



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 Forest

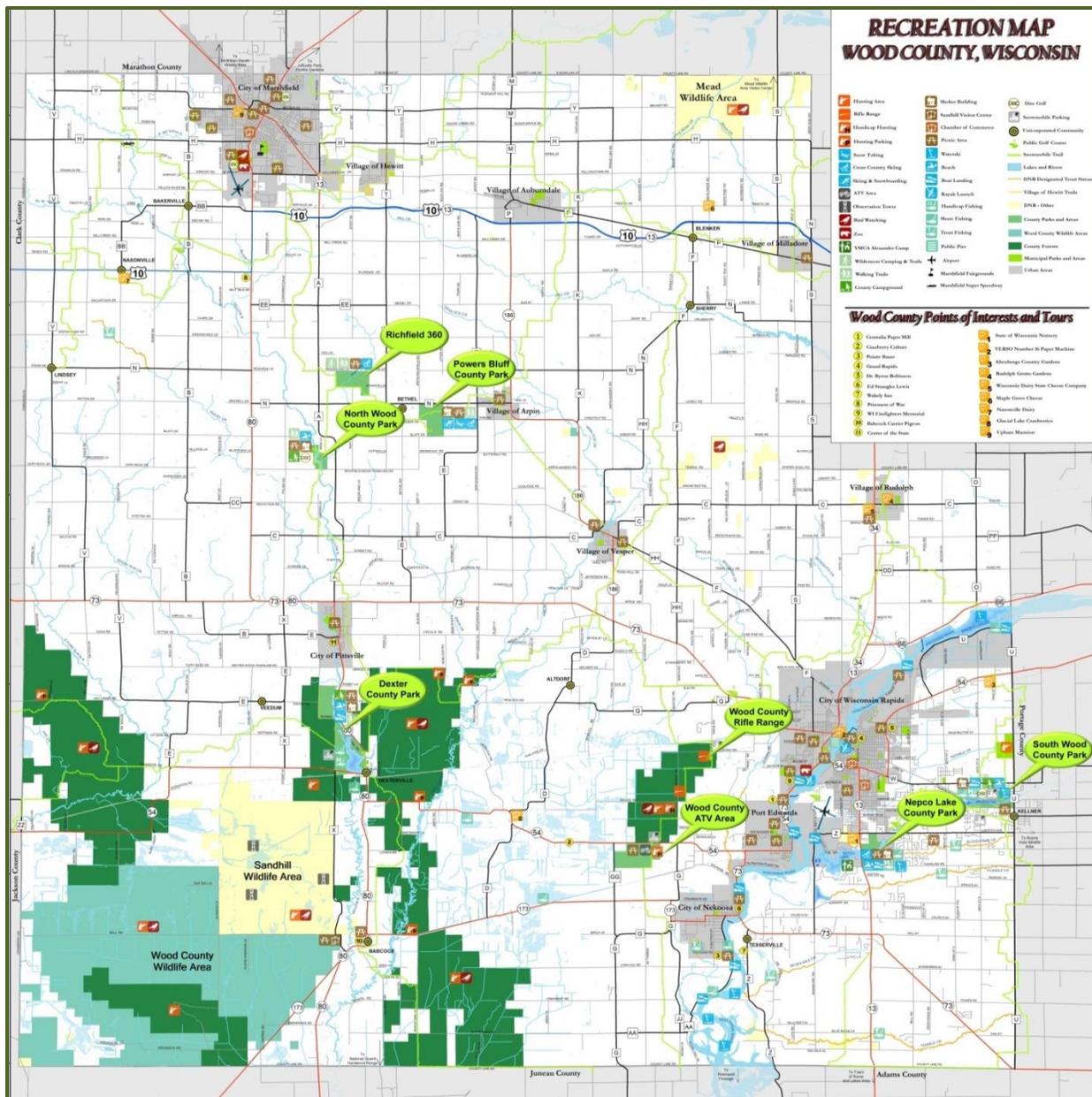
Wood County Park & Recreation Facilities

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

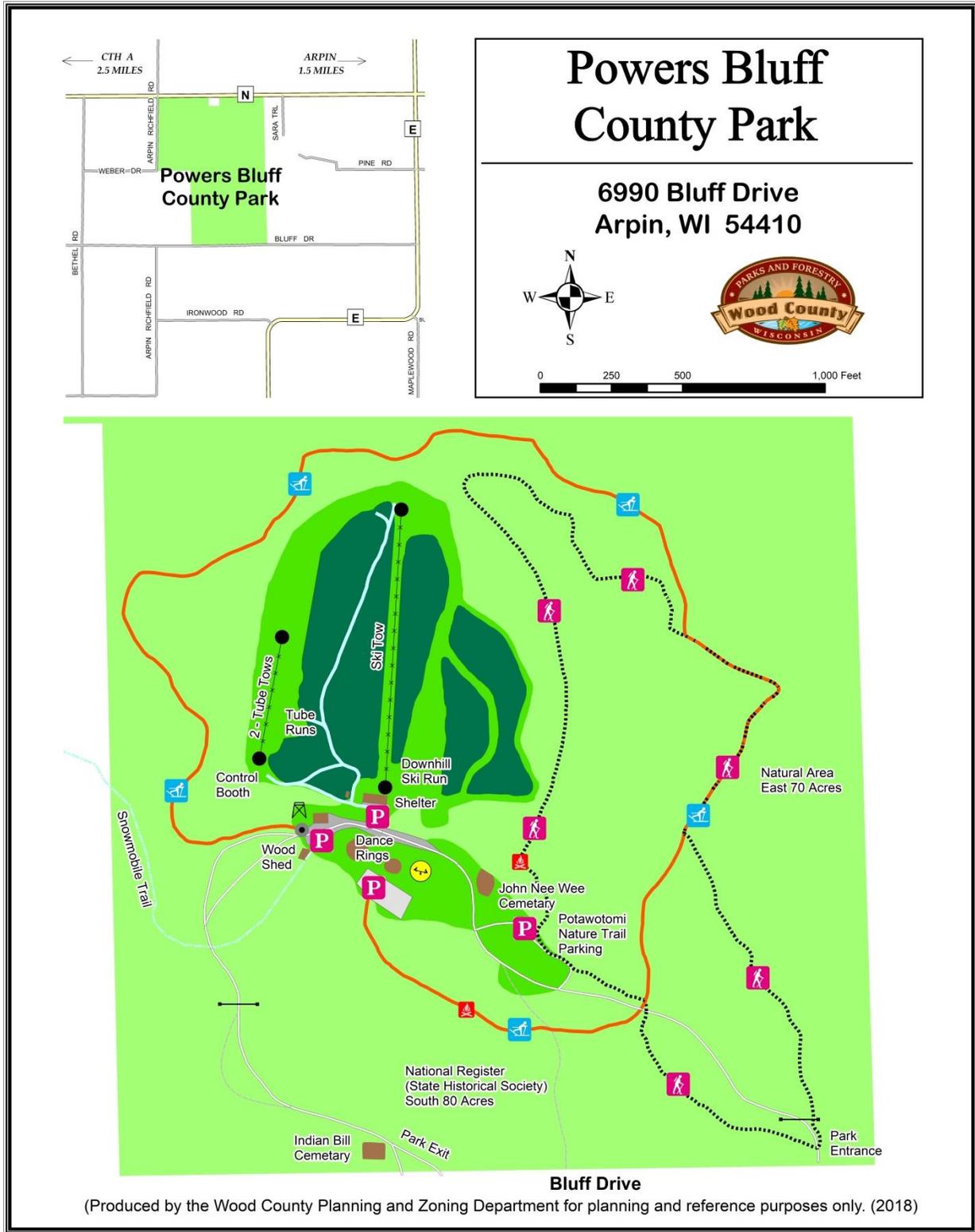
Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

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

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-country 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



North Wood County Park



Size: ±172 acres

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

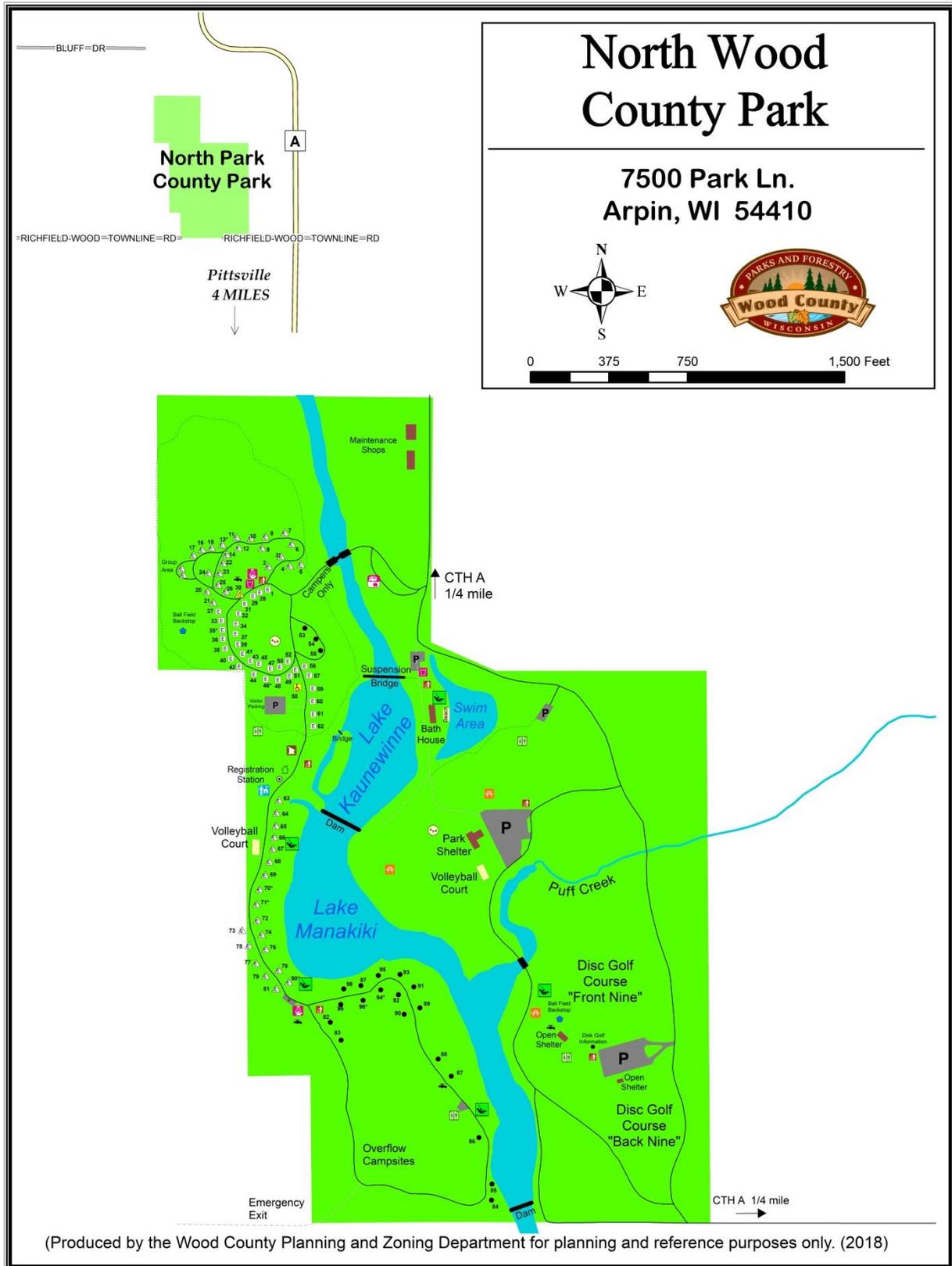
Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

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

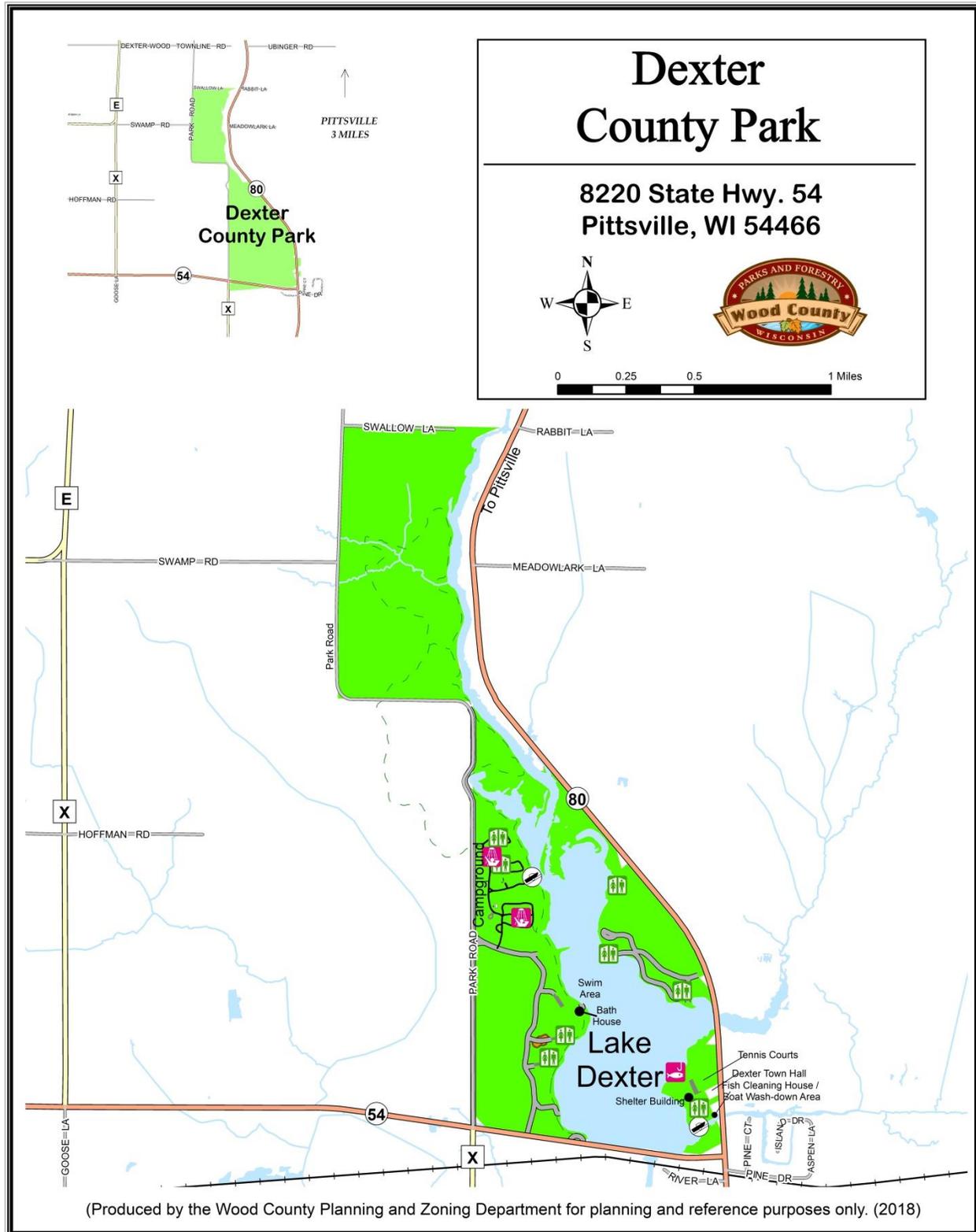
Ownership: Wood County

Inventory:

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

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

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-country 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

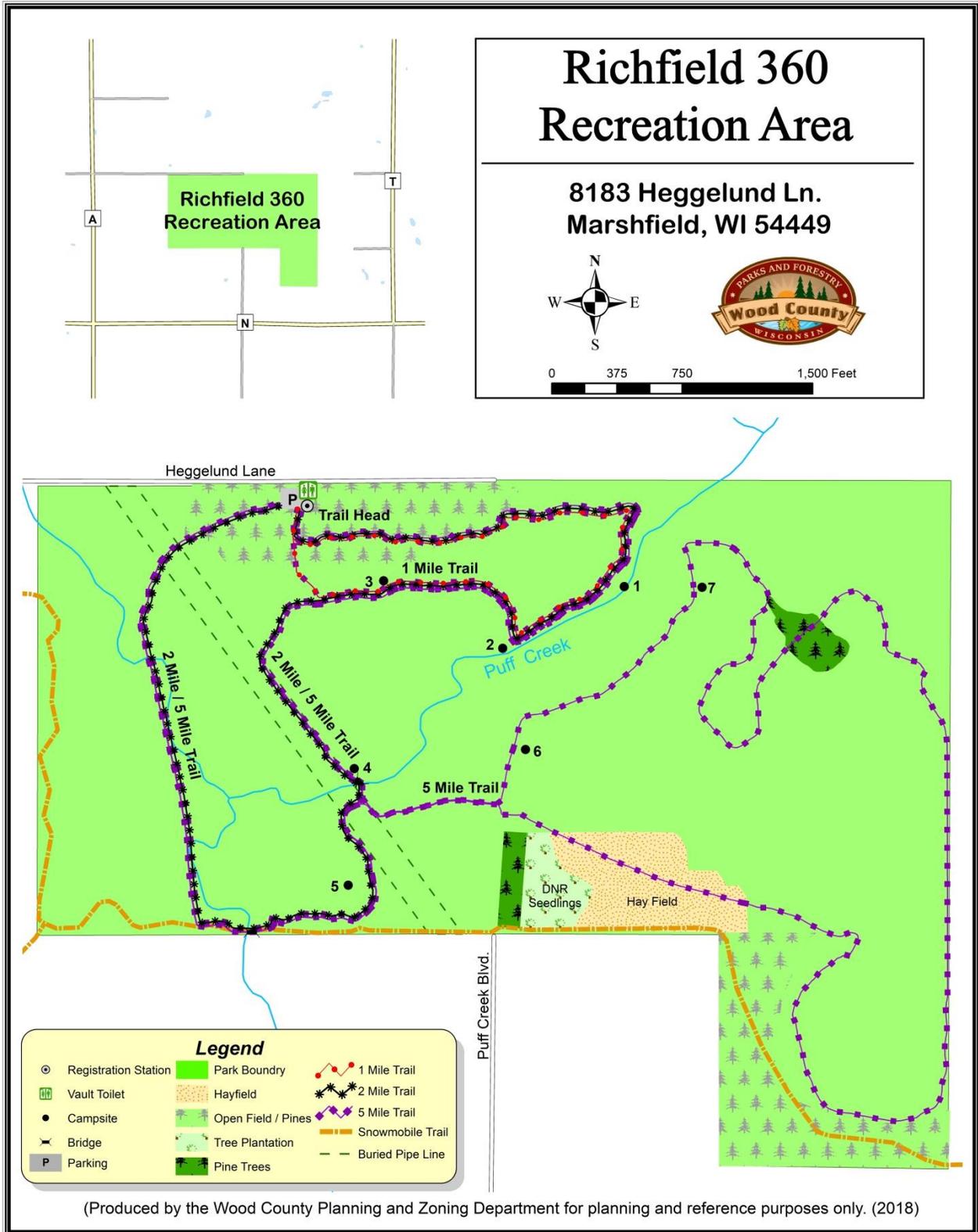
Ownership: Wood County

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 & Snowmobile)
- ◆ 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.

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 their 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 Rifle Range Area

3705 Marsh Road
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

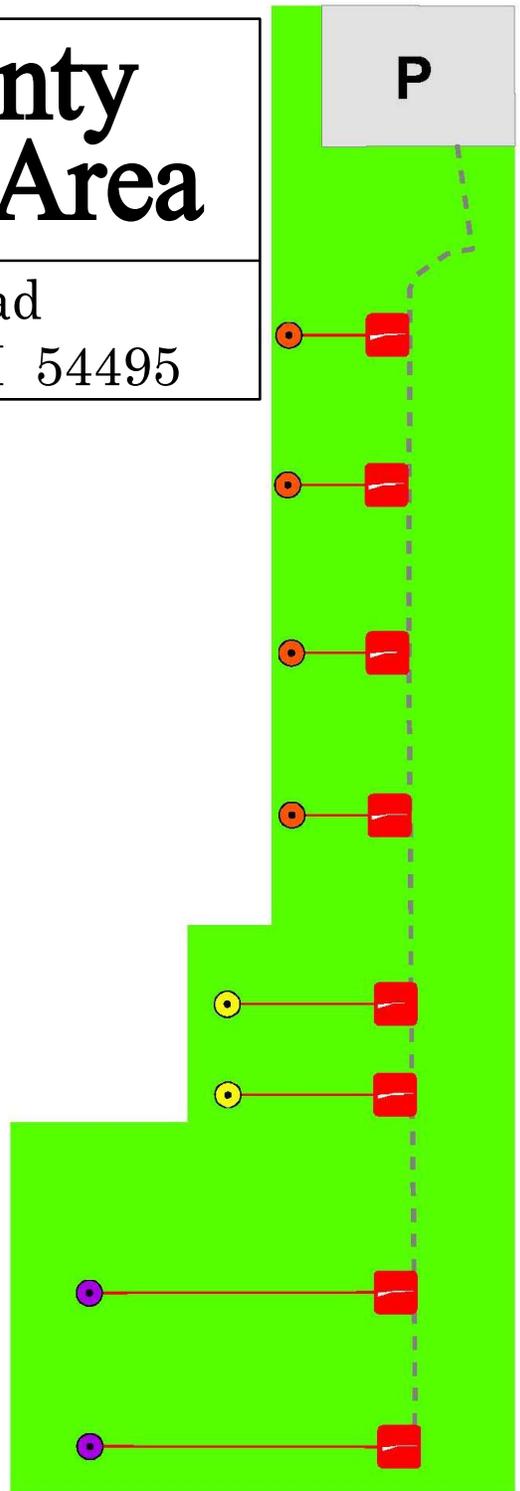


The Rifle Range is open year round from sunrise to sunset. There are eight shooting stations available. No fee is required. There is no range master so you must bring your own targets.

Cardboard Targets Only.
Please observe the posted rules.



Prepared by: Wood County
Land Information Office
2/24/2014



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 of 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

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.



Spring Fishing

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 fishery, 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

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.



Bicycling around Lake Wazeecha

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 <i>(building remodeled and ADA compliant. However, access still needs to be address to meet compliance)</i>
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 facilities, 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.