

# Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan



2016 – 2020

Prepared by the Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Stakeholder Committee and Parks and Forest Committee with assistance from Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department and Planning & Development Department.  
Adopted \_\_\_\_, 2016

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**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2016-2020**  
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## **SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION**

Access to outdoor recreation and open space is important for the health, wellness, and quality of life for residents of Eau Claire County. As the population grows and recreational trends change and evolve, the county must regularly evaluate the adequacy of existing facilities to meet the needs and wants of residents and develop an achievable plan to develop additional recreational facilities and capacity. This plan was developed with extensive input from the public, parks users and stakeholders, and leaders from the county and local jurisdictions and is intended to serve as a guide to Eau Claire County in the development of parks and outdoor recreation facilities.

As an update to the 2011-2015 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), it serves to identify and inventory county recreational facilities and determine demand and desire for additional facilities and amenities. In addition, the plan will provide the county and its municipalities with eligibility for grant funds available from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LAWCON), the Wisconsin Stewardship Program, and other related funding programs. Both the LAWCON and Stewardship financial aid programs are administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and can be used to assist in the acquisition of new outdoor recreation sites as well as for the associated improvement of new or existing recreational facilities throughout the county.

The Eau Claire CORP consists of five sections, as follows:

- Section 1 includes goals and objectives of the outdoor recreation program, and physical and social characteristics of the County
- Section 2 includes an inventory of the existing recreation facilities in the County
- Section 3 evaluates recreation demand in the County
- Section 4 includes the Action Program, including general and specific recommendations for County projects designed to address the needs identified in Section 3
- Section 5 addresses community programs in the cities of Altoona and Augusta and the villages of Fall Creek and Fairchild. Recreation plans and community action programs for the towns of Brunswick, Pleasant Valley, Union, Seymour, Washington and Wilson are also included.

### **PLANNING PROCESS**

During each CORP process, the Eau Claire County Committee on Parks and Forest initiates the planning effort by assessing the previous plan's goals, objectives, and policies along with the "action plan". Next, the County Planning and Development Department begins the task of evaluating the information within the existing plan for accuracy and identifies needed updates. During both of these phases, a stakeholder committee was formed to provide input into the planning process, and a community survey (see Appendix A) was administered to gauge public opinions and perceptions about the County's park system. Then, changes or updates are sought from each participating jurisdiction included within the Plan. The draft plan was then distributed for review to ensure the accuracy of the information and action plans before final adoption of the plan by the Committee on Parks and Forest, Committee on Planning and Development, and the County Board.

### **HISTORICAL REVIEW OF PLANNING FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

The first CORP for Eau Claire County was adopted in 1973. Since then, Eau Claire County has routinely amended the plan every 5 years in accordance with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requirements to maintain eligibility for grant funding assistance for various outdoor recreation improvements.

Priority projects identified within the CORP are then incorporated into the Parks and Forestry Department's Capital Improvement Plan, which is updated each year during the county budget process. In this respect, the recommendations within this plan are directly associated with the county budget process and the resulting improvements made on an annual basis to the County Park system. More recently, a "needs assessment" was conducted within the 2011-2015 CORP to evaluate the available supply of facilities against national standards. The 2011-2015 CORP, as well as this current CORP, intend to address some of these "needs" while at the same time meet current trends, all within the confines of Eau Claire County's budgeted financial means. To this end, the projects identified within this plan are to be considered "recommendations" and may not necessarily be carried out within the next 5 years.

## VISION STATEMENT

A Vision Statement identifies where Eau Claire County intends to be in the future and how to meet the future needs of its stakeholders: citizens. The vision statement incorporates a shared understanding of the nature and purpose of the organization and uses this understanding to move towards a greater purpose together. The statement is written in present tense and describes an ideal future condition.



A walk in the woods at Big Falls Park,  
Photo: Matt Michels

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan is intended to provide an achievable program for meeting anticipated outdoor recreation needs. Goals set the general direction of a program, while objectives are more specific targets with stated means for their attainment. Finally, policies outline ways of achieving objectives and they are the everyday parameters within which actions occur. Policies may be developed as the needs arise; they must be constantly tested, refined and revised.

The following are goals, objectives, and policies related to the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities and resource protection in Eau Claire County.

# Vision Statement from Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan

*Eau Claire County is...*

*A unified region with active urban centers surrounded by working rural landscapes and pristine natural resources. Residents of all ages enjoy a high quality of life, with ample opportunities for housing, employment, recreation, education, health and community services. The County continues to balance the preservation of farmland and natural resources with sustainable economic development. Vibrant well-planned development is located primarily in cities and villages, and carefully managed in rural areas to minimize conflict with agricultural land uses and maintain rural character.*

*Eau Claire County is a desirable place to live because of its natural beauty, employment and educational opportunities, and well-maintained multi-modal transportation network. While the City of Eau Claire remains the heart of the non-agricultural economic activity, residents recognize and appreciate urban and rural interdependencies. Citizens share responsibility for the improvement of urban services and the preservation of rural areas and sensitive natural resources supporting their communities. County leaders continue to work with municipalities, state agencies, and the private sector to support sustainable development and the efficient delivery of services for the betterment of the region as a whole.*

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

***GOAL #1: Provide quality park facilities and varied recreational opportunities and experiences to meet the needs of county residents, Both now and in the future.***

### *OBJECTIVES*

1. Improve existing park facilities to meet the recreational needs of the entire community.
2. Acquire land in fee or by easements for recreation areas, as per applicable Codes.
3. Coordinate the development of public parks and recreation areas with other land uses to ensure compatibility.
4. The county, other units of local government, state and federal government agencies should coordinate their efforts to acquire and develop outdoor recreational sites and facilities in appropriate areas to ensure that high quality recreational resources are available to all Eau Claire County residents.
5. All levels of government and the private sector should avoid unnecessary duplication of recreational services and functions.
6. An action plan should be established to meet the determined needs or unsatisfied public demands for outdoor recreation facilities in the County.
7. The County's goals, objectives, and policies for outdoor recreation should be periodically reviewed to maintain and improve the county's recreation program.

### *POLICIES*

1. Develop a coordinated system of County parks, recreation facilities, and opportunities emphasizing resource-based recreation areas.
2. Provide areas and facilities for those activities specified in the plan as a County responsibility.
3. Maintain the quality of recreational experiences offered within the County by adhering to the standards contained in the plan.
4. Coordinate the County's recreation program with the programs of other levels of government and with private enterprise to achieve maximum public benefit.
5. Provide a variety of recreation opportunities for all residents of the County, including the elderly and disabled.
6. Fund or take part in the funding of parks, recreation areas or facilities within the County which fit in with County objectives as outlined in the Outdoor Recreation Plan.
7. Apply for grant funding and develop a county-wide Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Plan with a focus on enhancing interconnectivity of existing trail segments, parks, and other outdoor recreation facilities.
8. Consider amendments to the County's Subdivision Code to require dedication of open space/park land for new proposed residential subdivisions in areas that have been determined to be deficient in adequate park space based on the population demands of existing and proposed development, or payments in lieu of dedication for areas that have been determined to be adequately served by existing park space.
9. Maintain the County's eligibility to participate in federal and state financial and technical aid programs having recreation planning requirements.

**GOAL#2**     ***Provide opportunities for non-resident recreational activity to an extent compatible with County residents' use of County facilities while preserving irreplaceable resources.***

*OBJECTIVES*

1. Provide a recreation program that enhances the County's economy through promotion of the County's parks and forests to non-resident visitors and promotion of recreational tourism.

*POLICIES*

1. Consider the impact of non-resident visitors and tourists to the County's parks and forests when developing recreational programs. For example, hosting of regional and national events at County facilities should be promoted for activities such as disc golf.
2. Promote the County's recreation and tourism resources through publication of a County brochure.
3. Identify County recreation facilities through directional/informational signs.

**GOAL #3**     ***Preserve and protect natural and historical resources within the County.***

*OBJECTIVES*

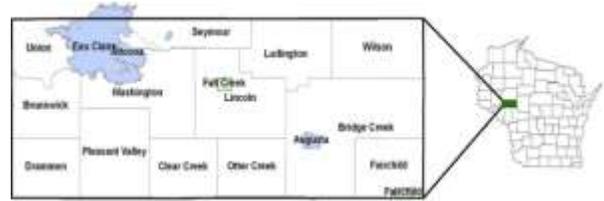
1. Enhance and protect the surface water features in Eau Claire County for public recreational uses such as fishing, boating, canoeing and swimming.
2. Identify and preserve sites having aesthetic, educational, scientific, historical, or archaeological significance.
3. Enhance and protect County forest land within the County Forest boundaries as established by County Board action.

*POLICIES*

1. To use multiple approaches to resource protection including acquisition, easements, zoning, and legislation.
2. To combine resource protection with park and recreational development where feasible through multiple purpose projects.
3. To protect the County's recreation areas and water resources from visual blight and degradation.

## **PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

### ***Location***



Eau Claire County is located in west central Wisconsin. It is rectangular in shape, covering an area of 419,200 acres, or 655 square miles. Municipalities within the County include 13 towns, 3 cities and 2 villages. The towns are: Bridge Creek, Brunswick, Clear Creek, Drammen, Fairchild, Lincoln, Ludington, Otter Creek, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, Union, Washington, and Wilson. The cities and villages include City of Eau Claire in the northwest part of the County, Altoona bordering on the east side of the City of Eau Claire, and three municipalities which run northwest to southeast across the County in a straight diagonal along US Highway 12 - Village of Fall Creek, City of Augusta, and the Village of Fairchild. Map 1 shows the location of these governmental units within the County. Eau Claire County is bordered on the north by Chippewa County, on the east by Clark County, on the west by Pepin and Dunn Counties, and on the south by Jackson, Trempealeau, and Buffalo Counties.



**Lake Altoona Winter Panorama, Photo: Matt Michels**

### ***Topography/Geology***

Eau Claire County is located in a transitional area between the formerly glaciated area to the north and the formerly un-glaciated area to the south, commonly known as the “Driftless Area”. The county’s topography can be characterized as an irregular plain, which reflects this transition. In the southwestern part of the County south of the Chippewa River, the surface of the land consists of open hills with gentle slopes on the uplands. The mean elevation ranges from 750 to 1,000 feet above sea level in northern Eau Claire County to 1,000 to 1,250 feet above sea level in the southern portion of the County.

The bedrock geology of the County is upper Cambrian. This formation is chiefly characterized by fine to course-grained sandstone. There are also some dolomitic and shale beds.

The northern and eastern parts of the County are generally level and quite flat, but are occasionally interspersed with razorback ridges and isolated outlying hills. The Chippewa River passes through the northwestern part of the County, while the Eau Claire River passes through the eastern and north-central part of the County. These rivers and their tributaries have extensive flood plains and are often flanked by postglacial terraces. Not only do the two rivers dominate the natural scene, they also account for most of the surface water. Their flood plains are sites of major urban clusters which account for over three-fourths of the County's population.

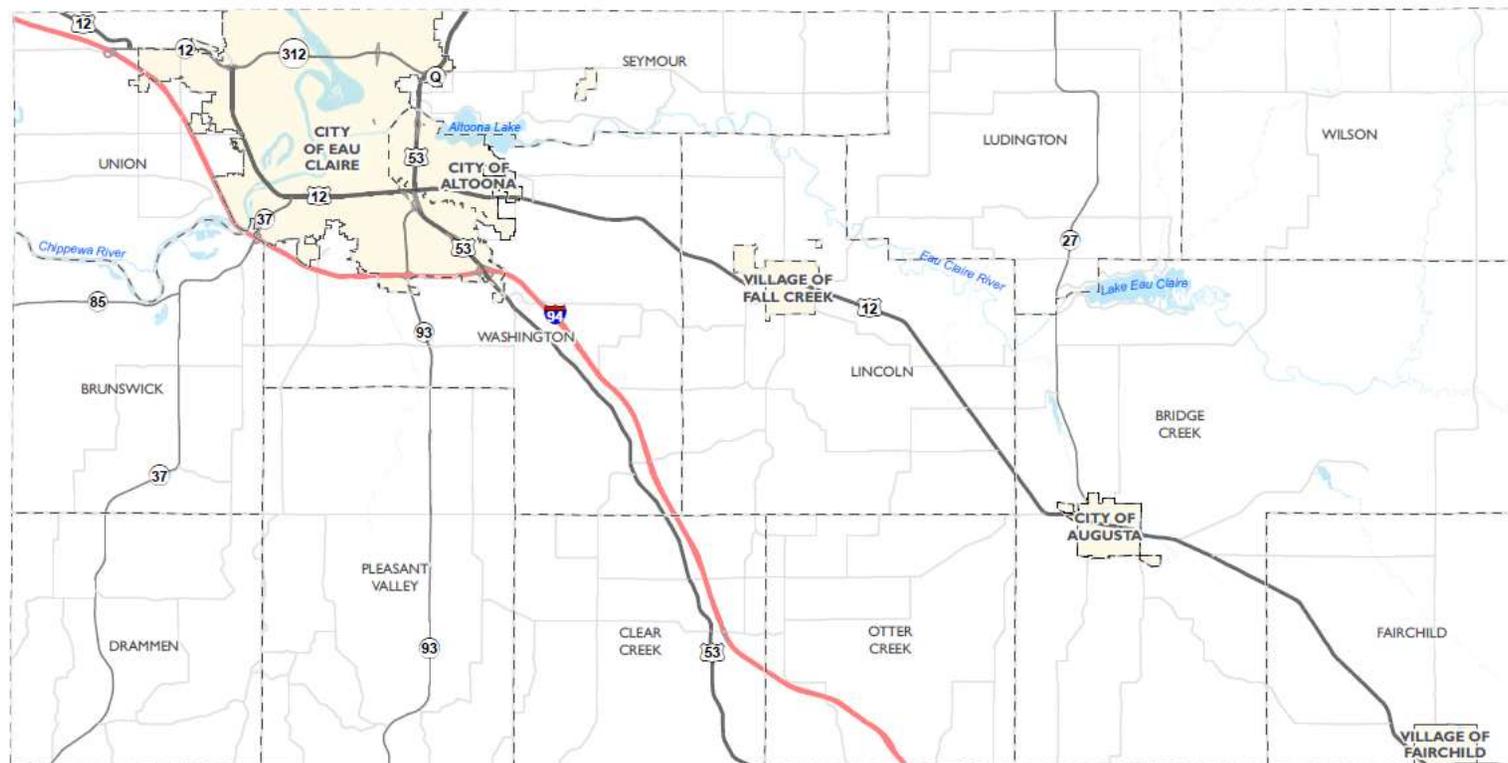
### ***Surface Waters***

Eau Claire County ranks 41<sup>st</sup> among 72 Wisconsin counties in total water acreage of lakes and the 51<sup>st</sup> in number of lakes, according to a Department of Natural Resources survey. The total water acreage of the County is 5,600 acres and consists of 18 lakes (approximately 3,000 acres). Water impoundments account for about 90 percent of the total water acreage of the lakes.

Four lakes in the County have water surface area of greater than 100 acres. These include: Lake Eau Claire (1188 acres), Lake Altoona (840 acres), Dells Pond (727 acres), and Half Moon Lake (132 acres). Canoeing is possible on the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers, but the number of dams severely limits their potential as major canoe routes.

# MAP 1 County Map

## EAU CLAIRE COUNTY



## ***Climate***

The climate of Eau Claire County is classified as mid-latitude Continental, which is characterized by warm, humid summers and cold, snowy winters. The average monthly temperature ranges from 15 degrees Fahrenheit in January to 73 degrees Fahrenheit in July. Extremes in temperature can range from below minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit to above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The County averages about 32 inches of precipitation annually with about two thirds occurring as rain in the spring and summer months. The growing season averages about 150 days per year.

## ***Soils***

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has grouped the soils of Eau Claire County into 12 major soil associations (see Map 2). These associations are:

1. Seaton-Gale-Otterholt Association

Moderately deep to deep, well-drained with gently sloping to steep silty soils over sandstone or loamy glacial till; this association occurs in the southern and central part of Eau Claire County.



2. Caryville-Sandy Alluvial Land-Whitehall Association

Moderately deep, well to somewhat poorly drained with silty and loamy soils underlain by sandstone and sandstone with shale layers; these soils are primarily located in the western part of the County along the Chippewa River.

3. Elk Mound-Plainbo-Plainfield Association

Flooding does not occur in this association, which is located in the western part of the County. The depth to the water table is more than five feet. The depth to bedrock is 20-40 inches for the Elk Mound and Plainbo series and more than five feet for the Plainfield series.

4. Plainfield-Gotham Association

Deep, excessively drained with nearly level to sloping sandy soils, on stream terraces or on outwash plains; it is located throughout the County, generally in the eastern, northern and central areas.

5. Seaton-Benches-Curran Association

Deep, well to somewhat poorly drained, with nearly level to sloping silty soils; it includes some moderately deep, well to poorly drained, nearly level to sloping, loamy soils underlain by sand. It occurs in the east central part of the County.

6. Northfield-Elk Mound Association

Shallow, well-drained, with the gently sloping to steep soils underlain by sandstone or shale sandstone; small areas of wet mineral and organic soils are along streams and depression areas; this association occurs in various locations throughout Eau Claire County.

7. Withee-Loyal Association

Not flooded but depth to water table is seasonal, usually one to three feet; depth to bedrock is more than five feet. It is located in the northeastern area of the County.

8. Kert-Vesper Association

Deep, somewhat poorly drained with nearly level to gently sloping loamy and silty soils underlain by sandstone with shaly layers on the low lying uplands; found in the east central area of the County.

9. Chetek-Northfield Association

Shallow to moderately deep, well-drained, gently sloping to steep loamy and silty soils underlain by sand and sandstone; occurs in the northwestern part of the County.

10. Billet-Shiffer-Meridian Association

Moderately deep, well to somewhat poorly drained, nearly level to sloping loamy soils underlain by sand; found in the northwestern part of the County.

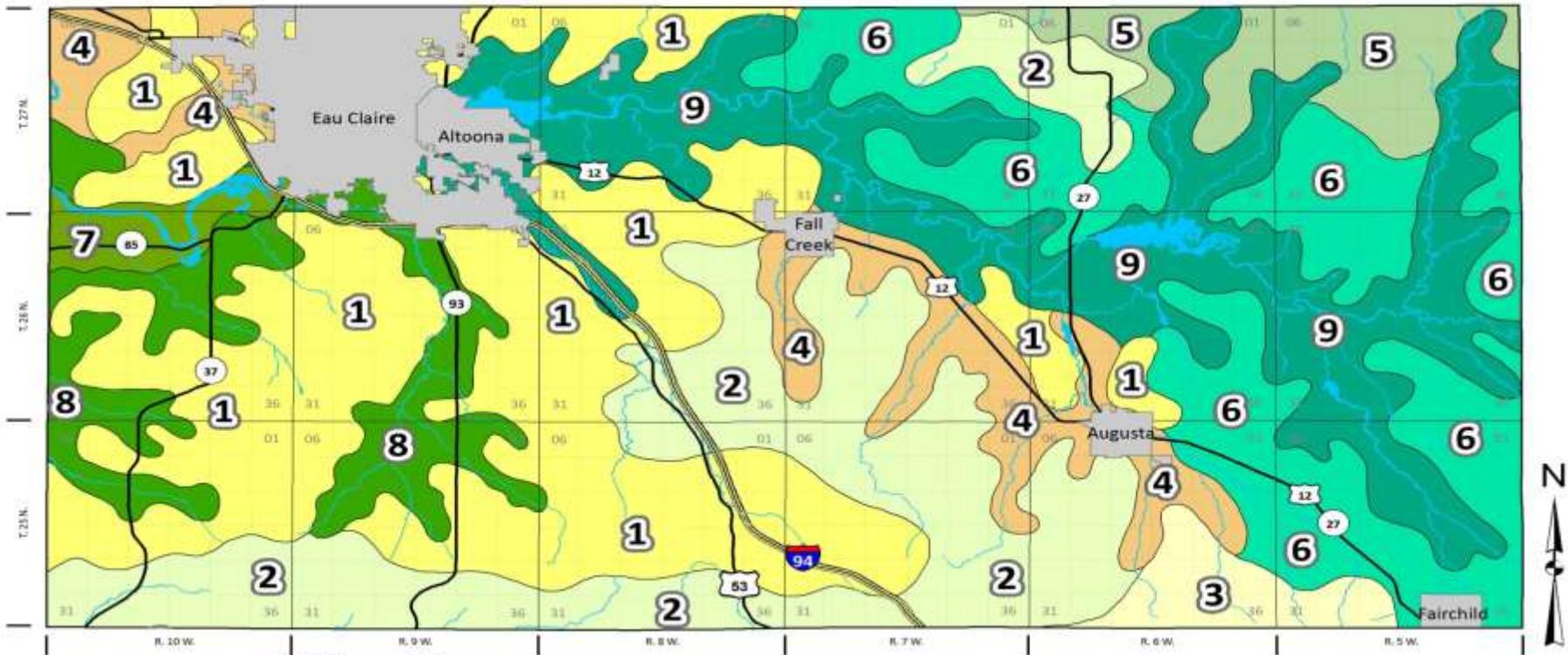
11. Merrillan-Humbird-Boone Association

Moderately deep, excessively drained to somewhat poorly drained; the soils are loamy and sandy, underlain by sandstone and sandstone with shale layers on uplands. This soil association is located in eastern Eau Claire County and in the southeastern corner.

12. Vilas-AuGras Association

Deep, excessively to somewhat poorly drained with nearly level to sloping soils; wet mineral and organic soils are along streams and in depressional areas. This association is found in eastern Eau Claire County and near the Merrillan-Humbird-Boone Association.

## Map 2 Major Soil Associations



### Soil Associations

- 1** Urne-Elk mound: Well drained and somewhat excessively drained loams and sandy loams that are underlain by loamy and sandy material and sandstone; on uplands
- 2** Seaton-Gale: Well drained and somewhat excessively drained silt loams and very fine sandy loams that are underlain by loamy and sandy material and sandstone; on uplands
- 3** Seaton-Meridian-Eleva-Billett: Well drained and somewhat excessively drained silt loams and very fine sandy loams that are underlain by loamy and sandy material and sandstone; on uplands
- 4** Rosholt-Menahga-Chetek: Well drained to poorly drained sandy loams, silt loams, and loams that are underlain by silt loam, loam, stratified silt and fine sand or sand; on stream terraces
- 5** Merrillan-Flambeau-Fallcreek: Somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained sandy loams and loams that are underlain by loamy material and sandy loam or loam glacial till; on glacial uplands

### General Soil Map Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

- 6** Merrillan-Ludington-Elm Lake: Well drained to poorly drained loamy sands that are underlain by loamy sand, sand, loam and sandstone or sandstone and shale; on uplands
- 7** Water-Kalmarville-Glendora-Algansee-Abscota: Excessively drained sands and loamy sands that are underlain by loamy sand and sand; on stream terraces
- 8** Sparta-Gotham: Excessively drained sands and loamy sands that are underlain by loamy sand and sand; on stream terraces
- 9** Menahga: Excessively drained sands and loamy sands that are underlain by loamy sand and sand; on stream terraces

## **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

### ***Economic Base***

The economic structure of Eau Claire County is dominated by jobs in the wholesale-retail trade, services, and government sectors. These sectors comprise 75.6% of all jobs found in the county (Table 1). The City of Eau Claire serves as a regional health and retail trade center drawing consumers from a large area. Manufacturing jobs in Eau Claire County have declined in recent years. Following national trends, agricultural employment has continued to decline steadily.

As of April, 2015, the unemployment rate for Eau Claire County in 2015 was 3.6% (Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics). The unemployment rate was lower than that of the State of Wisconsin (4.4%) and the national rate (5.5%). Generally speaking, unemployment rates in the County have averaged less than 7% since the late 1980's, which compares favorably to both the state and federal rates during that same time period.

<b>Table 1</b>	
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY</b>	
<b>Occupations</b>	<b>Eau Claire County Percent</b>
Management, Business, Science & Arts	33.4%
Services	19.3%
Sales & Office	27.4%
Nat Resources, Const & Maint	6.2%
Prod, Trans & Mat. Moving	13.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: US Census Bureau

Median household income for Eau Claire County rose from \$39,219 in 2000 to \$45,846 in 2010 (Source: Eau Claire County 2010 Census Summary). Income levels in the County tend to be lower than that found in the state as a whole (median household income of \$51,598 for the same period), but are higher than those of surrounding counties. The cost of living in the area, especially for housing, tends to be lower than the state average as well. About 25% of the county's population has a household income of between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per year (see Table 2).

<b>Table 2</b>	
<b>2010 ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME</b>	
<b>Eau Claire County</b>	
<u>Income Level</u>	<u>% Of Population - *</u>
Less than \$10,000	7.1%
\$10,000-\$24,999	21.3%
\$25,000-\$49,999	25.2%
\$50,000-\$99,999	31.4%
\$100,000+	15.0%

Source: 2010 Census \* Does not add to 100% due to rounding

## Population Trends

Nearly all minor civil divisions have contributed to Eau Claire County's population growth since 1980, with the exception of the Town of Union and the Village of Fairchild (see Table 3). Overall, the County's population increased by 13.7% between 1990 and 2010. During the 1990's, three municipalities saw a decrease in population. A decline in population again occurred in three rural communities between 2000 and 2010: the Village of Fairchild and the Towns of Drammen and Otter Creek. The overall population of the county grew by 7.2% between 2000 and 2010, which is consistent with the prior decade.

<b>Table 3</b>					
<b>EAU CLAIRE COUNTY POPULATION TRENDS</b>					
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>% Change</u> <u>2000-2010</u>
<b>Towns:</b>					
Bridge Creek	1,206	1,440	1,844	1,900	+3.0
Brunswick	1,411	1,506	1,598	1,624	+1.6
Clear Creek	798	692	712	821	+15.3
Drammen	725	767	800	783	-.01
Fairchild	278	312	351	393	+12.0
Lincoln	1,012	1,002	1,080	1,096	+1.5
Ludington	969	906	998	1,063	+6.5
Otter Creek	497	459	531	500	-5.8
Pleasant Valley	1,908	2,076	2,681	3,044	+13.5
Seymour	2,824	2,757	2,978	3,209	+7.8
Union	2,689	2,446	2,402	2,663	+10.9
Washington	6,489	6,276	6,995	7,182	+2.7
Wilson	469	477	420	485	+15.5
<b>Villages:</b>					
Fairchild	577	504	564	550	-2.5
Fall Creek	1,148	1,034	1,236	1,315	+6.4
<b>Cities:</b>					
Altoona	4,393	5,889	6,698	6,706	+0.1
Augusta	1,560	1,510	1,460	1,550	+6.2
Eau Claire*	<u>49,852</u>	<u>56,806</u>	<u>59,794</u>	<u>63,902</u>	<u>+6.9</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>78,805</b>	<b>86,859</b>	<b>93,142</b>	<b>98,736</b>	<b>+7.2</b>
*Portion of city in Eau Claire County only SOURCE: 2010 Census					

## Rural Population Density

According to the 2010 Census, townships in the County with the greatest density of persons per square mile are Washington, Union, and Seymour (see Table 4). These townships are in the northwestern portion of the County, adjacent to the metropolitan area including the cities of Altoona and Eau Claire. About 90% of the County's population lives in this urbanized corner of the County. Densities in the eastern portion of the County are the lowest (Wilson, Otter Creek, and Fairchild) where much of the land is in agricultural production or County Forest.

**Table 4**  
**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY RURAL POPULATION DENSITIES: 1990 - 2010**

<u>Town</u>	<u>Persons Per Square Mile</u>		
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>
Bridge Creek	13.7	17.5	18.6
Brunswick	39.5	41.9	43.9
Clear Creek	19.0	19.5	22.8
Drammen	21.1	22.0	21.7
Fairchild	9.1	10.2	11.5
Lincoln	16.7	18.0	18.9
Ludington	19.3	21.3	23.1
Otter Creek	12.6	14.6	13.9
Pleasant Valley	37.9	48.9	56.4
Seymour	83.5	90.2	103.5
Union	85.8	84.3	98.6
Washington	116.2	129.5	133.0
Wilson	9.9	8.7	10.4

Source: Eau Claire County Department of Planning and Development

### ***Age Distribution***

The percentage of individuals in younger age groups (19 and under) has declined from 30.1% in 1990 and 28.5% in 2000 to 25.8% in 2010 (see Table 5). Conversely, the percentage of those of working age (20 to 64) has steadily increased from 57.5% in 1990 and 59.3% in 2000 to 61.6% in 2010.

**Table 5**  
**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY AGE DISTRIBUTION**

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Population</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Population</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Population</u>
Under 5	6,031	7.1	5,565	6.0	5,859	5.9
5-19	19,626	23.0	20,994	22.5	19,656	19.9
20-44	35,249	41.4	36,114	38.8	36,385	36.8
45-64	13,683	16.1	19,074	20.5	24,401	24.8
65 & Over	<u>10,594</u>	<u>12.4</u>	<u>11,395</u>	<u>12.2</u>	<u>12,435</u>	<u>12.7</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,183</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>93,142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>98,736</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: 2010 Census

### ***Median Age***

The median age for residents of Eau Claire County was 33.4 years in 2010, up from 32.4 years in 2000, 30.3 years in 1990, and 27.0 years in 1980.

### ***Rural and Urban Population Distribution***

Since 1950, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of Eau Claire County residents living in urban areas. The percentages of those living on farms and those living in rural non-farm settings were nearly equal in 1950. As Table 6 indicates, the percentage of the population living in rural non-farm settings increased dramatically from 1950 to 1960, and then has declined slightly thereafter. However, the actual number of residents in rural non-farm homes has steadily increased as the overall population of the County has increased.

**Table 6  
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION  
Eau Claire County**

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
Urban	65.3%	63.9%	69.2%	71.5%	74.6%	77.3%
Rural Farm	16.7%	10.9%	6.5%	5.0%	3.1%	2.2%
Rural Non-Farm	18.0%	25.2%	24.4%	23.5%	22.3%	20.6%

Source: 2000 Census; Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. 2010 Census data not yet available.

### **Population Projections**

Table 7 shows actual and projected populations by municipality from 2000 through 2030. It is projected that Eau Claire County will have a population of over 117,000 by 2030.

**Table 7  
POPULATION PROJECTIONS  
Eau Claire County**

	ACTUAL		PROJECTED*			
	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015*</u>	<u>2020*</u>	<u>2025*</u>	<u>2030*</u>
<b><u>Towns:</u></b>						
Bridge Creek	1,844	1,900	2,111	2,203	2,307	2,388
Brunswick	1,598	1,624	1,702	1,740	1,787	1,850
Clear Creek	712	821	738	749	763	790
Drammen	800	783	877	904	936	969
Fairchild	351	393	404	423	443	459
Lincoln	1,080	1,096	1,198	1,239	1,287	1,332
Ludington	998	1,063	1,147	1,198	1,256	1,300
Otter Creek	531	500	565	577	593	614
Pleasant Valley	2,681	3,044	3,277	3,479	3,700	3,830
Seymour	2,978	3,209	3,272	3,376	3,499	3,622
Union	2,402	2,663	2,907	3,083	3,275	3,390
Washington	6,995	7,182	8,058	8,428	8,843	9,154
Wilson	420	485	418	419	421	436
<b><u>Villages:</u></b>						
Fairchild	564	550	554	553	554	573
Fall Creek	1,236	1,315	1,389	1,443	1,504	1,557
<b><u>Cities:</u></b>						
Altoona	6,698	6,706	7,621	7,941	8,303	8,595
Augusta	1,460	1,550	1,435	1,431	1,434	1,484
Eau Claire*	59,794	63,902	66,906	69,488	72,365	74,910
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,142</b>	<b>98,736</b>	<b>101,580</b>	<b>108,674</b>	<b>113,270</b>	<b>117,253</b>

\*Portion of city in Eau Claire County only

SOURCE: WIDOA, 2004 – Adjusted by MSA within 2010 Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan – Table 5.3

A report prepared by the Demographics Services Division of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, called "Wisconsin Population Projections: 2000 - 2030", projects population increases, stabilizations and decreases for various age groups. The report indicates that the pre-school population in Eau Claire County (age 0 to 4) should grow substantially between 2000 and 2030, increasing 42% from 5,565 to 7,939. The school-age population (age 5 to 19) is expected to decrease slightly from 2005 – 2015 but then begin to increase significantly. By the year 2030 the school-age population is expected to be 21.6% higher than in 2000, with an increase of 4,500 students in 2030 compared to 2000. The college-age population is expected to grow at a slower pace, increasing 10.2% between 2000 – 2030.

The working age population (ages 25 – 64) of Eau Claire County is expected to grow at a modest rate from 2015 – 2030, increasing by 12.4% before it begins to decrease between 2020 – 2030, declining by 3.0%.

The most significant increase will come in the traditional retirement age bracket (age 65 and older) with this population more than doubling from 11,400 residents to 23,500, an increase of 106%.

## SECTION 2 RECREATION SUPPLY

Residents of Eau Claire County are fortunate to have convenient access to a wide variety of outdoor recreational facilities. These facilities are provided and maintained by the County, local communities, the private sector, schools and other organizations. An inventory of existing facilities is necessary to determine if current recreational needs are being adequately met. To promote some consistency with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the various facilities are grouped into five (5) different resource types:

- Developed Land
- Limited Development
- Water-Based Activities
- Snow/Ice-Based Activities
- Viewing/Interpretative Activities

### **DEVELOPED LAND ACTIVITIES**

When most individuals think of outdoor recreation, it usually involves some form of manmade development, such as road, trails, athletic fields, picnic areas, and campgrounds. Developed outdoor recreational settings tend to offer a wide mix of activities that may appeal to a broader number of individuals. In fact, more Wisconsin residents participate in walking for pleasure (87.7%) and gardening/landscaping for pleasure (65.4%) than any other activity identified within the SCORP. Family gathering and bicycling are also two of the most popular recreational activities in Wisconsin, both considered as Developed Land activities. This section will review facilities and opportunities for Developed Land recreational activities in Eau Claire County as they exist today.

### **CAMPGROUNDS**

Eau Claire County has seen a growth in the number of campsites from 230 to 392 over the last ten years, an increase of over 70%. Campsites are available at ten different locations, including three public campgrounds and seven private campgrounds. The following is a discussion concerning both the public and private campgrounds in Eau Claire County. Table 8 lists all of the campgrounds and the number of campsites available at each. Map 3 shows the location of these campgrounds.



#### ***Public Campgrounds***

Eau Claire County owns and operates three campgrounds with a total of 180 campsites. Coon Fork County Park offers 57 sites with electricity and 51 sites without, for a total of 108 sites. Sixty-four of the sites can be reserved. There is no electricity available at the 27 sites located at Harstad County Park. Both park campgrounds cater to families, with access to water and playground facilities. Camping is also available at the Eau Claire County Expo Center, with 45 total sites available.

#### ***Private Campgrounds***

The number of private campsites has increased from 178 sites in 2006 to a total of 212 sites available in 2015, an increase of over 19%. Some of these campgrounds have other amenities such as recreation rooms and laundry facilities.

**Table 8  
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

<u>Public Campgrounds:</u>	<u>Number Of Sites</u>
1. Coon Fork County Park (839-4738) .....	108
2. Harstad County Park (839-4738) .....	27
3. Eau Claire County Exposition Center (839-3755) .....	45
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>180</b>
<u>Private Campgrounds:</u>	
1. Woodland Campground, Rt. 1, Augusta (286-2112) .....	30
2. Sandy Hill Campground, E21100 County Road ND, Augusta (286-2495) .....	28
3. Trail's Edge Campground, State Road 27, Augusta (286-5050) .....	27
4. Le Mere's Landing and Campground, S8095 Bartig Road, Augusta .....	35
5. The Longshot Campground, 644 E. Main, Fairchild (533-0699) .....	10
6. Little Creek Campground, 627 Tioga Road, Fairchild (533-8594) .....	32
7. Black Creek Lodge, S13231 County Road H, Fairchild (313-0906) .....	50
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>212</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>392</b>

In addition, Country Jam, Inc., which operates an annual four-day country music festival, maintains a 1,200 site campground in the Town of Union, known as Whispering Pines. This campground is available only for those attending the festival and is not otherwise open to the public.

There are many excellent camping options just outside Eau Claire County as well. Lake Wissota State Park is about 10 miles north of the County, Brunet Island State Park is about 30 miles north, the Chequamegon National Forest is about 50 miles northeast and the Black River State Forest is about 50 miles southeast of the County.

### HIKING/WALKING TRAILS

Marked trails for walking, nature study, serious hiking, fitness or multiple uses continue to remain popular. About 7.2 miles of marked trails specifically for nature study are found in the County. Coon Fork County Park, L.L. Phillips County Park, and Beaver Creek Reserve have self-guided nature trails used most often by grade school students for nature study classes (Table 9). County forest roads, although not specifically marked for hiking, can be used for that purpose. In addition, Carson Park in the City of Eau Claire has 1.5 miles of hiking trails.

**Table 9  
SELF-GUIDED NATURE TRAILS IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

<u>Trail</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Guettinger Woods	.8
Beaver Creek Reserve	1.2
L.L. Phillips County Park	1.2
Coon Fork County Park	1.5
Putnam Park	<u>2.5</u>
TOTAL:	7.2



Trails specifically used for fitness, or Par Courses, involve a series of stations in which calisthenics are performed. Lowes Creek County Park, Carson Park, Beaver Creek Reserve, and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire have excellent fitness trails.

For serious hiking, the Wisconsin Ice Age Trail winds its way across the State just to the north and east of Eau Claire County. See Map 4 – Ice Age Trail Chippewa Moraine Segment. Other hiking opportunities are available on County forest roads and on over thirty miles of cross-country ski trails.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and several municipalities in the area have worked together to develop what has come to be known as the Chippewa Valley Trail System, which is a multi-modal trail for walking and bicycling uses. When this trail system is fully completed it will provide an off road alignment biking and hiking trail that will connect Menomonie, Durand, Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls and Cornell with a total length of approximately 75 miles. The City of Eau Claire and the DNR have cooperated to develop the Chippewa River Trail component of the system, which runs from downtown Eau Claire to downtown Durand and connecting with the south end of the Red Cedar Trail along the way; 11 miles are located in Eau Claire County. Eau Claire has also completed part of the “Urban Trail,” running from Birch Street north to Eddy Lane in the City for approximately 2 miles. Plans call for linking this trail with the Chippewa River Trail downtown and extending it north to Chippewa Falls. The last 11 miles of the Old Abe Trail, the northern portion of the Chippewa Valley Trail System, has already been completed to Cornell.

## **BICYCLING**

Although most casual bicyclists limit their activity to short rides on city streets, more and more cyclists are taking to the open road on longer, more demanding trips. Bike trails are not often separated from motor vehicle traffic, because of the great expense involved in constructing separate trails. Bike routes are normally found on lightly traveled paved roads.

Eau Claire County is fortunate to have a separate trail dedicated to cycling and pedestrian use. As noted above in the Hiking/Walking Trails segment of this plan, the Chippewa River State Trail originates at a trailhead in the downtown of Eau Claire and extends to the City of Durand at the south end. The 30-mile trail is hard-surfaced all the way to Durand with a combination of asphalt and asphalt emulsion with approximately 11 miles of the trail located in Eau Claire County. It also connects to the Red Cedar Trail and the City of Menomonie, which is a packed limestone trail. Collectively, the Chippewa River State Trail and Red Cedar Trail form the western part of the Chippewa Valley Trail System, which is approximately 45 miles long.

The City of Eau Claire has recently completed part of the “Urban Trail”, which connects to the downtown segment of the Chippewa River State Trail and extends into Chippewa County to 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Plans call for extending this trail north to Chippewa Falls. Also, 2 miles of the Urban trail have been developed in the City of Eau Claire along with another 4-mile segment that runs along the north side of Clairemont Avenue from the Chippewa River to 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Altoona. When the “Urban Trail” and Old Abe Trail are complete, cyclists will be able to ride from Menomonie or Durand, through Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls to Cornell for a total length of roughly 75 miles.

Other trail segments also exist around the City of Eau Claire region. The trail along the east side of Hwy 93 in the City of Eau Claire and the Town of Washington adds approximately 4 miles of paved surface. Additionally, a branch connector extends along County Road Q (Olson Drive), east to Peterson Avenue and west, across North Crossing (Highway 312), to Old Wells Road. Branches of this 4-mile trail extend into the neighborhoods immediately adjacent. This trail also connects to the “Urban Trail” via Marquette Street. With the improvements on the Hastings Way corridor, 2 miles of bike and multi-use paths have been added that permit travel along either side of Business 53 (So. Hastings Way) from Clairemont Avenue (US Highway 12) to Birch Street, and to the “Urban Trail”. Significant improvements have been made that promote interconnectivity of the various trail segments in and around the City of Eau Claire metropolitan area.

In addition to dedicated trails, there are other bicycle routes in the County. Notable routes are on County Road QQ (North Shore Drive) in the Town of Seymour, which is 3.5 miles long, and along Spooner Avenue in the City of Altoona, which is about 1 mile long. Several County Highways also have paved shoulders that are used by bicycling enthusiasts, including County Road B, County Road F, County Road AF, parts of County Road K, part of County Road Q, County Road SS, and County Road II. Most town roads in the County are lightly traveled and are also suitable for cycling. The Wisconsin Division of Tourism produces a map of recommended bicycling routes throughout Wisconsin including some in Eau Claire County.

For off-road bicycling enthusiasts, a 17-mile off-road trail network in Lowes Creek Park is available for use by mountain bikes, cross-country skiing, and walking or running. Please refer to Map 6 – Lowes Creek Park. In addition, Otter Creek Park in Altoona offers 3 miles of off-road multi-use trails. Finally, Northwest Park, adjacent to North Crossing (State Highway 312) in the northwest area of the City of Eau Claire, offers another 5 miles of off-road biking opportunities for residents and visitors. Collectively, 25 miles of off-road bicycling trails are available in the Eau Claire metropolitan area within Eau Claire County.

In summary, there are more than 30 miles of dedicated right-of-ways intended for use by bicycles in Eau Claire County (an increase of roughly 80% in recent years), 25 miles of mountain biking trails, and about 135 miles of roads recommended by the Wisconsin Division of Tourism as suitable cycling routes. Map 5 illustrates the location of these trails in Eau Claire County.

## **FIELD SPORTS AND PLAYGROUNDS**

In many parks throughout the County, open space has been set aside for field sports. In many cases the space has been improved for activities such as softball, volleyball, or horseshoes. Soccer fields are located at UW-Eau Claire as well as at both North and Memorial High Schools. The City of Eau Claire offers 18 holes of disc golf at Mount Simon Park, and two 18-hole disc golf courses are provided at the County's Tower Ridge Recreation Area. Unimproved open park space is also used for football, Frisbee, croquet, soccer and other field sports. Some of the available facilities are listed in Table 10.



Lake Altoona County Park, Photo: Matt Michels

**Table 10**  
**FIELD SPORTS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

<u>Park</u>	<u>Soft- ball</u>	<u>Horse- shoes</u>	<u>Volley- ball</u>	<u>Tennis</u>	<u>Basket- ball</u>	<u>Play- ground</u>	<u>Other</u>
<b>EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FACILITIES:</b>							
Harstad County Park	1	1	1	0	0	1	Open Space
Coon Fork County Park	0	2	2	0	1	3	Open Space
Lake Altoona County Park	0	2	2	0	0	3	Open Space
Lake Eau Claire County Park	1	4	2	0	0	2	Open Space
Beaver Creek Reserve	1	1	1	0	1	0	Archery, Fitness Course
Expo Center	1	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>TOWN OF SEYMOUR FACILITIES:</b>							
Seymour Recreation Park (Seymour)	4	0	1	2	1	1	Two Baseball Diamonds, Outdoor Ice Skating Rink
<b>TOWN OF WASHINGTON FACILITIES:</b>							
Little League Ball Diamonds & Conservancy Area (Washington)	1	0	0	0	0	0	Open Space, Two Baseball Diamonds
Town of Washington Little League Field	0	0	0	0	0	0	Three Baseball Diamonds
<b>TOWN OF WILSON FACILITIES:</b>							
Town of Wilson Memorial Park	1	0	0	0	0	1	Open Space, Pavilion
<b>VILLAGE OF FAIRCHILD FACILITIES:</b>							
Foster Park (Fairchild)	0	0	0	1	1	1	Open Space, Outdoor Ice Rink
Olson Memorial Park (Fairchild)	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Fairchild Elementary School	1	0	0	0	2	1	Open Space
Chat-A-While Park	0	0	0	0	1	0	Open Space
Rod and Gun Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	Open Space, beach, boat dock, Archery range
<b>VILLAGE OF FALL CREEK FACILITIES:</b>							
Keller Park (Fall Creek)	1	4	2	2	1	1	Open Space, Outdoor Skating Rink, soccer fields
Fall Creek Schools	1	0	0	0	3	1	Open Space, Outdoor Skating Rink, one baseball diamond
Crystal Creek Park	0	0	0	0	0	1	Open Space
<b>CITY OF ALTOONA FACILITIES:</b>							
Cinder City Park	3	0	0	0	0	1	1 Baseball Field, 1 Youth Ball Field, Community Building Used For Ice Skating & Hockey in Winter; Two Shuffle Boards
Altoona City Park (10 <sup>th</sup> Street Park)	1	0	0	5	1	2	Open Space, Rec. Building, Outdoor Ice Skating Rink
Highland Park	0	0	0	1	1	1	Open Space
St. Mary's Elementary	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Altoona High School	0	0	0	0	1	0	Open Space, Running Track
Altoona Middle School	0	0	2	0	0	0	Baseball Field, Four Tether Ball Poles, Paved Area
Pedersen Elementary School	0	0	0	0	0	1	Paved Area, Sledding Hill
Devney Park	0	0	0	1	1	1	Open Space, Lighted Ball Field, Pavilion, Rec. Building

**Table 10 (Cont.)**  
**FIELD SPORTS AND PLAYGROUNDS IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**

<u>Park</u>	<u>Soft- ball</u>	<u>Horse- shoes</u>	<u>Volley- ball</u>	<u>Tennis</u>	<u>Basket- ball</u>	<u>Play- ground</u>	<u>Other</u>
<b>CITY OF AUGUSTA FACILITIES:</b>							
Memorial Field	1	0	0	3	1	0	Football, Open Space Ice Skating Rink
North Side Park	0	6	0	0	0	1	Open Space, picnic area
Augusta Community Center	1	0	0	0	1	1	Open Space
Fourth Ward Jaycee Park	0	0	0	0	0	1	Open Space
Augusta High/Grade School	2	0	0	0	3	1	Open Space
Lion's Club Park	1	0	2	0	0	1	Open Space
N. Stone Street by Bridge	0	0	0	0	1	0	Ice Skating Rink
<b>CITY OF EAU CLAIRE FACILITIES:</b>							
Carson Park (Eau Claire)	2	15	1	3	0	1	Open Space, Football and Baseball Stadium
Mt. Simon Park (Eau Claire)	1	0	2	0	0	1	Open Space, Archery, Frisbee Golf, Two Baseball Fields
Owen Park (Eau Claire)	0	0	0	2	0	1	Open Space, Bandshell
Bollinger Fields/ University Athletic Complex	5	0	0	0	0	0	Three Soccer Fields, One Rugby Field, One Baseball Diamond
Kessler Field (Eau Claire)	1	0	0	0	1	1	Open Space, Outdoor Ice Skating Rink
North High School Athletic Complex (Eau Claire)	3	0	0	8	2	0	One Soccer Field, Three Football Fields, Track, Three Baseball Fields
Memorial High School Athletic Complex (Eau Claire)	2	0	0	7	0	0	One Soccer Field, Two Football Fields, Track, Two Baseball Fields
Delong & South Middle School Athletic Complex (Eau Claire)	4	0	0	14	0	0	One Soccer Field, Two Football Fields At Each School, Track At Each School, Three Baseball Fields At South, Three Baseball Fields And Archery Range at Delong
Mitscher Park	1	0	0	0	1	1	
Neighborhood Playgrounds & Parks, Other School Properties, Other Community Parks, and Special Areas In The City of Eau Claire	14	0	1	2	60	35	Two Baseball Fields, Eleven Ice Skating Rinks at 8 sites
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>69</b>	

## ATV TRAILS AND RIDING

Another emerging recreational opportunity in Eau Claire County is ATV trail riding. A 30-mile trail network is provided in the eastern portion of the County, connecting the City of Augusta and Village of Fairchild to the Clark County and Buffalo River Trails in neighboring counties primarily through county forest lands. In addition to the trail system, several public roads are also designated routes in this vicinity as well, with the requirement to operate on the extreme right side of the roadway. Given the increases in popularity of this activity, additional recreation-oriented businesses have emerged in the Fairchild area. According to the SCORP, ATV riding (i.e. off-road vehicle driving) continues to see steady growth with an increase of roughly 75% in the last 15 years according to Tables 23 and 26.

## GOLF

The locations of the six golf courses in Eau Claire County are shown on Map 7. All courses in the County are privately owned, with one course limited to use by club members and guests (see Table 11). There are eight additional golf courses located within 25 miles of Eau Claire, as follows: Timber Terrace Golf Course in Chippewa Falls, Lake Wissota Golf near Chippewa Falls, Lake Hallie Golf in Lake Hallie, Ojibwa Country Club in Chippewa Falls, Whispering Pines in Cadott, the Osseo Country Club, Whitetail Course near Colfax and The Valley near Mondovi.



Mill Run Golf Course, Photo: Matt Michels

Table 11 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY GOLF COURSES				
<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>No. Holes</u>	<u>Par</u>
1. Eau Claire County Club (Altoona)*	836-8420	163	18	71
2. Hickory Hills Golf Course (Pleasant Valley)	878-4543	100	18	63
3. Pine Meadows Golf Course (Eau Claire)	832-6011	16	9	27
4. Mill Run Golf Course (Eau Claire)	834-1766	330		
Hidden Creek at Mill Run			18	70/71
Wild Ridge at Mill Run			18	72
5. Princeton Valley Golf Course (Eau Claire)	834-3334	<u>140</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>36</u>
	TOTAL:	749	90	

\* Members and guests only

## PICNICKING

Villages and cities provide the greatest number of facilities and acres for picnicking; the County also provides extensive picnicking facilities. Community parks are popular places for picnicking and are used by both municipal residents and visitors to the area. The inventory distinguishes between waysides, which offer a few tables and no other type of recreation, and picnic areas. Picnic areas are often found in combination with other facilities such as campgrounds and community parks, and supplement the range of recreational facilities offered at that site. Table 12 summarizes existing waysides, while Table 13 lists facilities at public picnic areas.

Table 12 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY WAYSIDES – 2015				
<u>Wayside</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>No. of Tables</u>	<u>No. of Toilets</u>	<u>Grills</u>
1. Cooley Lake - State Road 85	NW-NE, Sect. 10, T26N-R10W	5	yes	2
2. State Road 93	NW-NW, Sect. 34, T25N-R9W	1	no	0
3. Highline Boat Landing	NW-NE, Sect. 20, T27N-R8W	1	no	0
4. County Road ND Boat Landing	SW-NW, Sect. 3, T26N-R6W	1	yes	0
5. County Road SD West Boat Landing	SE-SE, Sect. 5, T26N-R6W	0	yes	0
6. County Road SD East Boat Landing	NW-NW, Sect. 11, T26N-R6W	1	yes	0
7. County Road ND Wayside	SW-NW Sect. 3, T26N-R6W	2	no	0
8. Lake Eau Claire Beach	SW-NW Sect. 3, T26N-R6W	<u>2</u>	yes	<u>1</u>
	Total:	13		3

**Table 13**  
**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY PICNIC AREAS**

<u>Community Facilities:</u>	No. of <u>Tables</u>	No. of <u>Grills</u>	No. of <u>Shelters</u>	No. of <u>Restrooms</u>
1. Altoona City Park (Altoona)	10	2		1
2. Cinder City Park (Altoona)	20	0		2
3. Highland Park (Altoona)	1	0		0
4. Lake Front Park (Altoona)	8	4		0
5. Devney Park (Altoona)	10	0		1
6. Augusta Lions Club Park (Augusta)	14	1		1
7. Augusta Community Center (Augusta)	0	0		0
8. North Side Park (Augusta)	19	6		3
9. Bridge Creek Overlook, Hwy 27 (Augusta)	3	2		1
10. Fourth Ward Jaycee Park (Augusta)	4	2		1
11. Lincoln Street Park (Augusta)	0	0		0
12. Augusta Memorial Field (Augusta)	17	0		1
13. North Stone Street (Augusta)	2	0		1
14. Ron Olson Memorial Park (Fairchild)	1	0		1
15. Foster Park (Fairchild)	5	2		1
16. Rod & Gun Club Park (Fairchild)	0	1		0
17. Chat-A-While Park (Fairchild)	1	0		1
18. Randall Park (Fall Creek)	2	2		4
19. Keller Park (Fall Creek)	27	3		3
20. Fall Creek Valley Memorial Park	4	1		2
21. Seymour Recreation Park (T/Seymour)	11	0		2
22. Lions Youth Camp (T/Seymour)	10	2		1
23. Sherman Creek Park (T/Union)	4	3		1
24. Memorial Park (T/Wilson)	6	0		1
25. City of Eau Claire facilities	<u>314</u>	<u>50</u>		<u>13</u>
SUBTOTAL:	493	81		42
<u>County Facilities:</u>				
1. Big Falls County Park	5	2		0
2. Coon Fork County Park	25	17		1
3. Harstad County Park	15	5		1
4. L.L. Phillips County Park	2	0		1
5. Lake Altoona County Park	58 (12 indoors)	22		2
6. Lake Eau Claire County Park	55 (22 indoors)	21		8
7. Lowes Creek County Park	4	1		1
8. Tower Ridge Ski Cabin	5 (3 indoors)	0		0
9. Tower Ridge Disc Golf	2	0		0
10. Lake Eau Claire outlots	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>0</u>
SUBTOTAL:	177	69		14
TOTAL:	670	150		56

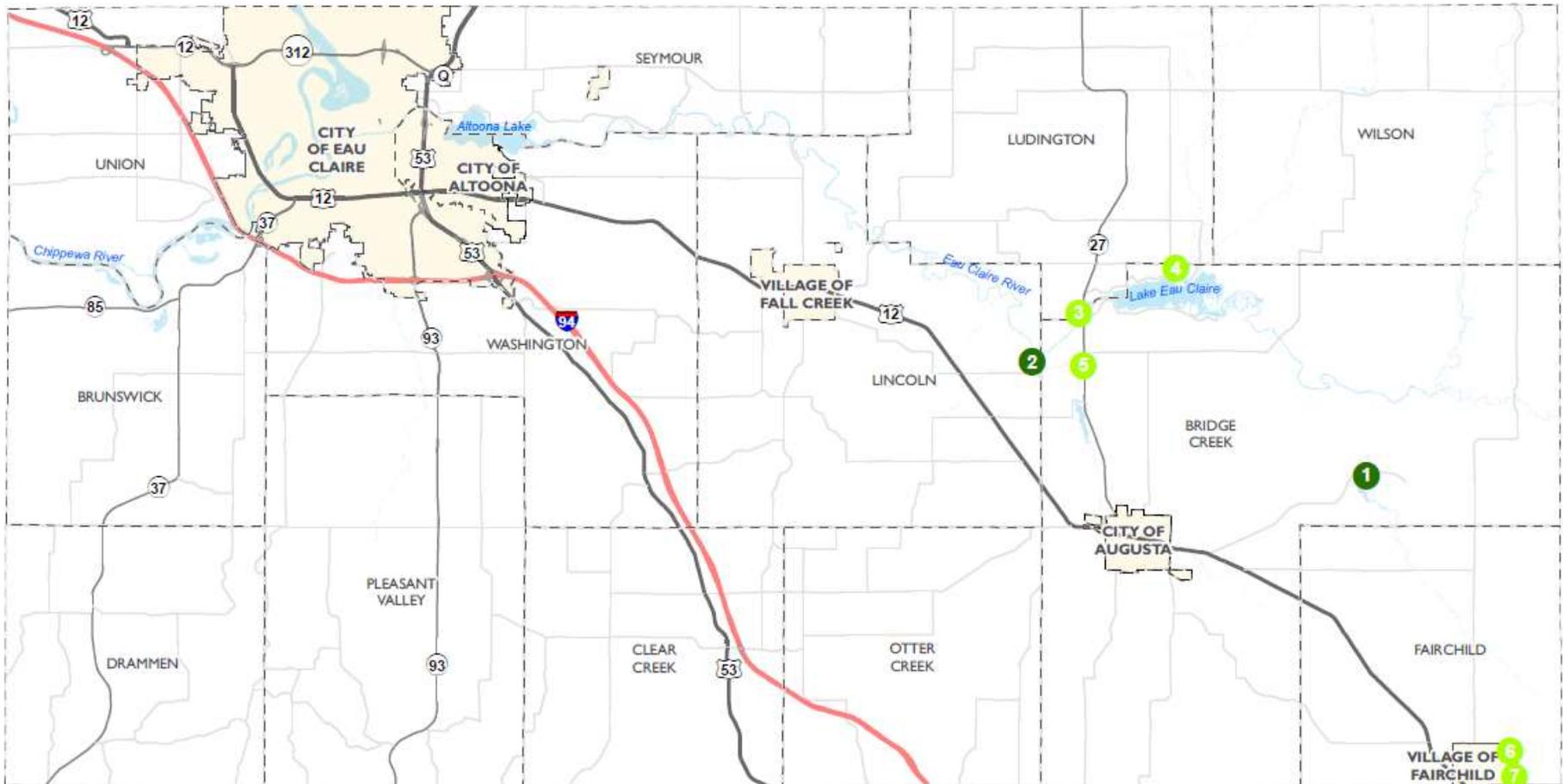
## HORSEBACK RIDING

The County Forest Land is open to horseback riding. There are two designated riding trails at this time: one is located on part of the Tower Ridge Ski Trail (approximately 12.0 miles) and Backwater Trails off County Road G in the Town of Bridge Creek (approximately 10.3 miles). In addition, several privately-owned riding stables are found in the County. Map 8 depicts the publicly designated trail system at Tower Ridge. Several survey respondents and members of the Stakeholder Committee felt that improved equestrian facilities are needed, especially at Tower Ridge Recreation Area, where many horse trails are located. As a result of this input, a number of improvements are planned for Tower Ridge, including horse watering facilities and manure pit facilities.

# Map 3 Campgrounds

## CAMPGROUNDS

of Eau Claire County, WI



### Public Campgrounds

- 1 - Coon Fork County Park
- 2 - Harstad County Park

### Private Campgrounds

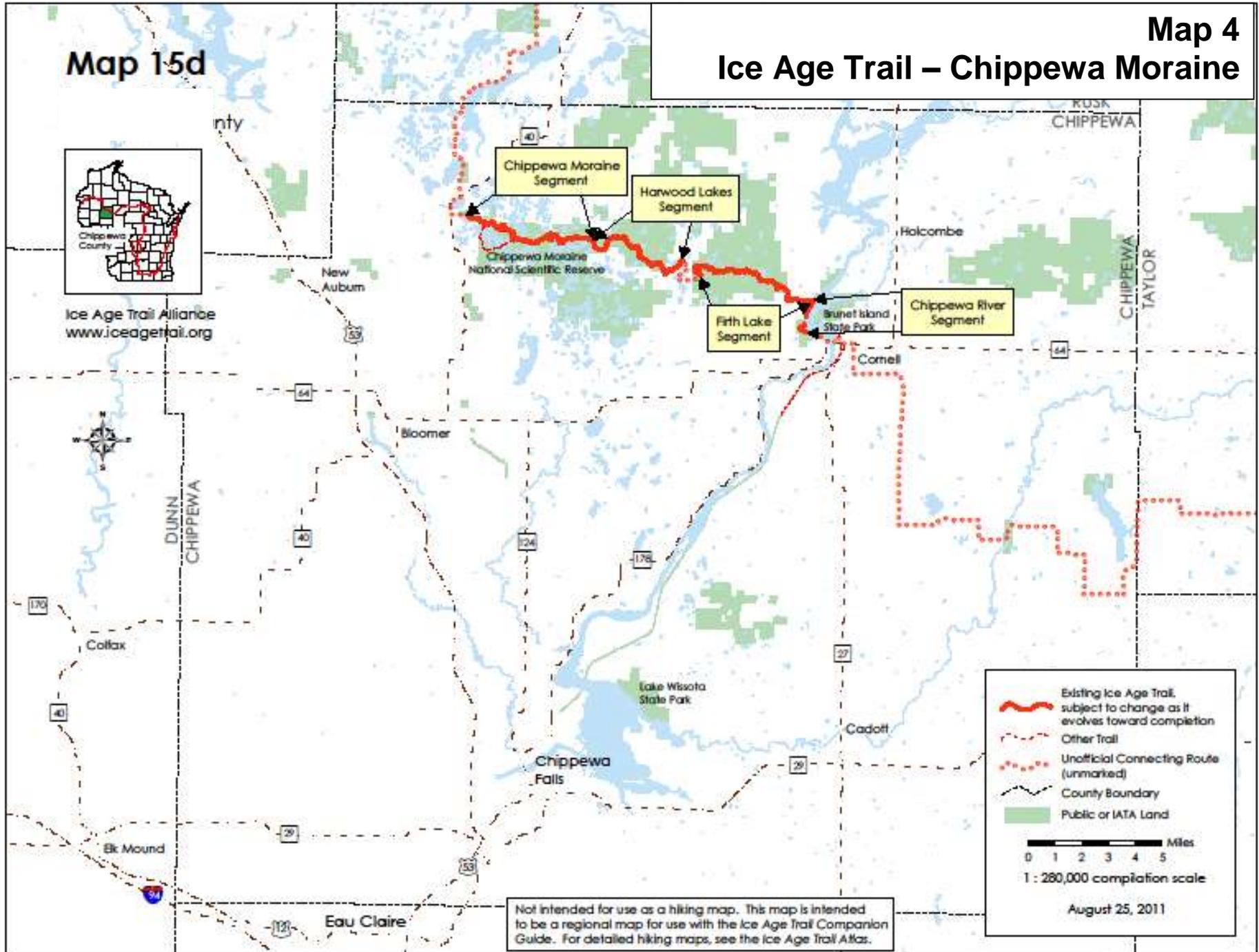
- 3 - Woodland Campground
- 4 - Sandy Hill Campground

- 5 - Trail's Edge

- 6 - Little Creek Campground & Cabins
- 7 - The Longshot

Map 15d

# Map 4 Ice Age Trail – Chippewa Moraine

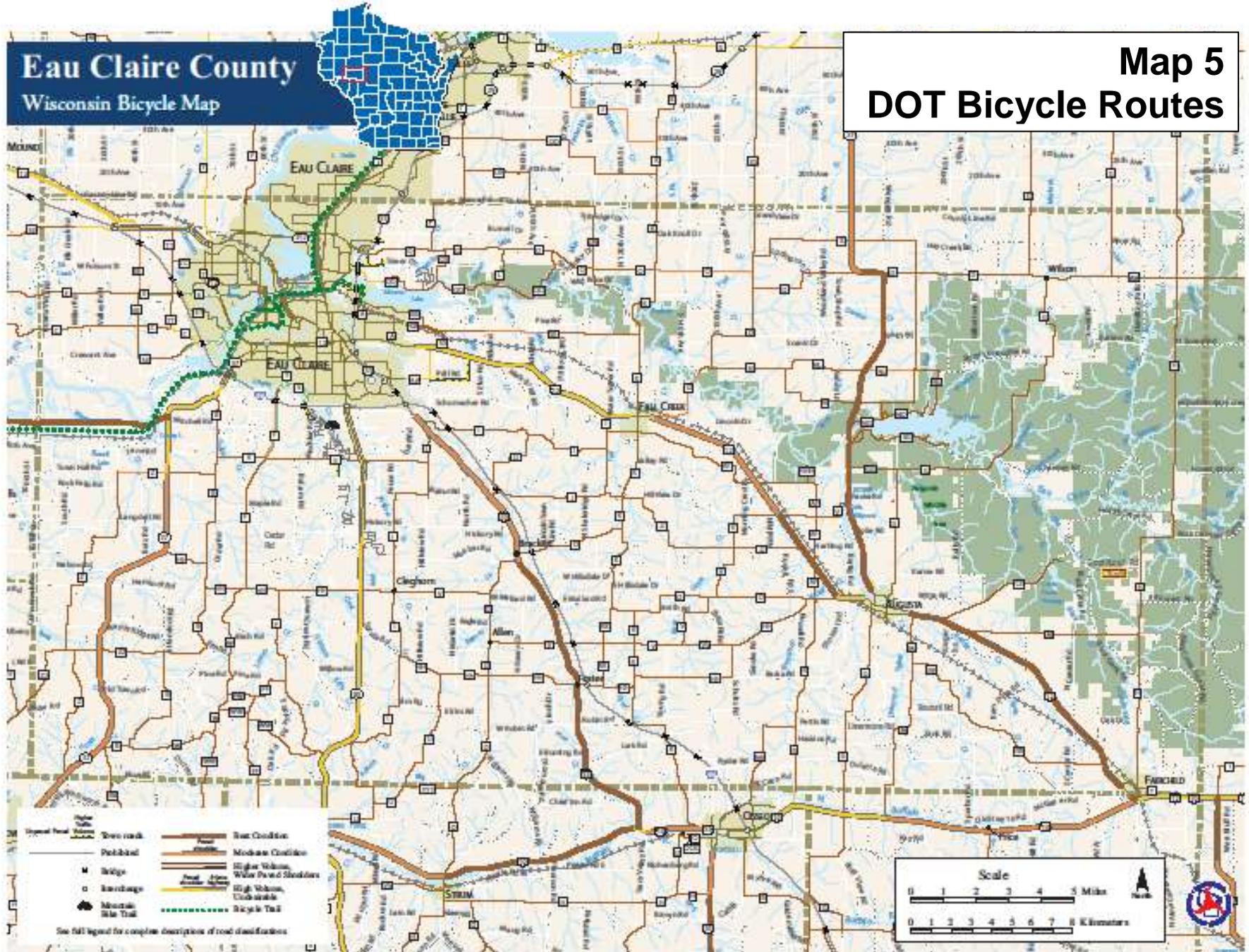


# Eau Claire County

## Wisconsin Bicycle Map

# Map 5

## DOT Bicycle Routes



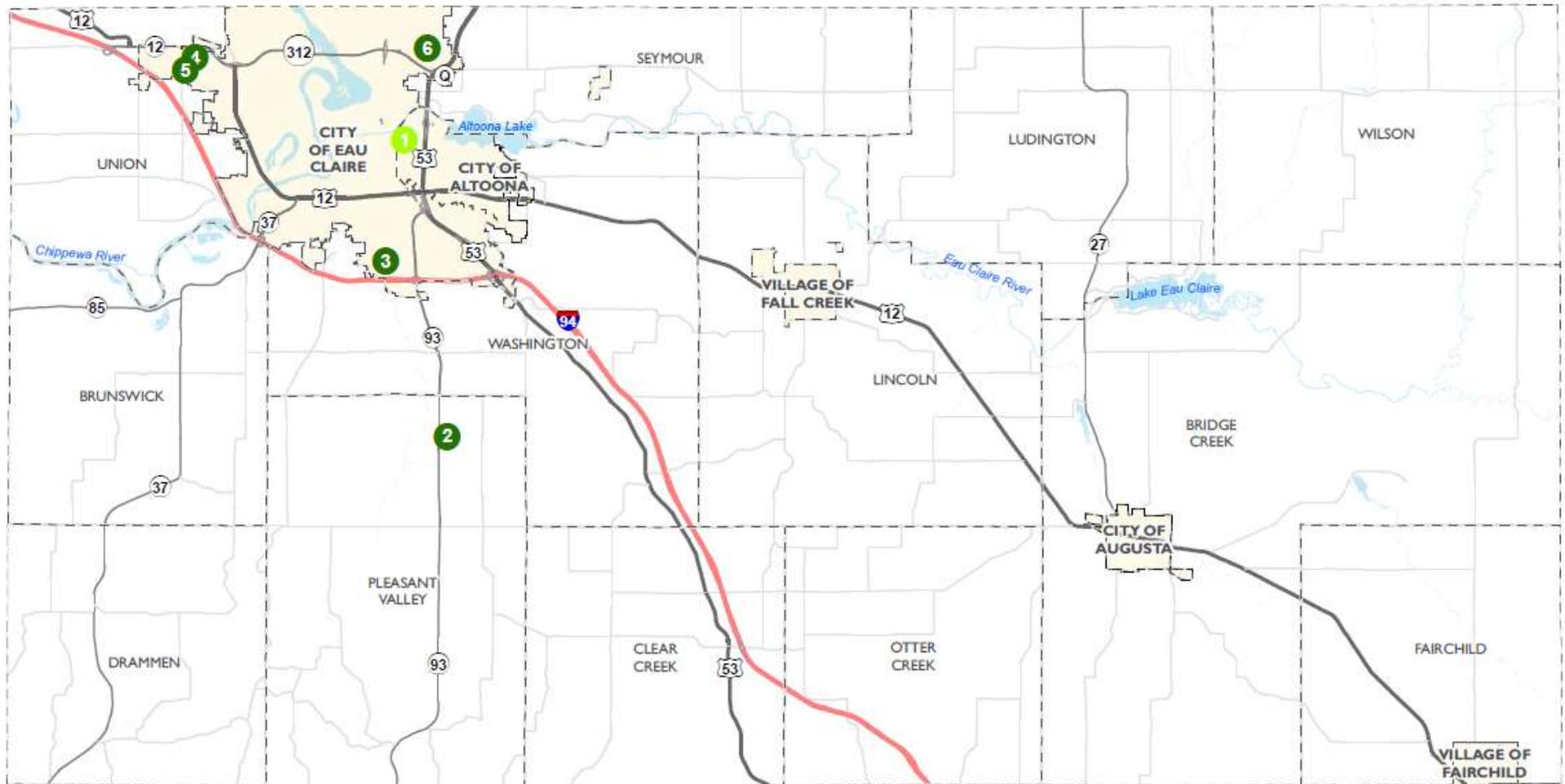
# Map 6 Lowes Creek Trail System



# Map 7 Golf Courses

## GOLF COURSES

of Eau Claire County, WI



### Private Golf Courses

- 1 - Eau Claire Golf and Country Club

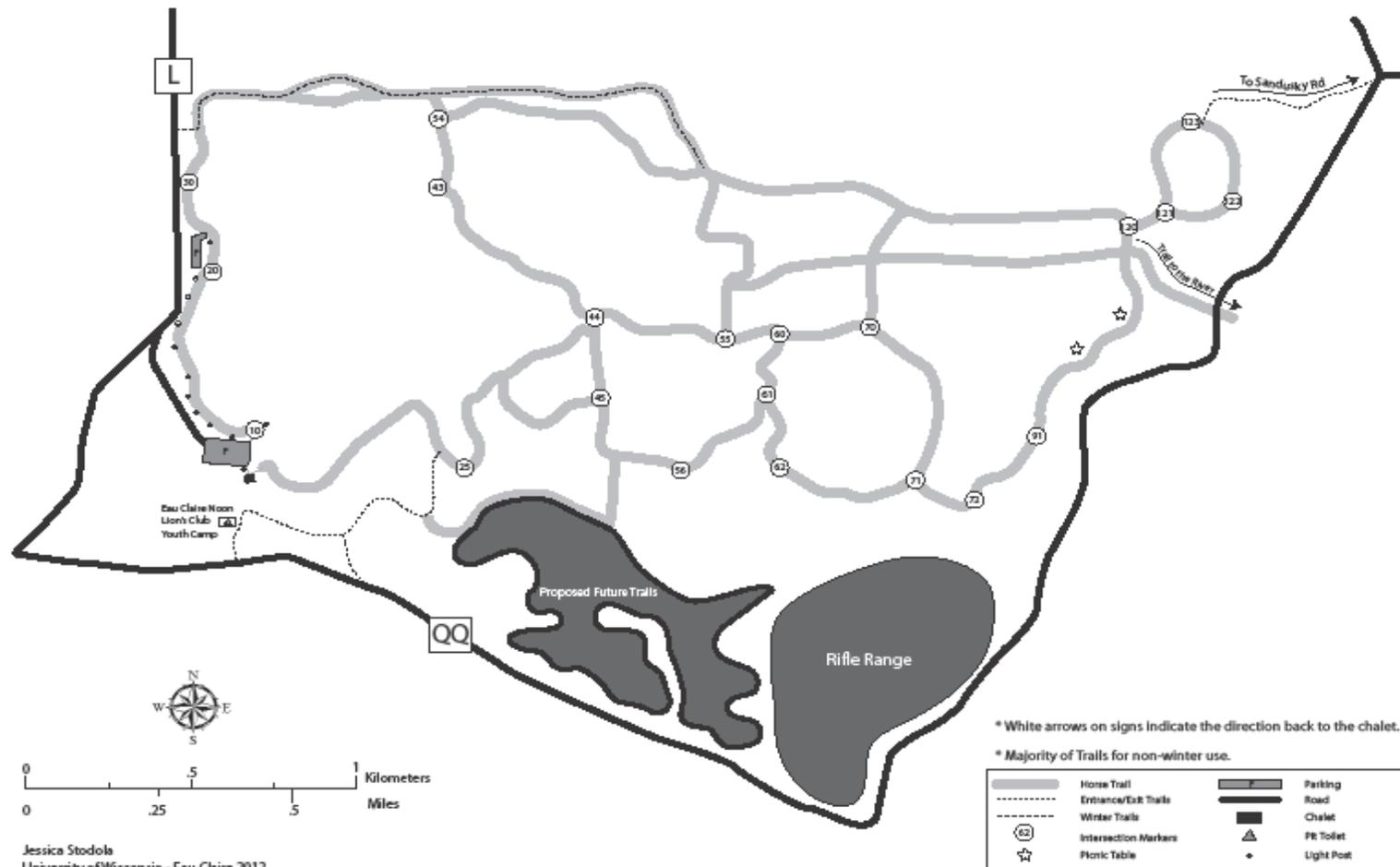
### Public Golf Courses

- 2 - Hickory Hills Golf Course
- 3 - Pine Meadow Golf Course
- 4 - Mill Run Golf Course
- 5 - Wild Ridge Golf Course
- 6 - Princeton Valley Golf Course

# Map 8 Tower Ridge Horse Trails

## Tower Ridge Horse Trails

\* Intersection numbers increase with distance from the chalet.



Jessica Stodola  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire 2012

\* White arrows on signs indicate the direction back to the chalet.

\* Majority of Trails for non-winter use.

	Horse Trail		Parking
	Entrance/Exit Trails		Road
	Winter Trails		Chalet
	Intersection Markers		Pit Toilet
	Picnic Table		Light Post

## LIMITED DEVELOPMENT

Outdoor recreation activities which tend to occur in open spaces that may be owned by a government agency or non-profit organization and are available to the general public are considered “Limited Development” activities. These activities require very limited or no man-made developments to facilitate usage as the typical participant wants to experience pristine natural surroundings. Common activities in this recreation type include hiking, primitive camping, or some form of hunting.

## HUNTING AND SHOOTING

Most hunting in Eau Claire County is for deer, but other game hunting such as bear, squirrels, ducks, and grouse are also quite popular. Much of the hunting is done on private property. A total of about 55,232 acres of public forest land are located in the County, most of which is available for hunting. Target shooting and plinking are allowed in almost all areas of the county forest. The County Forest covers 52,344 acres while one state hunting area covers 2,118 acres. More details on regulations can be obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Area Office at 1-888-936-7463. Publicly-owned or leased hunting lands are shown on Map 9 and summarized in Table 14.

Table 14 PUBLIC LAND OPEN FOR HUNTING - 2015	
<u>Public Hunting Area</u>	<u>Approximate Acres</u>
State-owned: Augusta Wildlife Area	2,118
State-owned: Lowes Creek Fish/Land Properties	370
County-owned: County Forest	<u>52,344</u>
TOTAL:	54,832



Aside from public areas for actual pursuit of game, hunters can take advantage of several ranges to practice shooting skills. Bow hunters can practice at Rod & Gun Club Park in Fairchild. In addition, private sportsmen clubs allow members to practice firearm shooting precision. The Eau Claire National Rifle Club maintains a 16-point range in the Town of Seymour. Table 15 describes the location of these facilities.

Table 15 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY SHOOTING AND ARCHERY RANGES	
<u>Range</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. Fairchild Rod and Gun Club Park	W. Park Road, Fairchild
2. Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club	Schoettl Ave. (SE-NW, Sect 18, T27N, R8W) Seymour
3. Eau Claire National Rifle Club	County Road QQ (SW-SW, Sect. 15, T27N-R8W) Seymour
4. Westgate Sportsman Club	County Road EE (NW-NW, Sect. 35, T27N-R10W) Union
5. Eau Claire Archers Club	Murphy Road, (SE-NW, Sect 32, T27N, R10W) Union

## PRIMITIVE CAMPING

For individuals who may want to get off the beaten path or stray away from developed campgrounds, primitive camping opportunities exist in or near Eau Claire County. In addition to the county forest system, Federal recreation facilities located within a 50-mile radius of Eau Claire County include the National Ice Age Trail and Eau Galle Federal Reservoir (maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers). The State of Wisconsin also maintains three state parks, a hiking trail, and a recreation area in nearby counties.

Table 16 FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS WITHIN A 50-MILE RADIUS						
	<u>Camping</u>	<u>Swimming</u>	<u>Boating</u>	<u>Fishing</u>	<u>Hiking</u>	<u>Off-Road Bicycling</u>
Brunet Island State Park (Cornell)	X	X	X	X	X	
Lake Wissota State Park (Chippewa Falls)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red Cedar State Trail (Menomonie)					X	X
Hoffman Hills Rec.Area (Menomonie)					X	
National Ice Age Trail					X	
Chequamegon National Forest	X	X	X	X		
Eau Galle Dam Recreation Area	X	X	X	X	X	
Chippewa River Trail					X	X

## HIKING AND BACKPACKING

Unlike walking or jogging, which in general requires the establishment of a trail system or the use of roads, hiking or backpacking in this recreational type is based upon the use of unimproved open spaces. The lure for many is the opportunity to get off the beaten path and to “rough it” surrounded by only nature. This activity has started to regain popularity in the United States. Again, please refer to Map 9 to locate the large tracts of land that are publicly-owned and available to the general public for these types of activities.

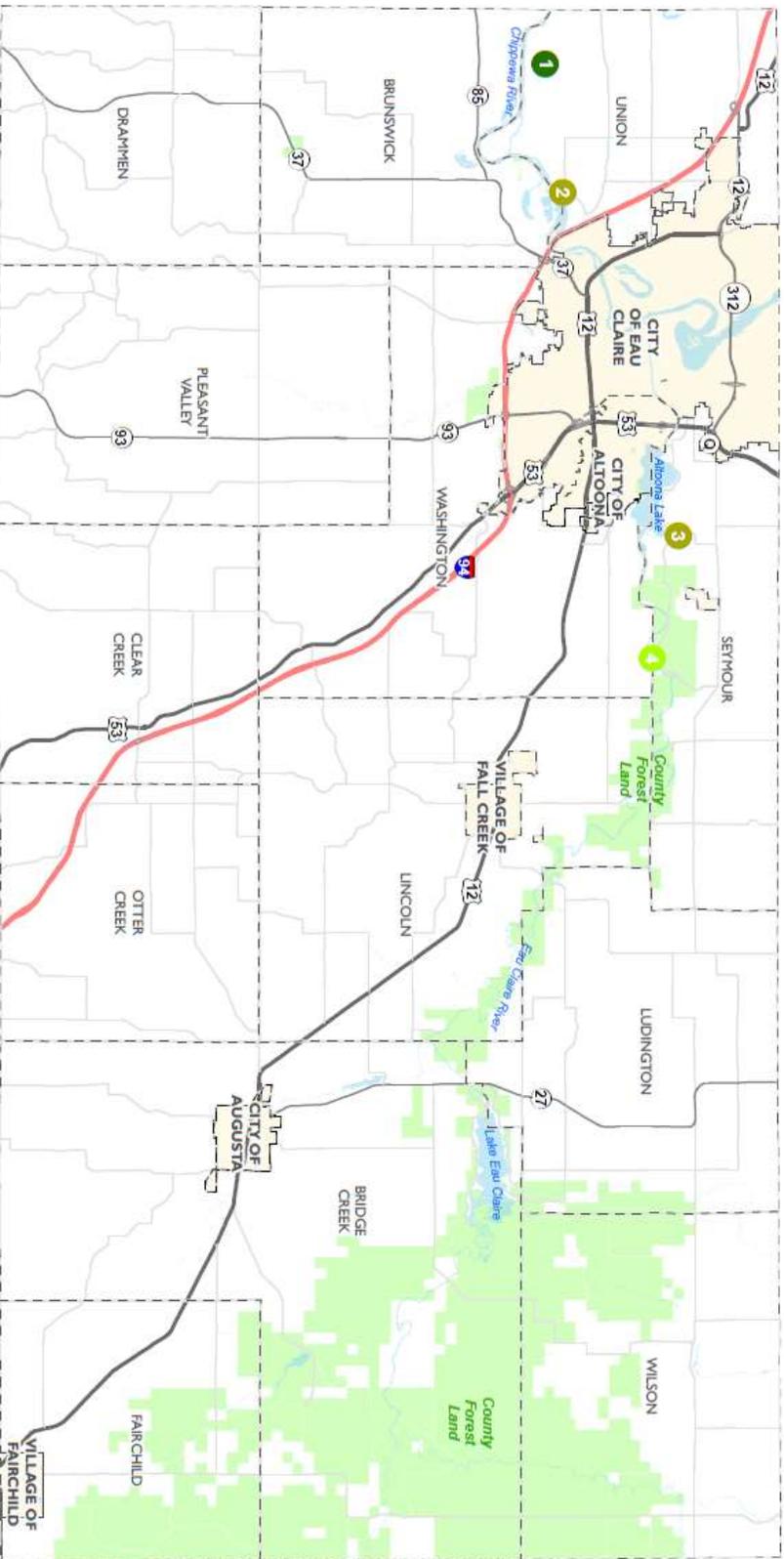
## GEOCACHING AND ORIENTEERING

A relatively new outdoor recreational activity, geocaching first began in 2000 when GPS satellites were opened for public use. The term geocaching comes from “geo”, meaning earth, and “cache”, meaning a hiding place someone would use to temporarily store items and the memory cache in computers. The idea is to locate hidden containers with “treasures” inside in any public place with specific coordinates for others try and find, sort of like a game of hide and seek. Participants then share their experiences on an online forum. One important fact about this activity is that it is indeed outdoors, combining information and technology that you have at your home with hiking or backpacking in the outdoors, to form as an excellent combination of mental and physical activity for participants. According to Geocaching.com, there are an estimated 4-5 million geocachers worldwide and an estimated 1.1 million hidden caches. As you can see, although it is a relatively new activity, geocaching has quickly caught on. More information on this trending outdoor recreational activity can be found by searching the Wisconsin Geocaching Association.

Orienteering is similar to geocaching in that destinations are often referenced in a coordinate system. The difference is that the participants are using topographic maps and compasses rather than GPS units to find hidden caches or destinations. This is exploring in its more primitive form and tends to be more challenging for individuals due to the mental challenge it provides. For competitive individuals who are interested in orienteering, Adventure Racing is a type of endurance racing that typically includes orienteering components. This type of racing has been popularized by modern television programming like the Eco-Challenge, Primal-Quest and more recently the Discovery Channel's Adventure Race. Whether the participant is looking for a more leisurely activity or an endurance test, this type of recreational activity continues to grow in popularity throughout the U.S. Although Eau Claire County does not contain any official courses at this time, more information relating to orienteering or adventure racing may be found by searching the Badger Orienteering Club.

# Map 9 Shooting & Archery Ranges

## SHOOTING & ARCHERY RANGES of Eau Claire County, WI



### Archery Only

- 1 - Eau Claire Archers Inc

### Shooting and Archery

- 2 - Westgate Sportsman Club
- 3 - Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club

### Shooting Only

- 4 - Eau Claire National Rifle Club

**WATER BASED ACTIVITIES**

Recreational use of the State’s abundant water resources continues to be a cornerstone of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. Recreational opportunities range from high-speed motor-boating to kayaking; swimming in a lake or stream to floating in a tube or raft; visiting a beach or outdoor swimming pool to walking the shoreline of Lake Michigan; fishing for that trophy trout to catching sunfish with a child; etc. Whatever the activity, you can be sure to find it



Playing in Lake Altoona, Photo: Matt Michels

here in Wisconsin. According to statistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, just 3% of the earth’s water is fresh water. However, 2% is locked in polar caps meaning that just 1% of the earth’s reachable freshwater is found in lakes and streams. The Great Lakes account for approximately 20% of this amount. When one considers this information, there is no denying the vast importance that freshwater means to Wisconsin, both environmentally and economically.

**BOATING**

Pleasure boating and sailing are most common on Dells Pond, Lake Altoona, and Lake Eau Claire. Most pleasure boating is done in conjunction with fishing and waterskiing. On relatively small lakes such as those in Eau Claire County, waterskiing and power-boating can conflict with other users of the lake, including individuals who are fishing, sailing, and canoeing. Half Moon Lake is posted for non-motorized use only. Only electric trolling motors are allowed on Coon Fork Lake. Sedimentation in Lake Eau Claire and Lake Altoona also limits the use of these lakes for waterskiing and power-boating; shallow water can be found on the east end of both lakes. Boat landings on County lakes and rivers are listed in Table 17 and shown on Map 10.

Table 17 PRIMARY EAU CLAIRE COUNTY BOAT LANDINGS	
<u>Boat Landings:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
1. Lake Eau Claire - North	SE-NW, Sect. 3, T26N-R6W
2. Lake Eau Claire - #1 South	SE-SE, Sect. 5, T26N-R6W
3. Lake Eau Claire - #2 South	NW-NW, Sect. 11, T26N-R6W
4. Lake Altoona County Park	SW-NW, Sect. 24, T27N-R9W
5. Highline Boat Landing	NW-NE, Sect. 20, T27N-R8W
6. Coon Fork County Park - Day Side	SE-NW, Sect. 32, T26N-R5W
7. Coon Fork County Park - Campground Side	SE-SW, Sect. 29, T26N-R5W
8. Riverview Park	2900 Block, Riverview Dr., Eau Claire
9. Mt. Simon	Eddy and Addison Avenue, Eau Claire
10. Hobbs Ice Arena	Tenth Ave. & Menomonie St., Eau Claire
11. Carson Park	NW-SW, Sect. 19, T27N-R9W
12. Ferry Street	NE-NW, Sect. 36, T27N-R10W
13. Porterville Road	NW-NE, Sect. 3, T26N-R10W

It is generally recognized that motor-boating is best accommodated on lakes in excess of 100 acres. Because of the limitation for non-motorized boating on Half Moon Lake, the only lakes that are most suitable for motor-boating include Lake Altoona, Lake Eau Claire, and Dells Pond in Eau Claire, for a total of 2,755 acres.

## CANOEING & KAYAKING

Canoeing and Kayaking are popular water sports in Eau Claire County. The most popular and scenic routes are found on the Eau Claire River and the Chippewa River, offering nearly 40 river miles of canoeing and kayaking possibilities. Numerous access points on both rivers allow easy entry and exit with parking space for cars and boat trailers. Canoeists and kayakers must portage around dams on the rivers and low water levels can sometime be a problem.



Photo: Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department

The Outdoor Recreation Stakeholder Committee and a number of survey respondents identified improved access to the Eau Claire River as a high priority. An access plan is included in Section 4, which outlines specific parking, access, and signage improvements that are planned along the Eau Claire River to accommodate more convenient and safe access to the river, as well as providing for increased visitation and recreational tourism in the eastern part of Eau Claire County. All access points on both the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers, as well are listed in Table 18 and shown on Map 11.

Table 18  
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY RIVER ACCESS POINTS

Map Number	Landing Name	Location	Section, Township, Range
1	Hamilton Falls	North of falls on river	Sec 26, T27N, R5W
2	Eisberner Memorial	End of Canoe Landing Forest Road. Approximately 1 mile south of Channey Road.	Sec 16, T26N, R5W
3	Troubled Waters	North side of river	Sec 12, T26N, R6W
4	Skid Row	End of Highway SD	Sec 11, T26N, R6W
5	North Side	North boat landing at Lake Eau Claire	Sec 3, T26N, R6W
6	South Side	South boat landing at Lake Eau Claire	Sec 5, T26N, R6W
7	Harstad County Park	Follow main entrance road in park to river	Sec 13, T26N, R7W
8	"D" Bridge	SE side of bridge	Sec 33, T27N, R7W
9	"K" Bridge	Off highway on NW side of bridge	Sec 19, T27N, R7W
10	Big Falls	Park area – from north or south side	Sec 13, T27N, R8W
11	Lion's Youth Camp	Just off North Shore Drive (L/QQ)	Sec 16, T27N, R8W
12	Highline	.3 miles south from North Shore Drive on Highline	Sec 20, T27N, R8W
13	Lake Altoona County Park	Boat landing in park	Sec 24, T27N, R9W
14	River Prairie	Below highway 53 bypass	Sec 15, T27N, R9W
19	Hobbs Ice Arena	Behind Hobbs Ice Arena	Sec 30, T27N, R9W
20	Porterville Road	End of Porterville Road	Sec 3, T26N, R10W

There are several tributaries of the Eau Claire River that are also navigable by canoe. Overall there are 14.5 miles of streams in addition to the 40 miles of the Eau Claire and Chippewa River that can be canoed, for a total of 54.5 miles.

## FISHING

Fishing is popular on both lakes and streams in Eau Claire County. Table 19 lists the seven lakes that are more than 25 acres in size. Public access is available to all but a few of these lakes; commercial facilities such as gasoline, bait, boat rental, etc., can be found nearby on many of the lakes. Table 19 also identifies the most common game fish species caught.

Table 19 FACILITIES INVENTORY OF LAKES OVER 25 ACRES IN SIZE IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY					
<u>Lake Name</u>	<u>Surface Area Acres</u>	<u>Max. Depth</u>	<u>Public Access</u>	<u>Commercial Facilities Nearby</u>	<u>Fish Species</u>
Lake Altoona	840	25 ft.	boat ramp	yes	Musky, Walleye, Bass, Panfish
Lake Eau Claire	1,118	25 ft.	3 boat ramps	yes	Musky, Bass, Northern, Walleye, Panfish
Coon Fork Flowage	80	20 ft.	2 boat ramps	no	Musky, Bass, Panfish, Perch
Dells Pond (Eau Claire)	727	30 ft.	boat ramp	yes	Musky, Bass, Northern, Walleye, Panfish
Half Moon Lake (Eau Claire)	132	12 ft.	boat ramp	yes	Northern, Bass, Walleye, Panfish
Rodell Millpond (Town of Bridge Creek)	68	7 ft.	private ramp and public carry-in	yes	Panfish, Bass
Elk Creek Lake (Town of Union)	54	n/a	boat ramp	yes	Panfish, Bass
TOTAL:	3,019				

Streams in the County are home to a wide variety of fish. The major rivers with convenient access are the Chippewa and the Eau Claire. Anglers can try for musky, northern pike, walleye, bass, panfish, and rough-fish at nearly any point on these rivers. Smaller streams provide excellent trout fishing. Over 161 miles of trout streams are in the County. Of this total, 25 miles are Class 1, 72 miles are Class 2, and 64 miles are Class 3. Some Class 1 streams are portions of Beaver Creek, Clear Creek, Darrow Creek, Hay Creek and Sevenmile Creek. Improvements to stream banks and habitat have steadily increased the miles of Class 1 streams in the County.



## SWIMMING: LAKES & RIVERS

The County maintains six areas designated for swimming (see Table 20 and Map 12). Beaches are located as follows: one at Lake Altoona County Park, three at Coon Fork County Park (one primarily for campers located on the east side of the lake and two for day users on the west side of the lake), and one on the north shore of Lake Eau Claire off of County Road ND. The Big Falls County Park is not officially designated as a beach area, but is a popular destination for swimmers and waders. The County no longer provides lifeguards at any of the swimming beaches.

Table 20 DEVELOPED PUBLIC BEACHES IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY - 2015					
<u>Name</u>	<u>Bath- House</u>	<u>Toilets</u>	<u>Life- Guard</u>	<u>Acres Swim Area</u>	<u>Size in Feet</u>
1. Lake Altoona County Park (Lake Altoona)	yes	yes	no	2.81	175 x 700
2. Coon Fork County Park – Campground (Coon Fork Flowage)	no	yes	no	0.92	200 x 200
3. Coon Fork County Park - Day Side, North Beach (Coon Fork Flowage)	yes	yes	no	1.93	280 x 300
4. Coon Fork County Park - Day Side, South Beach (Coon Fork Flowage)	no	yes	no	0.14	50 x 120
5. Lake Eau Claire (North Shore)	yes	yes	no	0.36	125 x 125
6. Big Falls County Park	yes	yes	no	undesignated	
7. Riverview Park (City of Eau Claire)	yes	yes	no	undesignated	
8. Half Moon Lake (City of Eau Claire)	no	no	no	1.25	160 x 330
			TOTAL:	7.41 acres	

One of the main problems with swimming at the designated beaches is periodic poor water quality. Near the end of the summer, algae growth can become excessive. High bacteria counts have also forced temporary closing of beaches in the Eau Claire River watershed, particularly after significant rainfalls. County residents also travel to other beaches just outside the County. The nearest and largest is on Lake Wissota in Chippewa County.

## **SWIMMING: INDOOR & OUTDOOR POOLS**

The Eau Claire Area School District has five swimming pools - one at each of the three middle schools (DeLong, South and North Star) and one at each High School (North and Memorial). All of these pools are the rectangular competitive design type, approximately 36 feet wide by 75 feet long. The pools are used by the City Recreation Department for open swimming and for lessons at various times throughout the year.

The City of Eau Claire owns and operates the Fairfax Swimming Pool, which is a public outdoor swimming pool. The facility includes a shallow pool for children, which is connected to a competition style pool. There is also a separate diving pool with a high and low diving board. The facility is also equipped with a waterslide.

A competition-style indoor swimming pool was constructed by the Augusta Area School District in 1998. The swimming pool serves as a community pool for city residents when not being used for school purposes.

Private indoor pools include the YMCA pool, Gold's Gym, and the pool at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire (42 feet by 75 feet with a depth of 12 feet). The YMCA also has a small instructional pool that is 20 feet by 40 feet and only 2 feet deep. The Chaos Indoor Waterpark is located adjacent to Action City, which serves as a year-round entertainment venue for families. In addition, one private county club offers the use of a pool to their members and guests - Eau Claire Country Club. (See Map 13)

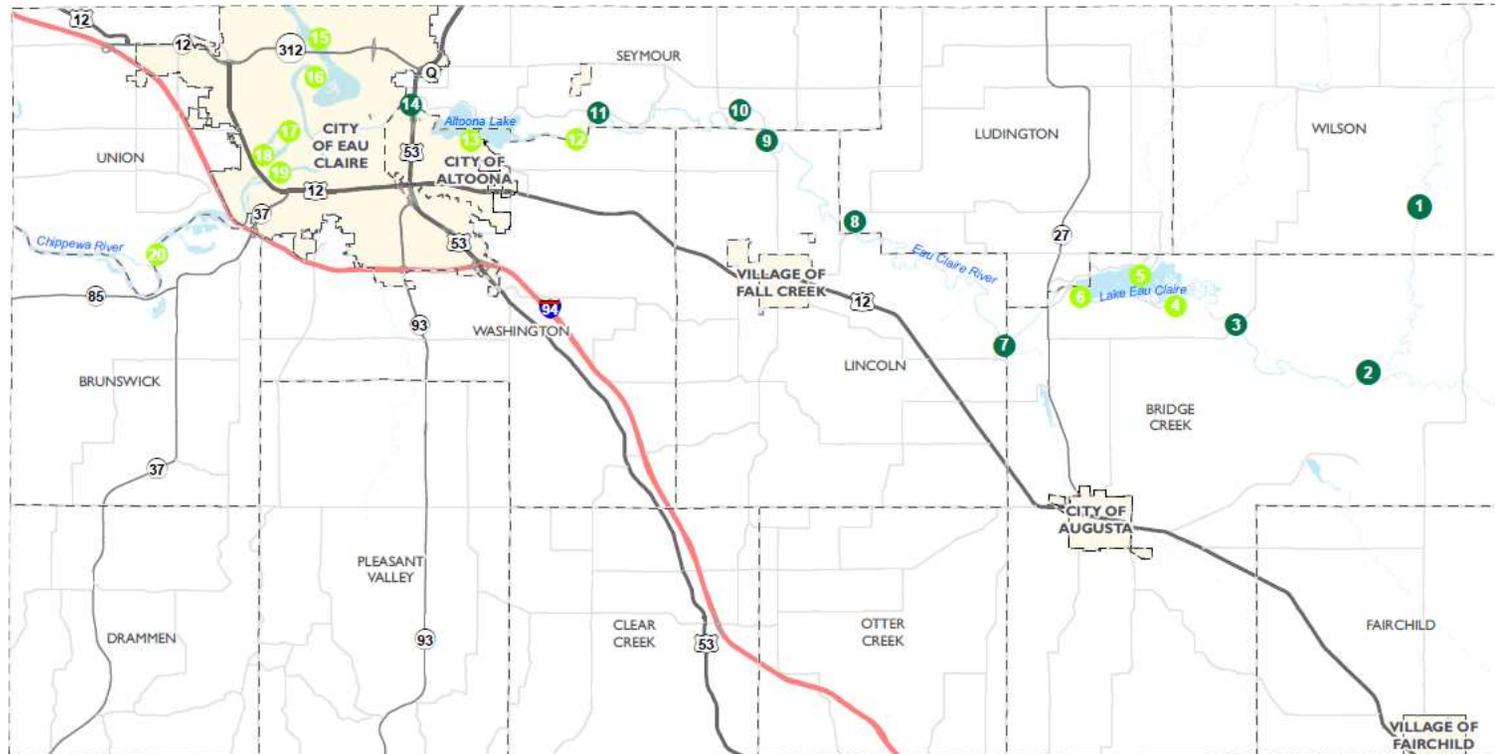


Lake Altoona Beach, Photo: ECC Parks & Forest Dept.

# Map 10 River Access Points

## RIVER ACCESS POINTS

of Eau Claire County, WI



### River Access - Ramp

- 4 - Skid Row
- 5 - Lake Eau Claire - North
- 6 - Lake Eau Claire - South
- 12 - Highline Boat Landing
- 13 - Lake Altoona County Park
- 15 - Riverview Park
- 16 - Mount Simon Park
- 17 - Carson Park - Beach Area
- 18 - Carson Park - Braun's Bay
- 19 - Hobbs Ice Arena
- 20 - Porterville Road

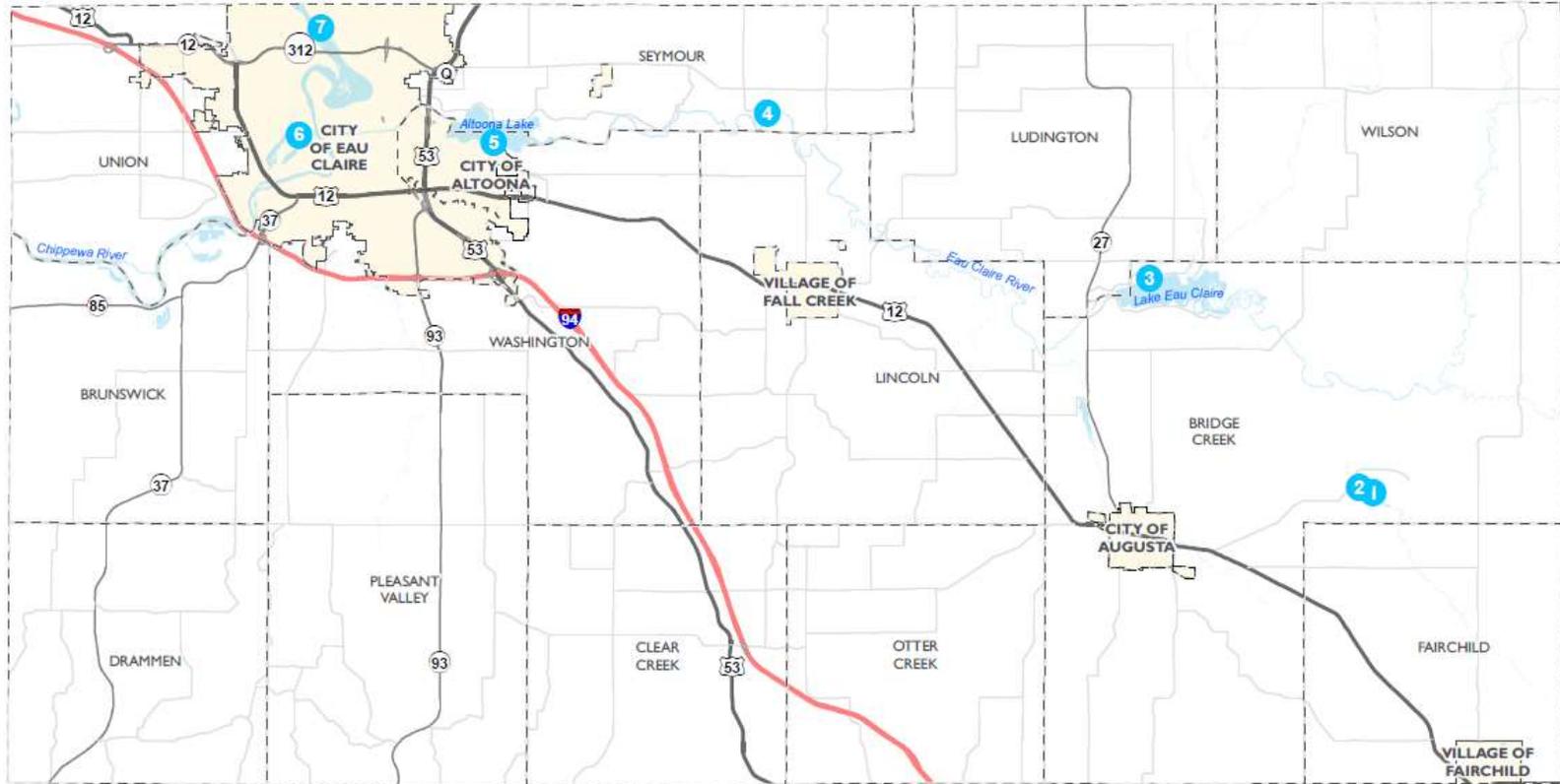
### River Access - No Ramp

- 1 - Hamilton Falls Rd
- 2 - Eisberner Memorial
- 3 - Troubled Water
- 7 - Harstad County Park
- 8 - 'D' Bridge
- 9 - 'K' Bridge
- 10 - Big Falls
- 11 - Lion's Youth Camp
- 14 - River Prairie

# Map 11 Public Natural Swimming Areas

## PUBLIC NATURAL SWIMMING AREAS

of Eau Claire County, WI



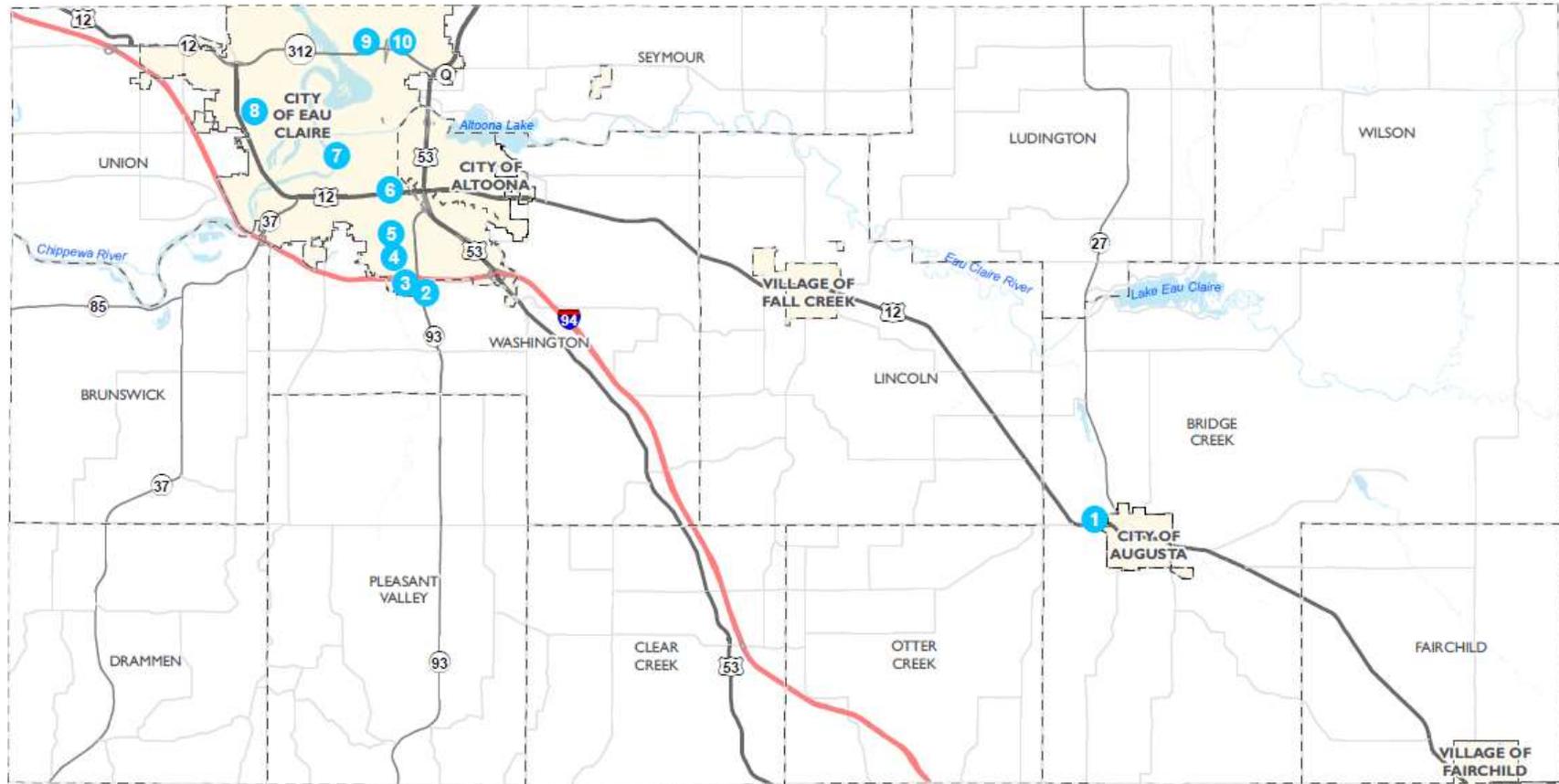
**Public Natural Swimming Areas**

- 1 - Coon Fork Campground
  - 2 - Coon Fork Day Side - South
- 3 - Lake Eau Claire - North (Is this correct??)
  - 4 - Big Falls County Park
  - 5 - Lake Altoona County Park
- 6 - Half Moon Lake
  - 7 - Riverview Park

# PUBLIC & PRIVATE POOLS

# Public & Private Pools

of Eau Claire County, WI



**Public and Private Pools**

- |  |                                  |                                |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ● 1 - Augusta School District          | ● 4 - Fairfax Pool               | ● 8 - DeLong Middle School     |
| ● 2 - Gold's Gym (membership required) | ● 5 - South Middle School        | ● 9 - North High School        |
| ● 3 - Chaos Water Park                 | ● 6 - Memorial High School       | ● 10 - Northstar Middle School |
|  | ● 7 - YMCA (membership required) |                                |

## SNOW AND ICE BASED ACTIVITIES

These activities involve some form of frozen water and remain very popular among Wisconsinites with more than 45% of the population participating in some form of snow or ice based recreational activity. Sledding is by far the most popular of these activities, with more than 28% of the state’s population participating according to the SCORP. Snowmobiling continues to gain popularity as the new trails emerge and sled technology improves. Skating and ice fishing are also activities that have seen noticeable gains while downhill skiing continues to see interest wane.

### **SNOW SKIING**

There is only one small downhill ski slope in the County (Mount Washington run by the Flying Eagles Ski Club), however numerous ski areas are located within a two to four hour drive, including all of the facilities in Wisconsin, several in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and in eastern Minnesota. The closest facility is the Bruce Mound Winter Sports Area, located in Clark County about 15 miles south of the Village of Fairchild, which offers a wide range of facilities for winter use including cross-country ski trails, down-hill skiing, snow-tubing and has a snowmobile trail nearby. Other nearby sites include Trollhaugen in Polk County (near Dresser), Hardscrabble in Barron County (near Rice Lake), Christie Mountain in Rusk County (between Rice Lake and Bruce), Sylvan Park and Rib Mountain in Marathon County (near Wausau), Powers Bluff in Wood County (near Wisconsin Rapids), White Tail Ridge in Monroe County (near Sparta), Mt. La Crosse in La Crosse County (near the City of La Crosse) and several facilities in east central Minnesota including Coffee Mill near Wabasha, Welch Village near Welch, and Afton Alps near the Twin Cities.

The County is served by two ski jumping facilities, which host local, national, and international competitions (see Map 14). The Silver Mine Ski Jump, located just southwest of the City of Eau Claire, is the home of the annual *Silver Mine Invitational* event and will host an international FIS ski jumping event in February, 2016. The other ski jumping facility in the area is the Mount Washington Ski Jump, located at the Junction of Menomonie Street and Mt. Washington Avenue in Eau Claire.

Cross-country skiing is an extremely popular recreational activity in the area. Its popularity stems from the fact that it is a relatively low cost sport and it is an excellent aerobic and cardiovascular exercise. The County has several dedicated cross-country ski trails that have been developed on public land. Table 21 lists the public cross-country ski trails and their mileage.

Most cross-country trails are aimed at beginner and intermediate level skiers but both Tower Ridge and Evergreen have more challenging advanced trails as well. Where possible, on both City and County facilities, trails are groomed for both skating and striding. Trails at Tower Ridge, Evergreen and Lowes Creek are groomed for both skating and striding; however, Coon Fork trails and trails at Beaver Creek Reserve are groomed for striding only. Cross-country skis and snowshoes can be rented at the Reserve.

Table 21 CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY	
<u>Trail</u>	<u>Miles</u>
1. Tower Ridge Ski Area	13.0
2. Lowes Creek County Park	4.9
3. Beaver Creek Reserve	4.0
4. Evergreen County Trail	2.2
5. Coon Fork County Park	3.1
6. Riverview Park-Wells Area (Eau Claire)	3.0
7. Fairfax Park (Eau Claire)	1.2
8. Carson Park (Eau Claire)	<u>2.0</u>
TOTAL:	32.4

## SNOWMOBILING

A County-wide system of trails allows snowmobilers to use 181 miles of Department of Natural Resources approved trails (See Map 15). In addition snowmobile clubs maintain many more miles of trails for their own use. The county trails are sponsored by the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department and maintained with help from the Associated Snowmobile Clubs of Eau Claire County under a maintenance agreement. The County-wide trails link to Dunn County to the west, Chippewa County to the north, Clark County to the east, and Trempealeau County to the south. Maps of the snowmobile trails are available at the Eau Claire County Clerk's Office and the Eau Claire County Parks and Recreation Department.



## OTHER WINTER ACTIVITIES



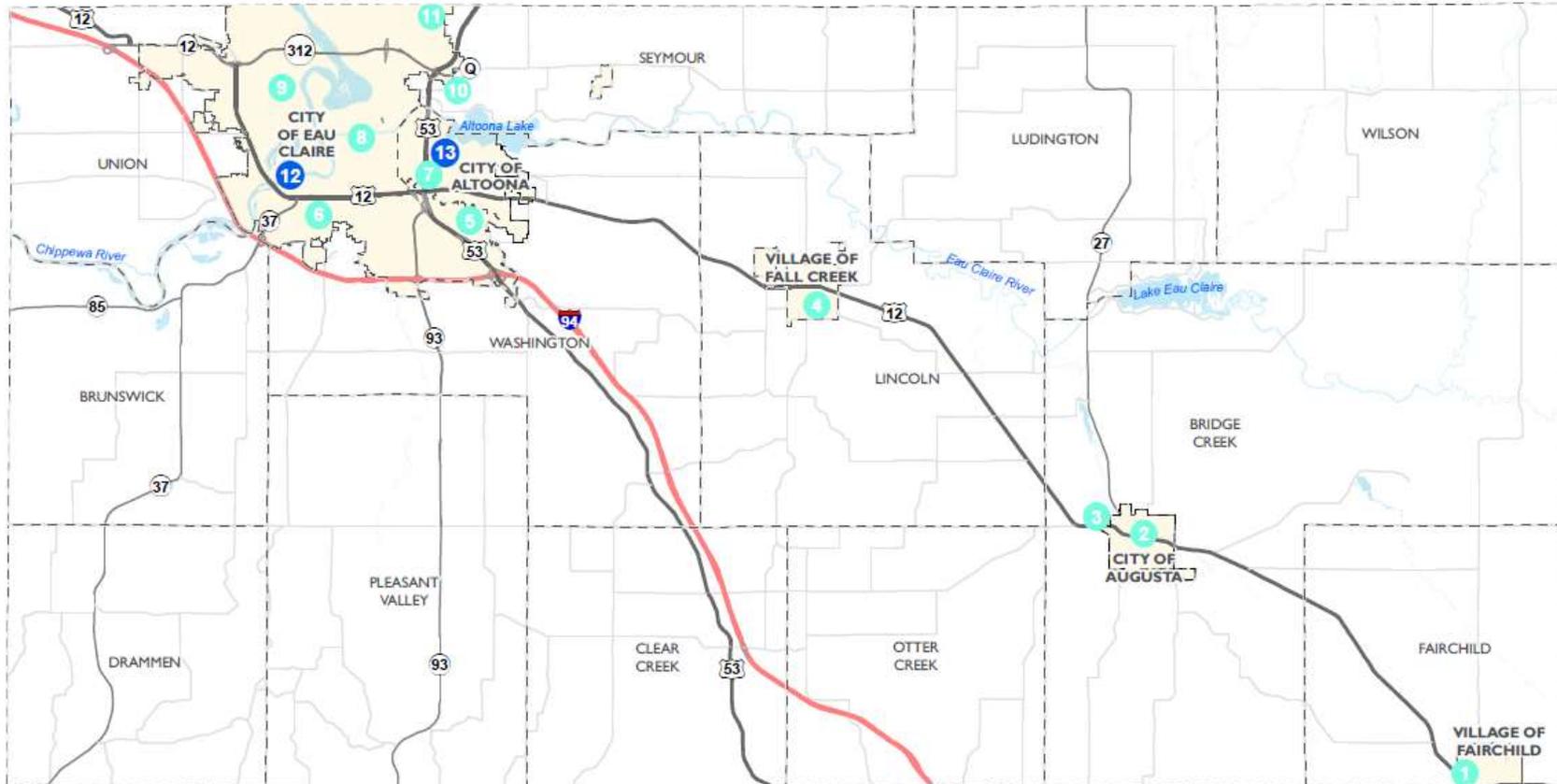
Ice-skating, snowshoeing, sledding, hockey, ice fishing, and similar activities are very common if ice and snow conditions are acceptable. The City of Eau Claire maintains two indoor ice centers and the City of Altoona has an indoor ice center. All three facilities have artificial ice making equipment. In addition, all of the incorporated municipalities (Altoona, Augusta, Eau Claire, Fairchild, and Fall Creek) as well as two of the towns (Seymour and Washington) construct temporary skating rinks during the winter season (See Map 16). A total of 26 rinks, including the 3 indoor rinks, are available for use.

As an alternative to cross-country skiing more people are taking up snowshoeing. Snowshoeing trails and areas open to snowshoeing are available in both County and City parks. Residents are also welcome to snowshoe anywhere in the County Forest. Ice fishing can be done without providing special areas for use. The only official sledding hill is at Oakwood Hills. However, numerous unadvertised and unsupervised sledding hills are popular within the City of Eau Claire including: Pinehurst Hill off of Locust Lane, Forest Hill off of Huebsch Boulevard (also referred to as Seven Bumps), Mt. Simon Park, and the "X"-Hill just off of Starr Avenue near the airport. Looking for more exhilarating tubing rides, travel one hour north to Christie Mountain or one hour west to the Badlands near Hudson. Both courses are open to the public for a fee and offer some great rides and family fun.

# Map 13 Ice Skating Facilities

## ICE SKATING FACILITIES

of Eau Claire County, WI



### Outdoor Rinks

- 1 - Fairchild Rink
- 2 - Former Dam Park Rink
- 3 - Memorial Field Rink

- 4 - Fall Creek Rink
- 5 - Washington Rink
- 6 - Putnam Heights Rink
- 7 - Altoona City Park Rink

- 8 - Boyd School Rink
- 9 - Roosevelt Rink
- 10 - Seymour Rink
- 11 - Pinehurst Rink

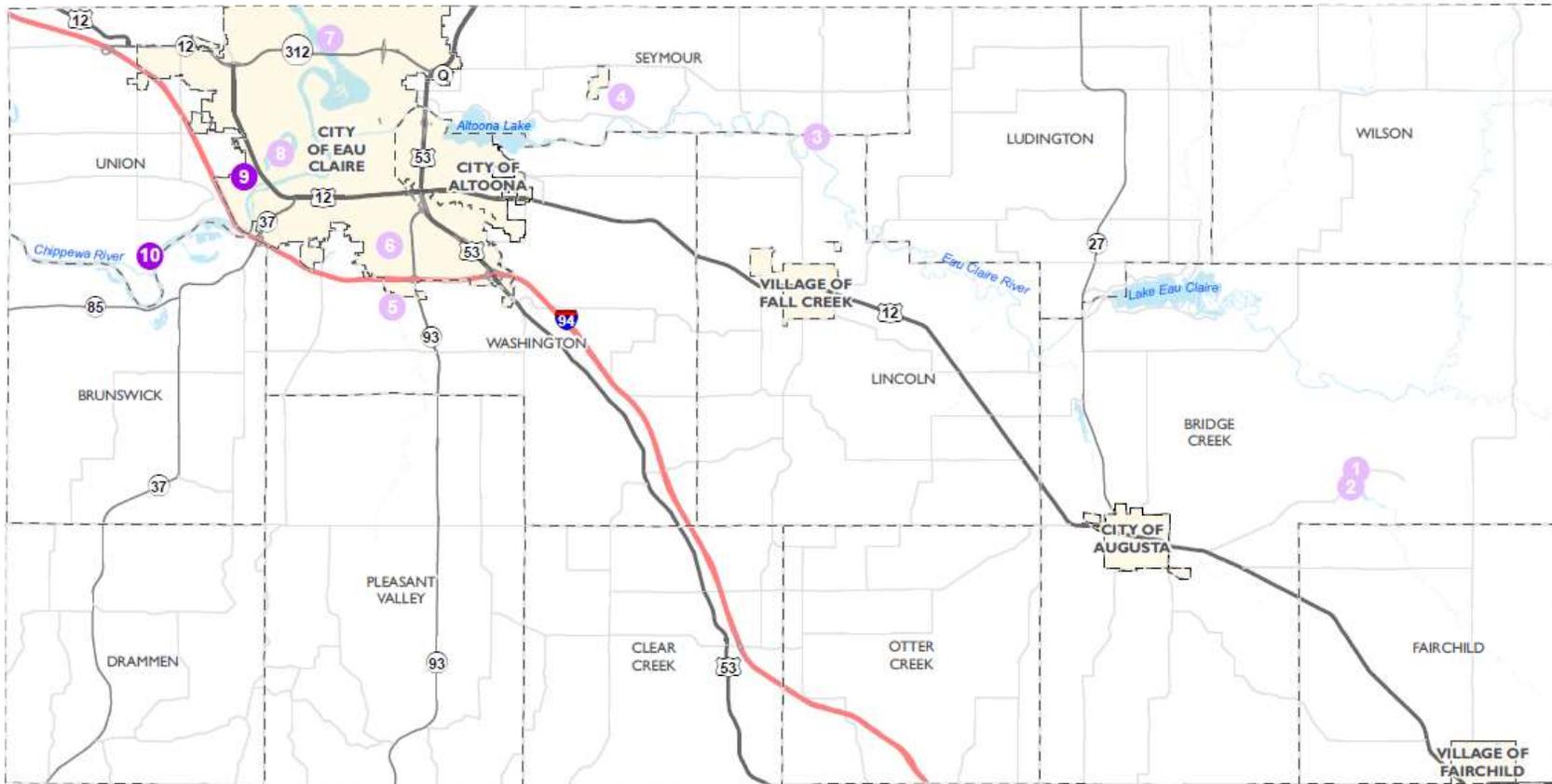
### Indoor Rinks

- 12 - Hobbs Ice Center
- 13 - Cinder City Park

# SKI FACILITIES

of Eau Claire County, WI

## Map 14 Ski Facilities



### Cross Country Ski Areas

- 1 - Evergreen Trail
- 2 - Coon Fork Trail

- 3 - Beaver Creek Trail
- 4 - Tower Ridge Trails
- 5 - Lowes Creek

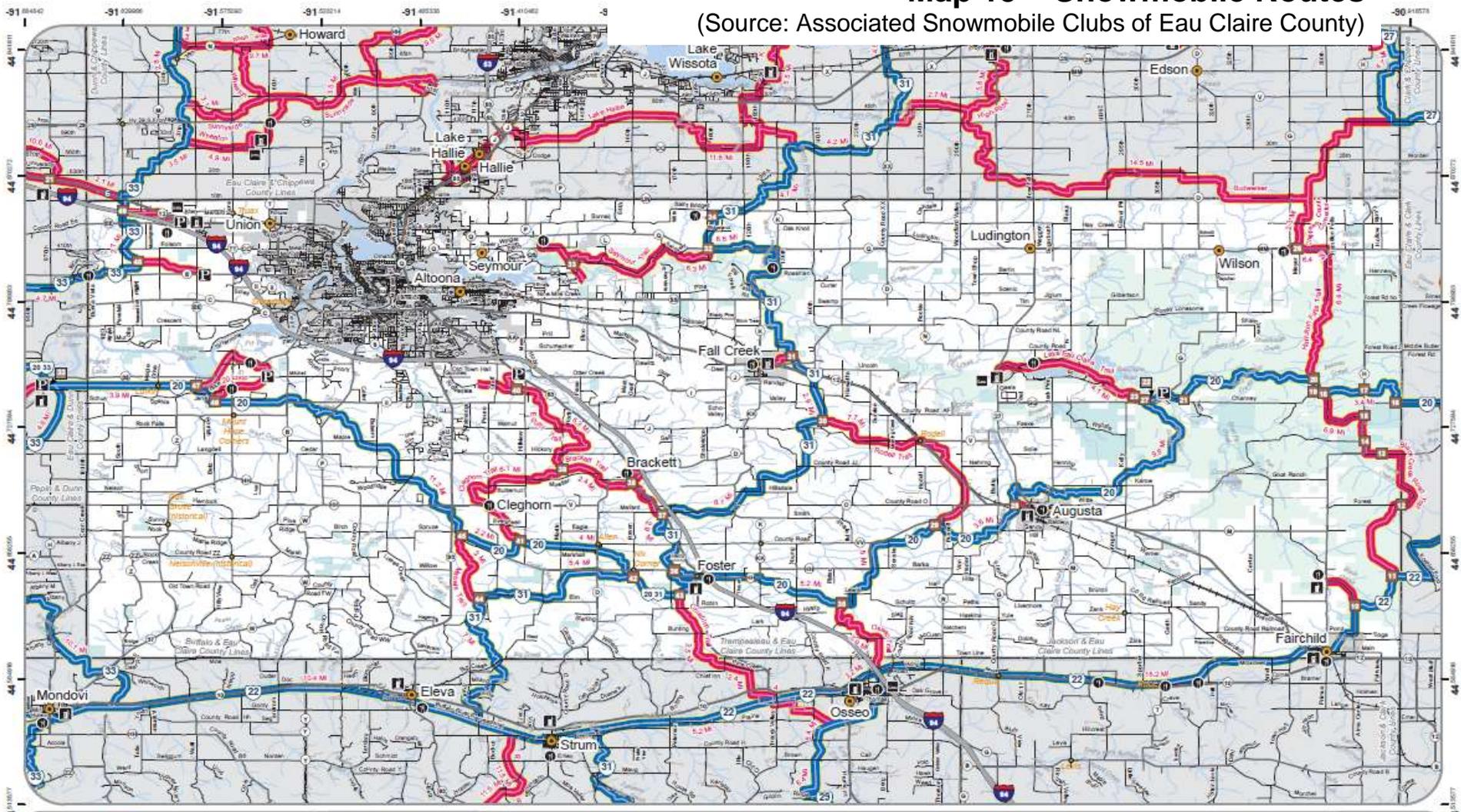
- 6 - Fairfax Park
- 7 - Riverview Park/Wells Area
- 8 - Carson Park

### Ski Jump Facilities

- 9 - Mount Washington Ski Jump
- 10 - Silvermine Ski Jump

# Map 15 – Snowmobile Routes

(Source: Associated Snowmobile Clubs of Eau Claire County)



Corridor Trail —  
 Club Trail —  
 Highway —  
 County Rd —  
 Other Rd —

Food   
 Fuel   
 Lodging   
 Parking   
 Intersection

**Trail Conditions**

Click [ecosnow.org](http://ecosnow.org) Call   
 (715) 839-4738

Eau Claire County Snowmobile Trail Map - 2014/2015 ~ The Associated Snowmobile Clubs of Eau Claire County, Wisconsin Inc.

**Stay on Trail or Stay Home! ~ Join a Club and Support the Sport We Love!**

No liability assumed as to trails, their condition or accuracy, machines and individuals - Please Respect Private and No Trespassing Signs - Stay on Trails - Use Extreme Caution on Lakes, Streams and Roads Obey All State Laws and Local Ordinances - Do Not Operate Snowmobiles on State Highways or County Roads - Operation of Snowmobiles Off of Marked Trails is in Violation of Wisconsin Trespass Law

Map By

Also available for your GPS

## **VIEWING AND INTERPRETATIVE ACTIVITIES**

The definition of outdoor recreation has continued to evolve in recent years to include passive observation or appreciation activities in the outdoors in which physical activity is not the primary objective, but a complementary component of the activity. Attending sporting events, nature centers, photographing wildlife, sightseeing, gathering wild plants and berries for consumption, or visiting historical sites are all examples of activities that individuals may choose to do to recreate and enjoy Wisconsin's outdoors. According to the SCORP, rates of participation in viewing and interpretive activities are higher in Wisconsin than in other states.



**Eau Claire Express game at Carson Park  
Photo: Matt Michels**

Due to the nature of these activities, it is difficult to plan for or develop facilities to promote or congregate activities other than sporting event complexes (like Carson Park pictured below). Eau Claire County has therefore not historically invested time or effort into promoting these activities as part of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan. With that being said, the Beaver Creek Reserve provides numerous opportunities for viewing and interpretative activities. Located just east of Big Falls County Park and encompassing approximately 200 acres, the Reserve includes a space observatory, hiking and cross-country ski trails, youth camp, butterfly house, and a science center. The Reserve, along with many of the other amenities already identified within this plan, ensure that the citizens and visitors to Eau Claire County have the necessary amenities to meet the needs of this growing type of outdoor activity. Efforts may be made in the future to map historical sites and other points of interest for individuals who may wish to visit them. The other points of interest may include wild scenery, vegetation, birding areas, etc. Sight-seeing tours, have been used extensively in some parts of the state to encourage motorists to visit and enjoy.



**Butterfly Garden - Beaver Creek Reserve**

**SUMMARY OF EAU CLAIRE COUNTY RECREATIONAL SUPPLY**

Table 22 provides a summary of the supply of selected outdoor recreational facilities listed in this Section of the County Plan.

Table 22 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY RECREATION SUPPLY - 2015	
<u>Activity</u>	<u>Supply</u>
Camping	387 campsites, 9 public campgrounds
Picnicking	670 picnic tables, 513 grills, 56 shelters
Golfing	Two 9-hole golf course, five 18-hole courses
Frisbee (Disc) Golf	Three 18-hole courses
Canoeing	54.5 miles of navigable streams, plus lakes and ponds
Public Hunting Lands	54,504 acres, 6 target ranges
Hiking and Nature Trails	19.4 miles of dedicated trails, including 7.2 miles of self-guided nature trails, 11 miles of the Chippewa River State Trail and 2 miles of the Chippewa River State Trail- Lake Hallie; plus County Forest Roads and 32.4 miles of cross-country ski trails that can be used for hiking
Bicycling	31.5 miles of dedicated bicycle trails, including 11 miles of the Chippewa River State Trail, 2 miles of the Chippewa River State Trail – Village of Lake Hallie, 3.5 miles of County Road QQ, and 1 mile along Spooner Avenue in Altoona; plus various bike routes on roads and streets including 37 miles of the North-South Wisconsin Bikeway
Mountain Bicycling	25 miles of off-road trails located at Lowes Creek County Park, Otter Creek Park in Altoona, and Northwest Park adjacent to North Crossing are available for mountain biking
Cross-country Skiing	32.4 miles
Snowmobiling	181 miles
Swimming	5 public beaches with 6.16 acres of beach; 6 pools generally available for public use, including 4 pools owned by the Eau Claire Area School District, the City of Eau Claire's Fairfax Pool, and the Augusta Area School District swimming pool + 4 private pools
Fishing	161 miles of trout streams, 7 lakes over 25 acres each (3,019 total acres)
Boating	2,755 acres of surface water (lakes over 100 acres in size)
Horseback Riding	Approximately 22 miles of dedicated trails
Field Sports and Playgrounds:	
	Softball fields                      56 fields
	Baseball fields                      28 fields, plus one baseball stadium
	Volleyball Courts                      19 courts
	Basketball Courts                      86 courts
	Tennis Courts                      51 courts
	Horseshoe Courts                      35 courts
	Playgrounds                      69 playgrounds
	Soccer Fields                      15 fields
	Ice Skating Rinks                      19 outdoor rinks
ATV Trails	30 miles of trails that connect to the Clark County and the Buffalo River Trails. In addition to the miles of trails, some public roads are also utilized . Trails located in eastern portion of County, east from C. of Augusta into county forests and connecting with V. of Fairchild.

## SECTION 3 RECREATION DEMAND/NEED

### INTRODUCTION

The demand or need for additional outdoor recreational sites, facilities and opportunities is examined in this Section of the Plan. A summary of the State of Wisconsin's assessment of outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities is included as well as an assessment of local facilities and opportunities.

### SCORP ASSESSMENT OF OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 2011-2016, presents information on citizen participation in outdoor recreational activities and participant satisfaction with the resources available for these activities. The plan also examines trends in participation and their implications for overall recreation demand.

#### ***Citizen Participation in Outdoor Recreational Activities – Statewide and West Central Region***

Table 23 lists 70 different outdoor recreational activities that were assessed in the SCORP and the level of participation in each activity. The table lists statewide participation rates for a period from 2005-09 and compares it to a time period from 1994-95. Percent change in participation is a good indicator of new emerging outdoor recreation trends as well as some activities that may be declining overall.

Table 23 OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION RATES (Percent of Population) STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION RATES - %			
ACTIVITIES	2005-2009	1994-1995	%CHANGE IN PARTICIPATION
Walk for pleasure	87.7	76.9	32.1
Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	65.4	N/A	N/A
View/photograph natural scenery	65.3	N/A	N/A
Attend outdoor sports events	65.0	51.4	46.5
Family gathering	63.5	70.4	4.5
Visit Nature Centers	63.5	64.9	13.4
Driving for pleasure	52.8	N/A	N/A
Sightseeing	50.6	61.7	-5.0
Bicycling	48.7	38.3	47.4
Boating (any type)	47.3	N/A	N/A
Picnicking	47.0	55.0	-1.0
View Historic Sites	46.7	44.1	22.7
Snow/ice activities (any type)	45.9	N/A	N/A
Yard games, e.g. horseshoes	44.7	43.4	19.3
Gather berries, mushrooms, etc.	42.8	N/A	N/A
Visit a beach	42.3	N/A	N/A
Golf	41.8	22.9	111.8
Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	41.7	42.7	13.3
View/photograph birds	41.7	32.5	48.8
Freshwater fishing	37.4	N/A	N/A
Day hiking	36.7	24.4	74.2
Visit a farm or agricultural setting	35.3	N/A	N/A
Swimming in an outdoor pool	34.5	43.3	-7.6
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	33.7	N/A	N/A
Warmwater fishing	33.2	33.3	15.4
Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	32.8	35.0	8.5
Soccer outdoors	32.4	4.6	715.2

Table 23 cont.  
**OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION RATES (Percent of Population) cont.**  
 STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION RATES - %

ACTIVITIES	2005-2009	1994-1995	% CHANGE IN PARTICIPATION
Mountain biking	30.7	N/A	N/A
Sledding	28.2	18.3	78.3
Developed camping	25.4	25.0	17.9
Handball or racquetball outdoors	23.5	2.5	993.3
Visit other watersides besides beaches	22.6	N/A	N/A
Hunting (any type)	22.2	19.3	13.8
Off-road vehicle driving	19.8	13.1	75.2
Trail running	18.6	N/A	N/A
Snowmobiling	18.3	10.2	108.5
Big Game hunting	18.0	16.6	25.8
Canoeing	17.9	13.1	58.5
Visit prehistoric/archaeological sites	15.5	15.0	19.4
Boat tours or excursions	13.9	N/A	N/A
Ice skating outdoors	13.5	12.9	21.6
Ice fishing	13.1	12.8	18.9
Waterskiing	13.0	9.3	53.5
Coldwater fishing	12.8	N/A	N/A
Primitive camping	11.4	N/A	N/A
Small game hunting	11.3	11.3	16.5
Rafting	9.2	N/A	N/A
Cross country skiing	8.8	9.2	11.3
Horseback riding (any type)	8.7	3.6	179.9
Tennis outdoors	8.5	10.5	-6.6
Backpacking	7.4	4.8	79.1
Kayaking	7.3	1.2	604.7
Rowing	7.2	6.1	36.6
Downhill skiing	7.0	10.2	-20.7
Horseback riding on trails	6.6	N/A	N/A
Use personal watercraft	6.5	N/A	N/A
Snorkeling	6.3	5	44.8
Snowshoeing	6.1	N/A	N/A
Migratory bird hunting	4.1	2.7	72.1
Sailing	3.9	4.0	12.7
Rock climbing	3.8	2.5	78.0
Snowboarding	3.7	2.0	111.6
Mountain climbing	2.7	1.4	130.6
Caving	2.6	4.3	-28.9
Inline skating	2.5	N/A	N/A
Orienteering	1.6	1.4	31.7
Scuba diving	1.1	N/A	N/A
Windsurfing	1.1	1.3	-8.0
Surfing	1.0	.3	332

Source: Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016, DNR

The SCORP measures changes in the rates of participation for outdoor recreational activities, based on resource type, from 1994 – 2009. The activities are grouped into five resource types:

1. Developed Land
2. Limited Development
3. Water Resource-Based
4. Snow and Ice
5. Viewing and Interpretative activities

As shown in Table 24, the growth in participation rates varies considerably across these five resource types. In terms of participation, the Developed Land and Viewing and Interpretative categories indicate that strongest amount of interest and activity while the Limited Development and Snow/Ice resource types indicate the lowest rates of participation.

<b>Table 24</b>		
<b>PARTICIPATION RATES BY RESOURCE TYPE</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY: DEVELOPED LAND</b>	<b>PERCENT PARTICIPATING</b>	<b>ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1,000s)</b>
WALK FOR PLEASURE	87.7	3,947
GARDENING OR LANDSCAPING FOR PLEASURE	65.4	2,944
ATTEND OUTDOOR SPORTS EVENTS	65.0	2,926
FAMILY GATHERING	63.5	2,858
DRIVING FOR PLEASURE	52.8	2,377
BICYCLING	48.7	2,192
PICNICKING	47.0	2,115
YARD GAMES, e.g. HORSESHOES	44.7	2,012
GOLF	41.8	1,881
SOCCER OUTDOORS	32.3	1,460
RUNNING OR JOGGING	32.1	1,445
DEVELOPED CAMPING	25.4	1,143
HANDBALL OR RACQUETBALL OUTDOORS	23.5	1,058
HORSEBACK RIDING (ANY TYPE)	8.7	392
TENNIS OUTDOORS	8.5	383
HORSEBACK RIDING ON TRAILS	6.6	297
INLINE SKATING	2.5	113
<b>ACTIVITY: LIMITED DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>PERCENT PARTICIPATING</b>	<b>ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1,000s)</b>
DAY HIKING	36.7	1,652
VISIT A WILDERNESS OR PRIMITIVE AREA	33.7	1,517
MOUNTAIN BIKING	30.7	1,382
HUNTING (ANY TYPE)	22.2	999
BIG GAME HUNTING	18.0	810
PRIMITIVE CAMPING	11.4	513
SMALL GAME HUNTING	11.3	509
BACKPACKING	7.4	333
MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING	4.1	185
ROCK CLIMBING	3.8	171
MOUNTAIN CLIMBING	2.7	122
CAVING	2.6	117
ORIENTEERING	1.6	72

<b>ACTIVITY: WATER ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>PERCENT PARTICIPATING</b>	<b>ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1,000s)</b>
BOATING (ANY TYPE)	47.3	2,129
VISIT A BEACH	42.3	1,904
SWIMMING IN LAKES, STREAMS, ETC	41.7	1,877
FRESHWATER FISHING	37.4	1,683
MOTORBOATING	36.0	1,620
SWIMMING IN OUTDOOR POOL	34.5	1,553
WARMWATER FISHING	33.2	1,494
VISIT OTHER WATERSIDE (BESIDES BEACH)	22.6	1,017
CANOEING	17.9	806
WATERSKIING	13.0	585
COLDWATER FISHING	12.8	576
RAFTING	9.2	414
KAYAKING	7.3	329
ROWING	7.2	324
USE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT	6.5	293
SNORKELING	6.2	279
SAILING	3.9	176
SCUBA DIVING	1.1	50
WINDSURFING	1.1	50
SURFING	1.0	45
<b>ACTIVITY: SNOW AND ICE BASED</b>	<b>PERCENT PARTICIPATING</b>	<b>ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1,000s)</b>
SNOW/ICE (ANY TYPE)	45.9	2,066
SLEDDING	28.2	1,269
SNOWMOBILING	18.3	824
ICE SKATING OUTDOORS	13.5	608
ICE FISHING	13.1	590
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	8.8	396
DOWNHILL SKIING	7.0	315
SNOWSHOEING	6.1	275
SNOWBOARDING	3.7	167
<b>ACTIVITY: VIEWING AND INTERPRETATIVE</b>	<b>PERCENT PARTICIPATING</b>	<b>ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (1,000s)</b>
VIEW/PHOTOGRAPH NATURAL SCENERY	65.3	2,939
ATTEND OUTDOOR SPORTS EVENTS	65.0	2,926
VISIT NATURE CENTERS, ETC.	63.5	2,858
VIEW/PHOTOGRAPH WILDLIFE	57.9	2,606
VIEW/PHOTOGRAPH WILDFLOWERS, TREES, ETC	52.4	2,359
SIGHTSEEING	50.6	2,278
VISIT HISTORIC SITES	46.7	2,102
GATHER BERRIES, MUSHROOMS, ETC	42.8	1,926
VIEW/PHOTOGRAPH BIRDS	41.7	1,877
VISIT A FARM OR AGRICULTURAL SETTING	35.3	1,589
ATTEND OUTDOOR CONCERTS, PLAYS, ETC	32.8	1,476
VIEW/PHOTOGRAPH FISH	26.7	1,202
VISIT PREHISTORIC/ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES	15.5	698

BOAT TOURS OR EXCURSIONS	13.9	626
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Source: Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016, DNR

### Regional Profile and Tourism

Of the eight outdoor recreation areas that comprise Wisconsin, the Western Sands region contains the second largest amount of public lands and water. Not surprisingly, then, the primary focus of outdoor recreational opportunities in the Western Sands are found in water resource-based activities.

In 2004, the Department of Tourism conducted a survey of visitors from the Chicago and Twin Cities areas to quantify recreational demand from both of these markets relative to each of Wisconsin's eight recreation areas. The results are found in Table 25.

Table 25  
RECREATIONAL DEMAND FROM CHICAGO AND TWIN CITIES TOURISTS

Western Sands		
Ranking	Chicago	Twin Cities
1	Canoeing	Birdwatching
2	Birdwatching	Hiking
3	Downhill skiing	Sightseeing
4	Sightseeing	Picnicking
5	Picnicking	Camping

### Participation Trends in Outdoor Recreation

The SCORP also projects trends in outdoor recreation activities through 2016 based on percent changes in participation rates as well as industry forecasts and opinions, breaking activities into one of three categories: 1) those with increasing demand, 2) those with stable demand, and 3) those with decreasing demand. Tables 26 A–C represent these trends. It is important to note that these projections are reflective of the most pressing demands on recreation in the immediate future.

Table 26 A PARTICIPATION TREND - INCREASING DEMAND	
Increasing Demand	Comment
Adventure racing	Popular as both an individual and a group activity
Driving for pleasure	An easy activity for the aging baby boomer generation
Developed/RV camping	Baby boomers are a continued driving force for this growth
Kayaking	Cheaper entry points have attracted more participants
Visit a dog park	Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas
Soccer outdoors	Youth growth is still strong in urban areas
BMX biking	X Games popularity may be driving this growth
Climbing	Indoor climbing walls have led to an outdoor resurgence
Stand up paddling	A fast growing water sport sweeping the country
Triathlon (on and off road)	Varying distance events have allowed for growth
Off-highway vehicle driving	Post-recession growth continues
Gardening/landscaping for pleasure	The "grow local" concept is taking hold at many levels
Snowboarding	This may start to level off by 2010 as the next generation looks towards newer technology
Snowshoeing	Not growing as fast since 2002
Paintball Games	Better and cheaper technology attracts the Y generation

Road Biking	Increases will slow do to the retirement of Lance Armstrong and the effect that was felt from his Tour de France wins
Visit a Dog Park	Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas
Walking	Popular among all ages, though especially aging baby boomers
Water Parks	Construction of new water parks continues to fuel the increasing demand for this activity
Off-road Motorcycling	Record sales of off-road vehicles continues to fuel this demand

Table 26 B PARTICIPATION TREND - STABLE ELEMENT	
Stable Demand	Comment
Walk for pleasure	Market saturation does not allow for large growth
Running or jogging	Gen Y is replacing the baby boomers in this activity
Water parks	Recession may have caused this growth to slow
Motor boating	Still easy access is water-based state
Day hiking	Popular with many generations
Golf	Time constraints do not allow for growth
Tent Camping	Continues to be stable but growth is illusive
Snowboarding	May have peaked after 20 years of growth
Trail running	A stable niche activity with Gen. Y.
View/photograph wildlife	An easy activity that spans generations
Bicycling (road and non-paved)	Popular with many generations – access is still key
Snowshoeing	After large growth, this has stabilized

Table 26 C PARTICIPATION TREND - DECREASING DEMAND	
Decreasing Demand	Comment
Hunting	Continues to struggle with generational loss and private access
Inline skating	A large decrease in the last six years, the bottom may be near
Skateboarding/skate parks	Gen M is free-skating with long boards
Horseback riding on trails	Recession impacts have caused this to decrease with no rebound
Softball	Baby boomers continue to leave this sport
Downhill skiing	Generation Y does not have the numbers to replace the aging baby boomers

Source: Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016, DNR

## Top Growth Areas in Outdoor Recreation

According to the SCORP, the activities highlighted in Tables 27 and 28 represent the top growth areas for outdoor recreation. Table 27 represents the increase in numbers of participants involved with each activity while Table 28 indicates which specific activities have grown the most recently in terms of percentages. Again, soccer continues to be the largest outdoor recreation growth activity during the last 15 years. However, new emerging activities, such as outdoor handball or racquetball, are seeing significant increases as well, almost 1,000% in the last 15 years! Viewing and photographing wildlife also continues to increase in popularity, joining “walking for pleasure” and attending outdoor sporting events as the three largest draws in terms of actual participants.

Table 27 – Increase in Number of Participants			
Recreation Use	Survey of 1994* (1,000s)	Survey of 2009* (1,000s)	Difference (1,000s)
Soccer outdoors	179.1	1,460.0	+1,280.9
View/photograph other wildlife	1,582.9	2,605.8	+1,022.9
Golf	888.8	1,882.3	+ 993.5
Handball or racquetball outdoors	96.8	1,058.3	+ 961.5
Walk for pleasure	2,988.0	3,946.9	+ 950.9
Attend outdoor sports events	1,995.2	2,923.5	+ 928.3
Bicycling	1,486.8	2,190.8	+ 704.0
Day Hiking	949.0	1,652.8	+ 703.8
Running or jogging	803.8	1,446.8	+ 643.0
View/photograph birds	1,261.4	1,877.5	+ 616.1

Source: Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016, DNR

Table 28 – Increase by Percentage			
Recreation Use	Survey of 1994* (1,000s)	Survey of 2009* (1,000s)	Difference (%)
Handball or racquetball outdoors	96.8	1,058.3	+ 993.3%
Soccer outdoors	179.1	1,460.0	+ 715.2%
Kayaking	46.6	328.4	+ 604.7%
Surfing	10.3	44.5	+ 332.0%
Football	282.5	852.4	+ 201.7%
Horseback riding	139.3	389.9	+ 179.9%
Mountain/rock climbing	53.3	122.9	+ 130.6%
Use personal watercraft	131.9	293.7	+ 122.7%
Golf	888.8	1,882.3	+ 111.8%
Snowboarding	77.7	164.4	+ 111.6%

Source: Wisconsin State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2011-2016, DNR

## ***Focus of Planning Efforts for Outdoor Recreation***

Traditionally, Outdoor Recreation efforts tended to focus on the relationship between demand and supply with a comparison to national standards. Key factors or indicators influencing recreational demand were also identified. More recently, the focus has shifted from demand and supply to more complex or broader relationships to match state-wide or national initiatives within the context of a County Outdoor Recreation Plan. The SCORP specifically targets three of these key relationships: public health and wellness, urban access to outdoor recreation, and public/private partnerships. Moreover, in aligning the SCORP with goals of the “America’s Great Outdoors” (AGO) Initiative, local efforts of identifying and removing barriers (both physical and social) to enhance the safety and accessibility of open spaces to meet current and future needs are the focal point for financial support programs. The following information is taken directly from the SCORP with regard to these “key relationships”.

### **Key Relationship #1 – Public Health and Wellness**

***Access to outdoor recreation is an important predictor of community health and wellness. Parks, trails, and sports facilities provide convenient, safe, and attractive spaces for people to get outside. Time spent outdoors is associated with a number of important health factors, including improved mental health, more connected communities, and more active citizens. In particular, there is increasing evidence that improving access to outdoor recreation can lower obesity levels. (2011-2016 SCORP)***

The SCORP goes on to take a more in-depth look at various outdoor recreation activities and the health benefits including calories burned due to exercise. Although this CORP process does not replicate the same efforts as the state SCORP, emphasis on access to outdoor recreation as an important element of public health has been a driving factor in the development of this plan. Eau Claire County recognizes and acknowledges the stated health benefits of outdoor recreation to residents and strives to provide convenient, safe access to outdoor recreation for all residents of the County.

### **Key Relationship #2 – Urban Access to Outdoor Recreation**

***Accessibility to outdoor recreation has been shown to increase health benefits and physical wellness for local citizens, especially in urban environments. Population in rural counties are diminishing, while populations in metropolitan areas are growing rapidly, resulting in increased urbanization or Wisconsin. The benefits and significance of urban parks – improved health, community ties, and economy – are therefore increasingly important. (2011-2016 SCORP)***

Almost 90% of Eau Claire County’s population resides in the City of Eau Claire metropolitan area. Facilities provided by Eau Claire County, the cities of Altoona and Eau Claire, along with the surrounding towns are adequate to meet the current demand. However, the lack of interconnectivity serves as a significant barrier to many residents, making a large number of the facilities dependent on access via automobile. Efforts to reduce or eliminate these barriers by promoting better connectivity would better serve this urban area.

## Key Relationship #3 – Public and Private Partnerships

*High quality and accessible outdoor recreation builds healthy communities, provides numerous health benefits to citizens, and allows Wisconsinites to enjoy the state's many natural resources. Providing access to outdoor recreation, however, is often a challenge. Conservation and recreation development needs a web of community and government support... Wisconsin depends on a mixture of publicly and privately owned lands or facilities in the overall recreation landscape of Wisconsin. Preservation and development of recreational land is at the core of discussion between stakeholders and recreation groups from across the state. Partnerships and collaborations between federal, state, and local agencies, user groups, non-profit organizations and others are seen as critical to success in open space protection and management. (SCORP)*

As indicated earlier in this planning document, outdoor recreation facilities are provided throughout the county, and include public and privately owned facilities. In the past, outdoor spaces were typically only thought of as publicly owned. While that still may be predominantly the case today, there are many emerging segments or facilities that are also privately owned. Campgrounds, pick-your-own gardens, paintball courses, pools, golf courses, marinas, athletic complexes, and ski slopes are all excellent examples of outdoor recreation facilities that are privately owned. In addition, many non-profit organizations are being formed each year with specific goals of conserving or preserving open spaces for public use. Still, other organizations are formed that carry-out the work plans identified in specific community plans that are not adequately funded through public entities. This CORP identifies many of these facilities throughout Eau Claire County. Like any effective planning process, it is the grass roots effort of stakeholders and volunteers that tend to drive certain projects in tight fiscal times. This plan acknowledges and embraces the efforts of private entities in providing accessible and high quality outdoor recreational opportunities to the residents of Eau Claire County.



Lake Eau Claire Association web page

## **EAU CLAIRE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL NEEDS**

An analysis of the available supply of outdoor recreational sites and facilities was conducted for the 2011-2015 County Outdoor Recreation Plan to evaluate the adequacy of existing recreational resources and determine the need for additional resources by measuring the available supply against national standards that used to be published by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The NRPA standards are general in nature, reflecting information collected from surveys and recreation professionals throughout the United States, and therefore they should not be used to certify the adequacy of recreational resources in a community.

The analysis conducted for the 2011-2015 Plan indicated that, in general, adequate recreational resources were available in the County . The plan indicated a need for the following: more facilities for picnicking; more campsites; more hiking trails; more dedicated bicycle trails (although the plan indicated that there were ample opportunities for riding bikes on roads); more dedicated horseback riding trails; more baseball diamonds; more beaches; and more snowmobile trails. The plan also indicated that lakes and other surface water features where motor-boating could occur were likely experiencing congestion, based upon the NRPA standard. The NRPA standards suggested that a ski slope would be ideal for the County. However, the plan indicated that there were several slopes within a reasonable distance from the County. According to the NRPA standards, there was an adequate supply of softball diamonds, tennis courts, swimming pools, cross-country ski trails, and ice rinks. The opportunities for fishing were also deemed to be satisfactory according to the standards, although it was noted that motorboats were also competing for use of the same lakes as anglers.

As noted above, the NRPA no longer publishes standards for outdoor recreation; this agency now recommends that local jurisdictions develop their own standards to assess the needs for additional outdoor recreational opportunities, just like the Wisconsin SCORP does. In 1995 the NRPA and American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration published a book titled Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines to show communities how to do this. The book provides guidance for all jurisdictions on how to work within their own unique social, economic, and institutional structure to assess and develop a park, recreation, and open space system that is best for their community and within their economic and financial capability.

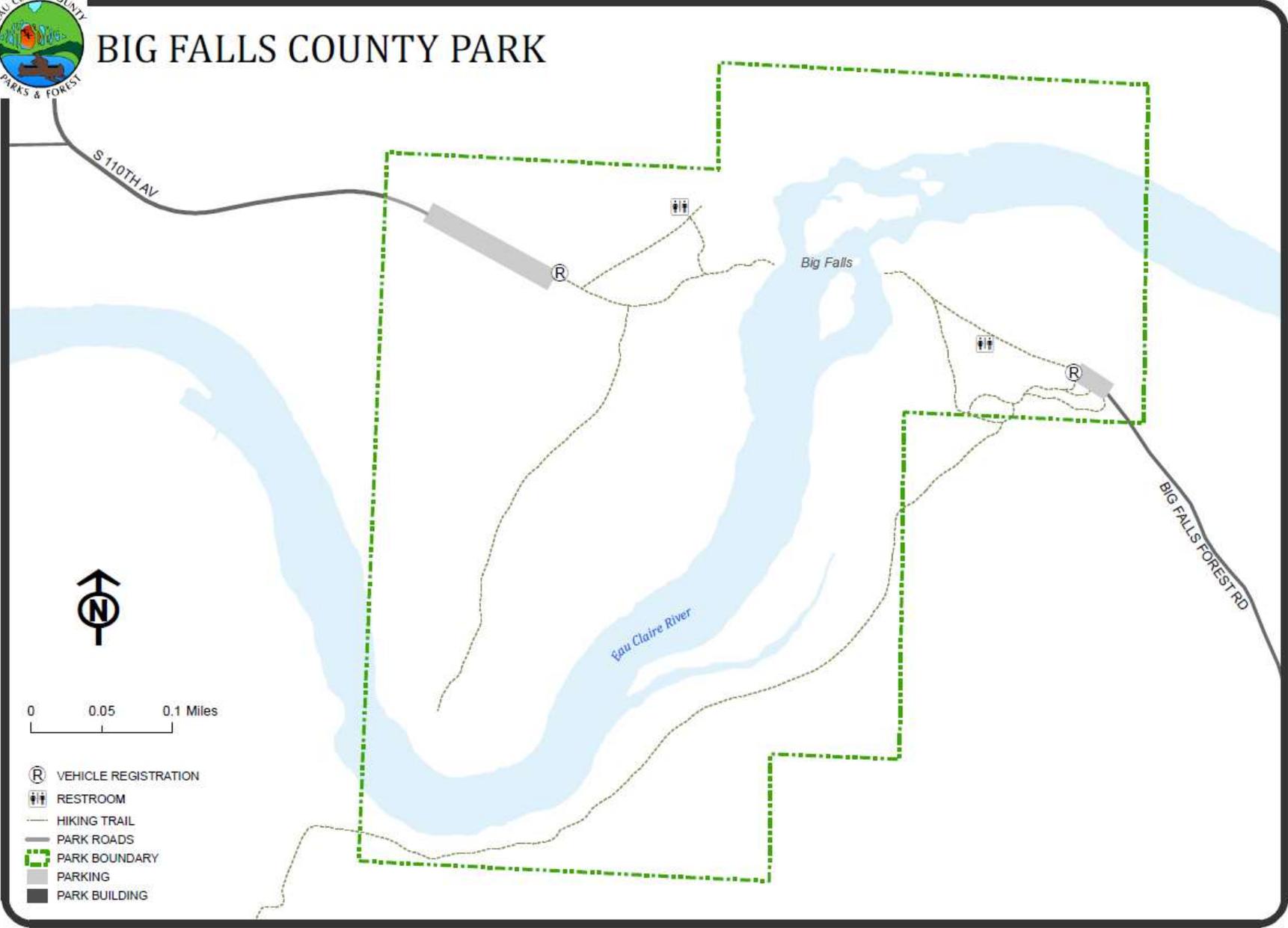
The Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department and Planning and Development Department will continue to work together to further assess the needs for County sponsored outdoor recreational opportunities. If funding and staff time permit, the recommendations provided in *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* and any other appropriate publications will be followed. Staff will document any standards that are developed and all assessments that are done. All documentation will be included in subsequent updates of the Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Section 5 of this plan includes plans for several municipalities in Eau Claire County, and for the purpose of this plan, the NRPA standard of 12 acres per 1,000 population of land devoted to outdoor recreational use was still used to evaluate needs for parks and other open space. Again, contingent on the availability of funding and staff time, the Planning and Development Department will work with each of these communities to further assess their needs by assisting them in developing standards in accord with the same guidelines mentioned above.

# Map 16 Big Falls County Park



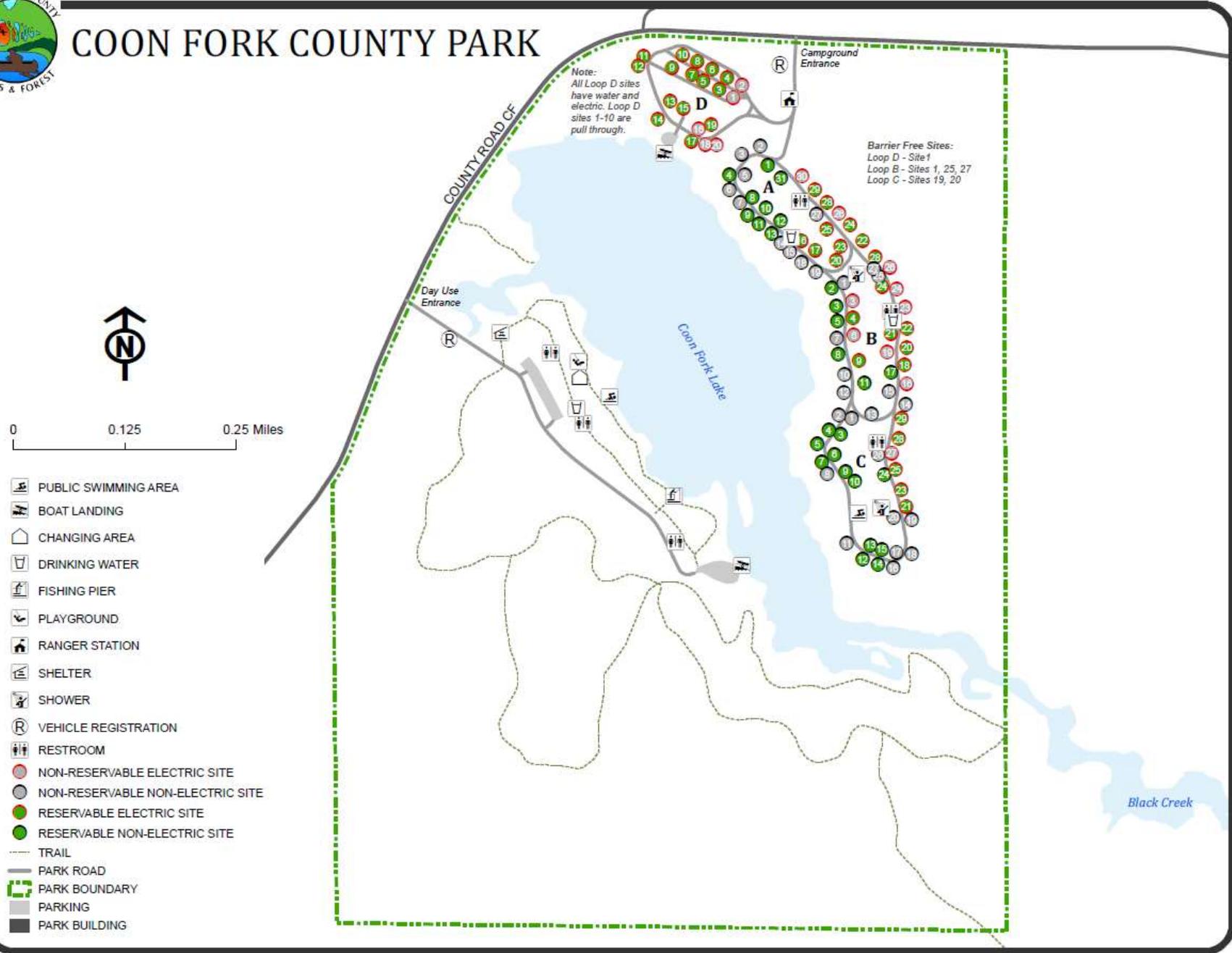
## BIG FALLS COUNTY PARK



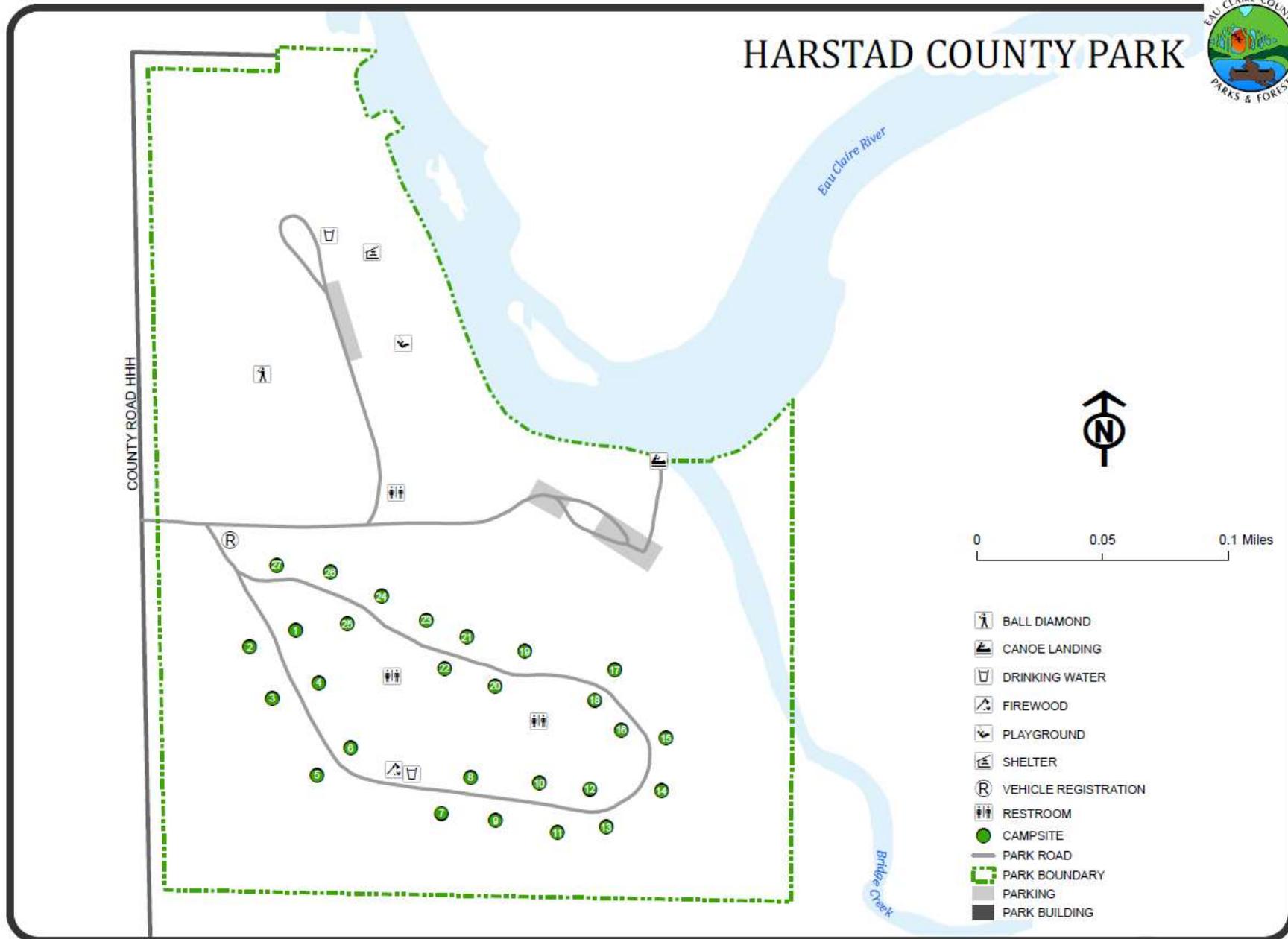
# Map 17 Coon Fork County Park



## COON FORK COUNTY PARK



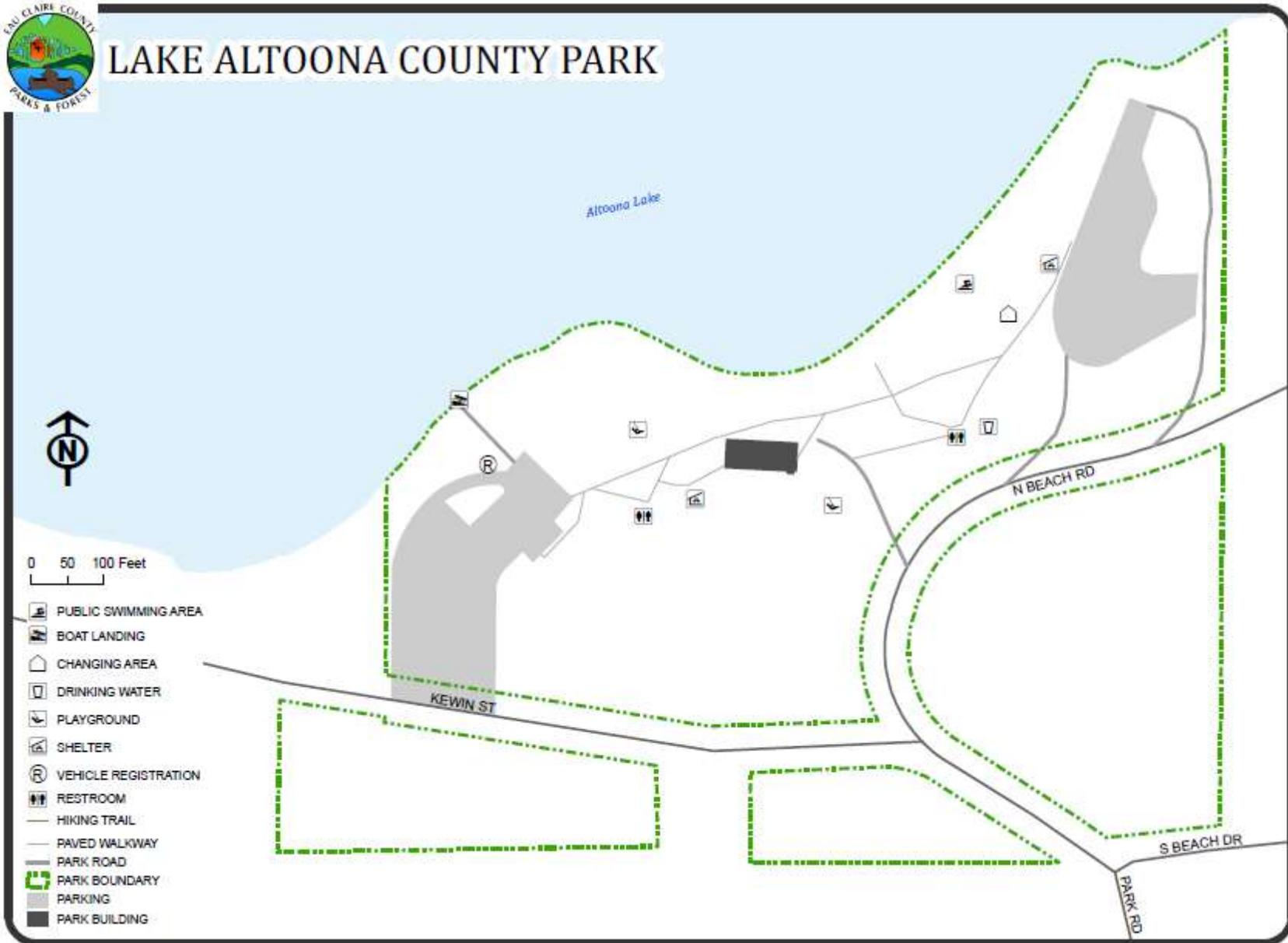
# Map 18 Harstad County Park



# Map 19 Lake Altoona County Park



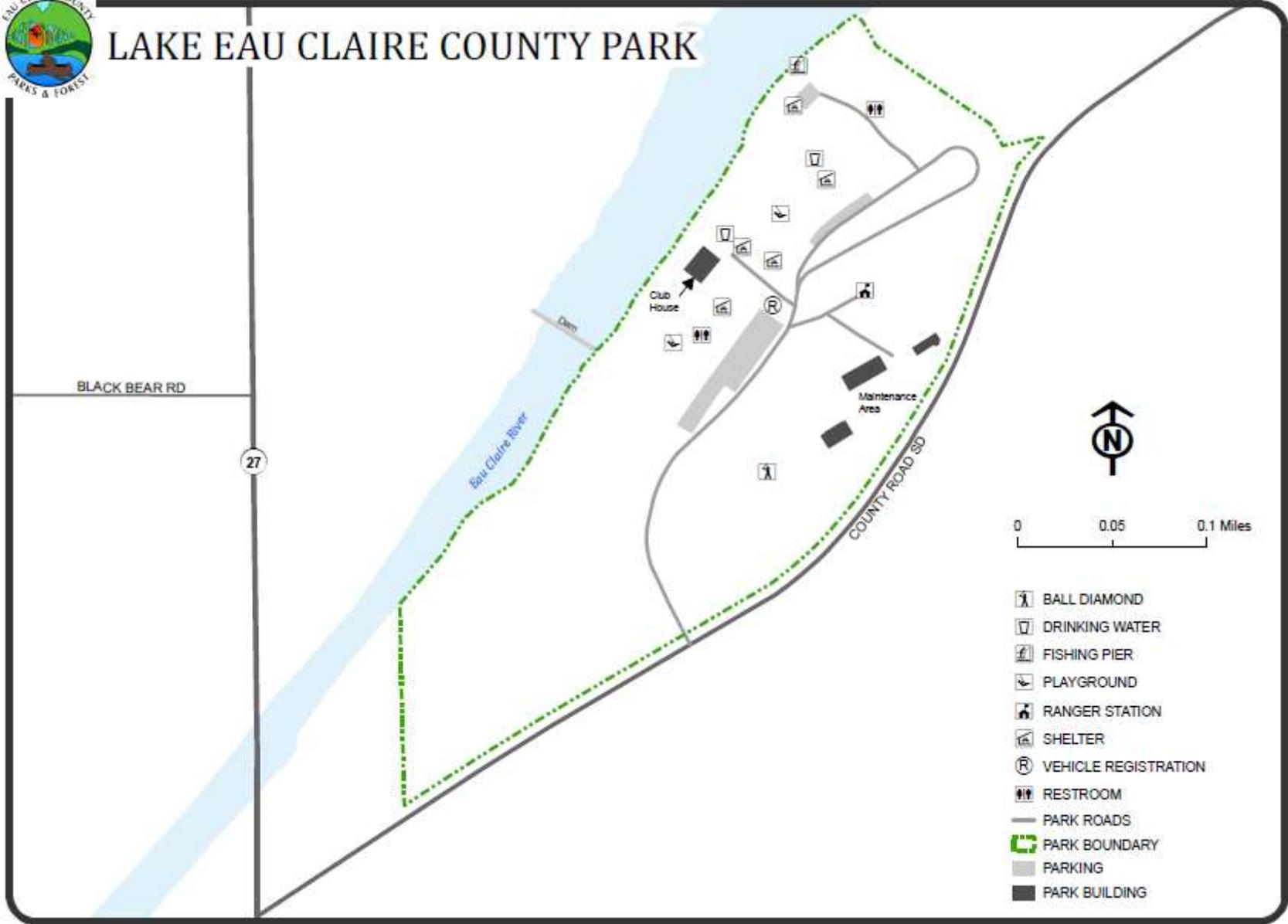
## LAKE ALTOONA COUNTY PARK



# Map 20 Lake Eau Claire County Park



## LAKE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY PARK

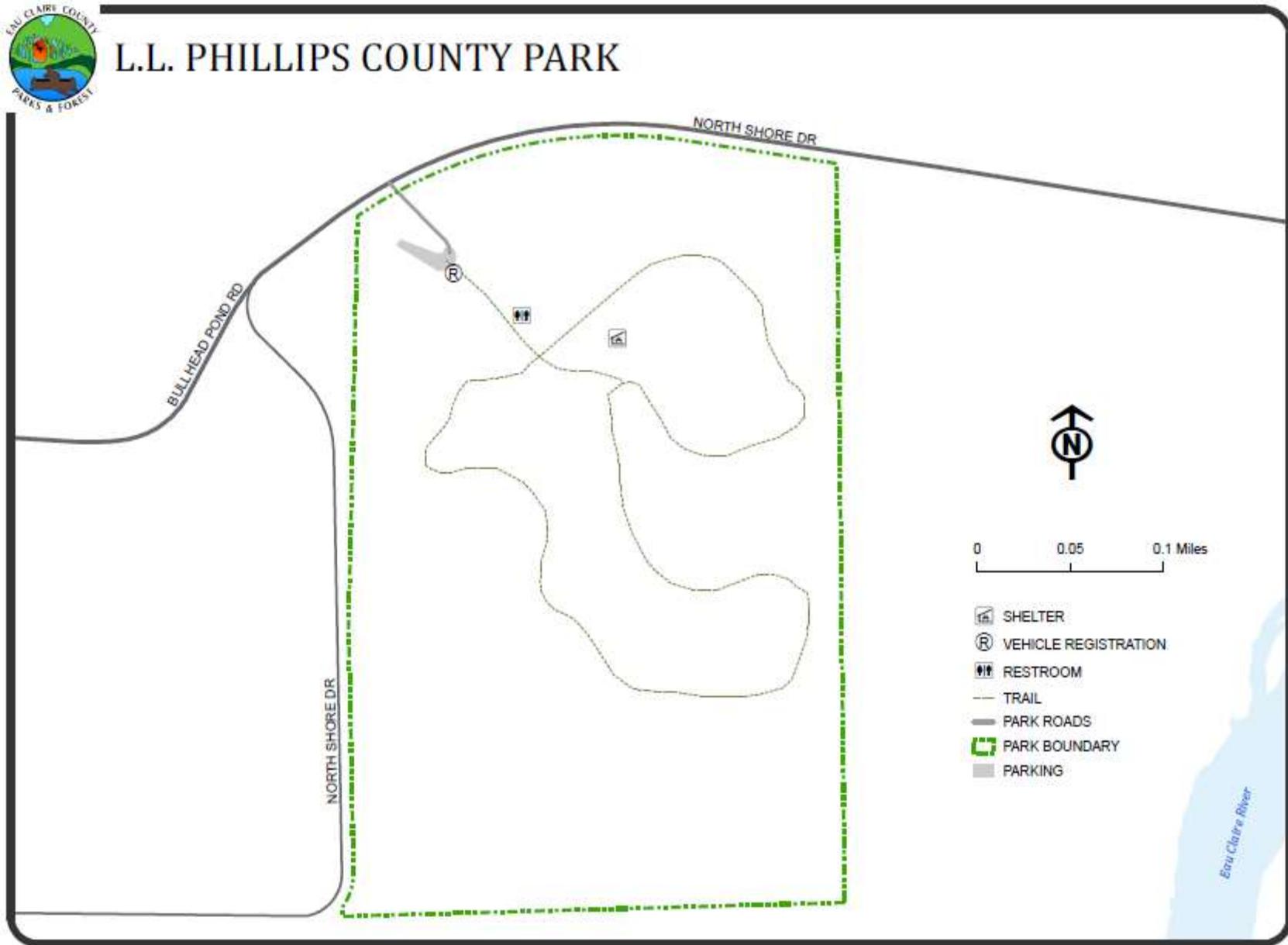


- BALL DIAMOND
- DRINKING WATER
- FISHING PIER
- PLAYGROUND
- RANGER STATION
- SHELTER
- VEHICLE REGISTRATION
- RESTROOM
- PARK ROADS
- PARK BOUNDARY
- PARKING
- PARK BUILDING

# Map 21 L.L. Phillips County Park



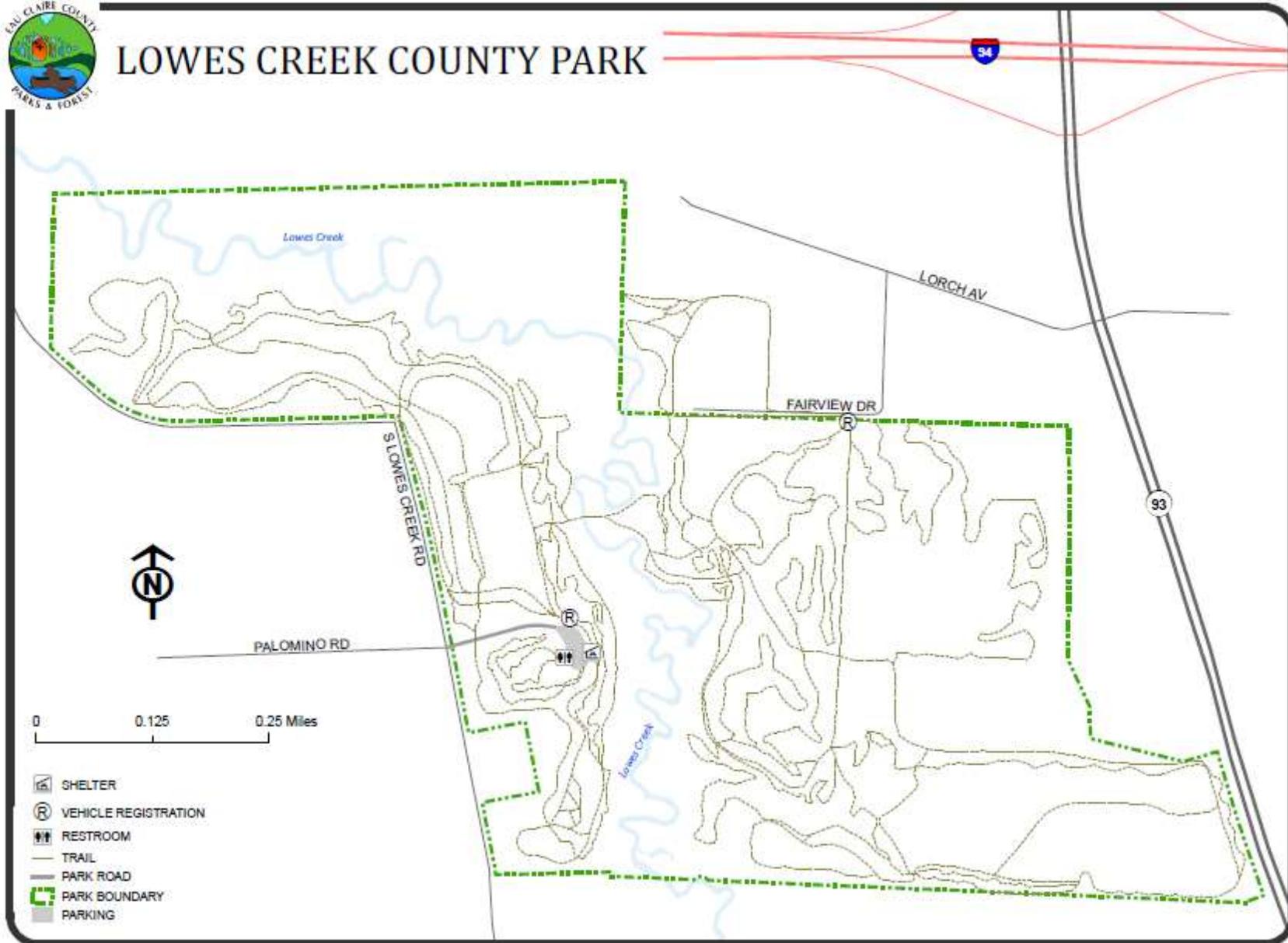
## L.L. PHILLIPS COUNTY PARK



# Map 22 Lowes Creek County Park



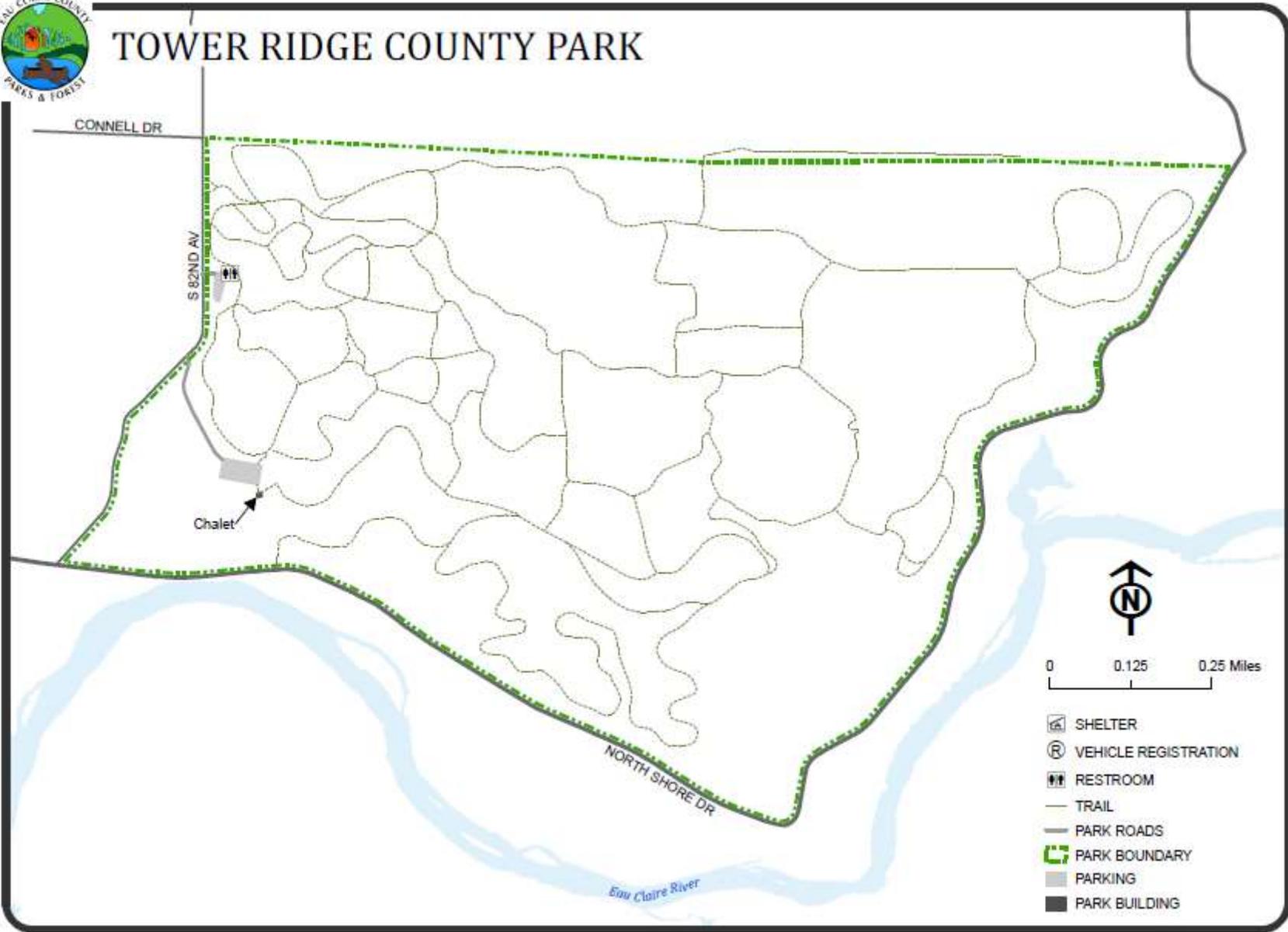
## LOWES CREEK COUNTY PARK



# Map 23 Tower Ridge County Park



## TOWER RIDGE COUNTY PARK



## SECTION 4 EAU CLAIRE COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM

### **INTRODUCTION**

People engage in recreational activities for a variety of reasons, including leisure, relaxation and stress reduction, fitness, competitive sport, interaction with nature, quest for solitude, and socializing. Eau Claire County offers access to a wide range of facilities designed to meet these needs. Because these needs are constantly changing, it is important for the County to quantitatively and qualitatively evaluate the recreational needs and desires of the community based on data and surveys of residents and users.

The primary objectives of the action program are to:

1. Provide a variety of high-quality recreation opportunities for residents
2. Improve access to recreational opportunities for residents and visitors
2. Conserve and protect the natural resources of the county

Cooperative efforts between units of government, private business, user groups and organizations is necessary to develop and maintain a balanced recreation program that serves the needs of the county. Ideally, units of government should coordinate recreation activities both within their boundaries as well as between their jurisdictions to avoid unnecessary duplication while maintaining varied, high-quality programs.

An advantage of the public's coordinating role is assurance that the natural amenities and resources do not deteriorate. Most recreation areas are based on these resources. The natural environment should be protected where possible in order to enhance existing facilities.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

***General Recommendations.*** The following recommendations are general in nature and include suggestions to improve policy decisions, planning, parks and recreation administration and overall recreation programming.

1. Improve access for disabled residents

Consideration should be given to the needs of those who are mentally and physically challenged. Some facilities could be redesigned or retrofitted to remove barriers. Paved walkways, ramps instead of stairways and accessible rest rooms allow the disabled to enjoy recreation facilities. Specialized playground apparatus designed for all children, including those with disabilities, are also encouraged.

2. Coordinate with school districts, private business and service groups

Every effort should be made to coordinate recreation activities with other entities. The County should take the lead role in coordination. School districts should be encouraged to allow use of playgrounds after school hours, and municipalities should encourage school districts to utilize facilities for nature study.

Private businesses and clubs typically provide specialized facilities such as target ranges, golf courses, and snowmobile trails. The County should continue to encourage the private sector and clubs to provide facilities that compliment those provided by municipalities.

Service and other groups such as Lions Clubs, Jaycees, garden clubs, horseback riding enthusiasts, etc., often provide assistance in developing recreation facilities. This assistance usually means that the groups use volunteer labor to construct or repair a specific item. The County should pursue every opportunity possible to utilize volunteer efforts.

3. Conduct a public information program

Citizens and visitors should be aware of what recreation facilities are available. Consistent overcrowding at one park while another park is virtually empty points to a need for informing the public about attributes of underutilized facilities. The information program could include brochures, updated park maps, a periodic newsletter, tours or special events and the like. Continued effort should be made to

keep data current. Efforts aimed to control illegal dumping on county forest and park lands should be continued. Specialized materials aimed at canoeing, camping, bicycling, hunting, etc. should be distributed to clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, tourism promoters, public libraries, and retail establishments.

4. Conduct user surveys and park studies

User surveys can reveal patterns and characteristics of use as well as desired facilities and amenities. Data obtained from surveys can indicate which types of facilities need more attention and which need less. A user survey was conducted as part of this plan update to understand community needs and priorities. From the survey, we learned that maintenance, upkeep, and improvements to existing facilities are, in general, a higher priority for the community than new facilities. These data help the Parks and Forest Department better allocate resources to meet the recreational needs of the community. A summary of the survey results is provided in Appendix A.

5. Utilize aid programs where possible

Municipalities should keep abreast of financial assistance programs such as grants and loans which are designed to assist communities in development of recreational facilities. Eligibility for available programs should be maintained.

6. Prioritize planned activities

Planned activities should be prioritized so that limited funds can be directed towards projects that are most needed. A Capital Improvements Program should be drawn up to specify when projects are expected to be undertaken and what costs they will entail to aid in the budgeting process.

***Specific Recommendations.*** This section addresses particular suggestions for improvements to County operated recreation facilities. They are aimed not only at increasing use of the parks but also at increasing the level of satisfaction when facilities are used. These improvements are to be considered priorities for planning of capital improvement plans and operating budget, and county, state, federal or donated funds should be pursued to achieve these projects within the five-year horizon of this plan.

## **5 YEAR RECREATION PLAN**

### **BIG FALLS COUNTY PARK**

	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
1.	Construct accessible wooden boardwalk on beach area near falls.	Op. Budget/Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$12,000
2.	Develop wheelchair overlook/deck near well/toilets to view falls from upper level, on north side.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$25,000
3.	Develop accessible hiking/snowshoe trail from south wading area to main trail along river.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$15,000
4.	Construct observation platform on south side.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$20,000
5.	Construct picnic shelter on north side overlooking river.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$10,000
6.	Develop interpretive geologic trail.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$6,000
7.	Install security lights in parking lots.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$17,000
8.	Develop stairway to falls area on south side to stabilize bank.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$10,000

## COON FORK COUNTY PARK

	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
1.	Construct fish cleaning house	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$10,000
2.	Construct additional beach picnic shelter and/or barbecue pit with electric outlets and lights	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$20,000
3.	Develop an outdoor educational amphitheater area and bonfire pit.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$76,000
4.	Develop two accessible playground areas (1) campground @ \$125,000 and (1) day park @ \$125,000.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$250,000
5.	Develop a concession/vending/camp store (preferably log structure).	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$20,000
6.	Provide electricity and lights to picnic shelter on day side.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$15,000
7.	Develop group camping area.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$112,000
8.	Construct sediment trap on Black Creek.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON	\$25,000
9.	Develop accessible nature/interpretive trail with hard surfacing (1 mile)	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$50,000
10.	Repave park roads	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$85,000
11.	Construct new office/interpretive center complete with toilet facilities, breakroom and parking area.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$125,000
12.	Security light(s) added at entrance to campsite area where existing information board is and flagpole.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$15,000
13.	Construct hiking bridge south of Coon Fork Lake over Black Creek and develop hiking trail around lake	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$43,000
14.	New asphalt near office and firewood area	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$54,000
15.	Security lighting for dayside park.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$25,000

## HARSTAD COUNTY PARK

	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
1.	Resurface roads in park	Op. Budget/Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$50,000
2.	Install lights and outlets in shelter.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$14,000
3.	Purchase land or easement to access nearby 150 acres of County land through SWSE or NWNE	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$100,000
4.	Install Electricity to campground Half the campsites	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$42,000

## LAKE ALTOONA COUNTY PARK

	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
1.	Replace 4 boat docks @ \$6,500/each	Op. Budget/Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$26,000
2.	Install yard lights in playground area(s)	Donations, Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON Grant	\$2,000/each
3.	Add showers/toilets to changing room in building	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$148,000
4.	Repave beach parking lot	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$125,000
5.	Modify facilities are needed to comply with A.D.A. including 5' wide launch piers with transition plate and transfer assistance device to access boats.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$13,000
6.	Construct pedestrian walkway from top of hill to main park area.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$23,000
7.	Construct shower-toilet building.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$130,000
8.	Construct new maintenance shed/garage.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$40,000
9.	Modify clubhouse with conveniences that will make it more rentable for business groups	Op. Budget/Donations	\$58,000

Note: A master planning process began in Fall, 2015 to identify community needs and prioritize projects. This planning effort is ongoing as of Spring, 2016.

**LAKE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY PARK**

	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
1.	Replace 3 boat docks @ \$6500/each	Op. Budget/Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$19,500
2.	Install new chain link fence along river channel	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$7,000
3.	Accessible Pier 6'x32' at North Boat Landing	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$9,825
4.	Resurface park drive and overflow parking lot	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$25,000
5.	Install electricity in accessible restroom to the east	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$5,000
6.	Construct walkway/sidewalk to connect Clubhouse/shelter to flush toilets located at field office	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$4,000

## L.L. PHILLIPS COUNTY PARK

	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
1.	Place descriptive plaques for the self-guided nature trail	Op. Budget/Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$4,000
2.	Develop accessible nature trail with links to shelter and restroom	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$30,000
3.	Drill new well with hand pump	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$10,000

## LOWES CREEK COUNTY PARK

	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
1.	Install playground	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$57,000
2.	Blacktop road and main parking area off S. Lowes Creek Road with expansion of parking area	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$86,000
3.	Install electricity in picnic shelter and security light near parking lot	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$8,500
4.	Develop east side of park, including campground, water, sewer, etc.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$200,000
5.	Develop chalet building on west side of park (heated, indoor toilets, etc.)	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$150,000

## TOWER RIDGE RECREATION AREA

	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
1.	Maintain cross country ski trails and provide frequently groomed trails for classical and skate skiing	Op. Budget/Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations/ RTA	\$23,500
2.	Construct observation platform/tower	Op. Budget/Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$21,000
3.	Develop trail/stairway to observation platform/tower	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$5,000
4.	Develop numerous small shelters at trail intersections.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$12,000
5.	Purchase new grooming equipment	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$50,000
6.	Blacktop portion of parking lot for disabled access	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$12,000
7.	Create water spigot area for horses on south side of parking lot	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$5,000
8.	Build a split rail fence to define the horse trail entrance area near the chalet	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$5,000
9.	Install playground equipment	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$56,000
10.	Install hitching posts and manure pits for horses	Op. Budget, Stewardship LAWCON/Donations	\$5,000

## Eau Claire River Access Points & Planned Improvements

The following table provides a list of Eau Claire River access points, including a list of planned improvements. The list was developed based on input received from residents through the 2015 User Survey and the Stakeholder Committee. In addition to the projects listed below, the Committee recommends development of a brochure with a map depicting the location and facilities available for Eau Claire River users. The primary intent of the improvements is to improve access and safety while preserving the peaceful, uncrowded atmosphere on the Eau Claire River. Improvements such as restrooms and improved camping areas were discussed, but were not included due to concerns with ongoing O&M costs as well as concerns with maintaining cleanliness and public safety in remote, largely unpatrolled areas of the County.

Map Number	Landing Name	Location	Section, Township, Range	Access	Parking	Other Facilities/Amenities	Planned Improvements
1	Hamilton Falls	North of falls on river	Sec 26, T27N, R5W	Off from ATV trail	Parking for up to 5 vehicles, could be expanded with parking lot work	None	Improved trail to river. Brush trees, add gravel to parking area, rip rap bank
2	Eisberner Memorial	End of Canoe Landing Forest Road. Approximately 1 mile south of Channey Road.	Sec 16, T26N, R5W	Canoe Landing Forest Road	Limited, may need 4x4 depending on weather conditions. Access road can be muddy.	None	Could improve landing site, old asphalt is deteriorated. Could be replaced or install gravel with breaker run/ditch checks to divert runoff. Could gravel the forest road as well.
5	Troubled Waters	North side of river	Sec 12, T26N, R6W	North side of Hwy G	Yes (lots)- ATV trail parking lot	Vault Restroom and small pavilion	Improve access trail to river (widen and stabilize sand trail)
6	Skid Row	End of Highway SD	Sec 11, T26N, R6W	Public boat landing	Boat parking lot. EC Parks entrance fee area.	Vault Restroom	None
7	North Side	North boat landing at Lake Eau Claire	Sec 3, T26N, R6W	Public boat landing	Boat parking lot. EC parks entrance fee area	Vault Restroom	Could add ADA canoe/kayak launch at one of these 3 LEC points. North side is most level boat launch.
8	South Side	South boat landing at Lake Eau Claire	Sec 5, T26N, R6W	Public boat landing	Boat parking lot. EC Parks entrance fee area	Vault Restroom	None

9	Harstad County Park	Follow main entrance road in park to river	Sec 13, T26N, R7W	Park access. Old stairway leading to river.	Parking available for approx. 10 vehicles right by river.	Campground, Vaults, pavilion, playground	Rebuild steps leading down to river.
10	"D" Bridge	SE side of bridge	Sec 33, T27N, R7W	Very steep, rocky access.	Parking area for beach. Room for 10-15 vehicles	None	May want to explore creating alternate access path at same location, or possibly expand/create a parking area at access point further southwest.
11	"K" Bridge	Off highway on NW side of bridge	Sec 19, T27N, R7W	Nature trail	Parking for approximately 6 vehicles	None	Parking area is very rocky. Could blast/grind down some of the rock and make a smoother parking lot.
12	Big Falls	Park area – from north or south side	Sec 13, T27N, R8W	Paved walking trails	Parking lot. EC Parks entrance fee area	Vault restroom, grills,	Access here is a long haul for canoe. Perhaps look at cutting a different trail down to river for access, but the length will still be very long.
13	Lion's Youth Camp	Just off North Shore Drive (L/QQ)	Sec 16, T27N, R8W	Nature trail, approximately 50 yard haul	Parking for 2-3 vehicles on highway shoulder	Pavilion and grills	None
14	Highline	.3 miles south from North Shore Drive on Highline	Sec 20, T27N, R8W	Public boat landing	Parking for approx. 15 vehicles. EC parks entrance fee area.	None	None
15	Lake Altoona County Park	Boat landing in park	Sec 24, T27N, R9W	Public boat landing	Large Parking lot. EC parks entrance fee area.	Flush toilets, playground, beach, grills, picnic area	Add ADA accessible canoe/kayak launch platform
16	River Prairie	Below highway 53 bypass	Sec 15, T27N, R9W	Public canoe launch			None

## BEAVER CREEK RESERVE

PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
1. Amphitheater	Donations, Grants	\$10,000
2. Repair Erosion control wall to Deinhammer creek	Donations, Grants	\$30,000
3. Add restrooms to Nature Center	Donations, Grants, Operating Budget	\$20,000
4. Construct a new maintenance building with a heated shop area	Donations, Grants Operating Budget	\$30,000
5. Renovate the main lodge at the Youth Camp	Donations, Grants Operating Budget	\$100,000
6. Repair erosion wall along ADA/ Storybook Trail	Donations, Grants	\$25,000
7. Construct a new septic field	Operating Budget, Grants	\$250,000
8. Create deer enclosures for Public education	Operating Budget, Grants	\$2,000
9. Construct a screened picnic/ classroom pavilion	Grants, Operating Budget	\$20,000
10. Bury electric lines at Youth Camp	Operating Budget, Grants	\$26,000
11. Seal Coat youth camp and CSC Parking lot	Donations, Grants	\$44,000
12. Replace sidewalks between youth camp Buildings	Donations, Grants	\$160,000
13. Improve/Create parking areas near trail heads for increased usage	Donations, Grant	\$300,000
14. Seal Coat Nature Center tunnel and Parking lot	Donations, Grants	\$28,000
15. Replace snowmobile and track for grooming X-country ski trails	Donations, Grants	\$20,000
16. Repair and upgrade the existing trail including stairs, bridges, boardwalks, interpretive signs, handicapped interpretive trail, amphitheater, wildlife observation blinds, wildlife openings, stream improvement demonstration area, general trail development, erosion, etc.	Operating Budget, Grants	\$50,000
17. Expand the greenhouse and Butterfly house	Donations, Grants	\$17,500
18. Add a classroom, kitchen, storage, shop, great room to the Citizen Science Center or create a separate building for the Willdands School	Donations, Grants	\$500,000
19. Upgrade the wind generator and solar electric or heating system at the Nature Center	Donations, Grants	\$160,000

## MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

	PROJECT	FUNDING SOURCE	ESTIMATED COST
1.	Develop primitive campsites along Eau Claire River for canoeists.	Donations, Op. Budget	\$15,000
2.	Install additional benches and rest stops along all trails.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$2,000
3.	Develop additional off-road bicycle trails including erosion controls/signing	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$5,000
4.	Develop corridor hiking/skiing/biking trail with remote camping along trail in County forest ideally with a trail head at a County park to enable secure parking; check-in/out	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$5,000 to \$10,000
5.	When feasible, make all boat landings/ramps/docks accessible with hard surfacing, 5' wide launch piers/docks with transition plates	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$9,000 per site
6.	Lake Eau Claire Northside boat landing – designate/accessible/parking stalls; make toilet accessible; provide accessible grill, table, and hard surfacing	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$15,000
7.	Additional recreational development at the Expo/Fairgrounds/Festival site, including a softball field and other recreational development amenities	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$25,000
8.	Construct well along ATV trail, with electric pump/washing station	ATV funds/Stewardship	\$23,000
9.	Upgrade internet wireless service to shop area	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON	\$5,000
10.	Develop new facilities and marketing materials to promote ATV usage in Eau Claire County in conjunction with trails.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$5,000 to \$10,000
11.	Develop ATV camping areas with amenities in or adjacent to the County Forest area	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$125,000
12.	Coon/Gut Pinter Pines property Improvements. Shelter/warming House construction	Op. Budget, Stewardship/ LAWCON/Donations	\$25,000
13.	Coon Gut Creek Snowmobile/ Walking bridge	Op. Budget/Snowmobile fund/ Donations	\$54,000

**APPENDIX**

**Big Falls**

Develop/sign canoe portage route to south of falls.	Donations, Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON Grant	\$500
Develop bulletin board and post regulations/historical information.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$500

**Coon Fork**

Construct several mini-shelters in park for single family picnicking with table, roof (2 on dayside).	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$1,500 (each)
Hard surface walkway to change house.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON	\$5,000
Modify playground areas to make them accessible with some hard-surfacing, modified play structures, etc.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$5,000 each
Construct 2 information boards/relocate by bath shower buildings, office, dayside beach near walkway	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$1,000 and \$2,000
Construct new, more secure firewood lot fence.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$5,000
Develop canoe landing/take out on Coon Fork Creek	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$2,500
New recreation equipment – boats, kayaks, mountain bikes for rent	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$10,000

**Lake Altoona Park**

Construct several mini-shelters with 2 picnic tables and roof for 1-2 families	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$1,500 each
Renovate interpretative trail on SW end of park.	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$1,000
Install security light next to east toilet	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$1,500

**Lake Eau Claire County Park**

Install railing along handicap walkway near river channel	Donations, Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON	\$1,500
Install security lights at boat landing	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$3,000 each
Install boardwalk to make beach accessible	Op. Budget, Stewardship/LAWCON/Donations	\$2,000

## SECTION 5 COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### **INTRODUCTION**

This section includes outdoor recreation plans for various municipalities in Eau Claire County that have elected to participate in the County-wide plan. Plans for the following municipalities are included: The cities of Altoona and Augusta; the villages of Fairchild and Fall Creek; and the towns of Brunswick, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, Union, Washington, and Wilson. The Eau Claire County Department of Planning and Development has prepared plans for all of these communities except for the City of Altoona, which has prepared its own plan.

The first part of this section of the plan deals with all of the small communities that are participating in the County-wide plan. Definitions of various types of parks, goals and objectives, park standards, and general recommendations that apply to all of these communities are presented. The second part of this section is the City of Altoona Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The City of Eau Claire also prepares an outdoor recreation plan and their plan has been included in the County plan in previous updates. An inventory of all of their outdoor recreational facilities was submitted to the County and this information was included in Section 2 (Supply) of this plan. The City of Eau Claire was in the process of updating their plan at the time of adoption of this plan, and will submit their plan to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources when it is completed to maintain eligibility for state and federal funding programs. Copies of the plan will be available from the City of Eau Claire Parks and Recreation Department when it is completed later in 2016.

## SMALL COMMUNITIES

### **DEFINITIONS**

Local community needs can be met by providing a variety of parks which serve all age groups of the resident population. The following definitions define the types of parks that are considered the most appropriate for the cities and villages of Eau Claire County.

***Neighborhood Playground.*** Neighborhood playgrounds are sites for active play; the primary users of these sites are young children. Typical neighborhood playground facilities may include: a small play area intended for use by pre-school aged children; playground apparatus for older youths including swings, slides, and climbing apparatus; and benches or picnic tables. If space allows, neighborhood playgrounds can include open areas for free play or organized games. Neighborhood playgrounds ideally serve an area of up to 1/2 mile in radius; separate neighborhood playgrounds should not be considered if a community park with playground equipment is located within 1/2 mile of the site. Neighborhood playgrounds are often provided in conjunction with elementary schools.

***Neighborhood Park.*** Neighborhood parks can simply be defined as sites intended to serve the outdoor recreational needs of specific neighborhoods. Given this definition, it is important that a neighborhood park meet the distinctive recreational needs of the neighborhood it serves. A neighborhood park can vary considerably in terms of development: one park can consist of primarily passive recreational types of facilities such as trails, benches, picnic shelters, and landscaping while another neighborhood park can include a neighborhood playground as well as ballfields, tennis courts, and other facilities intended for active activities. Neighborhood parks, like neighborhood playgrounds, ideally serve an area of up to 1/2 mile in radius.

***Community Park.*** Public community parks usually serve several neighborhoods in urban areas or entire towns in rural areas. They are more spacious than neighborhood parks and playgrounds. In urban areas they can service an area with a radius of about 2 miles, while in rural areas they may be intended to serve an entire rural municipality. Site developments include those facilities that may be included at neighborhood parks. In addition, they may provide more elaborate playfields, shelters and toilet buildings, tennis courts with lights, ball fields with lights, picnic areas, off street parking, and a swimming area.

**Specialized Areas.** Golf courses, historic sites, conservancy areas, open space, scenic overlooks and flood plains are all examples of specialized recreation and open space areas. Most of these areas have limited active recreation value, are not developed as multi-purpose recreation areas, or are not always available to the public. Although such areas are not considered in recreation acreage totals, specialized areas are important to a community's parks and open space program.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The following goals and objectives provide a sound basis for future outdoor recreation planning decisions.

### ***Goal***

Adequate quality and variety of park and recreational facilities to meet the needs of all community residents.

### ***Objectives***

1. To provide passive park and recreational facilities to meet the needs of elderly community residents and all other age groups.
2. To obtain, when opportunities arise, sites for open space and playgrounds.
3. To provide opportunities for rural residents to enjoy the community's parks and recreation areas.
4. To preserve and protect land uses adjacent to existing community parks and playgrounds.
5. To coordinate the community's recreational program with the programs of other levels of government and with private enterprise to ensure maximum public benefit.
6. To provide access to and adequate parking near streams, lakes, and public recreation areas.
7. To provide for the recreation needs of the physically and mentally handicapped.
8. To protect resource-based recreation areas within the community.

## **PARK STANDARDS**

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), a national agency involved in the development and enhancement of parks and open space, used to develop standards for analyzing outdoor recreational sites and facilities. One of the standards that was developed was a basic standard of the minimum amount of open space that should be provided for the population in a community. A standard of 12 acres of open space per 1,000 population, in the form of parks and playgrounds, was determined to be a minimum amount of space that should be provided. This standard was further broken down into the following proportions:

Neighborhood parks:	2 acres/1,000 population
Community parks and specialized areas:	10 acres/1,000 population
Total:	12 acres/1,000 population

For the purpose of the individual municipal plans included in the document, the available outdoor recreation space will be evaluated according to this standard. However, it is important to understand that the NRPA no longer publishes this standard or any other standards; they now recommend that local jurisdictions develop their own standards to assess the needs for additional outdoor recreational opportunities. The NRPA has published a book titled *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* which explains how communities can conduct this analysis and develop their own standards. The Eau Claire County Department of Planning and Development intends to work with each of the communities participating in this plan to analyze their recreation program and develop appropriate standards for subsequent updates of their plans.

Acreage is not the only factor for gauging the effectiveness of a community's recreation program in meeting recreational needs. Other significant criteria include distribution of parks in relation to population, type and extent of development, and traffic safety. Evaluation of recreation needs should take into consideration the following:

- 1) The 12-acre per thousand population standard is a minimum standard and accordingly, offers minimal recreational opportunities.
- 2) A purely quantitative analysis does not consider the quality and extent of recreational facilities provided by each area inventoried.
- 3) Site size should be adequate to accommodate the intended number of users.
- 4) The park program should serve all age groups in the community with a variety of recreational opportunities.
- 5) The location should be suitable in relation to standard walking distances or other customary methods of transportation.
- 6) Development on the site should not exceed the capacity of the site and facilities provided for outdoor recreational activities planned for the site should be adequate.
- 7) The heavy use of many recreation areas during summer by non-residents should be taken into account.

### **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES**

The following recommendations are generally applicable to all of the small communities in Eau Claire County.

1. Community Parks. Upgrade community park facilities in terms of quality and variety of facilities and improve the attractiveness of the natural setting through landscaping where needed.
2. Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds. Develop such parks within residential areas to serve each neighborhood conveniently.
3. Use of Easements. Utilize easements in order to limit land acquisition costs for neighborhood parks. Communities are encouraged to procure easements for the use of presently vacant property in locations appropriate for temporary neighborhood park development.
4. Municipal Swimming Facilities. Encourage efforts to develop municipal swimming facilities where they are economically feasible and can be supported by local population levels.
5. Snowmobile Routes. Designate specific routes through municipalities for snowmobile use during winter months. Snowmobilers should be restricted to the specified routes.
6. Cross-Country Skiing. Support this activity by encouraging the opening of private lands and by allowing cross-country skiers to use municipal land.
7. Historical Preservation. Support a program to identify, study, record and preserve sites and events of regional or local historical interest.
8. Bicycling. Designate bicycle routes, sign to alert motorists to heavier than usual bicycling activity, and conduct an information campaign to encourage trail use and to instruct motorists.
9. Specialized Facilities. Encourage development of specialized facilities by private enterprise. Facilities such as golf clubs can be an important adjunct to public use and should be emphasized.

10. Municipal School District Cooperation. Promote continued and increased cooperation between municipalities and school districts in meeting recreational needs. Increased municipal use of existing school facilities during non-school hours should also be encouraged.
11. Provision for the Physically and Mentally Challenged. Include features in all parks that will enable the physically and mentally challenged to participate in safe and pleasurable recreational experiences. Examples of specialized features include hard-surfaced walkways, wide doorways, grab rails in restrooms, special seating at spectator events, and special playground apparatus.
12. Senior Citizen Participation. Provide recreational opportunities for senior citizen use such as benches placed near neighborhood parks and play areas and passive sports facilities. Small, passive-use parks and gardens and flower pots located near nursing and retirement homes should be encouraged. Use senior citizen volunteers to provide assistance in beautifying parks and open space.
13. Service Group Involvement. Encourage involvement of organized service groups in needed park and recreation development. Service groups can help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources and providing organization and volunteer labor.
14. 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.
15. Program Development. In developing a recreational program, care should be taken that the annual cost of maintenance does not exceed an amount the community can afford and is willing to pay.
16. Capital Improvement Programs. Community officials should develop a five-year capital improvement program for recreation that allows for implementation of adopted recreation proposals. The program should identify project priorities, should be flexible, and should be subject to annual review.

## CITY OF ALTOONA

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the City of Altoona. Map ALT-1 shows the location of the city-owned recreation areas.

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Cinder City Park** [Spooner Ave.] – 17.0 ac.  
Cinder City Park is located at 2300 Spooner Ave. This community park has three lighted softball fields, one lighted baseball field and the Hobbs-Altoona Sports Center, which is active during winter months with hockey. Other amenities include restrooms, bleachers, concession stand with walk in cooler, pavilions, scoreboards, parking, and a playground. The Recreation Office and the Parks Maintenance Office are both located within Cinder City Park.
- Altoona City Park** [10<sup>th</sup> Street] - 5.50 ac.  
Also known as 10<sup>th</sup> Street Park, Altoona City Park is a very active neighborhood park which accommodates a variety of activities. Facilities include a youth grass infield baseball field, two separate playgrounds for youth and toddlers, basketball half-court, six tennis courts (two of which are lighted), restrooms, pavilion, recreation building, gazebo, picnic tables, grills and benches. The recreation building is open during the summer to allow children in grades K-8 to come and play in a supervised environment and provides a small meeting room for local groups at night. During the winter, a section of the open space is transformed into a skating rink.
- Highland Park** [Vernon St. between Gloede and Hamilton Avenues] - 3.50 ac.  
Highland Park is a neighborhood park and is designated primarily for passive activities. The park has a basketball court, a tennis court, picnic tables, pavilion and playground equipment.
- Devney Park** [Devney Drive] – 4.0 ac.  
Devney Park is a neighborhood park located within the Knollwood Subdivision. It includes one lighted youth baseball field, playground equipment, picnic tables, grill, bleachers, tennis court and a basketball court. A small pavilion and recreation facility with restrooms are also located in the park.
- Lake Front Park** [Kewin Street] – 3.8 ac.  
Lake Front Park is located on the south shore of Lake Altoona. This neighborhood park has the following amenities: handicapped accessible fishing dock, portable restroom, benches along the banks of Lake Altoona, picnic tables and parking lot.
- Centennial Park** [Spooner Ave. and Otter Creek] – 38.0 ac.  
This Community Park contains a trail system which runs along Otter Creek for off-road biking, walking or jogging activities. The City has entered into an agreement with the Chippewa Off-Road Bike Association to develop and maintain the trails within the park. Centennial Park is currently “under construction” as a nature themed park. Amenities to be included are a 15 foot hill with two slides, a toddler playground, large boulders for rock climbing and sitting, musical instruments, pavilion, picnic tables, and benches. Construction is to be completed within the next couple of years.
- Hillcrest Park** [No street Address] – 65 ac.  
This Community Park is located within the Hillcrest Estates Development. This 65 acre park is adjacent to Otter Creek and has the following amenities; a playground, pavilion, basketball court and a pickle ball court.
- River Prairie Pocket Park** [Corner of River Prairie Drive and Oakleaf Way] – 8.8 ac.  
This neighborhood park has not been given a name, so for the purpose of the Outdoor Recreation Plan this park will be known as River Prairie Pocket Park. The River Prairie Pocket Park is currently undeveloped other than a parking lot and utilities stubbed to the site. The City hopes to develop the park for more passive uses including hiking and picnicking.

9. **River Prairie Park** [Located in the Northwest Quadrant of River Prairie] – ac.  
This Community Park is located in the new River Prairie development. Future development plans include: river feature, splash pad, skating rink (winter) milled logs, canoe and kayak landing, fire pits, picnic tables, benches, pond, fountains, bathrooms, outdoor games, pavilions, performance venue, gazebo, gardens, grills, fishing pier and a river trail.
10. **River Prairie Conservancy** (along Eau Claire River in River Prairie) – 26.81 ac.  
The River Prairie Conservancy is an undeveloped corridor of property along the Eau Claire River that will act as a buffer between the river and development within River Prairie and will accommodate a bike and pedestrian trail in the future. There exists a public access to the conservancy.

**SUPPLY: SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES**

1. **Pederson Elementary School** [Bartlett Ave.] - 4.13 ac.  
The playground adjacent to Pederson Elementary School is not only used by children at recess, but also utilized by many Altoona residents due to its central location. With a variety of playground equipment at this site, it doubles as a neighborhood park. A large open space to the south of the school buildings is also available for outdoor recreational use and is often used for sledding in the winter.
2. **Altoona Middle School** (Bartlett Ave.) – 2.2 ac.  
The Altoona Middle School grounds include a large paved area, a sand-covered area with tetherball poles, and a baseball diamond. The baseball diamond is used for recess activities along with youth baseball leagues during the summer months.
3. **Altoona High School** (7<sup>th</sup> Street West) – 14.2 ac.  
The open space at Altoona High School consists of a football field, a large open area adjacent to the football field used as a practice field and for track and field events, along with a steep wooded hill. There are bleachers constructed into the side of the hill south of the football field.
4. **St. Mary's Elementary School** (Lynn Ave.) – 1.5 ac.  
This parochial school has a playground located south of the school. It consists of basketball hoops, swings and a playground system. In addition, a second playground is located on the west side of the school. The site serves the immediate neighborhood as a neighborhood playground.

**SUPPLY: OTHER FACILITIES**

1. **Hillcrest Estates Playground** (Aster Lane) – 0.01 ac.  
This playground, serving as a neighborhood park, is located near the center of the Hillcrest Estates mobile home park. In addition to the playground, there is an adjacent small wetland area that is fenced off. The mobile home park is private land and therefore the playground is only available for use by park residents.
2. **Knollwood Village Condominiums** (Knollwood Drive)  
Knollwood Village Condominiums includes a private neighborhood pool facility.
3. **Eau Claire Golf & Country Club** (Clubview Lane)  
This private Country Club has a swimming facility with a children's pool and three lighted tennis courts for its members to enjoy.

**SUPPLY: POTENTIAL FACILITIES**

**1. Trail System**

The City developed a Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Plan in 2005 and has completed several trail projects over the past few years. In conjunction with Eau Claire projects, there now exists an east-west connection from Carson Park to Lake Altoona County Park. By using this corridor, Altoona residents can access the Chippewa and Red River Trails. The Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Plan will continue to be implemented with connectivity between existing trail segments being the priority along with completion of the Eau Claire River Trail within the River Prairie Conservancy.

**2. Windsor Forest**

The City of Altoona currently owns land within Windsor Forest which could potentially be turned into a neighborhood park for area residents. The need for this facility was identified in a 2012 community survey.

**3. Country Club Lane Subdivision**

Currently, due to major roadways surrounding the subdivision, there is not a neighborhood park available to residents of the Country Club Lane Subdivision. The need for a neighborhood park was identified in the 2012 community survey. A suitable piece of property to site a park has not yet been identified.

**NEEDS**

Two factors are examined to determine the demand or need for additional outdoor recreational sites and facilities: an assessment of whether or not there is adequate open space to serve the needs of the population, and an assessment of whether or not outdoor recreational sites are adequately located to serve the needs of the community. Standards have been developed to address these factors. Local officials who are familiar with the community’s recreational facilities are also relied upon to address these issues and develop recommendations for new sites, facilities and equipment.

**Space Needs.** The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has long recognized 12 acres of outdoor recreational open space per 1,000 residents of population as an ideal standard for communities to use in assessing whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve its residents. Table ALT-1 lists the 2010 population, and the projected population through 2030 for the City of Altoona. Given these population figures and the standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents, as well as the total acreage of outdoor recreational sites available for public use, it is possible to assess whether or not there is enough outdoor recreational space to serve the needs of the City’s residents at present and in the future. Table ALT-2 indicates the current acreage of outdoor open space, the amount required based upon the NRPA standard, and the surplus or deficit that exists in Altoona. The current acreage figure does not include the sports fields at any of the school facilities; this property is not generally available for public use.

Table ALT-1  
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION FOR THE CITY OF ALTOONA

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2000 (Census)	6,698	**
2010 (Census)	6,706	+0.01%
2020 (Projected)	7,621	+13.6%
2030 (Projected)	8,595	+12.8%

Projected acreage requirements are not always the most accurate means of realistically assessing community recreation needs, but they are indicators. As Table ALT-2 indicates, the City of Altoona has an adequate amount of space (excluding school grounds) dedicated for outdoor recreational use at present. The 2020 and 2030 needs will be met once River Prairie Park and River Prairie Conservancy are developed.

Table ALT-2  
RECREATIONAL ACREAGE NEEDS - CITY OF ALTOONA

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2030</u>
Demand	80.38	80.47	91.45	103.14
Supply	<u>71.80</u>	<u>71.80</u>	<u>71.80</u>	<u>71.80</u>
Needs	8.58	8.67	19.65	31.34

**Service Areas.** Service areas vary for different types of parks. Community parks, such as Cinder City Park, Altoona City Park, Hillcrest Park and Centennial Park usually have facilities that are intended to serve the entire community and will service an area including several neighborhoods or an area having a radius of up to 2 miles. Residents are expected to travel to community parks, therefore major streets and roads do not present barriers to accessing this type of site. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, on the other hand, are intended to serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius and are intended to serve young children; consequently, major streets and roads can present barriers to accessing this type of park.

Cinder City Park, Altoona City Park, Hillcrest Park and Centennial Park are all classified as community parks. These sites are adequately located to serve the needs of all residents in Altoona. The ball field at Altoona Middle School also serves as a community park type facility.

Highland Park, Devney Park, Pederson Elementary School playground and St. Mary’s Elementary School playground all serve as neighborhood parks and/or playgrounds. Since Hillcrest Park, Cinder City Park and Altoona City Park also have playground equipment and other amenities typically found in neighborhood parks; these parks also serve as neighborhood parks for their respective neighborhoods. Upon development completion, Centennial Park will join the afore mentioned parks and serve as neighborhood parks along with community parks. In addition, the playground at Hillcrest Estates Mobile Home Park serves as a neighborhood playground for children living there. Lake Front Park and Lake Altoona County Park also provide neighborhood amenities for their respective neighborhoods. All of these sites serve the vast majority of the City. There are, however, major streets or roads in the City of Altoona that impede the accessibility to neighborhood parks, including: Spooner Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Street, County Road A (or 3<sup>rd</sup> Street East) and USH 12.

**ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action Plan consists of a series of recommendations that are intended to serve as a guide for the City of Altoona in the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities over the next five years. The recommendations are aimed at satisfying relevant needs for acquisition, development and general program improvement. They are based upon the prior park plans of the City, the 2012 City Survey of park and recreation needs, the current development policies of the City Plan Commission and City Council, the City’s Comprehensive Plan and on recommendations of the Department of Natural Resources. The main objective of the Action Program is to provide citizens of the City and their guests with the best outdoor recreational opportunities possible within the constraints of the City’s budget and other funding sources.

It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will necessarily be implemented during the next five years. The City will set priorities and deal with the most urgent needs first as funding is available. Although some of the projects may not be completed over the next five years, City officials concluded that it was appropriate to conduct a long-range, comprehensive examination of the outdoor recreation needs of the community, listing all projects that should be considered for the foreseeable future.

***Recommendations***

1. **Cinder City Park:**
  - Improve drainage between North and South ball fields
  - Install sand volleyball court in open area
  - Develop covered dugouts on North and South ball fields
  - Update bathrooms
  - Create outdoor rink during winter
  - Install sprinkler system within park where none exists
  - Turf improvements to back area behind ball fields
  
2. **Altoona City Park:**
  - Install lighting on ball field
  - Install shade barrier over toddler playground equipment
  - Renovate and improve access to bathrooms
  - Install lighting along sidewalk path
  - Upgrade dugouts and concession stand
  - Replace toddler playground
  - Install light sensors in bathroom
  
3. **Highland Park:**
  - Install soccer field
  - Install electricity to pavilion
  - Develop bathroom facility
  - Add pickleball court lines to existing courts
  
4. **Devney Park:**
  - Update playground equipment
  - Develop covered dugouts
  - Install security cameras around pavilion
  - Increase park lighting
  - Add pickleball court lines to existing courts
  
5. **Lake Front Park:**
  - Develop handicap accessible trail and adjoining accessible picnic areas
  - Develop an open air shelter
  - Install restrooms
  - Install playground area
  - Update the handicap dock
  
6. **Centennial Park:**
  - Develop a picnic area shelter
  - Develop a play area
  - Construct an access road and parking areas.
  - Develop restrooms
  - Work with the DOT for access south of Centennial Park for further development of trails
  
7. **Development of River Prairie Pocket Park:**
  - Construct bathroom facilities
  - Install playground equipment
  - Construct picnic area/shelter
  - Install park lighting
  - Install drinking fountains
  - Develop a trail
  
8. **Development of River Prairie Conservancy:**
  - Provide river access (boat landing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, fishing)
  - Develop river walk (multi-purpose trail with options for cross-country ski, run, walk, bike, skate, roller blade)

9. **Development of River Prairie North West Quadrant Park**
  - Market square/pedestrian plaza
  - Music venue/culture/arts center
  - Splash pad/ice rink/pond hockey
  - Recreation space/winter recreation/recreation rentals
  - Trail connections
10. **Upgrade benches and tables in all parks**
11. **Install grills in all parks**
12. **Install bike racks in all parks**
13. **Install WIFI in all parts**
14. **Develop neighborhood parks in the Windsor Forest and Country Club Lane subdivisions.**

***Prioritization Of Recommendations***

The projects identified above were prioritized based on comparative need and readiness for construction. High priority projects should be completed as soon as funding is available. Second priority projects may be completed within the 5 year timeframe of the plan. Finally, projects for which no funding is anticipated until after 2020 are listed as “other projects.”

**HIGHEST PRIORITY**

	<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1.	Install light sensors in City Park bathrooms	Parks Budget	\$650.00
2.	Develop Centennial Park		
3.	Develop River Prairie Park Trail with river access	Grants, Contributions, Budget	\$400,000
4.	Increase park lighting in Devney Park	Parks Budget, Grants, Contributions	\$107,910
5.	Upgrade benches and tables in parks	Parks Budget, Contributions, Grants	\$3,250
6.	Install additional path lighting along sidewalk in Altoona City Park	Parks Budget, Contributions	\$7,000 per year
7.	Install security cameras in Devney Park	Parks Budget	\$4,680-6,240
8.	Update the playground equipment in Devney Park	Grants, Parks Budget	\$2,600
9.	Update bathrooms in Cinder City Park		\$13,000-19,500
10.	Install grills in all parks	Parks Budget, Grants	
11.	Renovate and improve access to the bathrooms in Altoona City Park	Parks Budget	\$19,500-26,000
12.	Update the handicap dock in Lakefront Park	Parks Budget, Grant	\$1,300
		Parks Budget, Grant	TBD
			TBD

**SECOND PRIORITY**

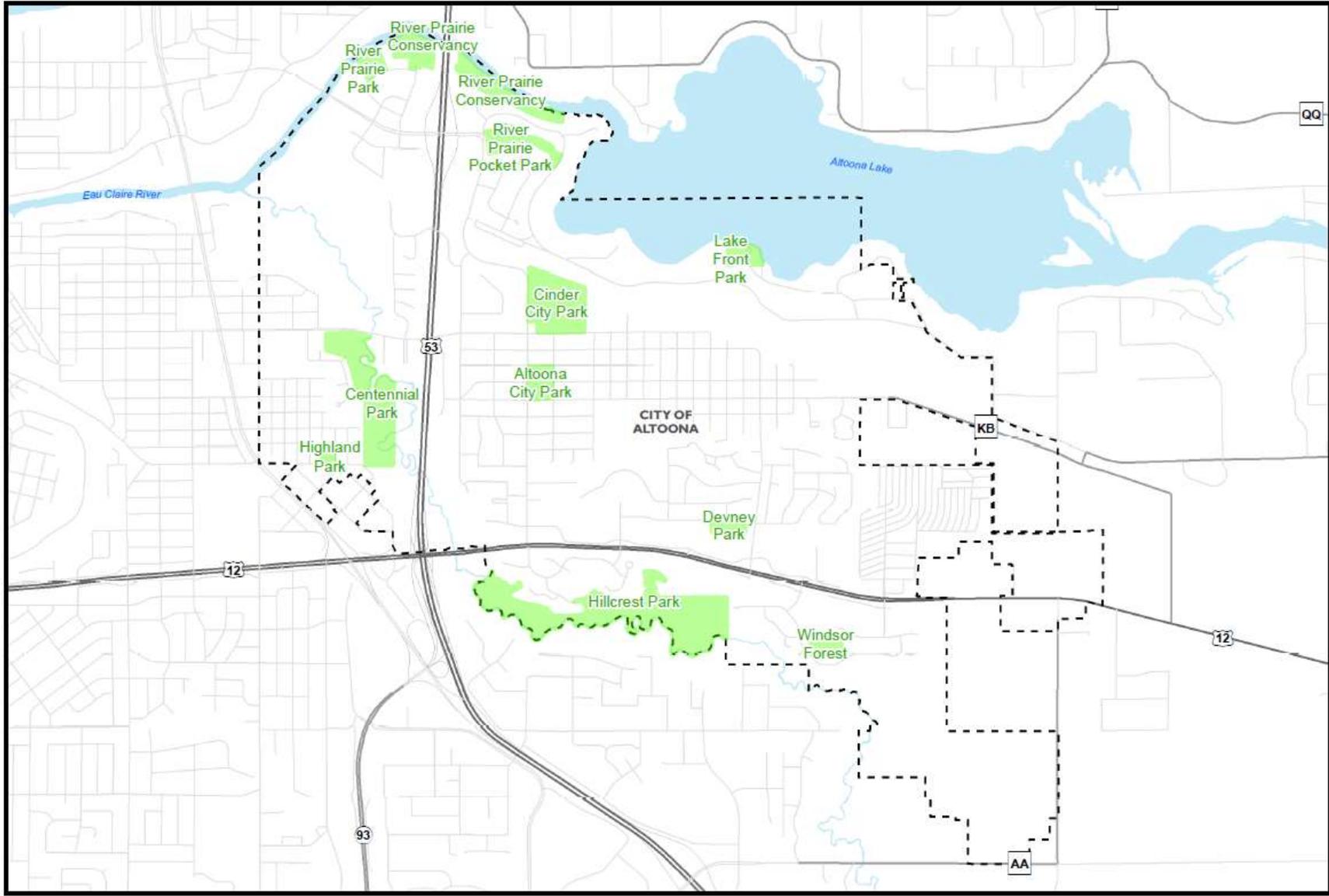
<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Develop covered dugouts in Cinder City Park on North and South fields	Parks Budget	\$6,500
2. Provide lighting in the pavilions at Altoona City Park	Parks Budget, Grant	\$3,250
3. Install bike racks in all parks	Parks Budget, Contributions	\$3,640
4. Jelly Bean Hill improvements; grading, berm placement & parking lot	Parks Budget, Contributions	TBD
5. Update marquee in Cinder City Park	Parks Budget	\$19,500-26,000
6. Replace toddler playground in Altoona City Park	Parks Budget, Contributions, Grants	\$16,900-20,000
7. Install WIFI in all parks	Parks Budget, Contributions	TBD
8. Develop covered dugouts in Devney Park	Grants, Park Budget	\$3,250
9. Upgrade dugout and concession stand in Altoona City Park	Parks Budget, Contributions	\$6,500-13,000
10. Improve drainage between North and South Fields in Cinder City Park	Parks Budget, Grants, Contributions	TBD
11. Hillcrest Park Frisbee Golf Course	Parks Budget, Contributions	\$3,900-5,000

**OTHER PROJECTS**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Consider additional developments at Lake Front Park including picnic shelter, restrooms and playground area	Parks Budget, Grants, Contributions	\$104,000
2. Develop restroom facility at Highland Park	Parks Budget, Grants	\$39,000-50,000
3. Install electricity to pavilion in Highland Park	Parks Budget, Grant	TBD
4. Install irrigation, top soil and grass seed in back portion of Cinder City Park	Parks Budget	\$32,500-45,500
5. Install shade barrier in Altoona City Park over toddler playground	Parks Budget	\$5,000
6. Create outdoor rink during winter in Cinder City Park	AYHA, Contributions	TBD
7. Install sprinkler system in Cinder City Park along 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	Parks Budget	\$13,000-15,600
8. Hillcrest Park Bathrooms		
9. Develop neighborhood parks in Windsor Forest and Country Club Lane subdivisions	Parks Budget, Contributions	\$39,000-45,000
10. Install lighting at Altoona City Park Ball Field	Parks Budget, Grants, Contributions	\$75,000-100,000
11. Develop Sand Volleyball Courts	Parks Budget, Grants	
12. Install soccer field at Highland Park	Parks Budget, Contributions	TBD
13. Soccer field in back area of Cinder City Park	Parks Budget	TBD
14. Electrical in back area of Cinder City Park	Parks Budget, Contributions	TBD
15. Development of Round About Park; pavilion, bathrooms and park lighting	Parks Budget	TBD
	Parks Budget, Grants	\$104,000-150,000

# Map ALT-1 City of Altoona Recreation Areas

## City of Altoona Recreation Areas



## CITY OF AUGUSTA

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the City of Augusta. Map AUG-1 shows the location of these recreation areas.

### SUPPLY: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. **Memorial Field** [N. Railroad St.] - 7.5 ac.  
Memorial Park is a community park providing many amenities for city residents. Facilities include three tennis courts, a basketball court, an ice skating rink, a practice football field, and a lighted ball diamond with dugouts, scoreboard, portable bleachers, concession stand, toilets, and equipment building.
2. **North Side Park** [CTH G, Stone St.] - 5.00 ac.  
North Side Park is used for less active pursuits such as picnicking. Tables, three open-sided shelters, six grills, toilets, hand water pump, and benches are available throughout the park. There is also playground equipment and six horseshoe pits. Because of its small size, the park is not conducive to increased development. This park serves as a community park for the City of Augusta.
3. **Lion's Club Park** [Bills St.] - 2.50 ac.  
The Lion's Club Park is a privately owned park. Facilities include a lighted softball field with scoreboard, bleachers, concession stand, toilets, a large open-sided picnic shelter, tables, barbecue pit, and two lighted volleyball courts.
4. **Augusta Community Center** [Washington and Park Streets] - 1.30 ac.  
The Augusta Community Center is a former school building, and is used for community events as well as a headquarters for senior citizen activities. Adjacent to the Center is open space which has a paved basketball court, softball field with backstop, and some playground equipment. Two picnic tables are adjacent to the playground area. The site serves as a neighborhood park.
5. **Bridge Creek Overlook** [STH 27 and Perkins St.] - 0.42 ac.  
This park is located next to the STH 27 bridge on the northwest side of Augusta. The site includes a concrete patio with a small, open picnic shelter overlooking Bridge Creek. A sidewalk leads to the overlook and a foot bridge that crosses the creek; the sidewalk continues on the other side of the creek. Three picnic tables are distributed throughout the small, wayside-like area. There are also two grills on the site. Swings are also available.
6. **Former Dam Site** [Stone St.] - 0.11 ac.  
The only improvement at this location is a lighted basketball court. An area is flooded for use as an ice skating rink in winter. Enough open space is available to expand the site by another 1.12 acres.
7. **Jaycee Park** [Railway St.] - 0.69 ac.  
The Jaycee Park in the City's Fourth Ward has an open-style picnic shelter, two grills, a toilet, and various playground equipment. It serves as a neighborhood park.
8. **Lincoln Street Park** [Lincoln St.] - 0.05 ac.  
This site is located in the downtown section of Augusta. It serves as a "City Square", consisting of an open area with sidewalks and a gazebo.
9. **Allen Sheggely Memorial Park** [Stone St.] - 0.23 ac.  
This site is across the street from the Former Dam Site. The site includes a picnic table, a small gazebo, and a memorial.

**SUPPLY: SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES**

1. **Augusta Area High School** [USH 12]-10.00 ac.  
The Augusta Area High School grounds are open to the public during non-school hours. The facilities serve as a neighborhood playground. The site contains a lighted football field, three paved basketball courts, playground equipment, and open space. There is also a lighted softball field with backstop and partial fencing. The school also has an indoor pool that serves the entire community.

**NEEDS**

Two factors are examined to determine the demand or need for additional outdoor recreational sites and facilities: an assessment of whether or not there is adequate open space to serve the needs of the population, and an assessment of whether or not outdoor recreational sites are adequately located to serve the needs of the community. Standards have been developed to address these factors. Local officials who are familiar with the community’s recreational facilities are also relied upon to address these issues and develop recommendations for new sites, facilities and equipment.

**Space Needs.** The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has long recognized 12 acres of outdoor recreational open space per 1,000 residents of population as an ideal standard for communities to use in assessing whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve its residents. Table AUG-1 lists the 2010 population, and the projected population through 2030 for the City of Augusta. Given these population figures and the standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents, as well as the total acreage of outdoor recreational sites available for public use, it is possible to assess whether or not there is enough outdoor recreational space to serve the needs of the City's residents at present and in the future. Table AUG-2 indicates the current acreage of outdoor open space, the amount required based upon the NRPA standard, and the surplus or deficit that exists in Augusta. The current acreage figure does not include the sports fields at the Augusta Area High School; this property is not generally available for public use.

Table AUG-1  
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION FOR THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2000 (Census)	1,460	**
2010 (Census)	1,550	+6.2%
2020 (Projected)	1,669	+7.7%
2030 (Projected)	1,756	+5.2%

Projected acreage requirements are not always the most accurate means of realistically assessing community recreation needs, but they are indicators. As Table AUG-2 indicates, the City of Augusta has an adequate amount of space dedicated for outdoor recreational use at present and for the foreseeable future.

Table AUG-2  
RECREATIONAL ACREAGE NEEDS - CITY OF AUGUSTA

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2030</u>
Demand	17.5	18.6	20.0	21.1
Supply	<u>17.8</u>	<u>17.8</u>	<u>17.80</u>	<u>17.80</u>
Needs	None	0.8	2.20	3.30

**Service Areas.** Service areas vary for different types of parks. Community parks, such as Memorial Field and North Side Park, usually have facilities that are intended to serve the entire community and will service an area including several neighborhoods or an area having a radius of up to 2 miles. Residents are expected to travel to community parks, therefore major streets and roads do not present barriers to accessing this type of site. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, on the other hand, are intended to serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius and are intended to serve young children; consequently, major streets and roads can present barriers to accessing this type of park.

Memorial Field and North Side Park are the existing community parks in the City of Augusta. They are adequately located to serve the needs of all residents in Augusta. Lions Club Park also provides community park type of facilities that can be used by the residents of Augusta.

The other parks in the community serve as neighborhood parks. North Side Park also serves the adjoining neighborhood as a neighborhood park. The Augusta High School property could also serve as a neighborhood park, however it is not located adjacent to any residential neighborhood. There are major streets or roads in the City of Augusta that impede the accessibility to neighborhood parks, including US Highway 12/Lincoln Street, State Road 27/Bills Street, and County Road G/Stone Street. The shaded areas on Map AUG-1 have good access to neighborhood parks; areas that are not shaded have some accessibility constraints.

### **ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action Plan consists of a series of recommendations that are intended to serve as a guide for the City of Augusta in the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities over the next five years. The recommendations are aimed at satisfying relevant needs for acquisition, development and general program improvement. They are based upon the needs identified above, analysis and discussion with City officials, and filed inspections. The main objective of the Action Program is to provide citizens of the City and their guests with the best outdoor recreational opportunities possible within the constraints of the City's budget and other funding sources.

It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will necessarily be implemented during the next five years. The City will set priorities and deal with the most urgent needs first as funding is available. Although some of the projects may not be completed over the next five years, City officials concluded that it was appropriate to conduct a long-range, comprehensive examination of the outdoor recreation needs of the community, listing all projects that should be considered for the foreseeable future.

#### ***Recommendations***

1. **At North Side Park:**  
-Repave roads in the park.
2. **Acquire and develop a biking/hiking trail along the creek bed from bridge to bridge.**
3. **Develop the former dam site and Sheggely Memorial Park as neighborhood/community parks.**

### ***Prioritization Of Recommendations***

The projects identified above were prioritized based on comparative need and readiness for construction. High priority projects should be completed as soon as funding is available. Second priority projects may be completed within the 5 year timeframe of the plan. Finally, projects for which no funding is anticipated until after 2015 are listed as "other projects."

#### **HIGHEST PRIORITY**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Nothing at this time.	N/A	N/A

#### **SECOND PRIORITY**

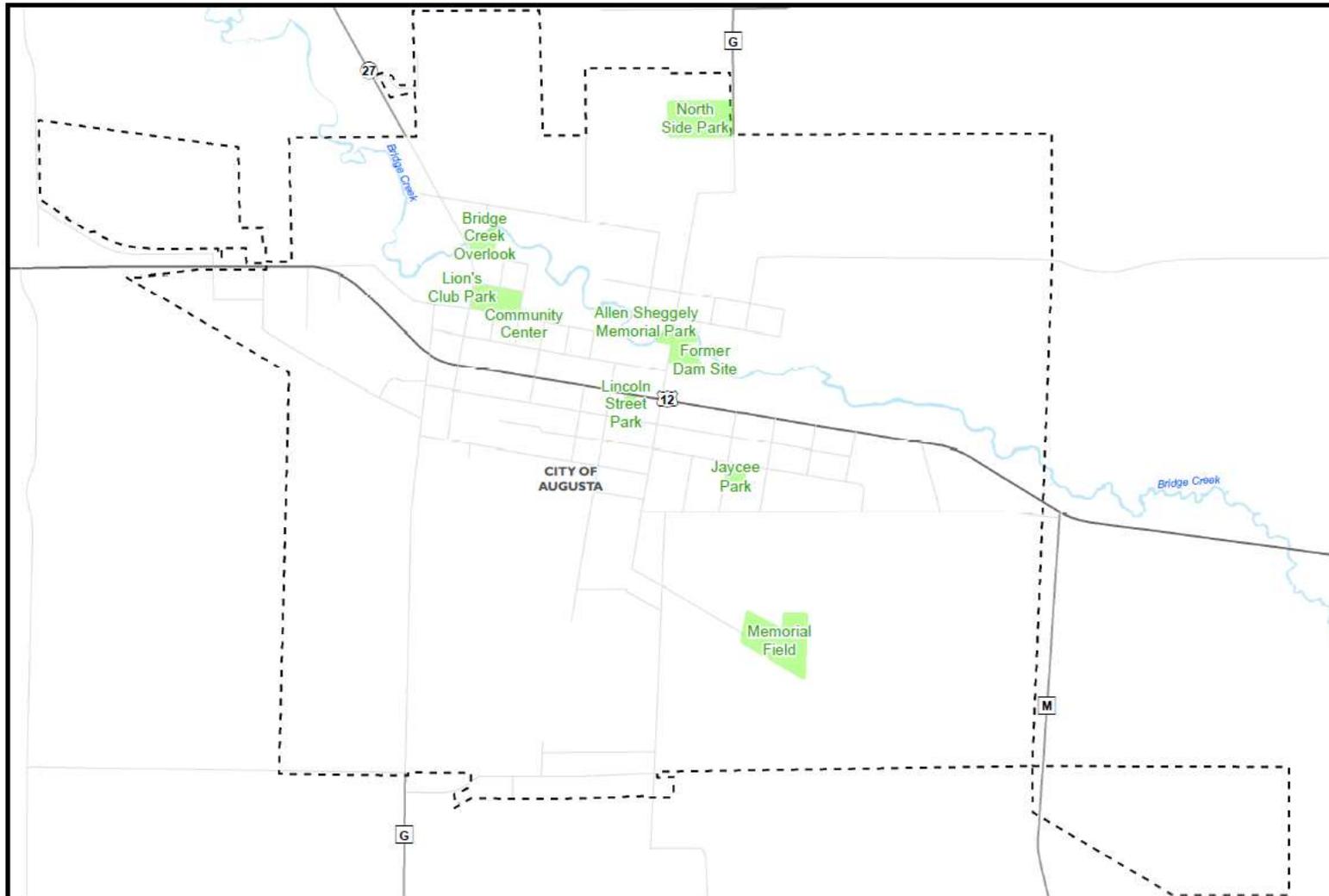
<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Install practice area on tennis court at Memorial Field.	Parks Op. Budget, Grants	\$5,000
2. Construct picnic shelter at North Side Park.	Parks Op. Budget, Grants	\$8,000
3. Repave roads in North Side Park.	Parks Op. Budget	\$6,000
4. Develop biking/hiking trail in city.	Grants, Contributions, Parks Op. Budget	\$5,000
5. Develop plans for neighborhood/ community parks at the former dam site and Sheggely Memorial Park.	Parks Op. Budget	\$1,000

#### **OTHER PROJECTS**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Develop parks at the former dam site and Sheggely Memorial Park.	Grants, Contributions, Parks Op. Budget	To Be Determined

# Map AUG-1 City of Augusta Recreation Areas

City of Augusta Recreation Areas



## VILLAGE OF FAIRCHILD

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Village of Fairchild. Map FAIR-1 shows the location of these recreation areas.

### SUPPLY: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. **Ron Olson Memorial Park** [Elaine Street] - 1.50 ac.  
The main attraction of Olson Memorial Park is the lighted ballfield with bleachers, scoreboard, and concession stand. Other facilities include playground equipment, toilets, barbecue pit, picnic shelter and five picnic tables.
2. **Foster Park** [Center Street] - 2.19 ac.  
Foster Park is an ideally located city-wide park within easy walking distance for all village residents. Facilities include flush toilets, picnic shelter with tables, and basketball court, four grills, a hand water pump, and paved parking area. There is plenty of shaded open space for various recreational activities. In 2005, new playground equipment was added as well as a volley ball court.
3. **Rod & Gun Club Park** [Pond Rd.] - 11.36 ac.  
Located on the west side of the Millpond, the Rod and Gun Club Park functions as a city-wide park and offers opportunities for both indoor and outdoor recreation activities. There is a large building at the site which is utilized by residents for various community events. The surrounding grounds include toilets, four picnic tables, barbecue pit, sand beach, boat dock, and access to the Millpond. The Rod and Gun Club has an elevated platform for archery shooting. There are thirty broad-head targets on the archery range. Public shooting events are planned to be held regularly.
4. **Chat A While Park** [Huron St] - 0.5 ac.

### SUPPLY: SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

1. **Fairchild Elementary Learning Center** [Main Street] - 1.00 ac.  
The Fairchild Elementary Learning Center serves as a neighborhood playground with varied playground equipment as well as basketball courts.

### SUPPLY: SPECIAL USE AREA

1. **Abandoned Rail Line**  
An abandoned rail line running through Fairchild and to the northeast has been gravel surfaced and is used in winter as an ATV and snowmobile trail.

### NEEDS

Two factors are examined to determine the demand or need for additional outdoor recreational sites and facilities: an assessment of whether or not there is adequate open space to serve the needs of the population, and an assessment of whether or not outdoor recreational sites are adequately located to serve the needs of the community. Standards have been developed to address these factors. Local officials who are familiar with the community's recreational facilities are also relied upon to address these issues and develop recommendations for new sites, facilities and equipment.

**Space Needs.** The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has long recognized 12 acres of outdoor recreational open space per 1,000 residents or population as an ideal standard for communities to use in assessing whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve its residents. Table FAIR-1 lists the 2000 population, and the projected population through 2030. Given these population figures and the standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents, as well as the total acreage of outdoor recreational sites available for public use, it is possible to assess whether or not there is enough outdoor recreational space to serve the needs of the Village's residents at present and in the future.

Table FAIR-1  
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION FOR THE VILLAGE OF FAIRCHILD

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2010 (Census)	550	
2020 (Projected)	553	+0.5%
2030 (Projected)	573	+3.6%

Table FAIR-2 indicates the current acreage of outdoor open space (excluding school grounds), the amount required based upon the NRPA standard, and the surplus or deficit that exists in Fairchild.

Table FAIR-2  
RECREATIONAL ACREAGE NEEDS - VILLAGE OF FAIRCHILD

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2030</u>
Demand	6.77	6.60	6.6	6.9
Supply	<u>15.55</u>	<u>15.55</u>	<u>15.55</u>	<u>15.55</u>
Needs	none	None	None	None

Projected acreage requirements are not always the most accurate means of assessing community recreation needs, but they are indicators. As Table FAIR-2 indicates, the Village of Fairchild has four community parks and recreation areas which appear to be adequate to meet the present need. A continuing program of maintenance for the existing outdoor recreation areas will be important over the next five year planning period.

**Service Areas.** Service areas vary for different types of parks. Community parks have facilities that are intended to serve the entire community, including several neighborhoods or an area having a radius of up to 2 miles. Residents are expected to travel to community parks, therefore major streets and roads do not present barriers to accessing this type of site. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, on the other hand, are intended to serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius and are intended to serve young children; consequently, major streets and roads can present barriers to accessing this type of park.

The Rod and Gun Club Park and Foster Park in Fairchild can be classified as community parks. These sites are adequately located to serve the needs of all residents in the community. Chat A While and Ron Olson Memorial Park serve as neighborhood parks, providing playground equipment for neighborhood children or open space for community gathering. These two sites, along with Foster Park, serve the major residential neighborhoods in Fairchild. However, major streets or roads in the Village, such as USH 12, do pose barriers for children in some neighborhoods. The shaded areas on Map FAIR-1 have good access to neighborhood parks; areas that are not shaded have some accessibility constraints to neighborhood parks.

## **ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action Program consists of a series of recommendations that should serve as a guide for the Village of Fairchild in the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities over the next five years. The recommendations are aimed at satisfying relevant needs for acquisition, development and general program improvement. They are based upon the needs identified above, analysis and discussion with Village officials, and field inspections. The main objective of the Action Program is to provide the best outdoor recreational opportunities for Fairchild citizens and their guests within the constraints of the Village's budget and other funding sources.

It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will necessarily be implemented during the next five years. The Village will set priorities and deal with the most urgent needs first as funding is available. Although some of the projects may not be completed over the next five years, Village officials concluded that it was appropriate to conduct a long-range, comprehensive examination of the outdoor recreation needs of the community, listing all projects that should be considered for the foreseeable future.

### ***Recommendations***

#### **1. Rod and Gun Club Park**

- Improve the quality of the pond for both fishing and swimming by dredging the sediment that has accumulated over the years and by renovating the swimming beach.
- Install a floating raft for swimmers.
- Add a park on the northeast corner of Mill Pond
- Consider constructing a bathhouse/changing room on the site.

### ***Prioritization Of Recommendations***

The projects identified above were prioritized based on comparative need and readiness for construction. High priority projects should be completed as soon as funding is available. Second priority projects may be completed within the 5 year timeframe of the plan. Finally, projects for which no funding is anticipated until after 2015 are listed as "other projects". Prioritization of the projects may be amended during this 5 year planning period.

## **HIGH PRIORITY**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funding</u>
1. Improvements to Millpond for fishing and swimming, including dredging of the pond and renovation of the beach at the Rod and Gun Club Park.	Grant, Contributions, and Recreation Budget

## **SECOND PRIORITY**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funding</u>
1. Install lighting for Foster Park playground	Recreation Budget
2. Add a park at the northeast corner of Mill Pond	Recreation Budget

## **OTHER PROJECTS**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funding</u>
1. Install floating raft for swimmers at the Rod and Gun Club Park.	Grants, Contributions, Recreation Budget
2. Construct bathhouse/changing room at the Rod and Gun Club Park.	Grants, Recreation Budget

# Map FAIR-1 Village of Fairchild Recreation Areas

Village of Fairchild Recreation Areas



## VILLAGE OF FALL CREEK

The following section inventories existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Village of Fall Creek. Map FALL-1 shows the location of these recreation areas.

### SUPPLY: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- 1. Randall Park** [Lincoln Ave. and Liberty St.] - 1.00 ac.  
Located on U.S. 12, Randall Park is a neighborhood park and is used by travelers and residents alike. Facilities include picnic tables, a small open shelter, water fountain, toilets, a Historical Museum open to the public, and open space. Parking is limited to street side. There is limited potential for additional development at this site.
- 2. Elias J. Keller Memorial Park** [CTH K] - 13.00 ac.  
Keller Park is a community park with a wide variety of facilities. It is located in the northwest corner of the Village off of State Street. Many facilities are available including playground equipment, two lighted and fenced tennis courts, one large open and two small open picnic shelters, picnic tables, a modern toilet facility and two primitive toilets, lighted softball field, concession stand, press box, potable water, basketball court, and an open field with removable bleachers that is often used for grand stand events and can be used for soccer or other similar field sports. Currently, the Fall Creek Lions Club is spearheading a construction effort involving additional community members to erect a concession stand/kitchen and pavilion structure which will replace the existing concession stand. A paved boat ramp provides access to the Fall Creek Millpond; seven benches are provided along the pond's edge. A nature trail (which includes two 60 ft. bridges) crosses Fall Creek and leads to a canoe landing, fishing spots, and pit toilets. There is a large amount of open space available; Keller Park has room for expansion.
- 3. Fall Creek Valley Memorial Park** [USH 12] - 0.10 ac  
The Village maintains two fishing areas on the pond on the west side of the Village of Fall Creek. Both fishing areas are near the US Highway 12 bridge that enters fall creek. A mowed area is maintained on the northwest side of the bridge and a mowed area with a handicapped accessible fishing dock is maintained on the northeast side of the bridge.
- 4. Crystal Creek Park** (Jackson Ave.) – 1.00 ac  
Located on Jackson Avenue, Crystal Creek Park is a neighborhood park with child-friendly playground equipment, mature trees, and green space. Parking is limited to a side street. There is limited potential for additional development of this site.
- 5. Public Snowmobile Trail Route**  
A designated snowmobile route has been established in the Village of Fall Creek that provides snowmobilers with access to downtown.

### SUPPLY: SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

- 1. Fall Creek Schools** [Wisconsin St.] - 45.00 ac.  
The Fall Creek School District has consolidated all of its buildings to one location in the Village of Fall Creek, which includes approximately 45 acres of open space. The School District has prepared a master plan for development of the open space with a number of outdoor recreational facilities. The District has already constructed a football field, baseball field and softball field. These facilities, and the 10 acres of land associated with them, are not generally available for public use during school hours. The majority of the remaining 35 acres is level open space that could accommodate a variety of field games such as soccer, flag football, or other similar sports. The School District has erected an extensive playground structure which also serves as a neighborhood playground for the area. The paved running track is also available for use by the public. There are also large paved areas and basketball hoops on the property. A reorganization of the playground equipment is planned.

## NEEDS

Two factors are examined to determine the demand or need for additional outdoor recreational sites and facilities: an assessment of whether or not there is adequate open space to serve the needs of the population, and an assessment of whether or not outdoor recreational sites are adequately located to serve the needs of the community. Standards have been developed to address these factors. Local officials who are familiar with the community's recreational facilities are also relied upon to address these issues and develop recommendations for new sites, facilities and equipment.

**Space Needs.** The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has long recognized 12 acres of outdoor recreational open space per 1,000 residents or population as an ideal standard for communities to use in assessing whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve its residents. Table FALL-1 lists the 2000 Census population, and the projected population through 2030 for the Village of Fall Creek. Given these population figures and the standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents, as well as the total acreage of outdoor recreational sites available for public use, it is possible to assess whether or not there is enough outdoor recreational space to serve the needs of the Village's residents at present or in the future.

Table FALL-1  
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION FOR THE VILLAGE OF FALL CREEK

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2010 (Census)	1,330	
2020 (Projected)	1,443	8.4%
2030 (Projected)	1,504	4.2%

Table FALL-2 indicates the current acreage of outdoor open space (excluding school grounds), the amount required based upon the NRPA standard, and the surplus or deficit that exists in Fall Creek.

Table FALL-2  
RECREATIONAL ACREAGE NEEDS - VILLAGE OF FALL CREEK

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2030</u>
Demand	14.83	15.96	17.31	18.05
Supply	<u>15.10</u>	<u>15.10</u>	<u>15.10</u>	<u>15.10</u>
Needs	None	0.86	2.21	2.95

Projected acreage requirements are not always the most accurate means of assessing community recreation needs, but they are indicators. As Table FALL-2 indicates, the Village of Fall Creek seems to have adequate space for outdoor recreation at present. However, based on projected growth, additional space may be warranted.

**Service Areas.** Service areas vary for different types of parks. Community parks usually have facilities that are intended to serve the entire community and will service an area including several neighborhoods or an area having a radius of up to 2 miles. Residents are expected to travel to community parks, therefore major streets and roads do not present barriers to accessing this type of site. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, on the other hand, are intended to serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius and are intended to serve young children; consequently, major streets and roads can present barriers to accessing this type of park.

Elias Keller Memorial Park is classified as a community park. It includes a variety of outdoor recreation equipment and facilities. The Village of Fall Creek appears to be well served by the community-wide recreational opportunities that this park provides.

Randall Park , Crystal Park, and the school property serve their respective neighborhoods as neighborhood parks; Elias J. Keller Memorial Park also serves the adjoining neighborhood as a neighborhood park. There are several major streets or roads in the Village that pose barriers for children in some neighborhoods that may wish to use these parks, including State Street (also known as County Road K to the north and County Road K and KK to the south), and US Highway 12. The shaded areas on Map FALL-1 have good access to neighborhood parks; areas that are not shaded have some accessibility constraints to neighborhood parks.

## **ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action Plan consists of a series of recommendations that are intended to serve as a guide for the Village of Fall Creek in the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities over the next five years. The recommendations are aimed at satisfying relevant needs for acquisition, development and general program improvement. They are based upon the needs identified above, analysis and discussion with Village officials, and field inspections. The main objective of the Action Program is to provide citizens of the Village and their guests with the best outdoor recreational opportunities possible within the constraints of the Village's budget and other funding sources.

It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will necessarily be implemented during the next five years. The Village will set priorities and deal with the most urgent needs first as funding is available. Although some of the projects may not be completed over the next five years, Village officials concluded that it was appropriate to conduct a long-range, comprehensive examination of the outdoor recreation needs of the community, listing all projects that should be considered for the foreseeable future.

### ***Recommendations***

1. Continue to acquire land adjacent to Fall Creek Mill Pond to serve the dual purposes of protecting the water quality of the pond by serving as a buffer from adjacent land uses and for future community park development.
2. Continue to maintain the dam and dredge the pond as necessary to maintain water quality.
3. Areas that have accessibility constraints due to major traffic corridors should be given first consideration for future neighborhood park development.
4. Elias J. Keller Memorial Park
  - Develop a pavilion capable of hosting large gatherings such as wedding receptions.
  - Erect safety fencing adjacent to the railroad right-of-way to serve as a safety barrier for users of the park.
  - Research the possibility of connecting the Village with county-wide ATV trail routes.

### **Prioritization of Recommendations**

The projects identified above were prioritized based on comparative need and readiness for construction. High priority projects should be completed as soon as funding is available. Second priority projects may be completed within the 5 year timeframe of the plan. Finally, projects for which no funding is anticipated until after 2015 are listed as "other projects". Prioritization of the projects may be amended during this 5 year planning period.

**HIGH PRIORITY**

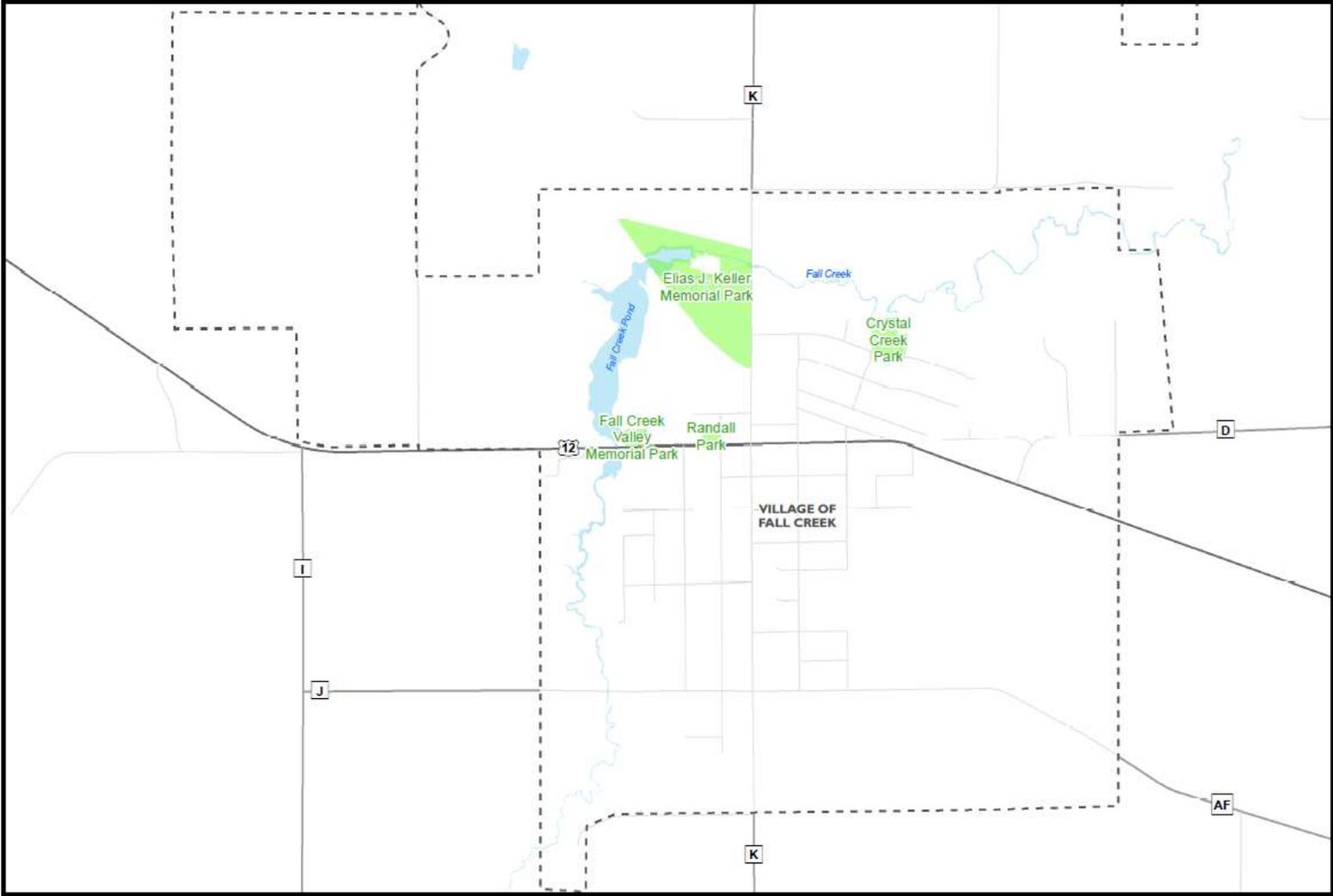
<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funding</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Continue to maintain the dam and dredge the pond as necessary, and perform any other action necessary to maintain or improve the water quality of Fall Creek Mill Pond.	Fall Creek Inland Lake District, Matching Grants from the Eau Claire County Lake Protection District Fund	Varies depending upon the extent of the project
2. Continue to acquire land adjacent to Fall Creek Mill Pond to serve as a buffer from adjacent land uses and for future community park development	Grants, Contributions, Recreation Budget	Varies
3. Erect safety fencing along the railroad right-of-way in Elias J. Keller Memorial Park	Grants, Contributions, Recreation Budget	\$5,000

**SECOND PRIORITY**

1. Develop a pavilion at Elias J. Keller Memorial Park	Grants, Contributions, Recreation Budget	\$20,000-30,000
2. Continue to acquire and develop neighborhood parks as funding becomes available	Grants, Contributions, Recreation Budget	Varies

# Map FALL-1 Village of Fall Creek Recreation Areas

Village of Fall Creek Recreation Areas



## TOWN OF BRUNSWICK

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Town of Brunswick. Map BRU-1 shows the location of these recreation areas.

### SUPPLY: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. **School Forest** (S½, SE¼, Section 10, T26N-R10W) - 24.25 ac.  
This site is owned by the Town of Brunswick and has long been considered a location for the development of a community park. At this time there is no development at the site. The site has public access off State Highway 37.

### SUPPLY: COUNTY FACILITIES

1. **Guettinger Woods and Wildlife Area** (W½, NW¼, Section 34, T26N-R10W) – 84.4 ac.  
This site was donated to Eau Claire County as a public wildlife and nature area by Ralph and Irma Guettinger. The site provides the public with opportunities to enjoy passive outdoor recreational activities such as hiking and wildlife viewing or photography. This site does not have a parking lot or any other improvements; nevertheless, it does provide passive recreational opportunities that can be found in a community park.
2. **State Road 85 Wayside** (SW¼, SE¼, Section 3, T26N-R10W) - 1.69 ac.  
This site is located on the south shore of the Chippewa River. It is owned by Eau Claire County and is maintained as a wayside. There is a drive that passes through the site with ample parking available. There are some picnic tables, a shelter with a hand pump well, toilets, a historical marker, and an informational kiosk.
3. **Porterville Landing Boat Launch** (NE¼, Section 3, T26N-R10W) – 8 ac.  
This site is owned by Eau Claire County and has been improved and maintained by the Rock Falls Sportsman’s Club. A large parking lot is available for the boat launch area on the Chippewa River. The boat launch is paved. Other improvements include picnic tables, landscaping, and grassy areas for picnicking and recreation.

### SUPPLY: SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

1. **Little Red School** (W3380 State Road 37, Eau Claire) – 33.79 acres  
Little Red School is a rural elementary school for students living in the Town of Brunswick and other rural areas within the Eau Claire Area School District in this area. The school building and parking lot are located on 2 acres, and the remaining 34.62 acres are available for recreational use by the public when school is not in session. The following facilities are included at this site: a playground; a paved area for courtyard games; a softball field; a soccer field; and a nature trail that loops through a natural, undeveloped area occupying about 25 acres of the site. This site provides some of the features that are commonly available at a community park including the playground, softball field, soccer field, and natural area with the trail. It is generally available for this type of use during weekends and in the summer.

### SUPPLY: SPECIAL USE AREAS

1. **Camp Brunswick** (NE¼,SE¼, Section 1, T26N-R10W) - 40 ac.  
This property is owned and used by the Boy Scout organization for camping. There are no improvements and it is not available for public use.
2. **Camp Davidson** (NE¼,NW¼, Section 29, T26N-R10W) - 40 ac.  
This is a privately owned site that has been dedicated for use by the Boy Scouts. There are no improvements and it is not available for public use.

3. **Maple Drive Boosters 4-H Wayside** (NE¼, NW¼, Section 8, T26N-R10W) - .085 ac.

This site is located on the south side of State Road 85 where West Creek crosses the highway. The site is maintained by the Maple Drive Boosters 4-H Club in the Town of Brunswick and is available for public use as a wayside. There is a driveway and small area to park, a picnic table, and a footbridge crossing West Creek.

**NEEDS**

Two factors are examined to determine the demand or need for additional outdoor recreational sites and facilities: an assessment of whether or not there is adequate open space to serve the needs of the population, and an assessment of whether or not outdoor recreational sites are adequately located to serve the needs of the community. Standards have been developed to address these factors. Local officials who are familiar with the community’s recreational facilities are also relied upon to address these issues and develop recommendations for new sites, facilities and equipment.

**Space Needs.** The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has long recognized 12 acres of outdoor recreational open space per 1,000 residents or population as an ideal standard for communities to use in assessing whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve its residents. Table BRU-1 lists the 2010 population and the projected population through 2030 for the Town of Brunswick. Given these population figures and the standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents, as well as the total acreage of outdoor recreational sites available for public use, it is possible to assess whether or not there is enough outdoor recreational space to serve the needs of the Town's residents at present and in the future. Table BRU-2 indicates the current acreage of outdoor open space, the amount required based upon the NRPA standard, and the surplus or deficit that exists in Brunswick.

Table BRU-1  
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION FOR THE TOWN OF BRUNSWICK

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	Percent Change
2010 (Census)	1,624	
2020 (Projected)	1,740	7.1%
2030 (Projected)	1,850	6.3%

Based upon the information presented in Table BRU-2, the Town of Brunswick appears to have an adequate supply of land for outdoor recreational needs. However, it is important to note that only the School District’s property at Little Red School has any recreational equipment and the future of that property remains in question.

Table BRU-2  
RECREATIONAL ACREAGE NEEDS - TOWN OF BRUNSWICK

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2030</u>
Demand	19.18	19.48	20.88	22.20
Supply*	<u>58.04</u>	<u>58.04</u>	<u>58.04</u>	<u>58.04</u>
Needs	None	None	None	None

\* Supply includes only the School Forest site and Little Red School. Most other sites serve special purposes other than those found in community or neighborhood parks.

**Service Areas.** Service areas vary for different types of parks. Community parks usually have facilities that are intended to serve the entire community and, in rural areas, will service an entire municipality. Residents are expected to travel to community parks, therefore major streets and roads do not present barriers to accessing this type of site. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, on the other hand, are intended to serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius and are intended to serve young children; consequently, major streets and roads can present barriers to accessing this type of park.

At this time, there are no sites in the Town that can adequately serve as community parks for Brunswick due to the lack of improvements. Although the Little Red School property has some playground equipment and space for passive and active outdoor recreational facilities, the site does not have picnic facilities and it is not available for use year round. Its future use may also be in question as the property no longer is used for educational purposes.

**ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action Plan consists of a series of recommendations that are intended to serve as a guide for the Town of Brunswick in the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities over the next five years. The recommendations are aimed at satisfying relevant needs for acquisition, development and general program improvement. They are based upon the needs identified above, analysis and discussion with Town officials, and field inspections. The main objective of the Action Program is to provide citizens of the Town and their guests with the best outdoor recreational opportunities possible within the constraints of the Town's budget and other funding sources.

It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will necessarily be implemented during the next five years. The Town will set priorities and deal with the most urgent needs first as funding is available. Although some of the projects may not be completed over the next five years, Town officials concluded that it was appropriate to conduct a long-range, comprehensive examination of the outdoor recreation needs of the community, listing all projects that should be considered for the foreseeable future.

***Recommendations***

1. Continue to develop and improve the Porterville Landing Boat Launch site on the Chippewa River just upstream from the State 85 wayside in cooperation with city, county and state agencies and the Rock Falls Sportsman’s Club.
2. Consider development of neighborhood parks and/or playgrounds in residential neighborhoods.

***Prioritization of Recommendations***

Projects identified above were prioritized based on comparative need and readiness for construction. Projects given the highest priority have been proposed for completion as soon as funding is available. Projects given a second priority could be completed during the 5-year planning cycle if funding becomes available.

**FIRST PRIORITY**

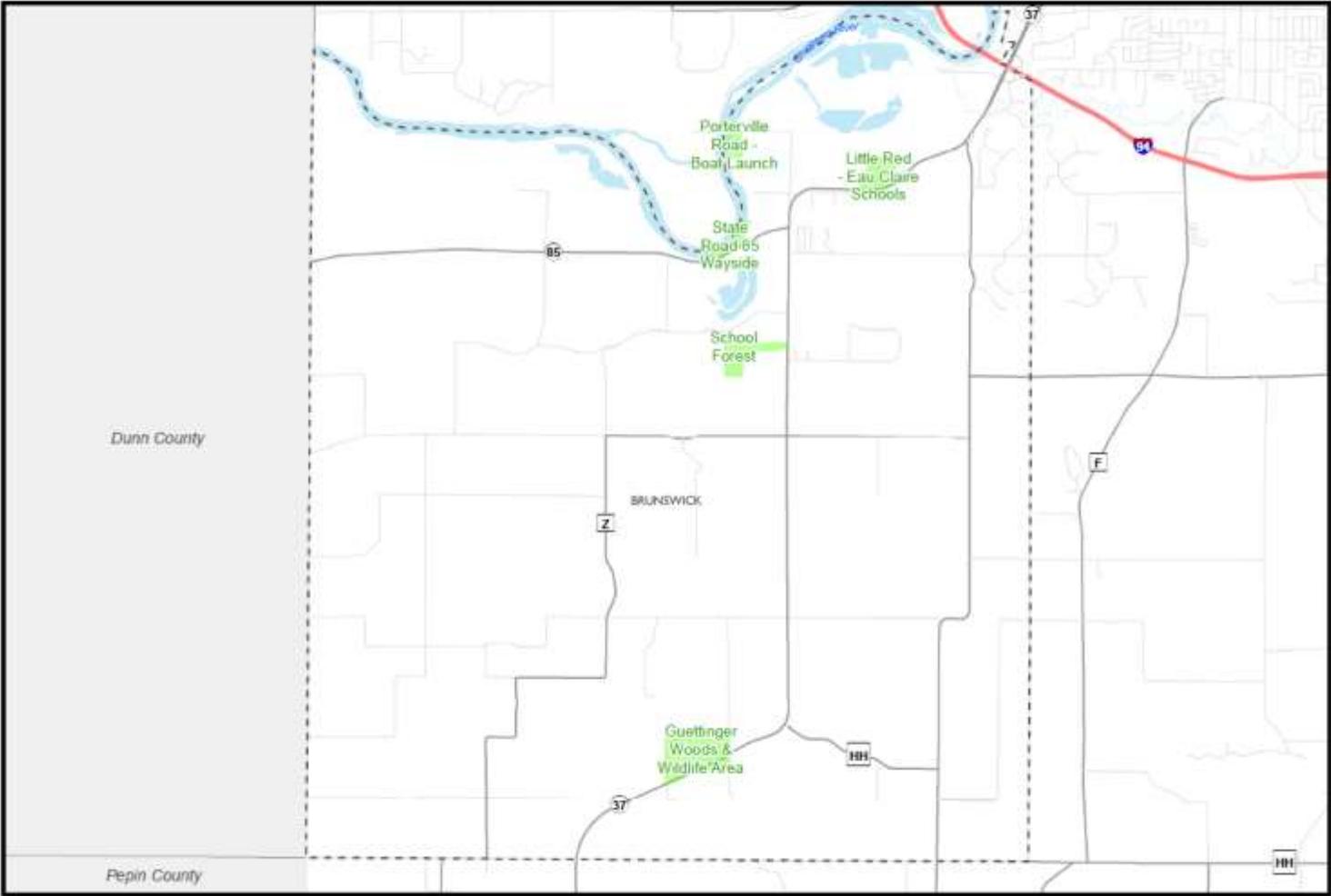
<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funding</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Additional improvements to Porterville Landing Boat Launch site	Town Budget, Stewardship Fund, Rock Creek Sportsman Club, County of Eau Claire	Unknown

**SECOND PRIORITY**

1. Develop neighborhood parks as funding becomes available	Grants, Contributions, Recreation Budget	Varies
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# Map BRU-1 Town of Brunswick Recreation Areas

Town of Brunswick Recreation Areas



## TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY

The following section inventories the existing public properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Town of Pleasant Valley. Map PV-1 shows the location of the recreation area.

### SUPPLY: COMMUNITIES FACILITIES

1. **Cleghorn School Park** [CTH HH/I] – 9.07 acres

Located next to the Pleasant Valley Town Hall and the Township Fire Station, this recreation area serves as a community park. Facilities include a softball field (with bleachers and ball field lights), a large open grassed area, a picnic area, a pavilion with kitchen and restrooms, and playground equipment. The old town hall was recently relocated to the park property as well. A large parking lot is also available. The property has a designated nature trail with benches for wildlife observation.

### NEEDS

Two factors are examined to determine the demand or need for additional outdoor recreation sites and facilities: as assessment of whether or not there is adequate open space to serve the needs of the population, and an assessment of whether or not outdoor recreation sites are adequately located to serve the needs of the community. Standards have been developed to address these factors. Local officials who are familiar with the community’s recreation facilities are also relied upon to address these issues and develop recommendations for new sites, facilities and equipment.

**Space Needs.** The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has long recognized 12 acres of outdoor recreational open space per 1,000 residents or population as an ideal standard for communities to use in assessing whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve its residents. Table PV-1 lists the 2000 Census population, and the projected population through 2030 for the Town of Pleasant Valley. Given these population figures and the standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents, as well as the total acreage of outdoor recreational sites available for public use, it is possible to assess whether or not there is enough outdoor recreational space to serve the needs of the town's residents at present and in the future. Table PV-2 indicates the current acreage of outdoor open space, the amount required based upon the NRPA standard, and the surplus or deficit that exists in Pleasant Valley.

Projected acreage requirements are not always the most accurate means of assessing community recreation needs but they are indicators. Based upon the information presented in Table PV-2, the Town of Pleasant Valley has an inadequate amount of acreage devoted to outdoor recreation. However, there are numerous community parks in the City of Eau Claire and Town of Washington that are in relatively close proximity to the town. The combination of the acreage at Cleghorn School Park with the nearby parks result in an amount adequate to satisfy the need for recreational opportunities for Town of Pleasant Valley residents.

Table PV-1

#### CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION FOR THE TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2000 (Census)	2,681	--
2010 (Census)	3,044	13.5%
2020 (Projected)	3,479	14.3 %
2030 (Projected)	3,830	10.1%

Table PV-2  
RECREATIONAL ACREAGE NEEDS – TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2025</u>
Demand	32.17	36.53	41.75	45.96
Supply	<u>9.07</u>	<u>9.07</u>	<u>9.07</u>	<u>9.07</u>
Needs	23.10	27.46	32.68	36.89

**Service Areas.** Service areas vary for different types of parks. Community parks usually have facilities that are intended to serve the entire community and, in rural areas, will service an entire municipality. Residents are expected to travel to community parks; therefore, major roads should not present barriers to accessing this type of site. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, on the other hand, are intended to serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius and are intended to serve young children. Consequently, major streets can present barriers to accessing this type of park. The Cleghorn School Park provides community park facilities for the Town of Pleasant Valley. As noted later in this plan, the Town plans on adding additional facilities to enhance the recreational opportunities at this site.

**ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action plan consists of a series of recommendations that are intended to serve as a guide for the Town of Pleasant Valley in the development of Cleghorn School Park over the next five years. The recommendations are aimed at satisfying relevant needs for development and general improvement of the nine-acre park. They are based upon the needs identified by the Park Committee, discussion with Town officials, and field inspections. The main objective of the Action Program is to provide citizens of the Town and their guests with the best outdoor recreational opportunities possible within the constraints of the Town’s budget and other funding sources. The Town is committed to preserving and maintaining this natural area for public use. The property will be developed into a more passive recreation area to support the two community festivals held annually.

It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will necessarily be implemented during the next five years. The Town will set priorities and deal with the most urgent needs first as funding is available. Although some of the projects may not be completed over the next five years, Town officials concluded that it was appropriate to conduct a long-range, comprehensive examination of the outdoor recreation needs of the community, listing all projects that should be considered for the foreseeable future.

***Prioritization of Recommendations***

Projects identified above were prioritized based on comparative need and readiness for construction. Projects given the highest priority have been proposed for completion as soon as funding is available. Projects given a second priority could be completed during the five year planning cycle if funding becomes available. Those projects listed under the “Other Projects” category would be completed sometime after 2015.

**HIGH PRIORITY**

	<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funding</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1.	Assist in the renovation of the old town hall	Contributions, Fundraising	TBD
2.	Continue improvement/additional picnic areas and bench seating	Contributions, Fundraising	TBD

**SECOND PRIORITY**

1.	Improve pavilion area to create a facility to be used all year (weather curtains)	Contributions, Fundraising	TBD
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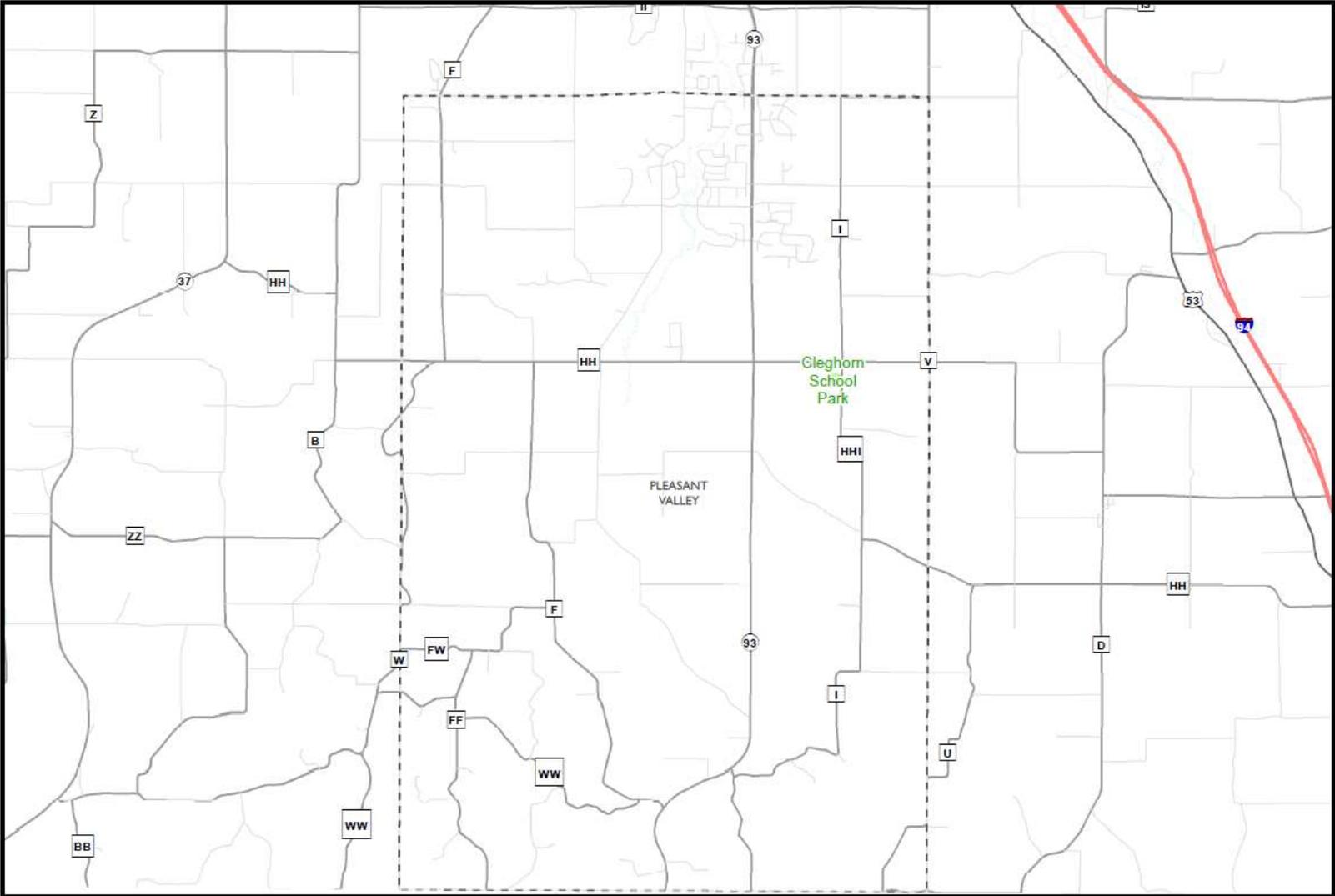
- |    |  |                            |     |
|----|--|----------------------------|-----|
| 2. | Develop a soccer field and horseshoe pit | Contributions, Fundraising | TBD |
|----|--|----------------------------|-----|

**OTHER PROJECTS**

- |    |  |                            |     |
|----|--|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Develop Continue rejuvenation of nature trail                          | Contributions, Fundraising | TBD |
| 2. | Assist with Landscaping enhancements once building project is complete | Contributions, Fundraising | TBD |

# Map PV-1 Town of Pleasant Valley Recreation Areas

Town of Pleasant Valley Recreation Areas



## TOWN OF SEYMOUR

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Town of Seymour. Map SEY-1 shows the location of these recreation areas.

### SUPPLY: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. **Seymour Recreation Park** [SW¼ SE¼, Section 7, T27N-R8W] - 19.50 ac.  
Located next to the Seymour Town Hall, the Seymour Recreation Park serves as a community park. Facilities include six ball fields with fencing and scoreboards, a concession stand, playground equipment, a basketball court, two tennis courts, a volleyball court, eight picnic tables, a medium-sized open shelter with electricity, and an ice skating rink. There is also additional open space for field sports. A recreation building is also located at the park with indoor restrooms. A large, paved parking lot is available.
2. **North Shore Drive Park Site** [SE of intersection - North Shore Drive and Indian Hills Drive] -.88 ac.  
The Town of Seymour purchased this site to serve as a neighborhood park. Dilapidated buildings were razed, the site was leveled and grass was planted. Residents have planted flowers, shrubs and prairie grasses on the site, in addition to creating walking paths. The site has a park bench and a picnic table that were donated and the Town has installed a hand pump for water. The site is frequented by bicyclists and pedestrians and is also used as a play area for children in the neighborhood.
3. **113-Acre Parcel** [NW of intersection – Olson Drive and N 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue; S½ S½ Section 12, T27N-R8W ] A Recreation Land Committee was formed shortly after the purchase of this property for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Board regarding the uses and future development of the property. The Committee had the following recommendations:
  - a. Short Term Goals
    - i. Develop Multi Use Non-Motorized Trails
    - ii. Mark Boundaries
    - iii. Fence around the "Mine Area"
    - iv. Logging for a Parking Lot
    - v. Apply for Grants
    - vi. Open Parking Lot
  - b. Long Term Goals
    - i. Signage for the trails
    - ii. Grate over the "Mine"
    - iii. Parking Lot development
    - iv. Promote Historical significance (silver mining) if any
    - v. Trail to Sanduskey
    - vi. Apply for Grants

### SUPPLY: SPECIAL USE AREAS

1. **Lion's Youth Camp** [NW¼, SE¼, Section 16, T27N-R8W] - 5.00 ac.  
The Eau Claire Lion's Club leases land from Eau Claire County, which they have turned into a Youth Camp. This quasi-public facility has a spring-fed, man-made pond on it, which is posted for use as a fishing spot for youths 16 and under only. Adjacent to the pond is a shelter with fireplace, toilets, and a 1.5 acre mowed, open recreation area. The Camp is mainly used for primitive overnight youth camping.
2. **Walking Paths, St. Andrews Park Subdivision** [NE¼, Section 13, T27N, R9W]  
Walking paths have been established in this residential subdivision for the private use of the residents.

## NEEDS

Two factors are examined to determine the demand or need for additional outdoor recreational sites and facilities: an assessment of whether or not there is adequate open space to serve the needs of the population, and an assessment of whether or not outdoor recreational sites are adequately located to serve the needs of the community. Standards have been developed to address these factors. Local officials who are familiar with the community's recreational facilities are also relied upon to address these issues and develop recommendations for new sites, facilities and equipment.

**Space Needs.** The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has long recognized 12 acres of outdoor recreational open space per 1,000 residents or population as an ideal standard for communities to use in assessing whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve its residents. Table SEY-1 lists the 2000 population and the projected population through 2030 for the Town of Seymour. Given these population figures and the standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents, as well as the total acreage of outdoor recreational sites available for public use, it is possible to assess whether or not there is enough outdoor recreational space to serve the needs of the Town's residents at present and in the future. Table SEY-2 indicates the current acreage of outdoor open space, the amount required based upon the NRPA standard, and the surplus or deficit that exists in Seymour.

Table SEY-1  
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION FOR THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2010 (Projected)	3,209	--
2020 (Projected)	3,376	5.2%
2030 (Projected)	3,622	7.3%

Table SEY-2  
RECREATIONAL ACREAGE NEEDS - TOWN OF SEYMOUR

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2030</u>
Demand	35.74	38.51	40.51	41.99
Supply	<u>20.38</u>	<u>20.38</u>	<u>133.38</u>	<u>133.38</u>
Needs	(15.36)	(18.13)	None*	None*

Projected acreage requirements are not always the most accurate means of assessing community recreation needs, but they are indicators. Based upon the information presented in Table SEY-2 for population growth, the Town of Seymour should consider adding additional outdoor recreational space to meet apparent community needs now and in the future. It should be noted that in 2012 the Town purchased 113 acres of open space, located on the north side of Olson Drive (Highway Q) and west of N 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue. As noted in the footnote under Table SEY-2, two schoolyards that used to provide outdoor recreational space are no longer available for use. With the loss of these sites, the Town has seen a loss of various outdoor recreational facilities including playground equipment, ballfields, and basketball courts. The community and neighborhood park amenities that these two schoolyards had have not yet been replaced. A portion of the additional land that was purchased should be considered for development to replace the facilities that were lost from the school grounds.

**Service Areas.** Service areas vary for different types of parks. Community parks usually have facilities that are intended to serve the entire community and, in rural areas, will service an entire municipality. Residents are expected to travel to community parks, therefore major streets and roads do not present barriers to accessing this type of site. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, on the other hand, are intended to serve an area of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in radius and are intended to serve young children; consequently, major streets and roads can present barriers to accessing this type of park.

As noted earlier, the Town of Seymour Recreation Park serves as a community park for all residents of the Town of Seymour. The site is adequately located and easily accessible to all residents in the Town.

Both the Town of Seymour Recreation Park and the park, located at the southeast corner of the intersection of North Shore Drive and Indian Hills Drive, serve adjoining neighborhoods as neighborhood parks. The Town should consider requiring the dedication of land for play lots or neighborhood parks when new subdivisions are created, adding simple facilities such as picnic tables and playground equipment for use by all of the residents of the neighborhood. The Town could also consider development of neighborhood parks in other urbanized areas of the Town.

## ACTION PROGRAM

The Action Plan consists of a series of recommendations that are intended to serve as a guide for the Town of Seymour in the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities over the next five years. The recommendations are aimed at satisfying relevant needs for acquisition, development and general program improvement. They are based upon the needs identified above, analysis and discussion with Town officials, and field inspections. The main objective of the Action Program is to provide citizens of the Town and their guests with the best outdoor recreational opportunities possible within the constraints of the Town's budget and other funding sources.

It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will necessarily be implemented during the next five years. The Town will set priorities and deal with the most urgent needs first as funding is available. Although some of the projects may not be completed over the next five years, Town officials concluded that it was appropriate to conduct a long-range, comprehensive examination of the outdoor recreation needs of the community, listing all projects that should be considered for the foreseeable future.

### ***Recommendations***

1. **Make improvements to the two public accesses to Lake Altoona.**
2. **Make improvements to the newly acquired land for open space and recreational uses.**
3. **Consider development of neighborhood parks and/or playgrounds in residential neighborhoods.**

### ***Prioritization of Recommendations***

Projects identified above were prioritized based on comparative need and readiness for construction. Projects given the highest priority have been proposed for completion as soon as funding is available. Projects given a second priority could be completed during the 5-year planning cycle if funding becomes available. Those projects listed under the "Other Projects" category would be completed sometime after 2009.

### **FIRST PRIORITY**

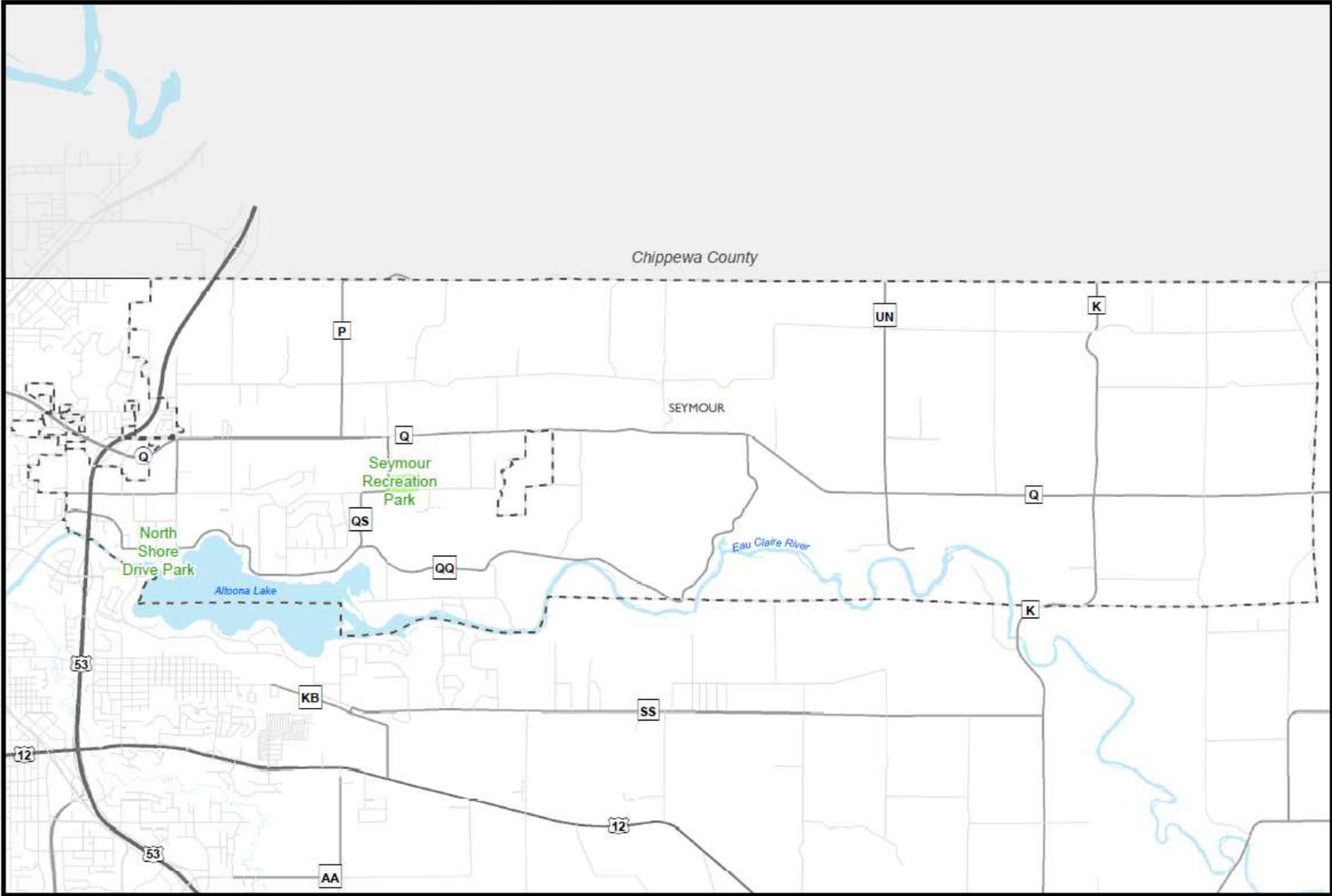
<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Prepare a plan and develop the new community park.	LAWCON, Stewardship, Park Budget	\$75,000 (est.)

### **OTHER PROJECTS**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Acquire sites and develop neighborhood parks or playgrounds.	LAWCON, Stewardship, Park Budget	\$50,000 (est.)
2. Make improvements to public access to Lake Altoona	LAWCON, Stewardship, Park Budget	\$20,000 (est.)

# Map SEY-1 Town of Seymour Recreation Areas

Town of Seymour Recreation Areas



## TOWN OF UNION

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Town of Union. Map UN-1 shows the location of these recreation areas.

### **SUPPLY: COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

1. **Sherman Creek Park** [off of West Vine Street] -- 30.4 ac.  
Located to the west and southwest of Sherman Elementary School. Facilities include two grills, four picnic tables, a pavilion, a swing set and walking trails. An outhouse is available. There is a very small paved pull-out area for vehicle parking. Sherman Creek meanders through the middle of the property. This park is a Natural Park – the town is currently working on making it a “Natural Conservancy Park” – dedicated to education and the protection of its natural resources. The Eau Claire Area School District utilizes this park for educational purposes – it is basically the backyard of Sherman Elementary School and is in the DeLong Middle School area. The Ecology Club of North High School utilizes it for conservation projects. Boy Scouts have undertaken Eagle Scout projects to improve the conservation of the park as well.

Another 18.92-acre tract of land owned by the Kiwanis lies adjacent to this park to the south. Previously, the City of Eau Claire identified this parcel for park space and was offered a Stewardship Grant to purchase the property. However, the Kiwanis and City were not able to reach agreement on price. This area could and still should be considered for development as a park or trail either by the City or Town. It has a flat area along the road on the west and south with steep slopes dropping around 100 feet to Sherman Creek along the east side of the property.

2. **Union Youth Forest** [White Pine Drive] – 78.8 ac.  
This property is bounded by Crescent Avenue on the north, White Pine Drive on the east, the Chippewa River on the south and 40 acres of property owned by the Kiwanis to the west. The area is currently being studied by a committee of the Town of Union. A survey is currently being distributed to town residents to assess the feasibility of expanding trails on the property and putting in parking facilities. In addition, the Kiwanis property adjacent to the west of this area could be considered as a possible expansion for development of the area.
3. **Other Open Spaces** [near Elk Creek Lake] – approximately 15 ac.  
There are four separate “park” properties adjacent to or near to Elk Creek Lake in the Town of Union that are currently undeveloped, including Wildwood Park, Canyon Park and Primeval Park. In general, the property is either very steep ravines, wetlands, or floodway, providing limited development opportunities.

### **SUPPLY: SPECIAL USE FACILITIES**

1. **Silvermine Ski Jump** [Silvermine Drive] – 73.6 ac.  
This property is owned by the City of Eau Claire and is leased to the Eau Claire Ski Club for an annual ski jumping competition. In 2012, the site was also used for Pond Hockey by Eau Claire Youth Hockey in conjunction with the annual Silvermine Invitational held by the Eau Claire Ski Club at the end of January. Pond hockey is planned to be moderately expanded in future years with additional parking areas and Tournament activity by youth and adults.
2. **Whispering Pines Camping Grounds** [Crescent Avenue] – 35.3 ac.  
Country Jam is a company that promotes a large scale country musical festival each summer that attracts several thousand visitors. They provide camping for up to 1,200 fans for this event on leased property. In the past, the property was not available to the public outside of the music event. However, there are plans by the present owners to expand the camping for family oriented special event use. For example, a “Halloween Tour” event was discussed recently, but did not occur in 2011. It is expected that some special events may be held in the near future.

3. **Former Eau Claire Landfill (Crescent Avenue) – 80.0 ac.**

An 80-acre parcel bounded by Crescent Avenue on the North and the Chippewa River on the south, is presently used by the City as a training facility for law enforcement including a pistol range for small firearms practice as well as a classroom-type building for regional training.

**NEEDS**

Two factors are examined to determine the demand or need for additional outdoor recreational sites and facilities: an assessment of whether or not there is adequate open space to serve the needs of the population, and an assessment of whether or not outdoor recreational sites are adequately located to serve the needs of the community. Standards have been developed to address these factors. Local officials who are familiar with the community’s recreational facilities are also relied upon to address these issues and develop recommendations for new sites, facilities and equipment.

**Space Needs.** The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has long recognized 12 acres of outdoor recreational open space per 1,000 residents or population as an ideal standard for communities to use in assessing whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve its residents. Table UN-1 lists the 2000 population and the projected population through 2030 for the Town of Union. Given these population figures and the standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents, as well as the total acreage of outdoor recreational sites available for public use, it is possible to assess whether or not there is enough outdoor recreational space to serve the needs of the Town's residents at present and in the future. Table UN-2 indicates the current acreage of outdoor open space, the amount required based upon the NRPA standard, and the surplus or deficit that exists in Union.

Projected acreage requirements are not always the most accurate means of assessing community recreation needs, but they are indicators. Based upon the information presented in Table UN-2, the Town of Union has an adequate amount of acreage devoted to outdoor recreation. In addition, there are community parks in the City of Eau Claire that are in relatively close proximity which can satisfy the need for outdoor recreational opportunities for Town of Union residents. Balanced against this is the fact that the recreational opportunities provided within the Town are very limited. Recreation is limited to some walking and horse riding trails, one small picnic area, and one small playground swing.

Table UN-1  
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION FOR THE TOWN OF UNION

<u>Year</u>	Population	Percent Change
2010 (Census)	2,663	-
2020 (projected)	2,964	11.3%
2030 (projected)	3,275	10.5%

The town notes that the area population may grow but that the growth is likely to be in the City of Eau Claire due to annexation and the city’s comprehensive plan. The town is not certain that its population will even sustain itself.

Table UN-2  
RECREATIONAL ACREAGE NEEDS - TOWN OF UNION

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2030</u>
Demand	28.8	32.0	35.6	39.3
Supply	109.2	109.2	109.2	109.2
Needs	None	None	None	None

**Service Areas.** Service areas vary for different types of parks. Community parks usually have facilities that are intended to serve the entire community and, in rural areas, will service an entire municipality. Residents are expected to travel to community parks, therefore major streets and roads do not present barriers to accessing this type of site. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, on the other hand, are intended to serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius and are intended to serve young children; consequently, major streets and roads can present barriers to accessing this type of park.

Sherman Creek Park serves as a natural park with very limited facilities, and there are no facilities in the Youth Forest. As noted above, the Town of Union abuts the City of Eau Claire and therefore, the City of Eau Claire has access to these facilities.

## **ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action Program consists of a series of recommendations that are intended to serve as a guide for the Town of Union in the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities over the next five years. The recommendations are aimed at satisfying relevant needs for acquisition, development and general program improvement. They are based upon the needs identified above, analysis and discussion with Town officials, and field inspections. The main objective of the Action Program is to provide citizens of the Town and their guests with the best outdoor recreational opportunities possible within the constraints of the Town's budget and other funding sources.

It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will necessarily be implemented during the next five years. The Town will set priorities and deal with the most urgent needs first as funding is available. Although some of the projects may not be completed over the next five years, Town officials concluded that it was appropriate to conduct a long-range, comprehensive examination of the outdoor recreation needs of the community, listing all projects that should be considered for the foreseeable future.

### *Recommendations*

1. The Town has placed the Sherman Creek Park in Conservancy and has recently negotiated transfers of land with the Eau Claire School District to facilitate expansion of the Sherman Creek School site.
2. The Union Youth Forest off White Pine Drive is presently under study by a committee of town residents. A survey has been distributed to town residents considering the feasibility of developing trails and a parking area on the 80-acre site. Depending on the survey results and interest, the 40-acre Kiwanis land may also be considered for expansion of this Union Youth Forest site.
3. The 18.92-acre Kiwanis site bordering Sherman Creek should continue to be explored for community trails and/or park. In the wake of unsuccessful negotiations with Kiwanis for the property, the City of Eau Claire and the Town of Union should jointly consider a grant assisted purchase of the property for further park development.
4. Whispering Pines Campground. Although there is some difficulty with any expansion of Country Jam because of the disruption caused to neighboring property owners, family and youth-type activities would not generally cause such disruption of neighbors and would be better suited to the area. Therefore, family and youth oriented venues should be promoted for the future. Horse and trail riding and camping in conjunction with development of trails in the Youth Forest should be encouraged and supported.
5. Former Landfill Site, especially the portion bordering the river and town road needs to be considered as possible park space areas which would be available to the surrounding community.
6. The Town should also encourage and support the activities associated with the Silvermine Ski Jump and Pond Hockey event along with the Bit and Spur Horse Club and shows.

**Prioritization of Recommendations**

Projects identified above were prioritized based on comparative need and readiness for construction. Projects given the highest priority have been proposed for completion as soon as funding is available. Projects given a second priority could be completed during the 5-year planning cycle if funding becomes available. Those projects listed under the "Other Projects" category could be completed sometime after 2015.

**FIRST PRIORITY**

	<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1.	Prepare a plan and develop the Union Youth Forest.	LAWCON, Stewardship, Park Budget, Donations	TBD
2.	Consider purchase of the Kiwanis property adjacent to the Union Youth Forest	LAWCON, Stewardship, Park Budget, Donations	TBD
3.	Consider purchase of the Kiwanis property adjacent to Sherman Creek	LAWCON, Stewardship, City of Eau Claire, Park Budget, Donations	TBD

**OTHER PROJECTS**

	<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1.	Develop neighborhood parks at former landfill site.	LAWCON, Stewardship, Park Budget	TBD

# Map UN-1

## Town of Union Recreation Areas

## Town of Union Recreation Areas



## TOWN OF WASHINGTON

The following section inventories the existing public and private properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Town of Washington. Map WASH-1 shows the location of these recreation areas.

### SUPPLY: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. **Little League Ball Diamond & Conservancy Area** [Horlacher Lane] - 13.49 ac.  
Located near the Township Fire Department, Inc. Dispatch Center, this recreation area serves as a community park. Facilities include two Little League baseball fields (with fencing, scoreboard, and bleachers), a tee-ball field (with fencing), batting cages, and a concession stand/storage building. A large, asphalt parking lot is available. A wetland area on the property has been designated as a nature conservancy area.
2. **Seven Mile Creek Park** [W. Park Creek Road] - 5.81 ac.  
This park site was dedicated to the Town of Washington when Park Creek Estates was created. This site has a backstop for baseball and softball, wooden benches, and a walking path connecting East Park Creek and West Park Creek Roads. The ballfield area has been converted to a prairie grass area.

### SUPPLY: COUNTY FACILITIES

1. **Lowes Creek County Park** (South Lowes Creek Road/State Road 93) - 226.40 ac.

### NEEDS

Two factors are examined to determine the demand or need for additional outdoor recreational sites and facilities: an assessment of whether or not there is adequate open space to serve the needs of the population, and an assessment of whether or not outdoor recreational sites are adequately located to serve the needs of the community. Standards have been developed to address these factors. Local officials who are familiar with the community's recreational facilities are also relied upon to address these issues and develop recommendations for new sites, facilities and equipment.

**Space Needs.** The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has long recognized 12 acres of outdoor recreational open space per 1,000 residents or population as an ideal standard for communities to use in assessing whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve its residents. Table WASH-1 lists the 2000 population and the projected population through 2030 for the Town of Washington. Given these population figures and the standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents, as well as the total acreage of outdoor recreational sites available for public use, it is possible to assess whether or not there is enough outdoor recreational space to serve the needs of the Town's residents at present and in the future. Table WASH-2 indicates the current acreage of outdoor open space, the amount required based upon the NRPA standard, and the surplus or deficit that exists in Washington.

Projected acreage requirements are not always the most accurate means of assessing community recreation needs, but they are indicators. Based upon the information presented in Table WASH-2, the Town of Washington has an adequate amount of acreage devoted to outdoor recreation. Although Lowes Creek Park is a County Park intended to serve the needs of all residents in the County, it also serves as a community park for the citizens of the Town of Washington. In addition, there are numerous community parks in the City of Eau Claire that are in relatively close proximity which can satisfy the need for outdoor recreational opportunities for Town of Washington residents. For the purpose of assessing the supply versus demand for the Town of Washington, neither the County Park nor the City of Eau Claire Parks are taking into consideration when determining potential needs.

Table WASH-1  
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION FOR THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2000 (Census)	6,995	-
2010 (Census)	7,182	2.7%
2020 (projected)	7,543	5.1%
2030 (projected)	7,913	4.9%

Table WASH-2  
RECREATIONAL ACREAGE NEEDS - TOWN OF WASHINGTON

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2030</u>
Demand	83.94	86.18	90.52	94.96
Supply	<u>19.30</u>	<u>19.30</u>	<u>19.30</u>	<u>19.30</u>
Needs	64.64	66.88	71.22	75.66

**Service Areas.** Service areas vary for different types of parks. Community parks usually have facilities that are intended to serve the entire community and, in rural areas, will service an entire municipality. Residents are expected to travel to community parks, therefore major streets and roads do not present barriers to accessing this type of site. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, on the other hand, are intended to serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius and are intended to serve young children; consequently, major streets and roads can present barriers to accessing this type of park.

The Little League Ball Diamonds and Conservancy Area provides some community park type facilities for the Town of Washington, although the facilities are limited. As noted later in this plan, the Town plans on adding additional facilities, including playground equipment, to enhance the recreational opportunities at this site.

As noted above, various parts of the Town of Washington adjoin the City of Eau Claire and, in some cases, City parks are located in close proximity. The Town should consider establishing neighborhood parks and additional community parks for residents in areas of the Town of Washington that do not have good access to other parks.

### **ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action Plan consists of a series of recommendations that are intended to serve as a guide for the Town of Washington in the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities over the next five years. The recommendations are aimed at satisfying relevant needs for acquisition, development and general program improvement. They are based upon the needs identified above, analysis and discussion with Town officials, and field inspections. The main objective of the Action Program is to provide citizens of the Town and their guests with the best outdoor recreational opportunities possible within the constraints of the Town's budget and other funding sources.

It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will necessarily be implemented during the next five years. The Town will set priorities and deal with the most urgent needs first as funding is available. Although some of the projects may not be completed over the next five years, Town officials concluded that it was appropriate to conduct a long-range, comprehensive examination of the outdoor recreation needs of the community, listing all projects that should be considered for the foreseeable future.

**Recommendations**

1. Partner with Lowes Creek Little League in the league’s three year capital improvement plan.
2. Investigate the acquisition and/or development of other park sites.

**Prioritization of Recommendations**

Projects identified above were prioritized based on comparative need and readiness for construction. Projects given the highest priority have been proposed for completion as soon as funding is available. Projects given a second priority could be completed during the 5-year planning cycle if funding becomes available. Those projects listed under the "Other Projects" category would be completed sometime after 2020.

**FIRST PRIORITY:**

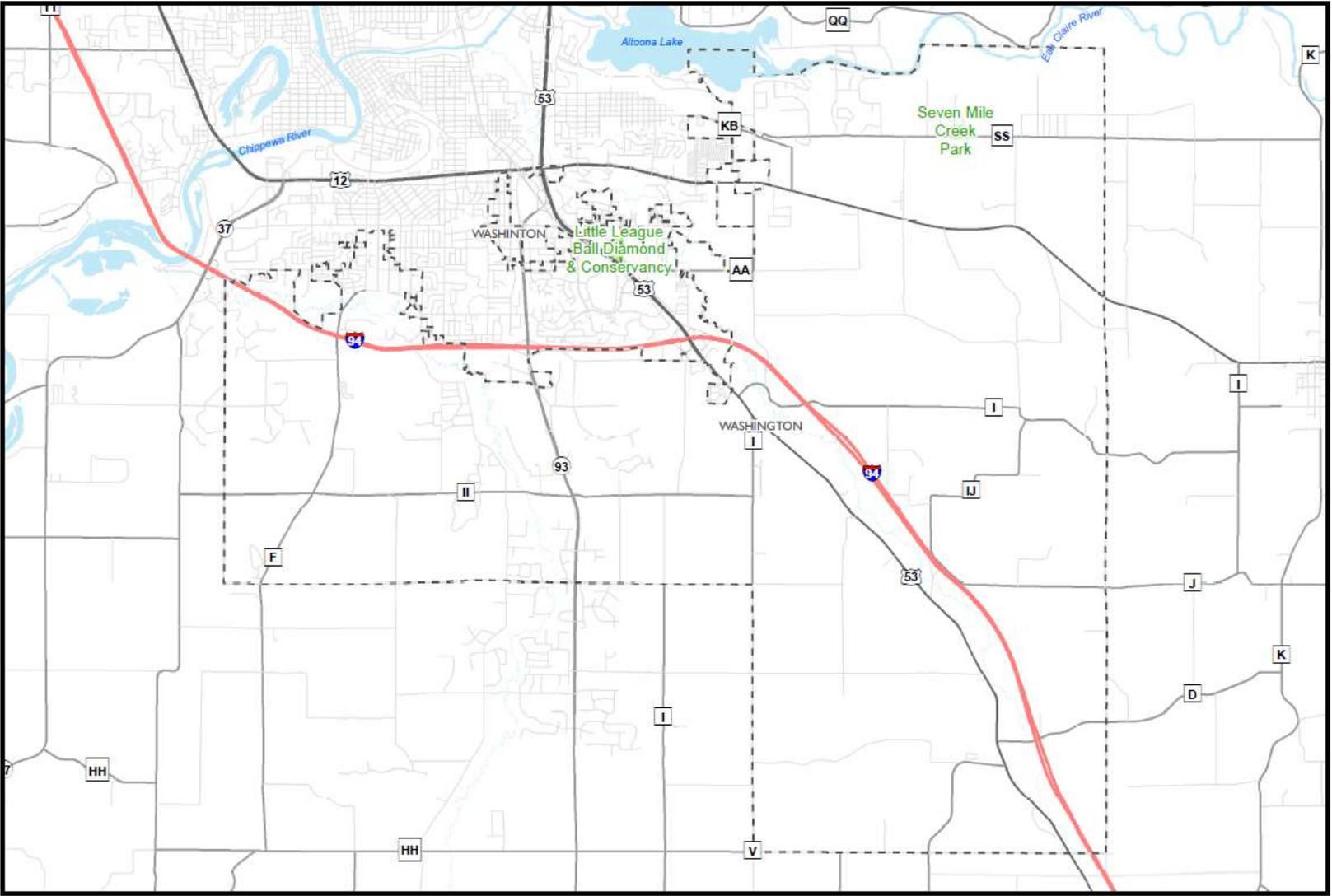
<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funding</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Lowes Creek Little League Capital Improvement Plan 2015-2017: replace batting cages, install 2 practice mounds, refurbish 2 practice mounds, refurbish Horlacher Field, construct team lockers, construct 11 soft toss stations, replace For Field infield, outfield and dugouts, replace field groomer, and install playground equipment	Contributions, Grants, Town Budget	\$35,000

**OTHER PROJECTS:**

1. Investigate the acquisition and development of other sites for neighborhood or community parks in the Town of Washington.  a. Property adjacent to Town Municipal Building  b. Upon new subdivision development	Grants, Donations, Town Budget, Developer Agreements	Estimate Unavailable
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# Map WASH-1 Town of Washington Recreation Areas

Town of Washington Recreation Areas



## TOWN OF WILSON

The following section inventories the existing properties developed or designated for outdoor recreation purposes within the Town of Wilson. Map WIL-1 shows the location of these recreation areas.

### SUPPLY: COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. **Town of Wilson Memorial Park** [N313 Hamilton Falls Road, T27N, R5W, Section 14] - 80 ac.

This park serves as a community park for residents of the Town of Wilson. It has a wide assortment of recreational facilities. An enclosed pavilion is available at the park that can be reserved for use for family gatherings or other similar events. Other facilities included at the park include a playground area with swings, a picnic area with 6 picnic tables, electrical hookups, a horseback riding trailhead, and a parking area for ATV's. A new well has been drilled. Much of the site is wooded and there is access to the Eau Claire River, including a canoe landing.

### NEEDS

Two factors are examined to determine the demand or need for additional outdoor recreational sites and facilities: an assessment of whether or not there is adequate open space to serve the needs of the population, and an assessment of whether or not outdoor recreational sites are adequately located to serve the needs of the community. Standards have been developed to address these factors. Local officials who are familiar with the community's recreational facilities are also relied upon to address these issues and develop recommendations for new sites, facilities and equipment.

**Space Needs.** The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has long recognized 12 acres of outdoor recreational open space per 1,000 residents of population as an ideal standard for communities to use in assessing whether or not the community has adequate open space to serve its residents. Table WIL-1 lists the 2000 population and the projected population through 2030 for the Town of Wilson. Given these population figures and the standard of 12 acres/1,000 residents, as well as the total acreage of outdoor recreational sites available for public use, it is possible to assess whether or not there is enough outdoor recreational space to serve the needs of the Town's residents at present and in the future. Table WIL-2 indicates the current acreage of outdoor open space, the amount required based upon the NRPA standard, and the surplus or deficit that exists in the Town of Wilson.

Table WIL-1  
CURRENT AND PROJECTED POPULATION FOR THE TOWN OF WILSON

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2010 (Census)	485	-
2020 (projected)	497	+2.5%
2030 (projected)	514	+3.4%

Projected acreage requirements are not always the most accurate means of assessing community recreation needs, but they are indicators. As Table WIL-2 indicates, the Town of Wilson seems to have adequate space for outdoor recreation for the foreseeable future.

Table WIL-2  
RECREATIONAL ACREAGE NEEDS - TOWN OF WILSON

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2030</u>
Demand	5.04	5.82	5.96	6.17
Supply	<u>80.00</u>	<u>80.00</u>	<u>80.00</u>	<u>80.00</u>
Needs	None	None	None	None

**Service Areas.** Service areas vary for different types of parks. Community parks usually have facilities that are intended to serve the entire community and, in rural areas, will service an entire municipality. Residents are expected to travel to community parks, therefore major streets and roads do not present barriers to accessing this type of site. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds, on the other hand, are intended to serve an area of ¼ to ½ mile in radius and are intended to serve young children; consequently, major streets and roads can present barriers to accessing this type of park.

As noted earlier, the Town of Wilson Memorial Park serves as a community park for all residents of the Town of Wilson. The site is adequately located and easily accessible and serves all of the residents of the Town.

There are no neighborhood parks located in the Town. If residential subdivisions are ever developed in the future the Town could consider requiring the dedication of land in subdivisions for a play lot or neighborhood park for use by all of the residents living in the subdivision.

### **ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action Plan consists of a series of recommendations that are intended to serve as a guide for the Town of Wilson in the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities over the next five years. The recommendations are aimed at satisfying relevant needs for acquisition, development and general program improvement. They are based upon the needs identified above, analysis and discussion with Town officials, and field inspections. The main objective of the Action Program is to provide citizens of the Town and their guests with the best outdoor recreational opportunities possible within the constraints of the Town's budget and other funding sources.

It is recognized that not all of these plan recommendations will necessarily be implemented during the next five years. The Town will set priorities and deal with the most urgent needs first as funding is available. Although some of the projects may not be completed over the next five years, Town officials concluded that it was appropriate to conduct a long-range, comprehensive examination of the outdoor recreation needs of the community, listing all projects that should be considered for the foreseeable future.

***Recommendations***

1. **Improve accessibility of all facilities at the Town of Wilson Memorial Park so that facilities are accessible to all users, including those who have physical constraints.**
2. **Add playground equipment to the park.**

***Prioritization of Recommendations***

The projects identified above were prioritized based on comparative need and readiness for construction. High priority projects should be completed as soon as funding is available. Second priority projects may be completed within the 5 year timeframe of the plan. Finally, projects for which no funding is anticipated until after 2015 are listed as "other projects". Prioritization of the projects may be amended during this 5 year planning period.

**HIGH PRIORITY**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Source of Funding</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1. Construction of a new privy at park	Grants, contributions and Town budget	\$25,000-\$30,000

**SECOND PRIORITY**

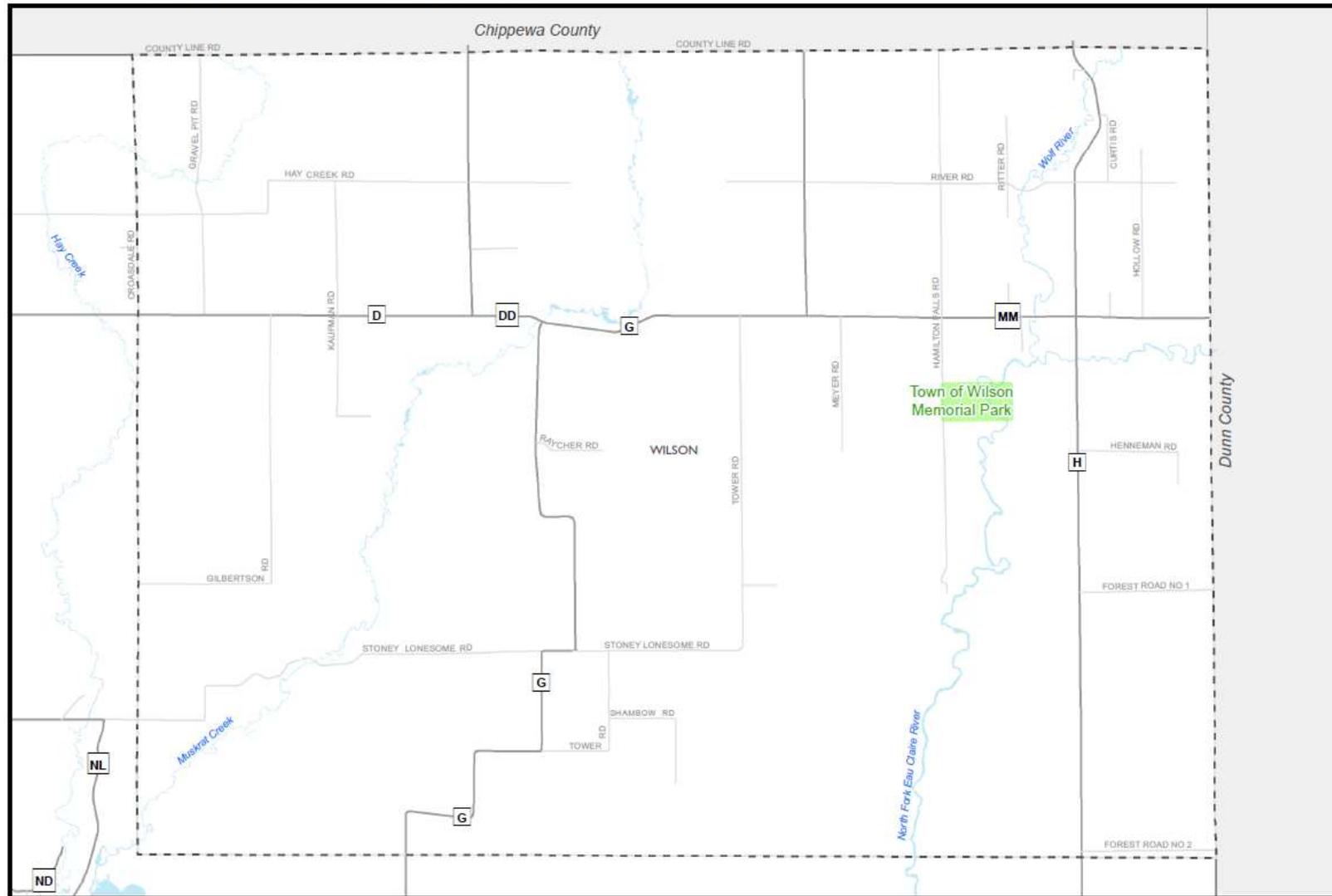
1. None

**OTHER PROJECTS**

1. Install additional playground equipment	Grants, Timber Sales, Contributions and Town Budget (Tax Levy)	\$2,000
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# Map WIL-1 Town of Wilson Recreation Areas

## Town of Wilson Recreation Areas



## Appendix A

### Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) 2015

#### User Survey Summary

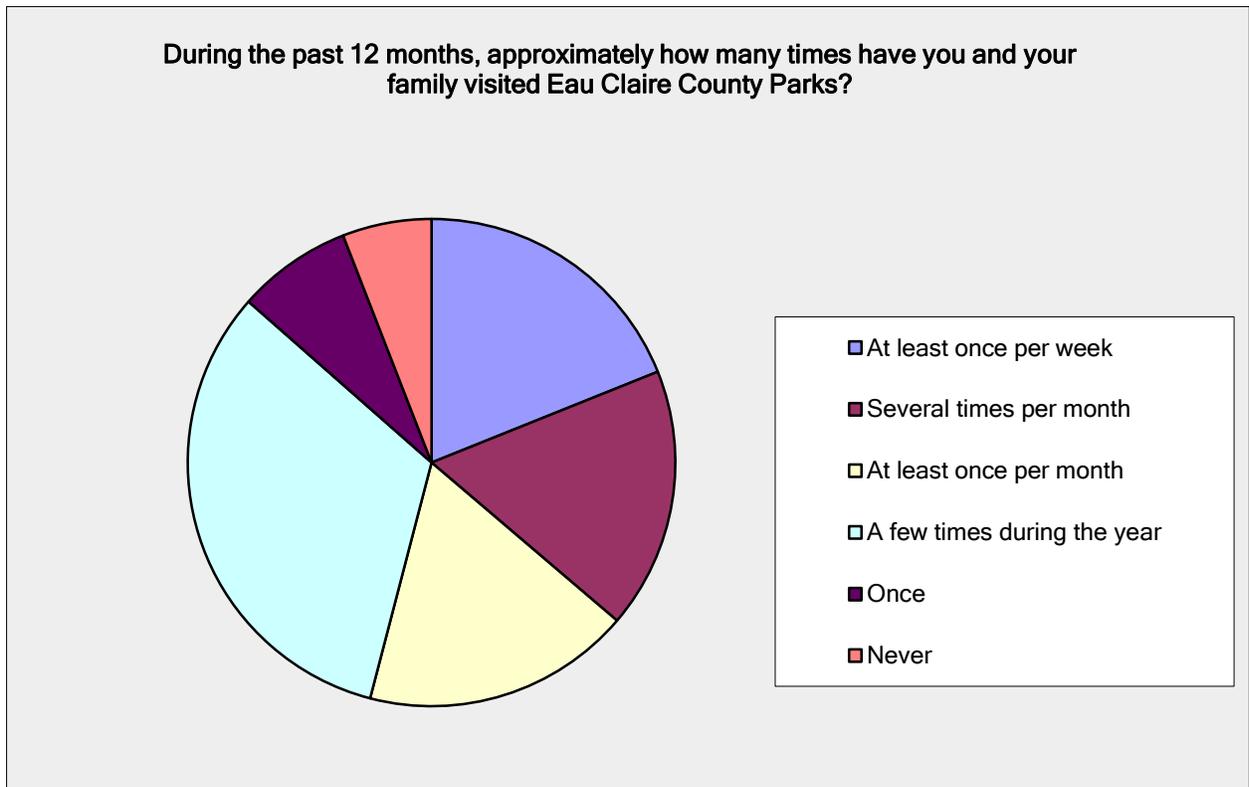
From May 28 to June 30, 2015, a 10 question online survey was administered using [SurveyMonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com). The survey was publicized on local news media, including WQOW (<http://www.wqow.com/story/29184020/2015/05/28/eau-claire-county-releases-survey-to-improve-parks-facilities>) as well as through a press release (provided at the end of Appendix A) and County social media.

370 responses were received by users of various ages and interests. The survey questions helped staff and the Stakeholder Committee better understand how County parks are being used, what types of improvements are desired, and how they should be prioritized. In summary, the following conclusions can be drawn from the survey results:

- Overall, maintenance of existing parks is more important than development of new parks or facilities (See Question #6)
- Over 86% of respondents feel that County parks are in “good” or “excellent” condition (See Question #4)
- Although some support exists for additional improvements at Tower Ridge Recreation Area, such as a playground, picnic shelter, or campground, the Stakeholder Committee determined that there is not sufficient space for a campground, and other projects, such as improved access to the Eau Claire River, are more needed and cost effective at this time (See Questions #5, #7, #8 & #9)
- Of the three projects suggested for consideration by County staff and the Stakeholder Committee (playground, picnic shelter, and campground), only the picnic shelter was ranked as an amenity that users were “somewhat likely” or “very likely” to use. A majority of respondents indicated that they were “somewhat unlikely” or “very unlikely” to use a playground or campground (See Question #9).
- Nearly 90% of respondents felt that improvements to existing trails or facilities are a high priority at Tower Ridge Recreation Area (See Question #8)
- The parks most frequented by respondents include Big Falls County Park, Lake Altoona County Park, Eau Claire County Expo Center, and the Coon Fork campground (See Questions #2 & #3)
- There are many desired projects and improvements that, while not planned for the next five years, should be considered during the next Outdoor Recreation Plan process

**Question #1: During the past 12 months, approximately how many times have you and your family visited Eau Claire County Parks?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
At least once per week	18.9%	70
Several times per month	17.3%	64
At least once per month	17.8%	66
A few times during the year	32.4%	120
Once	7.6%	28
Never	5.9%	22
<i>answered question</i>		<b>370</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

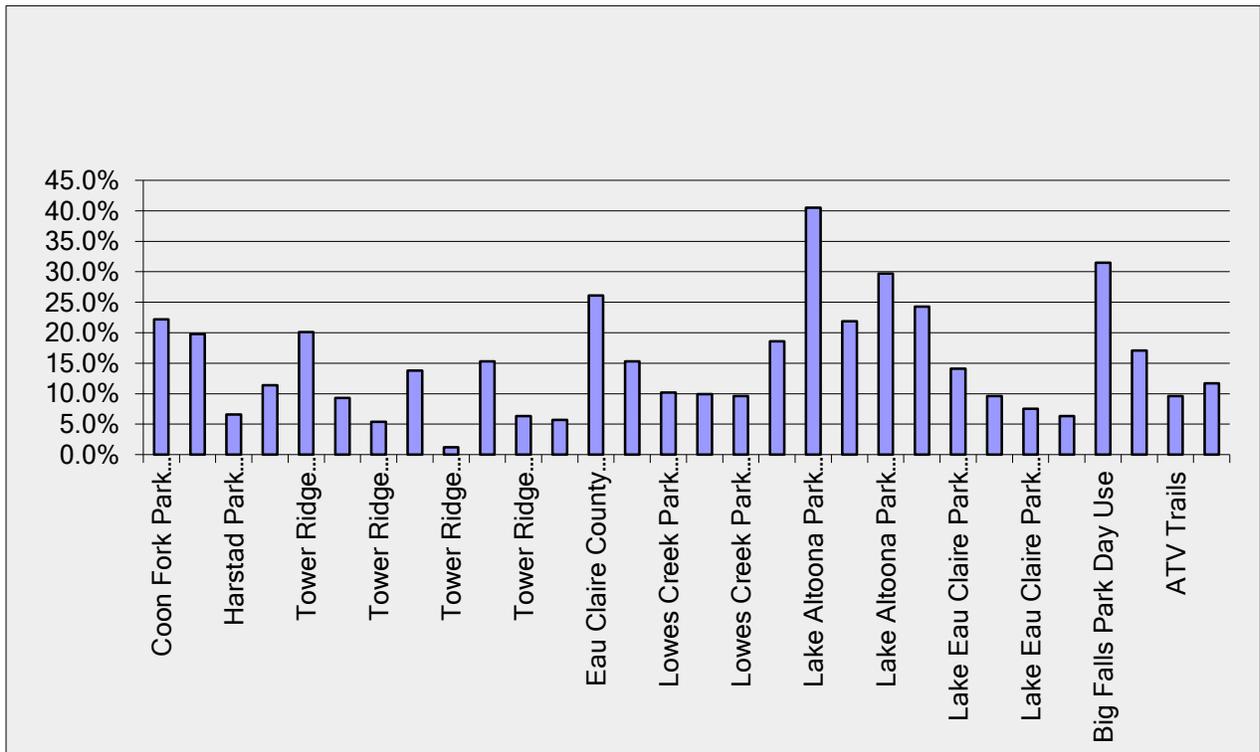


**Question #2: From the following list, please check ALL of the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department’s park and recreation facilities you or members of your household have used or visited over the past 12 months.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Coon Fork Park Campground	22.2%	74
Coon Fork Park Day Use	19.8%	66
Harstad Park Campground	6.6%	22
Hardstad Park Day Use	11.4%	38
Tower Ridge Recreation Area Horseback Riding	20.1%	67
Tower Ridge Recreation Area Cross Country Skiing	9.3%	31
Tower Ridge Recreation Area Snowshoeing	5.4%	18
Tower Ridge Recreation Area Hiking	13.8%	46
Tower Ridge Recreation Area Hunting	1.2%	4
Tower Ridge Recreation Area Disc Golf	15.3%	51
Tower Ridge Recreation Area Rifle Range	6.3%	21
LL Phillips Park Day Use	5.7%	19
Eau Claire County Expo Center (please specify	26.1%	87
Lowes Creek Park Mountain Biking	15.3%	51
Lowes Creek Park Cross Country Skiing	10.2%	34
Lowes Creek Park Snowshoeing	9.9%	33
Lowes Creek Park Dog Walking	9.6%	32
Lowes Creek Park Hiking	18.6%	62
Lake Altoona Park Beach	40.5%	135
Lake Altoona Park Beach Playground	21.9%	73
Lake Altoona Park Beach Boat Landing	29.7%	99
Lake Altoona Park Beach Picnicking	24.3%	81
Lake Eau Claire Park Boat Landing	14.1%	47
Lake Eau Claire Park Playground	9.6%	32
Lake Eau Claire Park Picnicking	7.5%	25
Lake Eau Claire Park Beach	6.3%	21
Big Falls Park Day Use	31.5%	105
Eau Claire County Forest Day Use	17.1%	57
ATV Trails	9.6%	32
Snowmobile Trails	11.7%	39
Other (please specify)		44
	<b><i>answered question</i></b>	<b>333</b>
	<b><i>skipped question</i></b>	<b>37</b>

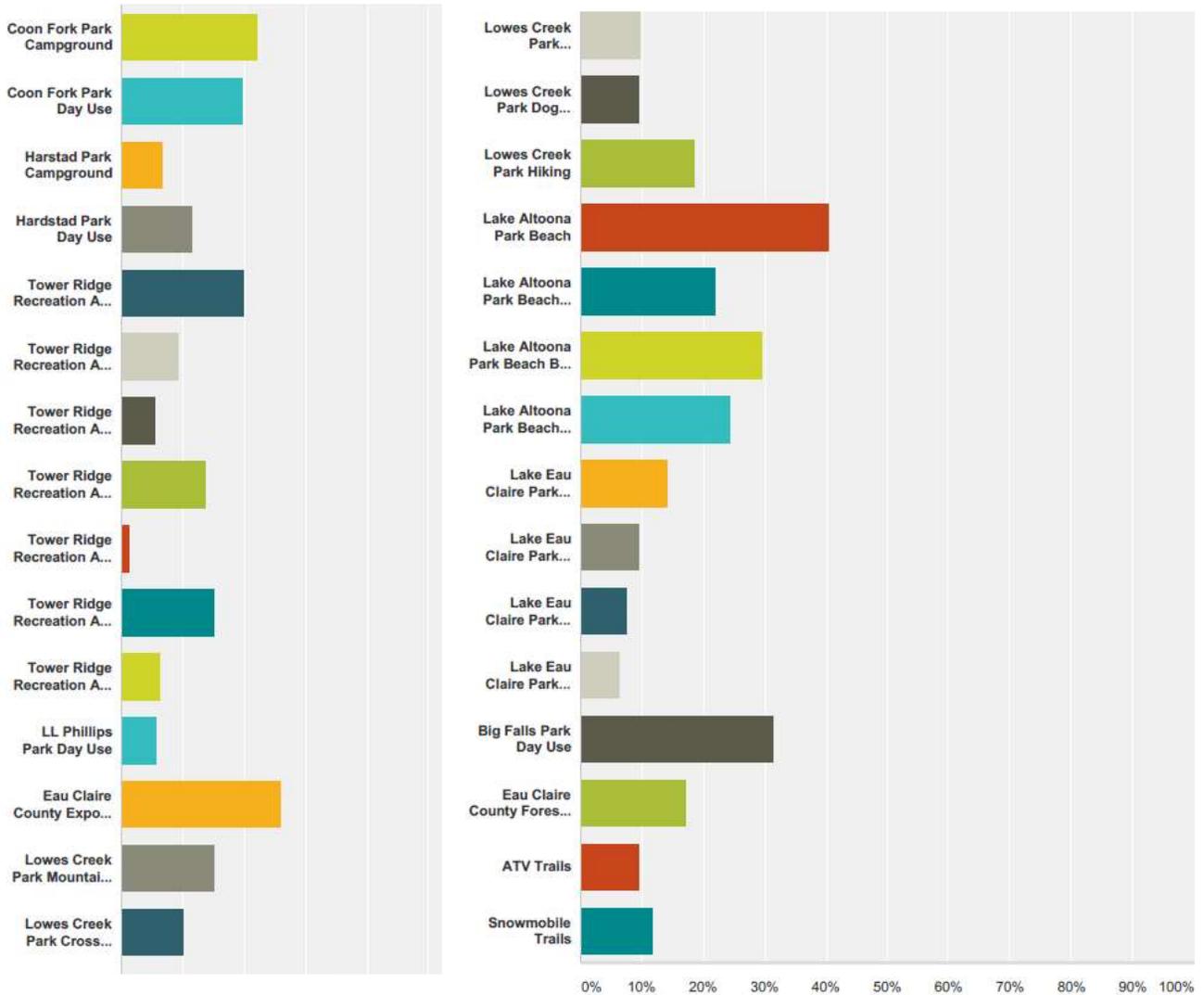
## Question #2 Table

From the following list, please check ALL of the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department's park and recreation facilities you or members of your household have used or visited over the past 12 months.



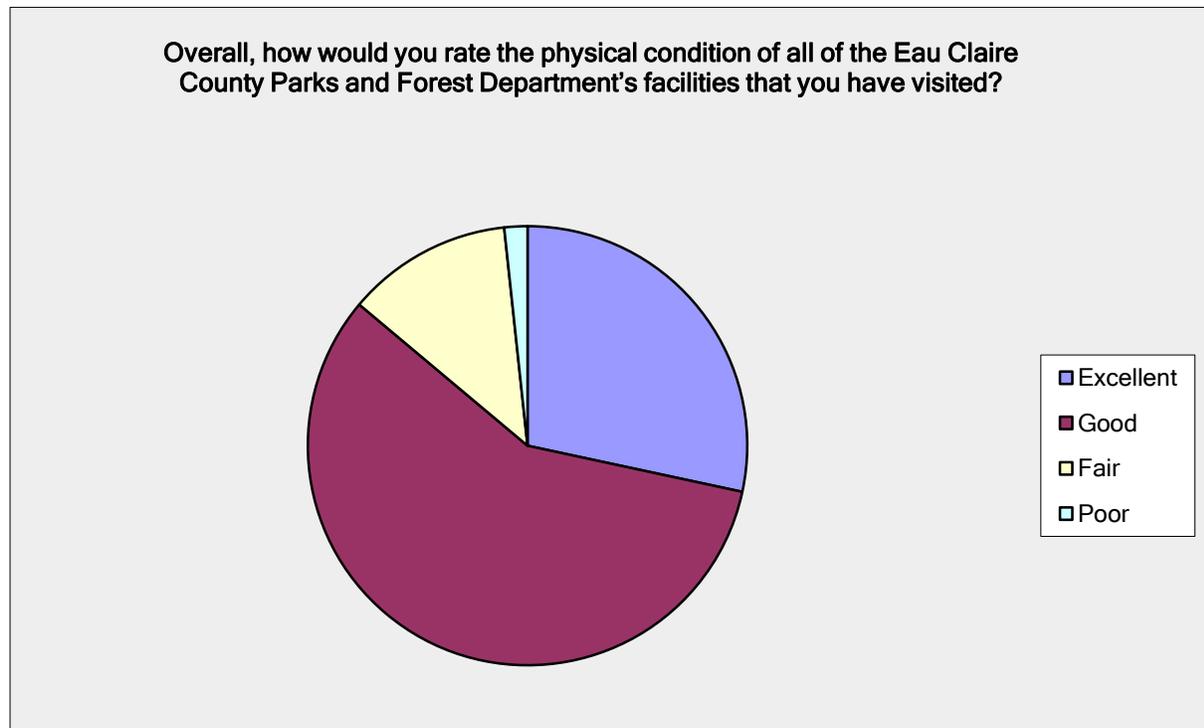
**Question #3: Which of the parks and outdoor recreation facilities listed in question #2 do you and members of your household visit most often?**

- The parks most frequented by respondents include Big Falls County Park, Lake Altoona County Park, Eau Claire County Expo Center, and the Coon Fork campground



**Question #4: Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of all of the Eau Claire County parks and forest department’s parks that you have visited?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	28.4%	84
Good	57.8%	171
Fair	12.2%	36
Poor	1.7%	5
<i>answered question</i>		<b>296</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>74</b>



**Question #5:**

What specific parks and recreation improvements would you recommend? (include name of park(s) and proposed improvement(s):

Answer Options	Response Count
	296
<i>answered question</i>	296
<i>skipped question</i>	74

(Note: Responses have been sorted by category and are unedited for spelling or grammar)

**Trails**

**ATV/Snowmobile Trails:**

- more mud on the atv trails
- ATV Trails - More trails and trail access
- More ATV/UTV Trails
- In need of more snowmobile and ATV trails on county land
- support of snowmobile recreation connections around/through county
- New bridges on snowmobile trails
- More snowmobile trails
- need more ATV and two wheel motorcycle trails

**Biking:**

- Single track bike at Coon Fork area. More hiking at Coon Fork. Around lake?
- Fat Bike Trails in the County Forest
- More fat bike trails in county parks - groomed.
- Skijoring allowed @ Cooney Fork. Mountain bike trail development.
- The trail bikes cause trail wear that results in high erosion, Keep the bikes out.
- If love to see a bike trail around Lake Altoona

**Ski Trails:**

- Lowes Creek- Groom Lowes Creek ski trails more often than in the past

- Lowes Creek: I believe some classical ski only trails should have remained. There are only a few left in the state. The previous classical trails were more intimate. The "freeway" style trails of skating and classical created tracks for classical which is often toward the very edge and poorly groomed.
- tower ridge mosquitoes are terrible, and tower ridge cross country skiing is too expensive and blatantly exclusive- charge too much so only elite and teams will go there.
- Nothing comes to mind. Maybe designated segregated trails for classic vs skate skiing, at least in some parts of the parks.

### **Signage:**

- Less invasive signage by county and skiers at Lowes Creek
- Trail markers identifying length @ Lowes Creek
- Better mapping and trail marking.
- Lowes Creek: Signage is better but new comers still get lost. Mountain biking (single track) is great. It's a great park near an urban area.
- Hamilton falls increase trails and improved marking and maps. Tower ridge trail makers could also be improved.
- Trail marking

### **General:**

- More trails down by the Augusta area.
- Tower Ridge--New trail going down to river trail (back and forth rather than straight down because of sand washing out)
- I am hoping to use Lowes Creek Park for trail running this summer/fall.
- Natural Area scenic hiking
- Tower Ridge: add more "single track" snowshoeing/running/hiking trails
- Lowes creek: More trails
- More trails that aren't so wide and groomed.
- Need more hiking trails at all locations
- Better clearing and up keep of trails. Spray for bugs. Thanks for asking.
- Trails need widening, grooming.

- More and longer trails throughout all parks

## **Equestrian**

### **Horse Camping:**

- Develop horse trails and day parking at Back water trails
- Horse camping!
- More horse trails and overnight camping for horses
- I would like to see a designated horse trail campground area not shared by any motorized vehicles, except snowmobiles. Perhaps the old Backwater Trail system. Too much going at Tower Ridge to make it a good horse campground area.
- Horse camping- county park off hwy g
- Horse camping
- Horse camping area
- horse camping available for overnight stays, at tower ridge or make anew one on cth g n of Augusta
- Coon Forks -- more horse trails
- Overnight faciities for horse riders.
- Over night horse camping.
- Camping for horseback riders at any of them
- Backwater Trail System off County G in Augusta. It would be really nice to create some horse trails and an overnight horse camping facility here.
- overnight camping for horses near tower ridge area
- overnight horse camping facilities
- Horse campground
- horse camping areas
- Tower and Coon Fork...more horse accomodations

### **Horse Trails:**

- more horse trails

- expand Tower Ridge Horse trails through adjoining County Land.
- More horse riding areas
- More designated horse trails in Eau Claire County Forest.
- Backwaters trail system for more horse trails and camping
- Additional horse trail development in EC County forests (not Tower).
- They are all great and Tower Ridge has been really becoming a hotspot for horseback riders again, considering the 18 miles of trails in 1986 have been reduced to sadly 7 marked miles
- Backwater horse trail: plow parking lot in winter; continue marking and extending horse trails  
Connect Backwater trail to Hamilton Falls area
- Lake Eau Claire signed horse trails and Tower Ridge more obvious Horse trail signs so we don't accidentally ride in the wrong places.
- More horse riding and possible camping
- Stop taking the horse trails away. We don't park on the street and not pay like the Frisbee people do. We pay.
- More horse trails please! Please add horse campgrounds!
- Tower Ridge Equine trails - could always use more trails!
- signage for horse trails, allow horses on snowmobile trails in the summer

**Amenities:**

- Tower ridge. Water for horses. Please
- Water for horses would be wonderful at Tower Ridge horse parking lot
- Horse ties

**Restrooms**

- Working plumbing / toilets on the West Side of Lowes Creek Park.
- Toilets
- Port-A-Potty at the parking area for Backwater
- REMOVE OLD CEMENT PICNIC TABLES FROM COON FORK
- Backwater Trail--Outhouse or port-a-potty

- No specifics, but bathrooms in general seem to be either not maintained very well or not open in the first place.
- Pit Toilets at Coon Fork
- Cook Fork - very nice campground. bathrooms are showing wear over the years but still functional.
- Better Bathroom facilities to all Parks
- Replace some of the old pit toilet buildings with "new" pit toilet buildings. There are many parks that have nice looking pit toilet buildings. Eau Claire County pit toilets suck!
- updated bathrooms
- Updated facilities
- Bathroom Facilities at Altoona Beach.
- coon forks bathrooms
- Lake Altoona Beach - more bathroom facilities
- Restrooms
- Improved restroom facilities
- some of the restrooms
- Altoona county park should have bathrooms down by the changing room and more beach area parking
- Improved the bathroom at Lake Altoona Beach as it is stinky and and old.
- The bathrooms all seem to be a little rough by the boat launches.
- bathrooms cleaned more often
- Bathrooms are not very clean but is somewhat understandable with all the wet sand from the beach
- Lake Altoona park, an update on the bathrooms and changing house.
- Better restroom facilities. Cleaner.
- All locations need to have the bathrooms pumped out and disinfected and thoroughly cleaned on a much more regular basis. Every one of them is beyond disgusting every time. It's inexcusable.
- Outhouse on the expo side of Lowes Creek
- Lake Altoona Co Park is heavily used and bathroom facilities are pretty outdated

- Lake Altoona Beach needs better restrooms closer to the beach area
- better signs and bathrooms
- It would be nice if there were an out house at the Coon Fork boat landing.
- Improved bathrooms at coon fork lake beach.
- Clean the bathrooms at Lake Altoona
- Toilets needed.
- Bathroom at Lowes Creek with flushing toilets/water
- Bathroom
- Lake Altoona bathroom facilities

## **Amenities**

- Harstad Park Picnic Pavilion electricity
- Lowes Creek could use a winter warming shelter.
- Warming facility at lowes creek.
- Improved road, water and electricity at Harstad. Better security lighting at Altoona. TOBACCO FREE PARKS!
- Coon fork day use pump
- Shelter at expo side of lowes creek trail head for events
- Electric sites on lake at coon fork
- Building and grounds upkeep
- All of the facilities look used and worn down. This, however, is not a bad thing - it is part of the ambiance of county parks. Shiny, new, and plastic, is a bad thing for parks.
- More benches at Tower Ridge.
- Phillips - repair/replace tables
- Lowes creek - access to water at both locations
- Improved drinking water availability at Lowes Creek Park
- Lake Altoona beach area - upgrade facilities been coming here since the late 60's and not a lot has changed, bathrooms are dreary remove unused or repurpose buildings (huge old changing

area) improve parking lot and make exit safer, area is not handicap friendly. Whole thing needs a modern facelift

- Lake Altoona Park Beach The road needs improvement, parking lines could be brighter, and MOST of all bathrooms and putting the bathrooms below the hill. Too hard for elders to walk up there and hard to push your own wheel chair up there and please have the restrooms open as soon as the Ski Sprites start practicing. They are locked and you have no place to go to the bathroom, people pay their fees they should be able to use the bathroom while there.
- rental equipment
- Marked or designated kubb playing areas near pavilions and playgrounds.
- Music/band shelter at Coon Fork, perhaps by the campground beach. Could be a small one, nothing extravagant, but with electric as well.

**Online:**

- I would like better communication on the website for the water (hazard) conditions at Lake Altoona so I don't have to go all the way to the park to find out the swim beach is closed due to high bacteria levels.
- registering for camping spots and park pavilions is old school. Update. Make reservations an on-line process.
- Online reservations improved for campground and Altoona.

**Playground:**

- Improved playgrounds everywhere.
- new playground equipment
- Coon Fork playground and Harstad playground needs updated equipment.
- Harstad could use more things for kids to do, Expo Center could use some kids playground things,
- newer playground equipment
- Better playground at harstad park.

**Dogs:**

- Create an area in Lowes Creek where citizens can run with their dog without a leash or throw a ball to play fetch.
- Allow dogs at the parks.
- Lowes Creek: Dogs need to be on a leash. It's not followed.

- control of pets at beaches
- Off leash area in Lowes Creek

## **Camping**

- Group camping at Coon Fork.
- more night-time supervision of campgrounds
- Coon Fork Campground - better firewood - we have only received wet wood when we have bought directly from the campground and not been able to start fires, so we have had to buy pre-packaged wood from the local gas stations.
- Would love to have camping somewhere by Altoona Lake
- add more water to campsites in coon forks, beyond the D loop
- camping with water
- coon forks campground more sites with water and electric

## **Costs**

- we should not be paying to use the boat landings this money should be coming out of the fishing license and tax dollars we already paid to have them put in we shouldn't be paying to use them
- quit charging for parking
- The parking pass is a pain and does deter us from going at times. Not the cost...just the hassle of it.
- cheaper costs related to all
- Less of a camping fee

## **Cleanup/Maintenance**

### **Garbage:**

- PICK UP GARBAGE DUMPED IN AND AROUND TOWER RIDGE INCLUDING COUNTY FOREST
- Litter clean up mostly in Seymour. I know, it is never ending. :-/ Possibly garbage cans would help. It would be nice to have a non hunting area for the non hunters to use during hunting season such as Tower Ridge.
- If users would simply pick up after themselves, that would help!

- More garbage receptacles and collection.
- Garbage seems to be an issue
- encourage recycling of trash-better collection stations.
- Tower ridge horse back riding trails were full of old garbage on the west side of the road back on the trails. Old tires, etc."
- Community involvement for litter pick up as part of park use
- Be sure to keep trash empties
- Trash cans near the Altoona restrooms, parking area, and landing so if we clean the garbage out of our boat, we have some place to discard it easily.
- Coon forks handicap dock- Amish horse shit
- Garbage cans at the beach didn't have bottoms so they were unusable.

**General:**

- Parks should be a convenient escape from the city. Having outdoor activities included in the parks is a plus, but simply keep them rustic and clean. Thank you!
- Keep up on the mowing
- geese elimination.
- It could be cleaner: Lake Altoona County Park
- General Maintenance
- I think both of these places are well maintained and excellent places for families to visit! :) Thank you!
- Big Falls Poison Ivy control; better marked
- trim some trees on paths thru Tower Ridge
- Better enforcement of littering, vandalism, etc in all parks
- Coon Forks- mosquitoes. Big Falls- ticks anything that would provide a more safe environment as far as these pests.

**Disc Golf**

- I think the parks are great. As someone who does enjoy a round of disc golf from time to time it would be great to have another option in the area that is more family friendly (stroller/elderly

accessible, area for grilling, maybe included at a county park where camping is an option). Fire wood availability at Harsted would be great as well.

- More maintenance done buy county at tower ridge disc golf
- Tower ridge disc golf course, I'd love to see the brush thinned out with in say fifty feet either way of tails already In place. It would greatly help the trees grow and help the C.V.D.G.O. in keeping the park beautiful for all
- Tower ridge disc golf course has a ton of 4-8 ft stumps that make the course look unprofessional and in kept. Also there numerous large piles of logs and stick right off of the fairways that have the same unprofessional look. For a championship style disc golf course we also need all concrete tee pads. I believe these things are really holding the course back from its potential of hosting larger disc golf tournaments. With these improvements I think the course would bring more money to the park because more people will be willing to pay to play there. It would also have the potential to draw disc golfers to larger tournaments that then could be hosted there because they would be playing a championship course along with championship amenities i.e concrete tee pads, no piles of logs and sticks to contend with during tournament play and recreational play. All of these thing would have a positive effect on our local economy.
- Tower Ridge Disc Golf Courses and improvements would be more benches on tee pads to sit on , fixing the broken concrete tees and better / bigger garbage / recycling bins at entrance of the courses. Asking for these few things is not too much since most of us pay to park there and don't see that money being spent on the Disc Golf Courses! Thanks for listening
- Additional disc golf courses and year-round availability for Tower Ridge Disc Golf
- More Signs for Disc Golf.
- tower ridge disc golf. Need more benches to sit and more cement teepads on all long and short tees.
- More 18 hole discgolf courses in the area
- Tower Ridge - Fund disc golf improvements
- I think tower ridge disc golf could use some help cleaning up the mess that was made when it was logged a couple years back.
- any unused park's property should be considered for a new disc golf course !
- A storage shed could be constructed at tower ridge for the disc golf maintenance team to store their tools.
- Additional disc golf course at Lowes Creek Park. With the use of camping at the Expo Center this would be greatly utilized.
- Would be nice to see a disc golf course in more parks besides Tower Ridge, closer to the city or at least on the other side

- Concrete tee pads at all holes at Tower Ridge.
- More disc golf nicer disc golf astedics similar to token creek in Madison,blue ribbon pines in east bethel mn Bryant lake or many of the twin cities municipal pay to play courses
- Improved disc golf signage and flair at Tower Ridge to reflect the prestige that it is
- more opportunities for disc golf
- Better signage for disc golf courses - an updated map of course on website. Camping near course
- Year round disc golf, more disc golf courses
- Eau claire needs more disc golf courses and courses that can be played all year long. Mt. Simon is way too busy, needs more holes, and is getting run down.
- More disc golf courses -Lowes creek would be a great location.
- more disc golf courses and year round use
- Year round disc golf course at lowes creek park

## **Parking/Roads**

### **Maintenance:**

- Lake Altoona beach parking lot needs to be resurfaced
- Blacktop parking lots stl Lowe's creek.
- stricter parking rules at Lowes Creek. I live near there and people constantly park along the road versus in the park to avoid the fee. I find this sad since they are the ones using the park which is kept up by the fee so they are only punishing themselves. However, it clogs Palomino Rd and makes it difficult for those of us that live there to exit our homes.
- Fix Lowes Creek Parking lot- add blacktop!!! It is rough...
- Improve the parking lot at Tower Ridge with new gravel. The lot is dirt and there is a large area in the middle that can't be used as a person could get the vehicle stuck.
- Put additional money into improving the roadways in the County.
- A paved driveway at Tower Ridge Recreation Area instead of dirt gravel driveway.
- Lowes Creek Parking lot could be smoothed out.
- Lake Altoona Beach parking lot needs to be replaced.

- Tower Ridge parking lot
- Altoona Drives and parking lots are very, very bad.
- smoother roads/parking area
- Fix parking lot at big falls
- Lake Altoona Beach Parking Lot and Restrooms

**Additional Parking:**

- additional visitor parking areas at Coon Fork Park near campsites; Improved parking (and stormwater runoff management) at Lake Altoona Beach parking lot.
- More parking space at Altoona Beach
- better parking for the horse trail
- Not enough boat trailer parking in the main BOAT LANDING PARKING LOT!
- Better parking lot at Lowes Creek.
- increase parking - Lake Altoona

**Water Recreation**

**Boat Landings**

- Lake Eau Claire Boat Landing (at Skid Row?) improvements; advertised canoe/kayak "trails" and landings
- Seymour Boat Landing needs attention
- We're really happy with our area parks! As new kayakers, we are interested in exploring more of the "quiet water" areas of our county.
- Boat landings
- Lake Eau Claire at Launches
- Perhaps an updated dock
- More fishing spots, or boat rentals at Lake EC
- Lake altoona- cleaner water and north west side boat landing
- boat ramps to Eau Claire Lake
- Harstad boat landing

- clean rocks out of the middle of the boat landing and straighten docks out lake Altoona
- A better way to monitor usage on paddle boats at coon fork. Guy tells us to bring it back when ever and then get charged for over time. = untrustworthy staff.
- dock at the Altoona boat landing

### **Beaches**

- Cleaner beaches
- Clean up sand on beaches!(lots of pine needles amongst other things)
- Water quality, beach junk
- Beach at Coon Forks
- Back to have a swimming guard (life guard) on duty on weekend at Lake Altoona Beach. Clean the Beach.
- Lake eau Claire- canoe portage
- bathrooms are ok but the playgrounds could use some sprucing up and the beach at the campground is terrible. It would be nice to have a flat place to lay and some shade on that beautiful hill.
- Altoona beach and big falls water quality issues
- Anything to keep the lakes clean
- Lake Altoona- quality of water, understand there may not be any options to fix that.
- Life guard at Lake Altoona beach.
- Altoona Beach - cleaner water
- lake Altoona

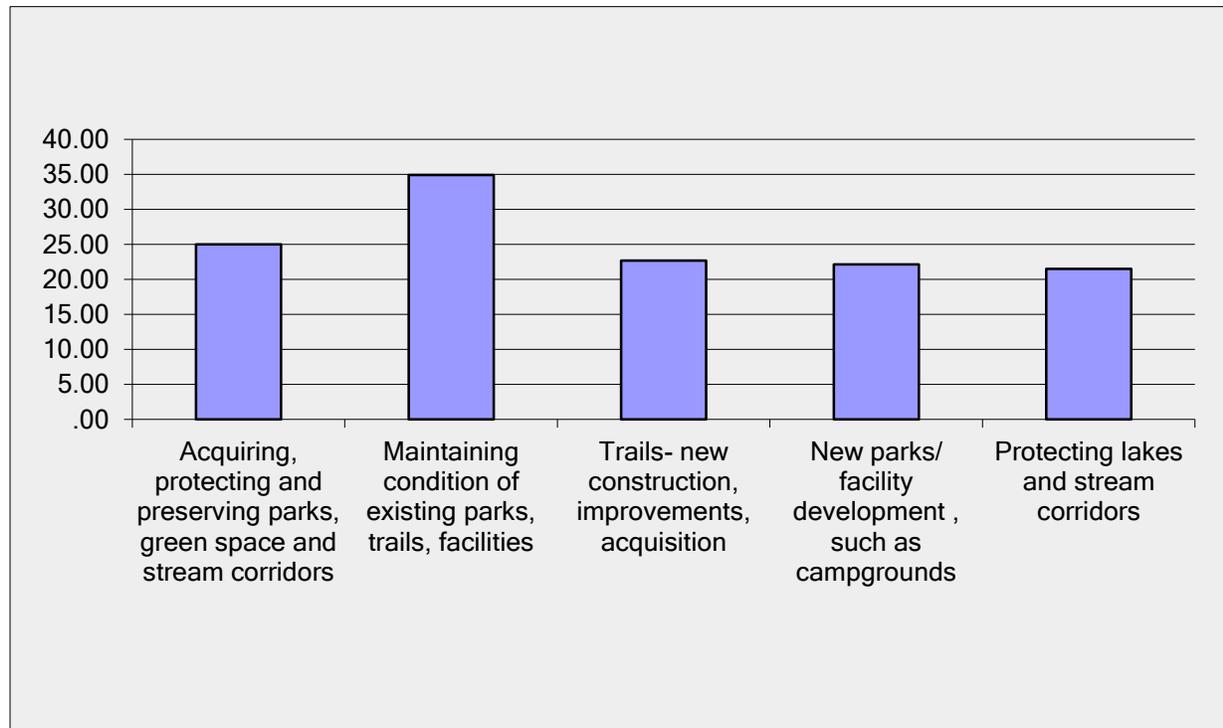
### **Miscellaneous**

- Mount Simon park. Put a practice basket in to practice putts.
- handicap access
- The park that runs along the river under Hastings Way near Main St. seems to have a "compound" for homeless people; it would make me feel safer if someone swept the area from time to time.
- coon fork
- Tower ridge brush piles

- Eau Claire needs more parks in closer proximity to residential areas. Particularly on the Southside of Eau Claire.
- I would like to see illegal entrances for motorized use cut off to county land. It is not fair to those of us who walk in that get passed by ATV's during hunting season.
- hunting in lowes creek park
- Tower ridge
- Big falls south is a wreck! Rednecks driving all over the damn place in their trucks! This behavior needs to stop and be dealt with swiftly..... They are wrecking everything natural in the area
- enjoy Tower Ridge the way it is, not overdeveloped yet easy to use and accommodating
- Advertise our wonderful parks
- Soda/Vending Machine at Tower Ridge would be great.

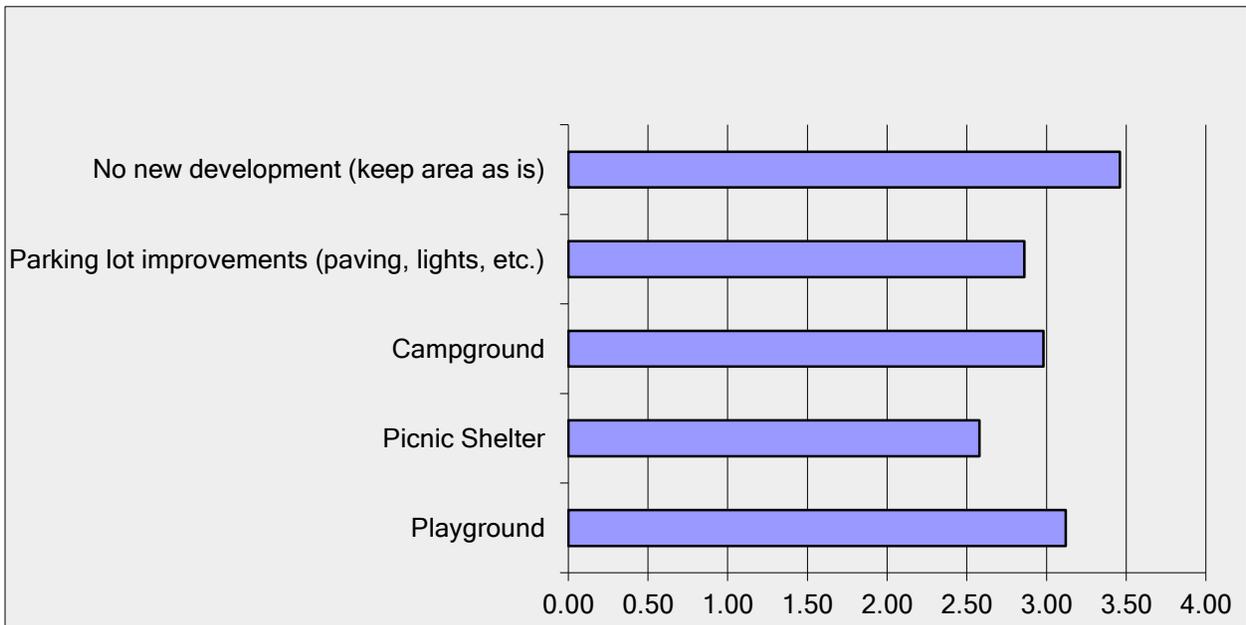
**Question #6: County officials would like to know how you want to see county parks and forest capital improvement dollars spent. On the items listed below, please indicate how you would appropriate \$100 of parks and forest capital improvement funds.**

Answer Options	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Acquiring, protecting and preserving parks, green space and stream corridors	24.99	5,173	207
Maintaining condition of existing parks, trails, facilities	34.89	8,548	245
Trails- new construction, improvements, acquisition	22.67	4,829	213
New parks/ facility development , such as campgrounds	22.11	4,620	209
Protecting lakes and stream corridors	21.50	4,430	206
			<i>answered question</i> 276
			<i>skipped question</i> 94



**Question #7:** Eau Claire County is considering developing additional facilities nearer the City of Eau Claire, in the Tower Ridge Recreation Area. Please list in order the development option you would MOST SUPPORT being developed at Tower Ridge.

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	Rating Average	Response Count
Playground	42	52	51	74	47	3.12	266
Picnic Shelter	41	90	86	37	12	2.58	266
Campground	67	41	51	44	63	2.98	266
Parking lot improvements (paving, lights, etc.)	54	56	54	78	24	2.86	266
No new development (keep area as is)	62	27	24	33	120	3.46	266
<i>answered question</i>							<b>266</b>
<i>skipped question</i>							<b>104</b>



**Question #8: Are there any other improvements to Tower Ridge Recreation Area that you would support which ARE NOT included on the list in Question #7?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Improvements to existing trails or facilities (please specify):	89.9%	116
Other (please specify):	43.4%	56
	<i>answered question</i>	129
	<i>skipped question</i>	241

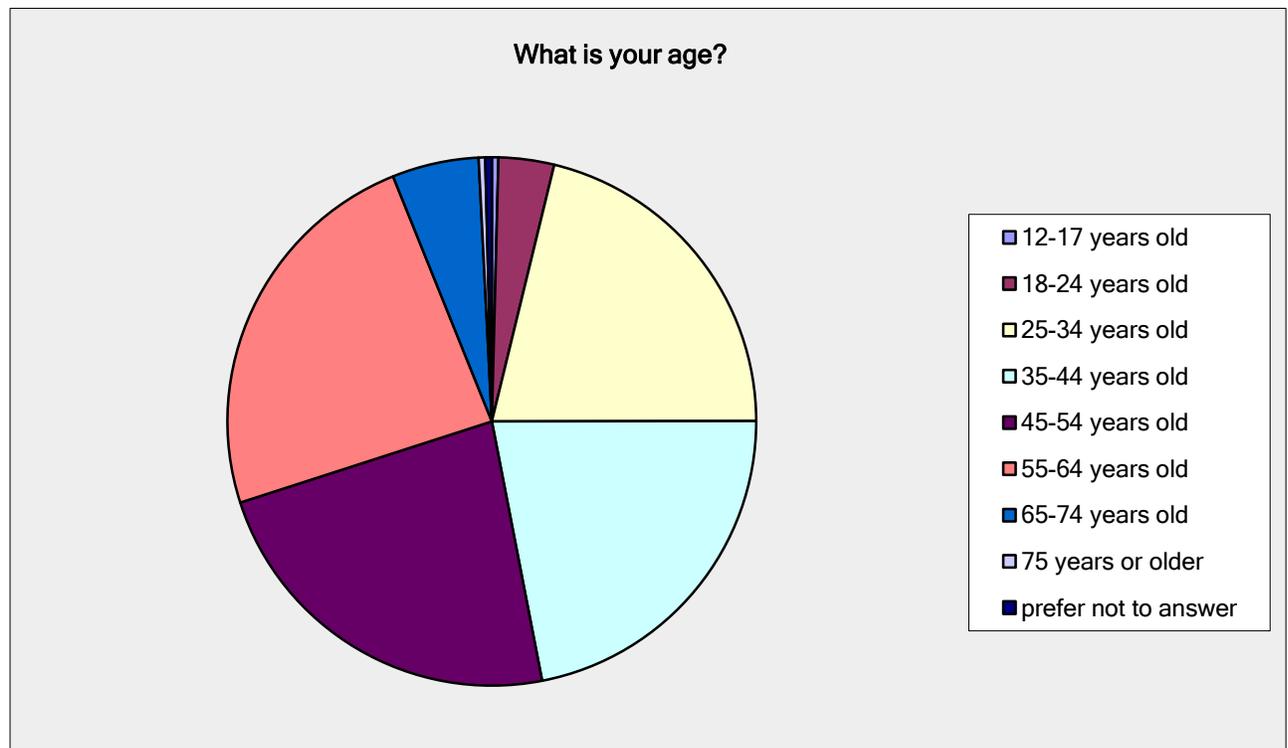
**Note: Responses to this question are aggregated with the responses to Question #5**

**Question #9:** In order to understand the level of support that exists for the following development options at Tower Ridge Recreation Area, please indicate how likely you are to use these facilities:

Answer Options	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Very Unlikely	Rating Average	Response Count
Playground	36	50	35	141	3.07	262
Picnic Shelter	49	118	43	54	2.39	264
Campground	51	67	37	109	2.77	264
<i>answered question</i>						<b>265</b>
<i>skipped question</i>						<b>105</b>

**Question #10: What is your age?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
12-17 years old	0.4%	1
18-24 years old	3.4%	9
25-34 years old	21.2%	56
35-44 years old	22.0%	58
45-54 years old	23.1%	61
55-64 years old	23.9%	63
65-74 years old	5.3%	14
75 years or older	0.4%	1
prefer not to answer	0.4%	1
<i>answered question</i>		<b>264</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>106</b>



## **May 28, 2015 Press Release**

### **News Release**

#### **For Immediate Release**

For more information contact:  
Matt Michels, Senior Planner  
Eau Claire County Planning & Development  
721 Oxford Ave  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-839-4741

#### **County Outdoor Recreation Survey**

As part of the County's 5-year update to the [Outdoor Recreation Plan](#), Eau Claire County has developed a short user survey to better understand what facilities and amenities residents would like to see developed in County parks.

This brief survey should take no more than 5 minutes and will be used to prioritize projects and improvements to the parks. Resident input is vital to this process to ensure that the County parks continue to meet the needs and interests of residents and visitors.

County residents can take the survey online at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LPS7YYT>

Residents who have additional comments or questions may contact Josh Pedersen in the Parks and Forest Department ([josh.pedersen@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:josh.pedersen@co.eau-claire.wi.us); 715.839.4783) or Matt Michels in the Planning and Development Department ([matt.michels@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:matt.michels@co.eau-claire.wi.us); 715.839-4741).

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Adopting Resolutions**

#### **Eau Claire County**

# **APPENDIX C**

## **Adopting Resolutions**

### **Municipalities**

RESOLUTION 2A-16

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY OF ALTOONA OUTDOOR  
RECREATION PLAN FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 -2020  
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, every 5 years, a plan is prepared by Eau Claire County to effectively plan proposed improvements to recreation facilities throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County prepares individual plans for participating municipalities as a part of the plan prepared every 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Altoona is participating in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, participating in this plan provides the City of Altoona with eligibility for state and federal grant programs available for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the 2016-2020 City of Altoona Outdoor Recreation Plan and found that the plan's recommendations for future development are consistent with the outdoor recreation needs for the residents of Altoona.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Altoona hereby approves the 2016-2020 City of Altoona Outdoor Recreation Plan and approves including the plan in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation plan.

Adopted by the Altoona City Council this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016

CITY OF ALTOONA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack E. Blackburn, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Bauer, City Clerk

Approved 2-25-16

Published: \_\_\_\_\_

**City of Augusta**  
**AUGUSTA OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**  
**FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 – 2020**  
**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, every 5 years, a plan is prepared by Eau Claire County to effectively plan proposed improvements to recreation facilities throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County prepares individual plans for participating municipalities as a part of the plan prepared every 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Augusta is participating in the 2016 – 2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, participating in this plan provides the City of Augusta with eligibility for state and federal grant programs available for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the 2016 – 2020 City of Augusta Outdoor Recreation Plan and found that the plan's recommendations for future development are consistent with the outdoor recreation needs for the residents of Augusta.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Augusta hereby approves the 2016 – 2020 City of Augusta Outdoor Recreation Plan and approves including the plan in the 2016 – 2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation plan.

Adopted by the City Council of Augusta on February 9, 2016

Attest: *Cynthia Anderson, City Clerk*

**Beaver Creek Reserve**  
**BEAVER CREEK RESERVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**  
**FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 – 2020**  
**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, every 5 years, a plan is prepared by Eau Claire County to effectively plan proposed improvements to recreation facilities throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County prepares individual plans for participating municipalities as a part of the plan prepared every 5 years; and

WHEREAS, Beaver Creek Reserve is participating in the 2016 – 2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, participating in this plan provides Beaver Creek Reserve with eligibility for state and federal grant programs available for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the executive board Beaver Creek Reserve has reviewed the 2016 – 2020 Beaver Creek Reserve Outdoor Recreation Plan and found that the plan's recommendations for future development are consistent with the outdoor recreation needs for the reserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the executive board of Beaver Creek Reserve hereby approves the 2016 – 2020 Beaver Creek Reserve Outdoor Recreation Plan and approves including the plan in the 2016 – 2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation plan.

Adopted by the Beaver Creek Reserve on Feb 11, 2016



**Town of Brunswick  
BRUNSWICK OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 - 2020  
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, every 5 years, a plan is prepared by Eau Claire County to effectively plan proposed improvements to recreation facilities throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County prepares individual plans for participating municipalities as a part of the plan prepared every 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Brunswick is participating in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, participating in this plan provides the Town of Brunswick with eligibility for state and federal grant programs available for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the 2016-2020 Town of Brunswick Outdoor Recreation Plan and found that the plan's recommendations for future development are consistent with the outdoor recreation needs for the residents of Brunswick.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of Brunswick hereby approves the 2016-2020 Town of Brunswick Outdoor Recreation Plan and approves including the plan in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation plan.

Adopted by the Town Board of Brunswick on <sup>2/11</sup> Fred Zwick, 2016

1. Ben Donnell

2.

3.

Town of Pleasant Valley  
Eau Claire County  
Wisconsin  
Resolution No. 16-16-04

**PLEASANT VALLEY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 - 2020  
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, every 5 years, a plan is prepared by Eau Claire County to effectively plan proposed improvements to recreation facilities throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County prepares individual plans for participating municipalities as a part of the plan prepared every 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Pleasant Valley is participating in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, participating in this plan provides the Town of Pleasant Valley with eligibility for state and federal grant programs available for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities; and

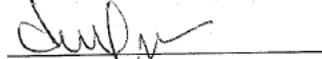
WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the 2016-2020 Town of Pleasant Valley Outdoor Recreation Plan and found that the plan's recommendations for future development are consistent with the outdoor recreation needs for the residents of Pleasant Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pleasant Valley Town Board hereby approves the 2016-2020 Town of Pleasant Valley Outdoor Recreation Plan and approves including the plan in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation plan.

Adopted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2016

Town of Pleasant Valley

  
Chairman

  
Attest - Clerk

**Village of Fall Creek  
FALL CREEK OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 - 2020  
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, every 5 years, a plan is prepared by Eau Claire County to effectively plan proposed improvements to recreation facilities throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County prepares individual plans for participating municipalities as a part of the plan prepared every 5 years; and

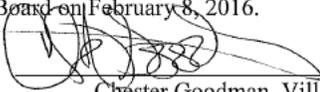
WHEREAS, the Village of Fall Creek is participating in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

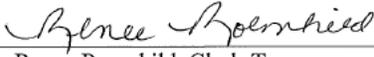
WHEREAS, participating in this plan provides the Village of Fall Creek with eligibility for state and federal grant programs available for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the 2016-2020 Village of Fall Creek Outdoor Recreation Plan and found that the plan's recommendations for future development are consistent with the outdoor recreation needs for the residents of Fall Creek.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fall Creek Village Board hereby approves the 2016-2020 Village of Fall Creek Outdoor Recreation Plan and approves including the plan in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation plan.

Adopted by the Fall Creek Village Board on February 8, 2016.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chester Goodman, Village President

Attest:   
Renee Roemhild, Clerk-Treasurer

TOWN OF WILSON RESOLUTION #2-2016

**Town of Wilson  
WILSON OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN  
FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 -2020  
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, every 5 years, a plan is prepared by Eau Claire County to effectively plan proposed improvements to recreation facilities throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County prepares individual plans for participating municipalities as a part of the plan prepared every 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wilson is participating in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, participating in this plan provides the Town of Wilson with eligibility for state and federal grant programs available for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation sites and facilities; and

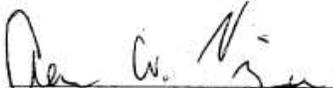
WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the 2016-2020 Town of Wilson Outdoor Recreation Plan and found that the plan's recommendations for future development are consistent with the outdoor recreation needs for the residents of Wilson.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wilson Town Board hereby approves the 2016-2020 Town of Wilson Outdoor Recreation Plan and approves including the plan in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Outdoor Recreation plan.

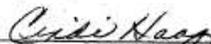
Adopted by the Wilson Town Board on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Meyer, Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward Shilts, Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron Vizer, Supervisor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindi Haag, Clerk