

Winnebago County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

2019- 2023



WINNEBAGO COUNTY

COMPREHENSIVE

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

2019-2023

Recommended March 18, 2019 by Park and Recreation
Committee Adopted April 16, 2019 by County Board

Prepared by the

Park and Recreation Committee

and the

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Trish Nau, Principal Recreation Planner

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The preparation of Winnebago County's *Comprehensive Outdoor and Recreation Plan 2019-2023* was formulated by the Park and Recreation Committee with assistance from the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The Park and Recreation Committee is composed of five members and meets approximately once a month. The Committee works on planning parks, recreational, and trail improvements within the County boundaries.

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: Winnebago County
Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023

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SUBJECT: Winnebago County Comprehensive Outdoor
Recreation Plan, (CORP) 5-Year update

DATE: xxxxxxx 2019

PLANNING AGENCY: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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The 2019-2023 version of Winnebago County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan seeks to help preserve the 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 the county to once again compete for matching funds available through the Department of Natural Resources' Stewardship Program if available. Funding components of this program, targets 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, other grants are available through the WDNR Stewardship Program, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, etc. and have effectively doubled the local funding commitment for acquisition and development of parkland and improvements to other public recreational facilities such as trails. The document also will aid in improvements the parks system and give a guideline to follow.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND AND TOPOGRAPHY

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, snow shoe, and snowmobile. In Winnebago County the primary responsibility for accommodating recreational demand has traditionally rested with the county and local units of government along with 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 tourists, whose spending benefits into the local economy. For smaller rural areas like Winnebago County, recreational resources and facilities, both public and private, are vital to economic health and often make tourism the area's most important industry.



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, a single track mountain bike trail, cross-country ski trails (both traditional and skate ski), snow shoe trails, a 9 acre dog park 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 Festival Park which houses two multi-day seasonal concerts.

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 visitors is an ongoing commitment the county has made to maintain and upgrade its park system.

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 a downturn in the agricultural economy, these higher land prices have made the sale of some or all of their farmland to developers 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 and causes algae blooms in area waterways.

HISTORY OF RECREATION PLANNING

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, 1993, and 2013 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 county-wide park and recreation needs and opportunities, and presents recommendations and an action program for addressing the system's growth and development.

PLAN PURPOSE

After state and local approval, this plan update will allow the county to participate in the state's Stewardship Program as well as other state or federal funded programs. These WDNR administered programs provide up to 50 percent matching funds for the acquisition and

development of parkland. An update of the plan is required every five years to be eligible for these grants.

This plan draws upon the goals, objectives, and recommendations from the comprehensive plan, tempered with new considerations for parks and recreation facilities which have evolved. During its preparation, many existing needs were reaffirmed, new needs identified, and an action program designed to fulfill these needs. The completed plan will serve to guide the development of the county's park system for the next five years and beyond.

Winnebago County Parks Mission and Vision

"Winnebago County is committed to providing equitable and high quality open spaces to its residents by emphasizing the distribution of recreation within the urban areas as well as giving consideration to the rural places."

SCOPE

This update will follow the guidelines set forth by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) "Guidelines for the Development of Local Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans" to ensure compliance and eligibility for various program funding. A simplified version of the outline as recommended in the state guidelines (presented below) was used in the development of this plan.

- County Board resolution approving the Plan
- Introduction and Description of the Planning Region
- Goals and Objectives
- Definitions
- Planning Process
- Summary of Past CORPS
- Outdoor Recreation Inventory
- Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment
- Recommendations
- Appendix

PLANNING PROCESS

In 2018, Winnebago County was awarded a Technical Assistance Award through the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) to help with the update of the county's Park and Recreation Plan. The award program utilized tax levy dollars paid in by member county/municipality and used to fund these type of projects.

Public
Participation

The initial process of the plan began in the spring/summer months of 2018 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 and provided a basis for the plan document.

Needs
Assessment

In April of 2018, ECWRPC held a kickoff meeting with the Parks and Recreation Committee to discuss current goals and objectives for the plan. Public survey questions were also reviewed for additional input. The initial parks inventory list was shown as well as mapping for the plan. The final meetings were special arrangements by the Committee for discussion of the needs assessment, preliminary recommendations, and survey finalization.

Goals &
Objectives

Three Public Informational Meetings were held around the county late in 2018 (August and September) to provide additional feedback on what residents' desire. The survey was also deployed from September 2018 to April 2019 via various sites on the internet to get additional recommendations on county facilities. The final meeting with the Committee on March 18th, 2019 looked at the 5-year action plan and capital improvement plan as well as final recommendations. A 2-month review period followed with the final Committee adoption on March xx, 2019 and County Board resolution on March xx, 2019. The entire planning process took approximately 1 year to complete.

Action Plan

Options &
Proposals

FRAMEWORK FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Winnebago County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013-2017 (CORP)

The last update for the CORP was in 2013. Background, Goals, Resources, Needs Assessment, and Recommendations were made to improve the overall Parks System. This plan highlighted the Community Park's shared use path, county boat landing upgrades, and connecting trails as well as improvements to amenities, shelters, and signage.

Winnebago Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan 2017

This plan was completed with the assistance of Toole Design Group and ECWRPC as well as area municipalities and organizations. The plan gives a good focus to how trails can be made accessible and connected. It takes into account population centers as well rural areas in providing walking and bicycling opportunities throughout the County.

Winnebago County Economic Impact Studies (3 Phases)

Three economic studies were done from 2015 to 2019 and focused on how recreational facilities in the county add to the overall economics and tourism of the area. Phase I concentrated on the benefits of nature areas and trails. It looked at impact of nature areas on community health, tourism, social economic factors, environmental positives, as well as return on investment.

Phase II looked solely at the Community Park and its sporting/activities/tournaments and what those bring to the area. Phase III focused on Sunnyview Expo Center events and will be finalized in March of 2019. All Phases collectively represents the demographics, user frequency, amenities, and economic impacts each of these areas brings to the County.

Winnebago County 2014-2035 Comprehensive Plan

Adopted in February of 2016, the Comprehensive Plan sets forth the basis for making rational land use decisions in the County. It provides a vision of the future for development and where that growth should occur. Chapter 4, Utilities and Community Facilities, of this document gives an overview of parks and recreational needs at the point in time during which the plan was completed. These needs will change as different trends come into play.





CHAPTER 2

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

CHAPTER 2: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives were developed by the Winnebago County Park and Recreation Committee after reviewing long-range goals and objectives identified in the County's *Comprehensive Plan 2014-2035* and reviewing community needs through public participation methods. These goals are intended to serve as a guide for creating the type of park and recreation system the County's residents would enjoy. The goals are stated as desirable conditions to strive for in the future. They are common ideals of the community that can be achieved through the actions of government leaders, private organizations, and individual citizens. Individual objectives specify in greater detail how these desired goals can be achieved. The goals and objectives provide a basis for establishing policy regarding the planning, acquisition and future development of park and recreation facilities.

These goals address 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.



Park and recreation goals incorporate these seven topics into overall strategy and planning:

1. Health & Fitness
2. Variety
3. Conservation
4. Accessibility & Design
5. Partnerships
6. Cost Effectiveness and
7. Quality of Life

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Goal 1: Provide, throughout Winnebago County, a planned system of parks and recreation areas that will enable county residents and visitors to participate in and enjoy a diversity of recreational activities. (Health & Fitness, Variety)

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 (where possible) to accommodate individuals who are physically challenged by providing a safe recreational activity, making it accessible to all.

Encourage partnership with re:Th!nk Winnebago 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 intensive development.

Protect and preserve the intrinsic value of the county's wildlife and fishery resources.

Work with the Winnebago County Land & Water 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, by leveraging the means to prevent or minimize the introduction of invasive species. Work with the WDNR 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 habitats and 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 all 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 to secure potential funding and/or for make improvements to the county parks system through increased recreational opportunities, i.e. re:Th!nk Winnebago, WPRA, NEWPRO, Rotary, Greenways, Oshkosh Cycling Club and the like.

Continue to solicit comments from residents on all aspects of park and recreational programming and management via emails, online polls, surveys, etc..

Encourage residents to support the Sesquicentennial “Memorial Tree Grove” and benches along trails and in parks through donations.

Continue partner relationship with Convention & Visitor’s Bureau to collaborate on marketing efforts.

VISIONING

TO BE ADDED



CHAPTER 3

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

CHAPTER 3: RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCES

The character of Winnebago County's landscape reflects a 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 a glacier. This southwest corner area has a reddish clay soil 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. Lakes, rivers, and streams make up the major portion of surface water 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 catfish. There are a total of 58 public and private boat launch sites located around the shoreline of Lake Winnebago. Winnebago County maintains 7 of these sites, (*Table 1, Map 2*) some of which have adjacent to park facilities.

Wetland and Wildlife Resources

There are approximately 51,400 acres of wetlands in the county. Most are located in the western and northern areas, including; 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 aquifers and groundwater protection. The State Wildlife Areas of 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 waterfowl areas Ecktein (195.40) and Uihlein (1935.25). (*Table 6*)

Wetlands are 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 impinges.

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 remains an important

recreational activity in the county. Other wildlife providing hunting opportunities include deer, pheasant, rabbits, turkey and other 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 an USDA, CRP contract to provide grassland habitat.

Table 1: 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	Town 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 Park	City of Oshkosh	Public	Primary	Pavement
17	Gala Resort	Town of Wolf River	Private	Secondary	Pavement
18	Grundman Park / Osh-O-Nee Landing	Town of Vinland	Public	Primary	Pavement
19	Hahn-A-Lula's - Private/Public	Town of Wolf River	Private	Secondary	Pavement
20	Hidden Habor 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	Kalbus 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 Landing /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
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See Map 2 for locations.

**Primary are launches that have paved landings, and other facilities like bathrooms or shelters. Secondary launches are paved landings, but do not have other facilities or are not ones that are used heavily. Fire lanes or road access - Winnebago and the Pool Lakes have several roads that lead right to the lake where there is an access point. Some of these are used as a boat landing and most of them are utilized as winter access points.*



Table 2: 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*	137,700.0	
M	Lake Winneconne	7.2	
N	Rush Lake	4.2	
Totals:		137,746.2	74.6


*(Approximate GIS Sq.Miles and Miles, see Map 2, Lake Winnebago is full lake body).





Park and Recreational Areas
Winnebago County, Wisconsin


Map 1


Legend

 County Parks

 County Launches

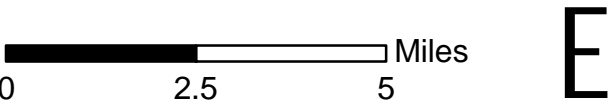
 Future Park Land*

 Other Trails

 County Maintained State Trails

1	Asylum Point County Park
2	Black Wolf Boat Landing / Nagy Park
3	Boom Bay Boat Landing
4	Community Park
5	Coughlin Nature Area
6	Eureka Boat Landing
7	Grundman Boat Landing
8	Lake Butte Des Morts Boat Landing
9	Lake Poygan Boat Landing
10	Lasley Point Archeological Site
11	Mascoutin Valley State Rec. Trl.
12	Shangri La Point Nature Area
13	Sunnyview Expo Center
14	Waukau Creek Nature Preserve
15	Wiouwash Trail

*Future Park Land for 2019 = 50 acres
with an additional 20 long term.



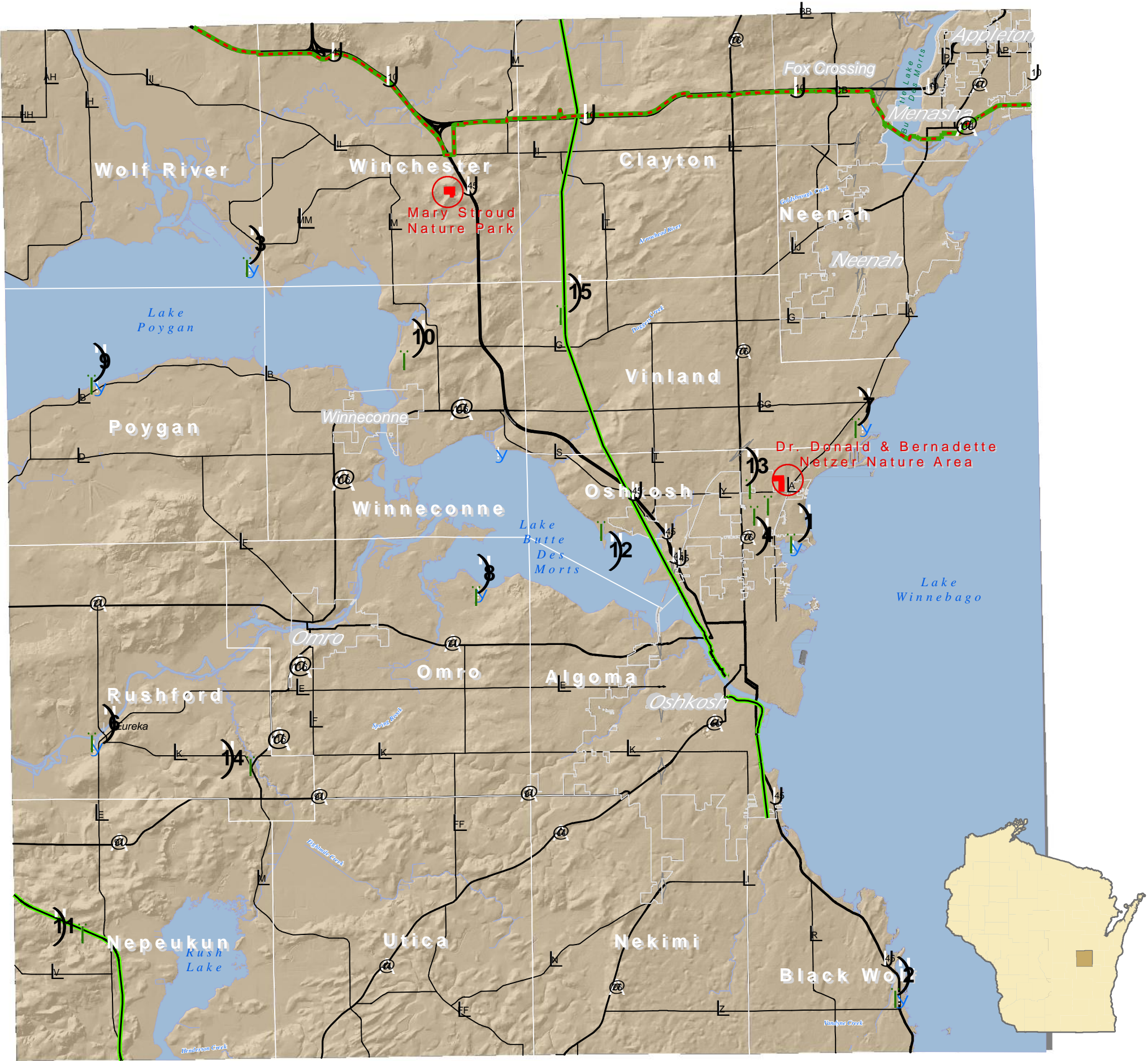
Sources: Base Data Winnebago County GIS (WINGS) 2018, Boat Launch Data provided by WI DNR and ECWRPC.

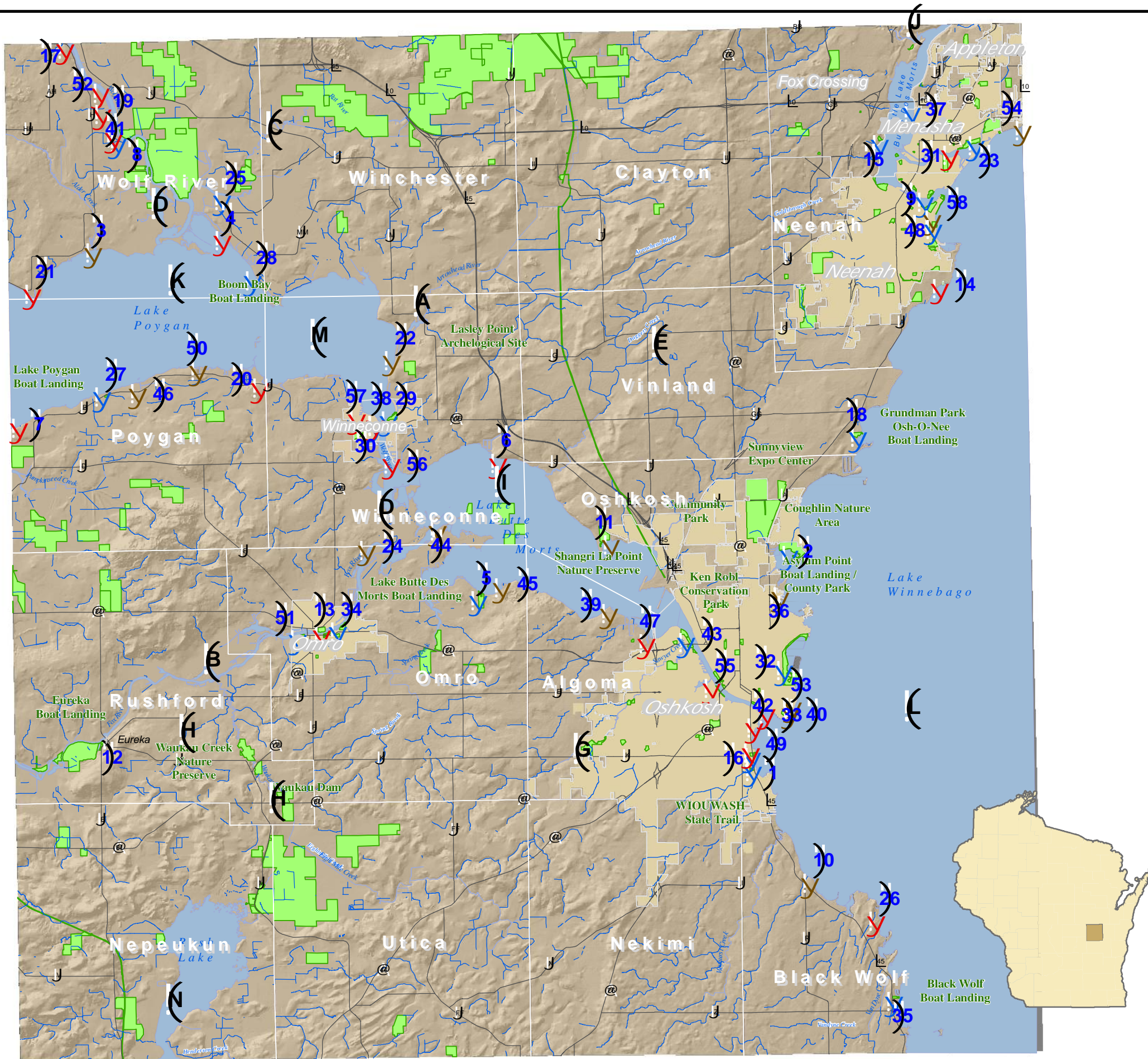
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ECWRPC

Prepared August 2018 By
EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN
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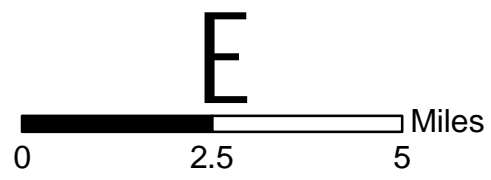
Existing Water Resources*
Boat Access Locations
Winnebago County, Wisconsin

Map 2

Legend*

- Primary Launch
- Road Access - Firelane
- Secondary Launch
- Stream/River
- Recreational Areas
- Open Water

*Check Table 2, Chapter 3 for launch info.



*Primary launches have paved landings and other facilities like restrooms or shelters. Secondary launches are paved landings but do not have other facilities and not heavily used. Fire lanes or road access to the lake and are used as a boat landing or winter ice access point.

Sources: Base Data Winnebago County GIS (WINGS) 2018, Boat Launch Data provided by WI DNR and ECWRPC, Watershed data,

Capital letters reflect Table 5 in the plan document. Table 4 contains the numbered launches.

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Woodlands

According to the 2015 forest land use inventory analysis by East Central WI RPC, Winnebago County has a total of approximately 154,940 acres (Map 3) of forested land which is about 9.7 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 who 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 invasive species problems. Parcelization makes forest management difficult because of the small size of each unit. Overpopulation of deer and invasive species has made regeneration of many 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 area for walleye, white bass, and sturgeon. The county accounts for 513 acres of State Fishery Areas (Table 3) 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 provided 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".

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 of these sites is Lasley Point Archeological Site near Winneconne. For the most part, specific locations are kept from the general public to prevent destruction of artifacts by an “unthinking” or inconsiderate public. The present status of other sites is unknown; many may no longer exist. An up-to-date inventory

to both ascertain the status and significance of presently known sites, and identify other sites, would be valuable.

Public Owned Lands

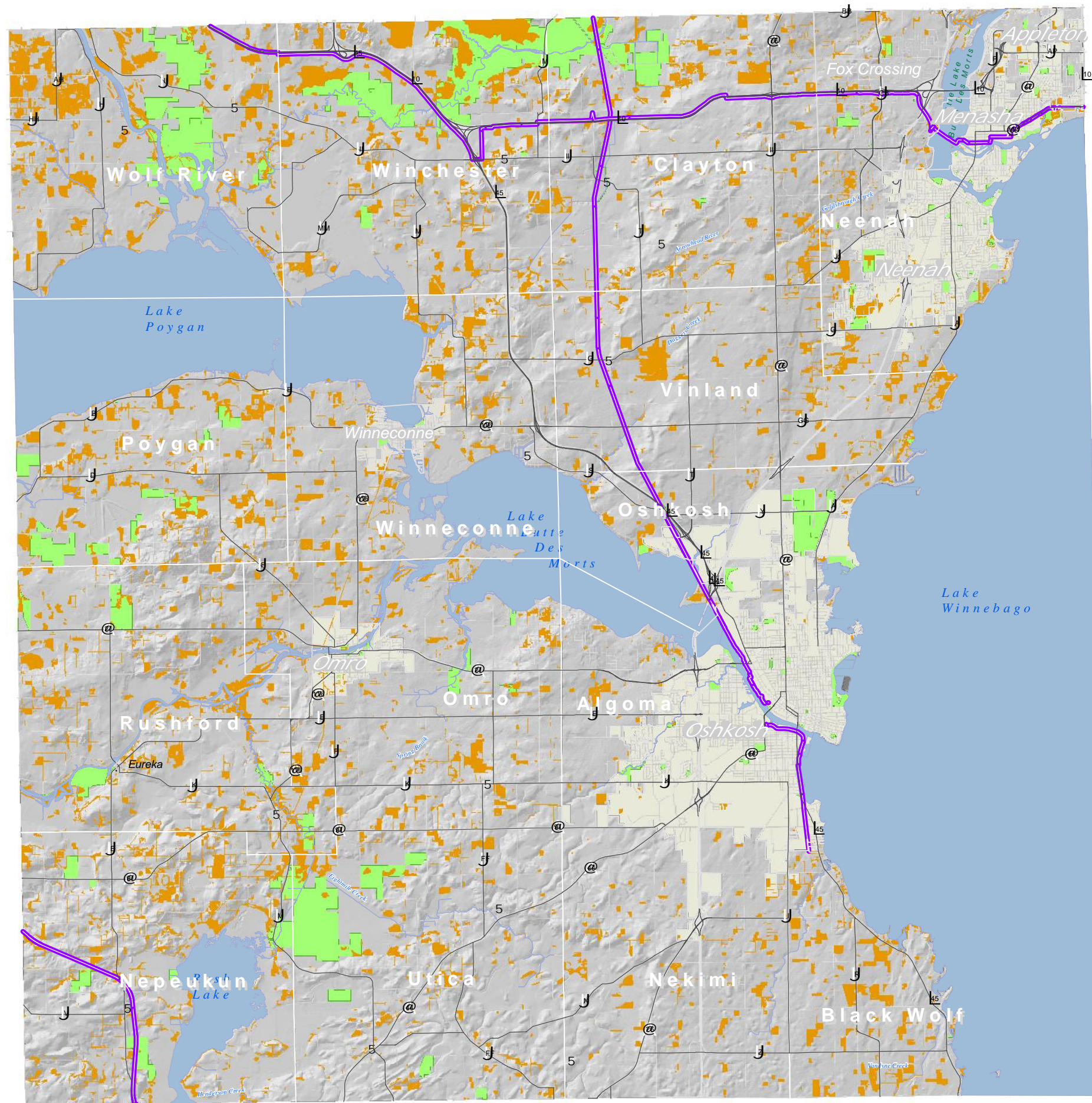
Land owned by DNR in Winnebago County totals approximately 10,000 plus acres (Table 6). Nearly 2,379 acres are designated as Federal Fish and Wildlife Areas with waterfowl production areas. The largest contiguous block is the Rat River State Wildlife Area at just over 4,600 acres.

Table 3
PUBLIC OWNED LAND
Winnebago County

	Acres*
Federal Fish & Wildlife Lands	2,379
Fee Ownership	10,811
Easements on Private Land	7
TOTAL PUBLIC OWNED LANDS	13,197
County Properties	788
	13,985

**Source: 2019-2023 SCORP*

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

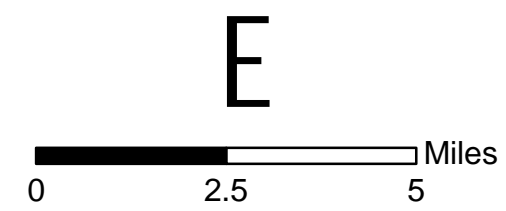


Existing Woodland Resources Winnebago County, Wisconsin

Map 3

Legend

- Trails
- Water Areas
- General & Planted Woodlands
- Recreational Areas/Parks



Sources: Base Data Winnebago County GIS (WINGS) 2018, Woodlands Data provided by ECWRPC 2015 land use data.

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EXISTING RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

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 15 sites, 7 of which are public boat landings (Map 1 and Table 7) and 2 linear state trail systems, the 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 4
COUNTY LAND AND PUBLIC FACILITIES, 2018

Park/Recreational Site		Acres*	Miles*
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	0.8	
5	Lake Poygan Boat Landing	1.5	
6	Grundman Park / Osh-O-Nee 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 Exposition Center	154.7	
14	Shangri La Point Nature Preserve	55	
15	Winnebago County Community Park	365.5	
16	Ken Robl Conservation Park	39	
	*Total Acres/Miles:	788	27.1

*Future Park Land Additions: THE DR. DONALD & BERNADETTE NETZER NATURAL AREA = 20 acres in 2019 plus another 20 by 2023. MARY STROUD NATURE AREA = 30.57 acres IN 2019 (See Map 1.)

**Sources: Acres and miles taken from approximate 2018 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, 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, bean bag toss, updated tennis court with basketball, volleyball nets, a dog park, and catch/release fishing ponds. It is definitely one of the county's most used parks and its facilities are rented throughout the summer season.

A paved shared-use path allows access in and around primary function and activity zones as well as access to residential areas. "The Natural Way" activity zone incorporates adult fitness equipment that is ADA accessible. Wayfinding signage provides direction to areas within the park.



Sunnyview Exposition Center

The Sunnyview Exposition Center includes the Exposition Building and Covered Arena and Sunnyview Stadium on the north side of Oshkosh just south of the City of Neenah. The facilities include a complement of livestock, exhibition, and concession buildings, with a 320 ft. x 160 ft. covered show arena and separate outdoor arena, both with equestrian base material. The Sunnyview Stadium has been upgraded to provide a state of the art production ready stage with seating in the audience area for up to 31,000, including the grandstands. There is also a clay pull track at the Sunnyview Stadium where truck and tractor pulls, demolition derbies and other motor vehicle events are held. Attractions at the Sunnyview Exposition Center provide endless entertainment offerings throughout the year and also camping during events. Expansion of the property to allow more area is in the works with the latest addition of a 20 acre parcel adjacent to the east of the grounds.



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 portable toilet (seasonal), public boat launch, picnic facilities, a historic lighthouse, 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 units.

Black Wolf Boat Landing at Nagy Park

This park and boat landing is located in the Town of Black Wolf off the southwest shore 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 portable toilet (seasonal), parking, and a public boat launch.

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 and from boats, which can be launched from three ramps at the landing. Amenities include picnic tables, a picnic shelter, portable toilet (seasonal), and public boat launch.

Osh-O-Nee Boat Landing at Grundman Park

Anglers and boaters can access this Lake Winnebago from this park, which offers public 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. The park and landing is located on the east side of Grundman Lane. The landing hosts picnic tables, an event kiosk, and a portable toilet (seasonal).

Lake Butte des Morts Boat Landing

Popular for its fishing and boating access onto Lake Butte Des Morts, this landing provides an ADA fishing pier, harbor and public boat launch. The landing hosts picnic tables, a picnic shelter, and a portable toilet (seasonal).

Lake Poygan Boat Landing

This landing provides access to the south shore of Lake Poygan, which offers excellent fishing year-round. A picnic table, a portable toilet (seasonal) and public boat launch are on site.

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 or snow-shoeing opportunities in the winter. Picnic tables, portable toilet (seasonal), 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 mallards.



The Waukau Dam located in the incorporated Village of Waukau was the 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 an ADA 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.

Waukau Dam Mountain Bike Trail is a roughly three-mile, single track mountain bike trail that meanders along the steep hillsides and through the deep ravines of the Waukau Dam Nature Preserve.

A handful of mountain bike enthusiasts, with the support of the Oshkosh Cycling Club, have volunteered nearly 1,500 hours to build the trail. Donations to build the many wooden bridges and features have come from the Oshkosh Cycling Club, the trail builders, and private donors. The trail is considered an intermediate level mountain bike trail. The rugged landscape makes for challenging climbs, fast descents and breathtaking views of Waukau Creek and surrounding forest.

Advanced features have been added along the trail for those who wish to hone their skills - numerous bridges, jumps, drops and skill features help to keep the ride exciting and challenging. Bypasses are available for all of the advanced features.

The trail is a “two way” trail, so always be on the look-out for other riders and hikers.

The trail is open for riding year-round, weather permitting. All riders must use fat tire bikes (3.8 inches or wider) in the winter. The trail is closed to riding anytime it is wet or muddy. Trail conditions are closely monitored by the trail builders and current conditions can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/WaukauDamBikeTrail/>

Trail construction is still ongoing – the planned layout should be complete by the fall of 2018. Once complete, trail improvements will continue into 2019 and beyond.

J.P. Coughlin Community Natural Area

Located off of CTH Y next to the Winnebago County J.P. Coughlin Center, a short walk from the 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 native plants. During the winter months, the paths become snow shoe trails. Also located in the nature area is a 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 J.P. Coughlin Building.



The land was once used by Native Americans because of its proximity to Lake Winnebago's natural resources, including hardwood forests, oak savanna, wetlands, and prairie. Today's prairie 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, and as late as 2017, 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. The area was nominated and accepted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places 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 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 and snow shoe trails.

The archeological site also supports sizable populations of small mammals and songbirds. A small parking area is located off Lasley Point Road.

Ken Robl Conservation Park

This is the newest nature area in Winnebago County located at 3396 Walter Street in Oshkosh. The conservation park was dedicated on July 18, 2018. There are hiking and biking trails, and two ponds. People can watch nature, or fish from an accessible pier made of recycled plastic. This former landfill site, basically a brown site, was used to create a park as part of a remediation program funded by Winnebago County Solid Waste Department's trust. A fence separates the remaining landfill operations and mound from the 39-acre park. This is a definite community asset allowing people to enjoy and recreate on the property.



Landfilling was complete in 1989, and then the final cover was installed in 1991. That started a long-term care period where the site sat idle until creation of this park named after Ken Robl who has 39 years as a Winnebago County Board member and Solid Waste Committee participant.

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, 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. These types of trails have also become a necessary part of alternative transportation opportunities throughout the County.

Mascoutin Valley State Recreational Trail

The Winnebago County portion of the Mascoutin Valley State Trail is 5.3 miles long and has beautiful scenery for 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.

With a crushed limestone base, the trail runs through the southwest corner of Winnebago County and continues on into both Green Lake and Fond du Lac Counties. Rush Lake Marsh area offers wildlife viewing opportunities. The trail also passes through the Eldorado Marsh and ends in the City of Berlin.

WIOUWASH State Recreational Trail



The WIOUWASH trail runs on an abandoned 21.8 mile railroad corridor and is named for the 4 counties it crosses through, Winnebago, Outagamie, Waupaca, and Shawano. A part of the Rails to Trails Program of the WDNR, 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 the Village of Hortonville. The trail will ultimately extend from Oshkosh northward through Langlade County. It 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 must be developed before a continuous trail is in place (including the segment from Birnamwood north through Aniwa to the Langlade County line). Ongoing efforts are underway 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

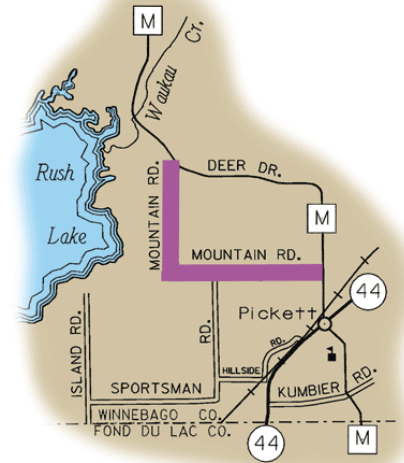
There is a 200-mile network of snowmobile trails in Winnebago County with 133.5 miles designated as state 'funded' trails. The remaining 80 miles of trails are club trails, which mean local clubs install and maintain these trails through fundraisers and membership dues. Snowmobile trails are open to 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 WDNR Snowmobile Safety Course. The course is required for all snowmobilers between the ages of 12 and 16 who wish to operate alone. Contact the WDNR, 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 though a county-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan was passed by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors in 2017. 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).



Source: Wisconsin DOT, Travel Information.

More information on biking conditions and routes is provided in the Winnebago County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This shows connections from major cities and addresses existing barriers exist.

Rustic Roads

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. These routes offer excellent opportunities for travel through an attractive rustic area by car, bicycle, or on 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 both paved and gravel in areas. 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. Travelers 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 via 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 2017, 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 painting, benches, and signage along path routes.

OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INTEREST GROUPS

Surrounding Parks

Within an hour drive of Winnebago County's Community Park and Sunnyview Expo Center, there are 4 state park facilities (Map 4). More state parks are located along the shores of Lake Michigan, about a 90 minute drive away, making Winnebago County a central destination for recreational opportunities. As you get beyond a 90 minute drive, Madison and Wisconsin 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. With increasing and fluctuating prices for food and grocery items, 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 landscaping for pleasure. Winnebago County's current projected acreage for backyard gardens is currently at 23,486 while there are 6-12 acres of Community Gardens.*



The county is currently part of the Fox Cities Community Garden Partnership and has approximately 5-6 gardens in the program located throughout the area:

1. Clearwater Community Garden, 2111 Marathon Ave., Neenah;
2. Goodwill Community Garden, 1800 Appleton Road, Menasha;
3. Mosaic / UW Fox Valley Garden, 1475 Midway Road, Menasha;
4. St. Joseph Food Program Pilot Garden, Opportunity Way, Menasha;
5. UW-Oshkosh Community Garden (self-sustaining), 663 3rd Ave., Oshkosh
6. UWEX on Sherman Rd.
7. Several community gardens located on vacant city lots in Oshkosh

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

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/>

Wild Ones – Fox Valley Area

Wild Ones strives to become a widely recognized voice for native plants and the sustainable landscaping movement, promoting increased use of native plantings that create living landscapes through grassroots efforts by example, education, marketing, and personalized support.

We will raise public awareness regarding the benefits that native plants, including trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses, offer in a variety of settings so landscaping with native plants becomes the norm rather than the exception.

We will persuade the general public that including native plants in home and public landscapes is aesthetically pleasing and healthier for our environment, and that reducing unnecessary turf grass reduces storm water runoff and unnecessary use of water, fuel, and lawn chemicals.

We will see the use of native plants extend into an increasing number of areas where plants touch the soil – such as pollinator support and public places.

We will join forces with others to preserve native plants and biodiversity from loss due to development and other forces, including displacement by non-native invasive plants.

Fox Cities Greenways

The Fox Cities Greenways is an active component of parks, recreational opportunities and planning within Winnebago County's boundaries. Trailways, open space, and recreation activities influence 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/>



Oshkosh Cycling Club

The Oshkosh Cycling Club, incorporated in 2005, is a group of cycling enthusiasts in the Oshkosh, Wisconsin area. The OCC is involved in advocacy for cycling in the Oshkosh community and surrounding areas.

The mission of the Oshkosh Cycling Club is to educate the cycling public through development, organization, and promotion of safe bicycling events, programs, and opportunities, in and around the Oshkosh cycling community.

The OCC has been actively promoting cycling in the Oshkosh area since 2005 and continues to increase its impact on cycling in our community. Projects and programs include the following;

- Supports BikeOsh an initiative for a healthier lifestyle in Oshkosh
- Supports ReThink of Winnebago County biking
- Supports Northeast Wisconsin Omnium
- Supports Backdraft Bike Tour
- Supports Heritage Trail as local ambassador
- Made funding available to support public mountain bike trail "Aurora Alley" and created the Waukau Creek MTB Trail
- Suggested new route maps
- Participating in the Cycling Without Age program at Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh
- Install two bike repair stations for Winnebago County on Wiouwash Trail
- Promoted Omro Classic bike race (Wisport)
- Active participation in the Bicycle and Pedestrian plan for the Oshkosh Community and Winnebago County
- Organized the Sunnyview Cyclocross annual events and provide support for Tour de Titan and ReThink Drive your Bike events
- Participate in local Health and Fitness expo's for events and businesses, Oshkosh Corp. Sustainability Fair
- Purchase Billboards for Wisconsin's 3 Foot Law to promote rider safety
- Promote and organize the Fox Valley Bike Swap (fundraiser for Cycling Advocacy)
- Promote cycling and rider safety at many local community events (Farmers Market, UW-O Earth Charter Expo)

re:Th!nk Winnebago



re:TH!NK, Winnebago's Healthy Living Partnership, is a coalition of volunteers, organizations and agencies throughout Winnebago County. A project developed by the Winnebago County Health Department, that 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. The Active Communities group is also looking at a Safe Routes to Parks program auditing neighborhood access to and from parks for possible upgrades and solutions to safety issues.

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 been searching for a suitable piece of land (10 acres) in the Neenah and Menasha area.

<http://winnebagocountydogparks.com/>

Oshkosh South West Rotary - Community Environmental & Beautification Committee

Chartered in 1973, Oshkosh Rotary Southwest has become the largest Rotary club in Oshkosh, and is one of the largest of almost sixty clubs in its southeast Wisconsin district. Over 130 like-minded individuals in the club work with each other, with their community and with others worldwide to give of themselves through a variety of successful projects.

Current projects include installation of a display arboretum in the Community Park, funding of native plantings in the Natural Way area of the Community Park and installation of an information kiosk at the fishing area of the Tribal Heritage Crossing of the WIOUWASH Trail.

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 as a National Parkway. Recently, the water trail was designated as a state corridor trail system and is eligible for funding. 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, and 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. The trail cuts across a portion of Winnebago County, so it is important to work with this entity on trail maintenance and needs.

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/>

Soccer Clubs, Rugby, Disc Golf as well as Softball and Baseball organizations also utilize the Community Park for their summer tournaments and leagues.



CHAPTER 4

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

CHAPTER 4: RECREATIONAL NEEDS

RECREATIONAL NEEDS

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Standards:

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC), as part of its *Long-Range Transportation/Land Use Plan for the Fox Cities, Oshkosh, and Fond du Lac Urban Areas* (October 2010), has identified a level of service standard for parks, which is 10 acres for every 1,000 residents. ECWRPC created residential standards based on density for various services such as sanitary sewer, water supply, street network, and parks. The high density category is defined as 3 or more residential units per acre.

As a policy, park and recreation programs should have a five-year cycle update for the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (CORP). Completion of a CORP will insure the County's eligibility for Stewardship funding.

Park and recreation needs may include; the demand for additional park land to accommodate new facilities, requirements for additional parks in areas where new residential growth is occurring, or the need for new or improved park facilities and equipment. Generally, recreation standards are used to identify these necessities.

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. the land's location;
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 being served. Finally, an analysis of existing specific recreation facilities 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.

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Winnebago County is located in the east central part of Wisconsin, approximately 75 miles north of Madison, 110 miles northwest of Milwaukee and 200 miles northwest of Chicago. The county is square to rectangular in shape, and is approximately 24 miles from east to west and 24 miles from north to south. Interstate USH 41 traverses the approximate center of county from north to south. USH 10 to the north leads to the Fox Valley on the east with Waupaca County to the north.



A four-lane divided freeway parallels the county's eastern boundary, and STH 21, an east-west route crosses its south central portion. These are the three major traffic arteries. USH 45, and STH 26, and STH 44 are other important through routes.

Municipalities in Winnebago County include five cities, two villages (Fox Crossing and Winneconne), and 15 towns. The City of Oshkosh is the county's retail hub and county seat with the highest population base (66,083). The Town of Oshkosh has the highest population base of all the townships in the County, (ECWRPC Trends, 2010; Table 1).

Between 1970 and 2010, the county's population increased from 129,946 to 166,994 after a half century of slow declining trends, an increase of 28.51%. Growth was particularly high in the urbanized outlying areas of the Town of Algoma and the Village of Fox Crossing. The Town of Clayton more than doubled in population during the 40-year interval. The Town of Oshkosh lost population because of annexations to the City of Oshkosh. The Town of Nepeuskun also had a negative growth factor as more people moved into more urbanized areas.

Close proximity to the Fox Valley and its resulting new subdivision development is a common characteristic of Winnebago County's most rapidly growing towns. During the past few decades, much of this growth has occurred within the Fox Cities and Oshkosh urbanized areas, but urban sprawl west of Interstate USH 41 has increased considerably. The Village of Fox Crossing and the towns of Algoma, Oshkosh, and Neenah have been prime areas for new development as well as scattered rural subdivisions and individual home sites.

Table 5: Winnebago County Population Trends, 1970 – 2010

Jurisdiction	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2000-2010 Change	% Change
T Algoma	3,158	3,249	3,442	5,702	6,822	1,120	19.64%
T Black Wolf	2,127	2,318	2,154	2,330	2,410	80	3.43%
T Clayton	1,771	2,353	2,264	2,974	3,951	977	32.85%
V Fox Crossing	8,682	12,307	13,975	15,858	18,498	2,640	16.65%
T Neenah	2,942	2,864	2,691	2,657	3,237	580	21.83%
T Nekimi	1,193	1,516	1,475	1,419	1,429	10	-0.70%
T Nepeuskun	743	682	647	689	710	21	3.05%
T Omro	1,444	1,684	1,616	1,875	2,116	241	12.85%
T Oshkosh	4,943	4,420	4,655	3,234	2,475	-759	-23.47%
T Poygan	734	898	824	1,037	1,301	264	25.46%
T Rushford	1,415	1,420	1,361	1,471	1,561	90	6.12%
T Utica	1,029	1,038	1,046	1,168	1,299	131	11.21%
T Vinland	1,472	1,632	1,688	1,849	1,765	-84	-4.54%
T Winchester	1,209	1,261	1,433	1,676	1,763	87	5.19%
T Winneconne	1,408	1,595	1,761	2,145	2,350	205	9.56%
T Wolf River	904	1,052	1,037	1,223	1,189	-34	-2.78%
V Winneconne	1,611	1,935	2,059	2,401	2,383	-18	0.75%

C Appleton (Part)	0	5	443	812	1,490	678	83.50%
C Menasha (Part)	14,836	14,728	14,638	15,643	15,144	-499	-3.19%
C Neenah	22,902	22,432	23,219	24,507	25,501	994	4.05%
C Omro	2,341	2,763	2,836	3,177	3,517	340	10.70%
C Oshkosh	53,082	49,620	55,006	62,916	66,083	3,167	5.03%
Winnebago County	129,946	131,772	140,320	156,763	166,994	10,231	6.53%

Source: U.S. Census: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010. ECWRPC 2018 change calculations.

Winnebago County's recent history of significant population gains has caused state demographers to adjust their projections upward (Table 6). As a result, the county's population is projected to grow by about 15.65 percent between 2010 and 2040, increasing by 26,136 residents (from 166,994 to 193,130).* Projected percent change of population from 2010 to 2040 is 16%.

Table 6: POPULATION PROJECTIONS, 2020 - 2040

MCD Name	2010 Census	2013 Estimate	2015 Proj.	2020 Proj.	2025 Proj.	2030 Proj.	2035 Proj.	2040 Proj.
T Algoma	6,822	6,917	7,150	7,770	8,360	8,925	9,375	9,730
T Black Wolf	2,410	2,423	2,445	2,535	2,605	2,670	2,695	2,700
T Clayton	3,951	3,996	4,140	4,510	4,855	5,200	5,470	5,685
V Fox Crossing	18,498	18,582	18,950	20,070	21,080	22,020	22,680	23,140
T Neenah	3,237	3,371	3,495	3,810	4,110	4,400	4,635	4,820
T Nekimi	1,429	1,423	1,425	1,445	1,460	1,470	1,460	1,435
T Nepeuskun	710	728	740	775	805	835	855	865
T Omro	2,116	2,134	2,175	2,300	2,415	2,520	2,595	2,645
T Oshkosh	2,475	2,473	2,470	2,475	2,475	2,465	2,415	2,355
T Poygan	1,301	1,304	1,340	1,435	1,530	1,615	1,680	1,735
T Rushford	1,561	1,572	1,590	1,655	1,715	1,765	1,790	1,805
T Utica	1,299	1,308	1,330	1,400	1,460	1,515	1,550	1,575
T Vinland	1,765	1,748	1,740	1,755	1,755	1,750	1,720	1,680
T Winchester	1,763	1,772	1,795	1,870	1,940	2,000	2,030	2,050
T Winneconne	2,350	2,365	2,405	2,540	2,650	2,760	2,830	2,875
T Wolf River	1,189	1,188	1,190	1,220	1,240	1,260	1,255	1,245

V Winneconne	2,383	2,394	2,410	2,495	2,550	2,600	2,620	2,615
C Appleton	1,490	1,485	1,540	1,680	1,820	1,950	2,055	2,145
C Menasha	15,144	15,108	15,110	15,330	15,460	15,520	15,380	15,120
C Neenah	25,501	25,750	26,010	26,990	27,810	28,520	28,870	28,970
C Omro	3,517	3,521	3,575	3,740	3,885	4,020	4,100	4,140
C Oshkosh	66,083	66,300	66,900	69,250	71,250	72,900	73,650	73,800
Winnebago County	166,994	167,862	169,925	177,050	183,230	188,680	191,710	193,130

**Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2016 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 from within a 1 hour driving radius, such as the Fox Valley, Madison, and the Stevens Point area (Map 4). Additionally, a number of large seasonally occupied campgrounds exist in the county. The county's proximity to larger urban centers also attracts numerous day-visitors. Due to the demand placed on recreational facilities and open space (as well as other similar types of services generated by a population of 100,000 or more), it is easy to see that providing adequate recreational facilities to accommodate that demand will continue to be a major challenge for the Winnebago County parks system in future years.

Table 7: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP

	Winnebago Co.		State of Wis.	
Age	Number	%	Number	%
0-4	9,476	5.6%	358,443	6.30%
5-14	19,987	11.8%	744,544	13.09%
15-24	26,820	15.8%	785,761	13.82%
25-44	42,501	25.1%	1,447,360	25.45%
45-54	23,920	14.1%	873,753	15.36%
55-64	21,804	12.9%	699,811	12.31%
65+	24,979	14.7%	777,314	13.67%
TOTAL:	169,487	100%	5,686,986	100%

*Source: ACS Demographic Profile Data by Age and Sex, 2016.
 American Fact Finder, DP1 Summary File*

FACILITY NEEDS

The distribution of population by age group (Table 10) is another factor that must be considered when evaluating existing and future recreational needs in Winnebago County. This data 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, whose age ranges from 25-44 years, which is just slightly higher than the State's average of 25.4% for the same age group.

The County's 2016 median age is 37.9, a little younger compared to the State's median age of 39.1 years. Providing recreational opportunities for this segment of the population, (Young Couples and Couples with Kids) should be a priority as most persons in this demographic desire to maintain an overall active lifestyle. Activities such as picnicking, camping, bicycling, hiking, and cross-country skiing are becoming increasingly popular among families. Table 8 gives a breakdown of the type and amount of facilities needed per population base of a community.

Table 8: Number of Facilities per Population Base: General Guidelines

Activity/ Facility	Recommended Space Requirements	Service Radius and Location Notes	Number of Units per Population
Baseball Official	3.0 to 3.85 acre minimum	¼ to ½ mile Unlighted part of neighborhood complex; lighted fields part of community complex	1 per 5,000; 1 per 30,000 lighted
Little League	1.2 acre minimum		
Basketball Youth	2,400 – 3,036 vs.	¼ to ½ mile Usually in school, recreation center or church facility; safe walking or bicycling access; outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings	1 per 5,000
High school	5,040 – 7,280 sq. ft.		
Football	Minimum 1.5 acres	15 – 30 minute travel time Usually part of sports complex in community park or adjacent to school	1 per 20,000
Soccer*	1.7 to 2.1 acres	1 to 2 miles Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to larger soccer fields or neighborhood parks	1 per 10,000
Softball	1.5 to 2.0 acres	¼ to ½ mile May also be used for youth baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)

Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities; usually ½ to 2 acre site	15 – 30 minutes travel time Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m to 3m diving boards; located in community park or school site	1 per 20,000 (pools should accommodate 3% to 5% of total population at a time)
Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court area (2 acres per complex	¼ to ½ mile Best in groups of 2 to 4 courts; located in neighborhood community park or near school site	1 court per 2,000
Volleyball	Minimum 4,000 sq. ft.	½ to 1 mile Usually in school, recreation center or church facility; safe walking or bicycle access; outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings	1 court per 5,000
Total land Acreage		Various types of parks mini, neighborhood, community, regional, conservation, etc.	10 acres per 1,000 Community 100 acres for County

**Amount of facilities depends largely on trends/demand for activity and size of Community dynamics.*

LAND NEEDS

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 are 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, public informational meetings were held. A short survey was sent out via web sites, social media and through the Survey Monkey service with a goal of helping to recognize those needs and provide insight into public desires. (See Appendices A-1) Publications such as a county's newsletter or program guide can also be used as a parameter to measure needs of residents.

For Winnebago County to develop its recommendations as well as a relevant 5-year action plan for parks and recreation, the county first must determine its outdoor recreational demands and needs. The state recreational requirements (listed below) also provide a basis for comparison of Winnebago County to the other 71 counties in the State. Maintaining the current parks system, should be one of the County's many priorities in accommodating its residents.

JURISDICTIONAL STANDARDS

To determine the overall need for park and recreational land in Winnebago County, the County standard utilized is a minimum of 100 acres of available open space or outdoor recreational land per 1,000 persons. The total county population for 2010 of 166,994 allots the total acres required

to approximately 16,700. This area should be comprised of a passive recreational space to active recreational space split of 70/30 (per person/1000 capita) as noted below:

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 (193,130) indicated a peak demand in 2040 of 19,313 acres of recreation land - 13,519 for passive use and 5,794 for active use. When applied to the county's population projections, land needs will increase from 2010 to 2040 by 1,830 for passive acres and 784 for active (Table 9).

While immediate land needs show the County as adequate, there are also jurisdictional standards to consider of what the state, county, surrounding communities and private sector are required to provide in terms of recreation.

Recreational Lands Provided by the State-----	70 acres/1,000
Recreational Lands Provided by the County-----	15 acres/1,000
Recreational Lands Provided by the Local Community--	10 acres/1,000
Recreational Lands Provided by the Private Sector-----	5 acres/1,000

It should be noted that while such national standards¹ (NPS and NRPA) provide a target, a more thorough and accurate analysis of the County park system must be considered because of the unique nature that some parks, and more specifically the uses offered within, have within the context of the community. Because many Winnebago County parks are classified as natural areas or special use, no standard was applied. The service area standards, in Table 9: NRPA Recreation Open Space Categories, were used for the assessment of the park system in the following table. By 2020-2040 there will be a deficiency in open space land to accommodate the growing population base. Albeit this is based on population projections, the County should continue to look at vacant properties to expand recreational resources.

¹ <https://www.nps.gov/policy/mp/policies.html#MajorElementsofParkPlanning22>

Table 9: WINNEBAGO COUNTY OPEN SPACE DEMAND

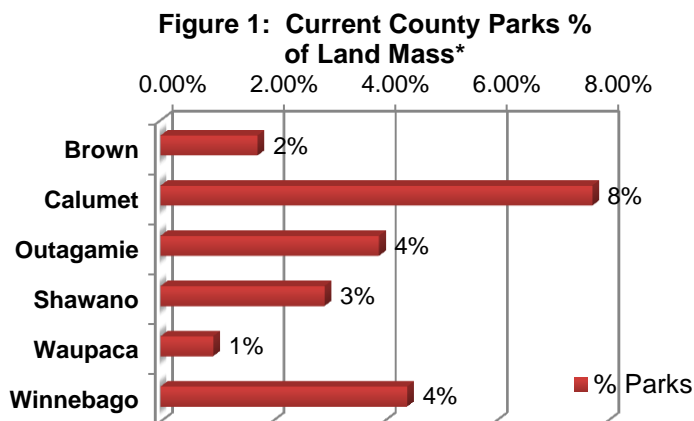
Standard	Existing Acres*	Recommended Acres Needed per 1,000 Population by year					Surplus or Deficiency (+,-)				
Jurisdiction	Provided	2000 156,763	2010 166,994	2020 177,050	2030 188,380	2040 193,130	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040
State/Federal (70A)	13,197	10,973	11,690	12,394	13,187	13,519	2,224	1,507	804	10	-322
County/Local (15A)	2,492	2,351	2,505	2,656	2,826	2,897	141	-13	-164	-334	-405
Private Sector (5A)	1,404	784	835	885	942	966	620	569	519	462	438
(100A) Totals:	17,093	14,109	15,029	15,935	16,954	17,382	2,984	2,064	1,159	139	-289

Sources: Census 2010, *DOA Population Projections, 2016, ECWRPC demand calculations 2018.

*Sources: State/Federal acres total taken from State DNR Outdoor Park and Recreation plan SCORP 2019-2023. County/Local acres and 5% Private acres are estimated from ECWRPC current land use breakdowns

Regional Greenspace Comparison

Neighboring counties were researched for actual populations and green spaces, Figure 1. These parks and facilities also provide a level of service to Winnebago's population base within commuting distance for residents.



*As another comparison to the above, the City of Madison, WI has about 11.4% of its total land mass as designated open space (54,210 acres). Winnebago's total land mass is 371,000 acres and Calumet County is 254,000 acres.

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 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, is located a few miles west of the county line in adjacent Waupaca County and 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.

ACCESS ANALYSIS

Parks provide multiple benefits to the surrounding community. Some of these benefits include environmental conservation, improved mental and physical health, and higher property values. People living within a half mile of a park, visit the parks and exercise more often; however, without the proper facilities to access the park, these people, and others, may be denied the opportunity to engage in the act of walking or bicycling to the park and to participate in the activities offered at the park. The identification of barriers that prevent people from accessing parks is essential to determining cost effective solutions to bridge those barriers. One of the most common barriers amongst all park systems is a lack of detailed

information specific to accessing the transportation facilities outside of the park boundaries. Other than the roadways, these non-motorized facilities are the only other means of accessing Winnebago County's parks and engaging in the activities offered within. For this analysis, each of Winnebago County's park or recreation areas has been assessed for both bicycle and pedestrian connections. The Safe Routes to Parks program provides the tools necessary for local communities to look at safe access.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Access

Bicycle and pedestrian access can look and feel very different from one location to another. However the connection is created, it should ensure that it is accessible to all users despite age or ability. Park officials, along with any other entity involved, should coordinate efforts to make these connections as seamless and as safe as possible.

The following is an inventory of the existing bicycle and pedestrian access available throughout Winnebago County Parks. Most of the recreational sites are boat landings also accessible by car. Community Park, Sunnyview Expo Center, and J.P. Coughlin Nature Area are accessible by side path, on-street bicycle facilities and public transit bus.





Community Park

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - Yes
- Direct Bicycle Access - Yes
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - Yes
- Direct Pedestrian Access - Yes



Asylum Point Park and Boat Landing

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - Yes
- Direct Bicycle Access - No
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
- Direct Pedestrian Access - No



Eureka Green Space and Boat Landing

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - No
- Direct Bicycle Access - No
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - Yes
- Direct Pedestrian Access - No



Black Wolf Boat Landing

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - No
- Direct Bicycle Access - No
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
- Direct Pedestrian Access - No



Boom Bay Boat Landing

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - No
- Direct Bicycle Access - No
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
- Direct Pedestrian Access - No



Lake Poygan Boat Landing

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - No
- Direct Bicycle Access - No
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
- Direct Pedestrian Access - No



Grundman Park / Osh-O-Nee Boat Landing

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - No
- Direct Bicycle Access - No
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
- Direct Pedestrian Access - No



Lake Butte Des Morts Boat Landing

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - No
- Direct Bicycle Access - No
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
- Direct Pedestrian Access - No



Lasley Point Archeological Site

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - No
- Direct Bicycle Access - No
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
- Direct Pedestrian Access - No



Waukau Creek Nature Preserve and Dam Area

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - No
- Direct Bicycle Access - No
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
- Direct Pedestrian Access - No



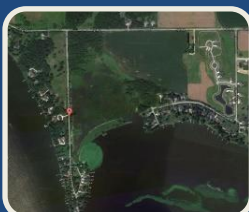
Coughlin Nature Area

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - Yes
- Direct Bicycle Access - Yes
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - Yes
- Direct Pedestrian Access - Yes



Sunnyview Expo Center

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - Yes
- Direct Bicycle Access - Yes
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - Yes
- Direct Pedestrian Access - Yes



Shangri La Point Nature Preserve

- Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - Yes
- Direct Bicycle Access - Yes
- Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - Yes
- Direct Pedestrian Access - Yes



Ken Robl Conservancy Park

Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - Yes
Direct Bicycle Access - No
Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
Direct Pedestrian Access - No



FUTURE - Mary Stroud Park - Winchester

Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - Yes
Direct Bicycle Access - No
Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
Direct Pedestrian Access - No



FUTURE - Dr. Donald & Bernadette Netzer Nature Area - Near Expo

Bicycle Facilities within 3 miles - Yes
Direct Bicycle Access - No
Pedestrian Facility within 1/4 mile - No
Direct Pedestrian Access - No

TRENDS

For Winnebago County to effectively provide the right type of recreational activities and facilities, a better understanding of broader recreational trends is necessary. The following table is taken from the *2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. It identifies trends in outdoor recreational preferences. Below is a table that represents the trends and activities for the state as a whole:

Table 10: Wisconsin Recreation Trends²

Activity group	% of WI residents that participated at least once in last 12 months	
Hiking	68%	
Hiking/walking/running on trails		
Nature observation	66%	
Bird/wildlife watching		
Nature photography		
Gathering berries, mushrooms, etc.		
Boating-related	61%	
Motor boating		
Canoeing/kayaking		
Personal water craft (jet-ski)		
Sailing		
Stand-up paddle boarding		
Waterskiing		
Bicycling	50%	
Bicycling on roads		
Bicycling on rail-trails or other developed trails		
Mountain biking		
Fat-tire biking/snow biking		
Fishing	49%	
Lake fishing		
Stream/river fishing		
Ice fishing		
Camping	41%	
Tent camping		
RV/pop-up camping		
Dog-related activities	38%	
Walking/running dog on trails		
Visiting a dog park		
Hunting	27%	
Big game hunting		
Turkey hunting		
Small game hunting		
Migratory bird hunting		
Motorized trail-based activities	25%	
ATVs/UTVs on trails-routes		
Snowmobiling		
4-WD vehicles on trails-routes		
Motorcycles on trails-routes		

Source: 2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, December 2018.

Trends in participation at county parks, forests and trails

Activities with largest increases:

- Bicycling – winter/fat-tire biking
- Camping – RV/pop-up
- Bicycling – mountain biking
- Riding ATV/UTVs
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Bicycling – recreational/rail-trail biking
- Picnic areas/day use/beaches
- Paddle boarding
- Dog walking on trails
- Hiking/walking/running on trails
- Fishing

² <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/scorp/documents/Chapter2.pdf>



CHAPTER 5

HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CHAPTER 5: HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

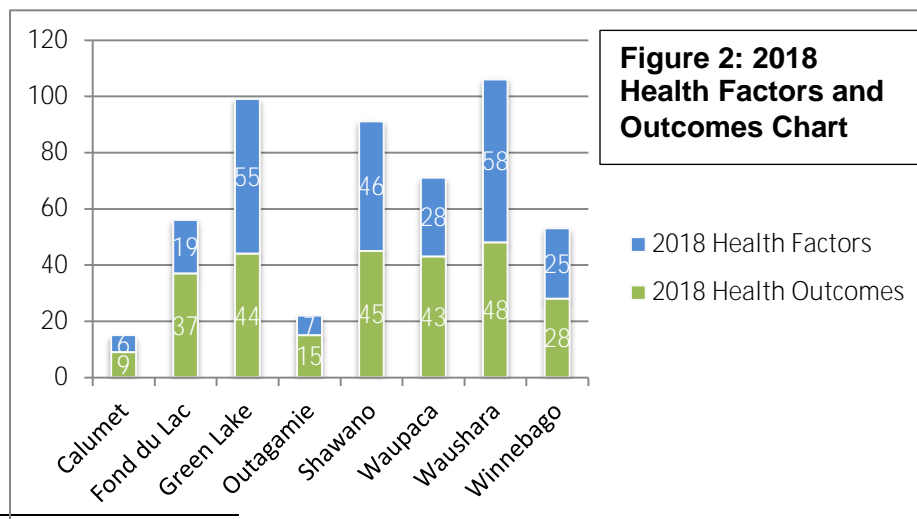
2018 WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH COMPONENTS AND STATISTICS¹

With obesity rates on the rise, Winnebago County's need to promote active communities should be a top priority. From the 2018 Winnebago County Health Rankings*, (with 1 being the best), Winnebago County is rated 28 overall out of 72 in the state for health outcomes (today) and 25 out of 72 for health factors (tomorrow). The 2017 Health values showed Winnebago County at 43 for outcomes and also at 43 for health factors. These numbers have reduced dramatically for both rankings by 65% and 58% prospectively. The County overall is getting healthier. When compared to 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 through its 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. For example, in Winnebago County, the group re:THINK Winnebago is one such group who has started the process of working with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to promote health in planning. The County is ranked at 27 out of 72 for Social & Economic Factors. At right and below are comparisons of rankings (in alphabetical order) from the surrounding counties showing how Winnebago measures up:



Table 11: 2018 Health Outcomes and Factors

COUNTY	2018 Health Outcomes	2018 Health Factors
Calumet	9	6
Fond du Lac	37	19
Green Lake	44	55
Outagamie	15	7
Shawano	45	46
Waupaca	43	28
Waushara	48	58
Winnebago	28	25



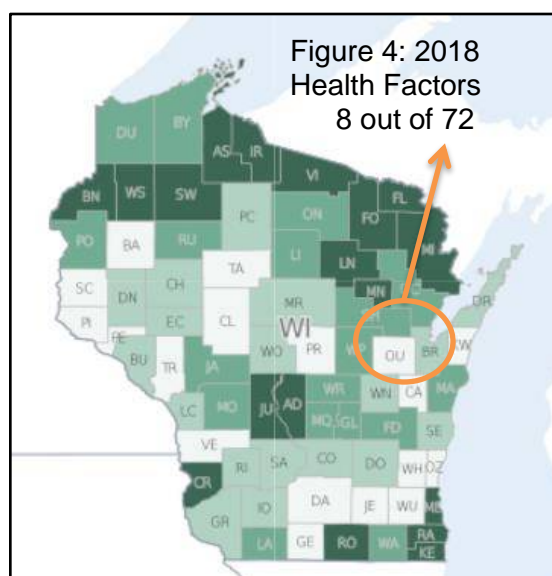
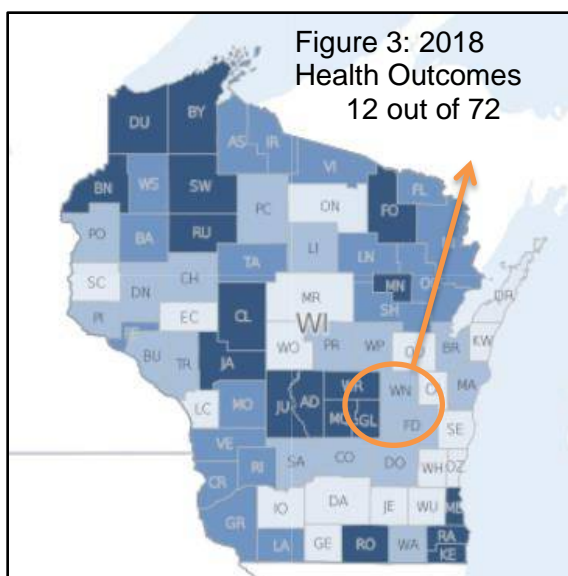
¹ <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Improving community health requires people from multiple fields to work collaboratively through an ongoing cycle of activities. Communities may be at different points in this process. Within the recommendations for active living, ECWRPC has developed a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan to help guide this process. A plan of this nature will help fill in those voided connections residents are asking for while still planning for future active communities.

To enable and encourage the citizens of Winnebago County to be physically active, strengthening of support and funding for park and recreation facilities and recreational programming should be looked into. A program similar to the National Recreation and Park Association's "Park Prescriptions" could be used to encourage active use and enjoyment of what Winnebago County has to offer. Improvements that would positively benefit public health and recreation include maintaining and adding amenities to existing Neighborhood and Community Parks to support a growing population base. Also, adding more multi-use trail connections helps promote a healthy lifestyle and active living. Careful attention should be given to providing environmental and social equity throughout the park system, by making facilities ADA accessible. In many large cities, low income neighborhoods often lack quality recreational programs. Access to playgrounds and park facilities can also be hindered by physical and land use barriers. (i.e. transportation, water corridors and industry).

Continued support via community partnerships with groups such as sport clubs, organizations, non-profits, citizen groups, companies, and other interested parties to develop, fund and operate recreation programs, leagues, and events are 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. 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 recreational opportunities, should be considered.



Above are 2 maps that demonstrate where the Winnebago County stands in the state as compared to the other 72 counties with 1 being the healthiest. 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.

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, while reducing overall traffic congestion. Numerous Winnebago County residents choose to walk, bike, and/or utilize public transportation as their primary means of transportation due to cost of vehicle ownership and maintenance, environmental choice, healthy lifestyle choice, and etc.. Development of multi-modal transportation 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. Safe Routes to School programs can assist communities and encourage children to walk and bike to school as long as connections are in place and barriers are crossed.

SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS

Safe Routes to Parks is the National Recreation Park Association's (NRPA) campaign to implement environmental, policy, and program strategies that create safe and equitable access to parks for all people. These strategies align with the goals of the 10-Minute Walk campaign and are great tools and resources to increase access and safe walking connections to parks.

The county has been working with re:Th!nk Winnebago with an Action Strategy Plan to promote safer routes to parks within the county and its communities. Along with neighborhood analysis, police liaisons, and park audits this program promotes getting citizens to and from parks safely.



The NRPA has created an Action Framework, guide, and toolkit on how to implement Safe Routes to Parks Strategies. Community input and involvement in the process is key to the success of the program. The goal is to train neighborhood stakeholders on how to use the toolkit to identify problems.

THE PARKS AND HEALTH CONNECTION

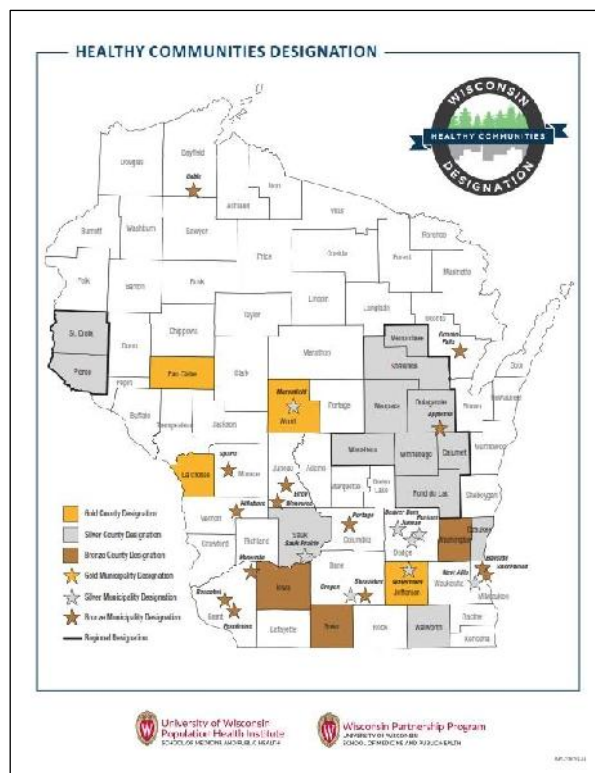
Lastly, according to a publication from the Trust for Public Land, there are 8 ways parks can improve overall health:

1. Parks increase exercise. Residents who live closer to parks are shown to exercise more. Proximity to a park promotes regular use and healthier residents.

2. Most moderate exercise (approximately 12%), the kind of exercise human bodies need most, takes place in parks.
3. Parks help to reduce stress and clear the mind. Outdoor areas boost focus and promote relaxation.
4. A park makeover with aesthetically pleasing spaces encourages use and promotes public health habits.
5. A variety of amenities attracts different users, i.e. skateparks, basketball and tennis courts, baseball diamonds, and paths therefore encouraging activity.
6. Dedicated fitness zone exercise areas encourage exercise and increase park use. The Town of Menasha just put in outdoor adult fitness equipment at Fritsch Park where parents can get in reps while watching their kids play on the playground. Body fitness stations are becoming popular to encourage adults to workout.
7. Supervised activities and programming maximize a park's public health benefit. Getting people out and moving in a fun, active setting is the best medicine.
8. Exercise is one of the cheapest ways to stay healthy. By promoting healthy habits, parks can help reduce health care costs.

Wisconsin Healthy Communities Designation²

This new program encourages achievements in health improvement in Wisconsin by recognizing communities that focus multiple, connected efforts – including health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment – to improve the health of their residents. The program's inaugural round of gold, silver or bronze designations was announced in September 2018 and included 31 communities. Winnebago County is included through ECWRPC's Silver designation. A map of the participants is located at right:



² <https://www.wihealthycommunities.org/>



CHAPTER 6

RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAPTER 6: RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for improving Winnebago County's recreational system are intended to serve as a guide for 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 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.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (General)

Winnebago County's numerous natural and cultural resources make it a popular recreation area for residents and visitors while providing an enhanced quality of life. 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, it is recommended that the County:

Continue to work with local municipalities to encourage changes/updates to adopted local land use plans, which are used to provide insight into the county-wide outdoor recreation plan. Such 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 existing documents that provide a sound basis for wise use of these resources.

Continue to encourage farmers to implement sound agricultural practices, particularly those that control erosion and protect groundwater as well as run-off of phosphorus and nitrates via the County's Conservation Management Plan.

Continue to support efforts by the WDNR and other public and private entities to ensure the long-term protection of high quality wildlife and fishery resources within the county. These resources, not only have intrinsic value, but support the quality of life enjoyed by county residents, provide recreational opportunities and contribute to local economies.

Continue to work with the WDNR, other state agencies, and the private sector to provide multiple-use facilities for activities such as; hiking, nature study,

cross-country skiing, hunting, and fishing where appropriate on county and state-owned lands.

Make use of the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) (WINGS) to identify archeological and historical sites within the county, including cemeteries whenever possible. 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 listed on the National Register of Historic Places where pertinent. Additional promotion of historic sites should 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.






Continue to work with groups such as re:Th!nk Winnebago to promote healthy lifestyles and active recreation opportunities throughout the county, while supporting Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and Safe Routes to Parks (SRTP) programs and leaders.







PARK AND RECREATION MAINTENANCE






The recommendations proposed are to be used as a guide for implementing the County's 5-year action program. Among the highlights are; placing emphasis on ADA compliance for all existing and new facilities, upgrading restrooms and other ancillary facilities, and maintaining existing recreational opportunities through an adequate maintenance program. These improvements will make the county's parks more user-friendly and 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 such as clubs and groups. These opportunities are an important ingredient of the county's overall recreational system and attract visitor dollars for the economy. With the new Sunnyview Stadium stage, more events can be added as well as a tourism base for concerts.












Table 12: COUNTY PARKS AND FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS:





PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Asylum Point Park / Boat Landing	    	3400 Sherman Rd. Oshkosh	79.1	<p>Maintain fishing piers for safety. Overgrown weeds and branches should be trimmed. Add benches for fishing. Review safety standards for ADA compliancy.</p> <p>Add a kayak launch and replace pier at turn out.</p> <p>Replace Sign by boat landing</p> <p>Continue to trim willow trees and weeds annually to maintain open view to the lake and parking area.</p> <p>Continue to maintain light house and pursue possibility of lighting it with a low solar intensity light.</p> <p>Apply for WDNR Grant for bridge replacement.</p> <p>Shoreline fishing accessibility should be increased.</p> <p>Continue to work with the WDNR and review lease on five year basis and address water quality issues for the lake.</p>






PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Black Wolf Boat Landing (Nagy Point)	 	6850 Fond du Lac Rd. Oshkosh	3.3	<p>General maintenance of the launch and seawall, striping of launch area and parking lot.</p> <p>Add more lighting for safety.</p> <p>Maintain roof of restroom facility</p>
Boom Bay Boat Landing		7499 Richter Lane, Larsen	0.8	<p>Address rip rap/seawall areas to control erosion.</p> <p>Pave parking area, stripe and add an ADA space</p>
Community Park	  	501 East County Rd. Y, Oshkosh	365.5	<p>Remove old basketball hoops and paint over old courts.</p> <p>Due to the increase in archery and rugby activities, dedicate additional land to accommodate these activities. Install another rugby field.</p> <p>Replace main entrance signs with updated consistent signage.</p> <p>Update Dog Park. Investigate opening another dog park in the northern part of the county.</p>







PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Community Park		501 East County Road Y, Oshkosh	365.5	Update, remove, and/or maintain older playground equipment. Implement the design of The Natural Way area. Schedule a prairie burn another.
JP Coughlin Nature Area	   	625 East County Rd. Y, Oshkosh	35.1	<p>Replace dedication sign and install a consistent main entrance sign.</p> <p>Remove planter boxes at entrance and construct an appropriate formal entrance statement.</p> <p>Trails should be maintained and brush cleared on a routine basis. Remove or replace aluminum vole habitat areas. Add mile markers.</p> <p>Initiate Invasive Species Control program. Work with the WDNR on prescribed burns and rotate areas from year to year.</p> <p>Continue to promote the site as an educational resource with LWCD.</p>





PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Eureka Boat Landing and Picnic Area	  	3103 Liberty St. Eureka	6.3	<p>Improve shoreline area and addressing erosion problems.</p> <p>Continue to trim trees next to pier.</p> <p>Update historical site and marker by adding a crushed gravel path from parking area to the sign and well as a path to the launch and pier.</p>
Grundman Park & Osh-O-Nee Boat Landing	  	1801 Grundman Lane, Oshkosh	12.1	<p>Clear out vegetation growth and brush at the launch, causeway path and main sign. Update main sign to consistent signage.</p> <p>Maintain informational kiosk.</p> <p>Add a new directional sign for the causeway path.</p> <p>Add benches.</p>

PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Ken Robl Conservation Park		3396 Walter St. Oshkosh	39	<p>Continue to develop the site with additional trails and links on the property.</p> <p>Add additional benches as use increases.</p>
Lake Butte des Morts Boat Landing		5316 Leonard Point Rd. Omro	1.6	<p>Additional lighting near the boat ramp could be considered for safety.</p> <p>Maintain the picnic areas and parking lot.</p>
Lake Poygan Boat Landing		8816 Poygan Shores Rd. Winneconne	1.5	<p>Improvements have been added such as a beacon for shore sightings.</p> <p>No new improvements needed.</p>

PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Lasley Point Archeological Site	  	5900 Lasley Point Rd., Winneconne	47.7	<p>Maintain an accessible trail wherever possible. (There are exceptions as the site is protected by the State Historical Society and UW Madison). Develop video links to Facebook or web pages showing trails and routes as an alternative to hiking the trails. Continue to use hand labor from corrections when and where feasible.</p> <p>Maintain the parking area. (Site is hidden from road, i.e. brush growth near sign and parking area).</p> <p>Work with the Historical Society on an informational kiosk and requirements for site improvements.</p>
Shangri La Point Nature Preserve		Shangri La Point Rd., Oshkosh	55	This site is recommended to be left as a natural area and open space for wildlife. No development is planned at this time.

PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Sunnyview Expo Center	    	500 East County Rd. Y, Oshkosh	154.7	<p>Maintain parking areas and buildings for events.</p> <p>Continue to add RV hookups to the County Camping area for events and year-around access. Add electrical outlets attendance grows.</p> <p>Update Expo 10 Year Master Plan. (2019-2020)</p> <p>Redesign of expo stormwater drainage, parking lots, entranceways and lighting.</p> <p>Address the rehab of the covered arena, expo building, and Barn E roofing.</p> <p>Design a Barn F to include appropriate utilities, lighting, walkways, meeting room and canopy needs.</p> <p>Continue with wifi and security upgrades</p>

PLACE	PHOTO(S)	LOCATION	ACRES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Waukau Creek/Pond	  	2987 Delhi Rd. Waukau	65.4	<p>Education kiosk to serve the trail would be helpful. The Audubon Society uses the trails as a teaching tool currently. An updated map is recommended.</p> <p>Consider limited picnic facilities.</p> <p>An invasive species control program has been initiated.</p> <p>The site next to creek by the map signage should be maintained – parking area is over grown near the trail.</p>
Waukau Dam Nature Preserve	  	STH 116	28	<p>Maintenance of the trails should be done on a routine basis, i.e. grooming of the vegetation. (hiking, snowshoe, and cross-country ski trails) – Mountain bike trails @ Waukau Dam are maintained by OCC regularly</p> <p>Maps of trails and species installed at Waukau Creek by Girl Scouts. The site could use a kiosk with WDNR fishery info.</p> <p>Continue shoreline upgrades at the dam washout area</p>

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	<p>Investigate additional off-street parking along the trail.</p> <p>Necessary repairs to trail surface should be maintained.</p> <p>Clear trail segments of horse waste. (April-November)</p> <p>Update wayfinding signage to comply with ECWRPC Wayfinding Guide.</p>
WIOUWASH Trail	 	(Actual beginning of trail is at Wisconsin Ave. Bridge in Oshkosh.) West Wind Rd. to the South in Oshkosh and runs north to Medina Junction Rd.	21.8 Miles	<p>Maintain parking areas along the trail wherever possible.</p> <p>Necessary repairs to trail surface should be maintained.</p> <p>Clear trail segments of horse waste. (April-November)</p> <p>Update signage to comply with ECWRPC Wayfinding Guide</p>

MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR REVIEW

Winnebago County has developed a bicycle and pedestrian facility plan. This plan considers local levels of service for trail provision, recommends priority areas for development and acquisition, as well as improvements to existing facilities. Adoption of the County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (BBP) occurred on February 14, 2017. The plan¹ addresses gaps in trail routes, existing trails, and the creation of new connections. Map 11 from the BBP on page 6-16 shows the proposed routes and network for the County.

The recommendations written in the ECWRPC Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan are to be used as a guide for detailed trail development and plan implementation. A Safe Routes to Parks program should be implemented within the network to provide better connectivity and safe passage for bicyclists and pedestrians.²

Multimodal accommodations in a community must serve various user groups, such as bicyclists, in-line skaters, wheelchair users, and pedestrians making it necessary to assume various points of view when addressing bicycle and pedestrian plans.

The recommendations in this plan are based on several widely recognized publications.

The primary publications used include the following:

- *Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)*
- *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- *Pedestrian Facilities Users Guide*, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
- *The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)*
- *Wisconsin Bicycle Planning Guidance*, Guidelines for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Communities in Planning and Developing Bicycle Facilities, Wisconsin Translink-21
- *Wisconsin Pedestrian Planning Guidance*, Guidelines for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Communities in Planning and Developing Bicycle Facilities, Wisconsin Translink-21

The goal of a bicycle route system is to provide bicyclists with mobility and access within major transportation corridors. Mobility is defined as, the ability to move from one place to another in the most direct route and with the fewest interruptions. Access is defined as, the ability to get where you want to go once you have reached the general area of your destination.

To meet these goals, various criteria have been used to determine route placement and what facilities will be used on these routes. Three general approaches are used to determine route placement:

¹ <https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health/divisions-program-areas/community-health/active-communities>

² <http://www.nrpa.org/Safe-Routes-To-Parks/>.

Space bicycle routes ¼ to ½ mile apart throughout the urbanized area. This method has the advantage of consistency but does not lend itself well to areas that have a large number of barriers to transportation like lakes, rivers, hills, or freeways. Transportation barriers force a deviation in the grid and may leave key areas unserved (Wisconsin Translink-21, 19-20).

Ensure that important trip generators and destinations are connected by bicycle routes. This has the advantage of serving the most bicyclists, though it may leave some areas unserved.

Attempt to provide all arterial streets with wide curb lanes or bicycle lanes. This approach addresses the observation that bicyclists tend to have the same desired destinations as motorists and tend to use the same transportation corridors. However, because of right-of-way and other limitations this may not always be possible. It is advised that any newly constructed street follow a “Complete Streets” policy, which municipalities are encouraged to adopt.

Other factors for consideration include safety (actual and perceived), cost and route system integration with other modes of transportation.

Due to the unique characteristics of individual sites, a combined approach employing components from all of the above approaches is used to best serve bicyclists.

What's the Difference?

Trail: Off-street paths that accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.

Bicycle Route: Facilities for bicycle travel associated with street right-of-way, including signed bicycle routes, striped and signed bicycle lanes and separate bicycle paths within a road right-of-way. Bicycle routes generally accommodate bicycle travel only. Pedestrian use of these areas is discouraged.

Multi-Use Trail: Designed for use by bicyclists and pedestrians. The WIOUWASH Trail is a good example.

Bicycle Facilities³



Shared-Use Path or Trail

A shared-use path can be located along a road (called a “sidepath”) or in an independent right-of-way such as a greenway, along a utility corridor, or an abandoned railroad corridor. Paths as part of county corridors should be at least 10 feet wide and 12 feet or wider where higher use is expected.



Bike Lane

A bike lane designates a portion of a street for use by people on bicycles, usually in cities and villages on slower, low-traffic streets. Bike lanes are minimum 4 feet wide but are typically 5 feet wide. Wider bike lanes and/or painted buffers can be beneficial when traffic volumes or speeds are higher.



Paved Shoulder

Paved shoulders should typically be 4 or 5 feet wide to serve as a bicycle accommodation. Many roads in the county have paved shoulders but lack continuity through intersections. Climbing lanes are a variation that provides a paved shoulder in the uphill direction, but not the downhill direction.



Wide Paved Shoulder

Higher traffic roads can be improved for bicycling through the provision of wide (6-8 feet) paved shoulders. Some roads in the county have wide paved shoulders but lack continuity through intersections. Wider shoulders can be achieved via “lane diets,” which means narrowing travel lanes to 11 feet.



Minor Enhancements

Low-cost, strategically-placed pavement markings and signage can enhance bike routes and existing trails. Shared lane markings (see image) can increase awareness of bicyclists presence, indicate lane positioning, and aid in wayfinding. Consistent signage can aid in wayfinding and raise awareness of the rules of the road.

³ <https://www.rethinkwinnebago.org/2017/03/wc-bike-ped-plan-2017/>

Pedestrian Facilities⁴



Shared-Use Path or Trail

A shared-use path can be located along a road ROW (called a "sidepath") or in an independent right-of-way such as a greenway, along a utility corridor, or an abandoned railroad corridor. Paths as part of county corridors should be at least 10 feet wide and 12 feet or wider where higher use is expected.



Sidewalk

A sidewalk is a paved path along the side of a roadway. Sidewalks are commonly installed along urban roadways with a curb and gutter, but can also be installed along rural roadways. Sidewalks provide a dedicated space for pedestrians that is removed from motor vehicle traffic.



Shoulder

Roadway shoulders can provide space for pedestrians on rural roads, but they are not a legal pedestrian facility under state law. Paved shoulders better serve pedestrians than aggregate shoulders as they provide a more stable surface. Pedestrians walking or running on roadway shoulders should always face traffic.



Crosswalk

Crosswalks are areas of a roadway where pedestrians may cross the road. Crosswalks may be marked or unmarked; unmarked crosswalks exist at intersections where a sidewalk terminates on at least one side of an intersection. In Wisconsin, motorists must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Pedestrians may cross roadways at locations other than crosswalks, but must yield the right-of-way to vehicles on the roadway.

Snowmobile Trails and Clubs⁵

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 means that local clubs install and maintain these trails through fundraisers and membership dues.

⁴ <https://www.rethinkwinnebago.org/2017/03/wc-bike-ped-plan-2017/>

⁵ <https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/parks/snowmobile-information>.

Most snowmobile trails in Wisconsin, are made possible by local snowmobile clubs. These clubs provide the trails for public use through volunteer efforts of club members. Snowmobile clubs have instructors who teach the WDNR 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.

Snowmobile Alliance meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at Rev's Bowl in Oshkosh.

SPECIAL ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

Accessibility Guidelines

Accessible describes a site, building, facility, or portion thereof that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) as interpreted by the Department of Commerce currently in the Wisconsin Administrative Code and Register for Barrier-Free Design.

Newly designed or newly constructed and altered recreation facilities shall comply with the applicable requirements for accessibility to buildings and facilities by individuals with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 2010.

ADA guidelines are to be implemented when considering new shoreline fishing areas and launches. Recreational use and opportunity for all is the goal in the county. Offering access and variety such as in Goal 1 in Chapter 2 highlights this need.

County and School Cooperation

School Districts are important entities in the county's open and recreation spaces. Combined planning is instrumental to secure adequate facilities are maintained for use by the entire community. Shared planning efforts assist in developing the number of active recreation spaces, maintenance responsibilities and costs, as well as coordination of use and operation of all facilities. Open communication and utilization of all available land and resources will continue to provide the community positive results for active recreational lands. Area schools currently utilize the soccer and rugby fields at Community Park where there are fields to play games and tournaments on, as well as use by cross country track teams for meets.

Private Sector Cooperation

Due to current funding constraints on municipal governments throughout the State of Wisconsin, the private sector and user groups are beginning to assist in park development and ongoing site maintenance. User groups, such as the Friends of the Winnebago County Dog Parks, have established relationships with the county by assisting with park facility donation practices. Continuing open communication, as well as development of on-going agreements, allows user groups to assist in funding or providing "in-kind" donations for the development and maintenance of athletic fields and other areas.

Shared-Use and Regional Parks

Park development, improvement and maintenance are costly programs which are especially difficult with limited budgets. This plan supports joint park development with neighboring counties.

Maintenance and Policy

An inspection of County parks and recreation facilities indicated facilities are well-maintained. Well-maintained park areas not only protect public investment, but insure safety. Staff should continue to provide services, which adequately operate and maintain park and recreation areas and facilities. To ensure continued excellence in park maintenance, the following policies should continue to be implemented:

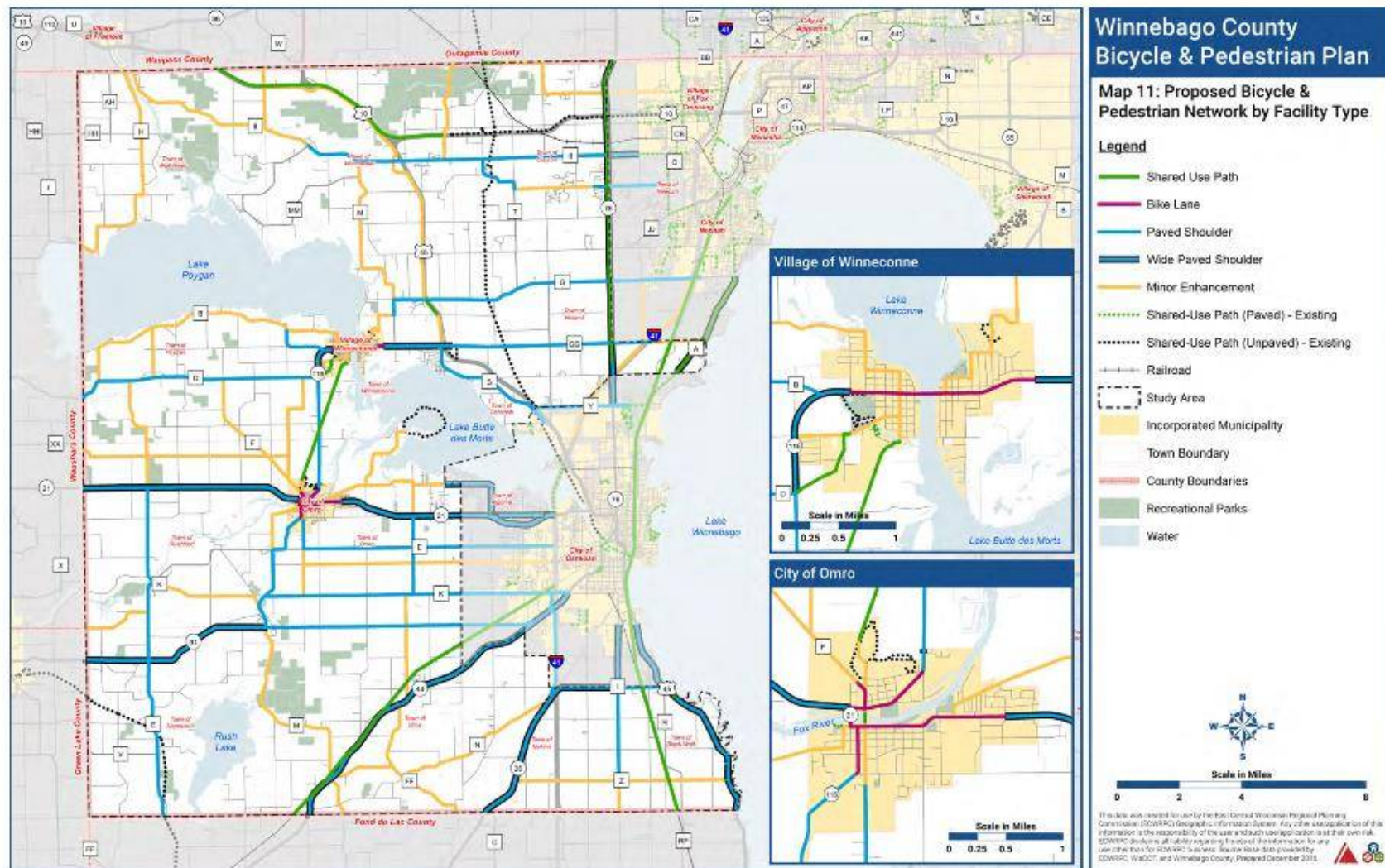
- Provide routine maintenance and cleaning for all facilities.
- Provide for non-recurring maintenance needs, repairs and replacements.
- Annually inspect all facilities for safety and maintenance needs.
- Appropriate funds to meet the need for proper maintenance.
- Maintain facilities to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Develop athletic field maintenance programs to meet the state's NR151 Regulations. Areas greater than five acres of turf, which are fertilized, require a nutrient plan.
- Encourage staff attendance at training conferences to continue educational pursuits regarding new park regulations.
- Set standards for mowing heights and frequency.
- Make sure all signage is visible.
- Set standards for removal of a field for use based on safety concerns and field conditions.
- Develop a list of conditions which dictate event cancellation and the identity of those responsible for communication of cancellations.
- Complete and document monthly to bi-monthly playground inspections.

New Future Properties

The county has purchased 20 acres of land, in 2019, northeast of the Sunnyview Exposition Center with another 20 acres designated for a future purchase. A former nature area of approximately 5 acres, on the site will be restored called the Dr. Donald (Doc) & Bernadette Netzer Nature Area.

Another 30 acres is under a 25 year lease which was initiated by the Stroud Family. Mary Stroud Nature Park is located in the northern part of the county on Grandview Road. Map 1 depicts these locations in red. Both properties will add another 70 acres of green space to the County's park system.

Figure 6: Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Network*



*Source: Winnebago County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, 2017.



CHAPTER 7

ACTION PROGRAM

CHAPTER 7: ACTION PROGRAM

5-YEAR ACTION PROGRAM, 2019-2023

The projects listed below in Table 13, comprise the action program set forth by the Winnebago County Parks and Recreation Committee and County Board for implementation during the next five years and beyond. This action program is based on priority level by year, to serve as a guide in planning for future facilities. The program was formulated to determine where the community should expend its resources for 2019-2023 and beyond. This program will also assist service clubs and organizations with selection of potential park improvement projects. As updates and developments near, additional costs will be researched to assist in project budgeting for inclusion within the estimated Capital Improvement Program.

Many of the projects identified in the action program are potential candidates for cost sharing monies available through the WDNR, WisDOT, and other entities. (Appendix B). Other projects can be developed through the efforts and/or monetary support of volunteers and community organizations. From 1965-2017, the County has been awarded 43 LWCF/GOMESA grants with a total of \$1,824,796 for park improvements.¹

This plan assists in development and management of a working system of park and recreational facilities within Winnebago County. The plan has been prepared to respond to expressed desires from County residents and to conform to the comprehensive plan as accepted standards for provision of facilities. It provides basic information and direction for future actions though considerable work remains to implement the proposals.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The following section provides a plan for implementing recommendations over the next five-year period. Cost estimates are provided to assist in preparing for future funding endeavors.

Estimates are based on 2018 costs and do not reflect potential future price fluctuations. The estimates provided are for the total cost of the project, not accounting for potential funding assistance. Some projects may qualify for grant funding and a match is usually required. The capital improvements included in this plan were determined through input from staff and residents through public surveys and meetings. The County's Annual Budget was also used as a resource in planning for future improvements.

Project Priority

In order to provide a concise action plan for the recommended projects, a year of priority for each project was established with input from the planning commission. Ultimately the timing and dollar amounts spent on each project will be decided by the County Board on a project by project basis. Five year capital plan pricing estimates are advantageous as they depict the funding amounts required to offer quality park and recreational facilities to residents. Improvements should be correlated with highway and road improvement projects to widen shoulders on designated bicycle

¹ <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/scorp/documents/Chapter1.pdf>

routes as stated in the Winnebago County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, February, 2017. Presently, the parks department employs 16 seasonal laborers, 2 seasonal rangers, 2 part-time, and 2 full-time year-around staff. Budget dollar feasibility will be adjusted within the Capital Improvement Program if a project is needed in that budget year. This is **a guide** for establishing a recreation strategy. The action program is to be reviewed annually. Timing and feasibility of recommended projects depends on the following three conditions:

Knowledge available to accomplish the task.
 Funding opportunities.
 Public interest and support.

Most of the projects identified in the Action Program are eligible to receive matching funds through a component of the WDNR's Stewardship Program. Local tax dollars can be further maximized by using private donations of funding or land to augment the local share required by such grants. In addition, the Action Program identifies a budget appropriation for several other projects that could be cost-effectively accomplished using Park Department staff. Appendix B contains a list of possible resources.

Table 13
FIVE YEAR ACTION PROGRAM
(2019-2023)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Future Year
Need Rankings	5	4	3	2	1	>1
COUNTY PARKS / CENTERS						
COMMUNITY PARK						
Maintain existing shared path routes throughout the park making it user friendly	X	X	X	X	X	X
Replace parking lot and roadway lighting near Soccer Complex at south end of Park.	CIP					
Replacement of Shelters #3 and #4				CIP	CIP	
Designate more land for rugby or possible lacrosse fields						
Add a junior obstacle course						
Rehab of Parking Lots				CIP		
Remove old half-court basketball hoops	X	X				
Continue to maintain dog park and creation a new dog park in the northern part of the county.	X	X				
Continue with drainage tile for the where needed in programmed areas.	X	X				
SUNNYVIEW EXPO CENTER						
Maintain parking areas and building for events	X	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to review and add additional RV hookups to campground (10 yr. plan)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Update Master Plan for Center and surrounding area – purchase expanding property when available	X	X				

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Future Year
Need Rankings	5	4	3	2	1	>1
Redesign stormwater drainage – parking, entranceways and lighting needs.		CIP	CIP			
Address the rehab of the covered arena, expo building, and Barn E roofs.	CIP	CIP	CIP	CIP		
Plan for a new Barn F considering utilities, lighting, walkways, meeting room and canopies.						X
COUGHLIN NATURE CENTER						
Replace Sign		X				
Redo the entrance statement	X					
Maintain Trails	X	X	X	X	X	X
Invasive Species control - prescribed burns	X		X		X	
Education - Work with LWCD, promote to area schools	X	X	X	X	X	X
COUNTY NATURAL AREAS						
KEN ROBL CONSERVANCY PARK						
Continue to add trails and links to the property			X	X	X	X
Add additional benches as use increases			X	X	X	
Consider a kiosk with the map of the trails and park area – completed by Solid Waste as part of project.	X					
SHANGRI LA POINT						
Leave as is - open space for wildlife						X
LASELY POINT - ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE						
Maintain an accessible trail (brush growth)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maintain the parking area and update it (brush growth)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Work with the Historical Society for informational kiosk	X	X	X			
WAUKAU CREEK POND AND PRESERVE						
Maintenance of the trails – trail markers put in by Girl Scout project	X	X	X			
Resurfacing of the parking area				X	X	
Education kiosk with new map – put in by Girl Scouts		X				
WAUKAU DAM						
Invasive Species Control Program		X				
Maintain parking area	X	X	X	X	X	X
COUNTY BOAT LAUNCHES						
ASYLUM POINT						
Maintain fishing piers (ADA) Add a kayak launch and pier – Shoreline Fishing Accessibility		X	X			
Trim branches and keep clear	X	X	X			

Review other areas for surveillance cameras to area – a new trail cam was installed in 2018		X	X			
Replace sign by boat landing		X	X			
Consider solar lighting for lighthouse		X	X			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Future Year
Need Rankings	5	4	3	2	1	>1
Maintain parking lot – add striping		X	X	X		
Add Lighting for safety		X	X			
BOOM BAY BOAT LANDING						
Parking area repaved and striped			X			
Keep improving the waterfront for accessibility		X	X			
EUREKA BOAT LANDING						
Create a walkway from Parking Lot to Fishing Deck, Launch and historical marker improvement		X	X			
Maintain the fishing deck	X	X	X	X	X	X
GRUNDMAN BOAT LANDING						
Clear out vegetation growth near the lake – path on north side of landing (causeway) Add some benches.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maintain the information kiosk	X	X	X	X	X	X
LAKE BUTTE DES MORTS BOAT LANDING						
Add lighting for safety			X			
COUNTY TRAILS						
MASCOUTIN VALLEY						
Create off street parking areas		X	X			
Maintain trail surface	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clear horse waste, work with horse groups	X	X	X	X	X	X
Add mile markers along trail		X	X			
WIOUWASH						
Create off street parking areas		X	X			
Maintain trail surface	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clear horse waste, work with horse groups	X	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to add mile markers along trail – several are already installed by Boy Scouts Update signage to be consistent with ECWRPC guidelines		X	X			
MAINTENANCE						
VEHICLES / OTHER EQUIPMENT / BUILDINGS						
Dump/Plow Truck	CIP					
Wash Bay – 8 Stall Garage, Restroom and Showers	CIP					
Front End Loader		CIP				
Expo Building and Covered Arena Roofs and Coating				CIP		

INTENDED OUTCOMES and IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Collaboration between park user groups and County departments as well as local municipalities is crucial to improving useable park amenities. By looking at what is needed and the population base in Chapter 4, facilities should be structured and scattered throughout the county, not just in the County Seat of Oshkosh. Measuring progress through the goals and objectives listed in Chapter 2 provides guidelines for the Parks Department to follow and base decisions on. Facilities should be geared towards, health, variety, conservation, accessibility, partnerships, costs, and enhanced quality of life for all residents.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Funding and financing park resources are based on available grants, capital budget, and donations. A list of possible grants and funding resources are located in Appendix B. Since the last CORP in 2013-2017, many improvements have been made by the Parks Department and the County as a result of grants, earmarked budget items, and donations. Below is a list of notable accomplishments, with many still in progress:

- Wayfinding Signage
- ADA Compliance
- Tree Program
- Landscaping and Aesthetics
- Vandalism Control
- Shelter Refurbishment and Maintenance
- Facebook Marketing
- New Conservation Park on old Landfill Site (Ken Robl Conservation Park)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- Trail Surface repairs to Mascoutin Valley and WIOUWASH
- More lighting at boat landings
- Promotion of "In Memory" Benches
- More RV Hookups at Expo Center
- New Basketball and Tennis Courts in Community Park
- Natural Way outdoor fitness area
- Shared-Use Path
- Improvements to Archery Range and Rugby fields
- LED lighting in Community Park



CHAPTER 8

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION



APPENDICES



APPENDIX A
DETAILED SURVEY & PUBLIC
MEETING RESULTS

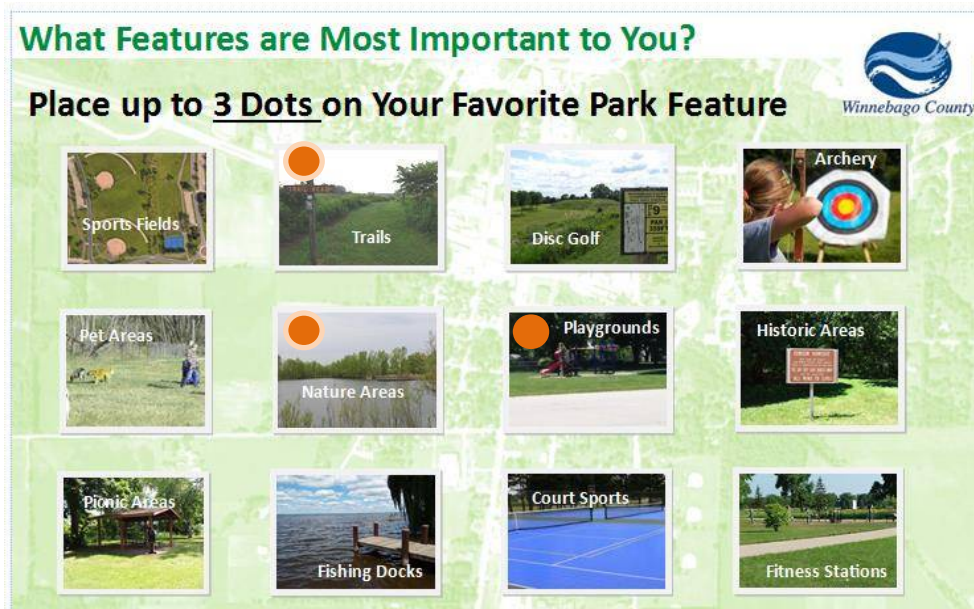
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

As part of the County's citizen participation process for the update of its Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, a series of three public meetings were conducted in the summer/fall of 2018. Questions were asked in relation to residential satisfaction, needs and wants, and overall facility use. Safety concerns regarding walking and biking were also included as well as a workshop opportunity for supporting maintenance of existing parks and trails.

Due to low attendance, an online survey was initiated for more feedback from the questions asked at the public meetings. Please see the highlights below: (30 residents responded to the survey)

Station #1

Participants were given three stickers and asked to place on the photo of the facility they felt was their favorite out of the 12 pictured. Ranking - 1. **Trails**, 2, **Nature Areas**, and 3. **Playgrounds**.



Station #2

Attendees were given ten \$1,000 bills and asked to place the amount they would spend on specified park related activities inside a designated container for each activity. Trails, Restrooms, and Nature Areas received the most interest. Those who participated in the survey designated just over half a million dollars to improve amenities. See rankings below.

Ranking	Money Box	Amount	%
1	Trails	\$126,000	23.55%
2	Restrooms	\$90,000	16.82%
3	Nature Areas	\$82,000	15.33%
4	Concessions	\$72,000	13.46%
5	Playgrounds	\$41,000	7.66%
6	Picnic Areas	\$33,000	6.17%
7	Expo Events	\$24,000	4.49%
8	Dog Park	\$21,000	3.93%
9	Boat Launches	\$18,000	3.36%
10	Rugby (other)	\$17,000	3.18%
11	Soccer (other)	\$10,000	1.87%
12	Ball Diamonds	\$1,000	0.19%
Total Spent:		\$535,000	100.00%



Station #3

This workstation consisted of six open-ended park related activities. The participants were asked “What Makes Them Great Now?” and “What Would Make Them Better?”

Here are the most common comments based on category:



Category	Great	Better
Community Park Sports Areas	Variety of Activities, Green Space, Rugby, Archery Range, Free to use, Wooded Areas, Community Group Activities, Trails, Fishing Pond, Water Access, Engages People, Location, Team Building and Memories, Accessibility	Rugby Fields – more, maintenance, more open space, shared use More Benches Like in Menominee Park Moveable Benches near Soccer Fields Drainage Allowing Metal Detecting as a Sport Update / Fix Shelters Concession Options More Parking More Fitness Stations Swimming Areas Storage for Team Sports More Trees Dogs on the Paths Less Sports More Nature Maintenance

Restrooms/ Concessions	Many throughout the park Flush Toilets Inexpensive Availability Source of Income for Events Usually Clean Convenient Access Size	Larger Concession Areas More Restrooms Need Updating Greater Availability Need more by Rugby Fields and Ball Diamonds More Marketing Surveillance Cameras Safety for Kids More by Soccer Fields Unlocked past Labor Day – open all year
Fishing Areas / Boat Launches	Great Locations Numerous Opportunity Availability Access Docks Fishing is Great	More public access points Maintenance Upkeep Metal Detecting as a sport More Boat Slips and Piers Weed Cleaning Stations More Trailer Parking
Events / Expo	Variety and Interesting Space is available Selection of Events Guns and Antique Shows Live Music Ease of Parking Lifest	More events Private sector should run Outdoor Family Movies Opportunities for shorter rentals Opening Times Better Marketing More Concessions More Weekday Events More Antique Markets
Nature and Preserve Areas	Wildlife Viewing WIOUWASH Trail Escape from city	Promote birdwatching Wildlife Photo Contests More Bike Parking on Trailers More Picnic Tables and Spots More Areas Better Trails and Maps Allow Metal Detecting Stronger, Level Trails Trail Maintenance Keep what we have Signage - Wildlife Clean of Geese Droppings
Parking / Trails And Walkways	Beautiful Encourages active and healthy lifestyles Sense of neighborhood Linear Park without the Cost of a Traditional upkeep	More Trails Better Parking More Signage Points of Interest Connection – CTH A Link Add some flare Keep clean of geese droppings Mileage Markers Maintenance and Drainage Restrooms along trails

	Have many to choose from New additions Good Paths Locations Trail Types – paved Parking Experience nature	More Challenging Trails Spread them out throughout the County
Playgrounds / Picnic and Pet Areas	Dog Park is great community resource Allows outside activities Fenced Areas Updated Playgrounds Picnic Areas Run Dogs while Kids Play Family Friendly Shade	Spread Out Availability More Trees and shade More Picnic Spots Dog Park only in Oshkosh Fences for one dog use - aggressive dogs Inclusivity Continued Updates Dog Bag Dispensers and Disposal More Imaginative Playground Equipment Need a Playground by Shelter 2 Water and Bowls for Dogs More Benches by Play areas

Station #4

Station four was a comment box for other comments and big ideas. Some comments made were:

Better inter-connectedness with the WIOUWASH trail and bike paths. Check out what Stevens Point did with their "Green Circle." Excellent biking trail!

Reconfigure CP fields to get the most out of it. Lots of green space in between.

Finish connecting CTH A trail from Oshkosh to Neenah.

Put more money towards the Rugby fields and area over by the Rugby fields.

Require a permit, \$15.00 per year for a metal detecting license. Include a map of where it is permitted and not permitted to metal detect. Several Counties in Minnesota do this already.

Where will the county park be going into the future, what changes will we see?

Increase awareness of different activities that are offered. Put updated links and info on websites.

More parking by Rugby Fields and more Rugby Fields concessions as well as restrooms by Rugby Fields.

We need solid bathrooms and concession building in the rugby field area

Expand trails, fitness equipment and locations of equipment

I'd love to see more to do during winter months, like, perhaps an outdoor hockey rink. It might help to make information known to residents. The park is so big that it is hard to know what is there.

The community park is a great place to visit. As a taxpayer I feel that we should repair or rebuild the existing shelters, create more natural areas, plant good quality trees not the short lived hybrid trees, get rid of the fence behind the pavilion, its an eye sore.

Soggy poop stations with bags and an accessible garbage can and more bathrooms please

More trails, natural areas, trees, and history

Why does the county provide parks, the cities provide great parks, forcing the city residents to pay for parks in the townships doesn't make sense, if the townships want parks they should provide them from their tax dollars?



APPENDIX B

GRANTS & FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES

APPENDIX B: GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FUNDING PROGRAMS

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

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

Non-local funding can come from a number of sources, either in the form of a grant or a loan. Currently, the DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Rural Development (RDA) provide competitive funding relating to outdoor recreation.

The Wisconsin Waterways Commission is a good source of funding for acquiring and improving those amenities that primarily benefit recreational boaters in the state. Boat ramps, launches, parking lots, restrooms, and other boating related improvements can be 50% funded under this quarterly grant program administered by the WDNR.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Program

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

ATV Enforcement Patrol

The ATV Enforcement Patrol provides grants to county sheriffs for all-terrain vehicle patrols.

County Conservation Aids

The County Conservation Aids provide funds to counties or recognized Indian tribes to carry out fish or wildlife management projects that enhance fish and wildlife habitat or fishing and hunting opportunities.

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration provides funding for sport fish restoration and boating access including the construction of boat landings and fishing piers.

Recreational Boating Facilities Program

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

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreation Trails Program provides funds for motorized and non-motorized recreation trail rehabilitation, trail maintenance, trail development, and trail acquisition.

Snowmobile Trail Aids

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

County Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols

County Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols provide funds for county snowmobile patrols functioning as a law enforcement unit for the enforcement of Ch. 350, Wis. Stats.

Stewardship Local Assistance - Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Stewardship Local Assistance - Acquisition and Development of Local Parks provides funding to acquire land, rights in land, and develop public outdoor recreation areas for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes.

Stewardship Local Assistance - Urban Rivers

Stewardship Local Assistance - Urban Rivers provides funds for the acquisition of land in urban areas. Projects focus on providing access for the greatest number of potential users, and providing the greatest opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

Stewardship Local Assistance - Urban Greenspace

Stewardship Local Assistance - Urban Greenspace provides funds for the acquisition of land in and around urban areas. Projects focus on providing access for the greatest number of potential users, and providing the greatest opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation.

Stewardship Local Assistance - Acquisition of Development Rights

Stewardship Local Assistance - Acquisition of Development Rights provides funding for the acquisition of development rights that provide or enhance nature-based outdoor recreation areas. Projects must be part of an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

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

Rural Development Administration (USDA - Rural Development) (RDA)

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

Table B-1 Funding Information

Program	Purpose	Details	Deadlines	Notes	Agency
Acquisition of Development Rights	Acquire development rights for nature-based outdoor recreation areas and activities	\$1.6 M available per year 50% local match	May 1	Funds available for areas where restrictions on residential, commercial & industrial development	WDNR
				May include enhancements of outdoor recreation	
Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)	Acquire or develop public, nature-based outdoor recreation areas and facilities	\$4 M available per year 50% local match	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required Priority for land acquisition Projects must comply with ADA	WDNR
Urban Greenspace Program (UGP)	Acquire land to provide natural space within or near urban areas, or to protect scenic or ecological features	\$1.6 M available per year 50% local match	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required. Projects must comply with ADA	WDNR
Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP)	Acquire land, or rights in lands, adjacent to urban rivers for the purpose of preserving or restoring them for economic revitalization or nature-based outdoor recreation activities	\$800,000 available per year 50% local match	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required. Projects must comply with ADA	WDNR
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON)	Acquire or develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities	50% local match per project	May 1	A comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is required	WDNR
Recreational Trails Act (RTA)	Provide funds for maintenance, development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of non-motorized multi-trails	50% local match per project	May 1	Funds may only be used on trails identified in or that further a goal of a local, county or state plan Funds may be used on trails that are in SCORP a state park plan	WDNR

Program	Purpose	Details	Deadlines	Notes	Agency
Wisconsin Main Street Community Program	Comprehensive downtown revitalization program, which includes Streetscape improvements	Wisc. Dept. of Commerce	No Date	General downtown Program. May benefit trail enhancements through streetscaping	National Main Street Center
Surface Transportation Environment Cooperative Research Program	Evaluate transportation control measures. Improve understanding of transportation demand factors. Develop performance indicators that will facilitate the analysis of transportation alternatives	20% local match per project	No Date	Money available for: development of national bicycle safety education curriculum grants to a national not-for-profit organization engages in promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety study of the safety issues attendant to the transportation of children to and from school by various transportation	FHWA
Urban Forestry Grants	Assistance for tree maintenance, planting, and public awareness	\$1,000 to \$25,00 of grants awarded with a 50% local match	October 1	Funding is prioritized for communities needing to develop an urban forestry plan, needing worker training, and needing to conduct a street tree inventory	WDNR Urban Forestry

Program	Purpose	Details	Deadlines	Notes	Agency
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	Provide facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. Provides funding for rehabilitating and operating historic transportation buildings and structures as well as "Main Streets"	Funded with TE-Map 21 20% required match	February	Not a grant program. 80% of funds are reimbursed if all federal guidelines are met. Project must relate to surface transportation. Construction projects must be over \$100,000 Non-construction projects must be over \$25,000	WisDOT
Surface Discretionary Grant Program (STP-D)	Provides flexible funds that can be spent on a wide variety of projects, including roadway, bridges, transit facilities, and bike and pedestrian facilities	Funded with TE-Map 21 20% match required	February	Any project that fosters alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists System-wide bicycle planning Construction projects must be over \$100,000 Non-construction projects must be over \$25,000	WisDOT
Safe Routes to School Grant Program (SRTS)	Intended to combat childhood obesity and reestablish walking and biking to school	Funded with TE-Map 21	December	Funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities Funding for pedestrian and bicycle safety and programs	WisDOT
Section 5309 (old Section 3 discretionary funds)	Transit capital projects; included intermodal facilities such as bicycle racks on buses and bicycle parking at transit stations	20% local match per project	Early Spring	Funding for this program is allocated on a discretionary basis Congress reserves money each year Administration can pick the projects	WisDOT Bureau of Transit

Other Resources and Links:

Community Grants:

Wisconsin Community Fund: These are for non-profits groups.

<http://www.forwardci.org/wisconsin-community-fund>

<http://www.cffoxvalley.org/page.aspx?pid=873>

Sports Field Grants:

<https://www.responsiblesports.com/programs/grants/rules>

<http://www.hksportsfields.com/sports-complex-financing/>

Playground Grants:

<http://www.bciburke.com/grants.html>

<http://www.miracle-recreation.com/purchase-options/playground-grants.html>

<http://www.playlsi.com/Research-Plan/Playground-Planning/Financing/Playground-Grants/Pages/Playground-Grants.aspx>

<http://korkatblog.com/playground-grants/>

<http://www.letsplay.com/get-involved/about-playground-grants?gclid=CJzZ2N792bgCFZA-Mgod6AsA6Q>

Educational: (Could be used for landscaping also)

<http://eeinwisconsin.org/core>

National: The National Parks and Recreation Association has fundraising ideas and resources along with grants for parks.

<http://www.nrpa.org/fundraising-resources/>

Misc:

Fitness Equipment - www.exo.fit/grant Will match 50% for 2018.

Amazon Smile Program - <https://smile.amazon.com/>

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