



# Outdoor Recreation Plan

2014-2019

Revised: July 2015

**Highlighted changes** were approved in the Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee. Plan changes were approved by County Board.

Also covering the City of Eagle River and the Towns within Vilas County



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Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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This plan was prepared under the direction of the Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Department by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this recreation plan is to provide continued direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of the county. This is accomplished through an inventory and analysis of outdoor recreational facilities, and the establishment of recommendations to meet identified needs.

Adoption of this plan by the Vilas County Board, and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), will continue eligibility of the county and its local units of government for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space Program (UGS) and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP). Adoption by all municipalities is not necessary if they wish to cooperate with Vilas County to use this plan for grant applications. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Vilas County applies on their behalf.

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

### STATUTORY BASE FOR THIS PLAN

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

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

### PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs for Vilas County, the City of Eagle River, and the towns of Arbor Vitae, Boulder Junction, Cloverland, Conover, Lac du Flambeau, Land O’ Lakes, Lincoln, Manitowish Waters, Phelps, Plum Lake, Presque Isle, St. Germain, Washington, and Winchester.

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

The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies through the year 2019. A combination of public survey compilation and standards analysis were utilized to define recreational and open space needs. Goals and objectives were created to guide the direction of recreational planning efforts within Vilas County.

The recommendations are general strategies and five-year action programs for recreation facility development. A series of possible tools to aid implementation of these recommendations are set forth in the attachments.

The plan concludes with a note on updating to insure that it remains relevant to the needs of the county over the entire five-year span.

## REFERENCE PLANS & LAWS

Vilas County has been involved with outdoor recreation plans since 1972 when the local University of Wisconsin Extension Resource Agent compiled the County's first outdoor recreation plan. Later, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission updated the plan for years 1978-1983, 1984-1988, and 2002-2006.

Additional plans and laws that affect outdoor recreation in Vilas County are referenced below:

### ***Complete Streets Law***

Wisconsin's Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations law addressing Complete Streets was codified in 2009. It was incorporated as State statute §84.01(35) and later into administrative rule as Transportation 75.

Complete Streets are roadways designed and operated to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable access and travel for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transport users of all ages and abilities are able to safely and comfortably move along and across a complete street.

All roads receiving state or federal funding through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation must also accommodate bicycles and pedestrians per this law. Local governments may pass their own Complete Streets ordinances to cover their own road networks. Specific guidelines related to traffic counts, and if the road is urban or rural, are used in these ordinances to determine whether a sidewalk, path, or lane is needed to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.

### ***State Trails Network Plan***

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

alternative transportation corridors. These trails are shown on Map 1

Segment 15—Ashland to Rhinelander

From Manitowish, a potential trail corridor extends southeast through Vilas County to the City of Rhinelander. The route includes abandoned rail corridors, roadways and existing trails in the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. The segment in Iron County is an existing snowmobile trail. Iron County would like to cooperate with the state forest to repair bridges so the trail can be opened for bicycling.

Part of this segment includes a proposed loop route on abandoned rail line that from Manitowish to Woodruff. From Woodruff, the loop extends north to Boulder Junction and returns to Manitowish. In addition to abandoned rail line, the loop consists of Boulder Junction's community trail, roadways and/or existing forest trails. A spur connector to Sayner is also proposed using forest trails and/or low-use roadways.

Continuing south, a route through Woodruff/Minocqua would connect with the Bearskin/Hiawatha State Trail.

Segment 19—Langlade Co. to Michigan state line

This abandoned rail corridor links the State of Michigan with the Mountain Bay Trail near Eland in Marathon County. It passes through a few state wildlife areas and some county forests. This corridor also links to the proposed Three Lakes to Rhinelander and Crandon to Tomahawk abandoned rail corridors, the Washburn to Rhinelander corridor at Monico and the Antigo to White Lake proposed corridor. The segment includes a loop to the Crandon to White Lake proposed corridor. The grade runs through portions of Langlade County Forest, the lake area around Kempster in Langlade County and the popular tourist areas of Three Lakes and Eagle River in Vilas County.

***Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016***

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

America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative is a federal agency to state agency program to create or improve big outdoor recreation projects.

A summary of this SCORP is in Attachment D.

**Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056**

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

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

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

**CN Chequamegon-Nicolet Nat'l Forest**

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

**NA Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest**

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

**BL Border Lakes Region**

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

**UW Upper Wisconsin River**

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

**DK Deerskin River**

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

***Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan, 2011***

This plan is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway and pedestrian system for Vilas County. This plan is a tool designed to make Vilas County more walkable and bikeable. Results of this plan include a bicycle trail and route map, and an implementation action plan.

***Vilas County Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030***

This plan was created according to the state comprehensive planning law (Sec. 66.1001 WI Stats) and is a compilation of historical data and community created goals, objectives, policies, and programs that will guide future planning and community decisions for a 20-year period. Comprehensive plans incorporate a 20-year vision and provide a rational basis for local land use decisions.

The physical and social characteristics of Vilas County were taken from the comprehensive plan. Maps locating boat access points, and local parks were made from data gathered for the comprehensive plan.

***Vilas County Land & Water Resource Management Plan 2010-2015***

This plan contains countywide descriptions of land and water resources, strategies to care for the natural resources, and natural resource assessments.

The Vilas County Lake and River Classification System is described in this LWRM plan.

***Vilas County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006-2020***

The mission of the County Forest is to manage, conserve, and protect the forest resources on a sustainable basis for present and future generations. This plan was created under Sec. 28.11 WI Stats to manage the County Forest.

This plan incorporates or references all county forest policies, pertinent county ordinances, planning documents, and needs and actions to occur from 2006 to 2020 that relate to managing the Vilas County Forest lands.

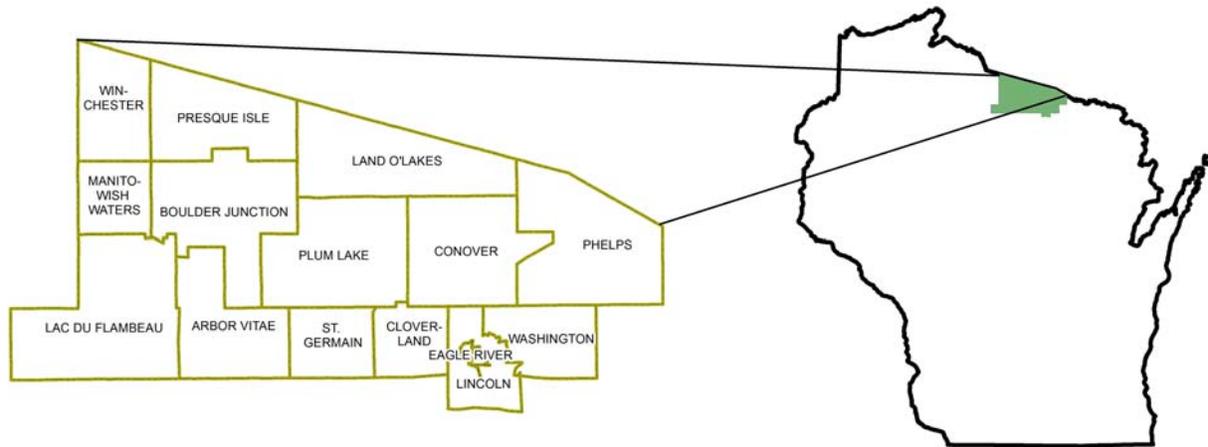
## Chapter 2 DESCRIPTION OF VILAS COUNTY

### INTRODUCTION

Potential opportunities and limitations start with understanding an area. This chapter provides a basic feel for what Vilas County looks like physically, demographically, and economically.

Vilas County is located in northern Wisconsin and is bound by Upper Michigan to the north, Forest County to the east, Oneida County to the south, and Iron and Price Counties to the west. The county is approximately 651,529 acres in size, of which about 85% (553,878 acres) are of land, and about 15% (97,024 acres) are water. Public and private forests cover about 81% of the county.

**Figure 1** Vilas County



### TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The physiology (physical nature of a geographic area) of the county resulted from glacial activity that occurred 10,000 - 25,000 years ago. The last retreat of the glaciers transformed the formerly uneven, rocky terrain of the county into a diverse landscape.

The county's landscape ranges from broad, nearly level glacial outwash plains to rough, broken glacial moraines and areas of pitted outwash. There are three distinct physiographic regions in the county. The drumlins and ground moraines in the eastern portion of the county are characterized by low, smoothly rounded, elongated, and oval ridges that are nearly level to moderately steep and are interspersed with long, narrow drainageways. The Winegar moraine area in the western portion of the county is characterized by short, steep slopes and ridges, and by numerous wet depressions, most of which have no outlets. Outside of these moraine areas is an outwash plain, characterized by a rolling or hilly topography with many enclosed basins and depressions. In scattered areas on this plain, including the communities of Eagle River, Manitowish Waters, Conover, St. Germain, and Boulder Junction, sand flats are present, while end moraines and drumlins are scattered throughout. The glacial melt is directly related to the amount and location of surface water.

## LAND USE

Forests are the dominant land use in the county. Over 81 percent of the county is forested, followed by about 15 percent water. Agriculture covers 2 percent, and all other urban development covers 2 percent.

## FORESTRY

Vilas County is characterized by well developed secondary growth forests with a mixture of hardwoods and conifer stands, covering 81% of the County with 528,276 acres.

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) and Managed Forest Law there are 18,317 **open** acres in 2013. There are 20,961 acres that are **closed** under Managed Forest Law (MFL) as of 2013. Much of MFL lands are available to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking. Make sure the land is listed as open. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation. Unless the property owner allows their use, bicycling, snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles are prohibited on enrolled lands that are open to the public.

### Care for the natural resource

The primary concern in protecting soil is to make sure areas where soil is exposed are covered as soon as possible. Timber harvests may require either temporary or permanent road construction, which exposes areas to soil erosion.

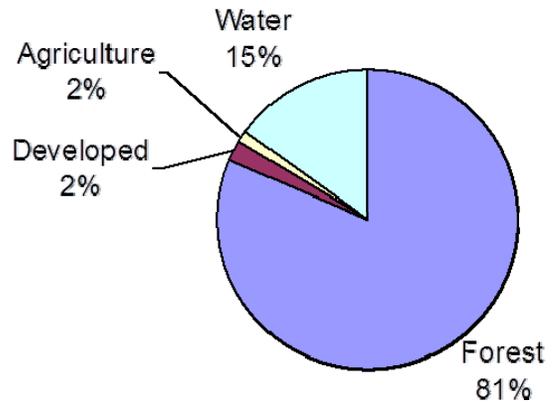
Vilas County Forestry Department requires that all foresters conducting county forest harvests use Best Management Practices to harvest timber responsibly. The county forest is independently certified as sustainable by Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®). The SFI 2005-2009 Standard promotes sustainable forest management through nine principles, 13 objectives, 34 performance measures and 102 indicators developed by professional foresters, conservationists, scientists and others. The standard addresses key environmental, social, and economic forest values – from water quality and biodiversity to harvesting and regeneration.

## SURFACE WATER

Vilas County is at the headwaters of the Wisconsin and Flambeau rivers that drain to the Mississippi River; the Brule and Menominee rivers flow into Lake Michigan, and Presque Isle discharges into Lake Superior.

Surface water resources constitute an extremely valuable part of the natural resource base of Vilas County. Vilas County is home to over 1,320 lakes, more than any other county in Wisconsin, resulting in one of the highest concentrations of inland freshwater lakes in the world. Numerous rivers and streams are also located within the county's boundaries. These surface water resources are vital natural resources, which are held in the public trust by the state. The abundance of water

**Countywide Land Use**



resources provides the public with unique recreational opportunities and the enjoyment of scenic beauty, and therefore plays a primary role in sustaining tourism, the major economic force of Vilas County.

Care for the natural resource:

The quality of these surface water resources is highly susceptible to deterioration from pollutant runoff. Therefore, land uses and related activities must be carefully managed in order to achieve a balance between the level and extent of use, and the maintenance of water quality.

“Overall, there are no major or widespread water quality problems regarding Vilas County surface waters that can be controlled within Vilas County. Pollution of surface water generally occurs from mercury deposition, the source of which is coal fired power plant emissions and automobile road run-off. There is little municipal or industrial waste according to the WDNR Water Quality Management Plan for the Headwaters Basin. The streams exhibit good water quality with the majority supporting cold-water fish communities, or warm-water sport fish communities.” (Vilas County LWRM Plan 2010-2015)

As a prevention measure to address existing and future problems with lakeshore development pressures, the *Vilas County Lake and River Classification System* was established. The Vilas County Zoning and Planning Department established this classification system in 1999 to provide varying degrees of protection in permitting and mitigation standards to water bodies based upon their sensitivity level and existing development. The overall goal of the lake classification system is to manage responsible development based on a specific water body’s ability to accommodate that development and still remain a healthy and viable aquatic ecosystem. Additional information is available in the Vilas County LWRM Plan 2010-2015 and the county zoning and planning department.

## **GROUNDWATER**

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

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

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

Care for the natural resource:

Most groundwater contamination is related to poorly-sited land uses such as agricultural manure,

petroleum, and salt storage in areas of high groundwater tables or fractured bedrock. Contamination of groundwater reserves can also result from such sources as improperly placed or maintained landfill sites, private waste disposal (septic effluent), excessive lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides, and leaks from sewer pipes. Runoff from livestock yards and urban areas, improper application of agricultural pesticide or fertilizers, and leaking petroleum storage tanks and spills can also add organic and chemical contaminants in locations where the water table is near the surface. Once groundwater contamination has occurred, successful remediation can take years, or may never occur, depending upon the pollutant. Therefore, when considering specific land uses for an area, it is vital to consider the relationships between the land, the proposed/actual use, the physical characteristics, and the potential for contamination to help ensure that groundwater contamination does not occur. Protection of these groundwater reserves is necessary to ensure adequate quality water to all users.

## POPULATION & HOUSING

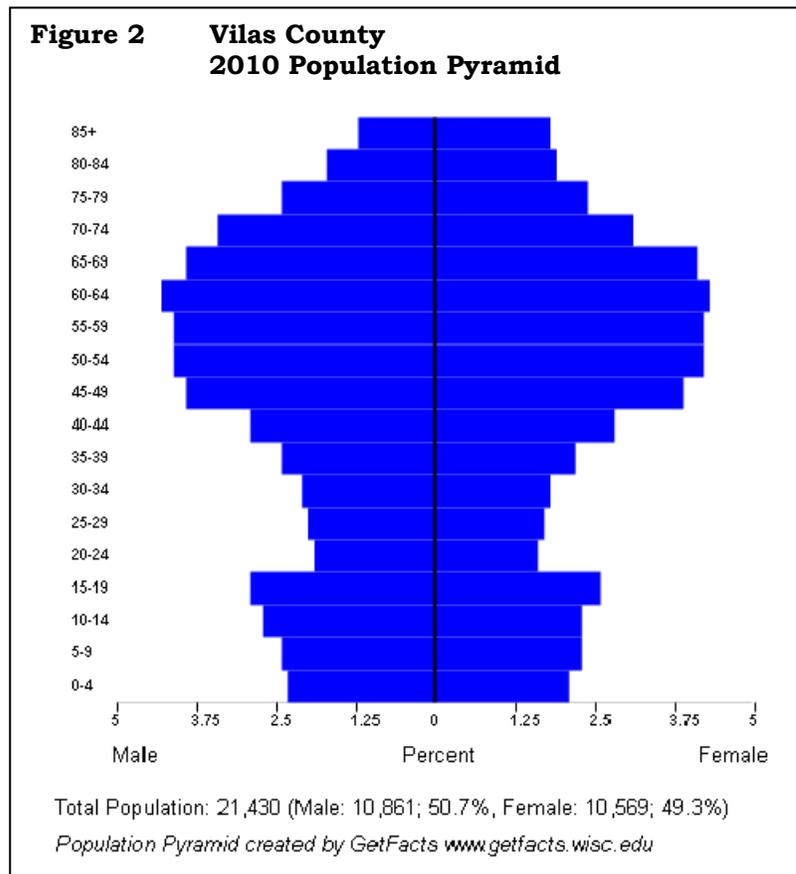
<b>Table 1</b>		<b>Vilas County Population Projections</b>		
Year	2010 Census	2015	2020	
Population	21,430	21,140	20,946	

Source: U.S. Census, and Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

Population is projected to decline slightly over the next 5 years of this plan as seen in Table 1.

Figure 2 illustrates the county’s predominantly older population, which is comprised primarily of persons aged 45 and older. Median age in the county increased to 50.7 years old in 2010, from 45.8 years in 2000. The population is almost equally male and female until about 80 years and older when females outnumber males, as is expected due to females naturally longer life spans.

From 2000 to 2012 the population of the 17 and younger group declined from 20.7% to about 17.2% of Vilas County's population.

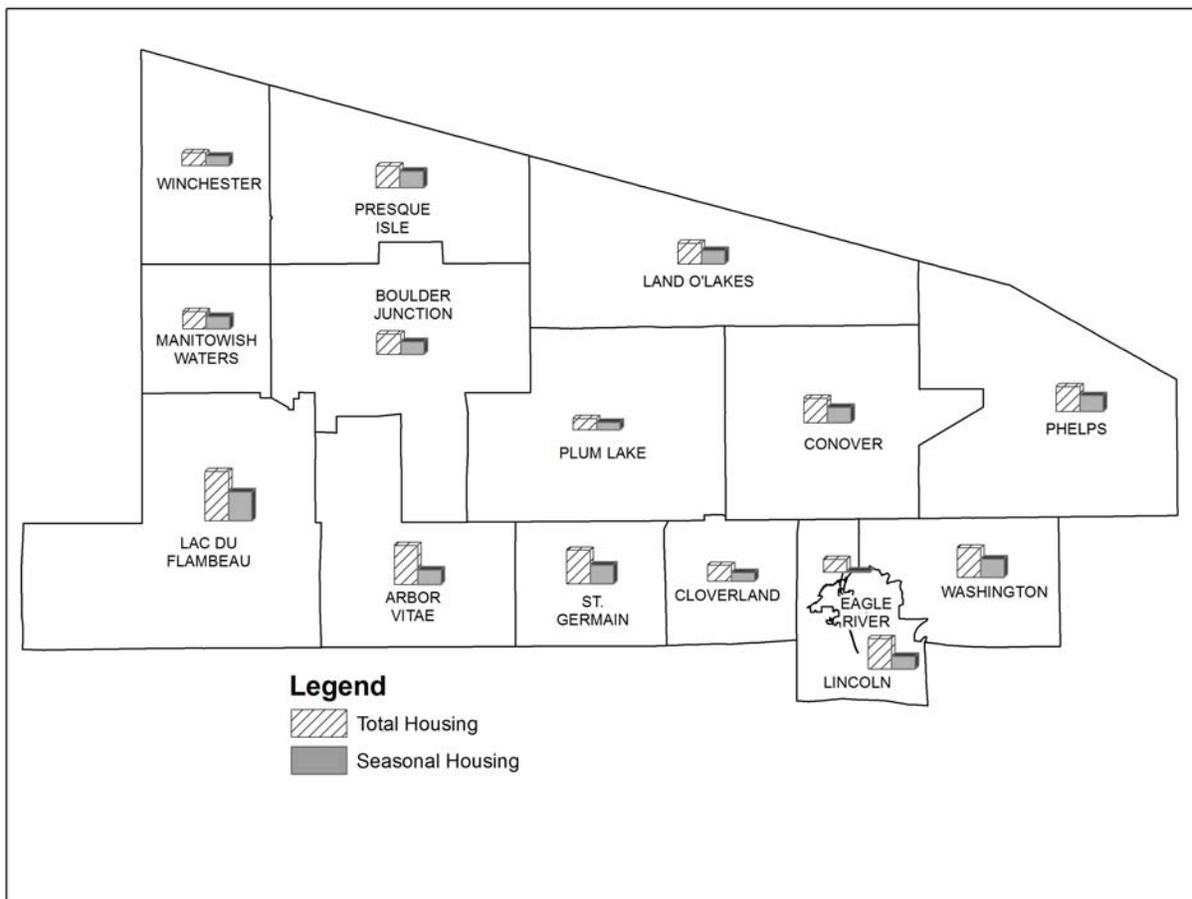


Seasonal dwellings are a significant part of the housing stock in the county (57%); far greater than the 6.1% of housing for the state. Only the City of Eagle River has less than 35% of its housing listed as seasonally occupied.

Figure 3 shows that 9 of the 14 towns, seasonal dwellings are more than 60% of all housing units; with Presque Isle and Winchester both having over 75% of housing that is seasonally occupied.

The trend over the last 20 years has been for seasonal home owners to retire in Vilas County, thus becoming permanent residents in their former “cottages.” New permanent and seasonal homes are being built too. Both of these trends are projected to continue.

**Figure 3** Permanent and Seasonal Housing, 2010



Source: 2010 U.S. Census

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Table 2 shows a comparison between the last two U.S. Census counts for Vilas County. There are notable fewer people under 18 years old in the county in 2012 vs. 2000, and notably more residents over 65 now living in the county. The American Indian population has increased by the same percent as the White population has declined over roughly the last decade. Median household income has risen over the last decade, but not faster than inflation.

The Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development creates countywide workforce profiles that include some demographic data. In 2011, OEA provided the following population perspective:

Vilas County's population increased 11.4% between 2000 and 2010. During this time, the county's population grew at a much faster rate than the state or nation and ranked as the 8th fastest-growing county among Wisconsin's 72 counties.

Net migration plus natural increase equals population growth. The negative natural increase is due in part, to the county's comparatively high median age of 51 years (the 2nd highest in the state) and low relative crude birth rate (9th lowest among the state's 72 counties). The key driver to Vilas's population change, net migration, was more than eight times that of the state and more than four times that of the nation, compensating for negative natural increase.

	2000 Census	2012 ACS
Population	21,033	21,338
Persons under 5 years	4.3%	4.2%
Persons under 18 years	20.7%	17.2%
Persons 65 years and over	22.8%	27.6%
Female persons	50.2%	49.4%
White persons (not Hispanic)	89.7%	87.1%
Black persons	0.2%	0.3%
American Indian persons	9.1%	11.0%
Asian persons	0.2%	0.3%
Hispanic or Latino persons	0.9%	1.4%
High school graduates or higher*	85.4%	91.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher*	17.6%	23.5%
Housing units	22,397	25,196
Average household size	2.29	2.01
Median household income	\$33,759	\$41,195

Source: U.S. Census, 2000, 2010, & U.S. Census' American Community Survey (ACS) 2007-2011

\*percentage of persons age 25 and over

## EMPLOYMENT

Overall, the labor force has increased from about 9,800 in 2000 to over 10,600 in 2010 (Table 3). That represents an increase of 7.6 percent. The labor force is defined simply as the number of persons, sixteen and over, employed or looking to be employment. Persons over sixteen who are students, homemakers, retired, institutionalized, or unable/unwilling to seek employment are not considered part of the labor force.

	2000	2010
Labor Force	9,869	10,622
Employed	9,268	9,542
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	5.8%
Participation Rate	57.3%	57.7%

Source: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey; and NCWRPC

Table 4 contains industry level employment data along with annual employment change. Almost 61 percent of the total job base was employed in the Trade, transportation, utilities sector; Education & health sector, or the Leisure & hospitality employment sector.

Industry	Employment	
	Annual Avg.	1-Year Change
Natural Resources	57	-5
Construction	497	-34
Manufacturing	359	-25
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	1,416	-29
Information	NA	NA
Financial Activities	275	0
Professional & Business Services	272	-16
Education & Health	1,002	-52
Leisure & Hospitality	2,110	-139
Other services	380	21
Public Administration	917	52

Source: WI DWD, Bureau of Workforce Training, Quarterly Census Employment and Wages, June 2011

## Chapter 3

# EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

### INTRODUCTION

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

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

### LINEAR FACILITIES

#### Rustic Roads:

Rustic Road 60 is 11.7 miles of County Highway K, between County Highways N and M.  
Surface: paved.

#### Water Trails:

A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and possibly attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. Numerous rivers and streams are also located within Vilas County. There are 35 cold water streams and 116 warm water streams. All navigable water is available to canoe on. The following parks and forests have specific mapped or marked water trail routes.

#### **Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest**

- Trip 1 Canoe Route (High-Fish Trap Lake)
- Trip 2 Canoe Route (Boulder Lake)
- Trip 3 Canoe Route (Manitowish River)
- Trip 4 Canoe Route (Manitowish-Turtle Flambeau)
- Trip 5 Canoe Route (Trout Lake)
- Trip 6 Canoe Route (Rainbow Flowage-WI River)

#### **Wisconsin River**

The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation (WVIC) has created amenity maps for canoeists down the Wisconsin River. Mile marker signs on maps correspond with actual signs placed on the river. Mile markers are typically located on the right side of the bridges and at portage take out sites.

### **Burnt Rollways Boat Hoist – Eagle River to Three Lakes**

Between the Eagle River Chain-of-lakes and the Three Lakes Chain-of-lakes is this boat hoist. Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company operates this recreational boat lift for the public to enjoy. A fee is charged, and the operational schedule is listed online. The boat lift is operated annually between May and September.

### Trout Streams:

The DNR uses three categories to classify the different types of trout streams throughout the state. These are evident in Wisconsin Trout Streams [PUB-FH-806 2002, PDF], which provides a comprehensive list of trout streams throughout the state, and in Wisconsin Trout Stream Maps. See a map of Vilas County's trout streams in Attachment G.

### Snowmobile Trails:

Vilas County has approximately 700 miles of established snowmobile trails: 483.2 miles are state funded sponsored public trails, 20 miles of county sponsored public trails, and 197 miles are club trails open to the public. There are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the county. The Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance, comprised of 11 snowmobile clubs, maintain the state funded county sponsored trails and meet monthly to provide continuous input toward the future direction of the county's snowmobile program.

### ATV Trails:

Vilas County currently has 0.4 miles of State funded ATV trail in the Land O'Lakes area. A Resolution of Participation for ATV trail maintenance funds makes grants available to the County from the DNR. The County continues to work with other communities to look at the feasibility of developing other ATV trails.

### Horse (Equestrian) Trails:

Horseback riding is permitted on all County Forest trails, roads, and fire lanes. There are no designated horseback riding trails in the County Forest.

### Hunting, Hiking, and Cross Country Ski Trails:

The Vilas County Forestry Department maintains 89 miles of established hunting, hiking, cross-country ski, and handicapped trails located within the County Forest. Langley Lake is the only cross-country ski trail groomed and the only ski trail with signs.

Hiking is permitted on all County Forest trails, roads, and fire lanes. Hiking or snowshoeing are not allowed on groomed cross-country ski trails.

### Trail definitions:

**Forest Trail**—County Forest paths that may or may not be gated or bermed to restrict vehicle access, depending on the sensitivity of the environment. Those forest trails that are not closed by a berm or gate are open to vehicle access. These forest paths are compacted soil logging roads created for local timber harvest operations.

**Hunting & Hiking Trail**—County Forest paths that are gated and mowed on a 3 year rotation to provide wildlife habitat and access for non-vehicle outdoor recreation and forest management. These forest paths have a natural forest soil surface free of trees and bushes.

**Disabled Access Trail**—County Forest game trails that are mowed annually and are walk-in only. Gate keys are made available to Class A or B permit holders to drive vehicles into this area and they are allowed one additional person to assist them.

**Cross Country Ski Trail**—County Forest *Hunting & Hiking Trails* that are groomed for cross country skiing in winter.

*Maps 3 to 6 show the County Forest trail system.*

Bicycle Trails

All roads are open to bicycle travel within Vilas County, but some roads are heavily traveled by motorized vehicles, which can make them less safe for bicyclists. Download WisDOT’s Vilas County bike maps for bicycling road conditions.

Several trails have been developed throughout Vilas County. Twelve bike routes or off-road trails are proposed to exist in Vilas County (see *Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan*).

Here are some bicycle facility definitions:

**Complete Streets** applies to roads that are being reconstructed with state or federal funds. These roads must have accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians on them. In urban areas, a bicycle accommodation may be a bike lane, and a pedestrian accommodation may be a sidewalk. In rural areas, a bicycle accommodation may be a wide paved shoulder, and pedestrians may not need anything in addition to that same wide paved shoulder.

**Bicycle Lane**—A portion of roadway that has been designated for preferential or exclusive use by bicyclists by pavement markings and, if used, signs. It is intended for one-way travel in the same direction as the adjacent traffic lane.

**Bicycle Trail**—An off-road path for bicycle and pedestrian use that has an asphalt or packed gravel surface.

**Bicycle Route**—A road designated by the jurisdiction having authority, either with a unique route designation or with Bike Route signs, along which bicycle guide signs may provide directional and distance information.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Trail Type</b>	<b>Miles of trail</b>
Ski Hill	Hunter	6.67
White Squaw Lake	Hunter	9.12
Pioneer Creek	Hunter	8.99
Snipe/Ewalk/Wood Duck	Hunter	18.78
Heart Lake	Hunter	5.24
Langley Lake	Hunter	9.89
Langley Lake	Handicapped	3.03
Langley Lake	X-C Ski	5.3
Torch Lake	Hunter	6.79
Muskrat Creek	Hunter	6.61
Mud Minnow Lake	Hunter	3.16
Decker Lake	Hunter	5.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>88.88</b>

Source: Vilas County Forestry Department

Existing bike routes and trails are on Map 1, and described in Table 5 below.

Proposed bike routes and trails on Map 2.

For more details see the *Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan, 2011* under “Reference Plans and Laws” in Chapter 1, page 5.

## COUNTY PARKS

The amount of usage Vilas County parks receive plays a role in the county’s economy. Vilas county has a very large seasonal population with a high emphasis on recreation. The tourism industry depends on providing adequate facilities for a variety of recreational experiences. These facilities are open for day use from sunrise to sunset unless designated otherwise.

***Park facility improvements are listed in Chapter 6. See Map 1 for park locations.***

### **1. Eagle Lake County Park**

Eagle Lake Park is approximately 10 acres in size. It is the largest of the County parks. It is located just off of Chain O'Lakes Road near Eagle River. The facility includes a swimming beach and a boat landing with a 6x24' portable pier. Restrooms are provided at this park, along with picnic tables, grills, and a pavilion. The facilities at this park meet ADA standards.

### **2. Torch Lake Park**

Torch Lake Park is approximately two acres in size. It is located two miles south of Conover on Torch Lake Road within the Vilas County Forest. There is a swimming beach and one restroom building with 2 toilets. The picnic area includes tables and grills. There is a swing set for children and two horseshoe pits. A nature trail 6.5 miles in length provides recreation for skiers, hunters, and hikers. No facilities at this park meet ADA standards.

### **3. Lac Vieux Desert Park**

Lac Vieux Desert Park is approximately two acres in size, and is located at the headwaters of the Wisconsin River on the southwest side of Lac Vieux Desert Lake. The Park is owned by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company, however is maintained by the County with the aid of periodic grants. There are picnic tables and grills. There is a pathway and bridge into the park, and a restroom facility that meets ADA standards.

### **4. Hunter Lake Park**

Hunter Lake Park is approximately two acres in size. It is located four miles southwest of Conover in the County Forest. The picnic area contains tables and grills. There is one building with two toilets. One boat landing and a swimming beach provide access to the lake.

### **5. Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park**

Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park is approximately one acre in size. It is located next to the Wisconsin River on CTH G. It has one outhouse that meets ADA standards. The picnic area has tables and grills, along with a pathway and boat dock that also meet ADA standards.

## 6. County Fairgrounds and Riverside Park

Riverside Park is 4.5 acres in size and is located off Hwy. 70 West in Eagle River. This park is within the Vilas County Fairgrounds which is leased to the Softball Association, Fair Board, and Tennis Club. There are restroom facilities at the Fairgrounds that meet ADA standards.

The facility inventory is as follows:

4 toilet buildings	2 pavilions	3 ball fields	1 gate
3 exhibit buildings	2 concession stands	5 bleachers	1 barn
2 tennis courts			

## 7. Oldenburg Sports Park

Oldenburg Sports Park is a 54 acre sports complex located 3 miles west of Highway 45 on County highway G. This complex is on County owned land. There are 3 baseball fields that are leased to and maintained by Eagle River Baseball. One of the fields is lighted. There are also eleven U10 to U14 soccer fields that are leased to and maintained by the Eagle River Club of Headwaters Youth Soccer Association. There is a shared pavilion, concession stand and restrooms at this facility.

## COUNTY FOREST

The Vilas County Forest has 40,991 acres of land within seven townships. This land provides public access for various types of outdoor recreation. There are 47.7 miles of county forest roads to enhance access to these facilities.

Maps 3 to 6 show where the County Forest outdoor recreation facilities (trails, boat launches, piers, parks, and picnic areas) exist for the public to enjoy.

Three swimming beaches and many picnic areas dot the forest, providing excellent swimming and picnicking facilities. Tables, grills, and toilets are available at these sites.

Trails are open to hunting, hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing. There are 79.5 miles of trails that have been developed and closed to motor vehicles. All trail systems have been seeded with a mixture of clover and bluegrass and mowed periodically to provide multiple recreation opportunity. The maintenance of the trails is completed by the County. The trail systems are posted with map boards.

Fishing and boating are allowed on the lakes within the forest. Fishing piers have been placed on eight lakes in the forest to provide an opportunity for pan fishing. Muskies Inc. has provided annual donations toward the improvement of County boat landings. Annual maintenance is provided in the County budget.

## COUNTY CAMPING AREAS

See camping areas on Maps 1 and 3.

There is one designated campground in the Vilas County Forest at Tamarack Springs where picnic tables and fire rings are provided along with vault toilets. A wilderness-type campsite is located on White Spruce Lake. There are also three canoe campsites located along the Wisconsin River, north of Eagle River. No facilities at these sites meet ADA standards.

## COUNTY SHOOTING RANGE

There is one shooting range within the Vilas County Forest. See “Private Facilities” on page 48 for the other shooting range listings. The 5-acre range is located in the Town of Conover. The range consists of a parking area, shooting lanes and benches at 10, 25, 50, and 100 yards. A shotgun only area is provided for shooting clay targets. The range is accessible for disabled shooters.

## COUNTY SWIMMING BEACHES

Vilas County has three swimming beaches, which are described in Table 7, and shown on Map 3. Eagle Lake Park meets ADA standards.

## COUNTY PICNIC AREAS

Vilas County maintains 11 picnic areas in addition to the county parks. Each area is composed of at least one picnic table, while some have fire rings, cooking grills, shelters, and sanitary facilities. Picnic areas area shown on Map 3, and are described in Table 6.

Name	Acres	Fire Ring or Grill	Restrooms	Shelter	Tables	Signs
Buckatabon Creek at WI River	1	1 Ring, 2 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets	1	1	1
Buckatabon Lake Landing**	1	1 Ring			1	1
Cranberry Island	40	1 Ring, 2 Grills	1 bldg		2	
Cook’s Lake**	1					2
Deep Lake**	1	1 Ring			1	
McLeod Lake	1	1 Ring			1	1
River Road at WI River	2	1 Ring	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets		3	2
Rummels Road at WI River	1	1 Ring, 2 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets	1	1	1
Snipe Lake	2	3 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets	1	3	1
Snyder Lake	1				1	1
Tamarack Springs	2	3 Grills	1 bldg w/ 2 toilets		3	2

\*\*Disabled accessible pier and pathway.  
Blank areas in the above table = none available.  
Source: Vilas County Forestry Department

**Table 7****County Forest Maintained  
Swimming Beaches**

Name	Sq. Ft. of Beach	Tables	Restrooms	Fire Ring or Grill
Hunter Lake	100	6	1 bldg. w/ 2 toilets	2 Rings & 2 Grills
Torch Lake	100	8	1 bldg. w/ 2 toilets	1 Ring & 3 Grills
Eagle Lake	440	24	1 bldg. w/ 3 toilets	1 Ring & 7 Grills

Source: Vilas County Forestry Department

## COUNTY PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO WATER BODIES

Public access points to water bodies vary from primitive (ex. canoe launch) to well developed (ex. boat launches). Multiple jurisdictions own the access points while the county maintains the majority. All public access points are shown on Map 3.

Table 8 shows where improved **pan fishing sites** exist within the County Forest.

Picnic sites also exist at some boat landings. See the “picnic areas” descriptions and Table 6 on page 18.

**Table 8****Improved Fishing Sites in County Forest,  
Panfishing Piers**

Name	Acres	Catwalk/Pier	Restrooms	Boat Landing
Boot Lake	1	6'x24' portable pier		x
Buckatabon Lake	1	5'x16' pier		x
Cook's Lake	1	Catwalk/8'x8' pier		
Deep Lake	1	104' Catwalk & 8'x8' pier		
Lake of the Hills	1	8'x16' pier**		x
Muskellunge Lake	1	6'x24' portable pier		x
Mud Minnow Lake	1	Catwalk		
Snipe Lake	2	Portable pier	1 bldg. w/ 2 toilets	x
Tamarack Flowage	1	8'x16' pier		x
Dr. Oldfield Park	1	8'x16' pier**	1 bldg. w/ 1 toilet	x
Rice Lake	1	8'x16' pier		
Wood Duck Lake	1	8'x16' pier		
Eagle Lake	1	6'x30' portable pier**		x
River Road at WI River	2	Catwalk		(canoe)

\*\*Disabled accessible pier and pathway.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

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

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

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

## TOWN & CITY FACILITIES

### CITY OF EAGLE RIVER

**Riverview Park** is a 3.9 acre City owned park located on Division Street along Eagle River. Park facilities include: tennis courts, pickle ball courts, playground, picnic tables, benches, restrooms, band shelter and pavilion.

**Riverside Park** is a County-owned park that extends from Eagle River to Pine Street (State Highway 70) north and south and Forrest Street to Park Street east to west with Division Street running through the park. The park contains baseball diamonds, bathroom facilities, tennis courts and the Vilas County Fairgrounds.

**Forrest Street Boat Landing** is located at the end of Forrest Street adjacent to Riverside Park and provides access to the Eagle River. Boat docking and fishing access is also available via a dock that parallels the shore. Limited parking is available along the river while more parking is available in and around Riverside Park.

**Silver Lake Beach** is 2.1 acre park located on Silver Lake Beach Road. It has a swimming beach with a beach house, playground, picnic area, restrooms, boat dock (not a boat launch), and fishing pier.

**Dyer Park** is 1.25 acres of park on Hirzel Street that is located along the Eagle River. The **T-Dock** is used for fishing, sitting and docking a boat. A picnic area, bike trail, boat landing, pier, and restrooms all exist here. Picnic and restroom facilities are ADA accessible.

**Miller Park** is a 1.2 acre park in Eagle River on Minnesota Street that is maintained by the City of Eagle River. Facilities include playground equipment and basketball courts.

**Gremban Park** is 2.2 acres, fully ADA accessible park located at 525 Maple Street. Park amenities include a T-ball area, skateboard rink, picnic tables, playground, and football field. Restrooms are available during business hours in the adjacent City Hall.

**Tuss Pond** is a privately owned area in the Town of Lincoln on the south side of STH 70.

### Cross Country Ski Trails

During the winter months Trees for Tomorrow and Nordmarka Ski Club groom approximately 4 miles of cross country ski trails throughout the Eagle River Golf Course and behind the Northland Pines School Campus.

### **Eagle River Golf Course**

The Eagle River Golf Course is a four star rated 18 hole golf course providing premier golfing to the Northwood's. This course is owned and operated by the City of Eagle River with approximately 110 acres.

### **Trees For Tomorrow**

Trees For Tomorrow is located on over 35 forested acres on the Eagle River Chain near downtown Eagle River, which includes property under permit from the USDA Forest Service. Trees For Tomorrow is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) natural resources specialty school accredited to place people of all ages in direct contact with the natural resources that humans depend on. Trees For Tomorrow's Interpretive Trail is on the west side of campus almost directly across from the Education Hall, and is open to the public and free to visit. Donations are welcome.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- New Bathroom Facilities in Riverview Park.
- Updated existing shower house, beach piers and fishing pier at Silver Lake Beach.
- Bike Trail through Gremban Park.
- Three Eagle Bike Trail Connecting Eagle River to Three Lakes.
- Streets were designated as bike routes.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

#### **Riverside Park Boat Landing**

Improve the landing facility, parking, a boardwalk, fishing pier, and restroom facilities. These improvements will involve land owned by each entity. Facilities will be designed for ADA accessibility, and will serve as a training facility for emergency personnel.

#### **Gremban Park**

Bathroom, Pavilion and kitchen facility  
Pickle Ball Facility

#### **Northland Pines**

Bike/Pedestrian Trail

#### **DOT**

STH 45 Bridge needs to meet ADA compliance and become bike/pedestrian safe  
STH 70 needs bike/pedestrian trail from Park Street to County H on North side

#### **Riverview Park**

Band Shell and Pavilion needs repair

**Pedestrian path** on North side of STH 70 from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to Tuss Street

### **Miller Park**

Use *crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)* techniques to reduce crime in the park. Some of the park improvements may include a light, 6-8 foot high fence, new basketball court, bathroom and beautification.

**Three Eagle Trail to the Depot (GHT 13)** The City of Eagle River Common Council has voted to create this bicycle corridor from the northern terminus of the Three Eagle Trail to the historic Depot. This will create a safe passageway for bicyclists to get to the facilities in the Depot, which was restored to be a bike trail center, as well as access to the commercial shopping center of Eagle River. See GHT map in Attachment J.

**Riverview Park to County Road G (part of GHT 7)** – In partnership with Great Headwaters Trails, a walking and bicycling route/trail is being planned to connect Riverview Park to the southern terminus (at Adams Rd. and County Road G) of the designated on-road bicycle route from Land O' Lakes to Eagle River. This route/trail would utilize the existing recreation bridge that crosses the Eagle River. See GHT map in Attachment J.

**Riverview Park to Torch Lake Park (GHT 6 & 7)** – Future plans are to partner with Great Headwaters Trails to connect Riverview Park with Torch Lake Park in the Town of Conover. This will link Eagle River to Conover and Phelps via GHT 1-4. See GHT map in Attachment J.

**Riverview Park to St. Germain (GHT 10-12)** – Future plans are to partner with Great Headwaters Trails to connect Eagle River to St. Germain via a walking and bicycling trail/route, probably parallel to State Highway 70. See GHT map in Attachment J.

## **TOWN OF ARBOR VITAE**

### **Brandy Lake Park/Skate Park**

Brandy Lake Park is in the Town of Arbor Vitae, but also serves the Town of Woodruff in Oneida County. It is the major public park for the two communities. The park has two ball fields, two soccer fields, tennis courts, shelters, a beach (staffed with paid lifeguards), restrooms, play equipment, volleyball courts, basketball courts, trails, a new disc golf course, open space and a skateboard park. A paved path through the park offers accessibility for the disabled, through accessibility is limited to the shelter and the community building.

### **Fireman's Community Park**

Fireman's Community Park (maintained by the Town Fire Department) is equipped with new play equipment, restrooms, a large pavilion, picnic grounds and band shell.

### **Big Arbor Vitae Boat Landing and Park**

Big Arbor Vitae Park is owned by the Department of Natural Resources but maintained by the Town. Picnic tables, grills, a beach, a boat landing, and restrooms are present at the park.

### **Boat Landings**

The Town owns two boat landings. They are at Lake Towanda and Arrowhead Lake.

### **Town Bike Trail**

A bike trail was recently completed by the Town that links Arbor Vitae-Woodruff School to Brandy Park. The trail extends north along Highway 51, then right on Highway 70 East approximately 500', then through the Plantation Subdivision to the school. Future plans include development of bike trails to connect the town to both St. Germain and Boulder Junction.

### **Shooting Range**

State owned M/SGT. M.W. Caywood Memorial Shooting Range is sponsored by Chapter 256, Vietnam Veterans of America, Minocqua.

### **Public Golf Course**

The scenic 18-hole Trout Lake Golf Club is located 10 miles north of Minocqua on Highway 51.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- Firemans Community Park)
- Tractor race course
- 2-Volleyball courts
- Disc golf course – Brady Park

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

#### **Brandy Lake Park/Skate Park**

Future plans include an additional set of restrooms.

## **TOWN OF BOULDER JUNCTION**

**Town Park** is a 7.88 acre facility located adjacent to the Community Center. Amenities include restrooms, two pavilions, a ball field, basketball courts, two tennis courts, skate park, playground equipment meeting ADA standards, picnic grounds with ADA accessible tables and benches. A 13-mile, paved, ADA accessible, multipurpose trail winds throughout the park.

**Winter Park** is a 6.9 acre facility with a lighted ice skating rink, warming shelter and benches. A sledding hill and 1 mile of cross country ski trail also exist.

#### **Nichols Lake Beach**

This beach contains a picnic area with tables and a pit toilet.

**Boat Landings** are maintained by the Town at Island Lake and Boulder Lake.

**Public Shooting Range** is located 4 miles south of town on Nebish Road off County Highway M.

## **Hike & Bike Trails**

**Lumberjack Trail** – This 12 mile long gravel trail travels through pine forest and wetlands. Trailheads exist on Old Road K and off of Concora Road.

**Nichol's Beach Trail** – This 3 mile gravel trail starts at the Boulder Junction Chamber of Commerce office and runs to Nichols Lake. There is a picnic area at Nichols Beach.

**Crystal Lake Trail** – This 11-mile trail is a fully paved asphalt trail. The blacktop trail starts in downtown Boulder Junction, travels past Trout Lake and continues to the Crystal Lake Campground in Sayner. The trail connects with the Plum Lake Trail and continues to the St. Germain Hike & Bike Trail. Together, all three trails form the 23-mile paved Heart of Vilas County Hike & Bike Trail.

**Escanaba-Palette Lake Trail** – This gravel trail ranges from 2 to 8.5 miles. Take Hwy. M 4 miles south from Boulder Junction. Then turn left onto Nebish Road and go 3.5 miles to the Trailhead. The four trail loops offers hilling, rolling woodlands for hikers.

**North Trout Lake Trail** – This 1-mile gravel loop is on a peninsula on Trout Lake. It is located four miles south of Boulder Junction on Hwy M.

**Fallison Lake Trail** – The gravel trail loops range from a 1/2 mile to 2.5 miles. This hilly trail offers wonderful views of Fallison Lake and the surrounding area, and is located across from the Crystal Lake Campground on Hwy N, west of Sayner.

**Star Lake Nature & Hiking Trail** – This gravel trail features 1 and 2.5-mile loops. It is located on a peninsula extending out into Star Lake. From the intersection of Hwy K and Hwy N in Star Lake, head west on Hwy K to Statehouse Road. When you get to the entrance of the West Star Campground, continue straight ahead.

**Tom Roberts Memorial Nature Trail** – This is a paved, 0.3 mile, handicapped-accessible, nature trail. The trail links to both the Crystal Lake Trail and the Plum Lake Trail. The trailhead is located off of Hwy N at the Crystal Lake Campground beach. This trail offers hikers views of Muskellunge Lake.

**Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest** (multiple trails) – These trails offer hundreds of miles of paths, trails and logging roads. Boulder Junction is surrounded by the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. Birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts can also explore the 225,000-acre forest.

## **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- Bike trail extension.

## **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

- Bike trail completion and maintenance and improvements
- Improved and updated playground
- Bathrooms

## TOWN OF CLOVERLAND

The Town of Cloverland owns no outdoor recreation facilities, but the recreation plan for the Town of Cloverland includes existing walking, hiking, and hunter trails as well as snowmobile trails. There are bike lanes along County Highway G within the town. Oldenburg Sports Park run by Vilas County on Hwy G; A boat landing picnic area at Snipe Lake, run by the Vilas County; A boat landing picnic area on Range Line Lake run by Vilas County. Boot Lake Road and East Hunter Lake Road in the Town of Cloverland are part of a designated and signed bike route that extends from Land O' Lakes to Eagle River. On the Wisconsin River from Otter Rapids Dam to the Town Line there is canoeing and people floating on the river.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

In the future, The Town of Cloverland intends to support multi-use trails for bicycling, walking and equestrian use. In particular, Cloverland, in partnership with Great Headwaters Trails and the adjoining towns, supports a walking and bicycling trail connecting Eagle River and St. Germain. It is also a vision that we look at constructing a Town of Cloverland park on the property adjacent to the Town Hall. This facility could include a walking /nature trail, picnic tables, grills, swing and slide sets, basketball and volleyball courts, Frisbee golf, and restroom facility.

## TOWN OF CONOVER

**Conover Town Park** is a municipal park located on County Highway K. A heated pavilion exists with inside ADA restroom facilities, full kitchen, intercom system and seating area. A BBQ pit is adjacent to the pavilion for cooking. Additional park amenities include an open air shelter, horseshoe pits, soccer field, concession stand, baseball diamond, playground, fishing pond for kids, and a sledding hill.

### **Boat Landings**

Four boat landings are maintained by the Town on North and South Twin, Pioneer, and Stormy Lakes. There are no restrooms at any of these landings.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- Park year round heated ADA restrooms

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

#### **Conover Town Park**

Future plans include additional playground equipment, creating a disk golf course, basketball and tennis courts, expanded parking, upgrading the restroom to flush toilets, installation of a new well, a skating pond, and relocation of the baseball diamond.

Would like to utilize the adjacent County Land next to the Town of Conover property and the Town Park complex and have a lengthy nature trail cut through the forest for mountain biking,

walking, etc. A machine that could do this in just one pass exists at a Conover business. It cuts trees up to 6 inch diameter into mulch and mulches routes etc. below ground level so there is no debris cleanup - leaves a mat comfortable for walking etc.

**Conover Town Park to Muskrat Creek Road walking and bicycling trail (GHT-1)** – The Town of Conover, in partnership with Vilas County, and Great Headwaters Trails, plans to start construction of this trail in 2014. This is the first segment of the Conover to Phelps Trail. See GHT map in Attachment J.

**Muskrat Creek Road to Song Hill Lane walking and bicycling trail (GHT-2)** – The Town of Conover plans to partner with the Town of Phelps, Vilas County, and Great Headwaters Trails to construct the second segment of the Conover to Phelps Trail in 2014. See GHT map in Attachment J.

In addition, the Town of Conover, in partnership with Great Headwaters Trails, plans to continue the walking and bicycling trail **from the southern end of GHT-1 to Torch Lake Park (GHT-4 & GHT-5)**. Upon completion of GHT-5 there would be a continuous trail from Torch Lake Park to Phelps. See GHT map in Attachment J.

## TOWN OF LAC DU FLAMBEAU

**Thunderbird Park** is located in the downtown area on Waswagon St, this 2.25 acre park has picnic tables and a pavilion.

**Leech Beach** is a five acre swimming beach located on tribal lands on Crawling Stone Lake off of Moss Lake Road. A sand beach, picnic tables, grills, and swimming rafts are all available here.

### **Little Trout Lake**

This area on tribal land has been traditionally used as a picnic area and boat landing.

**LDF Indian Bowl** is an area along the shore of Long Interlaken Lake in downtown Lac du Flambeau that is used for pow wows during the summer. George W Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum & Cultural Center is adjacent to the bowl.

### **Lac du Flambeau Tribal Campground & Marina**

The campground and marina are located on a peninsula of Flambeau Lake that is accessible from State Highway 47 North across from the fish hatchery. Amenities include a beach open to the public for swimming, camping sites, RV parking, full hook-ups, a public boat launch, marina with canoe and motor boat rentals. This facility is under management of the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Fish and Game Department.

**Playgrounds** are maintained by the Tribe at Cemetery Road, Flambeau Lake, Apt. Area Park, Wildcat Circle, and the school maintains their elementary school playground.

**Ross Allen Sr. Pavilion** is located behind the Lac du Flambeau Elementary School on State Highway 47. There are tennis and basketball courts, a walking/running track, baseball fields, and a pavilion with picnic tables and a place for concessions.

**Sand Beach** is a four acre wayside on tribal land off State Highway 47. The Wisconsin historical marker titled: “Lac du Flambeau” is located on this Tribally historical site; which is historic because it overlooks Strawberry Island and Medicine Rock and is on Flambeau Lake. Facilities at this site include a beach, ADA restrooms, picnic tables, and grills.

#### **Bike Trail/Snowmobile Trail**

The old Northwestern Railway bed parallel to State Highway 47 offers a wonderful bike/hiking trail in the summer months, and serves as part of the state-funded snowmobile trail system in winter. An additional 17.9 miles of road routes also exist for bicycling.

#### **Boat Landings**

There are six boat landings on the reservation including Fence Lake, Trout River on County H, Gunlock Lake, White Sand Lake, Middle Sugarbush Lake, and Little Crawling Stone Lake.

**YMCA Camp Nawakwa (private)** serves youth groups, retreat groups, church groups, specialty clubs, and has cross country skiing.

#### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

None.

#### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

None.

### **TOWN OF LAND O' LAKES**

**Land O' Lakes Memorial Park** – This 20 acre park is centrally located west of Chippewa Road. The Town Hall is located next to the park. It includes a pathway leading to the Curt Sparks Pavilion with 19 picnic tables, kitchen, bathrooms, along with the Grubel Ball Field with concession stands, scoreboards, and bleachers. There is an ice skating rink behind the Town Hall.

**Rev. Fred I. Babcock Kiddie Park** – This 5 acre park has two sets of paved, accessible, recently resurfaced tennis courts and horseshoe pits, children’s slide, swings, child’s train and merry-go-round.

**Black Oak Lake Park** – This ½ acre park is located five miles west of town on Hwy B. The facility includes a swimming beach, boat landing, picnic tables, drinking water, and restrooms meeting ADA standards. This park also has an accessible, paved pathway.

### **Boat Landings**

The town also maintains boat landings with piers and restrooms at Black Oak Lake, Forest Lake, Palmer Lake, Big Lake, and Big Portage Lake.

### **Public Shooting Range**

The Shooting Range, located west of town adjacent to Cemetery Road, has a rifle range, pistol and shotgun ranges, targets, benches and shelter.

### **Trails**

There is a 1/8 mile ATV trail linking to Michigan, a 12 mile bike/walking trail, a 37 mile road bike loop and 62 miles of snowmobile trail. The bike/hike trail includes a rest station at the intersection of County Highways S and B, with picnic tables, benches, bike rack and signs are also available along the path.

### **Gateway Golf Course (private)**

The 9-hole Gateway Golf Club Inc. is located at the intersection of county Highway B and Highway 45 in town.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- New bike trail, new piers at boat landings, work on Snowflake Ice Rink

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

#### **Land O'Lakes Memorial Park**

Future plans include remodeling the concession stand and bathrooms and repair of the fencing at the ballpark, and replacement of the swings and monkey bars at the Town Hall, and completion of the ice rink.

Great Headwaters Trails plans to link Conover to Land O' Lakes with an off-road trail (**GHT 8-9**). See GHT map in Attachment J.

## **TOWN OF LINCOLN**

**Boat Landing** - The Town of Lincoln maintains a boat launching site at Catfish Lake off Catfish Lake Road. The ramp was renovated in 2007, and the parking lot was expanded in 2002. There is an ADA dock on site.

**Hike & Bike Trail** - The Three Eagle provides hiking/biking opportunities by connecting Three Lakes to the south to the City of Eagle River via an 8.5 mile corridor. Parking is available at either end of the trail.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- Three Eagle Trail was developed and constructed by a private non-profit group.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

- Develop a Pickle Ball Court.

## TOWN OF MANITOWISH WATERS

**The Community Park** is about seven acres in size. Various recreational items are included in this park such as two tennis courts with rebound board, a paddle ball heated floor court with warming hut, a basketball hoop, golf driving range, baseball diamond with bleachers and back-stop, large picnic shelter and pavilion with benches and paved pathway leading to it, tables, 2 of which are ADA accessible, and serving facilities. There is also an ADA accessible playground with a slide, swings, a rope climbing tower, and other pieces. A hexagonal shelter, picnic tables and benches exist next to the playground. An enclosed pavilion can seat up to 150 people. Adjacent to the playground is an area for a flea market or other outdoor events, a golf driving range, and horseshoe pits, and parking for at least 150 vehicles.

**Frank B. Koller Park** is 1.62 acres located on Rest Lake adjacent to the village area of Manitowish Waters on Highway W. The Park is fully landscaped as is an adjacent privately owned parcel. There is onsite parking and additional parking available on Hw. W. There are picnic tables, benches, a gazebo, charcoal grills, a small band stand, and Manny, the worlds largest bass ( good for photo ops). There are five boat docks, a fishing pier, and a swimming area.

**Rest Lake Park** is located on 10.7 acres of land with 675 feet of frontage on the west shore of Rest Lake off CTH W. There is a 36' x 50' covered pavilion, a concession stand, picnic tables, charcoal grills, toilets and a hand water pump. There are dock and storage facilities for the Skiing Skeeters. They provide free water ski shows during the summer season. There is a boat launching ramp and dock. There is parking for approximately 100 cars.

**Star Lake Park** is located on the east end of Star Lake a quarter mile off Hwy 51 on Park Road. There is a marked off swimming area with 200-foot wide sand beach, picnic tables, charcoal grills, a hand water pump, toilet facilities, parking for 20 cars, and boat parking on shore adjacent to the swimming area.

### **North Lakeland Discovery Center**

The Discovery Center is a nonprofit organization committed to the facilitation of connections among nature, people and community. The Center is primarily supported by donations from members, businesses and foundations, through fees for programs and site use, and via grant funding and community wide initiatives. This multi-functional facility provides a gathering place for children, families and adults to explore the region's extraordinary natural, cultural and historic resources.

Visitors can hike, bike, classic ski or snowshoe a 12 mile well maintained trail system that highlights unique northwoods habitats, including the Manitowish River, a bog, lake and upland forest. The trails feature an interpretive trail, 22 station breeding bird signs, and a state of the art bog boardwalk. Other sports related amenities include a volleyball court, and a swimming beach with complimentary on site use of canoes and kayaks.

A new multi use silent sport trail system, the WinMan Trails, are managed by the Discovery Center and are open to the public as of summer 2013. The growing trail system features over 4 miles of single-track mountain biking trails, as well as many miles of classic and skate skiing, and both single and double track groomed snowshoeing. The 1200 acre site is a mix of private and state owned lands, and is working to retain the existing snowmobile corridor. The newly adopted Master Plan for

the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest indicates the possibility of utilizing existing state lands and logging roads to develop trails that can provide a link from Presque Isle through Winchester and into Manitowish Waters for further expansion of a regional trail system.

### **Hike & Bike Trails**

The trail is 7.6 miles from the Community Center to Discovery Center to the North Lakeland Elementary School along CTHs W & K. A small parking lot and picnic tables exist at CTH K and Red Feather Road.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

**Frank B. Koller Park** The gazebo was recently repainted. The seawall was replaced and a new boat dock was installed in addition to renovation of the existing dock and a walkway connecting the two docks was created. New picnic tables and industrial charcoal grills were installed. A building with flush toilets and changing rooms was also constructed.

**The Community Playground** An \$85,000 upgrade to the playground was completed including the addition of new equipment with ADA panels & swings, and a hexagon shelter. Unsafe equipment was eliminated. New sidewalks were installed along with 350 cubic yards of clean sand. 6 new picnic tables were installed, 2 of which are child size and 2 are wheelchair accessible. New seating benches for supervision were placed around the playground. Also, the baseball field was renovated and now includes an underground sprinkler system.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

#### **The Community Park**

Future plans include extension of a walking trail from the area that would include exercise stations along the trail, and ballfield modifications that include: building dugouts, rebuilding the outfield and adding sprinklers there too.

#### **Frank B. Koller Park**

Construct modern restrooms in 2014. A pavilion is planned sometime in the 2014-2019 period.

#### **Rest Lake Park**

In 2014 the existing pavilion will be replaced with a new pavilion the will include flush toilets, changing rooms and a concession area. Additional plans include construction of a year round building that can be used for both public and private functions..

#### **Hike & Bike Trails**

Construction has begun on the 8.3 mile trail from the North Lakeland School along the Hwy. K corridor to connect with the Boulder Junction trail at Camp Manitowish. This link will be completed in the spring of 2014. In addition we plan on extending the trail south along the Hwy. 51 corridor to our South Town Line. During this time Mercer will be constructing their trail to our North Town Line, and we will connect it to our trail at Tower Road.

## TOWN OF PHELPS

### **Wavering Park**

Located on County Highway A on the edge of town, this 17.5 acre park is the main community park in Phelps. Facilities within the park include one hardball and one softball field with backstops, fencing, dugouts, bleachers, scoreboards, and one field has lighting; a soccer field; picnic area with grills and 30 tables; two tennis courts; a playground area on a sand base with lighting, park benches, picnic tables; A sand volleyball court; a war memorial; 12 picnic tables throughout the park; storage shed; two portable toilets; and a house used for storage. All these facilities are ADA accessible. The Park has gravel roads and parking. There are two sets of concession stands attached to the restroom facilities, one at either end of the park.

### **North Twin Beach**

This approximately 1/4 acre beach area is located across from Hackley Circle Drive. Existing facilities include picnic tables with grills, safety fencing and limited parking.

### **Downtown North Twin Access**

This approximately 1/3 acre parcel lies between the downtown commercial area and North Twin Lake to provide public access to the lake. This land is not constructed as a boat landing, but it does provide boat docking to access the commercial area. The site includes a removable dock, picnic tables, grills, benches, and a flagpole. Several seaplane mooring buoys are located near this site too.

### **North Twin Lake Boat Access**

This 1/3 acre boat ramp is heavily used by anglers and other boaters. Current facilities include a boat ramp with asphalt parking, a removable launch pier, restrooms, and picnic table.

### **Smoky Lake Boat Access**

This town maintained boat ramp is about 1/3 acre in size. Facilities include a concrete pad ramp with asphalt drive boat landing, gravel parking area, picnic shelter, five picnic tables, and two grills.

### **Long Lake Boat Access**

This town maintained boat ramp is about 1/8 acre in size. Amenities include a concrete pad ramp with asphalt drive boat landing, a roll-in type removable launch pier, picnic table and grill, and picnic shelter.

### **Kentuck Lake Boat Access**

On the west shore of Kentuck Lake is this 1/8 acre boat ramp. Amenities include a boat ramp with limited parking.

### **Manuel Lake Boat Access**

A sand access point exists on this lake for basic public access to the lake for fishing or to carry in a boat or canoe.

### **The Range**

This gun and bow range is located on 40 acres off Highway 17 east of Phelps by Long Lake. The Range offers shooting lanes for 25, 50, 100, and 200 yards. There are shooting benches, an outhouse with a weather shelter, and gravel road with grass parking.

### **Cross-country Ski Trail**

This three mile trail exists on Nicolet National Forest land and links with Afterglow Resort; all of this trail system is open and free for public use. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest and the Town allows the Town to maintain and groom the trail.

### **Boat Landings**

The Town currently maintains 4 public boat landings. Future plans for the landings include improvements on a 10 year revolving schedule. The landings are located at Kentuck Lake (Kentuck Lake Landing Road), Smokey Lake & Long Lake (both off Highway 70 east of town), and North Twin Lake (off Highway 17 at south end of town). The landings provide restrooms or an outhouse, and all are ADA accessible except for Long Lake. All landings were completely renovated within the past few years, including new concrete pads, and improved roadways and restroom facilities.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- Installed three seaplane mooring buoys near the downtown North Twin Lake access site.
- Completed about 22 miles of Vista Lake biking trails as part of the Phelps Trail System, in partnership with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

#### **2014**

- Town of Phelps supports the Vilas County Highway Department to pave 5-foot shoulders on CTH K from Song Hill Lane to CTH E.

#### **2014-2019**

- Town of Phelps supports completion of the multi-use hiking, biking, and snowmobile trail on the Vilas County rail corridor to the junction of Song Hill Ln and CTH K. The Town also supports a trailhead for parking, along with improvements at the Song Hill Ln and CTH K intersection.
- Work with Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to create 5 additional trail areas.

## **TOWN OF PLUM LAKE**

**Melvin & Emma Long Memorial Park** is 2.14 acres that are used as a trailhead for the Razorback Ridge Trail system. Amenities include an ice skating rink; picnic area; and a heated & insulated year round building with ADA accessible restrooms, a warming house, workshop space, and storage for the trail grooming equipment.

### **Sayner Recreation Building & Playground**

Several acres of land surrounding the Town Hall within Sayner have been extensively developed and maintained by the Town for outdoor recreation. Facilities located at this park area are ADA

accessible and include the following:

- A lighted ballpark with fencing, concession stand, dugouts, 4 sets of bleachers, and scoreboard.
- A lighted outdoor basketball court with breakaway hoops and safety fencing along the roadway.
- A picnic shelter building 60 feet by 100 feet with 9 full-size picnic tables, 6 picnic tables, 4 fold-up tables, and electric outlets.
- A barbecue shelter with large barbecue pits and electrical hookups for cooking.
- Fenced trout pond for 4th of July.
- Outdoors pit toilets.
- Two tennis courts with perimeter fencing, nets and 2 benches/practice court.
- A playground area with two seating shelters, a youth (8-foot) basketball hoop, two picnic tables, seven swings, a slide unit, two spring horses, a merry-go-round, horizontal bars, and monkey bars.

In addition to these outdoor recreation facilities, a large indoor recreation activity building is also located at this site. This facility features an indoor basketball court, kitchen area, drinking fountain and restrooms.

**Old Mill Site Town Park** is several acres of parkland adjacent to the Western Star Lake State Forest Campground facility. The facilities consist of a gravel road access to the point area, a picnic shelter building of about 48' x 64', and playground equipment. The grassy park also provides an ADA accessible fishing pier, swimming access to Star Lake, a picnic area, and restrooms.

#### **Plum Lake Public Pier & Boat Landing**

A popular paved boat launching area and pier is located on a small parcel (about 1/4 acre) near the Sayner community center area. The Town owns this ADA accessible facility. Area children often use the pier for swimming as well.

#### **Statehouse Point Boat Access and Water-ski Park**

This area consists of a couple of acres of land on Plum Lake maintained by the Town. A paved boat launch with concrete ramps, launching pier and informational sign is extensively used. Outdoor pit toilets (ADA accessible) and a public pier are located at the park. The Plum Ski-ers water-ski club conducts regular shows at this area during the summer season. The water-ski club has constructed a storage building for their equipment, a changing house for the show, bleachers, and a ski jump.

#### **Warner's Pier & Trail**

This site is located along Hwy. N about one mile west of Sayner. The facility consists of a marked parking lot and a trail that leads to a public fishing pier. The pier is constructed on old railroad track pilings.

#### **Razorback Ridges Trail System**

Located two miles west of Sayner, this trail system consists of about 30 miles of brushed and mowed mountain bike trails, and approximately 18 miles of groomed and tracked cross-country ski trails. The majority of the ski trail loops are groomed and tracked for both diagonal stride and ski skating techniques. The system was developed and is maintained by the Sayner-Star Lake Lions Club under

a cooperative land use agreement with the DNR. Upkeep of the trail system depends upon private donations, Lions Club fundraising and numerous volunteer hours. The Town Board has provided financing assistance for ski grooming equipment. Trail maps are printed by the Lions Club with funding provided by paid advertisements from local businesses.

### **Hike & Bike Trails**

In addition to the bike trails at Razorback Ridge, there are approximately 4 miles of paved bike trail from Crystal Lake Campground on Old County N to Froelich Drive in Sayner. Bike trail continues on town roads to connect with St Germain Bike Trail.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- Re-built Public Pier (2012).
- Built new park honoring Veterans in front of Town Hall.
- Replace pier deck on Warner's Pier
- Monitoring boat landings/lakes for invasive species.
- Playground equipment added at Star Lake Picnic Point park.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

#### **Sayner Recreation Building & Playground**

Future plans include ADA compliant toilets at the ball park.

#### **Old Mill Site Town Park**

Future plans include extension of handicap accessible fishing pier to compensate for lower water levels.

#### **Expand Bike Trail System**

- Develop an asphalt paved bike trail system to link Sayner with Boulder Junction's paved trail, then expand to link with other communities including St. Germain, Arbor Vitae, and Eagle River.

## TOWN OF PRESQUE ISLE

Please refer to the Town of Presque Isle's 2013-2018 Open Space Plan for more detailed information.

**Presque Isle Community Park** is a 53 acre park that also includes Historic Shanty Boy Hill Cemetery and the Presque Isle Historical Society facility. Entrance signs to the park welcome visitors to the asphalt parking area. The picnic areas include two shelters: one is a closed shelter (the Community Center) with a kitchen, restrooms, and storage area. The other is an open log shelter. Two grills are provided, along with fifteen picnic tables. Existing pit restrooms meet ADA requirements. Recreational facilities include: playground equipment with safety materials, four lighted horseshoe courts, two lighted volleyball courts, two soccer fields, two softball diamonds, two basketball goals, a sledding hill, ice skating area, and a canoe landing at Stateline Lake. Trails include: a nature trail with a footbridge meeting ADA guidelines, an established brushed and marked cross-country ski trail, routed snowmobile trail, and snowshoe trail.

**Pipke Park** is an 84 acre park that was established in 2012 with funding from the state Stewardship Grant program. Located on County Highway W just west of County Highway B, the new park's signature feature is a 2,160 square foot shelter building and pavilion designed for year round use. The building is equipped with central heating for winter months, overhead doors that can be raised in the summer for cross ventilation, a potable water system, sanitary on site waste water disposal system, and restrooms. A central meeting and picnic area within the structure can hold eight six-person picnic tables.

Adjacent to the shelter building are amenities including a barbeque grill, outdoor picnic tables, a swimming and wading area along the shore of the south rearing pond, a path that is ADA accessible leading to a fishing pier also ADA equipped, and a parking area. In winter, ice skaters and ice fishers may access the south pond from the heated shelter building.

Surrounding the south pond is a three-quarter mile multi-use trail for hikers, birders, bicyclists, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers. The north rearing pond features a hiking, snowshoe, cross-country ski trail that is an additional three-quarters of a mile in length.

Four physical fitness stations have been installed along the three-quarter mile path surrounding the south pond.

Residents and taxpayers of Presque Isle, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, have cooperated to convert a former profitable logging and lumber processing facility into a significant public multi-use recreational site named Pipke Park.

**Sensenbrenner Park** is a one acre park established in 1988 on Little Horsehead Lake. Amenities include an open shelter, playground equipment, a pier for shore fishing, picnic tables, a grill, waste containers, and park benches.

**Wilderness Park** is 10 acres located on Presque Isle Lake off Bay View Road. Amenities include

asphalt parking lot, ADA accessible boat launch, picnic area with tables, grills, water pump, and ADA accessible restrooms. Four shoreland erosion sites were located in the park and were restored cooperatively with the County Land & Water Department in 2011.

### **Town Boat Landings**

The Town owns and maintains the following public access points to water bodies. No town boat landings meet ADA guidelines except the landing at Wilderness Park on Presque Isle Lake.

- **Annabelle Lake** - located in the northwest section of the town and can be reached off highway B. It has a black top landing approach.
- **Crab Lake** – located on Town Dock Road, off Crab Lake Road.
- **Little Horsehead Lake** - located on the northwest part of town; this landing is black top and has a dock.
- **Mud Lake** - can be found on the east side of Highway B; this canoe landing has a gravel launch area and a fishing pier.
- **Lynx Lake** - located in the north central section of the town off Highway B; anglers and canoeists can use concrete planks on gravel to launch.
- **Easement to Cathaline Lake** - located in the northwest section of the town off old W; this landing is a dirt approach.
- **Presque Isle Lake off Hwy P** - has an asphalt approach and a dock.
- **Wilderness Park on Presque Isle Lake** – located off Bay View Road on Presque Isle Lake, is an improved landing.
- **Stateline Lake** - has a canoe landing at the Community Park.

### **DNR Boat Landings**

The following public access points to water bodies are owned and maintained by the DNR.

- **Anne Lake** – A trail leads to the lake and is used quite heavily for portaging canoes.
- **Blue Bill Lake** – Undeveloped but landing is used.
- **Big Lake** – Campground, beach and improved landing available.
- **Little Crab** – Landing available.
- **Horsehead** – Improved ADA accessible landing available.
- **Mabel** – Landing available.
- **Oxbow Lake** – Landing available.
- **Papoose Lake** – Improved landing available.
- **Red Bass** – Unimproved landing available (Two telephone poles).
- **Round** – Improved landing available.
- **Van Vliet Lake** – Improved ADA accessible landing available.
- **Wildcat** – Improved landing available.

### **Canoe Trails**

The Last Wilderness Conservation Association established 12 canoe trails. Maps and flyers of the trails are available at the Presque Isle Chamber office.

- Presque Isle River
- Presque Isle River North
- Crab Lake to Town

- Oxbow-Annabelle-Crab
- East Branch Presque Isle River
- West Branch Presque Isle River
- Palmer-Tenderfoot & Creek
- High Lake-Fish Trap Lake-Manitowish River
- Turtle Chain
- Harris Lake-Creek
- Birch Lake-Tamarack Lake-Rainbow Lake and Creek
- Moosehead Lake-Little Presque Isle Lake and Creek

### **Bike Trails**

- 20-Mile Bike Loop Route – This route is a straight “there and back” which originates at the Town Hall parking lot and extends to Birch Lake boat landing in Winchester. A combination of paved shoulders along CTH W and lightly traveled town roads make up this route. A ¾-mile loop exists around Pipke Park South Pond on compacted gravel that connects to this route.
- 18 Mile Town Bike Route – The Town had laid out the route for this trail to connect Presque Isle to Manitowish Waters and are in the process of applying for DNR and DOT monies to develop the trail.
- The town established a bike route to tie into the Pomeroy/Henry Ottawa National Park mountain bike trail making it a 127 mile bike course.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

PI = Presque Isle

Wilderness Park Erosion Remediation/Control Project was accomplished with a grant from Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Dept., and as a cooperative effort with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the PI Park Committee, the PI Beautification Committee and additional local volunteers. The project included these features: Replacement pier donated/installed by Team Retreat; walkway constructed to shoreline (access point); installed erosion control landscaping with engineered grade improvements, professionally selected native plantings, engineered irrigation system, installed deer fence to protect plantings, and installed signage as an educational tool to advise residents of the erosion problems.

The highly successful Kid’s Fishing Project is conducted annually by the Presque Isle Lions.

The Presque Isle Beautification Committee completed the Landscaping project at the entrance to the Evergreen Cemetery and continues to monitor the area.

Pipke Park, Phase I (former site of the DNR Walleye Rearing Ponds) was completed. Funding for the project was provided through a DNR Stewardship Grant and residents of the town of Presque Isle. These are some of the features included in this project: A community contest was conducted to name the park. Construction of a year-round shelter building with parking spaces, picnic tables and barbeque grill area; a multi-use trail around South Pond; handicapped accessible path to pier; installation of four physical fitness stations and benches around the perimeter of South Pond. Bike/snowmobile compatible trail constructed around the South

Pond in Pipke Park with a donation from PI Pedalers Bicycle Club; signage needed for the multi-use trails was coordinated with the snowmobile club, Sno-Bunnies, and Vilas County.

The PI Town Lakes Committee designed new kiosks which were installed at 8 boat landings (4 Town of PI and 4 DNR) with DNR grant funds awarded to the Town Lakes Committee and built by local volunteers.

The PI Town Lakes Committee developed a curriculum for youth Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) education which has been accepted by the DNR and is currently in use within their programs.

Presque Isle Beautification Committee applied for and was awarded “Bird City” status for the town. Plantings to attract and sustain birds have begun and will continue.

The Presque Isle Historical Society has completed two projects. Members have interviewed and edited oral histories of the town to a DVD for sale and distribution. There is also a Children’s Garden planted and maintained, near the cottage, by the Historical Society and Beautification Committee.

**Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Location</b>
2013	Complete Phase 1 Grant Requirements	Pipke Park
	Apply for Phase 2 Grant	Pipke Park
	Additional Bike Trail Signage	Bike Trails
	Maintenance and Staining of Log Pavilion	Community
	Install new Wilderness Park Shoreline Restoration Site sign	Wilderness
	Ice Rink Lighting	Pipke Park
	Plan and promote mulch and compost station	Transfer Station Site
	Consider composting outdoor toilet system	High P Boat Landing
2014	Maintenance and Staining Nature Trail Sign	Community
	Maintenance and Staining Nature Trail Bridge	Community
2015	Replace windscreens at ball diamonds	Baseball Diamonds
2016	Ball diamond lights	Baseball Diamonds
	Disc Golf	To be determined
2017	Consider extending trail system by combining Nature Trail with Pipke Park trail (crossing Hwy W)	Community/Pipke Park
	Plan and promote community raised gardens at old town garage site or another site	Community or to be determined
2018	Consideration for golf course	To be determined

## TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN

**Lost Lake Park** is a two acre facility located on the north side of Lost Lake. Park facilities include a baseball field and a shelter.

### **Downtown Park**

This six acre park facility is located east of the St. Germain Elementary School. Facilities at the site consist of two baseball fields (one has lights, bleachers and a scorer's booth), two shelters, two soccer fields, playground equipment, two tennis courts, restroom facilities and a walking trail connecting the park to the adjacent elementary school.

**St. Germain Golf Course** – 18-hole golf course, practice range, putting and chipping green, practice bunker, and full-service golf shop.

### **Public Access**

Boat landings are located at Lost Lake, Big St. Germain Lake and the West Bay of Little St. Germain Lake.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- Extension of bike/hike trail from the Visitor Center east to CTH O.

### **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

Plans have been proposed to connect the St. Germain bike/hike trail to Eagle River, where the Three Eagle Trail comes in from the south and there are trails planned that will come into Eagle River from the north. (This would be GHT 10-12. See GHT map in Attachment J.).

## TOWN OF WASHINGTON

### **Deerskin Lake Boat Landings**

The Town maintains one boat landing at Deerskin Lake. There are 2 boat landings, but only one has a pier.

### **Hike/Bike Trails**

The Town currently has no trails.

### **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

We made available a children's sledding hill at our transfer station property on Rangeline Rd. open to all. Publicized this opportunity locally and this hill has done well the past two winters.

## **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

### **Bike & Hike Trails**

The Town currently has no trails; however, future plans may include bike/hike trails to connect to neighboring communities.

## **TOWN OF WINCHESTER**

### **Winchester Community Park**

Located on Townsite Road along the Turtle River, this facility includes new picnic tables, grills, 2 ADA pavilions, basketball and volleyball courts, playground equipment, an ADA fishing pier, and ADA restrooms. One of the pavilions was erected in 2004 by the Town and Winchester Lions. It contains a food prep area with appliances donated by the Lake Association. A sandbox was installed in spring 2008.

### **Winchester Memorial Garden**

The 75' x 100' garden is located adjacent to the Community Building and has benches for seating.

### **Public Boat Landings**

The Town owns and maintains boat landings at South Turtle Lake (new paving in 2007), Harris Lake, Birch Lake, Rock Creek, and Noseeum Lake.

### **Bike & Hike Trails**

There are currently no trails; however, the planning process is underway for a trail to connect to Presque Isle via County Highway W right-of-way and town roads.

## **Projects Completed from 2009-2013**

- Installed refreshment building with walk-in cooler.

## **Proposed Projects for 2014-2019**

### **Winchester Community Park**

Future plans include adding:

- Fireman's game area, an ice skating rink, additional landscaping, additions to the pavilion, and roofed outdoor grill building.

### **Public Boat Landings**

Future plans include new boat docks at the 3 main boat landings (Turtle, Harris, and Birch), boat launch improvements including placement of picnic tables, grills, and landscaping improvements. Also long-term planning includes new docks.

### **Bike & Hike Trails**

Future plans include adding a trail to connect Winchester to Presque Isle via County Highway W right-of-way and town roads.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Vilas County has four school districts within its boundaries. Each of the school districts provides additional local recreation opportunities as itemized in Table 9, and available to the public during non-school times unless otherwise listed at each property or on each school’s communications with the community.

<b>Table 9</b>	<b>School District Recreation Facilities</b>								
School	B-Ball Courts	Ball Field	Play Area	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Tennis Courts	School Forest	Play Equip	Track
Northland Pines Elem	X		X		X			X	
Northland Pines MS	3								
Northland Pines HS	4	4	X	2	2	2 indoor	X		X
NP Land O'Lakes Elem	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Phelps Elem & Jr.	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Phelps HS	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Conserve School	5	2			1		1200 acres		
Christ Lutheran			X						
NP St. Germain Elem	X		X		X			X	
North Lakeland Elem	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Arbor Vitae-Woodruff Elem	2	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Lac du Flambeau Elem	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## STATE FACILITIES

### **Northern Highland American Legion State Forest (NHAL)**

Established in 1925 to protect the headwaters of the Wisconsin, Flambeau and Manitowish rivers, the Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest occupies more than 232,000 acres in northern Wisconsin. The forest provides employment and economic support to rural and urban communities through the production of forest products, recreation and tourism.

The NHAL Forest occupies 26.4% of the total land area in Vilas County. Miles of hiking trails, nature trails, sandy beaches, and several state campgrounds are available to the public. Refer to Map 1 for campground general locations.

See full property maps in Attachment H. Trails itemized in Table 10 on page 43. Snowmobile trails also exist, but are administered by County Forestry Department. No ATVs are allowed on the NHAL State Forest.

There are 4 **modern family campgrounds** totaling 351 sites. Crystal Lake, Big Musky, Firefly and Clear Lake campgrounds have a total of 351 sites. These campgrounds have paved roadways, flush toilets and showers but no electrical hookups. There are also hand-pumped water and pit toilets throughout these campgrounds. Clear Lake and Crystal Lake campgrounds have dump stations.

The NHAL has 14 **rustic campgrounds** totaling 513 campsites. These sites may be occupied up to 14 nights per visit. Indian Mounds is the only rustic family campground that has reservable sites.

There are 2 **group campgrounds** with space for up to 80 campers at each location. These campgrounds, at Jag Lake and North Muskellunge Lake, are equipped with pit toilets and hand pumps for drinking water. Group campgrounds provide an important camping opportunity for large groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and church groups to have a rustic camping experience while not affecting other campers. Jag Lake is a tent only group camp.

**Canoe campsites** are accessible by water, and stays are limited to one night. There are currently 74 canoe campsites located on more than 20 lakes and rivers across the NHAL. Sites are marked with yellow signs displaying a tent. No campsites reservations accepted. No fee is required. Trash must be packed out. A maximum of six people are allowed per campsite.

**Remote-reservable campsites** are on Allequash, Day, Nebish, Clear Lakes and in the Bittersweet Wild Lakes Area. They are accessible only by water. These sites may be occupied up to 14 nights per visit. Regular nightly camping fees apply. These sites may be reserved from May 1 through Labor Day. After Labor Day these sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A maximum of six people are allowed per campsite. The NHAL has 17 remote-reservable primitive campsites.

The Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest has an outstanding **nature center at the Crystal Lake Campground** picnic area that includes a variety of educational displays and activities for the entire family. Within the NHAL, there are also **five interpretive trails** for those who would like to take a self-guided tour of the forest landscape. The trails traverse varied terrain and expose visitors to a wide range of natural habitats.

**Bicycling** – Except for the nature trails, Fallison, Trout Lake, Star Lake and Raven's yellow loop, biking is allowed on all roads and trails. This amounts to hundreds of miles of biking opportunities. Designated mountain bike trails require a state trail pass which can be purchased by self-registering at the trail heads. Trails designated for biking are McNaughton, Madeline and Lumberjack. Also see **North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails**, and **Razorback Ridges Trails**.

**Cross Country Ski** – The NHAL has four beautifully tracked and wonderfully scenic cross-country ski trails: Escanaba, Madeline, McNaughton and Raven. State trail passes are required for these trails. Because they are tracked, snowshoes, hiking and pets are not allowed on these trails in winter.

The Lumberjack and Powell trails are great for skiing. These trails are not groomed, but because they are popular, many times a trail may have already been broken. Also see **North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails**, and **Razorback Ridges Trails**.

### **Hiking & Snowshoeing**

Hiking is a good way to get close to nature and understand your natural environment a little better. In addition to our four nature trails, the NHAL has seven other trails designated for hiking. There are also hundreds of miles of old logging roads, less traveled town roads, forest access roads and snowmobile trails that offer good hiking.

In addition to our winter trails, Lumberjack and Powell, the parking lots at Fallison, North Trout and Star Lake Nature Trails are kept plowed to provide ample opportunities. For those that don't require a trail, the possibilities are endless. But please remember, no snowshoeing on groomed and tracked ski trails. Also see **North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails**, and **Razorback Ridges Trails**.

**Equestrian Trails** – There are no designated equestrian trails on the state forest. However, there are many places people can ride within the property such as public roads, old logging roads and snowmobile trails when not snow covered.

There are a few things to keep in mind when horseback riding in the NHAL. Horses are not allowed in any campground, beach, designated hiking or nature trail or contrary to other posted notices.

**Hunting** is permitted on the forest and hunters are reminded to check their regulations for open seasons and contact forest headquarters to confirm open areas. Hunting is not allowed within 100 yards of any state campground, picnic area or other special use area designated by posted notice.

### **North Lakeland Discovery Center Trails**

Enjoy hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing and wildlife watching along the 12-mile trail system in the NHAL in Manitowish Waters. Trails are open to everyone from dawn to dusk. Donations for trail maintenance & upkeep appreciated. Suggested donation \$5/adults \$2/children. Dogs welcome on ski (ungroomed) and snowshoe trails. See trail maps in Attachment I.

**Razorback Ridges Ski & Mountain Bike Trails** provides 12 miles of trails, which are maintained by the Lions Club on forest property. Razorback Ridges is located two miles west of Sayner at the intersection of Hwy N and Razorback Rd.

<b>Table 10</b>	<b>NHAL Trails</b>
	North Trout Nature Trail (1 mile)
	Fallison Nature Trail (4 miles)
	Raven Nature Trail (1.5 miles)
	Star Lake Nature Trail (2.5 miles)
	Tom Roberts Nature Trail (.55 mile)
	Escanaba Trail (11 miles)
	Madeline Trail (9.5 miles)
	Raven Trail (11 miles)
	McNaughton Trail (10 miles)
	Lumberjack Trail (12.5 miles)
	Powell Trail (8.5 miles)
	Shannon Trail (7 miles)

**Table 10 Legend**

	Ski Trail		Pets Allowed
	Hiking Trail		Snowshoe Trail
	Nature Trail		Mobility Impaired Access
	Biking Trail		

See full property maps in Attachment H. Snowmobile trails also exist, but are administered by County Forestry Department. No ATVs are allowed on the NHAL State Forest.

### **State Fishery Areas**

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

The following fishery area is owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Department of Natural Resources:

- ***Plum Creek Fishery Area***

### **State Wildlife Areas**

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

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

- ***Powell Marsh Wildlife Area*** is a 4,303 acre area located in the Town of Lac du Flambeau. The Wildlife Area provides significant, local wildlife-based recreation, particularly waterfowl hunting and birding opportunities. Management emphasizes habitat for waterfowl and species that require open wetland and grassland habitat. A combination of prescribed fire, hand cutting, mowing and shearing is used to limit the growth of shrubs and tamarack, while increasing the abundance of grasses and sedges.

### **State Natural Areas (SNA)**

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

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

- Most SNAs are open to the public year around unless otherwise noted in the SNA site descriptions or posted at the site. SNAs within State Parks are generally open between 6:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M.
- Please recognize and respect the property of private landowners adjacent to SNAs by not trespassing. Seek the landowner's permission before crossing private lands.
- Do not collect plants (including fruits, nuts, or edible plant parts), animals, fungi, rocks, minerals, fossils, archaeological artifacts, soil, downed wood, or any other natural material, alive or dead. Collecting for scientific research requires a permit issued by the DNR.
- Vehicles, including bicycles, ATVs, aircraft, and snowmobiles, are prohibited except on trails and roadways designated for their use. Access is only by foot, skis, snowshoes, and

watercraft. Some trails are wheelchair accessible.

- Pets are allowed on most DNR-owned SNAs, but must be kept on a leash no longer than 8', unless they are dogs being used for hunting purposes. Pets are prohibited on sites owned by The Nature Conservancy and most other private conservation organizations. Horseback riding is not allowed.
- Camping and fires are generally prohibited.
- Rock climbing and rappelling are prohibited, except on SNAs #98 and #164.
- Fishing, trapping, and hunting are allowed on most DNR-owned properties in accordance with state regulations.

The Department of Natural Resources listed the following areas within Vilas County:

CNNF = Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

NHAL = Northern Highland American Legion (State Forest)

1. **Allequash Lake and Pines SNA (No.508)** is 398 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
2. **Anvil Lake Trail SNA (No. 449)** is 980 acres located in the CNNF.
3. **Aurora Lake SNA (No. 127)** is 250 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
4. **Beaver Creek SNA (No. 478)** is 697 acres located in the CNNF.
5. **Bittersweet Lakes SNA (No. 34)** is 1,070 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
6. **Black Tern Bog SNA (No. 49)** is 26 acres located in the Town of Arbor Vitae.
7. **Blackjack Springs SNA (No. 308)** is 1,395 acres located in the CNNF.
8. **Border Lakes SNA (No. 411)** is 2,383 acres located in the Town of Presque Isle.
9. **Camp Lake and Pines SNA (No. 506)** is 243 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
10. **Chippewa Trail SNA (No. 440)** is 897 acres located in the CNNF.
11. **Day Lake SNA (No. 189)** is 209 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
12. **Devine Lake and Mishonagon Creek SNA (No. 507)** is 1,186 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
13. **Dunn Lake SNA (No. 237)** is 954 acres located in the Town of Presque Isle.
14. **Haymeadow Creek SNA (No. 479)** is 957 acres located in the CNNF.
15. **Headwater Lakes SNA (No. )** is 2,893 acres located in the CNNF.
16. **Johnson Lake Barrens and Springs SNA (No. 107)** is 1,125 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
17. **Kentuck Lake SNA (No. 442)** is 291 acres located in the CNNF.
18. **Lake Alva Birch-Hemlock SNA (No. 509)** is 314 acres in the NHAL State Forest.
19. **Lake Laura Hardwoods SNA (No. 500)** is 852 acres in the NHAL State Forest.
20. **Lost Canoe SNA (No. 108)** is 1,119 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
21. **Mary Lake SNA (No. 264)** is 44 acres located in the Town of Presque Isle.

22. **Nixon Lake SNA (No. 186)** is 737 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
23. **Trout Lake Conifer Swamp SNA (No. 21)** is 25 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
24. **Papoose Creek Pines SNA (No. 503)** is 563 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
25. **Pat Shay Lake SNA (No. 446)** is 736 acres located in the CNNF.
26. **Plum Lake Hemlock Forest SNA (No. 26)** is 747 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
27. **Rice Creek SNA (No. 504)** is 435 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
28. **Spruce Grouse Swamp SNA (No. 540)** is 400 acres located in the Town of Conover.
29. **Toy Lake Swamp SNA (No. 22)** is 2,308 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
30. **Trout River SNA (No. 505)** is 108 acres located in the NHAL State Forest.
31. **Upper Buckatabon Springs SNA (No. 609)** is 279 acres located in the Town of Conover.

#### State Waysides

There are a total of 4 waysides in Vilas County. The waysides provide attractive picnicking and relaxation areas for travelers and are maintained by the County Highway Commission with funds from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Table 11 lists waysides and their facilities.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Facilities</b>
STH 17 & 70	Lincoln	4.1	Picnicking & Restrooms
USH 45 at state line	Land O' Lakes	4.8	Picnicking & Restrooms
USH 51, 3mi N of CTH N, Diamond Lk.	Arbor Vitae	1.6	Picnicking & Restrooms
USH 70, 1.7mi W of St Germain	St Germain	5.0	Picnicking & Restrooms

Source: WisDOT

#### FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE OWNED

Private forested lands have been enrolled in the Forest Crop Law and can be enrolled in the Managed Forest Law to reduce property taxes in exchange for allowing specific public uses on the land. The Forest Crop Law closed enrollment on January 1, 1986. A landowner may now enroll their land into Managed Forest Law. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources administers these programs, but no land is owned by the state under these programs.

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) and Managed Forest Law there are 18,317 **open** acres in 2013. There are 20,961 acres that are **closed** under Managed Forest Law (MFL) as of 2013. Much of MFL lands are available to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking. Make sure the land is listed as open. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation. Unless the property owner allows their use, bicycling, snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles are prohibited on enrolled lands that are open to the public.

## FEDERAL FACILITIES

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

Out of more than 1.5 million total acres of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Vilas County contains 54,504 acres within its boundaries, or 9% of its total area. Part of the Chequamegon side of the forest and part of the Nicolet side of the forest both exist in Vilas County, and are shown on Map 1.

#### **Nicolet Side of National Forest**

The larger area is found on the eastern side of the County, in the Towns of Phelps, Conover, and Washington. This area is located in the Eagle River-Florence Ranger District totaling 48,017 acres. There are four campgrounds within this area. Lac Vieux Desert has 31 campsites, picnic areas, a boat ramp, and a swimming area. Spectacle Lake has 34 campsites with a disabled access fishing pier. Boat ramp, swimming area, and trail for hiking. Kentuck Lake has 31 campsites, a boat ramp, and a 2 1/2-mile trail that joins the Spectacle Lake hiking trail. Anvil Lake has 18 campsites with a picnic area, a boat ramp, fishing pier (meeting ADA standards), swimming area, and 12 mile trail for hiking, mountain biking and cross country skiing. There is also the Phelps skiing/hiking trail that is one mile in length.

Within this portion of the National Forest is Blackjack Springs Wilderness. This is the only Congressionally-designed Wilderness in Vilas County. It totals 5,886 acres (1% of Vilas County). Motorized use of any kind is prohibited, and no timber harvest or other type of vegetation treatment is allowed unless there is a public safety threat or concern. Camping is allowed in this area and no special permits are required. Hiking, fishing, canoeing, and cross-country skiing are popular activities in this vicinity.

#### **Chequamegon Side of National Forest**

The smaller portion of the National Forest in Vilas County contains 6,487 acres, and exists on the west edge of the County. All of this land is located in the Town of Lac du Flambeau, and is part of the Medford-Park Falls Ranger District. There are two campgrounds within this portion. Lake Emily campground on the southern end of the lake has 11 campsites and a picnic area. Wabasso Lake has three campsites with picnic sites and a boat landing. There is also a carry-in boat access site on Squaw and Favil Lake.

## PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Private facilities are listed for reference purposes to provide a comprehensive overview of all outdoor recreation in Vilas County. The private sector provides many recreational opportunities but this plan's purpose is to identify public facility improvements that may qualify for state and federal money.

### Private Golf Courses

Vilas County has seven privately operated golf courses located throughout the county.

### Private Campgrounds

There are 32 private campgrounds and 2,370 campsites in Vilas County. Many are located on lakes with boat launching facilities.

**Shooting Ranges** are described under each town, and sometimes have a public-private partnership to maintain the facilities:

- M.W. Caywood Memorial Shooting Range - Arbor Vitae
- Boulder Junction Shooting Range
- Land O' Lakes Shooting Range
- Phelps Shooting Range

## Chapter 4

# OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the county have been identified with input from: 1) public input – informally, survey results; 2) facility assessment; and 3) a review of past plans – including the Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### **Informal Public Input**

Vilas County Forestry Department staff continuously receives public input from users about its parks and forest resources. Valuable input for this report came from these interactions.

#### **Survey to Outdoor Recreation & Lake Groups in Vilas County (Fall 2012)**

*The survey and results are in Attachment E.*

The survey was conducted by NCWRPC in the fall of 2012 to identify outdoor recreation issues in Vilas County for the countywide outdoor recreation plan, 2014-2019. Excellent participation occurred and issues were identified.

115 surveys were mailed or emailed directly to lake group contacts on-record with the Vilas County Land & Water Department. Chambers of commerce in Vilas County also advertised the online survey link. A great response of 144 surveys were completed online and via mail.

This survey is not statistically accurate, because anyone could take the survey. 12 recreational groups replied as groups (motorized, non-motorized, and lake assoc.), but their members may also have completed surveys as individuals.

#### **Survey to Towns & City in Vilas County (Summer 2013)**

*The survey and results are in Attachment F. Survey results are also on next page.*

Towns and the City of Eagle River all received a **survey** and a **questionnaire** in the summer of 2013. The **survey** was accompanied with a meeting announcement poster and instructions for the community to consider completing the survey during a publicly posted meeting for public input. The **questionnaire** listed all the park descriptions of that community for them to edit, along with asking what they have accomplished and what they were planning on improving over the next five years.

**Questionnaire** responses were used to update park descriptions in Chapter 3.

**Survey** results were summarized by NCWRPC:  
Only question #2 was summarized.

Each town and the City of Eagle River was asked to complete the attached survey in a publicly posted meeting. The following communities returned surveys: City of Eagle River, and the Towns of Arbor Vitae, Boulder Junction, Conover, Land O' Lakes, Plum Lake, Presque Isle, Washington, and Winchester.

The Towns of Boulder Junction and Conover both provided a survey from each town board member (3 per town). The Town of Presque Isle provided 25 surveys, because they opened up the survey for each resident to pick up and return. NCWRPC summarized each batch of surveys separately by community to produce 1 survey.

Only this question (#2) was summarized:

**“What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Vilas County?”**

- 5 responses – Have bike/multi-use (non-motorized) trails connect to others.
- 3 responses – Need fish stocking/no bag limits.
- 3 responses - Develop and maintain access to lakes, boat landings, campsites, and beaches.
- 2 responses – Look at UTVs/ATVs for trail creation.
- 2 responses – Threat of Aquatic invasive species
- 2 responses – Keep ATVs out of Vilas County
- 1 response – Closure of logging roads.
- 1 response – Increase snowmobile funding.
- 1 response – Only 1 public disc golf course exists.
- 1 response – Need high speed internet.
- 1 response – Money.
- 1 response – Inadequate bridge access for pedestrians and bicyclists.

### **Input at Public Hearing (November 6, 2013)**

The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation & Land Committee held a public hearing on November 6, 2013, from 11:00 a.m. to noon. A public hearing notice was posted in the paper and it noted that the draft plan was available on the NCWRPC website for the public to view and comment on. Each community in Vilas County was also mailed a poster and a letter that asked the community to review their section of the plan (see Attachment J).

Public Notice:

*The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee will be accepting public input on the 2014-2018 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). Public comment will be accepted between 11:00 am and noon on November 6<sup>th</sup> at a regularly scheduled meeting of this committee at the Vilas County Courthouse, conference rooms 2 & 3. The draft CORP can be reviewed at the Vilas County Forestry,*

*Recreation & Land Department located at 2112 North Railroad Street in Eagle River, also at the Eagle River Public Library, Boulder Junction Public Library and online at <http://www.ncwrpc.org/vilas/orp.html>.*

### **Public Comment Summary:**

Seventeen emails of comments and one letter (that was duplicated in an email) were received. Several people showed up to provide comments too.

- NCWRPC staff read all the emails aloud, or paraphrased them, during the public hearing, and copies of the emails were distributed to the Committee and are on file with the Vilas County Forestry Department.
- There were 7 comments requesting removal of “ATV” from the outdoor recreation plan, and 2 comments asking for more ATV trails.
- Several emails were from town officials who revised their park descriptions, and what additional projects they may want to pursue in the next five years.
- Handouts provided by the public at the public hearing showed the rise of pickle ball in the United States. Stories were shared about the rise of pickle ball’s popularity in Vilas County among seniors.
- Support for bicycling trails was reinforced at the public hearing with the request that the Great Headwaters Trail map be added to the plan, in addition to all the trail segments to each of the town sections as projects that will be pursued in the next five years.

The public hearing ended at noon, and everyone in attendance was satisfied with knowing that their concerns were heard. NCWRPC staff noted that all municipally suggested changes would be made to the plan, and also stated what additional changes would be made based upon these public hearing comments.

### **NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING**

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

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

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

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

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

## Chapter 5

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives were created from public comments received and Committee feedback. The goals and objectives are not in priority order:

### **Goal 1 – Protect aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems from invasive species.**

#### Objectives

1. Coordinate with the Land and Water Conservation Department the control of forest based invasive species as part of silviculture (per the Work Plan in the Vilas County Land & Water Resource Management Plan [LWRM Plan]).
2. Support LWRM Plan implementation to control aquatic invasive species.

### **Goal 2 – Protect surface waters from impacts of land disturbance and degradation.**

Objective: Support LWRM Plan to educate the public about the importance of riparian buffers and maintenance of shoreline habitat.

### **Goal 3 – Protect, restore, and enhance Vilas County's natural resources for outdoor recreation.**

#### Objectives

1. Follow Best Management Practices for erosion control in development of trails and recreation facilities.
2. Protect and preserve the environmental integrity of the natural resources in Vilas County so future generations will enjoy the public lands.
3. Encourage cooperation between municipalities and adjacent towns in providing and utilizing recreational facilities, as a way of avoiding unnecessary duplication of facilities.
4. Provide and maintain recreational facilities in an economically beneficial manner to county, non-county, and non-state residents.
5. Improve and protect access to water resources.

### **Goal 4 – Support development and connection of trails.**

#### Objectives

1. Support implementation of the Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan.
2. Support snowmobile trail development countywide.
3. Support local government or local group development of trails for hiking, biking, walking, birding, and snowmobiling.

### **Goal 5 – Gradually Bring Parks Into ADA Compliance.**

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

## Chapter 6

# PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

### INTRODUCTION

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

The capital improvement framework for each facility is a combination of several types of projects. These projects are ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the facility. Capital improvements are ranked as follows:

1. Improvements to existing facilities:
  - a) To correct health and safety hazards
  - b) To update deficient facilities
  - c) To modernize adequate but outdated facilities
2. Installation of facilities as deemed necessary through citizen participation.
3. Development of new facilities as found necessary through comparison to park and recreation standards.

### PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ACCOMPLISHED BETWEEN 2008-2013:

The following is a list of projects that were implemented since the last Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Plan:

#### **County Facility Accomplishments**

In 2012 the granite handicap accessible path at Dr. Oldfield Park was replaced with asphalt pathways. Several improvement projects were conducted at the Oldenburg Sports Park. Construction of lighting the softball/U-14 soccer field took place in May. The cost of the lighting project, \$40,217.21, was funded by Vilas County. Dugouts were constructed on the 300' ball field. Materials for the dugouts were purchased with funds from the Oldenburg Group and construction was donated by Vilas County businesses Hauswerks Inc. and Maney's Masonry Inc. and Mr. Pat Weber of the Eagle River Baseball Association. Forestry Technician Jefferson mowed the area of the park that is not currently being used for playing fields, which use is planned in the future. As part of the lease agreement, Headwaters Youth Soccer Association is responsible for the grounds maintenance. The Oldenburg Group installed new outdoor light fixtures at the concession stand.

Bleachers for the 300' softball field/U-14 soccer field were purchased by Vilas County at the cost of \$4,336.70. The bleachers will be installed in the Spring of 2013.

In 2011: Vilas County adopted Countywide Bike/Pedestrian Plan. Department continues to work with surrounding communities to develop the County-owned abandoned railroad grade in the Towns of Conover and Phelps into a multi-use trail. The Town of Conover in cooperation with the Great Headwaters Trails applied for and was awarded a transportation enhancement grant totaling \$819,830. This grant will go toward developing the first segment of a bicycle/snowmobile trail from the Conover Town Park to Muskrat Creek Road. The trail would be limestone or similar surface to reduce maintenance costs and wear from snowmobiles. The route of the proposed trail will utilize the County owned railroad grade traveling from Highway 45 east to Muskrat Creek Road. This project will require the construction of 3 bridges at an estimated cost of \$225,000. The Department also applied for and received a grant from the snowmobile program in the amount of \$163,000.00 to cost share the building of bridges and installing culverts and fill.

In 2010: Construction of new backstops and bullet catchers at the Vilas County Shooting Range. County began construction on Oldenberg Sports Park.

In 2009: Improvements were made to the County's .4 mile ATV trail in the Town of Land O' Lakes. Approximately 3.0 miles of abandoned railroad grade was cleared of trees and vegetation for use as a bike/pedestrian trail between Conover and Phelps.

In 2008: The boat landing at Pickerel Creek was rehabilitated with a new permanent piling pier and a 12' x 35' concrete boat ramp.

### **Town & City of Eagle River Facility Accomplishments**

Accomplishments are listed in Chapter 3 under each community.

### PROJECTS ANTICIPATED BETWEEN 2014-2019:

The following Capital Improvement Program is proposed for Vilas County's recreational system. The projects listed in priority order were provided by Vilas County's Parks and Recreation Department and are subject to change. All upgrades and new construction will take into consideration meeting ADA standards. As funds become available the following projects will be completed.

### **Vilas County Projects**

**Replace pavilion Eagle Lake Park** – replace existing 20' x 40' pavilion and slab at Eagle Lake Park. This is a high use day area and is ADA compliant.

**Upgrade current boat landings** – continue to improve boat ramps and dock facilities at Vilas county maintained sites. Continue to make these facilities ADA accessible where possible.

**Multi-use trails** – Continue to partner with area recreational groups and towns to promote, plan, construct, and maintain multi-use trails. Provide grant support and sponsorships that assist communities in obtaining multi-use trails that support compatible usage.

**Recreational signage** – Work with Vilas County Highway Department to develop a recreational sign program to provide recreational visitors with directional information to guide them to County facilities.

**Recreational Trail Data** – GPS all recreational trails and develop a data base for recreational trails in Vilas County. Continue working with Vilas County Mapping to incorporate those trails into the 911 dispatch system to provide faster response time for emergency personnel and accurate mapping.

**Campground** – Consider planning and developing a campground at the Torch Lake Park within the county forest.

**Equestrian Trails** – Create an equestrian trail between Conover and Eagle River.

**ATV/UTV Trail** – Develop a plan for creating ATV/UTV trails.

### **Town & City of Eagle River Projects**

Projects are listed in Chapter 3 under each community.

## Chapter 7

# RECOMMENDATIONS

### INTRODUCTION

The following recommendations are aimed at satisfying needs identified to build Vilas County's status as a prime recreation and natural resource area and to provide recreation facilities for all Vilas County residents and the surrounding tourism region.

The recommendations are based on the goals and objectives, past plans, and the public comment documented in Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment. Although it is unlikely that all recommendations presented in this plan will be undertaken in the next five years, they should be recognized as causes for action if the opportunity or need arises.

### COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for county-wide outdoor recreation projects were created based upon the Goals & Objectives in Chapter 5.

#### **Create a Smart Phone App**

There are many pathways throughout the county forest, and throughout the county that allow a variety of motorized and non-motorized access. Official trail designation for any type of recreation requires a thorough analysis of local conditions before an official trail of any type can be established. Also, creating and stocking physical maps for distribution takes time and money. An additional feature of online based maps is that more detailed locations of actual trails vs. just the trail head, are possible. Access to these online maps is only limited by the computer or cell phone access. A downloadable app would have all the trails loaded in the program.

#### **Better Marketing of Existing Recreation**

Advertisement of recreational opportunities is already excellent for visitors. Maybe a “be a visitor in your hometown” campaign by the Vilas County Chambers of Commerce would be a way of showing residents what is available in their own backyards, and get them familiar with using the “visitor” websites as an “insider.”

#### **Recreation Destination Signage**

Vilas County is rich in outdoor recreational experiences. Basic on-road signage is necessary for recreational visitors to find their destination, just like finding a restaurant. WisDOT has a sign program for state and federal highways that could be expanded for use along county highways.

Tourist oriented directional signs (TODS) provide motorists with directional information for qualifying tourist-related businesses, services or activities. Tourist-related businesses, whose major portion of income or visitors is derived from visitors who do not reside in the immediate area where the business is located, qualify for TODS. The business cannot have direct access to a state or U.S. highway, but must be located within 5 miles of a state or U.S. highway. The TODS program is self-funded. No state or federal funds support the program. All administration, manufacturing and installation costs are paid by applicants.

### **To obtain a TODS**

1. Contact the county highway department in which the sign will be located to obtain a TODS application.
2. Complete the application and attach a check for \$100 payable to the county (this is the administration fee for a 5-year period). If you don't qualify for the program, or there isn't room for a TODS at the desired location, the check will be returned.
3. Businesses that qualify for a TODS will receive a list of qualified TODS sign manufacturers. Contact as many manufacturers as you wish to get the best price.
4. Bring the sign to the county highway department with a check for \$250 payable to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (this is the installation fee).
5. The county highway department will install the sign.

All county parks should have brown destination signs that direct visitors at major highway intersections. Coordinate sign design, creation, and installation with the Highway Department. The Wisconsin edition of the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) has all of the sign design parameters in it.

**County Parks** could have brown text signs at major highway intersections.

**Boat launches** within the County Forest could have boat launch symbol signs at major highway intersections (maybe symbol signs and arrows attached to street sign poles), and at driveways that directly access the boat launch, unless the boat launch is directly visible from the driveway entrance.

**Trailheads** could have brown text signs directing visitors to these spaces also.

### **Recreation Safety (911)**

Accidents are a part of life. From a physical injury to recreational equipment breaking down, people will need help, and they expect the authorities to find them.

Work with the Emergency Management Department to verify that official County Forest roads and all outdoor recreation facilities in the County Forest are geo-located in the 911 system. For example: if a person calls from the panfishing pier in the Snipe Lake Unit of the County Forest (as seen on Map 3), then a point would show up on the 911 screen, along with the forest roads to access that site.

### **Bike/Ped Plan Recommendation**

Support implementation of recommendations in the Vilas County Countywide Bike/Ped Route & Trail Plan. Annually review how trail development is progressing and what to include in the next budget to implement parts of the plan in subsequent years.

### **Controlling Invasive Species**

Compare the Goals & Objectives in Chapter 5 with how the Forestry Department carries out daily tasks. Review with the County Land & Water Conservation Department, and the Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator how the Land & Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP) is being implemented so that Forestry and LWCD may coordinate how to implement the "Forestry" tasks in the LWRMP's Work Plan.

### **Improve Boat Landings**

Consider reviewing the condition of and what facilities exist at each boat launch throughout the county. Having such an inventory will provide a way to determine what boat launches may need capital improvements. Part of that inventory was accomplished with the questionnaire created for this outdoor recreation plan.

### **Increase Fishing Opportunities**

Cooperate with WDNR efforts to increase fishing opportunities based upon the Governor's 2013 fishing initiative.

### **Explore state Wild River designations**

Vilas County is at the headwaters of the Wisconsin and Flambeau rivers that drain to the Mississippi River; the Brule and Menominee rivers flow into Lake Michigan, and Presque Isle discharges into Lake Superior.

The Wisconsin system of state Wild Rivers was established by the 1965 Legislature with the enactment of s. 30.26, Wis. Stats. in order to afford the people of the state an opportunity to enjoy natural streams, to attract out-of-state visitors and assure the well-being of our tourist industry, and to preserve some rivers in a free flowing condition and protect them from development. Only a Legislative Act can designate a Wild River.

The DNR owns land within Pike River, Pine-Popple Rivers and Totagatic River Wild Rivers. Within DNR lands, there is no vegetative control within 150 feet from the bank on either side of the river, walk-in access only, no motorized vehicles, no stream alterations, no maintained trails, and few developed parking lots or canoe put-ins. These rules are intended to preserve the wild and scenic qualities of the river.

Stewardship of the wild rivers is shared by all landowners along the river — small private landowners, commercial timber companies, and county, state, and federal governments.

### **Pickle Ball**

Pickle Ball is an up and coming sport in Vilas County. Due to increasing interest in the sport, support development of pickle ball courts, which may be converted from tennis courts.

### **Equestrian Trail Development**

Develop a plan for creating equestrian trails.

### **ATV/UTV Trails**

Support development of ATV/UTV trails. Review county trunk highway right-of-ways to determine how to add ATV/UTV trails.

## Chapter 8

# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

### INTRODUCTION

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

A variety of commonly used state and federal funding programs are described in Attachment C.

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

#### Natural Resource Zoning

Natural resource zoning may be used to protect shorelands, wetlands, floodplains, agricultural lands, groundwater recharge areas, and recreation lands.

The State of Wisconsin Statutes (Section 59.971) and Administrative Code (NR 115) require shoreland-wetland and floodplain zoning by all counties. Counties are responsible for shoreland zoning in unincorporated areas. The purpose of these regulations is to protect the shoreline, floodplain, and adjacent wetlands of navigable waters from undesirable use and development. The county may zone areas beyond that in addition to the Statutes and Administrative Codes cited above, only by institution county-wide zoning as authorized under the Wisconsin Statutes. Otherwise, villages and cities would remain responsible by regulatory means, i.e., as part of their land-use zoning.

#### Park Dedication

Subdivision regulations can be used by counties to require residential subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use in areas which are experiencing significant residential growth. Neighborhood parks may be acquired in this manner in newly developing residential areas. Local landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of small communities.

#### Use of Easements

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

### Leases

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

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

### Historic Sites

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

### Program Costs

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

### Capital Improvements

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

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

### Monetary Aid Programs

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

The Stewardship Fund is a comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of several older aid programs such as LAWCON and Local Park Aids, combined with new programs, such as the Urban Rivers Program. Appendix D gives an explanation of the Stewardship Fund. For additional information obtain the most

current booklet titled Open Project Selection Process from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

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

DNR Community Service Specialist  
Rhineland Office  
107 Sutliff Ave  
Rhineland WI 54501

Besides state and federal aid programs, there are other sources of funding such as private foundations, trust funds, and civic and recreation organizations. For information on private foundations and trusts see Foundations in Wisconsin: A Directory, compiled by Susan A. Hopewood.

#### Future Planning

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

#### Priorities

The need for community officials to establish priorities within their recreation program is emphasized by the scope of the previous recommendations. Although it is unlikely that all of these recommendations will be undertaken within the time period of this plan, there is an outstanding opportunity for inroads to be made. Recognition of increasing demands for recreation, space and facilities should prompt immediate action.

#### Lifetime Activities

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

#### Winter Activities

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

frequently provide a sliding area. Snow plowing boat launch parking areas provides access to frozen lakes.

#### Snowmobile/ATV Routes

Designated specific streets or rights-of-way for snowmobile or ATV use. Since snowmobiles and ATVs can be considered a noise nuisance and a hazard for non-users, municipalities may wish to designate specific routes through the municipality for snowmobile/ATV use.

#### Specialized Facilities

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

#### Municipal & School District Cooperation

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

#### Senior Citizen Involvement

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

#### Youth Programs

Few recreational opportunities have been planned for the communities' high school age youth. School activities provide most recreational outlet during winter months, but in summer there is a distinct void. This plan recommends a study to determine what recreation activities would be best received by this age and what opportunity there is to provide for them at public parks.

#### Service Group Involvement

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

supplementing municipal financial resources and providing organization and volunteer labor.

#### Community Beautification

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

#### Adopt-A-Park Program

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

## Chapter 9

# PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING

An essential characteristic of any planning program is that it be on going and flexible. Periodic updating of the plan is necessary for continued refinement and course correction in the planning program.

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

Review the plan recommendations and action programs on an annual basis or more often if deemed necessary. At the time of this review process the town boards, city and village councils, school districts, and other interested parties may be notified to request input. Obtain the following information for consideration in updating the plan:

1. Improvements needed to existing facilities.
2. Demand for new facilities.
3. Potential projects to fulfill this demand, and project sponsor.

The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation & Land Committee review of this information and evaluation will determine the need for proposed projects based on standards and priorities as outlined in this plan.

Updating the entire plan every five years is necessary to assure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the county and to maintain the county's eligibility for grant programs.

INSERT Map 1 – Recreational Facilities

INSERT Map 2 – Countywide Bike/Ped Route and Trail Plan

INSERT Map 3 – Vilas County Forest

INSERT Map 4 – Forest Units (White Squaw & Snipe Lake Units)

INSERT Map 5 – Forest Units (Pioneer Creek, Mud Minnow, & Langley Lake Units)

INSERT Map 6 – Forest Units (Decker Lake, Torch Lake, Heart Lake, Muskrat Creek, & Ski Hill Units)

INSERT Map 7 – City of Eagle River

# ATTACHMENT A

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## **Park Design and Location Criteria**

From:

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016

# ATTACHMENT B

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## **Facility Development Standards**

From: National Recreation and Park Association

# ATTACHMENT C

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## **Federal and State Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs**

Compiled by: NCWRPC

## **ATTACHMENT D**

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### **Wisconsin SCORP 2011-2016 Summary**

Summarized by NCWRPC

## **ATTACHMENT E**

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### **Online Survey and Summarized Results**

## **ATTACHMENT F**

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### **Town Survey and Summarized Results**

## **ATTACHMENT G**

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### **Map of Trout Streams in Vilas County**

## ATTACHMENT H

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### Northern Highland American Legion (NHAL) State Forest Maps

# ATTACHMENT I

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## North Lakeland Discovery Center Maps

## **ATTACHMENT J**

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### **Public Hearing Letter and Poster to Communities**

# ATTACHMENT K

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## Great Headwaters Trails System Segments Map