



Outdoor Recreation Plan 2024-2028

Also covering the municipalities within Oneida County



Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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

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- E. Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway Route

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

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

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

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

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

1.2 Provisions for Updating Plan

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

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

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

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

Annual Review Process:

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

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

1.3 Reference Plans

Oneida County first began recreation planning in 1976 when "An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oneida County and the City of Rhinelander" was prepared by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. This plan was updated in 1981 by "An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oneida County and the Town of Minocqua and the Town of Three Lakes," which was prepared by Planning Consultant, Craig Johhanesen. Since then, the Towns of Cassian, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Minocqua, Monico, Newbold, Nokomis, Sugar Camp, Three Lakes, and Woodruff have all developed their own Town Recreation Plans, but many of them have not kept their individual plans current. This plan has been written to follow the previous Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan covering the period 2019-2023.

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

Oneida County Countywide Biking & Walking Routes & Trails Plan

In 2002 (updated in 2010), Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council developed this bike route plan with assistance from NCWRPC. This plan established a number of scenic, on-road bike routes throughout the County.

Proposed trails and on-road routes from this plan are shown on Map 3.

Oneida County Comprehensive Plan, 2013

Note: This plan is being updated in 2023.

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

Oneida County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2020-2029

The Oneida County Conservation and UW-Extension Education Committee developed this plan in 2019. The plan provides an inventory of the County's natural resources and a series of goals and objectives intended to improve and protect these resources in the future.

Oneida County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, 2021–2035

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

A framework for how various trail systems will be maintained and expanded is in Chapter 900.

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

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

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

North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan, 2018

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

Goals of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan:

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

State Trails Network Plan

This 2001 document (revised in 2003) clarifies a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) role and strategy in the provision of all types of trails. The plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors that would link existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. This statewide network of interconnected trails would be owned and maintained by municipalities, private entities, and partnerships of the two. Preserving transportation corridors, such as old rail lines, is specifically discussed as a very important strategy in the creation of recreational and alternative transportation corridors. Trails are shown on **Map 1**

Segment 15—Ashland to Rhinelander

This potential trail would connect Ashland with Woodruff, Minocqua, Rhinelander, and finally to Crandon. From Woodruff/Minocqua, an old abandoned rail corridor near the route of State Highway 47 may possibly provide the opportunity to connect the City of Rhinelander. If the rail corridor is not intact, it may be feasible to use roadways and existing trails, since the northern half of the route is through the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. **NCWRPC Note:** *The former rail bed still exists from Rhinelander to Monico, but the right-of-way is owned by multiple private owners who also own the adjacent land. The Monico to Crandon segment is not abandoned rail, but is an existing snowmobile trail within the USH 8 right-of-way on level land – great potential for a four season multi-use trail.*

Segment 19—Langlade Co to Michigan

This abandoned rail corridor links the State of Michigan with the Mountain Bay Trail near Eland in Marathon County. It passes through a few state wildlife areas and some county forests. This corridor also links to the proposed Three Lakes to Rhinelander and Crandon to Tomahawk abandoned rail corridors in Oneida County. **NCWRPC Note:** *The Three Eagle Trail (bicycling & walking) uses Segment 19 from Three Lakes, north 3 miles toward Eagle River.*

Segment 68—Rhinelander to Three Lakes

This abandoned rail corridor would link these two communities by an off-road connection. At Rhinelander, links to the Washburn to Fond du Lac corridor, and at Three Lakes links to the Langlade County to Michigan corridor are possible. Significant bike trail interest has occurred in Oneida County. Strong support can be expected for this connector trail. **NCWRPC Note:** *Cannot find the rail corridor that supposedly makes up this segment.*

Segment 69—Tomahawk to Crandon

This abandoned corridor would link these two communities by an off-road connector. This corridor intersects the Langlade County to Michigan corridor at Pelican Lake and links the Argonne to Shawano corridor in the east with the Tomahawk to Wausau corridor in the west. **NCWRPC Note:** *Cannot find the rail corridor that supposedly makes up this segment.*

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056

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

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

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

CN Chequamegon-Nicolet Nat'l Forest

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

NA Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest

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

SQ Squirrel and Tomahawk Rivers

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

UW Upper Wisconsin River

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

WF Willow Flowage

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

MF Monico Forest

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

SO Somo River

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

TM Thunder Marsh

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

UP Upper Wolf River

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

2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

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

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

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

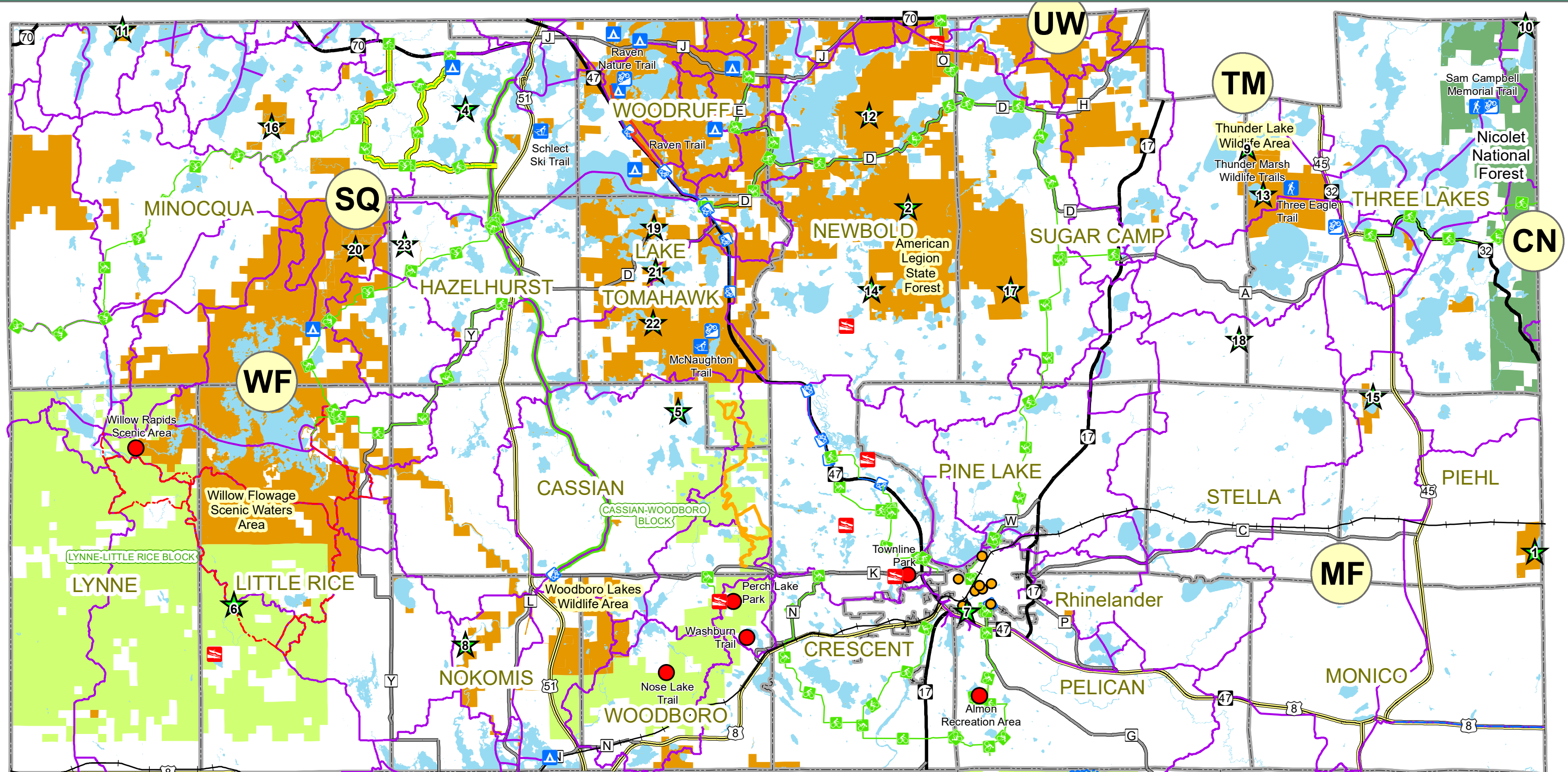
All Forest Service roads open to ATV use are posted with signs, but the MVUM is the official source of trail and route information. Also, maps containing information on areas open to ATV use can also be obtained at Ranger District Offices.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023

Every five years, the Wisconsin DNR publishes a SCORP as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. At its core, this SCORP is used to help allocate federal funds equitably among local communities, but the document also transcends many levels of outdoor recreation discussion and policy.

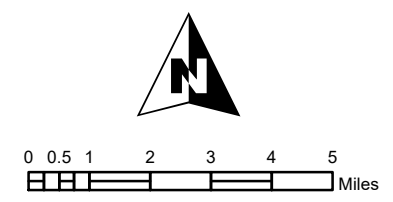
This SCORP lays out five overarching goals for outdoor recreation:

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



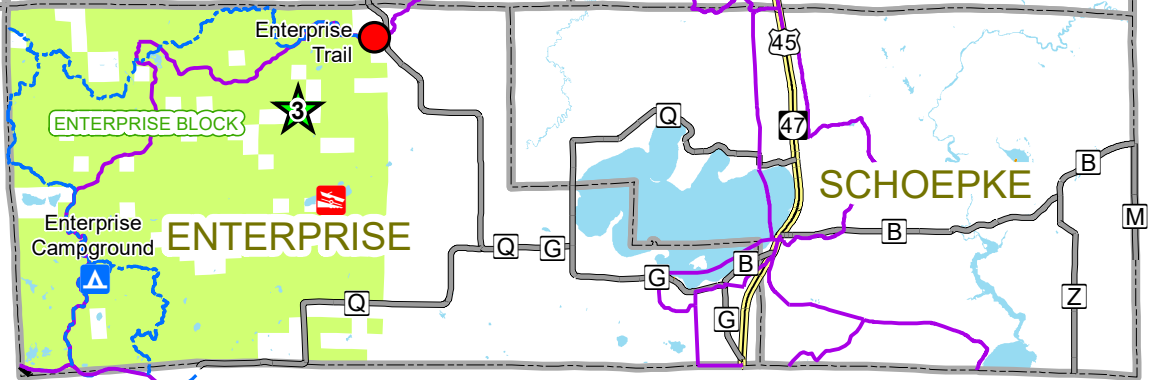
- Minor Civil Divisions
- US Highways
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Railroad
- Water
- Federal Land
- State Land
- County Forest
- Lynne / Little Rice ATV Trail
- Enterprise ATV Trail
- Snowmobile Trail
- Rustic Roads (WisDOT)
- Existing - On Road Trails
- Existing - Off Road Trails
- Bearskin State Trail
- Cassian Two-Way Trail
- Raven Trail
- Wisconsin Land Legacy Area

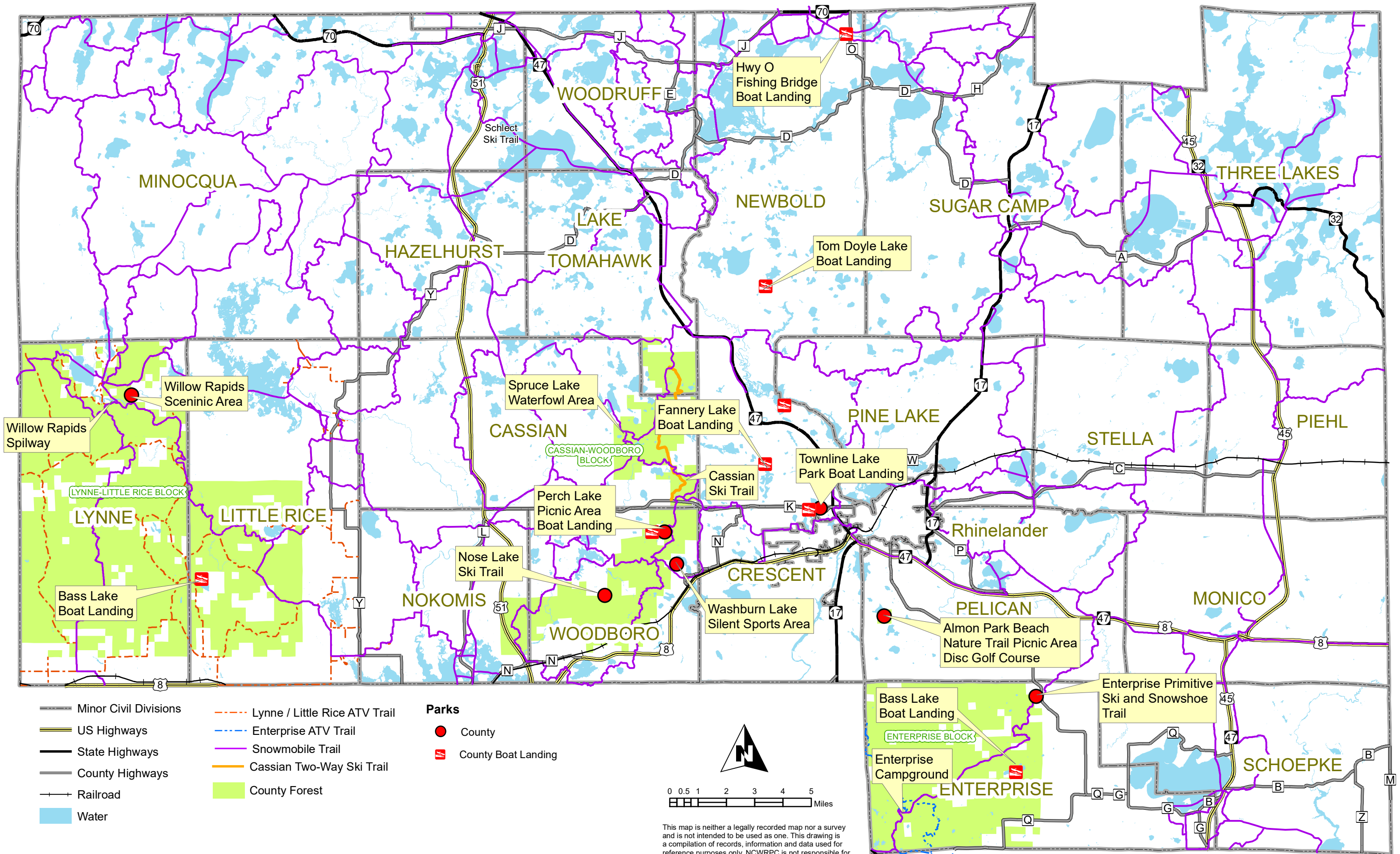
- Parks / Recreation Areas**
- City
 - County
 - County Boat Landing
 - Campgrounds
 - XC Ski Trail
 - Mtn. Bike Trail
 - Hiking Trail
 - State Natural Areas



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

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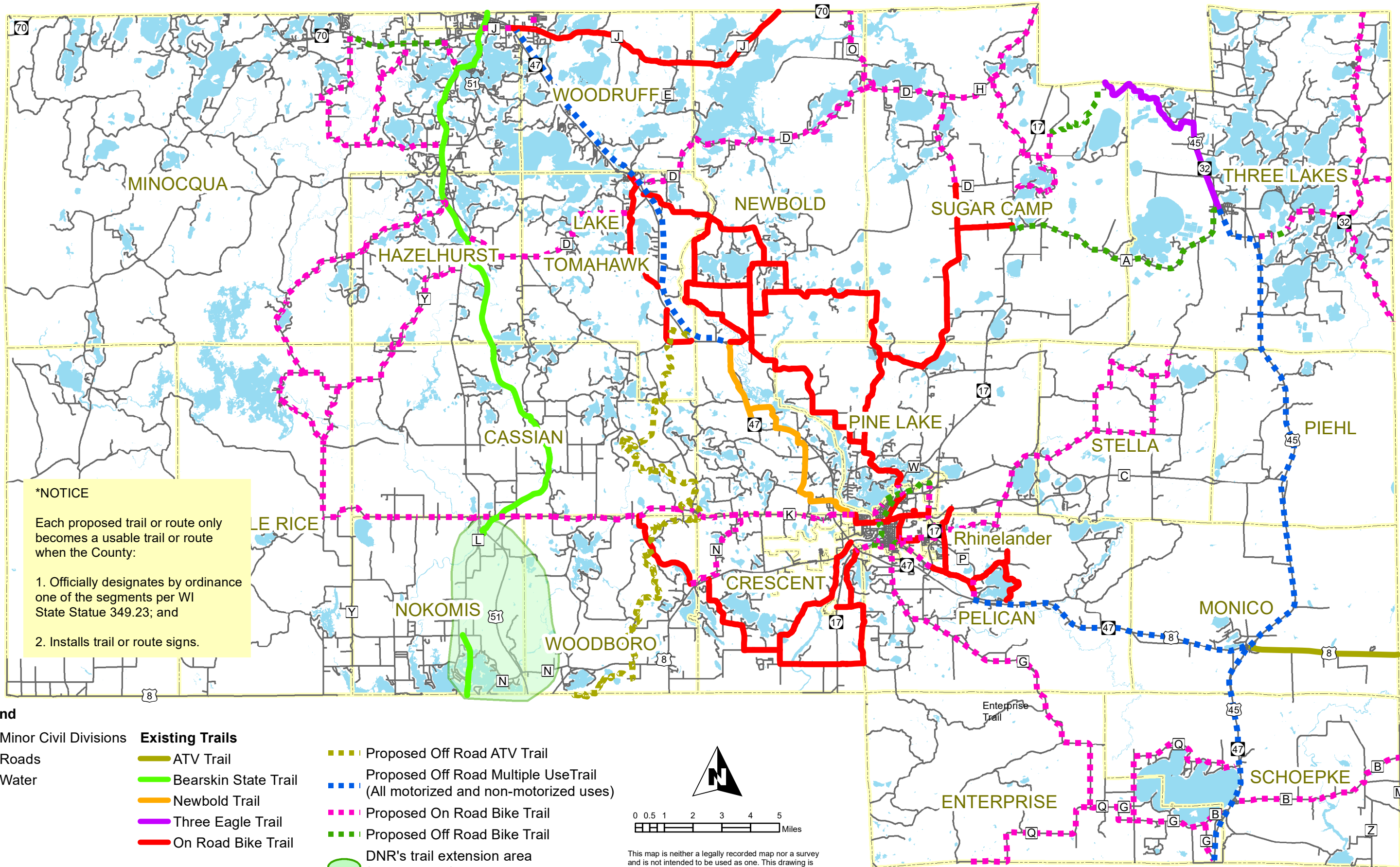


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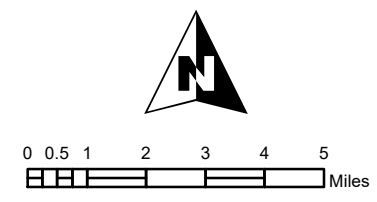
***NOTICE**

Each proposed trail or route only becomes a usable trail or route when the County:

1. Officially designates by ordinance one of the segments per WI State Statute 349.23; and
2. Installs trail or route signs.

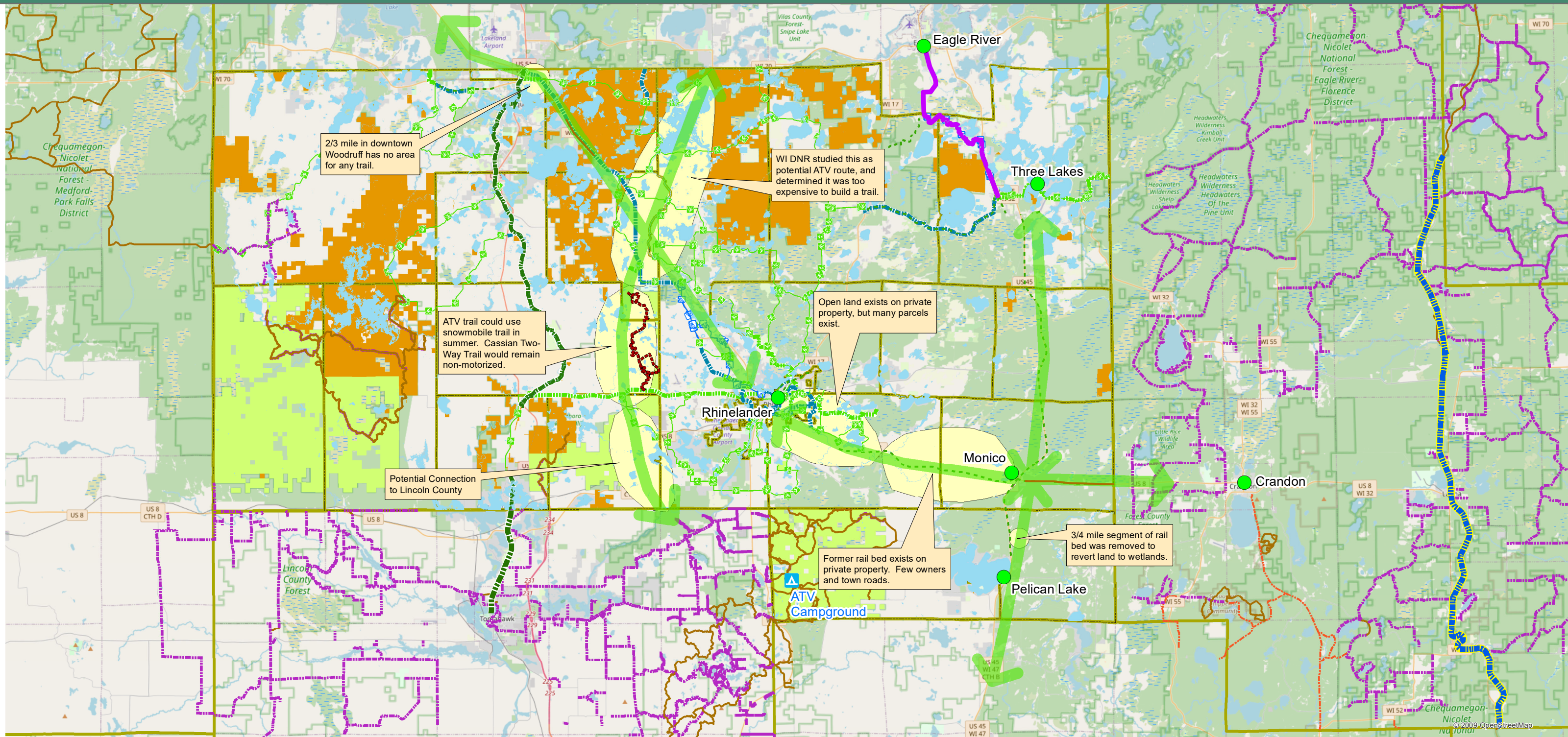
Legend

- Minor Civil Divisions
- Roads
- Water
- Existing Trails**
- ATV Trail
- Bearskin State Trail
- Newbold Trail
- Three Eagle Trail
- On Road Bike Trail
- Proposed Off Road ATV Trail
- Proposed Off Road Multiple Use Trail (All motorized and non-motorized uses)
- Proposed On Road Bike Trail
- Proposed Off Road Bike Trail
- DNR's trail extension area for Bearskin State Trail



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Source: WI DNR, Oneida County, NCWRPC
Date Printed: 12/19/2023




- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|---------------|
| ATV | Bike | Possible off-road ATV & Bike Trail Corridors | Oneida County |
| ATV Road Routes | Existing - On Road | Nicolet State Trail (Motorized & Non-Motorized) | WI DNR |
| ATV Trails | Proposed - On Road | Three Eagle Trail (Non-Motorized) | |
| Proposed Routes | Existing - Off Road | Hiawatha & Bearskin Trail (Non-Motorized) | |
| | Proposed - Off Road | Cassian Two Way (Non-Motorized) | |

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0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 Miles



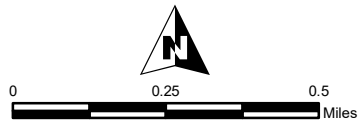
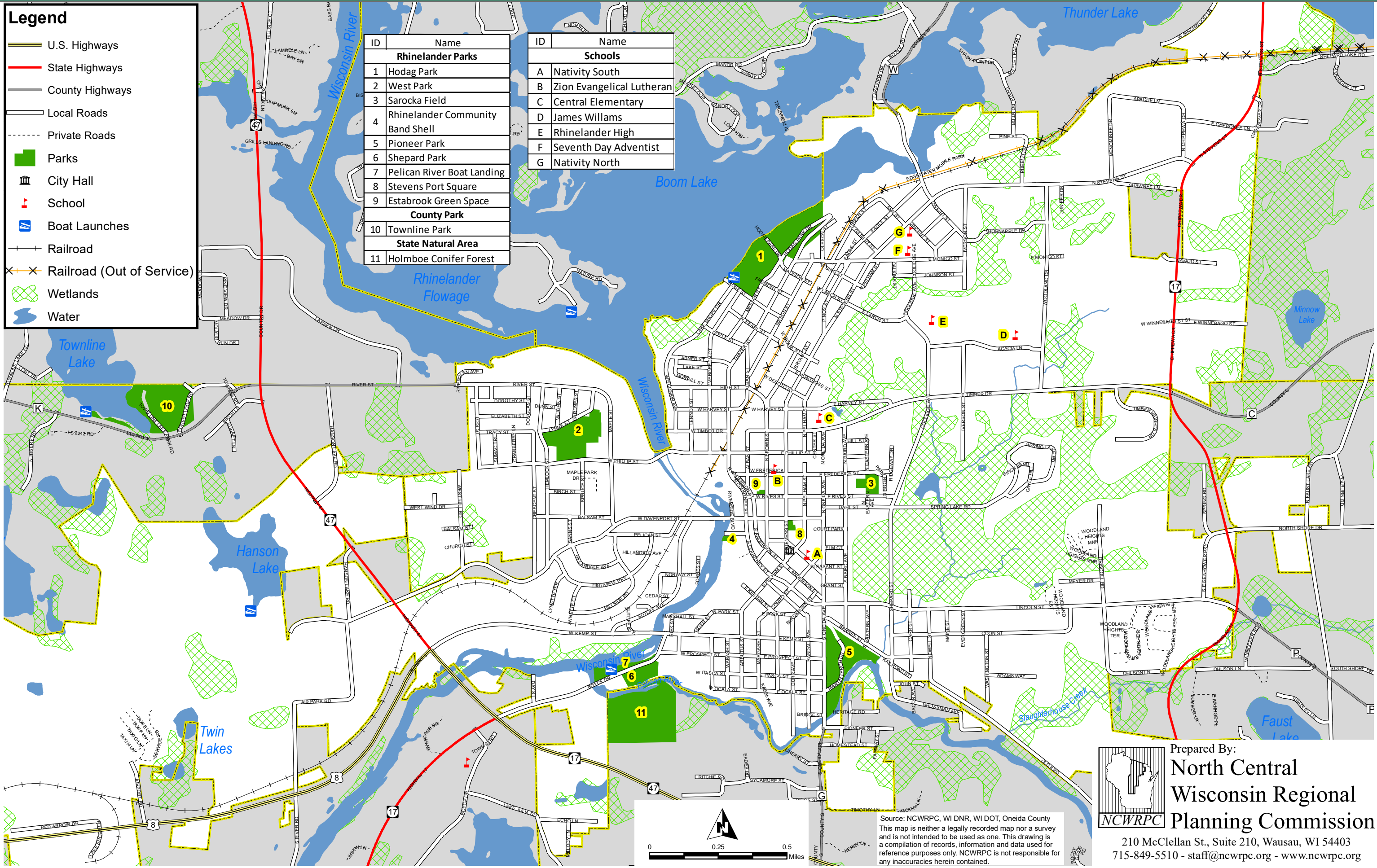
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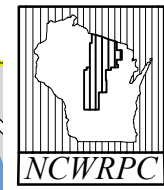
-  U.S. Highways
-  State Highways
-  County Highways
-  Local Roads
-  Private Roads
-  Parks
-  City Hall
-  School
-  Boat Launches
-  Railroad
-  Railroad (Out of Service)
-  Wetlands
-  Water

ID	Name
Rhinelander Parks	
1	Hodag Park
2	West Park
3	Sarocka Field
4	Rhinelander Community Band Shell
5	Pioneer Park
6	Shepard Park
7	Pelican River Boat Landing
8	Stevens Port Square
9	Estabrook Green Space
County Park	
10	Townline Park
State Natural Area	
11	Holmboe Conifer Forest

ID	Name
Schools	
A	Nativity South
B	Zion Evangelical Lutheran
C	Central Elementary
D	James Willams
E	Rhinelander High
F	Seventh Day Adventist
G	Nativity North



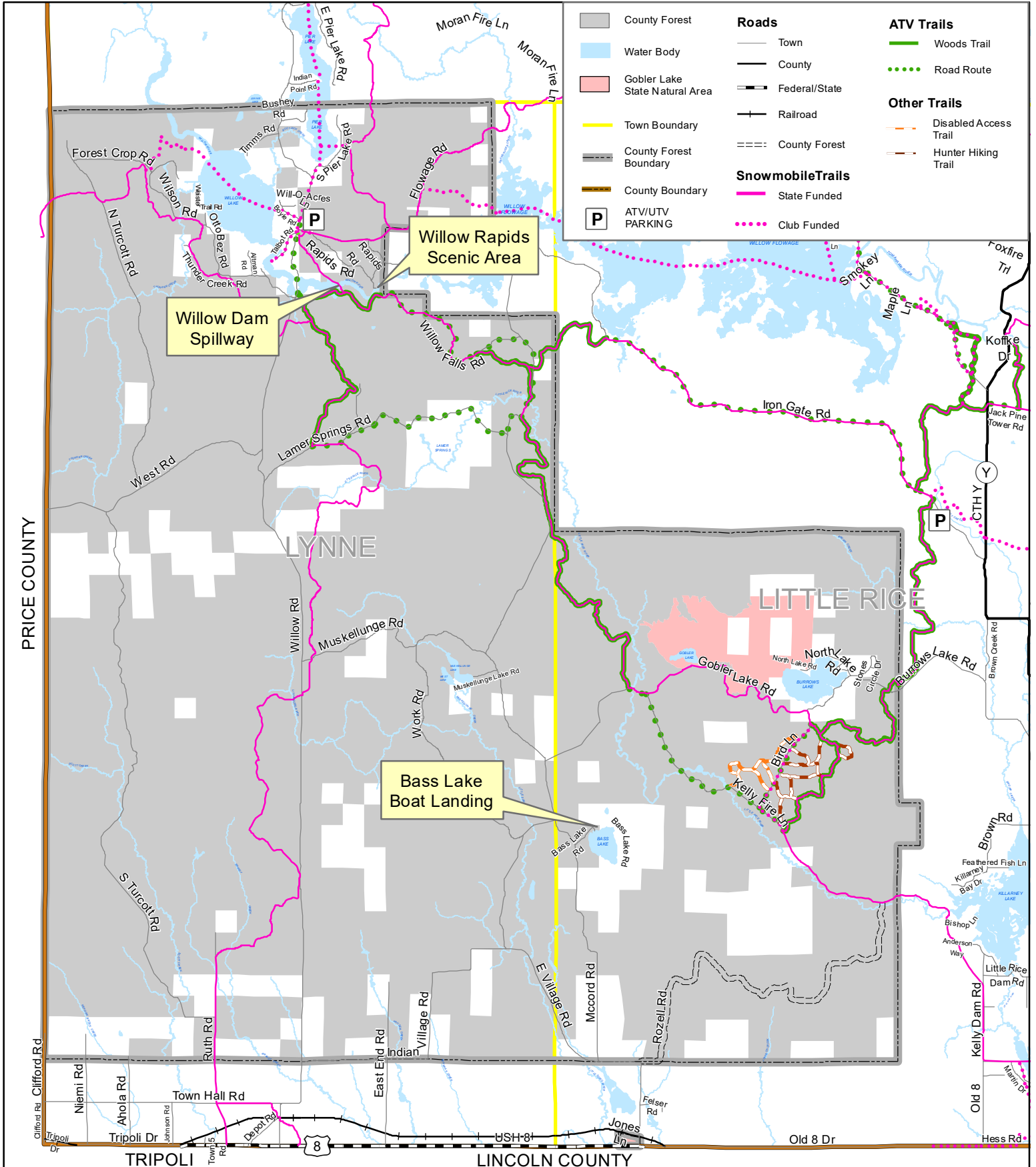
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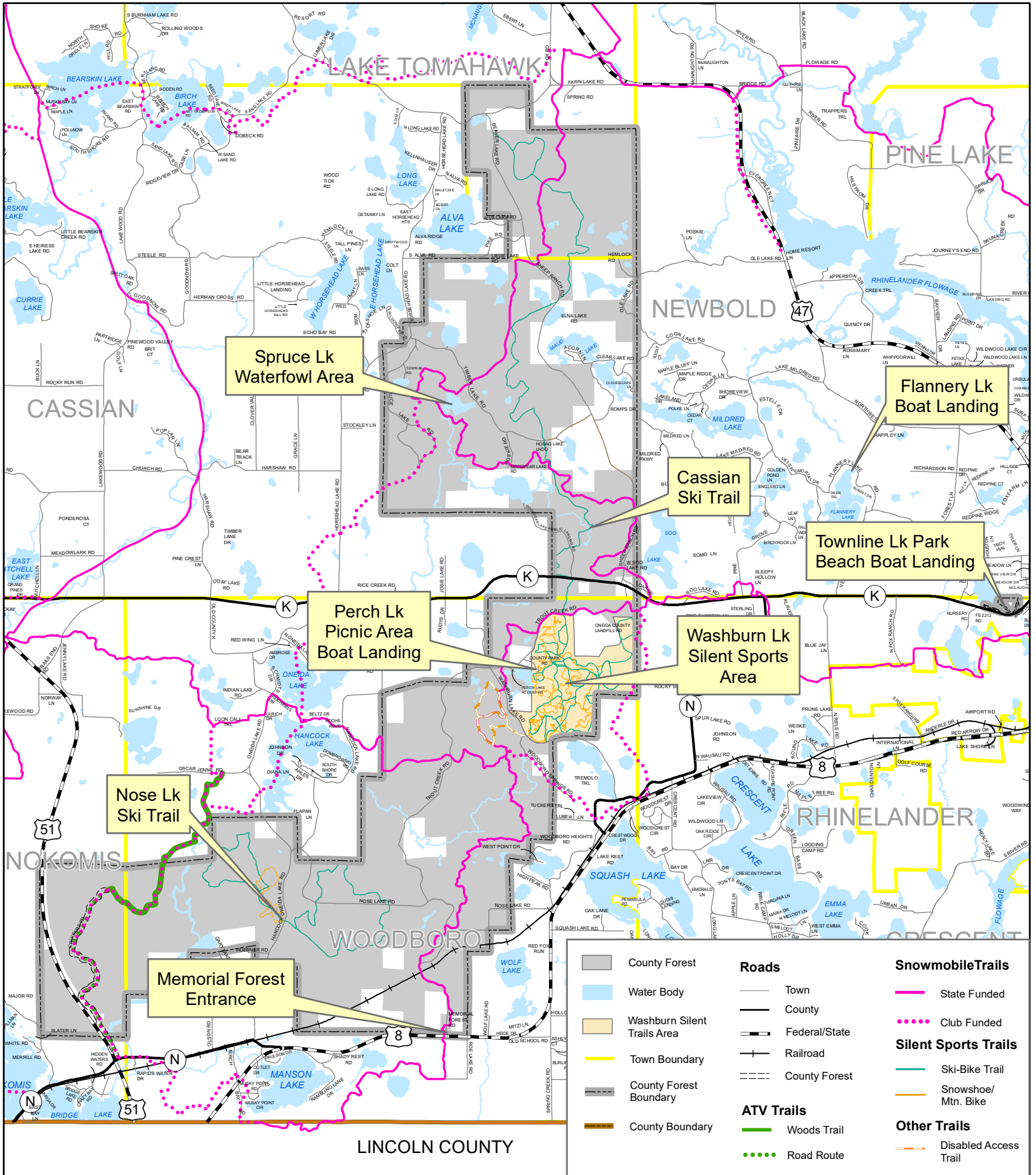
**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE
ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
LYNNE-LITTLE RICE BLOCK**



DATA SOURCES AND DISCLAIMERS:
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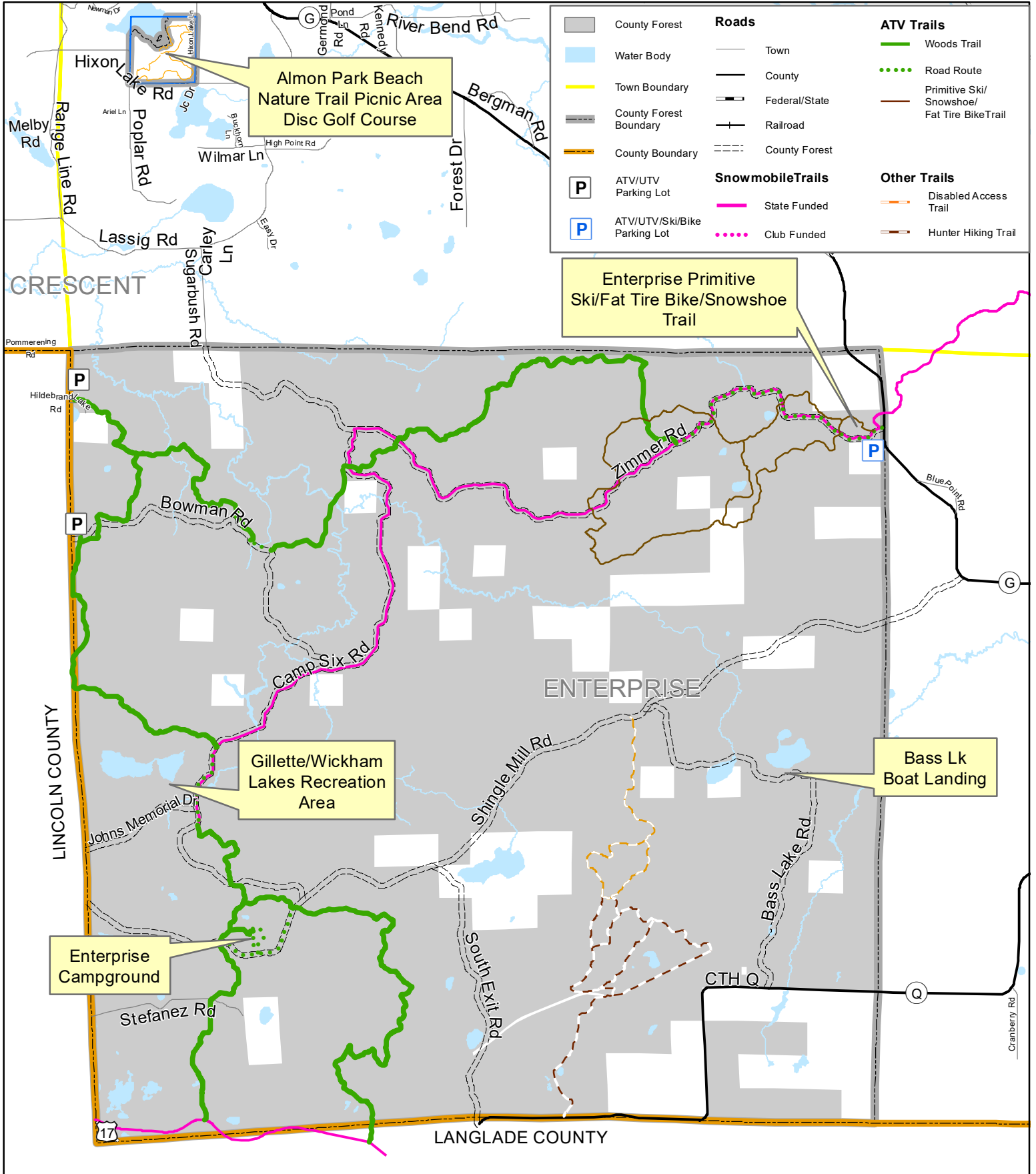
**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE
ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
CASSIAN-WOODBORO BLOCK**



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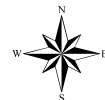
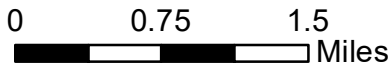


**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE
ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
ENTERPRISE BLOCK**



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Chapter 2: BACKGROUND OF ONEIDA COUNTY

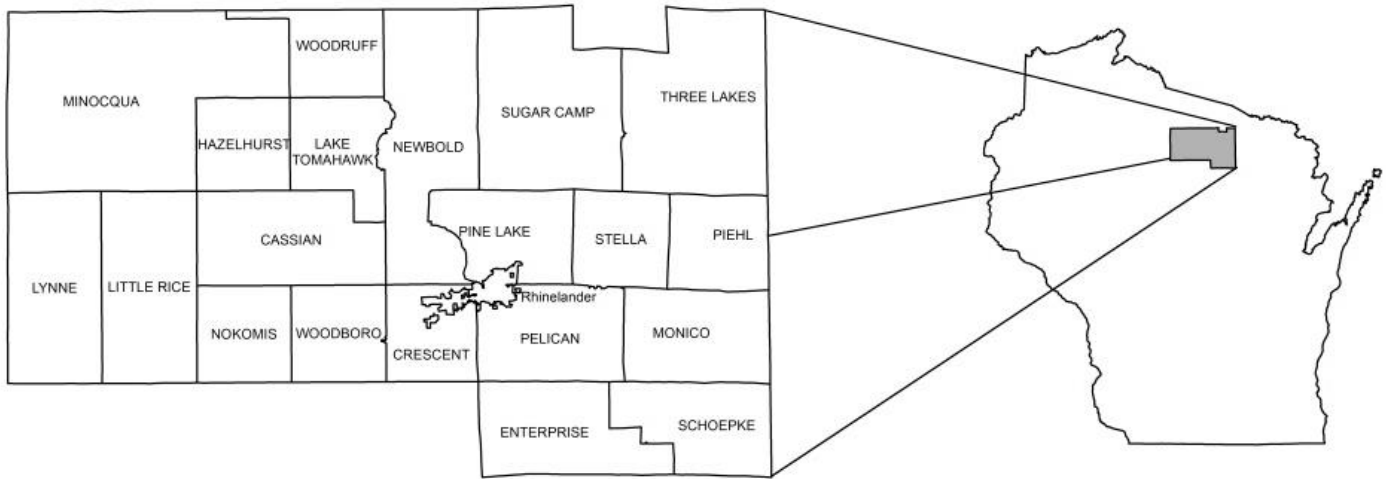
2.1 Physical Characteristics

This section describes the physical features that make up Oneida County. Recreation planners use this kind of data to determine which resources to develop and which resources to protect or preserve.

Oneida County is located in the north central part of the state and is well known for its many lakes, forests, and outdoor recreational opportunities. This area was once part of a vast forest region covering much of the Great Lakes area. The physical resources of lakes and forests are a key factor in the economic structure of the area evidenced by the number of paper and wood industry factories in the County. Ever since trains carried out logs, this area has served as a popular vacation destination. Today, Oneida County serves as a popular vacation area, has a strong wood products industry, and functions as a community center of the north. The County is easily accessible by both highway and airport. Oneida County is adjacent to Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Price, and Vilas Counties, and is comprised of twenty towns and one city (Figure 1).

Figure 1

Oneida County



Topography and Geology

The surface features of Oneida County resulted from glacial activity that occurred 10,000 - 25,000 years ago. Oneida County is a gently arched dome of thick glacial deposits underlain by crystalline rock. Most of the County is a pitted outwash plain that overall gently slopes from north to south. Other areas consist of glacial till or glacial drift. The largest area of glacial till is an extensive ground moraine in the southwestern and southeastern parts of the County. A remnant of an end moraine is southeast of Rhinelander. The southeastern part of the County has a number of parallel, streamlined ridges that appear to be an extension of a drumlin field located in the adjacent Langlade and Forest Counties.

The glacial deposits in the southern, eastern, and western parts of the County are covered by silty deposits. The soils in these areas are among the best suited in the County for agricultural crops and hardwood forests.

The drainage pattern in the County is irregular and poorly defined, as is typical in a glaciated region. It is characterized by numerous lakes, bogs, and marshes.

Soils

The soils of Oneida County formed in material deposited by glaciers or by meltwater as the glaciers receded. Some formed in recent alluvium on flood plains. The organic soils formed in plant remains that accumulated in swamps or shallow lakes and were preserved under water. Some soils formed in more than one kind of parent material. The nature of the parent material influences the texture, mineral composition, and chemical properties of the soil.

Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service publishes a Soil Survey Report. The Oneida County Soil Survey Report was made available in 1993. Soil suitability tables for outdoor recreation and other uses are available on the Internet.

Forestry

As of 2023 in Oneida County, there were about 200,142 total acres (125,187 acres open, and 74,955 acres closed) of privately-owned forestland enrolled in either the Forest Crop Law (FCL) or Managed Forest Law (MFL) program, both administered by WDNR. In exchange for following an approved forest management plan, the landowner pays reduced property taxes. An even greater tax reduction is provided to those who open their enrolled lands to the public for the recreational purposes of hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, and sightseeing.

Surface Water

Most of the County is drained by the Wisconsin River and its tributaries. The Wolf River and its tributaries drain a small acreage in the southeastern part of the County. Water in the far northwest corner of the County drain into the Flambeau-Chippewa River.

With 1,095 total lakes, few areas in the world have as many lakes as the northern part of Oneida County. Most of the lakes in the County are small and shallow. Tomahawk Lake is the largest natural lake, which is 3,462 acres. The Willow Reservoir is the largest body of water in the County at 4,217 acres. The deepest lake is Clear Lake, with a maximum depth of 95 feet.

These surface water resources are vital natural resources, which are held in the public trust by the state. The abundance of water resources provides the public with unique recreational opportunities and the enjoyment of scenic beauty, and therefore plays a primary role in sustaining tourism, a major economic driver in Oneida County.

Groundwater

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

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

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

Climate

Oneida County's climate type is in the continental classification. The summers have warm but not excessively hot days and cool nights. Winters are long, cold, and snowy. Snow cover on the ground and ice cover on the lakes lasts from December to May. Prevailing winds come out of the northwest from late fall through spring, and from the southwest during the remainder of the year. In the 1993 Oneida County Soil Survey, the growing season generally spans late May to early September, for an average frost-free growing season of 124 days. In 2023, the private company weathersparks.com notes that the growing season in the City of Rhinelander typically

lasts for 127 days, from around May 22 to around September 25. Winter in Oneida County is very conducive to snowmobiling and skiing due to its long duration and frequent occurrences of fresh snow. Summer provides a comfortable environment for camping, fishing, and other activities.

2.2 Social Characteristics

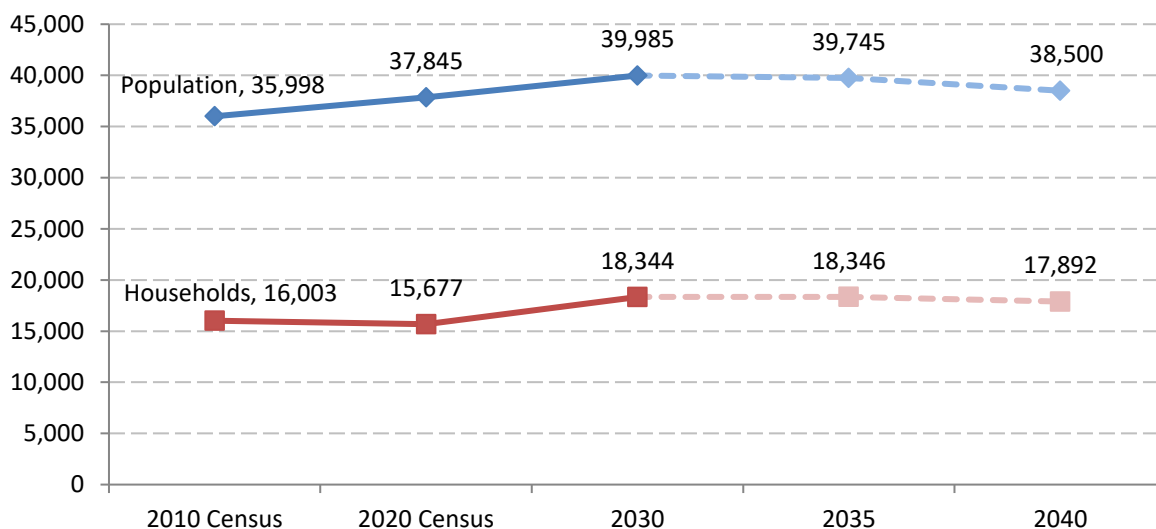
Introduction

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

Population and Households

The 2020 Census population of Oneida County is 37,845. This 100% count shows an increase of approximately 1,847 people since the 2010 Census. Oneida County’s increase in population compares to growth rates of 8.1 percent in the state and 9.7 percent in the nation through 2040. The population of Oneida County is expected to continue to grow through 2030, and then begin a gradual decline in population.

Figure 2: Oneida County Population and Household Change



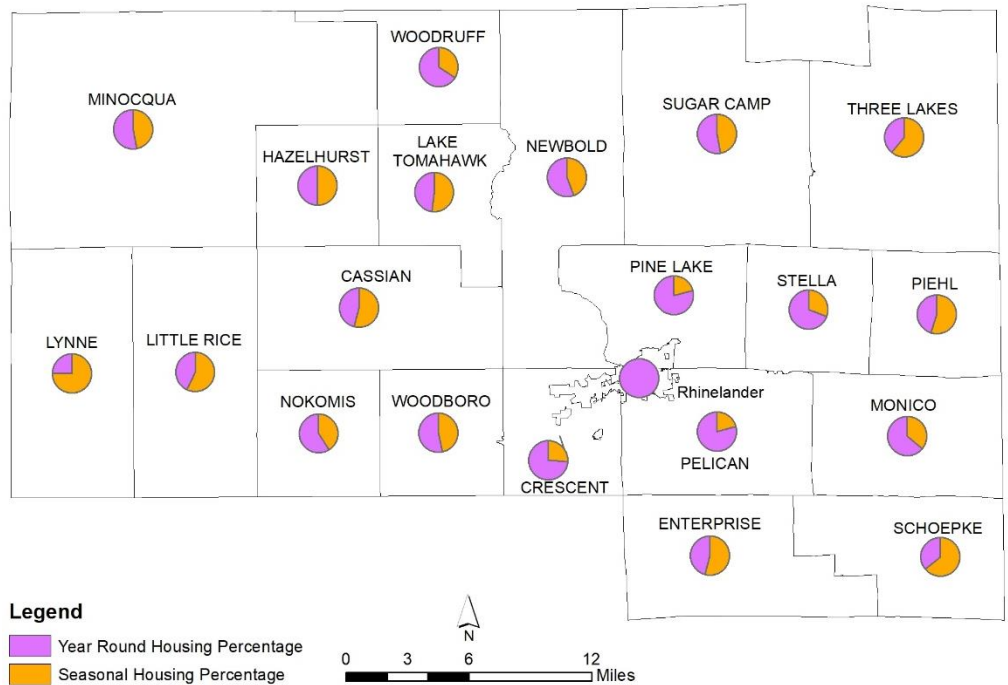
Source: U.S. Census, Wisconsin Department of Administration 2013 projections.

Changes in population are made up of two components. More births than deaths produces a natural increase, and more people moving into an area than moving out produces a migration increase. The combination of these two factors makes up increases or decreases in population. The Wisconsin's Demographic Services Center estimates Oneida County's 2022 population at 37,935. Oneida County's natural increase from 2020 to 2022 actually decreased the population by 1.3%, which was less than the state that actually grew by 0.1%. The diminished natural increase may be a reflection of the older population in the county. Net migration for Oneida County increased the population by 1.5%, which is the sole reason why Oneida County's population increased from the 2020 Census. This net migration for the County was considerably higher than the state rate of 0.8%. Net migration has an immediate impact on a county's labor force potential, while natural increase provides some insight into a county's long-term workforce pipeline. Natural increase is largely a function of age and is expected to decline in the coming decades because the state's fertility rate has been below replacement level since 1975. (WDOA, DSC)

Household sizes have increased over time in Oneida County, unlike national and state trends where household sizes have decreased. Oneida County had 16,003 households as of the 2010 Census, and an average household size of 2.03 people. By 2020, the average household size within Oneida County has grown to 2.22 people. Household sizes are expected to decline to around 2.14 persons per household by 2030. Household growth is expected to continue until 2035, when households are expected to decline, although slower than population. About 17% of households have someone under 18 years old, and about 40% of households have someone 65 or older. About 61% of households are families, and just over 24% have their own children under 18 years old.

Oneida County has a larger proportion of vacant housing than Wisconsin or the United States. Much of this vacant housing is seasonal housing a.k.a. "up north cabins" (see Figure 3). In 2020, approximately 47% of the housing in Oneida County was seasonally vacant compared to approximately 7.1% in Wisconsin and 4% in the United States. There are high concentrations of seasonal housing in Oneida County near the lakes, rivers, and flowages spread throughout the county. The percentage of seasonal housing is significantly higher than the state average in all 21 of the County's towns and is slightly higher than the state average in the City of Rhinelander. The towns with high proportions of seasonal housing will have greater fluctuations in population throughout the year, and these seasonal residents must be included when determining the demand for recreation facilities.

Figure 3: Year Round and Seasonal Housing, 2020

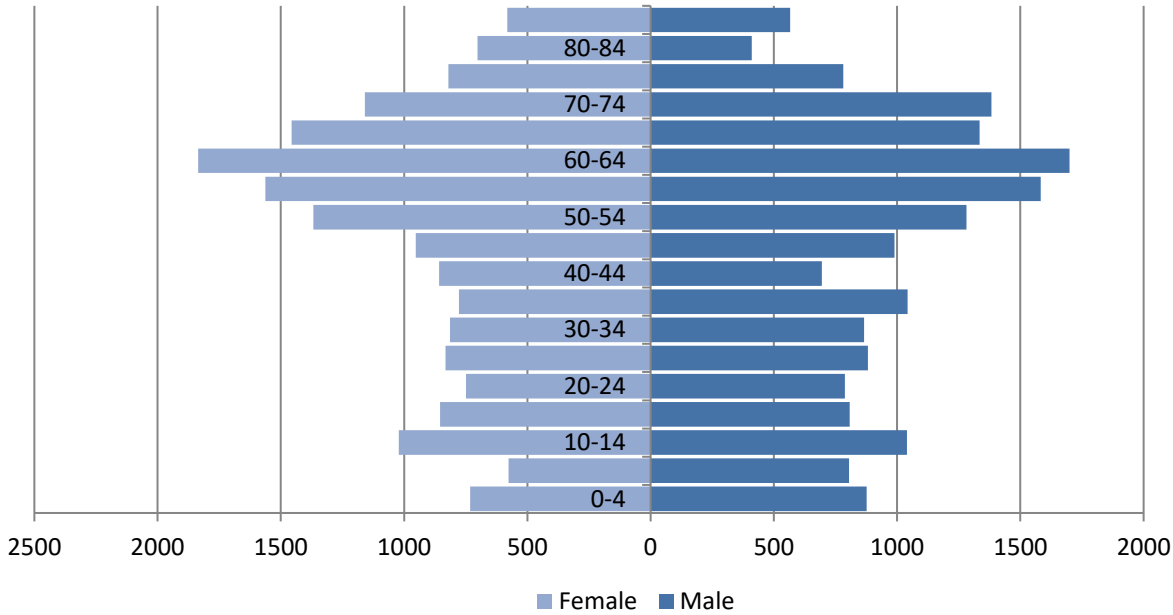


Age

The median age of Oneida County is 51.4 years old, while Wisconsin is 39.6. The median age has increased in both Oneida County and Wisconsin between 2010 and 2019, from 47.2 and 38.1 years old, respectively. It is evident that the median age in Oneida has grown faster than the state. Figure 4 shows the distribution of age groups in Oneida County. The age distribution in Oneida County is concentrated in the middle-aged 50-74 year old age groups. The most heavily concentrated age groups are very near to the typical retirement age, which will likely have a great effect on the parks and recreation needs of the County. Females outnumber males in the age groups above 60.

Research has demonstrated that recently retired people tend to be very active and are attracted to places with recreational amenities. As retirees age they tend to become less active, with many eventually moving to more urban areas where services such as health care are in closer proximity and more accessible. It is apparent from the period that Oneida has very few 20-24 year olds. People in this age group are more likely to leave the County for education and employment opportunities.

Figure 4: Oneida County 2019 Age Pyramid



Source: American Community Survey 2016-2020

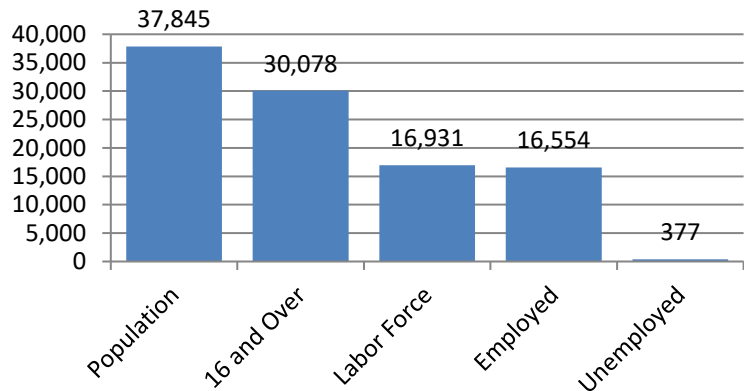
Ethnic Background

The people of Oneida County mostly identify as white, at approximately 95.9% of people. About 0.5% identify as Black or African American and about 1.5% identify as Native American or Alaska Native. About 0.4% identify as Asian, 0.02% as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 0.5% as some other race, and 0.5% as two or more races. Approximately 1.6% identify as Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Employment and Economy

Oneida County has 30,078 people age 16 and over, 56.3% of which are in the labor force, i.e., actively working or seeking work. See Figure 5. The labor force participation rate for Wisconsin as a whole is 66.1%; significantly higher than Oneida County. According to the 2016-2020 ACS, the unemployment rate in Oneida County was 2.2%; lower than the 3.6% in the state and lower than the 5.4% in the United States.

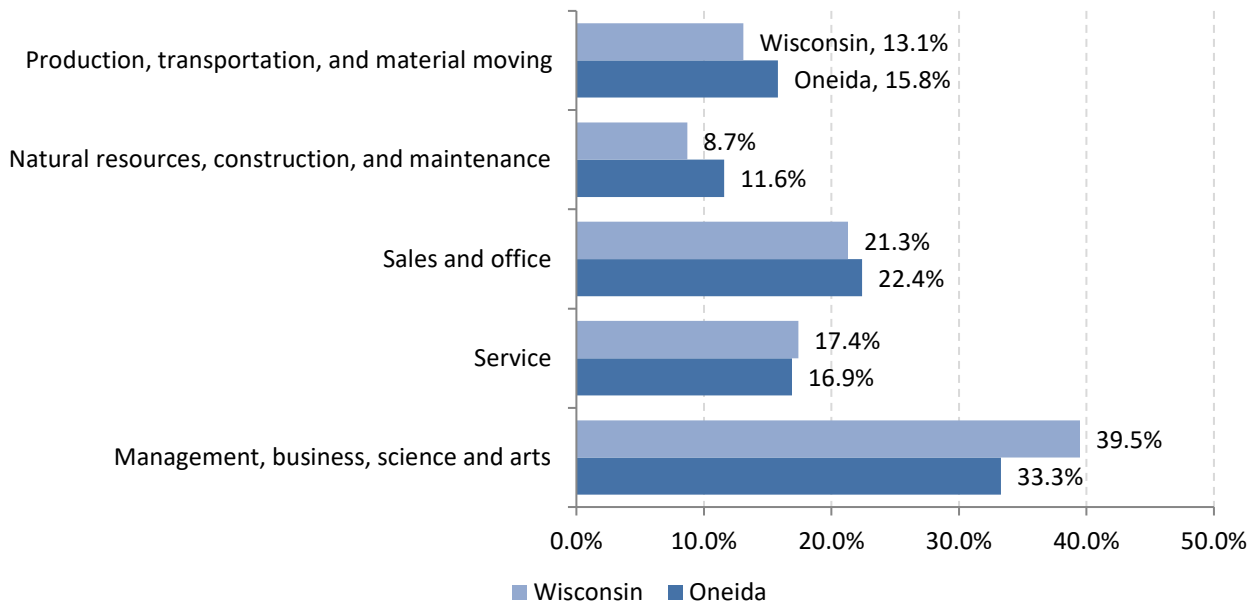
Figure 5: Oneida County Employment



Source: US Census, ACS 2016-2020

As shown in Figure 6, most residents of Oneida County are employed in Management, business, science and arts occupations at 33.3%; Sales and Office occupations at 22.4%; or Service occupations at 16.9%. The most common industry for Oneida County residents is Education services, health care and social assistance at 23.5%, followed by the Retail Trade industry at 15.3%. Oneida County has a higher proportion of residents in the Retail Trade and Manufacturing occupations and a lower proportion of the Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services occupations than the state.

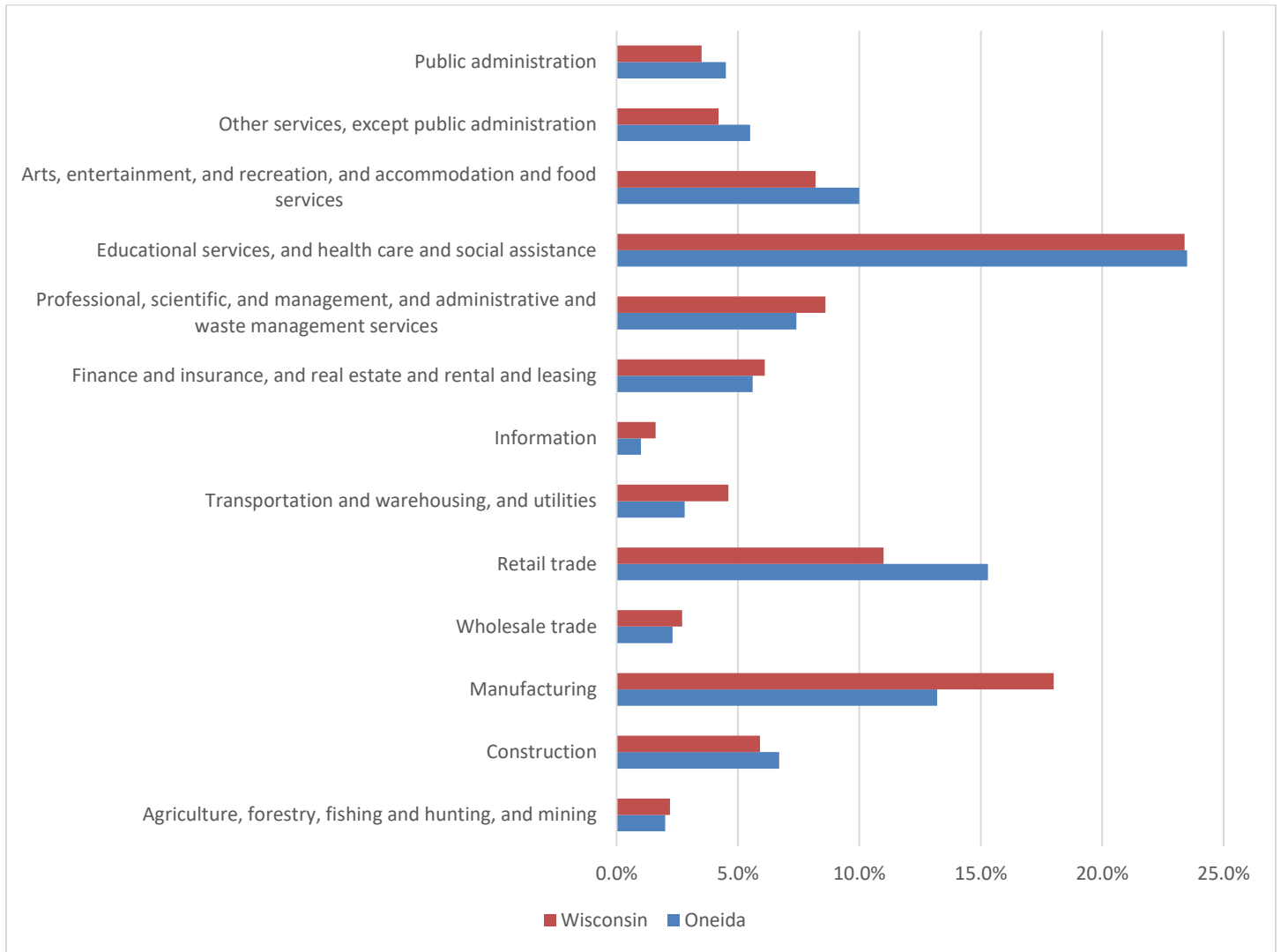
Figure 6: Oneida County Resident Occupation



Source: US Census, ACS 2016-2020

Figure 7 shows the most common industry for Oneida County residents as *Education services, health care and social assistance*, which is basically identical to the state; followed by the *Retail Trade industry*. Oneida County has a higher proportion of residents in the Retail Trade industry and a lower proportion of the Manufacturing industries than the state.

Figure 7: Oneida County Resident Industry



Source: US Census, ACS 2016-2020

Table 1 shows industry employment in Oneida County. The highest levels of employment are in the educational services, and health care and social assistance and retail trade industries. The one-year change shows declines in *professional & business services* and the *public administration industries*.

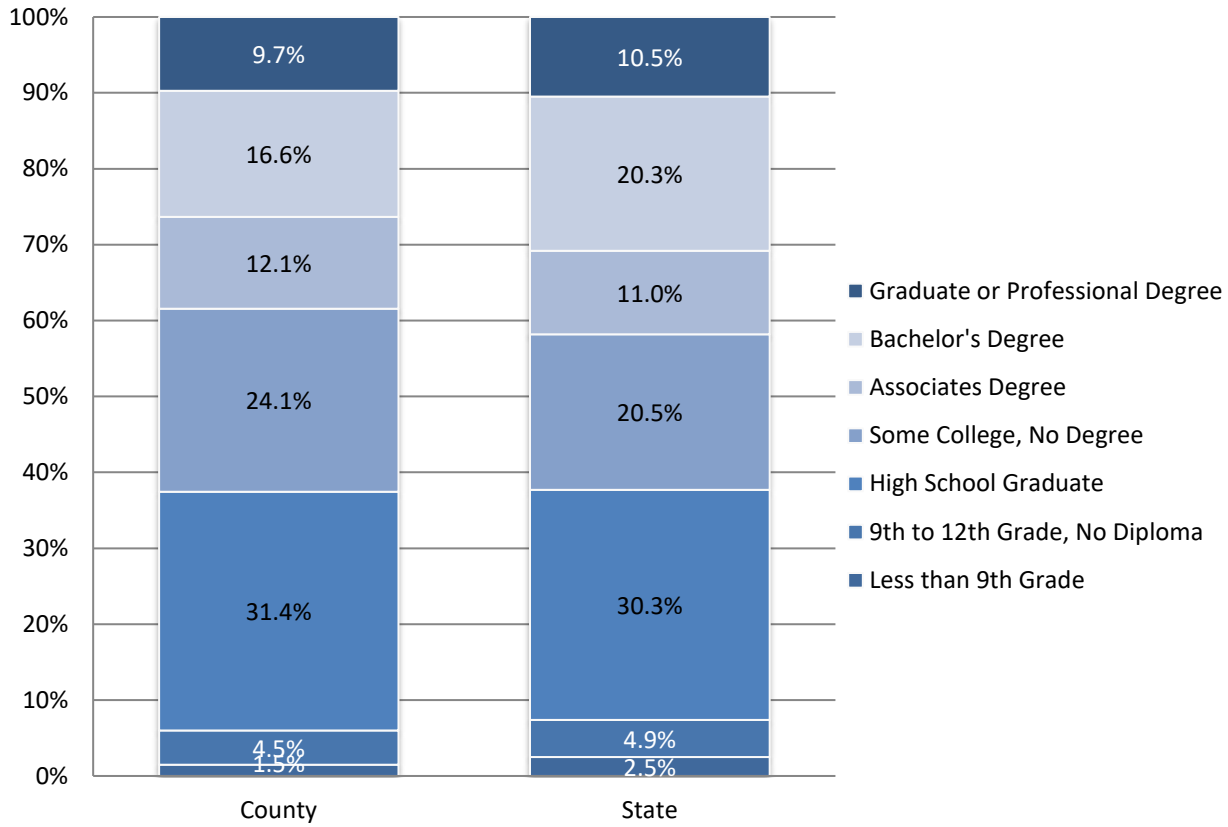
Industry	Employment	
	Annual Avg.	1-Year Change
Natural Resources	171	17
Construction	828	8
Manufacturing	1,670	20
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	3,903	66
Information	246	-6
Financial Activities	506	-2
Professional & Business Services	940	-56
Education & Health	3,794	159
Leisure & Hospitality	2,117	191
Other services	572	40
Public Administration	1,014	-15
Total	15,761	421

Source: WI DWD, Bureau of Workforce Training, QCEW, June 2022

As of the 2016-2020 American Community Survey, median household income in Oneida County was \$58,156, and per capita income was \$35,811. This is lower than the state and nation, which can be explained by the lower proportion of people working in Oneida County. The distribution of household incomes in Oneida County are fairly similar to the state, but with fewer households making \$100,000 or more, and more households making less than \$35,000 annually.

Educational Attainment in Oneida County is generally lower than the State of Wisconsin (see Figure 8). About 88.8% of Oneida County residents have graduated high school, slightly less than Wisconsin, where over 92% of residents have graduated high school. About 14.7% of Oneida County have a bachelor’s degree or higher, while 30.1% of Wisconsin residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher. While the proportion of high school graduates in Oneida County is very close to the state proportion, there is a significant gap in higher education achievement levels. The proportion of people with some college, but no degree and those with an associate’s degree are both slightly higher in Oneida County than the state.

Figure 8: Educational Attainment, Age 25 and Older, 2016-2020



Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey

Chapter 3: OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

3.1 Introduction

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

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

3.2 County Maintained Recreation Facilities

See Chapter 4 for Oneida County owned and maintained outdoor recreation facilities.

3.3 Linear Facilities

Various entities maintain the following public facilities:

Rustic Roads:

Oneida County has two rustic roads.

- **Rustic Road 58** is an 9.6-mile combination of Blue Lake Rd and Mercer Lake Rd, and connects USH 51 to STH 70.
- **Rustic Road 59** is 4.5-miles long, and connects Rustic Road 58 to STH 70.

Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway:

The **Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway** is a non-interstate highway route located mainly in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. This 145-mile route winds through the counties of Forest, Langlade, Oneida and Vilas. The Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway runs through the Towns of Washington and Three Lakes. See the Byway map in **Attachment E**.

Water Trails:

A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of watercraft on lakes and rivers. There are many streams and rivers providing canoeists 830 miles of routes in Oneida County.

The Wisconsin River Centennial Trail is a water trail that was established in 2007 to commemorate Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation's (WVIC) 100th year of coordinating flow on the Wisconsin River. Mile markers are typically located on the right side of the bridges and at portage take out sites.

Now, a new group is organized, with the approval of WVIC, to re-brand part of the Wisconsin River Centennial Trail to become: "Great Pinery Heritage Waterway." The project consists of re-marking a water trail with signs at landings on the Wisconsin River from Hat Rapids Dam in Oneida County and ending in Portage County at the Lake DuBay Dam.

All navigable water is available to canoe on according to the Public Trust Doctrine (Art. 1, §1, WI Constitution). Wisconsin law recognizes that owners of lands bordering lakes and rivers - "riparian" owners - hold rights in the water next to their property. These riparian rights include the use of the shoreline, reasonable use of the water, and a right to access the water. Members of the public may use any exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian (i.e., landowner) only if it is necessary to exit the body of water to bypass an obstruction. In addition, a member of the public may not enter the exposed shore area except from the water, from a point of public access on the stream, or with the permission of the riparian landowner. Obstructions could consist of trees or rocks, shallow water for boaters or deep water for wading trout anglers. The bypass can involve areas up to the ordinary high water mark and should be by the shortest possible route. Under this law, using the exposed shoreline for purposes such as picnicking and sunbathing is not allowed (Ch. 30.134, WI Stats.).

Bearskin State Trail:

The Bearskin State Trail is an 18.3-mile compacted gravel surface walking and biking trail that starts in Minocqua and travels south to CTH K (Oneida County). In winter this becomes a snowmobile trail. There is currently a connection gap to the Bearskin Trail in Oneida County (see Map 3). Work has been done in recent years to complete this connection.

Newbold Town Trails:

The Newbold Town Trails are mainly an 8-mile combination of compacted gravel and small segments of local asphalt paved roads that extend from Larson Drive in Rhinelander north to the Town of McNaughton (see Map 3). In summer, this is a walking and biking trail, and with winter it becomes a snowmobile trail.

Three Eagle Trail:

The Three Eagle Trail is a 12.7-mile compacted limestone surface walking and biking trail from Eagle River south to Three Lakes (see Map 3). The trail also includes two boardwalks and one bridge. In winter, 4.9 miles of trail are groomed for skate and classic skiing, and the remainder of trail is open to snowmobiling.

Silent Sport Trails:

Under Chapter 4, see the silent sport trail facilities that are on county forest land:

- cross country ski trails;
- snowshoe trails;
- mountain bike trails; and
- hunter/hiking trails.

CAVOC Trails:

The School District of Rhinelander's school forest is named the Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC). This property at 4321 South Shore Drive, Rhinelander, is comprised of 160 acres with another 80 acres adjoining the property. The CAVOC trails are 5 miles of woodchipped trails over hilly terrain, some of which are paved handicapped accessible trails, for hiking, biking, snowshoeing. In winter these trails are groomed for cross country skiing. All of these trails are open to the public, but may be closed when school and summer school are in session on the property.

Northern Highland American Legion State Forest (NHAL) Trails:

The NHAL has many day use areas and trails, including eight developed picnic areas; five interpretive nature trails totaling nearly eight miles in length; and three designated hiking trails totaling 18.5 miles. Other designated trails include 32 miles of mountain bike trails, 70 miles of cross-country ski trails and about 400 miles of snowmobile trails.

Except for the nature trails, Fallison, Trout Lake, Star Lake, and Raven's yellow loop, biking is allowed on all roads and trails. This amounts to hundreds of miles of biking opportunities.

Motorized Trails:

Under Chapter 4, see the motorized trail facilities that are on county forest land:

- general purpose motorized trails;
- snowmobile trails; and
- ATV/UTV trails.

3.4 Points of Interest

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

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

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

Historical Markers

- A state historical marker titled: Nicolet National Forest is located off State Hwy 32, east of Three Lakes.
- A state historical marker titled: First Rural Zoning Ordinance is located on the Oneida County Courthouse grounds, Rhinelander.
- A state historical marker titled: The Hodag is located in Hodag Park, Rhinelander.

3.5 Public Access Points to Water Bodies

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

Only County maintained public access points are shown on **Maps 1 & 2**, because most lakes in Oneida County have public access points and the map would be crowded. You may review an interactive map online of public access points by searching for "WDNR boat and shore fishing access map."

See Chapter 4 for Oneida County maintained public access points to waterbodies.

See "3.7 Local Government Facilities" for those public access points maintained by local governments.

Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC)

The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company maintains boat landings and a river access at the Rainbow Flowage.

Rice Reservoir Public Landing and Picnic Area – This WVIC landing is located on County Highway N in the Town of Nokomis. Facilities include a paved boat landing with large concrete launch pad, picnic tables, and toilets.

3.6 School District Facilities

Six school districts provide additional local recreation opportunities in Oneida County. School yards often have playgrounds with play equipment, ball diamonds, and basketball hoops. These neighborhood parks range in size from 1 to 15 acres.

Most school districts in Oneida County also have school forests that *may be* open to the public for a variety of recreational and educational uses – contact each property owner for how a parcel *may* be open to the public.

Each school district maintains the following outdoor facilities in Oneida County:

Minocqua, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk (MHLT) School District

1. 1 elementary school playground
2. MHLT School Forest, 40 acres, Sec. 34 T38N R6E

School District of Elcho

1. Elcho School Forest, 80 acres, E1/2 SW, sec. 30 T35N R10E
2. Elcho School Forest, 160 acres, NE1/4, sec. 29 T35N R11E

School District of Tomahawk

1. Tomahawk School Forest, 40 acres, SWSE, sec. 11, T35NR6E
2. Tomahawk School Forest, 40 acres, NWNE, sec. 27, T35NR6E

School District of Rhinelander

In addition to the school forest listed below, the School District maintains:

- 4 elementary school playgrounds in the Rhinelander area
- Located in the center of Rhinelander are:
 - 1 Middle School Facility
 - 1 High School Facility
 - Varsity football field & track
 - 14 tennis courts
 - 2 softball fields
 - 1 baseball field
 - 2 soccer fields

The School District of Rhinelander School Forest is the largest in Wisconsin, consisting of nine parcels ranging in size from 39 to 360 acres. The District has been managing these properties for over 70 years, with the help of a State Forester, Wildlife Biologist, and many other experts. School forest properties are utilized in many different ways. There are over 30 miles of trails for hiking, biking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and skiing, in the school

forest for the whole community to enjoy. Hunting, fishing and geocaching are other activities that also take place on the district forest properties.

1. North Rifle Road S.F., 39 acres, ~NENW, sec. 4 T36NR8E
2. Flag Lake S.F., 53 acres, sec. 4 & 5 T36NR8E
3. Bullhead Lake S.F. 79 acres, S1/2SW, Sec. 3 T36NR9E
4. Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC) 160-acres, NE1/4, sec 10, T36N R10E
CAVOC consists of Rominsky Lodge and classroom, outdoor pavilion, camp fire ring, silent sports area, primitive bog lake, high and low ropes challenge course, 5 miles of trails, paved handicapped accessible trails, hiking, biking, snowshoeing and groomed cross country ski tails, reserve and managed forest areas, lake vista, self guided nature trail, bog walk, osprey nesting plate form, research projects, orienteering course, and many other education opportunities.
5. Flannery Lake S.F. 80 acres, N1/2SW, sec. 34, T37N R8E
6. Cross Country East S.F. 120 acres, sec.1, T37N R9E
7. Cross Country West S.F., 158 acres, sec 2 & 11, T37N R9E
8. Crystal Lake Road S.F., 160 acres, SW1/4, sec. 7 T37N R9E
9. Bear Trail Road S.F., 360 acres, sec 5, 7, 8, T37N R9E

Three Lakes School District

In addition to the school forest listed below, the School District maintains:

- 2 elementary school playgrounds, one in Sugar Camp and one in Three Lakes.
- Located on the edge of Three Lakes, almost adjacent to Don Burnside Town Park are:
 - 1 Junior/High School Facility
 - Varsity football field & track
- Three Lakes School Forest, 34 acres, Sec. 32 T38N R11E;
- Gagen-Piehl School Forest, 40 acres, Sec. 29 T37N R11E; and
- Sugar Camp School Forest, 40 acres, Sec. 34 T38N R9E.

Woodruff School District

- Arbor Vitae-Woodruff School Forest, 22 acres, Sec. 20 T39N R7E.

3.7 Local Government Facilities

City of Rhinelander

The City of Rhinelander maintains the following parks. The City maintains their own outdoor recreation plan where recommendations are listed.

Hodag Park – The 36-acre park is located on Boom Lake, north of downtown. Facilities include the John T. Stafford Babe Ruth Field; Huber Little League Field; Mel Mode Little League Field; 3 picnic shelters with tables and grills; rest benches; an ADA accessible path; playground equipment; ADA accessible restrooms; ADA accessible fishing pier with path; boat landing with three launch piers; water ski show area with storage and concession building, 5 sets of bleachers, and ski jump; tennis court; band shell; two sand volleyball courts; and a swimming beach with pier, and ADA accessible changing and restroom building.

Pioneer Park and Historical Complex – This 12.4-acre park is located along a former rail line several blocks south of the County Courthouse. Facilities include a logging museum with gift shop; historic train depot; one room school house museum; CCC museum; Duke’s Outboard Motor Museum; tennis courts; the Virgil Hoffhein Softball Field that includes bleachers, dugouts, concession stand, scorekeepers stand, and scoreboard; restroom/ice skating warming room; three picnic shelters; picnic area with tables and grills; playground equipment; a second restroom (ADA accessible); benches; 8-court pickle ball area; and an ice-skating rink.

Shepard Dog Park – This 8.4-acre park is located on Boyce Dr (STH 17) and provides open space under a canopy of trees. Facilities include a paved walking path along the north side of the Pelican River with green space and picnic tables; an all dog (large and small) enclosure and a small dog only enclosure both exist for owners to allow their dogs off-leash.

West Side Park – This 15.1-acre park is located on the northwest side of the Wisconsin River. Facilities include a ball field with four sets of bleachers, dugouts, and storage room; playground equipment; restroom; picnic tables and grills; and a BMX track with fencing and lighting (former ball field).

Sarocka Field – This 3-acre ball field is located on N Eastern Ave. Facilities include a sledding hill, tennis court, softball diamond, playground equipment, and picnic tables.

Stevens Port Square – This 0.6-acre park is located on the southeast corner of Davenport St and Stevens St in downtown Rhinelander. Facilities include some benches and picnic tables in a landscaped area off the busy road.

Estabrook Green Space – This 0.3-acre park is located on the northwest corner of Rives St and Brown St in downtown Rhinelander. Facilities include some benches in a landscaped area off the busy road.

Northwood Golf Course and Heal Creek Nature Area – This approximately 710 acre property located south of USH 8 by the airport includes a golf course and adjacent forested lands.

Northwood Golf Course is a public golf course that is owned by the City of Rhinelander and is long term leased to a private operator. Facilities include an 18-hole golf course, a clubhouse with restaurant, locker rooms, and pro shop; a sledding hill exists in winter along with groomed cross-country ski trails.

Heal Creek Nature Area is about 475 acres of City owned forested recreation land that has a trailhead on the east side of the Northwood Golf Course parking lot. The cross country ski trails, snowshoe trails,

and fat tire biking trails that have been developed on this property also cross onto the Northwood Golf Course side in winter.

Pelican Rapids Boat Landing – This 2.9-acre park is at the junction of the Pelican River and Hat Rapids Flowage of the Wisconsin River on Boyce Drive. Facilities include a boat launch, picnic tables, lighted walking path along the river, restrooms, and parking for 21 boat trailers and another 7 vehicles. A historical plaque identifies the original history of the site as a ranger station.

Band Shell – This 0.5-acre park is on the east bank of the Wisconsin River in downtown, just south of Davenport Street. A band shell exists along with a small lawn.

Hanson Lake – This 75-acre recreational area is located on Hanson Lake, on the east side of the airport. Facilities include a boat launch on the south side of the lake, a beach on the east side of the lake, a trailhead along STH 47, and multi-use trails (hiking, biking, and snowshoeing) around the entire lake.

Town of Cassian

Public Access:

The Town of Cassian owns and maintains boat accesses on East Horsehead Lake, West Horsehead Lake, and Little Bearskin Lake.

Town of Crescent

The Town maintains a boat access on the south shore of Squash Lake with a gravel parking area.

Town of Enterprise

No Town maintained outdoor recreation facilities.

Town of Hazelhurst

Hazelhurst Town Park – Located on Yawkey Street next to the old Town Hall, this park offers a paved tennis court, a ball diamond, playground, restrooms, and picnic area.

Lake Katherine Beach Park – Located on Oneida Street, this park includes a playground, swimming area, a public boat landing, picnic areas, and covered pavilion.

McCormick Lake Landing – The Town maintains this small boat landing. Lake residents primarily use this landing, and the launching pier and pit toilet are maintained by the lake association.

Town of Lake Tomahawk

Rainbow Park – Facilities include picnic area, accessible restrooms, parking lot, storage shed, and a ball diamond with fencing, dugout and bleachers with lighting.

Snowshoe Park – Facilities include a large picnic shelter with concession and food area, restrooms, a slide & swings, basketball hoop; lighted ball diamond with fencing, bleachers, and announcer stand/scoring booth.

Lake Tomahawk Park – Facilities include a picnic area with 6 tables and 4 grills; paved parking; security lights; public restroom, sand volleyball court, and swimming beach with launching pier, map board, sign for launch fees, and collection box.

Bearfoot Park – Facilities include a pull-off graveled parking area from the highway, picnic tables and grills, American flag, and sculpture.

Town of Little Rice

No Town maintained outdoor recreation facilities.

Town of Lynne

Town of Lynne Park – The Town maintains a park area adjacent to the Town Hall that includes a lighted basketball court, a ball diamond, and a picnic pavilion. Next to the park, a local sports club operates a trap shooting range and a local ATV trail.

The town also maintains a boat access on Pier Lake.

Town of Minocqua

Torpy Park & Beach – 705 Oneida Street. This 4-acre park is located downtown on Lake Minocqua. The upper level features two large pavilions, green space and scenic lake overlooks. The lower level includes sand beach, playground, two tennis courts, sand volleyball court, picnic shelters with grills and tables, seasonal concession stand and rest rooms. Parking is available on-site.

Veterans Park – 230 West Front Street. This half-acre park has a small pavilion, benches, bicycle rack and year-round ADA accessible restrooms. A veterans memorial marker is positioned in the center of the green space. This is the location of the Town's annual Memorial Day ceremony, presented by the Minocqua American Legion post.

Bearskin Trailhead Park – 615 Bearskin Way. This park is located downtown behind the U.S. Post Office and

is jointly owned by the Town and Wisconsin DNR. It serves as the trailhead for the Bearskin State Trail which offers hiking, bicycling and snowmobiling. The initial trail segment is a historic trestle with scenic overlooks of Lake Minocqua. The park has ADA accessible restrooms and picnic tables.

Public Fishing Pier – 305 East Park Avenue. This is a large, handicap-accessible fishing pier with non-accessible docking for ten boats adjacent to the U.S. Highway 51 bridge on Lake Minocqua. The pier is a segment of the former wooden bridge across Highway 51. The popular has eleven public parking spaces, hand railings with slots for wheelchair accessible fishing and over 5,300 square feet of decking including a section that is wheelchair friendly.

Aqua Bowl – 415 West Park Avenue. This is the site of the longest-running water ski show in the nation, the Min-Aqua Bats. Free shows with concessions are presented every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:00 P.M. during the summer season. Bleacher seating and porta-potties available during shows.

Dorwin Park – 503 Flambeau Street. This half-acre park is located downtown on the grounds of the Minocqua Museum. Facilities include a shelter, benches, planters, and walkways.

Cedar Park – 560 Cedar Street. This half-acre wooded shoreline park is located east of the Minocqua Center on Lake Minocqua. This park has landscaping, a walkway down the slope to the lake, a picnic table and pier for fishing and docking.

Minocqua Ball Park – 9615 Fieldstone Drive. This park is located on Highway 51 South, just south of downtown. Facilities include baseball field, playground, sand volleyball court and rest rooms. The park also serves as one of the staging areas for the Minocqua 4th of July Parade.

Minocqua Park Complex – 10295 Highway 70 West. This former “Circle M Corral” amusement park property is 27 acres in size and has been redeveloped to include four baseball fields with concession stand, playground, two sand volleyball courts, multi-purpose field and green space, covered pavilion with kitchen and ADA accessible restrooms.

Minocqua Winter Park – 7543 Squirrel Hill Road. This renowned Nordic ski facility features over 105 km of trails, including 72 km of 12- to 30-foot wide trails groomed for skating and striding and 16 km of narrow trails groomed for striding only. Aside from cross country skiing, available winter activities include 16 km of snowshoe trails, tubing, sledding, skijoring (skiing with dogs), telemark hill and an ice skating pond. An overlook area has been developed on the peak of Squirrel Hill offering scenic vistas of the surrounding area. A disc golf course is planned for the near future. The heated chalet has restrooms, concessions, equipment rental and sales and a waxing room. Parking is available on-site.

Other Recreational Facilities:

- **LAMBO Mountain Bike “Zip Trail”** – 7849 Adventure Lane. The Lakeland Area Mountain Biking Organization (LAMBO) has developed a free use mountain bike trail system on hilly, wooded acreage owned by the Town and the Wisconsin DNR. Over six miles of bike trails plus a separate two-mile trail for hiking and snowshoeing. Trails are groomed specifically for fat tire biking during the winter months.

- *Lakeland Ice Arena* – 7961 Old Highway 51. The Lakeland Ice Arena is a non-profit skating facility that supports the development of skating among people of all ages and abilities. It offers various programs from youth to adults including hockey leagues, open skating, figure skating and learn to skate programs.
- *Schlecht Lake Ski Trail* – 7667 Leary Road. This 10km trail system is maintained by Wisconsin DNR and has 3 km lit for night skiing in winter. The trails are available for hiking in summer. The trail's natural grassy knolls wind around three lakes and hardwood forest making it a spectacular sight in the fall. The location just south of downtown makes it very accessible to users.
- *Lakeland Area Dog Park* – 9863 Plaza Drive. The non-profit dog park organization operates this 1.65-acre fenced dog park that includes separate enclosed areas for large and small dogs. Water is available onsite during summer months.
- *Minocqua Gun Club* – 7877 Gun Club Road. This facility is located 1.5 miles south of downtown. There is a large clubhouse along with four trap fields, a skeet range, sporting clays, a wobble trap and double birds. Minocqua Gun Club is a not-for-profit public shooting facility.

Public Access Points to Water Bodies:

There are a number of improved boat landings maintained by the Town of Minocqua. Three landings for Lake Minocqua are located downtown. Other town-owned landings are located on Amber Lake, Bear Lake, Booth Lake, Papke Lake, Squirrel Lake, Swamsauger Lake and Thoroughfare Channel.

Town of Monico

All facilities in the Town of Monico are ADA accessible.

Lake Venus – This facility includes swim ropes and buoys, beach, picnic tables, grills, a unisex toilet, benches, and a pavilion.

Mars Lake Boat Landing – This facility includes a launch area, handicap accessible fishing pier, and asphalt parking lot.

Town Hall Park – This park is next to the town hall. Park facilities include a basketball court and benches, surfaced play area, skatepark, and playground.

Public accesses exist on Neptune, Mars, Venus, and Tank Lakes. There is public access to Lake Venus for swimming, but no boat access.

Town of Newbold

Town Hall / Fire Department Park – located at 4608 Apperson Drive has a two-section picnic/cooking shelter, picnic tables, and playground with swings, slide, & climbing equipment.

Newbold Trail – An eight-mile hiking/bike trail that uses both on-road and off-road routes. Drinking water is available at the fire station.

Newbold Memorial Park – located at 6839 Black Lake Road, is a 2 acre park. Facilities include a canoe landing, fishing area, outhouse, and a picnic shelter.

Two Sisters Lake – Facilities include a boat landing, parking area, and 2 vault toilets on Young’s Landing Road.

The Stone Lake area is managed by the DNR as a hunting trail system.

Newbold Outdoor Recreation Area – located at 6954 Ole Lake Road, is about a 34 acre recreation area. Facilities include a 18-hole disc golf course, a 1.4 mile hiking and snowshoe trail with a butterfly garden and wildlife viewing areas. A gravel parking area exists, along with 2 vault toilets (one of which is ADA accessible).

Fredricks Landing – located on Bridge Road in McNaughton. This is an access/boat launch to the Wisconsin River with a parking lot.

Town of Nokomis

Town Hall Park – This 2-acre park is located next to the Nokomis Town Hall and is on the Bearskin State Trail. Facilities include a large meeting room within the town hall that can be rented along with ADA accessible restrooms, a variety of playground equipment, 2 picnic shelters with tables, and a large paved parking lot.

Nokomis Community Park – This 34-acre park is located at the intersection of County Highway L and Cougar Lane. The Nokomis Fire Department also exists on this parcel. Park facilities include a large picnic pavilion with potable water, a ¾-mile walking trail with benches, 18-hole disk golf course, 3 fenced ball fields with dugouts and bleachers, horseshoe pits, volleyball court, basketball court, and restrooms.

County L/Highway 51 Wayside Park – This 1.17-acre park is located on County Highway L just off of USH 51. Features include trout fishing access to Bearskin Creek, picnic tables, grills, and a small pavilion.

Mary’s Park – This is a 21.85-acre dog park located at 2099 River Road. Park features include a ¾ mile crushed granite covered nature walking trail, a large fenced in dog exercise area, picnic pavilion with tables, potable water, and ADA restrooms.

Point Road West Boat Launch – This 20-foot wide graveled public launch provides access to Lake Nokomis.

Jenny Lake Boat Launch – This 66-foot wide graveled public launch has parking and provides access to Oscar Jenny Lake.

Town of Pelican

The Town of Pelican has a swimming beach and picnic area by the Town Hall.

Town of Piehl

The town maintains two boat launches; one on Ginty Lake off of Ginty Lake Rd, and another launch on Margaret Lake off of Boat Landing Rd. Neither launch is rated as ADA accessible.

Town of Pine Lake

The Town of Pine Lake has four boat launches: one on Moen Lake off of Lakeshore Dr., one on Boom Lake off of Moonlite Bay Rd., and two on the Wisconsin River via River Rd.

Town of Pine Lake Park – The Town maintains this park that is located on Trails End Road. This park features playground equipment, softball diamond with dugouts and fencing, sand volleyball court, small basketball surface and hoop, picnic tables, walking trails, restroom facility and parking.

Town of Schoepke

Youth Ball Park – This park is located near the town hall and has a youth ball field.

Three boat launches are maintained by the Town on Pelican Lake.

Other Recreational Facilities:
Mecikalski Stovewood Museum

Demonstration Buffer Zone project located adjacent to town hall on Pelican Lake with small park area that has picnic tables and a Little Free Library.

Town of Stella

Stella Municipal Park – North of the Town Hall is about a 4.7 acre park. Facilities include a playground; open space for field games; and a ballfield with dugouts, backstop, and outfield fencing.

The Town of Stella maintains a carry-in landing on Snowden Lake, off of CTH C.

The Town of Stella maintains a boat launch on Stella Lake, off Stella Lake Road.

Town of Sugar Camp

Town of Sugar Camp/Lions Park – This 50-acre park is located at 4059 Camp Four Road. Facilities include three ball fields with lighting and bleachers on two fields; two soccer fields with fencing along west side; two basketball courts with lights and fencing; lighted tennis courts; concession stand/announcer booth; ADA accessible playground equipment; picnic shelter; pavilion with kitchen, bathroom facilities, concession stand, picnic area; horseshoe pits; two lighted volleyball courts; asphalt parking lot; restroom; drinking fountain; and 18-hole disc golf course with concrete pads.

Sugar Camp Lake Beaches – This 1.06-acre park is located off of Hwy 17. Facilities include a beach area, off-highway parking, a unisex bathroom and changing room, and park benches.

Boat landings are located on Chain, Indian, Lily Bass, Jennie Webber, and Sand Lakes.

Town of Three Lakes

Don Burnside Recreational Park – This 40 acre park is located on County Highway A at 6931 Stanzil Street. Facilities include: Stebbeds Field, a full-sized baseball field with a batting cage located adjacent, Kunda Field, a regulation little league field, and two softball/little league diamonds. Each diamond includes dugouts, bleachers and fencing. Both Stebbeds Field and the main softball diamond have electric scoreboards and the softball field has lighting. There is a large open multipurpose field used for soccer. There is a golf driving-range; full sized basketball court; heated indoor/outdoor pavilion with restrooms, picnic and folding tables; restroom & shelter building with drinking fountain, and concession/announcer stands located by the softball diamond and Stebbeds Field; three tennis courts and six pickleball courts that have lighting; lighted basketball court; playground equipment; soccer goals; paved parking area; and snowmobile storage room/cook shack facility and announcer stand in the connected Snowmobile Park area.

Cy Williams Park – This 2-acre park is located at 7017 Park Street. Facilities include a playground, swimming beach and pier, restroom/changing room facility, picnic shelter with 10 picnic tables and electrical outlet, grill, benches, and paved parking. The park also features a large, scenic gazebo that hosts events and concerts.

Phyllis B. Felland Memorial Water Ski Park – Facilities include a log toilet facility/shelter with drinking water fountain, bleachers and announcer stand, storage building/concession stand with electric hookups, and a large pier.

Three Eagle Trail – The southern segment of the trail is 8.4 miles long, ten feet wide and surfaced with crushed limestone. The trail also includes two boardwalks and one bridge.

Town Dog Park – This approximately 0.5-acre park is located at 1921 Epler Court. Facilities include parking, picnic tables, a covered shelter for large and small dogs, ADA restroom, two side by side, four foot high fenced in areas. One area for large dogs and a second area for small dogs. Each fenced area has a double gate entry and a third fenced area for senior dogs, for dog socialization training, to segregate dogs that are not good with other dogs, to give loner dogs and humans a separate area.

Town of Woodboro

Hancock Lake boat landing and parking lot.

Manson Lake boat landing and parking lot.

Washburn Lake boat landing and parking lot.

Nose Lake walk-in access.

Oneida Lake walk-in access.

Woodboro Lakes Wildlife Area – ATV Trail.

Woodboro Nose Lake Ski Trail.

Town of Woodruff

Brandy Park is in Vilas County in the Town of Arbor Vitae.

The Town of Woodruff and the Town of Arbor Vitae joined to establish the Brandy Park Commission to manage the development and maintenance of the co-owned Brandy Park. This park has the following facilities: two baseball fields with fencing and bleachers; soccer field with lighting; large shelter building with grills and picnic tables; two tennis courts; two sand volleyball courts; paved full basketball court with fencing; an extensive series of playground equipment including a well landscaped fenced-in area for younger children; swimming beach with pier and lifeguard stand; changing house & restroom facility; shoreline picnic area with tables, grills and rest benches; and paved walkway from shelter to beach parking area. Winter facilities include ice skating rink with a warming house and restrooms.

The Town's outdoor recreation facilities are augmented by facilities provided by the Northern Highland–American Legion State Forest, the local school system, numerous private resorts and attractions, and youth camps. The WDNR maintains public campground facilities at Lake Cunard, Carrol Lake, Clear Lake, Tomahawk Lake, and Buffalo Lake within the Town of Woodruff. The Raven Trail system and the Madeline Lake Trail system are groomed cross-country ski trails maintained by the WDNR. Boat landings provided by

the WDNR exist on Minocqua, Tomahawk, Clear, Madeline, Carrol, Dorothy, Sweeney, Cunard, Hasbrook, Gilmore, and Buffalo lakes.

3.8 State Facilities

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

Northern Highland American Legion State Forest (NHAL)

The **Northern Highland-American Legion (NHAL) State Forest** occupies more than 225,000 acres in Vilas, Oneida and Iron counties. Outdoor recreational opportunities are diverse and abundant on the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

Visitors are drawn to the forest's **water resources**. The forest is blessed with one of the highest concentrations of lakes in the world, making sport fishing a major recreational activity.

Camping is another popular activity on the NHAL. The forest offers 18 family campgrounds, plus two outdoor group camping areas. Two handicap accessible sites (one at Crystal Lake Campground and one at Firefly) have electrical hook-ups, and four campgrounds in all offer special facilities for disabled campers. In addition, 131 canoe and remote-reservable campsites are scattered throughout the forest for people wanting more private and primitive camping conditions. Backpack camping is also allowed by permit and deer hunter camping is seasonally available.

The forest has many **day use areas and trails**, including eight developed picnic areas; five interpretive nature trails totaling nearly eight miles in length; and three designated hiking trails totaling 18.5 miles. Other designated trails include 32 miles of mountain bike trails, 70 miles of cross-country ski trails and about 400 miles of snowmobile trails.

Recreational opportunities may be found on the forest at-large, in addition to those available at developed facilities. There are abundant small- and big-game **hunting and trapping opportunities**.

Hundreds of miles of logging roads and non-designated trails are open to all types of non-motorized uses, like hiking, skiing, horseback riding and mountain biking. Some unimproved roads are open and accessible to licensed motor vehicles, as well.

Finally, the NHAL provides "**wild land**" recreation for those seeking a pristine and quiet backcountry experience in areas with few support facilities, motorized vehicles, or signs of management activities.

Scenic Waters Area

The Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area is described as "almost Canada," because this flowage in Oneida County has a wild flavor. The area has more than 17,000 acres, 73 miles of shoreline, 106 islands, and seven boat landings. Rustic campsites around the shoreline and on the islands offer scenery and solitude. There are abundant walleye and panfish; northern pike, muskellunge, and bass; hunting and hiking opportunities; deer, bear, ruffed grouse, ducks, loons, and wolves.

State Fishery Areas

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

The following fishery areas in Oneida County are owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Department of Natural Resources:

- ***Jennie Creek Fishery Area***
- ***Mercer Lake Habitat Area***
- ***Mercer Lake Springs Fishery Area***

State Wildlife Areas

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

The following wildlife areas are owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Department of Natural Resources:

Thunder Lake Wildlife Area located 1 mile north of Three Lakes is a public hunting area that consists of 3,000 acres. The following recreational opportunities exist at Thunder Lake Wildlife Area: hunting (except the Waterfowl Closed Area around Rice Lake), trapping, hiking, snowmobiling trail, auto travel, berry picking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, and canoeing.

Woodboro Wildlife Area located about 10 miles west of Rhinelander is a public hunting area that consists of 3,000 acres. The following recreational opportunities exist at Woodboro Wildlife Area: hunting, trapping, hiking, snowmobiling trail, auto travel (high clearance and four-wheel drive vehicles—no ATVs), berry picking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, and canoeing.

State Natural Areas (SNA)

State natural areas were acquired to protect the state's natural diversity, provide sites for research and environmental education, and serve as benchmarks for assessing and guiding use of other lands in the state. Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water, which have native biotic communities, unique natural features, or significant geological or archeological sites. These sites do not have much facility development, though there may be a designated trail on the site.

The restrictions and guidelines that follow are applicable to most SNAs, though sites owned by agencies and organizations other than the DNR may have additional rules.

- Most SNAs are open to the public year around unless otherwise noted in the SNA site descriptions or posted at the site. SNAs within State Parks are generally open between 6:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M.
- Please recognize and respect the property of private landowners adjacent to SNAs by not trespassing. Seek the landowner's permission before crossing private lands.
- Do not collect plants (including fruits, nuts, or edible plant parts), animals, fungi, rocks, minerals, fossils, archaeological artifacts, soil, downed wood, or any other natural material, alive or dead. Collecting for scientific research requires a permit issued by the DNR.
- Vehicles, including bicycles, ATVs, aircraft, and snowmobiles, are prohibited except on trails and roadways designated for their use. Access is only by foot, skis, snowshoes, and watercraft. Some trails are wheelchair accessible.
- Pets are allowed on most DNR-owned SNAs, but must be kept on a leash no longer than 8', unless they are dogs being used for hunting purposes. Pets are prohibited on sites owned by The Nature Conservancy and most other private conservation organizations. Horseback riding is not allowed.
- Camping and fires are generally prohibited.
- Rock climbing and rappelling are prohibited, except on SNAs #98 and #164.
- Fishing, trapping, and hunting are allowed on most DNR-owned properties in accordance with state regulations.

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

1. **Atkins Lake & Hiles Swamp SNA (No. 238)** is 2,527 acres partially located in the Town of Piehl.
2. **Big Swamp SNA (No. 512)** is 2,914 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sugar Camp.
3. **Enterprise Hemlocks SNA (No. 608)** is 601 acres located within the Town of Enterprise.
4. **Finnerud Pine Forest SNA (No. 31)** is an UW-Madison Arboretum holding of old growth red pine. Contact the Arboretum at 608-263-7344 for access permission.
5. **Germain Hemlocks SNA (No. 355)** is 88 acres located in the Town of Cassian.
6. **Gobler Lake SNA (No. 115)** is 1,085 acres located in the Town of Little Rice that is partially state owned and partially county owned.
7. **Holmboe Conifer Forest SNA (No. 79)** is 33 acres located in the Town of Pelican.
8. **Lower Tomahawk River Pines SNA (No. 588)** is 242 acres located in the Town of Nokomis.

9. **One Stone Lake Hemlocks SNA (No. 629)** is 342 acres located near Columbus Lake in the Town of Sugar Camp.
10. **Pat Shay Lake SNA (No. 446)** is 736 acres partially located within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in the Town of Three Lakes.
11. **Patterson Hemlocks SNA (No. 216)** is 304 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
12. **Rainbow Wetlands SNA (No. 513)** is 2,357 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Newbold.
13. **Rice Lake SNA (No. 40)** is 1,242 acres located in the Thunder Lake Wildlife Area.
14. **Shallow Lake SNA (No. 514)** is 103 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Newbold.
15. **Spur Lake SNA (No. 537)** is 426 acres located in the Town of Three Lakes.
16. **Squirrel River Pines SNA (No. 244)** is 1,363 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
17. **Stone Lake Pines SNA (No. 185)** is 206 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sugar Camp.
18. **Sugar Camp Hemlocks SNA (No. 594)** is 80 acres located near Thunder Lake in the Town of Sugar Camp.
19. **Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks SNA (No. 510)** is 244 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
20. **Tomahawk River Pines SNA (No. 239)** is 1,040 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
21. **Two Lakes Pine-Oak Forest SNA (No. 511)** is 112 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
22. **Wind Pudding Lake SNA (No. 188)** is 340 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
23. **Upper Kaubashine Creek SNA (No. 650)** is 264 acres located within the Town of Hazelhurst.
24. **Upper Tomahawk River Pines SNA (No. 239)** is 842 acres located within the Town of Minocqua.

3.9 Federal Facilities

About 17,280 acres of the **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (Forest)** are located in Oneida County. Many outdoor recreational opportunities are available on the Forest that mainly exists within Forest County and Vilas County. No developed Forest recreational areas exist within Oneida County.

Recreational opportunities found on the Forest at-large include small- and big-game **hunting and trapping opportunities**. Hundreds of miles of logging roads and non-designated trails are open to all types of non-motorized uses, like **hiking, skiing, horseback riding and mountain biking**. Some unimproved roads are open and accessible to licensed motor vehicles, as well. Finally, the Forest provides **wilderness** recreation for those seeking a pristine and quiet backcountry experience in areas with few support facilities, motorized vehicles, or signs of management activities.

Wilderness Areas are the federal version of the state natural areas program. No federal wilderness areas exist in Oneida County.

3.10 Forested Lands – Not State or County Owned

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

As of 2023 there are about 5,062 acres enrolled under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) in Oneida County, which are open to the public to hunt and fish.

As of 2023 there are about 195,080 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program in Oneida County. Of that MFL acreage, there are about 125,187 acres designated “open” to the public for hunting (not trapping), fishing, hiking, sightseeing, and cross-country skiing only (s. 77.83(2)(a), Wis. Stats.).

Other than the following exception, MFL lands enrolled as open must not be posted as to restrict access. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation. Access by motor vehicles or snowmobiles may be prohibited by the landowner on open lands. Open MFL lands can be found on the DNR website at <http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/opfl/>. It is the responsibility of the user to know where they are and which land is open to the public.

Chapter 4:

COUNTY MAINTAINED RECREATION FACILITIES

4.1 Introduction

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

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

4.2 County Parks & Recreation Areas

The following parks and recreation areas are maintained by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD). Maps 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 show the locations of these parks and recreation areas:

Almon Recreation Area

This is the largest of the County's parks at 160 acres in size, and is located on the shores of Buck Lake. The park is comprised of two parts: the park area, and the nature trails area. Facilities include a swimming beach, an 18-hole disc golf course, two toilet buildings, changing rooms, nature trails, three picnic shelters, picnic tables, cooking grills, paved parking, and an open area for field games.

Perch Lake Park

Approximately five acres of developed area on Perch Lake make up this park that is surrounded by the county forest. Amenities found at Perch Lake Park include: a heated shelter building with electricity, picnic tables, cooking grills, toilet building, and a handicapped accessible fishing pier with asphalt access trail. The most popular feature of Perch Lake Park is that it serves as the main trailhead to the Washburn Silent Sports Trail System (described in the **Silent Sports Trails** segment of this chapter).

Gillette-Wickham Recreational Area

The Gillette-Wickham Lakes Recreation Area consists of two undeveloped, wilderness lakes totaling 51 acres in size. There is walk-in boat access to the lakes as well as a graveled parking lot.

Enterprise Forest Campground

The Enterprise Forest Campground is located on a 35-acre parcel of County Forest Land approximately 11 miles south of Rhinelander. The campground offers 11 gravel based campsites, toilet buildings, potable water, onsite firewood, and is located immediately adjacent to the Enterprise ATV Trail. Campsites are reserved through an

onsite self-registration system with no pre-registration or reservations. All campsites are large enough to accommodate pull behind campers and traditional tents alike. The campground is accessible by both car and ATV.

Townline Park

This park is approximately 21 acres. Facilities include a boat landing, swimming beach, a walking trail with benches, picnic tables, ADA kayak launch/pier, and parking lot.

Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area

This area utilizes a dam and water control structure to create an impoundment on Rice Creek and allow the water level to be manipulated. By raising and lowering the water level, the Forestry Department is able to manage aquatic vegetation for waterfowl to use as food and cover.

Highway O Fishing Bridge

Originally, the Highway O Fishing Bridge was a county highway bridge used to cross the Wisconsin River. In the early 1980's the County Highway Department abandoned the bridge and transferred it's ownership to the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department for use as a recreational bridge. In 2007 the FLRD replaced the old deteriorating bridge with a new steel clear span structure. The new clear span bridge is primarily used as a snowmobile trail and pedestrian fishing bridge.

Willow Rapids Scenic Area

Improvements include a small gravel parking area located near the scenic Willow Rapids along the Willow River.

4.3 County Forest

The Oneida County Forest has 82,920 acres of land. This land provides public access for various types of outdoor recreation. There are 39 miles of county forest roads to enhance access to these facilities. **Maps 3 through 6** shows where in the County Forest outdoor recreation facilities (e.g., trails, boat launches, piers, parks, and picnic areas) exist for the public to enjoy.

Recreational Use of the County Forest

Pedestrian access, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, hunting, fishing, trapping, picnicking/day use, collecting wild edibles, and camping (permit required) are currently permitted throughout the County Forest. These uses generally do not require a permit but must be conducted in compliance with the County Code of Ordinances.

Dispersed Camping within the County Forest.

Oneida County allows individuals to remote camp within the County Forest. Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days and requires a permit, which is available at the Oneida County Forestry Office.

Silent Sport Trails

Silent sport outdoor recreational trail facilities in the county forest include: **cross-country ski trails, snowshoe trails, hiking/hunter walking trails, fat tire bike trails, and mountain bike trails.**

Each of these trail types are described below:

Cross Country Ski Trails

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD) maintains approximately 35.5 miles of cross-country ski trails distributed in four areas of the county forest, shown on Maps 1, 5 and 6.

The Washburn Silent Sports Trail – This trail is 12 miles long, with access points located at Perch Lake Park and on Washburn Lake Road. The trail is located within the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. The trail is groomed for both classic tracked skiing and ski skating. Trail amenities, which are located at the Perch Lake Park trailhead, include a warming shelter and toilet building. The north end of the Washburn trail connects to the Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail at the Jct. of County Hwy K and Goodyear Lake Road in the Town of Cassian.

The Nose Lake Ski-Bike Trail – This 8-mile trail has a trailhead located on Hancock Oneida Lake Road in the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. The trail consists of two loops of approximately 4 miles each. This trail is groomed for classic tracked skiing only. Dogs are permitted on this ski trail.

The Cassian Two-Way Ski-Bike Trail – This 19-mile (roundtrip) ski trail and 25 mile roundtrip bike trail originates on County Highway K in the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. There is a shelter and toilet buildings toward the north end of the trail. This trail is groomed for classic tracked skiing only and is open to biking during the summer and fall.

The Enterprise Primitive Trail – This 8-mile trail is accessed via a trailhead located at the intersection of County Highway G and Zimmer Road in the Enterprise Block of the Oneida County Forest. This trail is groomed for fat tire bikes which also provides a surface suitable to primitive cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Dogs are permitted on this trail.

Snowshoe Trails

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department maintains approximately 18.6 miles of snowshoe trail distributed in four areas of the county forest, shown on Map 1.

The Washburn Non-Motorized Trail – The Washburn snowshoe trail totals approximately 6.5 miles in length. The snowshoe trail was designed with multiple loops that can be accessed at either the Perch Lake Park, or the Washburn Lake Road trailheads.

Nose Lake Trail – Two loops totaling 2.3 miles are located west of the parking lot on Hancock-Oneida Lake Rd. The trail is not groomed. Dogs are permitted on this trail.

The Almon Park Snowshoe Trail – This snowshoe trail is located within Almon Park in the Town of Pelican. The trail totals 2.1 miles in length and is divided into two separate loops with a spur trail connecting the loops and parking area.

The Enterprise Primitive Trail - This 8-mile trail consisting of two loops, is accessed via a trailhead located at the intersection of County Highway G and Zimmer Road in the Enterprise County Forest Block. This trail is groomed for fat tire biking, making it a relatively easy snowshoe trail. Dogs are permitted on this trail.

Mountain Bike Trails

Approximately 12 miles of double track mountain bike trails, and 12.8 miles of single-track bike trails are located in the Washburn Non-Motorized Trail system of the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. The Nose Lake Trail consists of 8 miles of double track trail. The Cassian Trail has 25 miles (round trip) of double track trail. Dogs are allowed on the Woodboro and Cassian trails. These trails are maintained by the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA), in cooperation with the FLRD, and are administered by the FLRD.

Hunter/Hiking Trails

The Forestry Land and Recreation Department maintains approximately 11 miles of hunter/hiking trails for recreational purposes. These trails are typically established on old logging roads that have been seeded with clover and are maintained to serve as wildlife travel paths and as walking trails for hunters and hikers. The Bird Lane Hunter Hiking Trail, located in the Town of Little Rice, consists of 5 miles of mowed trails traversing a range of age and size classes of Aspen making it an excellent opportunity for Grouse and Woodcock hunting. The Highway Q Hunter Hiking trail, located in the town of Enterprise, consists of 6 miles of trails traversing a variety of habitats and age classes. In addition to the two maintained trails, there are hundreds of miles of old logging trails that serve as hunting and hiking trails throughout the County Forest.

General Purpose Motorized Trails

There are approximately 200 miles of unsigned (non-marked) woodland trails located on Oneida County Forest Land that are open to all motorized vehicles year-round. During the winter months (generally December 15th – March 15th), the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department opens all gated trails on County Forest land (with the exception of those trails maintained for skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling) to motorized vehicle use. This opens up an additional 63 miles of woodland trail for winter motorized use.

Snowmobile Trails

Oneida County has approximately 760 miles of established public snowmobile trails: 483 miles are **state-funded** (of which 436 miles are county sponsored and 47 miles are state sponsored) and 309 miles are **club-funded**, non-sponsored snowmobile trails. Map 3 shows the location of the state-funded and club-funded trails, but there are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the County. The state-funded trails sponsored by Oneida County FLRD are maintained by the member clubs of the Oneida County Snowmobile Council. The Council is comprised of nine snowmobile clubs that meet monthly during the snowmobile season to provide continuous input to FLRD about the future direction of the County's snowmobile program.

ATV/UTV Trails (Segments are not mapped individually. Trails are on Maps 3, 4, and 6.)

Oneida County sponsors 48 miles of state funded All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)/Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) trails. In addition to the 48 miles of state funded off-road trails, there are 22 miles of road trail routes (TRouts).

The state funded ATV/UTV trails in Oneida County are as follows:

- **Little Rice Trail** is located in southwestern Oneida County and consists of 21 miles of off-road trail. These trails are open for public ATV/UTV use from May 22nd to December 2nd. These trails are located on County, State, and Private Industrial Forest lands.
- **Enterprise Trail** is located in south central Oneida County and consists of 19 miles of off-road trails that connect to approximately 75 miles of additional ATV/UTV trails located in Lincoln and Langlade Counties to the south and west. These trails are open for public ATV/UTV use from May 22nd to December 2nd. All trail miles within this segment are located on Oneida County Forest Land.
- **Cruiser's Road Trail** is located in the Town of Nokomis and consists of 2.25 miles of road routes and 2.8 miles of off-road route. This trail runs from CTH N to Oscar Jenne Rd. The trail lies on Oneida County Forest and WDNR land.
- **Gritzmachen Rd Trail** is 2.4 miles long running from Gritzmachen Rd to Woodruff Rd in the town of Woodruff.

The state funded trails sponsored by Oneida County FLRD are maintained by the member clubs of the Oneida County ATV/UTV Council. The Council is comprised of eleven ATV/UTV clubs that meet monthly during the ATV/UTV season to provide continuous input to FLRD about the future direction of the County's ATV/UTV program.

In addition to the above described ATV/UTV trails, there are approximately 214-miles of unsigned (non-marked) woodland trails located on Oneida County Forest Land that are open to all motorized vehicles year-round. During the winter months (generally December 15th – March 15th), the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department opens all gated trails on County Forest land (with the exception of those trails maintained for skiing and snowmobiling) to motorized vehicle use. This opens up an additional 63-miles of woodland trail for winter ATV/UTV use.

4.4 County Public Access Points to Water Bodies

Public access points to water bodies vary from primitive (e.g., canoe launch) to well developed (e.g., boat launches). Multiple jurisdictions own the access points. County maintained public access points are shown on Map 1.

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

Bass Lake (Town of Enterprise) Boat Landing

Facilities include a gravel boat launch with limited parking.

Bass Lake (Town of Little Rice) Boat Landing

Facilities include a gravel boat launch with limited parking.

Flannery Lake (Town of Newbold) Boat Landing

Facilities include a gravel boat launch with limited parking. An information kiosk is located at the landing.

Perch Lake (Town of Newbold) Boat Landing

Facilities include a gravel boat landing for non-motorized watercraft. Limited parking.

Tom Doyle Lake (Town of Newbold) Boat Landing

Facilities include an informational kiosk, a gravel road and gravel parking area, a concrete plank ramp, and a pier (5' x 20').

Townline Lake (Town of Crescent) Boat Landing

Facilities include a paved access road, paved boat landing, and ample parking.

Wisconsin River (County Highway O, Town of Newbold) Boat Landing

Facilities include a blacktopped approach with gravel ramp, and trailer parking.

Wisconsin River (Journey's End Road, Town of Pine Lake) Boat Landing

Facilities include a latrine, gravel ramp with minimal parking.

Chapter 5: OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

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

5.2 Public Participation

Informal Public Input

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

Summary of Survey Responses

In the spring of 2023, this survey was sent out for customer feedback. NCWRPC emailed survey notices to each town and Rhinelander, and emailed survey notices to a whole list of outdoor recreation groups provided by the Oneida County Forestry & Outdoor Recreation Department. Chambers of commerce were notified about the survey. In addition, the Department also placed a survey link on the County website and the Forestry web page, emailed link to all County employees, and placed an ad in the local newspaper. The survey was open for 5 weeks.

We received **1,070 responses** to the survey. Although not statistically significant of the whole population, this survey does provide a much deeper understanding of the wants and needs for outdoor recreation than a public hearing, so the results are very valuable. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had smaller response groups.

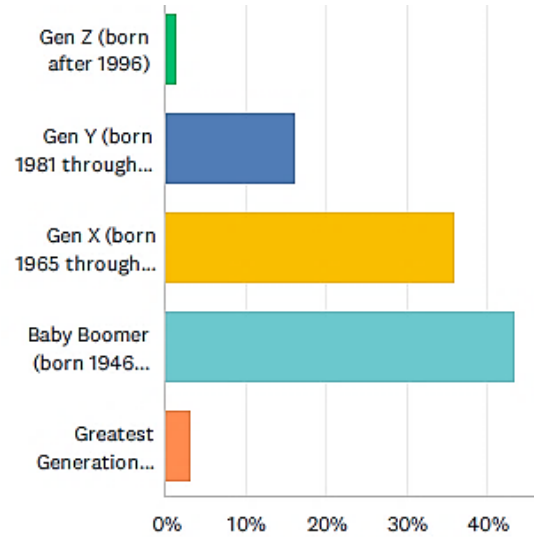
About 75% of respondents live or own a seasonal dwelling in Oneida County. Most municipalities were represented with about 2/3rds of respondents answering this question. 901 respondents listed the Zip Code of their permanent residence:

60010 53051 53072 54476 54564 54449
54568 54401 54428 54538 53154
54937 54521 54548 54531
53188 54539 54487 53004
53562 54562 54529 54463
53076 54130 54403 54435 53095
54520 53590 54424 54952 53532 54913

About 56% of respondents were male, and about 42% were female, with 2% preferring not to answer.

Respondents came from all age groups, with a strong showing of at least 35% in the Gen X (born 1965–1980) and Baby Boomer (born 1946–1964) groups.

Through an IP address analysis of who took the survey it appears that 61 IP addresses are at least duplicated, which could mean that a husband and wife both took the survey. 34 of these duplicate IP addresses did not complete over half the survey, which appears to be people giving up some way through the survey since there is no end question where most of these people stopped. 5 IP addresses repeated 3 times, 2 IP addresses repeated 4 times, one IP address repeated 5 times, one IP address repeated 8 times, and one IP address repeated 61 times. I took special care to review the IP address repeated 61 times...and found that many of those responses finished the survey, showing very different answers, different communities, and many who don't even live in Oneida County.



All of those duplicate IP addresses did not have the same answers, so it appears that nobody “stuffed the ballot box.”

For the full survey results (204 pages) and written comments go online here:
<https://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/orp/>

Key Findings of the ORP Survey:

Answered: 1,070 Skipped: 0

- The most frequent outdoor recreational activities respondents participated in:
 1. Walking / Hiking 79% of responses
 2. Boating 69% of responses
 3. Fishing 62% of responses
 4. Swimming 59% of responses
 5. Canoeing / Kayaking 59% of responses

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

Answered: 688 Skipped: 382

1. Bicycling improvements	230 total responses
a. Bike trails	152 responses
b. Mountain bike trails	37 responses
c. Biking	21 responses
d. "mountain biking"	20 responses
2. ATV / UTV improvements	184 total responses
a. ATV / UTV trails	126 responses
b. "ATV / UTV"	38 responses
b. ATV / UTV routes	20 responses
3. Walking / Hiking / Nature trails	96 responses
4. Need a swimming area	69 total responses
a. Splash Pad	34 responses
b. Swimming beaches	18 responses
c. Waterpark	10 responses
d. Pool	7 responses
5. Camping	58 total responses
a. More camping	33 responses
b. Rustic camping	15 responses
c. RV camping/water & electric sites	10 responses
6. Snowmobiling	43 responses
7. Cross country ski trails	33 responses
8. Snowshoeing trails	25 responses
9. Skate park	22 responses
10. Better playgrounds	21 responses
11. Public hunting land	21 responses
12. ADA accessible facilities	20 responses
13. Pickleball	20 responses

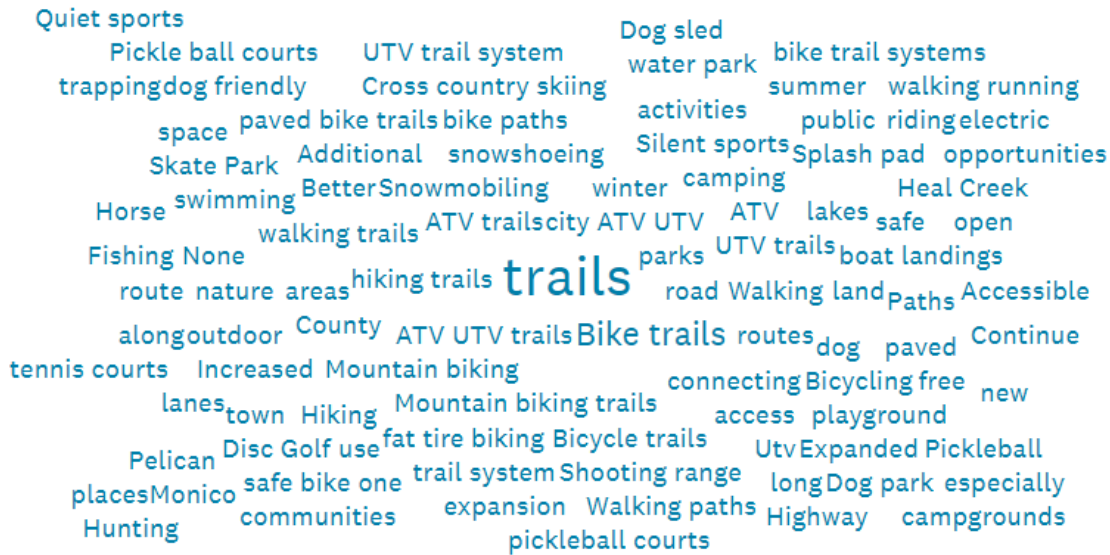
- 14. Dog sled trails 20 responses
- 15. Shooting range 16 responses
- 16. Disc golf 15 responses
- 17. Winter fat tire bike trails 14 responses

Here are 3 word clouds of the comments from **Question 2**, where respondents could list something up to 3 times (that's why there are 3 word clouds):

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

Word Cloud 1 of 3

“trails” was noted 78 times.



Word Cloud 2 of 3
 “trails” was noted 52 times.

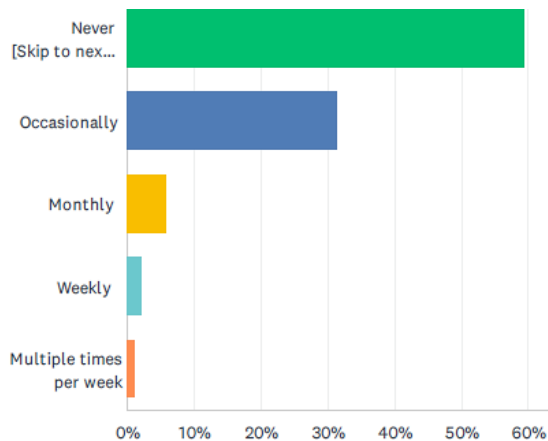


Word Cloud 3 of 3
 “trails” was noted 29 times.



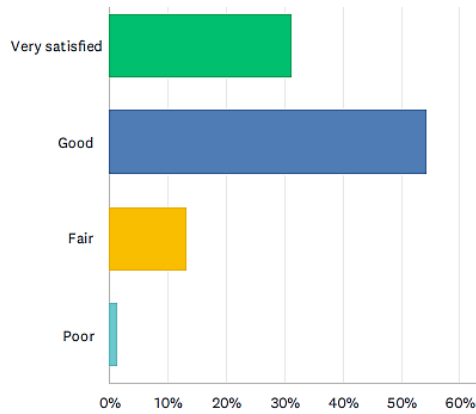
Q3. How often do you use Almon County Park (on Buck Lake)?

Answered: 1,063 Skipped: 7



Q4. Rate your overall satisfaction with Almon County Park (on Buck Lake)?

Answered: 408 Skipped: 662



Q5. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Almon County Park (on Buck Lake)?

Answered: 399 Skipped: 671

	NOT APPLICABLE(I DO NOT USE THIS.)	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY SATISFIED	TOTAL
Swimming Beach	18.39% 73	3.02% 12	19.14% 76	42.57% 169	16.88% 67	397
Changing Rooms	46.19% 176	3.15% 12	14.70% 56	25.98% 99	9.97% 38	381
Toilet Building	25.78% 99	3.13% 12	24.48% 94	37.24% 143	9.38% 36	384
Disc Golf Course	60.16% 225	1.07% 4	6.95% 26	22.46% 84	9.36% 35	374
Nature Trails	15.79% 60	2.89% 11	15.26% 58	47.63% 181	18.42% 70	380
Rudolph Shelter Pavilion	48.68% 185	0.53% 2	7.63% 29	28.16% 107	15.00% 57	380
Pavilion Reservation Process	74.73% 281	1.06% 4	4.26% 16	10.90% 41	9.04% 34	376
Picnic Tables & Grills	35.09% 133	4.49% 17	18.73% 71	31.13% 118	10.55% 40	379
Parking Facilities	3.37% 13	2.07% 8	16.84% 65	54.92% 212	22.80% 88	386

Q6. (Optional) What additional improvements would you like at Almon County Park (on Buck Lake)?

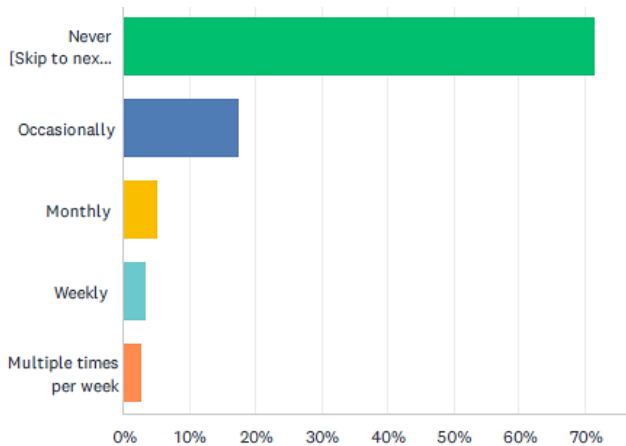
Answered: 115 Skipped: 955



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

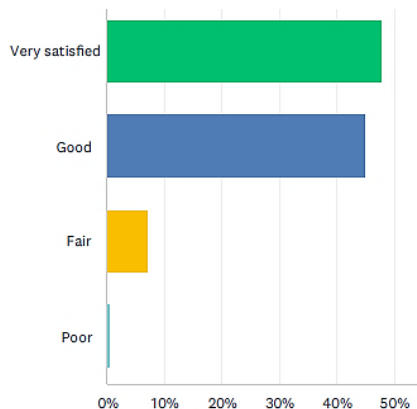
Q7. How often do you use Perch Lake County Park?

Answered: 1,029 Skipped: 41



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

Answered: 287 Skipped: 783



Q9. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Perch Lake County Park:

Answered: 284 Skipped: 786

	NOT APPLICABLE(I DO NOT USE THIS.)	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY SATISFIED	TOTAL
Accessible Fishing Pier	34.17% 95	0.36% 1	8.99% 25	40.65% 113	15.83% 44	278
Judy Swank Shelter	14.91% 41	0.00% 0	3.64% 10	30.91% 85	50.55% 139	275
Shelter Reservation Process	67.77% 185	0.37% 1	4.76% 13	11.72% 32	15.38% 42	273
Picnic Tables & Grills	26.09% 72	0.36% 1	11.59% 32	42.03% 116	19.93% 55	276
Recreation Trails	8.70% 24	1.09% 3	6.88% 19	34.78% 96	48.55% 134	276
Toilet Buildings	15.58% 43	1.09% 3	15.22% 42	38.41% 106	29.71% 82	276
Parking Facilities	2.55% 7	3.64% 10	20.36% 56	48.00% 132	25.45% 70	275

Q10. (Optional) What additional improvements would you like at Perch Lake County Park?

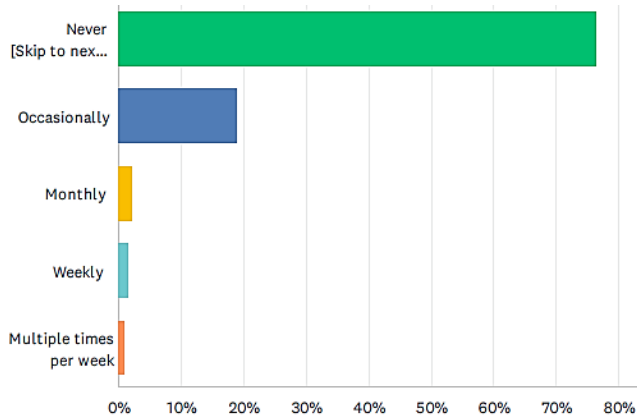
Answered: 96 Skipped: 974



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

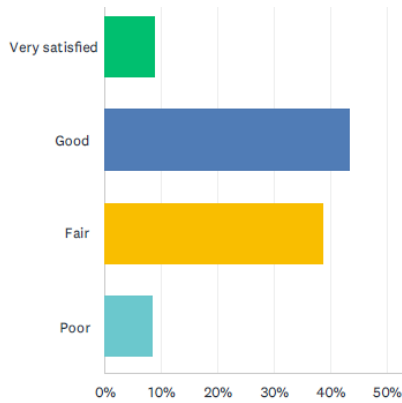
Q11. How often do you use Towlne Lake County Park?

Answered: 1,012 Skipped: 58



Q12. Rate your overall satisfaction with Towlne Lake County Park:

Answered: 234 Skipped: 836



Q13. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Towlne Lake County Park:

Answered: 222 Skipped: 848

	NOT APPLICABLE(I DO NOT USE THIS.)	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY SATISFIED	TOTAL
Beach Area	26.48% 58	26.94% 59	25.11% 55	19.18% 42	2.28% 5	219
Picnic Tables / Picnic Area	21.10% 46	16.97% 37	30.28% 66	26.15% 57	5.50% 12	218
Boat Landing	40.64% 89	16.44% 36	23.74% 52	16.89% 37	2.28% 5	219
Parking Facilities	6.42% 14	7.34% 16	37.61% 82	41.28% 90	7.34% 16	218

Q14. (Optional) What additional improvements would you like to see at Townline Lake County Park?

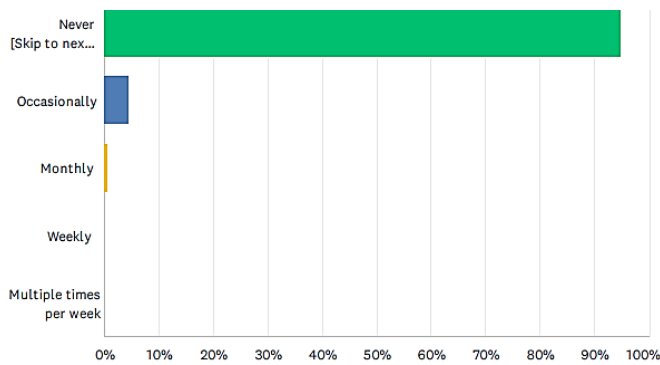
Answered: 91 Skipped: 979



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

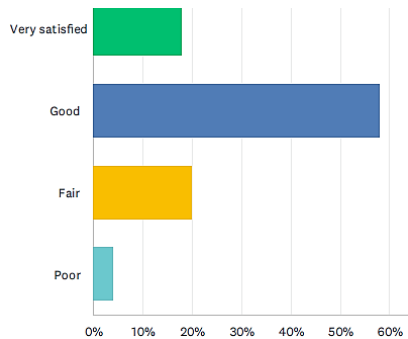
Q15. How often do you use Gillette-Wickham Lakes Recreational Area?

Answered: 998 Skipped: 72



Q16. Rate your overall satisfaction with Gillette-Wickham Lakes Recreational Area:

Answered: 50 Skipped: 1,020



Q17. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Gillette-Wickham Lakes Recreational Area:

Answered: 50 Skipped: 1,020

	NOT APPLICABLE(I DO NOT USE THIS.)	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY SATISFIED	TOTAL
Boat Access	25.00% 12	10.42% 5	31.25% 15	22.92% 11	10.42% 5	48
Parking	2.08% 1	10.42% 5	29.17% 14	50.00% 24	8.33% 4	48

Q18. (Optional) What additional improvements would you like to see at Gillette-Wickham Lakes Recreational Area?

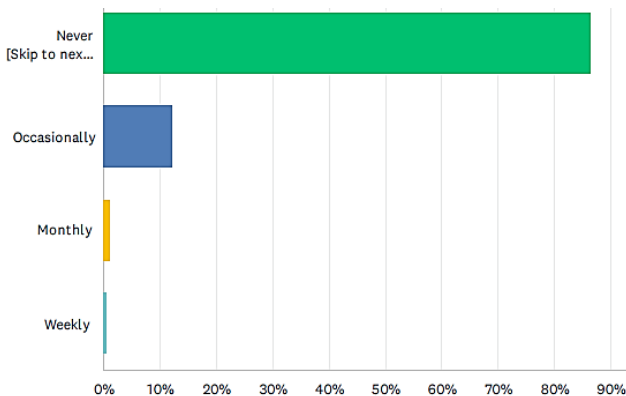
Answered: 21 Skipped: 1,049



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

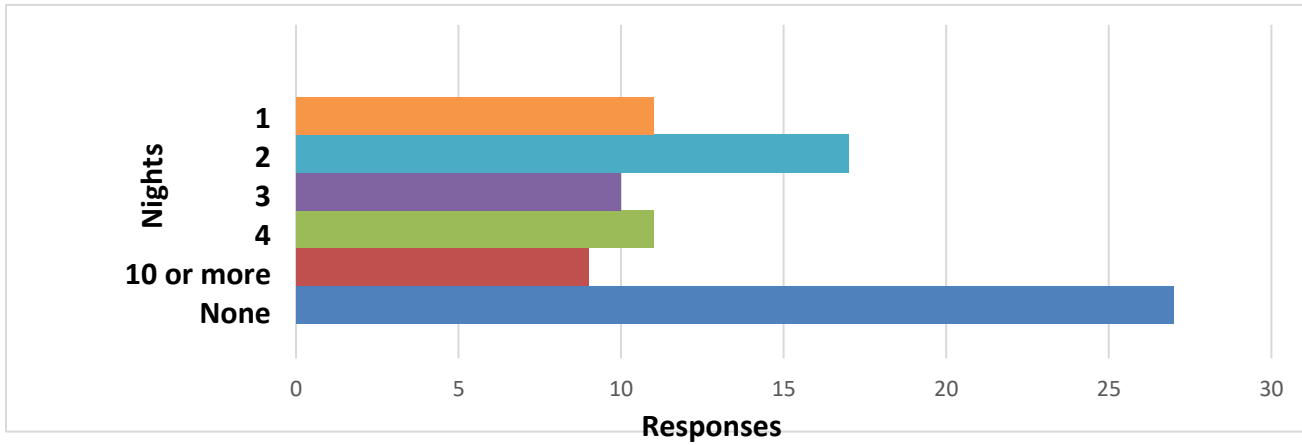
Q19. How often do you use the Enterprise Campground?

Answered: 996 Skipped: 74



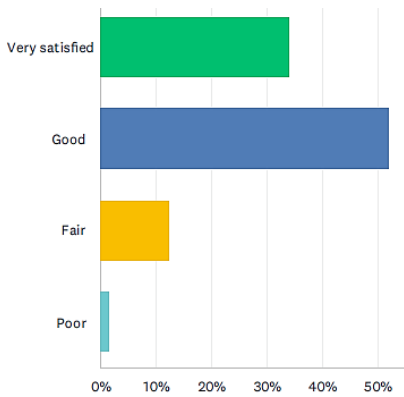
Q20. Estimate how many nights you spent camping at Enterprise Campground in 2022:

Answered: 94 Skipped: 976



Q21. Rate your overall satisfaction with Enterprise Campground:

Answered: 129 Skipped: 941



Q22. Rate your satisfaction with the following amenities at Enterprise Campground:

Answered: 123 Skipped: 947

	NOT APPLICABLE(I DO NOT USE THIS.)	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY SATISFIED	TOTAL
Individual campsite size	25.62% 31	0.00% 0	9.92% 12	42.15% 51	22.31% 27	121
Number of campsites	24.37% 29	2.52% 3	18.49% 22	44.54% 53	10.08% 12	119
Camping fees	25.00% 29	0.00% 0	12.07% 14	43.97% 51	18.97% 22	116
Campground rules & regulations	24.58% 29	0.85% 1	9.32% 11	44.92% 53	20.34% 24	118
Toilet building	19.17% 23	0.83% 1	15.83% 19	46.67% 56	17.50% 21	120
Water hand pumps	22.61% 26	1.74% 2	14.78% 17	46.96% 54	13.91% 16	115
Picnic tables & fire rings	17.24% 20	0.86% 1	14.66% 17	50.00% 58	17.24% 20	116
Firewood availability	31.30% 36	2.61% 3	12.17% 14	31.30% 36	22.61% 26	115
Registration process	27.19% 31	0.88% 1	9.65% 11	45.61% 52	16.67% 19	114
Adjoining ATV / UTV trail	21.37% 25	0.85% 1	5.98% 7	30.77% 36	41.03% 48	117

Q23. (Optional) What additional improvements would you like to see regarding Enterprise Campground?

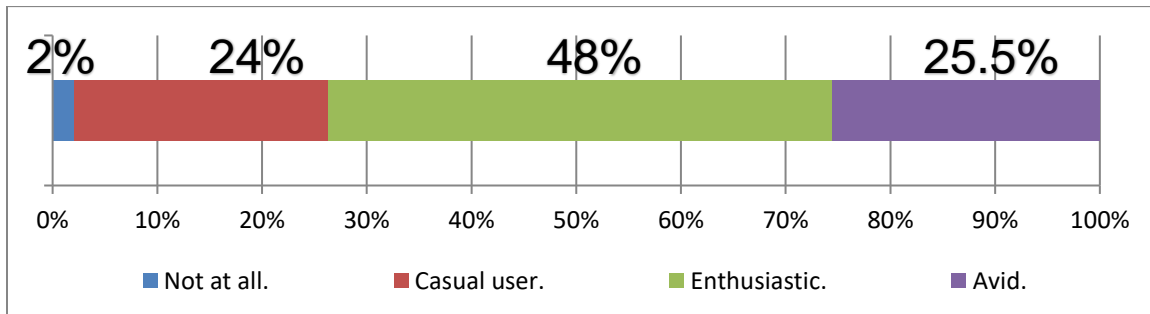
Answered: 38 Skipped: 1,032



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

Q24. What type of water enthusiast are you?

Answered: 976 Skipped: 94



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

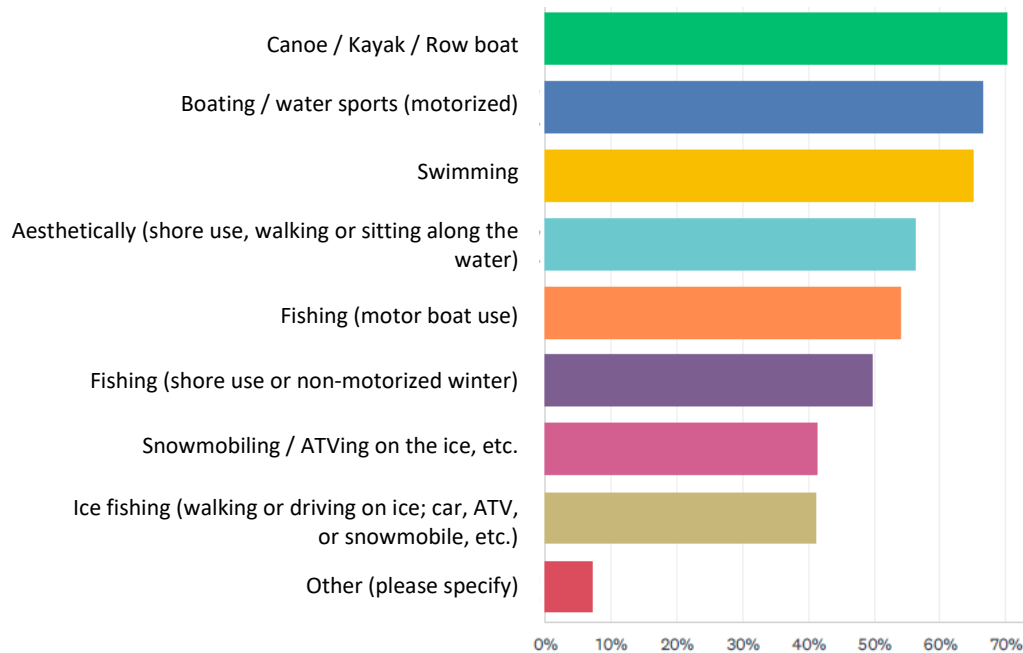
Casual user. (I like to use the water, but only do so occasionally.)

Enthusiastic. (I access or go on the water regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)

Avid. (I am always on the water or ice every chance I get.)

Q25. How do you use the water?

(Choose all that apply.) Answered: 962 Skipped: 108



Q26. (Optional) What public boat landings or water access improvements are needed in Oneida County? Answered: 270 Skipped: 800



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

Q27. How often do you use the following Summer Silent Sport Trails?

Answered: 944 Skipped: 126

	NEVER	OCCASIONALLY	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	MULTIPLE TIMES PER WEEK	TOTAL
Nose Lake Bicycle Trails	80.02% 741	13.82% 128	2.59% 24	2.16% 20	1.40% 13	926
Cassian Bicycling Trails	82.39% 753	13.13% 120	2.19% 20	1.53% 14	0.77% 7	914
Washburn Single Track Bicycling Trails	79.43% 730	10.55% 97	3.05% 28	3.70% 34	3.26% 30	919
Washburn Double Track Bicycling Trails	83.30% 763	10.15% 93	2.73% 25	2.73% 25	1.09% 10	916
Washburn Hiking Trails	66.81% 620	22.20% 206	5.17% 48	4.31% 40	1.51% 14	928

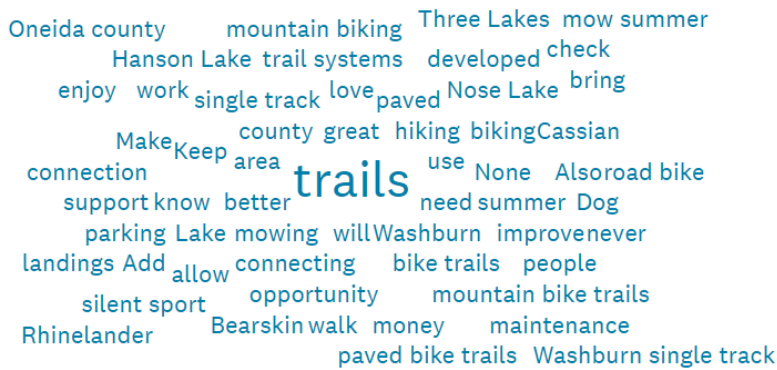
Q28. Rate your satisfaction with the Summer Silent Sport Trails?

Answered: 922 Skipped: 148

	NOT APPLICABLE(I DO NOT USE THIS.)	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY SATISFIED	TOTAL
Nose Lake Bicycling Trails	78.85% 716	0.99% 9	4.63% 42	11.78% 107	3.74% 34	908
Cassian Bicycling Trails	81.19% 725	0.90% 8	5.82% 52	9.63% 86	2.46% 22	893
Washburn Single Track Bicycling Trails	77.84% 706	0.55% 5	3.86% 35	10.03% 91	7.72% 70	907
Washburn Double Track Bicycling Trails	81.44% 733	0.67% 6	3.78% 34	10.11% 91	4.00% 36	900
Washburn Hiking Trails	66.85% 607	0.55% 5	4.74% 43	19.16% 174	8.70% 79	908

Q29. (Optional) What improvements to Summer Silent Sport Trails would you like to see?

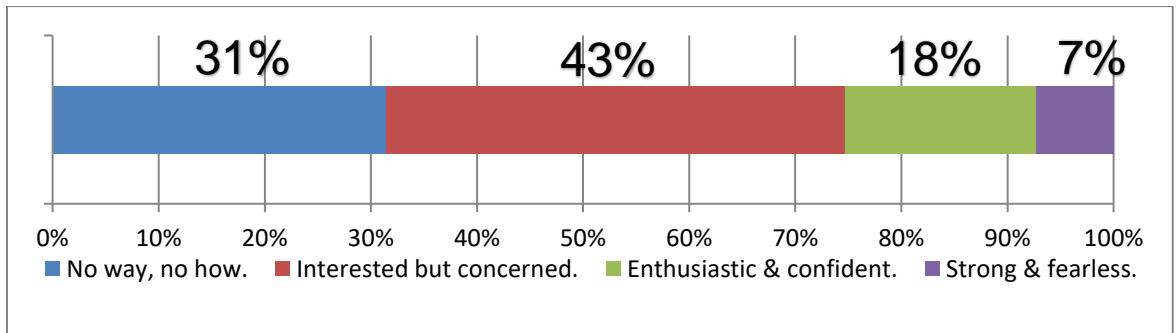
Answered: 164 Skipped: 906



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

Q30. What type of bicyclist are you?

Answered: 934 Skipped: 136



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

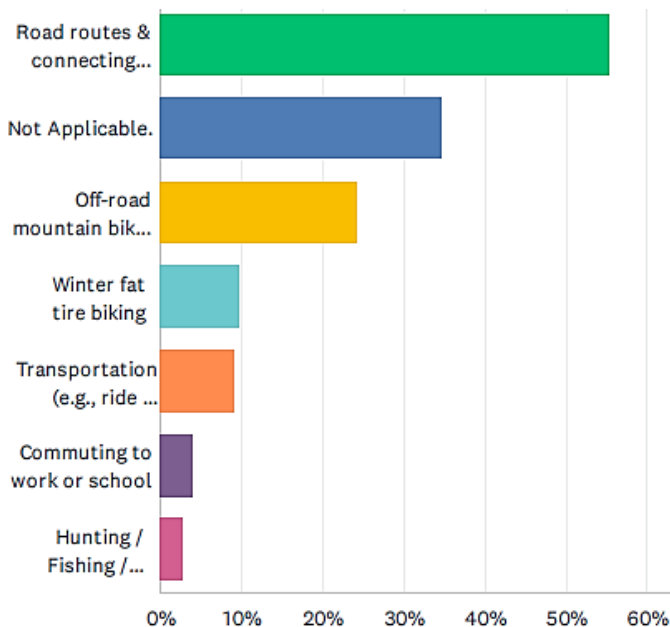
Interested but concerned. (I like riding, but don't do it regularly. I'm generally concerned that my route is not safe to ride, so I don't ride often. I definitely do not ride when the weather is bad.)

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

Strong and fearless. (I am confident in my abilities and will ride regardless of roadway conditions, amount of traffic, or inclement weather.)

Q31. How are you using your bicycle?

Answered: 934 Skipped: 136



Q32. (Optional) What bicycling improvements are needed in Oneida County?

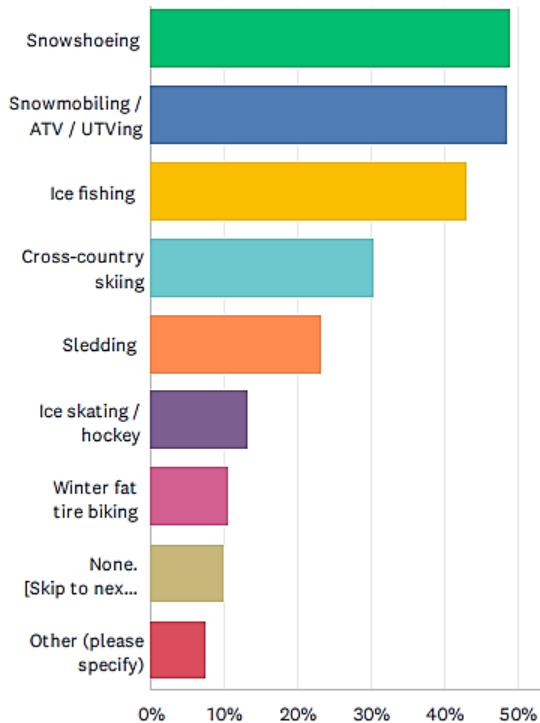
Answered: 261 Skipped: 809



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

Q33. What winter recreation activities do you participate in?

Answered: 932 Skipped: 138



Q34. How often do you use the following Winter Silent Sports Trails?

Answered: 824 Skipped: 246

	NEVER	OCCASIONALLY	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	MULTIPLE TIMES PER WEEK	TOTAL
Cassian Ski Trail	77.50% 627	13.10% 106	4.45% 36	3.09% 25	1.85% 15	809
Enterprise Fat Tire Bike Trail	88.89% 704	5.68% 45	2.27% 18	2.53% 20	0.63% 5	792
Enterprise Snowshoe / Ski Trail	80.99% 652	13.54% 109	3.98% 32	1.12% 9	0.37% 3	805
Nose Lake Ski Trail	81.95% 654	9.27% 74	3.63% 29	3.38% 27	1.75% 14	798
Nose Lake Snowshoe Trail	83.61% 663	11.98% 95	2.65% 21	1.51% 12	0.25% 2	793
Washburn Ski Trails	77.18% 619	10.97% 88	4.74% 38	4.86% 39	2.24% 18	802
Washburn Snowshoe Trails	76.33% 616	15.37% 124	5.20% 42	2.35% 19	0.74% 6	807
Washburn Fat Tire Bike Trail	89.10% 703	6.08% 48	1.65% 13	2.66% 21	0.51% 4	789

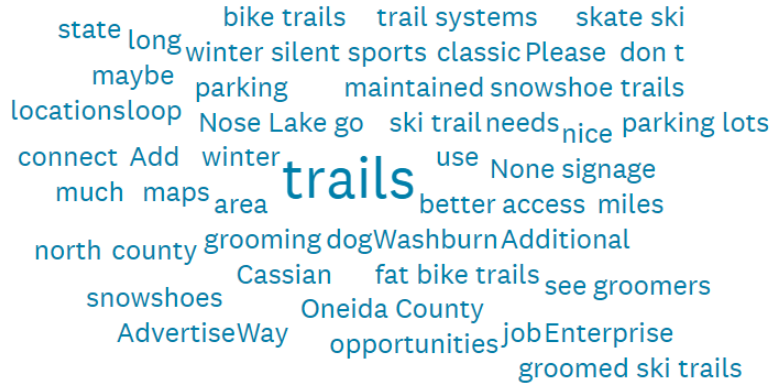
Q35. Rate your overall satisfaction with the Winter Silent Sports Trails:

Answered: 824 Skipped: 246

	NOT APPLICABLE(I DO NOT USE THIS.)	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY SATISFIED	TOTAL
Cassian Ski Trail	76.56% 614	0.37% 3	3.99% 32	12.22% 98	6.86% 55	802
Enterprise Fat Tire Bike Trail	87.20% 688	0.25% 2	2.15% 17	4.44% 35	5.96% 47	789
Enterprise Snowshoe / Ski Trail	80.18% 639	0.25% 2	4.02% 32	11.17% 89	4.39% 35	797
Nose Lake Ski Trail	80.99% 639	0.13% 1	2.79% 22	7.73% 61	8.37% 66	789
Nose Lake Snowshoe Trail	83.06% 657	0.38% 3	3.67% 29	7.59% 60	5.31% 42	791
Washburn Ski Trails	77.74% 618	0.13% 1	1.76% 14	9.43% 75	10.94% 87	795
Washburn Snowshoe Trails	77.38% 619	0.25% 2	3.25% 26	11.00% 88	8.13% 65	800
Washburn Fat Tire Bike Trail	88.58% 690	0.26% 2	1.80% 14	4.36% 34	5.01% 39	779

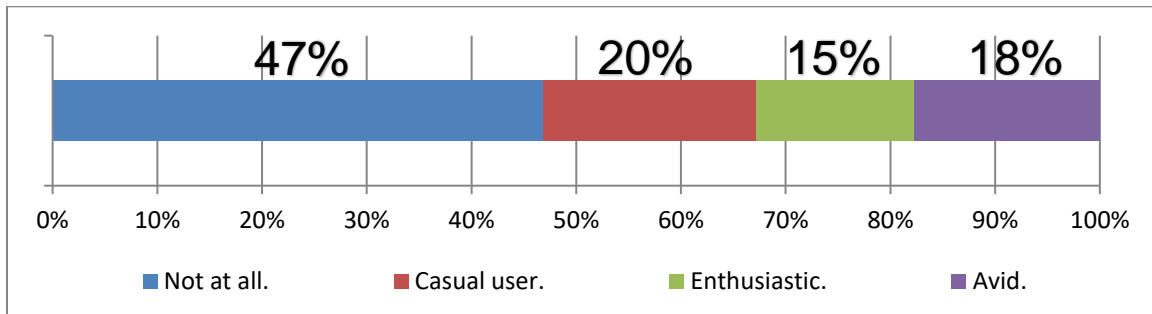
Q36. (Optional) What improvements to Winter Silent Sports Trails would you like to see?

Answered: 133 Skipped: 937



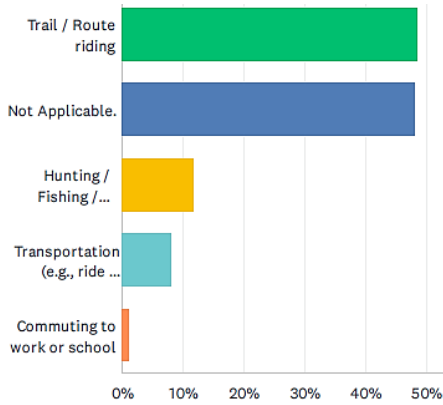
(Word Cloud – The larger the word the more mentions)

Q37. What type of snowmobile enthusiast are you? Answered: 819 Skipped: 251



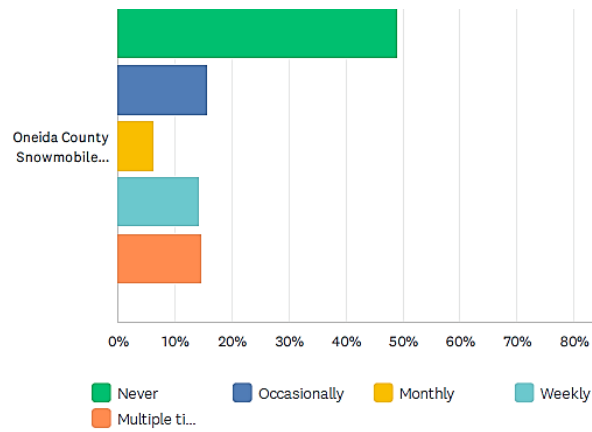
- Not at all.** (I'm not interested in snowmobiling at all, not even with friends.)
- Casual user.** (I like snowmobiling for fun, but only do so occasionally, **OR only** on my own land.)
- Enthusiastic.** (I access or go on snowmobile routes and trails regularly.)
- Avid.** (I am always on a snowmobile every chance I get – all season long.)

Q38. How are you using your snowmobile? Answered: 819 Skipped: 251



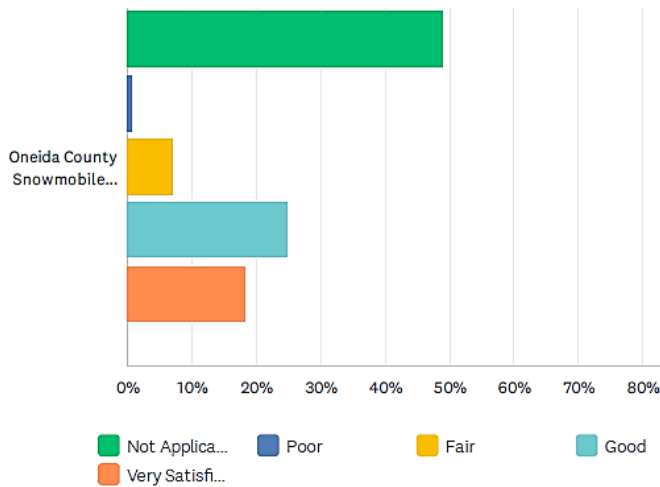
Q39. How often do you use the following trails?

Answered: 819 Skipped: 251



Q40. Rate your satisfaction with the following trails:

Answered: 819 Skipped: 251



Q41. (Optional) What improvements to Oneida County Snowmobile Trails would you like to see?

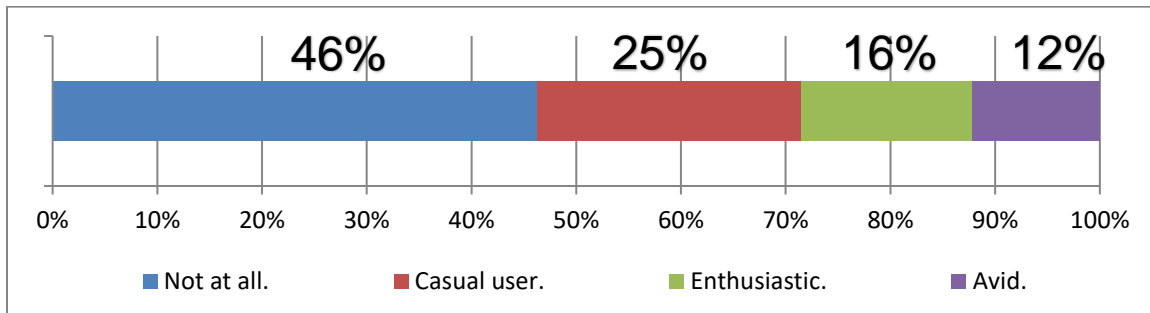
Answered: 199 Skipped: 871



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

Q42. What type of motorized vehicle (ATV/UTV) enthusiast are you?

Answered: 907 Skipped: 163



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

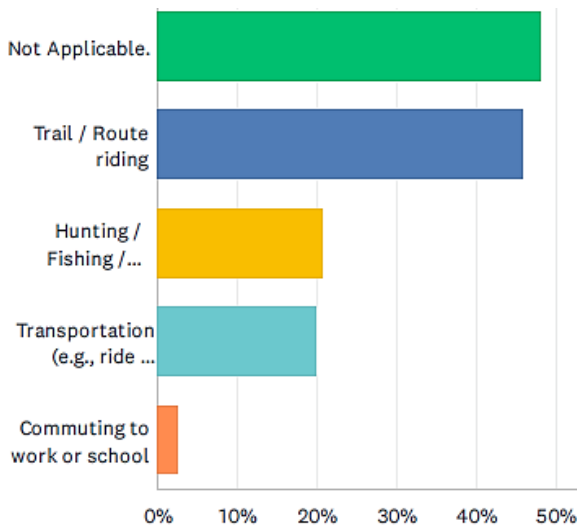
Casual user. (I like using motorized vehicles for fun, but **only** do so occasionally, **OR only** on my own land.)

Enthusiastic. (I access or go on motorized routes and trails regularly in summer, and I might occasionally access the ice in winter.)

Avid. (I am always on a motorized vehicle every chance I get – all year long.)

Q43. How are you using your motorized vehicle (ATV / UTV)?

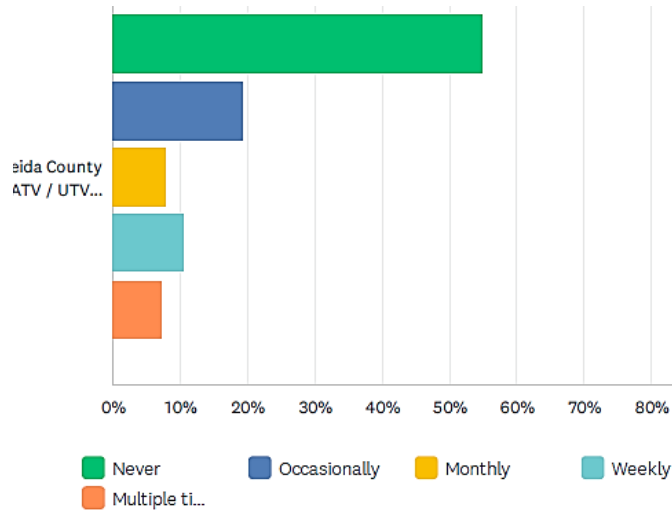
Answered: 907 Skipped: 163



Q44. How often do you use the following trails?

Answered: 907 Skipped: 163

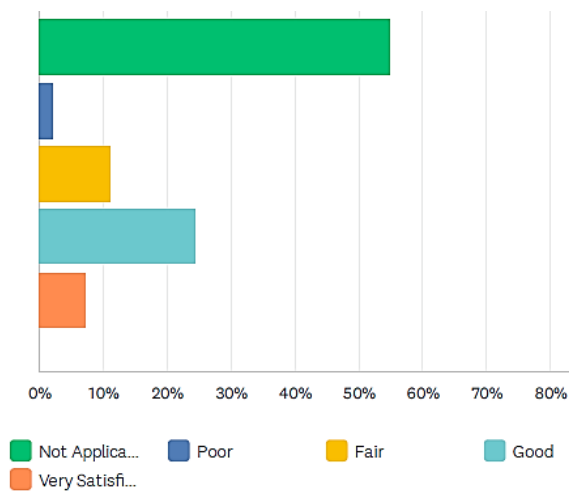
Oneida County ATV / UTV Trails



Q45. Rate your overall satisfaction with the following trails:

Answered: 907 Skipped: 163

Oneida County ATV / UTV Trails



Q46. (Optional) What improvements to Oneida County ATV / UTV Trails would you like to see?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 840



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

Q47. (Optional) Do you have any comments on any other Oneida County managed facilities?

Answered: 128 Skipped: 942



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

Q48. (Optional) Do you have any other concerns or comments?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 914



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

For the full survey results (204 pages) and written comments go online here:

<https://www.ncwrpc.org/oneida/orp/>

5.3 Needs Driven Park Planning

Since the 1960's, an accepted practice has been to adopt a uniform national land standard, such as 10 acres per 1,000 population, for park planning. A standard amount of land for parks and recreation nationwide is no longer recognized as universal for a park.

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

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

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

Park Design Criteria

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

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

Each park classification contains the following:

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

Park Acreage

The size of a park is determined by two criteria:

1. Physical geography. Does the site have steep hills, woodlands, or wetlands? Such natural features are useful for exploration, conservation, aesthetic buffers, and unprogrammed buffers between uses.
2. Park facilities. *What activities are allowed or will be allowed?* This is determined by physical inventory and by asking for public input.

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

Chapter 6:

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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

Goal 1 – Protect, restore, and enhance Oneida County's natural resources for outdoor recreation.

Objectives

1. Follow Best Management Practices for erosion control while developing trails and recreation facilities.
2. Improve and protect access to water resources through improved boat/kayak launch sites.
3. Cooperate with the County Land and Water Conservation Department to control aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.

Goal 2 – Support development and connection of trails.

Objectives

1. Support walking and biking trail development countywide.
2. Support ATV/UTV trail development countywide.
3. Support snowmobile trail development countywide.
4. Support local government or local group development of trails for hiking, biking, walking, birding, ATV/UTVing, and snowmobiling.

Goal 3 – Continue upgrading parks to provide ADA compliant facilities.

Objective

- Incorporate ADA accessibility into all capital improvements as appropriate. Existing facilities will become accessible as routine maintenance occurs when new fixtures are replaced.

Chapter 7:

RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The recommendations and capital improvements are based on the goals and objectives (Chapter 6), and the public comment documented in Chapter 5-Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment. Although it is unlikely that all recommendations presented in this plan will be undertaken in the next five years, they should be recognized as causes for action if the opportunity or need arises.

7.1 Countywide Recommendations

Possible Recreation Coordinator Position in Department

Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD) staff is currently doing a good job by most user group accounts. The trend in Oneida County for wanting more recreational opportunities has been building for many years. Other counties with similarly heavy recreational demand have created a recreation coordinator within the forestry department.

Recommendation: Consult other counties with extensive county forests and a recreation coordinator to help determine if such a position would benefit Oneida County.

Boat landing/access point improvements

Question 26 on the Spring 2023 Outdoor Recreation survey asked respondents what improvements were needed at boat landings or access points. There were 270 people that commented mainly with specific improvement ideas. See those comments online.

Recommendations:

1. Inventory existing conditions at each boat launch, and create a multi-year schedule for specific upgrades.
2. Consider installing ADA portable toilets at highly used boat launches.
3. Once inventory is complete, then consider which boat launches to add fee and/or information stations at.

Enhanced Customer Feedback

Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD) staff is available daily to answer questions from the public. If people are generally satisfied with a facility, then they typically do not seek out an email or phone number to make a comment. Only if a facility is seriously broken would someone actively seek a way to comment to FLRD staff.

Recommendation: Place comment/suggestion boxes at trail head facilities, park facilities, and campground.

Trail Maintenance

Continue to work with volunteer groups to maintain trails. The Oneida County Forestry Department has an active working relationship with clubs and organizations to maintain the respective silent sport trails and motorized sport trails throughout the Oneida County Forest.

This recommendation is to continue those relationships.

Summer Silent Sport Trails

Question 29 on the Spring 2023 Outdoor Recreation survey asked respondents what improvements were needed at summer silent sport trails. There were 164 people that commented with specific improvement ideas. See comments in online document.

Recommendation:

1. Continue to implement the **Oneida County Countywide Biking & Walking Routes & Trails Plan 2010.**
2. Continue to work with silent sport groups to identify and develop new silent sports trails where appropriate.
3. Review Q29 comments in online document for specific summer silent sport trail improvement suggestions.

Bicycling Improvements Countywide

Question 32 on the Spring 2023 Outdoor Recreation survey asked respondents what bicycling improvements are needed in Oneida county. There were 261 people that commented with specific improvement ideas. See comments in online document.

Recommendation:

1. Continue to implement the **Oneida County Countywide Biking & Walking Routes & Trails Plan 2010.**
2. Review Q32 comments in online document for specific bicycling improvement suggestions.

Motorized Sports Trails (ATV/UTV and Snowmobile)

Questions 41 and 46 on the Spring 2023 Outdoor Recreation survey asked respondents what improvements to snowmobile trails or motorized sports trails (ATV/UTV) were needed. There were 199 snowmobile comments (Q41) and 230 ATV/UTV comments (Q46) regarding specific improvement ideas. See comments online.

Continue to work with ATV/UTV and Snowmobile clubs to identify and develop new motorized recreation trails within the county. Funding for new trail development and for maintenance of trails will be provided through the ATV/UTV and snowmobile trail development and maintenance grant program and through the Recreational Trail Program (RTP).

Recommendation:

1. Review Q41 and Q46 comments in online document for specific snowmobile trail and ATV/UTV trail improvement suggestions.
2. Consider using **Maps 3 & 4** when developing routes and trails throughout Oneida County.

3. As trail networks continue to be developed, trail development groups should come together to coordinate on mutually agreeable shared use plans at trail intersection and overlap sections (aka "pinch points").
4. Review a GIS coverage of all un-marked county forest roads that are open to all uses; consider mapping routes that would be useful to various uses; and work with trail development groups (motorized and silent sport) to install route signs.

Winter Silent Sport Trails

Question 26 on the Spring 2023 Outdoor Recreation survey asked respondents what improvements were needed at winter silent sport trails. There were 133 people that commented with specific improvement ideas.

Recommendation:

1. Maintain forest canopy near trails through selective cutting vs clear cutting in timber types where individual tree selection harvests are appropriate.
2. Increase trail fees.
3. Increase winter maintenance of trails.

Hunting & Trapping

The Forestry Land and Recreation Department maintains approximately 40 miles of hiking/hunter walking trails for recreational purposes. These trails are located throughout the county forest. These trails are typically established on old logging roads that have been seeded with clover and are maintained to serve as wildlife travel paths and as walking trails for hunters and hikers.

Recommendation:

1. Continue to manage the county forest to provide hunting and trapping opportunities.
2. Consider allowing a partnership with a non-profit/friends group to maintain hunter/hiking trails in the summer.

7.2 County Facility Capital Improvements, 2024-2028

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

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

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

Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Item to build or remodel in a park or forest area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High (1-3 years) ○ Medium (3-5 years) ○ Low (5+ years) 	An estimate made with 2023 prices.

Almon Recreation Area

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

Almon Park is the highest use of the recreational facilities. The swimming beach had a retaining wall installed in the early 2000's when water levels were near historic lows. At that time there was 20 feet or more of sand beach. Since then the water level has risen to the point that at times it is over the wall and there is no beach. Parts of the wall have begun collapsing and need to be repaired, replaced or removed. The nature trails have several boardwalks going over wetland areas. Two of these board walks floated out of position during the high water and need to be repositioned and possibly raised. The trails are only a few feet wide and are quite uneven in areas.

Almon Recreation Area 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Repair/Replace Block Retaining Wall at Beach	High	\$20,000
Repair/Reposition Wetland Boardwalks on Nature Trail	High	\$5,000
Grade and Widen Nature Trails	Medium	\$2,500
Improve/expand sand beach area	Medium	\$10,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$37,500

Highway O Fishing Bridge

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The boat landing at the old Hwy O bridge is on the Wisconsin River. It is used for fishing as well as recreational water craft launching. The landing was made with plastic geo-matting. The matting has since deteriorated.

Highway O Fishing Bridge 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Gravel/Grade launch and lot	Medium	\$3,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$3,000

Enterprise Forest Campground

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The Enterprise Campground consists of 11 first come, first served self-registration sites. The sites have gravel pads, picnic tables, grills and fire rings. Two hand pump wells and two restroom buildings are also available within the campground. The sites are big enough to accommodate larger pull behind and 5th wheel campers. The campground is accessible via county forest roads and the ATV/UTV trail.

Enterprise Forest Campground 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
No Planned Improvements		
Total Estimated Cost		\$_____

Perch Lake Park

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

Perch Lake Park consists of an enclosed, heated shelter building with an attached open air shelter with a fireplace. There is electrical service to the shelter and an outdoor water faucet. In addition, there is a picnic area and a fishing pier which is accessible to persons with disabilities. The shelter and parking lot serve as the main trailhead for the Washburn Silent Trails network.

Perch Lake Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Expand Parking Lot	Medium	\$5,000
Re-Stain Shelter Siding	Medium	\$5,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$10,000

Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area is an impoundment of Rice Cr. in the town of Cassian. This area serves mainly as a waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing area. The impoundment was created by an earthen dam with a water control outflow pipe.

Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Repair or Replace Sign	Medium	\$1,000
Improve Access Road	Medium	\$2,500
Total Estimated Cost		\$3,500

Townline Park

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

Townline Park is located on the Crescent/Newbold town line on the west side of Rhinelander and is accessed from Hwy K. The park currently consists of a swimming beach, disabled access kayak/canoe dock, and a picnic area with tables.

Townline Park 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Work with friends group to construct a shelter at park	Medium	\$70,000
Construct restroom facility(ies)	Medium	\$75,000
Construct walking trail through park	Medium	\$2,000
Improve Boat Launch	Medium	\$5,000
Install fishing pier in park area	Medium	\$25,000
Working with the Friends of Townline Lake Park group, develop a bicycle/walking trail corridor connecting the City of Rhinelander, Hanson Lake Recreation Property, Townline Park and the Towns of Crescent and Newbold.	Medium	No cost estimate at this time for potential off-road asphalt or gravel path.
Total Estimated Cost		\$177,000

Willow Rapids Picnic Area

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The Willow Rapids Picnic Area is a scenic stop in the Town of Lynne. This site is located on the Willow River at the Willow Rapids. There is a gravel turn-around with minimal parking. A picnic grill is located near the parking area. The area is mainly used for fishing and nature viewing. Due to its remote location and distance from the Forestry Shop, minimal amenities are provided to reduce the need for maintenance.

Willow Rapids Picnic Area 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Grade/Gravel parking area	Medium	\$2,500
Total Estimated Cost		\$2,500

Bass Lake Boat Launch (Town of Enterprise)

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The Bass Lake Boat launch is located on Bass Lake Rd in the Enterprise block of the County Forest. This boat launch consists of a gravel access drive and launch with minimal parking. The launch is sufficient for small (likely less than 16 foot) water craft. Fishing, hunting and nature observation are the main uses of this area.

Bass Lake Boat Ramp 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Grade/Gravel Parking Area	Low	\$500
Total Estimated Cost		\$500

Gillette & Wickham Lakes

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The Gillette/Wickham Lakes Recreation area consists of a 231 acre parcel that was purchased and entered into the County Forest Program in 2018. The property encompasses two undeveloped, wilderness lakes totaling 51 acres. There is carry-in boat access only on both lakes. Approximately 18 acres surrounding the entrance and parking area has been designated as a recreation area and falls under the recreation area ordinances, such as no hunting and no camping. The remainder of the property is open to all uses allowed on County Forest property. Fishing and hunting are popular activities at this property.

Gillette & Wickham Lakes 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Install boat launch/fishing pier	Medium	\$25,000
Create walking trail around lakes	Low	\$25,000
Construct a small picnic shelter	Medium	\$35,000
Install restroom facilities	Medium	\$75,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$160,000

Washburn Lake Silent Sports Area

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The Washburn Lake Silent Sports Area is located in the Town of Woodboro on County Forest lands. The trail system consists of groomed ski trails, single track snowshoe trails, a Fat-Tire Bike trail, summer single track bike trails and double track summer biking trails. The trail system is accessed via Perch Lake Park and a parking lot located on Washburn Lake Rd. Hiking is allowed on the trail during non-ski grooming season. The trail system connects to the Cassian Ski/Bike trail to the north.

Washburn Lake Silent Sports Area 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Provide and assist with installation of additional benches at key locations on trails.	Medium	\$3,000
Expand main parking area or overflow parking area.	Medium/High	\$5,000
Construct additional single track trails	Medium	\$40,000
Re-Route Trails as needed to make sustainable	Medium/High	\$2,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$50,000

Nose Lake Silent Sports Area

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The Nose Lake Silent Sports Area is located in the Cassian/Woodboro block. It consists of groomed ski trails, single track snowshoe trails and summer double track biking trails. The trail is accessed via a parking area with restroom located on Hancock Oneida Lake Rd.

Nose Lake Silent Sports Area 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Install restroom facility at trailhead	Medium	\$35,000
Expand Snowshoe trail	Medium	\$1,000
Expand Parking Lot or create new lot	Medium/High	\$2,500
Expand Ski Trail – Additional 2 mile loop	Medium	\$5,000
Expand Ski Trail – Additional 2 mile loop	Medium	\$5,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$43,500

Cassian Ski/Bike Trail

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The Cassian Ski/Bike Trail consists of a 9 mile (one-way) groomed ski trail and a 12 mile (one-way) double track summer biking trail. It is located in the Cassian/Woodboro block of the forest.

Cassian Ski/Bike Trail 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Assist RASTA with the improvement of wetland crossings as needed.	Medium/High	\$5,000
Create parking mid-trail at the Sheep Ranch Rd Crossing	Medium	\$2,000
Total Estimated Cost		\$7,000

Enterprise Silent Sports Area

The Enterprise Winter Recreation trail consists of a winter groomed Fat Tire Bike trail that is open to primitive skiing and snowshoeing. The trail is accessed via a parking area at the intersection of Hwy G and Zimmer Rd.

Enterprise Silent Sports Area 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Move registration/sign kiosk to better location	Medium	\$500
Total Estimated Cost		\$500

Oneida County ATV/UTV Trail System

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The ATV/UTV trail system administered by the Forestry Department consists of five separate trails located in the Towns of Enterprise, Lynne, Little Rice, Nokomis, Woodruff and Monico. The trails are maintained through agreements with five ATV/UTV clubs. Funding for the trails is provided by WDNR grants and club contributions. In addition to the five designated trail systems, there are hundreds of miles of town roads, county highways and county forest roads that are open to ATV/UTV's.

Oneida County ATV/UTV Trail System 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Construct Manhardt Rd to Flowage Rd Trail	High	\$87,000*
Replace Burrows Boardwalks	High	\$300,000*
Connect Pelican Lake to Monico	High	\$200,000*
Develop trails in Pelican River Forest	Medium/High	\$500,000*
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 1,087,000

*Mainly Grant Funded

Oneida County Snowmobile Trail System

Oneida County Staff Assessment:

The snowmobile trail system administered by the Forestry Department consists of approximately 427 miles of trail throughout the county. The trails are maintained through agreements with nine snowmobile clubs. Funding for the trails is provided by WDNR grants and club contributions.

Oneida County Snowmobile Trail System 5-Year Capital Improvements		
Improvement	Priority	Estimated Cost
Construct North Pelican River Bridge	High	\$140,000*
Replace Gilmore Creek Bridge	Medium	\$150,000*
Replace Hwy 45 Culverts	Medium	\$45,000*
Total Estimated Cost		\$ 335,000

*Mainly Grant Funded

7.3 Local Government Capital Improvements, 2024-2028

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

Improvements that are projected to occur from 2024-2028

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

City of Rhinelander

Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

The City of Rhinelander has its own Outdoor Recreation Plan. Most recommendations from that plan exist solely within the city limits and are not listed in this plan.

Town of Cassian

Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

None.

Town of Crescent

Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

- Establish an inclusive park on the south end of the parking lot connected to the Town hall.
- The new inclusive park will have rest areas (benches, picnic tables, etc.), covered area, accessible bathrooms, and an interactive nature trail.

Town of Enterprise

Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

None.

**Town of Hazelhurst
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028**

None.

**Town of Lake Tomahawk
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028**

Create hiking/biking trail on former railroad bed to connect to DNR bike path to the north at STH 47 and Tomahawk Road.

**Town of Little Rice
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028**

None.

**Town of Lynne
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028**

None.

**Town of Minocqua
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028**

- Finalize reconstruction and landscaping elements at Torpy Park
- Rehabilitate Town’s primary boat landings: Thirsty Whale and Schoolhouse Bay
- Replace playground equipment at Minocqua Ball Park
- Install asphalt paved surface on the shoulders along Highway 70 from Morgan Road to Camp Pinemere Lane.
- Develop bicycle/pedestrian trail along Highway 70 from S Morgan Road to Minocqua Park Complex
- Develop bicycle/pedestrian trail along Highway 51 Manitou Park Drive to Northern Road

**Town of Monico
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028**

- New playground equipment at Town Hall Park.

Town of Newbold

Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

- Add drinking water and electrical service at Newbold Outdoor Recreation Area.
- Install bike racks at town parks and facilities.
- Bike trail upgrades and expansion.
- Maintain existing ATV/UTV corridors on town roads.

Town of Nokomis

Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

Community Park

- Improvements to the pavilion to make it usable during foul weather – possibly adding garage doors.
- Construction of a new ADA accessible restroom.
- Walking trail improvements
 - Relocating parts of the existing walking trail so that it becomes a completely off-road trail. Currently it passes through a parking lot and is part of a town road.
 - Relocate trail so that all the parks facilities are along the trail, thus providing ADA access to the pavilion and restrooms.
- Improve ball field.
- Landscaping improvements to ensure proper water drainage.
- Relocate/removal of trees in the park and disk golf areas.

Mary's Park

- Improvements to the walking trail and parking lot.
- Thinning of jack pine to allow hardwoods to continue growing, and replant hardwoods.

Town Hall Park

- Removal and replacement of worn-out playground equipment.
- Reconstruction of pavilion areas.

Potential New Projects:

- Paving of both boat landings (Point Road West Boat Launch and Jenny Lake Boat Launch) with concrete launch pads.

The Town of Nokomis would like to see more interest/funding on behalf of the State/County of the Bearskin Trail, which would facilitate a complete safe connection through the Town.

Town of Pelican Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

None.

Town of Piehl Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

The town of Piehl has no parks projects planned for the next 5 years.

Town of Pine Lake Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

- Upgrade Moen Lake Landing;
- Upgrade and enhance Town of Pine Lake Park (see Pine Lake Town Park Concept Plan):
 - Install additional playground equipment
 - Restore softball infield and outfield
 - Create and surface 2nd parking area
 - Restore Sand Volleyball Court
 - Build walking trails throughout park
 - Build Shelter House for neighborhood and family gatherings
 - Enhance and/or build new bathroom facilities
 - Enhance lighting and signage



Contact the Town for a larger version of the [Pine Lake Town Park Concept Plan](#) map:

Town of Schoepke
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

None.

Town of Stella
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

- Install new bench at Town carry-in landing on Snowden Lake.
- Upgrade dock at Town boat landing on Stella Lake.

Stella Municipal Park

- Upgrade playground equipment.
- Install open-air pavilion with grill and picnic tables.

Town of Sugar Camp
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

None.

Town of Three Lakes
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

Don Burnside Recreational Park

- Build a Diamond Concession Building
- Build new dugouts

Cy Williams Park

- Upgrade the Maple Lake Beach house
- Upgrade the playground equipment

Town of Woodboro
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

- Manson Lake – boat launch;
- Washburn Lake – boat launch;
- Nose Lake – walk-in access;
- Hancock Lake parking lot – ADA accessible improvement; and
- Perch Lake – boat launch.

Town of Woodruff
Proposed Projects for 2024-2028

None.

Chapter 8:

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

There are a number of different strategies available for the implementation of this plan. This includes securing funds to carry out the five year planning program and adopting techniques to carry out the general recommendations and to move towards attainment of the goals and objectives set forth in this plan.

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

Adopt-A-Park Program

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

Capital Improvements

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

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

Community Beautification

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

Historic Sites

Historical sites can be rewarding additions to any community's recreation program. This is especially true in areas oriented to serving a significant tourist trade. Nearly all communities in North Central Wisconsin are in this category and they should all identify their historic sites. A study of potential areas is encouraged. Assistance and guidance for the study can be obtained from the Wisconsin Council for local History, an organization affiliated with the State Historical Society and the local county historical society.

Leases

Leases may be used as measures to use or protect land until more permanent measures may be found. By leasing parcels of land, the land remains on the county's and the community's tax rolls and can be renegotiated or non-renewed by the property owner if the monetary prospects for another use proves overpowering.

Another leasing method involves outright purchase of land by the county. The county then leases the land to a private party or organization with use restrictions placed on the land. Under this method, the county receives some monetary return on its investment and retains control over the use of the land.

Lifetime Activities

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

Monetary Aid Programs

Take advantage of state and federal financial and technical aid programs, which are designed, to assist communities in meeting recreational, needs, and maintain community eligibility for such programs. A list of these programs exists in **Attachment C**.

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

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

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

For the remaining program requirements, or additional information contact:

Community Service Specialist
DNR's Northern Region
Rhinelander WI

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

Municipal & School District Cooperation

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

Park Dedication

Subdivision regulations can be used by counties to require residential subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use in areas which are experiencing significant residential growth. Neighborhood parks may be acquired in this manner in newly developing residential areas. Local

landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of small communities.

Program Costs

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

Senior Citizen Involvement

Involve senior citizens in community park development and beautification and provide recreational facilities for their use. Although senior citizens often compose a significant proportion of the total community's population, they are often neglected in recreational planning. Benches placed near neighborhood parks and play areas and non-intensive sports facilities such as horseshoe pits located in community parks help to provide a place for the senior citizens. Small, passive use parks and garden located near nursing and retirement homes should also be encouraged. In addition, senior citizens can provide invaluable assistance in beautifying parks and open spaces and can thereby become more involved in community group life.

Service Group Involvement

Involve organized service groups in needed park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports area and neighborhood parks. Traditionally, service groups and recreation organizations, such as Lions Club, V.F.W., softball leagues, and snowmobile clubs have played an active role in the development of such facilities. Continued activity of this type should be encouraged. In addition, service groups could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources and providing organization and volunteer labor.

Shoreland Zoning

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

Specialized Facilities

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

Public Access via Subdivision Regulations (Platting Lands)

Lake and stream shore plats can provide public access to the adjacent water bodies. The Wisconsin Statutes §236.16(3) require that all subdivisions abutting a navigable lake or stream provide at least a sixty-foot-wide access to the low watermark from existing public roads at not more than one-half mile intervals (excluding shore areas where public parks or open-space streets are provided).

Use of Easements

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

Winter Activities

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

Attachment A

Park Design and Location Criteria

From:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023

Park Design and Location Criteria

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

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

Mini Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

0.5 to 1.5 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

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

5. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

Neighborhood Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

5 to 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design and Service Area:

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

Community Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

Usually more than 25 acres.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives

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

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

Appropriate program elements include:

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

Provides opportunities for a diverse mix of indoor and outdoor recreation, including walking and bicycling, outdoor performances, various programmed and non-programmed field sports, swimming, and special events.

8) Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

Special Use Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objective:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

School Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

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

2. Size Objective

The optimum size of a school park site depends on its intended use. The size criteria established for neighborhood park and community park classifications may apply.

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

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

County Park

1. Definition Summary:

A county park provides sufficient park and recreation area to meet the needs of county residents. County parks consist of land that is specifically set aside for active and passive recreation uses, and that accommodates large gatherings, special events, and individual users. County parks offer a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities, and

may provide areas that do not primarily serve a recreational purpose such as protected natural areas, historic areas, and special use areas.

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

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

- a. Camping/group camping
- b. Picnic areas
- c. Recreational trails (hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, equestrian, cross-country ski, snowmobile, etc.)
- d. Play areas
- e. Swimming beaches
- f. Water access
- g. Fishing access
- h. Shelters
- i. Restrooms

- j. Shower facilities
- k. Sport fields (basketball, volleyball, softball, etc.)
- l. Pet exercise area

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

State Forest

1. Definition Summary:

A state forest consists of well blocked areas of state owned lands that are managed to benefit present and future generations of residents, recognizing that forests contribute to local and statewide economics and to a healthy natural environment. State forests practice sustainable forestry. The management of state forests is consistent with the ecological capability of state forest land and with the long-term goal of maintaining sustainable forest communities and ecosystems. Benefits of maintaining these ecosystems include soil protection, public hunting, protection of water quality, production of recurring forest products, outdoor recreation, native biological diversity, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and aesthetic value. The range of benefits provided in each state forest reflect its unique character and position in the regional landscape.

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

Areas with large blocks of land.

5. Program Objectives:

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

Current Level of Supply:

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

6. Orientation:

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

7. Function:

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

8. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

State Park

1. Definition Summary:

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

2. Size Objectives:

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

3. Service Area Objectives:

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

4. Location Objectives:

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

5. Program Objectives:

Elements that fulfill the service area, park facilities and recreation program demands. Elements are compatible with the natural resource setting and park site constraints. Developments may include the following facilities:

Current Level of Supply:

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

5. Orientation:

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

6. Function:

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

7. Space, Design, and Service Area:

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

Attachment B

Facility Development Standards

From: National Recreation and Park Association

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes
Badminton	Singles--17' x 44' Doubles-20' x 44' with 5' unobstructed area on both sides	1622 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	¼ - ½ mile. Usually in school recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking or biking access.
Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	46' - 50' x 84' 50' x 84' 50' x 94' with 5' unobstructed space all sides.	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	¼ - ½ mile. Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood/community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Handball (3-4 wall)	20' x 40' with a minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance.	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall, 1000 sq. ft. for 3-wall.	Long axis is north - south. Front wall at north end.	15 - 30 min. travel time, 4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose building. 3-2 all usually in park or school setting.
Ice Hockey	Rink 85' x 200' (Min. 85' x 185') Additional 5000 22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	22,000 sq. ft. including support area.	Long axis is north - south if outdoors.	½ - 1 hour travel time. Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multipurpose facility.
Tennis	36' x 78'. 12 ft. clearance on both ends.	Min. of 7,200 sq. ft. single court area (2 acres per complex)	Long axis north - south	¼ - ½ mile. Best in batteries of 2 - 4. Located in neighborhood/community park or near school site.
Volleyball	30' x 60'. Minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 4,000 sq. ft.	Long axis north - south	½ - 1 mile.
Baseball 1. Official 2. Little League	Baselines - 90' Pitching distance-60.5' Foul lines - min. 320' Center field - 400'+ Baselines - 60' Pitching distance - 46' Foul lines - 200' Center field - 200' - 250'	3.0 - 3.85 A min. 1.2 A min.	Locate home plate so pitcher is not throwing across sun, and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound to run east-northeast.	¼ - ½ mile. Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
Field Hockey	180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 1.5 A	Fall season - Long axis northwest or southeast. For longer periods, north/south	15 - 30 minute travel time. Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Football	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Minimum 1.5 A	Same as field hockey.	15 - 30 min. travel time. Same as field hockey.
Soccer	195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with 10' minimum clearance on all sides.	1.7 - 2.1 A	Same as field hockey.	1 - 2 miles. Number of units depends on popularity. Youth popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to fields or neighborhood parks.
Golf - Driving Range	900' x 690' wide. Add 12' width each additional tee.	13.5 A for min. of 25 tees.	Long axis is southwest - northeast with golfer driving northeast.	30 minute travel time. Park of golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately operated.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (continued)

Activity Format	Recommended Size and Dimensions	Recommended Space Requirements	Recommended Orientation	Service Radius and Location Notes
¼ mile running track	Over-all width - 276' length - 600'. Track width for 8 - 4 lanes is 32'.	4.3 A	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest - southeast, with finish line at north end.	15 - 30 minute travel time. Usually part of a high school or community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
Softball	Baselines - 60' pitching distance - 45' men. 40' women Fast pitch field radius from plate - 225' Slow pitch - 275' (men) 250' (women)	1.5 - 2.0 A	Same as baseball. indimensions for 16".	¼ - ½ mile. Slight difference. May also be used for youth baseball.
Multiple use court (basketball, tennis, etc.)	120' x 80'	9,840 sq. ft.	Long axis of court with primary use north and south.	1 - 2 miles, in neighborhood or community parks.
Archery range	300' length x minimum 10' between targets. Roped, clear area on side of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90' x 45' with bunker.	Minimum 0.65 A	Archer facing north + or - 45 degrees.	30 minutes travel time. Part of a regional/metro complex.
Golf 1. Par 3 (18 hole) 2. 9-hole standard 3. 18-hole standard	Average length varies -600 - 2700 yards. Average length 2250 yards Average length 6500 yards.	50 - 60 A Minimum of 50 A Minimum 110 yards	Majority of holes on north/south axis	½ - 1 hour travel time 9-hole course can accommodate 350 people/day 500 - 550 people/day. Course may be located in community, district or regional/metro park.
Swimming pools	Teaching - min. 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3-4 ft. Competitive - min. 25 m x 16 m. Min. of 25 sq. ft. water surface per swimmer. Ration of 2 to 1 deck to water.	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually 1 - 2 A sites.	None, but care must be taken in siting life stations in relation to afternoon sun.	15 to 30 minutes travel time. Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching competitive and recreational purposes with enough to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
Beach areas	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sa. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be a 3-4 A supporting area per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	½ to 1 hour travel time. Should have a sand bottom with a maximum slope of 5%. Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas. In regional/metro parks.

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

Attachment C

Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs

Compiled by: NCWRPC

Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

Community Service Specialist
DNR's Northern Region
Rhineland WI

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

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

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

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

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

Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR) [Stewardship]

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

ATV/UTV Enhancement

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

ATV Patrols

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

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

ATV/UTV Trails

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

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

Boat Enforcement Patrol

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

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program

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

Tier 1 - State

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

Tier 2 - National

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

Natural Areas [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

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

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

Habitat Areas [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

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

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

Stream Bank protection [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

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

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

State trails [Stewardship – Only available to nonprofits]

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

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

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

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

Motorized Stewardship Grants [Stewardship]

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

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

Match Requirement: 20 percent

Off-Highway Motorcycle (OHM) Grants

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

Recreational Boating Facilities Grants

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

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

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

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

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

Shooting Range Grant Program

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

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

Snowmobile Patrols

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

Snowmobile Trail Aids

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

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

Sport Fish Restoration (SFR)

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

Surface Water Grants

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

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

Urban Green Space [Stewardship]

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

Urban Rivers [Stewardship]

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

Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs

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

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

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

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

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

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

[A Transportation Alternatives Program]

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

Local Transportation Enhancements (TE)

[A Transportation Alternatives Program]

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

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program (BPFP)

[A Transportation Alternatives Program]

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

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

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

Federal Assistance Programs

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

Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) – National Park Service

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

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

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

National Park Service
700 Rayovac Dr., Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711
608-441-5610

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

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

Attachment D

SCORP Identified Outdoor Recreation Needs

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



GAPS AND NEEDS IN OUR EXISTING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Statewide Recreation Needs:

Places near population centers

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

Trails

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

Water access – shoreline and boat launches

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

Camping opportunities

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

Statewide Recreation Needs: (cont.)

Dog parks and exercise areas

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

Target shooting ranges

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

Statewide Policy Needs:

Better understand place-based recreation and associated outcomes

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

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

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

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

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

Enhance and stabilize funding for outdoor recreation

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

Expand collaborations among recreation providers

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

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

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

Great Northwest Region

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

Western Sands Region

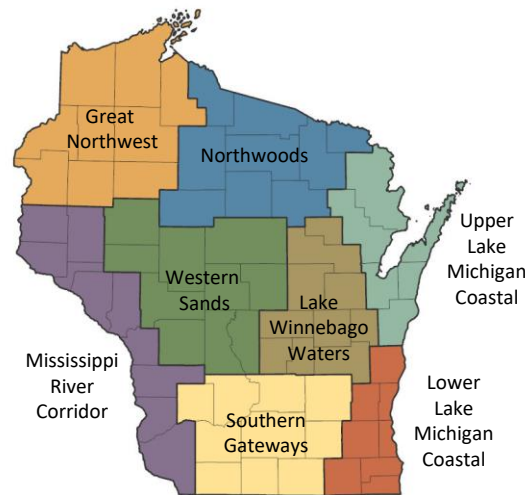
Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
 Bird or wildlife watching
 Camping - developed and primitive
 Canoeing or kayaking
 Cross country skiing
 Dog walking
 Fishing
 Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
 Horseback riding
 Hunting - big game
 Picnicking
 Snowshoeing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

Mississippi River Corridor Region

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

Northwoods Region

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



Southern Gateways Region

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

Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region

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

Lake Winnebago Waters Region

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

Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region

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

Attachment E

Nicolet-Wolf River Scenic Byway Route

Compiled by: NCWRPC

NICOLET-WOLF RIVER SCENIC BYWAY ROUTE

