently destroyed by unknowing developers.

In 2002 Powers Bluff was included in the National Register of Historic Places. The historic name of the site is the Skunk Hill (Tah-qua-kik) Ceremonial Community. The period of significance is from 1905 to 1930 when it served as a Native American settlement.

Popular Wood County Outdoor Recreation Resources & Activities

Wood County provides a wide variety of recreation resources and activities for its residents and visitors. The following paragraphs summarize some of the most popular recreation resources and activities available in the county.

Camping

There are a combined total of eight (8) private and public operated campgrounds in Wood County with over 600 established units. The total number of campsites has increased over the past several years. Both private and public campgrounds have contributed to the increase in available camping units. The Wood County Parks and Forestry Department operates campgrounds at four of the five county parks; Dexter, Richfield 360, North Wood County Park, and South Wood County Park, with a total of 273 camping units. An inventory of Wood County campgrounds appears in (Table 13) and locations of the campgrounds are shown on (Map 3).

The private campgrounds, by-in-large, offer improved sites (electric service, and water). Other amenities including heated swimming pools, minibike trails, and playgrounds for toddlers are often offered in an effort to attract patrons. Private campgrounds are located primarily in the southern townships of the county, particularly in areas with surface water available for fishing and swimming, or where public hunting lands are abundant.

Wood County does have plans to improve and expand camping facilities at a few campgrounds in the future. The improvements are dependent on available tax levy funding, grant funding, and future camping trends.

Hunting

Wood County offers ample public hunting opportunities on over 139 square miles of land open to the public. The largest single landowner is the County with approximately 37,600 acres entered under the County Forest Law. In addition there are 21,000 acres of county-owned and 13,105.71 acres of state-owned land that are included in four State Wildlife Areas. Wildlife Areas provide outstanding opportunities for hunting; however, there may be additional restrictions on all or parts of the areas. (Map 3) shows public lands available for hunting.

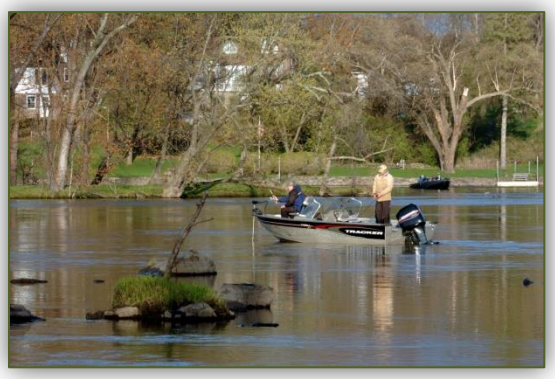
The largest contributor of hunting lands is the private landowner. However, due to an increasing reluctance of the private landowner to open their lands to hunting, there is no assurance that these lands will be available in the future. 11,575 acres of woodland are open to the public under the Managed Forest Law. These lands represent the only private lands having any assurance of future availability.

Species of wildlife most often sought by hunters in Wood County are white-tailed deer, bear, small game, ruffed grouse, waterfowl, turkey, squirrels and rabbits, among others. It should also be noted that these species, as well as other wildlife species of Wood County's forests, fields, marshes and waters, are sought after for observation and study purposes as well.

Picnicking

Picnicking opportunities are difficult to determine because a picnic table does not necessarily depict picnicking as a recreation activity. Nearly all public and private recreation areas in Wood County provide facilities to accommodate picnicking. (Map 3) shows the location of picnic areas available in Wood County. Additionally, (Table 13) shows the county facilities that provide picnic grounds and some level of support facilities. Nearly all of the picnic sites are resource oriented and offer recreational opportunities other than just picnicking. The supply of picnic tables has remained fairly stable due to maintenance and replacement when necessary, and the fact that few new park developments have occurred in recent years. The 2011-2016 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies picnicking as a higher participation rate recreation activity that is increasing in demand because it is a multigenerational family activity. Recreation providers should make an effort to maintain the number of picnic tables they provide, as well as continue to provide picnic support facilities such as restrooms, running water, and parking.

Fishing



Spring Fishing

Wood County has good fishing opportunities for both the warm weather fisherman and ice-fisherman. Seven streams in Wood County have been classified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as trout streams and provide about 30 miles of trout fishing opportunities. Northern pike, largemouth bass, walleye, brook trout, brown trout, miscellaneous pan fish and musky are the most common sport fish in Wood County. The Wisconsin River traverses the south east corner of the county and is also the longest river in the State of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin River plays a vital role in Wood County's fishing resources and the recreation system as a whole. Many water bodies are stocked annually or as needed to maintain healthy fisheries. Stocking information can be obtained through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources web site. Bullhead and forage fish are present in nearly all lakes and streams due to their ability to withstand winter-kill conditions.

The 2011-2016 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies fishing as a higher participation rate recreation activity.

Wood County's surface water supply is adequate to meet the fishing demand, although pressure will increase as a result of the efforts to build the fish population and the introduction of more sport fish into the County's waters. Factors that have inhibited fishing in Wood County in the past include water pollution, poor access, and poor fishing success. Each of these factors is being addressed and improved. Continued improvements will impact fishing as word spreads about the better fishing opportunities.

When non-native plants, animals, and diseases are introduced to lakes and rivers, they can potentially impact the health of the fisheree, as well as the overall recreational use of the water body. In the past few years awareness of invasive species has been heightened. The future health of fishing resources will be dependent on the ability to control invasive species, manage fish populations, and maintain water quality of water bodies.

Swimming

There are four beach areas in the County actively satisfying a substantial amount of swimming demand. Their locations are shown on (Map 3). All of the beaches are owned by Wood County and have no restrictions on use by the public other than those related to personal safety.

The amount of beach acreage is currently meeting demand even on peak days in the summer months. In some cases, poor water quality may be deterring use of some beaches. Although current demand for beaches in the County is being met, it is important to assure continued use of existing sites by making certain water quality does not deteriorate, but continues to improve. If water quality does improve, the demand on the beaches can be expected to increase. If the trend of municipal pool closures in the County continues, this could cause increased use of swimming beaches, or initiate a decline in swimming as a recreation activity.

In addition to the beaches mentioned, the city of Marshfield continues to provide an outdoor swimming pool. However, this pool has exceeded its life expectancy and is in need of replacement. Other pools formerly located in Port Edwards and Wisconsin Rapids (West Side Pool) have both been closed down and removed within the past 5 years. In the past 15 years municipal pools have closed in the village of Biron, the City of Nekoosa, and the City of Wisconsin Rapids (East Side Pool). The reason for facility closure was generally age and excessive ongoing maintenance costs.

Currently, the SWC YMCA is constructing an indoor pool facility at its new Wisconsin Rapids location. The City of Wisconsin Rapids is also seeking funds for a future aquatic center.

Indoor pools are available either for a fee or on a limited basis at the SWC YMCA, Marshfield YMCA, Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids, and Marshfield High School. Pools play an important role in meeting the County's swimming demand. They offer a more controlled swimming environment and greater health protection than beaches.

The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has identified swimming as a stable recreation element that is always popular, but due to water quality issues this activity has failed to grow. In Wood County water quality issues and a gradual decrease in municipal swimming pools will likely contribute to a diminishing interest in swimming as a recreation activity.

Golfing

There are currently (6) six golf courses in operation in Wood County. All are privately-owned. The courses appear to be adequately meeting demand for this sport, and it appears that they will be able to meet demand over the next 5 years. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies golf as a sport that has a stable participation demand.

Sightseeing

The flat terrain, land use diversity, and mix of natural and agricultural rural landscape make Wood County a pleasurable sightseeing experience. In general, the visual attractions most likely to be of importance to this activity are the large blocks of forested lands, pastoral landscape of agricultural areas and major watercourses. There are countless options when it comes to viewing the scenic county landscape even though there are few designated routes. The low traffic volume of many of the county highways and local roads provides sightseers with the opportunity to take in beautiful scenery in all parts of the county.

For sightseers looking for routes that are clearly mapped or marked by signage, there is the Yellowstone Trail and the Cranberry Highway Tour. Both vehicle tours offer scenic views of the Wood County landscape that can be taken any time during the year. Both tours provide a glimpse of Wood County landscape, history and culture.

Yellowstone Trail

Before there were numbered highways in the United States there were names attached to roads to help the motorist navigate from town to town or from county to county. In 1912 before the vision of the interstate highway was conceived, a small group of men envisioned a road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound and called it the Yellowstone Trail (Figure 3).

In Wisconsin the Yellowstone trail ran from Kenosha to Hudson through 18 counties spanning 406 miles. This transcontinental road, one of the first, carrying Tin Lizzies in the early 1900s and Chevys in the 1930s finally faded into a growing network of roads and the interstate system. Although there are many more route choices when traveling today, much of the Yellowstone

Trail can still be traveled. More information on the Yellowstone trail can be found at www.yellowstonetrailwi.org

Cranberry Highway

The Cranberry Highway and Cranberry biking trail was started in the late 1990s to promote tourism in South Wood County associated with cranberry culture. What first started as a promotional tour has evolved into a cultural experience where participants can take a self-guided auto drive or bicycle ride on a 50 mile route. Although the tour can be taken any time during the year, the cranberry harvest and changing colors make the fall season the optimum time of the year to experience it. On the tour there are opportunities to tour cranberry marshes, dine at local establishments, and shop at unique specialty stores that sell items unique to the area. A map of the Cranberry Highway and Cranberry Biking Trail, along with featured stops along the way can be found at the Wisconsin Rapids Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.visitwisrapids.com

Hiking, Walking, Running, etc.

One common definition of hiking is walking for recreational purposes. When it comes to hiking, the journey is usually more important than the destination. In Wood County there are many opportunities to hike. Shorter trails have been developed, perhaps not as much for hiking as for nature study in the County Parks. Wood County has several developed hiking trails, all located at existing county parks. The trails range in length from 1.5 miles at Powers Bluff to 7.0 miles at the Richfield 360. County facilities with hiking trails are identified in (Table 13)

The need for formally developed hiking trails in Wood County is considered low. With the thousands of acres of forestland and public hunting grounds that exist in Wood County, miles of fire lane has been provided as well as trails left by hunting and logging vehicles. Enjoyable hiking and nature study experiences are available in several areas in addition to the joint use of ski trails and snowmobile trails. Enhancement of some of these areas should be considered, including signing of plant species for educational purposes. Another consideration is the locating of trails closer to the population centers of the county. Most of the trails, while adequate in length, are inaccessible to persons in the urbanized areas without reliable transportation. Consideration should be made toward the development of trails closer to Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield.

As mentioned, County forestland in most cases is accessible using old logging trails and fire lanes. Many of these trails are expensive to maintain and suffer repeated abuse from off-road vehicles. To accentuate the outdoor experience and accessibility of County forestland, a network of less costly multi-use hiking trails could be cleared and maintained, accessible from

many existing parking areas. A practical network of trails could be built by simply clearing brush and fallen trees. Improved mobility in many areas would allow people to experience more remote public land, and more easily disperse hunters during the peak times of game seasons.

Bicycling

Bicycling around Lake Wazeecha

There are many opportunities for bicycling in Wood County. In the Marshfield Area there are over 20 miles of paved, well-marked trails taking you through some of the city's most scenic areas. This scenic yet functional trail network is safe and connects users to all that Marshfield has to offer. The Wisconsin Rapids Area has over 25 miles of trail. There is a 9-mile paved trail that travels through Wisconsin Rapids, Port Edwards and Nekoosa along the Wisconsin River. This route has many rest areas along the way and travels through some of the area's best parks. Cooperation among municipalities has led to State funding for the construction of many of these paths.

In March of 1996, the Wood County Board of Supervisors adopted the Wood County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This plan was created with the assistance of an outside consulting firm and is intended to guide the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and policies in Wood County within the framework of the County's overall transportation system. The vision of the plan is to increase the mobility of people within the county by making bicycling and walking viable and attractive as transportation choices. The plan also recommends policies that will help guide the County and its communities to improve non-motorized transportation. Goals, objectives, policies, and recommendation identified in this plan shall be considered a part of this plan. Wood County should consider updating this plan in the near future to keep the plan consistent with the ever-changing needs of residents to ensure its effectiveness. A continued effort should also be made to fund these projects with State and Federal transportation grant funding.

Wood County is also looking at providing increased opportunities for off-road bicycling. Future plans for trail construction have been developed for Powers Bluff County Park. Trails are also being constructed on county forest property in the Town of Remington. Nepco Lake County Park currently has over 5 miles of single track trail.

Horseback Riding

Wood County has no publicly-owned trails designated for horseback riding. However, there are no restrictions prohibiting riding activity on any of the roads in the Wood County Forest. Designated snowmobile trails are closed to horse traffic on County land. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies horseback riding as a decreasing demand recreation activity.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling continues to be an important winter outdoor recreation activity in Wood County. The county coordinates the efforts of 7 clubs to provide an interconnected network of snowmobile trails, and connect to trail systems of surrounding counties. Funding for trails is made possible through snowmobile registration, non-resident trail pass fees, and the Wisconsin State Gas Tax. The county annually applies for state funding and distributes funds to participating snowmobile clubs to be used for trail grooming and maintenance, signage, and other trail related activities and costs.

At this time, over 270 miles of developed snowmobile trails exist in Wood County. The trail network is effectively meeting the needs of users, and as a result there are no major plans to realign existing trails or add additional mileage. Wood County is supportive of snowmobiling because of the recreation opportunity that it provides not only for residents, but for visitors who make Wood County a snowmobiling destination. The Parks and Forestry Department should continue to coordinate the efforts of the local snowmobile clubs to maintain and improve the network of trails.

Snowmobiling in Wood County

ATV/UTV Riding

Wood County has developed an intensive use area for ATVs. The Wood County ATV Intensive Use area formerly known as the Seneca ATV Area is located approximately 4 miles west of the Village of Port Edwards on Highway 54 West. This area of approximately 400 acres of county forestland contains 10 miles of developed trails that are open to the public year-round at no cost. The only time this area is closed to all terrain vehicle use is during the gun deer season or if posted as closed by the Parks and Forestry Department during high fire danger periods. This area has been developed with monies from the all-terrain vehicle registration fund, and offers many amenities including a large parking lot, restrooms, loading ramp, well, a 28’ by 40’ enclosed shelter, children’s playground, and a roofed charcoal grill. All these facilities are handicap accessible. There is also an extensive ATV/UTV route system utilizing town roads

throughout Wood County. Local town boards allow these roads to be open by creating ordinances, which identify open roads and any rules/regulations for use on these roads. ATV/UTV riding can provide a boost to the local economy for recreation and tourism services.

Target Sports

Bow and gun target shooting and trap shooting are popular outdoor recreation activities in Wood County. The County owns and maintains a public shooting range located approximately 3 ½ miles west of the city of Wisconsin Rapids at the intersection of Ridge Rd. and Marsh Rd. in the town of Seneca. There are 8 shooting stations available at distances of 25-, 50- and 100-yards. The range is open year round from sunrise to sunset, free-of-charge. There is no range master and users are responsible for bringing their own targets and properly disposing of any waste. The range meets the demand for users most of the year, with the exception of the weeks leading up to the gun deer hunting season. Smoothing of the yearly rush to the rifle range could be managed by public service notices or general education to hunters that they should get their rifles sited in early.

In addition to the Wood County shooting range, there are public sportsman's clubs that provide target sports opportunities. Archery and/or Gun clubs in Wood County include the Central Wisconsin Sportsmen's Club, Nekoosa Conservation League, Lost Arrows Archers, Wisconsin Valley Gun Club Range, Inc., the Heart of Wisconsin Sportsman's Club and the Wood County Rifle and Pistol Club, Inc.

Cross-County Skiing

A very popular family winter outdoor activity in Wisconsin is cross-country skiing. This sport is praised for the numerous benefits it provides to the participant. Noteworthy about this sport is the fact that the entire family can participate together; it is physically healthy and mentally relaxing. Cross-country skiers enjoy the quiet solitude of nature and abundant wildlife watching that are common to this sport. The Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan lists cross-country skiing as a stable activity at this time that is mainly driven by baby boomers.

The Sandhill Wildlife Area, just 1 mile west of Babcock, has a 14-mile trail that is called the Trumpeter Trail. This year round trail serves as a cross-country ski trail in the winter, and as a hiking trail the rest of the year. This is a nature interpretive trail that offers opportunities to learn about the unique landscape and abundant wildlife.

Since 1981 there have been cross-country ski trails at NEPCO Lake Park. In 2010 the Wood County Park and Forestry Department with the assistance of the River Cities Nordic Ski Club completed an expansion of the trail network. The ski club grooms and maintains the 4.4 miles of trails throughout the season. The trail offers a variety of terrain for all skill levels.

The Richfield 360 Area has a 5-mile, 2-mile, and 1-mile trail that winds through open fields, forested areas, and along Puff Creek. They were originally constructed in 1975 and 1976, and in 1996 a new bridge to cross Puff Creek was completed on the southwest corner of the property. The trail is marked and groomed during the season.

In 1984 the Wisconsin Conservation Corp and the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department constructed a 1.3 mile trail at Powers Bluff County Park. In 2018 Wood County expanded the ski trail into the newly acquired 223 acre portion of the park. The trail currently is 2.5 miles in length. Most of the trail is rated moderately difficult; however, some short portions are rated advanced due to challenging terrain. There is also a new trailhead parking lot off of Hwy N, which allows access to the trail throughout the season. The scenic trail is marked and groomed during the season.

Downhill Skiing, Snowboarding, Tubing and Sledding

The only intensively developed ski area in Wood County is at Powers Bluff County Park, located in the central part of the County, 2 ½ miles southwest of the village of Arpin. Powers Bluff is the 13th highest point of elevation in Wisconsin at 1,472 feet above sea level. Downhill skiing and snowboarding facilities at Powers Bluff include three runs ranging from 1,320 feet to 1,500 feet in length, with an estimated vertical drop of 250 feet. The three runs are serviced by one handle tow ski lift. There are currently four tubing runs serviced by two wire rope tows. Other services offered include first responder services, concessions sold at the two-story shelter building, and equipment rental. The facility is open on weekends, school holidays, and for private events. This facility does not have snowmaking equipment, so is completely weather dependent.

Sledding in Wood County

A requisite for skiing and snowboarding is a slope suitable for providing an enjoyable skiing experience. Except for Powers Bluff which is already a developed ski area, there are no slopes in Wood County capable of providing this type of activity. Therefore, needs for skiing will have to be satisfied by Powers Bluff or outside the County.

Winter sledding hills are also available at several community parks in nearly all parts of Wood County. Most are relatively small hills, but adequate for small children.

Motor-boating

The only body of water in Wood County which is suited to high-speed motorized boating and water skiing is the 2,100 acre Biron Flowage. Currently public shore access on the south side of the flowage in Wood County is limited to a narrow strip of land between North Biron Drive and CTH U. Boat landing facilities are limited to one launch on the south side of the Biron Flowage. There are safety concerns with this launch given the small separation distance between CTH U that runs along the water, and potential for vehicles launching boats to interfere with traffic on CTH U. A proposed residential development in the Village of Biron called the Bridgewater Development, will realign CTH U to the south of its current location, and provide safer public access to the Biron Flowage by creating a 40+ acre public park. A safer boat launch with more parking is also a part of this development that will make it easier to launch a boat on the flowage and likely increase its recreation use.

NEPCO Lake is used for these purposes, even though the lake is relatively small and overcrowded. NEPCO Lake has little room to safely maneuver a boat at high speeds, especially if water skiing during a busy weekend day. In recent year the water quality has been impacted by weed growth, bacteria affecting beach usage, and invasive species including the zebra mussel.

Water skiing also takes place on Lake Wazeecha, although this lake, like NEPCO, is too small to accommodate more than a few high-speed boats at any one time. Water ski shows and tournaments are held on both Lake Wazeecha and Biron Flowage, but other boat traffic has to be minimized to make the water calm and safe enough for these activities. The Wisconsin State Water Ski Show Tournament is the largest event of its kind in the world, and it is held every year on Lake Wazeecha. Annually an estimated 25,000 people attend the tournament. A good ski show site must be free of boat traffic, be held on a small body of water for wind protection, have ample parking, and have excellent viewing for spectators. Lake Wazeecha meets all of the basic requirements for a good ski show lake making it one of the premiere sites in the country. In 2008 a concrete beach platform was installed to be used for the annual tournament.

Personal watercraft (PWC) experienced an increase in usage in the 1990's however a 2000 state law restricts operation of personal watercraft within 200 feet of shoreline and 100 feet from any other watercraft, unless operating at no-wake speed. The law has all but closed the doors to PWC at Lake Wazeecha due to the minimal amount of area to operate in this narrow lake, once 200-foot shoreline buffers are drawn. The most suited body of water in Wood County is the Biron Flowage that covers approximately 2100 acres and contains adequate area for PWC even after excluding the 200 feet from shoreline buffer required by law. Lake NEPCO also provides sufficient area for PWC use, but during busy summer days when watercraft traffic is

high, PWC operators will have to be sure that they can safely operate while maintaining a 100-foot buffer from other watercraft and a 200-foot shoreline buffer.

Boating without the use of motors or at slow speeds is possible and enjoyable on most of the County's lakes and flowages, as well as on the major rivers. Canoeing is a popular activity throughout Wood County. The Wisconsin River is featured as a canoe trail in the Wisconsin State Atlas, but canoeists are warned about the large number of portages required as a result of the numerous dams. Overall there are many options for canoeing in the County, but lack of established routes known as “blue ways” may be a contributing factor to underutilization of many water bodies for this activity. The use of some “blue ways” may require annual maintenance of trees and other debris, a minimal amount of signage, and be subject to use limitations due to seasonal runoff or low water levels.

Canoeing is also enjoyed on the Black River and Yellow River during certain times of the year. Unfortunately, low water conditions during most of the summer months and a multitude of navigational hazards have hampered canoeing participation.

Participation in boating and water skiing will be largely controlled by the availability of suitable surface water and the degree of over-crowding that will be tolerated by both boaters and local officials. In some cases improved access to bodies of water will be enough to encourage boaters to shift to underutilized water bodies. Supply can only be increased by manmade impoundments. The supply within the area has been increased through these means with the creation of Lakes Sherwood, Camelot and Arrowhead in Adams County, about 15 miles south of Wisconsin Rapids and about 2 miles south of the Wood County line. These lakes were created in the 1970s followed by high density residential development. The Petenwell Flowage of the Wisconsin River is also man-made and is desirable for power boating and water skiing. The Petenwell Flowage begins in Wood County, but is located predominantly in Adams and Juneau Counties. All four of these water bodies have eased the demand on the limited surface waters in Wood County.

Municipal Park & Recreation Facilities

(Appendix D) provides a listing of city, village and town park and recreation facilities. This inventory was completed in 2011. An updated inventory of all of Wood County’s governmental units should be prepared in the near future.

Several local municipalities in Wood County have adopted outdoor recreation plans. The information presented in these plans is considered to be integrated into this plan by reference.

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

Within the Wood County Recreation System, improvements that target facility compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) have been identified in a thorough, countywide, planning process initiated in 1993. The "Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan, Wood County, Wisconsin" was created to address all facilities owned by Wood County, including the park system. Since 1993 all new park facilities have been constructed to meet ADA requirements, and many existing facilities have been modified to conform to ADA standards. Over time many non-compliant facilities and structures have been remodeled and/or replaced with those that are compliant. Overall, the implementation of the plan has been successful throughout the county park system. (Table 14) includes a list of county park facilities that do not conform to ADA standards.

Table 14
NON ADA COMPLIANT COUNTY FACILITIES
2018

South Park	Willow Run Vault
	White Beach – Beach House
Dexter Park	Loop 2 Vault
	Loop 3 Vault
Powers Bluff	Vault Toilet *(building remodeled and ADA compliant. However, access still needs to be address to meet compliance)*

Source: Wood County Parks and Forestry Department

All local municipalities must ensure that park and recreation programs and facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. If not done already, local municipalities shall complete an evaluation of the accessibility of its existing facilitates, programs, and services. This will provide future direction on how to achieve compliance with ADA requirements.

All existing outdoor recreation facilities that are repaired, modified or reconstructed should meet the requirements of ADA. Furthermore, any new outdoor recreation development should meet ADA requirements. A few examples of accessible designs include: wide doorways, specialized playground equipment, ramps, wider parking spaces, etc.

Trails shall be accessible to people with disabilities wherever possible. Trail surface, grade and width should meet ADA guidelines. Grades in excess of 5% may be unavoidable on some natural surfaced trails.

VI. Recreation Needs Assessment

This plan was designed specifically for Wood County and the municipalities within its jurisdiction. Every community is unique in its own way. For this reason, a needs assessment has been prepared and is presented in this section. The needs assessment is critical in establishing the rationale for future recreation system improvements and determining gaps between existing and desired conditions. This assessment analyzes: public input; recreation trends, standards and benefits; facility usage and demand; and other relevant planning documents.

Powers Bluff County Park

Public Participation

Public participation is one of the most important elements to consider when planning for the future. A public participation strategy was identified early in the planning process to foster public involvement at all stages of the plan update. Public participation helps to ensure that the plan truly reflects the needs and desires of the community. Furthermore, it is essential to the overall success of the plan. It is through public input that the goals and objectives of this plan were updated and all future decisions will be based.

Community Survey

A community survey was one means of collecting public opinion. The purpose of the community survey was to gather resident and visitor input for the Wood County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan - 2018. Specifically, the survey gathered information on county park usage, preferred outdoor recreation amenities/activities, community values, and attitudes towards future recreational development in Wood County.

The survey was available to Wood County residents and visitors from January 26th to March 1st, 2018. The survey was available online or by hard copy upon request. Survey notice platforms included: email, Facebook, radio, local newspapers, Wood County website, and others. Additionally, 500 postcards were sent out randomly to residents located in all of Wood County's local communities (city, village, and town).

A total of 591 surveys were completed.

The Wood County Community Survey Summary is presented in (Appendix B). This report summarizes the needs, desires and attitudes of the general public in regard to the Wood County recreation system. The report presents numeric tabulation and graphic representation of the questions and answers in the community survey. In addition to numeric data, respondent's additional comments are provided. The input collected through this survey will be incorporated into the 2018 plan update. Results of this survey will provide guidance for recreational decisions over the next (5) five years.

Informal Input

The Wood County Parks and Forestry Department has taken advantage of informal opportunities to acquire public input on the recreation system as they arise. Parks and Forestry staff is available on request to speak at schools and with any interested groups about what the county has to offer for recreation opportunities. In these forums staff answers questions and collects comments from the public through informal surveys, displays, and one-on-one discussions. The department also relies heavily on staff at each park facility to listen to concerns, questions and comments of park patrons. This process proves to be one of the least expensive to implement and the most genuine in quality of response.

Public Meetings & Workshops

The Wood County Parks and Forestry Department in coordination with Wood County Planning and Zoning Department held (2) two public meetings/workshops. The general purposes of the meetings were to present the results from the outdoor recreation community survey and provide a formal public input session. The meetings were held at (2) two locations, Powers Bluff Park on May 16, 2018 and Nepco Park on May 23, 2018. The meetings were well publicized. The main focus of the meetings was to identify issues and opportunities for parks, recreation, and open spaces in the county. County Planning Department staff presented the community survey results and talked about the process that would be used to update the plan. Parks and Forestry staff talked about the County Park System in general, and highlighted some of the recent improvements, as well as planned projects. The meeting attendees were encouraged to participate by sharing their thoughts on issues and opportunities with parks and recreation.

Public Input Session

Recreation Standards

Identifying outdoor recreation standards is another method for assessing a community's recreation needs. A good standards system also helps assess what facilities are available for current use and what types of facilities will be needed to serve the community in the future. The most effective park system to develop and manage is one made up of a variety of different types of parks, open space areas, and recreational venues, each designed to provide a specific type of recreation experience or opportunity.

Development Standards

Development standards have been designed for park and recreation facilities. Although this plan has been developed for Wood County, the following standards include facilities that are normally provided by cities, towns and villages. (Appendix F) lists standards provided as a service to the local units of government in Wood County in an effort to promote a uniform set of standards for all communities to follow.

Space Standards

Wood County has used, and will continue to use the space standards as published in the *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines,* edited by Roger A. Lancaster for the National Recreation and Park Association.

Other Referenced Recreation Plans

Other applicable plans that address recreation in Wood County and its municipalities are summarized below.

Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2011 – 2016)

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources publishes a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This plan serves as a blueprint for state and local outdoor recreation planning in WI. It is intended to be used in conjunction with other local, state and regional recreation plans. The SCORP is not a recreation plan but rather a resource that suggests issues to consider when developing programs, policies and actions that affect outdoor recreation in the state. It identifies recreation trends and demands, and can be used by recreation providers to align recreation resources and funding with current and future recreation needs. The 2011 – 2016 SCORP can be found on the WDNR's website at the following link: www.dnr.wi.gov, and search for "SCORP". The WDNR is currently working on the 2017 – 2022 SCORP. Once published, this updated plan shall also be referenced in conjunction with this plan.

When recreation providers plan for the future, it is important to consider recreation trends so that they can meet the ever changing recreation needs. By reviewing changes in participation

rates, and examining industry forecasts and opinions of recreation professionals, projections on recreation demands can be developed.

(Table 15) contains lists of recreation activities in the categories of increasing demand, stable demand, and decreasing demand for the years 2011 to 2016. Ideally, this plan should consider what the trends for 2017 to 2022 are, however they were not available at the time this plan was updated.

Table 15
PROJECTED TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES (2011-2016 SCORP)

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

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2011 – 2016)

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report – 2006

The purpose of this report is to identify the places considered most important to meet Wisconsin's conservation and recreation needs over 50 years. Additionally, the report is intended to serve as an education resource that provides common context from which local governments can use if they are confronted with decisions about land protection, use, and management. Several areas in Wood County are identified in this plan including: Cranmoor Wetlands and Powers Bluff.

Wood County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – 2005

This plan is intended to guide the development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, services, and policies in Wood County. Within urban and suburban areas, the plan recommends bicycle and pedestrian corridors that will connect people to destinations such as employment centers, schools, residential districts, recreation areas and commercial retail areas.

Wood County Comprehensive Plan – 2009

This twenty-year plan is intended to guide physical, social, and economic development in Wood County.

Wisconsin Trails Network Plan – 2003

This plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors across Wisconsin that would link existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. It describes a vision of a statewide network of interconnected rail trails into which smaller state, partnership, county, municipal, and private trails feed.

Powers Bluff County Park Long Range Master Plan – 2005

This plan was developed by Schreiber/Anderson Associates, Inc. at the request of the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department. The purpose of the plan is to guide the management, development and preservation of Powers Bluff over the next 10 to 15 years.

Powers Bluff County Park Trails Concept Plan – 2018

This plan was prepared by the International Mountain Bicycling Association for Wood County. The plan provides guidance and recommendations for developing a comprehensive trail network at Powers Bluff County Park. The planned trail network is intended to serve the needs of all recreation users by adding upon the existing Powers Bluff trails with new multi-use trails and the creation of bike optimized trails for all ages and ability levels.

Wood County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan – 2006 to 2020

This fifteen-year plan establishes policies and guidance for the management of the County Forest. The plan was developed through the input of The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wood County, local townships, various user groups, other stakeholders, and general public comment.

Benefits of Outdoor Recreation

Access to outdoor recreation opportunities has many benefits. Wood County has placed a high priority on promoting the link between parks and recreation resources and improved mental, physical and societal health. The benefits of outdoor recreation are endless.

Individual Benefits

- Reduces stress, anxiety and depression
- Fun and entertainment
- Learning and education
- Physical activity
- Better health and improves quality of life

Economic Benefits

- Increase property values
- Attracts and retains residents, visitors, businesses, and employment
- Create/Increase spending on food, lodging and other services in the community

Social Benefits

- Provides places to socialize and connect with residents in the community
- Increases pride, volunteerism and stewardship in the community
- Unites families and assists in overall youth development
- Reduces crime

Environmental Benefits

- Creates an awareness and appreciation for the natural environment and its resources
- Absorb and filter storm water runoff and floodwaters
- Promotes and sustains protection of environmentally sensitive areas

Nekoosa Boat Landing

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VII. Wood County Recreation Moving Forward

Outdoor recreation planning involves more than just drawing on a map, or taking pictures of existing and potential recreation areas. Both, an action program and implementation strategy need to be developed to guide local decision making over the next several years. Most importantly, these programs and strategies should relate to the information compiled during earlier phases of the planning process.

Action Program

The purpose of the following action program is to:

- Identify public policy measures and specific acquisition, development and improvement projects.
- Provide recommendations and general guidelines in which decisions regarding outdoor recreation improvements can be made.
- Identify strategies and tactics that solve or reduce deficiencies in Wood County's outdoor recreation system.
- Identify a dynamic Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) based upon community needs, priorities and funding opportunities.
- Provide a program for future operation and maintenance of Wood County's outdoor recreation system.

The private outdoor recreation sector has total responsibility in providing specific types of activities and lesser responsibility for others. The recommendations that follow assign responsibility to both public and private enterprise. In addition, private enterprise must be constantly aware of its impacts on the natural resources it depends upon. Frequently, the necessity of making a profit makes this a difficult assignment. Nevertheless, it is important for continued business success to safeguard resources against degradation.

The following recommendations reflect the desired improvements that the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department believe should be made in order to meet the recreation needs and priorities of its residents and visitors. Additionally, the Departments 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was developed to coordinate implementation of improvements over the next 5 years. The CIP is presented in (Appendix E) of this plan. The recommendations and CIP are the result of a combination of public participation efforts including: public hearings, focus groups, workshops, and staff discussions. Additionally, a community survey was sent out to the public in 2018.

A phased development approach will allow improvements to be made incrementally over time as the funding becomes available. It is important that outdoor recreation improvements be coordinated with other public and private investments to maximize the effectiveness of each.

Future County Park & Recreation Area Projects

Nepco Lake County Park

- Addition to shelter building to include a covered outdoor patio area
- Trail head parking lot improvements
- Improved trail head and trail signage
- Playground equipment replacement
- Replacing rip-rap and walk trail between boat landing and beach area
- Treatment and control of invasive species in the park
- Replacement of outdated playground equipment

South Wood County Park

- Campground addition, to include full hook up and pull through sites. To include roadways, dump station, shower building, playground, ranger station, and additional restrooms as needed
- Construction of a 2nd shower building in existing campground
- Full hookup improvements to existing campsites
- Paving of multi-use trail on the north side of Lake Wazeecha
- Replacement of campground vault toilets with flush toilet buildings
- Replacement of outdated playground equipment
- White Beach remodel, which will include: beach house remodel, retaining wall replacement, and accessible walk path down to the beach
- Open shelter building improvements, to include: parking lot expansion, serving area addition, and flush toilet bathroom addition
- Enclosed shelter improvements for cool weather events- heated bathrooms, furnace for shelter building
- Addition of patio area near shelter buildings with canopy/gazebo for weddings and special events
- Construction of an accessible canoe/kayak launch area
- Consider disc golf course relocation to improve safety of walking trail
- Create a fenced in “off leash” area for dogs
- Improve fish population by improving fish habitat in lake
- Look into options for enclosing Red Sands Beach Pavilion to reduce wind and during cool temperatures
- Red Sands Beach terracing to reduce erosion and to enhance area to attract more events

North Wood County Park

- Construction of a new multi-use bridge to access the campground in order to eliminate high water issues that currently occur with the existing crossing
- Construction of a new open shelter building on the SE side of the beach area
- Paving of the existing disc golf course parking lot
- Replacement of outdated playground equipment
- Concrete overlay of lower dam

- Construction of a new snowmobile/ATV/pedestrian bridge near lower dam
- Emergency Exit Road improvements
- Walk trail paving
- Disc Golf course drainage improvements and walk trails
- Construction of a larger wood shed for campground
- Improve existing campsites that are in need of recycled blacktop
- Add a basketball court to campground
- Swimming pond construction near meadow area

Dexter County Park

- Improve sections of multi-use trail system with black top or recycled blacktop
- Expand campground to include ATV accessible sites and amenities
- Replacement of outdated playground equipment
- Outside patio area at shelter building
- Paved walk trail, with fishing pier, near shelter building
- Paved walk trail from shelter to restrooms and playground
- Swimming pond construction near entrance field
- Remodel existing beach restroom, adding shelter areas which will replace old changing rooms
- Improve fish population by improving fish habitat in lake
- Consider disc golf in areas of the park
- Construction of an ATV/UTV trail head with amenities, and trails in adjoining property

Powers Bluff County Park

- Construction of single track and multi-use trail system
- Improve signage for the existing trail system to include interpretive signage for cultural, and natural history of the park
- Dig a recreational/fishing pond, and create a sledding hill and ice skating rink near trail head
- Construction of entrance road, parking lot, and shelter building at the trail head
- Continue entrance road and install 3-phase power to the base of the ski/tube hill
- Relocate the maintenance shop from the top of the hill to the bottom of the hill
- Restore disturbed areas within the sensitive areas on the south slope of the park
- Dig cooling pond and install snow making equipment
- Lengthen the ski run and tow system, and lengthen the tube tow system
- Install lights on the tube and ski hill
- Install playground equipment near shelter buildings

ATV Intensive Use Area

- Install drinking fountain
- Reduce size of parking lot and improve with pavement or recycled blacktop
- Install serving counter top in shelter building with increased outlets
- Create primitive camping area
- Consider additional trails in adjacent county forest

Public Rifle Range

- Parking lot improvements
- Construction of vault toilet
- Create berms between shooting lanes
- Consider archery shooting area

Other County Park Areas and County Forest Property

- Construction of additional ATV/UTV trails, and support facilities
- Construction of single track trails, and support facilities
- Construction of horse riding trails, and support facilities
- Create "off leash" areas for dogs

Public Policy Measures

The following general public policy statements apply to Wood County and the towns, villages and cities within the county.

Community Parks

Upgrade community park facilities in terms of quality and variety of facilities provided, and improve attractiveness of natural settings through landscaping where needed.

Neighborhood Parks

Develop centrally located neighborhood parks in residential areas.

Use of Easements

Utilize purchase of easements in order to limit land acquisition costs for neighborhood parks. Communities are encouraged to procure easements for the use of presently vacant property in locations appropriate for neighborhood park development.

Park Dedication

Require residential subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use in communities 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. 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.

Snowmobile Routes

Integrate local snowmobile route plans with that of the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department in an effort to provide a continuous route for snowmobilers to follow on streets and rights-of-way in areas of the community where snowmobile noise and travel will cause the least amount of nuisance to community residents. Such action will not only increase the

compatibility of snowmobiles and community residents, but the provision of a continuous route will encourage economic gains to Wood County's communities. Continue to maintain the connectivity of the Wood County trail network to the statewide network of trails.

Specialized Facilities
Encourage development of specialized facilities by the private sector. Specialized facilities, such as golf clubs and marinas, can be an important asset to public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

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

Senior Citizen Involvement
Involve senior citizens in community park development and beautification, and provide recreational facilities for their use. Senior citizens constitute a growing proportion of the County's population and can contribute many ideas, as well as their labor, in providing a well-balanced park and recreation system.

Service Group Involvement
Involve organized service groups in needed park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports areas and neighborhood parks. Traditionally, service groups have played an active part in the development of park facilities in Wood County. Several local Lions Clubs have provided the impetus behind local park development. Continued activity of this type should be encouraged.

Grant Programs
Take advantage of state and federal financial and technical assistance programs that are designed to aid communities in meeting recreational needs. Maintain community eligibility for such programs by having an approved outdoor recreation program updated at least once every 5 years. Other non-profit community grants should also be considered for these improvements.

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, public open space, and parks are principle contributors to community beautification. Such a program is most rewarding to persons engaged in passive recreation.

Youth Programs

Few summer recreational opportunities have been planned for the high school age youth. School activities provide most recreational outlets during winter months, but during the summer, there is a distinct void. Local units of government and the County Parks Department should combine efforts to study what recreation activities would be best received by this age-group and what opportunities there are to provide for them at public parks.

Program Costs

Communities should carefully monitor operations and maintenance (O&M) costs when developing or expanding a parks program. A too ambitious acquisition and/or development program can easily lead to annual O & M costs larger than the community can afford to meet. Communities should pool their resources to provide those activities that require large annual capital investments.

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 if the resources are available, specifically hills.

Future Planning

At a minimum, all communities should reassess their recreational needs near the end of the 5-year period covered by this plan. More frequent appraisals 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, as well as the recognition of new legislation and public programs.

Capital Improvements Programs

Municipal officials should develop 5-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 programs must be flexible and be subject to annual review. The 2019-2023 Wood County Parks and Forestry CIP is presented in (Appendix E).

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 loses community support as a result of prohibitive maintenance costs.

Historic, Scientific & Archaeological Sites

Preservation and restoration of sites with historic, scientific and archaeological significance can be rewarding additions to any community's recreation program. This is especially true in areas oriented to serving a significant tourist trade. A study of potential areas is recommended.

Friends Groups

Friends groups are made up of volunteers and could be utilized to maintain parks and trails through efforts such as garbage pickup and fund raising. The creation of friends groups should be encouraged to help with park and trail maintenance and improvements, and other projects that will improve the overall recreation opportunities in the County.

Conflicting Uses

In an effort to meet the diverse recreation demands of park and trail users, the County many times inadvertently creates an environment of conflicting recreation uses. The County should remain responsive to conflicting uses and try to remedy them if at all possible.

Acquisition, Development & Improvement Projects

Wood County is not assigned the responsibility to implement all the recommendations contained in this document. On the contrary, some are specifically intended for implementation by other units of government or by private enterprise. Also, a strong possibility exists that recreation interests other than the County may be willing to implement portions of the program assigned to the County. There should be few objections to implementation of the County program by others, as long as implementation meets the criteria established by the County. The following recommendations are not listed in any order of priority.

- Providers of recreation, both public and private, are presently left largely to their own devices in developing their programs. Sustained and effective coordination of their endeavors is necessary to assure maximum satisfaction of recreation desires. Wood County appears to be the most logical authority to exert leadership in this area, with this plan as a key phase in the County's leadership role.

  One reason for recommending coordination of recreation efforts lies within the framework of state and federal financial aid and loan programs to public and private recreation sponsors. Requirements for participation in these programs often include an evaluation of need and the establishment of priorities. These requirements cannot be fulfilled unless there is a program of continuous planning supplemented by active coordination of all recreation interests.

  To achieve such a program, it is recommended that the County Board continue its support of the Highway Infrastructure and Recreation Committee and Conservation,

Education and Economic Development Committee as the County's recreation coordinating body. The Committee's function would be to:

- Act as a liaison between public agencies and private enterprise.
- Keep recreation plans updated.
- Coordinate the County recreation program with town, village, city and state park programs through the regular update of the countywide Park, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan so that wasteful duplication of facilities does not occur.
- Support local communities when they desire to provide recreational facilities of regional significance that will benefit all of Wood County and its economy.

- It is recommended that all communities in Wood County adopt uniform standards for recreational development. Such standards should include common park definitions, acreage per thousand population guides, service area adaptations and a uniform philosophy in regard to the use of school-owned recreation areas, roles of units of government in the overall recreation program, use of state and federal grants and the role of private enterprise. An example of standards for parks is presented in (Section VI).

- Construct, maintain, and/or improve park shelters to accommodate seasonal and year round use by County residents for private or community events.

- Consider having flexible park opening and closing dates, and times, to accommodate the differing uses within the park.

- Small communities in Wood County should make an effort to provide at least one park each within reasonable walking distance of all community residents. These parks should provide playground equipment, picnic tables, cooking grills, a shelter with attached sanitary facilities, a playfield for baseball/softball and soccer, and benches and tables for passive activities.

- A detailed park plan for Powers Bluff County Park was adopted in 2005. This plan was intended to be a 10 to 15 year plan. The main recommendation from the plan, which was to acquire the property to the north, was completed in 2012. To complement the Long Range Master Plan for Powers Bluff, more detailed planning for the property has been completed, and should be developed as approved. A development map and project development summary is presented in (Appendix C) of this plan.

- All providers of recreation facilities should make a determined effort to provide both service and recreation activities for physically and mentally handicapped persons.

Guidance and recommendations are available from public and quasi-public organizations who directly serve this segment of the County's population.

- Federal and state grant programs require consideration of the handicapped as part of the funding process. Projects submitted for funding assistance must recognize the needs of handicapped individuals and provide the necessary accommodations.

- For many years Wood County has been a destination for campers and outdoor enthusiasts. Efforts should be pursued to promote the parks, trails and campgrounds to increase campground occupancy rates and promote economic development through tourism in the County.

- The County and/or local municipalities can adopt some measures to benefit private recreation enterprise. The most common measures include zoning and resource protection. Zoning can regulate things such as billboards, use of surface waters and land use. It is apparent that there is a close relationship between zoning and resource protection, but the latter depends on other regulatory and management devices.

- All public school sites in the County should continue to have associated outdoor recreation facilities open for public use when school is not in session. Facilities in need of extra care, such as a football field or track, are exceptions to this recommendation. Restricted use of school recreation sites can only result in added costs to the taxpayers by dictating duplication of recreational facilities. It is further recommended that municipalities in Wood County attempt to provide recreation areas in conjunction with school facilities wherever possible. An agreement between school and municipal officials assuring public use of school facilities and providing a means by which maintenance and replacement costs can be shared would be helpful.

- Prepare a Wood County ATV/UTV Master Plan. This plan should include analysis, recommendations and proposals to provide the framework to guide future ATV/UTV trail and route development. The plan should identify phasing, implementation schedules and priorities for action. The Wood County ATV/UTV Planning Map is presented in (Appendix H) of this plan. This map should be used for future planning purposes and master plan development.

- Except for Powers Bluff which is already a developed area, there are no slopes in Wood County capable of providing this type of recreational activity. Therefore, needs for skiing and tubing will have to be satisfied by Powers Bluff or outside the County. To continue to meet the need of skiing and tubing, the County should install lights to lengthen hours of operation that will help meet demand of this recreation activity, and improve safety by spreading peak use out over longer hours of operation. To improve the snow conditions and extend the winter recreation season at Powers Bluff, the County should consider purchasing snow making equipment. These items are included in the Powers Bluff development summary in (Appendix C).

- In recent years awareness of the impacts of invasive species has increased. Invasive species in many instances have the potential of impacting the recreational use of land and water in Wood County. Wood County should develop strategies as needed to control invasive species that impact the use of all County-owned property. Strategies and action plans should leverage the expertise of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and volunteer efforts of concerned citizens.

- Walking and bicycling continue to be very popular recreation activities for people of all ages. The existing walking/biking trails in County Parks should continue to be maintained, additional trails should be considered where appropriate and practical, and plans to connect County parks with trails developed. The Wood County Bicycle Map created by WDOT is included in (Appendix I) for reference and planning purposes.

- The County Parks provide approximately 10.7 miles of cross-country ski trails. The County should continue to provide ski trails by working with ski clubs and other groups that provide the volunteers necessary to maintain the trails. These trails should be designed as multi-use trails whenever possible to attract a variety of users, if user conflict can be managed.

- Wood County has become a destination for snowmobilers based on the efforts of 7 clubs to provide over 270 miles of snowmobile trails. The County Parks and Forestry Department plays a role in coordinating the efforts of these clubs. The County should continue its role in coordination

of the clubs.

- The County should continue to develop camp areas where camp sites are buffered by plant undergrowth and trees to create a “State Park” atmosphere.

- The possibility of providing seasonal, or longer term camping at Wood County campgrounds should be explored in reaction to increases in demand for seasonal camping sites and a low supply available in Wood County. Currently there is a 14 day maximum stay.

- The County should consider offering full hook up sites with water and sewer to accommodate demand for this type of campsite.

- The County should continue to monitor shoreline erosion, lake depths and overall water quality to ensure continued long-term recreational use and water quality of lakes in County Parks.

- Overall there are many options for canoeing/kayaking in the County, but lack of established routes known as “blue ways” may be a contributing factor to underutilization of many water bodies for this activity. The use of some “blue ways” may require annual clearing of trees and removal of other debris, a minimal amount of signage, and be subject to use limitations due to seasonal runoff or low water levels. The County along with the assistance of “friends groups” should look into the possibility of establishing “blue way” routes to promote the recreational use of waterways for canoeing/kayaking.

Funding Resources

The most common challenge is low funding for the development of park and outdoor recreation facilities. The most common remedies include finding alternative public revenue sources, soliciting donations, and obtaining grant funding. While the scope of the recommendations in this plan is large and may be beyond the current financial capability of Wood County and its municipalities, this should not influence adoption of the plan.

There are a wide variety of organizations in Wood County and Central Wisconsin ranging from snowmobile clubs and gun clubs to conservation organizations. Although the interests of many of these nonprofit organizations vary, many of the clubs have a common interest in working to improve the quality of parks, recreation, and open spaces in Wood County. The projects these organizations focus on include preservation of natural areas, development of recreation

facilities and trails, and education on natural resources or outdoor activities. These groups are not only effective at fund-raising to cover project costs, but include many members who contribute by volunteering their time and expertise.

The backbone of many organizations is its volunteers, and the success of proposed projects in this plan is dependent on the generosity of individuals, organizations and businesses who donate their time, talents, services and materials. Relying on volunteerism and donations to better local communities and accomplish projects can be challenging, but is welcomed since it does not require a large amount of tax-levied money for implementation. The volunteer experience is embraced by the community, and at the same time it can be personally gratifying and have a positive impact on your community.

Grant funding programs are available to assist in implementing this plan. Wood County and its municipalities should take advantage of any local, state and federal aid programs.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and sets out to meet a variety of conservation and recreation goals that protect and restore wildlife habitat and natural areas, and the quality of water resources and fish habitat. Chapter NR 51, Wis. Adm. Code guides the administration of grant funding through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. Funding levels for grants are based on biennial budgeting of the state. Local units of government and nonprofit conservation organizations are eligible to apply for funding to be applied towards "nature based" projects and include the following programs: acquisition and development of local parks, urban rivers and urban green space, and acquisition of development rights. Projects that are eligible for funding are identified in NR 51.

Outdoor recreation grant programs administered by the WDNR and other related funding programs are detailed in (Appendix G) of this plan.

There are a variety of other funding opportunities that focus on parks and recreation facilities and activities. Some grant programs have funds available on a reoccurring basis while some are available on a one-time basis. County staff and elected officials should monitor grant funding opportunities on a regular basis.

Fundraising can bring the community together in an effort to achieve a common goal. This method of funding gives the community a sense of ownership in the projects and builds civic pride. Wood County should explore public/private partnerships to share the responsibility of providing a diverse, high quality parks and recreation system. Since fundraising and grant funding are so

important to the success of future outdoor recreation amenities in Wood County, the following strategies are important to identify and implement to ensure success:

- **Community Informational Documents-** Incorporate a form for donations into community informational documents, such as newsletters, pamphlets, and recreation maps.
- **Fundraising Committee-** Establish a fundraising committee tasked with coordinating funding efforts.
- **Donor Recognition-** Implement ways of recognizing the efforts of donors.
- **Grants-** Establish a grant writing team comprised of local leaders, citizens and others.

Wood County is also encouraging the formation of "friends groups" to assist with park and trail maintenance and improvement projects. The County will work to match up the resources of friends groups with necessary park projects. These groups may also be effective at raising funds for improvement projects. Should the opportunity present itself for a cooperative project between private and public entities, these groups would be an appropriate contact point for beginning the funding process.

Operation & Maintenance

The Wood County Parks and Forestry Department operates from their main office located in the Riverblock building in Wisconsin Rapids. Four maintenance shops are used in the Parks and Forestry system to maintain five major parks, three areas, and approximately 38,000 acres of County Forest. Thirteen full-time employees and 12 part-time seasonal employees are employed to maintain these areas. For 2019, the Parks and Forestry budgeted expenses are approximately $1,750,000, to operate and maintain outdoor recreation facilities and areas. Budgeted revenues are approximately $550,000 in park revenues, $385,000 in forestry timber sale revenues, and $328,000 from other revenue sources.

Implications of Capital Improvements on Operation & Maintenance Capabilities

The Wood County Highway Infrastructure and Recreation Committee has been very careful in the past to ensure that renovations, improvements and additions to park facilities are within the maintenance capabilities and budget of the Parks and Forestry Department. This practice has limited acquisition proposals in the past but has helped to ensure that the park properties that are currently managed will remain in excellent condition.

VIII. Appendices

A. Wood County Recreation Map
B. Wood County Community Survey Summary
C. Powers Bluff County Park Concept Plan
D. Municipal Park and Recreation Facilities
E. 2019-2023 Wood County Parks and Forestry CIP
F. Development Standards For Park and Recreation Facilities
G. Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs Administered by the WDNR
H. Wood County ATV/UTV Planning Map
I. Wood County Bicycle Map (WDOT)

Puff Creek – Richfield 360 Recreation Area

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APPENDIX A

Wood County Recreation Map

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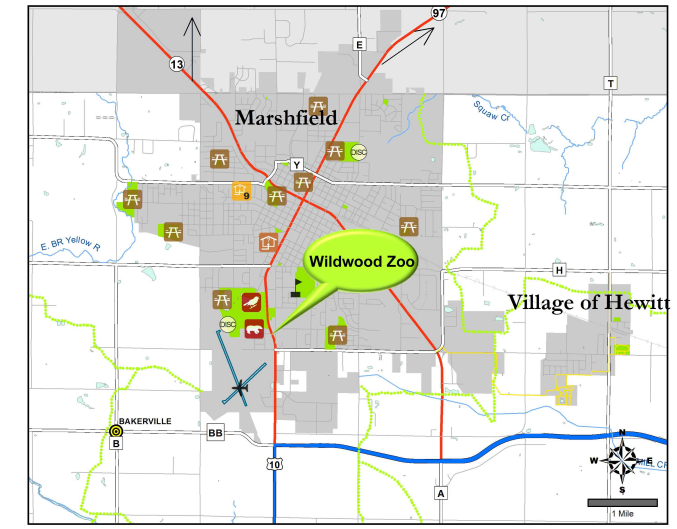
RECREATION MAP
WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

- Hunting Area
- Rifle Range
- Handicap Hunting
- Hunting Parking
- Snow Tubing
- Cross Country Skiing
- Skiing & Snowboarding
- ATV Area
- Observation Tower
- Bird Watching
- Zoo
- YMCA Alexander Camp
- Wilderness Camping & Trails
- Walking Trails
- County Campground
- Shelter Building
- Sandhill Visitor Center
- Chamber of Commerce
- Picnic Area
- Waterski
- Beach
- Boat Landing
- Kayak Launch
- Handicap Fishing
- Shore Fishing
- Trout Fishing
- Public Pier
- Airport
- Marshfield Fairgrounds
- Marshfield Super Speedway
- Disc Golf
- Snowmobile Parking
- Unincorporated Community
- Public Golf Course
- Snowmobile Trail
- Lakes and Rivers
- DNR Designated Trout Stream
- Village of Hewitt Trails
- DNR - Other
- County Parks and Areas
- Wood County Wildlife Areas
- County Forests
- Municipal Parks and Areas
- Urban Areas

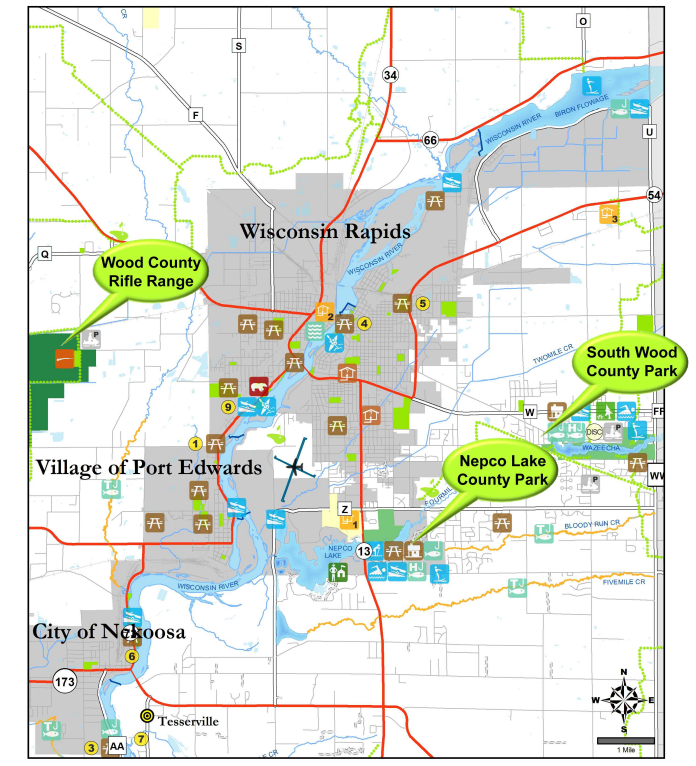
Wood County Points of Interests and Tours

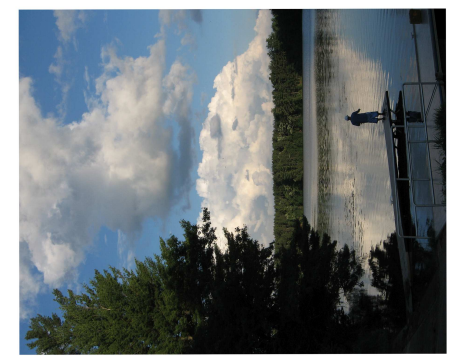
1. Centralia Paper Mill
2. Cranberry Culture
3. Pointe Basse
4. Grand Rapids
5. Dr. Byron Robinson
6. Ed Strangler Lewis
7. Wakely Inn
8. Prisoners of War
9. WI Firefighters Memorial
10. Babcock Carrier Pigeon
11. Center of the State
1. State of Wisconsin Nursery
2. VERSO Number 16 Paper Machine
3. Altenburgs Country Gardens
4. Rudolph Grotto Gardens
5. Wisconsin Dairy State Cheese Company
6. Maple Grove Cheese
7. Nasonville Dairy
8. Glacial Lake Cranberries
9. Upham Mansion



Nekoosa: Giant Pumpkin Festival

Wisconsin Rapids: Cranberry Festival





Recreation Map

By Phone: (715) 421-8422 Via E-Mail: parks@co.wood.wi.us
Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/Wood-County-Park-Forestry-Department-204221776296438/

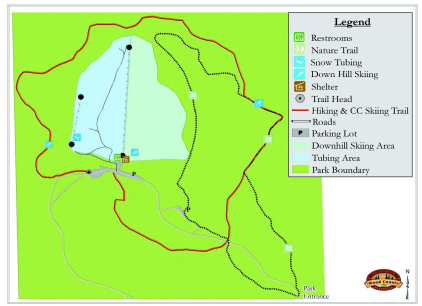
Wood County Park & Forestry
P.O. Box 8095
400 Market Street
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495-8095

We have taken great care to insure the accuracy with regards to lands open for public use. However, 100% accuracy is not guaranteed or implied. Please consult the official land records at the Wood County Courthouse Treasurer's Office.
Front photo features Nepco's boat landing

Powers Bluff County Park

6990 Bluff Dr., Arpin, WI 54410

Powers Bluff County Park is centrally located in Wood County,



approximately 17 miles northwest of Wisconsin Rapids, or 15 miles southeast of Marshfield. To get here, take U.S. Highway 10 or from State Highway 73 via County Highway E.

The park is 160 acres in total. Seventy acres of Powers Bluff is a designated State Natural Area that features a 1½-mile self-guided nature trail, preserved Native American dance rings, and burial grounds. The south 80 acres of Powers Bluff County Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Native American Cultural Sensitivity Area. Powers Bluff is the 13th highest point of elevation in the State of Wisconsin at 1,472 feet. The park is known for spring-time wildflowers and an abundance of trilliums. In 2012, Wood County acquired 223 acres north of the park which will be developed in the future for recreational activities.

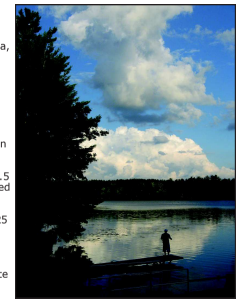
Winter sports include downhill skiing, tubing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowmobile access, and wooded areas for snowshoeing. There are three ski trails which are 1320', 1410', and 1500' in length, and are operated by a handle-tow ski lift. The estimated vertical drop is 250 feet. The tube hill has four tube runs and is operated by two handle-tow lifts. A two-story stone shelter building with concessions, a fireplace, and restroom facilities serves as the warming house during winter operations and may be reserved for private functions. Rental equipment is available for downhill skiing, snowboarding, and tubing.

Nepco Lake County Park

1410 Griffith Ave., WI Rapids, WI 54494

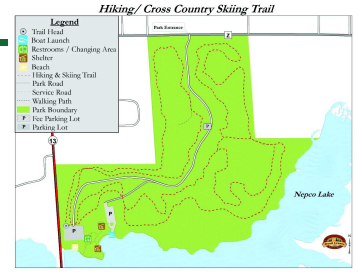
Nepco Lake County Park is located south of Wisconsin Rapids on State Highway 13 (enter on Griffith Avenue, County Highway Z). In 1977, this 125-acre park was donated by Nekoosa Papers, Inc. to be used for public recreation.

The 125-acre park features a beach area, one boat launch, picnic areas, playgrounds, and a handicapped beach, access paths, a handicapped fishing pier, a small open shelter, and an enclosed shelter open for rent year-round that holds up to 180 people. There is a 4.5 -mile path that is used by many for hiking and cross-country skiing, as well as 5.25 miles of single-track trails used by bikers and snowshoeing.

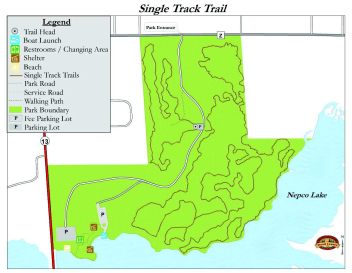


The trails differentiate depending on the season. Winter use includes cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Summer use includes hiking and biking.

Hiking/ Cross Country Skiing Trail

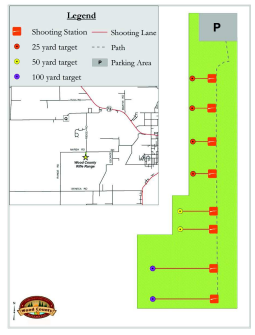


Single Track Trail



Wood County Rifle Range

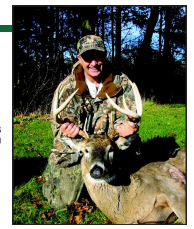
Marsh Rd., WI Rapids, WI 54494



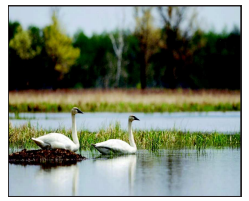
The Wood County Rifle Range is located 3½ miles west of Wisconsin Rapids. To get there take State Highway 73 North to County Highway Q, turn left onto Ridge Road and go 1½ miles south to Marsh Road. The rifle range is open year-round from sunrise to sunset. It is free -of-charge. There are eight shooting stations available (2 at 100 yards, 2 at 50 yards, and 4 at 25 yards). There is no range master so bring your own targets (cardboard only) and dispose of them properly. Please observe the posted rules at the site.

Hunting and Wildlife

Wood County is a great hunting destination for many different types of wildlife including white-tailed deer, turkey, grouse, pheasant, small game, bear, and migratory birds, among others. There are thousands of acres of publicly-accessible land for hunting and recreation. Some of these lands are the Mead Wildlife Area, Wood County Wildlife Area, Private Managed Forest – Managed Forest Law Open Lands, and County Forestlands. Hunting has always been a big tradition in Central Wisconsin, and the county offers many opportunities for hunters of all ages and abilities. Always practice safe hunting and know where you are. Check with official land documents to obtain current legal ownership of land before venturing out into the wilderness. Check county ordinances before hunting on county-owned lands to verify if an area is open for your type of hunting.



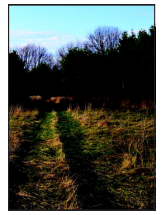
There are many areas in Wood County that can be used for hiking, wildlife and bird viewing. Wood County Wildlife Area and Sandhill Wildlife Area are both located in the southwest portion of Wood County. Sandhill Wildlife Area is managed as a wildlife demonstration area. It serves as a living laboratory not only to test management techniques for wildlife, but to test the effects of manipulating hunter and trapper numbers, their harvest methods, and season length and bag limits. Deer, ruffed grouse, owls, squirrels, loons, eagles, raccoons, Canada geese, snowshoe hare and cottontail, bluebirds, coyotes, deer mice and hundreds of other bird species and mammals all call Sandhill their home. There is a 20-mile, one-way loop through the wildlife area with many places to park your vehicle so you can get out of your car and enjoy the scenery. There are also three observation towers located in Sandhill so you can get a bird's-eye view of the area.



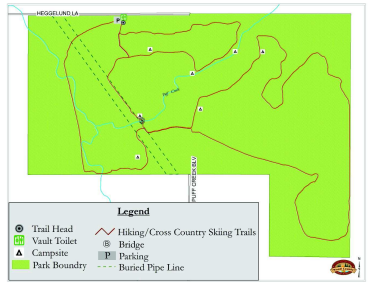
Wood County Wildlife Area is another beautiful place to recreate in. Thousands of sportsmen, bird watchers, hikers, berry pickers, naturalists and others visit Wood County Wildlife Area each year to observe wildlife and enjoy nature. The Mead Wildlife Area is located in the northeast portion of Wood County, contains nearly 30,000 acres of wetlands, forests, and grasslands. Over 267 species of birds are known to inhabit or migrate through the Mead area each year. This wildlife area offers many activities including biking, hunting, hiking, bird and wildlife watching, boating, and dog training. The newly constructed Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center provides opportunities to learn about natural resources and local history.

Richfield 360 Area

8183 Heggelund Ln., Marshfield, WI 54449



Richfield 360 Area is located 7 miles north of STH 73 and 80 on County Highway A. This 360-acre area has wilderness camping with 7 primitive campsites and is open year-round. There are 5 miles of cross-country ski trails on gently rolling lands by Puff Creek. The ski trails are broken down into a 1-, 2-, and 5-mile loop. The Wood County snowmobile trail also crosses through the southern portion of the park. Horseback riding is another activity that can be enjoyed at Richfield 360 when there is no snow. This property is part of the County Forest system and is often open for hunting.



Biking

There are many opportunities for bicycling in Wood County. In the Marshfield Area there are over 20 miles of paved, well-marked trails taking you through some of the city's most scenic areas. This scenic yet functional trail network is safe and connects users to all that Marshfield has to offer. The Wisconsin Rapids Area has over 25 miles of trail. There is a 9-mile paved trail that travels through Wisconsin Rapids, Port Edwards and Nekoosa along the Wisconsin River. This route has many rest areas along the way and travels through some of the area's best parks. Check out some of the mountain bike routes through the Village of Hewitt.

For detailed bike routes, check out the websites for the City of Marshfield and the City of Wisconsin Rapids. You can also contact the Park and Forestry website or office for more biking information within the County Parks System.

Snowmobiling

Wood County has approximately 271 miles of snowmobile trails to enjoy. Seven clubs make up the Wood County Snowmobile Alliance and maintain the trails. Trail maps are available at the Wood County Park and Forestry Office and many business locations. You may also call the office to receive a copy by mail. Please stay on the marked snowmobile trails.

Boating and Water Sports

If you're looking for fun on the water, Wood County has thousands of acres of great boating. Lake Nepco and Lake Wazeecha have easy access, clean sandy beaches, and acres of park land for hiking and picnics. The Wisconsin River also provides ideal places to cruise and water ski. The Biron Flowage is a 2,078 acre flowage of the Wisconsin River and has a boat landing off of County Highway U in Biron.

There are numerous sandbars and publicly accessible islands where you can dock your boat for the afternoon and relax. The wide open water is deep enough for most boats and great place for water-sports. The sunset view on this stretch of river is priceless after a great day of cruising.

The second largest body of water in the state of Wisconsin, Lake Petenwell, can be accessed from the new four lane boat landing on Point Basse Rd. in Nekoosa. Lake Petenwell is a flowage of the Wisconsin River that covers 23,000 acres. Even during the busiest summer weekends there is plenty of space for everyone. Known for great walleye, musky and bass fishing, this section also boasts some of the best sailing, boating, and water-sports in the Midwest. Much of the shoreline is undeveloped and there are many opportunities to view wildlife. Be sure to follow the navigation buoys that mark the channel and purchase a quality lake map if you are unfamiliar with the area.

Wood County ATV

4415 State HWY 54, Port Edwards, WI 54469

The Wood County ATV Area is located 3 miles west of Port Edwards on STH 54. The 400-acre area includes 10 miles of ATV trails, restroom facilities, running water, loading ramp, playground equipment, and an open shelter. The park is open year-round with the exception of gun deer hunting season. This area offers varying terrain and mud holes. Use at your own risk! Please follow the posted rules:

Area Rules:

1. *Helmets are required*
2. *ATV's & UTV's using this facility must be registered*
3. *Operator must be of legal age*
4. *Follow directional areas for one-way trails (ex. below)*
5. *Always operate vehicles safely*
6. *Area is closed to vehicles during all gun deer seasons*
7. *Stay on marked trails*

South Wood County Park

6411 South Park Rd., WI Rapids, WI 54494

South Wood County Park is located 5¼ miles east of Wisconsin Rapids on County Highway W. The park is located on 332 acres around Lake Wazeecha. In the Ho-Chunk nation (formerly the WI Winnebago nation) language Wazeecha means "lake of the land of the pines." The lake spans on 148 acres.

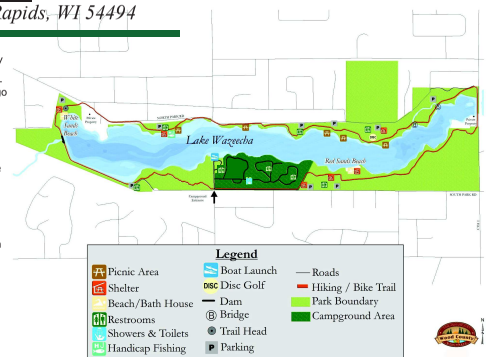
Camping is a popular attraction at South Wood County Park. There are 73 campsites available and 61 of these have electrical hook ups. Shower facilities are also available.

There is a 4-mile trail surrounding the lake. This multi-use trail features community walk/run events each year. Daily trail users enjoy the scenic views in fall, winter, spring, and summer.

Lake Wazeecha is a great place for many water-sport activities. There are numerous small sandy beaches that are perfect for parking a boat and having a picnic. There is great fishing that includes pan fish, walleye, northern pike, and bass. Water skiing and tubing are other activities enjoyed out on the lake and the park is the home of the State Water Ski Show Tournament held each July at Red Sands Beach.

Other attractions at the park include handicap fishing access areas, a boat launch, two beaches, numerous shelters, and excellent shore fishing.

A 12-basket disc golf course is also featured on the north side of the lake and is called "Willow Run".

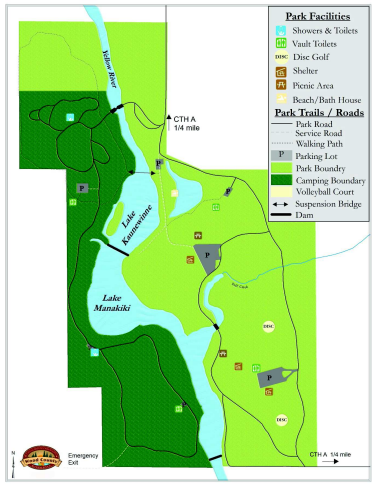


North Wood County Park

7500 Park Ln., Arpin, WI 54410

North Wood County Park is located 5 miles north of State Highways 73 & 80 on County Highway A. The Yellow River runs through the 172-acre park and two small dam-created lakes provide many recreational opportunities. One of the main attractions of the park is the 225-foot suspension bridge that spans the Yellow River.

There are 98 total campsites in North Park and 78 of these have electrical hookups. Shower facilities, a dump station, and fresh water are available for registered campers. Other attractions include a disc golf course, a stone enclosed shelter for rent, a beach area, a bath house, and walking trails along the river.

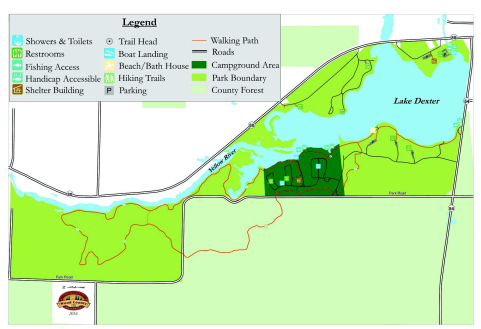


Dexter County Park

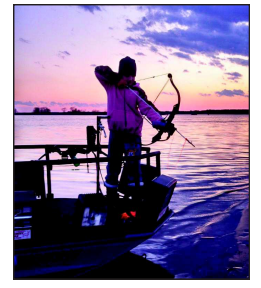
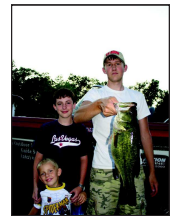
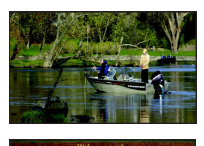
8220 State HWY 54, Pittsville, WI

Dexter Park is located 6 miles south of Pittsville at the junction of STH 80 and STH 54 West. The 1,235 -acre park is located around the 298-acre Lake Dexter. The park has over 1,000 acres of wild or undeveloped land with many hiking trails. With an abundance of natural areas, there are many opportunities to view wildlife. Hunting is permitted in designated areas of the park. Dexter Park features a campground with 95 camping units, of which 92 have electric hookups. Surfaced camp pads are provided on all campsites and shower facilities are available. The park also features an enclosed shelter, playground, beach, sand volleyball courts, handicapped fish access areas, and hiking trails.

There are two boat launches on Lake Dexter. A secondary launch is located in the campground and is for registered campers only. The other launch is located on the southeast corner of the lake, is open to the public, and includes a boat wash down station and fish cleaning house. In addition to boat fishing, there are many shore fishing opportunities including handicapped fishing areas. Lake Dexter is not only popular for its open-water and ice fishing. Some fish species include: northern pike, pan fish, and many small mouth bass.



Facilities & Activities	Powers Bluff County Park	Nepco County Park	Rich-field 360 Area	North Wood County Park	ATV Area	South Wood County Park	Dexter County Park	County Forest Land
Camping				X		X	X	
Electricity				X		X	X	
Showers				X		X	X	
Toilets	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dump Station				X		X	X	
Wood/Ice				X		X	X	
Camping Wilderness			X					X
Wells		X		X	X	X	X	
Fireplaces/Grills	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Playground Equipment	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Picnic Grounds	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swimming		X		X		X	X	
Boat Landing Ramp		X				X	X	
Boat Wash Station		X				X	X	
Fishing		X		X		X	X	X
Fish Cleaning Station							X	
Canoeing		X				X	X	X
Water Skiing		X				X		
Enclosed Shelter	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Open Shelter		X		X		X		
Handicap Hunting Blinds								X
Hiking Trails	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Downhill Skiing	X							
Snow Tubing	X							
CC-Skiing	X	X	X					
Snowmobiling						X	X	X
Disc Golf				X		X		
Trapping								X
Hunting								X
Berry Picking	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Snow Shoeing	X	X	X			X	X	X
Wildlife Observation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Fishing, Wildlife, and more!

Wood County is hard to beat in terms of fishing variety, quality and access to resources. The Wisconsin River runs through the southeastern part of the county with excellent public access and boat landings. Three landings that standout are at County Highway U in Biron, Ben Hansen Park in Wisconsin Rapids, and the new four lane launch in Nekoosa. The County Highway U landing provides access to the 2000+ acre Wisconsin River Biron Flowage known locally as a great place to target musky. Ben Hansen Park provides access to the section of river that runs through the City of Wisconsin Rapids. This stretch of river is generally more rocky and shallow. Target downstream sides of islands, rocks and trees for good small mouth bass action. The new launch on Point Basse Road (County Highway AA) in Nekoosa was completely rebuilt to provide safe river access during high and low flow periods and is also the site of the famous Nekoosa Walleye Days every spring. From here you can travel south to access Lake Petenwell, the second largest water body in the state with over 90 miles of shoreline to explore. The "Pete" is well-known for monster musky and walleye and excellent ice fishing for slab crappie and perch. If the river isn't your thing, enjoy the solitude of miles and miles of trout streams, as well as the Yellow and Black Rivers. You will also want to explore Lakes Nepco, Dexter and Wazeecha. All lakes have excellent shore fishing opportunities as well as top notch boat landings. Many of the boat landings have recently been improved and the launch at Dexter County Park even has a fish cleaning shelter to fillet your catch.

Various wildlife sightings of Bald Eagles can be viewed along the Wisconsin River and even some nests can be spotted at some our local camping areas. Other animals that can be spotted in Wood County include Sandhill and Whooping Cranes, Bald Eagles, Painted Turtles, Blue Herons, Foxes, Deer, and many, many more!

For More Information

Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Marshfield Convention & Visitors Bureau
700 South Central Avenue
P. O. Box 868
Marshfield, WI 54449
(800) 422-4541
Website: www.visitmarshfieldwi.com

Wisconsin Rapids Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
2507 8th Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
(800) 554-4484
Email: cvbstaff@visitwisrapids.com
Website: www.visitwisrapids.com

Heart of Wisconsin Business & Economic Alliance
1120 Lincoln Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 423-1830
Fax: (715) 423-1865
Email: info@heartofwi.com
Website: www.heartofwi.com

Wood County Parks & Forestry Department
111 W. Jackson Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
Phone: (715) 421-8422
Fax: (715) 421-8534
Email: parks@co.wood.wi.us
Website: www.co.wood.wi.us/parks/
FIND US ON FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/Wood-County-Park-Forestry-Department-204221776296438/

Wood County Wildlife Area
Website: www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/wildlifareas/woodcounty.html

Sandhill Wildlife Area
Website: www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/sandhill/woodcounty.html

Wisconsin Rapids DNR Satellite Center
Phone: (715) 421-7800
Website: www.dnr.wi.gov

Hardwood Bombing Range
Phone: (608) 427-1509

Friends of Mead-McMillan Wildlife Area
Phone: (715) 457-6771
Website: www.meadwildlife.org

Wood County Treasurer
Phone: (715) 421-8484
Website: www.co.wood.wi.us/treasurer/

Wood County Land Conservation Department
Phone: (715) 421-8475
Website: www.co.wood.wi.us/land/

APPENDIX B

Wood County Community Survey Summary

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Community Survey Summary

Wood County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan

May 2018

Compiled by:

Wood County Department of Planning & Zoning

In collaboration with:

Wood County Parks and Forestry Department

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INTRODUCTION

In 2017 Wood County began updating its 2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan. A public participation strategy was identified early in the planning process to foster public involvement at all stages of the plan update. Public participation helps to ensure that the plan truly reflects the needs, opportunities and desires of the community. Furthermore, it is essential to the overall success of the plan. A community survey was one means of collecting public opinion.

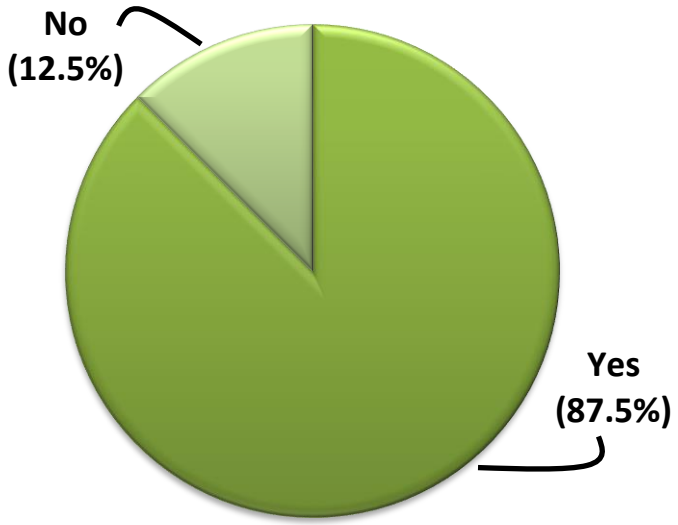
The purpose of the community survey was to gather resident and visitor input for the Wood County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan - 2018. Specifically, the survey gathered information on county park usage, preferred outdoor recreation amenities/activities, community values, and attitudes towards future recreational development in Wood County.

The survey was available to Wood County residents and visitors from January 26th to March 1st, 2018. The survey was available online or by hard copy upon request. Survey notice platforms included: email, Facebook, radio, local newspapers, Wood County website, and others. Additionally, 500 postcards were sent out randomly to residents located in all of Wood County's local communities (city, village, and town).

A total of 591 surveys were completed.

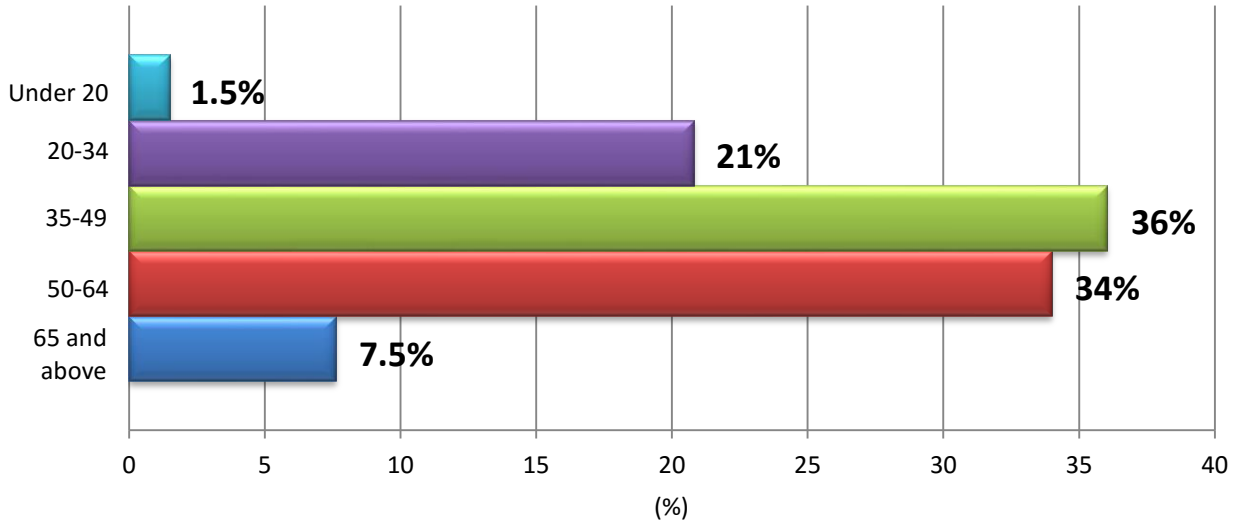
This report summarizes the needs, desires and attitudes of the general public in regard to the Wood County recreation system. The report presents numeric tabulation and graphic representation of the questions and answers in the community survey. In addition to numeric data, respondent's additional comments are provided. The input collected through this survey will be incorporated into the 2018 plan update. Results of this survey will provide guidance for recreational decisions over the next (5) five years.

Question 1: Are you currently a Wood County, Wisconsin resident?



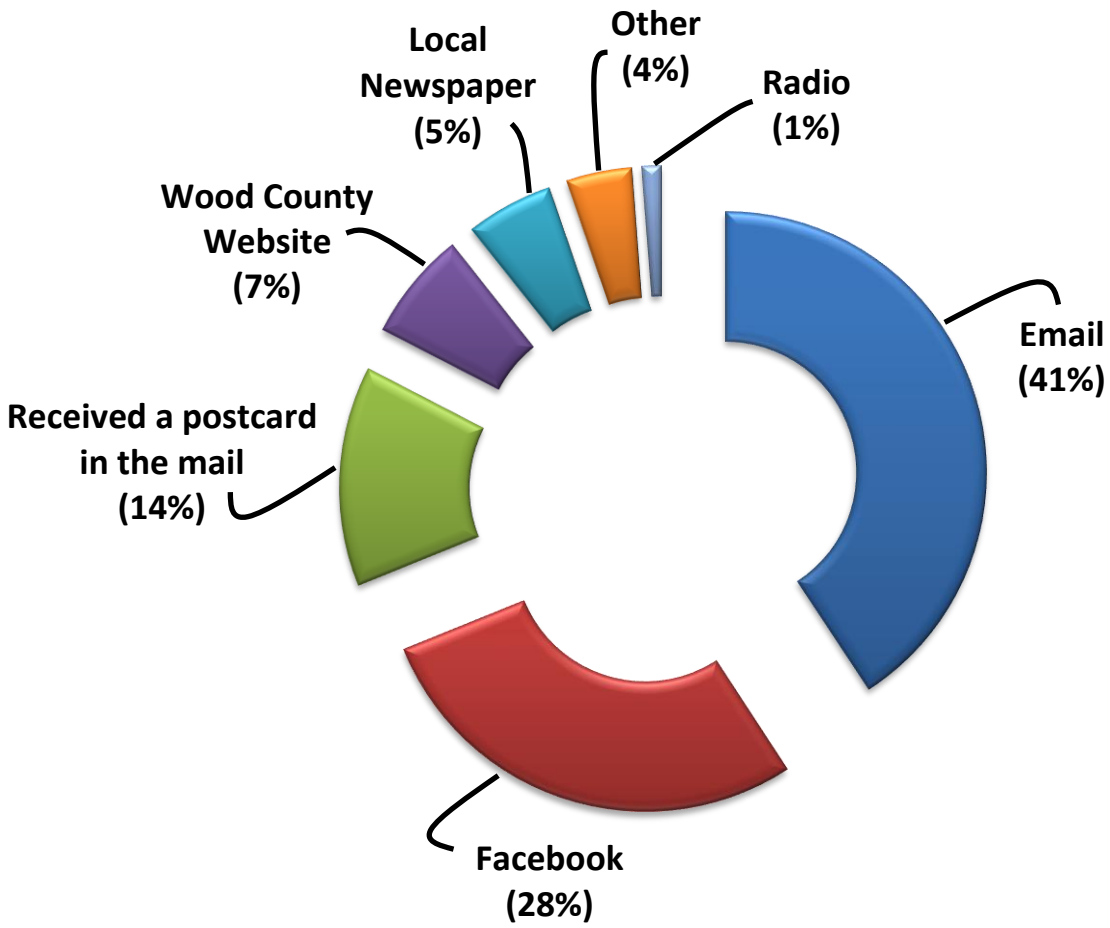
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	87.5%
No	12.5%

Question 2: What is your current age?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 20	1.5%
20-34	21%
35-49	36%
50-64	34%
65 and above	7.5%

Question 3: How were you made aware of this survey?

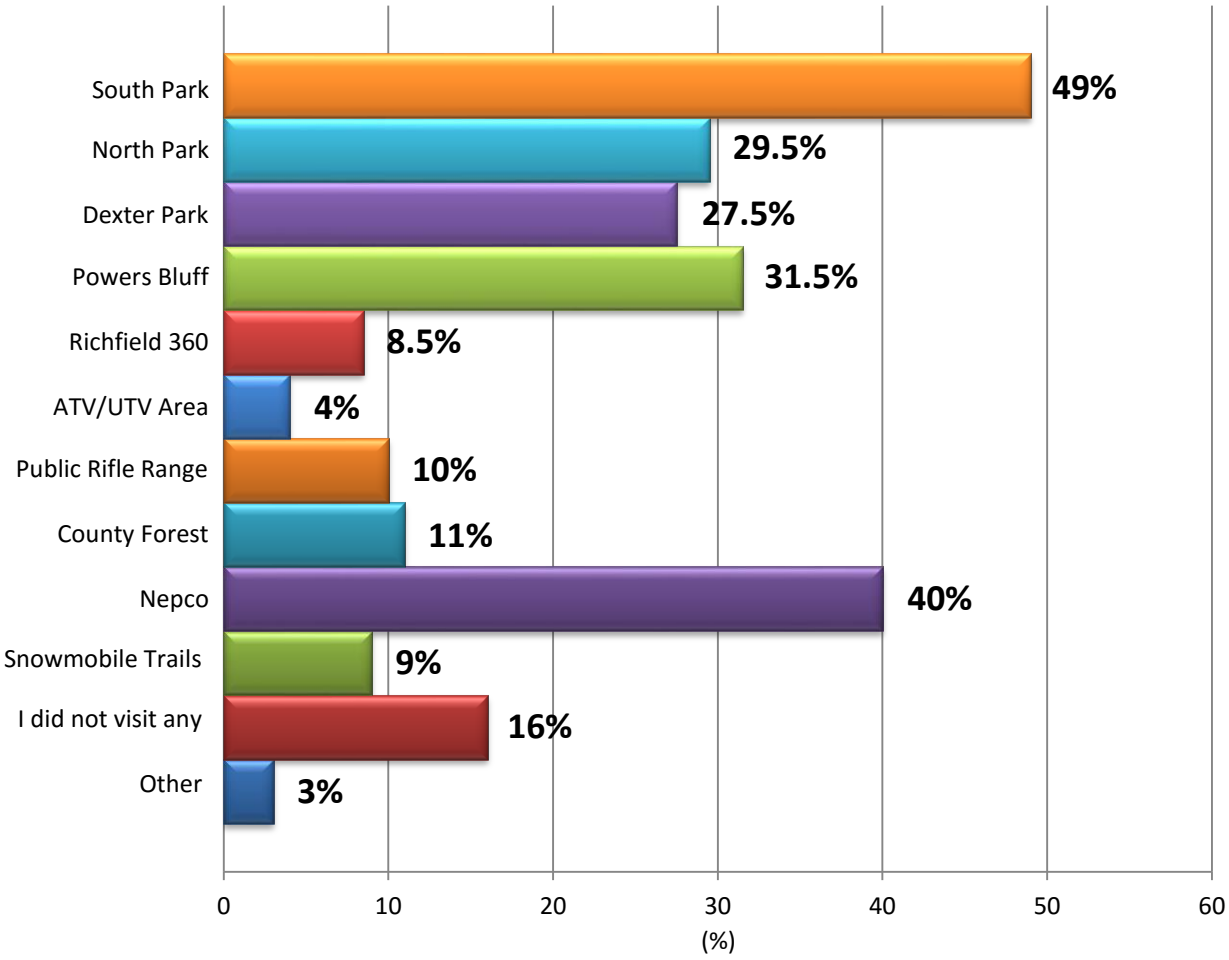


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Received a postcard in the mail	14%
Radio	1%
Wood County Website	7%
Email	41%
Facebook	28%
Local Newspaper	5%
Other (please specify)*	4%

*NOTE: Other ways survey participants were made aware of the survey included, but are not limited to: word of mouth, friends, teachers, LinkedIn, Twitter, Wisconsin Rapids Mayor Blog, and Incourage Community Foundation

FURTHER STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:
Interestingly, 58% of survey respondents 50 years of age and older were made aware of the survey by the mailed postcard.

Question 4: During the months of December, 2016 – May, 2017 (winter/spring), which parks and forestry areas did you visit? (Check all that apply)?

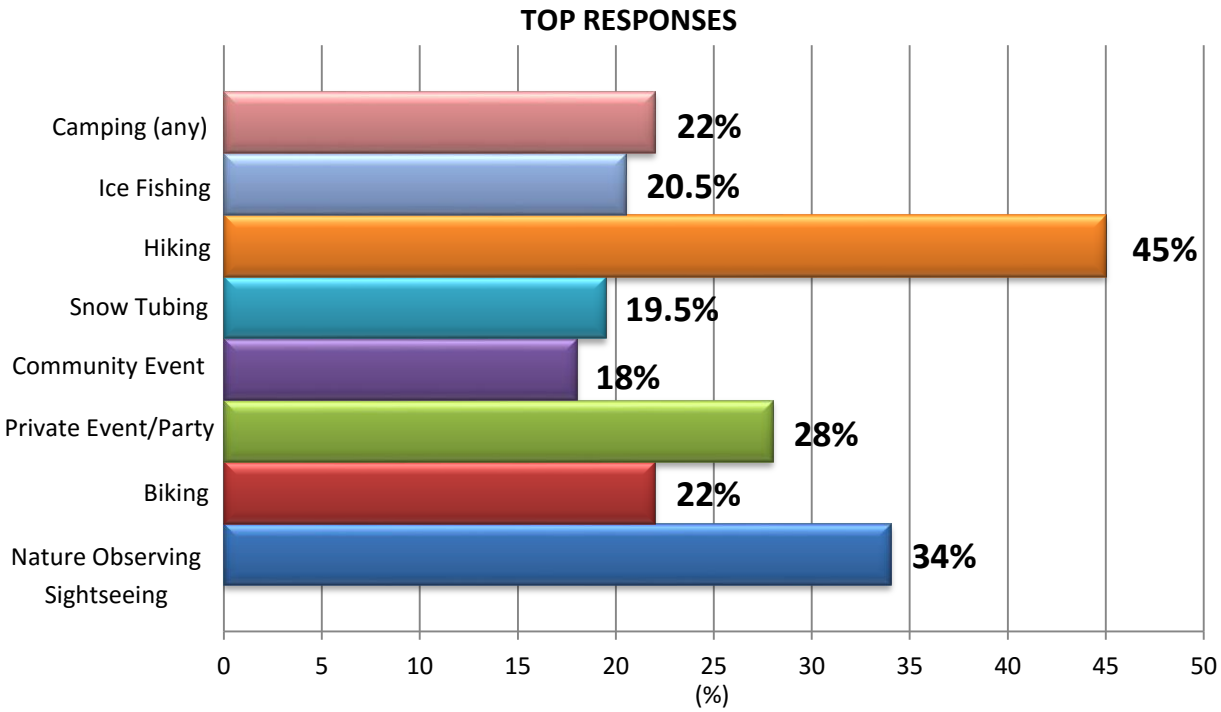


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
South Park (Wazeecha)	49%
North Park	29.5%
Dexter Park	27.5%
Powers Bluff	31.5%
Richfield 360	8.5%
Highway 54 ATV/UTV Area	4%
Public Rifle Range	10%
Wood County Forest Area	11%
Nepco	40%
Wood County Snowmobile Trails	9%
I did not visit any	16%
Other (please specify)*	3%

*NOTE: Other recreation areas/comments included, but are not limited to: local municipal parks (town, village, and city), Wisconsin River, and Sandhill State Wildlife Area.

FURTHER STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: Interestingly, Nepco County Park was the most visited by nonresidents.

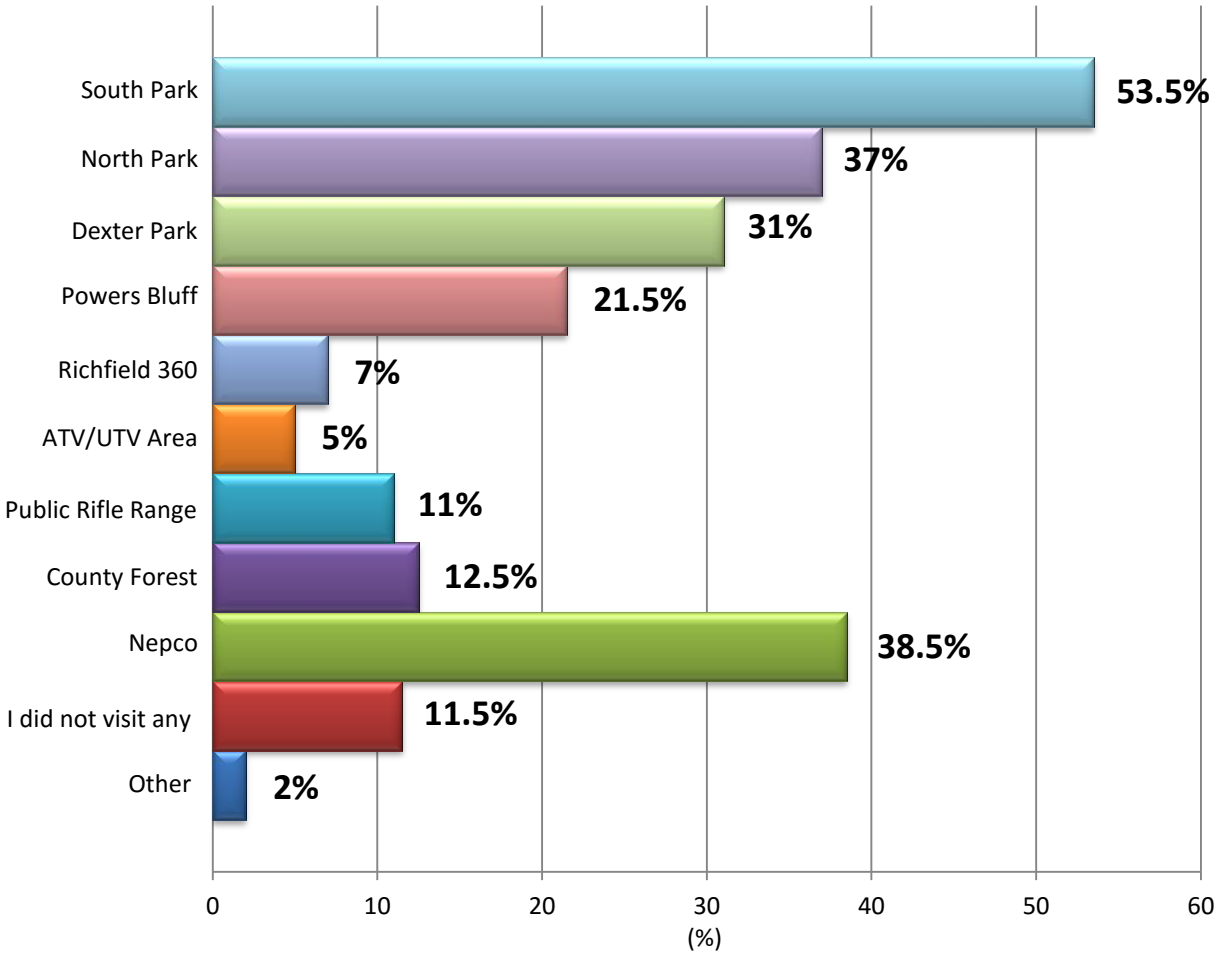
Question 5: During your December, 2016 – May, 2017 (winter/spring) visit, what facility/activity did you participate in? (Check all that apply)?



ALL ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Camping (any)	22%
Ice Fishing	20.5%
Snowmobiling	9%
Hiking	45%
Snowshoeing	11.5%
Cross Country Skiing	7.5%
Downhill Skiing/Snow Boarding	4.5%
Snow Tubing	19.5%
Community Event	18%
Private Event/Party	28%
ATV/UTV Riding	8%
Hunting/Trapping	8%
Biking	22%
Target Shooting	7%
Nature Observing/Sightseeing	34%
Did not participate in any activities	15.5%
Other (please specify)*	7%

*NOTE: Other activities/comments included, but are not limited to: walking, running, disc golf, horseback riding, and geocaching.

Question 6: During the months of June, 2017 – November, 2017 (summer/fall), which parks and forestry areas did you visit? (Check all that apply)?

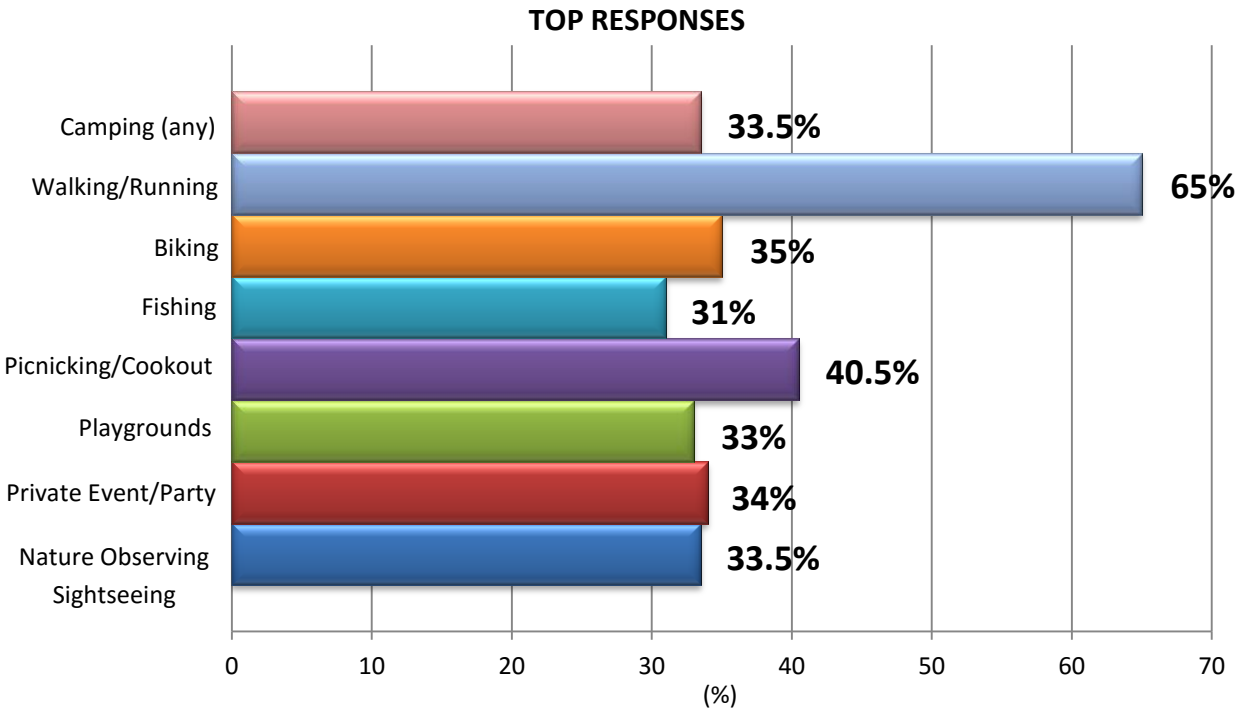


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
South Park (Wazeecha)	53.5%
North Park	37%
Dexter Park	31%
Powers Bluff	21.5%
Richfield 360	7%
Highway 54 ATV/UTV Area	5%
Public Rifle Range	11%
Wood County Forest Area	12.5%
Nepco	38.5%
I did not visit any	11.5%
Other (please specify)*	2%

*NOTE: Other recreation areas/comments included, but are not limited to: local municipal parks (town, village, and city), Wisconsin River, and Sandhill State Wildlife Area.

FURTHER STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: Interestingly, Nepco & North County Parks tied for the most visited by nonresidents.

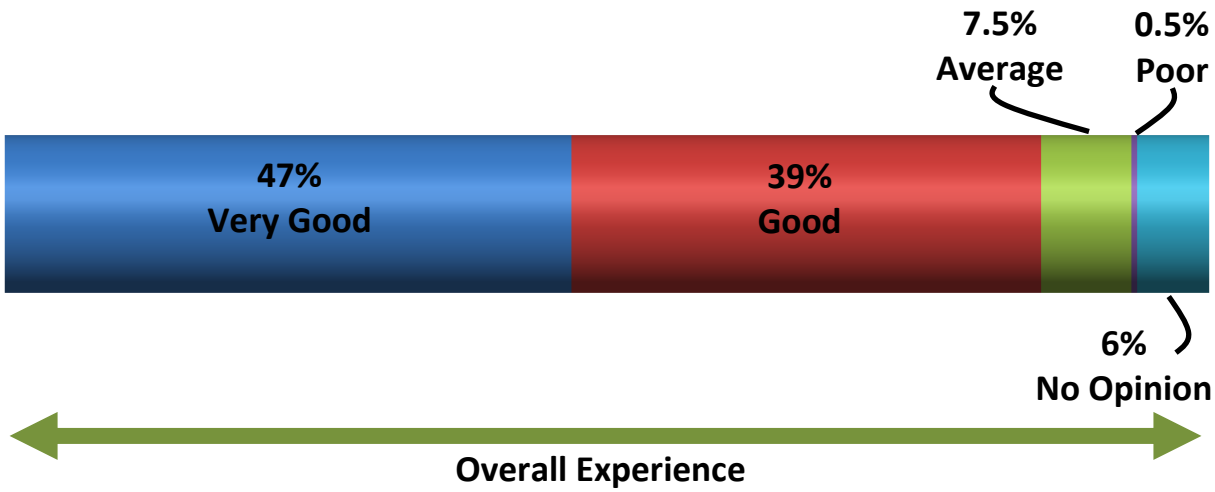
Question 7: During your June, 2017 – November, 2017 (summer/fall) visit, what facility/activity did you participate in? (Check all that apply)?



ALL ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Camping (any)	33.5%
Walking/Running/Hiking	65%
Biking	35%
Motor Boating	16.5%
Target Shooting	9%
Disc Golf	11.5%
Fishing	31%
Hunting/Trapping	8%
Swimming	30.5%
Picnicking/Cookout	40.5%
Playgrounds	33%
Community Event	20%
Private Event/Party	34%
Nature Observing/Sightseeing	33.5%
Kayak, Paddle Board, Canoeing	22.5%
ATV/UTV Riding	6%
Did not participate in any activities	9%
Other (please specify)*	4%

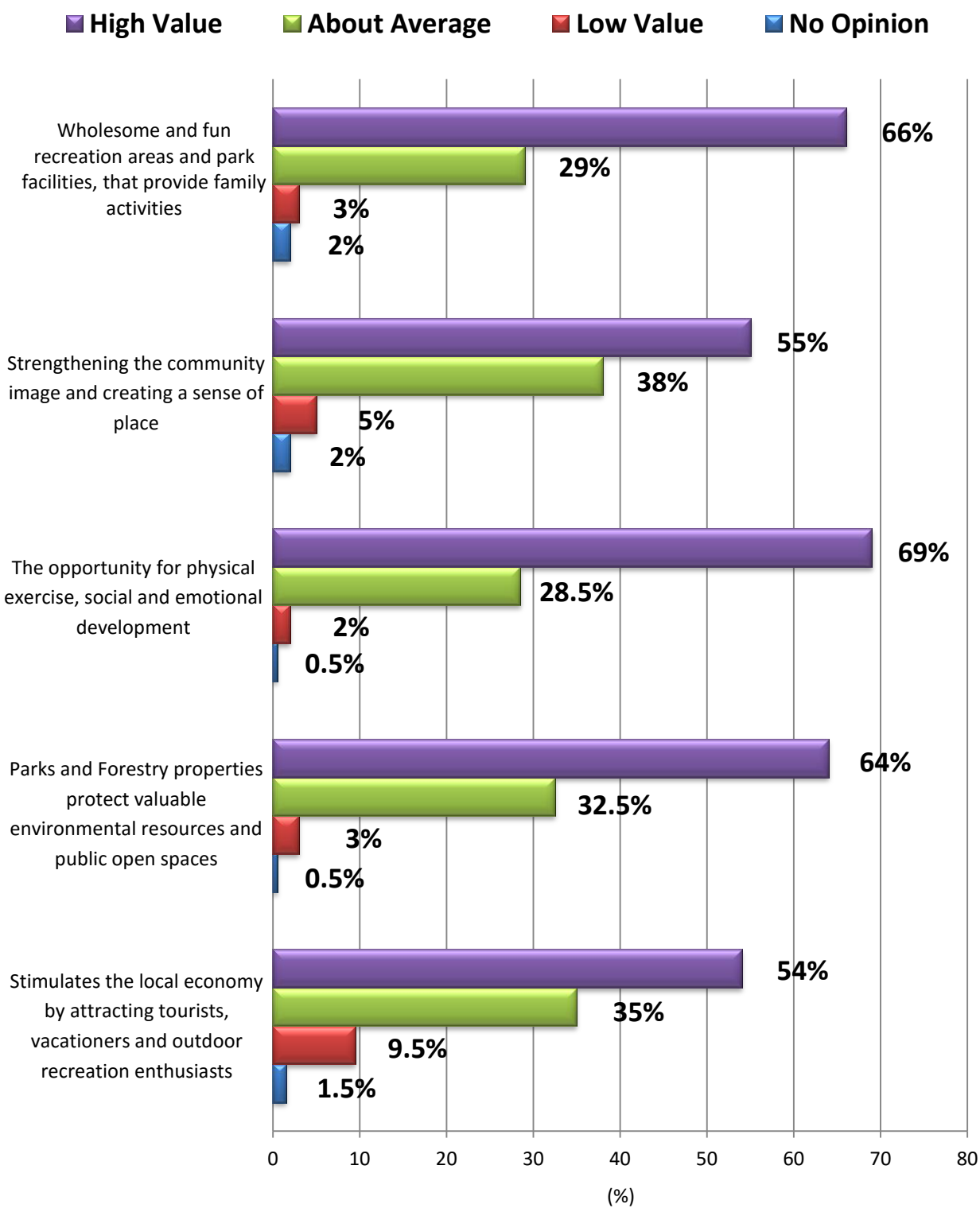
*NOTE: Other activities/comments included, but are not limited to: Wisconsin Rapids Aqua Skiers shows, horseback riding, metal detecting, and geocaching.

Question 8: How would you rate your overall experience in these parks and forestry areas?

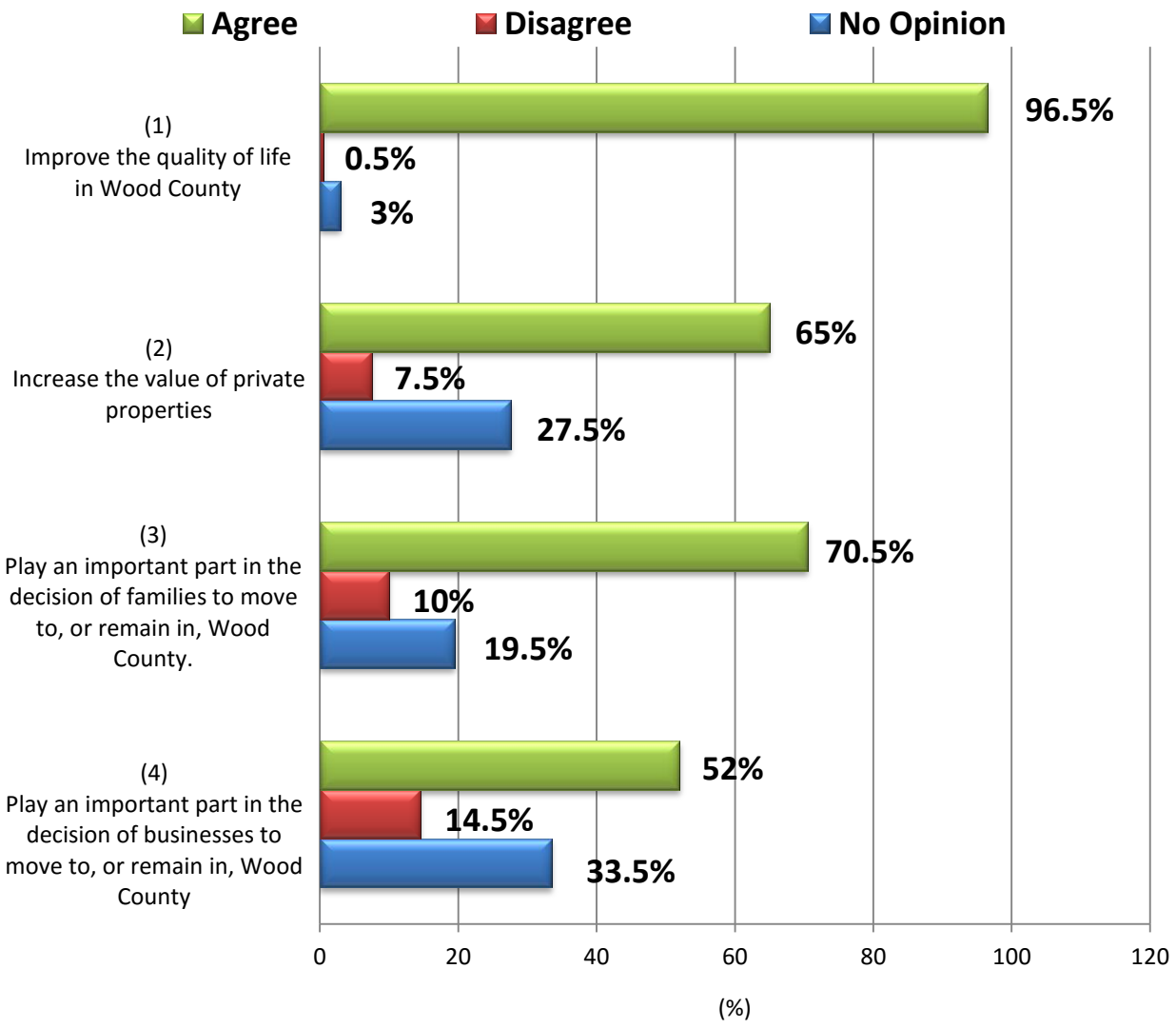


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very Good	47%
Good	39%
Average	7.5%
Poor	0.5%
No Opinion	6%

Question 9: Please indicate your sense of the value parks, trails and outdoor recreation hold for the residents and visitors of Wood County:

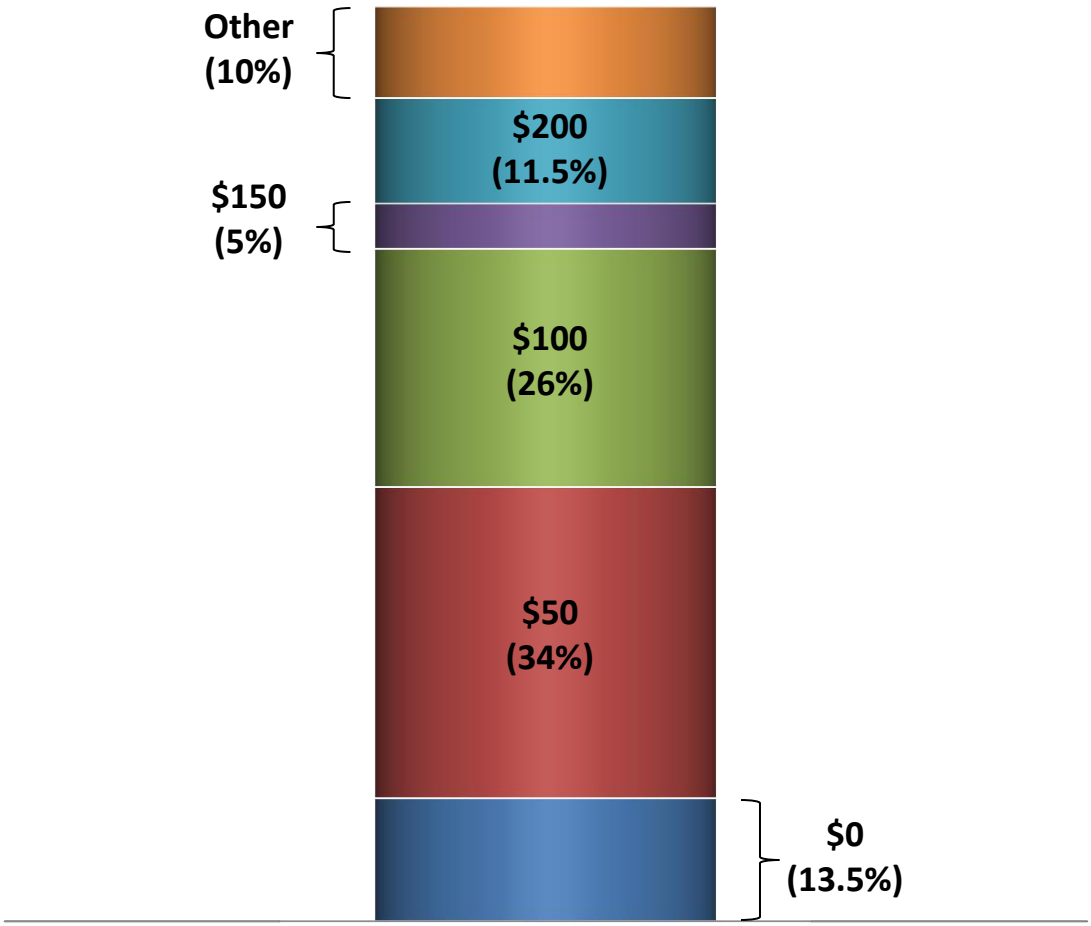


Question 10: Following is a list of statements regarding parks, recreation, and open spaces in Wood County. What is your opinion?



STATEMENT	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION
(1)	96.5%	0.5%	3%
(2)	65%	7.5%	27.5%
(3)	70.5%	10%	19.5%
(4)	52%	14.5%	33.5%

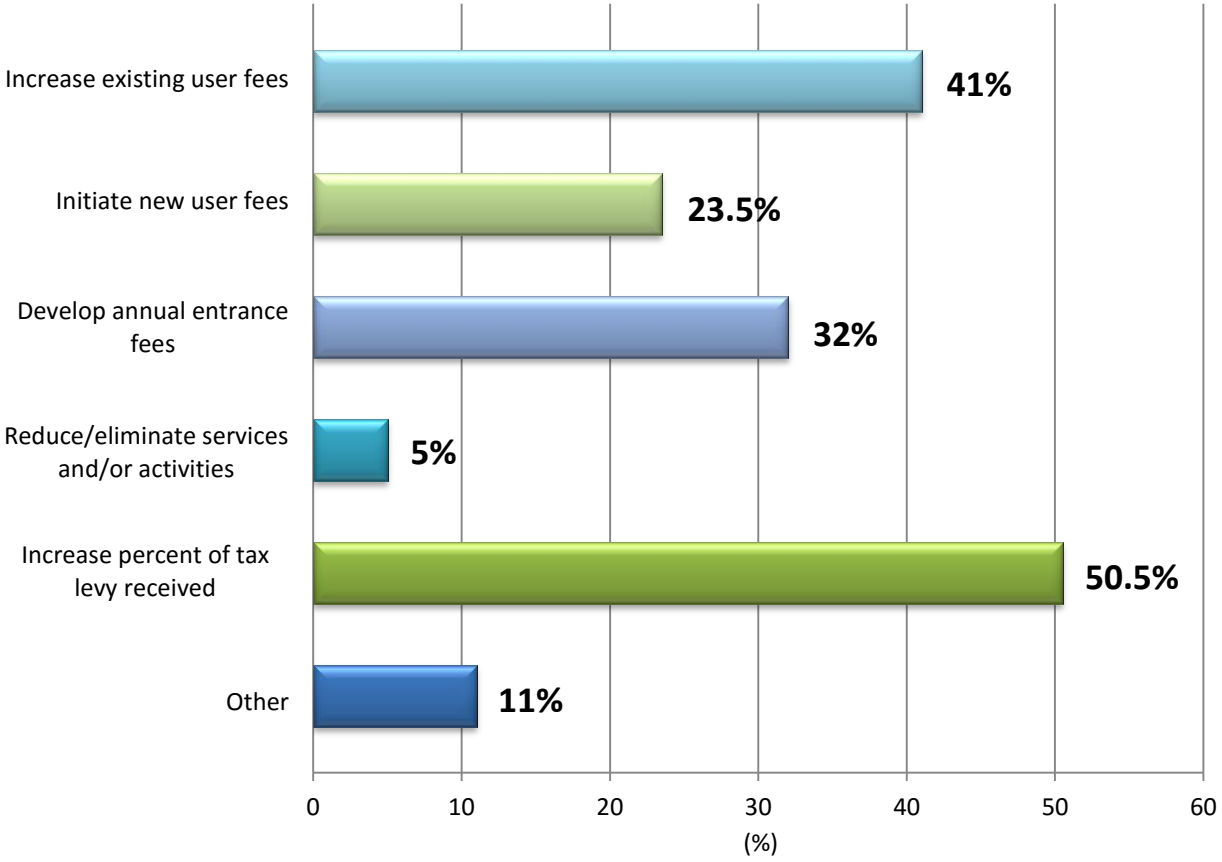
Question 11: FUNDING: Currently, the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department is funded with a combination of: user fees, timber sales, grants and tax levy dollars from property and sales tax. If you could decide, how much of your household tax dollars would go towards maintaining the parks and forestry areas in Wood County every year?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Other (please specify)*	10%
$200	11.5%
$150	5%
$100	26%
$50	34%
$0	13.5

*NOTE: Other amounts/comments included, but are not limited to: $10, $20, $25, $30, less than $50, same as current amount, increase from current amount, and no opinion/not sure.

Question 12: FUNDING: In your opinion, how should future operating cost increases be paid for? (Check all that apply)

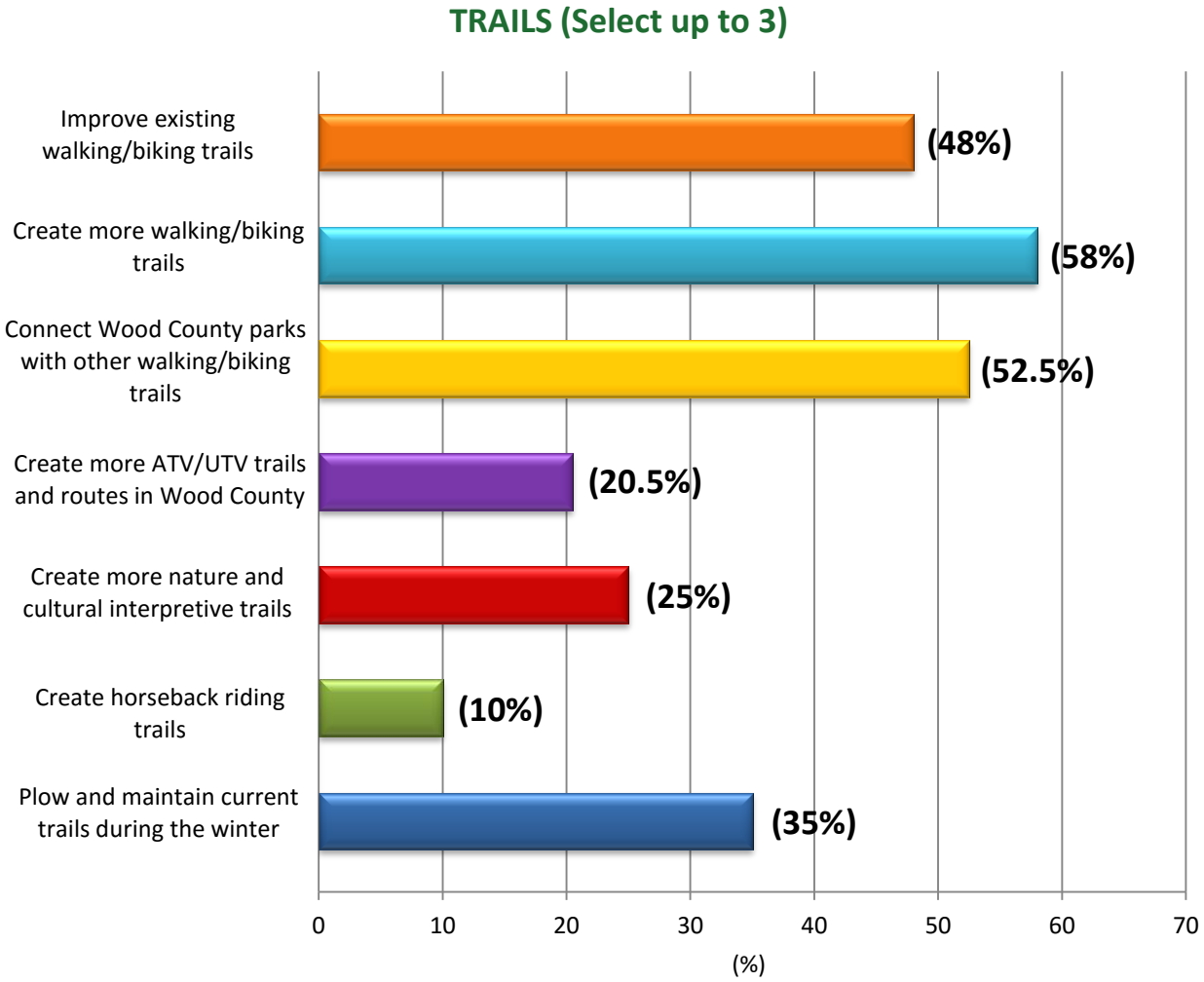


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Increase existing user fees (camping, skiing, tubing, etc.)	41%
Initiate new user fees (disc golf, single track bike trails, etc.)	23.5%
Develop annual entrance fee for parks (e.g. state park vehicle sticker)	32%
Reduce/eliminate services and/or activities	5%
Increase percent of tax levy received	50.5%
Other (please specify)*	11%

*NOTE: Other comments included, but are not limited to: donation boxes, grant funding, fundraising activities, rental equipment, volunteers, increase timber sales, spend responsibly, sponsorships, and develop activities/facilities that generate revenue.

FURTHER STATISTICAL ANALYSIS: Surprisingly, 48% of nonresidents survey respondents selected "increase existing user fees". This was the top selection for nonresidents.

Question 13: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Improve existing walking/biking trails	48%
Create more walking/biking trails	58%
Connect Wood County parks with other walking/biking trails	52.5%
Create more ATV/UTV trails and routes in Wood County	20.5%
Create more natural and cultural interpretive trails	25%
Create horseback riding trails	10%
Plow and maintain current walking trails during winter	35%

COMMENTS FOR QUESTION 13 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

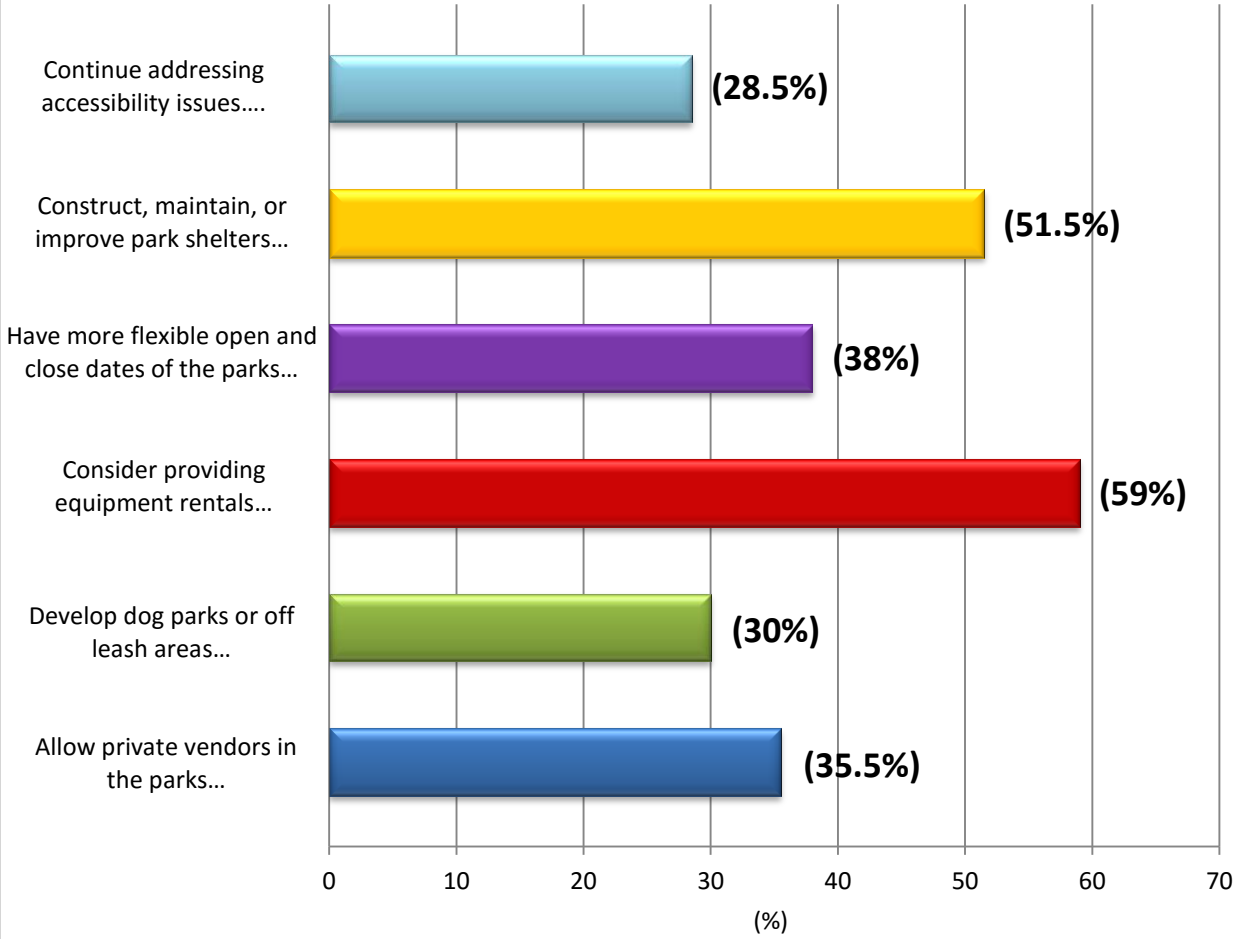
QUESTION 13 CONTINUED

Comments

- It would be nice if we could get the South Wood County bike trail paved in all areas. Gravel can be tough on little kids riding bikes.
- It's ridiculous the county doesn't have an ATV system.
- Trail connections make more tourists come in.
- Add more single track mountain bike trails like Wausau did (@Sylvan Hill).
- Keep in mind accessibility and ease of mobility.
- Wood County needs to develop ATV/UTV trails in the County Forest that connect into the Jackson County system.
- Connect only when distances are short and right of ways exist or are granted.
- None, if it increases cost.
- Market what you have. I grew up here and some of this is new to me.
- I'm involved with trails in the Village of Hewitt and I realize the challenges involved. Possibly improved coordination between municipalities would help.
- Leave them alone, I like the wild look.
- Nepco trail segments named (1,2,3,A,B,C,etc) mapped & signed.
- More mountain biking single track.
- I've had many people say they would like to see walking/biking trails connecting North Wood Co Park to Dexter Park and so on, to enable families to hike/bike in the area, without (minimize) having to be on State/Co. Highways to make biking/hiking safer for children and adults.
- I am involved in a local hiking group that meets weekly and we explore the hiking trails in Wood County. Powers Bluff is the premier and we have done wildflower and birding tours. Also the Puff Creek area was enjoyed (could improve direction signage in some spots).
- Connect Nepco/S. Wood Co Parks with a loop using available public lands (municipal wellheads and seasonal snow mobile trails) and ongoing private developments.
- Parks needs to keep hikers off groomed ski trails.
- Improve the cross country ski trails in Richfield.
- Connect 80th St/Cty. Hwy. U to sidewalks on Hwy. 54, open trail or sidewalk on N Biron Dr. between dam and 80th.
- Develop ATV/bike trails through more of Wood Co forests. Make them accessible from late spring until end of September. Gate them so no motorized vehicles can harass hunters or game using the forests. It would be nice to see connectivity between some of the trails entering Wood Co in west to areas near Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield.
- Definitely need more biking and walking trails. La Crosse County and other counties have fantastic trails. Wood County does not. We need more trails in Marshfield!! Also, adding to ATV/UTV trails bring in tourists and money!
- Powers Bluff- Make it like Bruce mound!!
- I wish I could get from 80th/CTH U to 48th on a trail/sidewalk along Hwy 54.
- Plow and maintain current walking trails during winter months is something that should be being done already. That is why I didn't select if for a priority.
- Connect new developments on south side of Nepco to Nepco Park- there is no pedestrian safety to cross the existing bridge- only way to access the park is by vehicle.

Question 14: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.

DAY USE (Select up to 3)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Continue addressing accessibility issues in all park facilities and areas	28.5%
Construct, maintain, or improve park shelters to accommodate seasonal and year-round use for private or community events	51.5%
Have more flexible open and close dates of the parks depending on the weather	38%
Consider providing equipment rentals (kayak, paddleboards, frisbee discs, bicycles, etc.)	59%
Develop dog parks or off leash areas within existing parks	30%
Allow private vendors in the parks for the purpose of selling food and beverages	35.5%

COMMENTS FOR QUESTION 14 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

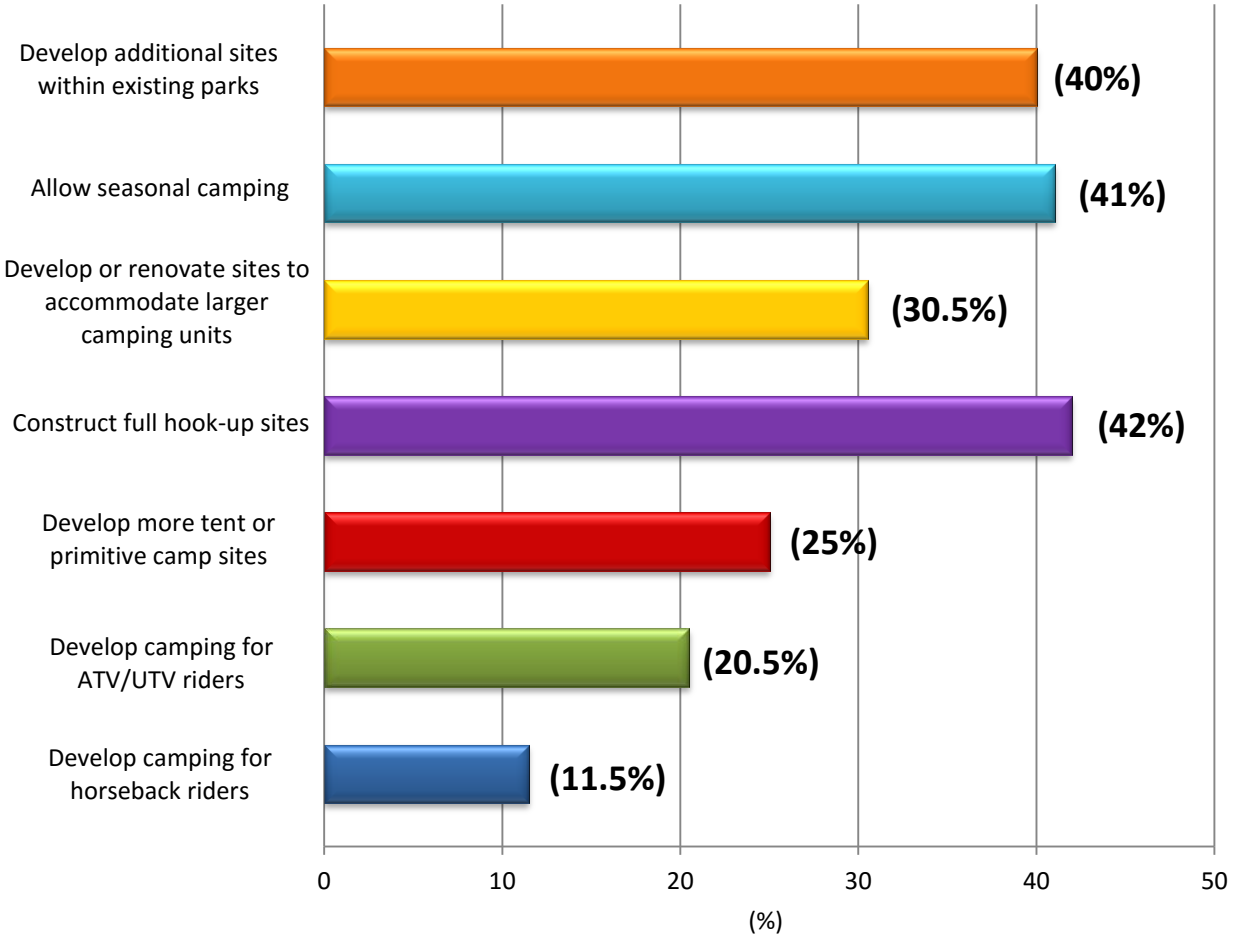
QUESTION 14 CONTINUED

Comments

- Keep the parks open in the winter for snowshoeing.
- I was at a wedding twice at the shelter at Richfield Park, it was wonderful there. But could be so much more, and available for rental. Just needs a little improvement. But what a beautiful area!
- It would be really nice if the play equipment was upgraded.
- Park closed means little, they are used year round.
- Food Trucks with public notice draw more attention to parks.
- Rentals are a nice idea, but better in coordination with private partnership agreement.
- Improve park shelters - not sure that "year round" is needed? What is your demand for this?
- All of the above.
- ATV/UTV trails
- Put the garbage cans back in the parks.
- Do not want off leash dogs, I think they are a law suit waiting to happen. I could see a food vender adding value, but would want them very limited in number and presence as I don't want to be at an amusement park when I'm at a county park.
- Frisbee golf at dexter, update Basketball area at dexter, add covered area at dexter beach for sitting during hot days.
- Would it be possible to utilize parks as an event venue to turn them into destinations?
- Outside groups may spend their own money towards park improvements if allowed more access.
- Keep the restrooms clean and modern.
- I wish that more trails and nature areas would be open for biking and walking after August 31. The most beautiful time of the year to hike is closed off I presume for hunting purposes.
- Repair and or update existing shelters, beach bathrooms/changing areas, etc. that are now in need of repairs.
- Would LOVE a dog area! Also, just more activities in general- would be willing to pay a fee for additional activities.
- Keep north park open.
- Living across from Powers Bluff, I see many people parked at the gates, walking in to use the park. I believe park usage would increase if this park didn't close so early.
- Allowing private vendors may be a good idea. It may be worth investigating Private/Public partnerships first. Meaning private funding with public (County) personnel involved. I possibility is constructing swimming pools at parks so campers have options if water quality in the lakes or river are suspect.
- Please make the water available for swimming if possible.
- Improve/add bathroom facilities at Lake Wazeecha (NE end).
- Improve existing playgrounds.
- If white sands were more fully developed, fenced and fee imposed a rental shack + food could be worth exploring.

Question 15: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.

CAMPGROUNDS (Select up to 3)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Develop additional sites within existing parks	40%
Allow seasonal camping	41%
Develop or renovate sites to accommodate larger camping units	30.5%
Construct full hook-up sites	42%
Develop more tent or primitive camp sites	25%
Develop camping for ATV/UTV riders	20.5%
Develop camping for horseback riders	11.5%

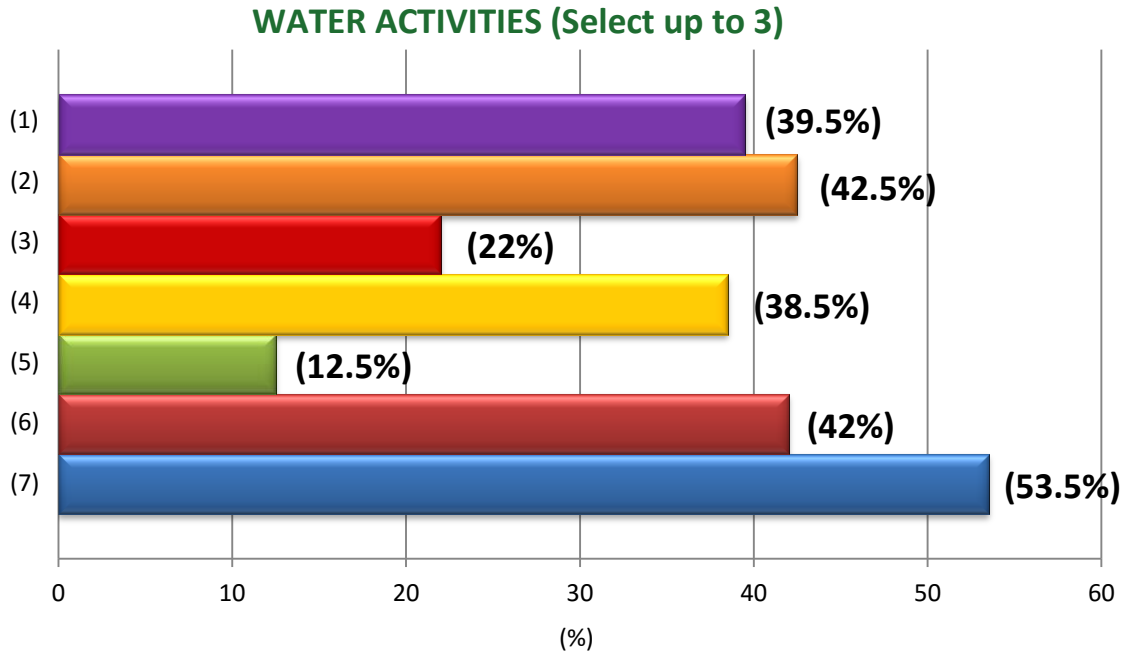
COMMENTS FOR QUESTION 15 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

QUESTION 15 CONTINUED

Comments

- Maybe add in more for kids at the campground.
- Maintain and upgrade existing.
- Improve existing camping sites with raised and level gravel pads for campers so they are not muddy during wet weather conditions.
- Good as is.
- I don't participate in either of these, but I understand the need which would be a draw for visitors.
- Easy access ability.
- Would like to see the bridge at North Wood County improved.
- Have camping options where the sites have more privacy.
- Add additional camping sites at South Park to the east of red beach in old existing picnic area.
- More sites, more dollars.
- Connect campgrounds to ATV/UTV trails and routes.
- No camping for ATV riders.
- Provide small cabins for people to rent. Make handicap accessible.
- I didn't like changing rustic area west of river road to developed campground. It lost something. (Richfield).
- Don't allow seasonal camping.
- Plant more privacy vegetation between campsites.
- Please no ATV's at north wood cty park.
- Make camping sites farther apart to allow more privacy from other campers.
- We love the group site areas at Dexter. Makes for great fun for multiple families.
- Okay as it is.
- Need additional tree trimming in campgrounds for larger campers! Even on main access roads.
- Develop more group area campsites.
- I think current camping options are adequate and affordable at Wazeecha, I have not been to any others in Wood County.
- Do the projects that will generate the most revenue.
- On county forest land.
- Rustic cabins/tee Pee's for rent.
- Do not increase sites.
- Clark Co has some remote ATV campsites and they are very popular. If we had connectivity to Clark or Jackson Co trails, it may develop into a profitable condition.
- Continue to upgrade and improve bathroom & shower facilities.
- I don't think crowded campgrounds or cramped sites are a draw for more tourists.
- Wood County has wonderful camping facilities.
- Trim the trees and make pull through for 5th wheels!
- Would like to see a pool or swimming area at campgrounds and cabins for rentals.
- Hike/Ride/Boat to sites would offer a unique experience to the area since most are up north. There seems to be plenty of space for that activity in the southern portion of Wood County.
- Allow firewood to be brought in for camping purposes.
- Primitive hike in campsite in county forests.
- Renovate existing sites, flat elevated pads for drainage.
- Camping at Nepco?

Question 16: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.



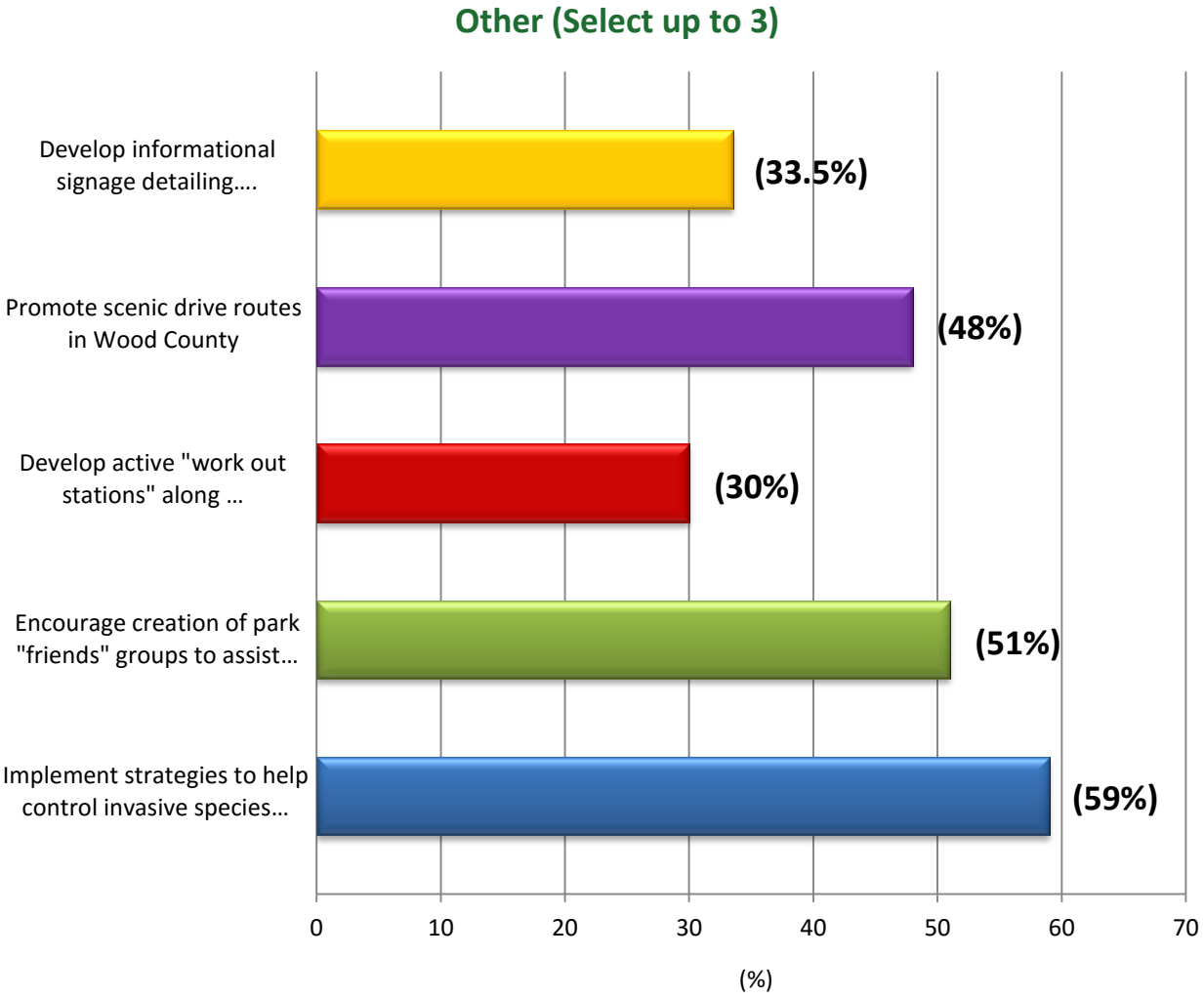
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
(1) Establish "blue ways" or mapped routes for canoes, kayaks and other watercraft	39.5%
(2) Develop accessible kayak/canoe launch docks	42.5%
(3) Improve access to areas of the Wisconsin River to alleviate boat traffic on small lakes in the county	22%
(4) Monitor shoreline erosion and lake depths to ensure continued long-term recreational use and water quality of lakes in county parks	38.5%
(5) Work with local ski club/organizations on balancing use of waterways with Wood County resident use	12.5%
(6) Work with the Land and Water Conservation Department and the Department of Natural Resources to monitor and address surface water quality issues of lakes adjoining Wood County Parks	42%
(7) Improve fishing opportunities in area lakes through fish stocking and habitat improvement	53.5%

COMMENTS FOR QUESTION 16 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Comments

- Keep water clean for swimming (North Park).
- Have a dredging plan for the lakes like Wazeecha and Nepco.
- Stop groundwater talk. We are wasting valuable resources on a non-existent perceived problems.
- Research McMillan Marsh reservoir potential for fish stocking. They are not currently deep enough and do not allow high enough oxygen levels for fish to survive. Research ecosystem impact by adding fish to this more-over marsh area.
- Redo the swimming area at North Wood Co Park so it doesn't need to be closed every year because it's unsafe to swim in due to stagnant water and runoff.
- Habitat is key, though getting people to see and engage with it is crucial too.
- Make Nepco Lake more accessible.
- It would be nice if water quality at swimming hole could be maintained. I know it's not easy. (Richfield).
- As for monitoring shoreline erosion, you wouldn't have as much erosion if you allowed more than one muskrat trapper in Nepco and Wazeecha.
- kayaks/canoes can launch anywhere & blueways unnecessary.
- Develop a permanent home for the local ski team. I see that group as a huge financial benefit to the community and they provide whole family opportunities.
- Health issues concerning water quality.
- Establish routes on the Wisconsin River for canoes.
- Improve swimming areas.
- Improving fishing opportunities would be a huge plus! My family often doesn't fish the lakes due to not being able to catch much off of the shoreline- you need a boat. Pan fish are about the only fish we catch on county lakes.
- If water issues can't be controlled in swimming areas due to geese, manure run off, etc.... consider pools for swimming.
- Make more beaches!!!
- Need more handicap piers for wheelchair users.
- Habitat improvement can be accomplished with little or no fish stocking and the end results could easily be the same with no extra money. i. e. they do not have to be lumped together.
- Swimming area at North Park is stagnant and disgusting. Would like to see an area developed ON the river south of the swinging bridge somewhere.
- Kayak/paddle boat/body board rentals
- The Aqua Skiers bring a lot of benefit from the ski shows and State Tournament.
- Support and encourage the Aqua Skiers to grow and bring in more revenue from hosting events like their tournament each year, Worlds, other invitational tournaments.
- To many practices various ski clubs.
- Two comments: 1) The west end of Nepco Lake continues to be largely inaccessible during winter months resulting in much greater fishing pressure on Wazeecha. The loss of this much larger section of Nepko Lake is a great loss to the south Wood Co. area and should be a priority project. 2) Lake Wazeecha is a great resource but is a problem for those who like to kayak and canoe during summer months.....especially weekends....due to ever increasing water sport usage (i.e. water skiing, tubing, wake boards, jet ski's, etc.) Would like to see some work done on making certain times of day "no-wake" times. Possibly before 10 am and after 6 pm? Thank-you.
- Improving the fish habitat should naturally improve fishing opportunities. I would like to see our LWC and DNR and fishing organizations work together and improve the County's waters for better fishing.
- Clean up Lake Dexter to make it more usable for other than fishing.
- Habitat improvement on Wisconsin River.
- Against #3-I use the WI River more than the lakes and the WI River has enough traffic.
- Do something to promote kids in the water. Regular water slides, water rafts, water fun stuff for them to do.
- Fishing has gone downhill in the last 10 years. Most of the fish in the Wood County lakes are stunted. With the recent land developments on the west side of Nepco, a lot of the natural fish habitat has been destroyed.
- Recognize the huge value that a ski club hosting a major revenue-generating events gives to our area.
- Allow the water ski team to use Wazeecha as it is a great organization for the community members and brings in big dollars with the tournaments.
- Control lake weeds and invasives.
- Clean up beaches and shore frontage (duck, goose feces)
- Clean up the beaches to be usable again!!
- Look for farm runoff that is contributing to ecoli related beach closures.
- It'd be nice to see an ordinance specifically prohibiting jet skis on Wazeecha. Given the max width of the lake it is nearly impossible to operate one with wake when there are no other boats on the lake...let alone when there are other boats/jet skis. Also, maybe signing the lake to indicate the desired max. number of tubers/skiers. It is a small lake and gets congested quickly.

Question 17: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Develop informational signage detailing the history of the parks	33.5%
Promote scenic drive routes in Wood County	48%
Develop active "work out stations" along existing trails	30%
Encourage creation of park "friends" groups to assist in funding and maintaining the parks	51%
Implement strategies to help control invasive species on both land and water in county parks	59%

COMMENTS FOR QUESTION 17 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

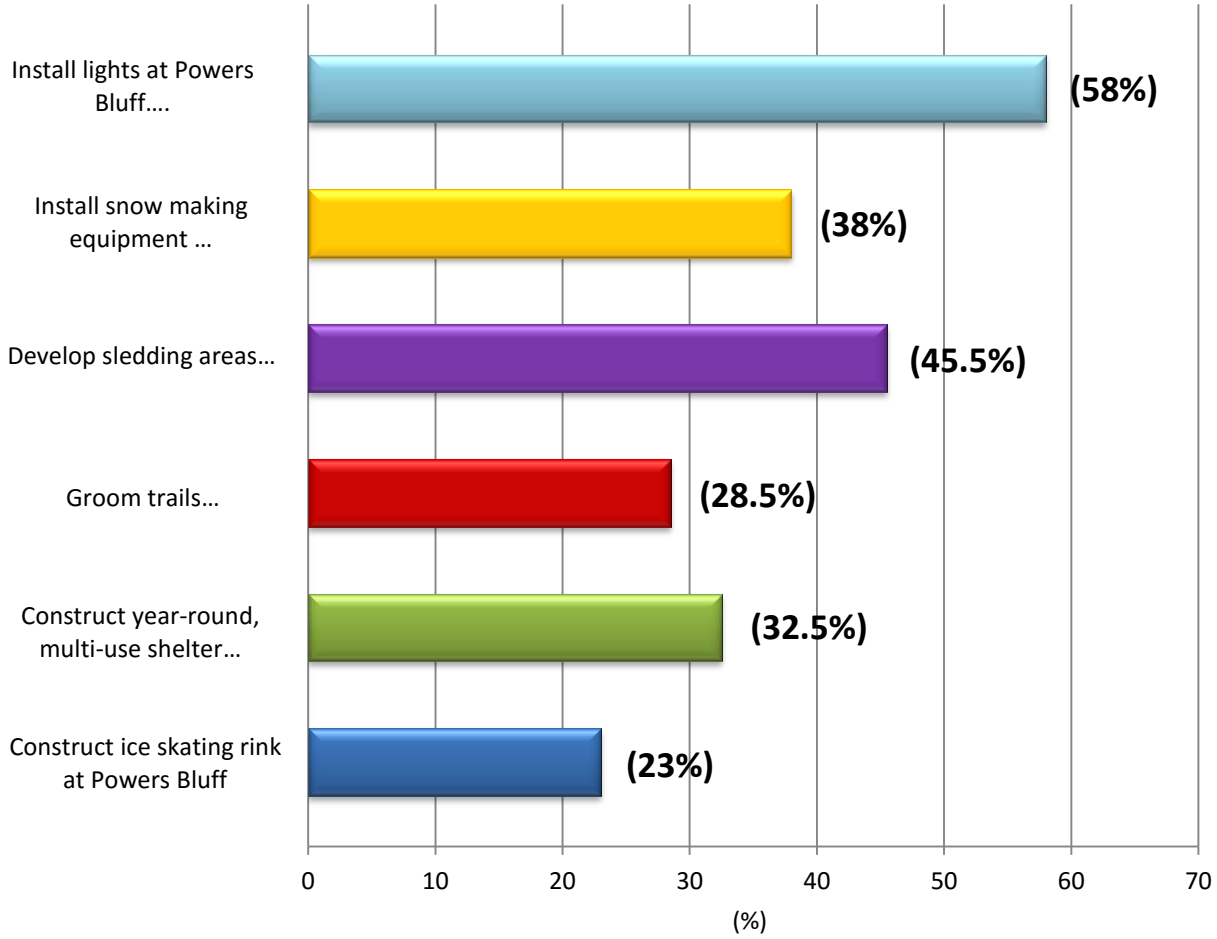
QUESTION 17 CONTINUED

Comments

- Build single track mountain bike trails.
- It would be great if at least one of the parks had a playground like Grove School.
- Promote scenic walking/biking/ATV trails! Again controlling invasive species.
- ATV/UTV trail in county forest.
- Better signs directing people to the local parks. Every year my home is treated as an information station, which I'm not.
- My reservation is that people get carried away with "development": widening trails formed by kids' feet, buildings, obtrusive signs. It's a park, not a shopping mall.
- They're all so good!
- I have been in parks where memorial benches exist to overlook scenic areas a nice tribute and addition.
- Beaches! For people to pull boats and other water craft up to.
- Watch and get rid of BUCKTHORN.
- Wazeecha's zebra mussels are really bad.
- Wood Co offers a lot of forest to hunters and wildlife viewers. It would be terrific to have Wood Co Forest partner with conservation organizations to develop atv/bike trails, conduct habitat improvements that target deer, turkey, partridge and ducks. There are 2.0 Million less hunters in the USA today than there were in 2005, however the number of atv/utv users continue to climb. If we make our forests and parks more attractive to these groups, the number of users would increase significantly. Elk are just on the fringe of Wood County in both Jackson and Clark Co. If somehow elk could be drawn into Wood Co forest, wildlife viewers would also increase significantly.
- better publicity of parks and what they have to offer.
- Powers bluff signs should include how land was obtained.
- Add garbage cans so park users are encouraged to not litter.
- The Boy Scouts could be a good partner for some of these programs. As well as Healthy People Wood County.

Question 18: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.

WINTER RECREATION (Select up to 3)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Install lights at Powers Bluff for night tubing, downhill skiing and snowboarding	58%
Install snow making equipment at Powers Bluff to increase length of season	38%
Develop sledding areas within the parks	45.5%
Groom trails for fat tire biking and/or snowshoeing	28.5%
Construct year-round, multi-use shelter building at Powers Bluff at the bottom of the hill	32.5%
Construct ice skating rink at Powers Bluff	23%

COMMENTS FOR QUESTION 18 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

QUESTION 18 CONTINUED

Comments

- Groom trails for walking and running in winter.
- Groom the trails around Wazeecha, recreational rental of snow shoes- host events.
- Safety at Powers Bluff needs to be improved. Control tubing hills better so people are landing on each other and also 'fix' the 2 runs so they don't combine into 1 at the end - too many collisions.
- All are good ideas.
- The Bluff should be snowy not just ice, if that is improved then lights could be installed.
- We need lights too, Copy Bruce Mound (Clark CO).
- Maybe not an ice skating rink at Powers Bluff but at another park possibly.
- Powers Bluff has so much value to the County, but lights on the tubing hill may deter from the beauty of the park. Extend the season by making snow instead.
- Snowshoe trails don't have to be groomed, just marked and keep motorized traffic off of them for safety
- Improve xc ski trails.
- Improve ski lodge first.
- All of these would really increase this parks usage and bring people from outside the area to the park. A ton of potential to develop this park with the land increase.
- Build an observation tower at powers bluff
- Grooming single-track unnecessary & would require some reroutes to accommodate equipment.
- More trails for x-country skiing
- Create a tubing hill at wazeecha park
- I wouldn't like to lose the "old-time" shelter - the ambience and history, so kids have some connection to what went before. I don't want to over-develop and lose the natural feel and beauty.
- None of the above.
- All of the above.
- Have park open for hiking all year. Opening in May at P.B. many wild flowers & plants are already up & blooming - I know - we should walk in but some people can't walk that far and enjoy to just look.
- This place is too far away, I think enough has been spent.
- Go big! Create something unique. Like a luge run!
- With any expansion of the winter recreation at Powers Bluff, please consider the associated (year round) maintenance needed as an ongoing expense.
- Leave more parks open for winter use (snowshoeing and skiing).
- Rinks should be in every park, boards on the ones near town so you can play hockey. Cheap and easy.
- Powers bluff can be so much more with a little help. Snowboarding skiing I think will bring more people. But you need the snow.

Wood County Parks & Forestry Open Spaces Plan Survey

Parks and Forestry Usage

1.) Are you currently a Wood County, Wisconsin resident?
__Yes __No

2.) What is your current age?
__under 20 __20-34 __35-49 __50-64 __65 and above

3.) How were you made aware of this survey?
__I received a post card in the mail
__Radio
__Wood County Website
__Email
__Facebook
__Local Newspaper
__Other: _____

4.) During the months of **December, 2016 – May, 2017 (Winter/Spring)**, which parks and forestry areas did you visit? (Check all that apply)

__South Park (Wazeecha) __North Park __Dexter Park __Powers Bluff

__Richfield 360 __Hwy 54 ATV Area __Public Rifle Range __Wood County Forests

__ Snowmobile Trails __Nepco __I did not visit any

__Other:_____

5.) During your **December, 2016 – May, 2017 (Winter/Spring)** visit, what facility/activity did you participate in: (check all that apply)

__camping __ice fishing __snowmobiling __hiking
__snow shoeing __cross country skiing __downhill skiing/board __snow tubing
__community event __private event/party __ATV/UTV riding __hunting/trapping
__biking __target shooting __nature observing/sightseeing
_____other (please specify) _____
____ I did not participate in any of these activities.

6.) During the months of **June, 2017 – November, 2017 (Summer/Fall)**, which parks and forestry areas did you visit? (check all that apply)

__ South Park (Wazeecha) __North Park __Dexter Park __Powers Bluff
__Richfield 360 __Hwy 54 ATV/UTV Area __Public Rifle Range __Wood County Forests
__Nepco __I did not visit any __ Other: _____

7.) During your **June, 2017- November, 2017 (Summer/Fall)** visit, what facility/activity did you participate in: (check all that apply)

__camping __walking/running/ hiking __biking __motor boating
__target shooting __disc golf __fishing __hunting/trapping
__swimming __picnicking/cookout __playgrounds __community event
__private event/party __nature observing, sightseeing __kayak, paddleboard, canoeing __ATV/UTV riding
__other:_____
____ I did not participate in any of these activities.

8.) How would you rate your overall experience in these parks and forestry areas:

__very good __good __average __poor __no opinion
If poor, please explain: _____
_____

Value of Parks and Forestry Areas

9.) Please indicate your sense of the value parks, trails, and outdoor recreation hold for the residents and visitors of Wood County.

Wholesome and fun recreation areas, and park facilities, that provide family activities.
__high value __about average __low value __no opinion

Strengthening the community image and creating a sense of place.
__high value __about average __low value __no opinion

The opportunity for physical exercise, social and emotional development.
__high value __about average __low value __no opinion

Parks and Forestry properties protect valuable environmental resources and public open spaces.
__high value __about average __low value __no opinion

Stimulates the local economy by attracting tourists, vacationers and outdoor recreation enthusiasts.
__high value __about average __low value __no opinion

10.) Following is a list of statements regarding parks, recreation, and open spaces in Wood County. What is your opinion?

Parks, recreation, and open spaces:

Improve the quality of life in Wood County.
__Agree __Disagree __No Opinion

Increase the value of private properties.
__Agree __Disagree __No Opinion

Play an important part in the decision of families to move to, or remain in, Wood County.
__Agree __Disagree __No Opinion

Play an important part in the decision of businesses to move to, or remain in, Wood County.
__Agree __Disagree __No Opinion

Funding Parks and Forestry

11.) Currently, the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department is funded with a combination of: user fees, timber sales, grants, and tax levy dollars from property and sales tax**. If you could decide**, how much of your local tax dollars would go towards maintaining the parks and forestry areas in Wood County every year?

__$0 (no tax levy dollars) __$50 __$100 __$150 __$200

__Other:_____ _____

12.) In your opinion, how should *future* operating cost **increases** be paid for? (check all that apply)

__Increase existing user fees (camping, skiing, tubing, etc.)
__Initiate new user fees (disc golf, single track bike trails, etc.)
__Develop entrance fee for parks (e.g. state park vehicle stickers)
__Reduce/eliminate services and/or activities
__Increase percent of tax levy received
__Other:_____

Future Project Planning

Please select up to 3 issues/projects that you would like addressed within the next 5 years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.

13.) Trails (Select up to 3)

__Improve existing walking/biking trails
__Create more walking/biking trails in County Parks
__Connect County Parks with other walking/biking trails
__Create more ATV/UTV trails and routes in Wood County
__Create more nature and cultural interpretive trails
__Create horseback riding trails
__Plow and maintain current walking trails during winter months

Comments:_____
_____
_____

14.) Day Use (Select up to 3)

__Continue addressing accessibility issues in all park facilities and areas
__Construct, maintain, or improve park shelters to accommodate seasonal and year round use by County residents for private or community events
__Have more flexible open and close dates of the parks depending on weather
__Consider providing equipment rentals (kayak, paddleboards, frisbee discs, bicycles, etc.)
__Develop dog parks or off leash areas within existing parks
__Allow private vendors in the parks for the purpose of selling food and beverages

Comments:_____
_____
_____

15.) Campgrounds (Select up to 3)

__Develop additional sites within existing parks
__Allow seasonal camping
__Develop or renovate sites to accommodate larger camping units
__Construct full hookup sites (water, sewer, electric)
__Develop more group sites
__Develop more tent or primitive camp sites
__Develop camping for ATV/UTV riders
__Develop camping for horseback riders

Comments:_____
_____
_____

Water Activities (Select up to 3)

__Establish “blue ways” or mapped routes for canoes, kayaks, and other water craft
__Develop accessible kayak/canoe launch docks
__Improve access to areas of Wisconsin River to alleviate boat traffic on small lakes in the County
__Monitor shoreline erosion and lake depths to ensure continued long-term recreational use and water quality of lakes in County Parks
__Work with local ski club/organizations on balancing use of waterways with Wood County resident use
__Work with Land and Water Conservation Department, and DNR, to monitor and address surface water quality issues of lakes adjoining Wood County Parks.
__Improve fishing opportunities in area lakes through fish habitat improvement and stocking

Comments:_____
_____
_____

16.) Winter Recreation (Select up to 3)

__Install lights at Powers Bluff for night tubing and skiing
__Install snow making equipment at Powers Bluff to increase length of season
__Develop sledding areas within parks
__Groom trails for fat tire biking and/or snow shoeing
__Construct year-round, multi-use shelter building at Powers Bluff at the bottom of the hill
__Construct ice skating rink at Powers Bluff

Comments:_____
_____
_____

17.) Other (Select up to 3)

__Develop informational signage detailing the history of the parks
__Promote scenic drive routes in Wood County
__Develop active “workout stations” along existing trails
__ Encourage creation of park “friends” groups to assist in funding and maintaining parks
__ Implement strategies to help control invasive species on both land and water in County Parks

Comments:_____
_____
_____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Public input sessions will be scheduled soon. Please check our website or our Facebook page for updates.

As a token of our appreciation, we are entering those who complete this survey into a raffle to win a $50 Parks & Forestry gift Certificate which can be used for camping, boat launch, hiking/ski trails, shelter reservations and Powers Bluff Recreation area.

If you would like to be entered into the prize drawing, please enter your name and preferred contact method in the space(s) below. If you provide your contact information, it will not be associated with your response to the survey. Your responses will remain anonymous.

Name:
Street Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Phone:
Email:

Return completed survey to:
Wood County Parks & Forestry
111 W. Jackson Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
OR
Scan and email to parks@co.wood.wi.us

Thank you for your participation!

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The Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning along with the Parks and Forestry Department would like to thank all who participated in the planning process.

Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning
400 Market Street
P.O. Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095

https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/PZ/
(715) 421-8466

Wood County Parks and Forestry Department
River Block Building
111 W. Jackson Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/Parks/
(715) 421-8422

APPENDIX C

Powers Bluff County Park Concept Plan

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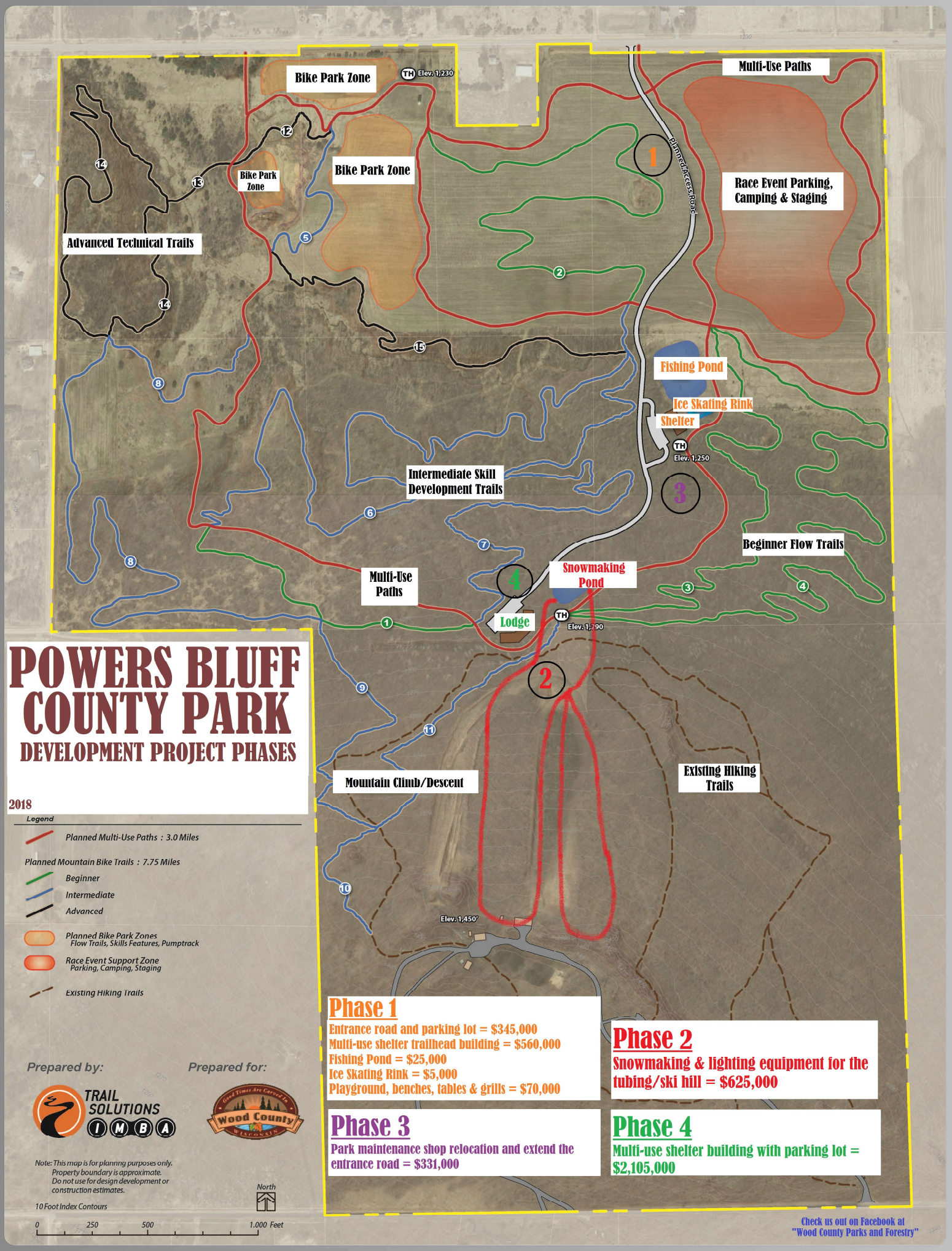
Bike Park Zone
TH Elev. 1,230
Multi-Use Paths
Bike Park Zone
Bike Park Zone
Race Event Parking, Camping & Staging
Blanchard Access Road
Advanced Technical Trails
Fishing Pond
Ice Skating Rink
Shelter
TH Elev. 1,250
Intermediate Skill Development Trails
Beginner Flow Trails
Multi-Use Paths
Snowmaking Pond
Lodge
TH Elev. 1,190
Mountain Climb/Descent
Existing Hiking Trails
Elev. 1,450'
POWERS BLUFF COUNTY PARK
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASES
2018
Legend
Planned Multi-Use Paths : 3.0 Miles
Planned Mountain Bike Trails : 7.75 Miles
Beginner
Intermediate
Advanced
Planned Bike Park Zones
Flow Trails, Skills Features, Pumptrack
Race Event Support Zone
Parking, Camping, Staging
Existing Hiking Trails
Prepared by:
TRAIL SOLUTIONS IMBA
Prepared for:
Wood County Wisconsin
Note: This map is for planning purposes only. Property boundary is approximate. Do not use for design development or construction estimates.
10 Foot Index Contours
North
0 250 500 1,000 Feet
Phase 1
Entrance road and parking lot = $345,000
Multi-use shelter trailhead building = $560,000
Fishing Pond = $25,000
Ice Skating Rink = $5,000
Playground, benches, tables & grills = $70,000
Phase 2
Snowmaking & lighting equipment for the tubing/ski hill = $625,000
Phase 3
Park maintenance shop relocation and extend the entrance road = $331,000
Phase 4
Multi-use shelter building with parking lot = $2,105,000
Check us out on Facebook at "Wood County Parks and Forestry"
Would you like to help us with this project? Visit our website for more information! https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/Parks/PowersBluffDevelopment.aspx

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Powers Bluff Development Project

Cost Estimates

Phase 1	
Construction of 1800 foot entrance road	$270,000
80 stall parking lot	$75,000
3,000 sq. ft. trail head shelter building	$450,000
Building site work	$30,000
Utilities	$50,000
Building Design/Engineering	$30,000
Fishing pond construction	$25,000
Ice skating rink	$5,000
Playground and site amenities	$70,000
Total	$1,000,000
Phase 2	
Extend 3 phase electric to base of hill	$50,000
Dig pond for snow making near base of hill	$25,000
Install Snowmaking Equipment	$450,000
Install lights on tubing/skiing hills	$100,000
Total	$625,000
Phase 3	
Extend entrance road to base of tube/ski hill	$181,000
Relocate maintenance shop to base of hill	$150,000
Total	$331,000
Phase 4	
Construct shelter building at base of hill	$1,700,000
Construct 150 stall parking lot	$405,000
Total	$2,105,000
Grand Total	**$4,061,000**

Recommended Trail Construction Phasing Approach

Phase	Trail Segment	Length ft (miles)	Estimated Contractor Cost
1	Multi-use trail	15,576 (2.95)	$233,640 - $311,520
1	Beginner 1	1,500 (.28)	$9,000 - $10,000
1	Beginner 2	3,825 (.72)	$22,950 – $30,600
1	Beginner 3	3,325 (.63)	$23,275 – $33,250
1	Intermediate 6	5250 (.99)	$42,000 - $52,500
1	Intermediate 8	4,825 (.91)	$38,600 – $48,250
Phase 1 Total		6.48 miles	$369,465 - $486,120
2	Beginner 4	5,650 (1.07)	$39,550 - $56,500
2	Intermediate 5	4,375 (.83)	$43,750 - $52,500
2	Intermediate 7	1,025 (.19)	$10,250 - $12,300
2	Intermediate 9	1,600 (.30)	$12,800 - $16,000
2	Intermediate 10	725 (.14)	$5,800 - $7,250
2	Intermediate 11	1,625 (.31)	$16,250 – $22,750
2	Advance/Expert 15	2,350 (.45)	$18,800 - $23,500
Phase 2 Total		3.29 miles	$147,200 - $190,800
3	Advanced 12	675 (.13)	$6,750 – $9,450
3	Advanced 13	375 (.04)	$3,000 - $3,750
3	Advanced 14	3,725 (.71)	$29,800 – $37,250
Phase 3 Total		.88 miles	$39,550 - $50,450
Grand Total		**10.65 miles**	**$556,215 - $727,370**

APPENDIX D

Municipal Park and Recreation Facilities

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TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

Weslan Park	Grassmere Dr.	Community Park	2.5	1 developed play area, 2 picnic tables, softball field, tennis court, volleyball court, basketball court, horseshoe pit.	Fair, except for one merry-go-round that is old. Merry-go-round will be removed in the summer of 2011 and will not be replaced.	Accessible.

TOWN OF SENECA

Town of Seneca Park	CTH Q	Community Park	4.0	Baseball field, volleyball court, 6 picnic tables, open shelter, restrooms.	Baseball infield was redone in 2000. Volleyball court was installed in 1998. Bathrooms are pit toilets. The shelter house has electricity.	All facilities conform with ADA regulations.

VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

Edward-Alexander Memorial Park	2nd St. and Morrill Ave.	Community Park	2.6	Developed play area, tennis court, 12 picnic tables, 2 cooking grills, open shelter, enclosed shelter w/ kitchen, restrooms, swimming pool, toddler pool, 1 bathhouse, horseshoe pits. Existing playground equipment includes adult and tot swings, teeter-tooter, horizontal ladder and hobby horse swings.	Enclosed shelter with kitchen facilities and restrooms was constructed in 1995. Some play equipment was removed and the remaining playground equipment was all altered to meet U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines in 1995.	The open and enclosed shelter houses with kitchen and restroom facilities conform with ADA regulations. Not all the playground equipment is handicapped accessible at this time.
North Park	4th Street	Community Park	1.4	Developed play area, softball field, basketball court, 6 picnic tables, 2 cooking grills, and horseshoe pits. Existing playground equipment includes adult and tot swings, horizontal ladder, hobby horse swings and small slide.	Some playground equipment was removed and the remaining playground equipment was altered to meet U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines in 1995.	Not all playground equipment is handicapped accessible at this time.
Ripple Creek Park	Verbunker Ave & 7th St.	Community Park	28.5	Developed play area, tot lot, 2 softball fields, 2 tennis courts, volleyball court, basketball court, walking path, 12 picnic tables, 4 cooking grills, open shelter, restrooms, ice rink, warming house, toboggan/sledding hill, horseshoe pits. Developed play area consists of adult and tot swings, hobby horse swings and a variety of wood play equipment.	The wooden play structures are in poor condition.	The warming house with restrooms and the open shelter conform with ADA regulations. All playground equipment will be handicapped accessible as part of the park expansion project.

Park Court Lane Park	Jefferson St. & Park Court lane	Community Park	0.65	Developed play area, 2 picnic tables. Existing playground equipment includes adult and tot swings, hobby horse swings, teeter-totter, arch climber and merry-go-round.	Some playground equipment was removed for safety reasons and the remaining playground equipment was altered to meet U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines in 1995.	Not all the play equipment is handicapped accessible at this time.

TOWN OF MARSHFIELD

Old Township Landfill	Abandoned landfill - West of Stadt Rd.	Special Purpose Park	16	Site is in natural state.	Site is in natural state.	Accessibility limited due to natural state of property.

TOWN OF REMINGTON

Community Park	STH 80, Babcock	Community Park	3.0	Developed play area, 3 picnic tables, restrooms, cooking grill.	Good Condition. A new play station was installed in 2000, as well as tires in the play area.	Completely accessible for the handicapped.
Babcock Park and Playground	1596 STH 80, Babcock	Community Park		Play equipment, basketball court, 2 picnic tables, 1 open shelter, 1 restroom	Excellent condition. Playground equipment new in 2009 and 2010.	Currently have a handicap picnic table on a concrete slab. In future would like to pave an approach to the picnic table and a ramp to the open shelter.
Babcock Ball Diamond	STH 80, Babcock	Ball Field		1 baseball field, 1 picnic table, 2 open shelters (dugouts), 2 sets of bleachers, 2 benches,1 restroom.	Excellent. All new in 2000.	All facilities are accessible.

TOWN OF ROCK

Lindsey Park	8413 County Rd V.	Community Park	1.5	Play equipment, 1 picnic table, 1 cooking grill, 1 open shelter, restroom facilities, and a veterans memorial	Very good condition	No data provided.

TOWN OF RUDOLPH

Rudolph Boat Landing	River Rd.	Boat Landing		No data provided.	No data provided.	No data provided.

VILLAGE OF ARPIN

Kandy Kane Park	Main St.	Community Park	6.0	Play Equipment, lighted softball field, tennis court, volleyball court, basketball court, 8 picnic tables, 6 cooking grills, 1 open shelter, 1 enclosed shelter, restroom facilities, concession stand, horseshoe pits, sand box, PVC pipe climber.	Excellent.	Shelter house and restrooms are handicapped accessible.

VILLAGE OF AUBURNDALE

Village of Auburndale Park	Park Ave.	Community Park	19.0	Developed play area, 2 softball fields (one lighted), tennis court, volleyball court, basketball court, picnic tables, open shelter, enclosed shelter, kitchen facilities, restroom facilities, concession stand.	The park is well kept and in good condition.	Park area is generally accessible to persons with disabilities. Parking lot is gravel.

VILLAGE OF BIRON

Biron Park	S. Biron Dr.	Community Park	2.5	Developed play area, baseball field, tennis court, volleyball court, 2 ½ basketball courts, 2 picnic tables, drinking fountain, ice rink.	The park is in good condition. Playground equipment needs a little work but will be fixed in the fall of 2011.	Conforms to ADA except some playground equipment is probably not accessible.

VILLAGE OF HEWITT

Hewitt Village Park	7688 McLean Dr.	Community Park	2.45	1 small ball diamond, 2 basketball courts, 2 enclosed shelters, play equipment, volleyball court, kitchen facilities, restrooms, parking for 40 vehicles.	Park is well maintained.	All buildings currently meet accessibility requirements.
Yellowstone Recreation Park	Yellowstone Dr.	Community Park	17.85	2 ball diamonds, 2 volleyball courts, play equipment, enclosed concession building (includes kitchen, restrooms, storage area), picnic shelter, parking for 200, bicycle/pedestrian trials, trail head for Hewitt-Marsh Trail.	Park facilities are very new, and well-maintained.	All buildings currently meet accessibility requirements.
Draxler Land (privately owned)	Northeast of Wastewater Treatment Facility	Special Purpose Park	16.00	Portions of property are designated for Hewitt-Marsh Trail and unpaved recreational trail.	Trails are maintained as needed.	Accessibility limited due to non-paved trail surfaces.

Hewitt Lagoons	Southeast of Wastewater Treatment Facility	Special Purpose Park	10.43	Site is in natural state with unpaved recreational trails.	Trails are cleared as necessary.	Accessibility limited due to non-paved trail surfaces.
Hewitt Natural Area	East of Wastewater Treatment Facility	Special Purpose Park	19.42	Site is in natural state with unpaved recreational trails.	Trails are cleared as necessary.	Accessibility limited due to non-paved trail surfaces.

VILLAGE OF MILLADORE

Village of Milladore Park	722 Bradley Ave.	Community Park	13.94	Developed play area, lighted softball field, tennis court, 2 volleyball courts, basketball court, band shell, 24 picnic tables, 6 cooking grills, 2 open shelters, 1 enclosed shelter with kitchen facilities, restrooms, concession stand, horseshoe pits	The softball field and volleyball courts are in good condition.	The restroom facilities at the park are ADA compliant.

VILLAGE OF RUDOLPH

Rudolph Community Park	1557 Park St.	Community Park	13.0	Developed play area, 2 softball fields, baseball field, 1 lighted ball field, 2 tennis courts, 3 volleyball courts, walking path, 25 picnic tables, open shelter, restrooms, concession stand	The facilities are in excellent condition, very clean.	No data provided.

VILLAGE OF VESPER

Cameron Park	5032 Benson Av.	Community Park	2.0	Developed play area, 6 picnic tables, 1 cooking grill, enclosed shelter, restrooms.	Excellent. Well maintained.	Buildings conform with ADA regulations.
Vesper Recreation Area	CTH HH	Community Park	17.0	Developed play area, 2 softball fields (1 lighted), 2 tennis courts, 3 volleyball courts, 1 basketball court, 1 walking path, 12 picnic tables, 1 open shelter, 2 restroom facilities, concession stand, gazebo, Master Gardener Gardens.	Excellent. Well maintained.	Building and facilities conform with ADA regulations.

CITY OF NEKOOSA

Riverside Park	STH 73	Community Park		Play equipment, 2 softball fields, volleyball court, band shell, 36 picnic tables, 4 cooking grills, 2 open shelters, 2 restroom facilities, fishing pier, 2 horseshoe pits boat landing. Fishing is also allowed along the riverbank.	Excellent. Municipal crews responsible for grass cutting and park maintenance.	Park shelters are fully accessible.
Market Street Recreation Area	Market St.	Community Park		Developed play area, 3 baseball fields, 2 tennis courts, 1 volleyball court, 2 basketball courts, 2 restroom facilities, 2 swimming pools, bathhouse, ice rink, warming house, water slide, batting cage, pitching machine.	Excellent. City crews keep the grass cut continuously on baseball diamonds. Swimming pool operations are closely monitored by a recreation director and city crews.	Ice-skating warming house and swimming pool bathhouse are both accessible.
Boat landing	Point Basse. Av.	Special Purpose		4 picnic tables, 2 restrooms, fishing pier, boat landing.	Excellent. Park area maintained by city crews.	Boat landing accessible.

CITY OF PITTSVILLE

Riverside Park	5359 Forest Av.	Community Park	26.0	Developed play area, baseball/softball field, tennis court, volleyball court, basketball court, picnic tables, cooking grills, open shelters, restroom facilities, concession stand.	Park is well maintained.	No data provided.

*From 2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan

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APPENDIX E

2019-2023 Wood County Parks and Forestry CIP

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2019-2023 - 5 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PROPOSED)

WOOD COUNTY PARKS & FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
21-19-001	FOREST ADM. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT	$30,000.00				
21-19-002	NORTH PARK WOOD SHED	$20,000.00				
21-19-003	SP- WILLOW RUN TOILET REMODEL	$7,000.00				
21-19-004	**SOUTH PARK CAMPGROUND EXPANSION****	**$200,000.00**				
21-19-005	**WHITE BEACH REMODEL****	**$125,000.00**				
21-19-006	PB TRAIL CONSTRUCTION	$5,000.00				
21-20-001	**PB ENTRANCE ROAD AND OPEN SHELTER****		**$1,000,000.00**			
21-21-001	**NORTH PARK OPEN SHELTER****			**$200,000.00**		
21-21-002	**NORTH PARK LOWER DAM REPAIRS****			**$400,000.00**		
21-21-003	NEPCO WALK TRAIL AND RIP-RAP REPAIRS			$35,000.00		
21-22-001	FLEET VEHICLE REPLACEMENT				$35,000.00	
21-22-002	DEXTER TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS				$25,000.00	
21-22-003	SINGLE AXEL DUMP TRUCK REPLACEMENT				$35,000.00	
21-22-004	PB- SNOW MAKING EQUIPMENT				$400,000.00	
21-22-005	D3 CAT REPLACEMENT				$40,000.00	
21-22-006	**SOUTH PARK TRAIL PAVING****				**$100,000.00**	
21-23-001	PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT					$75,000.00
21-23-002	SP- 3RD LOOP RESTROOM REPLACEMENT					$35,000.00
21-23-003	POWERS BLUFF MAINTENANCE SHOP					$100,000.00
		$387,000.00	**$1,000,000.00**	**$635,000.00**	**$635,000.00**	**$210,000.00**
	STATE AID FUNDING**	$162,500.00	$500,000.00	$300,000.00	$50,000.00	$100,000.00
	NET TAX LEVY	**$224,500.00**	**$500,000.00**	**$335,000.00**	**$585,000.00**	**$110,000.00**

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APPENDIX F

Development Standards for Park and Recreation Facilities

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DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES						
Type:	**Service:**	**Size:**	**Service Area:**	**Population Served:**	**Location:**	**Typical Facilities:**
Playground	Local neighborhood	1.5 acres preferred	1/4 mile or less	500 - 1,000 persons	High-density neighborhood where typical private yards are small.	Play apparatus with complete fencing, basketball courts, junior softball diamond, ice rink, craft area, hard surface play area, drinking fountain, and play area. Optional facilities include picnic grills, tables and restrooms.
Neighborhood Parks	Local neighborhood	10-15 acres or 3.0 acres/1000 pop.	1/2 mile or as limited by geographic barriers.	3,500 - 5,000 persons	Preferably adjacent to elementary schools or near the center of the neighborhood.	In addition to the playground facilities listed above, a neighborhood park should include a softball diamond (lighting optional), baseball diamond (optional), lighted skating rink, lighted hockey rink, two tennis courts, picnic area, service building and parking.
Community Park	Local Community	25 acres or more or 4.0 acres/1000 pop.	1 1/2 - 2 miles	8,000 - 10,000 persons	Preferably near the center of 3 to 5 neighborhoods or selected because of notable natural features, such as topography, trees or water.	Included are all neighborhood park facilities plus two softball diamonds, one baseball diamond, four tennis courts, two horseshoe pits, two hard surfaced play areas, one multi-purpose shelter building, parking and special facilities as site and programs dictate, including archery, boat ramp, swimming, bandshell and large picnic shelter.
Special Purpose Park	Whole Community	Varies depending on size of the community and land available.	Whole community.	No specific standard.	Wherever appropriate sites can be acquired.	Golf courses, athletic fields, swimming pools, greenways, historic sites, archaeological sites, conservancy areas and floodplains.
County Park	Whole County	200 acres or more 5 - 10 acres/1000 pop.	Whole county	No specific standard.	Wherever appropriate sites can be acquired.	Playgrounds, sports fields, paved courts, multiple-use court, picnic areas, open area for special events, amphitheater, natural area, off-street parking, camping, clubhouse/recreation center, and maintenance building.

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APPENDIX G

Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs Administered by the WDNR

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Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs Administered by the WWDR:

All Terrain Vehicle Trails

Section 23.33, Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 64, Wis. Admin. Code

Counties, cities, villages, and towns are eligible for up to 100% (including $ per mile caps) of the costs of maintenance, development, rehabilitation, insurance, and acquisition of ATV trails and intensive use areas. Applications are due to the DNR by April 15 each year. For the 2010-11 fiscal year, over $3.4 million was available for eligible projects through ATV registration funds and motor fuel tax funds.

ATV Enforcement Patrol

Section 23.33 (9), Wis. Stats.; s. NR 64.15, Wis. Admin. Code

County Sheriff Departments are eligible for up to 100% of their net costs (salaries, fringe benefits, travel, materials, supplies, etc.) associated with all-terrain vehicle patrols and enforcement. A county must file a Notice of Intent to Patrol form with the DNR on or before July 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the DNR on or before September 1. For the 2010-11 fiscal year, $500,000 was available.

County Conservation Aids

Section 23.09 (12), Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 50, Wis. Admin. Code

Counties or recognized Indian tribes are eligible for 50% of the costs of carrying out fish or wildlife management projects that enhance fish and wildlife habitat or relate to hunter/angler facilities. Applications are submitted throughout the year until funding is depleted. For the 2012-13 fiscal year, $297,000 is available.

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration

16 U.S.C. 777-777k, 64 Stat. 430 (also known as Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act)

The DNR prioritizes fisheries related projects (sport fish restoration, boating access, fishing piers) to identify projects eligible for a 75% cost share; the DNR sometimes negotiates contracts and develops use agreements with counties, villages, and towns for use of this funding for construction of boat landings and fishing piers. The amount of funding available varies depending upon excise tax revenue from fishing equipment sales and the federal gas tax.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Section 23.09(20), Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 51, subchapter XII, Wis. Admin. Code

Qualified towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations as defined under s. 23.096, Wis. Stats., are eligible for up to 50% of the costs of acquisition of land or conservation easements and development of facilities for public park and

recreation areas used for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes. Applications are due to the DNR by May 1 of each year. For the 2011-12 fiscal year, $8.0 million was available for eligible projects.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Acquisition of Development Rights
Section 23.09(20m), Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 51, subchapter XV, Wis. Admin. Code
Qualified towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations as defined under s. 23.096, Wis. Stats., are eligible for up to 50% of the costs to acquire development rights (conservation easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial development would provide or enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. Applications are due to the DNR by May 1 of each year. For the 2012-13 fiscal year, $800,000 is available for eligible projects.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Urban Green Space
Section 23.09(19), Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 51, subchapter XIII, Wis. Admin. Code
Qualified towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations as defined under s. 23.096, Wis. Stats., are eligible for up to 50% of the costs of acquisition of land and conservation easements for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes that will protect open natural space and land with scenic, ecological, or natural values in urban areas. Applications are due to the DNR by May 1 of each year. For the 2011-12 fiscal year, $1.6 million was available for eligible projects.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Programs: Urban Rivers
Section 30.277, Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 51, subchapter XIV, Wis. Admin. Code
Qualified towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations as defined under s. 23.096, Wis. Stats., are eligible for up to 50% of the costs of acquisition of land or conservation easements and development of facilities for public park and recreation areas, including shoreline enhancements, for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes along urban waterways and riverfronts. Applications are due to the DNR by May 1 of each year. For the 2011-12 fiscal year, $1.6 million was available for eligible projects.

Land and Water Conservation Fund
(LWCF) LWCF Act of 1965, Public Law 88-578, 78 Stat. 897; 36 CFR Ch 1, Part 59
Qualified towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and school districts are eligible for up to 50% of the costs of acquisition of land and development of facilities for public park and recreation areas. Applications are due to the DNR by May 1 of each year. The amount of funding available varies depending upon the amount appropriated by Congress to the program within the Department of Interior's budget each year.

Municipal Water Safety Patrols State Assistance

Section 30.79, Wis. Stats.

Municipalities, tribes, inland lake rehabilitation and protection districts, and sanitary districts are eligible to receive up to 75% of the costs (salaries, supplies, and equipment) of operating a Boating Law Enforcement program, including conducting boating education programs, providing professional enforcement of boating laws and local regulations, and providing search and rescue for live persons. Applicants must file an Intent to Patrol form with the DNR on or before March 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the DNR on or before January 31. For the 2010- 11 fiscal year, $1.4 million was available.

Recreational Boating Facilities

Section 30.92, Wis. Stats.

Counties, cities, villages, towns, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations are eligible for up to 50% of the costs of feasibility studies and the construction of capital improvements related to the development of safe recreational boating facilities, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemical treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the DNR. Projects of statewide or regional significance may be eligible for additional 30% cost-sharing assistance. Applications are due to the DNR and are reviewed and recommended quarterly by the governor-appointed Wisconsin Waterways Commission. For the 2010-11 fiscal year, over $2.5 million was available for eligible projects.

Recreational Trails Program

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act - Title 23 United States Code (23 U.S.C.).

Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governing bodies, school districts, state agencies, federal agencies, and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive up to 50% of the costs of 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 easements or property for trails. Funds are available for both motorized and non-motorized trails. Applications are due to the DNR by May 1 of each year. The amount of funding available varies depending upon federal gas excise taxes paid on fuel used by off-highway vehicles.

Snowmobile Trail Aids

Section 23.09(26) and Ch. 350, Wis. Stats.

Counties are eligible for 100% (including $ per mile caps) of the cost of approved trail maintenance, development, major bridge rehabilitation, and trail rehabilitation. Applications are due to the DNR by April 15 of each year. For the 2010-11 fiscal year, over $7.3 million was available for eligible projects through snowmobile registration, motor fuel tax, and nonresident trail pass funds.

County Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols

Sections 350.12(4)(a)(4) and 20.370(4)(ft), Wis. Stats.; s. NR 50.12, Wis. Admin. Code

County sheriff departments are eligible for up to 100% of their net costs (salaries, fringe benefits, travel, materials, supplies, etc.) associated with snowmobile patrols and enforcement. A county must file a Notice of Intent to Patrol form with the DNR on or before June 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the DNR on or before June 1. For the 2010-11 fiscal year, $396,000 was available.

APPENDIX H

Wood County ATV/UTV Planning Map

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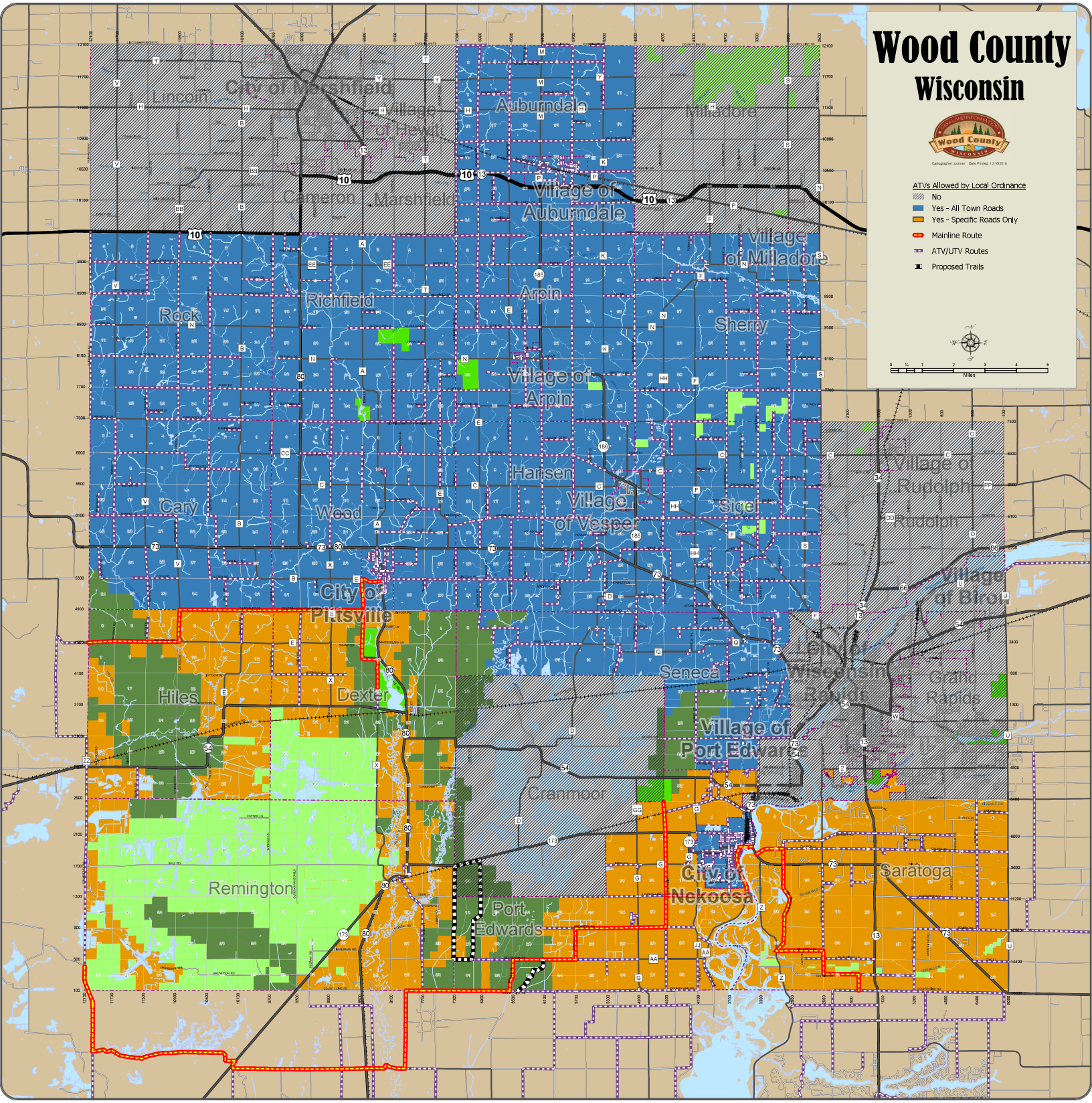
Wood County
Wisconsin
ATVs Allowed by Local Ordinance
No
Yes - All Town Roads
Yes - Specific Roads Only
Mainline Route
ATV/UTV Routes
Proposed Trails
Miles
City of Marshfield
Lincoln
Village of Hewitt
Auburndale
Milladore
Cameron
Marshfield
Village of Auburndale
Village of Milladore
Richfield
Arpin
Rock
Sherry
Village of Arpin
Harsen
Village of Vesper
Cary
Wood
Sigel
Village of Rudolph
Rudolph
City of Pittsville
Village of Biron
Town of Wisconsin Rapids
Grand Rapids
Seneca
Hiles
Dexter
Village of Port Edwards
Cranmoor
City of Nekoosa
Saratoga
Remington
Port Edwards

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APPENDIX I

Wood County Bicycle Map (WDOT)

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Wood County
Wisconsin Bicycle Map

Unpaved Paved — Town roads
Prohibited
Bridge
Interchange
Mountain Bike Trail

Paved shoulder — Best Condition
Moderate Condition
Higher Volume, Wider Paved Shoulders
Paved shoulder 4-lane highway — High Volume, Undesirable
Bicycle Trail

See full legend for complete descriptions of road classifications

Scale
0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Kilometers
North

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning along with the Parks and Forestry Department would like to thank all who participated in the planning process.

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