

2013-2017



Winnebago County

Comprehensive Outdoor Park and Recreation Plan



Winnebago County, Wisconsin

Plan Assistance from ECWRPC

Adopted 03/xx/2013

DRAFT

Website:

<http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/parks>

WINNEBAGO COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE OPEN SPACE AND
RECREATION PLAN

2013-2017

Prepared by
Winnebago County Parks Department
and the
East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Adopted by Committee on: xxxx, 2013
Adopted by County Board on: xxxx, 2013

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ABSTRACT

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This report describes existing conditions, projects future growth, and offers recommendations to guide the future growth and development of recreational facilities in Winnebago County. Its intent is to be used as a benchmark and vision for promoting healthy lifestyles and safe recreational opportunities. A 5-year action plan is provided as a vision for the County to follow. Recommendations are budget dependent as with any new upgrade or maintenance project.

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Winnebago County's natural resources and outdoor recreational facilities provide a wide range of active and passive recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Some popular activities include picnicking, swimming, boating, hunting, fishing, and camping. The County provides its residents with many multi-purpose recreational trails for outdoor lovers to hike, bike, cross-country ski, and snowmobile. In Winnebago County the primary responsibility for accommodating recreational demand has traditionally rested with the County and local units of government and private recreational businesses.

With increasing amounts of leisure time available, the demand for many types of recreational activities has grown during the past three decades. In most parts of Wisconsin the availability of recreational opportunities and facilities helps attract tourism dollars into the local economy. For smaller rural areas like Winnebago County, recreational resources and facilities, both public and private, are vital to their economic health and often make tourism the area's most important industry.

Winnebago County's "great outdoors" is truly spectacular. A wealth of lakes, streams and rivers, quiet woods, winding trails and wide open spaces offer countless recreational opportunities the whole year round. With a mix of urban and rural areas in the County, many unique options exist. The nature preserves within the county also inhibit beautiful wildflowers. Here are some of the species found throughout the county: Goldenrod species, New England Aster, White Heath Aster, Wild Sunflower (dried remnants), Prairie Coneflowers (dried remnants), Horse Gentian or Tinkers Weed, Other White Aster species, Bottle or Closed Gentian, Wild Cucumber (green or dried fruits), Carrion Flower (blue fruits in clusters on non-woody vines), Sneezewood, various species of Stickights, Daisy Fleabane, Moneywort (only leaves prominent), Wild Violet (only leaves prominent), Waterleaf (only leaves prominent), and Sharplobed Hepatica (only leaves prominent).

Scenic waterways cover almost one quarter of the county, making the area a boating and fishing paradise. Popular fish species including walleye, bass, catfish, perch and musky inhabit the waters. There are numerous birds, including several species of waterfowl, and a variety of other wildlife, that nest and feed within the area.

Recreational attractions at the Sunnyview Exposition Center provide endless entertainment offerings throughout the year. The County's Community Park offers baseball, soccer, rugby, disc golf, archery, horseshoe, a dog park and fishing ponds. Some of the more unique offerings within the county parks system include a BMX track, cross-country trails, dog exercise areas and an historic archaeological site (Lasley Point). The Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) grounds are also located in the County on the south side of the City of Oshkosh which attracts global visitors along with Ford Park which houses seasonal concerts and events.

Winnebago County officials have come to recognize the value of the county's natural resources and recreational facilities in attracting visitors to the area. Accommodating the recreational needs

of both resident and visitor is an ongoing commitment the County has made to maintain and upgrade its park system.

To ensure needed recreation facilities continue to be provided in a coordinated fashion, Winnebago County, with the assistance of its Park and Recreation Committee, has used earlier plans prepared in 1975, 1988, and 1993 as a basis for this plan update. Like its predecessors, this version of the plan reaffirms longstanding goals and objectives, inventories existing park and recreational facilities, identifies countywide park and recreation needs and opportunities, and presents recommendations and an action program for addressing the system's growth and development.

While protecting its natural resources is essential to maintaining the county's attraction as a tourism destination, Winnebago County is in an excellent position to attract additional visitor dollars by building upon its unique combination of "up north" atmosphere within easy driving distance of major population concentrations. It continues to be to the advantage of the County, its municipalities, and private enterprise to work together to increase the economic impact of tourism through appropriate recreational development and promotion. In recent years, county residents have come to recognize that linear recreational facilities such as the State Friendship/Trestle Trail, Mascoutin Valley State Trail, the USH 10 Trail, and WIOUWASH Trail can make an important contribution in providing more diverse recreational opportunities for local residents and in attracting tourism dollars. Not only do these linear facilities accommodate recreational activities generally growing in popularity, they are destination-oriented, allowing several local economies to benefit from their presence.

The attractiveness of the Winnebago County landscape suggests that, in addition to planning for new and expanded recreational opportunities, the plan also needs to address undesirable land use changes, unwise land management practices, and other potential environmental problems.

Development pressures, some emanating from the presence of the county's resources themselves, are being felt. An attractive place to live as well as visit, Winnebago County's population in many outlying rural areas is steadily growing. This growth has resulted in more intensive development of areas once enjoyed by the whole county. Lakeshores and woodlands continue to be subdivided and developed for residential use.

In recent years, the demand for the county's rural land for home sites and recreational properties has extended to agricultural lands. More urban sprawl has been seen west of the USH 41 corridor in recent years. This has caused raw land prices, still relatively low compared to many areas of the state, to escalate. Combined with the downturn in the agricultural economy, these higher land prices have made the sale of some or all of their farmland for these purposes an attractive option for many farmers. For those farmers seeking to maintain viability through expansion, the higher prices commanded by these other types of land use makes the acquisition of additional acreage cost-prohibitive. As a result, perhaps the most important threat facing Winnebago County today is the continued loss of its farms and productive farmland.

Additionally, some past agricultural practices were not always protective of the county's two most precious nonrenewable resources, its soil and water. Drainage of marshlands, as has occurred in many areas of the county, takes away their natural ability to filter nutrients from surface runoff while the conversion to agricultural land further adds to nutrient loads. This practice also reduces wildlife habitat.

PURPOSE

The 2013-2017 version of the Winnebago County Outdoor Recreation Plan seeks to help preserve the county's natural environment and at the same time allow residents and visitors alike to play, learn, enjoy and live in harmony with it. In addition to setting forth new recommendations based on present needs, the adopted plan will enable Winnebago County to once again compete for matching funds available through the Department of Natural Resources' Stewardship Program if available. Funding components of this program, target monies for parkland acquisition and development projects as well as for numerous other projects and activities that preserve, protect and enhance important land- and water-based natural assets. Collectively, grants available through the Stewardship Program, its predecessors, and the inactive federally funded Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Program have effectively doubled the local funding commitment for acquisition and development of parkland and other public recreational facilities.

Although many County and local recreation needs have been met during the past three decades, some still exist, others have changed and, in some cases, new needs and opportunities have arisen. The purpose of this plan is to identify these changing recreational needs and to present recommendations to ensure that Winnebago County will continue to provide a wide variety of recreational facilities for residents and visitors to enjoy. Selected local sites in unincorporated communities have also been included in the County's plan as these outlying parks and recreational areas augment facilities and recreational opportunities found in the county park system. (Map 3) Following local, County and state approval, the plan will allow the County and participating communities to retain or reestablish eligibility for the Stewardship Program if applicable.

This version of the Winnebago County Outdoor Recreation Plan draws upon the goals and objectives of the County's previous plans. While these remain virtually intact, the planning committee recognizes that not only have the scope and priorities of recreational needs changed in the past thirty years, so too has the responsibility for meeting some of these needs. In addition, there is increased awareness of environmental problems as well as the need for accommodating disabled and elderly recreationalists who may wish to use park facilities.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY GEOGRAPHY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Winnebago County is located in the east central part of Wisconsin, approximately 75 miles north of Madison and 110 and 200 miles northwest of Milwaukee and Chicago respectively. Square to rectangular in shape, the county is approximately 24 miles from east to west and 24 miles from north to south with USH 41, a four-lane divided freeway paralleling the county's eastern boundary, and STH 21, an east-west route across its south central portion, are its two major traffic arteries. USH 45, and STH 26, and 44 are other important through routes.

Municipalities in Winnebago County include five cities, one village (Winneconne), and 16 towns. The City of Oshkosh is the county's retail hub and county seat, has the highest population base (66,083). The Town of Menasha has the highest population base of all the townships in the County, (ECWRPC Trends, 2010; Table 1).

the 1970 census. Between 1970 and 2010, the county's population increased from 129,946 After a half century of a slow declining trend, Winnebago County's population began to grow following residents to 166,994 a 28.51% change. Growth was particularly high in the urbanized outlying areas of Algoma, Town of Menasha, and Town of Clayton which more than

doubled in population during that 40-year interval. The Town of Oshkosh lost population due to annexations from the City of Oshkosh. The Town of Nepeuskun also had a negative growth factor as more people are moving into the urbanized areas.

A common characteristic of Winnebago County's most rapidly growing towns is that they are close to the Fox Valley and new subdivision development spurred on the outskirts. During the past few decades, much of this growth has corresponded within the Fox Cities and Oshkosh urbanized areas but urban sprawl west of USH 41 has increased considerably. The towns like Menasha, Algoma, Oshkosh, and Neenah have been prime areas for new development as well as scattered rural subdivisions and individual home sites.

Table 1
WINNEBAGO COUNTY POPULATION TRENDS, 1970 – 2010

Jurisdiction	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	% Change 1970-2010
T Algoma	3,158	3,249	3,442	5,702	6,822	116.02
T Black Wolf	2,127	2,318	2,154	2,330	2,410	13.30
T Clayton	1,771	2,353	2,264	2,974	3,951	123.09
T Menasha	8,682	12,307	13,975	15,858	18,498	113.06
T Neenah	2,942	2,864	2,691	2,657	3,237	10.03
T Nekimi	1,193	1,516	1,475	1,419	1,429	19.78
T Nepeuskun	743	682	647	689	710	-4.44
T Omro	1,444	1,684	1,616	1,875	2,116	46.54
T Oshkosh	4,943	4,420	4,655	3,234	2,475	-49.93
T Poygan	734	898	824	1,037	1,301	77.25
T Rushford	1,415	1,420	1,361	1,471	1,561	10.32
T Utica	1,029	1,038	1,046	1,168	1,299	26.24
T Vinland	1,472	1,632	1,688	1,849	1,765	19.90
T Winchester	1,209	1,261	1,433	1,676	1,763	45.82
T Winneconne	1,408	1,595	1,761	2,145	2,350	66.90
T Wolf River	904	1,052	1,037	1,223	1,189	31.53
V Winneconne	1,611	1,935	2,059	2,401	2,383	47.92
C Appleton (Part)	0	5	443	812	1,490	-
C Menasha (Part)	14,836	14,728	14,638	15,643	15,144	2.08
C Neenah	22,902	22,432	23,219	24,507	25,501	11.35
C Omro	2,341	2,763	2,836	3,177	3,517	50.23
C Oshkosh	53,082	49,620	55,006	62,916	66,083	24.49
Winnebago County	129,946	131,772	140,320	156,763	166,994	28.51

Source: U.S. Census: 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010.

Winnebago County's recent history of significant population gains has caused state demographers to adjust their projections upward (Table 2). As a result, the county's population is projected to grow by about 20.0 percent between 2000 and 2030, increasing by nearly 31,000 residents (from 156,763 to 188,086).*

Table 2
POPULATION PROJECTIONS, 2000 - 2030
Winnebago County

MCD Type & Name	Census 2000	2005 Estimate	2010 Projection	2015 Projection	2020 Projection	2025 Projection	2030 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
City of Appleton(part)	812	950	1,075	1,207	1,340	1,472	1,598	786	96.8%
City of Menasha(part)	15,643	15,804	15,943	16,179	16,447	16,689	16,876	1,233	7.9%
City of Neenah	954	960	977	998	1020	1039	1054	4,135	16.9%
City of Omro	1119	1237	1315	1405	1494	1575	1641	842	26.5%
City of Oshkosh	623	657	689	722	756	787	815	17,451	27.7%
Village of Winneconne	2145	2270	2396	2535	2680	2820	2950	689	28.7%
Town of Algoma	640	726	794	865	938	1008	1070	3,652	64.0%
Town of Black wolf	1130	1151	1189	1237	1287	1333	1372	398	17.1%
Town of Clayton	1768	1738	1668	1602	1537	1466	1389	2,171	73.0%
Town of Menasha	682	697	733	774	813	849	879	5,822	36.7%
Town of Neenah	70087	72053	74260	77005	79817	82421	84683	202	7.6%
Town of Nekimi	7085	7205	7280	7406	7524	7606	7634	22	1.6%
Town of Nepeuskun	1631	1688	1728	1769	1811	1851	1883	101	14.7%
Town of Omro	724	758	799	849	898	942	977	852	45.4%
Town of Oshkosh	1187	1227	1254	1285	1316	1344	1365	-889	-27.5%
Town of Poygan	3048	3353	3351	3351	3350	3336	3308	625	60.3%
Town of Rushford	752	812	860	913	967	1016	1056	348	23.7%
Town of Utica	858	958	1015	1081	1144	1197	1238	321	27.5%
Town of Vinland	3341	3548	3677	3830	3980	4112	4218	394	21.3%
Town of Winchester	1037	1172	1265	1365	1467	1567	1662	503	30.0%
Town of Winneconne	1223	1243	1276	1317	1360	1401	1437	805	37.5%
Town of Wolf River	7801	7966	8077	8171	8249	8293	8287	214	17.5%
County Total	156,763	157,189	162,630	169,037	175,788	182,242	188,086	31,323	20.0%

*Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2008 population projections.

In addition to the county's base population, its seasonal and visiting population is also an important consideration in planning for the county's open space and recreational needs. It is estimated that as many as four-fifths of all recreationalists found in Winnebago County on a typical summer weekend day live outside the county. Most of these visitors are within a 1 hour driving radius, such as the Fox Valley, Madison, and the Stevens Point area (Map 3).

Additionally, a number of large seasonally occupied campgrounds also exist in the county and the immediate vicinity. The county's proximity to larger urban centers also attracts numerous day-visitors. Since the demand placed on recreational facilities and open space as well as many other types of services is similar to that generated by a population of 100,000 or more, it is easy to see that providing adequate recreational facilities to accommodate the demand will continue to be a major challenge of the Winnebago County parks system in the coming years.

Another factor that must be considered when evaluating existing and future recreational needs in Winnebago County is the distribution of its population by age group (Table 3). This information suggests the likely demand for certain types of recreational opportunities and facilities. Proportionally, Winnebago County's population is comprised of a high number (26%) of middle age residents, 25-44 age group. This is just slight higher than the State's average for this age group at 25.4%.

The county's 2010 median age of 37.9 is close to the state's median age of 38.5 years. Additionally, towns generally have a lower median age than incorporated communities. Providing recreational opportunities for this segment of the population, (Young Couples and Couples with Kids) should be a priority as most would have an overall desire to maintain an active lifestyle. Activities such as picnicking, camping, bicycling, hiking, and cross-country skiing are becoming increasingly popular among families.

Table 3
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP
Winnebago County

Age Group	Winnebago County		State of Wisconsin	
	Number	%	Number	%
Under 5	9,866	6.0	358,443	6.3
5 to 14	19,916	12.0	744,544	13.1
15 to 24	26,220	15.7	785,761	13.8
25 to 44	43,349	26.0	1,447,360	25.4
45 to 54	25,560	15.3	873,753	15.4
55 to 64	19,747	11.8	699,811	12.3
65 and Over	22,336	13.2	777,314	13.7
Totals	166,994	100.00	5,686,986	100.00

Source: American Fact Finder, Census 2010 SF-1 data.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives are designed to serve as a guide for Winnebago County officials as they set about to improve and develop the county's park and recreation system. These goals and objectives provide a basis for establishing public policy regarding the acquisition, development and management of park and recreation lands and other important resource areas in Winnebago County. They address the two components of a park and recreation system, the provision of recreational opportunities, and the preservation of unique natural and cultural resources as well as public participation. The goals are general statements indicating the type of park and recreation system the County would like to provide for local residents and visitors. Objectives are more specific statements of how the goals can be achieved.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Goal 1: Provide throughout the county a planned system of parks and recreation areas that will enable county residents and visitors alike to participate in and enjoy a diversity of recreational activities.

Objectives:

- Use sound planning principles in the design and development of all parks and park facilities by ensuring cost-effective measures in initial design and future maintenance.
- Acquire and develop recreation lands needed to meet the demand for high quality recreational facilities for the residents of Winnebago County.
- Cooperate with other public and private entities in identifying jurisdictional responsibility for providing needed recreational areas.
- Encourage maximum and appropriate use of all public recreation lands within the county. As part of this objective, encourage a policy of intergovernmental cooperation, particularly between communities and adjacent towns, in providing and utilizing recreational facilities, as a way of avoiding unnecessary duplication of facilities and associated costs.
- Preserve, obtain, and develop an appropriate level of public access to rivers, lakes, and streams to maximize their potential as recreational resources.
- Link major county and community recreation areas by utilizing natural watercourses, geologic features, and transportation or utility rights-of-way.
- Encourage a high standard of maintenance in the county park system as a way of promoting the county's park and recreation facilities.
- Promote linkages to trails on-street and off where appropriate, to provide a county network.
- Create ADA compliant trails and boat landings to accommodate individuals who are physically challenged by providing a safe recreational activity making it accessible to all.

- Encourage a partnership with the re:Th!nk Winnebago group on health issues related to recreational resources and planning.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Goal 2: Preserve scarce and valuable resources important to the ecological, sociological, and economic life of the county.

Objectives:

- Encourage the preservation and enhancement of the county's natural features and protect them from encroachment by all man-made and intensive development.
- Protect and preserve the intrinsic value of the county's wildlife and fishery resources.
- Work with the Land Conservation Department to conserve trees and other vegetation needed to prevent erosion, siltation and floods, and to protect air and water quality.
- Maintain the quality of the county's lakes, including the means to prevent or minimize the introduction of invasive species. Work with the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for the Region.
- Conserve lands with soils and terrain highly suitable for agricultural activity.
- Preserve wetlands necessary for continued fisheries and wildlife habitat and for groundwater recharge purposes.
- Use Winnebago County's Geographic Information System (WINGS) to identify all recreational and cultural sites in the county, including cemeteries.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Goal 3: To encourage continued involvement of County residents when planning for parks and recreational development

Objectives:

- Encourage ongoing participation by all residents at County Parks Committee meetings.
- Continue to keep good relationships with surrounding property owners adjacent to County owned parks and facilities.
- Keep in contact with local municipalities within the County and use the resources they offer as a support network.
- Explore the support of community groups, service organizations, clubs, and volunteers for ways of funding and/or for making improvements to the county parks system by

increasing the amount of recreational opportunities, i.e. re:Th!nk Winnebago, WPRA, NEWPRO, and the like.

- Continue to solicit comments from residents on all aspects of park and recreational programming and management via website comments, online polls, surveys, etc.
- Encourage residents to promote the Sesquicentennial “Memorial Tree Grove” and other benches/stones along trails and in parks through donations.
- Outreach to the Chamber of Commerce’s and Visitor’s Centers on what the County has to offer in terms of marketing brochures and website links.

PLANNING PROCESS

The initial process of the plan began in the summer months of 2012 to gather input and information on the County’s parks and facilities. ECWRPC staff looked at the current conditions of the recreational facilities and developed recommendations for improvement. Pictures and inventory assessments were completed by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to provide a basis for the plan document.

In October of 2012, the Parks and Recreation Committee held a kickoff meeting with the Parks Committee to discuss current goals and objectives to the plan and a public survey to be sent via the web. The initial inventory was also discussed and looked at mapping for the plan. The final meetings were special arrangements by the Committee for discussion of the needs assessment, preliminary recommendations, and survey finalization.

Three Public Informational Meetings were held around the County early in 2013 to provide additional feedback on what residents’ desire. A survey was also conducted from December 2012 to March 2013 to get additional recommendations on County facilities. The last meeting looked at the 5-year action plan and capital improvement plan as well as final recommendations.

The Committee adopted the plan on **May 2, 2013** with the County Board resolution on **May 21, 2013**.

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RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCES

The character of the Winnebago County landscape reflects the legacy of past glacial activity. Most of the county's landforms, water bodies, and other natural features are examples of glacial deposits. All but the southwestern part of the county was covered by the glacier. This area has a reddish clay while brownish loamy till covers the rest of the county. The topography is nearly level with a 6% slope or less over 90% of the terrain.

Surface Water

Winnebago County is entirely within the Fox-Wolf Basin and contains approximately 84,000 acres of surface water. The lakes, rivers, and streams make up the major portion which is known as the "Winnebago System." (Map 2, Table 5) The system includes the pool lakes of Lake Winnebago, Poygan, Winneconne, and Lake Butte des Morts along with the main tributary waters of the Upper Fox and Lower Wolf Rivers. Two lakes that are not located in the pool are Rush Lake and Little Lake Butte des Morts. The "Winnebago System" is one of Wisconsin's most significant water resources. It comprises 17% of the state's surface water acreage. Lake Winnebago, at 137,700 acres is the State's largest inland lake. The system receives heavy recreational use by boaters, anglers, swimmers, hunters, and trappers. There is also an active commercial setline fishery for cattish. There are a total of 58 public and private boat launch sites in the County. Winnebago County maintains 7 of these sites, (Table 4, Map 2) adjacent to their park amenities.

Wetland and Wildlife Resources

There are approximately 51,400 acres of wetlands in the County. Most are located in the western and northern parts which include, Lake Poygan, Rush Lake, Rush/Waukau Creek, and the Fox, Rat, and Wolf Rivers. These wetland areas provide habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife species and are important for the recharge of the aquifers and groundwater protection. The State Wildlife Areas of the Deppe Marsh (434.40 acres), Poygan Marsh (127.77 acres), the Wolf River (2012.52 acres) and Rat River (4602.10) are owned by the WDNR as well as the waterfowl areas of Ecktein (195.40) and Uihlein (1935.25). (Table 6)

Wetlands have come to be recognized as valuable resources that serve as a filtering system to purify water, maintain and stabilize the quantity of water, and provide important fish and wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, infringing land use changes can quickly and permanently destroy these fragile natural areas. Too often in the past, the benefits of protecting the state's wetlands were unrecognized and many were drained or filled. Although wetlands have come under the protection of increasingly stringent regulations, the loss of additional wetland acreage remains a threat, particularly in areas where development infringes.

The lakes, marshes, rivers, and adjacent uplands in Winnebago County have provided prime waterfowl habitat for centuries. Sharp declines in waterfowl populations during the 1970's and 80's coincided with the loss of important aquatic food sources, such as wild rice and celery. In

recent years, DNR, LWCD and local sporting clubs have been working cooperatively to restore these plants in Lake Poygan and Rush Lake Waterfowl hunting, as always, remains an important recreational activity in the county. Other important wildlife providing hunting opportunities include deer, pheasant, rabbits, turkey and fur bearing animals.

Because Winnebago County is located in what was formerly one of the best regions of the state for duck and pheasant production, the Department of Natural Resources initiated the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area (GHRA) project in the southwestern part of the county. This project is designed to restore wetlands and grasslands on private and public lands to benefit waterfowl, pheasants, and grassland songbirds. Winnebago County also has the State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program in designated townships within the GHRA that allows landowners to enroll blocks of cropland in a USDA, CRP contract to provide grassland habitat.

Table 4
Boat Launches in Winnebago County

Map ID	Name	Municipality	Type	Class	Surface
1	24th Avenue	City of Oshkosh	Public	Primary	Pavement
2	Asylum Point	Town of Oshkosh	Public	Primary	Pavement
3	Bay Lane	Town of Wolf River	Unknown	Road Access - Fire Lane	Pavement
4	Boom Bay Resort	Town of Wolf River	Private	Secondary	Pavement
5	Butte des Morts County Park	Town of Omro	Public	Primary	Pavement
6	Butte Des Morts Landing	Town of Winneconne	Unknown	Secondary	Pavement
7	Captain's Cove Landing	Town of Poygan	Private	Secondary	Pavement
8	Chico's Landing	Town of Wolf River	Private	Primary	Unknown
9	Doty Park	City of Neenah	Public	Primary	Pavement
10	East Fisk Ave.	Town of Black Wolf	Public	Road Access - Fire Lane	Stone/Gravel
11	Edgewood Lane	City of Oshkosh	Unknown	Road Access - Fire Lane	Pavement
12	Eureka Boat Landing	Town of Rushford	Public	Unknown	Unknown
13	Fox & Hounds Park	City of Omro	Public	Secondary	Pavement
14	Fresh Air Park	City of Neenah	Public	Secondary	Pavement
15	Fritse Park Boat Launch	Town of Menasha	Public	Primary	Pavement
16	Fugleberg	City of Oshkosh	Public	Primary	Pavement
17	Gala Resort	Town of Wolf River	Private	Secondary	Pavement
18	Grundman Park	Town of Vinland	Public	Primary	Pavement
19	Hahn-A-Lula's - Private/Public	Town of Wolf River	Private	Secondary	Pavement
20	Hidden Harbor Marina	Village of Winneconne	Private	Secondary	Unknown
21	Indian Point Sport Fishing Club	Town of Wolf River	Private	Secondary	Pavement
22	Indian Shore Road	Town of Winneconne	Unknown	Road Access - Fire Lane	Unknown
23	Jefferson Park	City of Menasha	Public	Primary	Pavement
24	Kamrath Road	Town of Winneconne	Unknown	Road Access - Fire Lane	Stone/Gravel
25	Kiesow's Landing	Town of Wolf River	Private	Primary	Pavement

26	Kulbus County Harbor Campground	Town of Black Wolf	Public	Secondary	Pavement
27	Lake Poygan Landing	Town of Poygan	Public	Primary	Pavement
28	Lake Poygan Road (Old Duck Inn)	Town of Wolf River	Public	Primary	Pavement
29	Lake Winneconne Park	Village of Winneconne	Public	Primary	Pavement
30	Langs Landing	Village of Winneconne	Private	Secondary	Unknown
31	Manitowoc Street	City of Menasha	Public	Secondary	Pavement
32	Menominee Park	City of Oshkosh	Public	Primary	Pavement
33	Mill Street	City of Oshkosh	Public	Secondary	Pavement
34	Miller Park	City of Omro	Public	Primary	Pavement
35	Black Wolf Boat Launch /Nagy Park	Town of Black Wolf	Public	Primary	Pavement
36	Nicolet Street	City of Oshkosh	Public	Road Access - Fire Lane	Sand
37	Ninth Street	City of Menasha	Public	Primary	Pavement
38	North First Street (Fin N Feather)	Village of Winneconne	Public	Primary	Pavement
39	Oakwood Drive	Town of Algoma	Unknown	Road Access - Fire Lane	Pavement
40	Otter Street	City of Oshkosh	Public	Road Access - Fire Lane	Stone/Gravel
41	Party Doll	Town of Wolf River	Private	Secondary	Unknown
42	Pioneer Marina	City of Oshkosh	Public	Secondary	Unknown
43	Rainbow Park	City of Oshkosh	Public	Primary	Pavement
44	Rivermoor Road	Town of Winneconne	Unknown	Road Access - Fire Lane	Stone/Gravel
45	Sandpit Road	Town of Omro	Unknown	Road Access - Fire Lane	Stone/Gravel
46	Sherley Ct.	Town of Poygan	Private	Road Access - Fire Lane	Unknown
47	Skipper Buds	City of Oshkosh	Private	Secondary	Unknown
48	South Park	City of Neenah	Public	Primary	Pavement
49	Southside Ice Yacht Club	City of Oshkosh	Private	Secondary	Unknown
50	Spruce Lane	Town of Poygan	Unknown	Road Access - Fire Lane	Stone/Gravel
51	Stearns Park - C. Omro	City of Omro	Public	Primary	Unknown
52	Triangle Campground	Town of Wolf River	Private	Secondary	Pavement
53	Waugoo Street	City of Oshkosh	Public	Road Access - Fire Lane	Sand
54	Waverly Beach	City of Menasha	Private	Road Access - Fire Lane	Sand
55	William Steiger Park	City of Oshkosh	Public	Secondary	Pavement
56	Wind Pointe Harbor	Village of Winneconne	Private	Secondary	Unknown
57	Winneconne Lakeland Resort	Village of Winneconne	Private	Secondary	Pavement
58	Wisconsin Avenue	City of Neenah	Public	Road Access - Fire Lane	Sand

See Map 2 for locations.



Table 5

SIGNIFICANT WATER FEATURES IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY

Map* Code	Water Body	Area (Sq. Miles)	Length (Miles)
A	Arrowhead River		5.7
B	Fox River		23.2
C	Rat River		9.9
D	Wolf River		7.1
E	Daggets Creek		7.8
F	Pumpkinseed Creek		2.4
G	Sawyer Creek		9.8
H	Waukau Creek		8.7
I	Lake Butte des Morts	13.7	
J	Little Lake Butte des Morts	2.5	
K	Lake Poygan	18.6	
L	Lake Winnebago	90.4	
M	Lake Winneconne	7.2	
N	Rush Lake	4.2	

*(Approximate GIS Sq. Miles and Miles, see Map 2).



Insert Map 1

EXISTING RECREATIONAL SITES
Winnebago County

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Insert Map 2
SIGNIFICANT WATER FEATURES IN
Winnebago County

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Woodlands

According to the 2012 forest land use inventory analysis by East Central WI RPC, Winnebago County has a total of approximately 31,047 acres (Map 3) of forested land which is about 10 percent of all of the land in Winnebago County. Nearly all of this land is held by private landowners and is widely distributed across the county.

Programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wisconsin Forest Land Owner Grant Program have provided some financial incentives for tree planting. In addition to these programs the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program provides a tax break for landowners to manage their land for timber products. Currently 5,435 acres are enrolled in the MFL program.

Future trends in forest lands continue to show problems with increasing amounts of parcelization, large deer populations and problems with invasive species. Parcelization makes forest management difficult because of the small size of each unit. Overpopulation of deer and invasive species has made regeneration of the many of the forest types very difficult. Oak/hickory types are extremely hard hit because of the slower growth rates of the seedlings. As this cover type ages the understory is being replaced by faster growing and less palatable tree species and/or invasive plants such as buckthorn.

A relatively new invasive insect in Wisconsin is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). This pest arrived from China via Michigan. Since that time it has devastated large areas of ash in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Ontario. It has been found in several areas in Wisconsin. Because EAB bores into the trunk of a tree it is extremely difficult to find and control. This insect has the potential to devastate the ash stands in Winnebago County.

Continuation of forest assistance and incentive programs to encourage the planting of new trees and proper management of existing forests are critical to the future of these forested lands.

Fishery Resources

The Winnebago System continues to be known throughout the Midwest as a great fishing opportunity for Walleye, white bass, and sturgeon. The County accounts for 513 acres of State Fishery Areas (Table 6) within its boundaries.

The lower 125 miles of the Wolf River and 37 miles of the upper Fox River contain the spawning and nursery grounds for the Winnebago Pool sturgeon and walleye populations. In addition to lake sturgeon, walleye, northern pike and white bass, the major species of the Winnebago Pool fisheries community include freshwater drum, sauger, yellow perch, largemouth and smallmouth bass, panfish, trout perch, and emerald shiner. The recreational fishing opportunities supported by this diverse fishery provides over one million angler hours and \$234 million to the local economy annually based on a 2007 Winnebago County UWEX study entitled: "The Lake Winnebago System sustains a recreational fishery that annually contributes \$234 million to the local economy of its five surrounding counties".

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Insert Map 3
Woodland Resources

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Natural and Cultural Sites



Appreciation of the unique ecological, geological, historical, and archeological heritage of Winnebago County is a significant educational aspect of public outdoor recreation. Many of the historic sites provide evidence of past Native American cultures. Among the most important sites are those near Winneconne is the Lasley Point Archeological Site but, for the most part, specific locations are kept from the general public to prevent their destruction by an “unthinking” or inconsiderate public. The present status of other sites is unknown; many may no longer exist. An up-to-date inventory that would both ascertain the status and significance of presently known sites and identify other sites would be valuable.

State Owned Lands

Land owned by DNR in Winnebago County totals approximately over 14,000 acres (Table 6). Nearly 11,500 acres are designated as State Wildlife Areas while an additional 2,000 acres are waterfowl production areas. The largest contiguous block is the Rat River State Wildlife Area at just over 4,600 acres.

Table 6
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES LAND
Winnebago County

	Acres*
State Wildlife Areas	13,536
Natural Areas	402
State Parks	2
State Fishery Areas	513
Other DNR Owned Lands	126
TOTAL DNR OWNED LANDS	14,264

*Source: DNR, 2012, 2011-2016 SCORP.

Among the county’s municipalities, DNR holdings are most extensive in the Towns of Wolf River and Winchester where the Rat River flows. DNR’s holdings generally are considered to provide passive recreational opportunities.

EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Over 20,000 acres of public land and an additional 3,537 acres of private land are available for outdoor recreational activities in Winnebago County (Table 7). Public open space comprises 4.8 percent of the county’s total land area, a figure that compares favorably with surrounding counties. The state’s DNR is the largest public landowner in Winnebago County, controlling 11,159 acres (Table 6). The county park system makes up 815 acres of publicly owned open space.

COUNTY PARKS AND PUBLIC BOAT LANDINGS

Definition of a County Park: "A county park provides sufficient park and recreation area to meet the needs of county residents. County parks consist of land that is specifically set aside for active and passive recreation uses, and that accommodates large gatherings, special events, and individual users. County parks offer a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities, and may provide areas that do not primarily serve a recreational purpose such as protected natural areas, historic areas, and special use areas."

Source: Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan • 2011–2016

Winnebago County's park system is comprised of 14 sites, 7 of which are public boat landings (Map 1 and Table 7) and 2 linear state trail systems, WIOUWASH and the Mascoutin Valley. Upgrading existing facilities to make them more attractive and maintenance-free has been a priority in recent years. Consistency in signing, painting, and standards of maintenance should be continued to increase awareness of the county's park system by park visitors.

Table 7
COUNTY LAND AND PUBLIC FACILITIES, 2012

<u>Park/Recreational Site</u>	<u>Acres*</u>	<u>Miles*</u>
1 Asylum Point Park/Boat Landing	79.1**	
2 Eureka Boat Landing	6.3	
3 Black Wolf Boat Landing (Nagy Park)	3.3	
4 Boom Bay Boat Landing (Old Duck Inn)	0.8	
5 Lake Poygan Boat Landing	1.5	
6 Grundman Boat Landing	12.1	
7 Lake Butte Des Morts Boat Landing	1.6	
8 Lasley Point Archeological Site	47.7	
9 WIOUWASH State Recreation Trail		21.8
10 Mascoutin Valley State Recreation Trail		5.3
11 Waukau Creek Nature Preserve and Waukau Dam	65.4	
12 Coughlin Nature Area	35.1	
13 Sunnyview Expo Center	154.7	
14 Shangri La Point Nature Preserve	55	
15 Winnebago County Community Park	365.5	
Total Acres/Miles:	828.1	27.1

*Sources: Acres and miles taken from approximate 2012 County Park GIS data calculations and county information. Parcel and land use polygon calculated per ownership. **17 acres are leased from the WDNR.

Winnebago County Community Park

Located on CTH Y in the Town of Vinland, Winnebago County Community Park composes over 365 acres of the parkland in the county park system. The park offers an extensive variety of

active and passive recreational activities including baseball, soccer, rugby, disc golf, archery, horseshoes, a dog park, and catch/release fishing ponds. It is definitely one of the County's most used parks and its facilities are rented and used considerably.

Sunnyview Expo Center and County Fairgrounds*

There are about 154 acres of recreational land available at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds including the Expo Center and Racetrack in Oshkosh. The fairgrounds include the typical complement of livestock, exhibition, and concession buildings. The grandstand, with its upgraded seating, fronts a ½-mile dirt track, which is used for harness racing. Other facilities available at the fairgrounds include picnic equipment, restrooms, shelter house, and drinking water. Among the more recent improvements are perimeter fencing, a new show ring, and a livestock building. Other improvements include an upgrade of the fairground's electrical system and lighting, extension of city water, and the extension of the midway. Restroom facilities, although updated, continue to remain inadequate for major events such as the county fair. Attractions at the Sunnyview Exposition Center provide endless entertainment offerings throughout the year and also camping during events.

Speedzone Race Track*

The Oshkosh SpeedZone Raceway is home to the Summer of Thunder IMCA Modifieds, Grand Nationals, Street Stocks, Sport Modifieds and Dirt Devils race cars. Races run from April to around Labor Day in September in the afternoon/evening on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The Winnebagoland BMX Bike Club also holds racing events at this venue July-October. Prizes are awarded to the teams with the most points at the end of the season.



*Note: The county fairgrounds and Speedzone are privately funded entities and not part of the County-owned properties.

Asylum Point County Park and Boat Landing

This 80-acre plus county park lies about a quarter mile west of CTH A in the southwest corner of the City of Oshkosh. Recreational facilities include restrooms, boat ramp, picnic facilities, a variety of parking space and opportunities for wildlife viewing. Unfortunately, swimming isn't recommended per the possible water contamination with E Coli in Lake Winnebago. The County's Health Department monitors water quality throughout the area and the shoreline contains high levels of E Coli units > 235 is considered a risk factor. The water inland is currently at 290.9.

Black Wolf Boat Landing at Nagy Park

This park and boat landing is located in the Town of Black Wolf off the southwest shores of Lake Winnebago. It has ample parking, a public boat launch, restrooms and a picnic area.

Boom Bay Boat Landing

This landing derives its name from the rafts of logs or "booms" that logging companies once secured in a section of the bay north of the current launch area. The current landing opens onto the east side of Lake Poygan. The site hosts a restroom, parking, and a public boat landing.

Eureka Boat Landing

A huge fishing site, this landing is especially popular in the spring, during the walleye and bass runs on the Fox River. Anglers also pursue catfish from a wharf along the shoreline or from boats, which can be launched from three ramps at the landing. From Omro, take Hwy. 21 west to City. K Turn south and continue to Eureka. The landing is off Hwy. K on the Fox River. Picnic tables, picnic shelter, outhouses, boat landing.

Grundman Boat Landing

Anglers and boaters can access this Lake Winnebago from this park, which offers three launch ramps and two docks. The landing provides access to some of the better walleye and perch spots on the lake. The shoreline also creates a scenic picnic spot. From Oshkosh, take CTH A north 3 1/2 miles past Winnebago. The park and landing is located on the eastside of Grundman Lane. Picnic tables, restrooms, swimming, and a boat landing are present facilities.

Lake Butte des Morts Boat Landing

Popular for its fishing and boating access onto Lake Butte Des Morts, this landing provides a handicapped-accessible fishing pier, harbor and boat launch. From Oshkosh take Hwy. 21 west to Sandpit Road. Turn north and go one mile to Leonard Point Road. Turn west and go 1/2 mile to the landing. The landing hosts picnic tables, a picnic shelter, restrooms, a playground, and a public boat landing.

Lake Poygan Boat Landing

This landing provides access to the south shore of Lake Poygan, which offers excellent fishing year-round. From Winneconne, take Hwy. B west eight miles. Picnic tables, outhouses, boat landing.

Lake Winneconne Park

A 28-acre site, this park is one of the most heavily used in the county. It offers access to Lake Winneconne from the beach and has an island-protected channel for overnight mooring. Located in Winneconne, the park can be reached by taking Hwy. 116 to 3rd Ave. Turn north on 3rd Ave and continue to the park. This park hosts picnic tables, a picnic shelter, restrooms, a swimming, beach, dressing rooms, baseball, volleyball, a playground, and a boat landing.

NATURAL AREAS

Waukau Creek Nature Preserve and Waukau Pond/Dam



This 65 acre preserve features Waukau Creek, formerly known as Rush Creek the only flowing stream in the County, is found north of the Village of Waukau on Delhi Road off of CTH K. Densely wooded ravine slopes, provide a beautiful setting for a picnic or hike. Wildflowers are abundant and change with the seasons to offer a unique color experience. Self-guided nature trails with interpretive signs teach hikers of all ages about the site. The trails are rustic and spur self-guided x-country skiing opportunities in the winter. Picnic tables, restrooms, and a rough fish holding pond

with many fish species are among the other amenities. The WDNR holds regulation devices on the pond that control water levels and diverts the flow into the creek. Wildlife viewing of many birds can also be seen including kingfishers, green herons, and mallard.



The Waukau Dam located in the incorporated Village of Waukau was a site of an early day sawmill, which was later replaced by a woolen mill. The mill purchased its raw wool from local sheep herders, and provided employment for many women through the community. The grassy meadows and sparkling creek were often the location of church picnics and Sunday outings. The Waukau Baptist Church and local Baptist Church used the waters of the creek for baptismal ceremonies. The creek cuts through glacial till (glacier deposited soil) resulting in a steep walled ravine and broad

floodplain. Because of its unique history, Waukau Creek Nature Preserve offers a wide variety of trees, wildflowers, wildlife and scenic beauty.

Natural Areas Preservation, Inc., a local conversation organization dedicated this area to Winnebago County on May 18, 1974. There are no dogs allowed on the site. The pond has a handicap accessible fishing pier and rough fish in the holding ponds. Perch, Bluegill, White bass, and Northern can be caught in this pond. Regulation devices are in place that control water level and divert the flow of the creek. The site is located on State Highway 116.



Coughlin Community Natural Area

Located off of CTH Y next the Winnebago County Community Park, the Coughlin Nature Area offers one mile of walking paths. Along the paths are trail signs educating the public about the area and its plants. During the winter months, the paths become excellent snow shoe trails. Also located in the nature area is the Memorial Tree Grove. The Memorial Tree Grove was dedicated in October of 1998. Donations and memorials are currently being accepted in the county parks office located in the James P. Coughlin Building.



The land was once used by Native Americans because of its proximity to Lake Winnebago and its natural resources like hardwood forests, oak savanna, wetlands, and prairie. The prairie today was once used as farmland by European settlers.

Lasley Point Archeological Site

As well as boat landings, parks and trails, the Winnebago County parks system boasts an additional unique site. The wilds of the Lasley Point Archeological Site mark the spot where a Native American village once thrived. Between 1200 and 1500 AD its 47.7 acres supported an Oneota Indian village. In the early 1940s, numerous archaeological digs took place in the area uncovering broken bone tools, shells, human bones, copper flakes, charcoal and pottery. The sites of early garden beds and cache pits were also discovered. No additional excavating has been done since the 1940s. However, the area was nominated and accepted for inclusion in the listing of the National Register of Historic Places late in 1979. This unique site was purchased two years later from the Winnebago County Historical Society. The site currently supports beautiful woods of oak, hickory, basswood, and ash with dense shrubbery underneath. Trails with informational signs weave through the woods offering glimpses of the numerous varieties of wildflowers. Camping is prohibited and no dogs are allowed on the site! In the winter months, the site hosts self-guided cross-country ski trails.



The archeological site also supports sizable populations of small game, songbirds and mammals. The park is located about 2-miles north of Winneconne, west of County Highway M. A small parking area is located off Lasley Point Road.

LINEAR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Forms of recreation in which participants can travel great distances before reaching their destination or returning to their point of origin have become increasingly popular during the past two decades. Pleasure driving and touring and snowmobiling have been joined by bicycling,

hiking/backpacking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing as activities pursued by growing numbers of people. To varying extents, opportunities exist to partake in these activities in Winnebago County.

Mascoutin Valley State Recreational Trail



The Mascoutin Valley State Trail is 5.3 miles long and has beautiful scenery for all activities such as walking, hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding in the summer months. In the winter months it allows for cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

The trail base is crushed limestone. Rush Lake Marsh area offers wildlife viewing opportunities. It runs through the southwest corner of Winnebago County and continues on into both Green Lake and Fond du Lac Counties. One trail head is located at the junction of Locust Road and Old C&NW Line north east of Ripon in Fond du Lac County. The trail passes through the Eldorado Marsh and west of the Rush Lake Marsh. It continues north into Winnebago County and west into Green Lake County then ends in Berlin.

WIOUWASH State Recreational Trail

The WIOUWASH trail runs on an abandoned railroad corridor and is 21.8 miles long and is named for the 4 counties it crosses through, Winnebago, Outagamie, Waupaca, and Shawano. The flat base is very good for walkers, hikers, bikers, horseback riders (summer) and snowmobilers. The Winnebago county portion of the trail runs from Oshkosh north through Winnebago and Outagamie counties and halts in Hortonville.

The trail which will ultimately extend from Oshkosh northward through Langlade County, enters Shawano County near Split Rock and passes through the villages of Tigerton, Wittenberg, Eland, and Birnamwood near the county's western border. Several gaps remain before a continuous trail is in place (including the segment from Birnamwood north through Aniwa to the Langlade County line). Ongoing efforts are being made to acquire right-of-way or obtain the necessary easements to complete the trail. Once completed, the Shawano County portion of the WIOUWASH Trail will be approximately 30 miles in length.



Snowmobile Trails

There is a 200-mile network of snowmobile trails in Winnebago County with 133.5 miles designated as state 'funded' trails. The remaining 80 miles of trails are club trails, which mean local clubs install and maintain these trails through fundraisers and membership dues. Snowmobile trails are open to all REGISTERED snowmobilers. Snowmobile Trails in Winnebago County are interconnecting with all of the surrounding counties.

If you snowmobile on any trail in Wisconsin, chances are the trails were made possible by the local snowmobile club. These clubs provide the trails for public use through volunteer efforts of club members.

By belonging to a snowmobile club, you are helping the sport stay strong by providing good trails. You share the fun and fellowship of snowmobiling with others.

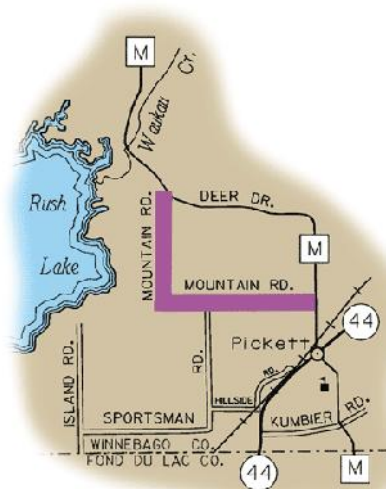
Snowmobile clubs have instructors who teach the DNR Snowmobile Safety Course. The course is required for all snowmobilers between the ages of 12 and 16 who wish to operate alone. Contact the DNR, your local club, or county association for safety class information.

Bicycle Routes

Over 1,000 miles of highly scenic low volume rural roads provide abundant opportunities for bicycling and bike touring in Winnebago County. Attempts have been made at the state level to identify those roads most suitable for biking in the county and, although Winnebago County has developed bicycle routes throughout, no formal action has been taken by the County to officially designate bicycle routes. The State would like each county to ultimately develop a county bike plan. A component of the plan would be the development of a bike route network that could be integrated into a statewide system, providing the same opportunities for bicyclists that snowmobilers currently enjoy. Once again, the economic spin-offs to the individual counties are obvious. (See Appendix C for a map from the DOT of current conditions).

More information for biking conditions and routes will be apparent once East Central WI RPC completes their Fox Cities / Oshkosh Urbanized Area Bike and Pedestrian Plan. This will show connections from major cities and hopefully address barriers that exist.

Rustic Roads



Source: Wisconsin DOT, Travel Information.

The Rustic Roads System was created by the state legislature in 1973 to help citizens and local units of government preserve scenic lightly traveled country roads for the leisurely enjoyment of bicyclists, hikers and motorists. They offer excellent opportunities to travel through an attractive rustic area by car, bicycle, or foot. The scenic qualities of these roads are protected by agreement with bordering property owners and by controlling roadside maintenance practices so that wildflowers and other native flora are allowed to extend to the edge of the pavement.

Rustic Road 72 in Winnebago County is located on Mountain Road, beginning and ending with County M. The road is 3.1 miles in length and is paved and gravel. The road offers great wildlife and wildflower viewing in a serene setting. Mountain Road passes through the middle of 270 acres owned by the Nature Conservancy. It is home to many birds including Sandhill cranes, Short-eared owls, Northern bobwhite, quail and pheasants. The traveler will encounter an abundance of wildflowers

bordering the roadway including May apple, trillium, Canada anemone, wild geraniums, Solomon's seal, wild roses and goldenrod.

To the west of the WIOUWASH State Trail, near lakes Butte des Morts and Winneconne, lies the Wolf Wilderness Recreation Trail. This is a scenic pedestrian, bike, and snowmobile trail along the perimeter of a constructed body of water that also allows access by lightly traveled roadways to the community of Butte des Morts, the Village of Winneconne, and the WIOUWASH Trail. A pleasant 1.5 mile route that takes walkers and bikers around the replacement wetlands created at the intersection of Highway 116 and GG. The trail can be accessed off of Kolb Road, where a parking area exists for trail users or at the Park and Ride and County S. Wolf Wilderness Trail accesses the larger WIOUWASH Trail in Winnebago County.

In 2004, The Village of Winneconne, in conjunction with the Winnebago County Health Department, initiated the designation of a number of different walking paths throughout the village. With as many as four routes offering distances of one to three miles, these paths provide walkers, roller bladers and even cyclists a chance to enjoy the great outdoors and some invigorating exercise in a measurable and safe manner. Various routes are color coded, and sponsorships have helped to pay for the painting, benches, and signage along path routes.

OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

Surrounding Parks

Within an hour drive from Winnebago County's Community Park and Fairgrounds, there are 4 state park facilities (Map 4). As you get 90 minutes away, more state parks are located along the shores of Lake Michigan making Winnebago County a central destination to recreational opportunities. As you get beyond the 90 minutes, Madison and the Dells are just under 2 hours away and also offer exceptional camping, hiking, boating, fishing, and tourism prospects.

Community and Backyard Gardens

Gardening has become one of the most popular recreation activities and provides many benefits in community building as well as health related benefits. Residents get a real sense of satisfaction growing their own produce and also while doing so , increase their physical activity as well. With the recent economy pushing increased prices for foods and grocery, many families and communities are taking matters into their own hands, literally, by creating and producing their own fresh food. A recent state survey suggests that almost 70% of Wisconsin adults participate in gardening or landscape for pleasure. Winnebago's current projected acreage for backyard gardens is currently at 23,486 while there are 6-12 acres of Community Gardens.*

*Source Wisconsin State Outdoor Recreation Plan 2011-2016 , Foster , 2011.

Area Recreational Groups

Winnebago County Master Gardener Association



This organization is made up of individuals who are passionate about horticulture and want to give back to their community. They don't know everything about gardening but are eager for opportunities to learn more and to help others in the community better understand horticulture and their environment.

Their mission is to provide research based horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship to our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension which provides the 36 hours of initial general horticultural training required for certification as a Master Gardener. Twenty-four (24) hours of community service is also required annually. <http://www.winnebagomastergardeners.org/>

Fox Cities Greenways

The Fox Cities Greenways is an active component to parks and recreational opportunity and planning within Winnebago County's boundaries. Trailways, open space, and recreation activities gear the non-profit's goals and efforts within the Fox Cities. Winnebago County should work closely with this group on trail issues and additional park space as needed.



The goal of establishing a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails connecting communities throughout Wisconsin is shared by many organizations. FCGI's goal is to link the places people live, work, and play in the Fox Cities by supporting like-minded organizations and businesses, and promoting dialogue between the various local governments. <http://www.focol.org/greenways/>

re:Th!nk Winnebago



re:TH!NK, Winnebago's Healthy Living Partnership, is a coalition of volunteers, organizations and agencies throughout Winnebago County. It is a project developed by the Winnebago County Health Department, and provides prevention education, outreach programs and resources to the community. The group re:Th!nk develops and promotes local and state policies in an effort to increase the health of the residents of Winnebago County and positively impact the community environment.

Over 200 partners, from over 50 groups and organizations, are actively involved with re:TH!NK. We encourage you to get involved because together we can improve the health of ourselves, our families, and our communities.

A Transform Wisconsin Grant was obtained in July of 2012 for Winnebago County through the re:Th!nk program. This will focus on health issues and "transform" the County to be more active.

This grant will hopefully get residents "re:TH!NKing" What Healthy Looks Like project helping Winnebago County residents lead a healthier, more active lifestyle. The \$460,000 grant will invest in promoting physical activity, healthy food systems, and tobacco-free living over the next two-and-a-half years. <http://www.rethinkwinnebago.org/>

Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks



Friends of Winnebago County Dog Parks, Inc. (FWCDP) is a non-profit 501(c) 3 tax-exempt charitable organization dedicated to maintaining, improving, and establishing off-leash dog parks in Winnebago County, Wisconsin. The group's goal is to serve the community's need for public areas where responsible pet owners may safely exercise their socialized canine citizen's off-leash and in accordance with applicable laws and ordinances. This includes lending support to the maintenance and improvement of the Best Friends Dog Park in Oshkosh, as well as the establishment of additional off-leash dog parks in Winnebago County. FWCDP encourages community involvement and welcomes new members!

Currently, the Best Friends Dog Park in Oshkosh is the only public area for dogs to be off leash with their owners in Winnebago County. There are plans to give dogs and owners in Northern Winnebago County a dog park closer to their homes. The group has begun searching for a suitable piece of land (10 acres) in the Neenah and Menasha area. <http://winnebagoountydogparks.com/>

Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway



The proposed linear parkway slices diagonally across Wisconsin through parts of fifteen counties following the Fox River from Green Bay to Portage and the Wisconsin River from Portage to the Mississippi River. It marks the route taken in 1673 by explorers Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet. The Parkway currently is at legislation waiting to get passed by the Senate and the House to designate it a National Parkway. The County is located on the Lower Fox River in the northern half of the corridor." www.fwhp.org

Fox River Navigational Systems Authority

The Fox River Navigational System "Authority was created in 2001 to oversee the navigational system on the Fox River following the transfer of the system from the federal government to the state, which occurred on September 17, 2004. As outlined in Chapter 237, Wisconsin Statutes, the authority's primary responsibility is to repair, rehabilitate, replace, operate and maintain the navigational system. To meet this responsibility, the authority must develop and implement a plan to manage monies received from the federal government and the state to ensure that



sufficient funds are available for repair and rehabilitation of the system. The authority will also partner with local organizations to provide funding required to match the federal and state monies received.

The authority is governed by a nine-member board of directors, six of whom are appointed by the Governor. The other board members consist of the secretaries of the Departments of Natural Resources and Transportation, and the director of the State Historical Society." <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/debf/docview0709.asp.budid.22>

Friends of the Fox



The Friends of the Fox is an organization which is an advocate for the Upper and Lower Fox River System of Wisconsin. The Upper Fox flows northeastward from just outside of Portage into Lake Winnebago at Oshkosh, and the Lower Fox begins at the north end of Lake Winnebago and flows north to the Bay of Green Bay. There are urban stretches of the river surrounded by housing, recreation, and industry as well as rural stretches of the river surrounded by agriculture and woodlands. The Friends of the Fox look at the complete picture of the river and the people who live and work on its banks. They strive to advocate for responsible use, responsible re-development, preservation of both culture and natural resources ... but most of all to bring the many individuals along the system together to form one community a community of Fox River advocates." <http://www.friendsofthefox.org/>

Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association



Founded in 1965, the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association is a statewide voluntary organization dedicated to enriching the professional and educational opportunities available to leisure service personnel in parks, recreation, therapeutic recreation and related fields, so that they may better service the needs of their communities and or participants, and to advocate and promote the benefits of parks and leisure services to the general public.

WPRA represents over 1,600 individuals delivering a broad spectrum of services in Wisconsin. Members include Park, Recreation and Therapeutic Recreation professionals in local, county, state, school district, private and agency settings. WPRA also represents public Park and Recreation Boards and Commissions, students, commercial firms and Emeritus (retired) members." <http://www.wpraweb.org/>

Green Lake Greenways Trails Group

This group manages the Mascoutin Valley State trail and is based out of Green Lake County. As the trail does cut across a portion of Winnebago County, it is important to work with this entity on trail maintenance and needs. There has been some new resurfacing of trail sections in the Green Lake County portion. (Willard Rd east to the County Line with CTH F to Quarry Rd is the next section up for paving.)

The mission of the group is "to facilitate the development of a regional network of trails and greenways that preserve the natural beauty of our area and provide safe recreation and transportation opportunities for the people throughout the Green Lake Region." For more information of the group and current events please visit: <http://www.greenlakegreenways.org/>



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RECREATIONAL NEEDS

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Three factors are assessed to determine how well the recreational needs of Winnebago County residents are being met: 1. the amount of recreational land available, 2. its location, and 3. the supply of existing recreational facilities. As a first step, surpluses and deficiencies in open space acreage for both active and passive recreational activities are identified and a determination is made of how well various public and private agencies are fulfilling their responsibilities in providing recreation land. The location of parks is then assessed to determine how well each area of the county is served. Finally, an analysis of specific recreation facilities existing in the county is made to determine which facilities are not available or in short supply. Based on this analysis, needs for new county parks or additional recreation facilities can be identified.

Various recreation standards are used as a basis for determining recreation needs. Those adopted by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission are listed below and used as indicators of recreational need in Winnebago County. While these acreage and service area standards help identify park land needs, the county's recreation facility needs are best identified by local citizen participation. To identify some of these needs, a short survey was sent out via the web through the Survey Monkey service to help recognize those needs and to provide some insight on what the public is looking for. (See Appendices A-1 and A-2) Publications such as the County newsletter or program guide can also be used as a parameter to measure needs of residents.

In order for Winnebago County to develop its recommendations and a relevant 5-year action plan for parks and recreation, the county first must determine what its outdoor recreational demands and needs are.

2011-2016 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL PLAN (SCORP)

The 2011-2016 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) examines and assesses current and future recreational needs within the state.

To better manage the planning process, the SCORP divides the state into eight planning regions based on a collection of natural resources and tourism assets (Figure 4). Winnebago County is part of the Lake Winnebago Waters region. The SCORP identified the following recreation supply shortages based on an analysis of WDNR's inventory of existing resources compared to population and demand:

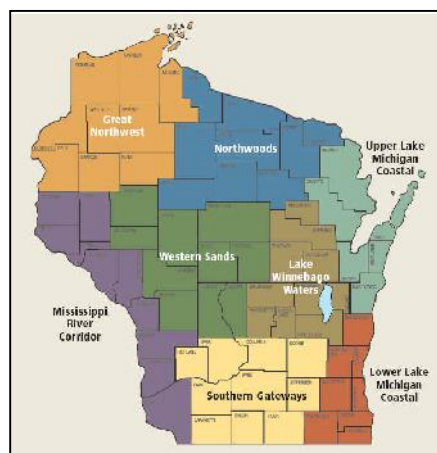


Figure 4
SCORP Planning Regions Map

Nature Based: Boat launches (carry-in), campgrounds, trails (cross-country ski, mountain biking, snowmobile)

Developed Settings: ATV parks, basketball courts (outdoor), dog parks, golf-courses (9-hole), horseback riding stables, trails (bicycle), ski hills.

The above needs were identified using an empirical method which combines recreation demand survey results, population- and area-based recreation supply analyses, a review of local park plans, and anecdotal public comment.

The plan also included the following public perspectives on issues and needs for the region:

Issues

- Conflicts between silent sport and motorized user groups
- Overcrowding
- Poor water quality impairing recreation

Needs

- Better maps/signage for trails
- Four wheel drive off-highway vehicle (OHV) parks
- More camping opportunities
- More geocaching sites on public lands
- More hiking trails
- More horse trails
- More hunting opportunities
- More kayaking opportunities
- More mountain biking opportunities

The above two lists demonstrate that there can be differences between public opinion and a more empirical needs analysis. And since the needs analysis within the SCORP covers a ten-county region, the county's outdoor recreation plan may also identify very different needs and issues than those of its region.

While by no means is the SCORP a complete analysis, these issues should foster future discussion between recreation providers about how to better serve various recreation interests. By identifying issues of statewide and regional significance, county and local outdoor recreation providers can better identify individual roles for providing high quality recreation resources, and for continually improving the recreational opportunities offered to our citizens, now and into the future.

RECREATIONAL LAND NEEDS

To determine the overall need for park and recreational land in Winnebago County, the standard utilized for a County is that a minimum of 100 acres of open space or outdoor recreational land should be available for every 1,000 persons. Total county population for 2010 is 166,994 bringing total acres required to approximately 16,700. This area should be comprised of a 70/30 split:

- 70 acres of passive recreational open space. This acreage includes national, state, and county forests, wildlife areas, hunting preserves, and other lands which have development limited to that needed to accommodate extensive recreational activities such as hiking, nature study, cross-country skiing, hunting and fishing.
- 30 acres of active recreational open space. This acreage includes portions of state and other regional parks and county parks designed to accommodate intensive recreational activities such as picnic areas, campgrounds, swimming beaches, ball fields, and play areas. Also included are privately operated facilities such as campgrounds and golf courses that are open to the general public.

As a second standard, a minimum of 10 additional acres of land should be available for every 1,000 residents to meet local day-to-day needs. This land, which includes local parks and school sites, is not counted when assessing the adequacy of the county's supply of outdoor recreational land. Applying these standards to Winnebago County's future population estimates (188,086) indicated a peak demand in 2030 of 18,809 acres of recreation land 13,166 for passive use and 5,643 for active use. When applied to the county's population projections, land needs will increase from 2010 to 2030 by 1,477 for passive acres and 633 active (Table 8).

Table 8

WINNEBAGO COUNTY OPEN SPACE DEMAND

Year	County Residents	Demand (in acres per 100)		Total Acres needed
	Total Population	Passive 70%	Active 30%	
2000	156,763	10,973	4,703	15,676
2010	166,994	11,689	5,010	16,699
2020*	175,788	12,305	5,274	17,579
2030*	188,086	13,166	5,643	18,809

Sources: Census 2010, *DOA Population Projections, 2008, ECWRPC demand calculations 2012.

Comparing existing and projected demand with the existing supply of outdoor recreational land, data suggests that Winnebago County presently has an overall surplus of land available (Table 9). DNR holdings account for nearly three-quarters of the total acreage. Nearly all of this land is considered to provide passive recreational opportunities; however, the result is a substantial surplus in the amount of passive open space acreage in the county. For 2030, projected need from

2000 has increased to about (12,083-10,771) 1,312 acres for additional land which the County would still have adequate open space available for both passive and active recreational activities.

Table 9

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY OPEN SPACE NEEDS
(Acres)**

Year	DEMAND (10A/100)			SUPPLY			SURPLUS OR DEFICIENCY +/-		
	Passive	Active	Total	Passive	Active	Total	Passive	Active	Total
2000	10,973	4,703	15,676	9,556	4,095	13,651	+8,458	+3,625	+12,083
2010	11,689	5,010	16,699	9,556	4,095	13,651	+8,389	+3,595	+11,984
2020	12,305	5,274	17,579	9,556	4,095	13,651	+8,325	+3,568	+11,893
2030	13,166	5,643	18,809	9,556	4,095	13,651	+7,240	+3,531	+10,771

Source: ECWRPC, 2012.

JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEETING LAND NEEDS

Standards have also been developed to help gauge how well various levels of government as well as the private sector are doing in meeting their responsibility of providing outdoor recreational facilities. These guidelines suggest that, of the total 100 acres of open space that should be available for each 1,000 residents, federal and state governments are responsible for providing 80 acres; the County and local jurisdictions, 15 acres; and the private sector, 5 acres. Based on these guidelines, the State and private sectors are fulfilling their obligation in providing recreational land. (Table 10). There is no current deficiency, but however by 2030 based on population projections there will be a slight need of approximately 783 acres of state and federal lands and 329 for County/Local acreages to support the growing population base with an overall need of 648 acres for all categories.

Table 10

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND NEEDS BY JURISDICTION (2000-2030)

Jurisdiction	Existing Acres*	Recommended Acres Needed per 1,000 Population by year				Surplus or Deficiency (+,-)			
		2000	2010	2020	2030	2000	2010	2020	2030
<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Provided</u>	<u>156,763</u>	<u>166,994</u>	<u>175,788</u>	<u>188,086</u>				
State/Federal (80A)	14,264	12,541	13,359	14,063	15,047	+1,723	+905	+201	-783
County/Local (15A)	2,492	2,351	2,505	2,637	2,821	+141	-13	-145	-329
Private Sector (5A)	1,404	783	835	879	940	+621	+569	+525	+464
(100A) Totals:	17,104	15,675	16,699	17,579	18,808	+2,485	+1,461	+581	-648

*Sources: State/Federal acres total taken from State DNR Outdoor Park and Recreation plan SCORP 2011-2016. County/Local acres and 5% Private acres are estimated from ECWRPC current land use breakdowns (Table 11).

Table 11

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND USE BY RECREATIONAL TYPE

Current 2012 Land Use Acreages for Recreation*		
NAICS	Land Use Type	Acres
	71 Sports and Rec, hunting/fishing	135
	7112 Spectator Sports	81
	712 Museums and Historical Sites	128
	713 Amusement Parks	347
	71391 Golf Courses (public/private)	1348
	71393 Marinas	240
	7212 RV Parks / Campgrounds	32
	93 General Recreation Facilities	2788
	931 General Parks	1874
	932 Fairgrounds	47
		7,020
	Total Acres:	6885

*ECWRPC 2012 County Land Use inventory, private and public facilities taken from the NAICS coding schema based on employee data.

LOCATIONAL NEEDS

The location of various parks and other available open space is analyzed to determine how well existing parks and recreational land serve residents and visitors in different portions of the county. The main concern is that these facilities are accessible to a majority of residents so that recreational opportunities are equitably distributed.

To determine if there are areas in Winnebago County that may not be adequately served by existing parks, both regional and county parks were identified and analyzed according to each recommended service area. Regional parks are considered to have a service radius of 50 miles or one hour driving time, while county parks serve an area of 15 miles or one-half hour driving time. (See Map 4, Drive Time Analysis)

State Parks

State parks are year-round recreation areas predominantly used for recreational pursuits such as nature study, hiking, bicycling, picnicking, boating and camping. They are usually located in an area of unique environmental quality, such as a river basin, lake or unusual topography. While no state parks exist in Winnebago County, Hartman Creek State Park, located a few miles west of the county line in adjacent Waupaca County, lies within an hour's drive of virtually the entire county. Roche a Cri and High Cliff State Parks are other recreational opportunities within an hour's drive of the county seat. (See Map 4)

County Parks

Ideally, county parks should contain from 50 to 500 acres and provide a wide variety of passive and active recreational opportunities such as hiking trails, picnic areas, swimming, boating access and play equipment. Like many counties, some of Winnebago County's county parks are truly too small to provide more than a limited range of recreational opportunities.

While there are a number of reasons why specific sites were developed as county parks in Winnebago County, the end result is that, despite their tendency to be concentrated in the eastern part of the county, one or more county parks are convenient to most areas in the county.

Insert Map 4
Park Drive Time Analysis

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FACILITY NEEDS

The committee segregated the identification of facility needs into general facilities and site-specific facilities. In assessing general facility needs, the committee determined that certain types of recreational opportunities presently are not available or are in limited supply in the county. These general needs are not necessarily intended to be provided in the county park system nor is their provision necessarily the sole responsibility of the County or other governmental unit. Among general facility needs identified were:

- The ongoing commitment to meeting ADA compliance in all county parks and facilities needs to continue. The Winnebago County Parks Department has been responsive in its efforts to retrofit existing facilities and develop new facilities that accommodate the needs of disabled and elderly recreationalists. This is following the Title III ruling for all new facilities and updates that the County would make.
- There is a need to provide recreational opportunities for the county's aging residents also. Designing facilities that can easily be used by this segment of the population is one way to address this need.
- The level of facility maintenance in the County's park system needs to be maintained or increased.
- Improved boat launching opportunities, and primarily parking lot maintenance, are needed on many sites in the county.
- Additional swimming opportunities are needed throughout the county.
- There is a need for more active uses (i.e., rustic/primitive camping) in the County's park system.
- Continuation of stepped-up law enforcement is needed throughout the park system.
- Species diversification is needed as re-landscaping and landscaping of county park sites is undertaken.
- Additional and improved shoreline fishing opportunities are needed.

In determining site-specific needs, the committee feels that the overall range of recreational facilities that exist in the county park system is generally adequate for the role Winnebago County's parks play in meeting the current recreational needs of its residents and visitors to the county. At the same time, the committee recognizes that present sites do not adequately serve future populations of the county and that acquisition of additional park acreage needs consideration.

For most existing parks, the committee believes that cost-effective improvements that can prolong the useful life of existing facilities and conditions are generally preferable to extensive development of new facilities, particularly if funding levels necessitate a choice.

2013 PARKS SURVEY RESULTS

A survey was conducted from December 2012 to March of 2013 to give residents time to respond and discover need. Out of the 138 who finished the survey from 145, 73% said that bike/pedestrian trail expansion was a number 1 priority on their list of needs with a better website for information and water wash stations at the boat launches at 31.8 % and 30% respectively.

The park that most of the county residents are using is Community Park (70.1%). The WIOUWASH trail came in a close second at 59% along with the Sunnyview Expo Center at (50.4%) and the Asylum Point Park and Boat Launch at (39.3%). Many of the comments received had residents asking for upgrades/expansion to the existing dog park in Community Park or the creation of a new one.

Overall, residents seem to be satisfied with the current parks and facilities. More should be done to market the opportunities in the County with a new webpage and marketing material. The current acreage and variety of facilities is adequate at this time but the County will want to look at expanding its resources in the future.

The common theme and comments throughout the survey from residents was that they would like pet friendly trails and parks with a possible creation of a new dog park in the County and/or expansion of the existing one in Community Park. The Parks department is currently working with the Friends of the Winnebago County Dog Parks, Inc. on site locations.

For a detailed view of the statistics and findings, please see Appendix C at the end of this document.

COUNTY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

COUNTY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

COUNTY HEALTH COMPONENTS AND STATISTICS

With obesity rates on the rise, Winnebago County's need to promote active communities throughout its boundaries should be a priority. From the 2013 county health rankings*, Winnebago is rated 37 overall out of 72 for health outcomes and 15 out of 72 for health factors, (see maps below) down from 27 (outcomes) and 2 (factors) from last year when compared to the other counties in the state. These County Health Rankings illustrate what we know when it comes to what's making people sick or healthy, but understanding Winnebago County's rankings is only one component of improving the community's health. The Roadmaps to Health Action Center provides tools to help groups work together to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play. re:Th!nk Winnebago is one such group who has started this process.

Improving community health requires people from multiple fields to work collaboratively on an ongoing cycle of activities. Communities may be at different points in this process. Still within the recommendations for active living, the development of a separate bicycle and pedestrian plan would help guide this process. A plan of this nature would help fill in those voided connections residents are asking for while planning for future active communities.

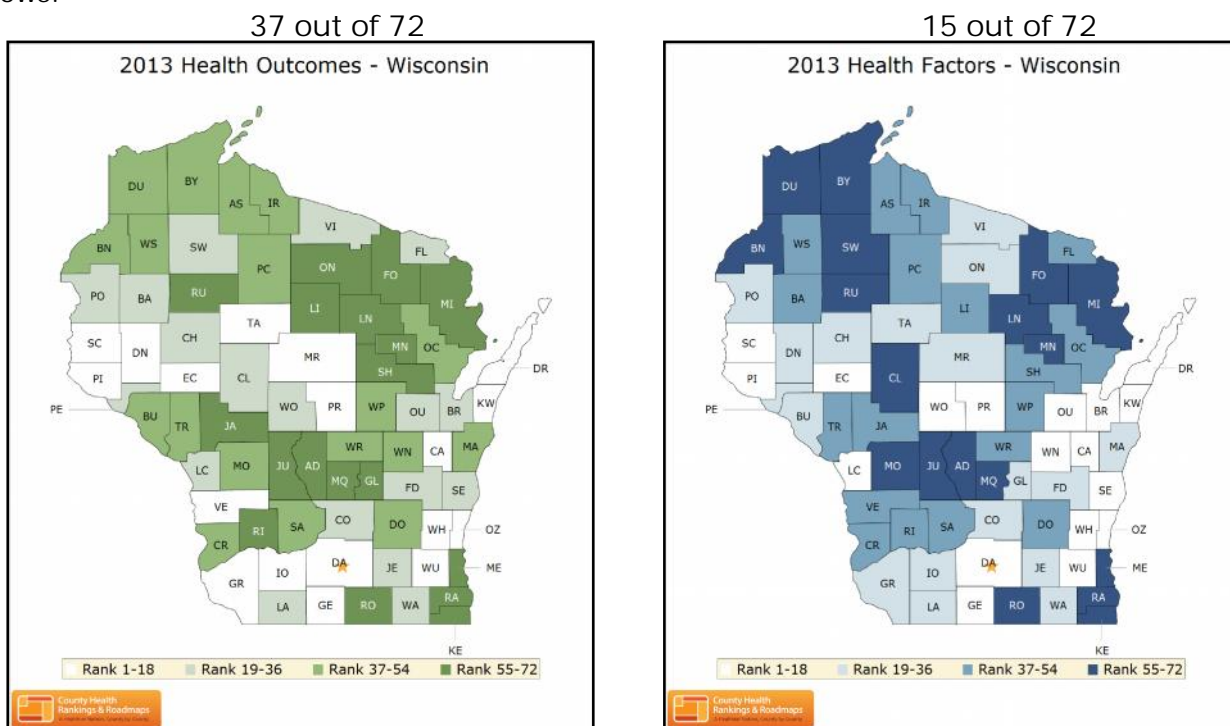
To enable and encourage the citizens of Winnebago County to be physically active, a strengthening of the support and funding for the County's Park, Recreation, and Forestry Department's facilities, and recreational programming should be looked at. Improvements that would positively benefit public health and recreation are updating Community Park, Coughlin Nature Center trails, Waukau and Lasley Point trails, and more multi-use trail connections in general. The department should look at a new semiannual recreation program guide which would list numerous fitness offerings for children, adults, seniors and the disabled. Careful attention should be given to areas of people with lesser means so they have at least an equal level of opportunity for physical activity. This goes back to the goal of making the facilities ADA accessible. In many large cities, low income neighborhoods can often lack quality recreational programs, playgrounds and parks. They can also be hindered in accessing nearby facilities by physical and land use barriers (i.e. transportation corridors and industry).

Continued support with community partnerships such as sport clubs, organizations, non-profits, citizen groups, companies, and other interested parties to develop, fund and operate recreation programs, leagues, and events is key. These partnerships are invaluable to help provide the opportunities for people to be physically active.



Parks, playgrounds, and open spaces provide opportunities for physical activity. However, the presence of facilities is not enough to make sure they are being used for the greatest benefit of all. Factors such as location, accessibility, programming, connectivity, safety and aesthetics all play a role in the use of public facilities. By incorporating natural and design elements that have cultural or homeland meaning, will also help represent minority populations. Investing in consistent/uniform signage that aids people in identifying trails, places to be active, and other rec opportunities, should be considered. Promoting and marketing concepts should be developed along with the funding resources identified such as studies done through the Transform Wisconsin grant program.

As stated above, below are 2 maps that demonstrate where Winnebago County stands in the state as compared to the other 72 counties. Factors such as smoking, obesity rates, drinking excessively, STD's and motor vehicle crashes make up the first map while outcomes such as premature death, poor to fair health, poor physical days, low birth weight, and poor mental days are shown on the second map. The rankings comparing the rest of the state are as follows:



Multi-modal transportation such as walking, biking, and public transportation can also help enhance the health and overall physical activity of all residents, by improving air quality and the environment, and reducing overall traffic congestion. Numerous Winnebago County residents choose to walk, bike, and/or utilize public transportation as a primary means of transportation due to cost of vehicle ownership and maintenance, environmental choice, healthy lifestyle choice, etc. These types of initiatives are recognized at the state, national, and international-level to create safe, convenient, affordable, and fun opportunities for residents to walk, bike, and/or utilize public transportation as a primary means of transportation. Health and safety should be a priority concern to the citizens of Winnebago County.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for improving Winnebago County's recreational system are intended to serve as a guide for the future growth and development of park and recreation land and recreational opportunities in the county. Consistent with the goals and objectives outlined earlier in this document, they are designed to meet the present and future recreational needs of Winnebago County residents and visitors while conserving, protecting and enhancing the environmental, historical and cultural resources of the county.

1. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (General)

Winnebago County's numerous natural and cultural resources make it a popular recreation area and an attractive area in which to live. The county's natural resources offer a wide variety of passive recreational opportunities that require a minimum amount of development while its cultural resources provide insight into the county's past which, if lost, are irreplaceable. The County, therefore, should take an active role in preserving and enhancing these unique resources. To do this, the County should:

- Continue to work with local municipalities to encourage changes/updates to adopted local land use plans, which can be used to provide insight into the outdoor recreation county-wide plan. These plans have enabled the County and local units of government to make more informed and effective decisions on future land use proposals.
- Encourage innovative development proposals that protect important resources, such as wetlands, lakeshores, river corridors, prime agricultural lands, and other areas of natural or cultural significance. Strategies that stimulate this type of development should be encouraged in all local land use plans and, if necessary, appropriate language added to County-administered zoning and subdivision ordinances. The County's Solid Waste Management Plan, Farmland Preservation Plan, and the Land and Water Resources Management Plan are three existing documents that also provide a sound basis for wise resource use.
- Continue to encourage farmers to implement good agricultural practices, particularly those that control erosion and protect groundwater as well as run-off of phosphorus and nitrates through the County's Conservation Management Plan.
- Continue to support efforts by the DNR and other public and private entities to ensure the long-term protection of the county's high quality wildlife and fishery resources. These resources not only have intrinsic values that support the quality of life enjoyed by county residents, they also provide recreational opportunities and contribute to local economies.
- Continue to work with the DNR, other state agencies, and the private sector in providing multiple-use facilities for activities such as hiking, nature study,

cross-country skiing, hunting, and fishing on county and state-owned lands where multiple-use of the land is appropriate and environmentally sound.


- Make educational and technical assistance available to the Winnebago Lakes Council, lake districts, and lake property owners associations that wish to address water quality, invasive species, and other related environmental issues, as well as use conflicts, and support the concept of a regional effort to address aquatic invasive species. Addressing these types of concern not only helps protect and maintain an important county resource, it also serves to create a more enjoyable environment for recreationalists as well as lakeshore property owners. As an example, the County could work with UW-Extension to coordinate a shoreline vegetation demonstration project on Lake Poygan or Lake Winnebago similar to what Waushara County is doing with a project on Lake Alpine.
- Make use of the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) (WINGS) to identify all archeological and historical sites in the county, including cemeteries. As a component of this activity, encourage local historical societies to work closely with the County to collectively undertake an up-to-date inventory of these sites. Steps should be taken to have significant sites enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places where pertinent. Additional promotion of important historic sites should also be considered.
- Maintain efforts to identify, prioritize, survey, and clearly mark existing county park boundaries. Marked boundary lines are important not only for park users and maintenance personnel, but also for adjacent property owners as well as amount of acreage the County has available.
- Continue to work with health groups such as re:Th!nk Winnebago and the Active Communities sectors to promote healthy lifestyles and active recreation throughout the county.






2. PARK AND RECREATION MAINTENANCE


The recommendations proposed in this plan update are to be used as guide for implementing the plan's 5-year action program. Among the highlights is placing emphasis on making existing and new facilities comply with ADA requirements for handicapped-accessibility, upgrading restrooms and other ancillary facilities, while maintaining existing recreational opportunities through an adequate maintenance program. These improvements will make the county's parks more user-friendly and make them more attractive for group outings.






The committee has also made recommendations to address those recreational opportunities that are not necessarily dependent on publicly owned land. These opportunities, too, are an important ingredient of the county's overall recreational system and can help attract visitor dollars into the local economy.



3. EXISTING COUNTY PARKS AND FACILITIES:

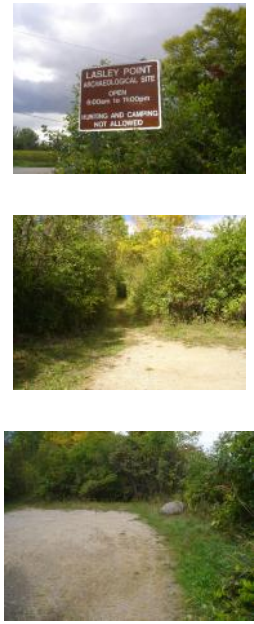
PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Asylum Point Park / Boat Landing		3400 Sherman Rd Oshkosh	79.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain fishing piers, possibly add side rails for safety and additional benches for fishing. Review safety standards. • Continue to promote the “In Memory of” benches at the park. Only one exists for public use. • Trim willow trees annually as to not obstruct view of lake or parking area. • Consider moving fee box across road by park sign. • Consider adding docking hooks to middle dock area for boat launching and safety. A surveillance camera would help with theft. • Maintain the wildlife preserve and habitat area. Continue to work with the WDNR and review lease on annual basis. • Consider adding a fishing dock/pier to the Picnic Point area.






PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Black Wolf Boat Landing (Nagy Park)		6850 Fond du Lac Road, Oshkosh	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General maintenance of the launch and piers should be done, i.e. boat striping of launch area and parking lot. • Add lighting for safety.
Boom Bay Boat Landing (Old Duck Inn Site)		7499 Richter Lane, Larsen	0.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parking area should be repaved and striped. • A picnic area should be developed near the shore/docks if possible. • A small shelter should be constructed to serve the picnic area.
Community Park	  	501 East County Road Y, Oshkosh	365.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of lighting to accommodate evening cross-country skiing and snow shoeing should be evaluated. • Maintain the existing trails with consideration given to creating a future bicycle and pedestrian plan for the Park. • Consideration should be given to adding mountain bike trails in the Park to get from activity fields where feasible, i.e. soccer to the ball diamonds. (Outer trail circles/rings with interconnections.)






PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Community Park (continued)	    	501 East County Road Y, Oshkosh	365.5	<p>(continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain basketball courts as budget allows. Currently the courts host crack and grass growing in between pavement, needs resurfacing. • Consider adding new lighting to the north end baseball diamonds. • With the increase of archery and rugby activities, additional land should be dedicated to accommodate the use. • Signage should be added to mark the trail within the park and support the new trails that are being developed. • Nuisance wildlife should be controlled, such as geese, during certain times of the year. The WDNR has Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control grants that could assist with this.



PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Couglin Nature Area	  	625 East County Road Y, Oshkosh	35.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sign should be replaced, faded and worn presently. Repaint the red letters to white or replace to be consistent with other signs in the county. Trails should be maintained and brush cleared on a routine basis. Invasive Species Control should be looked at and a program initiated. Work with the WDNR on prescribed burns and rotate areas from year to year. Continue to promote the site to schools for education and as a resource, work with UW-Extension.
Eureka Boat Landing and Picnic Area	 	3103 Liberty St. Eureka	6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional effort should be committed to improving the beach area and addressing any erosion problems. Maintain the playground equipment and picnic areas, consider adding grilling units.

PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Grundman Boat Landing		1801 Grundman Lane, Oshkosh	12.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the grilling units. • Consider adding play equipment in the picnic area. • Clear out vegetation growth near the lake. • Consider adding a fishing pier or dock. • Maintain the information kiosk. • Increase the size of the sign from CTH A pointing into the landing.
Lake Butte des Morts Boat Landing		5316 Leonard Point Road, Omro	1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration should be given to updating the grilling units in the park. • Remove the older, out-dated swings. • Additional lighting near the boat ramp should be considered for safety. • Consider improving the restrooms, compost toilets would be cost effective

PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Lake Poygan Boat Landing		8816 Poygan Shores Rd., Winneconne	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider additional play apparatus on shore for family picnics. • Consider constructing a shelter for the picnic area. • Improve and resurface the current parking lot., add lighting for safety. • Consider improving the restrooms, compost toilets would be cost effective.
Lasley Point Archeological Site		5900 Lasley Point Road, Winneconne	47.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an ADA accessible trail. Continue to use hand labor from corrections when feasible. • Maintain the parking area. (Site is hidden from road, i.e. brush growth near sign and parking area). • Work with the Historical Society on an informational kiosk and requirements for site improvements.

PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Shangri La Point Nature Preserve		Shangri La Point Road, Oshkosh	55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site was recommended to be left as a natural area and open space for wildlife. No current development is considered for the preserve at this time.
Sunnyview Expo Center	  	500 East County Road Y, Oshkosh	154.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain parking areas and buildings for events. • Consider adding hookups to the County Camping area for events and year-around access. (w/e) • The County should have a master plan created for the Center and its area. • The warm and cold storage units should be looked at for additional use by Parks, UW-Extension and the Fair groups.
Waukau Creek/Pond Nature Preserve and Dam		2987 Delhi Road, Waukau	65.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of the trails should be done on a routine basis, i.e. grooming of the vegetation. <i>(hiking/snowshoe/x-country ski trails)</i>

PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>Waukau Creek/Pond Nature Preserve and Dam (continued)</p>	    	<p>2987 Delhi Road, Waukau</p>	<p>65.4</p>	<p>(continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resurfacing of the parking area should be considered. • Education kiosk to serve the trail would be helpful. The Audubon Society uses the trails as a teaching tool currently. • Basic rustic campsites to accommodate overnight camping for trail users should be considered. This would be a carry in / carry out. No water currently available on site. • A small shelter with limited picnic facilities and restrooms should be considered. • An invasive species control program should be initiated. • The site should be maintained - parking area is over grown. • Consider adding an additional railing to the dock. Review standards on safety. • Consider adding benches to the dock for fishing and observation.

PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Mascoutin Valley Trail		Southwest corner of Winnebago County and continues on into both Green Lake and Fond du Lac Counties	5.3 Miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate additional off-street parking along the trail. • Necessary repairs to trail surface should be made and maintained. (State may handle, report needed maintenance.) • Trail segments allowing horses should be cleared of horse waste. (April-November)
WIOWASH Trail		West Wind Rd to the South in Oshkosh and runs north to Medina Junction Rd	21.8 Miles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain parking along the trail. • Necessary repairs to trail surface should be made and maintained. (State may handle, report needed maintenance.) • Trail segments allowing horses should be cleared of horse waste. (April-November) • Keep trail plowed in urban areas (City of Oshkosh) in winter.

4. General recommendations for all park facilities:

- The County should work on updating all signs for facilities and have them look consistent throughout. A wayfinding system should be created to get people from one facility to the next. Upgrade all signs so residents and visitors know they are at a County property.

- Make sure new and current facilities are ADA accessible and comply with the new Title III regulations. The County should consider adopting a separate plan for compliancy by the 2015 due date. Scheduling updates into the Capital Improvement on a yearly basis should be considered.
- Update, remove, and/or maintain older playground equipment to comply with safety standards. (See above bullet above on ADA)
- Create a tree program and maintain current tree growth, work with Land Conservation Department.
- Consider adding benches and landscaping for aesthetic value to County sites.
- Consider adding to all the boat launches available boat wash stations or broom brushes for removal of aquatic invasive species.
- Because of the amount of acreage and remote locations of the parks, the County should consider additional surveillance cameras, real or “dummy” to reduce vandalism on properties.
- Maintain existing shelters, painting and the like.
- ATV trails/park development should be considered on landfill sites being shut down due to meeting their maximum state requirements. This will also add recreational land for future generations. These sites could be used for snowmobile, cross-country skiing, and sledding as well but no facility fields such as soccer or baseball as the topography would not allow. Keep the area “nature based” for less maintenance. A mountain bike trail, multi-use park like the one in Grand Chute is planning at Lecker Park would be a good choice.
- Creating a dog park facility in the County should be researched.
- The parks department should look at updating their website and increase marketing with an e-newsletter to inform residents of upcoming events and the use of current facilities.
- Maintain restrooms, consider adding compost toilets at remote boat landings instead of port-a-potties for cost effectiveness.

5. General Linear Facilities Recommendations:

- Consider a possible trail connection between Community Park and the Landfill. Consider developing the area into an ATV or multi-use facility. The County's easement should be used if possible for the connection.
- Look at additional trail development within Community Park. Keep bike trails next to current pavement for ease of maintenance. (currently seeking with Master Plan)

- Look at possible trail connections from the WIOUWASH off of Osbourn Street in the City of Oshkosh to the Mouscouth Valley and Wild Goose Trails. There is a challenge with the current barrier of USH 41 on the west side of the City.
- The group should work with Fox Cities Greenways on possible interconnections for the Paper Trail. Rural “feeders” could link the County trails to urban park facilities.
- The County should work with trail groups in Calumet, Fond du Lac, and Outagamie Counties on getting a trail connection around Lake Winnebago. Currently, the Fox Cities eastern portion has been looked at with High Cliff Park intending to pursue land to the south to expand their trails as part of the link. Also landowners are allowing people to make the trek further south until catching STH 55 to finish part of the stretch towards Fond du Lac.
- Consider working with the City of Neenah and East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission on getting a connection along CTH A to connect Oshkosh to Neenah.
- In the Town of Algoma trails, through Jones Park should be looked at.
- The County should create its own Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

6. Other General Recommendations:

Rustic Roads Program: The committee encourages the County through the Public Works Committee to seek out new candidates for inclusion in the Rustic Roads Program. The county should look at the adopted comprehensive land use plan on what roads should be considered as potential candidates.

Designated County Bike Routes: (See Appendix D for DOT map of routes.) Opportunities exist for bike touring around and about in Winnebago County. Additional promotion of this activity would attract visitors to the county.

The County should look into doing an overall bike and pedestrian plan to further designate desirable routes. As a next step, the planning committee recommends that the route system be expanded and a Bicycle Bike and Pedestrian plan be created and adopted to provide regional connectivity between trails as well as to link population centers with recreation areas, other points of interest, and routes in adjacent counties.

Existing rustic roads, as well as the WIOUWASH and Mascoutin Trails, should be incorporated into the route system where feasible. These bike routes should be included in an updated promotional brochure and map. Most town roads presently are capable of safely accommodating bicyclists with no special improvements required. For more heavily traveled highways, however, the Parks Committee should work with the County’s Highway Committee to ensure that, as these roads are upgraded, improvements to accommodate safe bicycling, such as striped and paved shoulders, are undertaken. Although striped and paved shoulders are generally not required when daily

traffic volumes are less than 1,000 vehicles, they should be considered in areas of concentrated development, such as around the county's lakes, where on-road use by pedestrians and bicyclists is high. To encourage these improvements on local town roads, the County should offer to cost-share with towns where these upgrades are desirable.

PARK SYSTEM PROGRAMS, FUNDING SOURCES, AND MANAGEMENT

Opportunities for Augmenting Park Funding / Volunteers

There are a number of avenues that may be available to provide additional funding to the Winnebago County Parks Department, local entities, and support groups to develop existing sites and facilities, perform needed improvements, and address other management issues. Each of the examples cited below should be explored in more detail in the near future.

- User fees, such as requiring a fee to launch a boat or hike a trail, are another source of funding. The use of collection boxes where voluntary contributions can be solicited may help provide a revenue stream, particularly if the boxes specify what and where the funds are targeted. For example, boxes at boat launches that solicit funds for the eradication of invasive species, which are often introduced by trailered boats, could be expected to draw some interest, particularly by recreationalists that are concerned about the problem the funds are targeted to address. Fees to use certain trail segments could deter recreationalists and should be avoided.
- The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin could possibly be another source of funding or volunteer work for conservation in the County. Since 1960, it has protected more than 162,000 acres of forests, wetlands, prairies, lakes and streams for current and future generations to enjoy. The Conservancy currently is working with farmers and other partners to take a targeted approach to improving water quality.
- The Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust is another potential source as it works with landowners to create voluntary conservation agreements that protect special places and specialize in permanent conservation agreements that keep land in private ownership and prevent or limit future development

Park System Management

The Parks Committee recommends that the following opportunities for controlling operational costs be explored:

- Local service clubs, youth groups, betterment organizations and recreational interests should be encouraged to provide or assist with funding for facility development in the county park system. They should be made aware that, for most types of development, their contributions can constitute the local share of funding programs available through DNR, effectively doubling the value of their assistance. Opportunities for utilizing these groups as a source of manpower also should not be overlooked. Assistance with the maintenance of the WIOUWASH and Mascoutin Valley Trails and river/stream clean-up efforts are two examples where this approach could be effectively utilized.

- The Parks Department should work closely with UW-Extension, DNR and groups such as the Wisconsin Family Forest Organization and the Winnebago County Lakes Council to conduct periodic education programs to familiarize park personnel and the public at large with the identification of and effective eradication techniques available for curtailing the spread of exotic/evasive species.
- The Parks Department and other action groups should continue to pursue potential funding sources that may be available through the WDNR's Aquatic Invasive Species program or Lakes Commission for controlling exotic/invasive species.
- As much as possible, the County should incorporate recommendations and implementation strategies that relate to the preservation of open space and the provision of outdoor recreational facilities found in the various local land management plans and the County's comprehensive plan recently adopted. These reports confirm that residents throughout the county place a high priority in protecting the county's natural resources and value them as recreational and aesthetic assets. They are concerned, however, that overuse and user conflicts can diminish their enjoyment of these resources whether they are a participating recreationalist or a nearby landowner. For the most part, these plans suggest that rural residents are heavily dependent on the state, County and nearby communities for meeting their recreational needs.
- The Parks Department should develop an e-newsletter to keep in touch with its residents as well as maintain its Facebook and update of the parks webpage on the County's website.
- The County should work with the Cities, Towns, and Villages web masters to make sure their webpages link back to the County's page and the parks link.

Recreational Programming

Although the Parks Department presently is not adequately staffed to assume a recreational programming function it may be possible for the County Parks Department to assume a more expanded role either directly or indirectly in countywide recreational programming activities in the future. Offering certain programs at the county level, with its broader population base, may increase viability. An example of an indirect role may be to provide a clearinghouse or coordinative function for programs offered by local communities and other public and private providers. Volunteers from local communities and groups could also assist in projects; i.e. Eagle Scouts, the Winnebago Health Department, reTh!nk Winnebago, and the Winnebago County Dog Parks Group etc.

LOCAL PARK PROJECTS

As part of this Outdoor Recreation Plan update, local communities were contacted throughout the county to determine if there were specific projects in development. The following is a list of new recreational facilities and updates:

City of Neenah:

Herb and Dolly Smith Park and Arrowhead Park: A donation of \$600k in 2010 was made by Alice Jean Smith in honor of her parents Herb and Dolly, to develop a 3-acre park on Little Lake Butte des Mort. The Park, built in 2012, has a picnic shelter with restrooms, a canoe and kayak launch, as well as bike and nature trails. A 390 foot trestle bridge connects Herb & Dolly Smith Park to Arrowhead Park in downtown Neenah. Arrowhead is scheduled for park and trail development in 2014. This project also connects to the popular Fox Cities Trestle - Friendship Trail in the Town of Menasha, via the North Lake Street trail. (See Appendix F for Site Map)

City of Menasha

The City recently received a Stewardship grant to purchase 5 acres of additional park space for the creation of a neighborhood park in the vicinity of Lake Park Road and Manitowoc Road. Another 1.0 acres of land along the Fox River, site of the old Gilbert Paper Mill is yet to be developed. The City will submit another Stewardship grant for this important project that will aid in the redevelopment recovery of Menasha's downtown. Development plans include offering canoe/ kayaking access, fishing, trails (both water and land connections) picnicking and shoreline/habitat restoration.

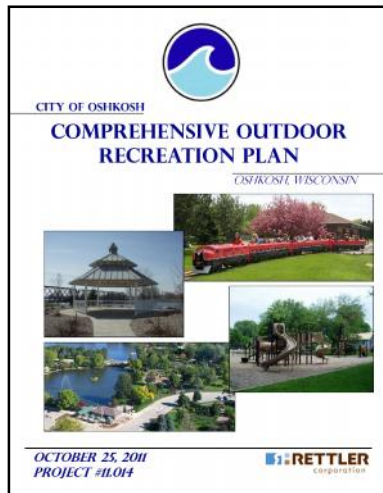
The US Army Reserve buildings in Jefferson Park will also be looked at as the removal process has been presented to the federal government for approval. The City will consider its options for this vacated parcel of park land. The site was leased to the Federal government in the 1950's. Currently the buildings are not being used and maintenance has ceased leaving 2.5 acres of land unused. A master plan for Jefferson Park and the surrounding neighborhood will be undertaken in the near future. Along with this planning process, the City will complete an analysis of the condition of its swimming pool located in Jefferson Park. The pool was last renovated in 1990. Options for a new or rehabilitated pool will be developed.

Town of Menasha

A 10 foot pedestrian trail will be constructed along the east side of the road, which will connect the popular trestle trail from Fritse Park to the new Herb & Dolly Smith Park in the City of Neenah. Work began April, 2012 and was completed in October, 2012 resulting in a paved asphalt trailway along Lake St. Residents will now be able to get to and from the City of Neenah from the Town of Menasha by bicycle or walking with this connection.



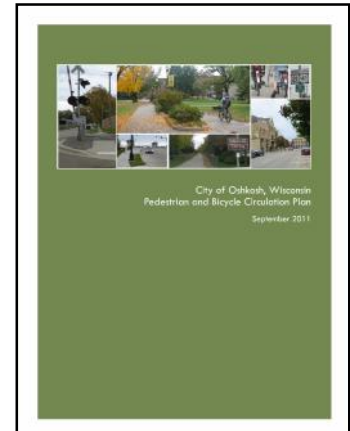
City of Oshkosh



The City of Oshkosh updated and adopted their Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in October 2011. The plan promotes the desire for recreation and open space by the city's residents and looks at how to accommodate these needs based on future growth patterns. It utilizes the planning principals as well as promoting health, welfare, and safety of the community. Future amendments may be needed as the City moves forward with new developments and grant opportunities.

The City also developed the Oshkosh Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation Plan which was also recently adopted in 2011.

This plan recommends a multi-use trail to be developed linking the STH 21 Causeway along Lake Butte des Morts, Lakeshore Municipal Golf Course and Rainbow Park. Planned routes throughout the City have also been suggested as the future of reaching a bikeable community continues and barriers overcome.



Town of Oshkosh

Picnic Point Fishery Area in the Town of Oshkosh plans to get a dock to offer more fishing opportunity in the County. The Fishery Area includes 58 acres of agricultural fields and 53 acres of brush/wooded habitat. There is over 3700 feet of pristine Lake Winnebago shoreline. The upland habitat has historically been used for agricultural production but is being converted to tall-grass prairie, short-grass prairie, and oak savanna.

The Picnic Point Advisory Committee developed a management plan for the Picnic Point property in conjunction with the DNR that included public comment. There was general agreement that the property should be kept in a natural state for the benefit of wildlife, fish, and public enjoyment through nature based recreation. The committee believed the primary purpose of the property is to function as fish and wildlife habitat, to preserve the local archeological sites, and to provide an area for the public to enjoy Lake Winnebago and the surrounding shoreline through non-motorized, nature based recreation.

Village of Winneconne

Coughlin Park:

Located in the southwest quadrant of the Village at the southeast corner of the intersection of Washington Street and Grant Street, Coughlin Park is a 3 acres +/- green space situated between Alliant Energy substation and an unnamed channel that flows to the Wolf River. Coughlin Park is being developed into an Americans with Disabilities Assistance (ADA) fully handicap accessible park with fishing piers, walking path, canoe launch, park signage, and

parking area. The trail will be “looped” with access to the fishing piers, the canoe launch, the parking area, and Marble Park via a crosswalk at Grant Street and entry to the southeast corner of Marble Park. Village placed seasonal porta-potties in this park to provide proper services. Recently, 15 new trees were planted in this park for future needs. The renovation project, scheduled for Spring of 2013, is being assisted by an ADA grant through the WDNR.

Marble Park:

Located at the western edge of the Village and bounded on the north by State Highway 116 (West Main Street), the south by Grant Street, the east by South 6th Street, and the west by an unnamed tributary of the Wolf River, Marble Park is the largest Village park at approximately 40 acres +/- . Marble Park contains 2 shelters, 4 regulation ball diamonds, a pool, playground, over a mile of hiking paths, and 3,000 feet of channel shoreline for fishing. Recently, the Village received over \$100,000 in donations from the Keller Foundation and local ball clubs to renovate and/or construct 3 of the ball diamonds including; new fencing, re-grading, new sod, new infields, drainage corrections, a batting practice facility. In addition, the Village reconstructed the parking lot at a cost of \$250,000.

Grant Street Trail:

Located in the southwest quadrant of the Village adjacent to Grant Street, the Grant Street Trail will traverse 1,600 feet and connect Marble Park to the Country View Subdivision, a 100 lot development located at the far west end of the Village. This trail will consist of an 8 foot wide walking path with a limestone screening surface and provides a safety buffer from industrial traffic and resident travelling to the park. This trail also provides a “safe route” to schools, downtown, and the east business district for pedestrians via the trail system at Marble Park. Funding for this trail was provided by several private donations and will be constructed in spring of 2013.

Lake Winneconne Park (LWP):



Located in the northeast quadrant of the Village at the northern termini of North 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Avenues, this park was formerly owned by Winnebago County. Situated on the southern shore of Lake Winneconne where it meets the Wolf River, this park is approximately 10 acres +/- with the main uses of boat launching, incredi-ball diamonds, 3 shelters, bathroom, large parking area(s), and bathrooms. LWP has over 700 feet of easily accessible shoreline and 900 feet of wood retaining wall abutting a channel.

Recently, we added 20 trees to this park, repaired several of the shelters, placed a chip seal on the 60 stall parking area, and have plans to clear brush, debris, and damaged trees from the adjacent island area.

North 1st Street Boat Landing:

Located in the northwest quadrant of the Village on the shore of the Wolf River just south of Lake Winneconne, this small facility has the main purpose of River access boat launching with parking. There is a small green space located along the river which provides limited opportunity for fishing. This boat launch is one of the first to have ice-out in spring and is the main “jump-off” for early spring river fishing. Village re-surfaced the parking lot this past year and will be replacing the sub-frame and deck surface of the docks located south of the launch during winter 2012/2013.

ACTION PLAN

ACTION PLAN

Priorities for improving park and recreational facilities in Winnebago County for the next five years and beyond were ranked 1-5 (with 5 being the highest) by the Committee Members and an average was taken to prioritize the recommendations by year. These are projects that the County deemed as important but are only to be used as a guideline for planning. Budget funds and time of staff may vary from year to year to allow these improvements to occur. Presently, the parks department employs 4 seasonal and 4 full-time year around staff.

The Five-Year Action Program (Table 12) outlines the level of priority for implementing the recommendations identified in this plan. Most of the projects identified in the Action Program would be eligible to receive matching funds through a component of WDNR's Stewardship Program. Local tax dollars can be further maximized by using private donations of funds or land to augment the local share. In addition, the Action Program identifies a budget appropriation for several other projects that could be cost-effectively accomplished using Park Department crews.

Table 12
FIVE YEAR ACTION PROGRAM
(2013-2017)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Future Year
COUNTY PARKS / CENTERS						
COMMUNITY PARK						
Add Lighting for XC Skiing						
Maintain Existing Trails / Develop new routes						
Create a Master Park Plan						
Resurface the Basketball Courts						
Designate more land for archery and/or rugby						
Lighted Ball Diamonds (new) - North end						
Control Geese Population						
SUNNYVIEW EXPO CENTER						
Maintain parking areas and building for events						
Add hookups to campground for year-around use						
Master Plan for Center and surrounding area						
Additional storage units / replace old						

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Future Year
COUGHLIN NATURE CENTER						
Replace Sign						
Maintain Trails						
Invasive Species control - prescribed burns						
Education - Work with UW-Extension						
COUNTY NATURAL AREAS						
SHANGRI LA POINT						
Leave as is - open space for wildlife						
LASELY POINT - ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE						
Maintain an ADA accessible trail (brush growth)						
Maintain the parking area - update (brush growth)						
Work with the Historical Society informational kiosk						
WAUKAU CREEK POND AND PRESERVE						
Maintenance of the trails						
Resurfacing of the parking area						
Education kiosk						
Basic rustic campsites						
New Shelter/Picnic area, restroom upgrade						
WAUKAU DAM						
Invasive Species Control Program						
Maintain parking area						
Add benches for fishing and observation						
Add railing to dock for safety						
COUNTY BOAT LAUNCHES						
ASYLUM POINT PARK						
Maintain fishing piers						
Promote "In Memory of" benches						
Trim willow trees						
Add hooks/benches to dock - safety						
Move fee box						
Maintain wildlife preserve						
Add a fishing dock to Picnic Point						

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Future Year
BLACK WOLF BOAT LANDING						
Maintain fishing piers						
Maintain parking lot - striping						
Add Lighting for safety						
BOOM BAY BOAT LANDING						
Parking area should be repaved and striped						
Develop picnic area near shore						
Add a small shelter						
EUREKA BOAT LANDING						
Improve the beach area - erosion						
Maintain the playground equipment and picnic areas						
GRUNDMAN BOAT LANDING						
Maintain the grilling units						
Consider adding play equipment in the picnic area						
Clear out vegetation growth near the lake						
Consider adding a fishing pier or dock						
Maintain the information kiosk						
Increase the size of the sign from CTH A						
LAKE BUTTE DES MORTS BOAT LANDING						
Update the grilling units						
Remove the older, out- dated swings						
Improve Restrooms						
Add lighting for safety						
LAKE POYGAN BOAT LANDING						
Update the grilling units						
Add lighting for safety						
TRAILS						
MASCOUTIN VALLEY TRAIL						
Investigate additional off-street parking						
Repair trail surface - maintenance schedule						
Clear horse waste schedule (Apr-Nov)						

WIOUWASH TRAIL						
Maintain parking along the trail						
Repair trail surface – maintenance schedule						
Clear horse waste - schedule (Apr-Nov)						
Keep trail plowed in urban areas (work with City)						

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Future Year
GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS						
ALL PARKS AND FACILITIES						
Update Signage - Wayfinding System*						
ADA Compliancy - new facilities - schedule in CIP						
Tree Program - Work with Land Conservation						
Landscaping, Aesthetics, Benches						
Boat Wash Stations at all Launches*						
Vandalism Control - lights, dummy cameras						
Shelter Maintenance						
Research of ATV park at old Landfill site						
Creation of a new dog park*						
Maintain Restrooms, consider flush at some locations*						
Update Webpage, increase marketing, program info*						
GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS						
ALL TRAILS						
Trail connection Community Park to Landfill (once developed)						
Develop new routes in Community Park*						
State Trail connections (WIOUWASH, Mascoutin)						
Work with Fox Cities Greenways on Urban connectors						
Work with trail groups - trail around Lake Winnebago						
CTH A Neenah to Oshkosh Connection*						
Creation of a county bicycle and pedestrian plan						

*Recommendations from Survey and Public Info Meetings

Ranking scores greater than 4.1 got immediate priority need (2013-2014), 4-3 intermediate need (2015-2016), less than 3, 5 yrs. or more out (2017 – future year) based on overall average scores of Committee members considerations.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION _xx- xx-xxxx

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (2013-2017)

WHEREAS, Winnebago County is interested in providing quality park and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of Winnebago County and protecting its unique natural and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, Winnebago County has requested assistance from the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in updating its outdoor recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, a planning committee comprised of county board members, recreation and resource specialists, and interested private citizens was formed to assist East Central Planning, and

WHEREAS, the plan and its recommendations, which address the county's recreational development and resource protection needs over the next five years and beyond, was accepted by the Planning Committee on xxxx xx, xxxx, and

WHEREAS, County adoption of said plan is required for Winnebago County to become eligible for cost sharing aid programs administered by the State of Wisconsin,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board, that the Winnebago County Outdoor Recreation Plan (2013-2017) be adopted as the approved recreation plan for the County.

Resolution No. xx-xx-xxxx

Ayes _____ Nays _____ Abstain _____ Absent _____ (x) Voice Vote

Approved and adopted this __xxth__ day of _____xxxxx_____, xxxxx.

Approved:

Submitted by:

Mark Harris
County Executive

David W. Albrecht, Chairman
Winnebago County Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Signed by:

Susan T. Ermer,
Winnebago County Clerk

Patrick Brennand, 1st Vice-Chair
Winnebago County Board of Supervisors

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - LETTERS OF REQUEST



EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

400 Ahnaip Street, Suite 100 Menasha Wisconsin 54952 (920) 751-4770 Fax (920) 751-4771
Website: www.eastcentralrpc.org Email: staff@eastcentralrpc.org

Celebrating 40 Years of Fostering Regional Collaboration!

December 3, 2012

Dear Winnebago County Official,

The County has recently started the process, per the Parks and Recreation Committee, to update its Five-Year (2013-2017) Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This Committee is comprised of 5 County Board members and the Parks Director. The purpose of the plan is to establish an action program for parkland acquisition and development during the next five years (2013-2017). This will also enable Winnebago County to participate in the DNR's Stewardship Program, which provides matching funds for identified projects. The plan is expected to be ready for adoption in early winter/spring of next year, 2013.

As the recreational planner for ECWRPC assigned to this project, I am writing to each Winnebago County Representative to extend the opportunity to offer recommendations and comments to be included within the county's plan. I have, with the committee's input put together a short survey for county residents to comment and give feedback on. Correspondingly, along with this letter, is a paper copy to be placed at your municipal offices for residents to fill out. A link is also available on the County's website if citizens wish to fill out the survey online. Please feel free to complete the survey on your own via the web link below or by paper. The County will be hosting 3-4 public informational meetings during January/February to gather further information for the plan.

Additionally, if your city, town or village has a project that involves purchasing or developing parkland for recreational facilities in the near future we want to know. Including your project(s) in this document will also satisfy the DNR's requirement for an adopted comprehensive open space plan. This may eliminate the need for your municipality to prepare a stand-alone plan, should you attempt to apply for these grants during the next five years. Please note that some communities could require a more detailed document if a particular project is in question and would still need to develop a plan on their own.

Send any additional comments/recommendations/questions regarding the County's plan by January 31, 2013 to:

*Trish Nau, GIS Coordinator/Recreation Planner,
ECWRPC,
400 Ahnaip Street, Suite 100,
Menasha, WI 54952.*

Email: tnau@eastcentralrpc.org Phone: 920-751-4770 ext. 6814

(over)

The On-Line Survey link can be found at: (Please include within your January newsletters if applicable and forward onto interested parties.)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WinnebagoParks>

HTML Code for your own websites:

`Click here to take survey`

The survey will be open until the end of February or later based on response rate. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Trish Nau, GIS Coordinator/Recreation Planner

Cc:

Winnebago County Officials

Winnebago County Outdoor Parks and Recreation Committee

Attachment: Parks and Recreation Survey

Five – YEAR (2013 – 2017) COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN –
ON – LINE SURVEY

Dear Winnebago County Resident,

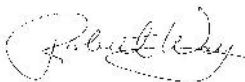
The Winnebago County Parks Department has recently started the process of updating its Five-Year (2013 – 2017) Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The purpose of the plan is to establish an action program for parkland acquisition and development during the next five years (2013-2017). This will also enable Winnebago County to participate in the DNR's Stewardship Program which provides matching funds for identified projects. The plan is expected to be ready for adoption in early winter/spring 2013.

As a citizen of Winnebago County and user of leisure based facilities made available through the resources of the County Parks Department, individuals are encouraged to take this opportunity to offer recommendations and comments to be included within the county's plan. This feedback will be invaluable in helping shape the direction of the department's future programming and assist in setting priorities that are in step with the community's needs and expectations. To take advantage of this opportunity county residents are asked to complete a short survey via the on-line web link below.

*The on-line survey can be found by holding down the CONTROL key and then proceeding to click on the following link: www.surveymonkey.com/s/WinnebagoParks .

The survey will be open until the end of February or later based on response rate. In conjunction with the survey the County Parks Department will be hosting 3 public hearings during January/February to gather further information for the plan. The dates and locations of the hearings will be announced after the first week in January via the County Parks webpage at www.co.winnebago.wi.us/parks and the Parks Information Phone Line at (920) 232-1960.

Respectfully,



Robert Way
Winnebago County Parks Director

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APPENDIX B - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THREE PUBLIC MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED TO SOLICIT COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY THAT WILL ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY (2013 - 2017) COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN.

EACH OF THESE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 7:30P.M. AND ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

Monday, January 21st – Village of Winneconne Municipal Center, 30 South 1st St., Village of Winneconne;

Monday, February 4th – Town of Menasha Municipal Complex, 2000 Municipal Drive, Town of Menasha; and

Monday, February 18th – J.P. Coughlin Bldg., Oshkosh.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

APPENDIX C - SURVEY RESULTS

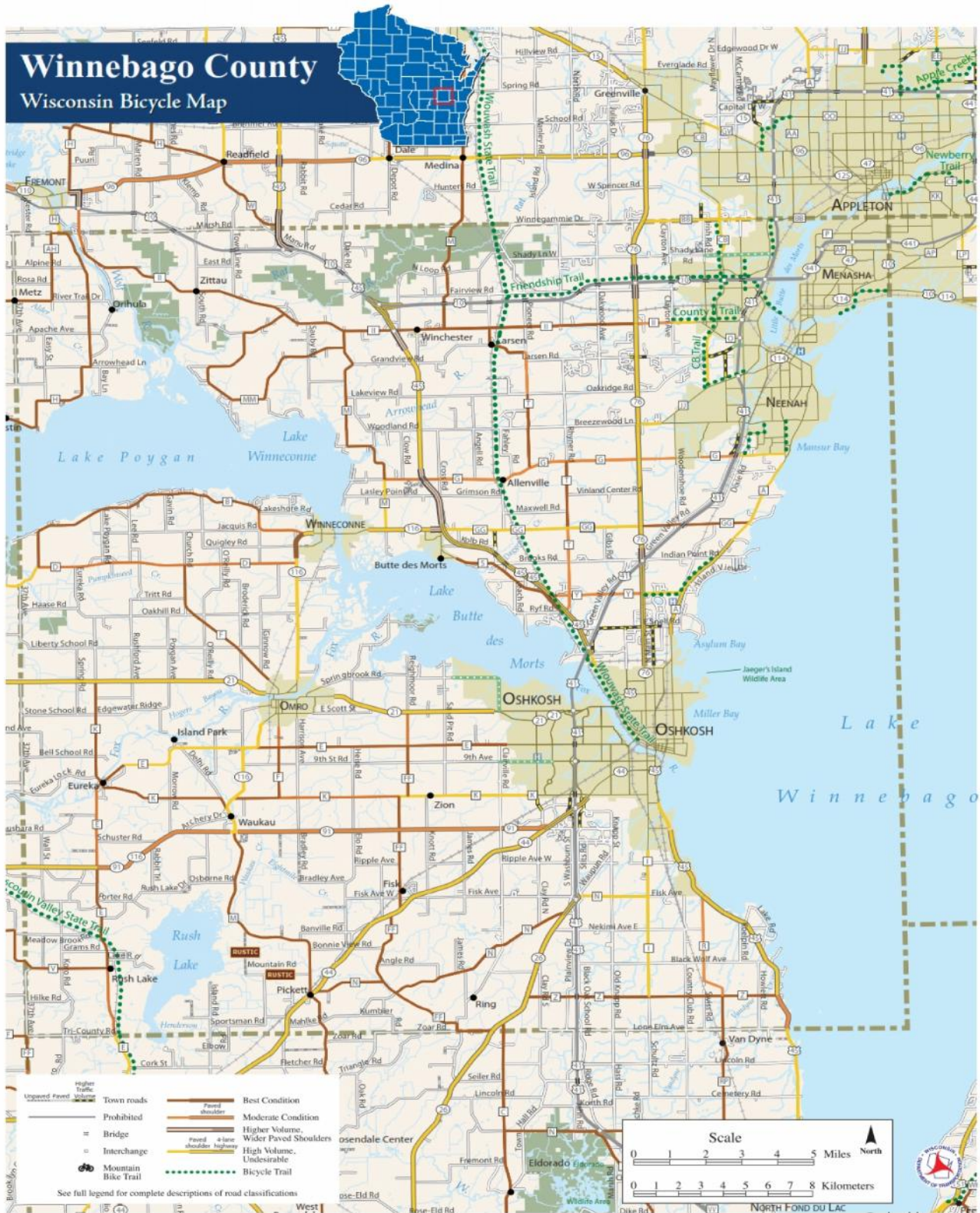


2013 Parks and Rec Survey Results

Survey conducted
From December, 2012 – March 2013

Total Completed Total Started Survey: 145
Survey: Total Finished Survey: 138 (95.2%)

APPENDIX D - WISDOT COUNTY BICYCLE MAP



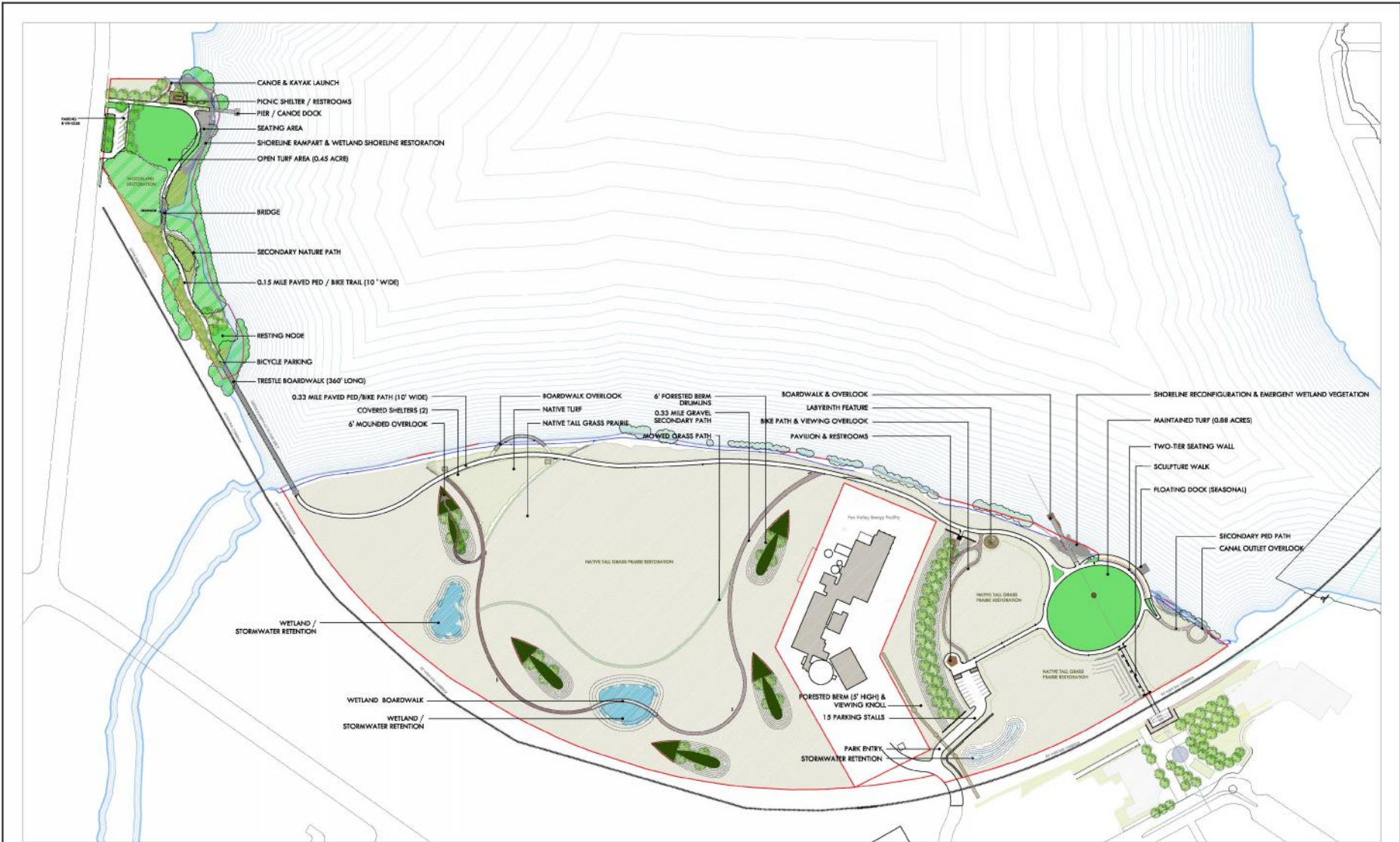
APPENDIX E - CURRENT FACILITIES TABLE

County Site/Facility

County Site/Facility	Archery (Outdoor)	Baseball	Basketball Court (Outdoor)	Biking	Boat Launch	Camping (rustic)	Cross Country Ski Trail	Disc Golf	Dog Park	Fishing	Historic / Interpretive Sites	Natural Area	Park	Picnic Tables	Playfield/Open Space	Playground Equipment	Rugby	Shelter	Soccer Field	Snowshoe Trails	Trail (Walking)	Wildlife Viewing	
Asylum Point Park/Boat Landing					X					X			X	X									X
Black Wolf Boat Landing					X					X			X	X									
Boom Bay Boat Landing					X					X			X										
Butte des Morts Park			X										X										
Couglin Nature Area												X	X							X	X		X
Eureka Boat Landing					X					X			X	X		X		X					
Grundman Park Boat Landing					X					X			X	X									
Lake Butte Des Morts Boat Landing					X					X			X	X		X							
Lake Poygan Boat Landing					X					X			X	X									
Lasley Point Archaeological Site											X	X											
Mascoutin Valley Trail				X								X		X							X		X
Shangri La Point Natural Area												X											
Sunnyview Exposition Center						X																	
Waukau Creek Nature Preserve /Dam							X			X		X	X								X		X
Winnebago County Community Park	X	X	X				X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
WIOUWASH Trail				X								X		X							X		X

APPENDIX F - LOCAL PARK SITE PLANS

City of Neenah Arrowhead and Smith & Dolly Park Site Plan



E-1

Insert Map 5 of Community Park

Back of Map 5 - Community Park