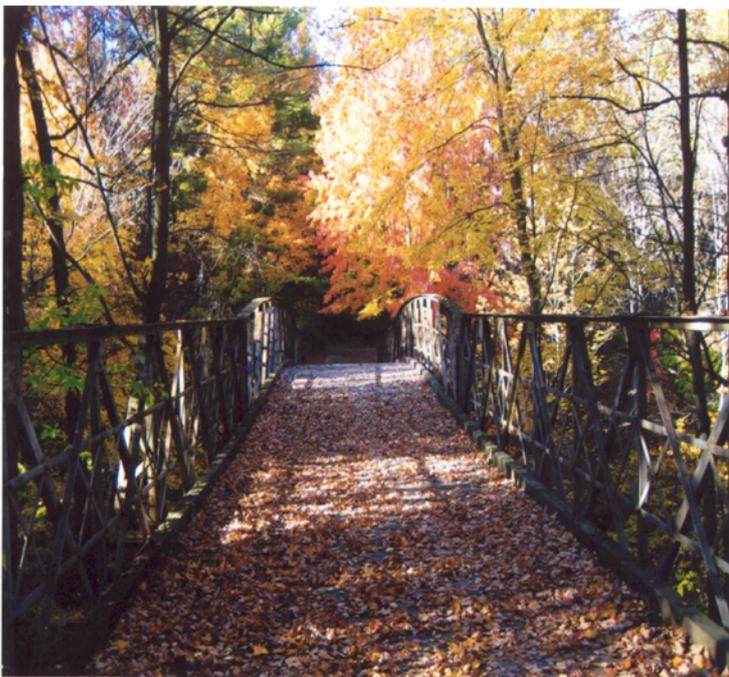
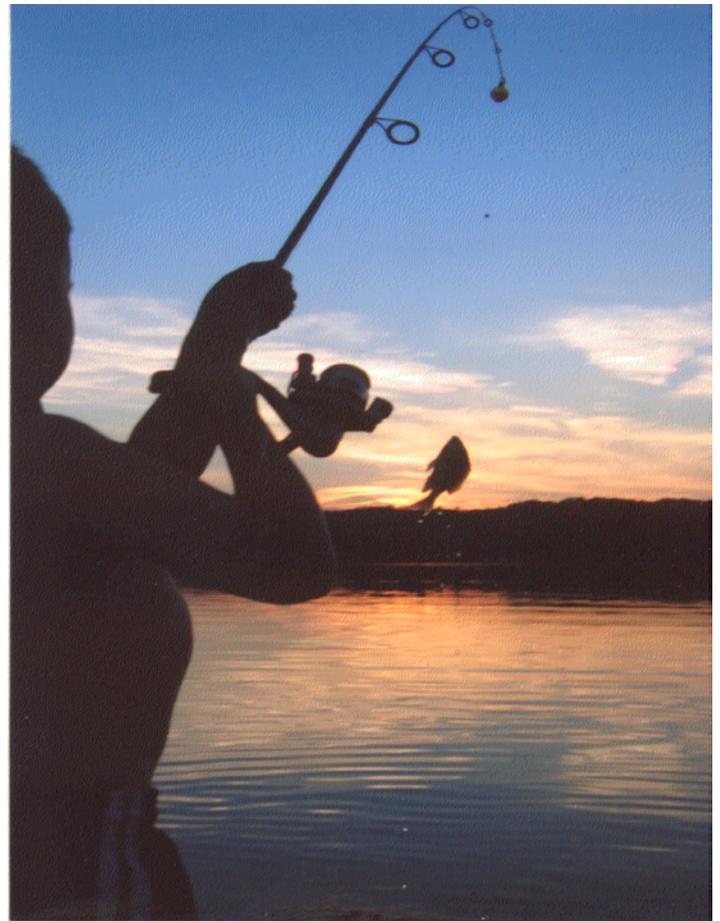


Chippewa County Outdoor Recreation Plan

2010-2015



Chippewa County
Outdoor Recreation Plan
2010-2015

Prepared by:

Ryan Brown – County Planner
Chippewa County Planning and Zoning Department

November 2010

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SECTION I.

INTRODUCTION

Recreation is an important part of our lives. Increasing demands for outdoor recreation opportunities have led to increasing pressure on existing recreation facilities. To meet the demands that are being placed on these facilities, communities are expected to provide additional facilities or improvements that afford the residents a wide range of quality recreation opportunities. Communities are also expected to provide these facilities in a manner that maintains the character and quality of life and the quality of the environment in which they live. Consequently, there is a need to provide for increasing recreation demands while protecting and enhancing the various resources for future generations.

PLAN PURPOSE

An important step in providing quality recreation opportunities is proper planning. Limited budgets at all levels of government and private agencies require that the most appropriate facility be placed in the most suitable location in order to meet the specific needs of the area that it is intended to serve.

An important step in this planning process is the development of the Chippewa County Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Plan is intended to serve as a guide for the development of parks and outdoor recreation facilities in Chippewa County and participating local communities. It is an update of the *2004-2009 Chippewa County Outdoor Recreation Plans* and insures the continuation of an orderly procedure to identify and evaluate the need for additional or improved recreation facilities. The Plan will also provide the Chippewa County Board; County Land, Forests, and Parks Committee; and other local decision-making agencies and organizations with:

- information on the status and condition of current outdoor recreation facilities;
- a foundation for coordinating recreation facility development and improvement projects; and
- the ability to participate in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and other related funding programs.

The Stewardship Program, and other such resources, can be used to assist in the acquisition and development of new outdoor recreation facilities, as well as for the improvement of existing recreational facilities.

PLANNING PROCESS

The Chippewa County Land, Forests, and Parks Committee, Chippewa County Planning and Zoning Department, Chippewa County Facilities and Parks and various community representatives were the primary sources of input for the development of the Chippewa County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Information about existing facilities and programs and the condition of the facilities was gathered through interviews with the Committee, Department personnel, local community representatives, and through on-site inspection of the facilities. Additional data was obtained from previous studies and inventories, published documents, and outdoor recreation plans that were completed for the State of Wisconsin, Chippewa County, or participating communities.

The Plan review meeting on October 19, 2010, with the Chippewa County Land, Forests, and Parks Committee; and the Chippewa County Board meeting at which the Plan was approved on November 9, 2010, were both duly called and noticed meetings and were open to public participation.

The Chippewa County Land, Forests, and Parks Committee will be responsible for providing recommendations to the Chippewa County Board that ensure that the implementation of the Plan is consistent with the Plan's goals, objectives, and policies. Individual participating municipalities are responsible for the implementation of their respective community outdoor recreation plan sections. In all cases, implementation is contingent on the availability of resources.

PLAN OUTLINE

This Plan is divided into two major sections. The first section addresses the overall Chippewa County outdoor recreation system, and the second part is concerned with outdoor recreation as related to individual municipalities located within the county. Each section will contain a review of the region/place, inventory of currently available recreation facilities, assessment of the demands on the facilities, and recommendations regarding the need for future park and recreation areas or improvements.

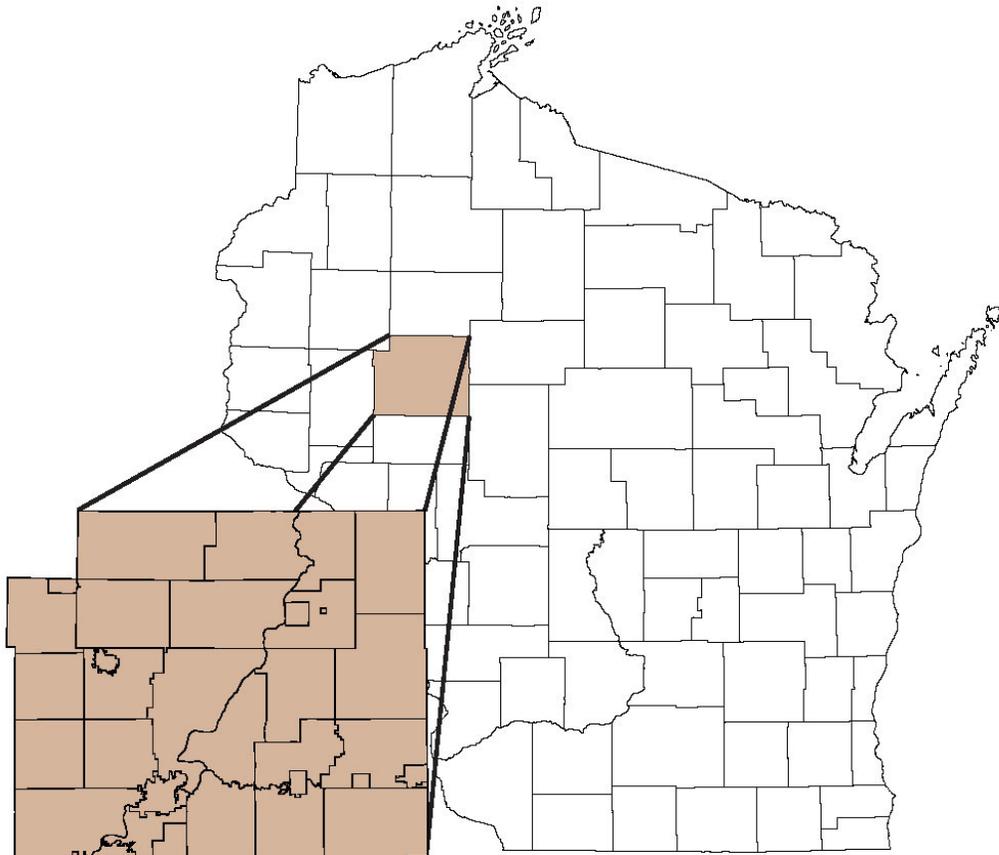
PLAN AMENDMENTS

This Plan may be amended as necessary to meet community needs and address changing conditions to prolong the effectiveness of the parent Plan. Plan amendments should require formal approval of the Chippewa County Board after consideration of an advisory recommendation from the Chippewa County Lands, Forests, and Parks Committee. Affected communities may also require formal approval by their respective boards and committees.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Chippewa County is located in west-central Wisconsin. The County has a total of 1,041 square miles (666,464 acres), measuring approximately 30 miles from north to south and 36 miles from east to west. Chippewa County is bordered by Rusk and Barron Counties to the north, Eau Claire County to the south, Taylor and Clark Counties on the east, and Dunn County to the west.

**FIGURE 1.
LOCATION OF CHIPPEWA COUNTY**



Chippewa County has 31 minor civil divisions consisting of 23 towns, four villages, and five cities. The City of Chippewa Falls, located along the Chippewa River in the southwestern part of the County, is the County seat.

Chippewa County has a continental type of climate, characterized by marked changes in weather. This climate is typical in areas in the interior of a large land mass in the mid-latitudes. Temperatures range widely from the coldest to warmest months. During the winter, the average temperature is 15°F, while in the summer, the average temperature is 68°F. Record temperature extremes have ranged from a low of -44°F to a high of 100°F, at the Holcombe weather station. The last freezing temperature typically occurs around the 10th of May, while the first killing frost usually occurs around September 23rd. Precipitation is fairly well distributed throughout the year, reaching a slight peak in the summer.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY

The first step in the development of the Plan is to understand the natural environment in which recreation is going to occur and the people that are going to be involved in these activities. The following are descriptions of the physical landscape, population, and economic characteristics of Chippewa County.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

Chippewa County is divided into two physiographic areas. As a result of the most recent glacial activity, a terminal moraine is located in the northeastern part of the County. This area is characterized by rolling or hilly topography, kettle holes, bogs, irregularly shaped lakes, and numerous swamps. Drainage patterns are poorly defined, and geologic erosion has leveled the surface relatively little.

The southwestern part of the County is rolling and hilly. It has numerous sandstone and shale outcrops. It has well defined drainage patterns and few swamps. Several broad outwash plains are also in this area.

Bedrock Geology

The predominant bedrock materials underlying Chippewa County are Cambrian sandstone and shale. In the eastern and northern portions of the County, and in particular the Chippewa River valley, igneous and metamorphic rocks are found.

Surface Geology

The most recent glacial activity in Chippewa County, the Wisconsin Stage, did not completely cover the County. As the glacier receded, it left behind glacial debris, or till, in large quantities in the form of a terminal moraine across the northeastern part of the County, from the northwest corner southeast to Jim Falls and then east to the County line. The young drift area of the terminal moraine is distinct in having a hilly appearance, a large number of kettle holes, bogs, irregularly shaped lakes, and numerous swamps.

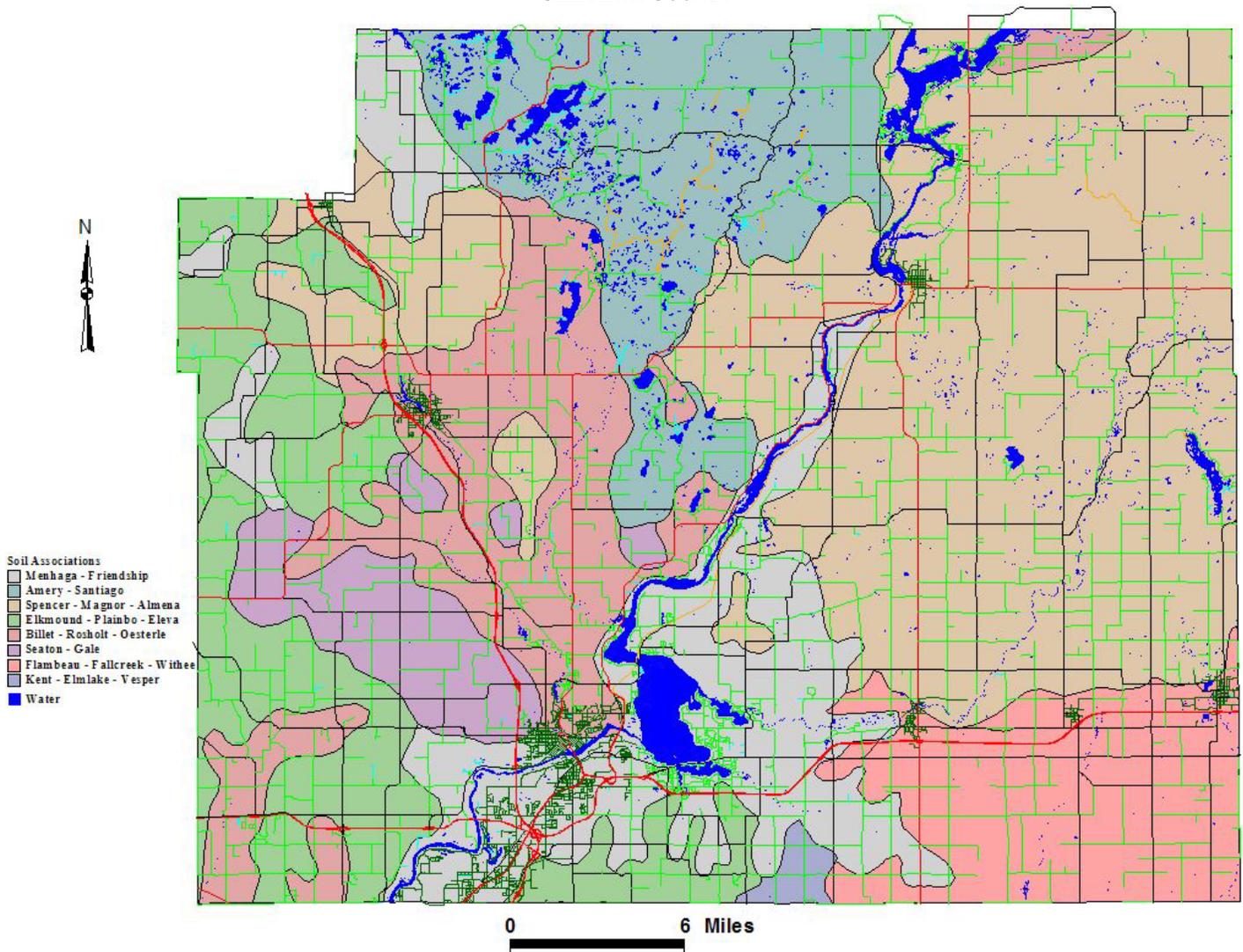
Topography

Chippewa County is about 795 to 1,550 feet above sea level. The highest point in the County is Flambeau Ridge, in the Town of Birch Creek near the Holcombe Flowage. It rises 300-400 feet above the surrounding area.

Soils

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), has grouped the soils of Chippewa County into eight major soil associations, shown in Figure 2. These associations are:

**FIGURE 2.
GENERAL SOIL ASSOCIATIONS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY**



1. ***Menahga-Friendship Association***. Deep, nearly level to sloping, excessively drained and moderately well drained, sandy soils on outwash plains and stream terraces.
2. ***Amery-Santiago Association***. Deep, gently sloping to very steep, well drained, loamy and silty soils on moraines.
3. ***Spencer-Magnor-Almena Association***. Deep, nearly level to sloping, moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained, silty soils on moraines.
4. ***Elkmound-Plainbo-Eleva Association***. Shallow and moderately deep, gently sloping to very steep, well drained to excessively drained, loamy and sandy soils on uplands, outwash plains, and stream terraces.
5. ***Billet-Rosholt-Oesterle Association***. Deep, nearly level to sloping, well drained to somewhat poorly drained, loamy soils on outwash plains and stream terraces.
6. ***Seaton-Gale Association***. Deep and moderately deep, nearly level to steep, moderately well drained and well drained, silty soils on uplands.
7. ***Flambeau-Fallcreek-Withee Association***. Deep, nearly to sloping, moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained, loamy and silty soils on ground moraines.
8. ***Kert-Elm Lake-Vesper Association***. Deep and moderately deep, nearly level and gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained, silty and sandy soils on uplands.

Hydrology

Chippewa County has 21,037 acres of surface water. Of this total, 19,335 acres occurs as lakes and 1,702 acres as streams. The County has about 70 miles of trout streams.

The County consists of two major river basins, the Upper Chippewa River Basin and the Lower Chippewa River Basin. The Upper Chippewa River Basin encompasses only a relatively small portion of the north-central part of the County. The remainder of the County is part of the Lower Chippewa River Basin. The Chippewa River crosses the County from northeast to southwest, falling from an elevation of 993 feet above sea level at Cornell to 936 feet at Jim Falls, and 839 feet at Chippewa Falls.

The Chippewa, Jump, Fisher, Yellow and Wolf Rivers are the main streams draining the eastern part of the County. The Sand, O'Neil, Duncan, and Elk Creeks are the major streams of the western part. Generally, the water quality of the lakes, rivers and streams in Chippewa County is good.

Land Uses and Trends

Chippewa County is largely agricultural and forested, which comprises of almost 80% of the land base. According to assessment records, in 2007 over 50 percent of Chippewa County is agricultural.

As shown in Table 9-2, between 2002 and 2007, Chippewa County saw agriculture land decrease by just over 1 percent. Chippewa County is seeing a

Table 1
Chippewa County Changes in Real Estate Class Acreage 2002 to 2007

Real Estate Class	Chippewa County					
	2002		2007		2002-2007 Change	
	Acres	Percent of Total	Acres	Percent of Total	Acres	Percent
Residential	24,099	4.2%	26,723	4.8%	2,624	10.9%
Commercial	4,052	0.7%	5,170	0.9%	1,118	27.6%
Manufacturing	1,796	0.3%	1,696	0.3%	-100	-5.6%
Agricultural	296,044	52.4%	292,388	52.6%	-3,656	-1.2%
Undeveloped	61,250	10.8%	69,637	12.5%	8,387	13.7%
Forest*	173,455	30.7%	155,381	28.0%	-18,074	-10.4%
Other	4,535	0.8%	4,453	0.8%	-82	-1.8%
Totals	565,231	100.0%	555,448	100.0%	-9,783	2.3%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

* Forest and Ag. Forest Categories are combined.

relatively small amount of agriculture land being sold and no longer farmed. Commercial acreage increased by roughly 25 percent, but still remains less than one percent of all County acreage. The difference in total acres from 2002 to 2007, which shows a decrease of approximately 9,800 acres, represents the amount of land no longer being assessed for tax purposes.

Natural Resources

Approximately 34% of Chippewa County is forested, translating to about 237,000 acres of the total County acreage of 666,464 acres. The County owns 33,000 acres of forest land throughout the towns of Birch Creek, Cleveland, Colburn, Estella, Lafayette, Lake Holcombe, Ruby and Sampson.

Oak is the predominant tree species of forest occurring south of the terminal moraine. Within the moraine are found a large number of tree species. The most numerous species are Aspen, Oak, northern hardwoods, swamp hardwoods, and White and Red Pine. The encroachment of Balsam Fir and White Spruce on the uplands and Tamarack and Black Spruce on the low-lands is also common.

A variety of wildlife can be found throughout Chippewa County. Species include black bear, whitetail deer, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, beaver, fox, ruffed grouse, muskrat, snowshoe hare, and to a lesser extent, mink and otter.

Chippewa County contains 21,037 acres of lakes and streams holding muskie, northern, walleye, bass, and panfish. There are approximately 70 miles of trout streams in the County with varied size and bag limits, so as not to jeopardize the existence of the resource.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

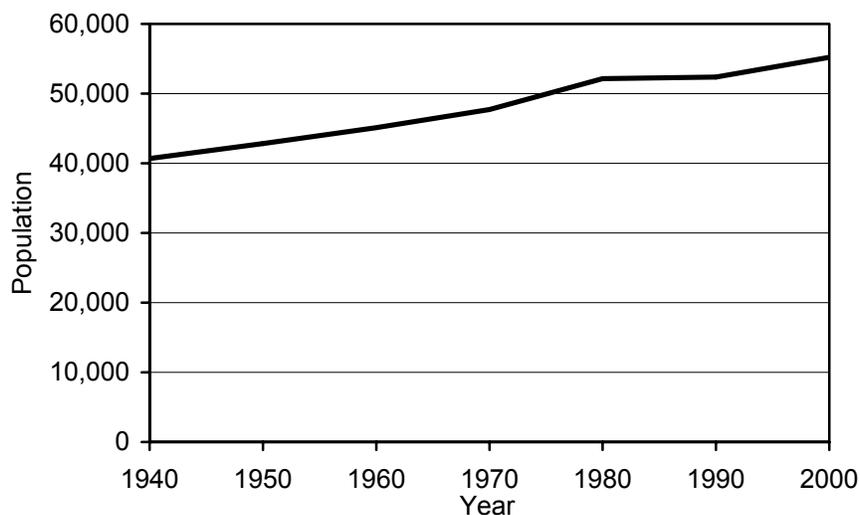
From 1940 to 1970, Chippewa County's population experienced constant growth, averaging approximately 5 percent annually. Although the rate of growth nearly doubled during the 1970s, the 1980s experienced very little growth with an average annual growth rate of 0.5 percent. During the 1990s, however, the growth rate returned to an average similar to the growth experienced during the 1940's through 1960s. Shown in Table 2 and Figure 3 are the historic population trends for Chippewa County.

TABLE 2.
HISTORICAL POPULATION • 1940 TO 2000
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

YEAR	POPULATION	PERCENT CHANGE
1940	40,703	
1950	42,839	5.2
1960	45,096	5.3
1970	47,717	5.8
1980	52,127	9.2
1990	52,360	0.5
2000	55,195	5.4

Source: 1940-2000 U.S. Census

FIGURE 3.
HISTORICAL POPULATION • 1940 TO 2000
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



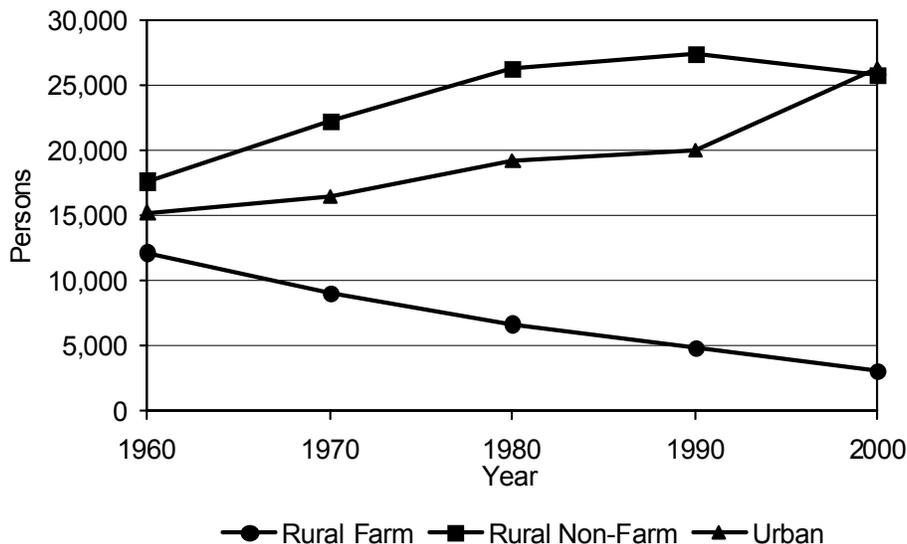
From 1960 to 2000, the rural farm population declined by 74 percent. During the same period, increases occurred in the rural non-farm (+31.6%) and urban (+ 41.9%) populations. Shown in Table 3 and Figure 4, is the population by location of residence in 1960, 1980, and 2000. During the last decade, urban residents exceeded rural non-farm residents for the first time.

TABLE 3.
POPULATION BY LOCATION OF RESIDENCE • 1960, 1980, & 2000
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

LOCATION OF RESIDENCE	1960		1980		2000	
	No.	PCT.	No.	PCT.	No.	PCT.
Rural Farm	12,174	27.0	6,701	12.9	3,119	5.7
Rural Non-Farm	17,656	39.2	26,232	50.3	25,816	46.8
Urban	15,266	33.8	19,194	36.8	26,260	47.6
Total	45,096		52,127		55,195	

Source: 1960 - 1990 U.S. Census

FIGURE 4.
POPULATION BY LOCATION OF RESIDENCE • 1960 TO 2000
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



Shown in Table 4 is the age distribution of residents in 1980, 1990 and 2000. Two primary trends are apparent: (1) young people below the age of 20 constitute a smaller proportion of the total County population and (2) there is a larger percentage of middle-age adults in the 35-54 age ranges. Similar to national trends, Chippewa County also experienced slight increases in the elderly population. The 2000 median age of 37.6 years in the County is higher than both the state median age of 36.0 years and national median age of 33.3 years. Figure 5 shows a comparison of the age distribution by sex for 1980 and 2000.

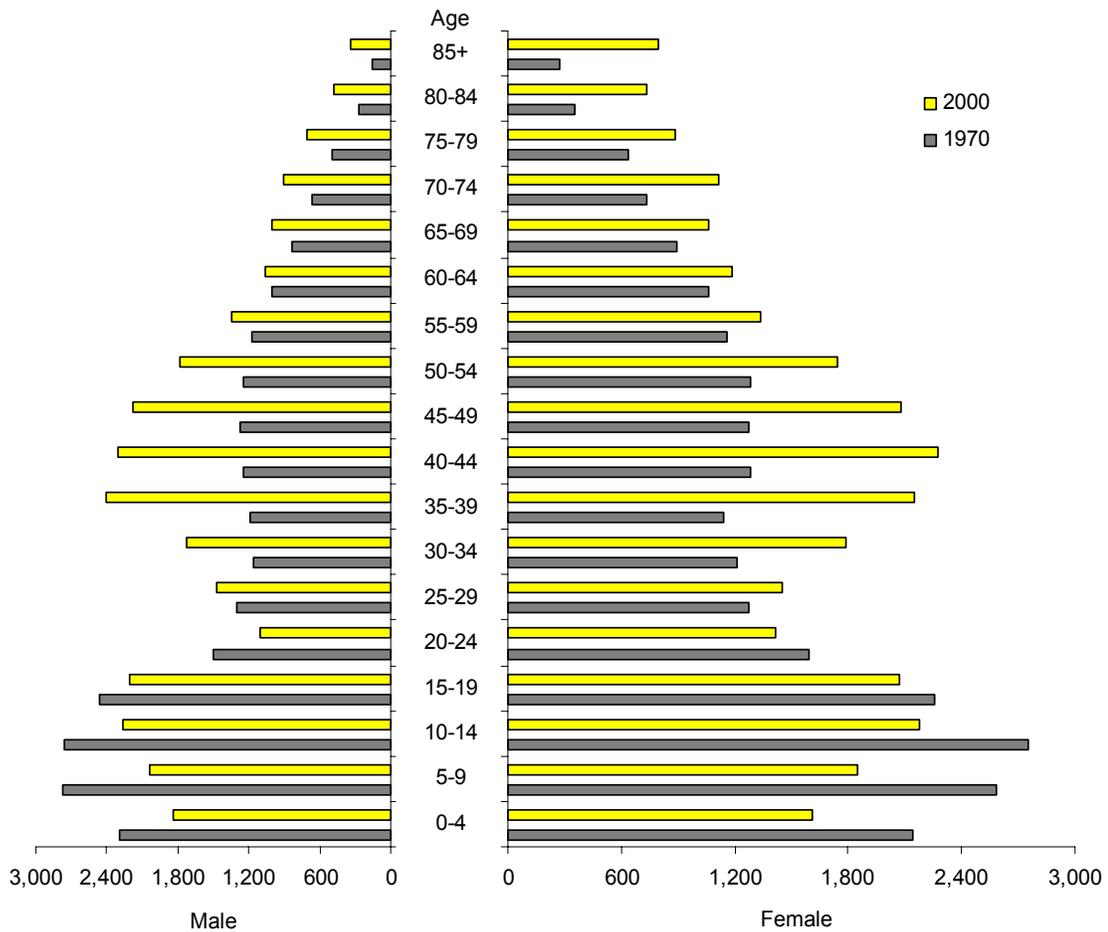
TABLE 4.
AGE DISTRIBUTION • 1980 AND 2000
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Chippewa County Historical Population by Age - 1980-2000

Age	1980	1990	2000	Change	
				Number	Percent
0 to 4	4191	3937	3451	-740	-17.7
5 to 9	4282	4432	3882	-400	-9.3
10 to 14	4900	4148	4448	-452	-9.2
15 to 19	5259	3700	4284	-975	-18.5
20 to 24	4131	2994	2800	-1331	-32.2
25 to 29	4150	4010	2925	-1225	-29.5
30 to 34	3717	4342	3519	-198	-5.3
35 to 44	5358	7741	9128	3770	70.4
45 to 54	4771	5012	7801	3030	63.5
55 to 59	2398	2215	2676	278	11.6
60 to 64	2348	2359	2246	-102	-4.3
65 to 74	3831	4002	4099	268	7.0
75 and over	2791	3468	3938	1147	41.1
Median Age	27.1	33.4	37.6	10.5	38.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

FIGURE 5.
SEX AND AGE STRUCTURE • 1980 & 2000
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



Limited information is available on the handicapped population in Chippewa County. In 2000, census data was collected on non-institutionalized persons, ages five years old and older, having self-care or mobility limitations, or other disability. In 2000, 4,946 Chippewa County non-institutionalized residents were classified as having a disability, many with multiple disabilities. For these individuals, the following disability types were reported:

- sensory disabilities (e.g., blindness, deafness): 11% of reported disabilities
- physical disabilities (e.g., impaired walking or lifting): 27%
- mental disabilities (e.g., impaired learning): 15%
- self-care disabilities (e.g., difficulty dressing or bathing): 7%
- go-outside-home disabilities (e.g., difficulty shopping): 16%
- employment disabilities (e.g., difficulty working on job): 24%

Although there is no information on the type and severity of these limitations, and there is no consistent historical data to provide a trend, this information does indicate that there are a number of people with limitations that should be considered during the development or improvement of park facilities.

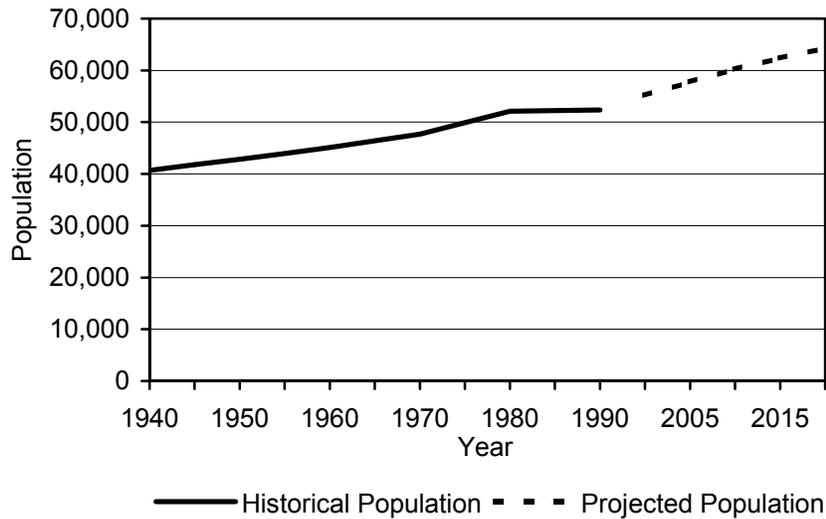
In general, Chippewa County, and most towns, villages and cities located in Chippewa County, are expected to increase in population during the next 20 years. Shown in Table 5 are the Wisconsin Department of Administration's most recent population estimates and projections for the towns, villages, and cities in Chippewa County.

TABLE 5.
POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY MINOR CIVIL DIVISION • 1990 TO 2020
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Type and Name of Municipality	Census 1980	Census 1990	Census 2000	Projection 2005	Projection 2010	Projection 2015	Projection 2020	Projection 2025
T ANSON	1,590	1,634	1,881	1,958	2,079	2,191	2,294	2,363
T ARTHUR	856	756	710	695	697	695	691	677
T AUBURN	456	474	580	619	671	721	767	802
T BIRCH CREEK	540	500	520	522	536	547	556	558
T BLOOMER	930	880	926	951	998	1,041	1,079	1,102
T CLEVELAND	732	758	900	944	1,009	1,070	1,127	1,166
T COLBURN	760	731	727	720	731	738	742	736
T COOKS VALLEY	603	594	632	654	691	724	755	775
T DELMAR	1,062	994	941	924	929	929	926	911
T EAGLE POINT	2,750	2,542	3,049	3,236	3,499	3,746	3,978	4,150
T EDSON	1,061	913	966	975	1,008	1,035	1,058	1,066
T ESTELLA	483	449	469	474	491	505	517	522
T GOETZ	607	640	695	720	762	800	835	858
T HALLIE	4,275	4,531	4,703	323	351	374	395	403
T HOWARD	660	625	648	662	691	717	741	754
T LAFAYETTE	4,181	4,448	5,199	5,538	6,006	6,444	6,858	7,167
T LAKE HOLCOMBE	791	920	1,010	1,052	1,118	1,178	1,235	1,272
T RUBY	514	464	446	436	436	433	430	420
T SAMPSON	805	817	816	844	891	933	973	998
T SIGEL	782	736	825	848	891	929	964	984
T TILDEN	1,088	1,079	1,185	1,217	1,276	1,330	1,378	1,407
T WHEATON	2,328	2,257	2,366	2,435	2,559	2,672	2,774	2,836
T WOODMOHR	967	991	883	868	874	875	874	860
V BOYD	660	683	680	663	663	659	653	637
V CADOTT	1,247	1,328	1,345	1,333	1,354	1,367	1,375	1,365
V LAKE HALLIE	0	0	0	4,558	4,942	5,276	5,568	5,685
V NEW AUBURN *	452	459	547	559	585	607	628	639
C BLOOMER	3,342	3,180	3,347	3,326	3,383	3,424	3,452	3,432
C CHIPPEWA FALLS	12,270	12,749	12,925	12,935	13,244	13,490	13,690	13,691
C CORNELL	1,583	1,541	1,466	1,423	1,414	1,397	1,376	1,336
C EAU CLAIRE *	1,657	1,676	1,910	1,979	2,094	2,199	2,295	2,358
C STANLEY *	2,095	2,011	1,898	3,349	3,344	3,329	3,308	3,262
CHIPPEWA COUNTY	52,127	52,360	55,195	57,740	60,217	62,375	64,292	65,192
Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration								

In addition, shown in Figure 6 is the historical and projected population for the years 1940 to 2020. During the 20-year period from 2000 to 2020, Chippewa County's population is expected to increase by 9,097 people, or 16.5%.

**FIGURE 6.
HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED POPULATION • 1940 TO 2020
CHIPPEWA COUNTY**



ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Chippewa County is predominantly rural in nature, with agriculture as the primary land use. However, the number of farms and total farm acreage has slowly been decreasing from 1,621 farms in 2002 to 1,575 farms in 2007. Also, while the number of farms has decreased, the average farm size in Chippewa County has also decreased. Shown in Table 6 are the changes in general farm characteristics from 2002 to 2007.

**TABLE 6.
GENERAL FARM CHARACTERISTICS • 2002 TO 2007
CHIPPEWA COUNTY**

Chippewa County Number of Farms and Average Farm Size

	2002		2007		Percent Change 2002 to 2007	
	Number of Farms	Average Farm Size (Acres)	Number of Farms	Average Farm Size (Acres)	Number of Farms	Average Farm Size (Acres)
Chippewa County	1,621	231	1,575	224	--2.8%	-3.0%
Wisconsin	77,131	204	78,463	194	1.7%	-4.9%
United States	2,128,982	441	2,204,792	418	3.6%	-5.2%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Shown in Table 7 is the employment by industry of Chippewa County residents in 1990 and 2000. As indicated earlier, although decreasing, agriculture is still a major industry and occupation in Chippewa County, while services continue to increase as the County’s largest employment sector. The largest non-agricultural industries include Services (34.2%), Manufacturing (23.4%), and Retail Trade (12.8%).

TABLE 7.
EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY • 1990 TO 2000
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

INDUSTRY SECTOR	1990		2000	
	No.	PCT.	No.	PCT.
Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	2,658	11.1	1,591	5.8
Construction	1,276	5.4	2,028	7.4
Manufacturing	6,129	25.7	6,464	23.4
Transportation, Information, and Utilities	1,350	5.6	1,593	5.8
Wholesale Trade	718	3.0	891	3.2
Retail Trade	3,942	16.5	3,543	12.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	702	2.9	1,184	4.3
Services	6,440	27.0	9,402	34.2
Government/Public Administration	655	2.7	886	3.2
Total Employment (16 years and older)	23,870		27,582	

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

The 2002 average annual wage in the County of \$27,333 was 88% of the state average, though this average has increased 19.9% over the past five years, faster than the state average increase. The median household income in 1999 (last full year of income data) in Chippewa County was \$39,569, or 90% of the statewide average. The majority of households, 59%, earn between \$25,000 and \$75,000 annually. The share of households with mid-range incomes is higher in Chippewa County than in many counties in the state, and contributes to its 8.2% poverty rate, below the state poverty rate of 8.7%. In 2001, 69.6% of County residents age 16 and over were employed, 4.3% were unemployed, and 26.2% chose not to work. Labor force participation rates in Chippewa County were above both state and national levels.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Goals, objectives and policies are intended to provide direction to meet the outdoor recreation needs of the County in order to achieve the most desirable outdoor recreation environment. The goals, objectives and policies of the Plan are to be used as guidelines by which decisions regarding the improvement or expansion of outdoor recreation facilities are made. For the purpose of the Chippewa County Outdoor Recreation Plan, the following are the definitions of goal, objective and policy.

GOAL: Long-term, general statement of what is to be achieved by the programs and activities. A goal may never be attained. It represents a general statement that outlines the most preferable situation which could possibly be achieved if all of the objectives and policies were developed to their fullest.

OBJECTIVE: A specific, measurable, intermediate end that is achievable and marks progress toward a goal.

POLICY: The way in which programs and activities are conducted to achieve an identified goal and objective. A policy is a course of action selected to guide and determine present and future decisions.

The following goal, objective and policy statements have been developed to establish the general direction of outdoor recreation in Chippewa County.

GOAL

For the benefit of Chippewa County residents and visiting non-residents alike, the Outdoor Recreation Plan shall serve to meet their varied recreation needs while at the same time protecting, conserving, and enhancing the County's natural, historical, and cultural resources.

OBJECTIVE 1.0: Provide adequate facilities so that a quality recreation experience may be enjoyed by all.

Policy 1.1

Improve and maintain existing facilities.

Policy 1.2

Develop recreational facilities for which a need is demonstrated.

Policy 1.3

Acquire land in fee or by easements for needed parks and areas with high potential recreational value.

Policy 1.4

The park and recreation system shall provide opportunities for all persons regardless of race, creed, age, sex, or economic status.

Policy 1.5

Special consideration shall be made for the provision of easy access to facilities by the elderly, the handicapped, the very young, and other less mobile groups.

OBJECTIVE 2.0: Provide a planned system of parks and recreation areas that offer a diversity of recreational opportunities.

Policy 2.1

Where appropriate, park and recreation facilities shall be located in areas that are convenient and accessible to the intended service area.

Policy 2.2

Coordinated multiple use of land areas or facilities for recreational use shall be encouraged wherever possible.

Policy 2.3

Communities and local school districts shall be encouraged to cooperate in the development of community recreational and playground facilities.

Policy 2.4

Land acquired for use as parks or recreation areas shall accommodate the greatest variety of recreational activities consistent with the capabilities of the particular site and its intended function.

OBJECTIVE 3.0: Protect, conserve and enhance natural, historical, and cultural resources.

Policy 3.1

Environmentally sensitive areas shall be identified and protected from development by acquisition, easements, or the use of regulatory controls.

Policy 3.2

Federal, state, local, and private agencies shall be encouraged to cooperate to identify, acquire, and preserve unique natural, historical, or cultural features.

Policy 3.3

Lakes, rivers, and streams shall be used in a manner compatible with their natural ecosystems.

Policy 3.4

Lands used for extractive purposes, such as sand pits, gravel pits, and stone quarries, shall be reclaimed for outdoor recreation, open space, or other compatible uses.

Policy 3.5

Areas subject to soil erosion shall be protected with soil conservation measures where economically feasible.

FACILITIES INVENTORY

Providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Chippewa County has been the primary responsibility of Chippewa County, the school districts, local communities, State of Wisconsin, and private enterprise. Public recreation areas account for a significant amount of developed recreation land. State-owned lands, consisting of parks, hunting grounds, waysides, and trail systems, comprise the major acreage in public ownership.

Private and quasi-public user groups also have substantial investments in recreation facilities. However, in most cases, these facilities require user fees or are affiliated with dues or memberships.

An important initial step in the evaluation of Chippewa County's outdoor recreation program is to inventory the existing outdoor recreation facilities. During the spring of 1998, an inventory of existing Chippewa County outdoor recreation facilities was completed. The inventory was primarily completed by the Chippewa County Forest and Parks Department, in conjunction with the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. In order to complete the inventory, input was obtained from the Chippewa County Land, Forests, and Parks Committee, Chippewa County Forest and Parks Department staff, local communities, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, user groups and organizations, the 1991-1996 Chippewa County Outdoor Recreation Plan, and other reports and studies. In updating the plan for 2010 this information was referenced and updated where applicable.

The following is summary of the outdoor recreation facilities inventory and general assessment of outdoor recreation facilities located throughout Chippewa County.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS

Chippewa County owns and operates three campgrounds with a total of 98 campsites. The three parks, Morris-Erickson, Pine Point and Otter Lake, offer standard amenities such as electricity, restrooms, sanitary dump stations, swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking, playground equipment, and shelters.

There are four other publicly owned campgrounds within the County, not operated by the County, that are licensed for an additional 177 campsites. Two of these public parks are state parks: Brunet Island in Cornell and Lake Wissota just northeast of Chippewa Falls. The City of Stanley and the Town of Birch Creek each have one publicly owned campground and the City of Chippewa Falls (though not publicly ran) has one camping area - the Fair Hill Campground.

The majority of campsites are privately owned and operated. Throughout Chippewa County, there are 35 privately owned campgrounds licensed to provide 1,412 campsites. The sites range from primitive to highly developed.

Shown in Table 8 and Figure 7, are the public and private campgrounds in Chippewa County.

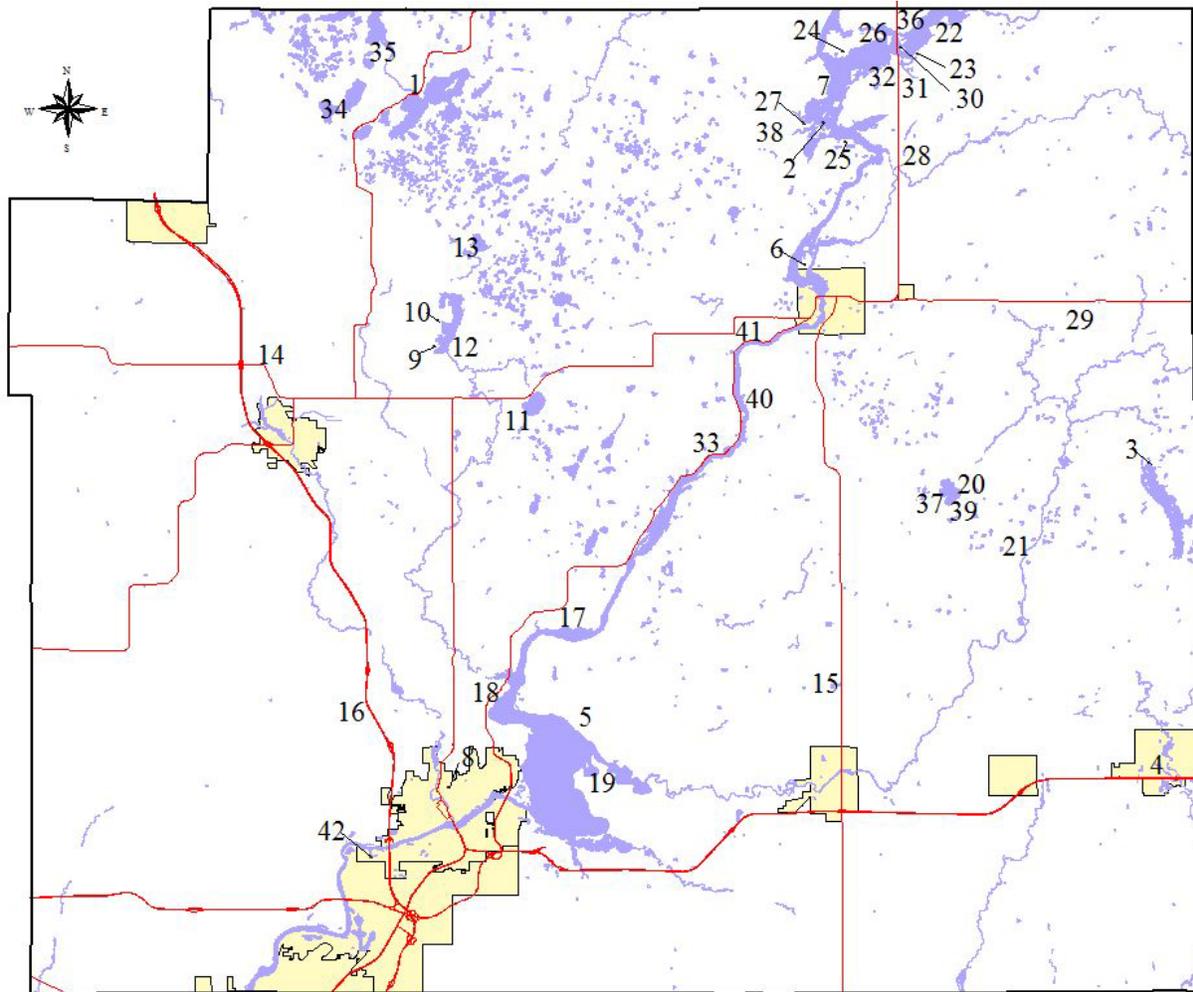
**TABLE 8.
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY**

Campgrounds	No. of Sites	Campgrounds	No. of Sites
Public		Private Con't	
1 Morris-Erickson Park*	28	23 Isle Bay Resort	23
2 Pine Point Park*	48	Lake Holcombe Lions Public	
3 Otter Lake Park*	22	Park	50
4 Chapman Park	15	25 Ted's Timberlodge	55
5 Lake Wissota State Park	81	26 Little Tee-Pee Campground	45
6 Brunet Island State Park	69	27 Pine Drive Trailer Park	21
7 Birch Creek Park	12	28 Pleasant Acres Campground	45
Total Public Campsites	275	29 Split Ridge Campground	10
		30 Swedes North	37
		31 Swedes South	20
Private		32 White Birch Campgrounds	30
8 Fair Hill Campground	30	33 Windmill Resort	15
9 Birch Point Resort	46	34 Loon Lake Campgrounds	50
10 Cedar Inn	7	35 Sugar Bush	6
11 Hathaway Park	25	36 Silent Waters	71
12 Lazy Days Resort	60	37 Pike lake	18
13 Rock Lake Resort	117	38 Cranberry Creek (#27)	55
14 Willie's Overnight Campground	20	39 Adams Acres Campground	20
15 Novotny's Little Lake	15	40 Crosby's on the Chippewa	43
16 Duncan Creek Campground	42	41 Chippewa River Campground	32
17 Mallard Resort	24	42 Eagle Ridge Campground	60
18 O'Neil Creek Campground	175		
19 Pine Harbor Campsite	45	Total Private Campsites	1,412
20 Pine Lake Resort	25		
21 Shady Nook Resort	25	TOTAL CAMPSITES	1,687
22 Evergreen Bay Campground	50		

Source: Chippewa County Forest and Parks, Planning and Zoning and Public Health

*Note: Owned and operated by Chippewa County

**FIGURE 7.
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY**



PICNICKING

Local municipalities, counties and the state are the major providers of picnicking facilities in Chippewa County. Of these, municipalities offer the greatest number of picnicking facilities in Chippewa County. Community and County parks are popular places for picnicking and are used by both local residents and visitors to the area. State facilities are usually waysides, with Brunet Island and Lake Wissota being the exception. In addition, the three Chippewa County parks that are primarily devoted to camping also have portions of each park that are set aside as day-use areas.

The total County inventory distinguishes between waysides, which offer a few tables and often no other types of recreational facilities, and other public picnicking facilities, which offer other recreational amenities at the site.

Shown in Table 9 are the existing multi-purpose picnic facilities and the basic available amenities that are offered. Shown in Table 10 are the existing wayside rest areas. The locations of these facilities are shown in Figure 8.

**TABLE 9.
PUBLIC PICNIC AREAS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY**

PICNIC FACILITIES	OWNERSHIP	NO. OF TABLES	NO. OF GRILLS	SHELTER	EXPAN. POTEN
County Facilities					
Morris-Erickson Park	Chippewa County	5	4	1	No
Otter Lake Park	Chippewa County	20	12	2	No
Pine Point Park	Chippewa County	21	7	1	No
Round Lake Park	Chippewa County	28	9	1	No
Other Facilities					
Irvine Park	City of Chippewa Falls	375	60	8	No
Chapman Park	City of Stanley	50	4	1	No
Brunet Island State Park	State of Wisconsin	180	32	1	No
Lake Wissota State Park	State of Wisconsin	132	6	3	Yes
Anson Park	Town of Anson	14	1	1	No
Birch Creek Park	Town of Birch Creek	4	0	0	Yes
Lake Holcombe Wayside	Town of Holcombe	10	4	0	No
Cadott Community Park	Village of Cadott	34	3	3	Yes

Source: Chippewa County Forest and Parks Department

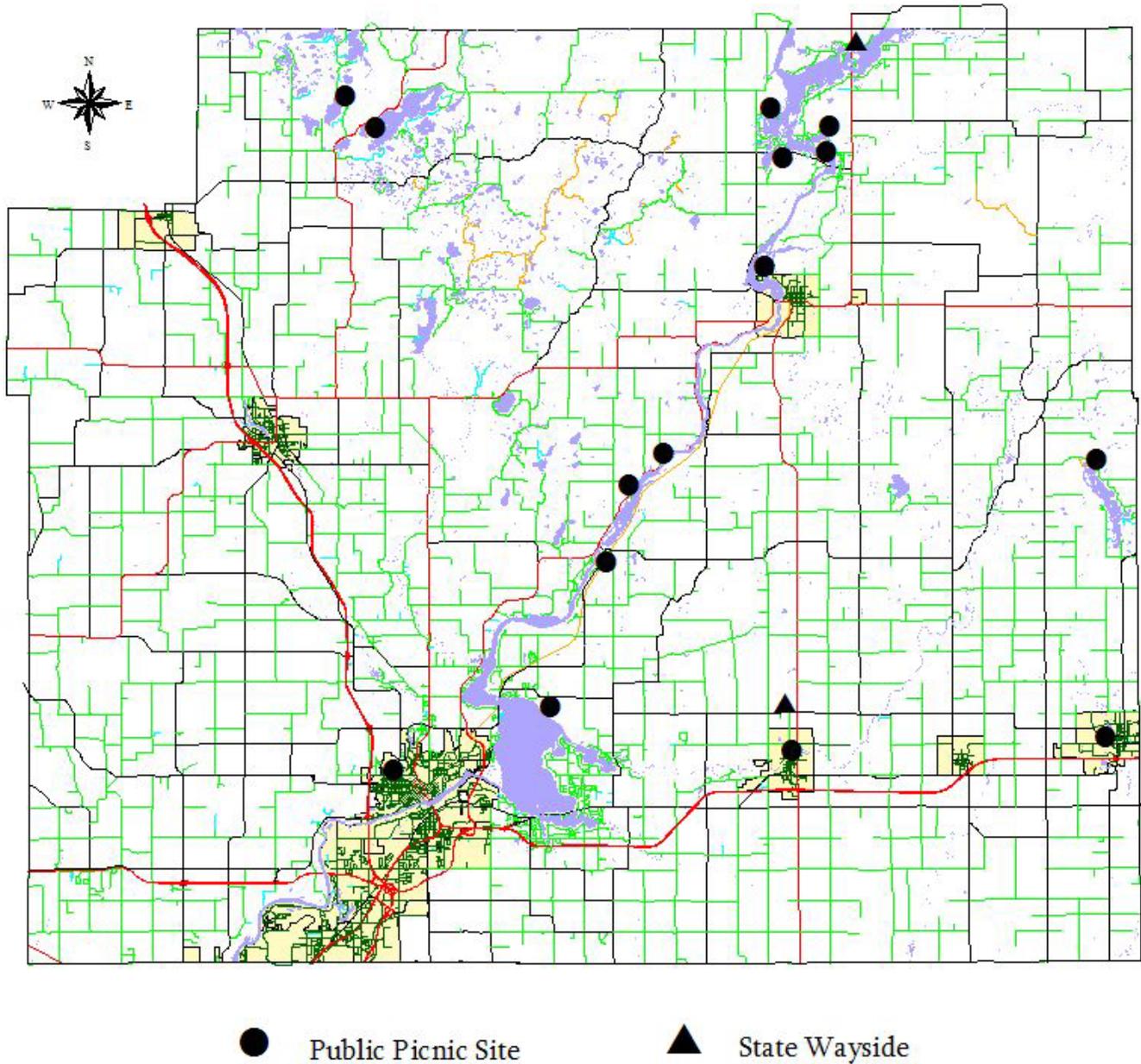
**TABLE 10.
WAYSIDE REST AREAS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY**

WAYSIDE FACILITY	LOCATION	OWNERSHIP	NO. OF TABLES
State Trunk Highway 27	Sec 19, T29N-R6W	State of Wisconsin	4
State Trunk Highway 178	Sec 3, T30N-R7W	State of Wisconsin	3
State Trunk Highway 27	Sec 3, T32N-R6W	State of Wisconsin	9

Source: Chippewa County Forest and Parks Department

* Under consideration for abandonment

**FIGURE 8.
PUBLIC PICNIC AND WAYSIDE REST AREAS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY**



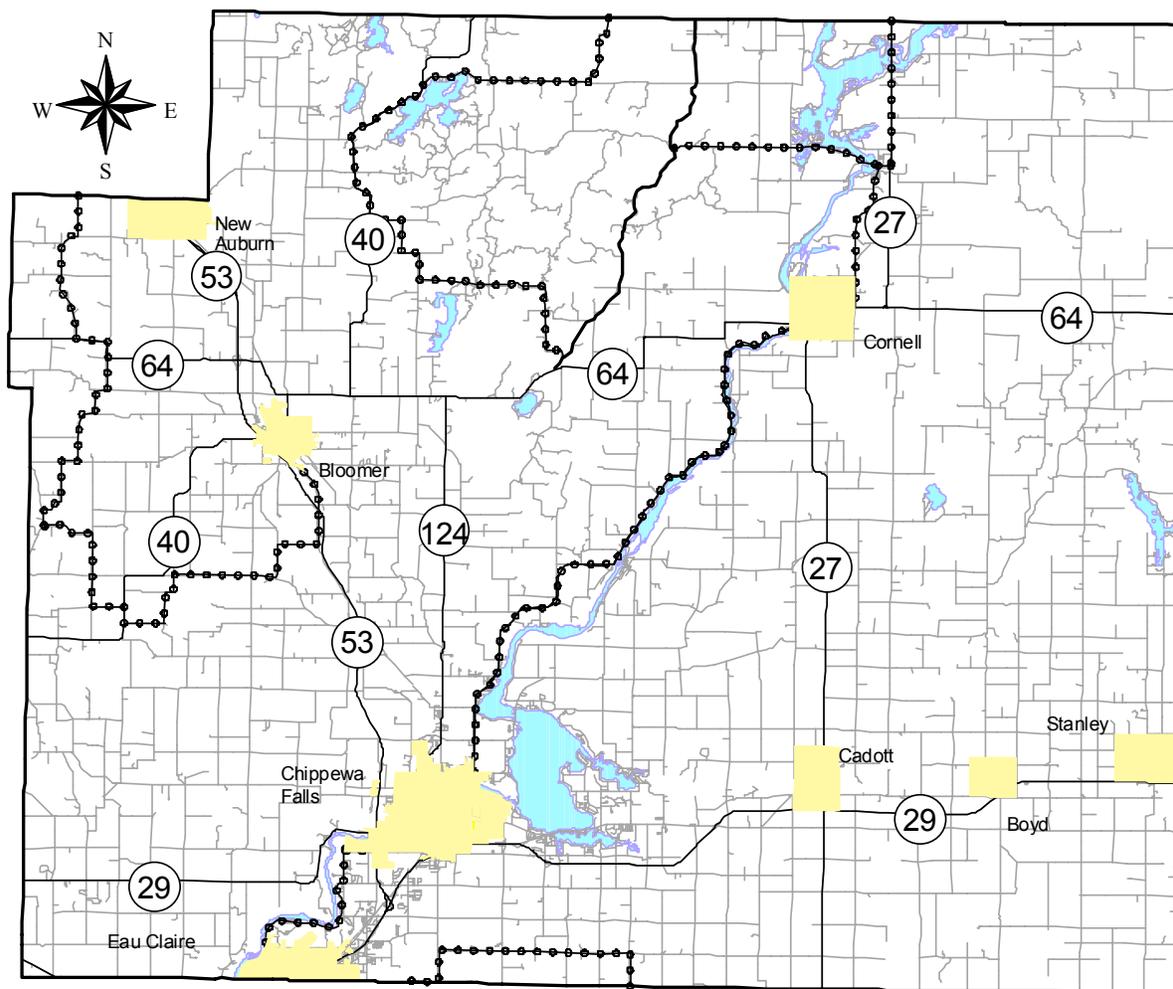
RUSTIC AND SCENIC ROADWAYS

Rolling, wooded hills interspersed with farms, streams and lakes provide Chippewa County with an attractive and scenic landscape. A well-developed transportation system provides abundant opportunities for scenic driving, especially during the fall of the year when autumn colors are at their peak.

In addition, in an effort to preserve the most attractive routes throughout the state, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) established the Rustic Roads Program. The WisDOT defines a Rustic Road as a lightly traveled roadway for the purposes of recreational enjoyment with outstanding natural features that uniquely sets the road apart from other roads. In Chippewa County, the WisDOT has designated one Rustic Road (R-6). R-6 is a 13.3-mile paved section of County Highway E, from the junction of STH 64 north to the Chippewa-Rusk County line.

Shown in Figure 9, are R-6 and other roadways that have been identified as having scenic qualities.

**FIGURE 9.
RUSTIC AND SCENIC ROUTES**



 Rustic Road
(County Trunk Highway E)

 Scenic Route



HIKING AND NATURE TRAILS

The Ice Age Trail is the primary improved facility dedicated to providing trail-oriented recreational opportunities in Chippewa County. This 26-mile trail segment begins at Brunet Island State Park north of Cornell and winds its way west to the eastern boundary of the Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Scenic Reserve at Shattuck Lake. When fully complete, this hiking trail is planned to extend from Potawatomi State Park in Door County to Interstate State Park in Polk County, approximating the terminal edge of the last glacial advance. Currently, only about 600 of miles of its planned 1,000 miles length is available for use. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is one of eight such national scenic trails in the United States.

The Old Abe State Trail is a 19.5-mile trail linking Chippewa Falls and Cornell. This trail is the northern portion of a 70-mile trail system which runs from Cornell south to Eau Claire and on to Menomonie.

The Brunet Island and Lake Wissota State Parks also provide nearly 12 miles of walking/hiking trails, and the nature trail at Otter Lake campground has a one-mile loop. In addition, the approximately 32,000 acres of County forest, cross-country ski trails, logging access roads, campgrounds, and public hunting lands also provide numerous hiking and nature trail opportunities.

The Chippewa County Riverview Conservancy is a nature-based park within the City of Chippewa Falls and the Town of Eagle Point. Park plans include walking trails, a nature interpretive center, and handicapped accessible amenities. The Conservancy's trails will also connect the City's bike trails with the Old Abe State Trail. The park and trails are being developed by Chippewa County in cooperation with local government, Wisconsin DNR, and community groups such as the Chippewa Area Community Foundation.

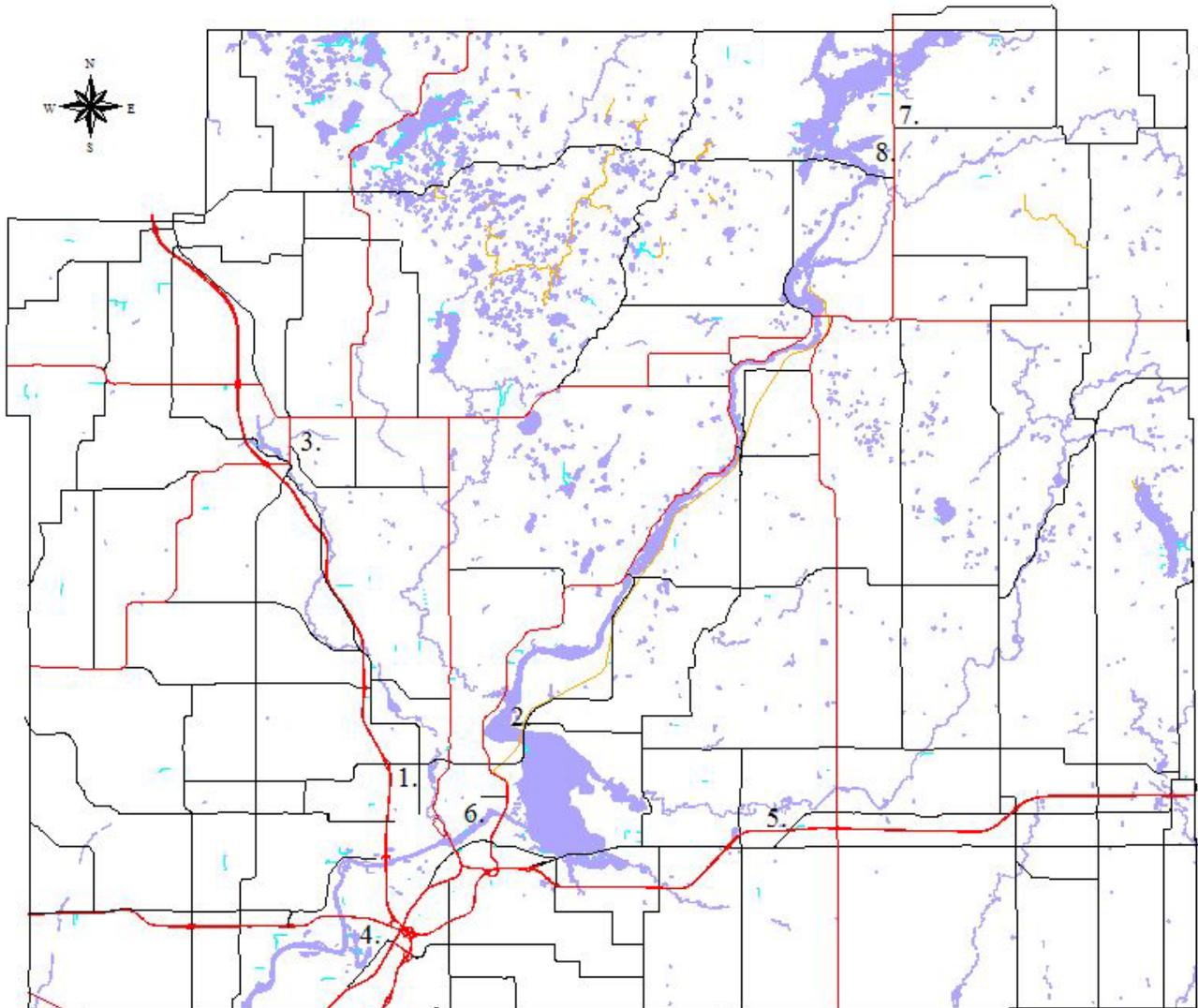
Individual community parks also offer hiking and nature trails, such as Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls and Mill Yard Park in Cornell. Additional trails of varying levels of improvement can be found within the County forest lands, such as those within the Moon Ridge and Deer Fly Trail areas.

GOLFING

Golf is a growing sport nationwide, as well as in Chippewa County. In addition to County residents, visitors staying in campgrounds and resorts are also playing golf. There are currently eight golf courses in Chippewa County, shown in Figure 10. Three of the courses are 9-hole and five are 18-hole courses. All courses are well maintained and offer adequate facilities, such as locker rooms, bars, services, shelters, and pro shops.

FIGURE 10.

GOLF COURSES
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Ojibwa Golf Course (9 holes) | 5. Wispering Pines (18 holes) |
| 2. Lake Wissota Golf Course (18 holes) | 6. Timber Terrace (9 holes) |
| 3. Bloomer Memorial Golf Course (18 holes) | 7. Entwood Golf Course (18 holes) |
| 4. Lake Hallie Golf Course (18 holes) | 8. Twin Lakes Golf Course (18 holes) |

BICYCLING

Bicycling is another activity that is increasing in popularity. Although dedicated bike paths are limited in the County, the Old Abe State Trail is available for bicycling and some communities, such as the City of Chippewa Falls, has established bike routes.

In addition to trail riding, there are also many miles of scenic county and local roads that are available for bicycle touring. However, riders should be careful since these routes may not be specifically designed for bicycle use. Information on the most suitable touring routes is available from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/bike-foot/).

Off-road riding is another form of bicycling that has increased in popularity during the past few years. The forest roads, logging access trails, and other trails throughout the county forest provide many miles of off-road biking opportunities.

HORSEBACK RIDING

In Chippewa County, horseback riding is primarily done on private lands. However, the Chippewa County Forest and Parks Department, with the assistance of the Chippewa Valley Trail Riders Association, developed the Hay Meadow Horse Trail. This equestrian trail is 8.75 miles long, and is located in the County forest in northern Chippewa County. Additional opportunities for horseback riding are available on the many miles of trails located throughout the County forest. Lake Wissota State Park also has a trail designated for horses and provides trailer parking. The Old Abe State Trail also has approximately five miles of parallel equestrian trail.

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) TRAILS

Chippewa County provides over 15 miles of ATV trails through Chippewa County forest lands in the Towns of Birch Creek and Bloomer and various other towns. These trails are normally open to ATV use from May 1st to November 15th of each year. The glacial topography of the area, with its steep hills and valleys, makes it ideal for ATV riding.

SNOW SKIING

Chippewa County has no developed area for downhill skiing. Skiing is an activity that participants are willing to travel some distance for, if not available locally.

Cross-country skiing is a popular wintertime activity in western Wisconsin. The relatively low-cost equipment and user fees, and the availability of suitable terrain for the sport, appeal to many residents in Chippewa County. In Chippewa County, there are two main cross-country skiing areas, Hickory Ridge (10.75 miles) and River Road Trail (2.5 miles). Together, these trails provide over 13 miles of trails designated and maintained for cross-country skiing. In addition, the Ice Age Trail may also be used for skiing, although it is not groomed or developed for this purpose. Brunet Island and Lake Wissota State parks, as well as Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls, also offer ski trails. Area golf courses may also allow skiers on the course when there is adequate snow cover.

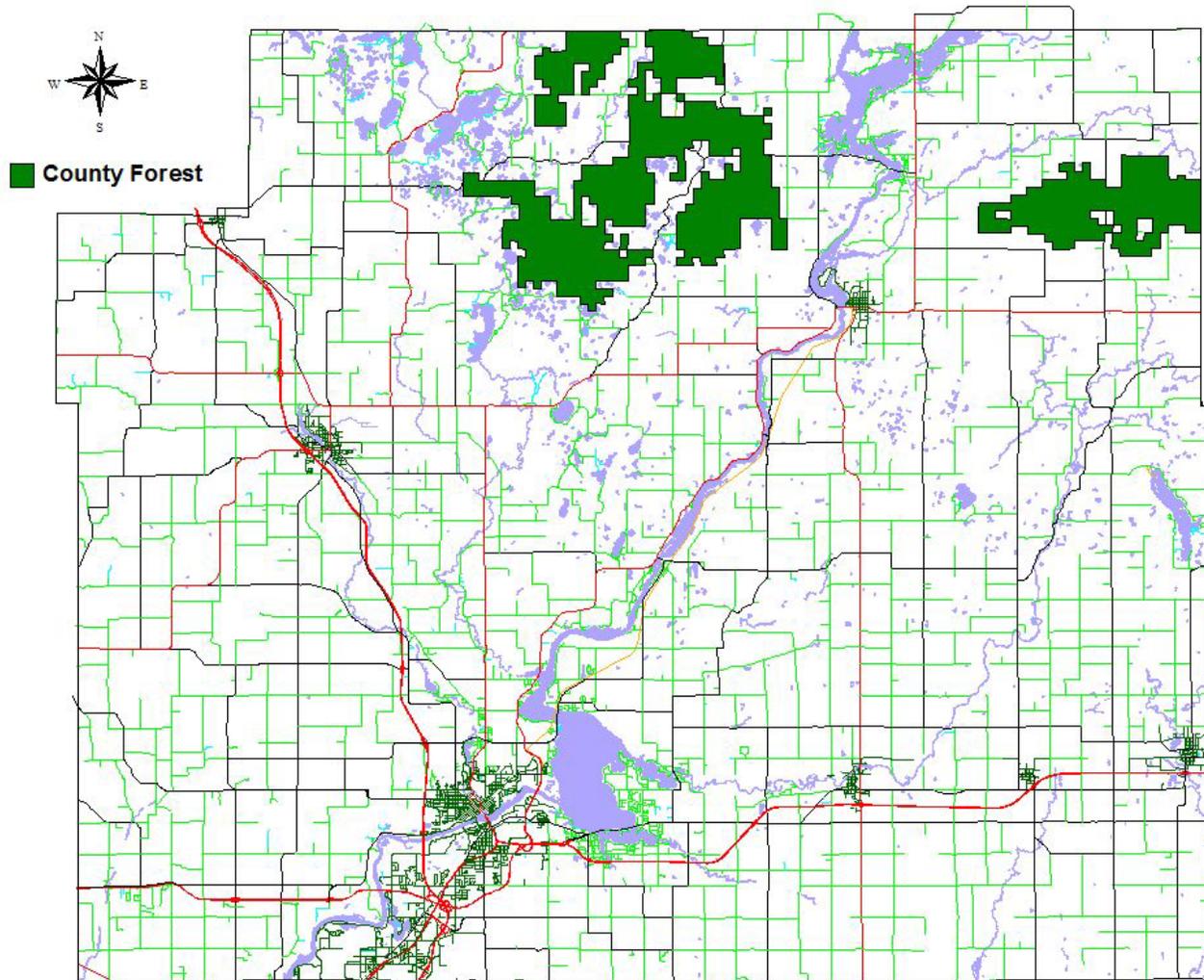
SNOWMOBILING

Chippewa County has 24 active snowmobile clubs, all of which are part of the Chippewa County Snowmobile Council. The Council and clubs promote safe, sensible riding, as well as assist with the grooming and maintenance of the trails. As of April 2004, Chippewa County has 351 miles of groomed snowmobile trails connecting all of the communities to the trail system. Shown in Figure 11 are the County and club trails for Chippewa County as well as several other recreation opportunities

HUNTING

The large blocks of County-owned forest, along with approximately 5,730 acres of Managed Forest Law lands and 2,793 acres of forest crop lands that are also open to the public for hunting, provide over 40,000 acres of hunting grounds. In addition, the DNR also owns or leases and maintains areas for hunting and fishing grounds. Shown in Figure 12 is the current boundary of the County forest. Lands within the various forest law programs have various expiration dates associated with the land being open to the public. It is recommended to consult a current plat book or the local DNR agent to determine whether the land is still open to the public for hunting.

FIGURE 12.
CHIPPEWA COUNTY FOREST
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



FISHING

Over 201,000 acres of lakes, rivers and streams in Chippewa County provide residents and visitors with excellent fishing opportunities. Included in this acreage are 449 named and unnamed lakes, five major impoundments over 400 acres, and 380 miles of rivers and streams to

provide warm water fishing opportunities for walleye, muskie, bass, northern, and panfish. Chippewa County also has nearly 81 miles of trout streams located throughout the County.

SWIMMING

With over 20,000 acres of lakes, rivers and streams, water to swim in is generally accessible throughout Chippewa County. However, the majority of these areas is not improved for the purpose of swimming, and as such, may not be suitable for swimming. All four County parks have designated swimming areas. Lake Wissota and Brunet Island State Parks also have improved swimming areas with full facilities. Several municipalities also maintain beaches on the lakes and streams that are within the community. In addition, the City of Chippewa Falls operates and maintains an outdoor swimming pool that is available to the general public during the summer months. Some private resorts and campgrounds also have beaches and pools, but are not inventoried because they are typically not accessible to the general public.

CANOEING

True canoeing enthusiasts will find the streams in Chippewa County of little challenge. However, the abundance of high-quality water resources, such as the Yellow, Jump, and Chippewa River and O'Neill and Duncan Creeks, provide excellent canoeing opportunities throughout the County. In addition, the County forest provides nearly two miles of canoeing and portaging in and around small lakes and potholes along the Townline-Knickerbocker canoe trail. Shown in Figure 13 are the public boat landings for boats and canoes.

WATER SKIING AND PLEASURE BOATING

Chippewa County has an ample supply of water resources for water skiing and pleasure boating. For these activities, bodies of water over 200 acres are preferred. In Chippewa County, there are ten lakes and impoundments that are large enough to safely support these activities. Shown in Table 11 are the lakes of 200 acres or more. Shown in Figure 13 are the water access points for boats and canoes.

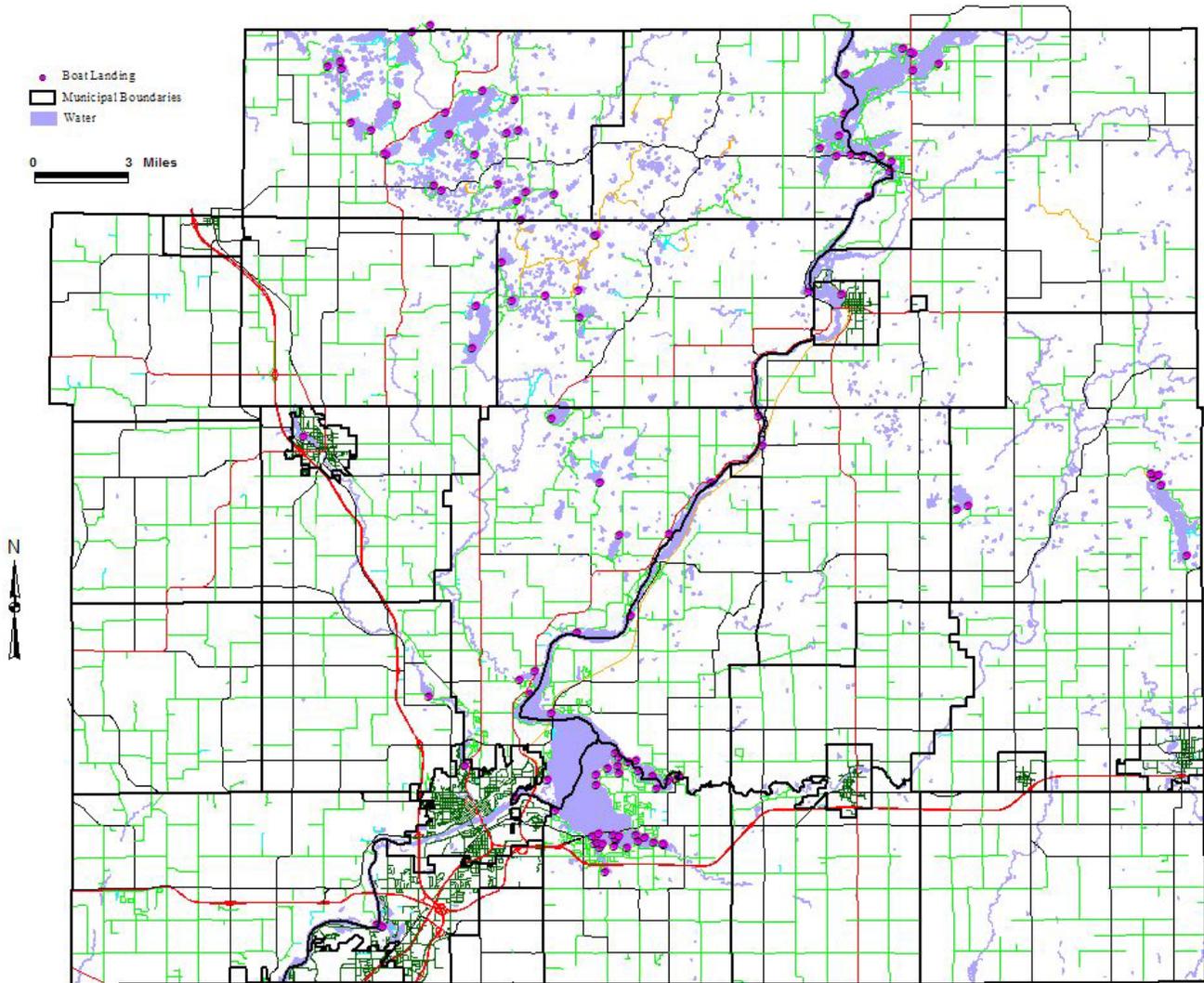
TABLE 11.
LAKES/IMPOUNDMENTS OF 200 ACRES OR GREATER
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

LAKE/IMPOUNDMENT	ACREAGE	MAXIMUM DEPTH	PUBLIC ACCESS
Chain Lake	468	74	Yes
Chippewa Falls Flowage	282	29	Yes
Cornell Flowage	836	54	Yes
Holcombe Flowage	3,890	61	Yes
Long Lake	1,052	101	Yes
Marsh-Miller Lake	436	14	Yes
Old Abe Lake	1,072	36	Yes
Otter Lake	661	43	Yes
Pine Lake	262	115	No
Round Lake	216	18	Yes
Wissota Lake	6,300	72	Yes

Source: Wisconsin Lakes, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, PUB-FM-800 95REV

FIGURE 13.

PUBLIC BOAT LANDINGS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



ADJACENT FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION FACILITIES

In addition to facilities provided by Chippewa County and the local communities, Federal and state outdoor recreation facilities within and around Chippewa County are also available for use by County residents.

There are three federal recreation facilities located within or near a 50-mile planning radius of Chippewa County. They include the Chequamegon National Forest, the previously discussed National Ice Age Trail and Reserve, and the Eau Galle Dam Recreation Area (maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers). The State maintains two parks, three trails, and one state forest in or near the 50-mile radius of Chippewa County. Shown in Table 12 and Figure 14 are the Federal and state recreation facilities located within or near a 50-mile radius of Chippewa County.

TABLE 12.

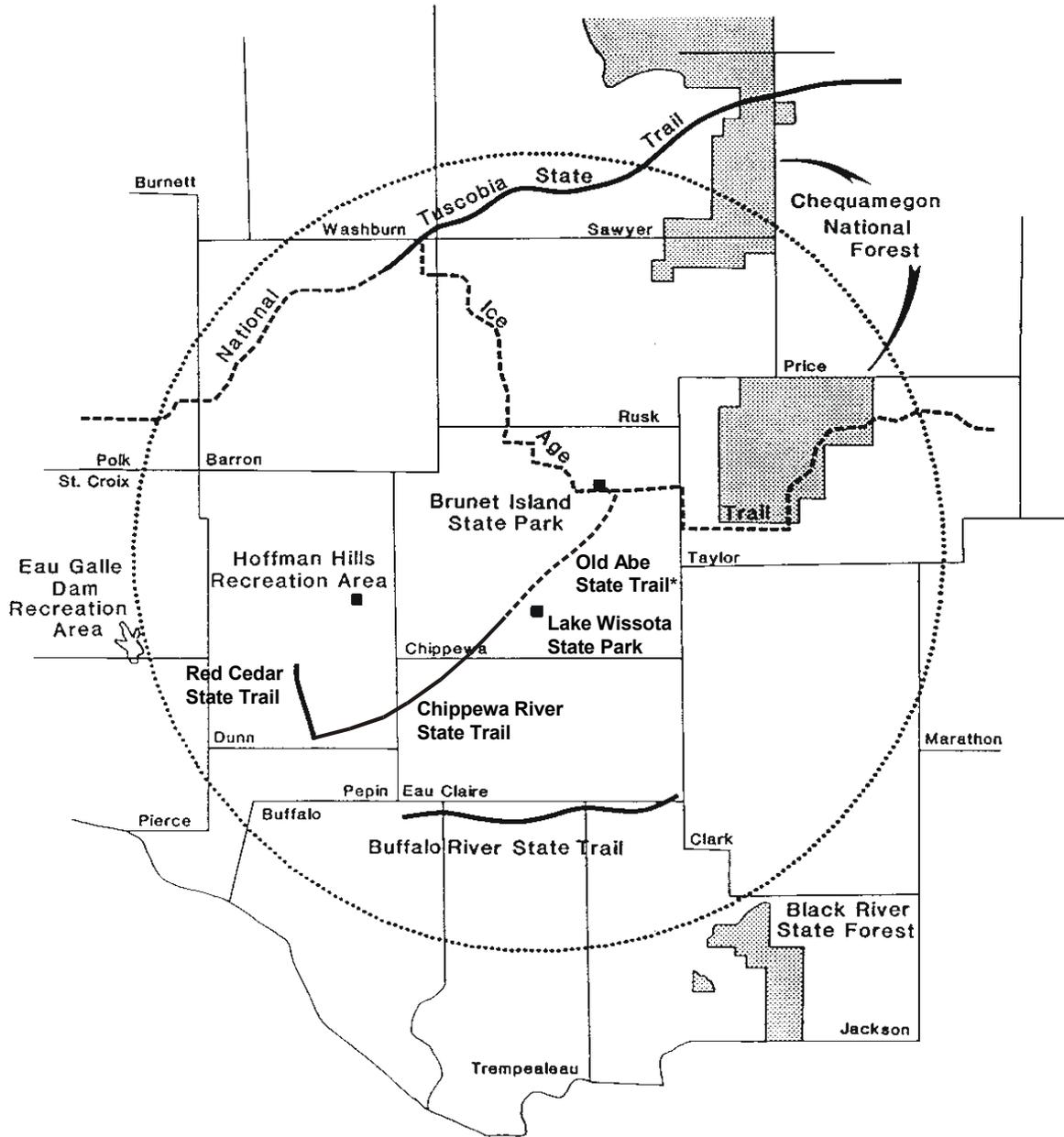
**FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS WITHIN A 50-MILE RADIUS
OF CHIPPEWA COUNTY**

RECREATION AREAS	LOCATION	CAMPING	SWIMMING	BOATING	FISHING
Brunet Island State Park	Cornell	X	X	X	X
Lake Wissota State Park	Chippewa Falls	X	X	X	X
Red Cedar Trail + Chippewa River Trail +Old Abe Trail	Menomonie to Eau Claire to Cornell				X
Hoffman Hills Recreation Area	Menomonie				
Buffalo River State Trail	Mondovi				X
National Ice Age Trail					X
Eau Galle Dam Recreation Area	Spring Valley	X	X	X	X
Tuscobia State Trail	Hayward				X
Chequamegon National Forest		X	X	X	X
Black River Falls State Forest		X	X	X	X

Source: Wisconsin State Parks Visitors Guide; Pub. No. PR002-97

FIGURE 14.

FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS WITHIN A 50-MILE RADIUS OF CHIPPEWA COUNTY



ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

With the assistance of the Chippewa Area Community Foundation, the Chippewa County Conservancy is being developed to include a handicapped accessible trail system with trail-side benches and landscaping.

The entire length of the Old Abe State Trail has an asphalt surface and is considered handicapped accessible. In addition, handicapped individuals are exempt from the user fee for trail use. Handicapped fishing piers are available at Otter Lake County Park.

Even with these accessible facilities, the options to handicapped individuals are limited; and many existing park facilities are older and require improvements to ramps, paths, water bubblers, camping sites, etc, in order to increase accessibility. This Outdoor Recreation Plan update recognizes these needs and incorporates numerous park improvement recommendations to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities (*see Project Maintenance and Improvements Schedule*).

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Demand/Needs Assessment section is intended to assess the relative importance that particular outdoor recreation activities have within Chippewa County. Determining the recreation needs in an area is an important step in the development and maintenance of a park system. This information will provide the basis for determining the outdoor recreation facility improvements that will be necessary in the future.

The following is the demand/needs assessment for Chippewa County. This information was developed through the use of the 2005-2010 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and a citizen/user-group committee input, and then modified by the Land, Forest and Parks Committee to better address the issues of Chippewa County.

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN METHODOLOGY

The 2005-2010 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) needs assessment was accomplished by comparing four survey sources: 1) The 1999-2004 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) and version 18 of the NSRE (called the Wisconsin Survey), which was conducted September to November, 2004; 2) The Outdoor Industry Foundation (OIF) 2002 Outdoor Recreation Participation & Spending Study, A State-by-State Perspective; 3) The Department of Tourism 2004 Wisconsin Advertising Awareness and Competitive Analysis Wave VIII Study (WAVE VIII) ; and 4) comments (both written, internet, and mail) from a series of eight public meetings held in 2005 discussing barriers for increased outdoor use.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The needs that were identified in the SCORP were used as the starting point for determining Chippewa County's outdoor recreation needs. Needs from the SCORP and User-Group Ad-Hoc Committee were reviewed and evaluated by the Chippewa County Land, Forests, and Parks Committee. The Committee then revised the needs identified by the SCORP and the issues identified by the user-groups to reflect the local outdoor recreation demands in Chippewa County.

Similar to the SCORP, Chippewa County's recreation activities were then classified into high, medium, and low priorities. The Land, Forests, and Parks Committee based this classification on the perceived demand for the activity by County residents. These classifications are not intended to directly commit the Facilities and Parks or the Forest Management Department to facility improvements. For example, some of the activities that were classified as "high" may be addressed by other agencies and organizations better suited to provide that service.

The following is a summary of high-, medium-, and low-priority recreation activities for Chippewa County.

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

MULTI-USE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Recreational opportunities need to be available for use by all user groups. Respect needs to be shown between groups to allow a balance to be struck for equal recreational opportunities.

FISHING

Fishing is one of the most popular activities in Chippewa County. Fishing concerns in this area tend to be related to water and habitat quality and water access.

PLAY EQUIPMENT

More play equipment is needed to meet the needs of the increasing child population.

SOCCER

The sport of soccer has seen a dramatic increase in interest and participation during the past five years. Youth programs and organizations are experiencing difficulties in finding adequate soccer fields.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY

A common thread has been shown between the municipalities, user groups and the State's Outdoor Recreation planning effort that there is a need for more handicapped accessible recreation opportunities. Chippewa County recognizes this need.

HIKING, WALKING AND RUNNING

The increasing number of residents and increasing interest in these activities has created a high priority need for nature trails and paths throughout Chippewa County.

BOATING

Adequate access to the lakes and rivers is an important factor in ensuring that users experience an enjoyable and safe outing. Additional patrolling of the lakes is also needed to ensure safety.

CAMPING

The limited number of campsites are typically overcrowded during several peak weekends during the summer months.

BICYCLING

As bicycling increases in popularity, bike routes and trails may become crowded.

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Baseball and softball continue to be popular activities. Additional ball diamonds may be needed to support the demands of County residents of all ages.

HUNTING

Hunting is a popular activity in Chippewa County. Demands for hunting areas are expected to increase due to the increasing amount of posted land.

OUTDOOR CONCERTS AND THEATERS

Chippewa County hosts several outdoor concerts throughout the summer months. These concerts continue to increase in attendance and draw interest from residents from all over the Midwest.

LAND ACQUISITION

While not a recreational activity, the acquisition of additional land or easements for parks and recreational activities is an important prerequisite to expansion of many of the other activities identified in this needs assessment.

MEDIUM PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

ARCHERY AND RIFLE RANGES

Additional, well designed and equipped archery and rifle ranges are needed to meet the demands Chippewa County residents.

FOOTBALL

More football fields are needed to meet the demands of the growing population and participation level.

PICNICKING

Picnicking continues to be a favorite activity of Chippewa County residents. Although there are a number of picnic sites throughout the County, additional sites may be needed to support the increasing population.

GOLF

Golf is, and is expected to continue to be, a very popular activity for Chippewa and surrounding County residents.

MOTORIZED TRAIL ACTIVITIES

Snowmobiling and All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use continues to increase in popularity. This has caused an increasing demand for the identification and development of trails dedicated for these uses.

SWIMMING BEACHES AND POOLS

Swimming is an enjoyable outdoor activity during the summer months. However, there is a limited number of suitable beaches and pools available to residents.

HISTORIC SITES

Existing historic sites continue to be utilized and interest is likely to increase with population growth.

ZOOS

The Irvine Park zoo continues to be a well-utilized facility.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Horseback riding is increasing in popularity in Chippewa and many surrounding counties. The demand for this activity is expected to continue to increase, creating increasing pressures to develop additional suitable riding trails.

NATURE STUDY

Chippewa County has an abundance of County forest and other natural areas. Preservation of these areas provides residents with the opportunity to enjoy and observe the scenic beauty while preserving the natural environment.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

The increasing demand for cross-country skiing will increase the pressure for skiing trails.

OTHER WATER ACTIVITIES

Waterskiing, jet-skiing, and windsurfing continue to increase in popularity in Chippewa County.

LOW PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

Fairs and festivals are enjoyable events that occur throughout the summer months.

PLEASURE DRIVING

Chippewa County's abundant woodlands provide seasonal enjoyment opportunities.

DOWNHILL SKIING

Chippewa County residents maintain an interest in downhill skiing.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SKETCHING, AND PAINTING

Chippewa County has many areas that are desirable for providing these opportunities.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM

The development of high-quality outdoor recreation facilities is one of the most important considerations in planning for the future needs of Chippewa County's park system. With a limited amount of funding available for outdoor recreation facilities, decisions regarding future improvements of these facilities must be made in a manner that continues to satisfy the needs of the residents.

The purpose of the action program is to: (1) provide general guidelines in which decisions regarding facility improvements can be made and (2) identify a list of improvements for each of the parks in the Chippewa County park system.

The following recommendations are divided into three sections:

1. General Recommendations
2. Recommendations for Selected Recreation Activities
3. Recommendations for Park Improvements

These recommendations are based on the information presented in this Plan along with the recommendations of the Chippewa County Land, Forests, and Parks Committee. While the scope of the recommendations is large and may be beyond the immediate financial capability of the County, this should not influence adoption of the Plan. In addition, all recommendations are not intended for implementation during the current planning period. Action on the recommendations can occur in relation to: the way County officials rank their priorities, opportunities available for acquiring available land or equipment necessary to make improvements, the opportunities for cooperation with private or other public agencies, and the financial ability to develop and maintain the facility. This is not a priority listing.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are general considerations that relate to the County's overall recreation program.

Public/Private Partnerships. Funding available for outdoor recreation activities is becoming increasingly scarce. Subsequently, it is necessary to share the financial burden of providing high-quality, environmentally sensitive, publicly accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. Chippewa County has some good examples of private enterprise and public support types of projects currently operating. These projects include the development of the snowmobile trails, shooting ranges, horse-riding trail, and campgrounds. Chippewa County should continue these relationships and explore new opportunities to share the responsibility of providing a diverse, high-quality system of parks and recreation areas.

Aid Programs. Another way to address the availability of limited financial resources is to access state and Federal aid programs. Chippewa County should take advantage of state and Federal financial and technical aid programs designed to assist communities in meeting their recreational needs and continue to maintain County eligibility for such programs.

Optimize Use of Existing Facilities. Chippewa County has four parks and recreation facilities that are maintained on the existing County budget. Adding additional parks to the park system,

in order to meet the increasing demands for additional outdoor recreation activities, would only increase the demand on an already limited budget. Where appropriate, Chippewa County should utilize existing parks to expand the recreation opportunities that are available. An example of this type of improvement would be to mow trails in the summer for cross-country skiing in the winter. Making parks into multiple-use recreation parks may also increase the County's chance to be awarded funding through the various State and Federal aid programs.

Provision for Physically and Mentally Disadvantaged. Chippewa County has done a good job over the past few years in improving its facilities to make them accessible to all persons. Chippewa County should continue their efforts to improve handicapped access by improving all new structures and structures that need replacement to meet the needs of the handicapped.

Future Park Planning. In 1990, Chippewa County's population was 52,360. By the year 2015, the County's population is projected to increase by 2,743 persons. This growth will create an increasing demand for park and recreation facilities. Chippewa County should begin to monitor growth areas in order to plan for, and acquire, additional park areas.

Park Dedication. With the expected increase in the demand for future park and recreation facilities, Chippewa County should encourage local, private land owners, and other expanding public agencies, such as the school districts, to plan for and dedicate land to their respective communities for recreational purposes. This activity could be encouraged and facilitated by making citizens and agencies aware of the increasing community needs.

Natural and Scientific Area Preservation. It is recommended that Chippewa County's many natural, historic and scenic areas continue to be inventoried and secured against uses that would alter or destroy them. Conservation groups, private groups, and government agencies should jointly assume responsibility in identifying, acquiring, and preserving these vital resources.

Lake-Use Conflicts. Lake-use conflicts are becoming an increasing problem. The number of acres of water is finite, while the demand increases and becomes more varied. Fishermen, water skiers, pleasure boaters, swimmers, and, more recently, jet skies, all compete for water time. Chippewa County should take appropriate action to limit the possible lake-use conflicts whenever possible.

Historic Preservation. The County should recognize the cultural and recreational values of historic site identification and encourage County-wide programs to preserve appropriate sites. The sites need not be of national or statewide significance to be of local or tourist interest.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SELECTED RECREATION ACTIVITIES

The following recommendations are related to maintaining or improving the opportunity for persons to participate in specific recreation activities.

Fishing

Not all of the surface acres of water are fish-producing acres. Subsequently, certain "spots" may receive more fishing pressure than others. Adding more surface water acreage is nearly impossible and cost-prohibitive, therefore, enhancing current fish habitat is more important.

Also, Chippewa County has done a good job over the past 5 years to improve water access. Development of fishing docks or piers to lessen boat traffic on lakes also provides a fishing opportunity for the non-boat owner. Chippewa County has participated in DNR programs to improve boat ramps and has improved docks for handicapped accessibility. Fishing continues to be a popular recreation activity in the County; thus, Chippewa County should continue to increase water quality and fish habitat and access opportunities for all persons.

Play Equipment

The 1991-1996 SCORP indicated that play equipment was one of the highest priorities statewide. Chippewa County also has a high demand for play equipment in its park system. Playground equipment is typically provided in general parks or in conjunction with parks offering other amenities. Chippewa County should continue to improve the playground equipment in the parks where it is appropriate.

Hiking, Walking, and Running

The increasing number of residents, along with an increasing interest in these activities, has created a high priority need for nature trails and paths throughout Chippewa County. County roads and trails through County-owned land could be considered to provide a hiking opportunity. Abandoned rail beds, utility corridors, and river corridors could also be developed and incorporated into a trail network. Chippewa County should continue to evaluate the opportunity to identify locations that are appropriate for trails and paths.

An opportunity which the County should consider giving a priority is the development on County land of hiking and biking trails within the former County farm area south of County I adjacent to the Chippewa River and the City of Chippewa Falls. The Chippewa County Board adopted a plan in 1997 recognizing the potential of these areas as a opportunity for hiking and as a potential trail connector for biking to the Old Abe Trail. The City of Chippewa Falls has completed a bicycle facility plan for the city which shows the potential for a trail connecting from the city to this area as well. The scenic location, close proximity to the Old Abe Trail and the City of Chippewa Falls, and the likelihood of increased growth in this immediate area, provides the opportunity for substantial use of these areas for pedestrian use and biking.

Boating

Boating, especially jet skiing, has increased in popularity in the County. As the number of residents continues to increase, additional demand will be placed on the lakes. Chippewa County has been active in seeking additional financial aid to assist it in the development of new handicapped accessible piers. These efforts should reduce congestion and provide boaters with

better access. Adding water surface acreage in the County is cost prohibitive; therefore, Chippewa County should continue to improve water access points where appropriate.

Camping

Chippewa County has a limited number of camping sites, most of which are privately owned. These sites are overcrowded during several peak weekends during the summer months. It appears that there is a demand for additional camp sites in the County. However, it can be difficult to have the County directly competing with private enterprise. If the private sector does not provide any additional camping opportunities, Chippewa County may want to explore the possibility of opening a new facility. However, at this time, Chippewa County should concentrate on maintaining its current camping facilities and begin the discussion of whether the County would like to explore the possibility of providing additional camping opportunities.

Bicycling

Bicycling is difficult to analyze due to the fact that many bicycle riders use public roads as well as the designated trail system. Chippewa County should promote the use of the designated trail system and identified recommended bike routes whenever possible. Also see the previous subsection on hiking, walking and running.

Cross-Country Skiing

Cross-country skiing, along with hiking, walking, and running, has increased in popularity during the past few years. This has created an increased demand for cross-country skiing trails. Chippewa County should use its existing park and cross-country trail systems to explore the possibility of expanding the available skiing routes. This is also a good opportunity to work jointly with private clubs and other municipalities to develop trails in and around the population centers. Providing additional cross-country skiing trails could also provide additional opportunities for hiking, walking, and running activities.

Acquisition of additional land immediately adjoining the River Road Ski Trail should be considered if the opportunity exists. This trail is scenically located along the Chippewa River; however, the trail is limited in length and part of one loop utilizes over ¼ mile of town road. As a result of these factors, the trail is lightly used. Additional land would allow for trail expansion and would likely result in a substantial increase in use of the trail. Acquisition would also increase opportunities for hunting and hiking in close proximity to the Cornell area, as well as provide greater protection of this relatively undeveloped section of Chippewa River corridor.

Golf

As the demand for golf increases, expansion of existing courses or additional courses may be necessary. Chippewa County should continue to support the golf courses and clubs where appropriate.

Hunting

Chippewa County has nearly 38,000 acres available for hunting. Hunting is a popular activity in Chippewa County that benefits from good public support and management activities. Chippewa County should continue to support safe hunting practices.

Archery and Rifle Ranges

Chippewa County's archery and rifle ranges are currently supported and maintained by local clubs. Chippewa County should continue to work with these local clubs to monitor use and the need for improvements.

Swimming Beaches

It is difficult to assess the demand for increased outdoor swimming opportunities since the use of swimming beaches depends greatly upon water quality. Lakes and other desirable swimming locations throughout Chippewa and the surrounding counties may become "green" during the summer months creating an unattractive swimming environment. However, swimming beaches still provide the residents with an area suitable to enjoy other activities. Chippewa County should continue to support and maintain its existing facilities available for swimming. In addition, Chippewa County in cooperation with The Town of Lafayette developed Ray's Beach into a public swimming area with public toilets and picnic areas.

Canoeing

Canoeing continues to be a popular activity. The enjoyment of this activity is closely related to water quality as well as the scenic nature of the river. Chippewa County should focus on improving water access and available amenities such as pull-over locations for picnicking and primitive campsites to improve the canoeing opportunities in the County.

Picnicking

Picnicking is an activity that is done in conjunction with other outdoor recreation activities. Chippewa County appears to have an ample supply of picnic areas. Chippewa County should continue to monitor picnicking opportunities and evaluate the placement and distribution of picnicking facilities throughout the County park system.

Horseback Riding

There appears to be an increasing interest in horseback riding in Chippewa County. Should this trend continue, Chippewa County may experience additional pressure to develop dedicated horseback riding trails. Recently, Chippewa County has worked with an interested local association to develop the Hay Meadows Horse Trail. Since trail development and maintenance are costly, the County should pursue similar arrangements for any future trail development that may be necessary.

Motorized Trail Activity

Chippewa County has a well-developed snowmobile trail system and good support from the local clubs and association. The Association also appears to have a good relationship with area land-owners and has been able to develop a trail system that is serving the needs of the residents. Chippewa County should continue to work with the state, clubs, and associations to provide an adequate trail system.

In addition, ATV use has been increasing in popularity. Consequently, there is increasing pressure to develop trails and make public lands available for these users. Chippewa County should work with the state and local groups to find options for safe and manageable ATV recreation areas.

Project Maintenance and Improvements Schedule

The following recommendations are specific to each of the user groups that were involved in the User Group Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. These improvements are not prioritized, but reflect the desired improvements that the user-groups/citizens believe should be made to the various recreational facilities in order to meet the recreation needs of the residents.

Friends of Hickory Ridge Trail

- Build a warming house on Bob Lake road trailhead
- Expansion of parking lot
- Hook up water and electric on Martin's Property
- Install pit toilet on Martin's property
- Secure funding for trail maintenance

Chippewa Valley Trail Riders

- Upgrade Cornell Rifle Range Bunker
- Hay Meadow #3
 - Expand parking lot
 - Install new well
 - Install pit toilet
 - Install information kiosk at trailhead\parking lot

Bloomer Rod & Gun

- Install handicapped accessible docks\fishing pier on Lake Como and other waterways where demand and funding is available.
- Create blacktop access to handicapped accessible dock\fishing pier.

Chippewa Valley Outdoor Resource Alliance, Inc.

- Acquire and maintain DOT owned boat launches
- Upkeep maintenance of aerators on Otter Lake
- Build a handicapped accessible fishing dock on the south and north end
- Install pit toilet on south end of Otter Lake
- Rehabilitate boat landings on south and north end of Otter Lake

Chippewa Valley Snowmobile Organization

- Increase funded trail miles
- Replace out-dated bridges

Chippewa Valley ATV'ers

- Creation of an ATV intensive-use area
- Install pit toilet at O'Neill Creek trailhead
- Development of additional ATV trails
- Development of special use campground designed for ATV's, snowmobiles etc.

Old Abe Trail

- Rebuild trail in between Jim Falls and Brunet Island State Park
 - General maintenance of trail

Ice Age Trail Alliance

- Facilitate land and land easement acquisition for trail development
 - New trail segments from vicinity of Cornell to the east county line
 - New trail segments northwest from the Ice Age Center to the north county line
 - Existing trail segments
- Develop an improved trail maintenance plan
 - Acquisition of trail maintenance equipment
 - Development of a volunteer recognition and support program
 - Protection of the Ice Age Trail corridor as a National Scenic Trail

Stanley Sportsman Club

- Build handicap accessible fishing ramp at Otter Lake Day Use Area.
- Build handicap accessible boat ramp on south end of Otter Lake at DNR boat landing.
- Continue working with Chippewa County on Aeration Project.
- Work with Chippewa County on maintenance and updating signage on hiking trails on public property in the Town of Colburn.
- Assist City of Stanley in maintenance of Chapman Lake and Park.

All Groups

- Improve marketing and update website
- Build updated bridges and/or new bridges
- Create and distribute maps with all trails and other recreation opportunities shown
- Improve signage for all trails
- Development, maintenance and promotion of canoe/portaging trails
- Pursue public access to private lands through various means
- Development and maintenance of hunter use trails
- Hire full-time grant coordinator
- Install wells for potable water along trails and within public lands

The following recommendations are specific to each of the parks in the Chippewa County park system. These improvements are not prioritized, but reflect the desired improvements that the County believes should be made to the parks in order to meet the recreation needs of the residents.

Round Lake County Park <i>Proposed Improvement</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Install playground equipment	N/A	Low

Morris-Erickson County Park <i>Proposed Improvement</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Repair/Replace Retaining Wall on Beach	\$1000- \$5000	High
Fish House - Repair/Replace Roof and Facia	1,000	High
Fish House - Repair/Replace Log Walls	N/A	Medium
Firewood Building - Repair/Replace Log Walls	N/A	Medium

Otter Lake County Park Proposed Improvement	Estimated Cost	Priority
Campground		
Repair/Replace Boat Landing Pad	N/A	Medium
Parking - Expansion of parking	N/A	Medium
Install dock for boat landng	N/A	Low
Build a storage area for bathroom supplies & equipment	N/A	Low
Day Use Area		
Replace Boat Landing Dock	N/A	High
Repair/Replace Roof on Bathroom	N/A	Medium
Repair/Replace Boat Landing Area	\$41,500	Medium
Replace Gravel Parking Lot with Asphalt	\$35,000	Low
Dam Area		
Remove Grates, Sandblast, Paint, Install New Seals, Reinstall Gates	N/A	High

Pine Point County Park Proposed Improvement	Estimated Cost	Priority
Rebuild beach retaining wall	\$10,000	High
Replace culvert/possible bridge building and dredge work to improve fish habitat	N/A	Medium
Parking - parking expansion near well area	N/A	Medium
Installation of pressurized water system at North Well	N/A	Low
Installation of handicap accessible fishing pier	N/A	Low
Parking - parking expansion for "Day Use/Picnicking" area	N/A	Low

Miscellaneous County Projects Proposed Improvement	Estimated Cost	Priority
Town of Anson Boat Landing		
Install Fencing along Property Boundaries	N/A	High
Expansion of parking - Possible Acquisition of Land	N/A	Low

SECTION III.

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANS

In addition to Chippewa County providing outdoor recreation opportunities for the residents of the County, local municipalities also provide access to recreation facilities within their jurisdictions. The following section contains the Outdoor Recreation Plans for various communities located within Chippewa County which participated in this planning effort. With the assistance of the Planning and Zoning Department, each participating municipality was responsible to complete an inventory of the available recreation facilities, assessment of current and future demand and needs, and a set of recommendations to guide the development of the community's park system.

The following sections will detail the methodology used to determine the recreation needs for each of the communities, the community action program outlining the general recommendations for all of the communities, and the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans for each participating community.

COMMUNITY DEMANDS/NEEDS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

In order to assess the needs that exist in the local communities, the Plan establishes a park area standard, a general rule for the provision of park area for a given population. The following section describes the recreation area standard that was applied in order to assess the outdoor recreation needs of the communities located in Chippewa County.

It is important to note that this standard is merely a guideline to be used as a decision making tool for planning purposes. In some areas, local demands may be more or less based on the desires of the local citizenry. In those areas, local information should be used to further evaluate the outdoor recreation needs for the area.

PARK STANDARDS

The population ratio method is a widely used method of determining requirements for outdoor recreation. This technique is accomplished by assigning an acreage requirement for various classifications of parks for each 1,000 persons in a community. Ideally, this acreage should be distributed throughout the community so that residential areas, various age groups and activity needs are served in the best possible manner. The standard does not include school property used only for educational purposes, golf courses, undeveloped or vacant land, or public areas not devoted to recreational uses.

For the purpose of this study, the standard of 12.5 acres per 1,000 population is used as a basis for evaluating community programs. Ideally, this acreage would be distributed among the parks as outlined in Table 13.

TABLE 13.

Community Park Standards

Type of Park	Park Acres Per 1,000 Population
Mini Park	.5 acre
Neighborhood Playground	2 acres
Neighborhood Park	2 acres
Community Park	8 acres

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

NEEDS METHODOLOGY

To determine the need for each of the participating communities in Chippewa County, the 20-year population forecasts shown in Table 4 were used as the population basis in conjunction with the park standards.

An example of the application of the population ratio methodology to determine the necessary park area for a community is as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rclclcl}
 \text{Population} & & 12.5 \text{ acres} & & \text{Minimum Acres} \\
 \text{For a} & \times & \text{-----} & = & \text{Needed to Serve} \\
 \text{Given Year} & & 1,000 \text{ persons} & & \text{the Population} \\
 \\
 \text{Example:} & & & & \\
 10,000 \text{ People} & \times & 0.0125 & = & 125 \text{ Acres}
 \end{array}$$

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

The community action program is made up of two major sections. The first section is the general recommendations for all participating communities in the County. The second section is the outdoor recreation plans for each of the individual communities.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following general recommendations identify recreational concerns that can generally apply to all communities in Chippewa County. Such recommendations provide a broad framework from which communities can approach park planning and implementation decisions.

- **Optimize Use of Existing Parks.** Limited resources make it difficult to develop and add new park facilities. Communities should focus their resources on upgrading and improving existing parks. Increasing the quality, variety, and accessibility of the facilities can improve the attractiveness and use of existing facilities.
- **Municipal/School District Cooperation.** Promote continued and increased cooperation between municipalities and school districts in meeting recreational needs. With good planning cooperation may take the form of cost sharing for land acquisition or facility development. Increased municipal use of existing school facilities during non-school hours could also be encouraged.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance.** With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), local governments must ensure that all programs and facilities, including parks and recreation, are accessible to people with disabilities. To determine compliance with ADA regulations, each community should complete an evaluation of the accessibility of its services, programs, and facilities, and prepare a transition plan describing how compliance will be achieved.

All existing park facilities that are repaired or replaced, and any new park development, should meet the requirements of ADA. Examples of incorporating accessible, barrier-free designs include: ramps in place of steps, hard-surface walkways, wide doorways, grab rails in restrooms, wider parking spaces, and specialized playground equipment.

- **Service/Social Group Involvement.** Involve organized groups in needed park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports areas and neighborhood parks. Traditionally, service and social groups have been active participants in the development of recreation facilities. As funding becomes more limited, the involvement of service and social groups will become even more important.
- **Citizen Participation /Committee Creation.** Municipalities are encouraged to establish park and recreation committees or boards that can oversee park planning, development, operation, maintenance, administration, and program activities. The committees should also act as liaisons with other municipalities, the County, and state agencies regarding park and recreation matters. The committees should be composed of citizens as well as elected officials. Municipalities should actively seek citizen input into the planning and development of new park and recreation facilities.
- **Future Park Planning.** In areas where growth is expected, communities should make provisions to incorporate the park areas within expected development. One such method would be to encourage new developments to include dedicated park areas within each neighborhood. This would provide the communities with a system of convenient and accessible neighborhood parks. Another method would be to utilize easements in order to limit land acquisition costs for neighborhood parks. Communities could procure easements from presently vacant property in locations appropriate for neighborhood park development.
- **Park Dedication.** Encourage local, private landowners to plan for and dedicate land to the communities. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public recreation resources of small communities.
- **Aid Programs.** Take advantage of State and Federal financial and technical aid programs designed to assist communities in meeting recreational needs, and maintain community eligibility for such programs. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is an excellent starting source for such aid programs.
- **Operation and Maintenance.** In developing a recreation program, major consideration should be given to the ongoing operation and maintenance costs. Too often, an ambitious program can lose community support as a result of continuous prohibitive maintenance costs.

- **Capital Improvements Schedule.** Community officials are encouraged to develop a five-year capital improvements schedule for recreation that reflects the implementation proposals made in this Plan and the priorities they place on them. While it is unlikely that all of the recommendations offered by this plan would be undertaken, recognition of the increasing demands for recreation space and facilities should prompt immediate action. To be functional, the program should be flexible and be subject to annual review.

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANS

The community parks program and recommendation section will outline the availability and suitability of recreation facilities in each of the communities in Chippewa County. The assessment for each community will contain three main sections.

The first section, entitled **Supply**, is an inventory of the existing recreation facilities including school facilities. The inventory includes the identification of the park and recreation areas, an estimate of the acreage of the area, and a brief analysis and description of the amenities and types of recreation activities that are supported by the area.

The second section, **Demand/Needs**, will compare the existing park acreage to the expected "ideal" situation (12.5 acres per 1,000 people), analyze current and future recreation demands and needs based on the population projections, and provide an assessment of the needs in term of park systems service capabilities.

The final section, **Recommendations**, will provide recommendations that are designed to satisfy the community needs.

CITY OF STANLEY

SUPPLY

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the City of Stanley.

Community Facilities

CHAPMAN PARK (approx. 81 acres)

This multi -recreational park is located on the shore of Chapman Lake on the west side of the City. Facilities included are the Maves Memorial enclosed picnic area with picnic tables, lights, and electricity and the Rod and Gun building, which is a large enclosed building with a full kitchen, large coolers, and a pit grill. Across the road is a large stage structure for concerts. A large pole building is utilized by the City for the storage of equipment. A permanent concession stand operated by the Boy Scouts is also located at the park. A modern campground with a limited number of campsites with electrical service, swing set, modern shower house with flush toilets, and a dumping station is also part of Chapman Park. The dumping station is often used by visitors of the Chippewa County Otter Lake Campground located 7.5 miles to the north of Stanley.

Throughout the park are picnic tables and grills. A smaller picnic shelter is located in the park, along with flush bathrooms. A large picnic area is nestled among the trees and includes a jungle gym, slide, swing sets, teeter-totters, merry-go-round, sandbox, and other playground equipment. Along the shore of the lake is a sandy beach area with a changing room building that has pit toilets.

A large handicapped accessible dock is located at the entrance of the park and another handicapped accessible dock is located in the campground. A walking bridge connects to an island in the lake where several benches and grills are located, and a paved walking trail transverses through part of the park. Nature lovers can also enjoy bird-watching in the park trees and waterfowl on the lake, or visit the Elk Park or the Deer Park which has deer, ducks, geese, chickens, and a peacock.

A sporting facility includes a baseball field with lights, cement dug-outs, bleachers, a concession/storage building, and a football field which includes large, handicapped-accessible bleachers and announcer booth. Two sand volleyball courts, two tennis courts, and three basketball courts are also located in the park. A fenced tractor pull arena and cattle barn adds to the park's many amenities. A new rodeo arena and picnic area is in the construction plans for the summer of 2004.

FANDRY PARK (located within Chapman Park)

Located immediately east of Chapman Lake, this park includes a picnic shelter with electricity, several grills, pit toilets, and playground equipment (e.g., slide, swing set, and teeter-totter). This park is also the site of the Stanley Veterans Memorial with a tank and monument. The walking trail follows the edge of the park and crosses the dam to Chapman Park. Benches are provided on the shoreline.

SOOPARK (approx. 3 acres)

Located in the heart of downtown Stanley, this park runs along the length of the train tracks. Included in this grassy, tree-filled park are picnic tables, a bench, a swing set, teeter-totter, and a historic Veterans cannon. In the planning stages is landscaping work to be performed around the base of the cannon and the installation of a historic plaque.

HIGHWAY 29 EXIT WAYSIDE (approx. 4 acres)

This strip of land borders Highway 29 on the south side of Stanley. It is a small public picnic area which allows travelers a place to stop, picnic, and walk their dogs.

Other Facilities

STANLEY-BOYD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES (approx. 10 acres)

Stanley-Boyd School, which houses grades K-12, is located on the eastside of the City. The elementary school playground on the east side of the school includes a jungle gym, swing set, basketball courts, and a field which is used for softball and soccer teams. Two tennis courts are also located on site. On the west side of the school is an open field which is used as a football practice field as well as a practice site for other sports. To the northwest of the school are a softball field and an additional football practice field, which is also used by soccer teams for practice and games. The school holds a fitness center and a six-lane Olympic size indoor pool with diving well.

FAITH FREE PLAYGROUND (approx. 0.5 acres)

Owned and operated by Faith Free Church, this playground consists of a slide and swing set.

STANLEY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

This State of Wisconsin owned and operated medium security prison houses 1,525 inmates and has its own outdoor recreational facilities which are not available to the general public.

DEMAND/NEEDS

This section of the plan describes recreational needs of the residents based on population and acreage available for recreation purposes. Park standards provide a measure for park acreage based on 12.5 acres per 1,000 persons.

According to the population figures shown in Table 14, the 2000 census population for Stanley was 1,898. According to Wisconsin Department of Administration projections issued in 2003, the City is expected to increase in population by 71.9 percent between 2000 and 2025. While growth during the early part of this decade was slow, the City's 2007 estimated population of 3,389 is now ahead of its 2025 projection in large part due to the correctional facility.

TABLE 14.

PARK AND RECREATION AREA NEED • CITY OF STANLEY

Year	Projected Population	Recommended Acreage	Existing Acreage	Surplus/Deficit Acres
2000	1898	23.7	101.4	+77.7
2005	3349	41.9	101.4	+59.1
2007 estimate	3389	42.4	101.4	+59
2010	3344	41.8	101.4	+59.6
2015	3329	41.6	101.4	+59.8
2020	3308	41.4	101.4	+60.0
2025	3262	40.8	101.4	+60.6

Source: US Census

The total land area currently available to outdoor recreation in Stanley is estimated at 101.4 acres, including the school and church facilities. Even considering only 88.3 acres of City-owned parks, the recommended park acreage for the population over the next 20 years is being met according to the park standard based on the above WisDOA population projections. However, if the City continues to grow at a faster pace than projected this surplus will continue to decrease.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations, improvements and recreational amenities should be pursued by the City of Stanley, working in concert with residents, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and local community groups as resources allow:

Soo Line Park

1-3 Years

- Gazebo and picnic tables and grills.

3-5 Years

- Flush bathrooms with picnic pavilion.
- Restoration of the Depot.
- Farmer's Market area with shelter.
- Ice-skating rink.

Fandry Park

1-3 Years

- New infield installed at the softball and Little League fields.
- New bleachers around the fields.
- Concessions stand with bathrooms.

- Develop an off-road trail between the parks to 8th Avenue.

3-5 Years

- Scoreboards.
- New playground equipment.

5-10 Years

- Lights installed around the field for night games.

Chapman Park

1-3 Years

- Install water, sewer, and electrical outlets at the campground.
- Install playground equipment at the campground.
- Build a skateboard park and ice skating rink.

3-5 Years

- Construct a small barn to house small animals and birds.
- Install water line/services for the barn.
- New Rod & Gun building with flush bathrooms; connect building to sewer and water.
- Fence replacement at the deer and elk park.
- Aerator for pond by small animal barn.

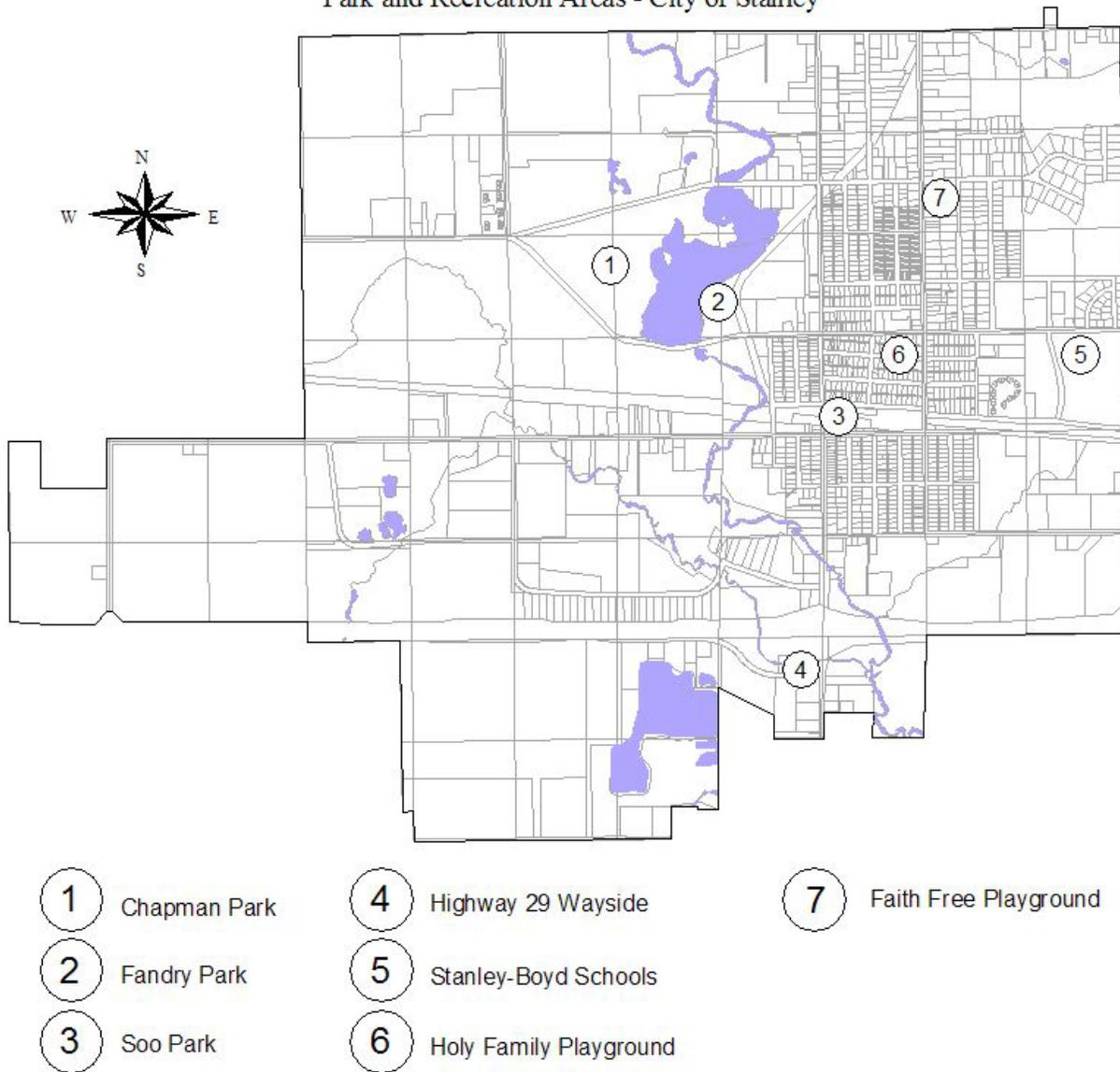
5-10 Years

- Purchase land where disc golf course is located.
- Add picnic areas to disc golf course.

General

- Build outdoor education center on Stanley-Boyd Area School District property.

Figure 15
Park and Recreation Areas - City of Stanley



TOWN OF LAKE HOLCOMBE

SUPPLY

The Town of Lake Holcombe is located in northern Chippewa County, and includes part of a growing resort and vacation area centered on the 3,890-acre Lake Holcombe flowage and the unincorporated community of Holcombe. The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Town of Lake Holcombe, excluding resorts, campgrounds, and vacation cottages.

Community Facilities

TOWN PARK abt. 6.5 ACRES

Town Park is a narrow wayside approximately 2,000 feet in length sandwiched between Lake Holcombe to the southwest and 267th Street to the northeast. Its location offers visitors very convenient access to the waterfront in a hardwood setting. Park use varies with the season, but it often hosts up to 50 visitors in a typical summer day. The park offers visitors a pavilion, numerous picnic areas with grills, three restroom houses, two sets of playground "superstructures", a small beach, and numerous benches, all within excellent visibility of the lake. At the southeast end of the park is a boat ramp and a pump-well. The present erosion control structure at the beach is beginning to deteriorate. The park property is owned by Northern State Power, and is maintained, operated, and improved by the Town of Lake Holcombe through an annual lease. Recent projects completed on the park include replacing the aging restrooms, securing a longer lease from NSP, the installation of a handicapped accessible boarding dock adjacent to boat ramp, replacement of erosion controls at the beach and an improvement of the existing boat ramp.

Other Facilities

LAKE HOLCOMBE SCHOOL DISTRICT GROUNDS abt. 11 ACRES

Lake Holcombe School (K-12) is located within the unincorporated community of Lake Holcombe and offers residents additional recreational amenities during non-school hours. These amenities include: tennis courts, small baseball/kickball field, 1/2 court basketball, and a variety of playground/superstructure equipment. The school's football field and track is not open for general public use. The school district also owns 80 acres of forest land in Section 17 south of 295th Avenue which has a walking/hiking trail available for public use.

LION'S PARK abt. 40 ACRES

The Lake Holcombe Lion's Club operates a campground with 43 sites on the north shore of Holcombe Flowage on land owned by the Northern State's Power. Lion's Park also offers a boat ramp, beach playground equipment, picnic grounds, and a pavilion which is open to public use.

STAUDACHER FIELD abt. 7 ACRES

Staudacher Field consists of two baseball diamonds owned by the Lake Holcombe Lion's Club. The facilities include restrooms, limited bleachers, and some small playground equipment; the diamonds are unlighted. The facility is primarily used for softball, though other ball activities and community gatherings have been held at the location.

BOAT RAMPS

varies

Four public and numerous other private boat ramps are available within the Town of Lake Holcombe. Two of these boat ramps are managed by the Town, one by the Lion's Club, and one by the State of Wisconsin. A fifth public access is located at the eastern terminus of 303rd Street, though this access is unimproved and there are no plans for future improvements. Additional public boat ramps to the Lake Holcombe flowage also exist in the Town of Birch Creek to the west.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY FOREST LANDS

240 acres

In the southeast corner of the Town (Sec. 36) are 240 acres of undeveloped County forest land which is available for hunting, off-trail hiking, etc. However, the property is relatively inaccessible with the nearest public access located approximately one mile to the east in Town of Ruby.

GOLF COURSES

2, 9 Hole Courses

The Town of Holcombe has two 9-hole golf courses-Entwood Golf Course and Twin Oaks Golf Course. Both courses are privately owned, but open to the public.

DEMAND/NEEDS

This section of the plan describes recreational needs of the residents based on population and acreage available for recreation purposes. Park standards provide a measure for park acreage based on 12.5 acres per 1,000 persons.

According to the population figures shown in Table 16, the 2000 census population for the Town of Holcombe was 1,010 persons. According to Wisconsin Department of Administration projections, the Town is expected to increase in population by 22% over the next 20 years. This is above the 16.5% growth projected for Chippewa County during the same time period

TABLE 16.

PARK AND RECREATION AREA NEEDED - TOWN OF LAKE HOLCOMBE

Year	Projected Population	Recommended Acreage	Existing Acreage	Surplus/Deficit Acres
2000	1,010	13	58	+45.3
2005	1,052	13	58	+44.8
2010	1,118	14	58	+44
2015	1,178	15	58	+43.3
2020	1,235	15	58	+42.6

Source: 2000 Census

The total land area available to outdoor recreation in Lake Holcombe is estimated at 42.6 acres, excluding the County forest lands which are inaccessible to many and excluding the walking trail within the school forest. However, this total also includes all outdoor sports facilities for the

school district and the campground at Lion's Club Park; these are not always available to the general public. Even so, there appears to be an adequate land base currently dedicated to outdoor recreational pursuits for the foreseeable future.

A number of additional need factors were identified by the community for consideration when developing its plan recommendations:

- as a rural town, there are numerous other outdoor recreation activities for residents, often occurring on private land, but may not open to the general public
- the Chippewa River, Jump River, and associated lakes and flowages (e.g., Holcombe Flowage, Pine Lake) offer thousands of acres of water-based recreational activities (e.g., boating, fishing, waterfowl viewing)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations should be pursued by the Town of Lake Holcombe, working in concert with residents, Northern States Power, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and local community groups as resources allow. Timelines reflect levels of priority, but are also subject to change based on available resources.

Short-Term Priorities 0-3 years)

- *Install a handicapped accessible fishing pier at the Town Park.*

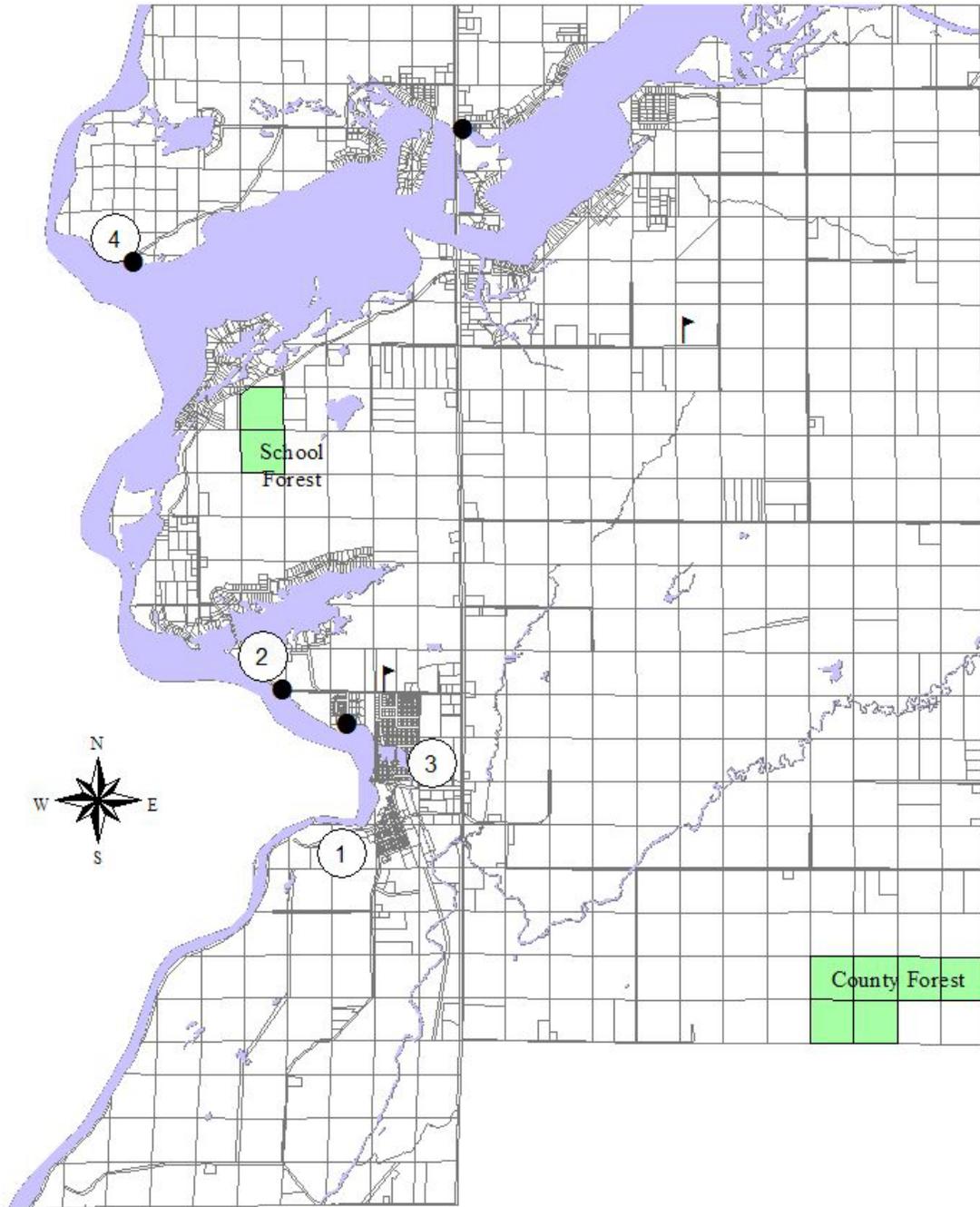
Currently there is no handicapped accessible fishing pier available at the Town Park. Such a fishing pier would provide additional public access to the waterfront for fishing and wildlife viewing, regardless of age and physical ability.

- *Install a parking lot and paved path to service the handicapped accessible fishing pier at the Town Park.*

Current parking is limited and uses an unpaved surface without delineated parking spaces. Given the limited room, additional land may need to be acquired or leased to meet the parking need. There may be potential to work with Northern States Power to address this issue, since NSP owns additional adjacent land on the other side of the road to the northeast. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in discussions on the park with the Town, has identified the need for additional parking.

- *Blacktop the road servicing the existing gravel parking lot.*

Figure 16
 Park and Recreation Areas – Town of Lake Holcombe



- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| ① Lake Holcombe School | ④ Lion's Park |
| ② Town Park | ● Boat Landings |
| ③ Staudacher Field | ▴ Golf Course |

TOWN OF LAFAYETTE

SUPPLY

The Town of Lafayette is located in south-central Chippewa County, just east of the City of Chippewa Falls, and is experiencing substantial residential growth, especially near the 6,300-acre Lake Wissota. The Town also includes the unincorporated community of Bateman. The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Town of Lafayette, excluding resorts, campgrounds, and vacation cottages.

Community Facilities

LAFAYETTE BALL FIELDS AND PARK

ABT. 40 ACRES

This site is adjacent to the Town Hall and is being developed in accordance with a master plan for the park area. The park master plan contemplates an expansion of current sports fields to include more nature-based activities, such as a picnic area and walking trails. Most of the park acreage is currently undeveloped and has not been opened to the public for recreational use.

There are currently 3 ball fields at this complex: 1 baseball, 1 softball, and 1 little league diamond. The softball and baseball fields both have lights. The ball fields are complimented by the needed support facilities including bleacher seats, concession stand, picnic tables, and parking facilities. Toilet facilities (aka Port-o-Potties) are rented as needed. A playground facility is located near the ball fields. This area is fenced in and has slides of various sizes, a tic-tac-toe board, and shovel diggers. There are also benches located within the enclosure. The site also has two lighted tennis courts and two adjacent basketball courts. A portion of the park is flooded during winter for an ice-skating rink.

Improvements at the ball fields are ongoing. As of 1994, the park had been upgraded in order to meet ADA accessibility requirements. Two U-12 regulation sized soccer fields were recently developed and eight new goal frames and four new bleacher sections installed. New fencing has been added for the Little League field, and two of the fences have safety tubing.

Use of the sports fields is high and increasing, consistent with the increasing population of the Town. In 2003, four softball, 18 baseball, and 19 soccer teams used the park's facilities.

BRICK MEMORIAL BOAT LANDING

The Brick Memorial Boat Landing is equipped with docks and lights, and is handicapped accessible.

Other Facilities

REITER'S BOAT LANDING

This boat landing is privately owned and is part of the Wissota Marina facility. However, the Town does rent the land across from the landing to allow for the parking of cars and trailers.

RAY'S BEACH

Ray's Beach was privately owned land owned by Xcel Energy located on the shore of Lake Wissota in the Town of Lafayette that has since been taken over by the Town of Lafayette. For many years, the beach has been used by local residents for recreational activities, and consequently has become a popular summer-time destination. The facility includes a sandy beach, pit toilets and an area suitable for picnicking. Parking is available at a wayside at the top of the hill.

STILLSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Stillson is the only elementary school in Lafayette. It has numerous types of playground equipment, including swing sets, jungle gyms, and sand boxes. There is a large fenced in open area with four soccer goals. Teams from the Lafayette baseball and softball leagues sometimes use this area for their practices if the Lafayette fields are full.

WISSOTA WOODS DEVELOPMENT

This residential subdivision roughly constitutes approximately 200 acres in Section 1 of the Town of Lafayette. The subdivision has 20-30 acres of dedicated recreational lands for use by subdivision residents and guests, though not available to the general public. The recreational facilities include tennis courts, basketball courts, and a walking trail.

DEMAND/NEEDS

This section of the plan describes recreational needs of the residents based on population and acreage available for recreation purposes. Park standards provide a measure for park acreage based on 12.5 acres per 1,000 persons.

The Town of Lafayette is one of the fastest growing areas of Chippewa County in terms of population. During the 1990's the Town grew 16.9%, well above the County average of 5.4%. According to the population projections, shown in Table 17, the 2000 population for Lafayette was 5,199 persons. This growth trend was substantially above projections provided in the previous Chippewa County ORP, which forecasted the Town to have a population of 4,672 in 2000.

TABLE 16.
PARK AND RECREATION AREAS - TOWN OF LAFAYETTE

Year	Projected Population	Recommended Acreage	Existing Acreage	Surplus/Deficit Acres
2000	5199	65	N/A	N/A
2005	5538	69	N/A	N/A
2010	6006	75	N/A	N/A
2015	6444	81	N/A	N/A
2020	6858	86	N/A	N/A

The total land area devoted to outdoor recreation in Lafayette was not readily available, in part due to the undeveloped acreage at Lafayette Park. Town has in the neighborhood of 50-60 acres of recreational land available for public use.

All residents have access to 6,300-acre Lake Wissota and residents of Wissota Woods subdivision have additional recreational opportunities not available to the general public as discussed previously. In addition, the majority of land in the Town remains in undeveloped farm and woodlands, offering many private residents recreational options on their own lands.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In general, the development of recreational facilities in the Town of Lafayette for the near future should focus on more family-oriented and nature-based outdoor activities which are multi-use and offer residents more diverse recreational opportunities. While the community may need additional recreational acreage, especially in the future, to meet the previously discussed park standards, the current focus should be the maximizing of available resources and opportunities.

More specifically, the following priorities should be pursued by the Town of Lafayette, working in concert with residents, Xcel Energy, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and local community groups as resources allow. Timelines reflect levels of priority, but are also subject to change based on available resources.

Short-Term Priorities (1-3 years)

- *develop a multi-purpose building with restrooms and potable water at Lafayette Ballfields & Park*

A multi-use building is proposed to serve the ballfields, visitors to the park, and also be available for other community and educational functions. The building would include restrooms, potable water, concession area, and a large meeting room which could also be used as a warming house for winter ice skating or cross-country skiing. Educational programming by community groups in concert with the proposed nature trails would also take place at the facility. The Lafayette Lions Club has expressed interest in partnering with the Town in the development of this building.

- *install lighting at the little league ballfield at Lafayette Ballfields*

Currently, this ballfield is unlit, which has been increasing the demand for use of the other lighted field. Given the high demand, scheduling conflicts frequently occur.

- *expand the soccer area for an additional soccerfield at Lafayette Ballfields*

The number of soccer teams is expected to continue to increase, especially as the demand for older age/grade level teams also increases. The two existing soccer fields are unable to meet this demand, so older players must go outside the community to participate in the sport.

- *install new fencing for Babe Ruth ballfield at Lafayette Ballfields*

The existing fence is aging and could pose a safety hazard. The new fence should include safety tubing at the top to help prevent injury.

Intermediate Priorities (2-5 years)

- *replace deteriorating lighting at Babe Ruth ballfield at Lafayette Ballfields*

The aging lighting at Babe Ruth ballfield requires replacement. The age of the equipment is such that replacement bulbs, etc are difficult to acquire and costly.

- *modify Babe Ruth ballfield to allow for multi-classes of baseball and softball*

With installation of new posts and some additional changes, the Babe Ruth field can be modified to allow the adjustment of bases and pitcher's mound to allow for multiple uses of the field for softball and other classes of baseball.

- *develop park with picnic grounds and nature walking trail system at Lafayette Park*

The park master plan includes the development of a park setting and picnic grounds on the property, utilizing the infrastructure of the existing facilities and the planned multi-purpose building. The new park area would include covered picnic shelters and a nature/walking trail interspersed with benches. The trail could also be used for cross-country skiing during winter months. The Town would work with local community groups such as 4-H and the Garden Club to develop wildflower gardens along the trail as well as interpretive signage. The trail would be handicapped accessible and linked to the sports fields via an asphalt or concrete sidewalk which leads past the soccer fields. Additional fencing, gating, or landscaping will also be integrated for security and to prevent inappropriate access by motorized vehicles. The Town will work with the County and local organizations for other options for ATV or snowmobile users.

Longer-Term Priorities (5- 10 years)

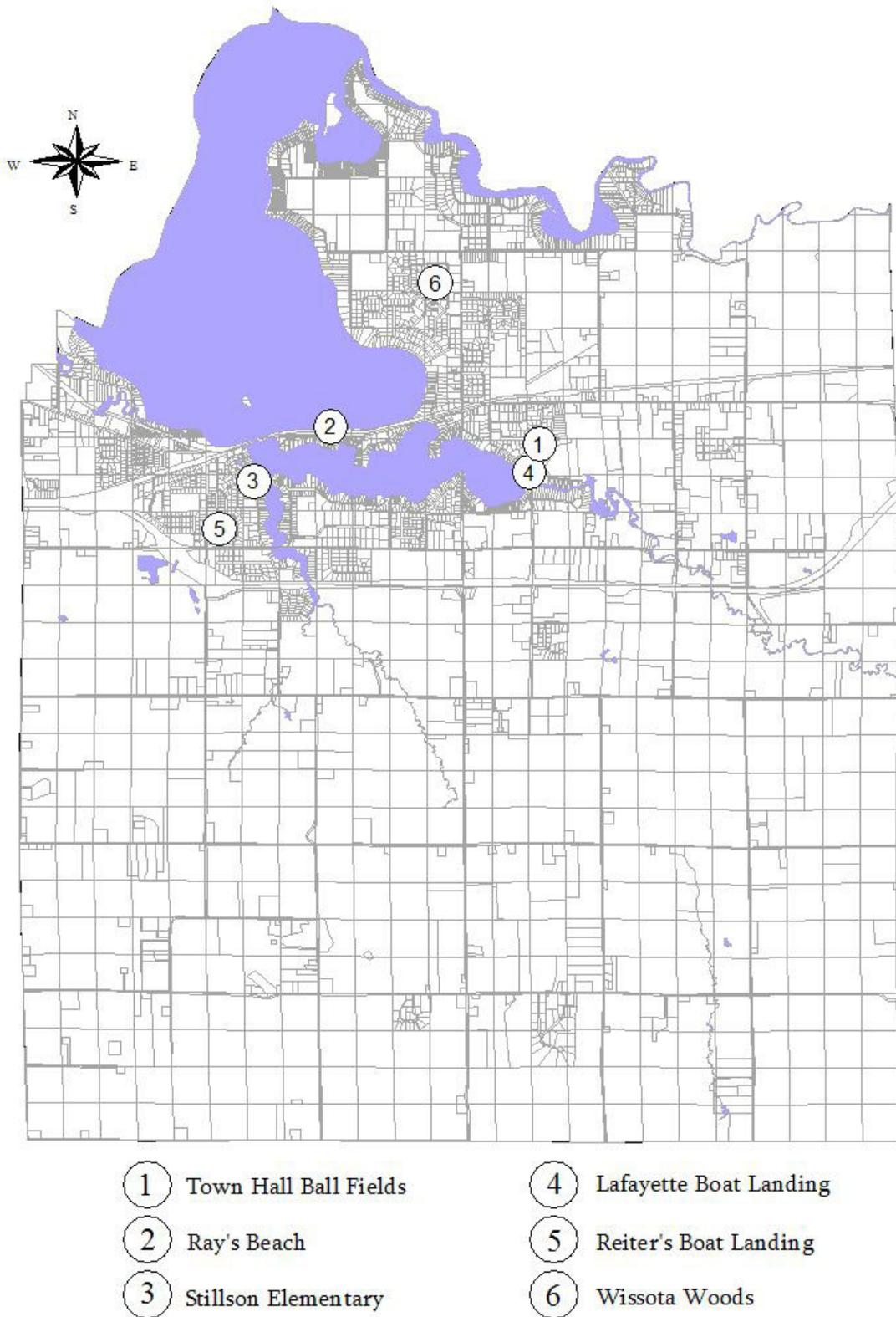
- *add an additional little league field at Lafayette Ballfields*

As population increases, it is expected that the existing little league field will be insufficient to meet anticipated demand.

- *continue to monitor population growth and the demand for additional recreational acreage*

The Town of Lafayette is projected to increase in population. The Town should continue to monitor this growth in order to evaluate future park needs and the potential acquisition or dedication of additional recreational lands in the future. Strategic partnerships with Chippewa County, the private sector, or community groups should be considered if additional park acreage is desired.

**FIGURE 17.
RECREATION AREAS - TOWN OF LAFAYETTE**



VILLAGE OF LAKE HALLIE

SUPPLY

The Village of Lake Hallie is located in southern Chippewa County bordered by the City of Chippewa Falls to the north, the City of Eau Claire to the south, and the Chippewa River to the west. The community has been experiencing considerable growth and was recently incorporated from a large portion of the Town of Hallie in April 2003.

Community Facilities

HALLIE PARK 54.18 ACRES

Hallie Park is located at 4902 117th Street in the western half of the Village. Currently, this park has eight ball diamonds, many of which are lighted for evening games. The fields are used for baseball and softball by both youth and adult leagues, as well as by those looking for a place to play a game. There is a concession stand centrally located between the ball diamonds to provide refreshments to spectators. Two large pavilions with picnic tables are available for meetings, fund-raising events, weddings, picnics, and family reunions. The park also has two large areas of up-to-date playground equipment for youth.

PEACE MEMORIAL WAYSIDE PARK 5.74 ACRES

Peace Memorial Park was deeded to the Town of Hallie in the spring of 1998 for use as a Veterans Peace Memorial. This Park is located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 53 and County Highway "00" and is heavily used by travelers, tourists, local residents, and those seeking a shady picnic. This facility has numerous oak and pine trees with picnic tables and grills scattered about the grounds. There are also two large paved parking areas and a large case with a State of Wisconsin map for travelers.

SUBDIVISION PARKS 29.07 ACRES

The following is a list of subdivision parks (tot lots), their location, and acreage:

Name	Address	Acres	Name	Address	Acres
Buck Run - Grant Addition	45th Avenue	3.95	Porter (Oak Grove Addition)	132nd Street	0.96
Marcus Hanson I	113th Street	1.24	Midtown 1st Addition	41st Avenue	1.73
Marcus Hanson II	115th Street	1.56	Oleson	134th Street	1.42
Riarta	25th Avenue	0.41	Edgewood Park	134th Street	1.03
Gower School	17th Avenue	2.80	Bresina I	45th Avenue	0.46
Rosenthal	18th Avenue	0.97	Bresina II	44th Avenue	0.45
Praire View Estates	126th Street	1.47	Sunny View	46th Avenue	0.94
Hintz Subdivision	34th Avenue	3.43	Landmark I	44th Avenue	2.00
Horgen I	132nd Street	1.01	Landmark II	125th Street	1.82
Horgen II	35th Avenue	1.42			

Development of the subdivision parks is an ongoing process, though the Village is currently in the process of re-evaluating the feasibility of developing and maintaining all these facilities based on community demand. The community has worked to improve many of the lots to include playgroup equipment, picnic shelters, and tennis courts. However, most of the parks are maintained as mowed lots with trees, while some of the lots have been left undeveloped with the intent of upgrading in the future as demand warrants and resources allow.

LAKE HALLIE BOAT LANDING

5.89 ACRES

The Village also owns and manages a boat landing on Lake Hallie. Improvements are currently limited to the dock and restroom facilities.

DEMAND/NEEDS

This section of the plan describes recreational needs of the residents based on population and acreage available for recreation purposes. Park standards provide a measure for park acreage based on 12.5 acres per 1,000 persons. The Village of Lake Hallie recently incorporated and was not in existence as a distinct entity during the 2000 Census. According to Wisconsin Department of Administration projections, the Village is expected to increase in population by 25% over the next 20 years. This is above the 16.5% growth projected for Chippewa County during the same time period.

TABLE 17.
PARK AND RECREATION AREA NEED - VILLAGE OF LAKE HALLIE

Year	Projected Population	Recommended Acreage	Existing Acreage	Surplus/Deficit Acres
2005	4558	57	94.9	+37.9
2010	4942	62	94.9	+32.9
2015	5276	66	94.9	+28.9
2020	5568	70	94.9	+24.9
2025	5685	71	94.9	+23.9

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration

The total land area available to outdoor recreation in Lake Hallie is estimated at 94.88 acres. There appears to be an adequate land base currently dedicated to outdoor recreational pursuits for the foreseeable future. In addition, the Chippewa River offers acres of water-based recreational activities (e.g., boating, fishing, and waterfowl viewing) for residents and visitors.

Of special note is the increasing resident demand for more diverse outdoor recreational options. The Village has an abundance of traditional, small park facilities. However, there is currently a lack of path or trail systems for bicycling, pedestrian travel, exercise, or dog-walking. The U.S. Highway 53 bypass and interchange, is having a substantial impact on local land use and has increased the need for additional recreational trail linkages. The Village of Lake Hallie has been pursuing grant funding through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to address this demand.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations should be pursued by the Village of Lake Hallie, working in concert with residents and local community groups as resources allow. Timelines reflect levels of priority, but are also subject to change based on available resources.

Short-Term Priorities (1-3 years)

- *develop CTH “J” portion of Chippewa River State Trail (aka “Lake Hallie Trail”)*

The Village of Hallie has received a Local Transportation Enhancement Program grant for the development of a trail along the railroad right-of-way paralleling County Highway “J”. This trail will be available for biking and walking, and is a key link in the Chippewa River State Trail which will eventually connect with the Old Abe Trail to the north providing 70 miles of trail system from Cornell to Durand, Wisconsin. Project engineering plans are currently under review by the State of Wisconsin and construction is scheduled for summer 2004.

- *develop trail link from 130th Street to CTH “J” trail segment*

Pursue grant funding to develop this pedestrian and biking trail being proposed to accommodate residential and commercial growth, in part a result from the new U.S. Highway 53 bypass and interchange. Once completed, this trail will allow trail users to link with the CTH “J” portion of the Chippewa River State Trail.

- *develop trail link from STH 29 bridge to 110th Street and 40th Avenue (aka “Bridge Link” Trail)*

A grant proposal has been submitted to develop this hiking and bike trail link from the new State Trunk Highway 29 Bridge to the intersection of 110th Street and 40th Avenue. Once completed, trail users coming from the bridge can then travel on 110th Street to the north into the City of Chippewa Falls and connect with their future planned recreational loop or continue east on 40th Avenue to connect to the CTH “J” portion of the Chippewa River State Trail.

- *formalize agreement on ownership and maintenance of Weber Park*

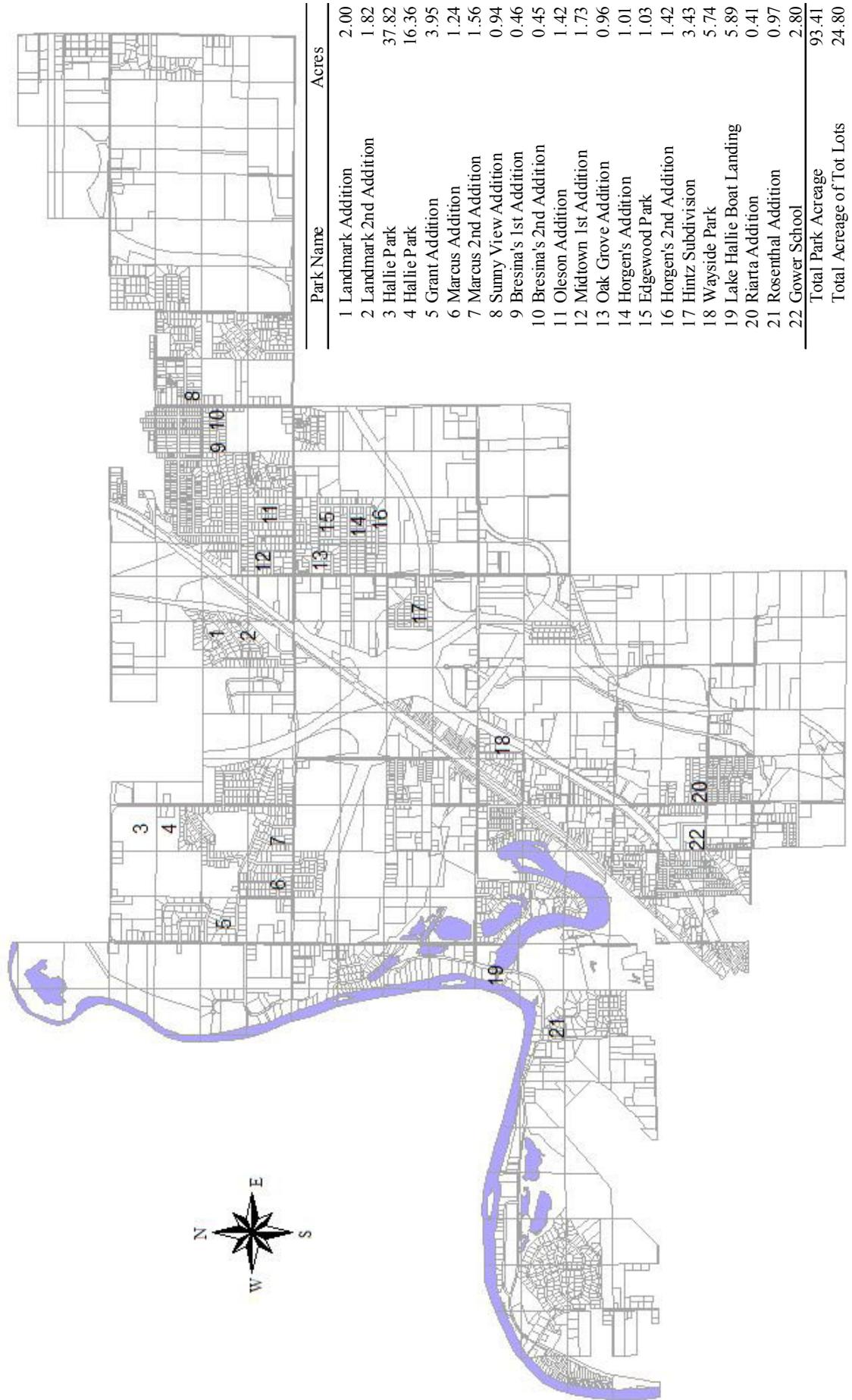
Weber Park was given to the Chippewa Youth Football Association who is currently in discussions with the Village of Lake Hallie to develop a strategy for long-term ownership and maintenance of the property. The park would continue to be used by the football association as well as for open space.

Intermediate Priorities (2-5 years)

- *continue to re-assess the need for the continued maintenance and development of the many small subdivision parks*

Based on current population projections, there is more than enough acreage currently available to meet demand over the next 20 years, not even including Webber Park or the trail systems currently in development. However, the majority of these properties is less than two acres in size and is non-contiguous. This not only limits the types of recreational activities which can be offered at these smaller parcels, but is a considerable maintenance cost to the community. It may be more advantageous to have fewer, but slightly larger parks with additional amenities strategically located near residential areas and offer links to proposed trail systems. The Village of Lake Hallie should continue to re-assess the need for all the individual park parcels based on the location of residential growth, park size, and the natural amenities of the individual sites. In fact, the recent sale of the 0.58 acre-Sanders (Hallie Addition) park lot by the Village is consistent with this re-assessment policy.

Figure 18
Park and Recreation Areas - Village of Lake Hallie



TOWN OF WHEATON RECREATION AREAS OVERVIEW

Location:

The Town of Wheaton is located directly to the west of Chippewa Falls and on the north west corner of the city of Eau Claire. The town is experiencing growth from people moving from the city to a rural area or from people moving into the township from other areas. This overview is designed to outline the current public and private recreation opportunities within the Town of Wheaton.

CURRENT FACILITIES:

Wheaton Fire Station Park

Approx. 19 acres

Currently the only park in the Town of Wheaton is located on the same property as the Wheaton Fire Station on the south side of Highway 29 and ¼ mile west of 40th St. The park contains 3 baseball fields, one tennis/basketball (combination) court, one open sided pavilion, a 24x30 (approx) multi-use building (concessions/storage), a smaller concession stand, and a small amount of hiking trail, and 2 new pieces of playground equipment that were purchased with the assistance of a grant from the Casper Foundation.

The ball fields are currently used for a T-Ball league (8-teams avg.), 2 Coach Pitch teams, (1) girls softball team, 1 or 2 minors team(s), and 1 or 2 majors team(s). Two of the fields currently have areas for the teams to organize (dugouts on one field, at grade area on 2nd field.) There is a batting (warm-up) cage at each field.

The town along with the Wheaton Youth Ball Program is working to develop and upgrade the park and its recreational facilities. On August 14, 2008, eleven community members, along with Bill Faherty (Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Chippewa Falls) met to prioritize a list of items that the town may consider in terms of the park and recreational facilities. Prioritized items include new concession stand with restrooms, dugouts (at grade dugouts), a sprinkler system, lighting for the fields, updated playground equipment, and advertising opportunities to help fund the projects. Since that meeting the at grade dugouts on the 2nd field, sprinkler system for 2 of the fields, and the new playground equipment have been completed. Plans are being prepared for options on the concession/restroom building.

Use of the ball fields grows each year with more members in the community as well as several families bringing their children from neighboring communities to participate.

Boat landing on Chippewa River

The town has one public boat landing on the Chippewa River south of Hwy 29 on the end of 106th St. there is a paved parking lot and a boat launch area. Currently there is no dock or pier available for town members to fish from at this location.

Big Elk Creek public fishing areas

The Big Elk Creek runs north to south through the township and provides several areas for anglers to trout fish along it. The Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources has done extensive work along the creek to maintain its conditions.

Loopy's Saloon and Grill

William “Loopy” Kleich and his wife Lori own and operate an establishment on the Chippewa River just west of Chippewa Falls on Business 29 (Highway X) Loopy's rents inner tubes, kayaks, and canoes for use on the river as well as 3 regulation size volleyball courts. The courts are available (for open play) to Loopy's customers when the leagues are not playing. Loopy's also has a dome for their courts that allows volleyball play year round. Their backyard (court area) is available for parties/receptions all year round as well. Loopy's Saloon and Grill does have a dock available for their customers.

Public and private snowmobile trail system

There are currently several miles of trail that run throughout the Town of Wheaton. Snowmobilers are able to ride between several bars/restaurants in the town as well as connect to trails in other townships that extend throughout the state and into neighboring states as well. The majority of the trails in the town are maintained by the snowmobile clubs.

Private Horse facilities

There are currently several private businesses that deal with Horses in the Town of Wheaton. There are businesses that provide riding areas, there is also a Club for Horse owners that have a parcel of land adjacent to the Town Recycling Center that has an extensive trail system.

DEMANDS/NEEDS:

The State of Wisconsin has provided a standard ratio of park area of 12.5 acres/1,000 persons. This section of the plan will explain the projected population for the Town of Wheaton and it's relation to the amount of park space required.

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) population projections are, by state statute, the official population projections for Wisconsin. Current population of the Town of Wheaton stands at approximately 2350 people. The State of Wisconsin ratio shows that the current park area is about 10 acres short of the standard. Over the next 25 years, the DOA projections predict a 19.9 percent increase in the Town of Wheaton's population. With that projected increase of 470 additional residents the town would have 2836 residents. This would put the recommended park area at approximately 35.5 acres. The current park size would not meet the State standards, and according to results from a survey of current townspeople completed in 2008, there is a desire for additional recreational opportunities. Section 2.4 of the comprehensive plan for the Town of Wheaton states that multiple participants indicated a desire to have a recreational

opportunity along the Chippewa River, as well as marking the current Town Park as having room for improvement as well.

The location of the Town of Wheaton may also influence the amount of parks and recreation areas that are requested in the future. With the cities of Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, and Menomonie bordering 3 sides of the town, there are possible users beyond the residents of the township. The boat landing in the township (on the Chippewa River) is minutes from both Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire and provides a quick get away for many boating enthusiasts.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

As discussed above, the town along with the Wheaton Youth Ball Program is currently working on areas to upgrade the ball fields at the park. Other areas to be considered for development would be obtaining additional acreage adjacent to the current park, when/if it becomes available. The additional land could be used to extend the current hiking area and provide biking, hiking, and/or cross country skiing areas. Possible picnic areas could be developed as well. Providing a dock/pier at the boat landing is another possibility. One more project that has been discussed would be the possibility of developing a bike trail that would connect with the current trails in Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire.

Short-Term Priorities (1-3 years)

- concession stand and restrooms for Ball Park.

The construction of a new concession stand with restrooms would provide a significant upgrade in the parks ability to handle possible tournaments as well as other events that could be hosted there, including possible swap meets, car shows, ball clinics, etc...

- construct at grade dugouts on 3rd field

Adding the dugouts on field “C” would provide better organization for the teams during the games where now the players intermingle with the parents (fans.)

- sprinkler system for 3rd field

The sprinkler systems on the fields “A & B” have allowed optimal conditions during the ball season and Field “C” would benefit from a sprinkler system as well. With this along with the dugouts on Field “C” the park would then have 3 fully functional fields and be able to host ball tournaments.

- Construction of a dock or pier at boat landing.

A dock at the boat landing would upgrade access to the water as well as provide a fishing area for residents without a boat. Loopy's Saloon and Grill has indicated that they would like to upgrade their dock to allow for handicap accessibility.

Intermediate Priorities (3-5 years)

- acquire land adjacent to current park (when/if it becomes available)

The land next to the park may become available in the future; the town should be prepared to acquire the land to expand the park with the increase of residents in the town as well as providing more opportunities for the current townspeople.

- Lights on one or more of the ball fields

Lights on the ball fields would allow for games in the evening as well as allow for larger tournaments. Currently without lights only a set number of games could be played each day of the tournament.

Possible development of area for activities other than Baseball, T-ball, and Softball.

As other sports increase in popularity, soccer, cross country skiing and hockey are some examples of sports that may provide opportunities for more recreational involvement. The current park does not have “un-used” space available, options would need to be explored if interest arises.

Long Range Priorities (5-10 years)

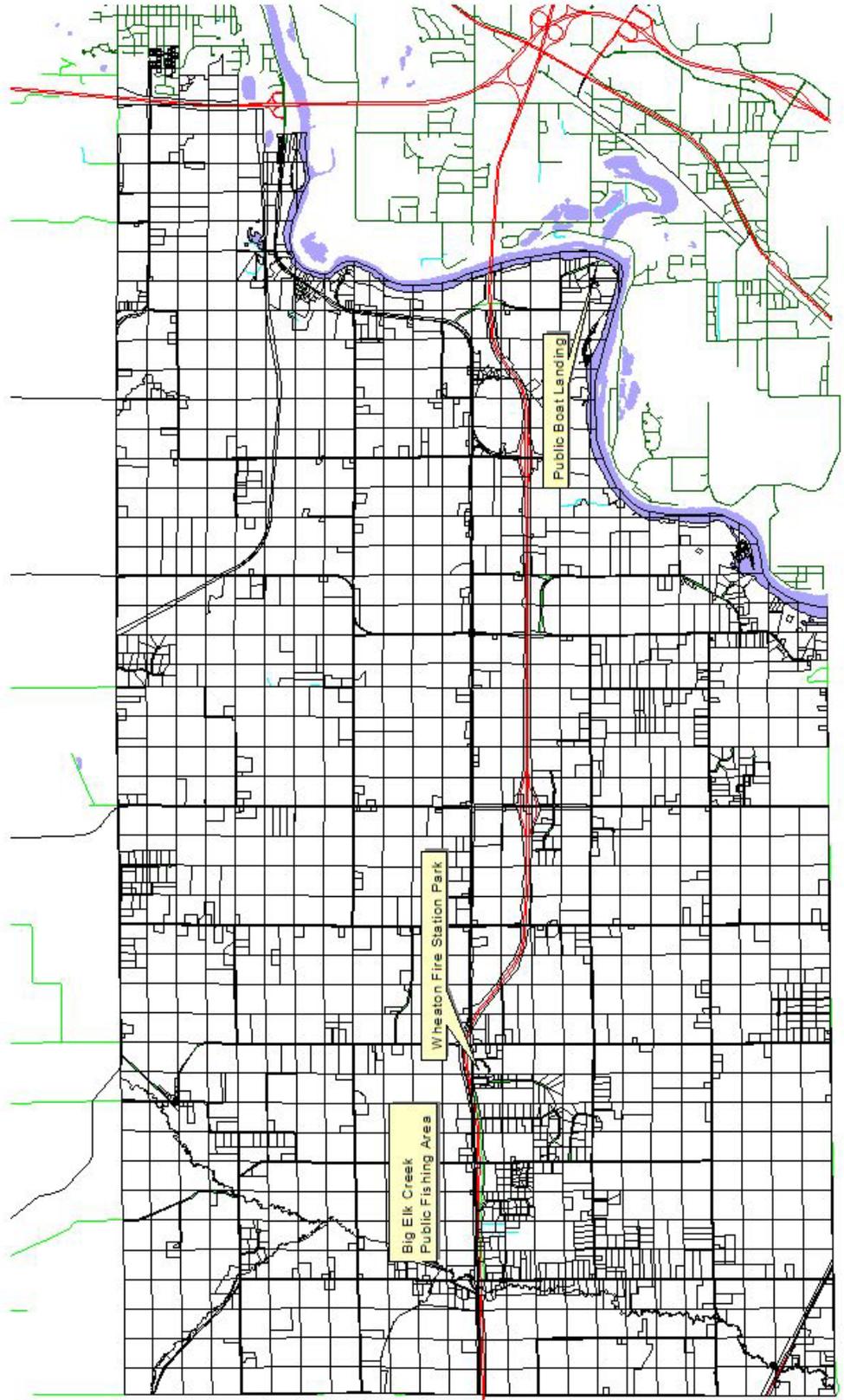
- develop a bike trail that would connect with Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire.

The area along the west bank of the Chippewa River would provide a beautiful biking/hiking trail that would bring visitors into the town of Wheaton. The majority of the land however is privately owned and may prove to be a large challenge to acquire easements or access across the lands to build a trail. One possible option would be to start with a “BIKE ROUTE” along current roads (possibly extending the shoulders) to promote bicycle traffic in the town. Possibly along Business 29 out to Blaezer Road and continue down Blaezer Road to the trail that crosses the Chippewa River from Lake Hallie.

- Continue to monitor population growth and the demand for additional recreational opportunities.
- Continue to monitor interests of Townspeople and explore options for more recreational opportunities in the town.

The close proximity of the Town of Wheaton to the cities of Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire will dictate its growth in the coming years. Strategic partnerships with Chippewa County, the private sector, or community groups should be considered if additional recreational facilities are deemed necessary.

Figure 19
Outdoor Recreation Facilities
Town of Wheaton, WI



RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CHIPPEWA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
AS OFFICIAL PLAN

WHEREAS, Chippewa County, in cooperation with the Chippewa County Planning and Zoning Department, has developed a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan; and,

WHEREAS, this plan attempts to list available outdoor recreation facilities and identify the foreseeable needs of Chippewa County and several local communities and towns for specific outdoor recreation facilities that could be developed and adequately maintained; and,

WHEREAS, the Land, Forest and Parks Committee has reviewed and approved the proposed plan; and,

WHEREAS, municipalities are required to have a community outdoor recreation plan on file with the Department of Natural Resources in order to be eligible to obtain state and federal cost sharing financial aids for the development of outdoor recreation facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board hereby adopts the 2010-2015 Chippewa County Outdoor Recreation Plan as the official outdoor recreation plan for Chippewa County.

FISCAL IMPACT ATTACHED

LAND, FOREST AND PARKS COMMITTEE

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
William Stoll	X			
Dale Johnson	X			
Leigh Darrow	X			
Lee McIlquham				X
Michael Murphy	X			

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Chippewa County ~~Land Conservation~~ Committee, dated this 19th day of October, 2010.

Land, Forest and Parks Committee

William A. Stoll

William Stoll
Chairman – Land, Forest and Parks Committee

1st Reading 11/9/10 2nd Reading 9/10
Board Action - Vote Required 5/11
For 28 Absent 1
Against 0 Abstain 0
Clerk Signature: K.M. Bernier

1 Fiscal Statement: There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with this plan. The
2 County is under no obligation under this plan to develop or acquire and recreational
3 facilities and/or improvements. This plan provides for general recommendations
4 regarding trends and possible needs for future outdoor recreation within the County.
5 Specific projects could be funded as the need and opportunity arise, if funding is
6 available. There are a few specific projects mentioned in the plan, relating to existing
7 County owned parks and recreational facilities. The County is under no obligation to
8 fund any of these projects. Funding for these projects would be through normal
9 budgetary procedures.

10
11 An important aspect of this plan is that by identifying possible recreational needs and
12 specific projects, within the County these projects are then made eligible for State and
13 Federal cost share grants. Thus if the County decides to proceed with an identified
14 project, the possibility exists of obtaining cost share dollars to fund the project. While
15 there is no guarantee or receiving cost share dollars, this plan at least provides the
16 opportunity.

17
18

19 **Approved as to Form:**

20 
21 _____
22 Steve Kubacki, Administrator

23 
24 _____
25 James Sherman, Corporation Counsel

26 
27 _____
28 Mary Behling, Finance Director
29

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

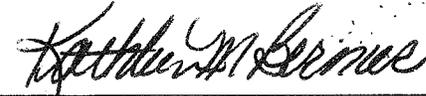
State of Wisconsin)

) ss.

Office of County Clerk

County of Chippewa)

I, Kathleen M. Bernier, the County Clerk of Chippewa County, Wisconsin, do certify that the attached resolution/ordinance was adopted by the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors on November 9, 2010.



Kathleen M. Bernier
Chippewa County Clerk