





# **Florence County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2012-2017**

Prepared by:  
Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission  
Suite 211, Old Fort Square  
211 N. Broadway  
Green Bay, WI 54303  
(920) 448-2820  
[www.baylakerpc.org](http://www.baylakerpc.org)  
Florence Co. EDC  
Florence Co. Forestry & Parks  
Florence Natural Resource Center

**December 2011**

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## **Chapter 1 - INTRODUCTION**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Florence County is approximately 497 square miles in size and consists of eight towns including Aurora, Commonwealth, Fence, Fern, Florence, Homestead, Long Lake, and Tipler as illustrated on Map 1.1. According to the 2010 census, Florence County has 4423 residents. The county has no incorporated cities or villages however the town of Florence has the highest population of all the towns at 2,409 and serves as the major government activity center and county seat.

The Florence County Outdoor Recreation Plan has been developed to serve as guide in the maintenance and development of outdoor recreation facilities in order to provide a quality outdoor recreation experience for residents and non-residents alike.

### **OBJECTIVES OF PLAN**

The objectives of the Florence County Outdoor Recreation Plan are:

- 1) Protection and enhancement of Florence County's natural resources.
- 2) To establish a basis for providing a variety of public recreational facilities to meet the needs of Florence County residents and visitors.
- 3) To identify factors contributing to the recreation needs of Florence County at the present time and for the next five to ten years.
- 4) To provide the county with a period of eligibility for funding assistance through programs such as the LAWCON and the DNR Stewardship Fund.
- 5) To provide the county with an implementation plan for compliance with accessibility requirements under the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1978, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.
- 6) Promote cooperation and coordination of Florence County's recreation programs between municipalities, school districts, DNR, Wisconsin Department of Tourism, private sector recreational businesses and service programs to produce maximum public benefit and avoid duplication of recreational services and administration in meeting the recreational needs of county residents and visitors.
- 7) Identify priorities for the expenditure of funds in the maintenance and development of recreational facilities in order to provide high quality maintained facilities for the recreation user.

The objectives listed above are not prioritized and may have a certain amount of overlap. They are established as a guideline for achieving and maintaining a balance between the environment and its use by the public.

Map 1.1: Location Map

## **PAST OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

In 1971, the Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission prepared an *Outdoor Recreation Plan for Florence County* (Florence County did not become a member of the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission until 1973) which included a description of the planning area and its physical characteristics, an inventory and assessment of recreational facilities, recreational user needs analysis, and an inventory of potential funding sources.

In 1979, the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission completed the Florence County Outdoor Recreation Plan through a contract agreement with Florence County, through an Outdoor Resources Action Program planning grant from the WI DNR, Bureau of Aid Programs. The 1979 plan contained a thorough update to the 1971 plan, including several tables inventorying equipment available at individual facilities, as well as maps detailing the location of land and water based recreational activities.

In 1990, the *Florence County, Wisconsin, Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* was completed by the Florence County Forestry and Parks Committee with assistance from the WI DNR. The plan followed a similar format to the preceding plans, however it also included a capital improvements program detailing the cost of items to be purchased within a 5 year timeframe for specific parks in the county.

In 2000, the *Florence County, Wisconsin, Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* was updated by the Florence County Forestry and Parks Committee with assistance from the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission as part of the development of the *Florence County Land Use and Lake Protection Plan*. The plan followed a similar format to the preceding plans; however it also included a discussion of ADA requirements and a five year capital improvements program. In 2006 another update was accomplished by the Florence County Forestry and Parks with assistance from Bay-Lakes.

## **PLANNING PROCESS**

There are many steps in the planning process that must be undertaken in order to produce a comprehensive plan of any type, including a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan such as this one for Florence County.

One of the first steps in the planning process is to gather data regarding the condition of facilities in the county. In 2005, all outdoor recreation facilities in the county were inventoried as to the number and condition of equipment and facilities, and as to their accessibility by persons with disabilities. The data from the inventory was compared with facility standards set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to determine whether the county was lacking any recreational facilities or if it needed additional open space park land. Due to difficult budgets during 2006-2011 not many updates/accomplishments were ordered during that time frame.

During 2011, the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department worked with area businesses, county clubs and associations, lake associations, all towns, county supervisors, and county agencies in order to inventory opinions regarding county facilities and programs and to determine what updates were needed for recreation facilities throughout the county.

On Monday November 7, 2011, a public meeting was held at Wild Rivers Interpretive Center for the purpose of providing the citizens of Florence County with information on the outdoor recreation plan and to collect information on the outdoor recreation concerns of the citizens. This meeting was in addition to work accomplished by the Florence County Forestry and Parks

Committee, as well as an article in the local newspaper, The Mining News notifying County residents of the opportunity to view and comment on the document.

The county's current recreation facilities were compared with each of these sources; 1) NRPA Standards, 2) SCORP Analysis, and 3) Citizen Concerns. An overview and summary of findings based on these comparisons was prepared.

Based on this summary, a list of capital improvements and costs was prepared covering a period of five years, 2012-2017. This list is to be used as a guide for the county when budgeting and scheduling park improvements.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of this plan is to ensure optimal recreational opportunities through the continuation of current recreation programs and the development of new programs to meet current and future demands. This document is intended to provide guidance to Florence County and its towns in an effort to meet the recreational demands of its residents and visitors. The plan documents current recreational facilities and opportunities and identifies future needs in the development and coordination of outdoor recreation areas within the county.

In addition, it is intended that the plan, when adopted by the county and towns, will ensure their eligibility to apply for LAWCON and other funds available through the WI DNR Stewardship Program.

## **Chapter 2**



## **Chapter 2 - DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AREA**

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### **PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **Geography**

Florence County is located in the extreme northeastern portion of Wisconsin. It is bounded on its northern and most of its eastern border by the Brule and Menominee Rivers, which form the Wisconsin-Michigan boundary. To the southeast of Florence County is Marinette County, and to the southwest and west is Forest County. Florence County consists of approximately 319,194 acres or 498 square miles. Elevation differential within the county varies from a maximum of 1,526 feet above sea level at Long Lake to 1,038 feet above sea level at Kingsford Flowage on the Menominee River. Major drainage systems within the county are the Pine, Popple, and Brule Rivers, all of which are in the Menominee River watershed. The surface waters flow principally to the north and east over Florence County.

#### **Climate**

The extreme variations in the three principal elements of climate - temperature, precipitation, and snow cover - directly influence recreation. Type, diversity, intensity of, and the seasonal variation in recreational activities are specifically influenced by climate.

Short warm summers, relatively long cold winters, and extremes in temperature characterize the climate of Florence County. This type of climate is classified as a humid, continental, cool-summer climate. The average annual snowfall is about 60 inches with snow cover approximately 125 days out of the year. The average frost-free season usually extends from late May to mid September, or approximately 107 to 119 days. According to data compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Weather Bureau, the average annual precipitation is approximately 31 inches.

#### **Geology**

Florence County is underlain by some of the oldest and most complexly formed rocks in Wisconsin. These rocks, many of which are over one billion years in age, were formed during the geologic time period known as the Precambrian Era. The rocks consist largely of granites and various other igneous and metamorphic rocks that are estimated to be 5,000 to 15,000 feet in thickness. Rock outcrops are abundant in the southeastern portion of the county. These formations consist largely of sedimentary rocks and those of igneous origin which have been intensively folded and steeply inclined.

Crystalline rocks in the vicinity of the community of Florence were mined for iron ore. Mining operations began at the Florence mine during the winter of 1879-1880 with peak production reached in 1920.

Most of the ancient rock formations, with the exception of those outcrops in the southeastern portion of the county and areas which are exposed by erosion from rivers and streams are overlain by material deposited from glacial action. Florence County's present topography was largely the result of the last glacial ice mass which receded ten thousand years ago. Deposits left by the glacier can be divided into two types, (1) unsorted debris deposited directly from the ice with little or no reworking by water known as till, and (2) sorted and stratified water-laid deposits, referred to as glacio-fluvial deposits. Glacio-fluvial deposits which contained large ice blocks that eventually melted were pitted with depressions known as kettles. Many of these

kettles filled with water and formed the majority of the lakes currently present within the county.

### **Soils**

The general character of Florence County's soils is largely the result of various glacial depositional processes. An irregular north-south line runs approximately through the center of the county dividing it between predominantly loamy soils in the west and sandy soils in the east.

The loamy soils in the western portion of the county were formed from glacial deposits which were derived from local bedrock formations. The topography of this area is largely rolling with low to moderate relief. Soils developed under a forest cover consisting mainly of conifers and hardwoods in a cool and relatively moist climate.

The sandy soils of the eastern portion of the county were formed from parent materials derived from sandstone bedrock pulverized by glacial ice. These soils originally supported a vegetation cover consisting of various species of pine, scrub oak, and savanna grasses. This area has low relief with occasional short, steep slopes.

Characteristics of the soil are an important consideration in recreation planning. Failure to take the capabilities and limitations of soils into consideration during the planning stage of any recreational development proposal may not only increase the cost of the facility development and maintenance and affect the quality of the recreational experience, but may result also in serious and costly health safety, and water pollution problems: These problems may arise from malfunctioning onsite sewage disposal (septic tank) systems, flood damage, footing and foundation failure, and soil erosion and sedimentation. Knowledge of the soil therefore, can help avoid these problems and also reduce the costs of recreational facility development and maintenance.

### **Water Resources**

Lakes, rivers, and streams compose a valuable part of the natural resource base of Florence County. In addition to being the focal points for water-related recreation activities, they greatly enhance the aesthetic quality of the environment and provide attractive sites for residential development.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Report, Surface Water Resources of Florence County, a total of 265 lakes and 165 rivers and streams cover a surface area of 6,833 acres and 1,636 acres respectively. The lakes and streams of Florence County are part of the Menominee-Oconto-Peshtigo drainage basin.

Groundwater is abundant in glacial deposits but less plentiful in bedrock. Soft water is generally encountered in the western towns, while medium hard water is found within the eastern towns.

### **Vegetation**

Florence County is predominantly covered by forests consisting largely of northern hardwoods. Aspen forest dominate the eastern towns, while northern hardwoods are the major forest type of the central and southwestern towns. Oak, pine and swamp conifers are in limited stands scattered throughout the county.

Lumbering in Florence County primarily took place after 1850. The major species harvested during the early logging period were white pine along with limited amounts of red pine. By 1898 much of the white pine had been harvested and the focus switched to hemlock and hardwoods during the early twentieth century. ~~Farming~~ Farming in the county had its origin in the need for

agricultural products by the lumber companies.

Forested areas in the county have economic, ecological and recreational value. Under good management, forested areas can serve a variety of uses providing multiple benefits to county residents and visitors. In addition to contributing to clean air and water, the forests throughout the county also provide important recreational opportunities. Forested areas can and should be maintained for their multiple values which include but are not limited to scenic, wildlife, educational, recreational, watershed protection and forest products.

### **Land Use**

Map 2.1 illustrates the use of land within Florence County as compiled by the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission during the spring of 1999 and entered into the Commission's geographic information system (GIS). Using GIS methodology, it can be calculated that Florence County has a total area of 318,300 acres, or approximately 497 square miles. Approximately 12,732 acres or four percent is used for non-forest agriculture, 299,202 acres or 94 percent is in natural area (woodlands, wetlands and surface waters) and is not distinguished from commercial forest, and 6,366 acres or 2 percent of the county is developed.

The natural resource base has a significant role within Florence County. Areas such as lakes, streams, and wetlands, are abundant within the county and contribute to the quality of life and the recreational environment offered in the area. Careful planning by the county can provide for expansion of economic activity while protecting the unique natural resource base that remains in the county.

### **Land Ownership**

Florence County is fortunate in having a substantial portion of its land area available to the public to recreate in, as illustrated on Map 2.2. Florence County consists of 318,300 acres of land. 147,137 acres or 46 percent of the county's land is in public ownership. The predominant public landowner is the Federal government with 84,473 acres associated with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. In addition to this, 36,463 is owned by the County, 22,000 is owned by the State of Wisconsin while the towns collectively own 4,201 acres. Nearly 56 percent of the County's land area or 178,248 acres is in private ownership. Additionally Florence county has 42,000 ± acres of industrial forest of which 90% are open for public use.

## **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS**

### **Population Trends**

From 1930 to 2000, Florence County gained 1,320 persons. However, this gain fluctuated over time with an increase from 1930 to 1940 reaching a peak of 4,177 persons, followed by a downward trend over the next three decades with its least population in 1970 of 3,298 persons. Florence County has shown modest gains in population from 1970 to 2000 when it reached a population of 5,088 people. The newly released 2010 Census figures show a 13% decrease in County population to 4423. This decrease was common across many rural counties in the Midwest and in other parts of the country as well. Unfortunately, at the time of this plan, the 2010 Census Town data was not available.

Table 2.1: Population Trends, Florence County, 1930-2000

	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Number Change 1930-2000	Percent Change 1930-2000
Aurora	916	981	951	914	920	1,050	1,036	1,186	270	29.5%
Commonwealth	182	340	328	314	254	369	407	419	237	130.2%
Fence	246	285	275	195	191	192	222	231	-15	-6.1%
Fern	83	130	105	67	61	111	112	153	70	84.3%
Florence	1,341	1,353	1,257	1,251	1,262	1,809	2,097	2,319	978	72.9%
Homestead	351	383	348	302	258	272	337	378	27	7.7%
Long Lake	319	303	211	211	190	199	205	197	-122	-38.2%
Tipler	330	402	281	183	162	170	174	205	-125	-37.9%
Florence County	3,768	4,177	3,756	3,437	3,298	4,172	4,590	5,088	1,320	35.0%
Bay-Lake Region	298,061	324,199	350,082	388,955	440,926	476,134	498,734	554,565	256,504	86.1%
State of Wisconsin	2,939,006	3,137,587	3,434,575	3,951,777	4,417,821	4,705,335	4,891,765	5,363,675	2,424,669	82.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; General Population Characteristics 1840-1970; and Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, 2005.

**Population Projections**

Florence County has experienced increased growth since 1970, and according to the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the county's population is expected to increase to , 5340 persons by the year 2030. It should be recognized that DOA figures do not include seasonal residents. It is estimated that the seasonal population could increase the county's total by as much as 20 to 25 percent. The seasonal and migratory population component is an important factor to consider since it represents a significant group of users of recreational facilities throughout the county.

Table 2.2: Projected Population Change, Florence County, 1990-2030

Area	Census 2000	WDOA Projection						Number Change 2000-2030	Percent Change 2000-2030
		2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030		
Florence	5,088	5,223	5,273	5,333	5,373	5,378	5,340	252	5.0%
State of Wisconsin	5,363,675	5,589,920	5,772,370	5,988,420	6,202,810	6,390,900	6,541,180	1,177,505	22.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing 1970-2000, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Official Population Projections 2008; and Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, 2009.

The permanent population resides primarily in the eastern half of the county within the towns of Aurora, Commonwealth, and Florence. The 2005 DOA estimated population for each town is: Florence – 2,379, Aurora – 1,220, Commonwealth - 415, Homestead - 389, Fence - 231, Tipler - 224, Long Lake - 200, Fern - 155.

Since 1920, the towns of Florence and Aurora have comprised over 50 percent of the county's population. Areas of population concentration include the unincorporated communities of Florence, Aurora, Commonwealth, Long Lake, Tipler, and Fence. In addition, concentrations of population, especially seasonal residents, are associated with bodies of water such as the Spread Eagle chain and Keyes Lake.

**Age Groups**

Florence County has a similar distribution of age groups when compared to the eight-county Bay-Lake region and the state. The median age for the county was 41.9 years in 2000 compared to 38.9 years for the Bay-Lake Region and 36.0 years for the state. Over 28 percent of the county population is under age 25, while nearly 42 percent is between the ages of 25 and 54, and approximately 30 percent is over age 55.

Twenty percent of the population is between the ages of 5 and 19. These are often considered the active recreation years and include youth organized sports such as soccer, baseball, and football. In the next 15 to 20 years, nearly 30 percent of the population will be between the ages of 40 and 59. These age groups are important to consider in evaluating recreational needs in the area and the type of support services necessary to make recreational areas and opportunities available to certain segments of the population.

Table 2.3: Age Distribution, Florence County, 2000

Age Group	Number of Persons			Percentage of Total Population		
	Florence County	Bay-Lake Region	State of Wisconsin	Florence County	Bay-Lake Region	State of Wisconsin
Under 5	230	34,660	342,340	4.5%	6.2%	6.4%
5-9	334	38,975	379,484	6.6%	7.0%	7.1%
10-14	367	41,709	403,074	7.2%	7.5%	7.5%
15-19	341	41,258	407,195	6.7%	7.4%	7.6%
20-24	161	33,234	357,292	3.2%	6.0%	6.7%
25-34	520	71,929	706,168	10.2%	13.0%	13.2%
35-44	857	92,895	875,522	16.8%	16.8%	16.3%
45-54	754	76,141	732,306	14.8%	13.7%	13.7%
55-59	309	26,662	252,742	6.1%	4.8%	4.7%
60-64	326	21,937	204,999	6.4%	4.0%	3.8%
65-74	480	37,530	355,307	9.4%	6.8%	6.6%
75-84	289	27,110	251,621	5.7%	4.9%	4.7%
85+	120	10,525	95,625	2.4%	1.9%	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,088</b>	<b>554,565</b>	<b>5,363,675</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census of Population and Housing; and Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, 2005.

**Persons with Mobility or Self-Care Limitations**

According to the 2000 Census, approximately 7.1 percent (341 persons), of the non-institutionalized persons of Florence County over the age of 5 have a mobility or self-care limitation. Persons in this category were identified as having a mobility limitation if they had a health condition that lasted six or more months and which made it difficult to go outside the home alone (i.e., shopping, medical appointments) or to take care of their own personal needs such as dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home. These statistics are an important element of an outdoor recreation plan and must be given consideration when developing and improving county recreational facilities.

**Ethnic Background**

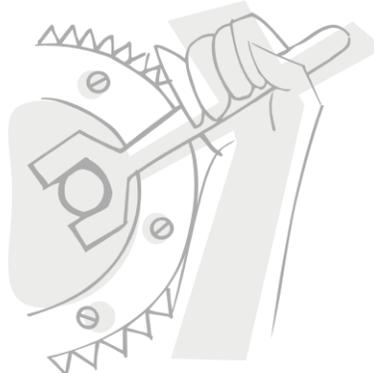
Florence County's racial composition consists of 99.9 percent white persons. The remaining 0.1 percent of all persons in Florence County consists of African American, American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic, or other races. According to 2000 Census data, of the 99.9 percent white persons in the county, 26.7 percent are of German ancestry. In addition, 10.8 percent are of Swedish, 8.1percent are of French, 7.1 percent are of English, 8.0 percent are of Polish, 6.6 percent are of Italian, 8.6 percent are of Irish ancestry and 19.0 percent reported several other different ancestry groups.

## **Employment**

According to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), Bureau of Workforce Information, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) for 2010, Florence County had a labor force of 2412 persons. 2171 persons were employed, while 10 percent or 241 persons were unemployed. Labor force is defined as the sum of employed and unemployed persons who are 16 years and older. However, unemployed is not the same as people who are not in the labor force such as retirees or people who choose not to work.

Employment for over one-half of the working residents of Florence County means commuting outside of the county. Michigan is the destination for over 50 percent of the outbound commuters. Because Iron Mountain is the most populous area near Florence County, it has a tendency to attract workers from surrounding areas. Nearly 40 percent of the workforce lives and works in Florence County while about seven percent travel to Marinette County. Although Forest and Vilas Counties border Florence, there is very little commuting between these counties in either direction due in part to the location of population centers in these counties.

Services including finance, real estate, health care and education represent 47.1 percent of the employment in Florence County. Manufacturing employment makes up 21.6 percent of employment in the county. The remaining 24.8 percent of the employment is distributed among agriculture, construction, mining, communications, transportation, utilities, and wholesale trade.



## **SUMMARY**

Florence County is a mostly rural, undeveloped county with many publicly owned lands that contain an abundance of natural resources such as lakes and rivers, and woodlands. It is important to maintain and improve existing facilities while determining which improvements can be made to serve the most segments of the county's year-round, seasonal, and tourist populations.

In addition, according to the 2000 Census, 7.1 percent or 341 persons in Florence County have some type of mobility limitation. This fact, along with increases in the elderly population will necessitate addressing ADA accessibility to county outdoor recreation facilities.

Map 2.1: Land Use

Map 2.2: Land Ownership

## **Chapter 3 - OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY INVENTORY**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The following inventory includes national, state, private sector, town, and Florence County School District recreation sites, in addition to County sites. This inventory will allow for comparison of sites offered by the private sector and different levels of government in order to balance and plan for a variety of recreational opportunities.

### **LAND BASED RECREATION ACTIVITIES INVENTORY**

#### **County Fair Park**

The Florence County–Fair Park is located on CTH "N", one-third mile south of US 2. The grounds are approximately 17 acres in size and host a variety of activities in addition to the County Fair, from April through October of each year including girls softball, minor league and peewee baseball, soccer, family reunions and weddings, horse clinics and shows, as well as other local group and club functions. Facilities include a 4,000 square foot exhibit building that includes the fair office, kitchen and bathrooms, an arena with terraced hillside seating, a 1,200 square foot pavilion with stage, a 12' by 16' beer garden, a 1,200 square foot livestock building, soccer field, softball field, open grass area and level parking lot.

#### **Campgrounds**

There are presently seven public, two private, and three town owned camping facilities in the county contributing to a total of 175 developed campsites. Public campgrounds provide the largest number of sites, 105, followed by private, 60, and town, 10. Support facilities, such as toilets, utilities, tables, grills, parking, and shelters are usually available on the campgrounds or in conjunction with associated day use areas. Walk-in campsites are located at Perch and Lauterman Lakes, in the state natural area, and along the Pine and Popple Rivers. Walk-in campsites, by definition, are accessible only by canoe, boat or foot and improvements, at most, are generally limited to a cleared tent site and fire ring. In addition to the designated walk-in campsites, primitive camping which provides no physical site improvements is permitted on most of the County and National Forest lands within the county. Halls Creek and Bush Lake Flats equestrian trails allow camping at the trail head. Both have picnic tables, fire rings and a hitching post. Locations of existing camping facilities are shown on Map 3.1.

#### **Day Use Areas**

Day use areas are defined as picnicking facilities used in conjunction with other activities such as campgrounds, swimming beaches, waysides, or other park and playground facilities. These areas are generally provided by all levels of government plus the private sector and most of these areas include picnic tables, garbage cans, toilets, and drinking water. Some of the day use areas have charcoal grills. However, most of the grills are in need of repair or replacement. Day use areas play an important role in terms of outdoor recreation in Florence County for both residents and tourists. They serve as a place to gather for local residents and as a point of destination or place to stop and relax for tourists as they pass through the county.

The following day use area numbers correspond with their location on Map 3.2 1) Lost Lake, 2) Morgan Lake, 3) HWY 101/Popple River Wayside, 4) Emily Lake, 5) Keyes Lake, 6) Fischer Lake, 7) Kenneth L. Thompson Memorial (Siedel Lake), 8) Sea Lion Lake, 9) West Bass Lake, 10) North Lake, 11) Fisher Lake, 12) Sand Lake, 13) Lake of Dreams, 14) Patten Lake, 15)

Homestead Township Park (East Bass Lake), 16) Homestead Township Park (Bush Lake), 17) Homestead Township Park (Sand Lake), 18) Florence Town Park/Playground, 19) Florence County Forest Rifle Range, 20) W.E.P. Co. Site 24 (Pine River), 21) W.E.P. Co. Site 34 (Pine River) 22) W.E.P. Co. Site 33(Vagabond Park), 23) W.E.P. Co. Site 5 (Pine River) 24) W.E.P. Co. Site 28 (Brule River) 25) Homestead Township Park (Scout Lake), 26) Wild Rivers interpretive Center, 27)Aurora Conservation Club Menominee River Boat Launch, 28) Long Lake town Park, 29) Perch Lake, 30) Lauterman, 31) Oxbow take out.

### **Wild Rivers Interpretive Center**

The Florence Natural Resource and Wild Rivers Interpretive Center is on a 34 acre site located at the intersection of US 2/141 and HWY 70/101. The Wild Rivers Interpretive Center occupies approximately one third of this 10,000 square foot building. The Wild Rivers Interpretive Center serves the local community and visitors as the principal place for finding information on recreational opportunities and other opportunities within Florence County. The building also houses the USDA National Forest Service District Ranger Office, the office of the WDNR Florence County Ranger, the office of the Florence County Forestry and Parks Administrator and the office of the University of Wisconsin Extension.

### **Florence County School Forest**

The Florence School District has a total of approximately 118 acres in forest land. The land is divided into two separate units. The first unit is 80 acres and is called the "Lake Emily Unit" because of its proximity to Lake Emily. The Florence County Board conveyed this 80 acre parcel to the Florence School District for a school forest. The second unit is 38 acres and is referred to as the "Poor Farm Unit" because it was once a farm operated by Florence County to take care of indigent persons. Various species of trees have been planted at both units since the 1960's.

### **Golfing**

Within Florence County there is one nine-hole golf course. The course is located in the Spread Eagle area in the northeastern part of the county. This is a par 34 golf course that winds through a forty acre wooded area. The Town park in Fence offers a tennis court for public use. In addition, a park adjacent to the Sacred Heart Church in the town of Aurora has tennis courts.

### **Horseback Riding**

. Many individuals take advantage of this form of recreation by using one of many existing low volume town and forest roads. A well established recreational pursuit, people have enjoyed using stable-horses for trail riding for many years. However, newly passed legislation may drastically change participation rates. The new law places the liability for injuries with rider, instead of with the stable owner. This could pave the way for additional riding stables, which will need trails to ride on. Halls Creek equestrian trail is approximately 20 miles of trail on four different colored loops. The Bush Lake Flats equestrian trail is 7.5 miles of trail on one loop. Both trails are located off of County Hwy. C. overnight camping is allowed and have picnic tables, fire rings and hitching posts. Please see map 3.3 for the location of the Hall's Creek trail head #1 and Bush Lake Flats Trail head #2.

### **Hiking/Nature Trails**

As illustrated and numbered on Map 3.3, there are several marked hiking/nature trails in Florence County. The majority of these trails can be found within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. In addition, an abundance of unmarked trails on county forest land, state lands,

and scenic low traffic volume roads within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest provide numerous opportunities for hikers. Backpacking is permitted on all national and county forest lands within the county. The following hiking/nature trails are numbered and correspond with Map 3.3: 1) Lake Emily Trail - three miles long, 2) LaSalle Falls Trail - one mile long, 3) Halls Creek Trail - eight miles long, 4) Bush Lake Trail - 8 miles long, 5) LaMontage Creek Ruffed Grouse Area - 5 miles long, 6) Winchester Trail - over 2 miles long, 7) Whisker Lake Trail - open wilderness hiking, 8) Lauterman National Recreation Trail - nine miles long, 9) Perch Lake Trail - 2 miles long, 10) Ridge Trail - over 3 miles long, 11) Lost Lake Trails -five miles long, 12) Assessor's Interpretive Trail - one mile loop, 13) Keyes Lake Trail - three miles long, 14) Rainbow H.W.T., 15) Long Lake Trail, and 16) Southworth Nature Interpretive Trail-one mile loop.

### **Bicycling and Mountain Biking**

Bicycling as a recreational activity is undertaken for a variety of reasons including touring, competitive racing, and simple exercise. A bike trail is a separate pathway designed exclusively for use of bicyclists and ideally independent of other transportation facilities. Bike routes share the roadway with motor vehicles with the routes designated by appropriate bike signs. Although no designated bike trails or routes currently exist within the county, many miles of low volume town, county, and federal forest roads throughout the county traverse varied topography and offer numerous opportunities for the beginner as well as the experienced bicyclist.

Mountain biking can be distinguished from bicycling in that it normally takes place off-road. Mountain biking has gained in popularity over the last decade, which has resulted in designated mountain biking trails and increased tourism throughout Florence County. The following trails are illustrated and the assigned numbers correspond with Map 3.3: 1) Ridge Trail, 2) Perch Lake Trail, 3) Lauterman Trail, and 4) Keyes Peak Trail.

### **ATV Trails**

There are 60.55miles of state funded summer trails in the County, and 71.3 miles of state funded winter trails for ATV's. Linking these trails are many miles of Town and County Forest Roads. There are plans for many more miles of trails in the future throughout the county. These trails connect to Marinette County, Forest County, and the State of Michigan trail systems. Many Towns have opened some or all of their roads for ATV's.

Operation of ATV's is also permitted on county forest roads unless otherwise posted, gated or bermed. Users of these roads and trails are required to comply with all applicable regulations. Trail maps are available at local business.

### **Snowmobiling**

There are over 137.5 miles of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approved public marked trails in Florence County, illustrated on Map 3.4 and known as the Blue Ox Trails. These trails are maintained and groomed throughout the winter season providing the area residents, clubs, and visitors with some of the finest views of nature combined with the most picturesque trails in the state. Also, some town roads and roads within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest are not plowed in winter and provide additional snowmobiling opportunities. Club trails which are not state approved provide another opportunity for snowmobiling. Users of these trails and roads are required to comply with all applicable regulations.

### **Snow skiing**

One publicly owned downhill ski facility exists within Florence. The twenty acre facility offers three tow ropes, a log lodge with concessions, ski rental equipment, tubing hill, snowmaking equipment, and has a 207 foot drop. Map 3.4 illustrates the location of this ski hill at Keyes Peak.

There are seven marked cross country ski trails in Florence County as illustrated on Map 3.4 and include; 1) Lauterman - nine miles long, 2) Perch Lake – one mile long, 3) Keyes Peak - downhill 4) Lake Emily – 2.5 miles long, and 5) Halls Creek Cross Country Ski Trail is approximately 10 miles of trails on 3 different loops. The trailhead is at the LaSalle Falls parking lot.

The Perch Lake Trail is not groomed for cross-country skiing. Cross-country skier are welcome on any trail but the only National Forest groomed cross country ski trails in Florence County are at Lauterman.

### **Hunting and Trapping**

More than a recreation activity, hunting and trapping are a very strong tradition in Florence County and Wisconsin in general. Florence County has an abundant supply of wildlife including forest game such as white-tailed deer, bear, snowshoe hare, gray squirrels, ruffed grouse, and turkey. Wetland species include beaver, mink, muskrat, and otter. Waterfowl within the county are somewhat less abundant due to the extensive forest cover. Common waterfowl species include mallard, wood duck, blue-winged teal, black duck, and mergansers. Upland furbearer species include fox, coyote, raccoon, fisher, and bobcat.

Hunting and trapping are allowed within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, on state owned lands, on county forest lands, and selected privately owned corporation and utility lands and lands enrolled under Forest Crop Law and Managed Forest Law may be open to the public according to rules established in Wisconsin State Statutes.

Five separate areas are also maintained for the use of the walking hunter in Florence County. These are the Halls Lake Walking Trail, Lake Emily Walking Trail, Bush Lake Flats Walking Trail, Rainbow Hunter Walking Trail, and the LaMontage Walking Trail.

Three areas are also managed to promote better grouse habitat. They are the LaMontage Creek Grouse Management Area on the county forest, the Porcupine Lake Grouse and Woodcock Management Area on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and the Aurora/Winchester Ruffed Grouse Management Area on the Florence County Forest.

### **Rifle Range**

One officially recognized shooting range exists in Florence County call the Florence County Forest Rifle Range located on the County Forest. This range is operated by the Forestry and Parks Department with assistance from the Aurora/Homestead Conservation Club on minor upkeep. This site is located off of CTY Hwy C in the town of Homestead.

### **Forest Products Gathering**

Often overlooked as a form of recreation, the gathering of various types of forest products is a popular activity enjoyed by all ages of residents and visitors to Florence County. Common types of activities include berry and mushroom picking, gathering firewood, selecting Christmas trees, and collecting nuts and other tree components such as pine cones, pine boughs and colored leaves. These activities will remain popular as long as the quality of the forest resources

contained within the county is maintained.

### **Natural Areas**

The DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources has identified several areas with special biological features in Florence County. These are tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity that they contain native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the presettlement landscape. A table providing a description of each area can be found in Appendix C.

### **Historic and Archaeological Sites**

These sites comprise an important portion of the unique cultural heritage of Florence County and are related to the recreational element in that once these sites are destroyed they can never be replaced. Inventory and recognition of these sites can allow for tourism in the form of walking and auto tours. A listing and explanation of these sites is located in Appendix D.

### **Whisker Lake Wilderness Area**

As illustrated on Map 3.3, the 7,765 Whisker Lake Wilderness Area is located in the north central portion of the county in the town of Florence. The area is part of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and is managed as wilderness to preserve it in its natural state, where only the forces of nature dominate the landscape. The Whisker Lake Wilderness is open to all types of recreation except motorized or other mechanical use. No facilities are provided with the exception of trails and information stations at the entrances.

### **Spread Eagle Barrens**

The Spread Eagle Barrens is an 10,000± -acre state natural area located in the east central portion of Florence County, as illustrated on Map 3.3. While the term "barrens" implies sterility, this unique portion of the ecosystem is very diverse. Barrens consist of undulating grasslands, plains, ridges, hills, kettles, solitary pines and oaks, and occasional large blocks of timber. In addition, barrens are biologically rich and rare. The Spread Eagle Barrens represent the largest ecological community of its kind remaining in Wisconsin. The goal of the Spread Eagle Barrens management plan is to preserve, restore, and maintain pine barrens, bracken grassland and northern dry forest ecosystems that provide habitat for a diversity of plant and animal species. The management plan is a joint effort between the state, county and private landowners. Management tools include timber harvest and prescribed burning.

### **Scenic Driving**

Due to Florence County's abundance of forest and water resources and variety of landscapes, almost any federal, state, county, or town road can offer exceptional scenic views. The western portion of the county is heavily forested with rolling to hilly topography and small lakes and streams scattered throughout the countryside. The eastern towns are forested for the most part with a scattering of farms. The land surface is level to moderately rolling occasionally interrupted by rock outcrops and prominent glacial depositional features. Lakes, such as Lake Emily, are common throughout this area. Streams and rivers have many scenic rapids and waterfalls as a result of increased gradients.

There is one designated auto tour, as well as one rustic road tour advertised by Florence County in its visitors guide. The auto tour combines a mixture of the built and natural environment with opportunities to travel along major highways to visit historic sites and scenic overlooks, and forest roads to see waterfalls and areas such as Whisker Lake Wilderness Area and Spread Eagle

Barrens State Natural Area. Map 3.3 illustrates the rustic road tour, which provides motorists an opportunity to cross the Popple River, a state designated wild river, several times and travel through picturesque hardwood forest areas along rural county and forest roads.

### **Organized Sports**

Participation in organized sports such as soccer, softball and hardball is a popular activity particularly among the younger segment of the population. One soccer field located at the County Fair Park is available for use during the entire soccer season. - other fields are also used, two in conjunction with the school in Florence and one in Aurora . Currently over 200 Florence County youth participate in this activity during the summer months.

Four softball, one hardball, one t-ball/younger girls and one little league field currently exist within the county. The softball fields are located in the townships of Aurora, Florence, Fence and Long Lake. The field in Florence is part of the school complex. The Aurora field is also used for little league. One hardball field also exists in conjunction with school facilities in the town of Florence. The little league field is located at Fisher Lake Park in the town of Florence. The t-ball/younger girls softball field is located next to the soccer field at the County Fair Park.

### **School Playgrounds**

School playgrounds are located at the Florence school grounds, the former Aurora school grounds, and the former Long Lake school grounds. There is also an 18-hole Frisbee Golf course located on the Florence School grounds that is available for residents or visitors to use as well as several basketball hoops and one basketball court.

## **WATER BASED RECREATION ACTIVITIES INVENTORY**

### **The Water Resource**

Florence County's surface water supply, including all lakes and streams consists of 8,758 acres or approximately three percent of the county's area. There are 100 named lakes covering 6,596.6 acres and 165 unnamed lakes with 344.7 acres provide providing a total lake surface area of 6,941.3 acres. The largest natural lake is Halsey Lake covering 512 acres, while the Twin Falls Flowage encompasses over 900 acres. The deepest natural lake is Sea Lion with a maximum depth of 82 feet. Several flooded iron mines have depths over 100 feet with the deepest being 147 feet. Approximately 62 percent of the lakes within the county have some form of public access.

In addition, 52 named and 113 unnamed streams and rivers covering a total area of 1,636.7 acres flow within or border on Florence County. 393.3 miles of rivers and streams within the county have public frontage.

### **Wild Rivers**

As illustrated on Map 3.5, the Pine and Popple Rivers, which flow through Florence County, have been designated by state law as State of Wisconsin Wild Rivers. The Wild Rivers concept can best be expressed by Wisconsin State Statute 30.26 which states in part "...it is in the interest of this state to preserve some rivers in a free flowing condition and to protect them from development..." and "...wild rivers...shall receive special management to assure their preservation, protection, and enhancement of their natural beauty, unique recreational and other inherent values...".

The Pine and Popple are two of Wisconsin's least developed rivers. Land use in the watershed is

devoted predominantly to timber production. Both rivers provide recreational activities such as kayaking, canoeing and fishing. Public access or put-in/take-out locations for non-motorized watercraft are illustrated on Map 3.6.

### **Fishing**

Florence County's lakes, rivers, and streams provide extensive resources for this activity. However, increased use of the resource for fishing related activities has resulted in a need for upgraded and improved boat launches and supporting parking facilities. Development of public access on all lakes should be pursued whenever feasible. A need also exists to develop better on shore fishing opportunities in the county for the disabled and elderly segment of the population (i.e., fishing docks providing access for disabled persons). In 2010, a new ADA accessible fishing pier project was completed by Florence Utilities using a DNR grant. This facility is located in the Town of Florence 2 blocks south of US Hwy 2 where Chapin St. dead ends into Fisher Lake. The site has parking, but is in need of additional amenities such as picnic tables, some type of restroom facility and trash cans.

Sport fish species include brown, brook, and rainbow trout, largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, panfish and muskellunge. Many of the cold lakes and streams provide ideal habitat for trout. Brook and brown trout are found primarily in the streams, while brook and rainbow trout are the principle species in the lakes. Some trout streams include the Pine, Popple, South Branch Popple, Woods, Wisconsin Creek, Hendricks Creek, and Little Popple River.

Many of the warmer lakes in the county contain largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike and panfish. Walleye are probably the most sought after warm water fish in the county. Water bodies such as the Menominee River, Lower Brule River, Lower Pine River, Pine River Flowage, Brule River Flowage, Halsey Lake, Fay Lake, Long Lake, Frog Lake and the Spread Eagle Chain provide good walleye populations.

Better fish habitat development and restoration along with a continued stocking program should also be pursued to ensure a good supply of both cold and warm water sport fishing opportunities.

### **Canoeing and Related Activities**

Canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and tubing enthusiasts have a variety of rivers and streams available to accommodate these activities. The diversity of rivers and streams the county has to offer can provide a satisfying recreational experience for the novice as well as the expert. The Pine, Popple, Brule, and Menominee Rivers are excellent for these activities and are illustrated on Map 3.6. The county's major canoeable rivers total approximately 120 miles. It should be recognized that not all portions of these rivers may be navigable on any given date, particularly the Popple River, since fluctuating water levels and flow rates may result from variations in precipitation.

In addition to rivers and streams, numerous smaller lakes throughout the county are also available for these activities. Although lakes may not offer the challenges and thrills of the county's rivers, they do provide a scenic, tranquil environment.

### **Motor Boating, Water Skiing, and Jet Skiing**

Florence County has several lakes suitable for motor boating, water skiing, and jet skiing. The guideline generally utilized in determining if a water body is suitable and safe for these activities is if the surface area is 200 acres or greater. Using this DNR guideline, seven lakes - Fay, Halsey, Keyes, Kingsford Flowage, Long, Patten, and Twin Falls Flowage - have surface areas greater than 200 acres. In addition, the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes has a combined area of over 200

acres. Although these lakes are greater than 200 acres, they do possess some limitations. Due to dense beds of floating and submergent vegetation, Fay, Halsey, and Long Lakes are of limited boating value. Stump fields in the Kingsford and Twin Falls Flowages can make boating hazardous. The best fast boating and water skiing opportunities are on Keyes and Patten Lakes and the Spread Eagle Chain.

Conflicts between recreational interests exist on most large water bodies within the county between motor boating, water skiing, and jet skiing enthusiasts and fishing, sailing, and other non-motorized forms of boating, and swimming enthusiasts. The conflicts result primarily from large wakes created by fast boating activities and dangerous operation of jet skis, coupled with the narrow configuration of many of the lakes, particularly those comprising the Spread Eagle Chain. Jet skiing has recently increased in popularity, thus increasing the noise and density of motor activity on many lakes. These conflicts are being addressed in part through the adoption of ordinances restricting the use of motorized boats to specified periods to allow optimum use of the resource by all interested user groups. The state requires boats operating within 100 feet of any shoreline to go slow and produce no wake in order to reduce these conflicts and reduce shoreline erosion. In 2010, the Town of Florence passed an ordinance exempting boats from the 100 foot Slow-No-Wake restrictions on the channels of the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes.

Rivers in the county are generally too narrow or shallow for motor boating. The Menominee River is the only exception offering adequate width and depth.

Boat Ramps are numbered and illustrated on Map 3.6 and correspond to the following; 1) Long Lake, 2) Halsey Lake, 3) Fay Lake 4) Lake of Dreams, 5) Lost Lake, 6) Morgan Lake, 7) Patten Lake, 8) West Bass Lake, 9) East Bass Lake, 10) Bush Lake, 11) Sand Lake, 12) Pine River, 13) Pine River, 14) Pine River, 15) Sea Lion Lake, 16) Keyes Lake, 17) Emily Lake, 18) Brule River, 19) Fisher Lake, 20) Anna Lake 21) North Lake 22) Menominee River, 23) Ellwood Lake, 24) Frog Lake, 25) Pine River, 26) Menominee River, 27) Fischer Lake, 28) Sand Lake, 29) Lund Lake, 30) Scout Lake and Mirror Lake, and 31) Loon Lake, 32) Cosgrove Lake Boat Landing, 33) Montgomery Lake, and 34) Menominee River, Aurora, 35) Siedel, 36) Savage Lake 37) Halls Creek Flowage 38) Menominee River Camels Clearing 39) Lake Edith. There are also approximately 14 canoe access sites around the county.

### **Swimming**

Numerous undeveloped and unsupervised swimming areas exist on the county's lakes and rivers. As illustrated on Map 3.6, lakes having developed public beaches are: Lost, Morgan, Keyes, Emily, Fisher, Long Lake, West Bass, and Vagabond Park. These beaches are all approximately one acre in area.

Changing or bathhouses are available to the swimmer at Emily, Keyes, Fisher, and West Bass Lakes. None of these lakes have lifeguards. Numerous private beaches associated with lodges and resorts, especially in the Spread Eagle, and undeveloped beaches on public lands exist throughout the county. Generally, lakes greater than 50 acres have better quality beaches since their windward shores receive sufficient wave action to maintain a sandy beach.

### **Waterfall Tours**

As illustrated on Map 3.5, Florence County has seven waterfalls along the Pine and Popple Rivers including; 1) LaSalle Falls, 2) Washburn Falls, 3) Little Bull Falls, 4) Big Bull Falls, 5) Jennings Falls, 6) Bull Falls, and 7) Meyers Falls. Trails to these falls are hilly and unimproved

requiring more than average physical effort.

## **PARK ACCESSIBILITY**

### **ADA Standards**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 requires that "reasonable accommodation" be made to the needs of the estimated one in five people in this country who are disabled. That is, all public and private goods and service providers and employers must remove all structural and communication barriers from facilities, or that they provide alternative access where feasible.

Regulations regarding accessibility requirements for outdoor recreation sites have not been clearly defined; however, precise guidelines have been developed for all public structures such as restrooms, information centers, and other public and private buildings at those sites.

Based on recent fieldwork, it appears that some parks in Florence County are not completely accessible according to the ADA standards. Restrooms, pathways, parking, and general accessibility of all amenities should be addressed over the next few years to ensure that all people are given the same opportunities within the community. The following are basic issues which should be addressed in terms of park accessibility:

- All **restroom facilities** should be accessible by persons with disabilities. In some cases, this would require minimal remodeling, in others, it could require substantial modifications.
- At least one **picnic table** and one **grill** designed to accommodate persons in wheelchairs should be available at each park (if these types of facilities are not currently available).
- One in 25 **parking stalls** should be designated for disabled parking. These stalls should be the closest spaces to the park or facility entrance and have a direct route to and from the stall to a marked adjacent access aisle of 60 inches and must have an unobscured vertical sign that shows the universal symbol of accessibility. Slope of these spaces and aisles cannot exceed 1:50.
- Firm, slip resistant, barrier-free **pathways** linking park facilities within each park are recommended. They should be at least 36 inches wide, with a 60 by 60 inch passing space or turnaround provided every 200 feet.
- Where **water fountains** are available, spouts should be no more than 36 inches above the finished floor. If the fountain is freestanding or built-in and does not have a clear space underneath, a clear floor space of 30 to 48 inches alongside the fountain for a parallel approach should be provided. A wall or post of at least 27 inches high by 17 to 19 inches deep by 30 inches wide should be provided. Controls should be located at the front edge of the fountain and operable with one hand without twisting the wrist.



**Selected Assessment of Accessibility Needs**

- Lake Emily County Park:** -Toilet seat approximately 14 inches above floor (ADA requires 17 to 19 inches)  
-Difficult accessibility to restrooms (steep grassy incline)
- Keyes Lake County Park:** -Steep grassy grade from bathrooms down to beach (no path)  
-Grab bars in bathrooms are approximately 28 inches off the floor(ADA requires 33 to 36 inches)  
-Toilet seat approximately 14 inches above floor
- Fisher Lake County Park:** -Inaccessible route to bathroom facilities for wheelchair(dirt path)  
-No grab bars in bathroom facilities
- West Bass Lake County Park:** -No designated handicapped parking stall  
-No paved trail to bathrooms or to beach area
- Spread Eagle Public Landing:** -No handrails and narrow doorway in bathroom  
-Unpaved walkway to bathroom(dirt path)
- Lake of Dreams Public Landing:** -No accessibility for wheelchair to toilet(grass path)  
-No handrails and doorway too narrow in bathroom  
-Half a foot step up to get in bathroom

**Operation and Maintenance Needs**

- Lake Emily County Park:** -No doors on men's toilet stall
- Keyes Lake County Park:** -No doors on men's and women's toilet stalls
- Fisher Lake County Park:** -In need of basic repairs and maintenance to help beautify the park
- West Bass Lake County Park:** -No door on Men's bathroom stall

**ADA Compliance Deadlines**

When the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed by Congress, January 26, 1992 was the date by which government programs, new facilities and nonstructural changes to existing buildings and facilities were to be completed. Structural changes to buildings were to be completed no later than January 26, 1995. Although many communities have not yet met the deadlines, efforts should be taken by Florence County to bring facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Map 3.1: Campgrounds

Map 3.2: Day Use Areas

Map 3.3: Summer Activity Trials/Wilderness & Natural Areas

Map 3.4: Winter Activity Trails

Map 3.5: Wild Rivers & Waterfalls

Map 3.6: Major Canoeable Rivers, Existing Boat Ramps, and Public Swimming Areas

## **Chapter 4 - OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

A critical element of a recreation plan is the needs assessment. The needs assessment is the county's way of identifying what recreation facilities or opportunities are needed.

There are basically two methods of conducting a needs assessment. One method is through recreation standards and the other is through public input. In this study, a combination of both methods is used to get a true picture of the community's recreation needs.

### **RECREATION NEEDS STANDARDS**

One method to assess community recreation needs is the standards system. Standards that have been developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provide a scale against which an existing recreation system can be measured so that guidelines for future needs can be created.

Standards link the number of facility units and acreages to the county's population. It is recognized that because of the variations in outdoor recreation environments throughout the nation, as well as the multiplicity of planning procedures that exist, no single type of resource and facility guideline can adequately meet all outdoor recreation planning needs simultaneously. Therefore, the long standing NRPA standard of 10 acres/1000 persons is recognized as a guide to be taken into consideration with local and state plans including the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, as well as additional input from the community.

### **NRPA Standards**

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) suggests that, at a minimum, a county park system be composed of 10 acres of developed recreation land per 1,000 population. Based on this standard, Florence County, with a population estimate of 4,423 in the year 2010, should provide at least 44-acres of recreation land. Not counting Federal, State, local, or school district land, Florence County alone provides 37,290 acres of land for outdoor recreation. Florence County far exceeds the NRPA minimum standard for outdoor recreation.

### **SCORP Analysis**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) recently completed the report *Outdoor Recreation in Wisconsin: The 2005- 2011 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. In this report, the WDNR analyzes the recreation facility/activity priorities for the state, identifies primary issues, and establishes funding criteria.

In Wisconsin, land resource based activities have increased just over 27 percent in a 10 year period. Much of this increase has been in the areas of wildlife viewing and off-road driving, both relatively inactive activities. While not generally popular among older participants, the biggest change in recreation participation has been in the area of snow and ice based activities. Much of this change may be attributed to recent advancements in equipment technology, as well as an increased interest in snowboarding and ice skating.

Recreation projections can be examined in two ways. The first is simply participation as a numerical total. For the vast majority of recreation activities, this number will increase as the state's population does. To gauge a more accurate view of future participation, it is far more useful to examine a given activity's participation rate as a percentage of the total population.

This number gives a better understanding of population growth vs. participation change in an activity. Statewide projections are made for a five year period, thus reflecting the most pressing demands on recreation in the near future. Some of these activities such as ATVing, RV camping, and geocaching are expected to grow in popularity. Other activities such as swimming, day hiking, and fishing, are expected to remain stable in their popularity, while others—jet skiing, mountain biking, etc.—are expected to decrease in popularity.

Table 4.1: Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities, 2005-2011

<b>Increasing Demands</b>	<b>Comment</b>
ATV	Market saturation may occur by 2011 causing this use to level off
RV Camping	The baby boom population continues to change from tent to RV's, but increasing fuel prices may slow this
Bird Viewing	A popular activity for an aging baby boom population
Motorboating	Costs have decreased enough to continue to make this a popular activity.
Driving for Pleasure	An easy activity for all generations
Picnic	A family activity crossing generation gaps
Gardening	On the rise with the baby boom population
Wildlife Viewing/ Photography	Often done in conjunction with driving for pleasure, making this activity very popular.
Kayaking	Better technology has made this an affordable sport for the general public
Geocaching	Popular both with families and members of the Y generation
Canoeing	Cheap, easy water access for all generations
Skateboarding	Popular with urban youth and the Y generation
Snowboarding	This may start to level off by 2011 as the next generation looks towards newer technology
Snowshoeing	Not growing as fast since 2002
Paintball Games	Better and cheaper technology attracts the Y generation
Road Biking	Increases will slow do to the retirement of Lance Armstrong and the effect that was felt from his Tour de France wins
Visit a Dog Park	Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas
Walking	Popular among all ages, though especially aging baby boomers
Water Parks	Construction of new water parks continues to fuel the increasing demand for this activity
Off-road Motorcycling	Record sales of off-road vehicles continues to fuel this demand
Cross- Country Skiing	Cross country skiing is expected to increase as well during the planning period. Development of additional trails on public lands should be encouraged along with a good maintenance and signage program. There is a need for a ski trail to be developed on the Spread Eagle Barrens. These trails will also provide good hiking/foot path opportunities during the summer. In addition, efforts to increase public awareness regarding existing trail facilities should be pursued.
<b>Stable Demand</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Day Hiking	An easy, popular activity for all generations
Scuba/Snorkel	A Niche sport that attracts a younger generation
Fishing	Very popular with all generations
Swimming	Always popular – water quality issues have caused growth in this activity to stagnate

Rock Climbing	A small but stable Y generation niche
Run / Jog	The baby boomer generation continues to do this, but Y generation may not
Tent Camping	Still popular but may start to lose ground to the RV trend

Table 4.2: Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities, 2005-2011 (cont.)

<b>Stable Demand</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Ice Skating	An easy, cheap activity for the mass public
Horseback Riding	Continues to be popular with the boomers, but may not be popular with the Y generation
Inline Skating	After a quick rise in the 1990's this activity has leveled
Sailing	Equipment demands and skill requirements prevent this from growing
Disc Golf	Popular with the urban younger generations
Rowing	A small niche activity with simple equipment
Tennis	A recent resurgence has stabilized this activity
<b>Decreasing Demands</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Downhill Skiing	Continues to struggle with attracting the Y generation
Team Sports	Expect for soccer, all other sports have declined Market saturation occurred in the 1990's with the baby boomers who are now replacing their jet skis with motorboats
Jet Ski	
Hunting	Continues to struggle with generational loss and access issues
Golf	Time and expense continue to push players to other recreation
Snowmobile	The industry struggles with how to attract more people with less snow Baby boomers that made the sport popular in the 1990's have switched to road bikes
Mountain Biking	
Backpacking	A popular baby boomer activity not as popular with the "Y" generation

Source: WDNR, 2005- 2011SCORP, 2006.

### Statewide Recreation Goals

In addition to facility/activity priorities for the state, the SCORP identified eight statewide goals and associated actions for recreation enthusiasts, planners, providers, and the general public in the future and include:

#### ***Goal 1: Protect, Restore and Enhance Wisconsin's Natural Resources for Outdoor Recreation***

Two issues - control of invasive species and poor water quality - are high on the list for improvements within the state.

#### Actions and Recommendations:

1. Continue to provide protection to lakes, rivers and streams to improve aquatic habitat and water quality and improve fisheries.
2. Reverse the process of forest fragmentation by initiating programs that minimize loss on industrial forests.
3. Continue to implement an invasive species control program on Wisconsin lands and waters.
4. Provide more protection to wetlands, thereby benefiting the ecological and recreational resources of the state.

5. Continue to provide funding and assistance for the restoration of native prairies and grassland ecosystems.
6. Continue to support and fund the Smart Growth Planning process to help stop fragmentation of open spaces while still allowing for development.

***Goal 2: Continue to Improve and Develop Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Facilities***

Upkeep and development of outdoor recreation facilities continues to be at the core of providing a quality outdoor recreation experience.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Continue to maintain and renovate outdoor recreation facilities for future generations.
2. Provide for continued development and enhancements of urban outdoor recreation facilities such as soccer fields and playground equipment.
3. Provide for expansion of the following trail systems: hiking, biking, horse, and water.
4. Enhance and upgrade signage and maps for all outdoor recreational lands and waters.
5. Continue to acquire lands for outdoor recreation at all levels of government.

***Goal 3: Continue to Provide Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Education and Programming***

Outdoor education and programming continue to be in high demand among Wisconsin citizens.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Provide funding and support for joint outdoor recreation programs between schools, government, and communities.
2. Provide funding and support for more outdoor recreation skills courses.
3. Develop programs that begin to address the state's changing urban populations.
4. Develop and support programs that bring nature-based experiences close to home for urban youth.
5. Provide more courses on environmental education and ethics.

***Goal 4: Continue to Provide and Enhance Public Access to Wisconsin Recreational Lands and Waters***

As recreation continues to place demands on public lands and waters, the lack of public access to these areas has become an increasing concern among many state citizens.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Develop a statewide interactive mapping system showing all public lands and water access points within the state.
2. Continue to acquire and develop boating access sites to meet public boating needs.
3. Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities and opportunities available within a given region.
4. Continue to improve handicap accessibility of outdoor recreation facilities.

***Goal 5: Understand the Threats and Opportunities of Wisconsin's Developing Urban Areas and Areas of Rapid Population Growth***

While most of Wisconsin's landscape is rural, most people in Wisconsin (68 percent) live in a relatively small urbanized area of the state. Threats from urbanization include the continued loss of agricultural/outdoor recreation lands, the increasing tension of urban populations recreating in urban/rural fringe areas, and decreasing water quality and habitat availability.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Continue to protect prime recreation lands through the use of the Knowles Stewardship program.
2. Develop trail networks that offer easy access from urban/suburban areas to rural areas.
3. Encourage communities to develop park and open space plans that allow for balanced growth while also providing outdoor recreation.
4. Continue to develop and provide active outdoor sports facilities such as soccer fields and tennis courts.
5. Continue to provide and expand community and neighborhood parks for many forms of outdoor recreation.

***Goal 6: Continue and Enhance Funding Opportunities for Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation***

As Wisconsin recreation has received increasingly less state resources—Wisconsin State Parks rank 49th in the nation for total percentage of state budget—funding programs have provided vital support to an ever dwindling pool of funds for outdoor park and recreation lands and facilities.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Renew the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program.
2. Encourage all local governments to develop park and recreation plans for participation in state and federal cost share programs.
3. Provide more cost share opportunities for local governments to develop and maintain recreational lands and facilities.
4. Increase Wisconsin State Parks funding to the nationwide average of 0.2% of the state budgets, or \$53 million a year.
5. Explore new and innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among many governmental agencies.
6. Increase revenue generating capabilities for outdoor recreation by continuing to update and improve technologies such as automated fee collection systems.

***Goal 7: Promote Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation as a Means to Better Health and Wellness for State Citizens***

The United States as a whole (including Wisconsin) is in the midst of an overweight and obesity epidemic. Outdoor park and recreation areas can provide the type of active recreational opportunities key to reversing this trend.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Encourage individuals, workplaces, community groups and schools to become physically active by promoting programs such as the Governor's Wisconsin Challenge program.
2. Develop a "Get Fit With Wisconsin" campaign for public lands and waters which touts the health benefits of using these recreational areas and reaches a wide audience of potential users.
3. Educate the public about health benefits of moderate and enjoyable physical activities such as walking, biking, nature study, etc.

4. Integrate opportunities and incentives for exercise during the workday—giving employees 30 minutes a day for exercise, providing exercise equipment, etc.
5. Start a dialogue between public outdoor recreation providers and health agencies to identify other (non-traditional) funding sources for recreational facilities and development.

***Goal 8: Understand and Manage the Growing Issue of Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Conflicts***

As demand for different outdoor recreation opportunities grows, conflict among these uses will become an increasingly important issue of public policy. These conflicts have not gone unnoticed by state residents who have increasingly witnessed a rise in noise pollution, an overcrowding of public lands and waters, and ever-growing development pressures on parks and open spaces.

**Actions and Recommendations:**

1. Continue to plan for increasing user conflicts concurrent to the state's growth in population.
2. Develop public and private management tools for addressing user conflicts.
3. Continue to fund outdoor recreation law enforcement authorities for control of outdoor regulations and rules.
4. Examine and understand Wisconsin's capacity for growth in outdoor recreation opportunities according to the state's natural resource base.
5. Designate more public land as recreational to meet the increasing demand for outdoor recreation.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

A successful planning process requires citizen participation. For the development of this plan, a letter was sent to the townships as well as interested organizations throughout the county for their input. The purposes of this was to get opinions on issues; to discover additional issues; to identify unrealized opportunities; to establish priorities; and to attract interested citizens for additional participation in the planning process. Along with the letters a public open house was held for interested individuals to look over the plan and provide feedback to be taken into consideration.

**County Recreation Plan Questionnaire**

The 2000 *Florence County Outdoor Recreation Plan* included input from two sources: 1) the Forestry and Parks Department mailed 114 questionnaires to local businesses, county clubs and associations, lake associations, all towns, county supervisors, and county agencies, and 2) As part of the development of the *Florence County Land Use and Lake Protection Plan*, a survey was sent to every resident/landowner in the county.

The questionnaire provided a description of a program or facility, then asked about the number of times used by the family in the last year, whether or not it needed to be improved or expanded, and whether or not a new facility or program was needed. The questionnaire also asked for written comments regarding the program or facility. These comments and the major "themes" were used to give consideration to additional recreational activities. Themes included; mountain bike trails, hiking and horseback riding trails, ADA accessible fishing piers and other facilities, a new ski lodge at Keyes Peak, and improved public swimming areas.

The *Florence County Land Use and Lake Protection Plan* survey contained questions specific to each town in the county, as well as county questions pertaining to lot sizes, county zoning, lake uses and conflicts, and lake classification. One of the questions included in the survey asked if the existing parks and recreation facilities in the town were adequate. Of the 5,416 surveys sent out to residents, 1,891 were returned, which translates to an adequate response rate of 35 percent.

If a person answering the survey disagreed whether or not the existing parks and recreation facilities were adequate, they were asked to list the additional recreation facilities they would like to see.

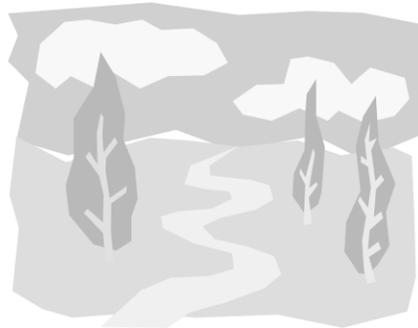
### **SUMMARY OF NEEDS ANALYSIS**

To fully understand the outdoor recreation needs of the county, all three assessment methods need to be examined including NRPA standards, SCORP analysis, and public input.

According to the NRPA standards, it is suggested that 10 acres of recreation land be provided for every 1,000 residents. Florence County provides a total of 37,290 acres for outdoor recreation. With an estimated year 2010 population of 4,423 residents, the county should have a minimum of 44 acres available for outdoor recreation according to NRPA suggested standards. Florence County far exceeds this requirement. Given the amount of land available for public recreation, this fact should be noticed and taken into consideration as the county applies for Stewardship funds. The major focus of the Stewardship program is land acquisition. While particularly environmentally sensitive lands may be worthy of protection and acquisition, it is apparent that the need in Florence County is not for land acquisition, rather it is for on-site physical (facility) improvements.

According to the SCORP analysis, Florence County offers areas for many of the outdoor recreation opportunities that are growing in popularity. These activities include ATVing, RV camping, bird viewing, motorboating, driving for pleasure, picnicking, gardening, wildlife viewing and photography, kayaking, geocaching, canoeing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, paintball games, road biking, , walking, visiting water parks and off-road motorcycling. These activities can be enjoyed alone or with friends or family. Given the amount of public lands available for these activities including federal, state, county, and town lands, Florence County is well suited to meet these recreation needs.

The public participation process has been important in identifying specific needs at the local level. Public participation was accomplished through mail surveys, public meetings, letters to Florence County clubs and organizations and Lake Associations, and newspaper articles.

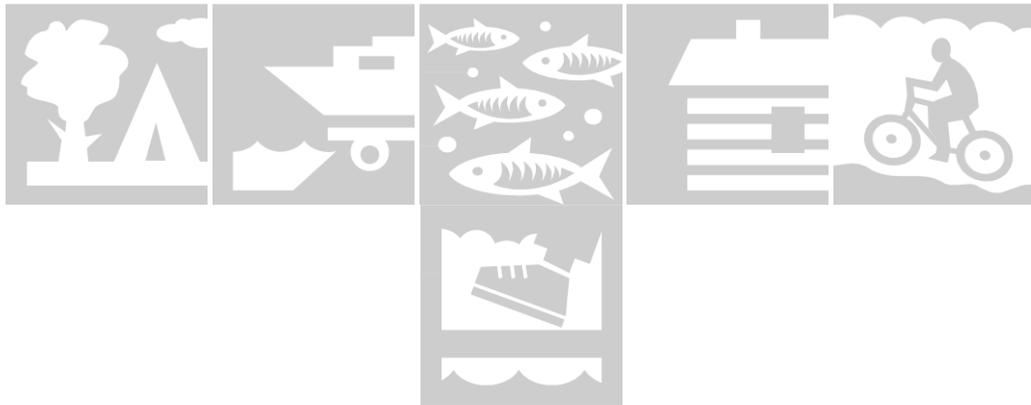


## **CONCLUSION**

Based upon the outdoor recreation needs assessment for Florence County, the following general needs have been identified:

- Park improvements; particularly boat ramps, toilets, parking, signs, ball diamonds, soccer fields, and ADA accessibility improvements.
- Trails; for both motorized and non-motorized activities, as well as for summer and winter activities.
- Modernized campgrounds; with electric and water hook-ups, as well as dumping stations.

More specific needs and potential park and recreation improvements are included in Chapter 5, Outdoor Recreation Recommendations, and Chapter 6, Implementation. It should also be noted; given that 147,137 acres or 46 percent of the county's land total is available for public use, the county's need is not for additional public land acquisition, rather its need is for improvements to existing facilities to ensure a high quality recreational experience for the year-round, seasonal and tourist population.



## **Chapter 5 - OUTDOOR RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The recommendations set forth in this chapter include an examination of National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) analysis, and public input. NRPA standards represent an analysis of outdoor recreation facilities and programs according to a nationally recognized formula for which a certain amount of facilities and acreages should be provided depending upon a local unit of government's population. The SCORP analysis a comparison of local facilities against state identified facility/activity priorities, and issues identified facing the state and local governments. Public input represents consideration for the needs and knowledge that local users and taxpayers can provide.

### **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Provision for and maintenance of public parks is in the public interest. Consequently, all levels of government attempt to provide park and recreational programs. To avoid a recreation program that is haphazard in character, the roles and objectives of each level of government should be periodically evaluated and established. County government should take the initiative in uniting all recreation interests within the county. The following statements can serve as general guidelines for the county's role in outdoor recreation activities:

- Any level of government should not compete with or duplicate the efforts of the private sector that provides to the public recreational activities and facilities in an adequate, efficient, and economical manner.
- This Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2012-2017 should serve as a concise and established guide for providing outdoor recreation activities. The park programs of one level of government should not compete with or duplicate the programs of another level of government.
- All levels of government should pursue a policy of attempting to protect areas of significant scenic, cultural, and historical value and important wildlife areas.
- Quality of the environment should not be sacrificed in the interest of need satisfaction.

An outdoor recreation plan must not only seek to provide recreation opportunities, it must also serve to satisfy the area's open space and landscape protection needs. Because of the quality of Florence County's natural resources, efforts should be directed toward their protection.

In terms of park development, the following basic facilities and services should be included:

1. ADA accessibility
2. Toilet facilities
3. Trash and recycling cans, when feasible
4. Adequate parking facilities
5. Adequate access and signage
6. Identification of park entrance and in more populated areas, park boundaries
7. Pleasure walking and/or hiking trails, where practical

8. Development of areas providing water-associated activities
9. Development of areas providing a variety of activities

In addition, Florence County should work with different user groups to provide creative and cost effective solutions for multiple recreational activities competing for the same limited resources as explained in the DNR SCORP. Some of these examples include; competition for water resources by jet ski operators, anglers, and canoeists; ATV operators and horseback riders using the same forest roadways; snowshoers and snowmobilers using the same forest areas; and mountain bikers and hikers using the same trails.

## **LAND BASED ACTIVITIES RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **County Fairgrounds Park**

In working with local representatives from Florence County Agricultural Society, it is recommended that the following improvements be made including replacing and extending water lines throughout the grounds, extend electricity to outlying areas, ~~construct~~ improve primitive camping sites on west-central edge of grounds. In addition, the grounds should be made ADA accessible, including pathways throughout the grounds.

The County Fairgrounds-Park ~~are~~ are a valuable resource and important part of the recreation activities in Florence County. Efforts should be made to utilize the grounds as efficiently as possible

### **Campgrounds**

It would appear that present camping capacity and facilities are inadequate to meet the present demand. It is recommended that improvements be made to existing facilities including pull through sites, camper pads, water and electric hookups and dumping stations. Most county, national, and town parks have the potential for future camping facility expansion and should be pursued, specifically the Lake Emily campground. The private sector should also not be overlooked as a source for developing campgrounds.

Primitive camping opportunities appear to be adequate to meet present and future demand as this type of camping is not restricted on County or National forest lands within the county. Maintenance and repairs to National Forest Campgrounds will continue but the Forest Service has no plans to expand capacity or expand utility services.

### **Day Use Areas**

Current use patterns, as well as survey results indicate a need for additional and upgraded picnic facilities. This can be accommodated by placing more tables at existing sites. A pavilion is recommended at West Bass Lake and Vagabond Park to accommodate large gatherings or to act as a shelter during inclement weather. For park improvements on county land that are open to the public and ADA accessible, it is recommended that when necessary, the county seek exemptions from the 75-foot setback from navigable waterways to accommodate such uses. In addition, to diversify day use activities and accommodate small children, playground equipment is recommended for existing sites, specifically at the Florence Town Park, Vagabond Park, Fisher Lake, Lake Emily, and West Bass Lakes. Also, given the widespread use of portable gas grills and smaller charcoal grills, the demand for permanent park grills has lessened. Therefore it is recommended that the majority of permanent grills that are available at most day use areas not be replaced as they deteriorate.

### **Wild Rivers Interpretive Center**

After operating the Center and the associated programs for eight years, the agencies in the Florence Natural Resource Center working with the Friends of the Florence Wild Rivers Interpretive Center, Inc. have foreseen the following improvements as either necessary or highly beneficial in the discharge of its goals to serve the public.

- Complete the remaining planned but unfunded exhibits in the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center.
- Install a modern wayside facility at the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center to replace the one removed by WisDOT in 2000.
- Complete the 3/4 mile Interpretive Nature Trail around the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center.
- Design and construct a wildlife and songbird habitat interpretive area for public outside the Interpretive Center for public enjoyment and education.
- Design and construct a research pond for public enjoyment and education outside the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center.
- Improvement of hiking surface.

### **Florence County School Forest**

An action plan has been developed by an advisory team to guide development of the Florence County School Forest. The advisory team consists of a school board member, teachers, parents, students and a DNR forester. It is recommended that the advisory team follow through in the development of the school forest with the implementation of their action plan that proposes construction of trails, parking areas, a challenge initiative course, trail guide brochure and a wetland observation deck.

### **Golfing**

It is recommended that the county encourage private economic development of golf courses in the county. The Florence County Land Use and Lake Protection Plan survey results indicate a large demand by residents in the town of Aurora.

### **Tennis**

Survey results indicate a large demand for active recreation opportunities including fields for soccer, baseball, basketball, and tennis courts, especially in Aurora, Long Lake and Tipler. Development of new facilities in these towns, as well as expansion of existing facilities is recommended.

### **Horseback Riding**

This activity is expected to increase during the planning period given changes in liability laws. Liability for injuries are now with the rider, not the stable owner. Recommendations for this activity include designated horseback riding trails of varied terrain, trail head parking and tie post facilities, hand pumps for water and drinking troughs. In addition, trail maps and rules should be developed, and a central picnic area or destination point along the trail system is recommended.

Halls Creek and Bush Lake Flats equestrian trails have been developed. Trails are marked with different colored loops. There are picnic tables, fire rings, and hitching posts available. Maps

can be found on line or at the kiosk boards at the trailhead. **Hiking/Nature Trails**

There are numerous opportunities for hiking and pleasure walking along designated trails and along low volume forest roads in Florence County. However, survey results indicate a need for additional trails. This may be due to competition for trail space between motorized and non-motorized recreation activities. Wider distribution of trail information and improved signage at designated trails is recommended, as well as the expansion of off-road walking trails around the more populated communities within the towns.

Better access to the county's waterfalls should also be pursued. Many of the trails require significant effort to reach the waterfall and improved trail access would increase viewing opportunities for persons with disabilities and the elderly.

### **Bicycling and Mountain Biking**

Because of the large number of low traffic volume roadways that exist in the county, it would appear that there is an excess of suitable opportunities. However, none of these roadways are marked or specifically designated as a bicycle route. Proper signage and designation of bicycle routes should be pursued during the planning period.

Mountain biking has increased in popularity recently and is expected to continue during the planning period. Expansion and linking of existing trails is recommended.

### **ATV Trails**

ATV riding and their associated trails merit special attention and it will be necessary to foster cooperation between ATV clubs and riders, the state, national forest, county, towns, and private landowners in order to successfully plan for this activity. Increased popularity in this recreation activity, coupled with survey results indicate a need for additional trails. It is recommended that existing snowmobile trails be designated as ATV trails, when practical, during the summer and that these be linked existing ATV trails. The county should also pursue a link in the northern half of the county, as well as a crossing of the Pine River somewhere for ATVs. In addition, linkages to surrounding counties and Michigan's Upper Peninsula should be pursued.

### **Snowmobiling**

The need appears to be satisfied within Florence County by the existing system of state funded and club trails. However, improvements in trail connections could be made in the town of Fence where the trail runs along plowed roads, rather than trails, and also to Iron Mountain by way of the bridge at Vagabond Park. Improvements could be made to the bridge, including wood planks to replace the travel lane.

A sound maintenance and improvement program will ensure a quality experience that will meet user demands during the planning period. State approval of unfunded public trails should be pursued.

### **Snowskiing**

Use of the family oriented public ski facility at Keyes Peak has increased over the past five years. An alternate lift system for those unable to use the current rope tow system should be explored.

Cross country skiing is expected to increase as well during the planning period. Development of additional trails on public lands should be encouraged along with a good maintenance and signage program. There is a need for a ski trail to be developed on the Spread Eagle Barrens.

These trails will also provide good hiking/foot path opportunities during the summer. In addition, efforts to increase public awareness regarding existing trail facilities should be pursued.

### **Hunting and Trapping**

Participation of this activity is projected to increase during the planning period. The abundance of public and private lands open to public hunting appears to be adequate to satisfy this demand. There does not appear to be a need for more areas with limited access.

### **Rifle Range**

Rifle ranges are necessary to allow people to acquire the skills necessary for hunting. There are a shortage of ranges available to the public. Cooperative development of shooting ranges for all types of activities including shotgun, rifle, archery, 3-D and clay target shooting should be explored between the county, DNR, and local rod and gun clubs.

### **Scenic Driving**

Participation in driving for pleasure is expected to increase during the planning period. It is recommended that the county designate a route to be included in the Wisconsin Auto Tours publication to better educate the public of the existing opportunities. Additional distribution information should also be pursued to inform the public of existing rustic roads and local auto tours.

### **Organized Sports**

Participation in organized sports has increased significantly over the past few years. Development of better facilities in the form of improved fencing and dugouts are needed at most baseball/softball fields. Lighting should also be explored at existing fields, as well as development of soccer fields. Support facilities including lighting restrooms, parking facilities and bleacher seating should also be developed or improved at these recreation areas.

### **School Playgrounds**

Given recent expansion and additions to the Florence County School District playgrounds, no specific improvements are planned, however this will be monitored over the time of the five-year planning period.

## **WATER BASED ACTIVITIES RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Fishing**

Florence County's lakes, rivers, and streams provide ample resources for this activity. However increased use of this resource for fishing related activities has resulted in a need for upgraded and improved boat launches and supporting facilities, including parking. Development of public access on all lakes should be pursued whenever feasible. The new ADA fishing pier located in the Town of Florence has parking, but is in need of additional amenities such as picnic tables, some type of restroom facility and trash cans.

The need still exists to develop more on shore fishing opportunities in the county for the disabled and elderly segment of the population. Additional ADA accessible fishing docks should be pursued throughout the county.

Better fish habitat development, education of residents regarding shoreland zoning and the benefits of lake classification, along with a continued stocking program should be pursued to ensure a good supply of sport fish in the future. In stream restoration on the Pine and Popple

rivers would greatly improve fishing opportunities for the public. Cooperation between Lake Associations and the County is recommended. In addition, cooperation between the DNR and local fishing enthusiasts is recommended in order to promote more efficient fish stocking efforts.

### **Canoeing and Related Activities**

Canoeing, kayaking, rafting and related activities are expected to increase during the planning period. Given the water resources available in Florence County, including the Pine and Popple rivers, which are state designated wild rivers, increased distribution of informative brochures is recommended. This will increase public awareness regarding entry locations, portage locations, as well as the degree of difficulty along the river or stream. Proper signage, access, and parking are important to allow proper and safe public use of the Wild Rivers. A signage program on the land to warn participants of dangerous rapids and falls should be implemented. Accessibility in the form of paved parking lots to minimize erosion at put in and take out points should be pursued. Primitive camping sites along waterways should also be considered for development.

### **Motorboating, Waterskiing, Jetskiing**

Education and increased awareness is necessary to develop creative solutions for addressing competing interests on the lakes and waterways of Florence County. Cooperative efforts should be pursued between the county, lake associations, and DNR to develop policies and programs for these activities. According to the survey results, boating safety classes seem especially necessary for jet ski operators. Standards for jet ski operation, including hours of operation should be explored based upon size and acreage of lakes and waterways.

### **Swimming**

Participation in this activity is very popular and is expected to increase during the planning period. Current beaches should be upgraded and current maintenance programs should be expanded upon. Development of a public swimming beach in the Spread Eagle area and in Aurora should be encouraged.

### **Accessibility - Land and Water Based Activities**

Incorporation of ADA specifications to help eliminate and reduce participation barriers (i.e. restrooms, foot paths, access ramps, camping pads) should be included in all new facility improvement and development plan designs.

### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this section was to assess what type of facilities should be considered to meet the recreation trends and needs of Florence County. The county should reevaluate their needs on a yearly basis throughout the planning period to ensure that facilities and programs are consistent with the county's interests and demands at that point in time.

## **Chapter 6 - IMPLEMENTATION**

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### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET, 2006-2012**

Capital improvements to a recreation facility are the non-routine improvements or the new additions to the facility that would improve the overall value and usefulness of the park. For example, remodeling a restroom to meet ADA standards or buying new playground equipment are both capital improvements.

Capital improvements are made for several reasons. A community may need to make improvements to modernize outdated facilities, upgrade deficient facilities to correct health and safety hazards, or to be in compliance with certain standards such as those set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

This document represents the needs and desires of seasonal and full-time residents of Florence County as identified through a sustained public participation process. While capital improvements are not specified for private, national, or state-owned recreation sites, it is intended that this document represent the organizing element for outdoor recreation in Florence County. The *Florence County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* should be used to promote consistency, avoid unnecessary overlap of services, and to reject or oppose any efforts contrary to the goals and objectives or recommendations set forth in this plan.

The following is a list of capital improvements by park for county, state-owned and town-owned recreation sites.

### **FLORENCE COUNTY RECREATION SITES**

#### **County Fair Park**

- Driveway expansion and widening (both gates)
- Improvements to the roof of the exhibit building
- Arena improvements for the horse pull
- Evaluate improvements needed for arena seating
- Begin creating a landscaping plan (including future extension for water, power and public announcement system)
- Evaluate improvements needed for rustic camping areas
- Implement improvements needed for rustic camping areas
- Implement improvements needed for arena seating
- Begin implementing the landscaping plan
- ADA pathways and parking
- Band stand
- Construct south end restroom

#### **Wild Rivers Interpretive Center**

- Complete the remaining exhibits
- Install a modern wayside facility
- Complete the Interpretive Nature Trail
- Complete the Environmental Education Classroom
- Construct the wildlife and songbird habitat interpretive area

- Construct the research pond

### **Florence County School Forest**

- Construct Site Inventory Plan
- Develop and construct trail plan
- Develop and construct orienteering course
- Develop and construct challenge course
- Construct parking areas
- Construct wetland deck
- Develop trail brochure and corresponding marker posts and interpretive signs
- Construct amphitheater and seating



- Playground equipment

### **Vagabond Park**

- Pavilion
- Beach
- Repair bridge for pedestrian, ATV and snowmobile use

### **West Bass**

Pavillion

Electric to campsites

### **Fisher Lake Park**

- New Pavilion Lights
- Remove change court Clean up lake
- Landscaping

### **Keyes Lake Recreation Area**

- Pavement Replacement on Ramp
- Pavilion Adjacent to lodge
- New lighting
- New tow
- Cross country ski trail head
- Mountain bike trail head
- Playground Equipment
- Landscaping

**Spread Eagle North Lake Boat Landing**

- 
- 

**Lake Emily Park**

- New DockMore playground equipment
- Expand campground

**West Bass Lake Park**

- Pavilion
- More playground equipment

- Electricity Run into Campground

**Halls Creek Flowage**

- Plant Wild Rice/Upland Grasses
- Horse Trail Head

**LaSalle Falls Walking Trail**

- Improve trail on DNR and County landsImprove Signage
- Widen trail
- Build steps on steep slopes of trail

- Cover exposed roots on the trail

**Sea Lion Lake Boat Landing**

*No capital improvements planned*

**Install BathroomImprove RampSeidel Lake Boat Landing**

- Improve Parking

**Patten Lake Boat Landing**

**Loon Lake Walk-In Access**

- Replace wetland bridge
- Signage

**Brule River Canoe Access**

- Sign
- Improve trail and parking

**Pine Popple Wild Rivers**

- develop hunter/walking trails



- improve signage
- access points to Meyers and Bull Falls, Goodman grade
- access points to Dorothy, Robago, Mud and Savage Lakes

#### **Spread Eagle Barrens State Natural Area**

- Complete seasonal campsites on Frog Lake and Roaches Land units
- Complete campground east of Sand Lake

#### **Montgomery Lake Boat Landing**

- Work with state to improve so it is useable by the public

#### **Lake Edith**

- 
- 

#### **Porcupine Lake**

- Develop boat access

#### **Lake of Dreams**

*No capital improvements planned*

#### **Price Lake**

- Purchase Price Lake Public Landing
- Develop Price Lake Boat Landing

#### **Bessie-Babbit Lake**

- Purchase public access
- Develop public access

#### **Nicolet Trail Nicolet Trail**

No Improvements outside of maintenance on the grade, and grading from Tucker Rd. to Wisconsin Creek Rd.

Trailhead sign on Hwy 70

### **TOWN RECREATION SITES**

#### **Town of Aurora**

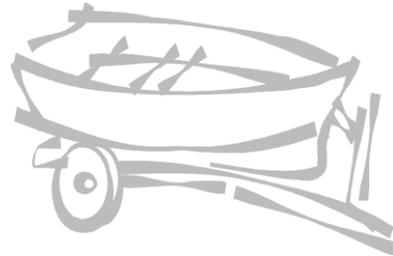
##### ***Menominee River Boat Landing***

- Picnic tables
- Grills
- Expand parking area/blacktop
- Take out trees and fill in for picnic/parking
- New dock and repair old one

- New culvert improve lighting

### ***Fischer Lake Boat Landing***

- Fill landing area in
- Gravel
- Brush area out
- Picnic tables
- Permanent grill
- New fishing pier
- Improve lighting
- Construct outdoor toilet
- Create/improve beach



### ***Town Recreation Area***

- Chain link fence around blacktop
- Paint divider lines
- Develop basketball hoops/courts
- Develop tennis courts
- Develop skateboard ramps
- Walking/jogging track
- Kickball area
- Haul in large rock as divider between park and road
- Develop roller blade area
- Outdoor restrooms
- Enclose pavilion and add kitchen facilities
- Extend waterline to skating rink facility
- Make food serving counter in skating rink warming shack to be used for baseball games and other activities
- Develop an additional soccer field
- Playground equipment
- Cross country ski trail

### **Town of Commonwealth**

#### ***No capital improvements planned***

### **Town of Fence**

- Ball Park Area
- Purchase land for more parking
- Extend road
- Pave road and parking lot (paint divider lines)

- Develop volleyball court
- Extend pavilion

**Town of Fern**

- Develop Price Lake boat landing
- Purchase Price Lake Public Landing

**Town of Florence**

- **Florence Utilities Property**
  - Develop Walking Trails
  - Dog Park
- **Fisher Lake Pier Fishing**
  - Picnic Tables
  - Gazebo

**Town of Homestead**

***Bush Lake Boat Landing/Town Park/Rustic Campsite***

- 
- Improve shoreline and piers
- Improve signs

***East Bass Lake Boat Landing***

- Improve shoreline and piers
- Improve signs

***East Bass Lake Park (Rustic Campsite)***

- 
- 
- Improve signs

***Mirror Lake Boat Landing***

- Improve shoreline and piers
- Improve signs

***Scout Lake Boat Landing/Town Park/Rustic Campsite***

- 
- Improve shoreline and piers
- Improve signs

***Sand Lake Boat Landing/Town Park/Rustic Campsite***

- 
- 
- Improve signs



### **Town of Long Lake**

#### ***Town Park***

- Horseshoe pits
- New bleachers
- Unisex, ADA accessible toilet
- More playground equipment

#### ***Long Lake Beach***

- Markers and buoys for swimming area
- ADA accessible walking trail from beach to boat landing
- New picnic tables

#### ***Long Lake Boat Landing***

- Rebuild boat ramp

#### ***Fay Lake Boat Landing***

- Rebuild boat ramp

### **Town of Tipler**

#### ***No capital improvements planned***

### **FUNDING PROGRAMS**

Funding for recreational development can come from a number of sources both public and private. Most funding for this type of development, however, comes from public local funds.

Primarily, local funds come from a number of sources including the sale of bonds, allocations from the local tax base, and donations from individuals and organizations.

Non-local funding can come from a number of sources, either in the form of a grant or a loan. Currently, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the Wisconsin Department of Development (WDOD), the Rural Development Administration (RDA), and the Department of Administration (DOA) provide some type of funding.

#### **Rural Development Administration (RDA)**

The RDA provides a loan program, which provides Community Facility Project Loans to applicants with areas of less than 20,000 people for the purpose of constructing, enlarging, or improving community facilities for health care, public safety, or public services. These loans should be secured with bonds or notes pledging taxes, assessments, or revenues.

#### **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is probably the main source of funds for outdoor recreation facilities. The Stewardship Program, administered by the WDNR, is a fund designed to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, protect land sensitive to environmental degradation, conserve and restore wildlife habitat and protect water quality. As a prerequisite to the following WDNR funding programs, applicants must first submit a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan such as this plan or a master plan which has been approved by resolution by a local governing unit or a plan of a higher unit of government. Applicants submitting qualifying comprehensive outdoor recreation plans or master plans may receive eligibility to apply for

funding for up to five years. The WDNR's priority for funding is land acquisition, followed by facility development.

Outdoor recreation grant programs currently administered by the WDNR include:

***All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Program***

Which provides funds to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquisition, insurance, development, and maintenance of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes.

***ATV Enforcement Patrol***

Provides grants to county sheriffs for all-terrain vehicle patrols.

***County Conservation Aids***

Provides funds to counties or recognized Indian tribes to carry out fish or wildlife management projects that enhance fish and wildlife habitat or fishing and hunting opportunities.

***Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration***

Funding for sport fish restoration and boating access including the construction of boat landings and fishing piers.

***Recreational Boating Facilities***

Provides funds to local units of government and qualified lake associations for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities. The program also provides financial assistance for: feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational boating facilities, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemical treatment of Eurasian water milfoil.

***Recreational Trails Program***

Provides funds for motorized and non-motorized recreation trail rehabilitation, trail maintenance, trail development, and trail acquisition.

***Snowmobile Trail Aids***

Provides funds to maintain trail systems that provide passage through a county and connections with adjacent counties.

***County Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols***

Funds county snowmobile patrols functioning as a law enforcement unit for the enforcement of ch. 350, Wis. Stats.

***Stewardship Local Assistance – Acquisition and Development of Local Parks***

Funding to acquire land, rights in land, and develop public outdoor recreation areas for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes.

***Stewardship Local Assistance – Urban Rivers***

Provides funds for acquisition of land in urban areas, projects that provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

***Stewardship Local Assistance – Urban Greenspace***

Provides funds for Acquisition of land in and around urban area, projects that provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

***Stewardship Local Assistance – Acquisition of Development Rights***

Funding for acquisition of development rights that provide or enhance nature-based outdoor recreation areas. The project must be part of an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Appendix F provides a more detailed listing of these grant programs and the application process for each.

**LAWCON**

LAWCON provides financial assistance to state agencies, counties, villages, towns, school districts, cities and Indian tribes for the acquisition and the development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program provides up to 50 percent reimbursement grants for approved state and local projects. Competition for LAWCON funds is on a statewide basis.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The outdoor recreation plan presented herein attempts to identify current and future recreation facility trends and needs within Florence County. The plan is intended to serve as a guide to local, county, state, and federal planning entities to establish a basis for funding assistance. The projects presented herein are recommendations that may be undertaken to satisfy public demand for outdoor recreation facilities.

Florence County has an abundance of high quality natural resources in which the public can recreate. These resources, if adequately protected, are invaluable because they are irreplaceable. Action taken now will not only preserve these resources but ensure the use of these lands for recreational purposes for its residents and visitors for years to come.

The recreation demands and needs of the county have been identified. To assist with the proper management of and preservation of outdoor recreation facilities and natural resources, implementation of this plan is recommended.



## APPENDIX A RECREATION STANDARDS

Recreation standards are developed as guidelines by which to measure the needs of a community in terms of recreation and are based upon the ability of a recreation resource or recreation facility to accommodate a specific recreational use. The recommended standards are as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Standards</u>	<u>Assumptions</u>
Swimming Pools	One swimming occasion requires 27 sq. ft. of surface water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Each swimmer requires 9 sq. ft of water</li> <li>2) Turnover rate is 3</li> </ol>
Natural Swimming	One swimming occasion requires 35 sq. ft. of beach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Each swimmer area requires 105 sq. water</li> <li>2) Turnover rate is 3</li> </ol>
Boat Launch	One ramp accommodates eight boats per hour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Each boat requires 7 minutes to be launched</li> <li>2) Each boat requires 2 ramp uses per day</li> <li>3) Ramp use equals 5 hours/day</li> </ol>
Fishing	One acre of surface water accommodates one fishing occasion per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) One boat requires 4 acres of surface water</li> <li>2) Average number of fisherman per boat equals 2</li> <li>3) Turnover rate equals 2</li> </ol>
Canoeing	One mile of stream can accommodate 8 canoeing occasions per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Average canoeing speed equals 2 mph</li> <li>2) Average person per canoe equals 2</li> <li>3) Average spacing between canoe groups equals 4 miles</li> <li>4) Canoeing day equals 10 hours</li> <li>5) Average canoes per group equals 2</li> </ol>
Camping	One acre campground can accommodate 20 camping occasions per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Average number of campsites per acre is 5</li> <li>2) Average number of campers per site is 4</li> <li>3) No daily turnover</li> </ol>
Picnicing	One acre of picnicing area can accommodate 72 picnicking occasion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Number of tables per acre equals 12</li> <li>2) Number of persons per table is 4</li> <li>3) Turnover rate equals 1 ½ per day</li> </ol>
Hiking	Each mile of hiking trail can accommodate 8 hiking occasions per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Average hiker travels 1 mph over an 8 hour period which includes eating and rest stops</li> </ol>

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Standards</u>	<u>Assumptions</u>
Bicycling	One mile of bicycle trail can accommodate 52 bicycling occasions per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Average bicycling trip is 4 hours in duration</li> <li>2) Average speed is 5 mph</li> <li>3) Average number of bicycling groups equals 3</li> <li>4) Spacing between groups equals 1/10 mile</li> <li>5) Number of groups entering a trail per hour equals 50</li> </ol>
Ballfields	One ball field can accommodate 50 occasions per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 25 people are on Baseball/ Softball field at one time</li> <li>2) Turnover rate equals 2</li> <li>3) 10% population usage per day</li> </ol>
Tennis	One tennis court can accommodate 28 occasions per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Four players per court</li> <li>2) 1 ½ hours per game</li> <li>3) Turnover rate equals 7</li> <li>4) 5% population usage per day</li> </ol>
Volleyball	One volleyball court can accommodate 36 occasions per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Twelve players per court</li> <li>2) Turnover rate equals 3</li> <li>3) 5% population per day</li> </ol>
Basketball	One basketball goal can accommodate 18 occasions per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Six players per goal</li> <li>2) Turnover rate equals 3</li> <li>3) 5% population usage per day</li> </ol>

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Standards</u>	<u>Assumptions</u>
Football	One football field can accommodate 66 participant occasions per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 22 players per game</li> <li>2) Turnover rate equals 3</li> </ol>

**GENERAL DESIGN STANDARDS**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Standards</u>	<u>Assumptions</u>
Park Land	Twelve acres per 1,000 population	Includes just community owned parks
Baseball Fields	Fifty participant occasions per day	10% population usage per day
Soccer Fields	1 per 1,000 population	Number of units depends on popularity
Swimming	Twenty-seven sq. ft. of surface water per swimmer	5% population usage per day
Picnic Tables	Each table accommodates six occasions per day	10% population usage per day
Bicycle Trails	Two miles per 1,000 population	
Fireplace Grills	One unit per four tables	

## APPENDIX B

# RECREATION ACCESSIBILITY DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES

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The guidelines and definitions in this appendix are based on the federal requirements for the compliance with ADA. Local codes may vary and should be reviewed before any new construction or remodeling is undertaken. They contain only a portion of the accessibility guidelines necessary to be in compliance with ADA, and should not be used as the only source when analyzing accessibility needs. (Source: Accessible Design Handbook, Cash-Callahan & Company, 1991).

### DEFINITIONS

#### Access Aisle

An accessible pedestrian space between elements such as parking spaces, seating, and desks that provides proper clearance to use the elements.

#### Accessible

Describes a site, building, facility or portion thereof that complies with these standards and that can be approached, entered and used by physically disabled people.

#### Accessible Route

A continuous unobstructed path connecting all accessible elements and spaces in a building or facility. Interior accessible routes may include corridors, floors, ramps, elevators, lifts and clear floor space at fixtures. Exterior accessible routes may include parking access aisles, curb ramps, walks, ramps and lifts.

#### Administrative Authority

A governmental agency that adopts or enforces regulations and standards for the design, construction, and alteration of buildings and facilities.

#### Area of Rescue Assistance

An area with direct access to an exit where people who are unable to use stairs may remain temporarily in safety to await instructions or assistance in an emergency. Such areas must meet all applicable code specifications of the regulatory building agency having jurisdiction over the building or facility.

#### Assembly Area

A room or space accommodating a group of individuals for recreational, educational, political, social, or amusement purposes, or for the consumption of food and drink.

#### Bevel (Threshold)

The slope between the floor surface and the top of the threshold.

#### Clear

Unobstructed.

#### Cross Slope

The slope that is perpendicular to the direction of travel.

#### Curb Ramp

A short ramp cutting through a curb or built up to it.

#### Egress, Means of

A continuous exit route from any point in a building or facility to a public way. An accessible means of egress must comply with all regulations regarding accessibility. Areas of rescue assistance may be included as part of an accessible means of egress.

#### Element

An architectural or mechanical component of a building, facility, space, or site, e.g., telephone, curb ramp, door, drinking fountain, seating, water closet.

#### Entrance

An access point to a building or portion of a building or facility used for the purpose of entering. An entrance includes the approach walk; the vertical access leading to the entrance platform; vestibules, if provided; the

entry door(s) or gate(s); and the hardware of the entry door(s) or gate(s). The principal entrance of a building or facility is the main door through which most people enter.

Facility

All or any portion of a building, structure, or area including the site on which such building, structure or area is located, where specific services are provided or activities performed.

Forward Approach

Where the approach to an object or element can be made from a forward position.

Nosing (Stair)

The prominent, usually rounded, horizontal edge which extends beyond the riser.

Parallel Approach

Where the approach to an object or element is from the side.

Physically Handicapped

An individual who has a physical impairment, including impaired sensory, manual, or speaking abilities, which results in a functional limitation in access to and use of a building or facility.

Ramp

A walking surface in an accessible space that has a running slope greater than 1:20.

Ramp Slope

The ratio of the rise to the run of the ramp.

Rise

The vertical distance measurement from top to bottom of a ramp.

Riser (Stair)

The vertical face of a stair step.

Run

The sloped horizontal distance covered by a ramp or flight of steps. See Ramp Slope.

Signage

Verbal, symbolic, tactile and pictorial information.

Site

A parcel of land bounded by a property line or a designated portion of a right-of-way.

Space

A definable area, e.g., toilet room, hall, assembly area, entrance, storage room, alcove, courtyard or lobby.

Tactile

Something that can be perceived using the sense of touch.

Tread (Stair)

The horizontal part of a step that also includes the nosing.

Walk

An exterior pathway with a prepared surface intended for pedestrian use, including general pedestrian areas such as plazas and courts.

**GUIDELINES**

Space Allowances & Reach Ranges

- The minimum clear width for single wheelchair passage must be 36 inches continuously and 32 inches at any one point (e.g., doorways).
- The minimum width required for two wheelchairs to pass each other is 60 inches.
- A wheelchair requires a 60 inch diameter space in order to make a 180 degree turn.
- Where the floor space allows only forward approach to an object, the maximum high forward reach allowed is

48 inches above the finished floor and the minimum low forward reach must be no less than 15 inches above the finished floor. There must be no obstructions.

- Where the clear floor space allows parallel approach by a person in a wheelchair, the maximum high side reach allowed is 54 inches above the finished floor and the low side reach must be no less than 9 inches above the finished floor. There must be no obstructions.
- Although people with walking aids (e.g., canes, crutches, walkers, guide dogs) can maneuver through a clear width opening of 32 inches, they require 36 inch wide passageways for comfortable gaits.
- Crutch tips extending down at a wide angle are a hazard in narrow passageways where other pedestrians might not see them. A width of 36 inches provides a safety allowance for both the disabled person and for others.
- A person with a seeing eye dog or a semi-ambulatory person requires the same passing widths as a person in a wheelchair.

#### Accessible Routes

- Accessible routes within the boundary of the site must be provided from public transportation stops, accessible parking, accessible passenger loading zones, and public streets or sidewalks to the accessible building entrance they serve.
- Accessible route(s) must connect buildings, facilities, and spaces that are on the same site.
- The minimum clear width of an accessible route must be 36 inches except at doors where the minimum clear width must be at least 32 inches.
- Where an accessible route has less than 60 inches clear width, passing spaces of at least 60 by 60 inches must be located at reasonable intervals that do not exceed 200 feet. The intersection of two corridors or walks is considered a passing space.
- Accessible routes serving any accessible space or element must also serve as a means of egress for emergencies or connect to an accessible place of rescue. These areas of rescue must comply with the requirements established by the administrative authority having local jurisdiction.
- Changes in levels along an accessible route, which are greater than 1/2 inch must be ramped.
- Changes in levels along an accessible route which are between 1/4 and 1/2 inch must be sloped Changes in levels along an accessible route 1/4 inch or less can remain.

#### Protruding Objects

- Protruding objects must not reduce the clear width required for an accessible route or maneuvering space.
- Objects protruding from walls (telephones, etc.) with their edges between 27 and 80 inches above the finished floor must protrude no more than 4 inches into walks, halls, corridors, passageways, or aisles.
- Objects protruding from walls with their leading edges at or below 27 inches above the finished floor may protrude any amount; provided the minimum requirements for accessible routes are met.
- Free standing objects mounted on posts between 27 and 80 inches above the finished floor may overhang a maximum of 12 inches.
- All walks, halls, corridors, passageways, aisles, or other circulation paths must have 80 inches clear headroom.
- Where vertical clearance of an area adjoining an accessible route is reduced to less than 80 inches, a guardrail or other barrier must be provided.

#### Parking

- Each parking lot provided for employees or visitors is required to have accessible parking spaces.
- Accessible parking spaces must be the closest spaces to the building's accessible entrance.
- Check with the municipal zoning department for the total number of parking spaces required in your lot. The rule of thumb is as follows:

Total Parking in Lot	Minimum # of Accessible Spaces
1 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 200	6
201 to 300	7
301 to 400	8
401 to 500	9
501 and above	2 percent of total spaces
1001 and above	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1000

- Accessible parking spaces must be at least 96 inches wide with a clearly marked adjacent access aisle of 60 inches. Two spaces may share a common aisle.
- The access aisle must connect directly to the accessible route.
- Spaces and aisles must be level with no slope greater than 1:50.
- All accessible parking spaces must have an unobscured vertical sign that shows the universal symbol of accessibility.
- Provide one in every eight accessible spaces, but not less than one, for van parking. This space(s) must have a minimum of a 96 inch wide access aisle and a minimum of 98 inches vertical clearance. Signage designating the space as "van accessible" must be provided below the symbol of accessibility.

Passenger Loading Zones

- Where passenger loading zones are provided, at least one must be accessible.
- The accessible passenger loading zone should be the closest to the accessible entrance and have a minimum vertical clearance of 114 inches.
- The international symbol of accessibility must be displayed at the passenger loading zone.
- The pull up space must be level with a slope no greater than 1:50.
- A pedestrian aisle must be adjacent to the passenger loading zone and it must be at least 5 feet wide and 20 feet long.
- A curb ramp must be provided where a curb occurs at the passenger loading zone.
- The pedestrian aisle and parking surface must be firm and slip resistant.
- The slope of the accessible route adjoining the ramp must be no greater than 1:20.
- The width of the curb ramp, not including the flared sides, must be at least 36 inches.
- The slope of the flared sides of the curb ramp must be 1: 10 or less.
- Curb ramps must have flared sides or must be protected by a hand rail.
- Provide detectable warnings on curb ramps that contrast with the walkway. The material used must be an integral part of the surface and consist of raised domes with a nominal diameter of 0.9 inches, a nominal height of 0.2 inches and center to center nominal spacing of 2.36 inches.
- Where grate openings occur, openings must be 1/2 inch or less and openings must be placed perpendicular to the usual direction of travel.

Ramps

- Any part of an accessible route with a slope greater than 1:20 will be considered a ramp.
- The maximum slope of a ramp in new construction should be 1:12 or less.

- The maximum rise of any run should be 30 inches or less.
- The cross slope of the ramp should be no greater than 1:50.
- The ramp surface must be non-slip.
- All grating openings must be 1/2 inch or smaller and must be placed perpendicular to the usual direction of travel.
- The clear width of the ramp must be at least 36 inches.
- A level landing must be provided at the top and bottom of each run.
- The landing must be at least as wide as the ramp and at least 60 inches long.
- Where ramps change direction, the landing must be at least 60 by 60 inches.
- A handrail on either side must be provided if the ramp rises more than 6 inches or is longer than 72 inches.
- The handrails must be continuous and fixed so they do not rotate or rack.
- The top of the handrails must be between 34 and 38 inches above the ramp surface.
- At the end of the handrails there must be at least 12 inches of level handrail beyond the top and bottom of the ramp segment.
- All handrail ends must be rounded and returned smoothly to the floor, wall or post.
- The diameter of the handrail must be between 1- 1/4 and 1- 1/2 inches.
- All wall-mounted handrails must be mounted with exactly 1-1/2 inches between handrail and wall.
- Where ramps or landings have drop-offs, provide a 2 inch curb, wall, railing or projecting surface to prevent people from falling off ramp.
- Design ramps with proper drainage so that water will not accumulate on surfaces.

#### Stairs

- All steps must have uniform height and tread width in any one flight.
- All risers in accessible routes must be closed.
- Treads should be a minimum of 11 inches measured from nosing to nosing.
- Nosings must not project more than 1- 1/2 inches.
- Where nosings project, bevel undersides to prevent tripping.
- Stairways must have continuous handrails on both sides of all steps.
- Handrails should continue at the top and bottom of stairs. At the top, the handrail must continue on a level for a minimum of 12 inches; at the bottom, the handrail must slope for a distance of at least the tread width and then continue on a level plane for a minimum of 12 inches.
- All wall-mounted handrails must be mounted with exactly 1- 1/2 inches between the handrail and the wall.
- Gripping surfaces must be uninterrupted by posts or other obstructions.
- Mount top of handrails between 34 and 38 inches above nosing.
- All handrail ends must be rounded and returned smoothly to the floor, wall or post.
- Handrails must be secure and not rotate.
- The diameter of the handrail must be between 1- 1/4 and 1- 1/2 inches.
- Outdoor stairs must be designed so that water does not accumulate on walking surfaces.

### Elevators

- Hallway call buttons must be centered at 42 inches above the finished floor.
- Call buttons must be 3/4 inch in diameter or greater.
- A visible and audible signal must be provided at each elevator entrance on every floor.
- The floor of the elevator car must come within 1/2 inch of the hallway floor at each stop.
- Elevator doors must open and close automatically.
- Doors must re-open automatically when doors become obstructed. Sensing an obstruction passing through the door at between 5 and 29 inches above the finished floor should activate the device. Door re-opening devices must remain effective a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Elevator doors should remain fully open a minimum of 3 seconds in response to a car call.
- Provide elevator control panels with raised characters or symbols at least 1/32 of an inch high placed immediately to the left of the button.
- Provide an emergency two way communication system between the elevator and a point outside the elevator from which assistance can be obtained. Where the system uses a handset, provide at least 29 inches of cord to the handset.
- Hall lantern fixtures must be mounted so that the centerline is at least 72 inches above the finished floor.
- Floor buttons inside the elevator must be no higher than 54 inches above the finished floor for a parallel approach and 48 inches above the finished floor for a front approach. Emergency controls must be grouped at the bottom of the panel and have their centerlines no less than 35 inches above the finished floor.
- Braille characters must be placed next to all numbers and symbols on elevator control panels.
- Two inch high raised character and Braille floor designations must be provided on both jambs with the centerline of the characters mounted 60 inches above the finished floor.

### Doors and Gates

- Where revolving doors occur along the accessible route, provide an accessible door or gate.
- A doorway with two independently operated door panels must have at least one active door panel with 32 inches clear opening maneuvering space.
- An accessible door must have a 32 inch clear opening measured between the face of the door and the door stop on the latch side.
- Provide 18 inches or more of clear space on the operable side of the door.
- Floor must be level at all doors in the accessible route.
- Where two doors occur in a series, provide a vestibule of at least 48 inches plus the width of the opened door swinging into the space.
- All thresholds should be level or have a bevel of not more than 1:2.
- All door handles, locks and latches must be operable with one hand and without twisting the wrist.
- Hardware should be mounted no higher than 48 inches above the finished floor.
- The door closer must take at least three seconds to move from 70 degrees open to a point 3 inches from the latch.
- Interior doors must have an opening force of 5 pounds or less.
- The appropriate administrative authority must determine the opening force of exterior doors.

### Entrances

- The accessible entrance must not be a service entrance unless the service entrance is the only entrance.

- The accessible entrance must be connected to accessible parking, passenger loading zones, and public streets or sidewalks.
- The accessible entrance should connect to an accessible route to all accessible elements or spaces within the building or facility.
- Where vertical level changes between 1/4 and 1/2 inches occur along the route, the edge must be beveled with a slope of 1:2 or less.
- Where vertical level changes at the entrance are greater than 1/2 inch, provide a ramp, curb ramp, or platform lift.

#### Drinking Fountains

- Fountains that are free standing or built-in and do not have clear space underneath must have a clear floor space alongside the fountain for a parallel approach of at least 30 by 48 inches.
- Fountains that are wall or post mounted must have a clear knee space under the fountain apron of at least 27 inches high by 17 to 19 inches deep by 30 inches wide.
- The spout of the fountain must be no higher than 36 inches above the finished floor.
- The water stream must be at least 4 inches high to allow the insertion of a cup under the stream.
- Spout must be at the front of the unit with the water flow parallel or nearly parallel to the front edge of the fountain.
- Controls must be located at the front edge of the fountain.
- Controls must be operable with one hand and without twisting the wrist.

#### Restrooms

##### Toilet Stalls

- Accessible toilet stalls must be on an accessible route.
- The stall must be at least 60 inches wide.
- Where toilets are wall mounted, stall must be at least 56 inches deep.
- Where toilet stalls are floor mounted, stall must be at least 59 inches deep.
- A clear opening of 32 inches measured between the face of the door and the edge of the partition on the latch side must be provided when the stall door is open 90 degrees.
- Where the door swings into the stall, provide at least 36 additional inches in the depth of the stall.
- Where stall door opens out and at the end of an aisle, provide at least 18 inches of maneuvering space at the latch side of the stall door.
- Install grab bars 33 to 36 inches above the finished floor. Grab bars must be secure and not rotate in their fittings.
- Mount toilet paper dispenser no more than 36 inches from the back wall and at least 19 inches above the finished floor. Toilet paper dispenser must allow continuous paper delivery.
- The centerline of the toilet must be 18 inches from the wall or partition which has the grab bar location.
- The top of the toilet seat must be between 17 and 19 inches above the finished floor.
- Flush controls must be mounted no higher than 44 inches above the finished floor and on the wide side of the toilet area and be automatic or operable with one hand.

#### Urinals

- Urinals must have elongated rims mounted no more than 17 inches above the finished floor.
- Provide 30 by 48 inch clear space for forward approach to the urinal.
- Urinal shields which do not extend beyond the front of the urinal rim may be provided by 29 inches clearance between the two panels.
- Flush controls must be automatic or operable with one hand.
- Controls must not be mounted higher than 44 inches above the finished floor.

#### Lavatories

- The lavatory rim or counter surface must be no higher than 34 inches above the finished floor.
- A clearance of at least 29 inches from the finished floor to the bottom of the apron must be provided.
- Provide a clear floor space of at least 30 by 48 inches in front of the lavatory for a forward approach.
- Provide a clear floor space of at least 17 inches under the lavatory.
- Hot water and drain pipes must be insulated or covered.
- The faucet must be operable with one hand and without twisting the wrist; self closing type valves remain open at least 10 seconds.
- Where valves are self closing, provide that the valve remain open for at least 10 seconds.

#### Mirrors

- Provide at least one mirror with the bottom edge of the reflecting surface no higher than 40 inches above the finished floor.

#### Dispensers

- Provide at least one of each dispenser type on an accessible route.
- Provide at least 30 by 48 inch clear space to allow either a forward or a parallel approach to the dispensers.
- Where a forward approach is provided, the highest operable part must be no higher than 48 inches above the finished floor.
- Where a side approach is provided, the highest operable part must be no higher than 54 inches above the finished floor.
- All dispensers must be operated with one hand and without twisting of the wrist.

#### Showers

##### Transfer Type Shower

- Provide a clear floor space of 36 by 48 inches outside the stall.
- Mount a seat between 17 and 19 inches above the finished floor.
- The seat should extend the full depth of the stall.
- The seat should be on the wall opposite the controls.
- Provide grab bars along the control wall and half of the return wall. Do not install grab bars behind seat.
- Curbs into shower should be no higher than 1/2 inch.
- Provide grab bars between 1- 1/4 and 1- 1/2 inches diameter.
- Mount grab bars exactly 1- 1/2 inches from wall.
- Grab bars must be secure and not rotate within the fittings.
- Controls must be operable with one hand and without twisting the wrist.

- Shower spray unit should have a hose at least 60 inches long.
- Roll in shower must be at least 30 by 60 inches.
- Provide a clear space of 36 by 60 inches alongside the shower.
- Grab bar must extend around three sides of the shower.
- Provide grab bars between 1- 1/4 and 1- 1/2 inches in diameter.
- Mount grab bars exactly 1- 1/2 inches from wall.
- Grab bars must be secure and not rotate within the fittings.
- Controls must be operable with one hand and without twisting the wrist.
- Shower spray unit should have a hose at least 60 inches long.
- If a seat is provided, it shall be a folding type and mounted on the wall adjacent to the controls.

### Alarms

#### Audible Alarms

- Audible emergency alarms must produce a sound that exceeds the prevailing equivalent sound level in the room by at least 15 decibels or exceeds any maximum sound level with a duration of 60 seconds by 5 decibels, whichever is louder. Sound levels shall not exceed 120 decibels.

#### Visual Alarms

- Visual alarms are electrically powered internally illuminated emergency exit signs that must flash as a visual emergency alarm in conjunction with the audible emergency alarms. The flash rate of the visual alarm devices must be a minimum of 1 hertz (Hz) and a maximum of 3 Hz. If alarms use electricity from the building as a power source, then they must be installed on the same system as the audible emergency alarms.
- Visual alarms must be installed in restrooms, hallways, lobbies and general usage areas (e.g., meeting rooms) and where deaf individuals may work to ensure they are warned when an emergency alarm is activated.
- Devices must be located and oriented so they can spread signals and reflections throughout a space or raise the overall light level sharply.

#### Telephones

- Provide for at least one accessible phone in each bank of phones.
- Wall mounted phones with bottom edges between 27 and 80 inches from the floor must not project more than 4 inches into the pathway. An accessible pathway of at least 36 inches must be maintained.
- The accessible phone should have a 30 by 48 inch clear ground space around the phone that allows either a forward or parallel approach for a wheelchair.
- For areas with only a forward approach, the highest operable part of the phone must not be higher than 48 inches.
- For areas which only allow a parallel approach to the telephone, the highest operable part must be no higher than 54 inches.
- Telephone book must always be within reach ranges.
- Provide a volume control on the accessible phone.
- Push button controls must be provided unless such service is unavailable.
- The cord for the telephone handset should be at least 29 inches long.
- Text telephones (e.g., Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDDs)) must be provided upon request.

### Pathways

- There must be an accessible route linking accessible parking and passenger loading zones with the accessible

building entrance.

- The accessible pathway must be free of steps and stairs.
- The accessible pathway must be at least 36 inches wide.
- If the pathway is less than 60 inches wide, provide passing spaces at least 60 inches wide and 60 inches long at intervals not exceeding 200 feet.
- Provide at least 80 inches of clear head room along pathway.
- Objects mounted to the wall between 27 inches and 80 inches must not protrude more than 4 inches into the space. The accessible pathway must be 36 inches wide alongside the protruding object.
- Accessible pathways must be firm and slip resistant.
- The slope of the accessible pathway must be no greater than 1:20.
- Where walkway levels change, the vertical difference between them must be less than 1/4 inch.
- Changes in level between 1/4 inch and 1/2 inch anywhere on the accessible route must be beveled with a slope of 1:2.
- Changes greater than 1/2 inch must be ramped.
- The transition from the curb ramp to the walkway, road and gutter must be flush and free of abrupt changes.

## APPENDIX C NATURAL AREAS

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### **National, State & County Natural Areas**

Natural Areas are designated by the WDNR Bureau of Endangered Resources and the Scientific Areas Preservation Council as tracts of land in a natural or near natural state, which are managed to serve several purposes including scientific research, teaching of resource management, and preservation of rare native plants and ecological communities. According to the Florence County Farmland Preservation Plan the current designated Natural Areas in Florence County include:

#### ***Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest***

The western portion of Florence County falls within the boundaries of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Owned by the Federal government, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest covers 661,000 acres in northeast Wisconsin with approximately 83,000 acres being in Florence County. The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest provides vast wildlife and wilderness opportunities for the public to enjoy in Florence County.

In 1998, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forestry Service combined the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and Wisconsin's other National Forest, the Chequamegon, into a single national forest. This newly created national forest is named the Chequamegon-Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

#### ***Florence County Forest***

The Florence County Forest covers an area of more than 36,000 acres with the largest portion located in the Town of Homestead. The forest provides for a variety of recreation activities including hunting, fishing, and camping. It is also thriving with diverse plant and animal species.

#### ***Whisker Lake Wilderness Area (Town of Florence)***

Located in the northwestern portion of Florence County in the Town of Florence, the Whisker Lake Wilderness is the second largest national forest wilderness area in Wisconsin covering approximately 7,765 acres. All types of recreational activities are available within the Whisker Lake Wilderness, with the exception of motorized or other mechanical use.

#### ***Spread Eagle Barrens (Towns of Aurora, Commonwealth and Florence)***

The 8,850 acre Spread Eagle Barrens are biologically rich, supporting various types of vegetation and diverse animal species. Established in 1995, the Barrens are essentially undeveloped and are managed to preserve, restore, and maintain the habitat. Management tools include timber harvest and prescribed burning. The Barrens currently represent the largest ecological community of its kind remaining in Northeast Wisconsin.

#### ***Duck Lake and Wetlands (Town of Florence)***

Duck Lake is an area of 36 acres under private control and holds county significance. Duck Lake is a medium hard water seepage lake with slightly acid, medium brown water of low transparency. A large wetland of sedge meadow-bog surrounds the lake and a cattail marsh also occurs.

#### ***Filled-In Lake (Town of Florence)***

Filled-In Lake is an area of 70 acres under private control and holds county significance. The area is a unique lake-wetland type which is in the final stages of succession to a wetland. Douse mats of pond lilies and rushes cover the lake basin. The surrounding uplands are young cedar

swamp.

***Goodman Wild Lakes (Town of Florence)***

Goodman Wild Lakes is an area of 1,140 acres under private control and holds State significance. The area is a large wild area including five wilderness lakes, undistributed cedar and black spruce swamps, the Pine River, and a large acreage of selectively cut old growth hardwoods.

***Grandma Lake Wetlands (Town of Long Lake)***

Grandma Lake Wetlands is an area of 374 acres owned by the U.S. Forest Service and holds county significance. This area is a very soft water seepage lake with neutral, light brown water of moderate transparency, littoral materials are all muck. The lake is surrounded by open bog and black spruce swamp. A large expanse of conifer swamp stretches more than a mile to the east of the lake.

***Grubhole Lake and Spring Pond (Town of Florence)***

Grubhole Lake/Spring Pond cover an area of 156 acres controlled by the Forest Service and hold county significance. Grubhole Lake is a shallow hard water spring lake with extensive borders of sedge meadow-marsh wetlands and conifer swamps. A small spring pond occurs to the south and is surrounded by young cedar swamp and a narrow margin of open bog-sedge meadow.

***Hemlock Lake (Town of Florence)***

Hemlock Lake is an area of 40 acres controlled by the Forest Service and holds county significance. The area is a small, wild lake with a maximum depth of five feet. Surrounding the lake is a narrow zone of Carex Atherodes and second growth hardwoods.

***Hord Lake (Town of Homestead)***

Hord Lake is an area of 27 acres privately controlled and holds county significance. The area is a hard water drainage lake with alkaline, light brown water of moderate transparency. A narrow head of sedge meadow-bog surrounds the lake and a five acre marsh occurs near the outlet stream.

***Jaquet Lake (Town of Fence)***

Jaquet Lake is an area of 23 acres controlled by the Forest Service and has county significance. This area is a wilderness seepage lake with very soft water. The lake is surrounded by an open bog and stunted black spruce trees.

***Johnson Pond (Town of Tipler)***

Johnson Pond is an area of 19 acres controlled by the Forest Service and holds county significance. The area is a 5 acres spring pond with mostly muck bottom. The pond adjoins a conifer swamp to the east.

***Lauterman Lake (Town of Florence)***

Lauterman Lake is an area of 124 acres controlled by the Forest Service and holds State significance. The area is two lake basins; North Twin being a spring lake with seeps along the north shore while South Twin is a drainage basin with more emergent aquatics. Most of the shoreland is upland and dominated by second growth hardwoods.

***Marm Lake and Swamp (Town of Homestead)***

Marm Lake is an area of 110 acres controlled by the county and holds county significance. The area is a small but deep seepage lake with dense floating aquatics along the shore and an undisturbed tamarack-black spruce swamp just west of the lake. Surround uplands are second

growth oak woods.

***Morgan Lake Pines (Town of Fence)***

Morgan Lake Pines is an area of 85 acres under private control and holds county significance. The area is a white and red pine stand with good stocking density, also an unusual stand of small white pines with a bog understory is located just north of the lake.

***Perch Lake (Town of Florence)***

Perch Lake is an area of 91 acres controlled by the Forest Service and holds State significance. The area is a soft water seepage lake with a large open bog-marsh area on the southwest side of the lake.

***Riley Lake***

Riley Lake is an area of approximately 10,000 acres controlled by the Forest Service and holds national significance. The area is timbered with flat to hilly topography. It also contains an aspen complex with northern hardwoods as well as numerous lakes and spring ponds.

***Sand Lake (Town of Commonwealth)***

Sand Lake is an area of 22 acres under private control and holds county significance. This area is a medium hard water seepage lake having, alkaline, clear water and excellent esthetic values. The lake is has no wetland edge and is managed for brook trout.

***Scout and North Bush Lakes (Town of Homestead)***

Scout and North Bush Lakes cover an area of 57 acres privately controlled and hold State significance. Scout Lake is a very soft water seepage lake. A narrow band of old growth pine rings the lake. North Bush Lake is a very shallow muck bottomed spring lake. Approximately 70 percent of the shoreline is wetland consisting of bog, tag alder and conifer. The remaining 30 percent of the shoreline is upland hardwoods.

***Seidel Lake (Town of Fern)***

Seidel Lake is an area of 61 acres under private control and holds State significance. The area is a medium hard water drainage lake having slightly acid, medium brown water of low transparency. The immediate shoreline is 70 percent wetland and 30 percent upland.

***Sunset Lake and Morgan Creek (Town of Fence)***

Sunset Lake/Morgan Creek cover an area of 76 acres controlled by the WDNR and hold state significance. Sunset Lake is a small drained lake with an unusual floating bog mat of Sphagnum moss. A small unnamed stream runs out of the lake and joins Morgan Creek. The margins of the streams support extensive sedge meadows and both areas have excellent wild and scenic qualities.

***Tipler Pond and Wetlands (Town of Tipler)***

Tipler Pond is an area of 284 acres controlled by the Forest Service and holds county significance. The area is a large acreage of wetland types including a spring pond, conifer swamps, open sedge meadows, and the headwaters of Johnson Creek.

***Fox Maple Woods & (Town of Florence)***

Fox Maple Woods is an area of 40 acres controlled by the DNR. The area is an extremely old growth of maple, basswood, and hemlock forest. The understory is fairly open with no signs of disturbance.

***Whisker Lake Pines (Town of Florence)***

Whisker Lake Pines is in an area of 83 acres controlled by the Forest Service and holds State significance. The area is a 40 acre stand of uncut, unmanaged white pine.

***Wisconsin Slough and Brule River (Town of Tipler)***

Wisconsin Slough is an area of 113 acres controlled by the Forest Service and holds State significance. The area is a hard water spring pond with alkaline shallow water. The shoreline is sedge meadow with a diversity of species and the pond drains into the Brule River. This section of the Brule has high water quality and abundant aquatics.

***Woods Creek Cedars (Town of Long Lake)***

Woods Creek Cedars is an area of 56 acres controlled by the Forest Service and has State wide significance. The area is an old growth white cedar swamp bordering a Class I trout stream. The large trees and diverse understory makes this area very exceptional. Some balsam fir and white pine are scattered throughout the cedars.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **HISTORIC, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

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There are numerous historical and archeological sites within Florence County. The majority of the historical sites consist of campsites, logging grades, and log structures. Many of the sites are either under private ownership or are owned by the Forest Service (Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest). Below is a list and a brief description and location of these historical sites.

#### ***Town of Aurora***

- Narrow Gauge Railway is located in the western portion of the town. The site is an old logging grade.

#### ***Town of Commonwealth***

- Jocola Site is located in the northern portion of the town. The site is an Indian campsite.
- Troika Site is located in the northern portion of the town on the north side of CTH "D". The site is a Lake Woodland and Archaic or Middle Woodland village.
- Two Banks Site is located in the northern portion of the town. The area is an Indian campsite.
- Indian Site is located in the northern portion of the town. The area is an Indian campsite.
- Florence Station is located in the southern part of the town. The site is a ranger station.

#### ***Town of Fence***

- Paddock Dam is located in the central part of the town. The site is a logging dam.
- Popple River Historic Dam is located in the central portion of the town. The site is a Pine Era logging dam
- Cleerman Logging Camp II is located in the western portion of the town. The site is a late historic logging camp.
- CCC Camp Newald is located in the south central portion of the town.
- Clearman and Jocquette is located in the south central portion of the town. The area is a late historic logging camp.
- Hollum Logging Camp is located in the southwestern portion of the town. The site is a late historic logging camp.
- Conner Camp is located in the southwestern portion of the town. The site is a 1940's logging camp.
- Conner Camp #45 is located in the southwestern portion of the town. The site is a historic logging camp.
- Holt Logging Camp can be found in the southwestern portion of the town. The site is a late historic logging camp.
- Plunger Logging Camp can be found in the southwester portion of the town. The site is a late historic logging camp.
- Cleerman Logging Camp is located in the south central portion of the town. The site is a 1930's logging camp.

- Palager's Logging Camp is located in the south central part of the town. The site is late historic logging camp.
- Old Camp is located in the south central part of the town. The site is a late historic logging camp.

#### ***Town of Fern***

- End of Road Site is located in the northeastern portion of the Town of Fern at the junction of the Pine River and Bessie Babbitt Lake drainage. The site is a Lake Woodland campsite.
- Franknecht Site can be found in the southeastern part of the town on the north bank of the Pine River. The area is a Lake Woodland village site.
- Fern School is located in the southwestern portion of the Town of Fern. The site is a School and Town hall.

#### ***Town of Florence***

- Log Structure is located in the southwestern portion of the town. The site contains the remains of a log structure dating to the early 20th century.
- Sites I-IV are located in the southwestern portion of the town. The area contains a field stone alignment, cellar remains, and several building foundations dating back to the early 1900's.
- Lauterman Railroad is located in the northwestern portion of the town. The area consists of an old railroad grade and a pit containing metal debris.
- Seitz's Site is located in the northwestern portion of the town just south of Hwy. 70. Materials found on the site include such things as a broken quartz scraper.
- Snowshoe Site is located in the northwestern portion of the town, just south of Hwy. 70. Specimens found on the site include quartz flakes.
- Florence County Courthouse and Jail are located within the community of Florence. The structures date back to 1889.

#### ***Town of Homestead***

- Narrow Gauge Railway is located in the southeastern portion of the town. The site is part of an old logging grade and is currently maintained as a snowmobile trail.
- Brown School was constructed in 1901 and existed as a two room school until 1958. The site currently serves as the town hall and senior center.

#### ***Town of Long Lake***

- Footer Site can be found in the northeastern portion of the town. The site contains such items as quartz debris and grit-tempered sherds.
- Lost Lake Site is found in the northeastern portion of the town. The site contains quartz and chert debris.
- Fay Knoll Site is located just north of Halsey Lake. The site is a Woodland campsite.
- Fay Outlet Site is located on the north bank of the Fay Lake Outlet. The area is a Woodland campsite.

- Halsey Boat Landing Site is located on the low ridge of Halsey Lake. The site is considered a historic work site.
- Fay Lake Site I is located on the northeast side of Fay Lake. Grit-tempered sherds and quartz flakes have been found on this site.
- Fay Lake Site II is located just south of the Fay Lake Outlet. The area is a Lakes Phase village.
- Fay Lake Site III is located on the south side of Fay Lake. The site contains some quartz specimens.
- Fay Lake Site IV is located on the east shore of Fay Lake. The area contains some quartz items.
- Fay Point Site is located on the southeast shore of Fay Lake. The area is a multi-component Woodland campsite.
- Church Site is located on the east shore of Long Lake. The site contains pottery and lithics materials.
- Bear Hunt is located in the southeastern portion of the town. The site contains a foundation of a structure located at the northwest corner of a plantation. Debris in the area suggests an old 19th century logging camp.
- North End Site is located to the northeast of Long Lake. The area contains part of a Oneota Indian village.
- CCC Campsite can be found in the southeastern portion of the town. The area contains various building foundations.

***Town of Tipler***

- C & NW Trestle Site is located on the south bank of the Brule River in the northeastern portion of the town. The site contains lithics and quartz.
- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church can be found in the north central portion of the Town of Tipler. The site contains a historic log church.
- Wisconsin Slough Site is found along the bank of the Brule River in the northeastern portion of the town. The area was a lithic manufacture site.

Care should be taken when excavation is done within Florence County, since there is the possibility of disturbing a historical or archeological site. The State of Wisconsin requires any findings of human bones to be reported (Wisconsin Statute 157.70) so an investigation can be done by the State Historical Society. Also, land developers trying to obtain state permits from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or any development involving federal monies, are required to be in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties.

**APPENDIX E**

**YEAR 2011, TOWN PARKS INVENTORY**

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**Town of Aurora**

**Menominee River Boat Landing**

**Fischer Lake Public Access**

**Ford Dam Flowage**

**Town Recreation Area**

**Soccer Field**

**Town of Commonwealth**

**None**

**Town of Fence**

**Ball Park Area (Fence Township Park)**

**Tennis Court Area (Fence Recreation Park)**

**Lund Lake Boat Landing**

**Town of Fern**

**None**

**Town of Florence**

**Florence Community Park**

**Anna Lake Boat Landing**

**Ellwood Lake Boat Landing**

**Cosgrove Lake Boat Landing**

**Menominee River Boat Land-Runbers Road**

**Menominee River Boat Landing – Brule Road**

**Robert Landry Memorial Field**

**Town of Homestead**

**Bush Lake Boat Landing & Rustic Park**

**East Bass Lake Boat Landing**

**East Bass Lake Park**

**Mirror Lake Boat Landing**

**Scout Lake Boat Landing & Rustic Park**

**Sand Lake Boat Landing**

**Town of Long Lake**

**Town Park**

**Long Lake Beach**

**Long Lake Boat Landing**

**Fay Lake Boat Landing**

**Town of Tipler**

**Town Park**

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**APPENDIX F**

**OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE WDNR**

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***All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)***

**Authorization:** s. 23.33, Wis. Stats.; Ch. NR 64, Wis. Admin. Code

**Budget:** 2004-2005 Fiscal Year = \$2,771,900

**Objective:** To provide funds to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquisition, insurance, development, and maintenance of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes.

**Eligibility:** Counties, cities, villages, and towns.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Development, maintenance, insurance, acquisition, and rehabilitation.

**Level of Assistance:** Up to 100% of costs of up to \$450 per mile if ATV trail is available for spring, summer, and fall riding. Up to 100% of costs of up to \$100 per mile if the trail is available only for winter riding. Up to 50% of the approved eligible costs for maintaining an all-terrain vehicle area. Up to 100% of the approved eligible costs of developing ATV trails and areas.

**Priorities:**

- ◆ Maintenance of existing approved trails and areas, including routes.
- ◆ Purchase of liability insurance.
- ◆ Acquisition of easements.
- ◆ Major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails.
- ◆ Acquisition of land in fee and development of new trails and areas.

**Applications:** Applications are available at DNR Regional offices and are due by April 15 of each year.

**History:** Since its inception in 1985, this grant program has provided over \$11,000,000 for the construction and maintenance of all-terrain vehicle trails and intensive-use areas.

**Contact:** DNR regional Community Service Specialist

***ATV Enforcement Patrol***

**Authorization:** s. 23.33 (9), Wis. Stats., Ch. NR 64.15, Wis. Admin. Code

**Budget:** Grants are prorated if requests exceed available funding.  
2004-2005 Fiscal Year = \$200,000

**Objective:** To provide grants to county sheriffs for all-terrain vehicle patrols.

**Eligibility:** Counties

**Level of Assistance:** Counties may receive up to 100% of their net costs for the enforcement of s. 23.33, Wis. Stats. If their claims exceed monies available, the Department shall prorate payments.

**Priorities:** Patrols must function as a county sheriff's law enforcement unit.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Salaries of officers engaged in the enforcement of s. NR 64.15 at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 20% of the gross salary. Travel, materials, and supplies are reimbursable. Depreciation is calculated at a rate of 12% annually on all equipment (trailers) over \$1000 except ATVs, which are calculated at an annual depreciation rate of 20%.

**Applications:** A county must file a *Notice of Intent to Patrol* form with the DNR on or before June 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the DNR on or before June 1. Forms and information are available from the Bureau of Law Enforcement.

**History:** For the 2003-2004 fiscal year, 30 counties submitted *Intent to Patrol* forms.

**Contact:** DNR Regional Safety Warden

### ***County Conservation Aids***

**Authorization:** s. 23.09 (12), Wis. Stats., Ch. NR 50, Wis. Admin. Code

**Budget:** 2004-2005 Fiscal Year = \$150,000

**Objective:** Carry out fish or wildlife management projects.

**Eligibility:** Counties or recognized Indian tribes.

**Level of Assistance:** 50% of eligible activities.

**Priorities:** Projects that enhance fish and wildlife habitat or fishing and hunting opportunities.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Projects related to improving fish or wildlife habitat or projects related to hunter/angler facilities.

**Applications:** Through contact with DNR regional Community Service Specialist.

**History:** The County Conservation Aid Program was created to assist Wisconsin counties in the improvement of fish and game resources. The fund was established by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1965 as an alternative to the highly questionable bounty payment program on coyote, foxes and bobcats.

**Contact:** DNR regional Community Service Specialists.

### ***Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration***

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

**Budget:** Varies depending upon excise tax collection by US Treasury.

**Objective:** Sport fish restoration and boating access.

**Eligibility:** Department of Natural Resources; contracts and use agreements may be negotiated with counties, villages, and towns for use of this funding to facilitate the construction of boat landings and fishing piers.

**Level of Assistance:** 75% cost-share

**Priorities:** Fisheries-related projects identified in the DNR's work planning process as biennially reviewed and ranked by DNR staff.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Public access development—boat landings, fishing piers.

**Applications:** Information provided by DNR Regional Fisheries Management Supervisors or appropriate regional Community Services Specialists.

**History:** Annual expenditures in excess of \$500,000 for developing boat access and piers. Remainder spent on land acquisition, habitat restoration, aquatic education, and other DNR management projects.

**Contact:** DNR regional Community Service Specialist

### ***Recreational Boating Facilities***

**Authorization:** s. 30.92, Wis. Stats.

**Budget:** 2004-2005 Fiscal Year = \$4,457,000

**Objective:** Provide funds to local units of government and qualified lake associations for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities. The program also provides financial assistance for: feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational boating facilities, purchase of aquatic weed harvesting equipment, purchase of navigation aids, dredging of channels of waterways, and chemical treatment of Eurasian water milfoil.

**Eligibility:** Counties, cities, villages, towns, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and

rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations.

**Level of Assistance:** Cost sharing of up to 50% is provided for feasibility studies, construction costs, and certain types of acquisition costs. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the DNR. Projects of statewide or regional significance may be eligible for an additional 30% cost-sharing assistance.

**Priorities:** The following factors are considered in establishing priorities for projects: distance of proposed project from other recreational boating facilities, demand for safe boating facilities, existing facilities, projects underway, commitment of funds, and location of proposed project within the regional identified in s. 25.29(7), Wis. Stats. A five-member Waterways Commission, appointed by the Governor, reviews and recommends projects for funding.

**Eligible Types of Projects:**

- ◆ Facilities (such as ramps and service docks) required to gain access to the water.
- ◆ Structures (such as bulkheads and breakwaters) necessary to provide safe water conditions for boaters.
- ◆ Activities (such as dredging) that provide safe water depths for recreational boating. Dredging is an eligible project only when it is associated with project development at the project site. Maintenance dredging is not eligible.
- ◆ Support facilities limited to parking lots, sanitary facilities, and security lighting.
- ◆ Acquisition of equipment to cut and remove aquatic plants (inland waters).
- ◆ Dredging of channels in waterways for recreational boating purposes not more than once every 10 years (inland waters).
- ◆ Acquisition of aids to navigation and regulatory markers.
- ◆ Chemical treatment of Eurasian water milfoil (limit of \$75,000 year for this activity).

***Recreational Trails Program***

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

**Budget:** Varies; through federal gas excise taxes paid on fuel used by off-highway vehicles.

**Objective:** Motorized and non-motorized recreation trails

**Eligibility:** Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governing bodies, school districts, state agencies, federal agencies and incorporated organizations.

**Level of Assistance:** up to 50% of total project costs.

**Priorities:** In priority order: rehabilitation of existing trails, trail maintenance, trail development, and trail acquisition.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on federal lands), and acquisition of easement or property for trails.

**Applications** Application information and forms are available from the DNR regional Community Services Specialists and are due in the appropriate DNR regional office by May 1 of each year.

**History:** Congress made a major policy shift in surface transportation legislation through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991. Under this act, trail projects became eligible for federal highway program funds. Under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Tea-21), enacted in June 1998, Congress broadened eligibility for trails and other related projects that benefit recreation. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), enacted in August 2005, continues these

programs.

**Contact:** DNR regional Community Service Specialist

#### ***Snowmobile Trail Aids***

**Authorization:** s. 23.09(26) and ch. 350, Wis. Stats.

**Budget:** 2004-2005 Fiscal Year = \$7,743,400

**Objective:** Provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment.

**Eligibility:** Counties.

**Level of Assistance:** 100% of approved maintenance costs up to \$250 per mile, of development costs up to \$500 per mile, 100% of major bridge rehabilitation costs, 100% of trail rehabilitation costs.

**Priorities:** Maintain trail systems that provide passage through a county and connections with adjacent counties.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Maintenance of trails, which includes: signing, brushing and grooming of snowmobile trails; purchase of liability insurance and acquisition of short-term easements; development of trails, which may include general trail construction, provision of new bridges, gates and signs, major rehabilitation of existing snowmobile bridges, and rehabilitation of existing trail segments.

**Applications:** Applications are available at DNR regional offices and are due April 15 of each year.

**History:** Since its beginning in the early 1970s, the snowmobile program has provided over \$80 million in grant assistance for the development and maintenance of public snowmobile trails.

#### ***County Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols***

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

**Budget:** Grants are prorated if requests exceed funding available.

2003-2004 Fiscal Year = \$400,000

**Objective:** To encourage county snowmobile patrols to function as a law enforcement unit for the enforcement of ch. 350, Wis. Stats.

**Eligibility:** Counties.

**Level of Assistance:** Counties may receive up to 100% of their net costs for the enforcement of ch. 350, Wis. Stats. If county claims exceed available funds, the DNR shall prorate the payments.

**Priorities:** Patrols must function as a county sheriff's law enforcement unit.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Salaries of officers engaged in the enforcement of ch. 350, Wis. Stats. at a rate not more than the regular straight-time rate. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of gross salary. Travel, materials, and supplies are reimbursable. Depreciation is calculated at a rate of 20% annually on all equipment (snowmobiles) valued at over \$1,000.

**Applications:** A county must file a *Notice of Intent to Patrol* form with the DNR on or before June 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the DNR on or before June 1st. Forms and information are available from the Bureau of Law Enforcement.

**History:** Approximately 44 counties participate in the snowmobile enforcement patrol each year.

#### ***Stewardship Local Assistance – Acquisition and Development of Local Parks***

**Authorization:** s. 23.09(20), Wis. Stats; ch. NR 51, subchapter XII, Wis. Admin. Code

**Budget:** 50% of the funds appropriated for the Stewardship Local Assistance Grants; up to \$4 million annually (pending any legislative changes).

**Objective:** To acquire land, rights in land, and develop public outdoor recreation areas for

nature-based outdoor recreation purposes.

**Eligibility:** Towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations as defined under s. 23.096, Wis. Stats. The county, municipality, or Indian tribe must have an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**Level of Assistance:** Up to 50% matching grants.

**Priorities:** Acquisition of land where a scarcity of nature-based outdoor recreation areas exist. Projects that provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas that provide or enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. The project must be part of an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Examples of support facilities include parking areas, sanitary and shelter buildings, signs, interpretive items, and disabled accessibility improvements. Examples of ineligible facilities include sports fields and tennis courts.

**Applications:** Applications and instructions are available from DNR regional Community Service Specialists and are due to the regional office by May 1 each year.

**History:** The Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program began in 1990. In its first 15 years, this program has proved to be an outstanding success in achieving its conservation and recreation goals through funding for land and easement acquisition and the development of recreational facilities. With strong bipartisan support, the Stewardship program was renewed for an additional ten years as part of the 1999-01 Wisconsin State Budget. The ADLP Local Assistance grant program was introduced as part of the original Stewardship Program. Program funds are gathered through general obligation borrowing. The State of Wisconsin sells bonds to investors to raise funds, then pays back the debt of these bonds over the following 20 year period.

#### ***Stewardship Local Assistance – Urban Rivers***

**Authorization:** s. 30.277, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subchapter XIV, Wis. Admin. Code

**Budget:** 20% of the funds appropriated for the Stewardship Local Assistance Grants; up to \$1.6 million per year (pending any legislative changes).

**Objectives:**

1. Improving the quality of urban waterways and riverfronts through preservation, restoration, or enhancement, to encourage economic revitalization and expanded nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities. Shoreline enhancements include development or habitat restoration projects which serve public recreation or resource conservation purposes.
2. Preserving and revitalizing historical, cultural, or natural areas.

**Eligibility:** Counties, cities, villages, towns, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations as defined in s. 23.096, Wis. Stats. The county, municipality, or Indian Tribe must have an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**Level of Assistance:** Up to 50% matching grants.

**Priorities:** Acquisition of land in urban areas, projects that provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Acquisition, development, or restoration of urban riverfront land which meets the objectives listed above and is part of an outdoor recreation plan adopted by the local unit of government. Projects that are specifically identified in a river corridor plan for economic revitalization and outdoor recreation are also eligible.

**Applications:** Application information and forms are available from DNR regional Community

Service Specialists and are due to the appropriate DNR regional office by May 1 of each year.

**History:** The Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program began in 1990. In its first 15 years, this program has proved to be an outstanding success in achieving its conservation and recreation goals through funding for land and easement acquisition and the development of recreational facilities. With strong bipartisan support, the Stewardship program was renewed for an additional ten years as part of the 1999-01 Wisconsin State Budget. The URGP Local Assistance grant program was introduced as part of the original Stewardship Program. Program funds are gathered through general obligation borrowing. The State of Wisconsin sells bonds to investors to raise funds, then pays back the debt of these bonds over the following 20 year period.

#### ***Stewardship Local Assistance – Urban Greenspace***

**Authorization:** s. 23.09(19), Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subchapter XIII, Wis. Admin. Code

**Budget:** 20% of the funds appropriated for the Stewardship Local Assistance Grants; up to \$1.6 million per year (pending any legislative changes).

**Objective:** Provide open natural space in proximity to urban development; protect from development land with scenic, ecological or natural values in urban areas; provide land for nature-based outdoor recreation, including noncommercial gardening in urban areas.

**Eligibility:** Counties, cities, villages, towns, lake districts, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations as defined under s. 23.096, Wis. Stats. The county, municipality, or Indian tribe must have an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**Level of Assistance:** Up to 50% matching grants.

**Priorities:** Acquisition of land in and around urban area, projects that provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Land acquisitions that meet the objectives listed above and are part of an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**Applications:** Application information and forms are available from DNR regional Community Service Specialists and are due in the appropriate DNR regional office by May 1 of each year.

**History:** The Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program began in 1990. In its first 15 years, this program has proved to be an outstanding success in achieving its conservation and recreation goals through funding for land and easement acquisition and the development of recreational facilities. With strong bipartisan support, the Stewardship program was renewed for an additional ten years as part of the 1999-01 Wisconsin State Budget. The UGS Local Assistance grant program was introduced as part of the original Stewardship Program. Program funds are gathered through general obligation borrowing. The State of Wisconsin sells bonds to investors to raise funds, then pays back the debt of these bonds over the following 20 year period.

#### ***Stewardship Local Assistance – Acquisition of Development Rights***

**Authorization:** s. 23.09(20m), Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subchapter XV, Wis. Admin. Code

**Budget:** 10% of the funds appropriated for the Stewardship Local Assistance Grants; up to \$800,000 per year (pending any legislative changes).

**Objective:** To acquire development rights (easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial development would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation.

**Eligibility:** Towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations defined under s. 23.096, Wis. Stats. The county, municipality, or Indian tribe must

have an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**Level of Assistance:** Up to 50% matching grants.

**Priorities:** Priority is given to projects on land that: has nature-based outdoor recreation; is threatened by increasing development; has frontage on a river, stream, lake, or estuary; creates a buffer between already protected land and residential, commercial, or industrial development; exists within an environmental corridor connecting protected resource areas; or protects natural, agricultural, forestry, scenic, geological, or archaeological values.

**Eligible Types of Projects:** Acquisition of development rights that provide or enhance nature-based outdoor recreation areas. The project must be part of an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

**Applications:** Application information and forms are available from the DNR regional Community Services Specialists and are due to the appropriate DNR regional office by May 1 of each year.

**History:** The Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program began in 1990. In its first 15 years, this program has proved to be an outstanding success in achieving its conservation and recreation goals through funding for land and easement acquisition and the development of recreational facilities. With strong bipartisan support, the Stewardship program was renewed for an additional ten years as part of the 1999-01 Wisconsin State Budget. The ADR Local Assistance grant program was introduced as part of the Stewardship Program's renewal. Program funds are gathered through general obligation borrowing. The State of Wisconsin sells bonds to investors to raise funds, then pays back the debt of these bonds over the following 20 year period.





