



Photo 17



Photo 18



Photo 19



Photo 20



Photo 21



Photo 22



Photo 23



Photo 24



Photo 25



Photo 26



March 12, 2020

Xcel Energy
Matthew J. Miller
Hydro License Compliance Consultant
1414 West Hamilton Avenue
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

PROJECT: FERC Project 2639, Cornell Hydroelectric Facility – National Register of Historic Places
Determination of Eligibility, Cornell Wood Products Company Historic District

Mr. Miller:

The Wisconsin Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the above referenced project pursuant to 36CFR§800. The SHPO has reviewed the proposed Cornell Hydroelectric Facility National Register of Historic Places Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for the proposed Cornell Wood Products Company Historic District (District). The SHPO concurs with the recommendations for creation of an historic district under Criterion A for the history of the timber and pulp-wood industry throughout northern Wisconsin. We do, however, recommend you consider the log pond remnants and conveyor trough contributing elements to the historic district. These elements are essential to understanding the connection of the pulpwood stacker with the mill complex. We considered them as potentially archaeologically contributing to an understanding of the larger historic mill context. This is not to say we are suggesting including them as contributing elements to the district under Criterion D, but as other contributing elements to understand the larger history of the complex. Otherwise, we concur with the other contributing and non-contributing elements.

We stand ready to continue the consultation process regarding the development of an Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP), and the District.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tyler B. Howe, PhD
Compliance Section Manager
Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office
608-264-6508
tyler.howe@wisconsinhistory.org

C: Shawn Puzen
Jennifer Hass

Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories since 1846
816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

wisconsinhistory.org

REQUEST FOR SHPO COMMENT AND CONSULTATION ON A FEDERAL UNDERTAKING

Submit one copy with each undertaking for which our comment is requested. Please print or type. Return to:

Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation, Office of Preservation Planning, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706

Please Check All Boxes and Include All of the Following Information, as Applicable:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- ☒ This is a new submittal.
☐ This is supplemental information relating to Case #: _____ and title: _____
☒ This project is being undertaken pursuant to the terms and conditions of a programmatic or other interagency agreement.
 The title of the agreement is 1993 Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the WI State Historic Preservation Office

- a. Federal Agency Jurisdiction (Agency providing funds, assistance, license, permit): Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 b. Federal Agency Contact Person: Kimberly D. Bose Phone: 866-208-3372
 c. Project Contact Person: Matthew J. Miller Phone: 715-737-1353
 d. Return Address: Xcel Energy, P.O. Box 8, Eau Claire, WI Zip Code: 54702
 e. Email Address: matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com
 f. Project Name: Cornell Hydro - Determination of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places
 g. Project Street Address: 75 Bridge Street
 h. County: Chippewa City: Cornell Zip Code: 54732
 i. Project Location: Township 31N, Range 6, EW (circle one), Section 18, Quarter Sections SE
 j. Project Narrative Description—Attach Information as Necessary.
 k. Area of Potential Effect (APE). Attach Copy of U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle Showing APE.

II. IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- ☒ Historic Properties are located within the project APE per 36 CFR 800.4. Attach supporting materials.
☐ Historic Properties are not located within the project APE per 36 CFR 800.4. Attach supporting materials.

III. FINDINGS

- ☐ No historic properties will be affected (i.e., none is present or there are historic properties present but the project will have no effect upon them). Attach necessary documentation, as described at 36 CFR 800.11.
☐ The proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on one or more historic properties located within the project APE under 36 CFR 800.5. Attach necessary documentation, as described at 36 CFR 800.11.
☐ The proposed undertaking will result in an adverse effect to one or more historic properties and the applicant, or other federally authorized representative, will consult with the SHPO and other consulting parties to resolve the adverse effect per 36 CFR 800.6. Attach necessary documentation, as described at 36 CFR 800.11, with a proposed plan to resolve adverse effect(s).

Authorized Signature: Matthew J. Miller Date: February 6, 2020

Type or print name: Matthew J. Miller

IV. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE COMMENTS

- ☐ Agree with the finding in section III above.
☐ Object to the finding for reasons indicated in attached letter.
☒ Cannot review until information is sent as follows: Please see letter, 12 March 2020

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: TBH

APPENDIX D. Documentation of Consultation



1414 West Hamilton Avenue
PO Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

February 17, 2021

Case# 18-1010CH

Via Electronic Mail

Mr. Michael LaRonge
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Natural Resources Department
5320 Wensaut Lane
Crandon, WI 54520
Michael.LaRonge@FCPotawatomi-nsn.gov

Mr. Tyler B. Howe
Wisconsin Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706
Compliance@wisconsinhistory.org

Subject: **Draft Historic Properties Management Plan**
Cornell Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2639)

Dear Mr. LaRonge and Mr. Howe:

In accordance with our previous consultation, Northern States Power Company – Wisconsin (NSPW), d/b/a Xcel Energy and licensee for the Cornell Hydroelectric Project (P-2639), hereby provides you with the enclosed draft Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for your review and comment. It is the intent of NSPW to incorporate the HPMP into the draft license application after your comments have been received and addressed. This will ensure that the HPMP can be implemented immediately upon FERC's issuance of a new license.

Please provide any comments you may have by March 20, 2021. If you do not respond by then, I will assume you have no concerns and are satisfied with the Plan.

Should you have any questions, you may contact me at 715-737-1353 or matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Miller

Matthew Miller
Hydro License Compliance Consultant

Digitally signed by Matthew J. Miller
DN: cn=Matthew J. Miller, o=Xcel Energy, ou=Energy
Supply, email=matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com,
c=US
Date: 2021.02.17 16:46:21 -06'00'

Enclosure: Draft HPMP

cc: Shawn Puzen – Mead & Hunt, Inc. (via e-mail)
Project Files

Shawn Puzen

From: TYLER B HOWE <tyler.howe@wisconsinhistory.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Miller, Matthew J
Cc: Shawn Puzen
Subject: WI SHPO comments regarding the draft HPMP for the Cornell Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2639)

Good afternoon Matt:

I have reviewed the materials provided for the draft Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the Cornell hydro facility. I concur with all your recommendations and determinations and find the draft HPMP meets all our needs for the stewardship of cultural resources under your purview. As such, the WI SHPO approves the draft HPMP. I look forward to our continued consultations regarding this project. Please let me know if you need anything more formal for your communications with the FERC.

All the best,

Tyler

Tyler B. Howe, PhD

State Archaeologist
Compliance Section Manager
State Historic Preservation Office
Wisconsin Historical Society

(608) 264-6508

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org>

Mr. Michael LaRonge did not respond with comments.

APPENDIX E-33

Form 80 Report



1414 West Hamilton Avenue
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

March 31, 2015

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Subject: FERC Form 80 – Recreation Report
Cornell Hydro (FERC Project #2639)**

Dear Secretary:

Enclosed is a copy of the FERC Form 80 Recreation Report for Cornell Hydro. A summary of licensee's methodology for gathering recreation data at all its projects will be submitted under separate cover as directed by Mr. Mark Ivy in his January 23, 2014 letter.

Should you have any questions regarding this filing, feel free to contact Matthew Miller of this office by telephone at (715) 737-1353 or by e-mail at matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com.

Sincerely,


William P. Zawacki
Director, Hydro Plants

Enclosure

c: R. Olson, S. Crotty, R. Volbrecht – Xcel Energy (e-mail)
Cornell Project Files

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission (FERC)
FERC Form 80

Licensed Hydropower Development Recreation Report

Form Approved
OMB No. 1902-0106
Expires: 09/30/2016
Burden 3.0 hours

General Information:

This form collects data on recreation amenities at projects licensed by FERC under the Federal Power Act (16 USC 791a-825r). This form must be submitted by licensees of all projects except those specifically exempted under 18 CFR 8.11 (c). For regular, periodic filings, submit this form on or before April 1, 2015. Submit subsequent filings of this form on or before April 1, every 6th year thereafter (for example, 2021, 2027, etc.). For initial Form No. 80 filings (18CFR 8.11(b)), each licensee of an unconstructed project shall file an initial Form No. 80 after such project has been in operation for a full calendar year prior to the filing deadline. Each licensee of an existing (constructed) project shall file an initial Form No. 80 after such project has been licensed for a full calendar year prior to the filing deadline. Filing electronically is preferred. (See <http://www.ferc.gov> for more information.) If you cannot file electronically, submit an original and two copies of the form to the: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Secretary, 888 First St., NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The public burden estimated for this form is three hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing burden, to: FERC via e-mail DataClearance@ferc.gov; or mail to 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426 (Attention: Information Clearance Officer) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB), via e-mail to oina_submission@omb.eop.gov; or mail to OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Desk Officer for FERC, Washington, DC 20503. Include OMB Control Number 1902-0106 as a point of reference. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a valid control number (44 U.S.C. § 3512 (a)).

Instructions:

- All data reported on this form must represent publicly available recreation amenities and services located within the project boundary.
- To ensure a common understanding of terms, please refer to the Glossary on page 3.
- Report actual data for each item. If actual data are unavailable, then please estimate.
- Submit a completed form for each development at your project.

Schedule 1. General Data

1. Licensee Name: <u>NORTHERN STATES POWER CO</u>		Complete the following for each development if more than one.
2. Project Name: <u>CORNELL</u>		
3. Project Number: <u>2639</u>		
4. Development Name: <u>CORNELL</u>		
States Development/Project Traverses (List state with largest area within the development/project boundary first):		8. Reservoir Surface Area at Normal Pool (acres): <u>800.00</u>
5. State #1: <u>WI</u>		9. Shoreline Miles at Normal Pool: <u>17.00</u>
6. State #2: _____		10. Percent of Shoreline Available for Public Use: <u>90.00</u>
7. Type of Project License: Major ☒ Minor ☐		11. Data Collection Methods (enter percent for each method used; total must equal 100%):
(check one)		_____ traffic count/trail count
		_____ attendance records
		_____ staff observation
		<u>100.00</u> visitor counts or surveys
		_____ estimate (explain)
For 2014, enter only the licensee's annual recreational construction, operation, and maintenance costs for the development (project). Also, enter the annual recreational revenues for that year.		
Item	Licensee's Annual Recreation Costs and Revenues (In Whole Dollars)	
	Construction, Operation and Maintenance Costs	Recreation Revenues for Calendar Year
12. Dollar Values	<u>\$750.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
13. Length of Recreation Season: Summer: From (MM/DD) <u>5/1</u> To <u>11/30</u> Winter: From (MM/DD) <u>12/1</u> To <u>3/15</u>		
Period	Number of visits to all recreational areas at development/project (in Recreation Days)	
	Annual Total	Peak Weekend Average (see Glossary)
14. Daytime	<u>160,746</u>	<u>5,821</u>
15. Nighttime	<u>22,872</u>	<u>828</u>

Respondent Certification: The undersigned certifies that he/she examined this report; and to the best of his/her knowledge, all data provided herein are true, complete, and accurate.

Matthew J. Miller
Legal Name
Matthew J. Miller
Signature

Hydro Licensing Specialist
Title
03/31/15
Date Signed

(715) 737-1353
Area Code/Phone No.
2015
Reporting Year Ending

Title 18 U.S.C.1001 makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willingly to make to any Agency or department of the United States any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or misrepresentation as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

Schedule 2. Inventory of Publicly Available Recreation Amenities Within the Project Boundary

16. Enter data for each Recreation Amenity Type (a). For User Free (b) and User Fee (c) enter the number of publicly available recreation amenities, located within the project boundary, regardless of provider. For FERC Approved (d) enter the number of amenities identified under User Free (b) and User Fee (c) for which the licensee has an ongoing responsibility for funding or maintenance (see Glossary for further detail). For Capacity Utilization (f), of the total publicly available amenities (b) + (c), compare the average non-peak weekend use (see Glossary) for each recreation amenity type (during the recreation season, with the highest use, reported on Schedule 1, Item 13) with the total combined capacity of each amenity type and enter a percentage that indicates their overall level of use. For example, if all public boat launches are used to half capacity during the non-peak weekend days, enter 50% (should use exceed capacity for an amenity type, enter the appropriate percentage above 100).

Recreation Amenity Type (a)	Number of Recreation Amenities			Total Units (e)	Capacity Utilization (%) (f)
	User Free (b)	User Fee (c)	FERC Approved (d)		
Boat Launch Areas. Improved areas having one or more boat launch lanes (enter number in column e) and are usually marked with signs, have hardened surfaces, and typically have adjacent parking.	2	1	0	3 Lanes	55
Marinas. Facilities with more than 10 slips on project waters, which include one or more of the following: docking, fueling, repair and storage of boats; boat/equipment rental; or sell bait/food (see Glossary FERC approved).	0	0	0	N/A	0
Whitewater Boating. Put-ins/Take-outs specifically designated for whitewater access.	0	0	0	N/A	0
Portages. Sites designed for launching and taking out canoes/kayaks and the improved, designated, and maintained trails connecting such sites (enter length of trail in column e).	1	0	1	530 ^{feet}	10
Tailwater Fishing. Platforms, walkways, or similar structures to facilitate below dam fishing.	0	0	0	N/A	0
Reservoir Fishing. Platforms, walkways, or similar structures to facilitate fishing in the reservoir pool or feeder streams.	0	2	0	N/A	55
Swim Areas. Sites providing swimming facilities (bath houses, designated swim areas, parking and sanitation facilities).	0	1	0	20 ^{acres}	65
Trails. Narrow tracks used for non-automobile recreation travel which are mapped and designated for specific use(s) such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, or XC skiing (excludes portages, paths or accessible routes; See Glossary).	0	1	0	9 Miles	55
Active Recreation Areas. Playground equipment, game courts/fields, golf/disc golf courses, jogging tracks, etc.	0	1	0	20 ^{acres}	60
Picnic Areas. Locations containing one or more picnic sites (each of which may include tables, grills, trash cans, and parking).	0	1	0	75 ^{Sites}	60
Overlooks/Vistas. Sites established to view scenery, wildlife, cultural resources, project features, or landscapes.	0	0	0	0 Acres	0
Visitor Centers. Buildings where the public can gather information about the development/project, its operation, nearby historic, natural, cultural, recreational resources, and other items of interest.	0	0	0	N/A	0
Interpretive Displays. Signage/Kiosks/Billboards which provide information about the development/project, its operation, nearby historic, natural, cultural, recreational resources, and other items of interest.	0	1	0	N/A	N/A
Hunting Areas. Lands open to the general public for hunting.	0	0	0	0 Acres	0
Winter Areas. Locations providing opportunities for skiing, sledding, curling, ice skating, or other winter activities.	0	1	0	Acres	70
Campgrounds. Hardened areas developed to cluster campers (may include sites for tents, trailers, recreational vehicles [RV], yurts, cabins, or a combination, but excludes group camps).	0	1	0	1,267 ^s	N/A
Campsites. Sites for tents, trailers, recreational vehicles [RV], yurts, cabins, or a combination of temporary uses.	0	69	0	N/A	95
Cottage Sites. Permanent, all-weather, buildings rented for short-term use, by the public, for recreational purposes.	0	0	0	N/A	0
Group Camps. Areas equipped to accommodate large groups of campers that are open to the general public (may be operated by public, private, or non-profit organizations).	0	0	0	0 Sites	0
Dispersed Camping Areas. Places visitors are allowed to camp outside of a developed campground (enter number of sites in column e).	0	0	0	0 Sites	0
Informal Use Areas. Well used locations which typically do not include amenities, but require operation and maintenance and/or public safety responsibilities	0	0	0	0	0
Access Points. Well-used sites (not accounted for elsewhere on this form) for visitors entering project lands or waters, without trespassing, for recreational purposes (may have limited development such as parking, restrooms, signage).	0	0	0	N/A	0
Other. Amenities that do not fit in the categories identified above. Please specify (if more than one, separate by commas):	0	0	0	0	0

**Licensed Hydropower Development
Recreation Report****Glossary of FERC Form 80 Terms**

Data Collection Methods. (Schedule 1, Item 11) – If a percentage is entered for the estimate alternative, please provide an explanation of the methods used (if submitted on a separate piece of paper, please include licensee name, project number, and development name)

Development. The portion of a project which includes:

- (a) a reservoir; or
- (b) a generating station and its specifically-related waterways.

Exemption from Filing. Exemption from the filing of this form granted upon Commission approval of an application by a licensee pursuant to the provisions of 18 CFR 8.11(c).

General Public. Those persons who do not have special privileges to use the shoreline for recreational purposes, such as waterfront property ownership, water-privileged community rights, or renters with such privileges.

Licensee. Any person, state, or municipality licensed under the provisions of Section 4 of the Federal Power Act, and any assignee or successor in interest. For the purposes of this form, the terms licensee, owner, and respondent are interchangeable *except where*:

- (a) the *owner* or licensee is a subsidiary of a parent company which has been or is required to file this form; or
- (b) there is more than one owner or licensee, of whom only one is responsible for filing this form. Enter the name of the entity that is responsible for filing this report in Schedule 1, Item 2.1.

Major License. A license for a project of more than 1,500 kilowatts installed capacity.

Minor License. A license for a project of 1,500 kilowatts or less installed capacity.

Non-Peak Weekend. Any weekend that is not a holiday and thus reflects more typical use during the recreation season.

Number of Recreation Amenities. Quantifies the availability of natural or man-made property or facilities for a given recreation amenity type. This includes all recreation resources available to the public within the development/project boundary. The resources are broken into the following categories:

User Free (Schedule 2, column b) - Those amenities within the development/project that are free to the public;

User Fee (Schedule 2, column c) - Those amenities within the development/project where the licensee/facility operator charges a fee;

FERC Approved (Schedule 2, column d) – Those amenities within the development/project required by the Commission in a license or license amendment document, including an approved recreation plan or report. Recreation amenities that are within the project boundary, but were approved by the licensee through the standard land use article or by the Commission through an application for non-project use of project lands and waters, are typically not counted as FERC approved, unless they are available to the public, but may be counted as either user free or user fee resources. The total FERC approved amenities column does not necessarily have to equal the sum of user free and user fee amenities.

Peak Use Weekend. Weekends when recreational use is at its peak for the season (typically Memorial Day, July 4th & Labor Day). On these weekends, recreational use may exceed the capacity of the area to handle such use. Include use for all three days in the holiday weekends when calculating Peak Weekend Average for items 14 & 15 on Schedule 1.

Recreation Day. Each visit by a person to a development (as defined above) for recreational purposes during any portion of a 24-hour period.

Revenues. Income generated from recreation amenities at a given project/development during the previous calendar year. Includes fees for access or use of area.

Total Units (Schedule 2, column e) – Provide the total length, or area, or number that is appropriate for each amenity type using the metric provided.

Trails. Narrow tracks used for non-automobile recreation travel which are mapped and designated for specific use(s) such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, or XC skiing. Trails are recreation amenities which provide the opportunity to engage in recreational pursuits, unlike paths (means of egress whose primary purpose is linking recreation amenities at a facility) or accessible routes (means of egress which meets the needs of persons with disability and links accessible recreation amenities and infrastructure at a facility).

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Chippewa County Outdoor Recreation Plan

2010-2015



Chippewa County
Outdoor Recreation Plan
2010-2015

Prepared by:

Ryan Brown – County Planner
Chippewa County Planning and Zoning Department

November 2010

CHIPPEWA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Richard Pecha, Jr. | 16. Lawrence Willkom |
| 2. William Dixon | 17. Linda Bateman |
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CHIPPEWA COUNTY COUNTY LAND, FORESTS AND PARKS COMMITTEE

William Stoll - Chair
Leigh Darrow
Lee McIlquham
Michael Murphy
Dale Johnson

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SECTION I.

INTRODUCTION

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

PLAN PURPOSE

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

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

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

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

PLANNING PROCESS

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

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

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

PLAN OUTLINE

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

PLAN AMENDMENTS

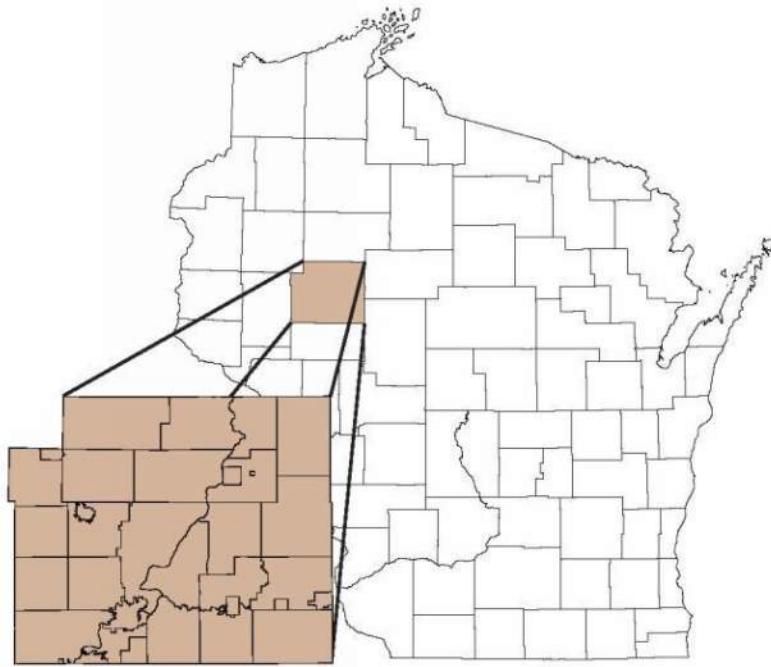
This Plan may be amended as necessary to meet community needs and address changing conditions to prolong the effectiveness of the parent Plan. Plan amendments should require formal approval of the Chippewa County Board after consideration of an advisory recommendation from the Chippewa County Lands,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

SECTION II.

CHIPPEWA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

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

FIGURE 1.
LOCATION OF CHIPPEWA COUNTY



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

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY

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

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

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

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

Bedrock Geology

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

Surface Geology

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

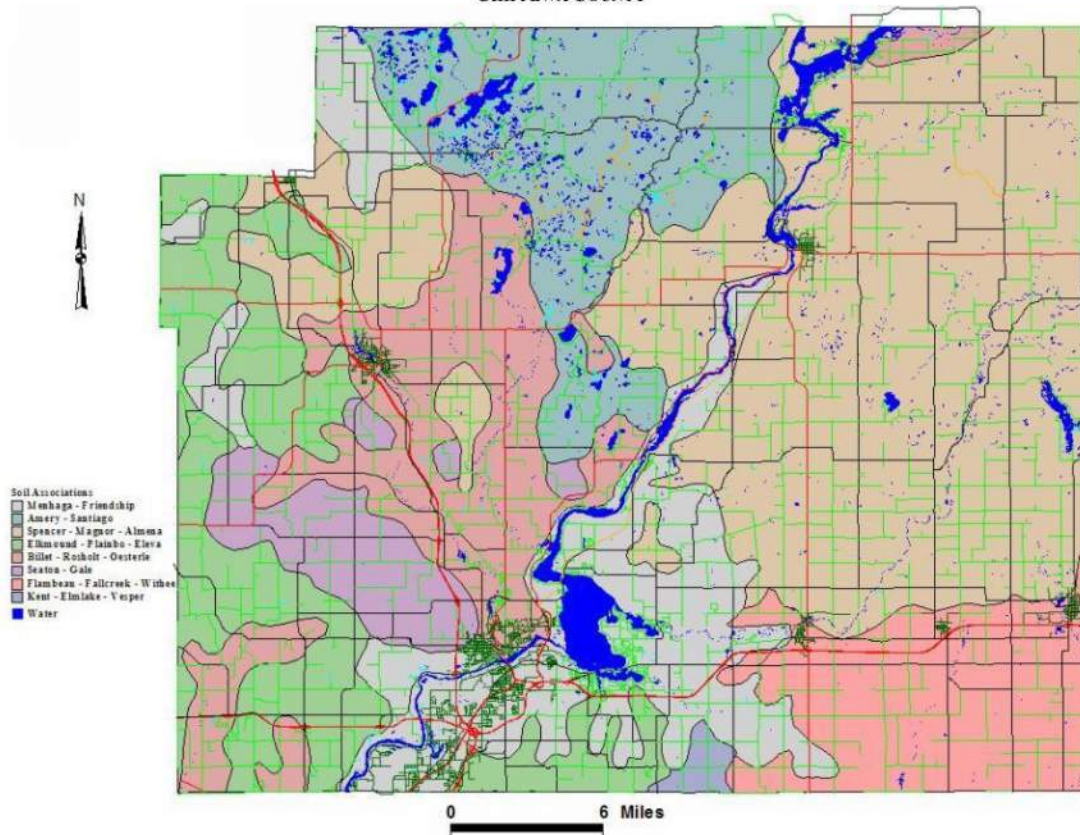
Topography

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

Soils

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

FIGURE 2.
GENERAL SOIL ASSOCIATIONS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



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

Hydrology

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

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

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

Land Uses and Trends

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

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

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

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

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue

* Forest and Ag. Forest Categories are combined.

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

Natural Resources

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

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

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

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

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

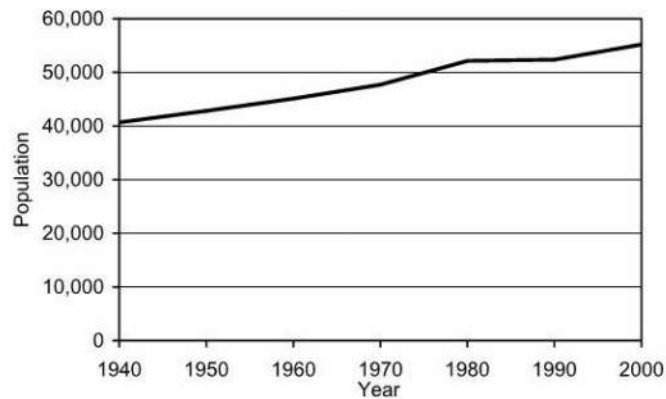
From 1940 to 1970, Chippewa County's population experienced constant growth, averaging approximately 5 percent annually. Although the rate of growth nearly doubled during the 1970s, the 1980s experienced very little growth with an average annual growth rate of 0.5 percent. During the 1990s, however,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

TABLE 2.
HISTORICAL POPULATION • 1940 TO 2000
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

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

Source: 1940-2000 U.S. Census

FIGURE 3.
HISTORICAL POPULATION • 1940 TO 2000
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



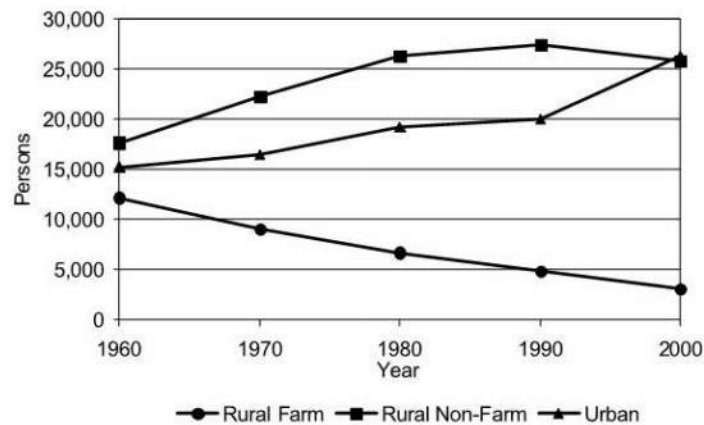
From 1960 to 2000, the rural farm population declined by 74 percent. During the same period, increases occurred in the rural non-farm (+31.6%) and urban (+ 41.9%) populations. Shown in Table 3 and Figure 4, is the population by location of residence in 1960, 1980, and 2000. During the last decade, urban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

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

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

Source: 1960 - 1990 U.S. Census

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



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

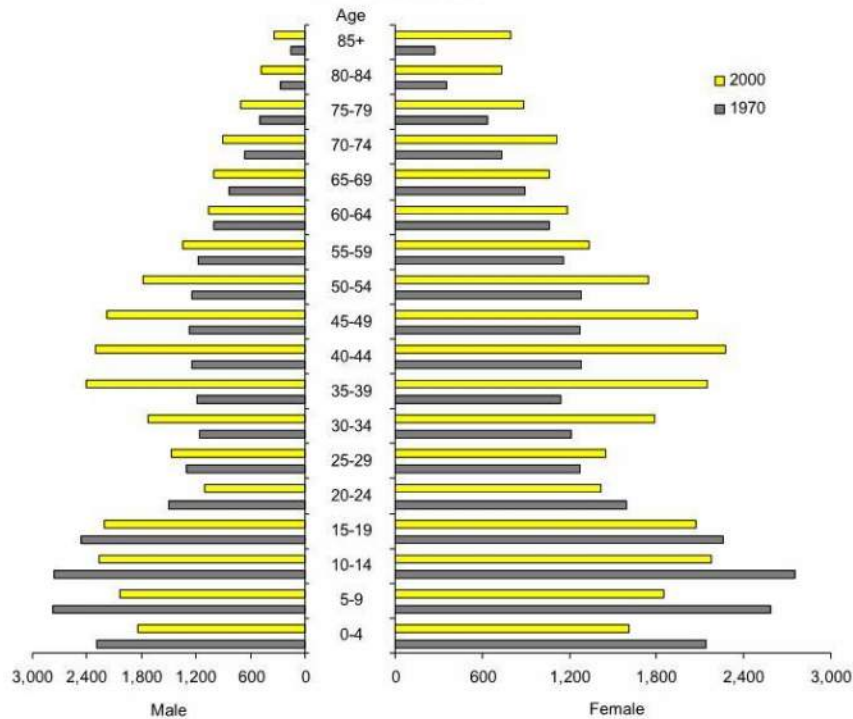
TABLE 4.
AGE DISTRIBUTION • 1980 AND 2000
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Chippewa County Historical Population by Age - 1980-2000

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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



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

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

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

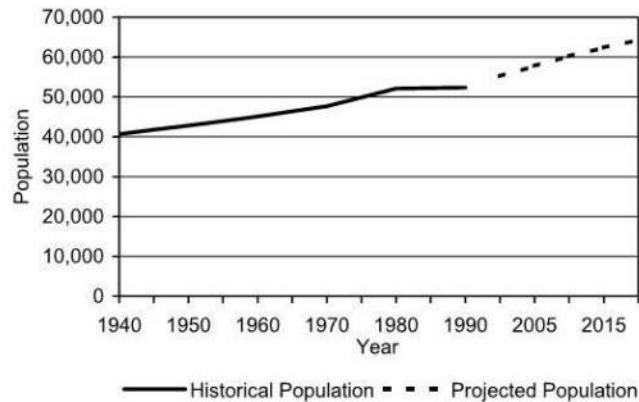
In general, Chippewa County, and most towns, villages and cities located in Chippewa County, are expected to increase in population during the next 20 years. Shown in Table 5 are the Wisconsin Department of Administration's most recent population estimates and projections for the towns, villages, and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

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

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

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

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



ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

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

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

Chippewa County Number of Farms and Average Farm Size

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

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

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

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

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

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

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

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

GOAL

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

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

Policy 1.1

Improve and maintain existing facilities.

Policy 1.2

Develop recreational facilities for which a need is demonstrated.

Policy 1.3

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

Policy 1.4

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

Policy 1.5

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

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

Policy 2.1

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

Policy 2.2

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

Policy 2.3

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

Policy 2.4

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

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

Policy 3.1

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

Policy 3.2

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

Policy 3.3

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

Policy 3.4

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

Policy 3.5

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

FACILITIES INVENTORY

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS

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

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

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

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

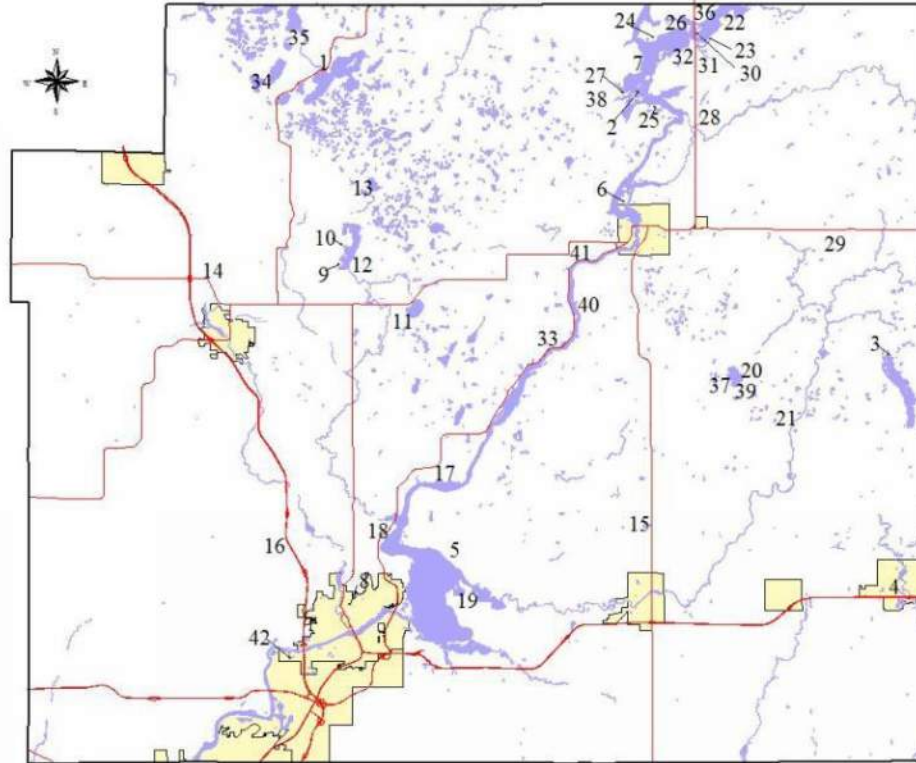
TABLE 8.
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

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

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

*Note: Owned and operated by Chippewa County

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



PICNICKING

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

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

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

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

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

Source: Chippewa County Forest and Parks Department

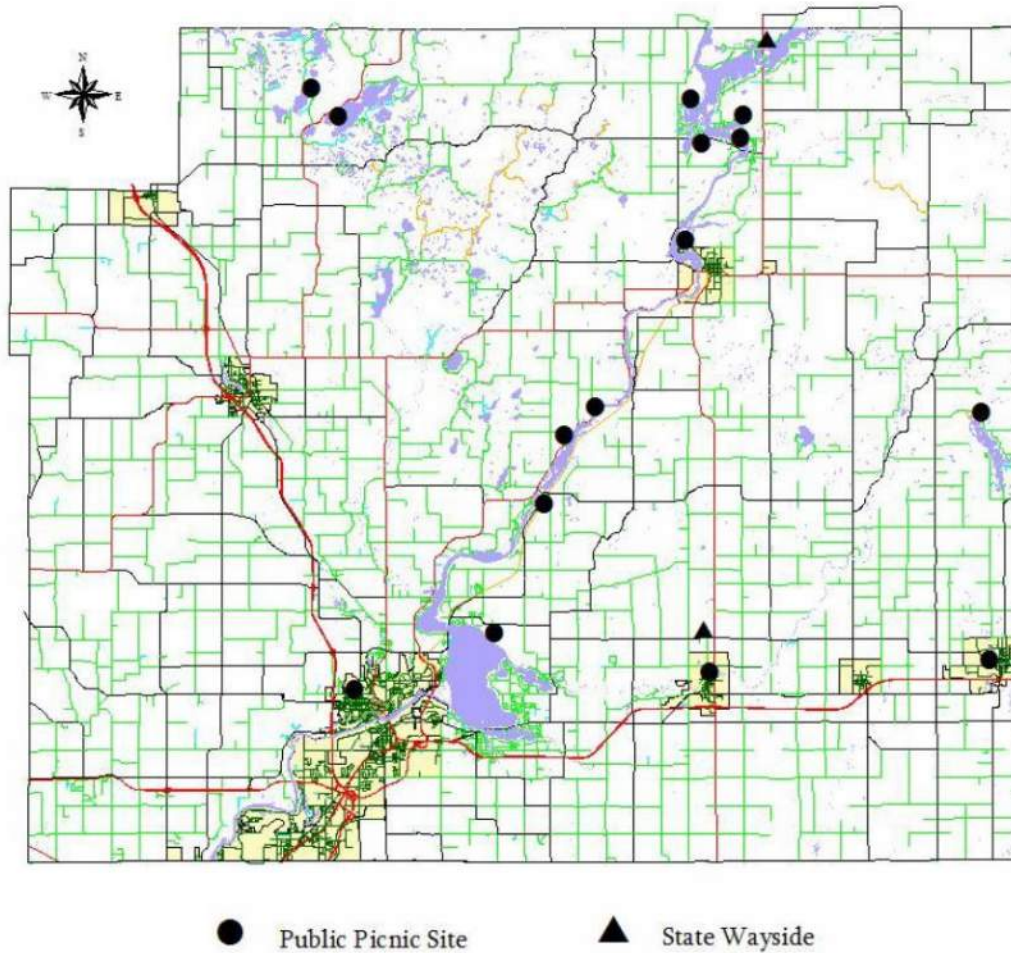
**TABLE 10.
WAYSIDE REST AREAS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY**

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

Source: Chippewa County Forest and Parks Department

* Under consideration for abandonment

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



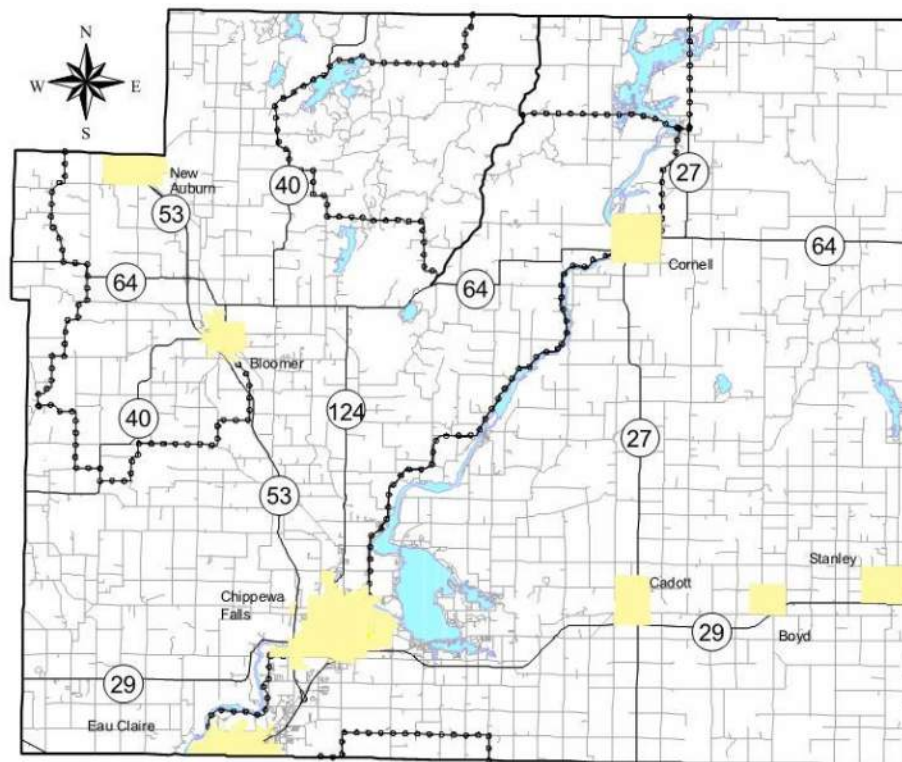
RUSTIC AND SCENIC ROADWAYS

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

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

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

**FIGURE 9.
RUSTIC AND SCENIC ROUTES**



 Rustic Road
(County Trunk Highway E)
  Scenic Route



HIKING AND NATURE TRAILS

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

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

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

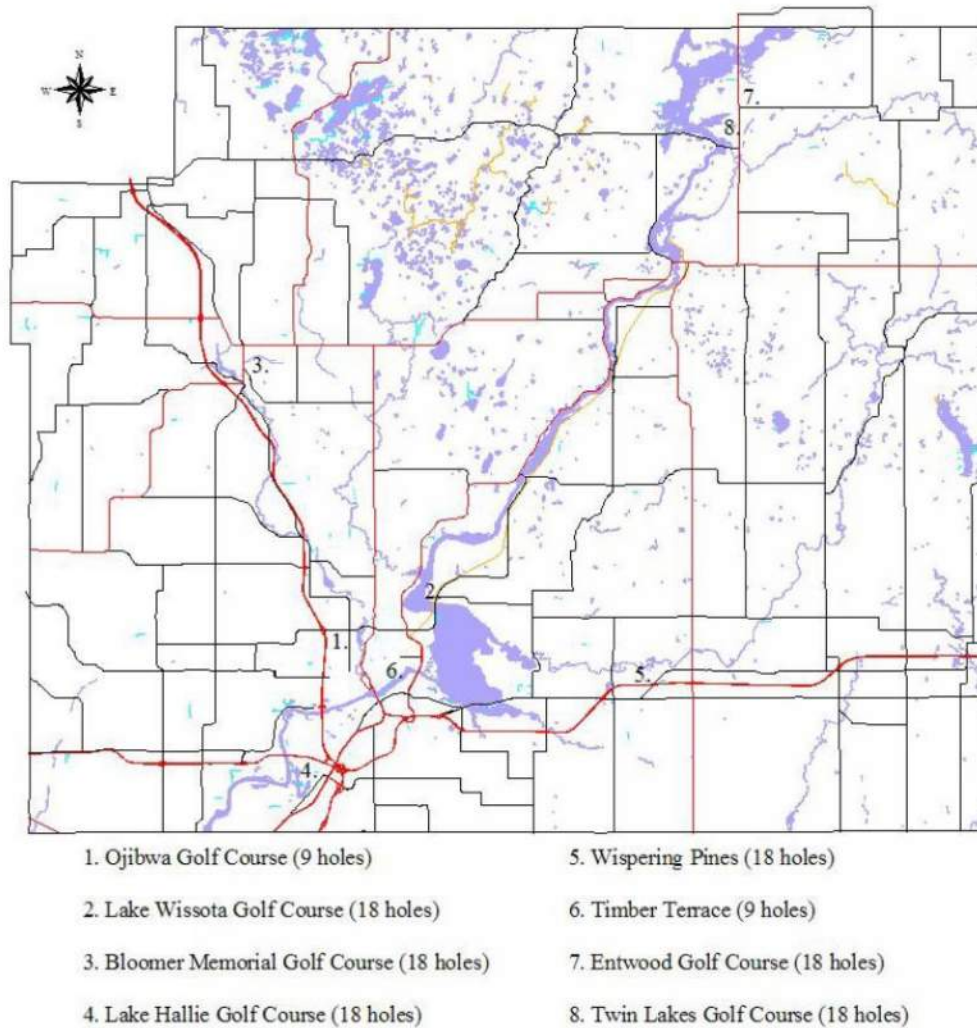
The Chippewa County Riverview Conservancy is a nature-based park within the City of Chippewa Falls and the Town of Eagle Point. Park plans include walking trails, a nature interpretive center, and handicapped accessible amenities. The Conservancy's trails will also connect the City's bike trails with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

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

GOLFING

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

FIGURE 10.
GOLF COURSES
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



BICYCLING

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

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

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

HORSEBACK RIDING

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

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) TRAILS

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

SNOW SKIING

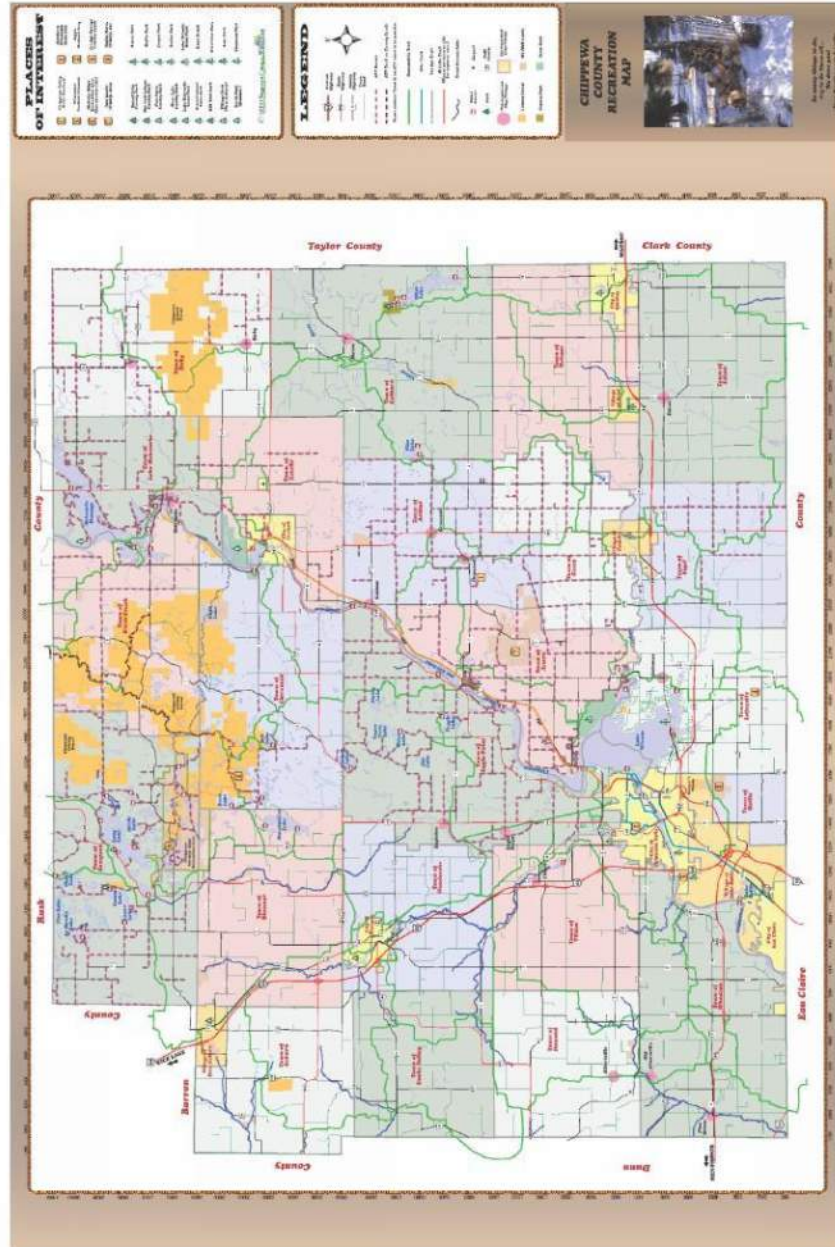
Chippewa County has no developed area for downhill skiing. Skiing is an activity that participants are willing to travel some distance for, if not available locally.

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

SNOWMOBILING

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

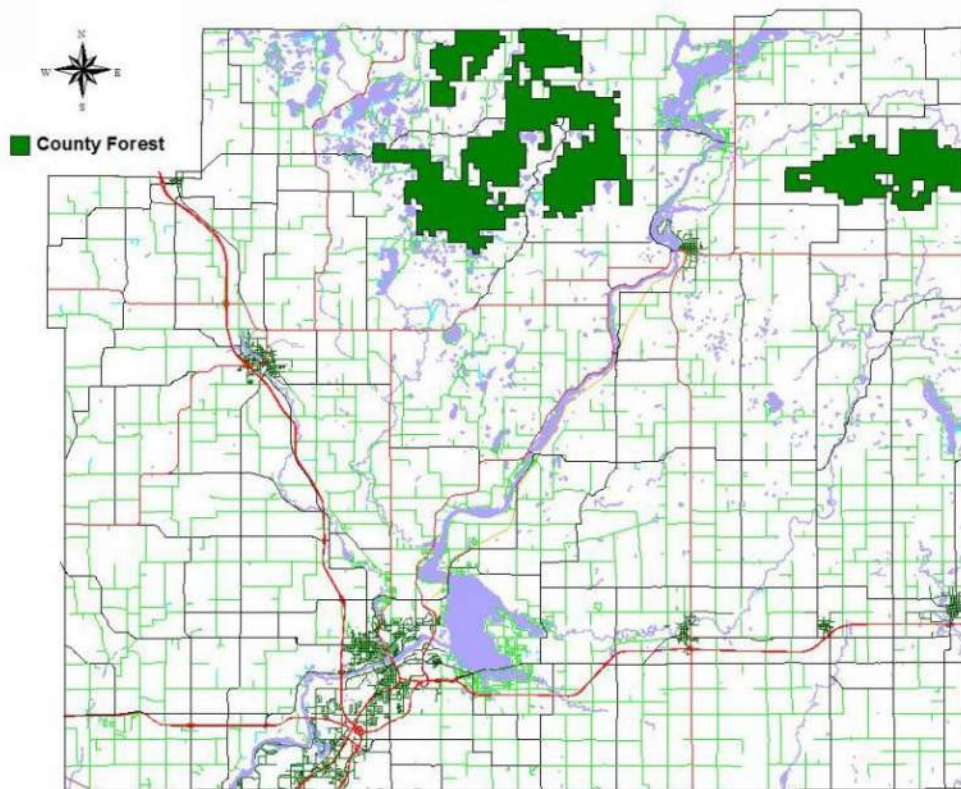
FIGURE 11.
GENERAL OUTDOOR RECREATION MAP
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



HUNTING

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

FIGURE 12.
CHIPPEWA COUNTY FOREST
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



FISHING

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

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

SWIMMING

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

CANOEING

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

WATER SKIING AND PLEASURE BOATING

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

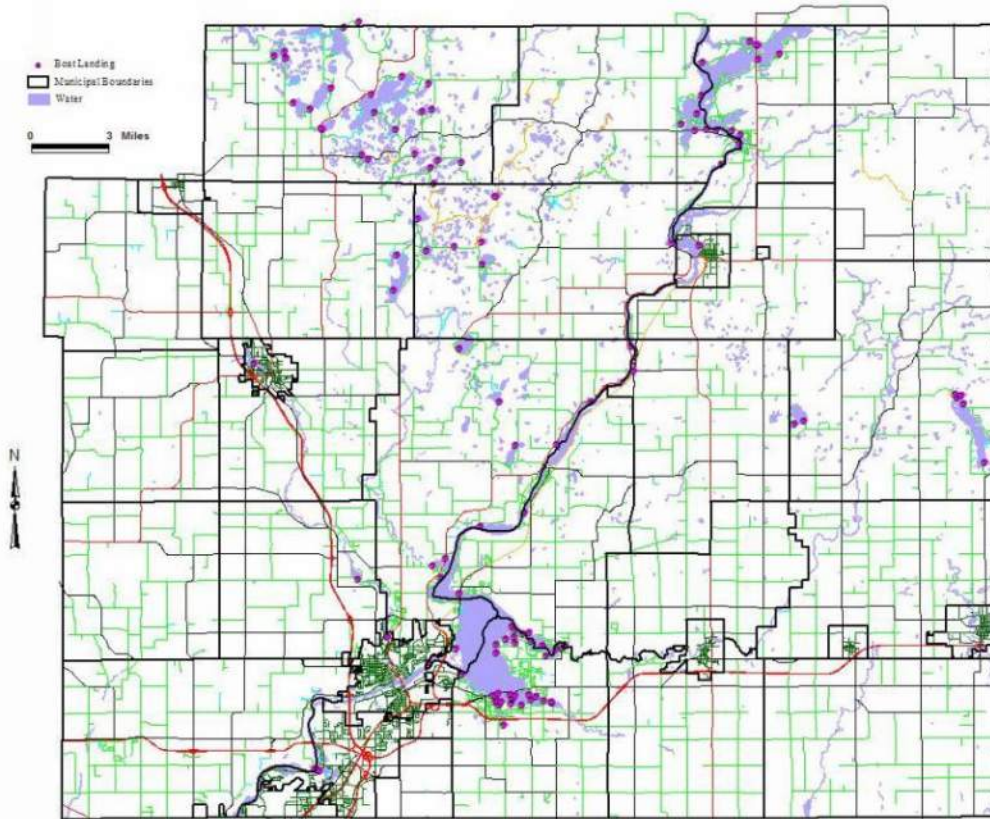
TABLE 11.
LAKES/IMPOUNDMENTS OF 200 ACRES OR GREATER
CHIPPEWA COUNTY

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

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

FIGURE 13.

PUBLIC BOAT LANDINGS
CHIPPEWA COUNTY



ADJACENT FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION FACILITIES

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

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

TABLE 12.

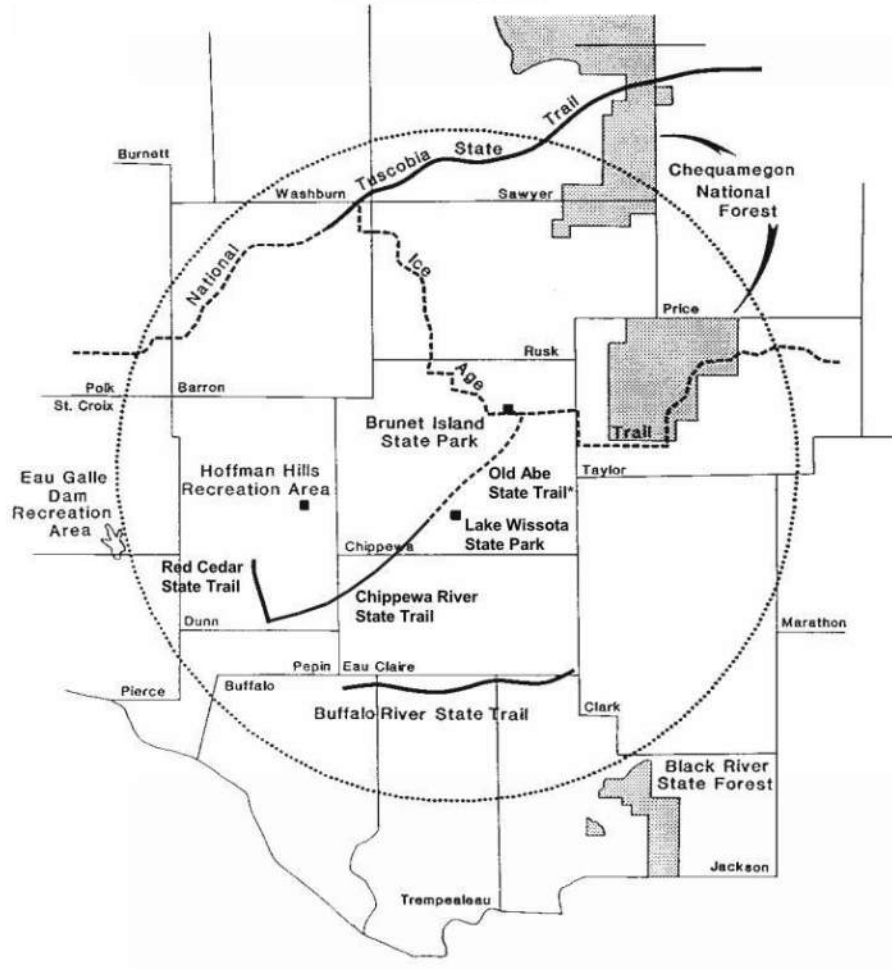
FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION AREAS WITHIN A 50-MILE RADIUS
OF CHIPPEWA COUNTY

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

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

FIGURE 14.

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



ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

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

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

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

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

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN METHODOLOGY

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

CHIPPEWA COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

MULTI-USE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

FISHING

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

PLAY EQUIPMENT

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

SOCCER

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

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY

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

HIKING, WALKING AND RUNNING

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

BOATING

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

CAMPING

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

BICYCLING

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

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

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

HUNTING

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

OUTDOOR CONCERTS AND THEATERS

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

LAND ACQUISITION

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

MEDIUM PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

ARCHERY AND RIFLE RANGES

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

FOOTBALL

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

PICNICKING

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

GOLF

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

MOTORIZED TRAIL ACTIVITIES

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

SWIMMING BEACHES AND POOLS

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

HISTORIC SITES

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

ZOOS

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

HORSEBACK RIDING

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

NATURE STUDY

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

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

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

OTHER WATER ACTIVITIES

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

LOW PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

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

PLEASURE DRIVING

Chippewa County's abundant woodlands provide seasonal enjoyment opportunities.

DOWNHILL SKIING

Chippewa County residents maintain an interest in downhill skiing.

PHOTOGRAPHY, SKETCHING, AND PAINTING

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

CHIPPEWA COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM

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

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

The following recommendations are divided into three sections:

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

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

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SELECTED RECREATION ACTIVITIES

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

Fishing

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

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

Play Equipment

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

Hiking, Walking, and Running

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

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

Boating

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

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

Camping

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

Bicycling

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

Cross-Country Skiing

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

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

Golf

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

Hunting

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

Archery and Rifle Ranges

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

Swimming Beaches

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

Canoeing

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

Picnicking

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

Horseback Riding

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

Motorized Trail Activity

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

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

Project Maintenance and Improvements Schedule

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

Friends of Hickory Ridge Trail

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

Chippewa Valley Trail Riders

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

Bloomer Rod & Gun

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

Chippewa Valley Outdoor Resource Alliance, Inc.

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

Chippewa Valley Snowmobile Organization

- Increase funded trail miles
- Replace out-dated bridges

Chippewa Valley ATV'ers

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

Old Abe Trail

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

Ice Age Trail Alliance

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

Stanley Sportsman Club

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

All Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION III.

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANS

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

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

COMMUNITY DEMANDS/NEEDS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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

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

PARK STANDARDS

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

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

TABLE 13.

Community Park Standards

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

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

NEEDS METHODOLOGY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

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

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANS

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

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

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

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

CITY OF STANLEY

SUPPLY

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

Community Facilities

CHAPMAN PARK (approx. 81 acres)

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

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

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

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

FANDRY PARK (located within Chapman Park)

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

SOOPARK (approx. 3 acres)

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

HIGHWAY 29 EXIT WAYSIDE (approx. 4 acres)

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

Other Facilities

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

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

FAITH FREE PLAYGROUND (approx. 0.5 acres)

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

STANLEY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

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

DEMAND/NEEDS

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

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

TABLE 14.

PARK AND RECREATION AREA NEED • CITY OF STANLEY

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

Source: US Census

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Soo Line Park**1-3 Years**

- Gazebo and picnic tables and grills.

3-5 Years

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

Fandry Park**1-3 Years**

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

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

3-5 Years

- Scoreboards.
- New playground equipment.

5-10 Years

- Lights installed around the field for night games.

Chapman Park

1-3 Years

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

3-5 Years

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

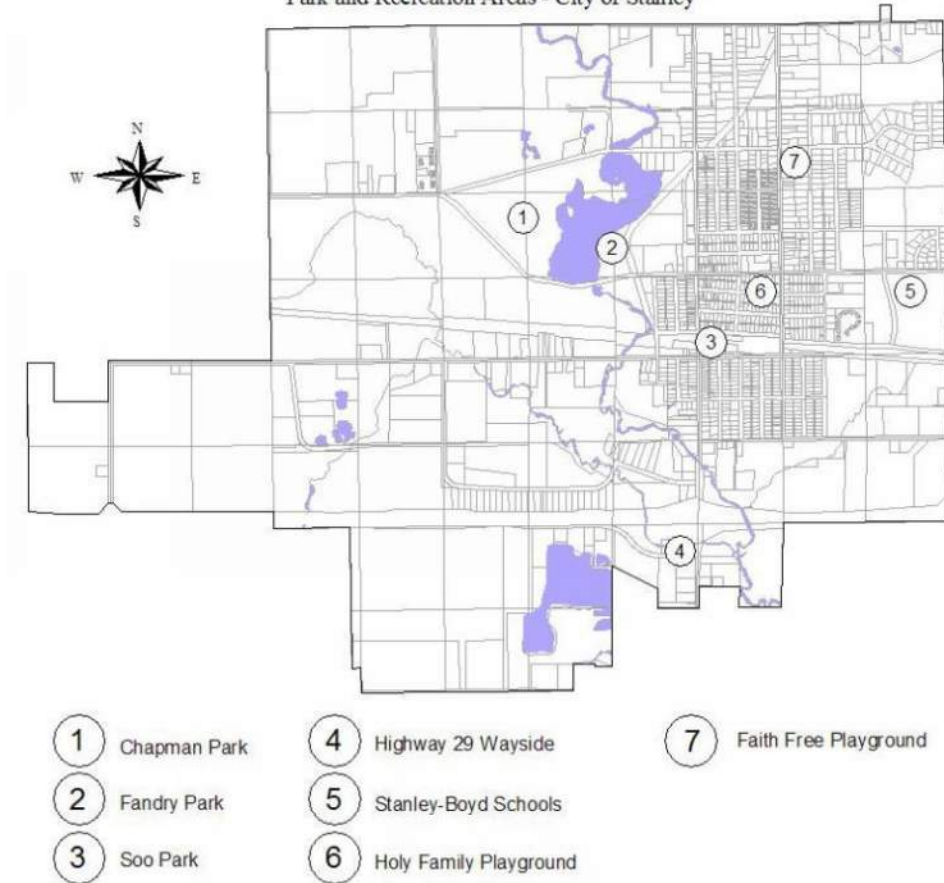
5-10 Years

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

General

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

Figure 15
Park and Recreation Areas - City of Stanley



TOWN OF LAKE HOLCOMBE

SUPPLY

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

Community Facilities

TOWN PARK abt. 6.5 ACRES

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

Other Facilities

LAKE HOLCOMBE SCHOOL DISTRICT GROUNDS abt. 11 ACRES

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

LION'S PARK abt. 40 ACRES

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

STAUDACHER FIELD abt. 7 ACRES

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

BOAT RAMPS

varies

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

CHIPPEWA COUNTY FOREST LANDS

240 acres

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

GOLF COURSES

2, 9 Hole Courses

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

DEMAND/NEEDS

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

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

TABLE 16.

PARK AND RECREATION AREA NEEDED - TOWN OF LAKE HOLCOMBE

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

Source: 2000 Census

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Short-Term Priorities 0-3 years)

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

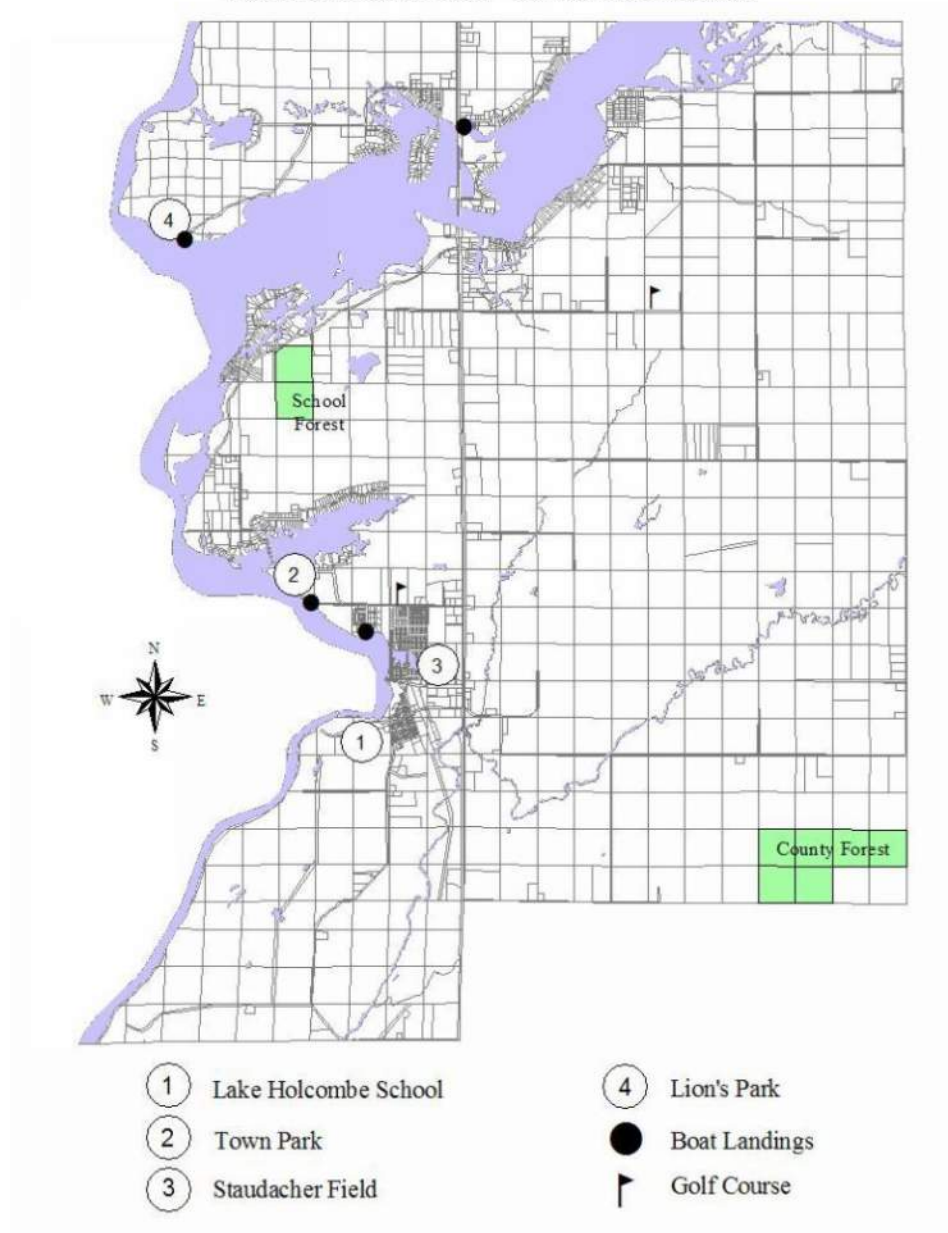
Currently there is no handicapped accessible fishing pier available at the Town Park. Such a fishing pier would provide additional public access to the waterfront for fishing and wildlife viewing, regardless of age and physical ability.

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

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

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

Figure 16
Park and Recreation Areas – Town of Lake Holcombe



TOWN OF LAFAYETTE

SUPPLY

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

Community Facilities

LAFAYETTE BALL FIELDS AND PARK

ABT. 40 ACRES

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

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

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

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

BRICK MEMORIAL BOAT LANDING

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

Other Facilities

REITER'S BOAT LANDING

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

RAY'S BEACH

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

STILLSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

WISSOTA WOODS DEVELOPMENT

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

DEMAND/NEEDS

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

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

TABLE 16.
PARK AND RECREATION AREAS - TOWN OF LAFAYETTE

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

Short-Term Priorities (1-3 years)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Intermediate Priorities (2-5 years)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Longer-Term Priorities (5- 10 years)

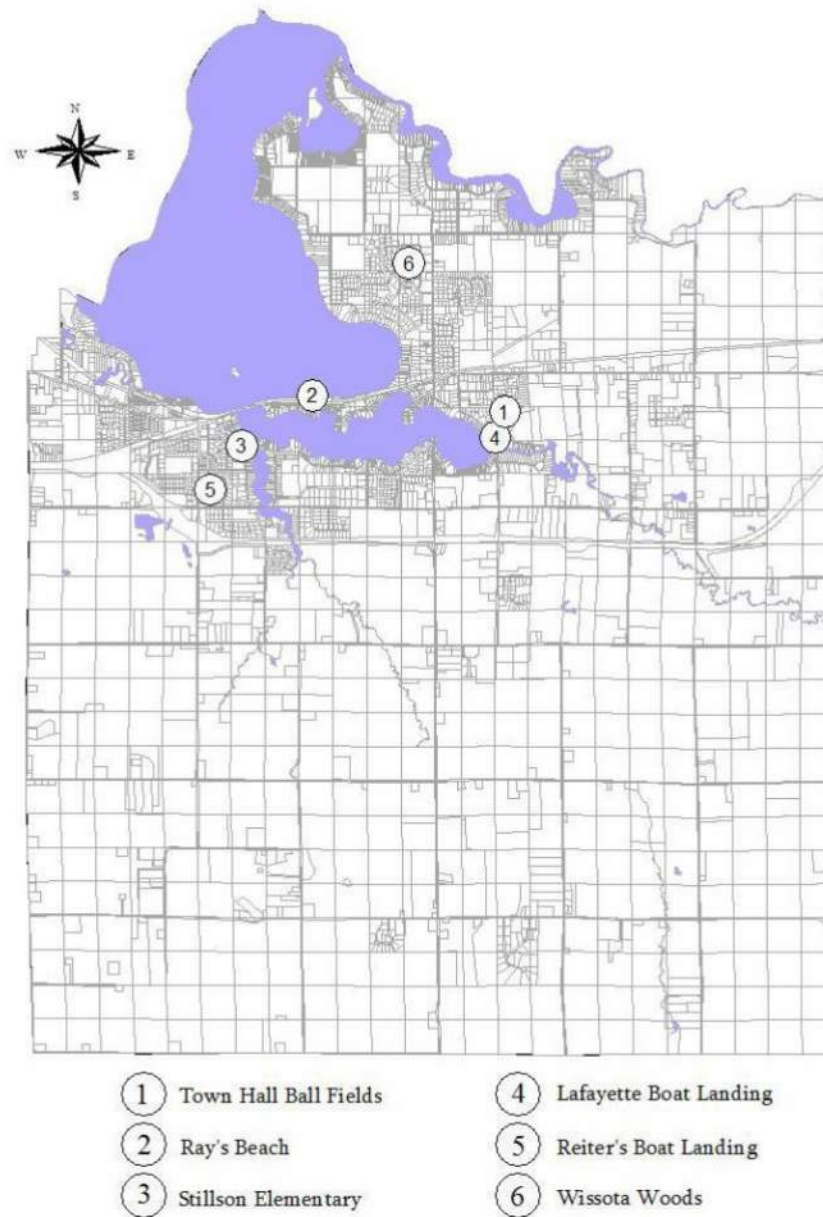
- *add an additional little league field at Lafayette Ballfields*

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

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

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

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



VILLAGE OF LAKE HALLIE

SUPPLY

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

Community Facilities

HALLIE PARK

54.18 ACRES

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

PEACE MEMORIAL WAYSIDE PARK

5.74 ACRES

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

SUBDIVISION PARKS

29.07 ACRES

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

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

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

LAKE HALLIE BOAT LANDING

5.89 ACRES

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

DEMAND/NEEDS

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

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

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

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Short-Term Priorities (1-3 years)

- develop CTH "J" portion of Chippewa River State Trail (aka "Lake Hallie Trail")

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

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

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

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

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

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

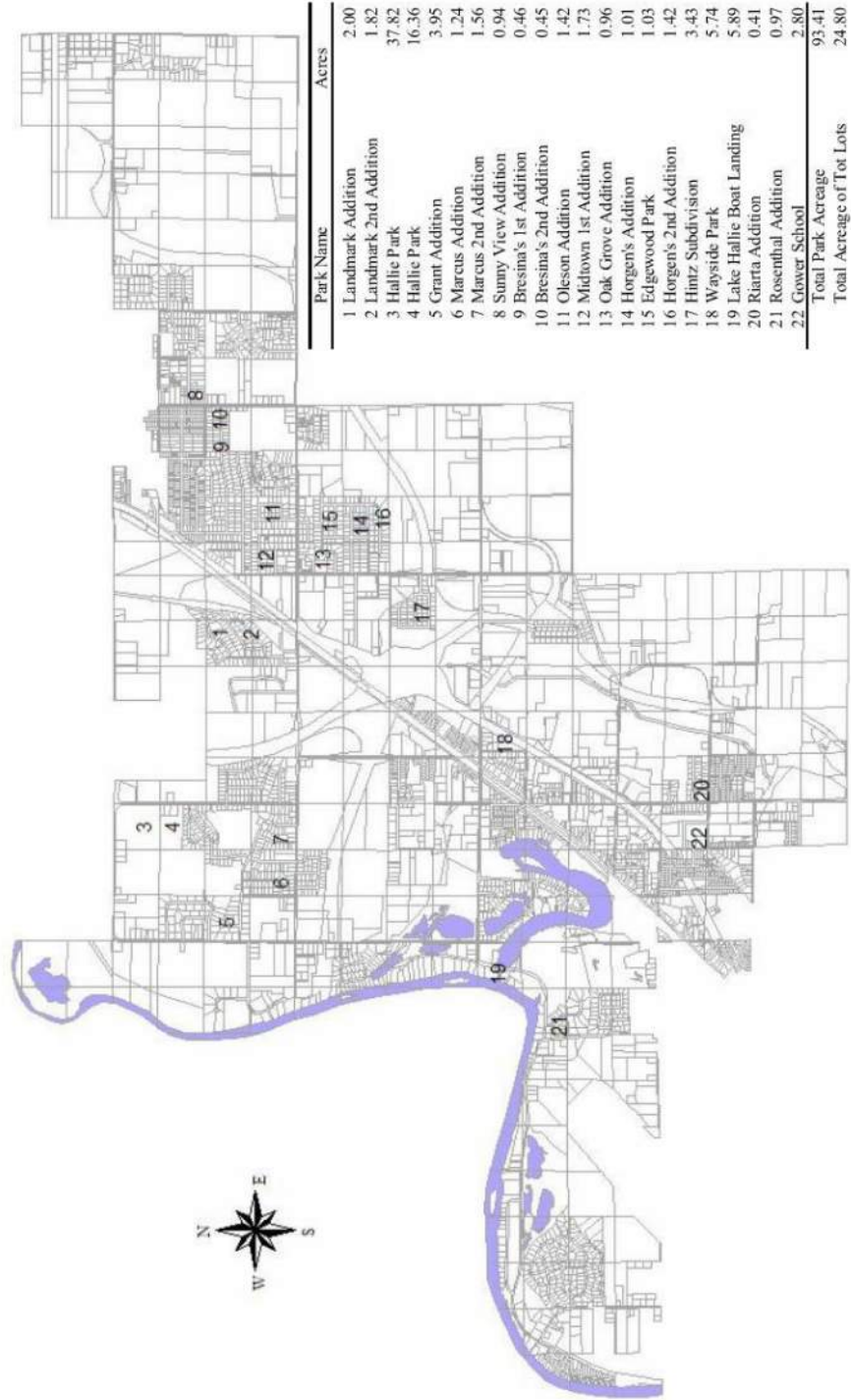
Weber Park was given to the Chippewa Youth Football Association who is currently in discussions with the Village of Lake Hallie to develop a strategy for long-term ownership and maintenance of the property. The park would continue to be used by the football association as well as for open space.

Intermediate Priorities (2-5 years)

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

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

Figure 18
Park and Recreation Areas - Village of Lake Hallie



TOWN OF WHEATON RECREATION AREAS OVERVIEW

Location:

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

CURRENT FACILITIES:

Wheaton Fire Station Park

Approx. 19 acres

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

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

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

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

Boat landing on Chippewa River

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

Big Elk Creek public fishing areas

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

Loopy's Saloon and Grill

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

Public and private snowmobile trail system

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

Private Horse facilities

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

DEMANDS/NEEDS:

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Short-Term Priorities (1-3 years)

- concession stand and restrooms for Ball Park.

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

- construct at grade dugouts on 3rd field

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

- sprinkler system for 3rd field

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

- Construction of a dock or pier at boat landing.

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

Intermediate Priorities (3-5 years)

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

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

- Lights on one or more of the ball fields

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

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

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

Long Range Priorities (5-10 years)

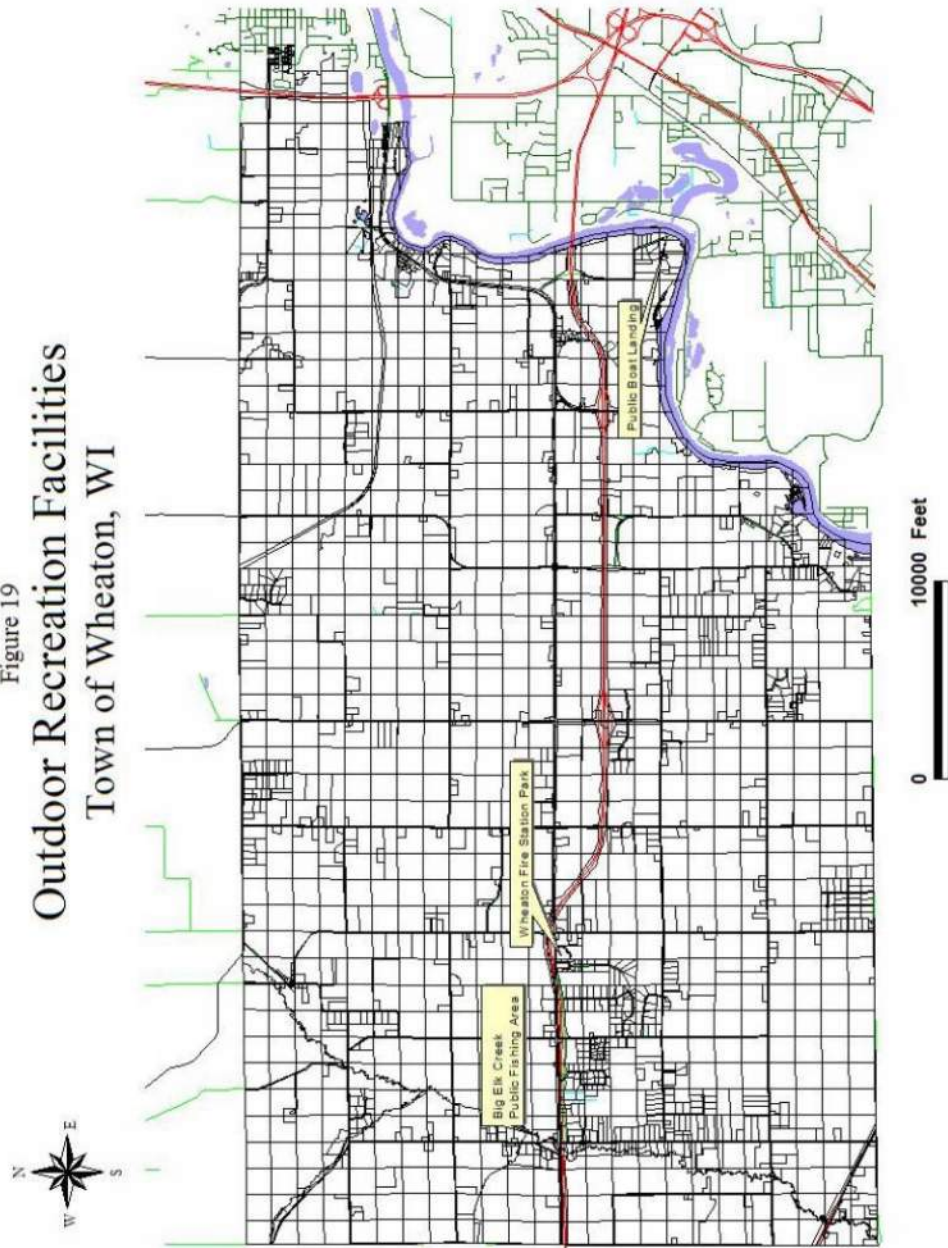
- develop a bike trail that would connect with Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire.

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

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

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

Figure 19
Outdoor Recreation Facilities
 Town of Wheaton, WI



RESOLUTION NO. 47 - 10

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CHIPPEWA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
AS OFFICIAL PLAN

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

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

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

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

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

FISCAL IMPACT ATTACHED

LAND, FOREST AND PARKS COMMITTEE

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

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

Land, Forest and Parks Committee

William A Stoll
William Stoll
Chairman - Land, Forest and Parks Committee

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

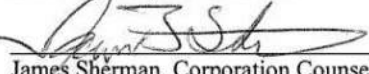
1 Fiscal Statement: There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with this plan. The
2 County is under no obligation under this plan to develop or acquire and recreational
3 facilities and/or improvements. This plan provides for general recommendations
4 regarding trends and possible needs for future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

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

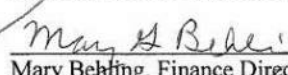
17
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19 **Approved as to Form:**

20 

21
22 Steve Kubacki, Administrator

23 

24
25 James Sherman, Corporation Counsel

26 

27
28 Mary Behring, Finance Director

29

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

State of Wisconsin)
) ss.
County of Chippewa)

Office of County Clerk

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



Kathleen M. Bernier
Chippewa County Clerk



City of Cornell

Chippewa County
Wisconsin

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025

Adopted October 2019

Resolution #19-5

CITY OF CORNELL, CHIPPEWA COUNTY, WI

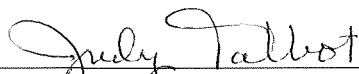
**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTING THE CITY OF CORNELL
COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2020-2025**

WHEREAS, the City of Cornell, in cooperation with the Cedar Corporation, has developed the City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025; and

WHEREAS, this plan outlines the foreseeable outdoor recreation facility needs of the City of Cornell that can be adequately maintained;

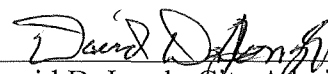
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby formally adopts the City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025 as the official policy statement for the development of outdoor recreation programs and facilities in the City of Cornell.

ADOPTED this 3 day of Oct. 2019.



Judy Talbot, Mayor
City of Cornell

ATTEST: I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Common Council of the City of Cornell at a legal meeting held on this 3rd day of October 2019.



David DeJongh, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer
City of Cornell

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Acknowledgements

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Acknowledgements

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Chapter I

Parks and Recreation

Introduction

Access to parks and recreational facilities is increasingly important to people when they choose where to live, work, vacation and retire. A variety of parks and recreational facilities is often equated to a better quality of life and can afford a number of benefits to a community.

City of Cornell residents and visitors are fortunate to have access to a wide variety of park and recreational opportunities in the City and nearby areas that are provided and maintained under different jurisdictions.

- City of Cornell – Mill Yard Park, Brunet City Park and Public Boat Landing
- WDNR – Old Abe State Trail and Brunet Island State Park
- U.S. National Park Service – Ice Age Trail
- Cornell School District – Playgrounds and Facilities

Combined with the backdrop of the Chippewa River, the City of Cornell offers a wide range of options for people of all ages and physical abilities.

The City of Cornell maintains a 5-Year Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to act as a guide for acquiring and developing local parks and recreation facilities and coordinating with the WDNR and U.S. National Park Service to plan and improve their offerings to complement the City's parks.

The City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan provides an inventory of existing parks and facilities, analyzes park and recreations needs, and recommends action steps that will help Cornell plan and prioritize the needs of the community and visitors.



Chippewa River at Mill Yard Park

Benefits of Providing Parks and Amenities

Parks and recreation are key for providing a quality of life to Cornell residents and visitors. The specific benefits that parks and recreation programs bring to a community cover a wide spectrum and are important when promoting the City as a great place to be.

Environmental Benefits

- Natural areas provide wildlife habitat, improve surface water quality, provide stormwater management, improve groundwater quality and improve air quality.
- Trees and other vegetation provide shade, which reduces the urban heat island effect.
- Children and adults can experience and connect with nature and understand the value of protecting the environment.

Health Benefits

- Parks, trails, and recreation programs allow opportunities for people to engage in physical activity at a level that fits their needs and abilities.
- Children who are active at an early age tend to stay active as adults.
- Exposure to nature can reduce stress and increase happiness.

Social Benefits

- Parks and recreation programs are inclusive with regards to income, race, and physical abilities.
- Parks provide spaces for social interaction with friends or meeting new people. These spaces provide places for concerts in the park, neighborhood picnics, and farmers markets that bring people outdoors.
- Parks can create a sense of pride and ownership in the community.

Economic Benefits

- Quality parks can influence a person's or business' decision to stay in or move to your community.
- Property values tend to increase in relation to the proximity to parks.
- Parks and recreation programs can generate income for local businesses when park related events encourage people to stay overnight, go out to eat, rent bicycles or kayaks, or stop at a convenience store.

Types of Recreational Activities

It is important to keep in mind that people have different parks and recreation needs based on their age, physical ability and activity they want to take part. Recreational activities are classified as active or passive.

Active Recreation

Active recreation refers to activities for individuals or teams that require the use of special facilities such as:

- Basketball Courts
- Baseball Diamonds
- Soccer Fields
- Golf Courses
- Hockey Rinks
- Tennis Courts
- Skateboard Parks
- Playground Equipment

Passive Recreation

Passive recreation refers to activities that do not typically require developed facilities but place a priority on facilities or amenities that support the access to and enjoyment of nature. These facilities and amenities include:

- Walking, hiking and bicycling trails
- Boat ramps or canoe/kayak launch areas
- Observation decks
- Docks
- Beaches
- Benches
- Pavilions
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountains
- Bicycle racks

By providing a variety of recreational activities to the community, the City of Cornell ensures that its parks are inclusive and accessible for users. At the same time, communities must identify what parks, recreational facilities or natural features are unique to them and can be used and promoted in a positive way.

Parks and Recreation Goals and Objectives

The function of all plans, whether in our personal lives or in our community, is to identify goals and achieve measurable objectives.

Goals are statements of desired outcomes or achievements. They are general in nature. Objectives are more specific and identify measurable outcomes.

As a community's desires and needs change, so too must its goals and objectives. The following goals and objectives represent the ends to which the priorities and recommendations in this plan are directed. These goals and objectives will provide a sound basis for future planning decisions in the communities with regard to parks and recreation.

Goal 1: Create a mixed-use redevelopment area along the Chippewa River.

Objectives:

1. Place and maintain historical/informational markers related to the Chippewa River and natural resources.
2. Use landscaping, such as plants, trees, or decorative fencing to reduce the visual impact of parking lots as seen from the streets and sidewalks.
3. Incorporate existing decorative lighting and sidewalk accents found along City streets to the trail and park.
4. Provide educational opportunities for landowners, citizens, and developers.
5. Preserve scenic vistas along the Chippewa River and area with natural views.
6. Provide new housing stock and options for residents and potential new residents.

Goal 2: Create and maintain a safe park, recreation, pedestrian and bicycle network within the City of Cornell.

Objectives:

1. Increase opportunities for walking and biking as ways of experiencing one's neighborhood and community.
2. Promote the health benefits of walking and biking.
3. Provide safe routes for people to enjoy the City's parks.
4. Provide safe routes for children walk and bicycle to school.
5. Maintain existing sidewalk and trail system.
6. Review site plans to ensure sidewalk and trail connectivity.

Goal 3: Provide handicapped accessible park facilities and varied recreational opportunities to meet the needs of all park users.

Objectives:

1. Conduct an ADA Accessibility Audit of park facilities and amenities.
2. Incorporate a fully handicap accessible fishing dock/pier along the Chippewa River.
3. Provide a variety of recreation opportunities for the disadvantaged, young, old and handicapped.
4. Participate in federal and state financial aid programs to improve ADA accessibility.
5. Explore creating camping opportunities within City parks.

Goal 4: Preserve and protect sensitive natural resource areas and habitats.

Objectives:

1. Prevent the fragmentation of existing environmental corridors.
2. Utilize and maintain environmental corridors and natural areas for passive parks, trails, and educational purposes.
3. Preserve and protect surface waters, wetlands, shore lands, and floodplains to maintain wildlife habitat.
4. Rezone sensitive natural resource areas to conservancy when possible.
5. Protect drainage ways and areas that drain to the river from pollutants.
6. Conserve, promote and provide access to natural areas.
7. Acquire additional parklands of environmental importance.
8. Utilize the variety of grant opportunities offered by the WDNR, Department of Administration, and Department of Transportation to fund improvements to park and recreational opportunities in the City.
9. Utilize public and private foundations and donations to fund park land acquisition, park amenities, or provide improved park and recreational opportunities in the City.

Goal 5: Identify, preserve, and protect sites having scientific, historic, scenic or archaeological significance.

Objectives:

1. Support the preservation of the historic pulpwood stacker located in Mill Yard Park.
2. Identify and apply for grants to offset the costs to preserve or repair sites and structures with scientific, historic, or cultural significance.
3. Maintain the area's historical identity and links to the past.
4. Protect sites of historical significance from undesirable development.
5. Provide educational opportunities at sites with scientific, historic, or cultural significance.

Goal 6: Provide quality parks, recreational facilities, and a variety of recreational opportunities and experiences to meet the needs of Cornell residents and visitors.

Objectives:

1. Maintain the quality of recreational facilities.
2. Maintain existing fencing, picnic shelters, and restrooms at park facilities.
3. Protect and improve the quality of life for City and area residents.
4. Acquire land in fee or by easements for needed parks.
5. Cooperate with other local units of government and the state and federal governments in park planning.
6. Work with Xcel Energy/Northern State Power for park planning and acquisition of land in fee or by easement.

Figure 1 lists the State of Wisconsin's Outdoor Recreation goals. Many of Cornell's goals support the State's vision.

Figure 1 State of Wisconsin's Goals for Outdoor Recreation



Source: WDNR State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023

Chapter 2

Community Profile

Introduction

The City of Cornell is a small community located on the scenic Chippewa River. It is a beautiful, friendly community located in the northeast corner of Chippewa County, Wisconsin and is surrounded by the Towns of Cleveland and Estella (see Map 1). Cornell and the surrounding area have an abundance of wildlife, clean air, and a relaxed pace of life that residents and visitors enjoy.

The City of Cornell is easily accessible by road being located at the convergence of State Trunk Highways 27, 64 and 178 which is known as the Scenic River Road. S.T.H. 64 is a major east-west highway corridor and State Highway 27 is the primary north-south route.

Cornell residents enjoy the small town feel they have been able to maintain while still providing jobs and recreational opportunities to area residents.

Population Demographics

The State of Wisconsin Demographics Center and U.S. Census provide statistical data for the population of all municipalities in the State of Wisconsin. The statistical data, or demographics, for the City of Cornell may indicate trends related to population growth, income, and age distribution that will be analyzed and considered when looking at future park needs.

Population

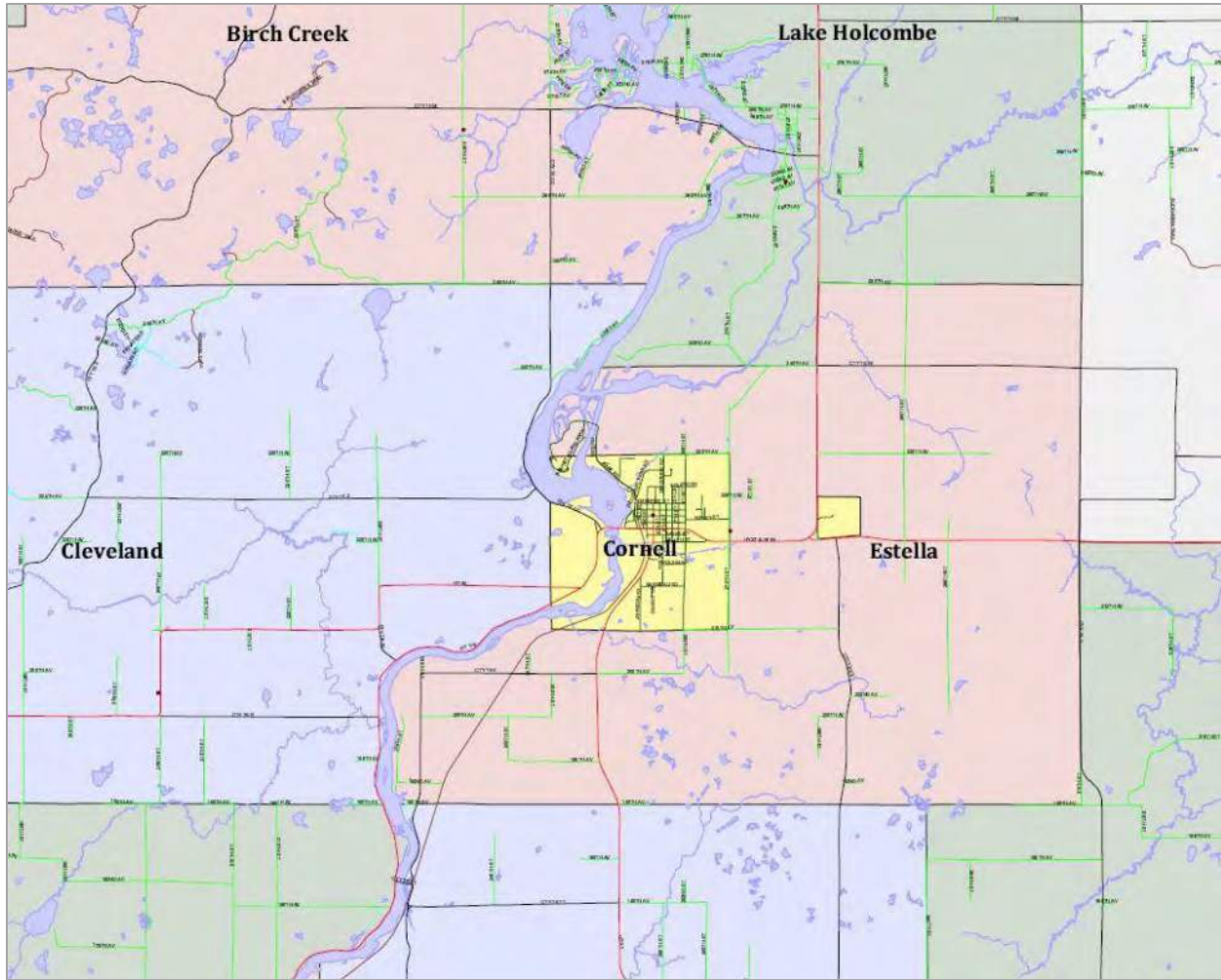
Population growth results in more potential users of park facilities and recreation programs. The U.S. Census shows that in 2010, the City of Cornell's population was 1,467. Table 1 shows that the City's population decreased by 13.3% between 1950 and 1960 and then at a slower rate until 2010.

Table 1 Historical Population: City of Cornell

Year	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Population	1,944	1,685	1,616	1,583	1,521	1,466	1,467
% Change		-13.3%	-4.1%	-2.0%	-3.9%	-3.6%	0.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Map 1 City of Cornell and Surrounding Towns



Source: Chippewa County

Table 2 shows that the City's population is projected to see limited growth up until 2025 when a slow decline will begin. During this same time, the number of households is projected to increase from 207 in 2010 to 639 by 2040, which indicated the number of persons per household is decreasing (see Table 3).

Table 2 Population Projections: City of Cornell

Year	2010*	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Population	1,467	1,475	1,485	1,485	1,480	1,460	1,430
% Change	-	0.5%	0.7%	0.0%	-0.3%	-1.4%	-2.1%

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, Wisconsin Demographic Services Center 2013/12/10

Table 3 Household Forecasts: City of Cornell

Year	2010*	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Population	607	621	631	638	644	645	639
% Change	-	2.3%	1.6%	1.1%	0.9%	0.2%	-0.9%

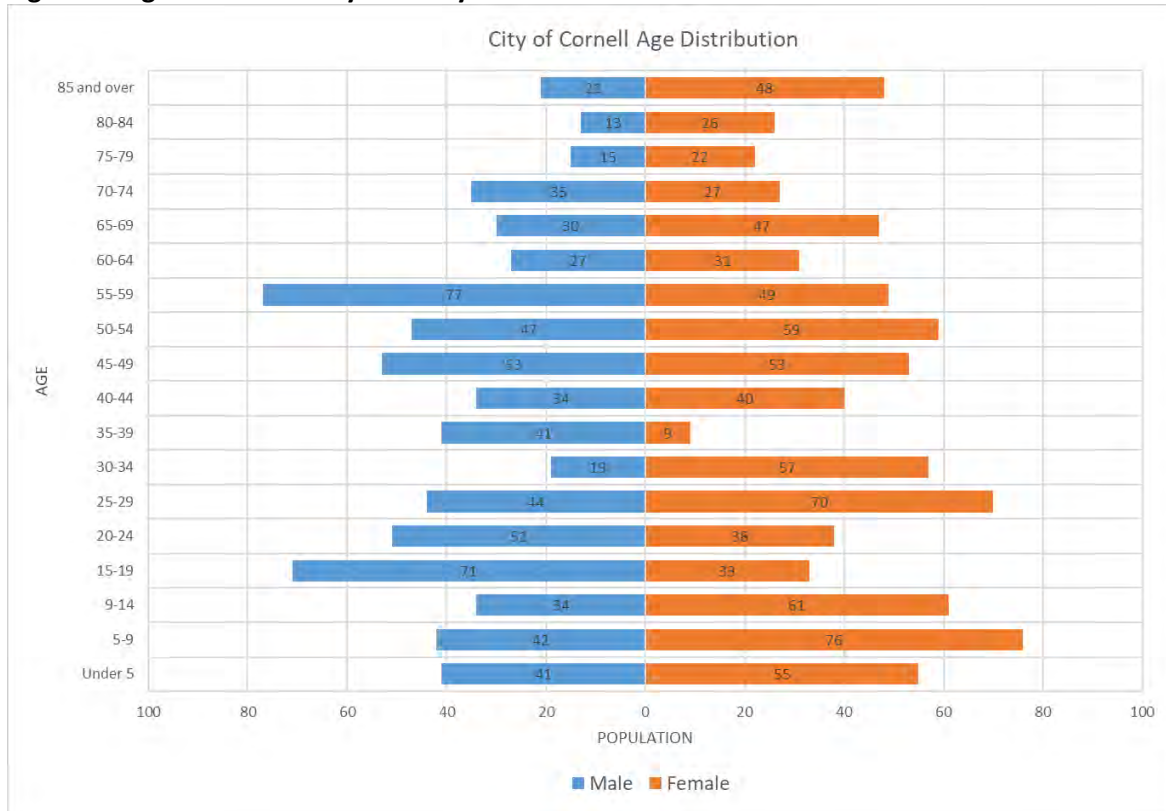
Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, Wisconsin Demographic Services Center 2013/12/10

Age Distribution

Recreation needs can vary depending on a person's age. Identifying age groups and the number of residents in those groups can help the City anticipate the types of facilities needed in the future. Figure 1 shows the distribution of Cornell's population by age and sex in the form of a population pyramid.

Figure 1 shows the age distribution of Cornell residents by sex. The figure shows fewer residents in the *30 to 44 years of age* group. The Under 5 to 29 and 45 to 59 years of age groups have the highest number of residents but their numbers are similar meaning that the population is maintaining itself and not growing.

The median age of a Cornell resident is 36.7 compared to 41.2 for a Chippewa County resident and 39.2 for a State of Wisconsin resident.

Figure 1 Age Distribution by Sex: City of Cornell


Source: American Community Survey 2012-2016

Chapter 3

Parks and Recreational Facility Standards

National Recreation and Parks Association Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides guidelines for classifying parks and open spaces. These are meant to act as a baseline to compare to help assess a community's offerings. The guidelines shown in Table 4 provide a description of each classification, size of the park or open space and the area it serves. By mapping the location, classification, and services areas of the City's parks, gaps in service can be identified and addressed in the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Map 2 shows the locations of parks, open spaces, and pathways in the City Cornell and their classifications.

Although the NRPA provides guidelines for parks and open space, the unique landscape and development patterns of the community will influence the types of parks and facilities that are offered. For Cornell, the Chippewa River, State trails and parks and the Ice Age Trail provide access to recreational opportunities that many communities don't have.

Park Space Standards

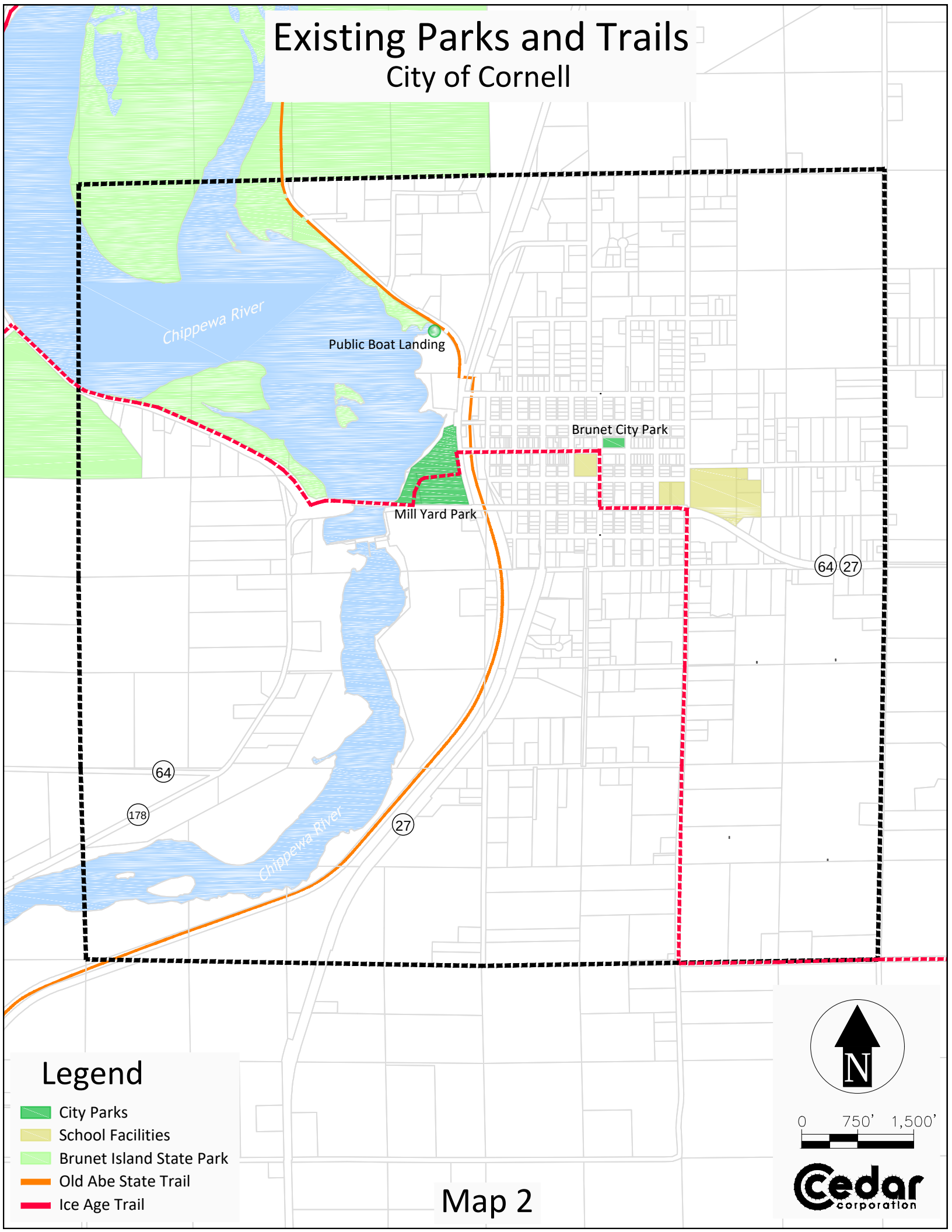
The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) provides recommendations for the types of parks and number of park acres per 1,000 residents that communities can use for a baseline when evaluating parks and open space. The three (3) types of parks and their recommended acreages include:

- Mini-Parks: 0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000 residents
- Neighborhood Parks: 1 to 2 acres per 1,000 residents
- Community Parks: 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 residents

The three park classifications provide a range of 6.25 to 10.5 total acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. These three park classifications are generally considered the main components of a park system. Other park classifications such as Large Urban Park, Natural Resource Area, and Special Use Area, are unique to each community, therefore, recommended space needs are not provided.

Existing Parks and Trails

City of Cornell



Public Boat Landing

Brunet City Park

Mill Yard Park

64 27

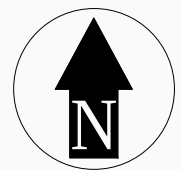
64

178

27

Legend

- City Parks
- School Facilities
- Brunet Island State Park
- Old Abe State Trail
- Ice Age Trail



0 750' 1,500'



Table 4 National Recreation and Parks Association Park Classification System

Mini-Park
Description: Mini-Parks serve a concentrated population or specific age group or function but can serve persons of all ages located in the immediate area. They typically contain children's playground equipment and passive amenities such as benches and shelters.
Service Area: Less than 1/4 mile radius
Recommended Size: 1 acre or less
Acres/1,000 Residents: 0.25 to 0.5 acres
Neighborhood Park
Description: Neighborhood Parks are the foundation of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. These parks serve residents in a variety of age groups. The park should be easily accessible and access should be uninterrupted by major roads or other barriers. Parking may be necessary.
Service Area: 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile radius
Recommended Size: 5 to 10 acres
Acres/1,000 Residents: 1.0 to 2.0 acres
Community Park
Description: Community Parks are diverse in nature and serve a broader purpose than the neighborhood or mini parks. They are larger than neighborhood parks and are intended to serve a larger area. Community parks usually have both day and evening activities. Community parks include a mix of active and passive activities and attract users of all ages.
Service Area: 1/2 mile to 3.0 mile radius
Recommended Size: More than 10 acres
Acres/1,000 Residents: 5.0 to 8.0 acres
Large Urban Park
Description: Large Urban Parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community based recreational needs, such as a soccer complex, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.
Service Area: Community-wide
Recommended Size: 50 acres or more
Acres/1,000 Residents: N/A
Natural Resource Areas
Description: Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetics/buffering.
Service Area: Varies
Recommended Size: N/A
Acres/1,000 Residents: N/A
Special Use Parks or Areas
Description: Special Use Parks include specialized recreational activities that are often unique to a community. Activities can include boat ramps, campgrounds, golf courses or beaches. These parks usually provide amenities that serve the entire community as well as visitors from beyond the district and are typically a single use park.
Service Area: Varies
Recommended Size: N/A
Acres/1,000 Residents: N/A
School Parks and Facilities
Description: School Parks and Facilities can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use parks. Access to these facilities may be limited during school hours.
Service Area: Varies
Recommended Size: N/A
Acres/1,000 Residents: N/A

Source: National Recreation and Parks Association

Table 5 shows recommended acreages for mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks based on the City of Cornell's estimated 2010 population. These three classifications are considered the main building blocks of a community's park system.

The City of Cornell does not have a pure mini-park. Brunet City Park provides children's playground equipment but also has a monument to the memory of Jean Brunet, military cannon, new handicapped accessible restrooms and open space. Because of this, Brunet City Park is best classified as a Neighborhood Park because of the variety of uses it provides.

Mill Yard Park is classified as a Community Park because of the large number of activities it provides and large area it serves.

The City of Cornell also has a Boat Launch. This is classified as a Special Use Park or Area because it provides access to the Chippewa River. Water access is often unique to communities.

Table 5 Existing Park Space: City of Cornell

Park Type	*Recommended Acreage	Actual Acreage
Mini-Park	0.4 to 0.75	0
Neighborhood Park	1.5 to 3.0	1.0
Community Park	7.5 to 11.75	13.5

Source: National Recreation and Park Association.

*Recommended acreages are based on the 2010 U.S. Census estimated population of 1,467 residents.

Table 5 shows that the City of Cornell has approximately 10.0 acres of park land per 1,000 residents in the three main park classifications. Parks under the City's jurisdiction meet the recommended space needs identified by the National Recreation and Parks Association.

Regional Park Space Comparison

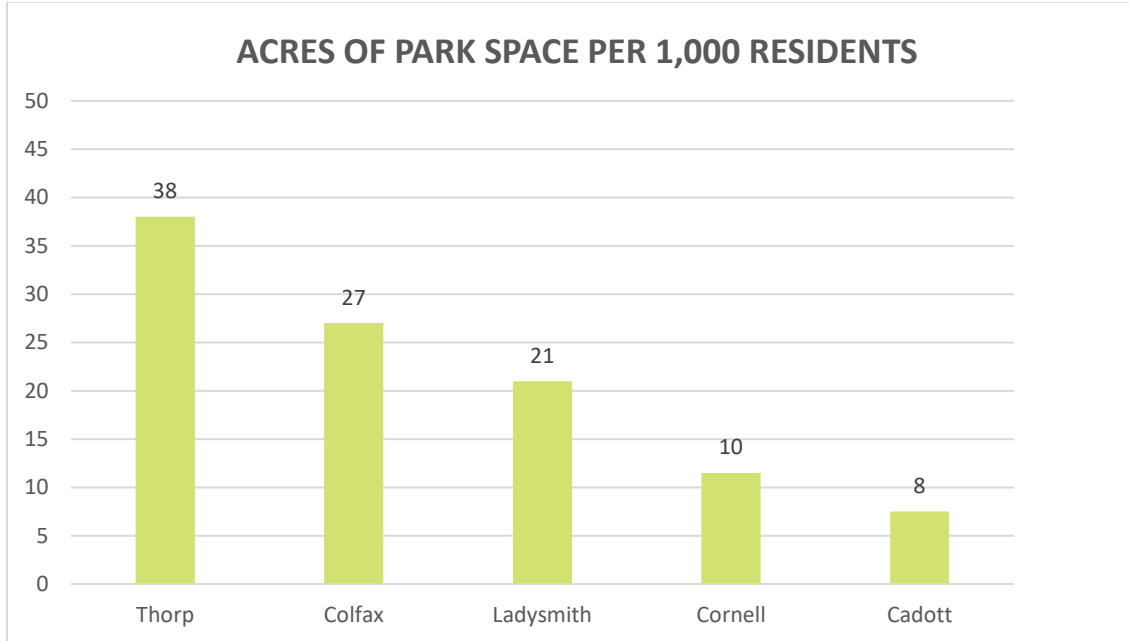
The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans or Comprehensive Plans for the City of Thorp, Village of Colfax, City of Ladysmith and Village of Cadott were reviewed to make a regional comparison of park space. The four communities are within a 30-mile radius of the City of Cornell and are similar in population except for the City of Ladysmith, which was more than double the size. In three of these communities, a river ran through the community.

Because each community's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or Comprehensive Plan did not present park information the same. To make a regional comparison, all parkland designated for public use, whether developed or not, and under the jurisdiction of the community, was included in the park acreage totals. Recreational land associated with schools or private organizations was not counted.

For consistency, the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau population estimates were used in the acreage calculations.

Figure 2 show the parkland per 1,000 residents in each community. The average community parkland acreage per 1,000 residents is 21 acres. The City of Cornell has 10 acres per 1,000 residents.

Figure 2 Acres of Park Space per 1,000 Residents in Surrounding Communities



Source: Cedar Corporation

Park Service Boundaries

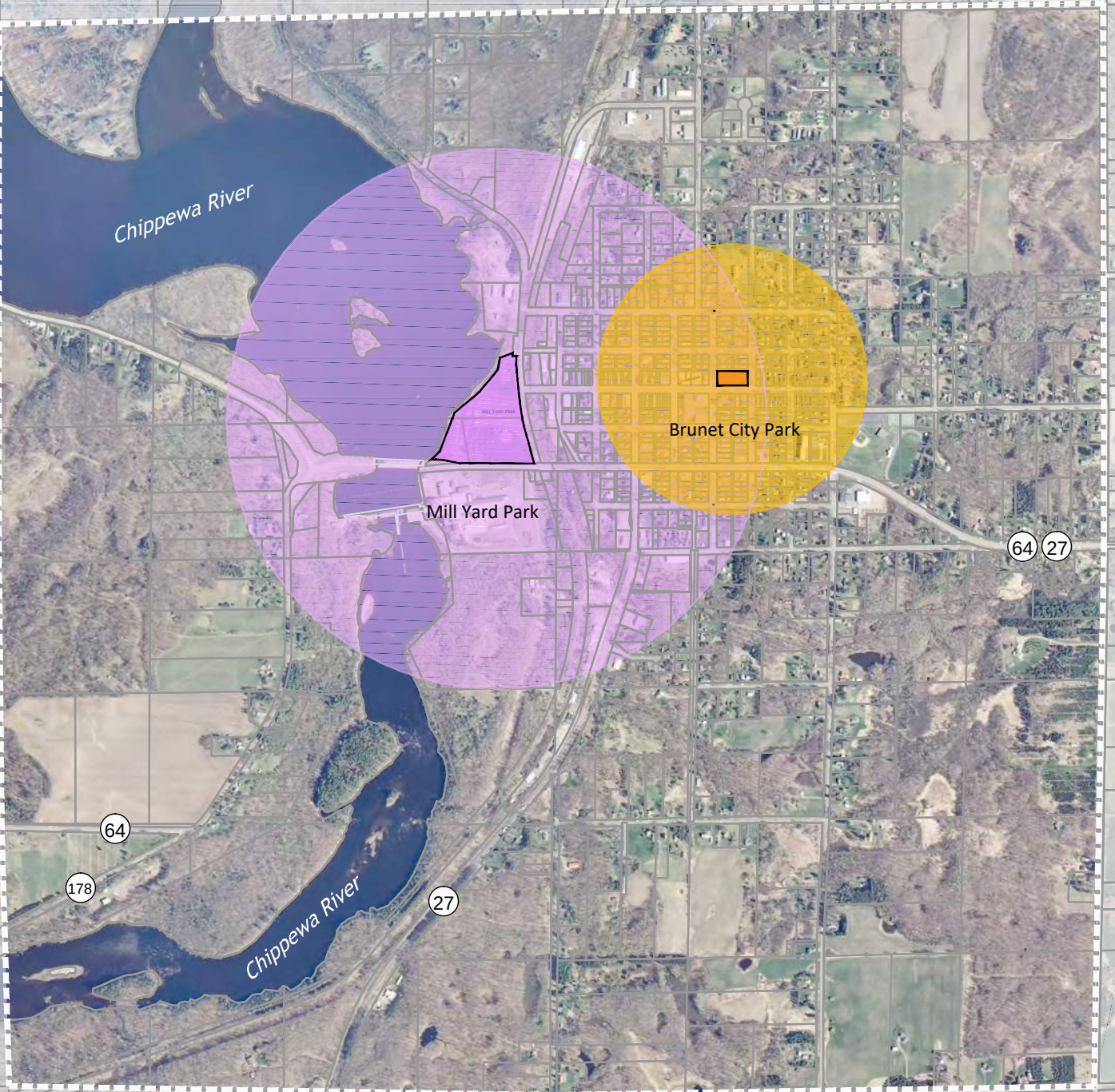
The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) provides recommendations for the area served by community parks, neighborhood parks, and mini-parks. The three (3) types of parks and their recommended service areas include:

- Community Parks: 0.5 to 3 mile service radius
- Neighborhood Parks: 0.25 to 0.5 mile service radius
- Mini-Parks: up to 0.25 mile service radius

Map 3 shows the Park Service Boundaries of Mill Yard Park and Brunet City Park. Most residents living in the densest parts of the City near the commercial areas and east of the Chippewa River have park options available within a reasonable distance. There are no City Parks on the west side of the Chippewa River where a small number of homes exist.

Park Service Boundaries

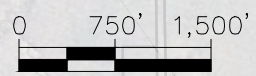
City of Cornell



Legend

Service Boundaries

-  1/4 Mile - Mini Parks
-  1/2 Mile - Neighborhood Parks
-  1 Mile - Community Parks



Chapter 4

Park and Recreation Inventory

City of Cornell

The City of Cornell has three parks/recreational areas that provide a wide range of recreational experiences for residents and visitors. Each varies in size and function provide for facilities for different age groups and activities. This chapter will provide an inventory of each parks/recreational area under the jurisdiction of the City of Cornell and an assessment of the amenities.

Brunet City Park

- Located on Main Street between 5th Street and 6th Street.
- Approximately 1 acre
- Classified as a Neighborhood Park

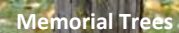
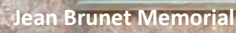
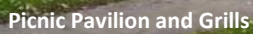
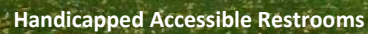
The Park is named after Jean Brunet, and early settler in the Chippewa Valley who was born in France in 1791. Brunet was a fur trader who eventually made his way to Cornell where he who opened an inn and trading post in 1843.



The Brunet City Park has a mix of large deciduous and coniferous trees that provide shade for the many activities available at the Park. Several of the trees have been added through the City's Memorial Tree Program. The following amenities are located at the Park.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Handicapped Accessible Restroom | • Picnic Pavilion and Picnic Tables |
| • Jean Brunet Memorial | • Benches and Seating Areas |
| • Children's Playground Sets | • Swing Sets |
| • Slide | • Teeter-Totter |
| • Learning Trail | • Open Space |
| • Military Cannon | • Grills |
| • Trash Receptacles | |

The restrooms, children's playground equipment, and one swing set are in good condition or new. One swing set, the teeter-totter and slide are in average condition. Wood chips under the playground equipment have been worn away. The concrete floor in the pavilion is cracked and the picnic tables are in poor condition. The sidewalk through the park is narrow. There is a variety of benches and seating throughout the park. The military cannon is in good condition. The Jean Brunet Memorial faces Main Street. There is no park sign in Brunet City Park.



Mill Yard Park

- Located on S.T.H. 64 between the Chippewa River and Park Road.
- Approximately 13.5 acres
- Classified as a Community Park

The center piece of Mill Yard Park is the pulpwood stacker. It is one of the only known pulpwood stackers in the world. The 175-foot structure was used to stack logs after they were run through the attached sawmill and then floated to the paper mill across the road. The pulpwood stacker operated from 1912 until 1971. It was placed on the State and National Register of Historic Places in 1993. The park land was donated in 1983 by Globe Industry.



Adjacent to the pulpwood stacker is the Cornell Visitors Center and Native American Museum (open May through October).

Mill Yard Park also hosts large events. The annual Chippewa River allows you to experience the late 1600's and learn about the history of Wisconsin and the people who once lived here including the Ojibwa, French, English, Irish and Scotsmen. The Chippewa River Rendezvous also allows visitors to experience life in a tipi, a single pole lodge or a Civil War tent and learn how our everyday items were made such as soap, clothing, bows and arrows, bullets and knives. The Rendezvous is held in late August each year.

The Mill Yard Park has a variety of passive and active park amenities. Open spaces and views of the Chippewa River and shared with ball diamonds and playground equipment. The following amenities are located at the Park.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Pulpwood Stacker | • Concession Stands |
| • Visitors Center | • Historic Information |
| • Native American Museum | • Large and Small Shelters |
| • Children's Playground Equipment | • River Access |
| • Benches | • Restrooms |
| • Baseball/Softball Fields | • Picnic Tables |
| • Skate Park | |

Mill Yard Park has new children's playground equipment. There are large open areas that could be developed over time. The ball diamonds need some maintenance and the handicapped accessibility could be improved. The Park benefits from being located on the Chippewa River.

Mill Yard Park Amenities



Cornell Welcome Sign



Children's Playground Equipment



North Ball Diamond



South Ball Diamond and Pulpwood Stacker



Skate Park



Benches and Picnic Tables along the River



Visitors Center and Native American Museum



Pavilion

Boat Landing

- Located on Bay Road
- Part of a larger City-owned parcel
- Classified as a Special Use Area

The City of Cornell provides a public boat landing off Bay Road on land used by the Public Works Department. The boat landing has a parking area adjacent to the boat landing and a concrete ramp. There is an open space and picnic area above.

The entrance to the Boat Landing should be more clearly defined to make it more recognizable. The picnic area is open with one picnic table. It is visible from the Old Abe Trail.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

Parkland and Recreational Facilities not owned by the City of Cornell can be an asset to the community by bringing visitors into the area who may not be familiar with the area. By doing this, these visitors get to experience the City and visit its stores, shops and restaurants. The WDNR has two significant park and recreation offerings that have a positive impact on the City of Cornell.



Brunet Island State Park is located on the Chippewa and Fisher Rivers on the north side of the City. The Park has more than 1,300 acres of land and water that are excellent for camping, canoeing and wildlife watching.

In Fiscal Year 2018, 124,799 people visited Brunet Island State Park. The Park has two campgrounds. The South Campground has 24 sites with electricity. A campsite accessible for people with disabilities and a shower building with flush toilets are in this campground. The North Campground has no electric service but many of the 45 campsites are on the shoreline of the Chippewa River or its bays.

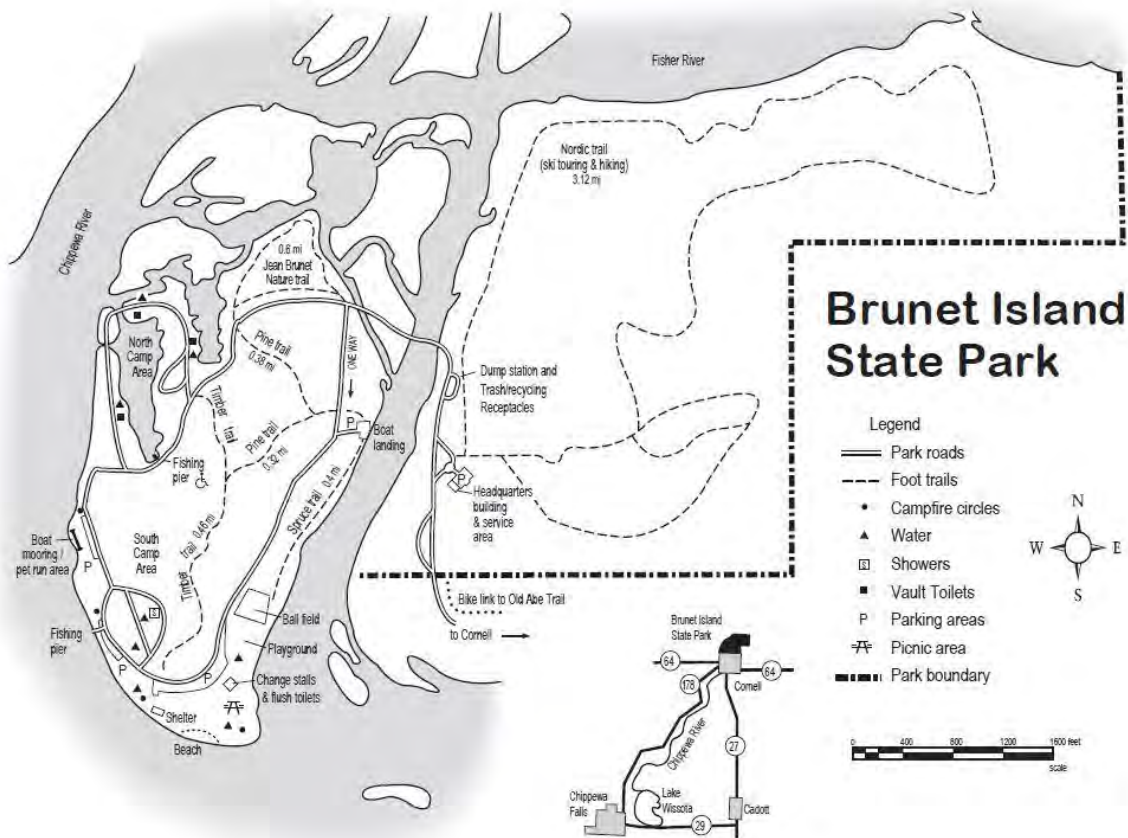
The Old Abe State Trail is a 20-mile paved trail that connects Lake Wissota State Park and Brunet Island State Park. It is maintained by a cooperative effort between the WDNR and Chippewa County. The trail is on an abandoned railroad making it level and accessible to bicyclists, walkers and joggers.

The Old Abe State Trail is part of the Chippewa Valley Trail System that, when completed, will feature an 80-mile network of trails connecting Cornell to Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Durand and Menomonie.

A Wisconsin State Trail Pass is required for users of the Trail, 16 years of age and older. Pets are allowed but must be on a leash, 8 feet or shorter, at all times and users must pick up after your pet.

Parking is available near the trail at Mill Yard Park in Cornell and at Brunet Island State Park.

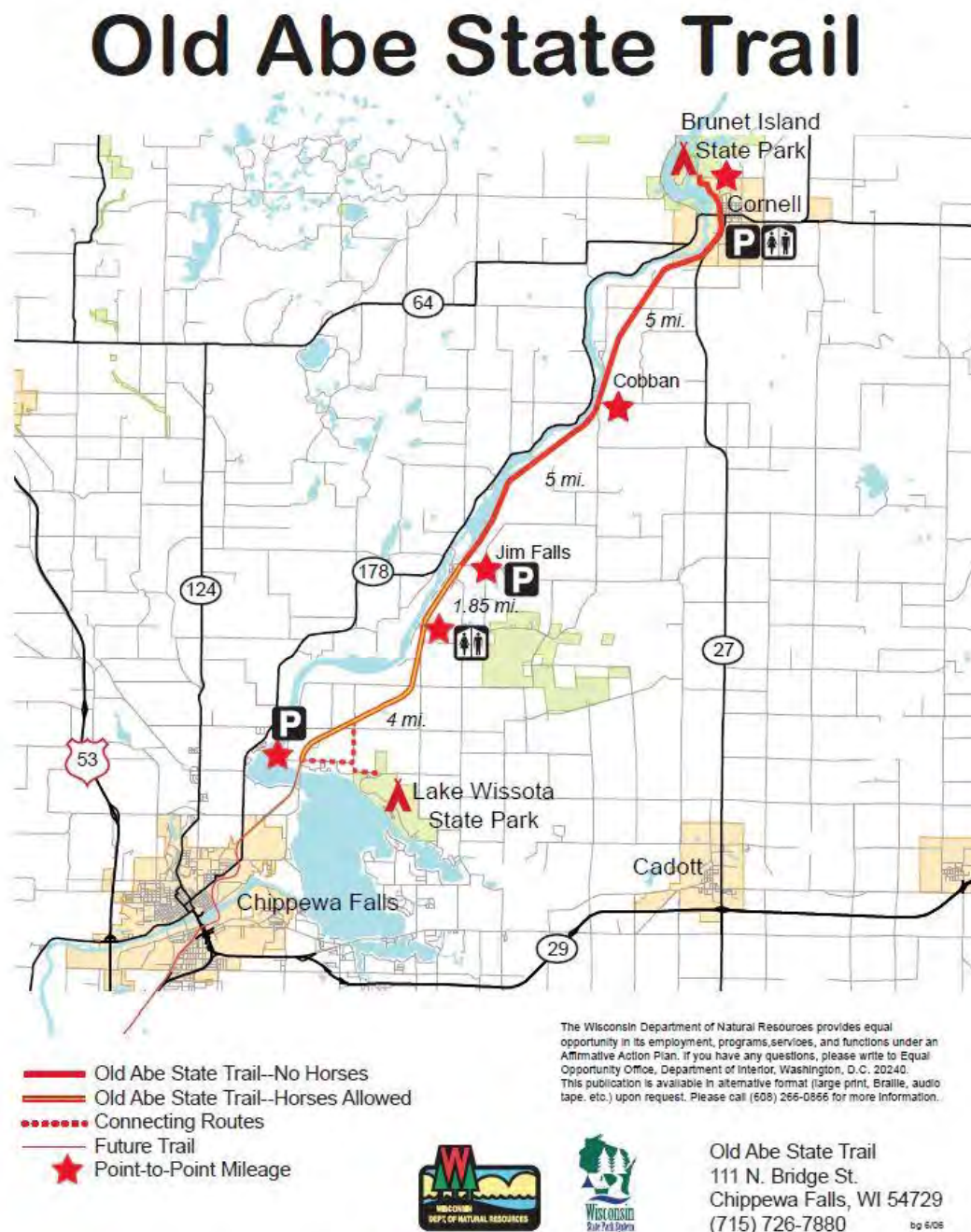
Map 4 Brunet Island State Park



Source: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

During the winter, snowmobiles are permitted on the Trail, which make the Trail a year round asset to the community. The trail also connects to miles of county snowmobile trails. Besides snowmobilers, the trail is open in the winter to walkers, bicyclists, cross-country skiers and snowshoers. The Trail is not groomed and users must share the trail with snowmobiles. Skiers do not need a trail pass while using the trail.

Map 5 Old Abe State Trail



Source: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource

National Park Service

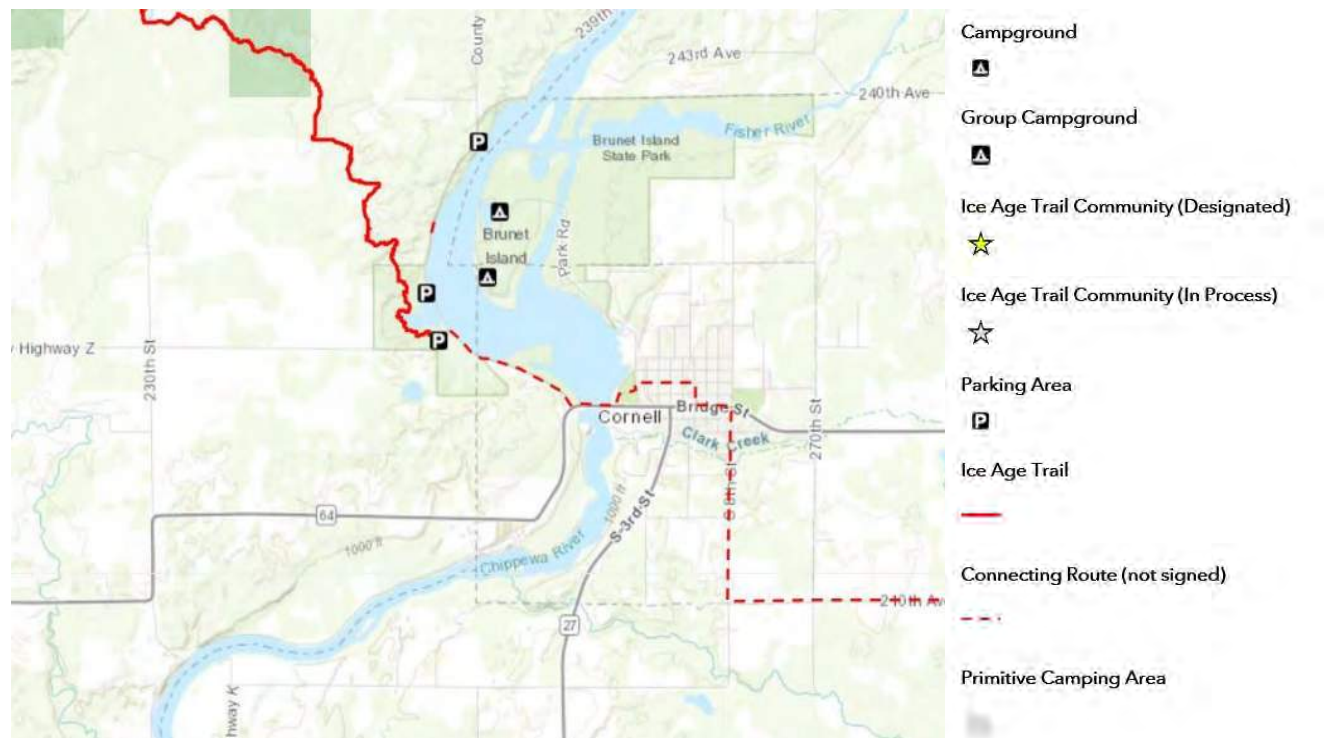
Currently, there are 11 National Scenic Trails with the Ice Age Trail running exclusively through the State of Wisconsin and is managed by the National Park Service (NPS), WDNR and the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

The Ice Age Trail is primarily an off-road hiking and backpacking trail that provides opportunities for sightseeing, wildlife viewing and bird watching. In winter, some sections of the trail are open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.



The location of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is influenced by a massive flow of glacial ice that sculpted the landscape more than 12,000 years ago. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a thousand-mile footpath that travels through some of the state's most beautiful natural areas and follows the extent of the last glacier in Wisconsin. More than 1 million people use the Ice Age Trail each year and some of these people come through the City of Cornell.

Map 6 Ice Age National Scenic Trail Hiker Resource Map



Cornell School District

Often local schools provide opportunities for students and residents to utilize its sports and recreation facilities during afterhours. The Cornell Middle School/High School is located at the intersection of S.T.H. 2764 and 8th Street. The school has to following facilities.

- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Track
- Football Field
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms
- Concession Stand
- Historic Information
- Bicycle Racks
- Community Garden

The Cornell Elementary School is located at the intersection of Main Street and 5th Street. The school has to following facilities.

- Ball Courts
- Playground Equipment

The Cornell School District sets policies for the use of its facilities.

Cornell/Lake Holcombe School Districts 21st Century Community Learning Centers

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) in Cornell provides extended learning opportunities in partnership with local, community, and county resources for all children, youth, and adults to support their educational and societal needs to enable them to become lifelong learners.

Classes and events are held at the Cornell Elementary School as well as locations outside of the school such as Brunet Island State Park. The CLC provide after school programs, community education and family education. Some of the programs for children, families and adults include:

- Art of the Theater
- Parent and Child Playgroups
- Garden Club

- Field Trips
- Sewing Group
- Family Cardboard Sled Race
- Candlelight Skiing and Sledding Event

Programs such as these provide additional recreational activities for the community.

Snowmobile and ATV Trails and Routes

The City of Cornell has established snowmobile and ATV routes through the City connecting to existing routes adjacent to the City providing access to miles of Chippewa County Trails. The routes through the City allow snowmobile and ATV users to stop in the City and get fuel, shop, or eat. Maps showing these routes are found on the Chippewa County website.

Chapter 5

Park Improvement Recommendations

Mill Yard Park

1. Reconstruct restrooms in the large pavilion to be handicapped accessible.
2. Construct public restrooms with access from the outside of the main pavilion so the pavilion can be closed when not in use.
3. Improve entrance to the pavilion.
4. Create trail access to the Chippewa River and incorporate a handicapped accessible dock.
5. Create a canoe/kayak launch area.
6. Construct a multi-purpose trail along the Chippewa River
7. Contact Xcel about acquiring its land along the Chippewa River above the dam or to get a 25-year easement, renewed automatically each year, so the City can develop it as part of Mill Yard Park and qualify for grants.
8. Add park signs.
9. Pave parking areas for the pavilion and Visitors Center/Native American Museum.
10. Obtain parking lot from Mule Hide and pave.
11. Repair fencing on both ball diamonds.
12. Approach Mule Hide about sponsorship and naming rights of the south ball diamond.
13. Upgrade bleachers at the both ball diamonds.
14. Replace storage shed at the north ball diamond.
15. Improve infield of the north ball diamond.
16. Add concrete slab in pavilion at the south diamond.
17. Improve handicapped accessibility around ball diamonds.
18. Replace concrete slab at the Lion's pavilion.
19. Remove and replace dead trees.
20. Plant trees.
21. Upgrade skateboard ramps and amenities.
22. Repaint the "Stacker".
23. Improve overall signage in the Park.
24. Revisit and update Riverfront Revitalization Plan.

Map 7 shows the Riverfront Revitalization Concept that should be updated.

Brunet City Park

1. Upgrade trash receptacles.
2. Move Jean Brunet Monument inside Park.
3. Create Veteran's Park and move flagpole and cannon.
4. Increase width of sidewalk and meander when replaced.
5. Clean and replace sand under teeter-totter.
6. Re-evaluate the variety of benches and seating.
7. Replace concrete slab under pavilion.
8. Upgrade picnic tables.
9. Extend sidewalk from restrooms to pavilion.
10. Add a splash pad.

Public Boat Landing

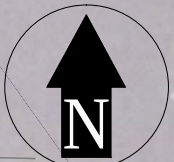
1. Improve boat ramp.
2. Pave parking areas.
3. Add new park sign.
4. Construct restrooms and picnic pavilion on upper area.
5. Add handicapped accessible boarding dock.
6. Clean up entrance and better define park area.
7. Add additional picnic tables.
8. Expand area and add camping areas.
9. Add public boat dock.

Riverfront Revitalization Concept

City of Cornell



Map 7



Standardizing Park Amenities

Having standards for park amenities creates a uniform look that is easy for people to recognize when they are in your community. Standards can be created for each park or for the park system as a whole. The following amenities are often standardized.

- Shelters
- Trash receptacles
- Signs
- Benches
- Picnic tables

Park Signs

Park signs should be standardized in order to make them easily identifiable to residents and visitors. At a minimum, park signs shall contain the name of the park. Other items such as a park system logo or park hours can be incorporated.

Dedication of Trees and Benches

Residents may want to dedicate trees or benches on behalf of a family, organization, business, or in memory of a loved one. The City can create a list of specific trees and a bench styles that can be donated to the park of the donor's choice.

Chapter 6

Park Development and Land Acquisition Funding

Funding Sources

Most communities search for outside funding sources to offset the cost of park maintenance, land acquisition, new amenities or trails. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources administers a wide variety of grants that are available to local governments, tribes, conservation groups, and landowners.

Acquisition & Development of Local Parks

Eligibility & Purpose: Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access and park support facilities). Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

ATV Enhancement

Eligibility & Purpose: Annual funding to a non-profit organization that promotes the safe and wise use of ATVs and UTVs, ATV/UTV riding and ATV/UTV education.

ATV Patrols

Eligibility & Purpose: Issued to Wisconsin county sheriff departments that participate in ATV enforcement efforts.

ATV Trails

Eligibility & Purpose: Issued to counties, towns, cities, villages and tribes to acquire, insure, develop and maintain ATV trails, areas and routes.

Boat Patrol Grants

Eligibility & Purpose: Issued to Wisconsin counties and municipalities that participate in boating enforcement efforts.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

Eligibility & Purpose: **Tier 1** for smaller projects that add transient boating infrastructure to the area. **Tier 2** for larger projects and are competitively judged at the national level.

Clean Diesel Grant Program

Eligibility & Purpose: To help reduce diesel emissions from both public and private vehicle fleets across the state.

Clean Vessel Act

Eligibility & Purpose: A nationwide competitive federal grant program that provides funding to states as part of an effort to clean up the nation's waterways. The CVA encourages states to subcontract with private marinas/businesses as well as local units of government to construct projects.

Friends of State Lands

Eligibility & Purpose: Grants from this program help improve facilities, build new recreation projects and restore habitat on state properties. This grant program is part of Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Habitat Area

Eligibility & Purpose: Protects and restores important wildlife habitat in Wisconsin in order to expand opportunities for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, trapping, hiking, bird watching, fishing, nature appreciation and wildlife viewing. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Hunter Recruitment, Development, Training and Education Grant Program

Eligibility & purpose: The primary purpose of the Hunter Recruitment, Development, Training and Education grant program is to provide cost sharing grants to local clubs, organizations, communities, governments, Wisconsin Tribes, colleges, universities and technical schools to ensure the education, training and development of safe and ethical hunters and mentors.

Land & Water Conservation Fund - Nationally Competitive Program

Eligibility & Purpose: A nationally competitive federal program that will create or reinvigorate parks and other outdoor recreation spaces in areas delineated by the Census Bureau as comprising densely settled territory that contains 50,000 or more people. The State of Wisconsin will be able to submit two applications to compete for the available funding.

Land & Water Conservation Fund - State Program

Eligibility & Purpose: This Federal program encourages creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the DNR for this program are split between DNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities. Grants cover 50 percent of eligible project costs.

Motorized Stewardship Grants

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties, towns, cities, villages and WI tribes are eligible to request funding for new bridges on existing funded trails, major bridge reconstruction/rehabilitation & rehabilitation of funded trails.

Recreational Boating Facilities

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties, towns, cities, villages, WI tribes, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts and qualified lake associations for recreational boating facility projects.

Recreational Trail Program

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties, towns, cities, villages, WI Tribes, and incorporated organizations may apply for grant funding for development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Funds from this program may be used in conjunction with the state snowmobile or ATV programs and Stewardship development projects.

Shooting Range Grant Program

Eligibility & purpose: Counties, cities, villages, townships, other governmental agencies or units, clubs or organizations, businesses or corporations and educational institutions can apply for assistance in outdoor shooting range construction, including: backstops and berms, target holders, shooting benches, baffles, protective fencing, signs, trenches, gun racks, platforms, restrooms and other items considered essential for the project by the department. Indoor ranges may be eligible as well.

Snowmobile Patrols

Eligibility & Purpose: Wisconsin county sheriff departments that participate in snowmobile enforcement efforts.

Snowmobile Trail Aids

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties and WI tribes may apply for funding to provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment.

Sport Fish Restoration

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties, towns, cities, villages, tribes, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations may apply for grants to construct fishing piers and motorboat access projects.

Stamp Funds - Wild Turkey, Pheasant and Waterfowl

Eligibility & purpose: To provide funding to support the development, maintenance, preservation, restoration and maintenance of each species and its associated habitat in Wisconsin. All non-profit conservation organizations and units of government are eligible to apply.

State Trails

Eligibility & purpose: Applications for grants under this subprogram must be for properties identified as part of the State Trail system. It is possible for sponsors to nominate additional trails for state trail designation. The Streambank Protection Program protects water quality and fish habitat in Wisconsin by establishing buffers along high-priority waterways. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Streambank Protection

Eligibility & purpose: The Streambank Protection Program protects water quality and fish habitat in Wisconsin by establishing buffers along high-priority waterways. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Summer Tribal Youth Program

Eligibility & purpose: The department may, in partnership with any of the federally recognized American Indian tribes or bands domiciled in this state, establish a summer program that provides members of the tribe or band who are 13 to 19 years of age with an opportunity to work on projects related to the conservation of natural resources. The department may not provide funding that exceeds 50 percent of the eligible program costs. The tribe or band shall be responsible for the remainder of those costs.

Urban Green Space

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants help buy land or easements in urban areas to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Urban Rivers

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants help buy land on rivers flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Utility Terrain Vehicle Trails

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties, towns, cities, villages and tribes can apply for funds for maintenance of UTV trails, minor development, gates and signing. This is a companion program to ATV Trail Aids.

Chapter 7

Plan Implementation

5-Year Capital Improvements Plan for Parks and Recreation

One of the purposes of the City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is that the community creates a vision for parks and recreation and then takes steps to see that vision through.

Table 6 list park and recreation priorities for the next 5 years.

Table 6 Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan

Park or Area	Improvement	Year
Mill Yard	Construct river trail. Making it all handicapped accessible including the pavilion and parking lot.	2021
Mill Yard	Obtain property or easements for park improvements.	2021
Mill Yard	Replace diamonds for the Softball and Little League Fields.	2022
Public Boat Landing	Replacing signage and making it handicapped accessible.	2023
Brunet City Park	Improve sand, sidewalks and trash receptacles.	2024
Mill Yard/Public Boat Landing	Review and update Riverfront Revitalization Plan	2025

The Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan does not limit the park and recreation projects the City can pursue. It should be used to provide direction to the City for major park related projects but other opportunities may arise when grant programs change or new sources of funding are made available.

**WISCONSIN
STATEWIDE
COMPREHENSIVE
OUTDOOR
RECREATION
PLAN**
(SCORP) 2019-2023



Did You Know?

Wisconsin has received

\$81 million

from the federal
Land & Water
Conservation Fund

95%

of Wisconsin residents
participate in some form
of **outdoor recreation**

County Forests

are the largest public
land holding in
Wisconsin

2.4 million acres

Consumer spending
on outdoor
recreation in
Wisconsin totals

\$17.9 billion

60%

of Wisconsin residents rely on
public lands and waters mostly
or entirely when participating in
their **favorite** outdoor activity

Wisconsin's
urban population
has more than tripled
in the last 100 years

1910 = 1 million
2010 = 3.5 million

Participation in most nature-
based activities declines as
people reach middle age

The exception?

Bird and wildlife watching

which peaks around age 65

Wisconsin's **goals**
for outdoor recreation:

Boost participation

Grow partnerships

Provide high-quality experiences

Improve data

Enhance funding and financial stability

Wisconsin residents' **TOP 5**

nature-based outdoor activities

Favorite

Walking, hiking

Fishing

Hunting

Bicycling

Camping

Most frequent participation

Bird/wildlife watching at home

Hiking/walking/running on trails

Picnicking/tailgating/cookout

Visit a beach/beach walking

Swimming in lakes/ponds/rivers

Most needed in their home county

Hiking, walking, or running trails

Bicycling trails

Public shore access to lakes, rivers and streams

Public campsites

Public shooting ranges

2019-2023 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Prepared by:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
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This publication is available in alternative format (large print, braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request.

Please call 1-888-936-7463 for more information.

You can also view this document on the Web at: dnr.wi.gov, keyword "SCORP."

March 2019

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ACRONYMS

4WD	Four wheel drive
ATV	All terrain vehicle
BCPL	Board of Commissioners of Public Land
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DOT	Department of Transportation
FWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
GOMESA	Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
NPS	National Park Service
OPSP	Open Project Selection Process
ROA	Recreation Opportunities Analysis
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
UTV	Utility task/terrain vehicle (aka, side-by-side)

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FOREWORD

Dear Fellow Wisconsinites:

I am pleased to present Wisconsin's 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This document will provide you with updated information on the status of Wisconsin's outdoor recreation. This plan also provides guidance for distributing money through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other grant programs administered by the Department of Natural Resources that support outdoor recreation projects on state properties and in local communities throughout the state.

High-quality outdoor recreation experiences available in Wisconsin contribute to our exceptional quality of life, reflected in sustained economic growth and in outdoor recreation traditions passed down through generations. From city riverwalks to expansive public forests, public recreation lands and facilities enhance our lives, draw millions of visitors, and support businesses large and small. The economic, social, and health benefits of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin far exceed our investment.

Thanks to the vision, economic investments and dedication of earlier generations, the portfolio of outdoor recreation opportunities in our state is unrivaled. From the Brule River to Chiwaukee Prairie, we are blessed with beautiful places to enjoy the outdoors in a plethora of ways. Yet, there are many ways and many opportunities to continue enhancing the recreation offerings throughout Wisconsin and to grow our recreation-based economy.

I'd like to thank all those who answered a survey, attended a public meeting or sent in comments

during the development of the plan. The information, ideas and suggestions you provided are integral to the success of this SCORP. I also want to extend my appreciation and recognition for the work, wisdom and counsel of the SCORP Advisory Team. Their collective passion for the outdoors and desire to enhance the recreation opportunities in Wisconsin weaves through these pages.

Many agencies and organizations are involved in shaping outdoor recreation in the state. City, village and county park programs, federal agencies, conservation groups and recreation clubs, chambers of commerce, foresters and biologists, health care providers and countless others all play a role. The Department of Natural Resources is committed to working with agencies, local governments, businesses, organizations, and private citizens to expand and modernize outdoor recreation programs and facilities to serve changing public outdoor recreation preferences.

My hope is that the information presented in this report encourages people and groups to continue cooperatively growing our recreation infrastructure and enhancing opportunities for all our residents – and generations to come – to enjoy Wisconsin's great outdoors.



Preston D. Cole
Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

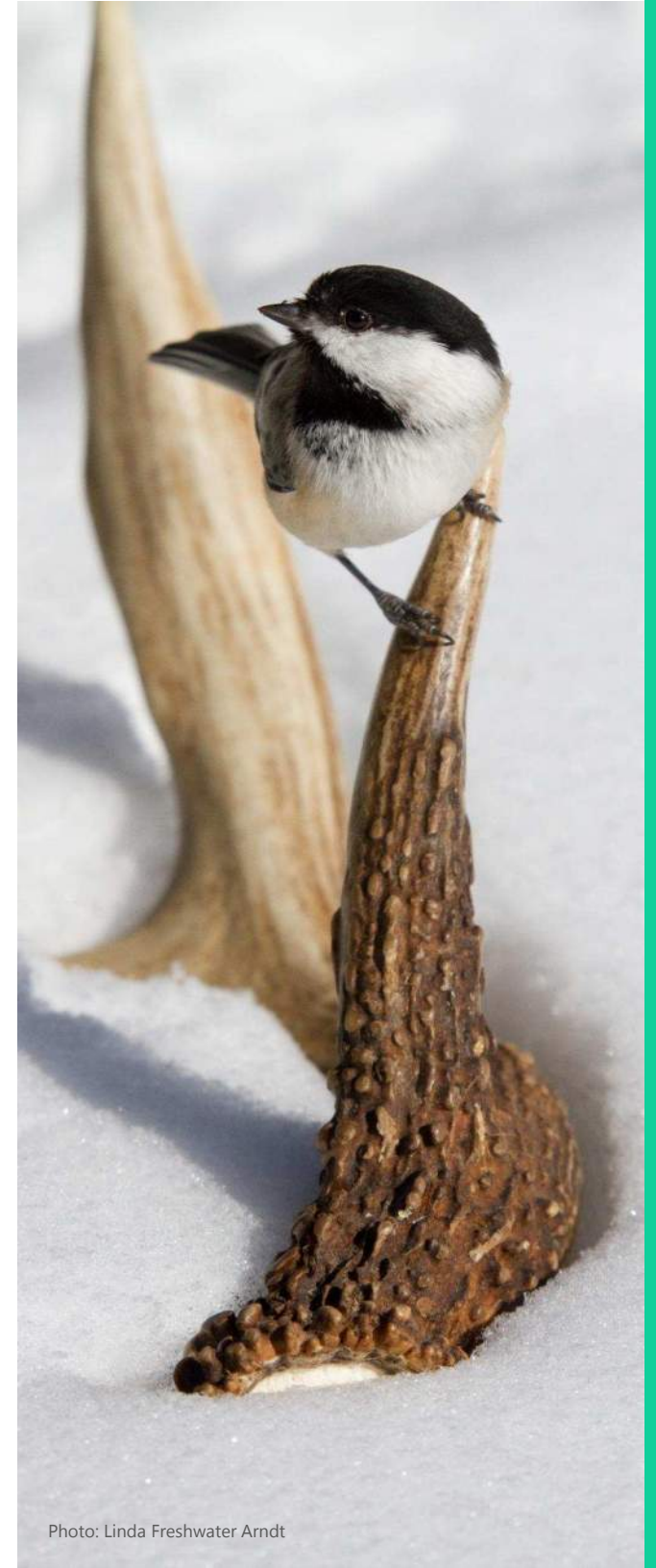


Photo: Linda Freshwater Arndt

Priorities for **LWCF grants** in Wisconsin include projects that:

- Meet the needs of urban areas.
- Provide recreation opportunities that serve diverse populations.
- Develop facilities in areas with limited outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Provide multi-use facilities.
- Meet outdoor recreation needs identified by local communities.

5

This plan lays out **five** overarching goals for outdoor recreation.



1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation



2. Grow partnerships



3. Provide high-quality experiences



4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits



5. Enhance funding and financial stability

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document comprises the 2019-2023 iteration of the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The plan provides recommendations to guide public outdoor recreation policy and planning decisions, the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund money that comes to Wisconsin, and other Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administered grant programs.

To support the development of SCORP, a statewide survey of Wisconsin residents was conducted regarding their outdoor recreation participation and frequency, as well as their opinions about future needs. In addition, the DNR undertook an assessment of recreation opportunities and needs in each region of the state. Together, these supporting documents (Appendix 6 and Appendix 8) provide the foundation of the SCORP.

Remarkably, although maybe unsurprisingly, an estimated 95% of Wisconsin adults participated in some type of outdoor recreation in the past year. Activities in which residents most frequently engaged tend to be those that require little preparation or travel time and can provide a high-quality experience in a limited amount of time. Examples include hiking and walking on trails, fishing, bicycling, dog walking, and bird/wildlife watching.

Although this SCORP provides some basic information on a wide variety of outdoor activities, the focus is on those activities that are related to natural resources and where experiences are enhanced with higher quality natural habitats. In this document, these are referred to as nature-based recreation activities.

Top priority needs include providing more places near urban centers to support a variety of nature-based recreation. Of particular note is the demand for more trails (both non-motorized and motorized) and water and shore access for fishing, boating and swimming.

Our effectiveness in meeting future recreation needs will be shaped by many factors including the shifting demographics of our population, the quality of habitats and the impacts from invasive species and changing climate conditions, our ability to improve the compatibility between and among recreation participants, and sustainable financial resources.

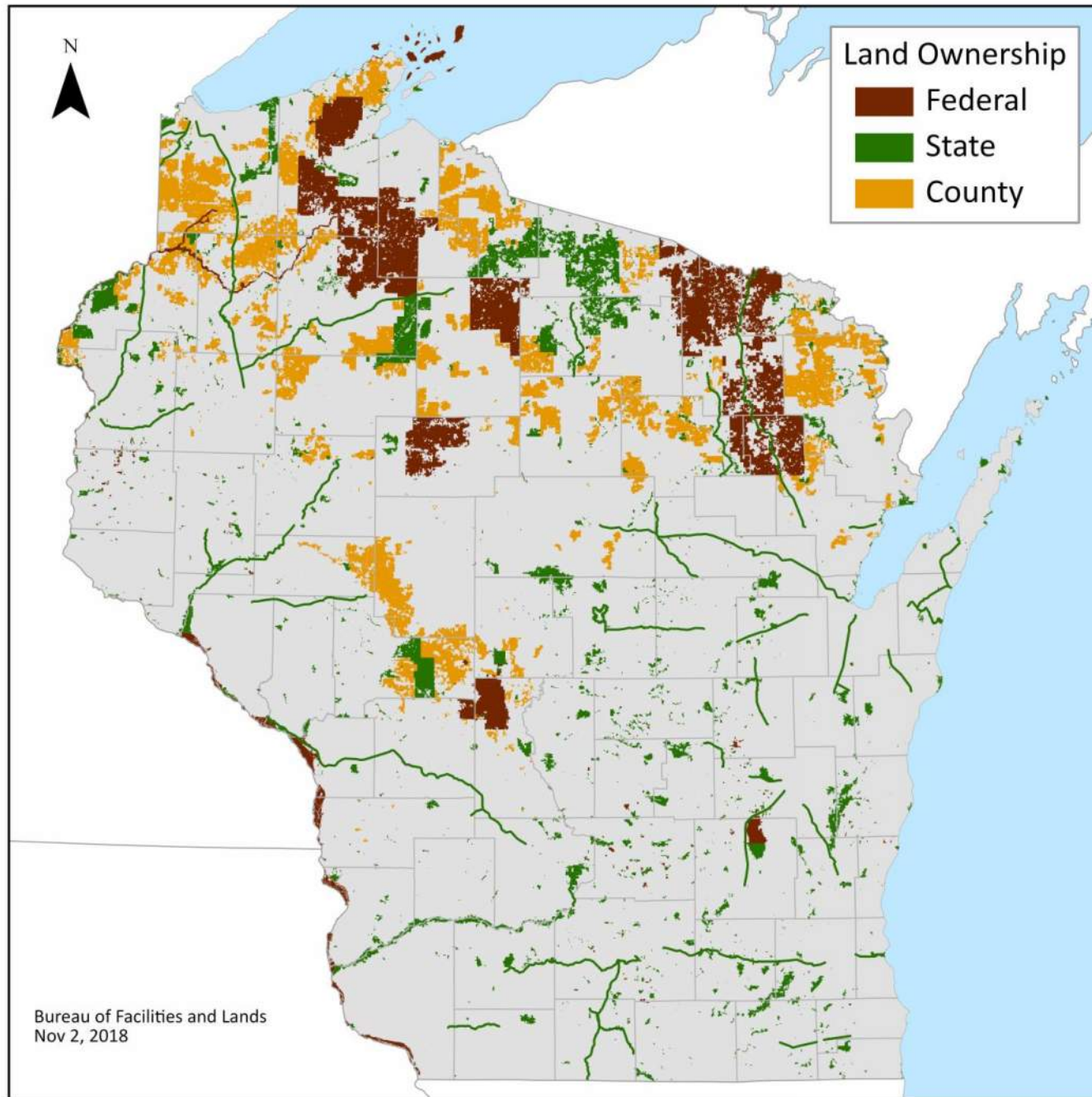
Parks and nature preserves, wildlife areas and refuges, and forests and trails connect people to the natural environment. These places, from small neighborhood parks to the large national, state and county forests, are the stages on which we enjoy the outdoors, improve our health, protect our air and water, and provide a large economic boost, particularly to our rural areas.

This document presents the “who, what, where, when, why, and how” of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin.

This SCORP is designed to both provide a broad overview of issues affecting nature-based recreation as well as include information, much of which is in the appendices, that the public and decision-makers can use in evaluating local and regional needs and opportunities.



Figure 1: Public lands in Wisconsin



See **Appendix 3** for maps of public lands by region

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION



Photo: Tom Davenport



Photo: Liz Herzmann



Photo: Dixie Brumm



Photo: Greg Sanderson



Photo: Greg Sanderson



“Outdoor Recreation Activities”

include all 58 activities that were included in the survey of Wisconsin residents’ recreation participation. See Appendix 6.

“Nature-Based Activities”

include a subset of 40 of these “outdoor recreation activities” that require or occur in natural habitats or settings. See Table 1.

BACKGROUND

Wisconsin's economy and the exceptional quality of life our residents enjoy are intertwined with our abundant and rich natural resource base. From deep forests to Great Lake shorelines, from urban trails to secluded campsites, Wisconsinites have unparalleled opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Whether motivated by the desire to relax, exercise, or be with friends and families, Wisconsinites participate in outdoor recreation with an uncommon passion.

For many citizens, what makes our state special is directly tied to the good times we have at our favorite places to camp, hunt, walk, ride snowmobiles or ATVs, bike, fish, or simply enjoy the peace and quiet of a natural setting.

Public conservation lands in Wisconsin protect some of the state's most notable, scenic and cherished places. Although these places collectively meet many recreation demands, numerous other places – from school forests to land trust preserves to local parks – also play critical roles in providing high quality recreation opportunities to residents and out-of-state visitors.

On behalf of the State of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources has developed this SCORP with the help of many partners and the public. This document brings together a variety of information on the outdoor recreation opportunities in Wisconsin and lays out goals and priorities for the future. What that future ultimately becomes will depend on the collective effort of elected officials, public agencies, private organizations and, most importantly, residents.

Some types of outdoor recreation, notably ball sports, occur on athletic fields and sport courts provided by local units of government. LWCF grants in Wisconsin fund a wide variety of outdoor facilities important to local communities, including athletic fields. Participation in many of these activities varies considerably across the state making their inclusion in a statewide plan difficult.

Other types of recreation take place outdoors but aren't related to natural resources (e.g., walking on sidewalks or roads, driving for pleasure, attending an outdoor music festival). Consistent with past SCORP efforts, many of these activities were included in the survey of state residents' participation in outdoor recreation.

Although this SCORP addresses all types of recreation that occur outdoors (as required by federal legislation), its focus is on "nature-based recreation" activities that are typically provided at larger public lands and require or occur in natural habitats or settings (see Table 1).

NOTE: the term "nature-based" is used in other policies, codes and laws. Its use here in SCORP **only applies to this document** and does not influence or affect use of the term in other contexts.

Table 1: Nature-based activities for this SCORP

- Bicycling – rail-trails, mt. biking, fat-tire/snow biking
- Bird/wildlife watching - at home & away from home
- Camping – tent, RV/pop-up
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Cross-country skiing
- Downhill skiing/snowboarding
- Driving 4-WD vehicles on trails/routes
- Fishing – lake, stream, river
- Gathering berries, mushrooms, etc.
- Geocaching
- Hiking/walking/running on trails
- Horseback riding on trails
- Hunting – big & small game, turkey, migratory bird
- Ice skating
- Motor boating
- Nature photography
- Personal water craft riding
- Picnicking/tailgating/cookout
- Riding ATVs/UTVs on trails/routes
- Riding motorcycles on trails/routes
- Sailing
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoeing
- Stand-up paddle boarding
- Swimming – lakes/rivers/ponds
- Target shooting – firearms, archery
- Trapping
- Visiting a nature center
- Visiting a beach/beach walking
- Visiting a dog park
- Walking/running dogs on trails
- Waterskiing/tubing/wakeboarding

The SCORP provides data related to the supply and demand for outdoor recreation in Wisconsin that can help inform local and state-level recreation decision making.

The objectives of this SCORP are to:

- Provide an analysis of outdoor recreation supply and demand.
- Provide information and context that is useful to counties, local units of government, organizations, Native American Nations, and others as they develop plans and policies for recreation opportunities in their communities.
- Ensure Wisconsin's continued eligibility for National Park Service LWCF state-side grants.
- Establish priorities for LWCF grants and guidance for other applicable state and federal funds.

The DNR will use the SCORP to help guide decisions related to recreation, including land acquisition, property management and development of facilities.

PURPOSE OF SCORP

States are required to complete SCORPs every five years to be eligible to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Program. SCORPs are intended to evaluate outdoor recreation trends and issues of statewide importance and set forth ideas about recreation's future role in the state. There are several required elements for SCORPs, including identifying priorities for use of LWCF grants. Of the many important issues related to outdoor recreation in Wisconsin, the SCORP highlights the areas of greatest need, thus providing a framework for evaluating LWCF grants.

Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, school districts and other state political subdivisions are eligible to apply for LWCF grants for acquisition or development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Of course, these government entities best understand their citizens' needs, as well as the opportunities to leverage their local resources and assets. As such, the focus of this SCORP is on providing a range of information, at the county level where possible, to help the public and their elected officials place local conditions, needs, and opportunities into a broader framework.

While this SCORP brings together a range of information on outdoor recreation in Wisconsin, it is not intended to provide guidance at a site or project level, nor does it attempt to address all outdoor recreation issues. Rather, the SCORP identifies general outdoor recreation participation patterns, trends, issues and opportunities, and provides recommendations for future steps.

Collaborative planning at local and regional scales along with cooperative implementation of policies and programs by governments, businesses, health care providers, community organizations, and others will continue to be essential in achieving the priorities described in the SCORP.



SCORP REQUIREMENTS

The National Park Service identifies five components required in all Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. Table 2 lists where the required elements can be found in this SCORP.

Table 2: Required SCORP components and their location in the SCORP		
Component	Requirement Description	Location
Process & Methodology	The plan must describe the process and methodology(s) used by the State to develop the SCORP and meet LWCF program guidelines.	Page 13
Public Participation	The planning process must include ample opportunity for public participation involving all segments of the state's population.	Page 13 Appendix 6 Appendix 8
Comprehensive Information	The plan must: 1) Identify outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance; 2) Evaluate public outdoor recreation demands; and 3) Evaluate available outdoor recreation resources.	Chapter 2 Appendix 6 Appendix 4 Appendix 8
Implementation Program	The plan must have an implementation program of sufficient detail for use in developing project selection criteria for the State's Open Project Selection Process (OPSP).	Page 56 Appendix 9 Appendix 10
Section 303 Compliance	The plan must contain a wetlands priority component consistent with Section 303 of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986, including the following: 1) Be consistent with the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan, prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 2) Provide evidence of consultation with the state agency responsible for fish and wildlife resources; 3) Contain a listing of those wetland types which should receive priority for acquisition; and 4) Consider outdoor recreation opportunities associated with its wetlands resources for meeting the State's public outdoor recreation needs.	Appendix 1



Photo: Judy Klippel

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Did You Know?

Since 1965, Wisconsin has received **\$81 million** from the Land & Water Conservation Fund to support recreation projects throughout the state.

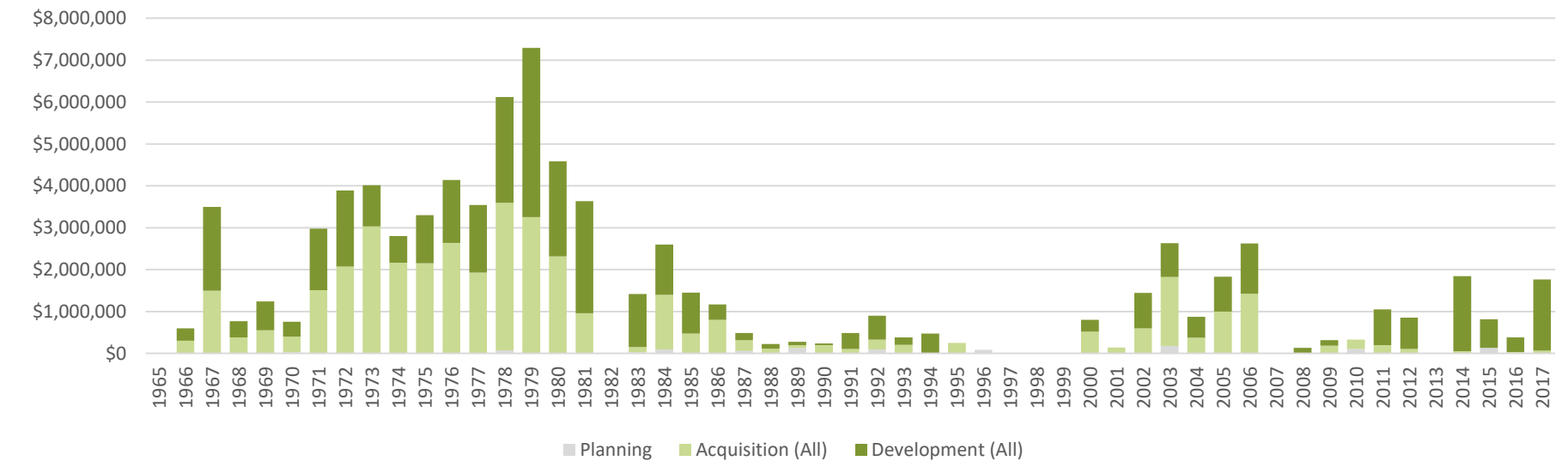
Background

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) was enacted by Congress in 1965 “to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States” through outdoor recreation. A portion of the LWCF supports development of outdoor recreation opportunities in national parks and other federal lands and a portion is passed to states for projects on state, tribal, and local properties. A related federal program is the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA), which was passed in 2006. States have flexibility to determine how to use these funds, either

on state properties or as pass-through to eligible grant recipients (local governments, school districts, and Native American Nations).

The National Park Service (NPS) administers the program at the federal level. Each state designates an agency responsible for administering the program in partnership with NPS. In Wisconsin, the LWCF program is administered by DNR. In the associated figures presented here, the LWCF and GOMESA funds are combined.

Figure 2: LWCF grants to Wisconsin



Funding

The LWCF is funded through lease and production fees paid to the federal government by energy companies operating in federal waters. The total LWCF appropriation is set annually by Congress. Funds are allocated to all U.S. states and territories via a formula that incorporates population and proximity to leased lands in the Gulf of Mexico. Annual LWCF and GOMESA appropriations have varied dramatically over the years, largely due to fluctuations in oil and gas activity and competing Congressional priorities. Wisconsin's allocations from these funds have varied considerably over the years (Figure 2). In FY2019, Wisconsin received \$2.9 million, a significant increase in funding that was due to a change in the GOMESA formula.

LWCF and GOMESA support a wide variety of public outdoor recreation projects. Grant recipients are required to provide a minimum of 50% non-federal matching funds. Projects proposed for LWCF grants must be selected through an open project selection process, which is designed to ensure that available funds are used to address priority outdoor recreation needs at the state and local level. Unique to Wisconsin, the LWCF also supports acquisition and development projects that expand the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and North Country National Scenic Trail.

LWCF Impact in Wisconsin

LWCF grants have touched communities in every one of Wisconsin's 72 counties (see Table 3 – pg. 12). Over 1,800 state and local projects have received LWCF support, leveraging more than \$81 million in federal funds. Since the program began, 72% of LWCF projects in Wisconsin have been implemented by local communities, 27% by DNR, and the remaining 1% by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Tribal governments. In early years of the program (1960s and 1970s), LWCF grants were used about evenly between land acquisition and development projects (Figure 3). This balance has shifted over time in favor of development projects. In the past 10 years, nearly 90% of LWCF dollars spent in Wisconsin supported a development project in a state or local park.

LWCF grants have supported a wide diversity of recreation facilities including trails, picnic shelters, and athletic fields as well as facilities such as splash pads, dog parks and skateparks. LWCF is a key funding resource for local governments, as it is the only grant program administered by the DNR that funds development of active recreation facilities.

Figure 3: LWCF grant use in Wisconsin

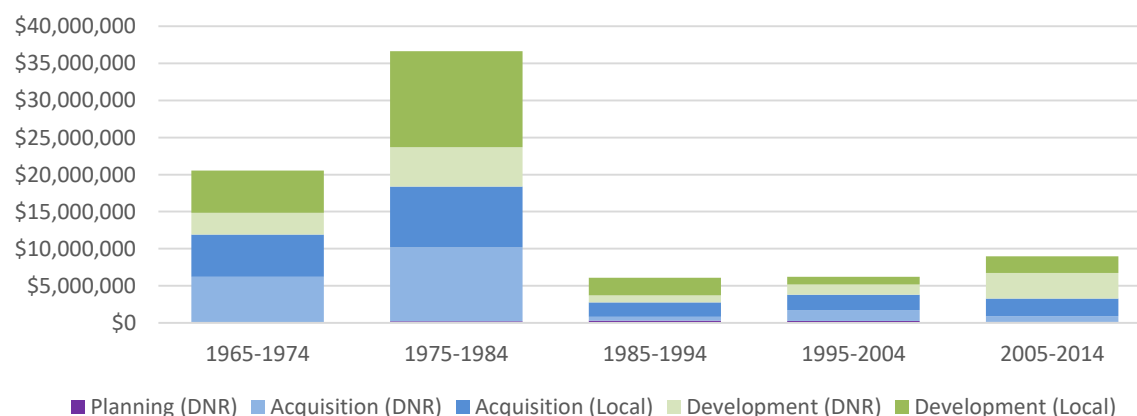


Table 3: LWCF grants by county, 1965 to 2017

County	Total Grant Awards	# Projects	County	Total Grant Awards	# Projects	County	Total Grant Awards	# Projects	County	Total Grant Awards	# Projects
ADAMS	\$116,777	5	FLORENCE	\$136,911	5	MARATHON	\$515,672	27	RUSK	\$133,956	8
ASHLAND	\$271,775	11	FOND DU LAC	\$584,970	29	MARINETTE	\$1,269,858	23	SAUK	\$4,066,862	72
BARRON	\$404,834	14	FOREST	\$148,643	7	MARQUETTE	\$283,834	9	SAWYER	\$471,893	17
BAYFIELD	\$378,527	21	GRANT	\$1,251,766	34	MENOMINEE	\$6,893	1	SHAWANO	\$766,796	31
BROWN	\$2,473,758	59	GREEN	\$252,496	12	MILWAUKEE	\$3,476,761	44	SHEBOYGAN	\$1,053,706	31
BUFFALO	\$142,871	20	GREEN LAKE	\$130,912	12	MONROE	\$295,229	20	ST. CROIX	\$1,993,784	38
BURNETT	\$403,144	21	IOWA	\$937,708	19	OCONTO	\$158,013	9	TAYLOR	\$184,632	7
CALUMET	\$617,628	25	IRON	\$354,284	9	ONEIDA	\$921,486	26	TREMPEALEAU	\$395,494	22
CHIPPEWA	\$2,648,342	42	JACKSON	\$419,232	14	OUTAGAMIE	\$954,018	39	VERNON	\$454,910	12
CLARK	\$285,242	12	JEFFERSON	\$230,296	18	OZAUKEE	\$395,554	15	VILAS	\$462,214	28
COLUMBIA	\$412,507	19	JUNEAU	\$953,072	22	PEPIN	\$72,150	8	WALWORTH	\$1,185,262	23
CRAWFORD	\$1,261,435	10	KENOSHA	\$3,289,116	23	PIERCE	\$1,034,941	21	WASHBURN	\$513,144	6
DANE	\$7,991,977	121	KEWAUNEE	\$282,454	11	POLK	\$2,068,979	29	WASHINGTON	\$1,443,211	37
DODGE	\$821,513	31	LA CROSSE	\$636,281	30	PORTAGE	\$1,734,602	31	WAUKESHA	\$3,674,591	56
DOOR	\$3,907,803	43	LAFAYETTE	\$429,494	15	PRICE	\$25,053	3	WAUPACA	\$677,432	28
DOUGLAS	\$691,357	24	LANGLADE	\$2,472,965	15	RACINE	\$1,420,556	24	WAUSHARA	\$147,150	15
DUNN	\$429,381	20	LINCOLN	\$126,406	6	RICHLAND	\$118,157	9	WINNEBAGO	\$1,824,796	43
EAU CLAIRE	\$1,254,062	37	MANITOWOC	\$1,199,544	47	ROCK	\$763,578	24	WOOD	\$537,189	24

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SCORP DEVELOPMENT

Developing a plan for outdoor recreation requires understanding residents' participation patterns and their perspectives on the future. The DNR gathered public input several ways in developing this document. A 17-member SCORP Advisory Team – consisting of representatives from public agencies, conservation organizations, recreation groups, the University of Wisconsin, and the health care industry – provided invaluable assistance and guidance on a wide range of issues affecting outdoor recreation in the state.

As part of the Recreation Opportunities Analysis, which was undertaken to support the development of this SCORP, the DNR hosted meetings in each region of the state to gather public input on existing recreation opportunities and future needs. Hundreds of people attended these meetings and thousands of people submitted comments. In addition, county park directors and staff were asked to provide input on recreation opportunities, needs and trends at their properties.

Finally, the DNR surveyed a random sample of 6,400 residents to gather statistically-significant data on recreation participation, issues of concern, and future needs. A portion of the survey is shown in Figure 4. Following this data collection effort, the DNR provided the opportunity for the public to complete the same survey online; over 16,500 people did, which presented an additional set of perspectives.

This SCORP builds on the work of earlier iterations and uses the eight regions first delineated in the 2005-2010 SCORP to describe recreation uses, patterns and needs. In drafting this SCORP, the DNR combined the extensive public and Advisory Team input with staff expertise. Staff began their work in 2015 gathering background information and assembling the Advisory Team. Over the ensuing three years the Team provided advice, input and direction on plan's content and the goals, objectives, and desired action items.

In 2017 the DNR received an extension in the timeline from the National Park Service in order to devote considerable effort in developing the Recreation Opportunities Analysis to help inform the SCORP. This effort generated extensive information on existing opportunities and high priority needs for the future, including an assessment of DNR properties that may be well-suited to help meet these needs.

Figure 4: Portion of the SCORP recreation participation survey (Appendix 6)

3. Trail-related activities in Wisconsin

Activity	How many <u>days</u> did you participate in this activity in the last 12 months?				
	0	1-2	3-9	10-29	30+
Hiking/walking/running on trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Walking/running dog on trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Horseback riding on trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bicycling on rail trails/developed trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mountain biking on single-track trails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Riding ATVs/UTVs on trails/routes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Driving 4-WD vehicles on trails/routes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Riding motorcycles on trails/routes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

4. Winter activities in Wisconsin

Activity	How many <u>days</u> did you participate in this activity in the last 12 months?				
	0	1-2	3-9	10-29	30+
Snowmobiling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cross-country skiing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Downhill skiing/snowboarding	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Snowshoeing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ice fishing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ice skating outdoors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hockey outdoors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fat tire biking/snow biking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Photo: Joseph Warren



Photo: Linda Freshwater Arndt



Photo: Wisconsin Bike Fed



Photo: Angie Tornes



Photo: Savannah Erzen



Photo: Gretchen Marshall



CHAPTER II RECREATION IN WISCONSIN





OUTDOOR RECREATION: AT THE CROSSROADS OF OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Outdoor recreation influences many aspects of our lives and the larger communities in which we live. For example, people that participate in outdoor recreation, especially from an early age, tend to have stronger connections to nature and conservation ethics.^{1, 2} In turn, these connections often lead to stronger support for the protection of natural resources. Thus, **participation in nature-based activities is likely to be increasingly important in the public's level of support for protecting air and water quality, open spaces, and wildlife.**

As has been described in previous SCORPs and in many other studies, participation in outdoor recreation also plays a critical role in promoting health.^{3, 4, 5} Whether walking their dog, canoeing, mountain biking, hunting, camping or engaging in countless other activities, the fresh air, exercise, natural settings and companionship with others helps people feel physically and mentally refreshed. Engaging in outdoor recreation activities is an effective way to aid in preventing and treating many chronic illnesses including obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In addition, participating in outdoor recreational activities is increasingly recognized for its benefits to people's mental health. A further description on the health benefits of outdoor recreation can be found on page 36.

People often participate in outdoor recreation as a group activity. The shared experiences among family and friends help create social bonds among participants. Participation in outdoor activities also creates social connections among people pursuing the same activities, even if they don't participate together. Interactions between people participating in different recreation activities can provide opportunities to learn about respective needs and desired experiences. A further description on the social benefits of outdoor recreation can be found on page 38.

Generating almost \$18 billion in consumer spending, 168,000 jobs, \$5.1 billion in wages and salaries, and \$1.1 billion in state and local tax revenue, outdoor recreation is a financial engine in Wisconsin.⁶ A further description on the economic benefits of outdoor recreation can be found on page 40.

Finally, lands and waters that provide the spaces for outdoor recreation often also have important environmental benefits, including habitats for rare and game species, flood control, carbon sequestration and groundwater replenishment. A further description on the environmental benefits that places for outdoor recreation provide can be found on page 41.

FACTORS AFFECTING RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Many factors influence participation in outdoor recreation. Some, such as the weather, vary daily and seasonally resulting in spur of the moment trips or skipped outings that had been planned well in advance. Other factors – including demographic characteristics, population distribution, and technological advances – evolve over extended periods. A summary of major issues affecting participation in outdoor recreation in Wisconsin follows.

Demographics

Population characteristics such as age and gender play important roles in determining participation levels in many types of recreation.

From childhood to early adulthood, participation in many outdoor activities generally increases.

Younger age groups tend to participate in activities that are more physically demanding, rugged, faster-paced or motorized. Examples include team sports, running, tent camping, hunting, whitewater canoeing, snowmobiling, all terrain vehicle (ATV) riding, downhill skiing, and riding personal watercraft.

People's participation in outdoor activities changes over time. Older age groups tend towards less strenuous and slower-paced forms of recreation such as wildlife watching (in particular bird watching), golf, nature photography, walking, utility task vehicle (UTV) riding and camping with recreational vehicles.

Gender also plays a big role in participation. In general, males participate in more outdoor activities and more frequently than females. Hunting is one of the outdoor activities most skewed towards men; in Wisconsin, almost 75% of hunters are male. Women tend to participate in nature photography and dog-related activities more than men.

Access to Opportunities

Although many people travel to seek out unique recreation experiences, most people have limited time for leisure activities and tend to participate most frequently in activities for which opportunities are located nearby. As a result, urban residents participate in ball sports, bicycling, running, visiting dog parks and other similar activities at higher rates than rural residents. Conversely, rural residents participate in hunting, fishing, trapping, ATV/UTV and snowmobile riding at higher rates than urban residents.

Since many opportunities for nature-based recreation activities are in rural areas, as more and more of our residents move to cities their ease of access to places to pursue activities such as hunting, snowmobiling, ATV and UTV riding and horseback riding will decline. Places near the state's major urban areas that provide opportunities for these activities are often heavily used.

Another obstacle for some people is the cost of travelling to places for recreation or feasible transportation options. Residents with limited incomes can find it difficult to access opportunities to participate in outdoor activities, let alone afford necessary equipment. Although many underserved communities are located in urban settings, access to affordable opportunities also affects lower-income rural residents.

Another factor that influences access is knowledge about how to engage in activities successfully and exposure over time. Family experiences, traditions, and the transfer of know-how can play substantial roles in participation rates.^{7, 8, 9, 10}

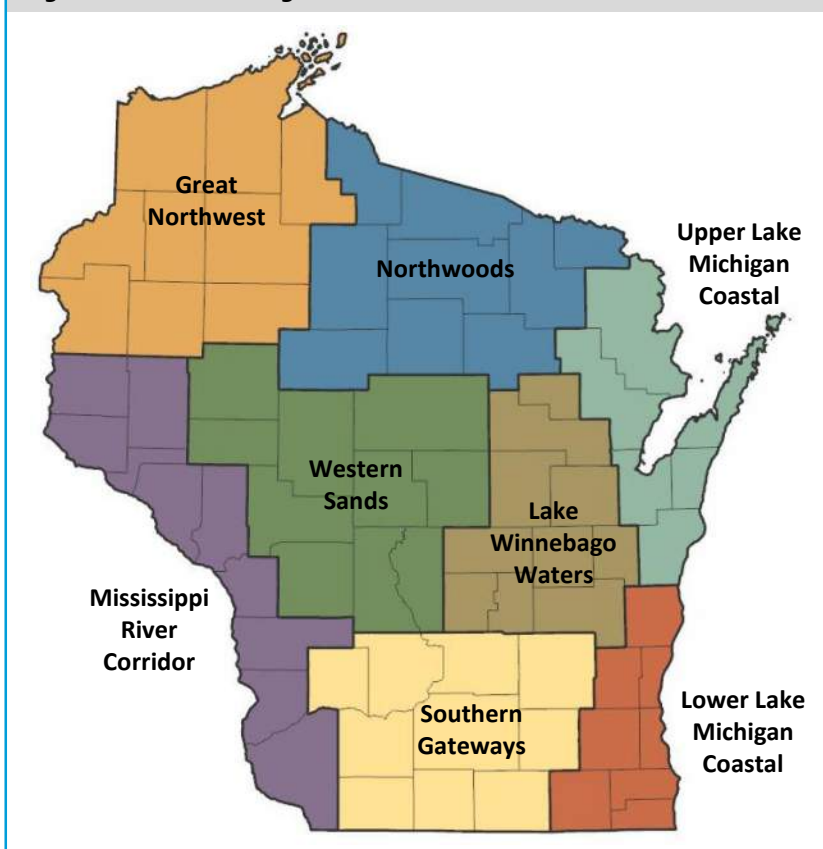
People are more likely to participate in activities in which their parents, other close family members or friends engage. This is most noticeable in activities, like hunting and trapping, that take considerable skill and experience to succeed.

Health

People's health is often related to and influenced by their participation in outdoor recreation. The benefits of outdoor recreation on one's physical and mental health has been well documented recently.

REGIONS OF THE STATE AND THEIR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Figure 5: Recreation regions of Wisconsin



Previous SCORPs divided the state into eight regions based on similarities in their recreation attributes, visitation patterns, natural resources, and general features. This SCORP uses the same eight regions in describing recreational supply and demand.

Great Northwest

The Great Northwest Region has an abundance of natural resources such as Lake Superior, the Namekagon and St. Croix rivers, numerous inland lakes, and large forest blocks. Not surprisingly, tourism is a large and growing industry within the region. In addition to Wisconsin residents, visitors from the Twin Cities and surrounding suburban areas, utilize the region's recreational resources. Seasonal home development, particularly along rivers and lakes, has increased dramatically within the region.

Northwoods

The Northwoods Region has one of the largest concentrations of lakes in the country and has been a tourist and seasonal home destination for over a century. Increasingly, retirees are moving to the region and converting their vacation houses to permanent residences. With a number of popular public lands including the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, tourism is an important business here. The construction of an extensive bicycle trail network along with a growing number of ATV/UTV routes and trails, has increased visitation.

Mississippi River Corridor

The Mississippi River Corridor Region includes the state's western border counties running along the "Mighty Mississippi." The river and its backwater sloughs and wetlands are used for a variety of water-based recreational activities. In addition to the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge, a number of popular state parks and natural areas occur along the corridor. A number of clear, cold trout waters are found in the region that draw anglers from throughout the Midwest.

Western Sands

The Western Sands Region has an abundance of public lands that draw visitors from Milwaukee, Chicago and the Twin Cities. From camping to ATV riding and hunting to bird watching, the county and state forests and the expansive wildlife areas here support a wide diversity of recreation. Although largely rural, easy highway access and relatively inexpensive land prices within the region have increasingly made it a popular location for seasonal home development.

Lake Winnebago Waters

The Lake Winnebago Waters Region is centered on the Lake Winnebago watershed which includes the lakes of Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan as well as the Fox and Wolf rivers. Together, these waters are the major recreational resource within the region and draw visitors from throughout the state and beyond for boating, fishing, hunting, bird watching and more. The region is home to the popular sturgeon fishing season. Urban and suburban development within the region continue to grow in the Fox River Valley.

Southern Gateways

The Southern Gateways Region contains a variety of environments - rolling hills in the south, the centrally-located Wisconsin River, and large marshes in the east - the combination of which provides a wide array of recreational opportunities. The region also has a number of important geologic features, including Devil's Lake, a craggy glacial lake surrounded by high cliffs and scenic overlooks that is one of Wisconsin's most popular recreation destinations. The rapid development around Madison has also increased demand for urban-based recreation opportunities such as dog parks, bicycle trails and developed sports facilities.



Betty LaBarbera

Upper Lake Michigan Coastal

The Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region is heavily influenced by Lake Michigan. Although many residents and visitors to the region use Lake Michigan for their recreational needs, other water resources such as the Peshtigo, Menominee, and Manitowoc rivers also attract visitors with their abundant fishing and paddling opportunities. Door County contains over 250 miles of picturesque shoreline (more than any other county in the United States) and 10 historic lighthouses, features that attract many tourists and seasonal residents. Peninsula State Park, located along the shores of Green Bay, is one of the most popular state parks in Wisconsin.

Lower Lake Michigan Coastal

The Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region is the most urban and populous of the eight regions. The urban influence of Milwaukee and its surrounding suburbs has led to an extensive network of trails and associated recreation facilities such as dog parks, athletic fields and sport courts. Despite this urban influence, some areas of the region offer opportunities for undeveloped outdoor recreation. The five units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest are easily accessible not only to the region's residents but also the greater Chicago metropolitan area and are some of the most heavily used public lands in the state.



My Story: Traditions

Betty LaBarbera

Betty LaBarbera, 91, has been buying a fishing license for as long as she can remember. Residents around Long Lake talk about the old plywood boat that she and her late husband, Joe, frequently rowed around the lake. Other boaters with modern, high-tech rigs slowed to no wake and gave a wide, respectful berth to the couple as they fished and enjoyed the scenery.

Nowadays, Betty's children and grandchildren pick her up for family fishing trips to the same Long Lake cabin that has been in the family since the turn of the last century. They still have the plywood rowboat that grandpa made, but they prefer to fish and swim from the multi-colored pontoon boat, "Grandma Betty's Barge."

The family fishing trips continue to follow a familiar pattern.

"First, we buy our license at Din's Market in Dundee," explains Betty, "and a dozen nightcrawlers. Joe is probably looking down from heaven and shaking his head; he'd always dig worms in the garden."

After filling up on groceries and gas at Din's, Grandma Betty sometimes treats everyone to burgers and ice cream cones at the Hamburger Haus drive-in or a meal at Benson's on the north end. When she's done helping the local economy and reminiscing with old-timers from the Long Lake Fishing Club, it's time to go fishing.

Betty gives her annual lesson in how to put just the right size piece of nightcrawler on the bare hook. When the sun finally sets on another day on the lake, she says, "Whose gonna cook grandma's fish? Remember, we only keep 'em if we're gonna eat 'em."

After a fresh panfish supper, the LaBarbera tradition dictates that everyone in the family pitch in for the evening ritual. While some do the dishes, others start the campfire or prepare the s'mores. When the fire is lit, everyone gathers, and stories are told of memorable days gone by, fishing with friends and family.

The warmth lingers long after the last ember fades.

Mark LaBarbera
Outdoor Heritage Education Center

THE CURRENT STATE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

WISCONSINITES WHO WE ARE

Over the last 50 years, Wisconsin's population has increased at a rate of about 0.6%/year. The state's population is projected to grow from 5.8 million today to 6.5 million in 2040, an increase of about 0.5%/year (Table 4, Figure 7 – pg. 21).

The state's rural population has remained relatively stable over the last century (at about 1.5 million) while the urban population has more than tripled to over 3.5 million (Figure 6). While Wisconsin's urban population is growing considerably faster than the rural population, the state's rural population is relatively strong compared to nearby states that are dominated by very large urban centers.

Following national trends, our population is increasingly urban, more ethnically and culturally diverse, and older (Figure 8 – pg. 22).^{11, 12} Although Wisconsin's population is less diverse than other states, populations of people of color continue to grow. The Hispanic population nearly doubled from 2000 to 2015 and now comprises 6.9% of the state's residents. Wisconsin's Black/African American population increased nearly 10% since 2000 and is now 6.7% of Wisconsin's population.¹⁴ Wisconsin's Asian population has grown to be 2.9% of the population while people identifying as two or more races have increased to 1.9% of the state's population. The Native American population now numbers more than 60,000 in Wisconsin.

The increasing diversity of our population will continue. With over 44% identifying as people of color, the Millennial generation is more diverse than any preceding generation.¹⁵ And the next younger age cohort, is even more diverse.

The distribution of Wisconsin's population is concentrated in several areas: the southeast metropolitan area centered on Milwaukee (Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Washington, and Ozaukee counties), Madison and surrounding communities (Dane County), the Fox Valley (Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties), La Crosse (La Crosse County) and the region near the Twin Cities (St. Croix County). Together, although these 12 counties comprise just 11% of the state's land area, they harbor 56% of the state's population (Figure 9 – pg. 22). Current and projected population numbers by county are shown in Appendix 2.

The number of Wisconsin residents living with disabilities continues to climb (Figures 10 and 11 – pg. 23). In part, this is due to the rise in our aging population and the increase in chronic diseases. Over 32% of Wisconsin residents over age 65 report living with one or more disabilities.¹⁶ Many communities are building and upgrading facilities to meet the needs of people with different types of disabilities.

Participation in most outdoor activities declines after age 50; after 70, participation drops considerably (Figure 13 – pg. 25). Much of this decline in participation is likely due to health-related issues.

Figure 6: Wisconsin urban and rural population, 1900 Census - 2010 Census¹³

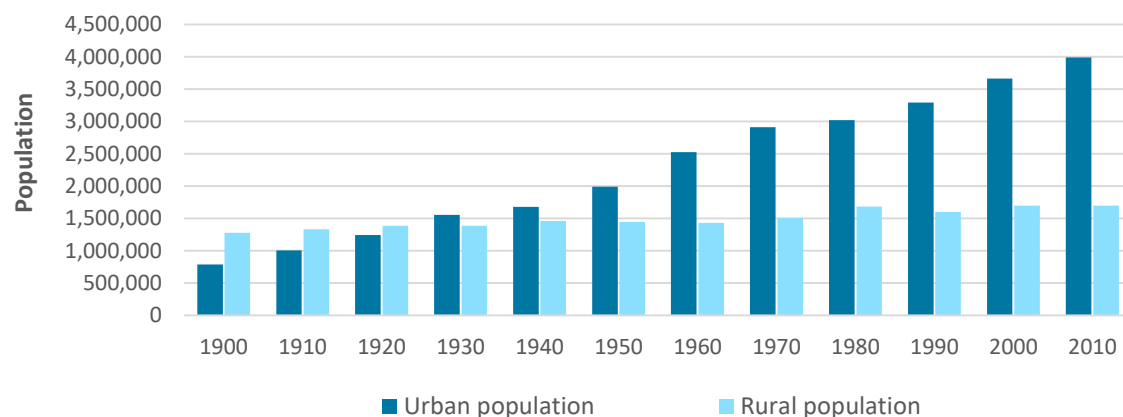
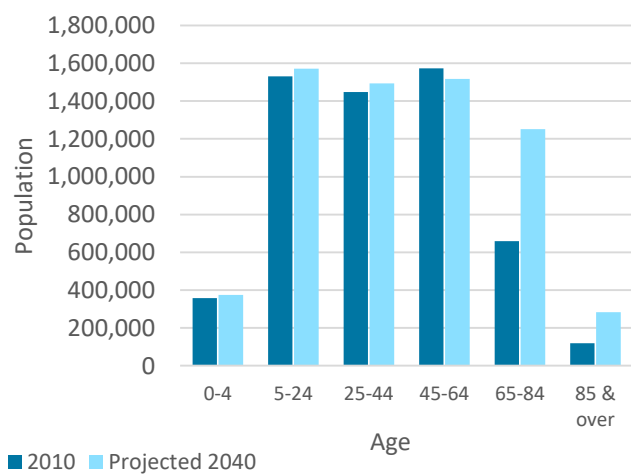


Table 4: Wisconsin population projected change, 2010 Census - 2040 projection, by age group¹¹

Age Group	Numerical Change	Percent Change
0-4	15,497	4.3%
5-24	41,060	2.7%
25-44	46,235	3.2%
45-64	-56,194	-3.6%
65-84	592,956	90.0%
85 & over	165,095	139.3%
TOTAL	804,649	14.1%

Figure 7: Wisconsin population projected change by age group, 2010 Census – 2040 projection¹¹

The Millennial Generation: the country's largest age group

Understanding the lifestyles and interests of younger generations can be helpful in anticipating the activities and experiences that may be popular in the future as these groups age. The Millennial generation (typically defined as those born from 1982 to 2000 and 18 to 36 years old today) is having a large impact on outdoor recreation. Not only are they the largest age group in the country (they surpassed the Baby Boomers in 2015) but they also spend more time and money on outdoor recreation than the average outdoor consumer.¹⁷ This cohort, more than other age groups, generally has the following attributes related to outdoor pursuits:



Committed to health and wellness

More than previous generations, Millennials spend considerable time exercising and are the least obese age group.¹⁸



Seek experiences over material goods

More than three-quarters of Millennials would choose to spend money on a desirable experience or event over buying something desirable.¹⁹ This may be linked to the sharing of experiences on social media, which may entice others to try similar or other experiences.



Participate in active outdoor pursuits

Younger people typically engage in more active forms of recreation (e.g., hiking, kayaking, and stand-up paddling) than their elders, a pattern that continues with Millennials. However, Millennial participation in newer, more strenuous activities (endurance races, trail running and mountain biking) is particularly notable. This is also linked to their desire to live healthy lives.



Are more likely to rent than own

This approach includes a range of items (e.g., cars, music and bicycles) and provides a greater degree of flexibility and mobility than traditional ownership.²⁰ Millennials tend to move more frequently than older generations did in when they were young adults and they continue the long-standing pattern of young adults moving from rural areas and small cities to large metropolitan areas (both in-state and out-of-state).



Use social media to share their experiences

Posting pictures, stories, reviews and endorsements on various internet-based platforms is likely to become an even more dominant way that participants communicate about their outings and influence others' participation.



Have pets

Nearly three-quarters of 30 to 39 year old's (the older Millennials) own dogs.²¹

Figure 8: Percent of Wisconsin population age 65 or older by county, 2015 estimate – 2040 projection²²

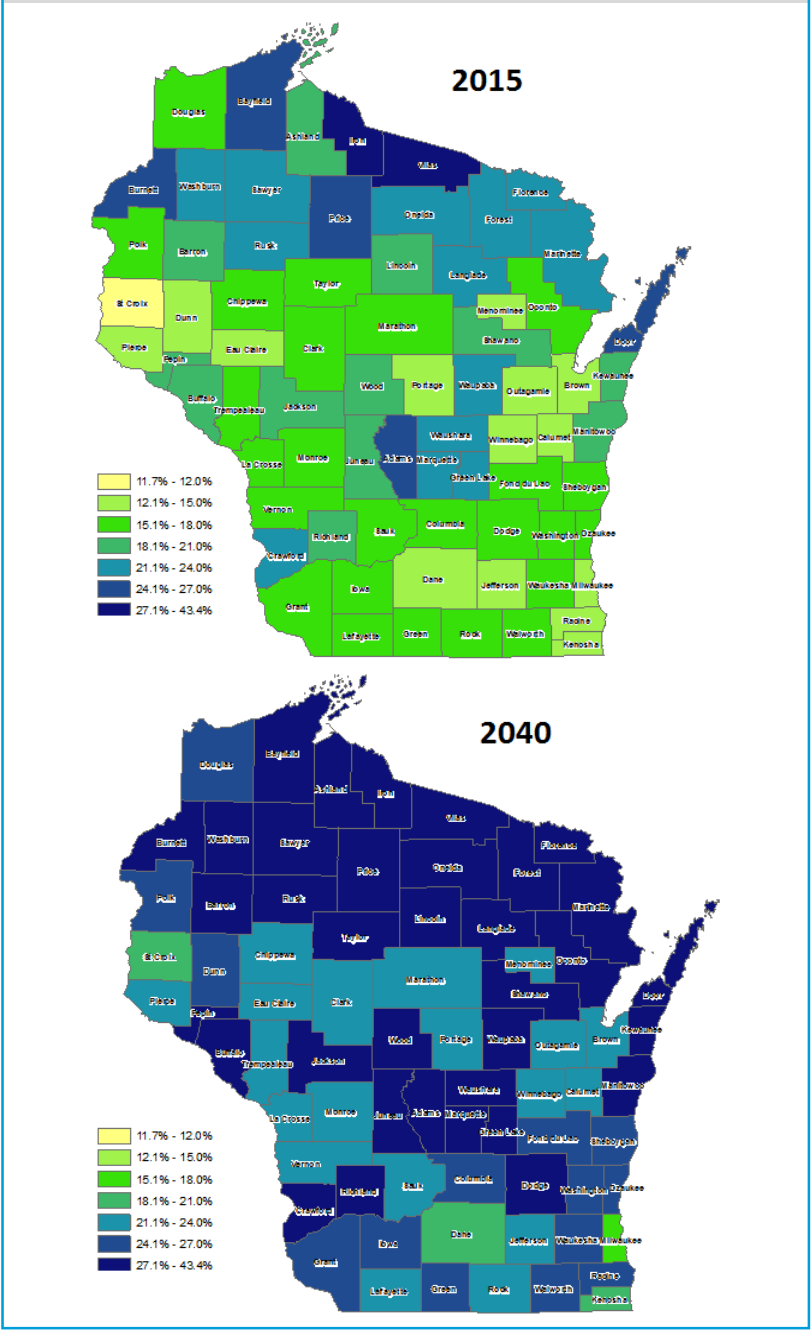


Figure 9: Population density by Census tract, 2010 Census²³

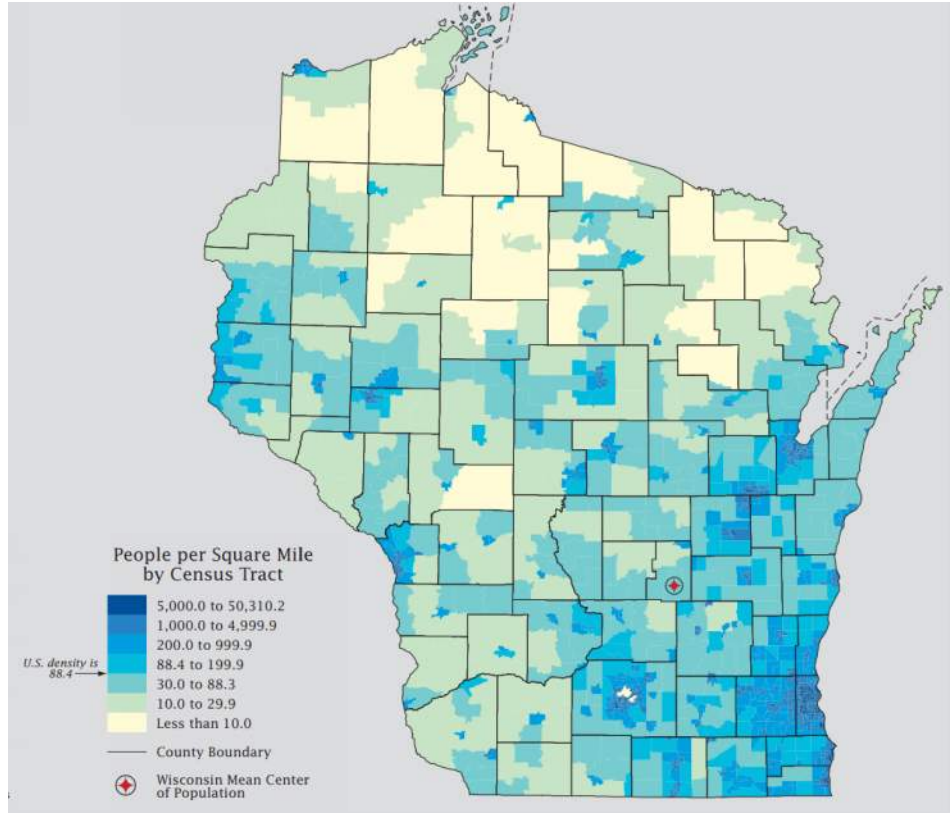


Figure 10: Number of Wisconsinites with a disability²⁴

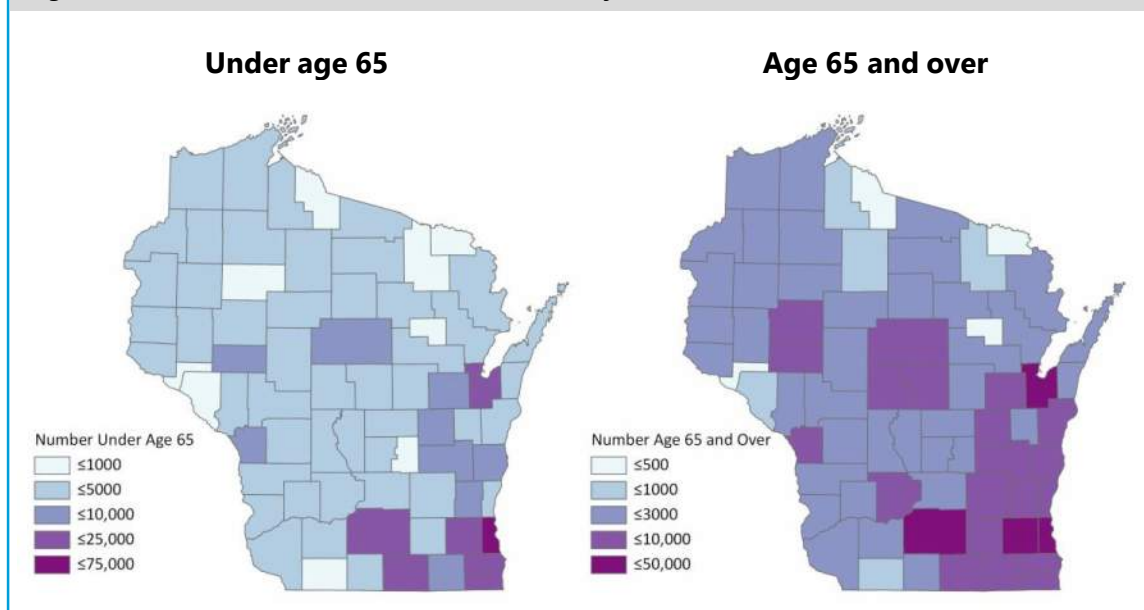


Figure 11: Percent of Wisconsin population with a disability²⁴

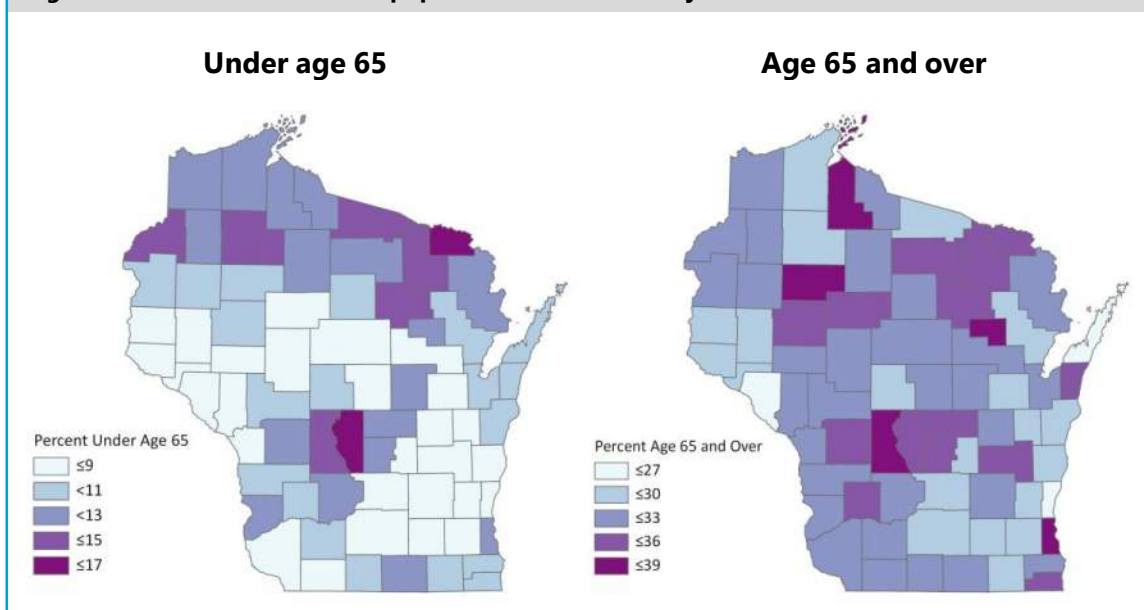


Table 5: Wisconsin resident participation rates of grouped nature-based recreation activities²⁵

Activity group	% of WI residents that participated at least once in last 12 months
Hiking Hiking/walking/running on trails	68%
Nature observation Bird/wildlife watching Nature photography Gathering berries, mushrooms, etc.	66%
Boating-related Motor boating Canoeing/kayaking Personal water craft (jet-ski) Sailing Stand-up paddle boarding Waterskiing	61%
Fishing Lake fishing Stream/river fishing Ice fishing	49%
Camping Tent camping RV/pop-up camping	41%
Dog-related activities Walking/running dog on trails Visiting a dog park	38%
Bicycling Bicycling on rail-trails or other developed trails Mountain biking Fat-tire biking/snow biking	35%
Hunting Big game hunting Turkey hunting Small game hunting Migratory bird hunting	27%
Motorized trail-based activities ATVs/UTVs on trails-routes Snowmobiling 4-WD vehicles on trails-routes Motorcycles on trails-routes	25%

WISCONSINITES
WHAT WE DO

Participation Rates

Wisconsinites have historically participated in outdoor recreation at higher rates than the national average. This is likely largely attributable to our abundant natural resource base, the quantity and quality of public lands and waters, and cultural traditions that value the outdoors. It is estimated that more than 95% of state residents participated in some form of outdoor recreation in the past year.

Table 5 shows participation rates of Wisconsin residents for general groupings of nature-based recreation activities. For comparison, 46% of Wisconsin residents participated in ball sports (golf, tennis, basketball, softball, baseball, soccer, and handball).

A list of the 20 most popular specific nature-based activities is presented in Table 6. A full listing of participation rates for recreation activities is found in Appendix 6.

Most residents participate in many outdoor recreational activities. Of the activities that were included in the participation survey, over half of residents noted that they participated in at least 16 different activities in the last year (Figure 12).

Outdoor enthusiasts recreate in many different ways. One common thread is that people often participate in multiple activities on the same trip or outing. Canoeists watch wildlife while paddling down a river. Horseback riders take nature photographs. Motor boaters swim and fish; hunters ride ATVs and camp.

What differs, often dramatically, is the overall type of outdoor experience that people favor. Some prefer quiet, secluded settings where they can experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the natural world with few (if any) other nearby groups or distractions. Popular activities for these people include wildlife watching, fishing, canoeing, tent camping, hiking, hunting and horseback riding.

Others prefer more active, strenuous experiences such as cross-country skiing, trail running, mountain biking and geocaching. Still others prefer the thrill of faster, often motorized activities such as ATV riding, motor boating, personal watercraft riding and snowmobiling (see Appendix 6 for activity clusters).

Figure 12: Number of outdoor recreation activities in which Wisconsin residents participate²⁵

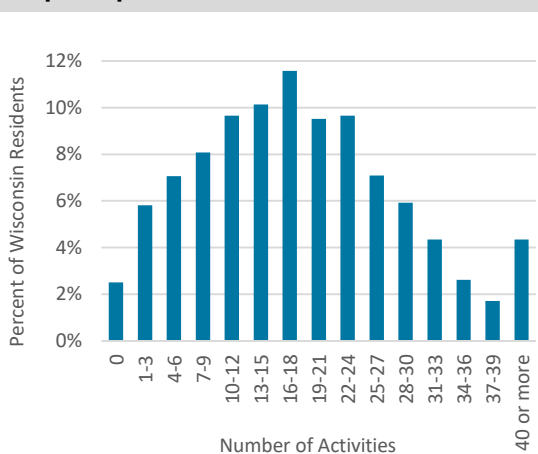
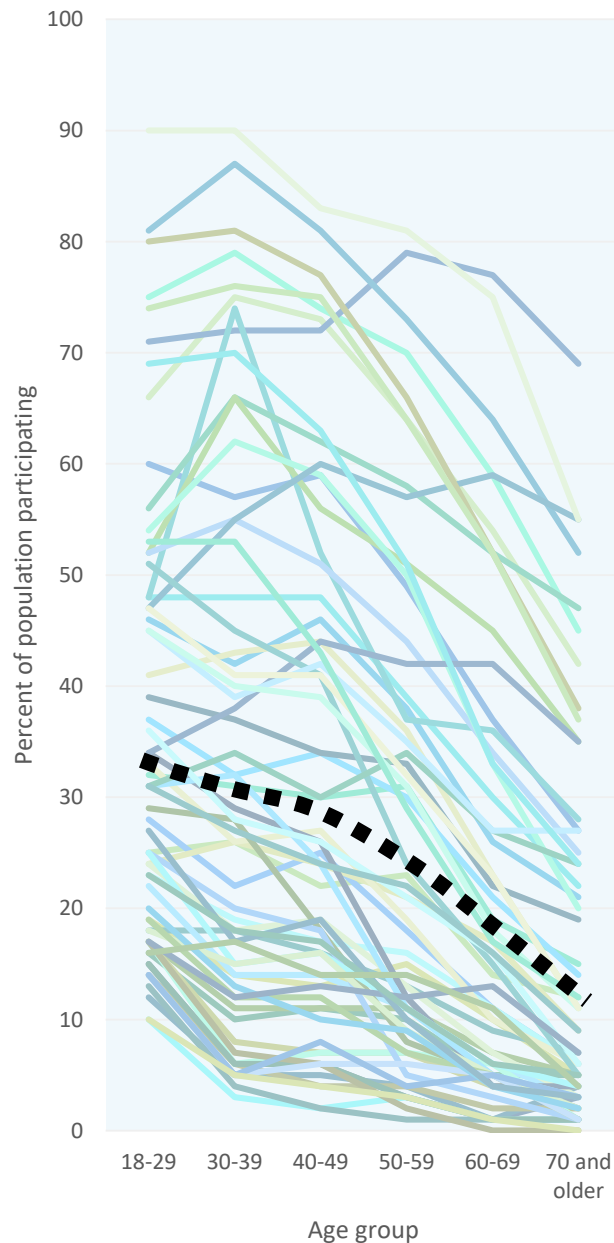


Figure 13: Wisconsin resident participation in outdoor recreation activities, by age group²⁵



Age

As mentioned earlier, age plays an important role in participation rates. Although participation in most activities decreases with age, there is variation in the degree to which participation drops.

Figure 13 shows **participation rates by age group** (that is, the percentage of the state's population within each age group that participates). Each line depicts a different recreation activity and the average of all the activities is shown as a **dashed black line**.

It is likely that activities with relatively stable participation rates across age groups "pick up" participants in other activities as people age.

For example, it is likely that some people that downhill ski as young adults shift to cross-country skiing in later years (participation in downhill skiing drops from 27% of the population in the 18 to 29 age group to 4% for the 60 to 69 age group while cross-country skiing only declines from 17% to 13% for the same age groups).

Did You Know?

With over 200,000 registered snowmobiles and over 25,000 miles of trails, Wisconsin is the nation's snowmobiling champion.

Table 6: Wisconsin resident participation rates of the 25 most popular nature-based recreation activities.²⁵

Participation Rate	Activity
74%	Picnicking/tailgating/cookout
68%	Hiking/walking/running on trails
65%	Visiting a beach/beach walking
55%	Bird/wildlife watching at home
54%	Swimming in lakes/ponds/rivers
52%	Visiting a nature center
45%	Motor boating
40%	Lake fishing from shore or a pier
39%	Bird/wildlife watching away from home
37%	Lake fishing from a boat/canoe/kayak
37%	Nature photography
34%	Bicycling on rail-trails/developed trails
34%	Canoeing/kayaking
32%	Tent camping
32%	Dog walking on trails
31%	Gathering berries, mushrooms, etc.
29%	Target firearm shooting
23%	Ice fishing
23%	Visiting a dog park
21%	Hunting big game on private land
21%	RV/pop-up camping
21%	Stream/river fishing from shore/wading
21%	Water skiing/tubing/wakeboarding
20%	River fishing from a boat/canoe/kayak
19%	Target archery outdoors



Participation Frequency

Understanding overall demand for recreation requires knowing both the number of people participating and how often they participate. Together, these provide a picture of the total “recreation days” in which residents engage.

As part of the survey on recreation participation, the department collected data on frequency of participation using the following categories: 0 days/year, 1-2 days/year, 3-9 days/year, 10-29 days/year, and 30+ days/year. Results are listed in Appendix 6.

As can be seen in Figure 14 (pg. 27), for some activities (e.g., canoeing/kayaking and tent camping) participants typically engaged in the activity less than 10 days in the last year. For other activities, most notably bird/wildlife watching at home, people that participate tend to participate often. Unsurprisingly, people tend to engage most frequently in activities that can occur near their homes, require little preparation or can provide a high-quality experience in a limited amount of time.

Although the frequency of participation is comparable across many activities, there are several factors to bear in mind. For example:

Hunting, fishing and trapping regulations

The harvest seasons for different game animals can limit participation. For example, most residents can only legally hunt turkeys in the spring during one of the six, one-week periods. Thus, someone who participated in turkey hunting 3-9 days in the last 12 months could have participated during the majority or entirety of their legally allowed days.

Seasonality

Some activities are dependent on conditions associated with seasons. For example, there may

be a limited number of opportunities for people to participate in snow or ice-based activities, particularly in the southern part of the state, simply due to a lack of adequate conditions. Thus, although ice fishing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing registered fewer days of average participation than activities such as nature photography or bird/wildlife watching, the people participating in winter activities may be participating in a higher percentage of the available days.

Value vs. Frequency

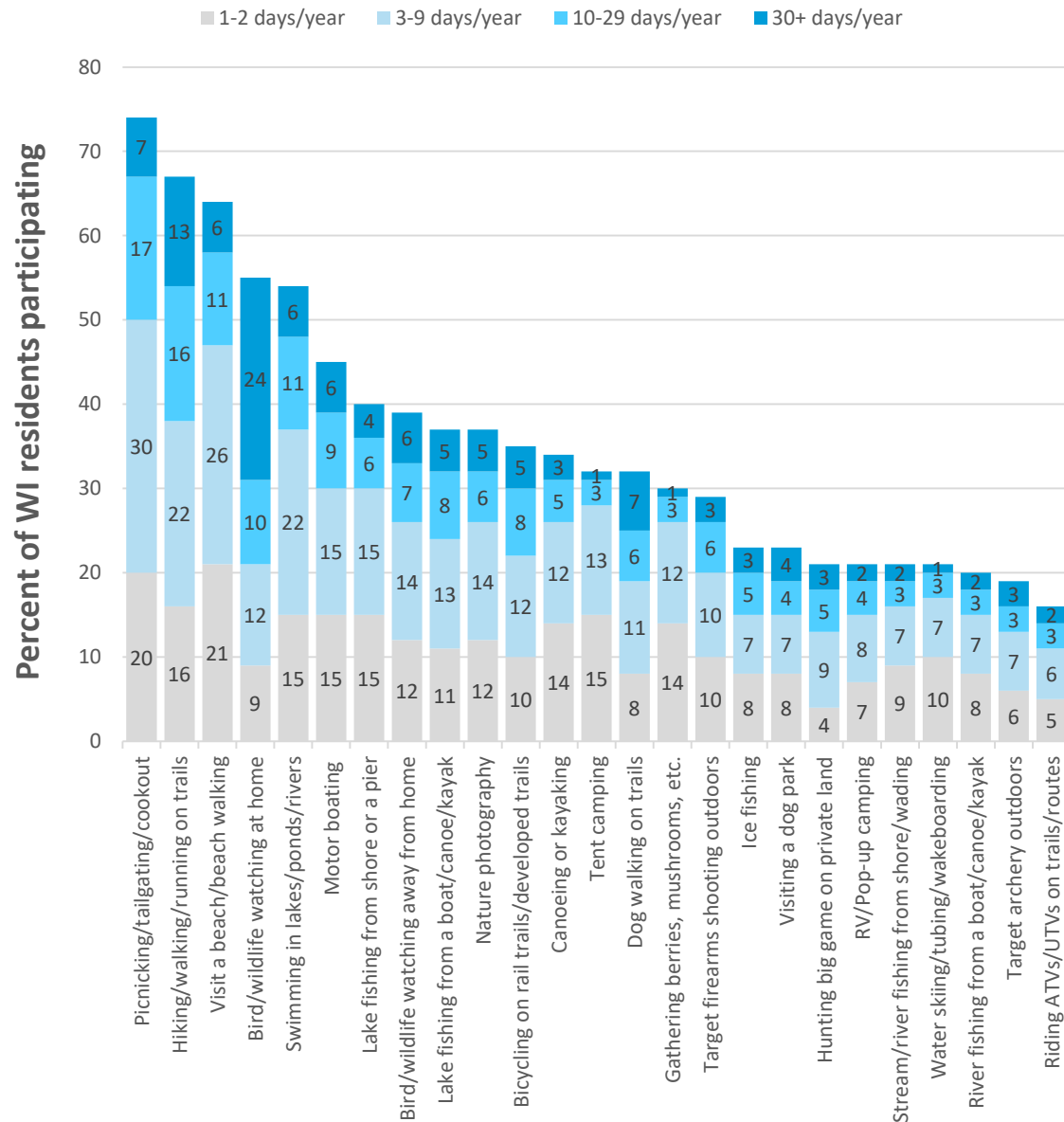
Activities in which people participate infrequently can still be very important to them. For example, someone may only go camping once per year, but it may be an annual family reunion that is their favorite outdoor activity of the year.

Favorite Outdoor Activities

Of course, frequency of participation can be independent of passion for an activity. That is, people’s favorite outdoor activities are not necessarily those in which they participate most frequently.

When asked to name their favorite outdoor activity, the top five responses were:

1. **Walking, hiking**
2. **Fishing**
3. **Hunting**
4. **Bicycling**
5. **Camping**

Figure 14: Frequency of participation in the 25 most popular nature-based recreation activities²⁵

My Story: Childhood Explorer

The Spaul Family

Hannah and her husband Mike love spending time outdoors and have taken their son, Oscar, along pretty much everywhere since he was born. Oscar was 3 months old on his first camping trip and was canoeing before he could walk; his mom would hold him while he paddled.

Unsurprisingly, Oscar wants to do everything his parents do so they make sure he has equipment, but in his size. His paddle, fishing pole and net, headlamp and walking stick fit him well. His parents also change things up to keep him interested.

"We might start a scavenger hunt while on a hike or stop for snacks by the lake. And we give him as much control over what he wants to do as we can. Instead of moving at our desired pace, we slow things down and let him appreciate that cool rock or shell he just found," says Hannah.

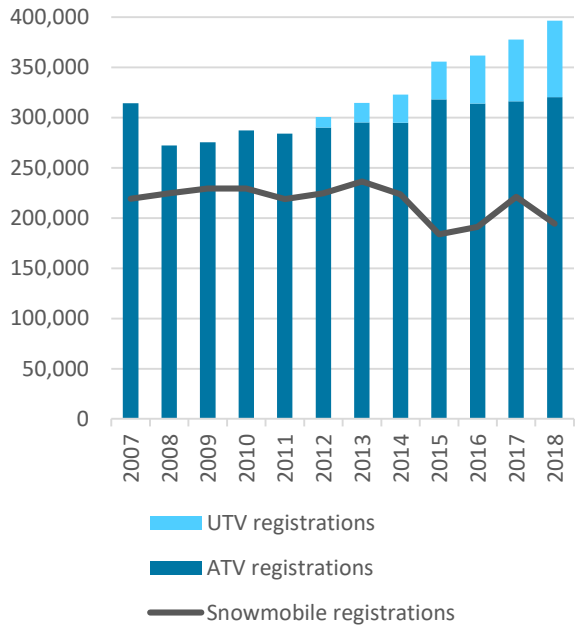
Most kids, unfortunately, don't get this type of exposure to the outdoors or the benefits. Surveys reveal children are not spending enough time outdoors. "I don't think it's just an issue for children. People are not spending much time outdoors, which means they're not taking their children outside either. Some children I know are afraid to go out in nature because they have no experience with it. But most children enjoy spending time outdoors when it's well-facilitated and they have the companions and the supplies they need to be comfortable," says Hannah.

Oscar's favorite place to visit is The Nature Conservancy's Lulu Lake Preserve in southeast Wisconsin. "When we take him canoeing there, he hops off the side of the canoe with his life jacket and his snorkel set. He'll swim around looking at fish until he's blue," reports Hannah.

Oscar is now ten and in fourth grade. He loves swimming, snorkeling, canoeing, fishing and taking short hikes. He digs in the dirt, collects rocks and loves bugs. When asked why she thinks it's important for Oscar to spend time in the outdoors, Hannah responds, "It's healthy, and it encourages independent learning and problem-solving. It's also a great way to unplug and spend time with other people - from family and friends to park rangers and naturalists. Nature adventures and discovery are a big part of our lives, and it's a gift we want to give to Oscar."

Paul Heinen
The Nature Conservancy

Figure 15: ATV, UTV, and snowmobile registrations in Wisconsin, 2007 - 2018²⁶



Recreation Trend Example
Motorized recreation

While ATV use has been generally constant in Wisconsin over the last decade, UTV use has increased considerably. This growth is likely due both to the substantial number of Baby Boomers (older riders tend to prefer UTVs more than ATVs) and also because on-going upgrades in UTV features have expanded their appeal and utility.

Given the projected growth in older age groups, there is likely to be an increase in the number of people that will participate in UTV riding.

Participation Trends

Future participation levels will be affected by the size of our population and the rates at which residents engage in different activities. The state's population is projected to grow by about 700,000 additional residents by 2040 and as a result most activities will see increases in the number of participants, even if participation rates for many activities decline as our population ages.

Of course, participation rates in activities rise and fall as trends come and go.^{27, 28} Newer forms of recreation provide users with more options for enjoying the outdoors, and in some cases supplement users' recreational experiences. For example, fat-tire bikes can extend biking opportunities into the winter months, kayaking can be another way to fish small streams, UTVs can be a way for groups to get to a favorite hunting spot, and drones can be a new way to photograph nature. As battery technology continues to improve, it is possible that many applications will affect outdoor recreation in the future.

Based on the number of residents that are projected to be in different age groups in 2040, if future participation rates for each age group are the same as

today's rates, the largest increases in the number of participants in nature-based recreation are expected for bird watching, picnicking/tailgating/cookout, visiting a nature center, and hiking/walking/running on trails (Appendix 4, Table 17).

Because the methods to survey recreation participation in Wisconsin have changed over time, it is not possible to analyze current and past data to quantitatively identify trends in statewide participation rates or frequencies. To address this, qualitative input was gathered from county recreation providers on their perspectives of how recreation participation has changed over the past five years at their properties. The recreation opportunities in highest demand on county-managed properties are campsites, hiking/walking/ running on trails, mountain biking and recreational biking trails, motorized trails, and shore access to lakes, rivers and streams (Appendix 4, Table 16).

Trends in participation at county parks, forests and trails

Activities with largest increases in participation over the last five years at county properties:

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

ATV and UTV - What's the difference?

ATV (all terrain vehicle): usually meant for a single rider that straddles a saddle and steers using a handlebar system.

UTV (utility task or terrain vehicle, sometimes referred to as side-by-side): can seat multiple people and riders sit in bench or bucket seats. Driver uses a steering wheel.

See State Statutes 340.01 and 23.33(1)(ng) for legal definitions.

WISCONSINITES

WHERE WE PARTICIPATE

With 7.5 million acres of land open to the public, there are abundant opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy outdoor recreation experiences in Wisconsin. Approximately half of this acreage is managed by state and federal agencies, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service. Local and tribal governments also manage a broad portfolio of places available to the public for outdoor recreation, including local parks, school forests and nearly 2.4 million acres of county forest land.

In addition, the public has access to private lands enrolled in some conservation programs and lands where agencies have acquired public access easements. Descriptions of the types of lands open to the public for nature-based recreation and acreages for each county are listed in Appendix 3. In addition, Table 14 in Appendix 4 provides an overview of the recreation opportunities at county-managed properties.

Although public conservation and recreation lands comprise only about 17% of the state (Table 7 – pg. 30), a sizable percentage of residents use public lands for outdoor recreation. When asked about their top two favorite outdoor activities, nearly two-thirds of residents said their participation was “entirely” or “mostly” on public lands or waters. However, 65% of respondents that listed hunting as their favorite outdoor activity used private lands “entirely” or “mostly.” This is not surprising since public lands – especially in the southern part of the state – are typically crowded during hunting seasons.

Given the distribution of our population as well as our public lands, it is logical that for some activities there are geographic patterns of visitation. The large public land holdings in central and northern Wisconsin draw visitors for multi-day outings, including camping, ATV/UTV and snowmobile riding, hunting and fishing. Public lands in the southern and eastern parts of the state, which tend to be smaller, are heavily used by people pursuing shorter outings (half-day or less) to hike, walk a dog, watch birds, ride a bike, picnic, fish, hunt, gather edibles and other similar activities.

Frog Bay Tribal National Park

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa



Photo: Michael Defoe

Frog Bay Tribal National Park is the **first tribal national park in the United States**. Established in 2012, the 300-acre conservation area includes a 170-acre park that is open to the public for hiking on several trails that lead to 4,000 feet of Lake Superior shoreline.

The property includes pristine sandy beaches, old-growth boreal forest, and a high-quality coastal estuary that provides critical habitat for many native species. The park provides views of the Apostle Islands including Oak, Basswood, Hermit, Raspberry and Stockton islands.

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa also provides public camping and hiking opportunities at other properties it manages in Bayfield County.

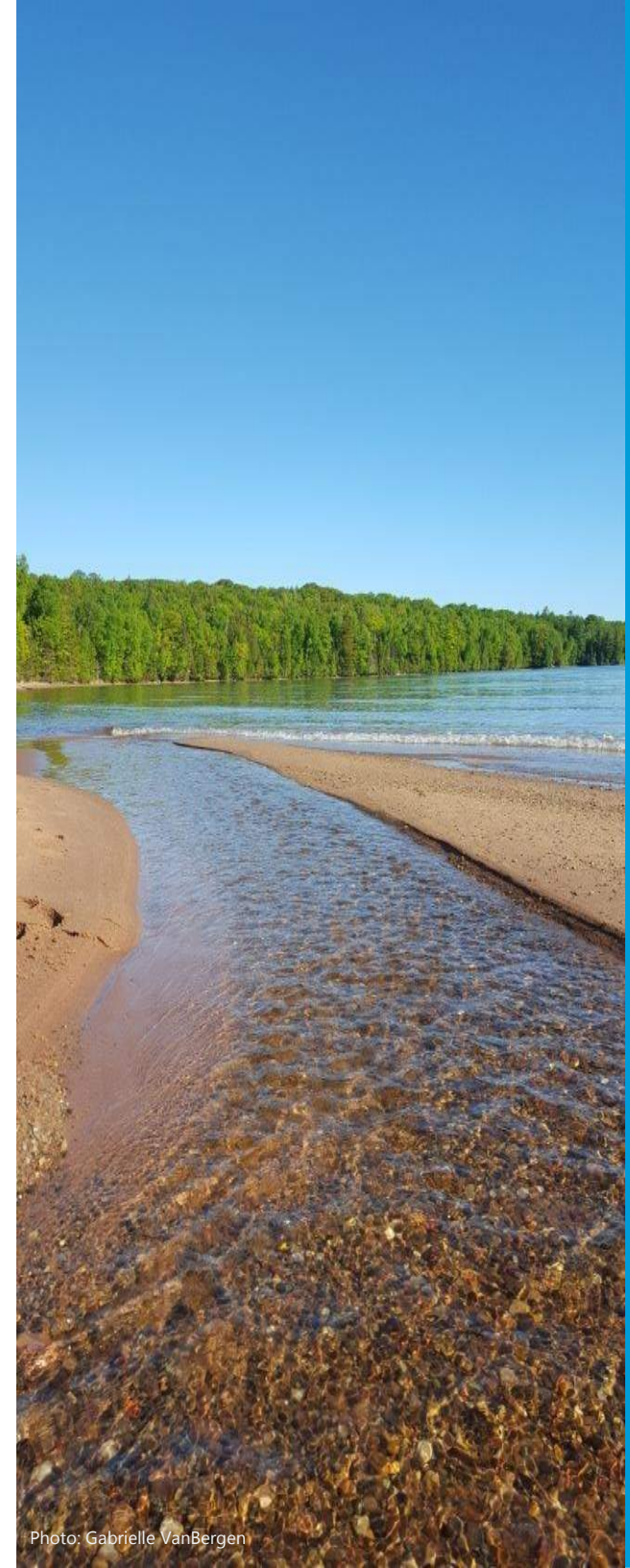
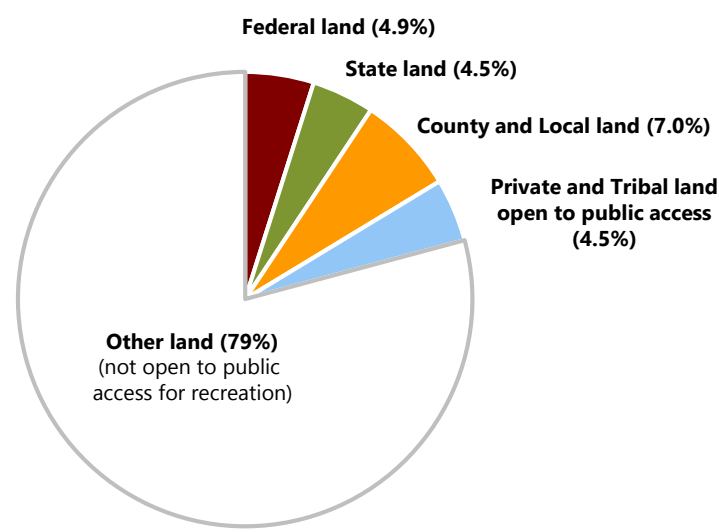


Photo: Gabrielle VanBergen

Figure 16: Lands in Wisconsin open to the public for recreation²⁹



Ways to value land purchases for recreation

Governments acquire land for a variety of purposes. In determining where to purchase property for outdoor recreation, agencies must evaluate costs and benefits to determine the most effective and efficient use of public funds.

Lands that are least expensive to purchase often provide limited recreation opportunities, given their location and the type and quality of experiences the land can provide.

When viewed using metrics other than dollars/acre, higher-priced places near population centers may be a more effective use of public funds than less-expensive lands distant from cities. For example, applying metrics such as visitor-days or the economic returns accruing to nearby communities from these visitors' spending may show that recreation lands near urban areas provide a better return on investment than lower-priced lands in remote areas that are less frequently used.

Similarly, the benefits of improved health and quality-of-life will affect substantially more people when places are available near urban areas for outdoor recreation.

Table 7: Lands in Wisconsin open to the public for recreation²⁹

Public Ownership		Acres Owned	Percent of the State
Federal	U.S. Forest Service	1,524,500	4.2%
	National Park Service	67,500	0.2%
	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	149,500	0.4%
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	14,300	0.0%
	Total Federal	1,755,800	4.9%
State	Department of Natural Resources - Fee title	1,507,000	4.2%
	Board of Commissioners of Public Land	75,900	0.2%
	Total State	1,582,900	4.5%
County and Local	County Forests	2,395,400	6.7%
	County Parks (estimate)	70,000	0.2%
	City, Village, and Town recreation properties funded by Stewardship matching grants	15,000	0.0%
	City, Village, and Town recreation properties not funded by Stewardship matching grants (estimate)	50,000	0.1%
	School Forests	27,900	0.1%
	Total County and Local	2,558,300	7.2%
Total public lands open to public recreational access		5,897,000	16.5%

Table 7: Lands in Wisconsin open to the public for recreation (continued)

<i>Private and Tribal Ownership</i>	Acres Open to the Public	Percent of the State
Non-government organization lands funded by Stewardship matching grants	70,000	0.2%
Managed Forest Law land open to the public*	1,081,600	3.0%
Forest Crop Law land**	125,800	0.4%
Forest Legacy program easements	248,200	0.7%
Department of Natural Resources – easements on private lands	55,100	0.2%
Voluntary Public Access (VPA) lands	32,000	0.1%
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	200	0.0%
Total private and tribal lands open to public recreational access	1,612,900	4.5%

* By statute, open for hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing, and cross-country skiing.

** By statute, open for hunting and fishing.

Total: Land Open for Public Recreation	
State of Wisconsin (acres)	35,640,000
Land in the state open for public recreation (acres)	7,509,900
Percent of the State of Wisconsin open for public recreation	21%

See Appendix 3 for maps and a listing of public lands by county.



Photo: Gretchen Marshall



WISCONSIN WHEN WE PARTICIPATE

Wisconsin's four-season climate supports a wealth of opportunities for outdoor recreation throughout the year. The seasonal patterns of participation vary across activities; some are popular year-round while others are limited by conditions – like adequate snow or migration events – or by specific dates (for example hunting, fishing and trapping seasons). In addition to participation patterns related to the seasons, there are also ebbs and flows of participation across the days of the week and the times of the day.

Participation in outdoor activities varies from outings of an hour or two (often after work) to half-day or day-long trips (often on weekends) to multi-day vacations. Although people pursue the full gamut of activities in each of these types of getaways, activities differ in the length of time needed to provide a high-quality experience.

For example, participants in activities such as dog walking, trail running, or nature photography can have an excellent experience in as little as a half-hour. Other activities, such as horseback riding, hunting, fishing, canoeing and bicycling are often pursued for two to three hours or longer. Table 8 shows estimates of the frequency of the duration of people's participation in different recreation activities.

Where people go to participate in outdoor activities is, of course, a function of available time and locations of opportunities. One's willingness to travel different distances is often directly related to the time available

to participate in an activity. Typically, people are willing to invest a total travel time (getting to and from the destination) no more than the same amount of time they will recreate. If the travel time is much beyond the recreation time, then most people conclude the enjoyment of participating in the outing isn't worth the cost or effort.

Combining travel time and the participation time needed for a high-quality experience provides an indication of what types of activities people typically engage at different distances from home. As an example, since most people walk their dog for 30 minutes to an hour at a time, they typically travel no more than 15 to 30 minutes to a place that would provide a high-quality experience. Thus, most dog walking happens close to home and a map showing where participation takes place would mimic our state's population map.

For other activities, a map of participation would be quite different. Participants in hunting and many motorized activities often spend four to six hours or more a day engaged in these activities; occasionally, participants spend several days in a row on trips. Participants are typically willing to spend four or more hours travelling to locations that provide first-rate experiences. And, of course, camping involves multi-day trips. For these types of activities, a map showing where participation occurs would be more influenced by the locations and characteristics of existing opportunities rather than where people live.

Table 8: Frequency of estimated hours per day participants typically engage in selected nature-based recreation activities*

Recreation Activity	Hours of participation within a day												Multi-day
	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	4	5	6	7	8+		
Water skiing/tubing/wakeboarding													
Swimming in lakes/ponds/rivers													
Dog walking on trails													
Target firearm shooting													
Target archery													
Trapping													
Hiking/walking/running on trails													
Nature photography													
Mountain biking													
Gathering berries, mushrooms and other wild edibles													
Visiting a beach/beach walking													
Cross-country skiing													
Lake/river fishing from a boat/canoe/kayak													
Lake/river/stream fishing from shore/wading/pier													
Motor boating													
Horseback riding													
Canoeing or kayaking													
Bicycling on rail-trails or other developed trails													
Bird/wildlife watching away from home													
Hunting small game													
Ice fishing													
Riding motorcycles on trails/routes													
Riding ATVs/UTVs on trails/routes													
Snowmobiling													
Driving 4-WD vehicles on trails/routes													
Hunting big game													
RV/pop-up camping													
Tent camping													

Estimated Frequency

Rarely (less than 2% of trips) or not applicable	
Infrequent (3% to 9% of trips)	
Occasional (10% to 19% of trips)	
Common (20% to 39% of trips)	
Most common (40% or more of trips)	

**These estimates are based on department staff consultations with outdoor organizations and their professional judgement.*

My Story: Empowered

Sarah Lisiecki

The outdoors is a space for me. A space where there aren't expectations or "shoulds" and a space where I can go to be a happier, healthier, more creative version of the person I was when I went in. As a woman, I spend a lot of time being told how to behave, feel, act and believe.

The outdoors offers me a place to transcend those "shoulds" and focus on who I am at the core and who I want to be as my future self.

Being outdoors – hiking, biking, climbing, kayaking, trail running, camping – allows me to be physically challenged and to confront fear and be brave. Here I feel empowered yet find a peacefulness that is unique to time spent without walls. It allows me to see my body for all it can accomplish and not what it can't. It allows my mind to be relaxed, yet focused.

In the outdoors I build my thoughts, find my peace, overcome and gain confidence. People in the outdoors foster a community; there is something special about these places that brings people together.

Being outdoors and void of distractions help me deepen friendships, family relationships and my relationship with myself.

Maybe it's the struggle followed by the reward or maybe it's being reminded of what's essential and having the opportunity to relish beauty uninterrupted.

Sarah Lisiecki

WISCONSINITES

WHY WE PARTICIPATE

Table 9: Top ten reasons to get outside, US residents, Age 6+³³

Reasons to get outside	% of respondents
Get exercise	64%
Be with family and friends	55%
Keep physically fit	50%
Observe scenic beauty	49%
Be close to nature	47%
Enjoy the sounds and smells of nature	47%
Get away from the usual demands	40%
Be with people who enjoy the same things I do	31%
Experience excitement and adventure	32%
Experience solitude	20%

Table 10: Top ten reasons to not get outside, US residents, Age 6+³³

Reasons to <i>not</i> get outside	% of respondents
Too busy with family responsibilities	21%
Outdoor recreation equipment is too expensive	18%
Do not have anyone to participate with	17%
Do not have the skills or abilities	16%
Have a physical disability	14%
My health is poor	11%
Places for outdoor recreation cost too much	10%
Too busy with other recreation activities	10%
Places for outdoor recreation are too far away	10%
Do not have enough information	7%

Considerable research has been conducted by various organizations to understand what motivates people to participate in outdoor recreation and what obstacles exist. The results of these research efforts consistently identify social and health benefits as primary drivers of participation. At heart, many people spend time outdoors simply to have fun and get away from daily stresses.

In addition to the reasons that draw people to outdoor activities listed in Table 9, another motivation is the desire to eat locally-grown, sustainable, organic food. This has led some people to take up or increase their participation in hunting, fishing and gathering wild edibles – cultural traditions that have been practiced and maintained by Native Americans and settlers of the region since before Wisconsin achieved statehood.

Although many people understand the health and social benefits of ongoing experiences in nature and are interested in pursuing outdoor activities, there can be a substantial gap between “concept and reality.”³⁰ Competing priorities for time, lack of easy access to places or people to go with, and cost of equipment are often cited as obstacles to participation. Although some types of equipment can be expensive, it should also be noted that the price of computers, phones, Internet and phone

service, cable television and other technology can also be costly. For example, Americans spent \$36 billion on video games in 2017.³¹ This is more than the combined spending on all fishing and hunting equipment (\$34 billion).³²

Table 10 lists top reasons people identify for not getting outside.



Photo: TJ Brusoe



Photo: TravelWisconsin



Photo: Mark LaBarbera



Photo: Mark LaBarbera

My Story: AccessAbility

Monica Spaeni

As daylight faded and the northern Wisconsin forest darkened in the early evening, Monica saw 300 pounds of shadow move closer to her wheelchair. The hungry bruin moved through the trees slowly, pausing often.

Unlike most other hunters, she wasn't in the relative safety of an elevated tree stand. Seconds seemed like minutes and minutes seemed like hours as Monica sat still, her senses tingling with excitement. Monica was focused solely on the bear moving among the shadows. It stepped into an opening nearby. Monica's heart raced. She raised her .308 and shot, killing the bear and filling her freezer.

Her guide, Wayne, and friend, Steve, made it possible for her to hunt bear despite her spinal cord injury.

Monica was in a wheelchair because of a skiing accident when she was chaperoning her child's field trip. She resisted feelings of self-pity and did not settle for a sedentary life.

After the diagnosis that she would not walk again, Monica focused on how she and others could enjoy a life filled with accessible outdoor recreation activities.

It didn't take long for Monica to discover the Action TrackChair, a motorized all-terrain wheelchair that allows anyone to go afield where normal wheelchairs cannot. Soon, Monica was tracking through corn stubble on pheasant hunts, navigating rough trails to fish streams, and traversing wooded terrain in pursuit of whitetails. Dog park trails near home were easy for her motorized wheelchair as she exercised her dog.

She did not stop there. She wanted others to have access to the all-terrain chairs. With help from the local chapter of Pheasants Forever, AccessAbility was born and has grown into an independent, non-profit organization that is building a fleet of chairs throughout the state that can be used by anyone at no cost.

What started as a ski accident that threatened to limit her mobility and future recreation opportunities, has turned into a series of accomplishments that has improved opportunities and access for not just Monica, but so many others.

Mark LaBarbera
Outdoor Heritage Education Center

WISCONSINITES

HOW WE BENEFIT

Chronic Diseases and Their Costs

Wisconsinites currently face chronic health issues related to society's increasingly sedate lifestyle.

Despite the growing awareness of the problem, the obesity rate for adults in our state has doubled since 1990.³⁴

Maybe more troubling, 25% of adolescents are overweight or obese.

In addition, more than 350,000 Wisconsinites have been diagnosed with diabetes.³⁵ And in both Wisconsin and the United States, heart disease is a leading cause of death; one-third of all deaths in the state were due to cardiovascular disease.³⁶ A table of some health care indicators, by county, is presented in Appendix 2.

Chronic diseases exact a substantial cost on the state's economy. The direct costs of these diseases to just the Medicaid system are estimated to total \$1.15 billion annually in Wisconsin; if costs to the private sector were included, the amount would be significantly higher.³⁷

Health benefits

Most people participate in outdoor activities for enjoyment and because it helps them feel energized and revitalized. The fresh air, exercise, natural settings and companionship with others helps people feel physically and mentally refreshed. Participating in outdoor recreational activities, or simply being in peaceful natural settings, can have substantial benefits to one's mental health. Outdoor exercise has been shown to reduce stress, boost the immune system, diminish the risk of disease and increase life expectancy.

And from walleyes to ducks to mushrooms, "consumptive activities" can be a nutritious source of lean, organic, sustainable food. For many years the DNR has hosted a Learn to Hunt program that links novice hunters with experienced ones. The program is increasingly popular with young urban residents interested in connecting with the state's hunting heritage and harvesting locally-grown, healthy food.

As the physical and mental health benefits of spending time outdoors are better understood, the health care community is developing creative ways to encourage patients to get outside. In one of the better-known examples, some physicians are recommending "park prescriptions" to patients with various chronic diseases.⁵²

The health care cost savings generated by participating in outdoor recreation, particularly more strenuous activities, is just beginning to be explored. Given the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation, several programs in Wisconsin (along with many other states) have embarked on campaigns to draw people outside and become more active. Three of these efforts are highlighted on the adjacent page.

Did You Know?

OutWiGo is a statewide initiative encouraging people to improve their overall health and wellness by being active in the outdoors.

Since launching in May 2018, over 2,000 residents have pledged to be active in Wisconsin's Parks, Forests and Trails. OutWiGo aims to reach additional users through outreach, partnership events and social media marketing.

Learn more at:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/outwigo.html>



Wisconsin Healthy Communities Designation³⁸

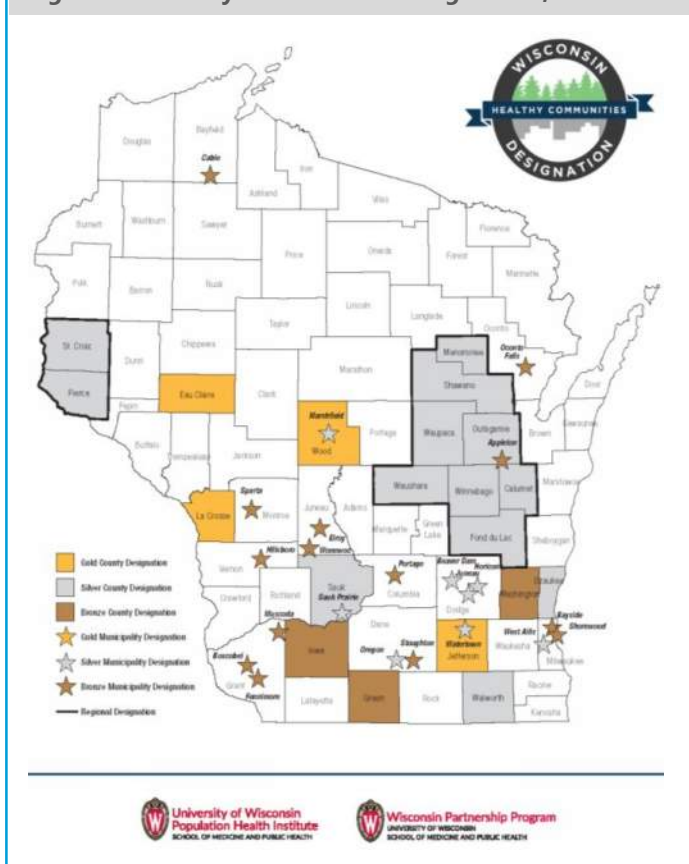
This new program encourages achievements in health improvement in Wisconsin by recognizing communities that focus multiple, connected efforts – including health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment – to improve the health of their residents. The program's inaugural round of gold, silver or bronze designations was announced in September 2018 and included 31 communities (Figure 17).

One of only four gold designations went to Jefferson County, which was recognized for its efforts to reduce obesity rates through outdoor exercise strategies (among other

programs geared to improving resident's health). The county's Parks Department has been a leader in providing natural-resource-oriented parks and trails that make it easy for residents to get outside, exercise, and enjoy the woods, prairies, and rural landscape. Examples include expanding the popular Glacial River Trail, constructing a new bicycle trail from Watertown to Oconomowoc, increasing recreational offerings in parks, and developing a series of water trails for paddlers.

These and other efforts appear to be paying off; the county's health ranking jumped from 33rd in the state in 2012 to 12th in 2018.

Figure 17: Healthy Communities Designations, 2018



Wisconsin Active Together³⁹

Wisconsin Active Together is an initiative that provides recognition awards to community groups or coalitions that are making it easier for people to walk, bike and be active and meet basic criteria to demonstrate that commitment. The initiative was developed in 2017 by a diverse group of state-level and community-based partners that identified the need to support more local-level action on strategies that make physical activity easy, safe and fun in community settings.

Wisconsin Active Together focuses on coalitions and processes working on policies, systems and environments that build physical activity into routine daily life.

The first set of communities recognized were:

Appleton
Fond du Lac
Fox Valley
La Crosse Region

New Holstein
Watertown
Wausau

Marathon County Strategic Plan

Marathon County recently adopted their 2018-2022 Strategic Plan with an overarching goal to be the healthiest, safest, and most prosperous county in Wisconsin. Their plan recognizes that:

"Health is not merely restored at the doctor's office, but instead starts in our families, in our schools and workplaces, in our playgrounds and parks, and in the air we breathe and the water we drink. We recognize that health and well-being are lifelong pursuits and that our communities can support positive, healthy lifestyles."



Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department plays a key role in helping meet this goal. With 13 parks and over 30,000 acres of county forest, residents have abundant opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation and stay active as part of efforts to improve their health. In addition, the lands managed by the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department improve air and water quality in the county.



Social benefits

Participation in many nature-based outdoor activities is often a group activity. Families and friends tend to camp, bicycle, ride snowmobiles, ATVs and UTVs, horseback ride, bird watch and hike in groups (see Table 9 - pg. 34: 55% of people stated that they participated in outdoor recreation to “be with family and friends”).

The bonds that form through the collective outdoor experiences shared by groups are part of the “social glue” that brings people together. And the stories that accompany particularly memorable outings – whether because of a rare bird sighting, attempting an activity for the first time, reeling in a trophy fish, getting lost in the woods, or the inevitable mishaps that leave people laughing – often become family legends that are retold over and over.

Group activity: Rock climbing

Not only does rock climbing provide participants with sizeable physical and mental benefits, but by its very nature it is a communal and cooperative activity. Participants depend on each other for their personal safety and enjoyment of the experience. Climbers often form tight social bonds that span differences in age, gender, education, ethnicity and cultural backgrounds.

Wisconsin is home to some of the best outdoor climbing and bouldering opportunities in the Midwest. Devil’s Lake, Governor Dodge, Interstate, and Willow River state parks draw thousands of participants annually.

Participation in climbing and bouldering has steadily increased both nationally and in Wisconsin. Climbing at Devil’s Lake, by far the most popular location in the state, is estimated to have quadrupled over the last several decades. New opportunities are in demand throughout the state.

Outdoor recreation can also be an opportunity for people to meet and better understand each other’s perspectives, needs, and motivations. Like sports, the arts, religion, social clubs and school, outdoor recreation can bring together diverse groups of people interested in a common pursuit and provide a forum to interact, learn new customs, and better understand each other. This in turn can strengthen community cohesion and connections to natural resources.

Recent research has indicated a connection between greenspace and the amount of time spent in nature with reduced crime and how people view their surroundings.⁴⁰ In Wisconsin, local park programs are increasingly customizing new outdoor recreation facilities to reflect the heritage and current ethnic diversity of the surrounding community. These city parks can serve two purposes – one as an outdoor recreation facility and also as a source of cultural education.

The link between physical activity and academic achievement in a range of school-age children has been the topic of ongoing research. Several studies have shown a positive connection between children’s participation in physical pursuits, including nature-based outdoor activities, and improved educational outcomes.⁴¹

Outdoor recreation groups

Wisconsin has numerous clubs representing hunters, bicyclists, birders, horseback riders, and many other participants. These groups have been exceptionally key players in organizing events, volunteer work days, educational and outreach programs, and in advocating for policies and funding to support outdoor recreation. Participation in these groups is on the rise. For example, the number of snowmobile clubs has grown from 575 to 615 over the last ten years.



Photo: Gretchen Marshall



Photo: Gretchen Marshall



Photo: Gretchen Marshall

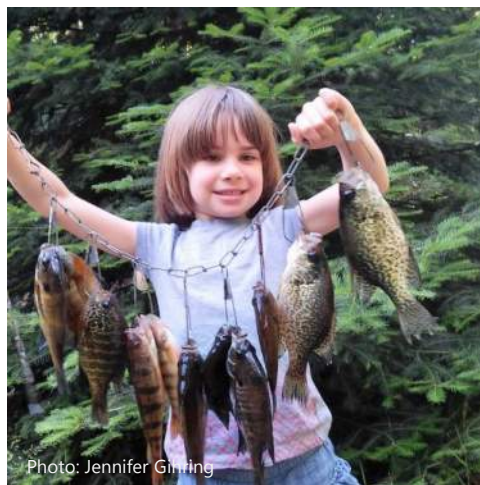


Photo: Jennifer Gilling

My Story: The Outdoors – from Passion to Occupation

Chase Cummings, Pepin County Land Conservation & Planning Director

The Tri-County School Forest is a 280-acre parcel in rural Waushara County that provides an excellent educational setting for students as well as recreational opportunities for the community. Area students from kindergarten through high school visit the property multiple times each year. The school forest is also open to the public to hunt, snowshoe, bicycle, cross-country ski, and picnic.

Rain or shine, Chase Cummings has always enjoyed being outside and connected with natural resources. For Chase, learning was easier in the woods or fields where he could see, hear, and feel his surroundings. It would be an understatement to say that he was very excited to visit the school forest each year.

When he reached high school, Chase became an Environmental Education (EE) Counselor at the forest. In his role, he coordinated field trips for the district's teachers and led a variety of lessons for other kids. Chase had to learn to identify different plants and animals, display leadership ability, and be a good communicator – skills that have benefited him in his career. The EE Counselor program helped give him the boost of confidence needed in more challenging experiences, such as public speaking, that are common elements of his career.

After high school, Chase pursued a degree in Soil and Waste Resources and now works as the Pepin County Land Conservation & Planning Director. Building on his experience at the school forest, in 2011 Chase started Conservation Field Days for 5th and 6th grades in Pepin County.

Students and teachers look forward to their twice-yearly trips out in the field learning about natural resources and their management; it has grown into a very successful program.

As a kid growing up, Chase was fortunate to have opportunities to connect with the outdoors. With the Field Days program he created, he's passing that good fortune on to the next generation and planting the seeds for future conservationists.

Gretchen Marshall
Wisconsin School Forest Program

My Story: Small business success

Suzann and Montgomery “Mo” Mouw

How does outdoor recreation drive the tourism economy in Wisconsin? The story of ROAM Adventure Basecamp, located in Seely and offering a modern twist to trailside camping, shows how a couple’s passion and love for outdoor recreation and the Northwoods led to a successful new business.

The Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) develops, maintains and promotes over 300 miles of user-friendly biking, skiing and hiking trails in northwest Wisconsin. The extensive trail network was the primary reason Suzann and Mo Mouw have owned a trailside second home in the Hayward area since 2004.

After they acquired 96 acres of land on the American Birkebeiner ski trail in the heart of the CAMBA trail system, Suzann and Mo thought it would be nice to share their love of trailside living with others. Mo states, “though there are a number of campgrounds in the area, none catered specifically to bikers and skiers - thus, the idea of ROAM was hatched.”

Started in 2017, the business provides both traditional tent camping sites and trendy, comfortable “tiny house” cabins with easy access to the trails. At the end of the day, guests can unwind in the campsites, eco-friendly cabins, or around a campfire with friends in a secluded natural setting.

The overwhelming feedback they receive from guests is their appreciation of being trailside with direct access to Wisconsin’s premier Northwoods trail system. “No more loading gear every time they start an adventure.”

The backbone of Wisconsin’s tourism industry is small business owners and small family-run operations.

“On any given weekend we bring over a hundred plus people to the area that likely would have gone somewhere else if we did not offer our services,” states Mo. Suzann and Mo’s ROAM Adventure Basecamp is just one of many examples of how individuals turn their passion for the outdoors into a thriving business that generates travel, creates jobs, and drives economic impact in Wisconsin.

by David Spiegelberg
Wisconsin Department of Tourism

Economic benefits

From manufacturers of outdoor gear to resorts and restaurants, outdoor recreation is a financial powerhouse throughout Wisconsin. People’s participation in outdoor recreation results in several types of economic activity. The most obvious is the travel-related spending that occurs on trips. These costs can include gas, meals, supplies (e.g., fuel for motors, bait, and shotgun shells), equipment rentals, overnight accommodations, entry fees, guide services, and various souvenirs. Of course, the amount of spending associated with travel varies considerably. Spending varies due to the distance participants travel, type of activity, personal preferences and other factors.

Typically, people engaged in many nature-based outdoor activities (e.g., bird watching, fishing, hunting, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding or cross-country skiing) spend about \$20 to \$50/party on day trips (see the sidebar on page 41 for citations).

People participating in motorized activities (snowmobiling and ATV/UTV riding in particular), and overnight trips tend to spend considerably more on a daily basis. It is not uncommon for these participants to spend more the \$100/person each day on travel-related expenses.⁵⁶

Another major form of economic activity associated with participation is the purchase and upkeep of outdoor gear. Although most of the supplies and equipment that residents purchase, including from local stores, are made in other states or countries, Wisconsin is home to many manufacturers of equipment used in nature-based recreation. Examples include fishing rods and lures, bicycles, motorboats and boat engines, canoes and kayaks, firearms and bows, and saddles.

In looking at the financial benefits that accrue to an area due to people’s participation in outdoor recreation, it is important to highlight money that “moves into” an area from visitors.

In Wisconsin, estimates of overall economic activity related to outdoor recreation range considerably due to differences in the accuracy of data collected, recreation activities and expenditures included, how indirect and induced regional impacts are calculated, the geographic scale of analysis and other factors.

Importantly, outdoor recreation has long been one of the key mechanisms by which economic activity and wealth is transferred from urban areas (and out-of-state visitors) to the state’s rural communities.

A tabulation, by county, of the broader tourism industry’s economic impact in Wisconsin is provided in Appendix 5.

Did You Know?

Wisconsin hosts dozens of **manufacturers** of outdoor recreation equipment – from fishing rods to sailboats and canoes to bicycles.



Photo: Maggie Kailhofer

Not only does the state's economy benefit from the spending generated by people participating in outdoor recreation, but additional financial benefits are generated by the places that are protected to provide high-quality experiences for residents and visitors.

The property values of privately-owned lands near federal, state, county and local parks, trails, fish and wildlife areas, forests, natural areas and other protected places are typically higher and more stable than other private properties. A recent study for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service found that, all else being equal, homes within a half-mile of wildlife refuges are valued on average 3% to 9% higher than houses further away.⁵³ In Wisconsin, a study found that lots adjacent to the Mountain-Bay State Trail in Brown County sold for an average of 9% more than similar property not located next to the trail.⁵⁴

The places that provide outdoor recreation opportunities also contribute to nearby communities' quality-of-life, which in turn has a direct impact on their ability to attract businesses. The experiences available at parks, trails and other recreation lands and waters are key selling points that communities use to entice companies to locate and expand their operations.

In today's economy, high technology and service-sector industries are prime sources of wealth creation and growth; their workers are typically interested in a diverse range of outdoor activities. Communities that can tap into their natural resource base to provide opportunities for active experiences – from biking to rock climbing to kayaking – stand to benefit economically.⁵⁵

Finally, providing opportunities for outdoor recreation complements other natural resource-based industries in the state, most notably the forest industry in the north. Similarly, several utility companies manage flowages throughout the state for power generation and flood control. They also provide the public with boat access sites and associated facilities on some of Wisconsin's most popular waterbodies.

Did you know?

Places open for public recreation also provide a wide range of high-quality habitats that support a diversity of native plants and animals. Indeed, some of the most ecologically important places in the state – Devil's Lake and Peninsula state parks, Kettle Moraine State Forest, the Apostle Islands and Horicon Marsh – are also among our most popular recreation destinations. It is estimated that over 75% of the Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Wisconsin are found on public lands in the state.⁵⁹

In addition to their habitat values, places open for public recreation also provide a range of ecological services including: flood control, groundwater replenishment, water and air filtration, nutrient capture, refuges for insects that pollinate agricultural crops, carbon sequestration, and temperature moderation.⁵⁷

A recent study found that the benefits generated from ecosystem services on lands acquired by the Minnesota DNR ranged from \$19 to \$154 per acre, annually.⁵⁸ It is likely that public lands in Wisconsin provide similar values.

Outdoor recreation: big business in Wisconsin!

Some examples of the economic impact of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin:

- **Consumer spending on outdoor recreation** in Wisconsin totaled **\$17.9 billion** which resulted in 168,000 directly-related jobs, \$5.1 billion in wages and salaries, and \$1.1 billion in state and local tax revenue.⁴²
- Properties in the **Wisconsin State Park system** draw an estimated **14 million visitor-days** that generate more than **\$1.0 billion in annual expenditures** in local communities.⁴³
- **\$19 million** in trip and equipment expenditures associated with **waterfowl hunting** in Wisconsin.⁴⁴
- **\$1.5 billion** in retail sales, 36,000 jobs and \$235 million in state and local tax revenue generated by **wildlife watchers** in Wisconsin.⁴⁵
- **\$425 million** in output and personal incomes related to **bicycle manufacturing** in Wisconsin.⁴⁶
- **\$1.6 billion** annual total spending and economic impact generated by **trout fishing** in the Driftless Area (much of which is in Wisconsin).⁴⁷
- **\$1.4 billion** in sales generated by Wisconsin's **horse industry**.⁴⁸
- Research conducted for the Wisconsin Department of Tourism indicates that **day visitors** to tourism events (which includes outdoor recreation trips) **spend an average of \$64 per visitor** and **overnight visitors spend \$144 per visitor**.⁴⁹
- Wisconsin **ATV riders** spend on average **\$164 per day** while out-of-state riders spend an average of **\$573 per trip** to Wisconsin.⁵⁰ A more recent study found that ATV riders spent between \$355 and \$427 per trip while visiting the network of trails in Jackson County.⁵¹

ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND FACTORS INFLUENCING THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

This section summarizes key topics that are expected to affect the future demand for outdoor recreation opportunities, as well as the nature of experiences, in Wisconsin.

Demographic Changes

The continued evolution of our population's demographic characteristics will drive changes in recreation participation. As our population continues to age, urbanize and diversify, participation rates and frequencies in outdoor recreation will change. Existing data suggest that the increase in older residents will drive an increase in the popularity of activities such as hiking, dog walking, bicycling, UTV riding, nature photography and bird watching.

Condition of Recreation Facilities

Ongoing maintenance is key to protecting public investments in outdoor recreation and ensuring that existing facilities continue to provide satisfying experiences for the public. Although many recreation facilities are modest in design and scale, they require ongoing maintenance to remain safe, useable and enjoyable. The flip-side of a long history of outdoor recreation infrastructure in Wisconsin is a large portfolio of older infrastructure in need of upgrades to meet user expectations and heavier use (e.g., conversion of pit toilets to plumbed toilet/shower buildings). Adequate funding is key to adequate maintenance. For example, in 2017, all projects supported with LWCF grants on state properties involved repair or renovation of existing facilities.

Technology Advances

Technological advances affect all aspects of our lives, including outdoor recreation. From electric bikes to WiFi in campgrounds, technology is changing recreational experiences and providing new ways for people to engage in the outdoors. These changes require recreation providers to develop and implement new policies, manage an increasing number of uses (many of which can conflict with more traditional ones) and adapt to shifting conditions and demands. Adequate funding is also key to support modernization of outdoor recreation infrastructure to meet public expectations.

Social media provides a means to share experiences quickly and widely, which can help recreation providers attract a broader audience and better understand the features and attributes that drive demand. Attention and interest on social media can also result in visitation spikes.



Photo: Greg Sanderson

Access to Public Lands

A longstanding issue complicating efforts to provide opportunities for several types of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin is the distribution of where many of the state's residents live and the locations of most public conservation and recreation lands. In large part driven by historical land use patterns and the economic fallout of the Great Depression in the 1920s and 1930s, over half of the lands open to the public (over 3.1 million acres) are located in just ten northern counties. Over half of the state's population resides in just nine counties, all in the southern or eastern part of Wisconsin.

This inverse distribution of public land and people means that for many residents wanting to participate in activities that require larger expanses of land they often must travel multiple hours. And as peoples' lives become busier and they have less time to devote to outdoor recreation (and the travel time required), the use of many public lands near urban centers – for example, Kettle Moraine State Forest, Devil's Lake, High Cliff and Kohler-Andrae state parks, and Richard Bong State Recreation Area – has grown significantly.



Photo: Susan Braun

Access to Private Lands

A generation or two ago, a higher percentage of our population lived in rural settings (see Figure 6 on page 20) and people who lived in cities were likely to have a relative or close friend that lived in the country. Consequently, many residents could get permission to hunt, fish, hike, pick berries or other activities on land owned by someone they knew. More and more residents now live in urban or suburban settings and no longer have direct contact with rural landowners.

In addition, there has been a loss of public access to industrial forest land in recent decades as paper companies, which historically owned over a million acres in the state and allowed public access, have sold most of their land holdings to timber investment management organizations or real estate investment trusts. These new owners typically have not re-enrolled their lands into programs that allow public access (Managed Forest Law).

Two programs administered by the DNR facilitate public access to private land for recreation purposes:

Managed Forest Law (MFL) Program

The program reduces property taxes for eligible landowners in return for implementing a certified forest management plan for their property. Landowners can choose to allow public access for hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing, and cross-country skiing (for which they receive a greater financial benefit).

Voluntary Public Access (VPA) Program

Landowners who are willing to allow the public to hunt, fish, trap and watch wildlife on their property can enroll in this program and receive a modest payment. Recently, 32,000 acres had been enrolled.

Compatibility

The overwhelming majority of outdoor recreation occurs without significant conflicts between participants in the same or different activities. However, on occasion, conflicts emerge that can impact participant's satisfaction. Often, an underlying cause of recreation conflict is simply the density of use in an area. Even activities that are prone to conflict with one another (e.g., water skiing and fishing on the same lake) can co-exist if the number of interactions is minimal. Yet, as the number of participants in an area increases, overcrowding can easily emerge and result in conflicts and displacement of visitors. Many outdoor recreation providers increasingly must devote resources to address conflicts.

Aspects that can influence compatibility include:

- Expectations of participants about interactions with others.
- Skill and experience level of participants.
- Duration and intensity of interactions.
- Tolerance levels of participants, including social values and beliefs.

Techniques that can increase compatibility and decrease conflicts include:

- Education, outreach, and signage.
- Community engagement and self-policing by groups and clubs.
- Regulations and enforcement.
- Separation of participants in time and/or space.

Invasive Species and Habitat Quality

People have moved living things - sometimes purposefully, sometimes inadvertently - for millennia. Occasionally when non-native species are brought into a new area, they will spread rapidly and widely. When this happens, major impacts can occur to native wetland and upland ecosystems, farm and ranch lands, lakes and streams, and other settings. Invasive plants, animals, and pathogens can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function, economic value of ecosystems, and human health.

Invasive plants and animals can significantly affect recreational experiences. Hunters, hikers and birdwatchers can find they are no longer able to walk in their favorite areas. Thorny multiflora rose, dense stands of buckthorn and other invaders can fill in the understory of once open native forests and grasslands. As habitats are modified by invasive plant species, wildlife that depend on native vegetation are affected. Invasive animals such as the mute swan can also change wildlife opportunities by chasing away waterfowl from the waterbodies they occupy.

Fishing outings can result in disappointment when aquatic invasive species modify lake and stream habitat. Eurasian water-milfoil clogs boat motors and invasive animals, such as the rusty crayfish, devour aquatic plants, reducing habitat for native fish at every stage of their life cycle.

Weather Patterns and Changing Climate

Weather patterns directly affect participation in outdoor recreation – a rainy weekend can result in cancelled camping or bicycling plans, while a very snowy winter in the north can attract lots of snowmobilers and skiers from Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago.

The changing patterns of our climate over extended periods of time may also affect the type and timing of participation. If, as predicted, spring arrives earlier and autumn later, opportunities for many types of outdoor recreation activities will be extended while others may be reduced. For example, reduced snow cover may lead some cross country skiers to shift to fat-tire biking, which doesn't require as much snow pack for an enjoyable experience.

Species' ranges and migration periods are projected to continue shifting as well.⁶⁰ This is likely to affect activities such as bird watching, hunting, and fishing over time.

Funding for Providing and Operating Places

Purchasing lands, developing and maintaining recreation facilities, managing habitats, enforcing regulations, and the other tasks associated with operating Wisconsin's recreation infrastructure is costly. Federal, state, and local agencies spend millions of dollars managing public lands each year.

Funds to maintain and operate conservation lands and recreation facilities come from a variety of sources, including hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and stamps, park entrance fees, trail passes, excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment, grants and donations.

In addition to LWCF funds, over the last 25 years the DNR, local units of government, and non-profit conservation organizations have used funds from the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program to help pay for many of the lands and facilities that provide recreation opportunities around the state.

The Stewardship funding is currently \$33.25 million per year, allocated as follows:

- DNR land acquisition: \$9.0 million (1/3rd for purchasing land, 2/3rd for purchasing easements)
- DNR property development: \$3.75 million
- Grants to counties to acquire lands for county forests: \$5.0 million
- Matching grants to local units of government (LUGs) for property development and land acquisition: \$6.0 million
- Matching grants to non-profit conservation organizations for land acquisition: \$7.0 million
- Recreational boating aids: \$2.5 million



Photo: Savannah Erzen



Photo: Dan Thoftne





GAPS AND NEEDS IN OUR EXISTING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

In developing the following statewide needs and gaps in our recreation opportunities, the department incorporated information from:

- The SCORP recreation participation survey question regarding needed recreation opportunities in residents' home county (Appendix 6).
- Recreation Opportunities Analysis, which identified recreation needs for each of the eight regions of the state (Appendix 8).
- The SCORP survey of county park directors, which asked about needs at the county level (Appendix 4).
- The SCORP Advisory Team and department staff.

Statewide Recreation Needs:

Places near population centers

Because of the inverse distribution of our population and public lands as well as the limited amount of time people have to participate, there is a very large need to provide more places for people to participate in outdoor recreation near where they live. In particular is the need to provide opportunities for residents to visit places after work or for a couple of hours on a weekend. Places that provide opportunities for hiking, all types of bicycle riding, dog walking, picnicking, and different water-related activities such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking are likely to be heavily used.

Trails

By nearly every measure, the largest need throughout the state is for more trails that enable people to experience natural settings, visit the vibrant downtowns of our cities and villages, commute to work, and access favorite sites. All types of trails are in demand – hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, snowmobiling, ATV/UTV and motorcycle riding, and 4WD vehicle trails.

Water access – shoreline and boat launches

Lakes, streams and rivers are a defining feature of Wisconsin. From the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River, from the thousands of inland lakes and the tens of thousands of miles of flowing water, residents and visitors have been drawn to the water's edge to fish, hunt, launch any manner of watercraft, bird watch and beach walk. Access to water remains a universal need throughout the state.

Camping opportunities

With a large cohort of retirees travelling in RVs combined with an adventurous younger generation, demand for camping has grown in recent years and is likely to remain popular for years to come. Given the divergence in desired experiences – some campers wanting access to hot showers and WiFi while others wanting neither – recreation providers will need to collaborate and coordinate on providing the camping experiences best suited to different public lands.

Statewide Recreation Needs: (cont.)

Dog parks and exercise areas

Taking care of a dog has many benefits, not the least of which is the exercise people get in walking their pets. With the steady rise in dog ownership (75% of people in their thirties own a dog) and an urbanizing population has come an increasing demand for places to walk, play with, socialize and train our canine friends. Many municipal and county dog parks are among their most visited properties.

Target shooting ranges

Many hunters and shooting sports participants live in rural areas or belong to gun clubs and practice their craft on their or the club's property. However, as our population continues to urbanize there is a growing need for places where people can practice gun and archery marksmanship and safety. By their nature, firearm ranges generate considerable sounds and siting new ranges has been a challenge in more populated areas of the state.

Statewide Policy Needs:

Better understand place-based recreation and associated outcomes

The survey conducted for this SCORP on recreation participation generated considerable data on which outdoor activities residents pursue and how often (see Appendix 6). What is not well known is where these "participation days" actually take place – that is, where, when, and why they occur at different places. Questions for which more detailed, property-specific, place-based data are needed include:

- How many people visit the place or property?
- When and what are the patterns of visitation?
- What recreation activities do they pursue?
- How far do visitors travel to reach the property and why did they visit the particular property (as opposed to other options)?
- What would improve their satisfaction?
- What are the economic, health, and social benefits associated with their visit?

With a more complete understanding of property use and the features and attributes that draw people, agencies can make more informed decisions about what types of recreation facilities to build and maintain at different places. And the public can better understand their "return on investment."

Better understand the nature-based recreation preferences of our diversifying population

Data are needed on the recreation preferences of our changing population. For a range of reasons, people of varying ages, residential settings, incomes, and social, racial, ethnic and cultural identities participate in different types of outdoor activities in different places. More information is needed on the types of activities and settings sought by the diversity of Wisconsin residents. In addition, data on how and where to most effectively provide quality experiences for people with varying backgrounds and cultures are needed.

Enhance and stabilize funding for outdoor recreation

Funding for conservation and recreation is derived from many sources and the overall total has fluctuated considerably from year to year. This has complicated efforts to plan, develop, and maintain recreation facilities. Some states have implemented funding sources that provide a more stable source of money for conservation and recreation projects. In addition to more consistent funding, there is a need to broaden the network of people and sources that help pay for the management of public lands in the state.

Expand collaborations among recreation providers

Each recreation provider has unique capabilities and their lands offer different types of experiences, features, facilities, and opportunities. There would be substantial benefit in continuing and expanding collaborations among federal, county and local governments. Focus should be placed on identifying ways to coordinate recreation experiences in each region of the state, minimizing duplicative efforts, and maximizing the benefits of recreation investments.

Together, providing well-planned, safe and enjoyable recreation opportunities that visitor's value will increase support for local communities and businesses, strengthen tourism, respond to evolving demographic and visitor needs, reduce user conflicts and improve natural settings.

Regional Recreation Needs (high needs identified in the Recreation Opportunities Analysis – see Appendix 8)

Great Northwest Region

ATV/UTV riding
Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
Bird or wildlife watching
Camping - developed and primitive
Canoeing or kayaking
Fishing
Four-wheel vehicle driving
Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
Hunting - big game
Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
Off-highway motorcycle riding
Swimming in lakes and rivers

Western Sands Region

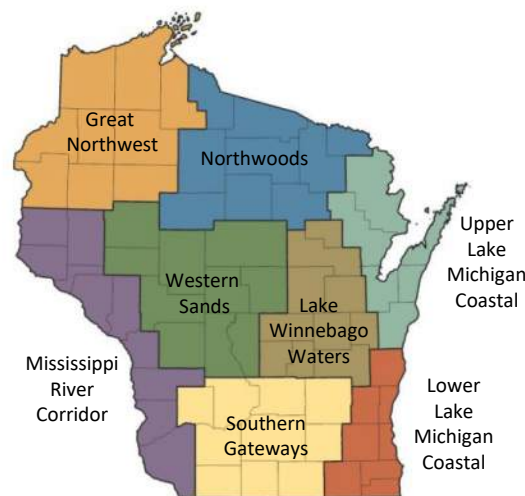
Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
Bird or wildlife watching
Camping - developed and primitive
Canoeing or kayaking
Cross country skiing
Dog walking
Fishing
Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
Horseback riding
Hunting - big game
Picnicking
Snowshoeing
Swimming in lakes and rivers

Mississippi River Corridor Region

Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
Bird or wildlife watching
Camping - developed and primitive
Canoeing or kayaking
Cross country skiing
Dog walking
Fishing
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.
Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
Hunting - big game
Nature photography
Participating in nature-based education programs
Picnicking
Snowshoeing
Visiting a beach, beach walking

Northwoods Region

ATV/UTV riding
Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
Camping - developed and primitive
Canoeing or kayaking
Fishing
Four-wheel vehicle driving
Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
Hunting - big game
Off-highway motorcycle riding
Participating in nature-based education programs
Snowmobiling



Southern Gateways Region

ATV/UTV riding
Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
Bird or wildlife watching
Camping - developed and primitive
Canoeing or kayaking
Fishing
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.
Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
Picnicking
Snowshoeing
Swimming in lakes and rivers

Upper Lake Michigan Coastal Region

Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
Bird or wildlife watching
Camping - developed and primitive
Canoeing or kayaking
Fishing - all types
Hiking, walking, trail running or backpacking
Horseback riding
Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
Visiting a beach, beach walking

Lake Winnebago Waters Region

Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
Bird or wildlife watching
Camping - developed and primitive
Canoeing or kayaking
Cross country skiing
Dog walking
Fishing
Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
Hunting - big game
Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
Nature photography
Participating in nature-based education programs
Picnicking
Swimming in lakes and rivers
Visiting a beach, beach walking

Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region

Bicycling - bicycle touring/road riding and mountain biking/off-road biking
Bird or wildlife watching
Camping - primitive
Canoeing or kayaking
Cross country skiing
Fishing
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.
Hiking, walking, trail running, backpacking
Motor boating (inc. waterski/tubing, personal watercraft)
Nature photography
Picnicking
Snowshoeing
Swimming in lakes and rivers

A photograph of two people walking away from the camera on a dirt path. The person on the left is wearing a blue jacket and dark pants. The person on the right is wearing a brown vest over a light-colored shirt and khaki pants. They are walking through a dense forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The path is light-colored and appears to be made of gravel or dirt. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

CHAPTER III LOOKING AHEAD

Wisconsin has beautiful places, a four-season climate, healthy and diverse habitats, and citizens that care deeply about the environment and enthusiastically participate in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.

Together, these provide the framework for identifying goals for the future.

STATE OF WISCONSIN'S GOALS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION



1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation



2. Grow partnerships



3. Provide high-quality experiences



4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits



5. Enhance funding and financial stability



BOOST PARTICIPATION

Increase Wisconsin residents' participation and frequency of participation in outdoor recreation.

Objectives

- Increase the economic, social, and public health benefits resulting from residents' and out-of-state visitors' participation in outdoor recreation in Wisconsin.
- Enhance residents' overall quality of life.

Desired Actions

- Increase promotion and marketing of places that provide high-quality outdoor experiences.
- Continue improving the Public Access Lands maps and online mapping application.
- Continue upgrading and developing recreation facilities to meet demand.
- Evaluate visitor use at different types of public lands and waters.
- Identify and implement strategies to improve access, reduce barriers, and provide desired experiences, particularly for groups that have traditionally had lower participation rates or limited access.
- Expand efforts among federal, state, county, and local governments to coordinate and collaborate on providing recreation opportunities that leverage the unique features and facilities available at their lands and waters.
- Identify and implement programs to encourage more residents to participate in outdoor recreation, particularly as they age.



GOAL 1

Photo: Joseph Warren

GOAL 2



GROW PARTNERSHIPS

Continue to strengthen connections and partnerships across the spectrum of agencies, organizations, and businesses with a vested interest in outdoor recreation.

Objectives

- Improve the effectiveness of public and private recreation providers in delivering high-quality experiences for residents and out-of-state visitors.
- Enhance the success of industries that manufacture outdoor recreation equipment and businesses that provide a range of facilities, retail opportunities and travel-related services associated with outdoor recreation.
- Facilitate support and advocacy for policies, programs and funding to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Integrate and coordinate SCORP, local outdoor recreation plans, and other agencies' and organizations' recreation plans.

Desired Actions

- Strengthen collaborations across public and private owners of land that provide recreation opportunities. Identify ways to provide more and enhanced participation opportunities across the collective portfolio of public and private lands.
- Continue building partnerships between outdoor recreation providers and the health care industry to improve residents' physical and mental health.
- Bring together manufacturers of outdoor gear & equipment with recreation providers to identify ways to market Wisconsin-made products and increase participation.
- Cultivate collaboration between outdoor recreation groups and non-traditional partners.
- Increase outdoor recreation opportunities by coordinating recreation interest groups, health care providers, recreation providers, elected officials and others to collaboratively develop outdoor recreation projects.



PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY EXPERIENCES

Provide opportunities and settings – across the full range of public and private recreation lands – that, collectively, meet the state’s recreational needs.

Objectives

- Encourage participation across all types of recreation.
- Provide recreation opportunities that properties are well-suited to provide.
- Seek to improve compatibility and lessen conflict among and between recreational uses.
- Maintain and enhance the ecological health of recreation properties and enrich people’s connection with nature.
- Tailor recreation opportunities provided at places to match local conditions, needs, and requests.

Desired Actions

- Provide collections of recreation experiences that are matched to property conditions, needs and opportunities and that maximize compatibility.
- Identify and proactively address potential obstacles, conflicts and issues related to providing high-quality outdoor recreation experiences.
- Assess satisfaction of participants in a range of outdoor activities.



GOAL 3

IMPROVE DATA TO ENHANCE VISITOR EXPERIENCES AND BENEFITS

On an ongoing basis, gather, analyze and distribute data on recreation participation in Wisconsin and associated economic, health and social benefits.

Objectives

- Improve the public's and elected officials' understanding of the economic, health and social benefits from public and private investments in outdoor recreation.
- Improve property managers' and administrators' understanding of both property-specific patterns of use and potential ways to improve visitor experiences.
- Improve public and private providers' understanding of regional recreational demands.
- Inform the next iteration of the Wisconsin SCORP.
- Better understand the recreation facilities and amenities that draw visitors to different types of properties.

Desired Actions

- Develop a standard protocol to assess visitation and satisfaction that can be applied to a wide variety of outdoor recreation properties.
- Gather data at an initial set of places on numbers of visitors, activities pursued, patterns of visitation, levels of satisfaction, travel-related spending and, as feasible, other information related to property use and management.
- Apply information related to property visitation to the DNR's property planning process for decisions related to individual properties and broader regional needs.
- In support of the development of the next iteration of the Wisconsin SCORP, assess overall outdoor recreation participation in Wisconsin and associated issues through a statewide survey.

GOAL 4

ENHANCE FUNDING AND FINANCIAL STABILITY

*Broaden and strengthen the funding sources for
developing and managing outdoor recreation
facilities and lands.*

Objectives

- Provide a robust, long-term, and stable funding framework for outdoor recreation facilities and lands in Wisconsin.
- Identify ways for all participants in outdoor recreation to contribute equitably to the development and management of recreation opportunities.

Desired Actions

- Facilitate collaboration among federal, state, tribal, and local governments and other partners to fully utilize available LWCF and state funding to maintain, develop, and enhance outdoor recreation facilities.
- Develop and distribute materials that describe the economic, health and social values of outdoor recreation.
- Continue building and encouraging public property friends groups.
- Survey outdoor recreation participants to identify their support for different options to fund the development and operation of recreation facilities.
- Explore opportunities for public land management agencies to cooperatively develop creative funding solutions and efficiencies to meet recreation needs.



GOAL 5



Photo: City of Madison

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND PRIORITIES IN WISCONSIN OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

As required by federal guidelines, Wisconsin has developed an Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) that provides criteria and standards for grant selection to distribute LWCF funds. The OPSP assures equal opportunity for eligible project applicants to participate in the benefits of the LWCF State Assistance Program.

Wisconsin has developed a project selection process that evaluates and selects projects based on quality and conformance with its priority rating system. Grants cover 50% of eligible project costs. The adjacent information provides guidance for how the State of Wisconsin will utilize LWCF monies to help achieve its recreation goals and objectives.

Wisconsin Open Project Selection Process (OPSP)

As described in Wisconsin Administrative Code (ch. NR 50.06), Wisconsin divides its LWCF allocation between state projects and pass-through grants to local governments, school districts, and Native American tribes. For state projects, LWCF project selection occurs via the DNR capital budget development and property planning process.

Proposed projects are evaluated and prioritized on three criteria: compatibility with the property master plan, compatibility with the six-year facility plan, and available matching funds.

Local projects are selected through a competitive grant process. Applications are accepted once per year. DNR grant staff score applications on a series of criteria that reflect statutory requirements, administrative code, and program policies. Projects are awarded funds in rank order until funds are fully utilized. Program application materials are reviewed and revised annually (Appendix 9). The DNR works closely with selected project sponsors to conduct final reviews and submit proposed grants to NPS for review. Each grant must be approved by the NPS.

LWCF Grants:

Eligible Applicants

- Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and school districts are eligible.

Eligible Projects

- Land acquisition or development projects that will provide opportunities for public outdoor recreation.
- Property with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries and reservoirs that will provide water-based outdoor recreation.
- Property that provides special recreation opportunities, such as floodplains, wetlands and areas adjacent to scenic highways.
- Natural areas and outstanding scenic areas, where the objective is to preserve the scenic or natural values, including wildlife areas and areas of physical or biological importance. These areas shall be open to the general public for outdoor recreation use to the extent that the natural attributes of the areas will not be seriously impaired or lost.
- Land or development within urban areas for day use picnic areas.
- Land or development of nature-based recreation trails.
- Development of basic outdoor recreation facilities.
- Renovation of existing outdoor recreation facilities which are in danger of being lost for public use.

Funding Priorities

- Meet the needs of urban areas.
- Provide recreation opportunities that serve diverse populations.
- Develop facilities in areas with limited outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Provide multi-use facilities.
- Meet outdoor recreation needs identified by local communities.

See **Appendix 9** for more information on grant guidance



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Since 1965, the following 532 entities have received grants from the
Land and Water Conservation Fund
to help fund recreation projects throughout Wisconsin.

Native American Nations		Cities			Villages				Towns		Schools and park commissions	
Menominee Indian Tribe		Abbotsford	Janesville	Platteville	Allouez	Deerfield	Lone Rock	Stockholm	Allouez	Pleasant Spring	Algoma School Dist.	Ondossagon School Dist.
Oneida Indian Tribe		Adams	Jefferson	Plymouth	Alma Center	Deforest	Luxemburg	Stoddard	Angelica	Richmond	Arbor Vitae Woodruff Park Comm.	Oregon School Dist.
State agencies		Algoma	Juneau	Port Washington	Aniwa	Dickeyville	Lyndon Station	Strum	Armstrong Creek	Shelby	Arkansas Joint School Dist. No 1	Pepin School Dist.
		Alma	Kaukauna	Portage	Arena	Dorchester	Maribel	Suring	Bass Lake	Sheldon	Bayfield School Dist.	Phillips School Dist.
		Altoona	Kenosha	Princeton	Argyle	Dresser	Mcfarland	Taylor	Belle Plaine	St. Lawrence	Beaver Dam Unified School Dist.	Plum City School Dist.
		Antigo	Kewaunee	Racine	Arpin	East Troy	Melrose	Theresa	Bellevue	Suamico	Black River Falls School Dist.	Portage School Dist.
Department of Natural Resources		Appleton	Kiel	Reedsburg	Ashwaubenon	Edgar	Mishicot	Tigerton	Bellevue	Sullivan	Bloomer School Dist.	Potosi-Tennyson Park Commission
Department of Transportation		Arcadia	La Crosse	Rhineland	Athens	Eleva	Montfort	Trempealeau	Bone Lake	Troy	Bowler School Dist.	Prentice School Dist.
University of Wisconsin		Ashland	Ladysmith	Rice Lake	Auburndale	Elk Mound	Monticello	Turtle Lake	Brussels	Wabeno	Butternut School Dist.	Princeton School Dist.
Counties		Baraboo	Lake Geneva	Richland Center	Baldwin	Ellsworth	Mount Horeb	Twin Lakes	Caledonia	Washington Island	Cassville School Dist.	Pulaski School Dist.
		Barron	Lake Mills	River Falls	Balsam Lake	Elmwood	Mukwonago	Viola	Caledonia	Waumandee	Chilton School Dist.	Rib Lake School Dist.
		Bayfield	Lancaster	Seymour	Bangor	Endeavor	Muscoda	Warrens	Clay Banks	Wescott	Chippewa Falls School Dist.	Ripon Public School District
		Beaver Dam	Lodi	Shawano	Barneveld	Ephraim	Nashotah	Waunakee	Clayton	Weston	Cornell School Dist.	Seneca School Dist.
Beloit		Madison	Sheboygan		Bay City	Ettrick	Nelsonville	West Salem	Clinton		Cuba City School Dist.	Seymour School Dist.
Berlin		Manawa	Sheboygan Falls		Bear Creek	Fall Creek	New Glarus	Weston	Cottage Grove		D.C. Everest School Dist.	Shiocton School Dist.
Black River Falls		Manitowoc	Shell Lake		Belmont	Fall River	Niagara	Westport	Dunn		DeForest Area Schools	South Milwaukee School Dist.
Blair		Marinette	Shullsburg		Big Bend	Forestville	North Hudson	Weyerhaeuser	Eagle Point		Dodgeville School Dist.	Southwestern WI Community Sch Dist.
Bloomer		Marion	Sparta		Biramwood	Fox Lake	Norwalk	White Lake	Eau Pleine		Durand School Dist.	Sparta School Dist.
Clark		Boscobel	Spooner		Black Creek	Francis Creek	Oakfield	Whitelaw	Fitchburg		East Troy School Dist.	St. Croix Falls School Dist.
Columbia		Brillion	Stanley		Black Earth	Fredonia	Oregon	Whiting	Florence		Elk Mound Area School Dist.	Stanley-Boyd Area Schools
Dane		Brodhead	Star Prairie		Bloomington	Friendship	Orfordville	Wilton	Genesee		Elkhart Lake School Dist.	Sun Prairie School Dist.
Dodge		Brookfield	Stevens Point		Blue Mounds	Friesland	Pardeeville	Winneconne	Gilmanton		Flambeau School Dist.	Thorp School Dist.
Door		Buffalo	Stoughton		Bonduel	Gays Mills	Pepin	Wittenberg	Gordon		Florence School Dist.	Turtle Lake School Dist.
Douglas		Cashton	Sturgeon Bay		Bowler	Germantown	Plainfield	Woodville	Grant		Germantown Junction School Dist.	Unity School Dist.
Dunn		Cedarburg	Sun Prairie		Boyceville	Gilman	Plover		Green Lake		Glidden School Dist.	Verona Area School Dist.
Eau Claire		Chilton	Superior		Brandon	Glenbeulah	Poplar		Greenfield		Greendale School Dist.	Wabeno Joint School Dist. No 1
Florence		Chippewa Falls			Brownsville	Tomah	Port Edwards		Greenville		Hazel Green School Dist.	Washburn School District
Fond du Lac		Clintonville	Tomahawk		Butler	Grantsburg	Prentice		Harrison		Holmen Public Schools	Whitnall School Dist.
Forest		Cuba City	Two Rivers		Cambria	Greendale	Randolph		Holland		Hudson School Dist.	Wild Rose School Dist.
Green Lake		Darlington	Verona		Camp Douglas	Gresham	Redgranite		Iron River		La Crosse School Dist.	Wilmot Union High School Dist.
Iron		De Pere	Viroqua		Campbellsport	Hammond	Rib Lake		Ixonia		Ladysmith-Hawkins School Dist.	Wisconsin Dells School Dist.
Jackson		Delafield	Washburn		Casco	Hancock	Roberts		Jacobs		Lake Holcombe School Dist.	Wrightstown Comm. School Dist.
Jefferson		Dodgeville	Watertown		Cassville	Hatley	Rosendale		Knight		Lake Tomahawk Parks Committee	
Juneau		Durand	Waukesha		Cazenovia	Highland	Rothschild		Kronenwetter		Lodi School Dist.	
Kenosha		Eagle River	Waupaca		Cecil	Hollandale	Rudolph		Lafayette		Luck School Dist.	
Kewaunee		Eau Claire	Waupun		Cedar Grove	Hortonville	Sauk City		Lebanon		Markesan Joint School Dist.	
La Crosse		Edgerton	Wausau		Clayton	Howard	Saukville		Liberty Grove		Marshall School Dist.	
Lafayette		Fennimore	Wautoma		Clear Lake	Howards Grove	Scandinavia		Liberty Grove		McFarland School Dist.	
Langlade		Fond du Lac	Wauwatosa		Cleveland	Hustler	Sharon		Lima		Menomonee School Dist.	
Lincoln		Fort Atkinson	West Bend		Cobb-Highland	Iola	Sherwood		Menasha		Monona Grove School Dist.	
Manitowoc		Galesville	Westby		Cochrane	Iron Ridge	Shorewood		Merton		Monroe School Dist.	
Marathon		Glenwood City	Weyauwega		Coleman	Junction City	Sister Bay		Middleton		Montello School Dist.	
Marinette		Grand Chute	Whitehall		Colfax	Kellnersville	Slinger		Minocqua		Mt. Horeb Joint School Dist. No 6	
Marquette		Green Bay	Whitewater		Coloma	Kendall	Soldiers Grove		Mt. Pleasant		Muskego-Norway School Dist.	
Milwaukee		Green Lake	Wisconsin Dells		Combined Locks	Kewaskum	Somerset		Norway		N. Fond Du Lac School Dist.	
Oconto		Hartford	Wisconsin Rapids		Coon Valley	Kimberly	Spring Green		Oakdale		Nekoosa School Dist.	
Oneida		Hillsboro	Osseo		Cross Plains	La Farge	Spring Valley		Onalaska		New Auburn School Dist.	
Outagamie		Hudson	Park Falls		Dane	Lake Delton	St. Cloud		Oregon		New Richmond School Dist.	
Ozaukee		Hurley	Peshtigo		Darien	Little Chute	St. Nazianz		Oulu		Northwood School Dist.	
Pepin		Independence	Pewaukee		De Soto	Lomira	Stockbridge		Pewaukee		Onalaska School Dist.	

2019-2023

Wisconsin

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



DNR publication number: LF 114.2 (2019)

Cornell Hydroelectric Project
FERC Project No. 2639

Final Report

Recreation Study

Prepared for



Prepared by



meadhunt.com

June 2021

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Documentation of Consultation on Draft Study Plan

Appendix 2 Future and Potential Recreation Questionnaire

Appendix 3 Inventory and Condition Assessment Forms

Appendix 4 Completed Observation Forms

Appendix 5 Completed Questionnaires

Appendix 6 City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Appendix 7 Documentation of Consultation on Draft Recreation Plan

List of Abbreviations and Terms

City	City of Cornell
Commission.....	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
CORP	City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
FERC.....	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Licensee	Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin
NSPW.....	Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin
NPS	National Park Service
Project	Cornell Hydroelectric Project
RAW	River Alliance of Wisconsin
SCORP	Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan
WDNR	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Xcel Energy	Xcel Energy Services, Inc.

1. Introduction

Northern States Power Company – Wisconsin (NSPW, Licensee), d/b/a Xcel Energy, currently holds a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) to operate and maintain the Cornell Hydroelectric Project (Project). The Project is owned, operated, and maintained by the Licensee. The current license, which designates the Project as FERC No. 2639, expires on November 30, 2023. To obtain a new license, the Licensee must submit a final license application to FERC no later than November 30, 2021. The final license application, in part, must include an evaluation of the existing recreational facilities associated with the Project along with any potential recreation enhancements.

On March 19, 2019, the Licensee held a Joint Agency Meeting to present information about the Project. At the meeting, and during the 60-day comment period immediately following, the Licensee received comments and study requests from several entities. The National Park Service (NPS), River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and the City of Cornell (City) requested a study of recreation facilities and an investigation of recreation enhancements as part of the relicensing process.

NSPW developed a draft study plan and provided it to the NPS, RAW, WDNR, and City for comments on February 27, 2020. NSPW addressed the comments received and modified the study plan as appropriate. See Appendix 1 for documentation of consultation on the draft plan. The study plan was finalized and implemented during the 2020 recreation season. The results from the recreation surveys and proposed recreation enhancements are outlined in this report.

As a result of the survey, NSPW developed conceptual recreation designs for improvements to the shoreline fishing area downstream along the east bank of the tailwater, including public access and parking improvements. The conceptual design is provided as part of the draft license application and any comments received will be addressed prior to submitting the final license application. NSPW plans to fund these recreation improvements as part of the requirements for the new license.

NSPW is granting the City of Cornell access rights or fee title to NSPW's shoreline property adjacent to Mill Yard Park to accommodate the City's proposed improvements to Mill Yard Park and assisting them with several other recreation amenities as outlined in Section 5 of this plan.

2. Study Plan Elements

2.1 Study Goals and Objectives

The objective of this study was to obtain a subjective assessment of recreation facility conditions and enhancements needed but currently absent; determine capacity of existing facilities to address current and future user demand; and produce sufficient information to evaluate such impacts as well as provide the basis for making recreation enhancement recommendations.

2.2 Background and Existing Information

Recreation in the Project vicinity is dominated by the presence of Brunet Island State Park, which had 124,799 visitors in 2018 (City of Cornell CORP 2019). Brunet Island State Park collects its own detailed recreation use records; therefore, NSPW is not proposing any studies specific to the Park. However, there are several recreational use areas, both under and outside the control of NSPW, that will be evaluated for recreational use and improvements.

The most-recent Form 80 survey was completed in 2014 and filed with the FERC on March 31, 2015. The survey indicated the Brunet Island State Park swim area and campsites had the highest percentage of use. Reservoir fishing, picnic areas, trails, active recreation areas, and boat launch areas within the State Park showed moderate use. The boat launch outside of the State Park also showed moderate use. Using the most-recent Form 80 survey data as a guide, it was determined additional facility conditions and capacity demand information was needed to address future recreational use.

The Current Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2019-2023 places an emphasis on trails and access to water. Fortunately, there are numerous opportunities to access trails within the Project vicinity including the Old Abe Trail, the Ice Age Trail, and the trails in Brunet Island State Park. Access to the water on the west side of Cornell Flowage is achieved via the 266th St. informal access site and the Ice Age Trail, as well as the portage take-out, trail, and put-in. Access to the east shore of the Cornell Flowage is achieved via Brunet Island State Park, the City of Cornell's public boat landing and picnic area just upstream of Mill Yard Park, and Mill Yard Park on Bay Road. Tailwater access to the Chippewa River below Cornell Dam is provided along both the east and west shorelines.

2.3 Study Area

The recreation sites listed in **Table 2.3-1** were included in the inventory and recreational use study.

Table 2.3-1 Recreation Inventory and Use Sites

Recreation Site	Owner
266th Street Informal Access Site	NSPW
Portage Take-Out	NSPW
Portage Trail	NSPW
Portage Put-In	NSPW
Tailwater Fishing Area (East Side)	NSPW
Tailwater Fishing Area (West Side) ¹	NSPW
City of Cornell Public Boat Landing	City

¹ Surveyed from the east side of the river.

Brunet Island State Park collects its own detailed recreation use records and the site was not inventoried or surveyed. NSPW has committed to working with the City of Cornell on several improvements at Mill Yard Park, including an interconnection with Old Abe Trail. The City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) details the needs of Mill Yard Park and the site was not inventoried or surveyed.

2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 Recreation Inventory

All sites listed in **Table 2.3-1** were inventoried on September 14, 2020. Recreation data was recorded on the Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment Form shown below in **Figure 2.4.1-1**.

Figure 2.4.1-1 Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment Form.

Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment											
Location:					Date:						
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639											
Survey Person:											
GPS Location:											
Amenity Photo Numbers:											
Shoreline Photo Numbers:											
Entryway Photo Number:											
Type of Amenity:		Quantity of Amenities:		Condition of Amenity:				Barrier Free? (Y or N)			
				-Not Usable (N)							
				-Needs Repair (R)							
				-Needs Maintenance (M)							
				-Good Working Condition (G)							
				Notes:							
Boat Launch		Lanes: Launches:		N R M G							
Portage Take-Out				N R M G							
Portage Put-In				N R M G							
Portage Trail		Length:		N R M G							
Skid Pier				N R M G							
Fishing Pier				N R M G							
Picnic Tables				N R M G							
Restroom				N R M G							
Trash Receptacles				N R M G							
Trail				N R M G							
Other				N R M G							
Parking		Total Spaces:		Number of Spaces (each type):				Notes:		Condition:	
				Standard:							
				Barrier-Free:							
				Trailer:							
				Other:							
Signage:		Number:		Condition:		Comments: Provide Details on which signs need attention.					
FERC Project Sign				N R M G							
Regulations Signs				N R M G							
Directional				N R M G							
Interpretive				N R M G							
Additional Comments:											
Describe any signs of overuse or anything observed that is not already documented above.											

The following information was recorded on the Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment Form:

- Primary type(s) of recreation provided at the site
- Existing sanitation facilities (if any)
- Type of vehicle access and parking capacity (if any)
- Presence and type of barrier-free facilities (if any)
- GPS location of the recreation site
- Photographs to document amenities, signage, site access from the primary road(s), and any adverse environmental impacts (including erosion)

2.4.2 Facility Condition Assessment

During at least one visit to each site listed in **Table 2.3-1**, the condition of each amenity and signage, if present, and its immediate vicinity were assessed and recorded on the Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment Form. Any specific item in need of attention was described on the form.

Each site amenity and signage was given a rating, as follows:

- Not Usable and Needs Replacement
- Needs Repair
- Needs Maintenance or Cleaning
- Good Working Condition (does not need any attention)
- Facility Lacking; need to install facility or otherwise add enhancement (identify item).

2.4.3 Recreation Use Survey Schedule

Fieldwork for the recreation assessment was completed during the 2020 recreation season. Regular visits to each of the sites listed in **Table 2.3-1** were made between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. beginning on March 22 and ending on September 13, based on the schedule below:

- Sunday, March 22
- Sunday, April 26
- Saturday, May 16
- Saturday, May 23
- Sunday, June 14
- Saturday, June 27
- Thursday July 2³
- Sunday, July 12
- Monday, July 27
- Thursday, July 30²
- Monday, August 10
- Sunday, August 16
- Sunday, August 23
- Sunday, September 13

The Recreation Observation Form depicted in **Figure 2.4.3-1** was used during site visits.

Figure 2.4.3-1 Recreation Observation Form

Recreation Observation Form													
Date:		Time:											
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639													
Survey Person:		Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use and "S" for secondary activities.											
Temperature:		Weather:		Wind Speed:									
Recreation Site	Number of People	Recreation Activities											Notes
		ATV/Snowmobile	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	
City of Cornell Boat Landing													
266th Street Informal Access													
Portage Put-In													
Portage Trail													
Tailwater Fishing-East Side													
Tailwater Fishing -West Side													
Additional Comments:													

² This survey was scheduled as a weekend survey. Due to field personnel communication errors, it was conducted on a Thursday.

³ This weekday was missed in the month of June. Therefore, it was conducted during the first week of July.

2.4.4 Future and Potential Recreation

The recreation questionnaire was sent to the individuals listed in **Table 2.4.4-1** on May 13, 2020 to assess the future recreation needs within the Project vicinity. The questionnaire was sent again on June 5, 2020 to acquire more responses. The questionnaire is provided in Appendix 2.

Table 2.4.4-1 Recreation Questionnaire Recipients

Individual	Organization
Tim Malzahn	Ice Age Trail Alliance, Trail Director
Robin Stender	Town of Birch Creek, Clerk
Tracey Larson	Town of Lake Holcombe, Clerk
Judy Talbot	City of Cornell, Mayor
Cheryl Laatsch	WDNR, FERC Coordinator
Michael E. Dahlby	Chippewa County, Forest Administrator
Linda Laird	Town of Cleveland, Clerk
Lisa Marie Westman	Town of Estella, Clerk

3. Study Results

3.1 Recreation Facility Inventory

NSPW completed an inventory of recreational amenities at seven recreation sites on September 14, 2020. The completed inventory forms are included in Appendix 3. The summarized results of the inventory are included in the following sections.

3.1.1 City of Cornell Public Boat Landing

The boat landing is a gravel surfaced single lane boat launch with concrete ramp. Parking is available for approximately 5 vehicles with boat trailers with additional overflow parking in the city property on the left of the entrance road as shown in **Figure 3.1.1-3**. A picnic table is located near the entrance to the landing site. Although the facility is maintained by the City of Cornell, a the name of the Project and its Project number is posted at the site entry.

Figure 3.1.1-1 Site Photo Looking Northwest



Figure 3.1.1-2 Boat Ramp Photo Looking Northwest



Figure 3.1.1-3 Entrance Photo Looking Southwest



Figure 3.1.1-4 Picnic Area Photo Looking East



3.1.2 266th Street Informal Access Site

This informal access site is an unimproved user-developed site with no formal amenities. Parking occurs along the road edge and has a capacity for approximately six vehicles. The water access point is primarily used for shoreline fishing and periodic launching of carry-in watercraft. No signage is posted at the site.

Figure 3.1.2-1 Access Site Facing Southwest



Figure 3.1.2-2 Access Site Facing Northeast



Figure 3.1.2-3 Access Site Facing Southeast



Figure 3.1.2-4 Access Site Facing South



3.1.3 Portage Take-Out

This site is clearly visible from the road and features a gravel parking area that can easily accommodate five vehicles. The take-out location is well-signed and includes a directional sign depicting the location of other recreation sites within the Project vicinity. The directional sign includes information necessary to meet the requirements for a FERC Part 8 recreation sign. Note: the photographs of the take-out sign in the following figures were taken during a planned reservoir drawdown in 2017.

Figure 3.1.3-1 Take-Out Facing North Towards STH 64



Figure 3.1.3-2 Take-Out Facing South



Figure 3.1.3-3 Take-Out Facing North from Spillway



Figure 3.1.3-4 Take-Out Facing North



3.1.4 Portage Trail

The portage trail is approximately 1,000 feet and runs in a general north to south direction before turning southeast toward the Chippewa River. The trail is well marked with directional signage and easy to follow. The first half of the trail acts as a service road to the Cornell Dam, followed by a stretch of mowed grass, with the final portion comprised primarily of exposed glacial till.

Figure 3.1.4-1 Canoe Portage Trail Facing South



Figure 3.1.4-2 Canoe Portage Trail Facing South



Figure 3.1.4-3 Canoe Portage Trail Facing South



Figure 3.1.4-4 Canoe Portage Trail Facing South



Figure 3.1.4-5 Canoe Portage Trail Facing East and Downhill



Figure 3.1.4-6 Canoe Portage East Towards Put-In



3.1.5 Portage Put-In

The portage put-in has a surface of compacted rocks and soil. There are no formal structures or signage, nor are any necessary.

Figure 3.1.5-1 Canoe Portage Put-In Facing East



Figure 3.1.5-2 Canoe Portage Put-In Facing Downstream



3.1.6 Tailwater Fishing Area (East Side)

This area has historically been popular for bank fishing. NSPW installed large stone riprap in 2019 to protect the bank from erosion. As part of the 2019 project, smaller aggregate was installed and graded along the lower portion of the bank to provide easier access for anglers. Vehicle access to the site is good; however, some anglers believe the area is closed to the public because of the adjacent paper mill and lack of designated parking. There is no signage at the site.

Figure 3.1.6-1 East Tailwater Shoreline Facing North



Figure 3.1.6-2 East Tailwater Shoreline Facing Northeast



Figure 3.1.6-3 East Tailwater Shoreline Facing South



Figure 3.1.6-4 Entrance to East Tailwater Shoreline Facing South



Figure 3.1.6-5 Entrance Road to East Tailwater Shoreline Facing South



Figure 3.1.6-6 Access Road to East Tailwater Shoreline Facing West



Figure 3.1.6-7 Entrance Path East Tailwater Shoreline Facing South



Figure 3.1.6-8 Entrance Path to East Tailwater Shoreline Facing East



Figure 3.1.6-9 Entrance Path to East Tailwater Shoreline Facing West



3.1.7 Tailwater Fishing Area (West Side)

According to observations from the operator, there are two areas where fishing occurs in the tailwater on the west side of the river. The first location is the portage put-in that has been previously described. The second area is a grassy path from the portage trail down to the water immediately below the dam. There are no formal facilities established at this location. However, anglers have been observed accessing the tailwater in this location.

Figure 3.1.7-1 West Tailrace Fishing Access Photo Looking West from Dam



Figure 3.1.7-2 West Tailrace Fishing Access Photo Looking South Below Dam



Figure 3.1.7-3 West Tailrace Fishing Access Photo Looking East from Portage Trail



Figure 3.1.7-4 West Tailrace Fishing Access Photo Looking West from Below Dam



3.2 Recreation Facility Assessment

Each recreation facility was evaluated for potential improvements during the September 14, 2020 site inspections and other site visits by various NSPW personnel. Overall, the sites are well-maintained. Most improvements recommended at the recreation sites were regarding the improvement of FERC Part 8 recreation signage. The informal access site at 266th Street requires the most attention.

3.2.1 City of Cornell Public Boat Landing

The site is well maintained. The concrete launch was replaced in 2017 to coincide with a planned reservoir drawdown. The recreation use survey did not indicate there was overuse warranting expansion of the parking area.

3.2.2 266th Street Informal Access Site

The site is currently not maintained because it is an informal recreation site. Several attempts by NSPW to close access to the site have been unsuccessful. Should the site become a formalized recreation facility, efforts should be made to prohibit vehicular access to the shoreline and install a Part 8 recreation signage. Part 8 signage is required to include information about acceptable recreation uses and hours of use. It is recommended this site be open only during daylight hours. The recreation use survey does not indicate there is overuse warranting expansion of the parking area. Due to the adjoining property owner concerns it is not recommended this site increase the recreation amenities such that it becomes a more-popular recreation destination.

3.2.3 Portage Take-Out

The site is well-maintained and well-marked with signage. The recreation use survey did not indicate any overuse warranting expansion of the parking area. It is recommended the site continued to be graded on a regular basis and the Part 8 recreation signage should be reviewed to meet current FERC standards.

3.2.4 Portage Trail

The trail is well-maintained and well-marked with signage. It is recommended the trail continue to be maintained on a regular basis.

3.2.5 Portage Put-In

The site is well-maintained and well-marked with signage. It is recommended the site continue to be maintained on a regular basis.

3.2.6 Tailwater Fishing Area (East Side)

Although the site is well-maintained, it is not well-marked with signage. NSPW is developing a plan to improve the site. At a minimum, the plan should include access improvements, directional signage, designated parking, and a Part 8 recreation sign. The directional signage should include language making it clear that anglers are welcome.

3.2.7 Tailwater Fishing Area (West Side)

Although the approach trail to the fishing area immediately below the dam is maintained, use in this area should be discouraged due to safety concerns. Anglers should be directed by signage to the portage put-in area.

3.3 Recreation Use Survey

Recreation use was periodically observed and documented during weekdays and weekends beginning in April and continuing through September. A total of 13 observation days were recorded. The results of the observations are summarized below, and the corresponding survey forms are included as Appendix 4.

3.3.1 City of Cornell Public Boat Landing

The boat landing experienced 73 recreation users over the 13 days surveyed. The number of individuals recreating at the site ranged from a maximum of 14 individuals at one time (Sunday, August 16) to a minimum of zero individuals (Thursday, July 2). The primary recreation use was boat fishing, with individuals also using the area for shore fishing, hiking/walking/jogging, bicycling, non-powered boating, and wildlife viewing.

3.3.2 266th St. Informal Access Site

The informal access site experienced 7 recreation users over the 13 days surveyed. The number of individuals recreating at the site ranged from a maximum of 2 individuals at one time on Saturday, May 23rd, Thursday, July 2nd, and Sunday, August 16th to a minimum of zero individuals during 9 other observations. The primary recreation uses observed were shore fishing and boat fishing. No other recreation uses were observed at this site.

3.3.3 Portage Put-In

The portage put-in experienced 10 recreation users over the 13 days surveyed. The number of individuals recreating at the site ranged from a maximum of 4 individuals at one time on Thursday, July 30th and Sunday, August 16th to a minimum of no individuals during 10 other observations. The primary recreation uses observed were swimming and picnicking. No other recreation uses were observed at this site.

3.3.4 Portage Trail

The portage trail experienced 4 recreation users over the 13 days surveyed. The number of individuals recreating at the site ranged from a maximum of 2 individuals at one time on Sunday, June 14th and Saturday, June 27th to a minimum of zero individuals during 11 other observations. The primary recreation uses observed were shoreline fishing. No other recreation uses were observed at this site.

3.3.5 Portage Take-Out

The portage take-out experienced 22 recreation users over the 13 days surveyed. The number of individuals recreating at the site ranged from a maximum of 8 individuals at one time on Sunday, April 26th to a minimum of zero individuals during 7 other observations. The primary recreation uses observed were shoreline fishing and hiking/walking. No other recreation uses were observed at this site.

3.3.6 Tailwater Fishing Area East Side

The east tailwater fishing area experienced 10 recreation users over the 13 days surveyed. The number of individuals recreating at the site ranged from a maximum of 5 individuals on Sunday, April 26th to a minimum of zero individuals during 9 other observations. The primary recreation uses observed were shoreline fishing. Wildlife viewing was also observed at this site.

3.3.7 Informal Tailwater Fishing West Side

The informal access site experienced 1 recreation user over the 13 days surveyed. The individual fishing on the shoreline at this location (separate from the portage put-in) was observed on Thursday, July 30th.

3.4 Future and Potential Recreation Questionnaire

The questionnaire survey was sent to eight stakeholders on May 13 and again on June 5, 2020. Five responses were received including those from the City of Cornell, Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA), a local citizen (Susan Courter), Town of Estella, and Town of Lake Holcombe. The completed questionnaires are enclosed in Appendix 5.

Several responses provided detailed descriptions of the recreational amenities available in the Project vicinity and referenced the recently developed City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). A copy of the CORP is included as Appendix 6 for reference.

3.4.1 City of Cornell

3.4.1.1 Recreation Sites Within the Project Vicinity

The City indicated it was responsible for recreation opportunities at the following sites: Cornell Mill Yard Park (300 Park Road), City Shop property (300 Park Road)⁴, and Jean Brunet City Park (500 Main St.).

3.4.1.2 Recreational Amenities at City of Cornell Sites

Recreational amenities include, but are not limited to parks, picnic areas, pavilion/restroom facilities, multi-use trails, boat launch, canoe/kayak launch, visitors' center, scenic river views, shore fishing, ball fields, children's playgrounds, and a skate park.

The IATA provided the following description of the recreation amenities at Mill Yard Park: The Mill Yard Park (Corner of Highway 64 and Park Road) has gravel parking areas and includes a pavilion, bathrooms, a kitchen area, stage, and picnic tables. Cement benches are located with a view of the river. There is a new canoe and kayak launch and two baseball fields, one of which is for Little League. There is a skateboard park and a playground. The Cornell Visitors Center (45.1658 -91.155564) is also located at the Mill Yard Park along with the Native American Voice Center and the Cornell Stacker (a local and historic landmark).

3.4.1.3 Sites Exceeding Capacity (Parking)

The City indicated Mill Yard Park exceeds its parking capacity during the community fair/softball tournament and the Chippewa River Rendezvous.

3.4.1.4 Planned Improvements/Locations

The City is planning 23 improvements to Mill Yard Park and 9 improvements to their boat landing as outlined in the CORP. Proposed improvements at Mill Yard Park include the following: reconstructing the restrooms in the pavilion to make them barrier-free, creating trail access to the river and incorporating a barrier-free pier, creating a canoe/kayak launch area, constructing a trail along the river to the boat landing, obtaining shoreline property access from NSPW, and improving parking and signage. Enhancements to the boat landing include improving the boat ramp, parking, and signage; constructing restrooms; and adding a barrier-free skid pier, additional picnic areas, and camping areas. A complete list of the improvements is available in the CORP in Appendix 6.

⁴ This property contains the public boat landing.

3.4.1.5 Additional Recreation Sites/Remedies Requested

The City has requested an additional boat launch below the dam because rock rapids prevent access to the tailwater from other downstream boat landings. They recommend investigating use of an abandoned roadway on NSPW property on the west side of the river⁵.

The City also recommends access be restored to the east side of the river downstream of the dam for tailrace fishing⁶.

Lastly, the City recommends the multi-purpose trail between Mill Yard Park and their boat landing connect with the Old Abe Trail and Ice Age Trail. The City also recommend the installation of a barrier-free fishing pier at Mill Yard Park. These facilities are already planned as part of the City's CORP.

3.4.2 Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA)

The IATA indicated it has two trail segments within the Project vicinity (Chippewa River Segment and Firth Lake Segment) and is responsible for trail building and maintenance. The Chippewa River Segment has trailheads at County Highways Z (45.17101 -91.17791) and CC (45.18792 -91.17280). The Firth Lake Segment runs from the Moonridge Trail off County E near Camp Nawakwa to County CC. The trail goes past Firth Lake. A mile to the east, hikers take a spur trail out to 250th Ave and then hike to County CC and then south to the IATA parking lot.

It is the goal of the City of Cornell and the IATA to extend the Chippewa River Segment from County Z to the City of Cornell via the Blue Bridge (State Highway 64) and Mill Yard Park.

3.4.2.1 Recreational Amenities at IATA Sites

The trails have good signage throughout, and the trailhead has signage at each end. The County CC trailhead also contains a parking lot.

3.4.2.2 Sites Exceeding Capacity (Parking)

The IATA indicated their parking capacity at the County CC trailhead does not exceed capacity. The IATA mentions numerous City events that occur at Mill Yard Park (Cornell Fair, July 3rd Fireworks, and the Rendezvous). However, the IATA does not mention the parking shortage at Mill Yard Park as brought forward by the City.

3.4.2.3 Planned Improvements/Locations

The IATA is planning to extend their trail to Mill Yard Park from County Z. The proposed plan is to obtain permission from private property owners to travel along the back of their properties along County CC towards the bridge and return to County CC on a trail between the first two private properties. Hikers would then cross County CC and travel on a new trail on the river side of County CC (Brunet Island State Park property) until reaching the Blue Bridge. Hikers would cross the bridge and then travel through the Mill Yard Park to reach Main Street. They are also proposing to also include the Connecting Road through Cornell to the Chippewa River Segment.

⁵ The site was visited with the City of Cornell on April 7, 2021 and determined infeasible due to the shoreline terrain.

⁶ Access is currently open, signage from the mill property should be improved to make clear it is open to the public.

The schedule for completing these improvements is within the next five years. The trail in Mill Yard Park is also included in the City of Cornell CORP.

3.4.2.4 Additional Recreation Sites/Remedies Requested

The IATA is not requesting any additional recreation sites or improvements other than those previously mentioned.

3.4.3 Ms. Susan Courter

Ms. Courter indicated her organization was not responsible for recreation sites, amenities, formal access sites, or planning recreation sites within the Project vicinity.

She and her family live on the Chippewa River between Cornell and the downstream city of Jim Falls. They are avid kayakers and often paddle Cornell Flowage. Her neighbors, family, and friends along with many other locals and visitors, enjoy floating, fishing, foraging, wildlife viewing and hunting from raft, skiff, paddle boat, pontoon, jet ski, canoe, kayak, paddle board or innertube on the river. They also participate in the annual Floatilla, along with hundreds of visitors each year. She states the natural resources and recreation areas in the Project vicinity (Old Abe Bike Trail, Brunet Island State Park, Cornell Flowage, Fisher River and Chippewa County Parks and Forests) have experienced an exponential increase in use with the COVID-19 pandemic as people turn to open spaces for fresh air, wellness, and recreation along the river.

3.4.3.1 Additional Recreation Sites/Remedies Requested

Ms. Courter stated additional recreation sites/amenities are needed to connect the City to its natural resource/recreation areas because recreation contributes to the local economy. Interruptions to the normal operation of the hydroelectric facility for maintenance can reduce this contribution and additional recreation sites/remedies are being requested to mitigate for these maintenance period losses.

As mitigation items, Ms. Courter recommends the City acquire rights to the shoreline in Mill Yard Park to improve the view from the park. The view is currently obstructed by invasive species and semi parking near the entrance. In addition, Ms. Courter recommends several improvements also included in the City's CORP.

Lastly, Ms. Courter recommends vehicle access to the Chippewa River below the dam to include a barrier-free boat ramp, with a fishing pier/deck.

3.4.4 Town of Estella

3.4.4.1 Recreation Sites Within the Project Vicinity

The Town of Estella indicated their organization was not responsible for recreation sites, amenities, formal access sites, or planning recreation sites within the Project vicinity. No additional comments were provided.

3.4.5 **Town of Lake Holcombe**

3.4.5.1 Recreation Sites Within the Project Vicinity

The Town of Lake Holcombe indicated their organization was not responsible for recreation sites, amenities, formal access sites, or planning recreation sites within the Project vicinity. No additional comments were provided.

4. Consultation

On February 19, 2021, this study report was provided as a draft to the NPS, WDNR, the City of Cornell, and RAW for comments. Comments were received from the NPS and RAW. Unsolicited comments were also received from three citizens. The City of Cornell requested a meeting to discuss recreation enhancements. A meeting was held on April 7, 2021. Recreation enhancements were further discussed with the City of Cornell during a following-up site meeting on June 2, 2021 and are outlined in Section 8.5 of the license application. The comments have been addressed in Appendix 7.

5. Recommended Recreation Enhancement Measures

Based upon what has been previously proposed, considering user data, comments received through consultation (See Appendix 7), and additional correspondence directly with the City of Cornell the Licensee is proposing the following recreation enhancement measures.

1) City of Cornell Boat Landing

A barrier-free fishing pier and if necessary, a path, will be installed at the facility and a parking space will be designated barrier-free. Consistent with FERC's policy encouraging licensees to cooperate with local agencies in recreational use of lands administered by those agencies adjacent to a project area, the Licensee plans to work with the City to install the barrier-free improvements at the City's Facility.

2) The 266th Street Informal Access Site

The site will become designated as a FERC-approved recreation site. The Exhibit G Drawing will be modified prior to the Final License Application to include the property within the project boundary. The site will be used for bank fishing and carry-in boat access. Proposed improvements include ground stabilization with either grass or gravel for high traffic areas, blocking unrestricted vehicular access to the shoreline, and the addition of signage to include Part 8, acceptable usage, hours of operation, and showing the recreation areas at the Cornell Project.

3) Portage Trail

The weathered directional part of the first trail sign after the take-out sign will be replaced or an arrow will be added to the existing sign. The part 8 sign at the take-out will be reviewed to assure it meets part 8 requirements, updated, and replaced accordingly.

4) Tailwater Fishing Area (East Side)

Access improvements will be made including, directional signage, designated parking, installation of a new path, and a Part 8 recreation sign. The directional signage will also be upgraded to include language making it clear that anglers are welcome to this area.

5) Recreation Brochure

The existing recreation brochure for the Chippewa River Hydroelectric Projects will be updated or a new brochure will be developed to include the recreation areas at the Cornell Project. This brochure will be made available for distribution at the Visitor Center in Mill Yard Park.

6) Mill Yard Park

The existing kayak launch and fishing pier will be modified into a barrier-free amenity at Mill Yard Park. The Licensee plans to work with the City to install the barrier-free improvements at the City's Facility. The Licensee will convey access rights to the City of Cornell for its shoreline property on the east side of the reservoir to allow for the City of Cornell to make park improvements and maintain said improvements as features of the park. The conveyance will be of a duration such that the City of Cornell can apply for grants to improve the park shoreline.

6. References

City of Cornell. May 17, 2109. Comments on Pre-Application and Study Requests.

City of Cornell. October 2019. *Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*.

National Park Service (NPS). May 13, 2019. Comments on Pre-Application and Study Requests.

River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW). May 15, 2019. Comments on Pre-Application and Study Requests.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). May 17, 2019. Comments on Pre-Application and Study Requests.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). 2019. *Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019-2023*. Madison, WI.

Xcel Energy. March 31, 2015. Form 80 Report.

Xcel Energy. April 2, 2015. Summary of FERC Form 80 Methodology.

Xcel Energy. 2018. *Pre-Application Document-Cornell Hydroelectric Project*. Prepared by Mead & Hunt, Inc. November 30, 2018.

APPENDIX 1 Documentation of Consultation on Draft Study Plan

National Park Service Comments and Responses to Comments

NPS Comment:

We note that in our May 13th, 2019 letter we had identified several specific existing recreation informal access areas found lacking in the PAD such as the actively used informal tailwater fishing area on the east bank downstream of the spillway. This site lacks safe access causing anglers to tread a narrow, rocky unsafe footpath pressed between a tall fence paralleling the river and a steep slope; the site also lacks signage, a restroom facility, formal parking, etc.

We had identified these and others for inclusion in the study so that use and condition could be documented in a study report followed by stakeholder discussions. These discussions would identify deficiencies and impacts along with potential mitigation and enhancement measures to include in the license.

Response:

Both the informal bank fishing area on the east side of the river and the informal access site on the northwest side of the reservoir are included in the list of sites to be surveyed. Therefore, there is no need to make any revisions to the proposed study plan.

NPS Comment:

While we support discussing proposed mitigation measures any time during relicensing, early conversations on facility elements, design, and location should include stakeholders who've submitted comments regarding the facility in order to develop a well-supported proposal. In this case, Xcel Energy states they will consult with WDNR before developing conceptual recreation designs "for improvements to the shoreline fishing area downstream along the east bank of the tailwater including public access and parking improvements as well as a barrier-free fishing pier on the east shoreline adjacent to the City of Cornell's Mill Yard Park." Please include the National Park Service, City of Cornell, and River Alliance of Wisconsin in your preliminary discussions since each of these has expressed interest in recreation facilities. We recommend setting up a work group to meet initially through conference calls followed by screen-sharing technology if needed.

To clarify, Xcel currently offers these proposed mitigation measures:

- *develop the two-concept plan(s) mentioned above*
- *fund recreation improvements included in the concept plans to include: 1) public access and parking improvements for the east bank shoreline fishing area downstream of the tailwater; and 2) a barrier-free fishing pier on the east shoreline adjacent to the City of Cornell's Mill Yard Park.*
- *grant the City access rights or fee title to Xcel's shoreline ownership adjacent to Mill Yard Park to accommodate proposed park improvements. This enhancement would provide permanent access necessary to install and maintain three proposed Mill Yard Park enhancements listed in "Study Plan Elements" Section 2.2 "Background and Existing Information". Other than the aforementioned barrier-free fishing pier, Xcel has not committed to funding other measures identified in the City's plan, i.e., trail access to the Chippewa River; a canoe/kayak launch area; along the Chippewa River construct a multi-purpose trail that also serves as a connection to the old Abe Trail. Note that no indication is yet provided of Xcel's intent to fund purchase,*

construction/installation, or provide management funds for these project-related facilities is provided.

Response:

Comments Noted. The WDNR will be consulted with first because the WDNR originally recommended they be developed. It is expected any conceptual designs will be included in the draft license application and consultation will occur through that process.

NPS Comment:

We recommend including the informal canoe/kayak launch on the west side of Brunet Island State Park in Table 2.4.1 Recreation Sites to be Inventoried and Surveyed for Existing Use. The Form 80 data from 2014 (submitted 2015) would not capture the explosive use of recreationists using canoes and kayaks in the state park since 2014. This explosion is documented across the country and exhibited in the park by campers brining in their own craft as well as an active paddlecraft rental operated in the park. The informal put-in area is overused, in need of a sustainable solution such as a removable pier.

Identify where recreational wayfinding signs and interpretive signs are lacking/needed throughout the project including dispersed locations not identified in Table 2.4.1.

Response:

The comment asks for monitoring use of an informal site in the State Park where the license has no authority or control over the needs of the park. The park master plan was last updated in 1986. Generally, a state park will make improvements based upon known need. There is no need to survey use of the informal area in the State Park because the questionnaire included in the study plan will be sent to the State Park through the WDNR and they will have an opportunity to comment on needs within the State Park. The purpose of the survey is to capture the same information the NPS suggestion is attempting to collect.

In addition, the City of Cornell has already recognized the need for more canoe/kayak launch facilities on the reservoir. In October 2019, the City of Cornell adopted its comprehensive outdoor recreation plan and proposed to add a canoe/kayak launch area at Mill Yard Park. The Licensee has already committed to work with the City of Cornell at Mill Yard Park by granting the rights to use of the shoreline to allow for the proposed improvements. If improvements for kayak/canoe launches are to be made, they should be made in a location that is accessible to the general public outside of the fee-only State Park for diversification of access facilities.

The study plan has been amended to include a review for the need of signage as part of the recreation site assessment.

NPS Comment:

In addition to the four conditions listed ((1) Not Usable and Needs Replacement 2) Needs Repair 3) Needs Maintenance or cleaning 4) Good Working Condition (does not need any attention)), please add a new one: "5) Facility Lacking; need to install facility or otherwise add enhancement (identify item)."

Complete this assessment early enough so that the subjective evaluation may be sent to the local manager of the site to be inventoried and surveyed for their expert, local opinion. For efficiency, this could be sent at the same time as the questionnaire identified in Section 2.5.4.

Response:

A fifth category has been added. The study plan intentionally separates the inventory and condition assessment by the Licensee from the questionnaire in Section 2.5.4. The purpose of the separation is to gain an independent opinion from the local recreation site managers. In addition, the majority of the local recreation site managers have already participated in the relicensing process and have provided their initial input. The questionnaire will not be the only opportunity to provide input in this process and the study plan will not be modified to send the results of the inventory and condition assessment with the questionnaire.

NPS Comment:

We recommend changing the survey use schedule in Table 2.5.3-1 as follows:

- *April – add one weekend day in April to capture increased recreation use with warmer season; substitute for March if necessary*
- *May – add a randomly selected weekend day or substitute it for the randomly selected weekday. This will capture use on weekends when use is higher; weekdays receive lower use.*
- *June – switch the proposed number of weekdays (2) with weekends (1) so that (2) weekends and (1) weekday capture the higher weekend use when demand for and impact on facilities is greater*
- *July – same as recommended for June*
- *August – same as recommended for June*
- *September – since facility planning addresses meeting the demand of a typical peak use rather than holiday weekends, substitute the proposed one day for Labor Day weekend with a randomly selected weekend day when seasonal use remains high*
- *October – eliminate, not necessary since higher demand will be captured in the previous months*

Response:

The schedule has been amended as requested.

NPS Comment:

Please specify that the questionnaire will be sent to WDNR's Brunet Island State Park Superintendent who is best able to complete it. Include for those managers of sites inventoried and condition assessed a request to review and comment upon the condition report. See section 2.5.2 Facility Condition Assessment comments above.

Response:

The plan has been modified accordingly to include to the Brunet Island State Park Superintendent. Under WDNR request, all correspondence for FERC relicensing is to be first provided to the WDNR FERC Coordinator (Cheryl Laatsch). The comment regarding the inventory and condition assessment results has already been addressed in the previous NPS comment where it was originally recommended.



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Regions 3, 4, 5
Wisconsin Field Office
626 E. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 400W
Milwaukee, WI 53202



March 27, 2020

Mr. Shawn Puzen

Mead and Hunt

1702 Lawrence Drive

De Pere, WI 54115

Re: National Park Service Comment on Proposed Recreation Study Plan; Cornell Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2639; Chippewa River, City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Puzen,

The National Park Service (NPS) respectfully submits the following comments in response to the Cornell Hydroelectric Project Proposed Recreation Study Plan. The National Park Service letter of May 13, 2019 submitted comments on the Pre-application Document (PAD) and a recreation study request. We respond to the draft proposed plan below.

Introduction and Study Plan Elements

We note that in our May 13th, 2019 letter we had identified several specific existing recreation informal access areas found lacking in the PAD such as the actively used informal tailwater fishing area on the east bank downstream of the spillway. This site lacks safe access causing anglers to tread a narrow, rocky unsafe footpath pressed between a tall fence paralleling the river and a steep slope; the site also lacks signage, a restroom facility, formal parking, etc.

We had identified these and others for inclusion in the study so that use and condition could be documented in a study report followed by stakeholder discussions. These discussions would identify deficiencies and impacts along with potential mitigation and enhancement measures to include in the license.

While we support discussing proposed mitigation measures any time during relicensing, early conversations on facility elements, design, and location should include stakeholders who've submitted

INTERIOR REGION 3, 4, 5 – GREAT LAKES, MISSISSIPPI BASIN, MISSOURI BASIN

ARKANSAS, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, KANSAS, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI,
NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, OHIO, SOUTH DAKOTA, WISCONSIN

comments regarding the facility in order to develop a well-supported proposal. In this case, Xcel Energy states they will consult with WDNR before developing conceptual recreation designs “for improvements to the shoreline fishing area downstream along the east bank of the tailwater including public access and parking improvements as well as a barrier-free fishing pier on the east shoreline adjacent to the City of Cornell’s Mill Yard Park.” Please include the National Park Service, City of Cornell, and River Alliance of Wisconsin in your preliminary discussions since each of these has expressed interest in recreation facilities. We recommend setting up a work group to meet initially through conference calls followed by screen-sharing technology if needed.

To clarify, Xcel currently offers these proposed mitigation measures:

- develop the two concept plan(s) mentioned above
- fund recreation improvements included in the concept plans to include: 1) public access and parking improvements for the east bank shoreline fishing area downstream of the tailwater; and 2) a barrier-free fishing pier on the east shoreline adjacent to the City of Cornell’s Mill Yard Park.
- grant the City access rights or fee title to Xcel’s shoreline ownership adjacent to Mill Yard Park to accommodate proposed park improvements. This enhancement would provide permanent access necessary to install and maintain three proposed Mill Yard Park enhancements listed in “Study Plan Elements” Section 2.2 “Background and Existing Information”. Other than the aforementioned barrier-free fishing pier, Xcel has not committed to funding other measures identified in the City’s plan, i.e., trail access to the Chippewa River; a canoe/kayak launch area; along the Chippewa River construct a multi-purpose trail that also serves as a connection to the old Abe Trail. Note that no indication is yet provided of Xcel’s intent to fund purchase, construction/installation, or provide management funds for these project-related facilities is provided.

Study Area

We recommend including the informal canoe/kayak launch on the west side of Brunet Island State Park in Table 2.4.1 Recreation Sites to be Inventoried and Surveyed for Existing Use. The Form 80 data from 2014 (submitted 2015) would not capture the explosive use of recreationists using canoes and kayaks in the state park since 2014. This explosion is documented across the country and exhibited in the park by campers brining in their own craft as well as an active paddlecraft rental operated in the park. The informal put-in area is overused, in need of a sustainable solution such as a removable pier.

Identify where recreational wayfinding signs and interpretive signs are lacking/needed throughout the project including dispersed locations not identified in Table 2.4.1.

Methodology

2.5.2 Facility Condition Assessment

In addition to the four conditions listed ((1) Not Usable and Needs Replacement 2) Needs Repair 3) Needs Maintenance or cleaning 4) Good Working Condition (does not need any attention)), please add a new one: “5) Facility Lacking; need to install facility or otherwise add enhancement (identify item).”

Complete this assessment early enough so that the subjective evaluation may be sent to the local manager of the site to be inventoried and surveyed for their expert, local opinion. For efficiency, this could be sent at the same time as the questionnaire identified in Section 2.5.4.

2.5.3 Recreation Use Survey

We recommend changing the survey use schedule in Table 2.5.3-1 as follows:

- April – add one weekend day in April to capture increased recreation use with warmer season; substitute for March if necessary
- May – add a randomly selected weekend day or substitute it for the randomly selected weekday. This will capture use on weekends when use is higher; weekdays receive lower use.
- June – switch the proposed number of weekdays (2) with weekends (1) so that (2) weekends and (1) weekday capture the higher weekend use when demand for and impact on facilities is greater
- July – same as recommended for June
- August – same as recommended for June
- September – since facility planning addresses meeting the demand of a typical peak use rather than holiday weekends, substitute the proposed one day for Labor Day weekend with a randomly selected weekend day when seasonal use remains high
- October – eliminate, not necessary since higher demand will be captured in the previous months

2.5.4 Future and Potential Recreation

Please specify that the questionnaire will be sent to WDNR's Brunet Island State Park Superintendent who is best able to complete it. Include for those managers of sites inventoried and condition assessed a request to review and comment upon the condition report. See section 2.5.2 Facility Condition Assessment comments above.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed recreation mitigation measures and proposed recreation study plan. We look forward to working with you and other stakeholders to enhance the project area for the recreating public. Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 414.297.3605 or angie_tornes@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



Angela M. Tornes, Coordinator
Hydropower Assistance Program
National Park Service Interior Region 3,4,5

Shawn Puzen

From: James Fossum <jfbio@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Shawn Puzen; Matthew J. Miller
Cc: Allison Werner; Angela Tornes
Subject: Cornell Hydro

Shawn, Matt:

I have reviewed the Cornell Recreational Survey Study Plan you sent the River Alliance of Wisconsin to review.

It seems very complete to me and thus I have no comments on the study plan.

The opportunity to review the plan is appreciated.

Jim Fossum
Consultant for the RAW

Shawn Puzen

From: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR <Cheryl.Laatsch@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Shawn Puzen
Subject: RE: Cornell Recreation Survey Study Plan for Comment

No comments

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Cheryl Laatsch
Statewide FERC Coordinator
Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Sustainability
Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources
N7725 Hwy 28
Horicon WI 53032
(T) 920-387-7869 (Fax) 920-387-7888
Cheryl.Laatsch@wisconsin.gov



From: Shawn Puzen <Shawn.Puzen@meadhunt.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 4:31 PM
To: 'James Fossum' <jfbio@yahoo.com>; Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR <Cheryl.Laatsch@wisconsin.gov>; Tornos, Angie <Angie_Tornos@nps.gov>; Ouellette, Melissa - MUN <cityoffice@cityofcornell.com>
Cc: Miller, Matthew J <Matthew.J.Miller@xcelenergy.com>; Crotty, Scott A <scott.a.crotty@xcelenergy.com>; Darrin Johnson <Darrin.Johnson@meadhunt.com>; Shawn Puzen <Shawn.Puzen@meadhunt.com>; Judy Talbot, Mayor <judya.talbot@yahoo.com>; Darrin Johnson <Darrin.Johnson@meadhunt.com>; rshukla@wisconsinrivers.org
Subject: Cornell Recreation Survey Study Plan for Comment

Hi Cheryl, Angie, Dave, and Jim,

Per your study request, Xcel Energy has had the enclosed Study Plan Developed to complete a recreation use and inventory at Cornell as part of the relicensing effort.

Please provide your comments within 30 days.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Matt Miller. I can forward any questions requiring decisions to Matt for you.

Thanks,

Shawn Puzen | FERC Licensing & Compliance
Mead & Hunt | 1702 Lawrence Drive | De Pere, WI 54115
Direct: 920-593-6865 | Mobile: 920-639-2480
shawn.puzen@meadhunt.com | meadhunt.com
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shawnpuzen>

Shawn Puzen

From: Shawn Puzen
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 4:31 PM
To: 'James Fossum'; cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov; Tornes, Angela; City of Cornell
Cc: Miller, Matthew J; Crotty, Scott A; Darrin Johnson; Shawn Puzen; Judy Talbot, Mayor; Darrin Johnson; rshukla@wisconsinrivers.org
Subject: Cornell Recreation Survey Study Plan for Comment
Attachments: 20200227 Recreation Use Study Plan Send for Comments.pdf
Categories: Filed by Newforma

Hi Cheryl, Angie, Dave, and Jim,

Per your study request, Xcel Energy has had the enclosed Study Plan Developed to complete a recreation use and inventory at Cornell as part of the relicensing effort.

Please provide your comments within 30 days.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Matt Miller. I can forward any questions requiring decisions to Matt for you.

Thanks,

Shawn Puzen | FERC Licensing & Compliance

Mead & Hunt | 1702 Lawrence Drive | De Pere, WI 54115

Direct: 920-593-6865 | Mobile: 920-639-2480

shawn.puzen@meadhunt.com | meadhunt.com

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shawnpuzen>

The City of Cornell did not respond with comments.

APPENDIX 2 Future and Potential Recreation Questionnaire



**Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire**

Xcel Energy is in the process of relicensing the Cornell Hydroelectric Project (Project) located on the Chippewa River in Wisconsin using the Traditional Licensing Process. Xcel Energy is gathering information about potential recreation needs in the vicinity of the Cornell Hydroelectric Project.

The Project vicinity is defined as the area upstream and downstream of the Cornell Dam within ¼ mile of the shoreline extending upstream to the Holcombe Dam and downstream ¼ mile of the Cornell Dam.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Miller at matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com or 715-737-1353.

1. Information about person completing the questionnaire:

Name & Title: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

2. Is your organization responsible for recreation sites, amenities, formal access sites, or planning for recreation sites within the Project vicinity as defined above?

☐ Yes *(Please proceed to 2a below)*

☐ No *(No additional information is needed and thank you for your input)*

a. Please describe your primary function pertaining to recreation and list any recreation sites or access sites (formal or informal) in the Project vicinity you are responsible for in the space provided below: *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

Please proceed to question 2b on the next page.



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
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Recreation Questionnaire

- b. Please list any recreation amenities available at each recreation site or access site you manage (e.g. docks, restrooms, parking areas, interpretive signage, picnic tables, trails, etc.) below:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

- c. Please provide the location of each site listed above using a map, street address, or GPS location:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

- d. Do any of your sites or amenities listed in 2a and 2b ever exceed capacity or not have enough parking capacity? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☐ Yes *(Please list location, amenity and when capacity is exceeded.)* ☐ No

Recreation Site/Amenity

Event(s) Exceeding Capacity

Please proceed to question 2e on the next page.



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- e. Based on the specific recreation sites listed in 2a and amenities listed in 2b, do you have any planned improvements of existing recreation sites or any plans for development of new recreation sites? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☐ Yes *(Please list location, planned improvement, and anticipated opening date below.)*

☐ No

Planned Improvements/Locations

Anticipated Opening Date

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- f. Do you believe additional recreation sites/amenities are needed within the Project vicinity? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☐ Yes *(Please list reasoning below.)*

☐ No

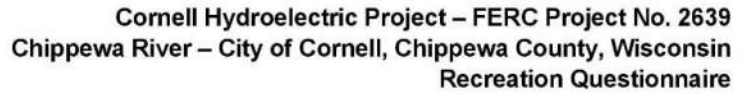
Additional Recreation Sites/Amenities Reasoning

- g. Please indicate if there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for any recreation site listed above: *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

Representative Contact Information

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Comments, questions, and/or this completed questionnaire may also be sent via email to:
Matthew.J.Miller@Xcel.com

APPENDIX 3 Inventory and Condition Assessment Forms

Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment									
Location: City of Cornell Boat Landing						Date:		9/14/2020	
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639									
Survey Person:		Matthew Miller							
GPS Location:		45.17154 N		91.15534 W					
Amenity Photo Numbers:		1							
Shoreline Photo Numbers:		2-3							
Entryway Photo Number:		4							
Type of Amenity:	Quantity of Amenities:	Condition of Amenity:				Notes:	Barrier Free? (Y or N)		
		-Not Usable (N)							
		-Needs Repair (R)							
		-Needs Maintenance (M)							
		-Good Working Condition (G)							
Boat Launch	Lanes: 1 Launches:1	N	R	M	G	new concrete slabs	N		
Portage Take-Out		N	R	M	G				
Portage Put-In		N	R	M	G				
Portage Trail	Length:	N	R	M	G				
Skid Pier		N	R	M	G				
Fishing Pier		N	R	M	G				
Picnic Tables		N	R	M	G		Y		
Restroom		N	R	M	G				
Trash Receptacles		N	R	M	G				
Trail		N	R	M	G				
Other		N	R	M	G				
Parking	Total Spaces: 5	Number of Spaces (each type):		Notes:	Condition:				
		Standard:							
		Barrier-Free:	0						
		Trailer:	5						
		Other:							
Signage:	Number:	Condition:		Comments: Provide Details on which signs need attention.					
FERC Project Sign	1	N	R	M	G				
Regulations Signs		N	R	M	G				
Directional		N	R	M	G				
Interpretive		N	R	M	G				
Additional Comments:									
Describe any signs of overuse or anything observed that is not already documented above.									
New concrete slabs for boat launch were installed during 2017 reservoir drawdown.									

Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment									
Location: 266th St. Informal River Access						Date:		9/14/2020	
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639									
Survey Person:		Matthew Miller							
GPS Location:		45.21596 N		91.13807 W					
Amenity Photo Numbers:									
Shoreline Photo Numbers:		1-2							
Entryway Photo Number:		3-4							
Type of Amenity:	Quantity of Amenities:	Condition of Amenity:				Notes:	Barrier Free? (Y or N)		
		-Not Usable (N)							
		-Needs Repair (R)							
		-Needs Maintenance (M)							
		-Good Working Condition (G)							
Boat Launch	Lanes: Launches:	N	R	M	G				
Portage Take-Out		N	R	M	G				
Portage Put-In		N	R	M	G				
Portage Trail	Length:	N	R	M	G				
Skid Pier		N	R	M	G				
Fishing Pier		N	R	M	G				
Picnic Tables		N	R	M	G				
Restroom		N	R	M	G				
Trash Receptacles		N	R	M	G				
Trail		N	R	M	G				
Other - Shoreline Fishing		N	R	M	G		N		
Parking	Total Spaces: 6	Number of Spaces (each type):				Notes:	Condition:		
		Standard:						N	
		Barrier-Free:						R	
		Trailer:						M	
		Other:	roadside					G	
Signage:	Number:	Condition:				Comments: Provide Details on which signs need attention.			
FERC Project Sign		N	R	M	G				
Regulations Signs		N	R	M	G				
Directional		N	R	M	G				
Interpretive		N	R	M	G				
Additional Comments:									
Describe any signs of overuse or anything observed that is not already documented above.									
This unimproved access site is primarily used for fishing and occasional small watercraft launching. Recommend the site become formalized and perhaps closed to vehicular access (if possible).									

Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment									
Location: Canoe Take-out						Date:		9/14/2020	
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639									
Survey Person:		Matthew Miller							
GPS Location:		45.16475 N		91.16043 W					
Amenity Photo Numbers:									
Shoreline Photo Numbers:		1-3							
Entryway Photo Number:		4							
Type of Amenity:	Quantity of Amenities:	Condition of Amenity:				Notes:	Barrier Free? (Y or N)		
		-Not Usable (N)							
		-Needs Repair (R)							
		-Needs Maintenance (M)							
		-Good Working Condition (G)							
Boat Launch	Lanes: Launches:	N	R	M	G				
Portage Take-Out		N	R	M	G		N		
Portage Put-In		N	R	M	G				
Portage Trail	Length:	N	R	M	G				
Skid Pier		N	R	M	G				
Fishing Pier		N	R	M	G				
Picnic Tables		N	R	M	G				
Restroom		N	R	M	G				
Trash Receptacles		N	R	M	G				
Trail		N	R	M	G				
Other		N	R	M	G				
Parking		Total Spaces: 5		Number of Spaces (each type):		Notes:	Condition:		
				Standard: 5			N		
				Barrier-Free:			R		
				Trailer:			M		
				Other:			Gravel G		
Signage:	Number:	Condition:				Comments: Provide Details on which signs need attention.			
FERC Project Sign		N R M G							
Regulations Signs		N R M G							
Directional	1	N R M G							
Interpretive		N R M G							
Additional Comments:									
Describe any signs of overuse or anything observed that is not already documented above.									
Part 8 Recreation Sign on-site and should be reviewed and updated as necessary.									

Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment									
Location: Canoe Portage Trail						Date:		9/14/2020	
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639									
Survey Person:		Matthew Miller							
GPS Location:		45.16419 N		91.16060 W					
Amenity Photo Numbers:									
Shoreline Photo Numbers:		1-6							
Entryway Photo Number:									
Type of Amenity:	Quantity of Amenities:	Condition of Amenity:				Notes:	Barrier Free? (Y or N)		
		-Not Usable (N)							
		-Needs Repair (R)							
		-Needs Maintenance (M)							
		-Good Working Condition (G)							
Boat Launch	Lanes: Launches:	N	R	M	G				
Portage Take-Out		N	R	M	G				
Portage Put-In		N	R	M	G				
Portage Trail	Length: 1,000 ft.	N	R	M	G		N		
Skid Pier		N	R	M	G				
Fishing Pier		N	R	M	G				
Picnic Tables		N	R	M	G				
Restroom		N	R	M	G				
Trash Receptacles		N	R	M	G				
Trail		N	R	M	G				
Other		N	R	M	G				
Parking	Total Spaces:	Number of Spaces (each type):		Notes:	Condition:				
		Standard:							
		Barrier-Free:							
		Trailer:							
		Other:							
					N				
					R				
					M				
					G				
Signage:	Number:	Condition:				Comments: Provide Details on which signs need attention.			
FERC Project Sign		N	R	M	G				
Regulations Signs		N	R	M	G				
Directional	3	N	R	M	G				
Interpretive		N	R	M	G				
Additional Comments:									
Describe any signs of overuse or anything observed that is not already documented above.									
No improvements recommended.									

Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment									
Location: Canoe Put-in						Date:		9/14/2020	
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639									
Survey Person:		Matthew Miller							
GPS Location:		45.16257 N		91.15937 W					
Amenity Photo Numbers:									
Shoreline Photo Numbers:		1-2							
Entryway Photo Number:									
Type of Amenity:	Quantity of Amenities:	Condition of Amenity:				Notes:	Barrier Free? (Y or N)		
		-Not Usable (N)							
		-Needs Repair (R)							
		-Needs Maintenance (M)							
		-Good Working Condition (G)							
Boat Launch	Lanes: Launches:	N	R	M	G				
Portage Take-Out		N	R	M	G				
Portage Put-In		N	R	M	G		N		
Portage Trail	Length:	N	R	M	G				
Skid Pier		N	R	M	G				
Fishing Pier		N	R	M	G				
Picnic Tables		N	R	M	G				
Restroom		N	R	M	G				
Trash Receptacles		N	R	M	G				
Trail		N	R	M	G				
Other		N	R	M	G				
Parking	Total Spaces:	Number of Spaces (each type):				Notes:	Condition:		
		Standard:							
		Barrier-Free:							
		Trailer:							
		Other:							
Signage:	Number:	Condition:				Comments: Provide Details on which signs need attention.			
FERC Project Sign		N	R	M	G				
Regulations Signs		N	R	M	G				
Directional	2	N	R	M	G				
Interpretive		N	R	M	G				
Additional Comments:									
Describe any signs of overuse or anything observed that is not already documented above.									
No Improvements for the Put-In are recommended.									

Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment									
Location: Tailwater Access East					Date: 9/14/2020				
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639									
Survey Person:		Matthew Miller							
GPS Location:		45.16297 N		91.15613 W					
Amenity Photo Numbers:									
Shoreline Photo Numbers:		1-3							
Entryway Photo Number:		4-9							
Type of Amenity:	Quantity of Amenities:	Condition of Amenity:				Notes:	Barrier Free? (Y or N)		
		-Not Usable (N)							
		-Needs Repair (R)							
		-Needs Maintenance (M)							
		-Good Working Condition (G)							
Boat Launch	Lanes: Launches:	N	R	M	G				
Portage Take-Out		N	R	M	G				
Portage Put-In		N	R	M	G				
Portage Trail	Length:	N	R	M	G				
Skid Pier		N	R	M	G				
Fishing Pier		N	R	M	G				
Picnic Tables		N	R	M	G				
Restroom		N	R	M	G				
Trash Receptacles		N	R	M	G				
Trail		N	R	M	G				
Other: Shoreline Fishing		N	R	M	G		N		
Parking	Total Spaces: 6	Number of Spaces (each type):				Notes:	Condition:		
		Standard:						N	
		Barrier-Free:						R	
		Trailer:						M	
		Other: Roadside						G	
Signage:	Number:	Condition:				Comments: Provide Details on which signs need attention.			
FERC Project Sign		N	R	M	G				
Regulations Signs		N	R	M	G				
Directional		N	R	M	G				
Interpretive		N	R	M	G				
Additional Comments:									
Describe any signs of overuse or anything observed that is not already documented above.									
Signage needs to be installed. The trail needs to be improved. Designated parking needs to be clearly marked.									

Recreation Inventory and Condition Assessment									
Location: Tailwater Access West						Date:		9/14/2020	
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639									
Survey Person:		Matthew Miller							
GPS Location:		45.16375 N		91.15920 W					
Amenity Photo Numbers:									
Shoreline Photo Numbers:		1-2							
Entryway Photo Number:		3-5							
Type of Amenity:	Quantity of Amenities:	Condition of Amenity:				Notes:	Barrier Free? (Y or N)		
		-Not Usable (N)							
		-Needs Repair (R)							
		-Needs Maintenance (M)							
		-Good Working Condition (G)							
Boat Launch	Lanes: Launches:	N	R	M	G				
Portage Take-Out		N	R	M	G				
Portage Put-In		N	R	M	G				
Portage Trail	Length:	N	R	M	G				
Skid Pier		N	R	M	G				
Fishing Pier		N	R	M	G				
Picnic Tables		N	R	M	G				
Restroom		N	R	M	G				
Trash Receptacles		N	R	M	G				
Trail		N	R	M	G				
Other: Shoreline Fishing		N	R	M	G		N		
Parking	Total Spaces:	Number of Spaces (each type):				Notes:	Condition:		
		Standard:							
		Barrier-Free:							
		Trailer:							
		Other:							
Signage:	Number:	Condition:				Comments: Provide Details on which signs need attention.			
FERC Project Sign		N	R	M	G				
Regulations Signs		N	R	M	G				
Directional		N	R	M	G				
Interpretive		N	R	M	G				
Additional Comments:									
Describe any signs of overuse or anything observed that is not already documented above.									
Signage to Direct Anglers to the Canoe Put-In may be prudent.									

APPENDIX 4 Completed Observation Forms

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	4/26/2020	Weather		Sunny		Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.								
Start Time	1:30 PM	Temperature		65 Degrees F										
End Time	3:30 PM	Wind Speed		4 MPH SE										
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	10	0	2	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	P - Hiking S - Shore Fishing/biking
266th Street Informal Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Portage Put-In	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	P - Picnicking
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Portage Take-Out	8	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P - Shore Fishing + Hiking
Tail water Fishing East Side	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P - Shore Fishing
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														
COVID 19 still on going but people are out and about. Water is calm, very little wind, full sun for most of day.														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	5/16/2020	Weather		Sunny		Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.								
Start Time	10:20 AM	Temperature		60 degrees										
End Time	12:20 PM	Wind Speed		8 mph ESE										
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P - Boat Fishing
266th Street Informal Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Put-In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Take-Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing East Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														
First weekend COVID - 19 "Stay At Home" order lifted. Weather is great but no one is out in the area.														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	5/23/2020				Weather		Sunny				Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.			
Start Time	12:00 PM				Temperature		72 Degrees F							
End Time	2:00 PM				Wind Speed		11 MPH SE							
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P- Boat Fishing
266th Street Informal Access	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P- Shore Fishing
Portage Put-In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Take-Out	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P- Shore Fishing
Tail water Fishing East Side	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	P- Wildlife Viewing
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														
Very good weather with clouds and rain on the way later this after noon. Memorial Day Weekend and the lakes look busy.														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	6/14/2020				Weather		Sunny / Clear				Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.			
Start Time	12:00 PM				Temperature		70							
End Time	2:00 PM				Wind Speed		SSE 14 MPH							
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Shore Fishing
266th Street Informal Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Put-In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Trail	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Shore Fishing
Portage Take-Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing East Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														
Campgrounds in area are full of people, just not a lot around the Cornell project.														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	6/27/2020					Weather		Sunny		Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.				
Start Time	10:30 AM					Temperature		80						
End Time	12:30 PM					Wind Speed		Calm						
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	P- Non-Powered Boats
266th Street Informal Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Put-In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Trail	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P- Shore Fishing
Portage Take-Out	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P- Shore Fishing
Tail water Fishing East Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	7/2/2020	Weather		Sunny		Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.								
Start Time	10:00 AM	Temperature		84										
End Time	12:00 PM	Wind Speed		3 mph SW										
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
266th Street Informal Access	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P - Boat Fishing
Portage Put-In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Take-Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing East Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	7/12/2020					Weather	Sunny				Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.			
Start Time	1100					Temperature	76							
End Time	1300					Wind Speed	Calm							
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	12	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P- Boat Fishing S- Bicycling
266th Street Informal Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Put-In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Take-Out	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P- Shore Fishing
Tail water Fishing East Side	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P- Shore Fishing
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														
Busy weekend on the lakes and campgrounds in area.														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	7/27/2020				Weather		Sunny				Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.			
Start Time	7:00 AM				Temperature		62 Degrees F							
End Time	9:00 AM				Wind Speed		4 MPH NW							
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P- Boat Fishing
266th Street Informal Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Put-In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Take-Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing East Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	7/30/2020				Weather		Sunny				Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.			
Start Time	13:00 PM				Temperature		81 Degrees F							
End Time	15:00 PM				Wind Speed		8 MPH							
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicing	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	Fire Department
266th Street Informal Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Put-In	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	Picnicing
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Take-Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing East Side	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Shore Fishing
Tail water Fishing West Side	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Shore Fishing
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														
The Sheldon fire department was occupying the City of Cornell boat landing today in what looked like testing each fire trucks water pumps. The were just cycling water through the truck fire pump system back into the lake.														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	8/10/2020	Weather		Sunny		Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.								
Start Time	12:00 PM	Temperature		74 Degrees F										
End Time	2:00 PM	Wind Speed		11 MPH										
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	6	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	P - Bicycling - Wildlife Watching
266th Street Informal Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Put-In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Take-Out	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Shore Fishing
Tail water Fishing East Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	8/16/2020	Weather		Sunny		Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.								
Start Time	3:45 PM	Temperature		78 Degrees F										
End Time	5:45 PM	Wind Speed		11 MPH										
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	14	0	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P - Shore Fishing - Boat Fishing
266th Street Informal Access	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Shore Fishing
Portage Put-In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Take-Out	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Shore Fishing
Tail water Fishing East Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	8/23/2020	Weather		Sunny		Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.								
Start Time	4:45 PM	Temperature		87 Degrees F										
End Time	6:45 PM	Wind Speed		5 MPH										
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	4	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P - Walking / Boat Fishing
266th Street Informal Access	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P - Shore Fishing
Portage Put-In	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P - Swimming
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Take-Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing East Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														

RECREATION OBSERVATION FORM														
Cornell Hydroelectric Project P-2639														
Date	9/13/2020				Weather		Cloudy				Note: Please list primary activity by placing a "P" in the box. Use an "S" for secondary activities.			
Start Time	11:00 AM				Temperature		65 Degrees F							
End Time	12:15 PM				Wind Speed		8 MPH							
Surveyor	CHRC17													
Recreation Site	Number of People	ATVs/Snowmobiles	Shore Fishing	Boat Fishing	Swimming	Hiking/Walking/Jogging	Bicycling	Picnicking	Bird Watching	Wildlife Viewing	Non-Powered Boating	Power Boating	Other (Specify)	Notes
City of Cornell Boat Landing	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P- Boat Fishing
266th Street Informal Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Put-In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Trail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Portage Take-Out	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing East Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tail water Fishing West Side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:														

APPENDIX 5 Completed Questionnaires



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

Xcel Energy is in the process of relicensing the Cornell Hydroelectric Project (Project) located on the Chippewa River in Wisconsin using the Traditional Licensing Process. Xcel Energy is gathering information about potential recreation needs in the vicinity of the Cornell Hydroelectric Project.

The Project vicinity is defined as the area upstream and downstream of the Cornell Dam within ¼ mile of the shoreline extending upstream to the Holcombe Dam and downstream ¼ mile of the Cornell Dam.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Miller at matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com or 715-737-1353.

1. Information about person completing the questionnaire:

Name & Title: David DeJongh
Organization: City of Cornell
Address: P.O. Box 796
Cornell, WI 54732
Phone: 715/239-3710
Email Address: cityoffice@cityofcornell.com

2. Is your organization responsible for recreation sites, amenities, formal access sites, or planning for recreation sites within the Project vicinity as defined above?

X ☒ Yes *(Please proceed to 2a below)* ☐ No *(No additional information is needed and thank you for your input)*

- a. Please describe your primary function pertaining to recreation and list any recreation sites or access sites (formal or informal) in the Project vicinity you are responsible for in the space provided below: *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

The City provides recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Sites to include the Cornell Mill Yard Park, City Shop property, Jean Brunet City Park

Please proceed to question 2b on the next page.



**Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire**

- b. Please list any recreation amenities available at each recreation site or access site you manage (e.g. docks, restrooms, parking areas, interpretive signage, picnic tables, trails, etc.) below:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

Recreational amenities: Including but not limited to parks, picnic areas, pavilion/restroom facilities, multi-use trails, boat launch, canoe/kayak launch, visitors' center, scenic river views, shore fishing, ball fields, children's playgrounds, & skate park.

- c. Please provide the location of each site listed above using a map, street address, or GPS location:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

Mill Yard Park – 300 Park Road Brunet City Park-500 Main St City Shop – 300 Park Rd

- d. Do any of your sites or amenities listed in 2a and 2b ever exceed capacity or not have enough parking capacity? (Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

X ☐ Yes (Please list location, amenity and when capacity is exceeded.) ☐ No

Recreation Site/Amenity

Event(s) Exceeding Capacity

Mill Yard Park

Community Fair/Softball Tournament

Mill Yard Park

Chippewa River Rendezvous

Please proceed to question 2e on the next page.



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

- e. Based on the specific recreation sites listed in 2a and amenities listed in 2b, do you have any planned improvements of existing recreation sites or any plans for development of new recreation sites? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☒ Yes *(Please list location, planned improvement, and anticipated opening date below.)*

☐ No

Planned Improvements/Locations

Anticipated Opening Date

Mill Yard Park Pavilion/Restroom/parking updates

Next 5 years

Multi-purpose trail – Mill Yard Park & City Shop

Next 5 years

See attached City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2025

Next 5 years

- f. Do you believe additional recreation sites/amenities are needed within the Project vicinity? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☒ Yes *(Please list reasoning below.)*

☐ No

Additional Recreation Sites/Amenities Reasoning

Boat Launch below the dam. Access on the East side of the river was lost - NO

TRESPASSING. Rock rapids prevent boat access from other downstream

Boat landings. Potentially make use of an abandoned roadway on Xcel's property on West side of river.

Multi-use trail through the Mill Yard Park & City Shop properties connecting the state

Old Abe Trail and the Ice Age Trail. Mill Yard Park handicap fishing pier

- g. Please indicate if there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for any recreation site listed above: *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

Representative Contact Information

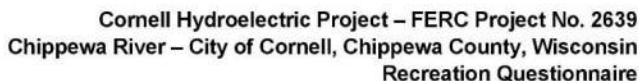
Name: David DeJongh

Address: P.O. Box 796

Cornell, WI 54732

Phone: 715/239-3710

Email: cityoffice@cityofcornell.com



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Comments, questions, and/or this completed questionnaire may also be sent via email to:
Matthew.J.Miller@Xcel.com



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

Xcel Energy is in the process of relicensing the Cornell Hydroelectric Project (Project) located on the Chippewa River in Wisconsin using the Traditional Licensing Process. Xcel Energy is gathering information about potential recreation needs in the vicinity of the Cornell Hydroelectric Project.

The Project vicinity is defined as the area upstream and downstream of the Cornell Dam within ¼ mile of the shoreline extending upstream to the Holcombe Dam and downstream ¼ mile of the Cornell Dam.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Miller at matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com or 715-737-1353.

1. Information about person completing the questionnaire:

Name & Title: Vicki Christianson
Organization: Cornell Trail Community Committee/ Ice Age Trail-Chippewa Moraine Chapter
Address: 317 Woodside Dr.
Cornell, WI 54732
Phone: 715-827-0379
Email Address: vicki.christianson@yahoo.com

2. Is your organization responsible for recreation sites, amenities, formal access sites, or planning for recreation sites within the Project vicinity as defined above?

☐ Yes *(Please proceed to 2a below)* ☐ No *(No additional information is needed and thank you for your input)*

a. Please describe your primary function pertaining to recreation and list any recreation sites or access sites (formal or informal) in the Project vicinity you are responsible for in the space provided below: *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

Ice Age Trail Alliance-Chippewa Moraine Chapter: The IATA has two trail segments within the project vicinity: the Chippewa River Segment and the Firth Lake Segment. The Chippewa River Segment has trailheads at Cty Z and on County CC which has a parking lot. As a member of the Chippewa Moraine Chapter, I participate in trail building and maintenance along these segments.

Cornell Trail Community Committee: I am the lead member of the committee, and have worked with our committee to obtain Trail Community Status with IATA. The committee has members from the City of Cornell and the Chippewa Moraine Chapter of the IATA. As part of the Trail Community Agreement, it is the goal of the City of Cornell and the local Chippewa Moraine Chapter to extend the Chippewa River Segment from County Z to town via the Blue Bridge and through the Mill Yard Park. The City of Cornell has development plans for the Mill Yard Park which can be found in their Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Please proceed to question 2b on the next page.



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

- b. Please list any recreation amenities available at each recreation site or access site you manage (e.g. docks, restrooms, parking areas, interpretive signage, picnic tables, trails, etc.) below:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

The IATA has a parking lot on Cty CC which has a kiosk for information on the Ice Age Trail and the local segments. The Chippewa River trail goes south along the Chippewa River for about 0.6 miles. It then crosses the road and enters the Krank Preserve. The trail circles around Perch Lake and then travels across private land to Cty Z. There is trail signage along this 2 mile trail, and signage at County Z. There is a small parking pad on Cty. Z

The Firth Lake Segment runs from the Moonridge Trail off County E near Camp Nawakwa to Cty. CC. The trail goes past Firth Lake. A mile to the east, hikers take a spur trail out to 250th Ave and then hike to Cty. CC and then south to the AIT parking lot. The trail has signage throughout the trail and trailhead signage at each end.

Millyard Park. The Millyard Park has gravel parking areas. There is a pavilion with bathrooms, a kitchen area, stage, and picnic tables. Cement benches are located with a view of the river. There is a new canoe and kayak launch. There are two baseball fields, one of which is for Little League. There is a skateboard park and a playground. The Cornell Visitors Center is located at the Millyard Park along with the Native American Voice Center. The Cornell Stacker is a local landmark. Numerous City events take place at the Millyard Park. Some of these include the Cornell Fair, July 3rd Fireworks, and the Rendezvous. Individuals and groups can rent the pavilion. The Farmer's Market is held on Wednesdays during the summer.

- c. Please provide the location of each site listed above using a map, street address, or GPS location:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

The Millyard Park is located at Hwy. 64 and Park Road in Cornell.

Cornell Visitor Center: 45.1658, -91.155564

County Z trailhead 45.17101, -91.17791 (Chippewa River Segment)

County CC trailhead parking lot 45.18792, -91.17280 Chippewa River and Firth Lake trailhead

- d. Do any of your sites or amenities listed in 2a and 2b ever exceed capacity or not have enough parking capacity? (Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

☐ Yes (Please list location, amenity and when capacity is exceeded.) ☒ No



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

Recreation Site/Amenity	Event(s) Exceeding Capacity

Please proceed to question 2e on the next page.

- e. Based on the specific recreation sites listed in 2a and amenities listed in 2b, do you have any planned improvements of existing recreation sites or any plans for development of new recreation sites? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☒ Yes *(Please list location, planned improvement, and anticipated opening date below.)* ☐ No

Planned Improvements/Locations

We are hoping to continue the Chippewa River segment of the Ice Age Trail to the Millyard Park from Cty Z. The plan is to travel at the back of the properties along Cty CC towards town, with a return to CC on a trail between the first two properties. Hikers would then cross CC and travel on a new trail on the river side of CC (Brunet Island State Park property) until reaching the Blue Bridge. Hikers would cross the bridge and then travel through the Millyard Park to reach Main Street. We are hoping to also include the Connecting Road through Cornell to the Chippewa River Segment.

Cornell has a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation plan (2020-2025) with 23 improvement items. The ones relating to the IAT include a trail access along the Chippewa River. They are hoping to acquire the land along the river or get an easement to allow them to develop the park and qualify for grants. They would like to acquire the parking lot from Mule Hide and pave it.

Anticipated Opening Date

Within the next 5 years contingent upon gaining agreements with the CC landowners for the trail to pass along their back property line.

2020-2025

- f. Do you believe additional recreation sites/amenities are needed within the Project vicinity? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

☐ Yes *(Please list reasoning below.)*

☐ No

Additional Recreation Sites/Amenities Reasoning

- g. Please indicate if there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for any recreation site listed above: *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

Representative Contact Information

Name: Richard Smith Chapter Coordinator for the Chippewa Moraine Chapter of the IATA

Address:

Phone: 715-933-0252

Email: chippewamorainechapter@iceagetrail.org



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

Xcel Energy is in the process of relicensing the Cornell Hydroelectric Project (Project) located on the Chippewa River in Wisconsin using the Traditional Licensing Process. Xcel Energy is gathering information about potential recreation needs in the vicinity of the Cornell Hydroelectric Project.

The Project vicinity is defined as the area upstream and downstream of the Cornell Dam within ¼ mile of the shoreline extending upstream to the Holcombe Dam and downstream ¼ mile of the Cornell Dam.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Miller at matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com or 715-737-1353.

1. Information about person completing the questionnaire:

Name & Title: Susan Courter
Organization: _____
Address: 17054 State Highway 178
Jim Falls, Wisconsin 54748
Phone: (715) 450-3669
Email Address: susan@courterresource.com

2. Is your organization responsible for recreation sites, amenities, formal access sites, or planning for recreation sites within the Project vicinity as defined above?

☐ Yes *(Please proceed to 2a below)* ☒ No *(No additional information is needed and thank you for your input)*

- a. Please describe your primary function pertaining to recreation and list any recreation sites or access sites (formal or informal) in the Project vicinity you are responsible for in the space provided below: *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

Primary function = recreation enjoyer. Our family lives on the Chippewa River between Cornell and Jim Falls. Avid kayakers, we spend many hours paddling the tannin-stained waters of the Cornell Flowage. Gentle sections of the river offer our neighbors, family and friends—locals and visitors alike—floating, fishing, foraging, wildlife viewing and hunting by raft, skiff, paddle boat, pontoon, jet ski, canoe, kayak, paddleboard or innertube. Our friends and family participate in the annual Floatilla, along with hundreds of other visitors each year.

The positive value of Cornell's local natural resource recreation areas—Old Abe Bike Trail, Ice Age Trail, Brunet Island State Park, Cornell Flowage, Fisher River and Chippewa County Parks and Forests—has increased exponentially with the COVID-19 pandemic as we turn to outdoor open spaces for fresh air, wellness and recreation at the river front.



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

Please proceed to question 2b on the next page.

- b. Please list any recreation amenities available at each recreation site or access site you manage (e.g. docks, restrooms, parking areas, interpretive signage, picnic tables, trails, etc.) below:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

N/A

- c. Please provide the location of each site listed above using a map, street address, or GPS location:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

N/A

- d. Do any of your sites or amenities listed in 2a and 2b ever exceed capacity or not have enough parking capacity? (Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

☐ Yes (Please list location, amenity and when capacity is exceeded.)

☐ No

Recreation Site/Amenity

Event(s) Exceeding Capacity

N/A

N/A



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

Please proceed to question 2e on the next page.

- e. Based on the specific recreation sites listed in 2a and amenities listed in 2b, do you have any planned improvements of existing recreation sites or any plans for development of new recreation sites? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☐ Yes *(Please list location, planned improvement, and anticipated opening date below.)*

☐ No

Planned Improvements/Locations
N/A

Anticipated Opening Date
N/A

- f. Do you believe additional recreation sites/amenities are needed within the Project vicinity? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☒ Yes *(Please list reasoning below.)*

☐ No

Additional Recreation Sites/Amenities Reasoning

Our family, neighbors and friends believe additional recreation sites/amenities are needed to connect Cornell to its natural resource recreation areas (details attached).

- g. Please indicate if there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for any recreation site listed above: *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

Representative Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

Additional Information or Comments:

(Please indicate applicable section) f. reasoning for needed recreation sites/amenities:

Cornell is a river community. Each year, hundreds of recreation enthusiasts take advantage of the year-round outdoor opportunities on or near the Chippewa River at Cornell—all frequenting local grocery stores, gas stations, shops, and restaurants. Interruptions in river access for hydroelectric dam operation and servicing, while necessary for public safety and the environment, reduce recreation access and the level of support to area businesses. Simple, actionable steps to connect Cornell to its natural resources, and mitigate losses attributed to hydroelectric power generation include:

Acquisitions, trail creation, and invasive species control. The river is the front door to the City of Cornell. Access to and beautiful views along the river, including the east shore at Mill Yard Park, are impeded by stands of buckthorn, poison ivy, thistle, and wild parsnip—invasive species that take hold due to the lack of permanent vegetation. Views are further obstructed by semi parking near the information center/park entrance.

To reimagine this area, acquisitions and carefully planned connections to the Ice Age Trail, Old Abe bike trail, city boat landing, downtown businesses, and canoe portage below the dam are needed. A connected, well-defined trail system equipped with signage, seating, and safety considerations for crossing Bridge Street (Highway 64) at the river will improve pedestrian access and walkability. Combined with an aggressive plan to identify and eradicate invasive species throughout the trail system and shoreline, and add landscaping and lighting along the trail at Mill Yard Park, these steps optimize riverfront views and expand access to Cornell's river resources.

Recreation infrastructure below the dam. There is currently no vehicle access to the Chippewa River below the dam. To support renewable power generation while allowing recreation access to Cornell's river resources, a handicap-accessible boat ramp, equipped with a fishing pier/deck is needed when upstream access is interrupted.

Working together to maximize public spaces, and connect Cornell to its natural resources make the town financially stronger and neighborhoods more livable. Thank you for your interest and support.



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

Xcel Energy is in the process of relicensing the Cornell Hydroelectric Project (Project) located on the Chippewa River in Wisconsin using the Traditional Licensing Process. Xcel Energy is gathering information about potential recreation needs in the vicinity of the Cornell Hydroelectric Project.

The Project vicinity is defined as the area upstream and downstream of the Cornell Dam within ¼ mile of the shoreline extending upstream to the Holcombe Dam and downstream ¼ mile of the Cornell Dam.

If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Miller at matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com or 715-737-1353.

1. Information about person completing the questionnaire:

Name & Title: LISA MARIE WESTMAN CLERK/TREASURER
Organization: TOWN OF ESTELLA
Address: 21870 COUNTY HWY EE
CORNELL, WI 54732
Phone: 715-312-0071
Email Address: townofestellaclerk@gmail.com

2. Is your organization responsible for recreation sites, amenities, formal access sites, or planning for recreation sites within the Project vicinity as defined above?

☐ Yes (Please proceed to 2a below)

☒ No (No additional information is needed and thank you for your input)

- a. Please describe your primary function pertaining to recreation and list any recreation sites or access sites (formal or informal) in the Project vicinity you are responsible for in the space provided below: (Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

Please proceed to question 2b on the next page.



**Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire**

- b. Please list any recreation amenities available at each recreation site or access site you manage (e.g. docks, restrooms, parking areas, interpretive signage, picnic tables, trails, etc.) below:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

- c. Please provide the location of each site listed above using a map, street address, or GPS location:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

- d. Do any of your sites or amenities listed in 2a and 2b ever exceed capacity or not have enough parking capacity? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☐ Yes *(Please list location, amenity and when capacity is exceeded.)* ☐ No

Recreation Site/Amenity	Event(s) Exceeding Capacity

Please proceed to question 2e on the next page.



**Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire**

- e. Based on the specific recreation sites listed in 2a and amenities listed in 2b, do you have any planned improvements of existing recreation sites or any plans for development of new recreation sites? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☐ Yes *(Please list location, planned improvement, and anticipated opening date below.)*

☐ No

Planned Improvements/Locations

Anticipated Opening Date

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- f. Do you believe additional recreation sites/amenities are needed within the Project vicinity? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☐ Yes *(Please list reasoning below.)*

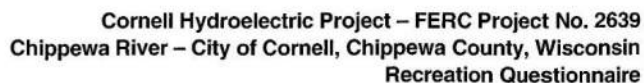
☐ No

Additional Recreation Sites/Amenities Reasoning

- g. Please indicate if there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for any recreation site listed above: *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

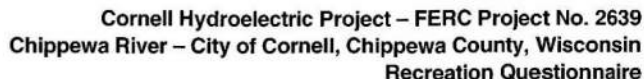
Representative Contact Information

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Comments, questions, and/or this completed questionnaire may also be sent via email to:
Matthew.J.Miller@Xcel.com



If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Miller at matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com or 715-737-1353.

Name & Title: Tracey Larson, Clerk
Organization: Town of Lake Holcombe
Address: P.O. Box 280
Holcombe, WI 54745
Phone: 715-595-6586
Email Address: clerk@townoflakeholcombe.com

☐ Yes (Please proceed to 2a below)

 No (No additional information is needed and thank you for your input)

[illegible]

Please proceed to question 2b on the next page.



**Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire**

- b. Please list any recreation amenities available at each recreation site or access site you manage (e.g. docks, restrooms, parking areas, interpretive signage, picnic tables, trails, etc.) below:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

- c. Please provide the location of each site listed above using a map, street address, or GPS location:
(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)

- d. Do any of your sites or amenities listed in 2a and 2b ever exceed capacity or not have enough parking capacity? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☐ Yes *(Please list location, amenity and when capacity is exceeded.)* ☐ No

Recreation Site/Amenity

Event(s) Exceeding Capacity

Please proceed to question 2e on the next page.



Cornell Hydroelectric Project – FERC Project No. 2639
Chippewa River – City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Recreation Questionnaire

- e. Based on the specific recreation sites listed in 2a and amenities listed in 2b, do you have any planned improvements of existing recreation sites or any plans for development of new recreation sites? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☐ Yes *(Please list location, planned improvement, and anticipated opening date below.)*

☐ No

Planned Improvements/Locations

Anticipated Opening Date

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- f. Do you believe additional recreation sites/amenities are needed within the Project vicinity? *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

☐ Yes *(Please list reasoning below.)*

☐ No

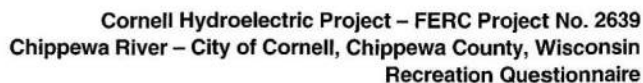
Additional Recreation Sites/Amenities Reasoning

- g. Please indicate if there is a specific representative you wish to designate for potential follow-up contact by Xcel Energy or Xcel Energy's representative for any recreation site listed above: *(Additional information may be provided on the final sheet of this questionnaire.)*

Representative Contact Information

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Comments, questions, and/or this completed questionnaire may also be sent via email to:
Matthew.J.Miller@Xcel.com

APPENDIX 6 City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan has been included as an Appendix in the Draft License Application.

APPENDIX 7 Documentation of Consultation on Draft Recreation Report

Shawn Puzen

From: Shawn Puzen
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Ternes, Angela M.; cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov; James Fossum; Judy Talbot, Mayor; City of Cornell
Cc: Shawn Puzen; Darrin Johnson; Miller, Matthew J; Crotty, Scott A; Shawn Puzen
Subject: Cornell Recreation Study Report-Re send for those that did not receive it the first time.
Attachments: Appendix 6 CORP 2019.pdf; 20210218 Recreation Use Study Report Sent for Comments.pdf

Greetings,

Enclosed is the draft Cornell Recreation Survey Report for your review and comment.

Please provide your comments by no later than March 21, 2021. If you do not respond before March 22, 2021, we will assume you do not have any comments.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

SHAWN PUZEN

FERC HYDROPOWER LICENSING AND COMPLIANCE, WATER
Mead & Hunt
Direct: 920-593-6865 | Cell: 920-639-2480 | Transfer Files
meadhunt.com | LinkedIn | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



J.D. FOSSUM ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

199 Janet Marie Ln., Winona, MN 55987
(507) 429-9129 E: mail: jfbio@yahoo.com

February 24, 2021

To: Shawn Puzen, Mead & Hunt and Matt Miller, Xcel Energy (XE)

I reviewed for the River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW), XE's draft *Recreation Study Report* for relicensing the Cornell Hydro Project. Our comments on the report are as follows:

-266th St. access to the West side of the flowage. As stated in the report, this is an informal and unimproved access site that is used mainly for shore fishing and launching small carry in watercraft. No signage is posted. We believe that improvements to this site are needed. The road to the site is dirt with numerous ruts and erosion is apparent. Unless the site is totally blocked off from vehicle access, people are likely to continue to use it. We recommend that: 1) the road be bladed, as needed, 2) gravel added to the small boat launch, 3) gravel placed over a small shoreline fishing area, and 4) signage to the site posted.

Our other recommendations for recreational at the improvements at the Cornell Project are:

- Replace the canoe trail sign which according to the picture is weathered
- Produce a recreational user brochure for the project to direct the public to each rec. site. A map legend should explain the type of recreational use allowed at each site.
- Implement the recreational enhancements in the Mill Yard Park that the City of Cornell requests XE include in their Recreation Plan to be implemented during post relicensing

We concur with XE's plan of improvement to the tailwater access site on the East Side of the flowage. The fishing is likely to be much better (than the west side) in the discharge water from the turbine units as these areas are known to attract many species of fish, depending on the season. In our opinion, developing tailwater access to the west side of the tailwater is less important because often the spillway gates are closed and thus there is still, shallow water below them. Fish are less likely to inhabit that area when flowing water habitat is available on the East side of the river.

The opportunity to comment on the draft Recreation Plan is appreciated.

Jim Fossum
Consultant for the River Alliance of Wisconsin

RAW Comments and Licensee Responses

Comment:

266th St. access to the West side of the flowage. As stated in the report, this is an informal and unimproved access site that is used mainly for shore fishing and launching small carry in watercraft. No signage is posted. We believe that improvements to this site are needed. The road to the site is dirt with numerous ruts and erosion is apparent. Unless the site is totally blocked off from vehicle access, people are likely to continue to use it. We recommend that: 1) the road be bladed, as needed, 2) gravel added to the small boat launch, 3) gravel placed over a small shoreline fishing area, and 4) signage to the site posted.

Response:

The Licensee has proposed several improvements to the site that are described in Section 5 of the report.

Comment:

Replace the canoe trail sign which according to the picture is weathered.

Response:

The canoe trail sign referenced in the comment is shown as Figure 3.1.4-2 in the report. The weathered directional part of the sign will be replaced, or an arrow will be added to the existing sign.

Comment:

Produce a recreational user brochure for the project to direct the public to each rec. site. A map legend should explain the type of recreational use allowed at each site.

Response:

The existing recreation brochure for the Chippewa River hydroelectric projects will be updated or a new brochure will be developed to include the recreation areas at the Cornell Project. This brochure will be made available for distribution at the Visitor Center in Mill Yard Park.

Comment:

Implement the recreational enhancements in the Mill Yard Park that the City of Cornell requests XE include in their Recreation Plan to be implemented during post relicensing.

Response:

The Licensee has met with the City to discuss and prioritize funding support options. These options are outlined in Section 5 of the report.

Comment:

We concur with XE's plan of improvement to the tailwater access site on the East Side of the flowage. The fishing is likely to be much better (than the west side) in the discharge water from the turbine units as these areas are known to attract many species of fish, depending on the season. In our opinion, developing tailwater access to the west side of the tailwater is less important because often the spillway gates are closed and thus there is still, shallow water below them. Fish are less likely to inhabit that area when flowing water habitat is available on the East side of the river.

Response:

Comment noted.

Shawn Puzen

From: corvette99 <corvette99@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Shawn Puzen
Subject: Mill Yard Park Area-Cornell

Hello Shawn,

Thank you for the opportunity for public comment suggestions to entertain on the projects related to Xcel Energy's re-licensing of the Cornell dam.

In the Mill Yard Park immediate area:

- Energy efficient light for the flag/pole
- Obliteration of the constant stench probably emanating from the local factory there--work with them to neutralize and other innovative solutions. During the warmer weather, it is unpleasant to use the space.
- Goose poop problem on the pathways; parking lot; and if a new pier is installed, they will be there too. I believe the Brunet Island State Park had a problem near the beach, that seems to have worked. Check with them.

Below the dam:

Jean Brunet had his homestead built just south of the current dam (long before the dam was there). He is the Father of "Brunet Falls" which is what Cornell was initially named. There might be some footings remaining there and also possibly some cemetery markers. The people buried there were moved to the Cornell Cemetery in the 1940's--about 10 of them including Mrs. Jean Brunet. She has a new monument as of 2019.

This homestead, we believe, is currently on or very close to Xcel Energy Property. It needs to be preserved; cleaned up; memorialized; publicized; remembered. It is HISTORIC!

Thank you!

Mary Carlson

715-833-7123

Mary Carlson Comments and Licensee Responses

Comment:

In the Mill Yard Park immediate area:

- *Energy efficient light for the flag/pole*
- *Obliteration of the constant stench probably emanating from the local factory there--work with them to neutralize and other innovative solutions. During the warmer weather, it is unpleasant to use the space.*
- *Goose poop problem on the pathways; parking lot; and if a new pier is installed, they will be there too. I believe the Brunet Island State Park had a problem near the beach, that seems to have worked. Check with them.*

Response:

The Licensee does not own any facilities at Mill Yard Park or the factory. Therefore, the Licensee has no authority to address the comments. The Licensee has committed to work closely with the City of Cornell on measures for creating, preserving, and enhancing recreational opportunities. The Licensee met with the City to discuss and prioritize funding support options for Mill Yard Park. The items discussed are outlined in Section 5 of the report.

Comment:

Below the dam:

Jean Brunet had his homestead built just south of the current dam (long before the dam was there). He is the Father of "Brunet Falls" which is what Cornell was initially named. There might be some footings remaining there and also possibly some cemetery markers. The people buried there were moved to the Cornell Cemetery in the 1940's--about 10 of them including Mrs. Jean Brunet. She has a new monument as of 2019. This homestead, we believe, is currently on or very close to Xcel Energy Property. It needs to be preserved; cleaned up; memorialized; publicized; remembered. It is HISTORIC!

Response:

The Licensee completed a shoreline archaeological survey of the area of potential effect for the operations of the Cornell Project. The survey did not identify the former location of the homestead within the area of potential effect. Therefore, the Licensee is not proposing any measures associated with the location.

Shawn Puzen

From: Heather Palmer <palmerheather683@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 21, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Shawn Puzen
Subject: Park Recreation

Our suggestion for The Park Recreation Ideas is to update the skate park. My son has been skating for about 18 years and with many discussions over the years amongst him as well as his friends; the city has lacked any involvement with the skatepark other than discussions on how to rid of the recreational area.

My suggestion is to update the surface with cement rather than the rough blacktop and do maintenance repairs on the ramp

Over the years, the only improvements has been aesthetic touch ups with paint done which came from the fundraising budget the skaters had done to get the park close to 20 years ago now. The skaters and their parents were the ones to address it.

Before my son moved out west he went down to jack up and bolt the fun box back together (structure in the middle of the park) as he knew that it needed to be reassembled. They would rearrange the skatepark from time to time. The work done to the skatepark was all on the skaters and parents own time and money.

Cornell Skatepark's scenery doesn't go unnoticed and had been a topic brought up with introductions from people hours away. I suggest reaching out to Cornell's and surrounding skate communities of what improvements could be made.

With the technology these days, it's quite easier than it was when 20 years ago when we first brought the skatepark into our community. Maybe it is time we give back and join in the efforts of the park

Sincerely,

Heather and Miles Palmer

Palmer Comments and Licensee Responses

Comment:

Our suggestion for The Park Recreation Ideas is to update the skate park. My son has been skating for about 18 years and with many discussions over the years amongst him as well as his friends; the city has lacked any involvement with the skatepark other than discussions on how to rid of the recreational area.

My suggestion is to update the surface with cement rather than the rough blacktop and do maintenance repairs on the ramp.

Over the years, the only improvements has been aesthetic touch ups with paint (were) done which came from the fundraising budget the skaters had done to get the park close to 20 years ago now. The skaters and their parents were the ones to address it.

Before my son moved out west he went down to jack up and bolt the fun box back together (structure in the middle of the park) as he knew that it needed to be reassembled. They would rearrange the skatepark from time to time. The work done to the skatepark was all on the skaters and parents own time and money.

Cornell Skatepark's scenery doesn't go unnoticed and had been a topic brought up with introductions from people hours away. I suggest reaching out to Cornell's and surrounding skate communities of what improvements could be made. With the technology these days, it's quite easier than it was when 20 years ago when. We first brought the skatepark into our community. Maybe it is time we give back and Join in the efforts of the park.

Response:

The skate park is located within the Mill Yard Park and is addressed in the City's CORP. The Licensee has committed to work with the City of Cornell on measures for creating, preserving, and enhancing recreational opportunities. It has met with the City to discuss and prioritize funding support options for its park. The items discussed are outlined in Section 5 of this report.

Shawn Puzen

From: Judy Talbot <judya.talbot@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 8:38 AM
To: Shawn Puzen
Subject: Re: Cornell Recreation Study Report

Hi Shawn,
As a citizen of the City of Cornell, we would like to see the following projects implemented in your plan for the Renewal of the License of the dam located in Cornell.

Funding and access to the river front that abuts Mill Yard Park in Cornell
A river walk to include paving of a path along the river
Possible placement of a handicapped pier from Mill Yard Park. Provide funding and help with DNR approval.
Funding the purchase of the adjacent parking lot located by the Visitors' Center, lot is currently owned by Mule Hide Manufacturing.
Paving and marking of parking lot.
Improvements to city boat launch to include pier
Improvements to the swimming area in the park.

Cornell's Mill Yard park has some of the most beautiful sunsets. Allowing for the brushing out of the riverfront would allow more access to viewing.

All of the above projects would require permits/permission from Xcel Energy along with necessary funding.

As Dave has suggested, a public hearing would make it possible for citizens of Cornell to make their opinions heard.

COVID-19 has effected events and programs in the city, as many others have felt. One positive is that the Visitors' Center saw an increase in visitors many doing day trips. We also saw an increase of park use on a daily basis with locals just wanting to get out-of-the-house. I do believe this type of travel will continue to increase and the proposed projects will give visitors and local citizens more to enjoy in Mill Yard park.

Thanks,
Judy Talbot

On Friday, February 19, 2021, 12:23:04 PM CST, Shawn Puzen <shawn.puzen@meadhunt.com> wrote:

Greetings,

Enclosed is the draft Cornell Recreation Survey Report for your review and comment.

Please provide your comments by no later than March 21, 2021. If you do not respond before March 22, 2021, we will assume you do not have any comments.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

SHAWN PUZEN

FERC HYDROPOWER LICENSING AND COMPLIANCE, WATER

Mead & Hunt

Direct: 920-593-6865 | Cell: 920-639-2480 | Transfer Files

meadhunt.com | LinkedIn | Twitter | Facebook | Instagram



120 YEARS OF SHAPING THE FUTURE

This email, including any attachments, is intended only for the use of the recipient(s) and may contain privileged and confidential information, including information protected under the HIPAA privacy rules. Any unauthorized review, disclosure, copying, distribution or use is prohibited. If you received this email by mistake, please notify us by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

Talbot Comments and Licensee Responses

Comment:

As a citizen of the City of Cornell, we would like to see the following projects implemented in your plan for the Renewal of the License of the dam located in Cornell.

Funding and access to the river front that abuts Mill Yard Park in Cornell

A river walk to include paving of a path along the river

Possible placement of a handicapped pier from Mill Yard Park.

Provide funding and help with DNR approval.

Funding the purchase of the adjacent parking lot located by the Visitors' Center, lot is currently owned by Mule Hide Manufacturing.

Paving and marking of parking lot.

Improvements to city boat launch to include pier

Improvements to the swimming area in the park.

Cornell's Mill Yard park has some of the most beautiful sunsets. Allowing for the brushing out of the riverfront would allow more access to viewing.

All of the above projects would require permits/permission from Xcel Energy along with necessary funding.

As Dave has suggested, a public hearing would make it possible for citizens of Cornell to make their opinions heard.

Response:

The Licensee has committed to work closely with the City of Cornell on measures for creating, preserving, and enhancing recreational opportunities. The Licensee met with the City to discuss and prioritize funding support options for Mill Yard Park. The items discussed are outlined in Section 5 of the report. Regarding the brushing of the riverfront, the City will be able to maintain the property to address the concern once the City has rights to the property.

The Licensee understands the concern regarding the swimming area in in the State Park is based on the location and not the capacity. The Licensee has no control over the placement of the swimming area. This type of improvement request should be addressed through the WDNR park planning process. The Licensee has chosen to focus upon working with the City to improve facilities as a no-fee recreation alternative to the State Park.

Comment:

COVID-19 has effected (sic) events and programs in the city, as many others have felt. One positive is that the Visitors' Center saw an increase in visitors many doing day trips. We also saw in increase of park use on a daily basis with locals just wanting to get out-of-the-house. I do believe this type of travel will continue to increase and the proposed projects will give visitors and local citizens more to enjoy in Mill Yard park.

Response:

Comment noted.



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Interior Regions 3, 4, 5
Wisconsin Field Office
626 E. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 400W
Milwaukee, WI 53202



March 21, 2021

Mr. Matt Miller
1414 West Hamilton Avenue
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702

Electronic Filing

Re: National Park Service Comments on the Draft Recreation Study Report Cornell Hydroelectric Project (P-2639)

Dear Mr. Miller,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Northern States Power Wisconsin (NSPW) Draft Recreation Study Report for the Cornell Hydroelectric Project (P-2639). The National Park Service (NPS) respectfully submits the following comments.

The NPS has authority to consult with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and applicants concerning a project's effects on outdoor recreation resources under the Federal Power Act (18 CFR 4.38(a), 5.41(f)(4)-(6), and 16.8(a)); the Outdoor Recreation Act (Pub Law 88-29), and the NPS Organic Act (39 Stat. 535). It is the policy of the NPS to represent the national interest regarding recreation and to assure that hydroelectric projects subject to the FERC licensing process incorporate the full potential for meeting present and future public outdoor recreation demands while maintaining and enhancing a quality environmental setting for those projects. Investigating opportunities to improve the recreation experience is consistent with NPS policy and FERC guidelines to identify potential future recreation needs.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has provided the information below to foster the development of license applications in an efficient and timely manner.

Guidance on Environmental Measures in License Applications

One important component of license applications is the description of proposed measures and plans to protect, mitigate, or enhance environmental resources (PM&E Measures). Proposed PM&E measures could include modifications to project facilities and

operations; construction, operation, and maintenance of new facilities; or protection or mitigation measures for addressing project-related effects. These could be individual measures, or a series of related measures (e.g., construction and maintenance of two boat docks, a picnic area, and a trail) which may be packaged into one plan (e.g., a Recreation Plan). How (and if) these proposed measures are packaged is not as important as the information that should be provided. Applicants have requested that Commission staff provide guidance on the level of detail that should be provided and at what point in the licensing process these measures are needed. We offer the following guidance in developing any proposed environmental measures.

(“Goal” and “Information Requirements” have been omitted for brevity.)

When Should This Information Be Provided

To promote constructive feedback, proposed measures should be provided as soon as possible in the pre-filing portion of the licensing process.

Proposed PM&Es at Culmination of Study Phase: Some measures are developed at the culmination of the study phase and included in study reports filed with the Commission. If any are developed at this phase, they should be incorporated by reference in an applicant’s draft license application/preliminary licensing proposal (DLA/PLP).

PM&Es in the Preliminary Licensing Proposal or Draft Application: To promote constructive feedback, preliminary proposals for measures and plans to protect, mitigate, or enhance environmental resources should be described and evaluated to the extent possible in an applicant’s DLA/PLP documents (18 C.F.R. §§ 5.16(b)(1) and (2)). At a minimum, the draft license application/PLP should include preliminary proposed measures, operations and maintenance plans, and a draft environmental analysis associated with them.

PM&Es in the License Application: By the time the final license application is filed, all of an applicant’s proposed PM&E measures must be provided.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMENTS

We have reviewed the Draft Recreation Study Report and respectfully submit the following comments and recommendations to support early development of mitigation and enhancement measures for inclusion in the Final Study Report and Draft License Application.

Background and Existing Information; Study Area

The Cornell Hydropower Project has an installed capacity is 30.75 megawatts. The allowable impoundment fluctuation from June 8th through Labor Day during the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. is 1.0 feet, from 1,001.0 to 1,002.0 feet msl.

Recreation within the Cornell FERC project boundary is dominated by the presence of Brunet Island State Park with 124,799 visitors in 2018. This number does not include national trends of greatly increased outdoor recreation prior to Covid-19 and even greater number of users since.

Ensure updated Brunet Island State Park recreation facility use data, condition, needs, and recommendations are used to develop mitigation and enhancement measures in the Draft License Application. The last data from 2014 FERC Form 80 does not capture current recreation use trends.

The report does not include an impoundment map showing location of formal and informal recreation sites sited in the surveys, nor is there such a map in the Pre-Application Document. Please ensure the Final Recreation Report and DLA includes a map that includes these the entire impoundment, project boundaries, company owned property, formal and in-formal recreation sites, and existing and proposed trails mentioned in this report.

Methodology

Recreation observation forms were mostly completed in early to mid-afternoon, outside of preferred time periods for angling, the primary use of the observation sites. Of the 12 days of observation, only one (4:45 – 6:45 p.m. Sunday August 23rd) was taken during the peak fishing periods of dawn and dusk on summer weekends. Another survey was taken close to that time period (3:45-5:45 Sunday August 16). A third survey was taken in the “early” morning (7:00-9:00 a.m.) but on a Monday (July 27th) morning, during the workweek when fishing activity is typically low. No prime fishing days of Saturday in July nor August were observed; this was due in part to miscommunication regarding July observation plans. The remaining 9 observation periods were made between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. outside of the preferred dawn and dusk preferred angling periods. Hence, the angling recreational use pressure is likely greater than reflected by the surveys.

Recreational user data is not provided for Mill Yard Park, the primary recreational and cultural destination for the City of Cornell. NSPW intentionally did not include Mill Yard Park in their survey, referencing information in the City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). However, no user survey nor counts were done in conjunction with that planning effort; consequently, the Cornell Recreation Report lacks data information indicating the popularity and use of this important waterfront park. This information should be included in the final report.

RESULTS

The surveys include data regarding presence or absence of barrier free facilities but a summary of these finding is lacking. The summary should include locations of existing barrier free facilities and reference plans which identify barrier-free facility needs.

All recommendations for recreation facilities at the water/land interface should consider allowable impoundment fluctuation of 1.0 feet msl between June 8th and Labor Day during the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Information should be included describing impacts of the allowable 1.0’ impoundment fluctuation on recreation at Brunet Island State Park and other formal and informal recreation facilities on the impoundment.

Draft License Application mitigation and enhancement measures should integrate facility use data, if available, and enhancement recommendations from both the City of Cornell and Brunet Island State Park.

The report references many recreational facilities along the City's waterfront as "planned". The report should state that these are recommendations, not funded and "planned" facilities. Obtaining funding for facility development is difficult, leaving many facilities never realized.

RECOMMENDATIONS

City of Cornell Boat Landing

The survey results indicate this access site experiences high use, 73 user days over 13 days, one day 14 people. The uses are varied including boating, fishing, hiking/walking/jogging, bicycling, paddle boating, and wildlife viewing. This is the only public landing on the impoundment outside of Brunet Island State Park; there is an entry fee to the state park. Northern States Power Wisconsin (NPSW) proposes adding none to their DLA. The City CORP identifies this site as needing several facilities which form our recommendation.

Recommendation

1. Improve boat ramp to include barrier-free skid pier/boarding dock
2. Provide a restroom, picnic tables, and pavilion on upper area
3. Enhance the entrance area by upgrading Part 8 Recreation Signage to current FERC standards and clearing and defining the park area

266th Street Informal Access Site

This survey reflects less use at this informal recreation site. This is to be expected at an informal, relatively unknown access site. In addition, recreation user data may not capture actual use due to timing of survey; please see "Methodology", above. The images and the facility condition survey included in the report indicate user demand and recommendations for this site yet NSPW proposes no enhancement for this location.

The Cornell impoundment is a lengthy water body with the only two formal boat access sites located at the far southeast end of the impoundment. Maps were not provided in the report nor in the PAD; we estimate the distance from this informal access site to 1) the Holcombe Hydropower Project tailwaters is 0.5 miles, and 2) the formal launches at Brunet Island SP the City Boat Launch are 4.5 miles and 5.0 miles respectively. Please provide a map with this and other recreation site and information.

Recommendation: Develop this site as a small, formal watercraft launch and shoreline fishing recreation facility.

1. Prohibit vehicular access to the shoreline
2. Add Part 8 recreational information signage to include information about acceptable recreation use "from dawn to dusk" rather than "daylight hours" recommended in the report: anglers prefer fishing at dawn and dusk.

3. Identify location of parking and number of vehicles accommodated
4. Add directional signage to facility

Tailwater Fishing Area East Side

Recreational user data from the survey indicates a fair amount of use (10 user days out of 13) despite the lack of signage indicating it is open to the public.

The comments from the hydropower project manager on Tailwater East Side access use is lacking although his comments were provided for West Tailwater Access; please provide this information. Observations and comments from residents demonstrate that anglers at the Tailwater Fishing Area East Side prefer fishing closer to the tailwaters than the area identified in the report where smaller stone has been placed downstream of larger riprap for this purpose. To get to their destination, anglers have been observed walking along an informal path at the top of the rip-rapped slope area paralleling the hurricane fence separating the parking lot. This area is shown in Figure 3.1.6-3.

To obtain more targeted use and preference information pertaining to the upstream preferred tailwater fishing location, we recommend interviewing local officials and residents as well as visiting the site at dawn or dusk on a few Saturdays in Summer.

Recommendation: We support NSPW's development of a concept plan to develop this as a formal tailwater fishing recreational area. It should include the following:

1. Define and designate parking area
2. Improve trails to river:
 - a) to the shoreline where smaller graveled area is provided, mentioned in the report
 - b) to a location close to tailwaters where anglers prefer better fishing; include some provision to make access to the tailwaters easier, either placement of large stone steps able to sustain expected flows or a cantilevered fishing deck if feasible
3. Install Part 8 signage at the entrance; wayfinding signs; and informational signs at the parking
4. Install and maintain a restroom for angler use

Canoe Access and Portage Route

The facility condition was documented in images and recommended for enhancement in the condition survey. NSPW proposes no enhancements related to the canoe portage.

Recommendation:

Update Part 8 Recreation Portage signs at the take-out, along the portage route, and at the put in.

Multi-purpose Trail Connector

The City CORP, IATA, and other regional plans referenced in the PAD indicate Cornell as an important center of convergent trails co-located along a desirable water resource, the Cornell impoundment. Consequently, the City's CORP and the Ice Age Trail plan for the Chippewa

River Segment highlight the need for a connector trail linking the Chippewa River Segment from County Highway Z to the Old Abe Trails via the Blue Bridge on State Highway Hwy 64 which crosses the impoundment within the project boundary. The nexus between the project and these trails is clear.

We support NSPW's commitment to transfer property rights for a parcel along the impoundment in which the CORP recommendations could be constructed. NSPW has not yet committed to assist in funding design nor construction of these facilities.

Recommendation:

1. Provide funding for a concept plan for a connector bicycle and pedestrian trail linking the Ice Age Trail (IAT) through the City of Cornell's Mill Yard Park to the Old Abe State Trail
2. Provide funds to assist in constructing the connector trail
3. Develop a wayfinding and interpretive signage plan for these trails and implement the plan within the Project boundaries
4. Work with the City, IATA, NPS, and other interested stakeholders in developing concepts for the trail and signage plan

Mill Yard Park

Mill Yard Park is the center of recreation, open space, and culture for the City of Cornell. Its location between the impoundment and the city's commercial zone serves as a hub for national, state, and local trails and social activities in the City.

Recreational user data is not provided for Mill Yard Park, the primary recreational and cultural destination for the City of Cornell. NSPW did not include Mill Yard Park in their survey sites nor were user counts done in conjunction with the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Report. This lack of information does not reflect the popularity and use of this important waterfront park.

We support NSPW's commitment to transfer property rights to the City for the parcel along the impoundment in Mill Yard Park.

Recommendations:

1. Design and construct the Proposed River Walk, a pedestrian trail recommended in the CORP, paralleling the Chippewa River; incorporate a barrier free fishing pier, lighting, benches, and other landscaping elements
2. As stated above, provide a concept plan and funds to assist construction of the bicycle and pedestrian trail connecting IAT with Old Abe State Trail
3. Develop and implement a shoreline management plan that includes invasive species control and monitoring
4. Construct new restrooms at the pavilion

Planned Improvements/Locations

Clarify that although the City CORP includes 23 improvements to Mill Yard Park and 9 improvements to their boat landing, these are *recommended* improvements without implementation funding.

Similarly, the Ice Age Trail is a National Scenic Trail that relies on collaborative planning with and funding from private property owners, public property owners, governments, and corporations. Development of the trail is a continual work in progress; this project provides a pivotal opportunity to connect multiple recreational resources, public and private, within the City of Cornell and the FERC project boundary.

The nexus of these recreation assets with this hydropower project is clear. Development of license mitigation and enhancement measures would provide a unique opportunity for many needed facilities to be realized.

Additional Recreation Sites/Remedies Requested

Tailwaters West Side Boat Launch

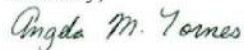
The City and local recreationist request replacement of a former tailwater boat launch to regain boat access to the tailwaters. The former tailwater boat launch located on the east side was closed due to management problems. Removal of this boat launch rendered the tailwaters inaccessible because rapids further downstream prevent boats from other down river access areas from going upriver to the tailwaters. This access site could be developed using an abandoned roadway located on the NSPW's property within the Project boundary.

Recommendation: Develop a new small boat access on the tailwater's west side.

CONCLUSION

The NPS appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Recreation Study Report for Cornell Hydroelectric Project. We look forward to working with the licensee, stakeholders, and FERC on this license application. Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 414.297.3605 or angie_tornes@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



Angela M. Tornes, NPS Interior Regions 3,4,5 Manager
Hydropower Assistance Program

NPS Comments and Licensee Responses

Comment:

Background and Existing Information; Study Area

The Cornell Hydropower Project has an installed capacity is 30.75 megawatts. The allowable impoundment fluctuation from June 8th through Labor Day during the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. is 1.0 feet, from 1,001.0 to 1,002.0 feet msl.

Recreation within the Cornell FERC project boundary is dominated by the presence of Brunet Island State Park with 124,799 visitors in 2018. This number does not include national trends of greatly increased outdoor recreation prior to Covid-19 and even greater number of users since.

Ensure updated Brunet Island State Park recreation facility use data, condition, needs, and recommendations are used to develop mitigation and enhancement measures in the Draft License Application. The last data from 2014 FERC Form 80 does not capture current recreation use trends.

Response:

The Licensee sent a questionnaire during the study to the WDNR and no response was received. Brunet Island State Park is managed by the WDNR. The WDNR has its own planning process that is supported by State funding. The Licensee has no jurisdiction over WDNR property.

Comment:

The report does not include an impoundment map showing location of formal and informal recreation sites sited in the surveys, nor is there such a map in the Pre-Application Document. Please ensure the Final Recreation Report and DLA includes a map that includes these the entire impoundment, project boundaries, company owned property, formal and in-formal recreation sites, and existing and proposed trails mentioned in this report.

Response:

References to existing maps providing the requested information are enclosed in the draft license application.

Comment:

Methodology

Recreation observation forms were mostly completed in early to mid-afternoon, outside of preferred time periods for angling, the primary use of the observation sites. Of the 12 days of observation, only one (4:45 – 6:45 p.m. Sunday August 23rd) was taken during the peak fishing periods of dawn and dusk on summer weekends. Another survey was taken close to that time period (3:45-5:45 Sunday August 16). A third survey was taken in the “early” morning (7:00- 9:00 a.m.) but on a Monday (July 27th) morning, during the workweek when fishing activity is typically low. No prime fishing days of Saturday in July nor August were observed; this was due in part to miscommunication regarding July observation plans. The remaining 9 observation periods were made between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. outside of the preferred dawn and dusk preferred angling periods. Hence, the angling recreational use pressure is likely greater than reflected by the surveys.

Response:

The comment speculates when fishing occurs and attempts to discuss recreation use on a micro-scale.

The Licensee is proposing to provide support for recreation amenities in the Project vicinity where there is a clear need or planned projects for free public use. The Licensee did not adjust recreation counts to account for a potential increase of outdoor recreation use due to social distancing requirements active at the time. The Licensee has committed to improving fishing capacity or contributing to capacity improvements at the 266th Street Informal Access Site, the east Tailwater Fishing Area, the City of Cornell Public Boat Landing, and Mill Yard Park. The proposed improvements will proactively address any potential concerns about angling recreational use pressure.

Comment:

Recreational user data is not provided for Mill Yard Park, the primary recreational and cultural destination for the City of Cornell. NSPW intentionally did not include Mill Yard Park in their survey, referencing information in the City of Cornell Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). However, no user survey nor counts were done in conjunction with that planning effort; consequently, the Cornell Recreation Report lacks data information indicating the popularity and use of this important waterfront park. This information should be included in the final report.

Response:

The Licensee has no authority over Mill Yard Park, as it is owned and managed by the City of Cornell. The City addressed the needs of Mill Yard Park through the adoption of its CORP.

The Licensee has committed to work with the City of Cornell on measures for creating, preserving, and enhancing recreational opportunities. The Licensee met with the City to discuss and prioritize funding support options for Mill Yard park. The items discussed are outlined in Section 5 of this report.

Comment:

The surveys include data regarding presence or absence of barrier-free facilities but a summary of these finding is lacking. The summary should include locations of existing barrier free facilities and reference plans which identify barrier-free facility needs.

Response:

None of the facilities that were inventoried contain barrier-free facilities.

The Licensee has committed to work closely with the City of Cornell on measures for creating, preserving, and enhancing recreational opportunities. The Licensee has proposed providing support for barrier-free improvements as outlined in Section 5 of the report.

Comments:

All recommendations for recreation facilities at the water/land interface should consider allowable impoundment fluctuation of 1.0 feet msl between June 8th and Labor Day during the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Information should be included describing impacts of the allowable 1.0' impoundment fluctuation on recreation at Brunet Island State Park and other formal and informal recreation facilities on the impoundment.

Response:

The Project fluctuation was reduced to 1.0 feet in 2001. Any modifications to the facilities affected by the fluctuation have already been made. Specifically, the City of Cornell Public Boat Landing has adequate ramp length to accommodate the fluctuation.

Comment:

Draft License Application mitigation and enhancement measures should integrate facility use data, if available, and enhancement recommendations from both the City of Cornell and Brunet Island State Park. The report references many recreational facilities along the City's waterfront as "planned". The report should state that these are recommendations, not funded and "planned" facilities. Obtaining funding for facility development is difficult, leaving many facilities never realized.

Response:

The measures recommended in Section 5 are included in the Draft License Application.

Comment:

City of Cornell Boat Landing

The survey results indicate this access site experiences high use, 73 user days over 13 days, one day 14 people. The uses are varied including boating, fishing, hiking/walking/jogging, bicycling, paddle boating, and wildlife viewing. This is the only public landing on the impoundment outside of Brunet Island State Park; there is an entry fee to the state park.

Northern States Power Wisconsin (NPSW) proposes adding none to their DLA. The City CORP identifies this site as needing several facilities which form our recommendation.

Recommendation

1. *Improve boat ramp to include barrier-free skid pier/boarding dock*
2. *Provide a restroom, picnic tables, and pavilion on upper area*
3. *Enhance the entrance area by upgrading Part 8 Recreation Signage to current FERC standards and clearing and defining the park area*

Response:

The report has been modified to state user observations instead of user days. The measures recommended in Section 5 are included in the Draft License Application.

Comment:

266th Street Informal Access Site

This survey reflects less use at this informal recreation site. This is to be expected at an informal, relatively unknown access site. In addition, recreation user data may not capture actual use due to timing of survey; please see "Methodology", above. The images and the facility condition survey included in the report indicate user demand and recommendations for this site yet NSPW proposes no enhancement for this location. The Cornell impoundment is a lengthy water body with the only two formal boat access sites located at the far southeast end of the impoundment. Maps were not provided in the report nor in the PAD; we estimate the distance from this informal access site to 1) the Holcombe Hydropower Project tailwaters is 0.5 miles, and 2) the formal launches at Brunet Island SP the City Boat Launch are 4.5 miles and 5.0 miles respectively. Please provide a map with this and other recreation site and information.

Response:

The location of the site has been included in the Exhibit G of the Draft License Application.

Comment:

Recommendation: Develop this site as a small, formal watercraft launch and shoreline fishing recreation facility.

1. *Prohibit vehicular access to the shoreline*
2. *Add Part 8 recreational information signage to include information about acceptable recreation use "from dawn to dusk" rather than "daylight hours" recommended in the report: anglers prefer fishing at dawn and dusk.*
3. *Identify location of parking and number of vehicles accommodated*
4. *Add directional signage to facility*

Tailwater Fishing Area East Side

Recreational user data from the survey indicates a fair amount of use (10 user days out of 13) despite the lack of signage indicating it is open to the public.

Response:

The report has been modified to state user observations instead of user days. The measures recommended in Section 5 are included in the Draft License Application.

Comment:

The comments from the hydropower project manager on Tailwater East Side access use is lacking although his comments were provided for West Tailwater Access; please provide this information.

Response:

The completed assessment form for the Tailwater Fishing Area (East Side) access was available in Appendix 3 on page 59 of the electronic file provided for comment. In the revised report, the Tailwater Fishing Area (East Side) access assessment form is available in Appendix 3.

Comment:

Observations and comments from residents demonstrate that anglers at the Tailwater Fishing Area East Side prefer fishing closer to the tailwaters than the area identified in the report where smaller stone has been placed downstream of larger riprap for this purpose. To get to their destination, anglers have been observed walking along an informal path at the top of the rip-rapped slope area paralleling the hurricane fence separating the parking lot. This area is shown in Figure 3.1.6-3.

To obtain more targeted use and preference information pertaining to the upstream preferred tailwater fishing location, we recommend interviewing local officials and residents as well as visiting the site at dawn or dusk on a few Saturdays in Summer.

Recommendation: We support NSPW's development of a concept plan to develop this as a formal tailwater fishing recreational area. It should include the following:

- 1. Define and designate parking area*
- 2. Improve trails to river:
 - a) to the shoreline where smaller graveled area is provided, mentioned in the report*
 - b) to a location close to tailwaters where anglers prefer better fishing; include some provision to make access to the tailwaters easier, either placement of large stone steps able to sustain expected flows or a cantilevered fishing deck if feasible.**
- 3. Install Part 8 signage at the entrance; wayfinding signs; and informational signs at the parking*
- 4. Install and maintain a restroom for angler use*

Response:

There are currently no restrictions to stop anglers from fishing further upstream into the tailrace. The bank stabilization that was required to be completed in that location was an engineered fix to reduce the potential for future bank erosion. After additional review by the Licensee, it is not necessary to provide smaller gravel further upstream for additional access. The anglers will fish further upstream if they want to. Although the bank area further upstream uses larger aggregate, it is not sized too large for anglers to walk on.

The site was visited with Dave DeJongh and the Mayor of the City of Cornell on April 7, 2021. The City did not identify an additional need to extend the small gravel area further upstream.

A separate restroom facility in this location would not be supervised and would be subject to vandalism. The Licensee is not proposing a restroom in this location.

The Licensee modified the report to incorporate Section 5 -Recommended Recreation Enhancement Measures including enhancement measures for the Tailwater Fishing Area (East Side). The measures recommended in Section 5 are included in the Draft License Application.

Comment:

The facility condition was documented in images and recommended for enhancement in the condition survey. NSPW proposes no enhancements related to the canoe portage.

Recommendation:

Update Part 8 Recreation Portage signs at the take-out, along the portage route, and at the put in.

Response:

The Licensee modified the report to incorporate Section 5 -Recommended Recreation Enhancement Measures including enhancement measures for the Canoe Access and Portage Route. The measures recommended in Section 5 are included in the Draft License Application.

Comment:

Multi-purpose Trail Connector

The City CORP, IATA, and other regional plans referenced in the PAD indicate Cornell as an important center of convergent trails co-located along a desirable water resource, the Cornell impoundment.

Consequently, the City's CORP and the Ice Age Trail plan for the Chippewa River Segment highlight the need for a connector trail linking the Chippewa River Segment from County Highway Z to the Old Abe Trails

via the Blue Bridge on State Highway Hwy 64 which crosses the impoundment within the project boundary. The nexus between the project and these trails is clear.

We support NSPW's commitment to transfer property rights for a parcel along the impoundment in which the CORP recommendations could be constructed. NSPW has not yet committed to assist in funding design nor construction of these facilities.

Recommendation:

- 1. Provide funding for a concept plan for a connector bicycle and pedestrian trail linking the Ice Age Trail (IAT) through the City of Cornell's Mill Yard Park to the Old Abe State Trail.*
- 2. Provide funds to assist in constructing the connector trail.*
- 3. Develop a wayfinding and interpretive signage plan for these trails and implement the plan within the Project boundaries.*
- 4. Work with the City, IATA, NPS, and other interested stakeholders in developing concepts for the trail and signage plan.*

Response:

The Licensee agreed to work with the City of Cornell to grant rights to Licensee property for the connector trail. The connector trail within the Mill Yard Park was discussed further as an item of potential support by the Licensee. The measures recommended in Section 5 are included in the Draft License Application.

Comment:

Mill Yard Park is the center of recreation, open space, and culture for the City of Cornell. Its location between the impoundment and the city's commercial zone serves as a hub for national, state, and local trails and social activities in the City.

Recreational user data is not provided for Mill Yard Park, the primary recreational and cultural destination for the City of Cornell. NSPW did not include Mill Yard Park in their survey sites nor were user counts done in conjunction with the City's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Report. This lack of information does not reflect the popularity and use of this important waterfront park.

Response:

The Licensee did not survey the overall use of Mill Yard Park in its entirety because the park includes many amenities that are not typically supported by hydroelectric projects. These amenities include a pavilion, ball diamonds, visitor center, stacker, playground equipment, skate park, and cultural center.

The City of Cornell's CORP specifies several recommended improvements for Mill Yard Park. The City is proposing to incorporate the City of Cornell Public Boat Landing into Mill Yard Park in the future. The Licensee collected City of Cornell Public Boat Landing user data and used the boat landing data to guide its decisions on what improvements it would support in both the Mill Yard Park and the boat landing.

The Licensee is not proposing to collect additional use data for Mill Yard Park.

Comment:

We support NSPW's commitment to transfer property rights to the City for the parcel along the impoundment in Mill Yard Park.

Recommendations:

- 1. Design and construct the Proposed River Walk, a pedestrian trail recommended in the CORP, paralleling the Chippewa River; incorporate a barrier free fishing pier, lighting, benches, and other landscaping elements*
- 2. As stated above, provide a concept plan and funds to assist construction of the bicycle and pedestrian trail connecting IAT with Old Abe State Trail*
- 3. Develop and implement a shoreline management plan that includes invasive species control and monitoring*

4. *Construct new restrooms at the pavilion*

Response:

The connector trail within Mill Yard Park was further discussed with the City of Cornell as an item of potential support by the Licensee on April 7, 2021. Section 5 of the report-Recommended Recreation Enhancement Measures has been updated for improvements to the City's facilities to include items that the Licensee has agreed to work with the City on.

It is not necessary to develop a shoreline management plan for the stretch of shoreline in front of the proposed extent of the future Mill Yard Park. Any requested non-project uses of project shoreline regarding Mill Yard Park are not expected to be numerous and can be granted through following the requirements of the land use article included in all licenses.

Lastly, control of invasive species will be addressed through development of an invasive species plan for the Project. Any control of invasive species on the shoreline for Mill Yard Park is more of an aesthetics concerns than the approach for invasive species management currently adopted by the WDNR and proposed by the Licensee in the license application to mitigate the spread of rapid response invasive species by developing a plan to monitor for the introduction of new "rapid response" invasive species and limit the dispersal of established species. The invasive species monitoring completed in 2020 did not identify the presence of any "rapid response" species currently present on the shoreline of Mill Yard Park.

Comment:

Planned Improvements/Locations

Clarify that although the City CORP includes 23 improvements to Mill Yard Park and 9 improvements to their boat landing, these are recommended improvements without implementation funding.

Similarly, the Ice Age Trail is a National Scenic Trail that relies on collaborative planning with and funding from private property owners, public property owners, governments, and corporations. Development of the trail is a continual work in progress; this project provides a pivotal opportunity to connect multiple recreational resources, public and private, within the City of Cornell and the FERC project boundary.

The nexus of these recreation assets with this hydropower project is clear. Development of license mitigation and enhancement measures would provide a unique opportunity for many needed facilities to be realized.

Response:

Comment noted.

Comment:

Tailwater West Side Boat Launch

The City and local recreationist request replacement of a former tailwater boat launch to regain boat access to the tailwaters. The former tailwater boat launch located on the east side was closed due to management problems. Removal of this boat launch rendered the tailwaters inaccessible because rapids further downstream prevent boats from other down river access areas from going upriver to the tailwaters. This access site could be developed using an abandoned roadway located on the NSPW's property within the Project boundary.

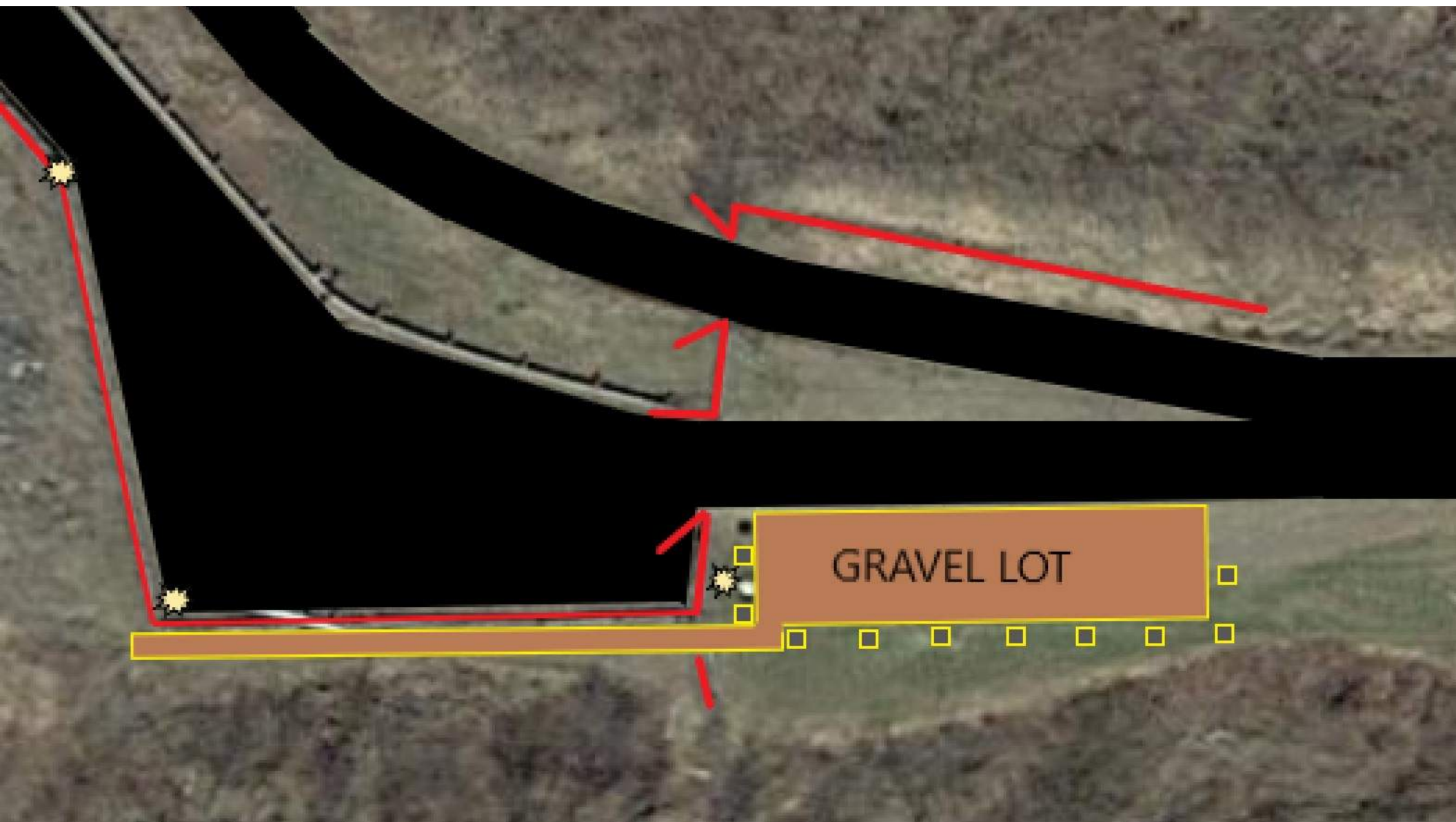
Recommendation: Develop a new small boat access on the tailwater's west side.

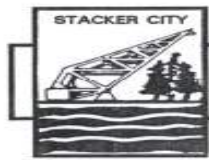
Response:

This area is already accessed by carry-in via the Portage Put-In. It is not feasible to install a boat landing for trailered, motorized boats downstream of the Cornell Dam because of the steep shoreline slope. In addition, these boats would be limited to the area immediately around the boat ramp due to the rock rapids just downstream. Therefore, the Licensee is not proposing to install a new boat ramp downstream of the Cornell Dam on the west side. The concerns with installing a boat landing were further discussed with the City of Cornell on April 7, 2021.

APPENDIX E-38

Tailwater Fishing Area (East Side) Conceptual Drawing





CITY OF CORNELL

P.O. BOX 796 222 MAIN STREET CORNELL, WI 54732-0796
PHONE (715) 239-3710 FAX (715) 239-3721

CHIPPEWA COUNTY, WISCONSIN
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
2009-2029



Prepared By:
City of Cornell
222 Main Street
Cornell, WI 54732

With Assistance From:



Cedar Corporation
604 Wilson Avenue
Menomonie, WI 54751

**CITY OF CORNELL
ORDINANCE #09-1**

An Ordinance to Adopt the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin.

The City Council of the City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to Sec. 62.23(2) and (3), Wis. Stats., the City of Cornell is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan as defined in Sec. 66.1001(1)(a) and Sec. 66.1001(2), Wis. Stats.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Cornell, Wisconsin has adopted written procedures designed to foster public participation in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan as required by Sec. 66.1001(4)(a), Wis. Stats.

Section 3. The Comprehensive Planning Commission of the City of Cornell, by a majority vote recorded in its official minutes dated March 19, 2009, has adopted a resolution recommending to the City Council the adoption of the document entitled "City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin, Comprehensive Plan 2009 – 2029" containing all of the elements specified in Sec. 66.1001(2), Wis. Stats.

Section 4. The City has held at least one public hearing on this ordinance in compliance with the requirements of Sec. 66.1001(4)(d), Wis. Stats.

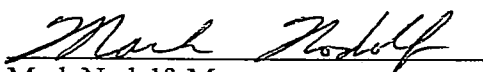
Section 5. The City Council of the City of Cornell, Wisconsin, does, by enactment of this ordinance, formally adopt the document entitled, "City of Cornell, Chippewa County, Wisconsin, Comprehensive Plan 2009 – 2029" pursuant to Sec. 66.1001(4)(c), Wis. Stats.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the members-elect of the City Council and publication as required by law.

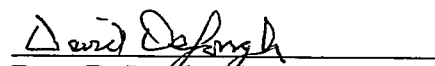
Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cornell this 21st day of April, 2009.

Carried 6 ayes, 0 no, 0 absent.

APPROVED:


Mark Nodolf, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dave DeJongh, City Clerk

Adopted: April 21, 2009

Published: April 30, 2009

Contributors to the Plan

City of Cornell

City Council:

Mark Nodolf, Mayor
Lyle Adrian
Brenda Gotheridge
Floyd Hickethier
Chris Krueger
Rusty Sammon
Bonnie Zinsli

Comprehensive Planning Committee:

Lyle Adrian
Floyd Hickethier
Mike Rivers
John Smith
Rusty Sammon
Judy Talbot
Bonnie Zinsli

City Administrator:

Dave DeJongh



Cornell...
*Home of the Historic Wood Stacker
and Brunet Island State Park*

VISION STATEMENT AND OVERALL GOALS

Vision Statement

The City of Cornell is dedicated to promoting and preserving the community's logging heritage while maintaining a small town atmosphere and will continue to provide a friendly, safe, and welcoming atmosphere, while encouraging responsible growth by protecting its historic and natural character. Cornell is committed to providing a wide variety of recreational and tourist opportunities for residents and visitors alike and protecting the pristine environment. The Chippewa River, Brunet Island State Park, and the Cornell Stacker are three important symbols of the area and the City will continue to support efforts ensuring that all three will be maintained for future generations to enjoy. Cornell welcomes residential, commercial, and industrial development that help to achieve that goal.

Overall Goals

1. Preserve the integrity of Main Street and keep it as a business district.
2. Support the recreational opportunities and facilities in the City and surrounding area while exploring future opportunities.
3. Establish an identity that draws tourists and specialty shops to the City.
4. Maintain a family-friendly environment while promoting a sense of community pride.
5. Promote responsible growth and development while protecting the scenic beauty of the entire area.

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Location and General Regional Context

The City of Cornell is beautiful, friendly community located in the northeast corner of Chippewa County, Wisconsin and is surrounded by the Towns of Cleveland and Estella (see *Map 1-1*). Cornell and surrounding area has an abundance of wildlife, clean air and relaxed pace of life that will capture you. Cornell is a small but progressive community located on the scenic Chippewa River.

The City is at the convergence of State Highways 27, 64, as well as the Scenic "River Road", State Highway 178. These main highways make access to Cornell easy and enjoyable. State Highway 64 is a major east-west highway corridor passing through Cornell and State Highway 27 is the primary north and south route from Cornell. State Highway 29, a four-lane freeway with limited access is a primary east-west route for North Central Wisconsin, and lies just 15 miles to the south. U.S. Highway 53, a major north-south route for Western Wisconsin, lies 19 miles to the west. All of these routes provide thoroughfares to employment and goods and services for City residents.

The City was established in 1913 and will be celebrating its centennial in 2013. Originally, the area primarily prospered from logging, farming, as well as the transporting of goods through the railroad, which is no longer there. Much of the City's heritage is tied heavily to the logging industry.

Cornell has the only remaining standing pulpwood stacker in the world and is located in the Mill Yard Park. The stacker was used in Cornell from 1913 until 1972. The 175 foot monument to the area's logging era laid the foundation for the development of the entire Chippewa Valley. Also located in Mill Yard Park are the Cornell Visitors' Center and Native American Museum (open May through October).

Cornell and surrounding area offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities. The City is a trailhead for the 20-mile Old Abe Trail (which links directly to the Chippewa Falls Urban Trail), for biking, walking, rollerblading and snowmobiling. The City of Cornell is also part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Brunet Island State Park, on the north edge of the City, offers camping and other outdoor recreation opportunities. There are a number of links to Wisconsin's extensive snowmobile trail network from the City. The City is also home to several community activities throughout the year that attract visitors from around the state including: a fair the second weekend in June, fireworks on July 3rd, the Gospel Bluegrass Jamboree the first weekend in July, a car show, the Chippewa

River Rendezvous the fourth weekend in August, Pork 'n the Park, an annual Christmas parade in December, and an annual craft and art fair.

Every August, Cornell has its annual Chippewa River Rendezvous where one can walk the banks of the beautiful Chippewa River and travel back in time to the late 1600's. Demonstrations abound including 1840 fur trade camps. This event draws many visitors from our surrounding areas.

The natural setting of the Cornell area provides an attractive environment for residents and visitors. The topography is quite varied and reaches its lowest elevation at the Chippewa River.

The Chippewa River, a major Wisconsin river that runs through the City of Cornell, provides a picturesque setting and endless recreational opportunities. The Cornell area is also home of the Brunet Island State Park. Located right on the Chippewa River, the park is filled with woodlands, trails, campsites, suitable for camping, swimming, hiking, biking, fishing, and snowshoeing in winter.

The City residents enjoy the "small town" feel they have been able to maintain while still providing jobs and recreational opportunities to many area residents.

Cornell is located only 115 miles from Minneapolis/St. Paul; 370 miles from Chicago; 280 miles from Milwaukee; 190 miles from Madison; 152 miles from Superior; and 45 miles from Eau Claire.

Cornell has several active organizations such as lion's club, legion, VFW, Knights of Columbus, Camaraderie Club, Church Organizations, Cornell Development Association (CDA), and local Scout groups.

City Origins

Cornell has a rich history going back 100 years before the American Revolution when French fur traders had explored the upper reaches of the Chippewa River laying the foundation for an extensive fur industry. Fur trader's diaries and reports record this as a land rich in furs, timber, and potential water power.

Jean Brunet and Ezra Cornell played interesting roles in the history of Cornell. Cornell was first known as Brunet Falls named after Jean Brunet who came to the area. In 1828, he was highly respected by Indians and Whites as a teacher, guide, explorer, and peace maker. Ezra Cornell often visited Brunet's home looking for lands to build Cornell University.

In 1867 the New York Mfg. Co. was organized to further his plan for a paper mill and town at Brunet Falls. Mr. Cornell died before his plans could be realized leaving his land holdings as endowment to Cornell University.

Around 1905, Cornell was platted as a town for the Cornell Land Co. to develop the lands and their resources.

Comprehensive Planning Law

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law or "Smart Growth Law" was passed in October 1999 as part of the State's biennial budget. This law requires that by January 1, 2010 every town, village, and city engaging in land use activities such as official mapping, local or county subdivision ordinances, zoning, or zoning in shorelands and wetlands in shorelands, must be guided by a comprehensive plan. Smart Growth was enacted to encourage long-range planning for communities and provide consistency in land use decision making.

Smart Growth planning also calls for public participation throughout the entire planning process. Before 1999, public participation and a public hearing were not required for adoption of a local plan.

State statutes require the plans to consist of nine elements, each focusing on an important sector of your community. These elements are:

- Issues and Opportunities
- Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Utilities and Community Facilities
- Land Use
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Implementation

The goal of Smart Growth is to ensure that communities look at how all of these elements intertwine and affect each other, creating an awareness and overall cohesive vision for the City of Cornell. All of the above elements are covered in this Plan.

Plan Purpose

The purpose of the City of Cornell's Comprehensive Plan is to ensure that the qualities of the community that residents enjoy remain and areas that can be improved upon are addressed. The plan will act as a guide for not only City government, but also local organizations, community residents, and developers and will look at, not only Cornell, but how the City fits into the regional context.

The Comprehensive Plan can provide a variety of benefits to a community by coordinating community activities, departments, or policies; protecting resources like historic buildings/locations or forest/agricultural/wetlands/etc.; promoting

economic development by revitalizing downtowns, developing housing/facilities, and retaining existing businesses; and save the community money through intergovernmental cooperation.

Plan Development Process

Planning is a comprehensive and continuous process. The Comprehensive Planning Committee was established for the purpose of developing the Comprehensive Plan. Upon completion of the Plan, the Plan Commission will be the group responsible for updating the Comprehensive Plan.

The City has incorporated all of the nine required elements into their plan. Each chapter was addressed individually before moving on to the next chapter. When all were complete, the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed as a whole, checking for any inconsistencies.

Planning is a continuous process and the needs of the City will continuously change with social, physical, and economic factors.

Completing the Comprehensive Plan is just the beginning of planning for the community. Local officials must examine, explain, and revise the plan when necessary. It must be kept current and used often.

Regional Planning Jurisdictions and Government Agencies

While the City of Cornell plans for its own future, it also is within multiple planning and government agency districts that do their own planning. Available plans will be reviewed by the entities below including the City of Cornell to address any inconsistencies between them. Some of the planning and government agencies that will be contacted include:

- West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Chippewa County
- Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation

Public Involvement and Public Participation Policy

Wisconsin State Statutes Section 66.1001 requires that a public participation plan/policy/procedure be developed for the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan. The plan/policy must address public meeting notices, publications, and open discussions must be written for every stage of the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan.

It is required that the local governing body that adopts any comprehensive plan or amendments to a plan must do so with the use of a resolution, passed by a majority vote. Once a comprehensive plan is adopted one copy must be provided to the following: every governing body within the boundaries of the local government unit; the clerk of all adjacent governing bodies; the Wisconsin Land Council; the Wisconsin Department of Administration; the regional planning commission, and the local public library.

Wisconsin State Statutes also requires that all comprehensive plans must meet the minimum requirements; the resolution shall not be adopted by the regional planning commission if those requirements are not met.

The City of Cornell acknowledges, in order for the Comprehensive Plan to be utilized effectively, it must be created and embraced by local residents. The City has crafted a Public Participation Plan that helps identify key stakeholders for each element and various methods to generate public involvement. The outline of the Public Participation Plan, along with the Public Participation Resolution passed by the City Council can be seen in Appendix A.

In January of 2008, the City Council established the Comprehensive Planning Committee to guide the development of the Comprehensive Plan. The City also hired Cedar Corporation out of Menomonie, to help facilitate this process and assist with the preparation of the Plan.

Initial public involvement was generated through a community wide survey. The Comprehensive Planning Committee thought it was important to send out a community wide survey to gauge how residents would like to see their community in 20 years. The ideas and thoughts generated from this survey were used to develop the City's vision statement and goals, objectives and policies for the plan.

The Comprehensive Planning Committee also held an open meeting on a monthly basis where citizens could attend and participate in the planning process. A periodic press release was also sent out describing the work that was being completed, issues being discussed, and encouraging those interested in the planning process to attend.

Informational materials were also made available in an Open House format at the November 2008 national elections. A public hearing was also held before the City Council where residents were given time to comment on the draft of the Plan.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies for Achieving the Goals

Each chapter in the City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan contains goals, objectives, programs, policies, and actions. These identify the long range vision

of the City in relation to each element. All goals, objectives, programs, policies, and actions may not be attainable for various reasons, therefore, it is important for these to be continuously reviewed and revised.

Goals: A general desire or wish of what the City of Cornell hopes to accomplish related to that chapter.

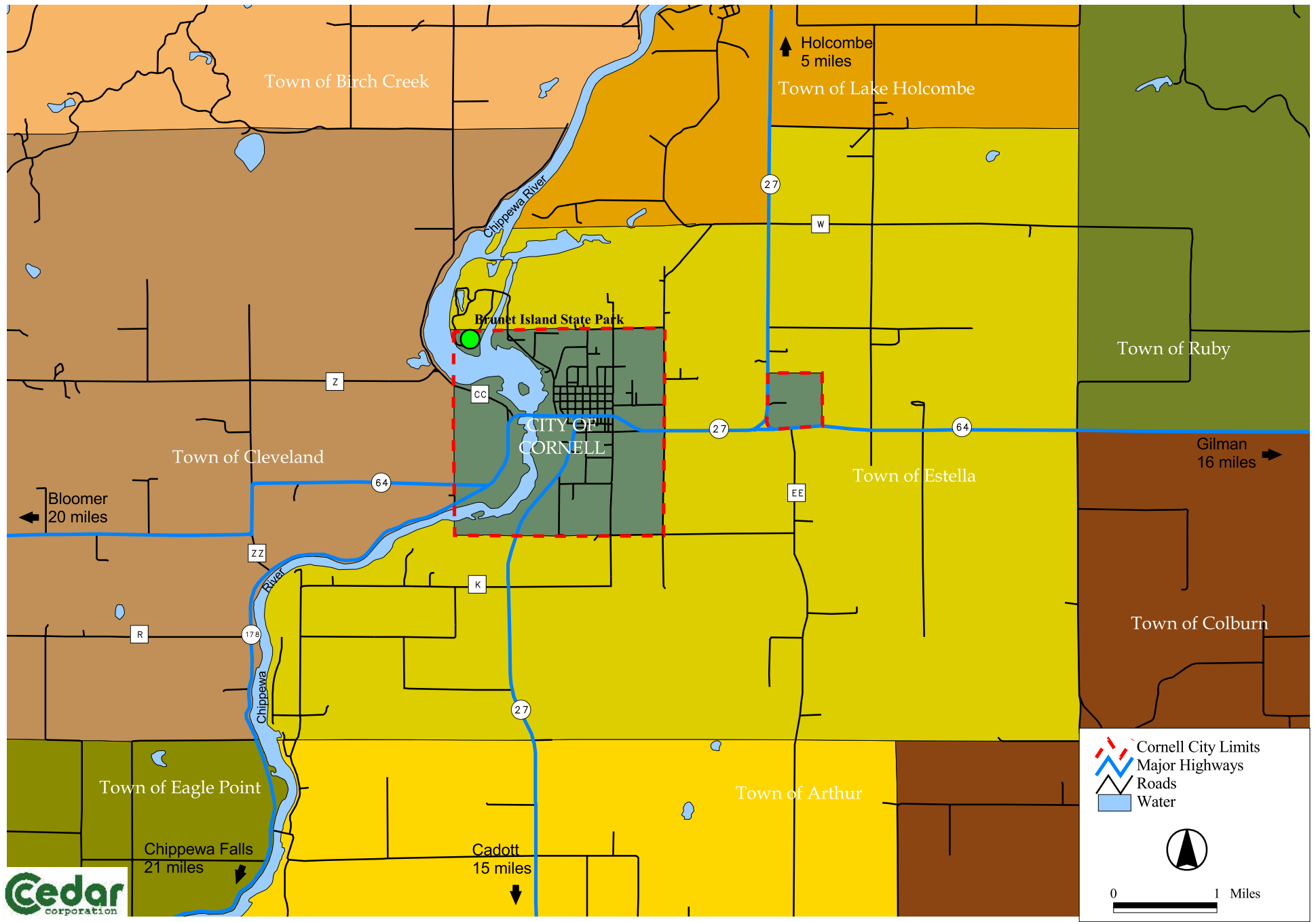
Objectives: What the City hopes to achieve by addressing the goals.

Policies: A policy can include a program, policy, recommendation or action that may consist of a new ordinance, ordinance revision, further planning, community support of an idea, etc. These are considered reasonable methods to use to achieve the goals.

Location, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 1-1



CHAPTER 2

Issues and Opportunities

Introduction

The Issues and Opportunities element analyzes demographic information for the City of Cornell. The purpose is to identify and understand trends in the City and surrounding area in order to anticipate future needs and create a plan that addresses those needs.

Issues and opportunities related to land use, growth, and future development are identified at the end of this element.

Historical Population

The City of Cornell had a moderately decreasing population between 1950 and 2000 (see *Table 2-1*). Whereas, Chippewa County overall has seen little to moderate growth.

Table 2-1 - Historical Population

Year	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	1,944	1,685	1,616	1,583	1,541	1,466
% Change	-	-13.3%	-4.1%	-2.0%	-2.7%	-4.9%

Source: WI Department of Administration

Population Forecasts

Population growth influences land use, housing, transportation, and other characteristics in the City of Cornell. Growth in surrounding communities will also influence these characteristics.

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) has created population forecasts for each municipality in the State of Wisconsin. For the City of Cornell, the population is projected to slowly decrease at a gradual rate. The population is projected to 1,341 residents in 2025. This is a decrease of 125 residents in twenty-five years (see *Table 2-2*).

According to the WDOA, the estimated population of the City of Cornell was 1,454 residents as of January 1, 2007. This population reduction is likely due to residents moving to rural areas and building new homes.

This population projection using the average growth will be used for planning purposes because it currently best reflects the population growth in the City of Cornell.

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Table 2-2 - Population Forecast

Year	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
WDOA	1,466	1,423	1,414	1,397	1,376	1,336
Average **	1,466	1,441	1,416	1,391	1,366	1,341

Source: WI Department of Administration

** Average 5-year growth between 1970-2000 (-25 persons per 5 years)

Household Forecasts

Table 2-3 reveals housing forecasts for the City of Cornell. It is projected that the number of persons per household will slowly decrease over time, but the table also shows that if the population trend continues, the City won't have as many housing needs in the future.

Based on the 2007 estimated population of 1,454, the City has decreased by 12 residents since 2000. Table 2-3 shows the population and number of housing units declining over the next 20 years.

The average population projection from Table 2-2 was used with the estimated persons per household (2.42), to approximate the number of new dwellings by 2025. Using this method, there will be an excess of housing by 2025.

Table 2-3 - Housing Forecasts - City of Cornell

Year	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Population	1,466	1,441	1,416	1,391	1,366	1,341
Persons Per Household	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42
Total Occupied Housing Units	606	597	586	576	566	555
Additional Units Needed	-	-9	-10	-10	-10	-10

Source: WI Dept of Administration: Population and Housing Projections

Although the above projection shows a decline in occupied housing units in the future, the City will likely see some growth in over the next 20 years. Table 4-11 in the Housing Chapter shows a revised housing projection that accounts for potential growth in the City. Projections in Table 4-11 were used the estimated future residential land use needs.

Table 2-4 - Total Housing Units

	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	Numerical Change	% Change
Occupied Housing Units	591	93.00%	607	93.1%	16	2.7%
Vacant Housing Units	44	7.00%	45	6.9%	1	2.3%
Total	635	100.00%	652	100.0%	17	2.7%

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

Age Distribution

Age distribution in the City of Cornell can influence the types of housing, recreational needs, and other aspects of the community.

Table 2-5 and Figure 2-1 show a middle-aged population in the City. The number of residents in the 45 to 54 age group has experienced the largest increase from 134 in 1990, to 175 in 2000. While the Under 5 age group has experienced the greatest decrease from 139 in 1990, to 82 in 2000.

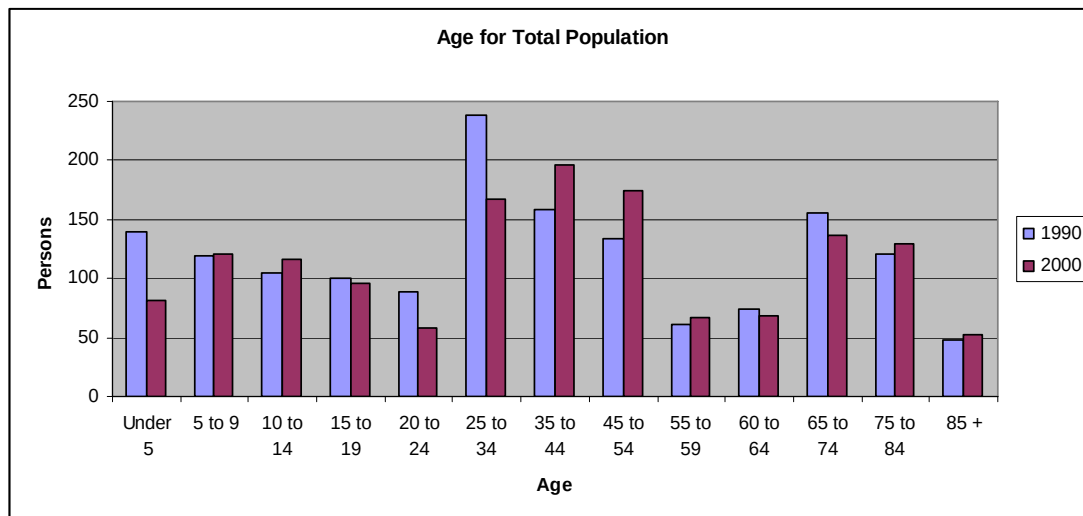
The rising number of residents 35 and older is likely due to new people moving to the area or original residents moving back.

Table 2-5 - Age for the Total Population

Age	1990	2000	Numerical Change	% Change
Under 5	139	82	-57	-41.0%
5 to 9	119	121	2	1.7%
10 to 14	105	117	12	11.4%
15 to 19	101	96	-5	-5.0%
20 to 24	88	58	-30	-34.1%
25 to 34	238	167	-71	-29.8%
35 to 44	158	196	38	24.1%
45 to 54	134	175	41	30.6%
55 to 59	61	67	6	9.8%
60 to 64	74	68	-6	-8.1%
65 to 74	156	137	-19	-12.2%
75 to 84	120	130	10	8.3%
85 +	48	52	4	8.3%
Total	1,541	1,466	-75	-4.9%

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

Figure 2-1 - Age for Total Population



Education Levels

Educational attainment can influence a person's job opportunities, housing preferences, and spending patterns. Table 2-6 and 2-7 reveal that the number of residents who have attained a high school degree or higher has increased from 677 resident in 1990, to 797 in 2000. Unfortunately, in 1990, five fewer residents had attained a bachelor's degree of higher than in 2000; that number had decreased from 113 to 108 residents.

Table 2-6 - Education Attainment Population 25 and Older

	1990	% Of Total	2000	% Of Total	Numerical Change	% Change
Population 25 Years and Over	989	100.0%	1002	100.0%	13	1.3%
Less than 9th Grade	157	15.9%	95	9.5%	-62	-39.5%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	155	15.7%	110	11.0%	-45	-29.0%
High School Graduation (Includes Equivalency)	432	43.7%	438	43.7%	6	1.4%
Some College, No Degree	99	10.0%	200	20.0%	101	102.0%
Associate Degree	33	3.3%	51	5.1%	18	54.5%
Bachelor's Degree	74	7.5%	82	8.2%	8	10.8%
Graduate or Professional Degree	39	3.9%	26	2.6%	-13	-33.3%

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

Table 2-7 - High School Graduate or Higher Attainment

	1990	% Of Total	2000	% Of Total	Numerical Change	% Change
High School Graduate or Higher	677	68.5%	797	79.5%	120	17.7%
Bachelor's Degree of Higher	113	11.4%	108	10.8%	-5	-4.4%

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

Income Levels

Median household incomes in the City of Cornell have increase by 50% between 1989 and 1999 (see Table 2-8). In 1999, the median household income was \$30,690. This is below the median income of \$39,596 in Chippewa County and \$43,791 in the State of Wisconsin.

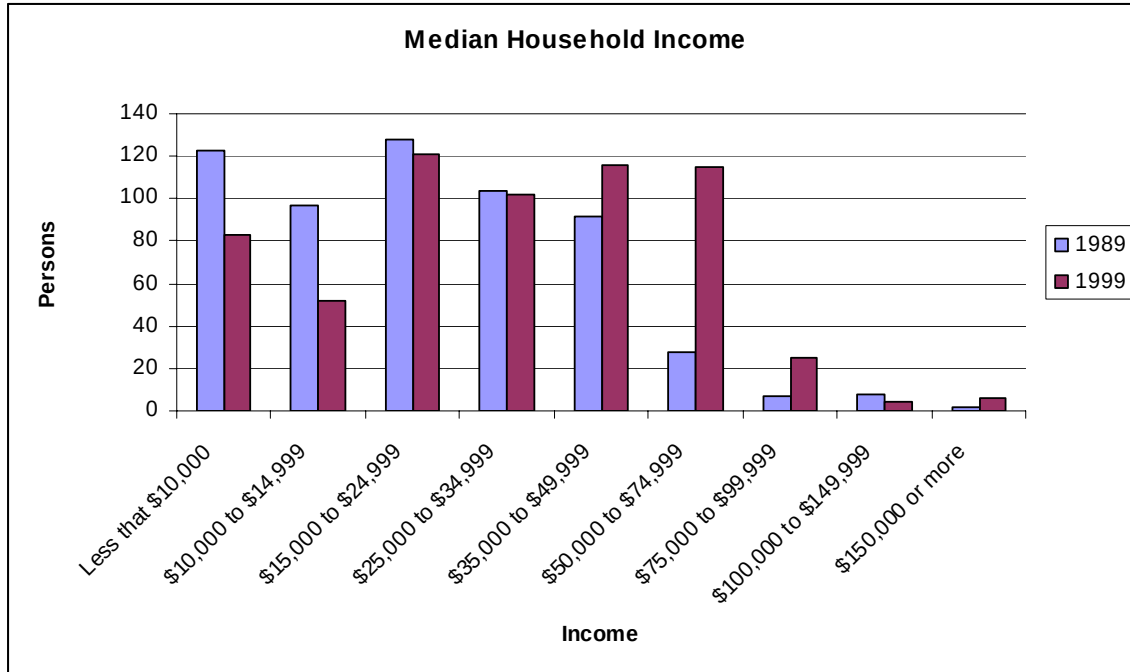
Table 2-8 - Median Household Income

Year	1989	1999	% Change
Median Household Income	\$20,404	\$30,690	50.4%

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

Figure 2-2 shows that median household incomes in 1999 of \$25,000 and above have increased compared to the 1989 incomes, except for the \$100,000 to \$149,000 group that decreased slightly.

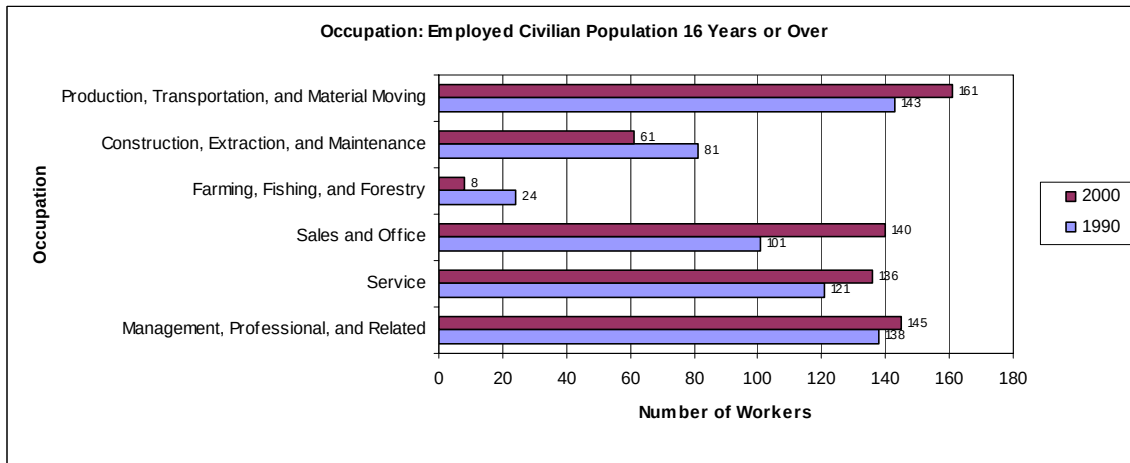
Figure 2-2 - Median Household Income



Employment Forecasts and Characteristics

Occupation refers to the type of work a person does. Figure 2-3 reveals that occupations of the civilian population 16 years and over in the City of Cornell is distributed fairly evenly. It should be noted that Figure 2-3 does not include where these occupations are located. Some of those occupations are likely located out of the City.

Figure 2-3 – Occupation of Workforce Population



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Most occupations have seen an increase in populations, except the farming/fishing/forestry and construction/extraction/maintenance occupations, which have each decreased by at least 15 residents from 1990 to 2000.

Sales/office has increased the most from 101 residents in 1990 to 140 residents in 2000. This may indicate that a growing number of residents are commuting to jobs outside of the City of Cornell.

Industry refers to what industry each occupation is in. The largest industry in 2000 for occupied workers living in the City of Cornell is manufacturing which has also experienced a large loss in workers (see *Table 2-9 & Figure 2-4*). The information industry has the fewest workers with 13 in 2000.

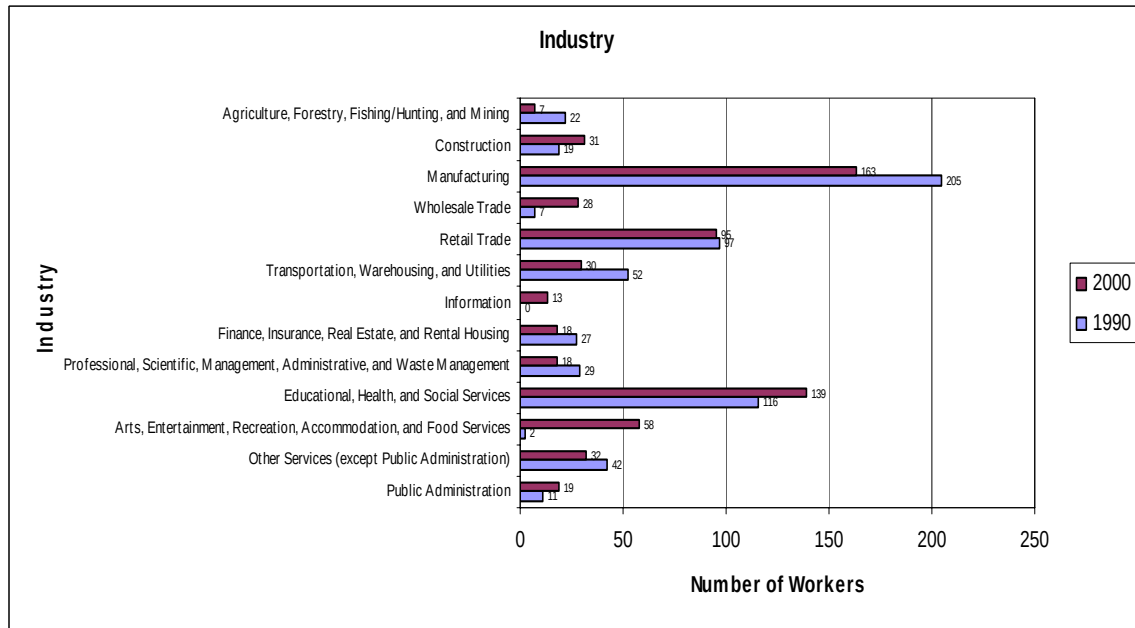
The wholesale industry experienced the greatest growth of workers. The agriculture, forestry, fishing/hunting, and mining industries have had the most significant decrease in workers.

Table 2-9 - Industry: Employed Civilian Population 16 Years or Over

Industry	1990	2000	Numerical Change	Percent
Public Administration	11	19	8	72.7%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	42	32	-10	-23.8%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services	2	58	56	-
Educational, Health, and Social Services	116	139	23	19.8%
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management	29	18	-11	-37.9%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, and Rental Housing	27	18	-9	-33.3%
Information	0	13	13	-
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	52	30	-22	-42.3%
Retail Trade	97	95	-2	-2.1%
Wholesale Trade	7	28	21	300.0%
Manufacturing	205	163	-42	-20.5%
Construction	19	31	12	63.2%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing/Hunting, and Mining	22	7	-15	-68.2%

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

Figure 2-4 - Occupation by Industry



The Education, Health, and Social services industry continues to be a major component of the City's workforce. This will likely continue in the near future. Manufacturing jobs have declined, and may continue to do so. However, if the City is able to attract new businesses and industries to the area, that trend will shift and more jobs would be added to the manufacturing industry.

Community Survey Results

As part of the public participation process to obtain public input for developing the Comprehensive Plan, the City sent out a community wide survey to all residents. The survey was split up into the various sections that will be discussed throughout the Plan. This includes Issues and Opportunities, Housing, Transportation, etc. Below is a summary of the Issues and Opportunities related results of that survey (numbers in parenthesis indicate the question number on the survey).

Do you own or rent your place of residence?		
	Count	Percent
Own	124	88.6%
Rent	16	11.4%
Total	140	100.0%

Nearly 89% of the respondents own their place of residence in the City of Cornell.

City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029

My residence is a.....		
	Count	Percent
Single family home	128	90.8%
Multi-family home/apartment	7	5.0%
Mobile home	4	2.8%
Second home	2	1.4%
Total	141	100.0%

The majority of responses indicate they live in single family homes.

Are there people in your household who are physically disabled?		
	Count	Percent
Yes	25	17.9%
No	115	82.1%
Total	140	100.0%

Nearly 18% of the respondents have someone in their household that is physically disabled. The City should consider accessibility concerns when taking on new projects.

At what rate would you like to see Cornell's population grow in the next 10 years?		
	Count	Percent
No growth	6	4.2%
Slow	20	13.9%
Moderate	87	60.4%
Fast	23	16.0%
Not Sure	8	5.6%
Total	144	100.0%

The majority of responses would like to see moderate growth. Slow to no growth accounted for approximately 18% and 16% of the respondents would like to see fast growth.

City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029

How would you describe your thoughts towards future growth and development (commercial, recreational, housing, etc.) in the City of Cornell?		
	Count	Percent
We need to support and encourage growth and development.	94	67.1%
We need to slow down the rate of growth and development.		0.0%
We need to stay the way it is.	4	2.9%
We need to focus on redevelopment and rehabilitation of existing buildings and land.	31	22.1%
Not sure.	11	7.9%
Total	140	100.0%

Approximately 67% of the responses support and encourage growth and development. Some responses (22.1%) indicate focusing on redevelopment and rehabilitation of existing buildings and land.

Please choose the category that best describes the distance you work from your residence.		
	Count	Percent
0-1 miles	30	20.0%
1-5 miles	13	8.7%
5-10 miles	9	6.0%
10-25 miles	10	6.7%
25-50 miles	17	11.3%
Over 50 miles	3	2.0%
Not Applicable	68	45.3%
Total	150	100.0%

A number of the respondents (68) indicate that the distance they work from home was not applicable. This possibly means they work from home, have retired, or are currently unemployed.

Demographic Summary

Between 1990 and 2000 the City of Cornell has seen small reduction in population and number of households. Since then, population growth has continued at a slight decline and is slightly above projections by the Wisconsin Department of Administration. Most population loss is likely due to residents moving to rural areas and loss of manufacturing jobs and not an increased death rate.

City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029

Median household income is significantly lower in the City compared to Chippewa County and the State of Wisconsin and this may be attributed to fewer jobs in the area that require a bachelor's degree or greater level of education.

Occupation and industries vary for residents 16 years and older but the predominant industry in the City of Cornell is manufacturing.

CHAPTER 3

Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources

Introduction

A review and inventory of the agricultural, cultural, and natural resources in the City of Cornell will provide a general overview of the City's agricultural, cultural, and natural features. Informed decisions can be made when addressing the future physical growth, development, and preservation of the City's lands through the identification and analysis of features such as agriculturally productive areas, wetlands, endangered species, soil characteristics, and valued cultural resources. By identifying and analyzing these features, development can be guided to the most appropriate locations, thus protecting the City of Cornell's natural areas while identifying potential locations for responsible growth.

Survey Results

Below are the survey results related to natural and cultural resources:

The City of Cornell should retain its "small town" character? (please check one)		
	Count	Percent
I strongly agree	21	14.7%
I agree	75	52.4%
Not sure	17	11.9%
I disagree	27	18.9%
I strongly disagree	3	2.1%
Total	143	100.0%

Nearly 67% of the responses would like to see the City of Cornell maintain its "small town" character. Only 21% disagree with that statement.

The City of Cornell should protect and promote buildings, sites, and artifacts of historical importance. (please check one)		
	Count	Percent
I strongly agree	42	29.6%
I agree	74	52.1%
Not sure	20	14.1%
I disagree	4	2.8%
I strongly disagree	2	1.4%
Total	142	100.0%

Most residents (82%) would like to see the City protect and promote buildings, sites, and artifacts of historical importance. Only 6 of the respondents disagreed.

The City of Cornell should establish design recommendations for remodeling existing buildings and the construction of new buildings in the downtown area? (please check one)		
	Count	Percent
I strongly agree	28	20.1%
I agree	58	41.7%
Not sure	31	22.3%
I disagree	13	9.4%
I strongly disagree	9	6.5%
Total	139	100.0%

Over 61% of the respondents would like to see the City establish some design standards for the downtown area.

SWOT Exercise Results

Strengths

- State Park
- Chippewa River
- Memorial Tree Program
- 1,000's of acres of public/County land
- Numerous nearby lakes within 30 miles
- Improved surface water quality
- A lot of fishing, hunting, and wildlife
- Nature education programs
- Swimming beach
- Ice Age Trail and Center
- Abundance of trees
- Undeveloped shoreline
- No known invasive species
- The Stacker
- Great visitor center and museum
- History of the community – lumber and paper
- Preserved cultural resources
- Hydroelectric dam provide electricity

Weaknesses

- Waterfront can't be developed
- Wetlands limit development
- The Stacker needs rehabilitation

Opportunities

- Nature education opportunities
- City's centennial is coming up (2013)
- Variety of recreational opportunities – cross country skiing, ATVs, hiking, snowmobile, and biking
- Possible riverfront development where the City Shop is now located.
- Developing future trails
- Economic development
- Tours of the mill
- Hunting, fishing, and boating
- Eco tourism – bird watching (Blue Heron and Eagles), wildlife watching (including deer)
- Great Wisconsin Birding Trail in Brunet Island State Park
- Geo caching

Threats

- Water pollution
- Natural disasters
- Invasive species
- Dam failure
- County selling off land for development
- State park closing
- Chronic Wasting Disease
- Development

Groundwater

Groundwater is a significant and abundant natural resource in the planning area (Map 3-1). The primary source for all water used for domestic, industrial, and agricultural purpose within the planning area is groundwater. The need for clean, reliable water supplies grows as a community expands. Groundwater is recovered from underground aquifers through a water supply well. These water supplies are recharged by rainfall and melt water, which seeps through the porous soil under the force of gravity, to a point where it collects on an impervious layer such as granite bedrock. Recharge areas are typically located in the upland areas, with the low-lying areas such as rivers and streams being described as discharge zones.

Groundwater underlies the entire planning area and constantly moves to areas of discharge --streams, springs, and pumping wells. The distance that groundwater in the area travels from a recharge to a discharge area is generally less than four miles. The groundwater for the City of Cornell generally flows towards the Chippewa River.

Forests

The Wisconsin Initiative for Statewide Cooperation on Landscape Analysis and Data (WISCLAND) completed a statewide land classification system in 1999. WISCLAND defines a forest as “an upland area of land covered with woody perennial plants, the tree reaching a mature height of at least 6 feet tall with a definite crown.”

Forests create a setting for hunting, camping, hiking, and many other forms of recreation (Map 3-2). Forests also provide valuable wildlife habitat and are the homes for less visible threatened and endangered plant and wildlife species. Forests and trees can help protect other resources too. They can reduce heating and cooling costs of homes and business and offer erosion control for river banks and steep slopes.

In urban areas, forests and trees are used for traffic calming, the creation of parks, and add overall aesthetics that enhance the quality of life for residents. A contiguous forest is extremely important. The fragmentation of land can result in the disruption of habitat and can lead to problems between wildlife and humans.

There are approximately 1,300 acres of forestland within the City Limits. The amount of land in the City is 2,395 acres, so over half the land within the City is forested. Most of the forested land occurs along the Chippewa River.

Productive Agricultural Areas and Existing Farmland

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Act was enacted in 1977 to slow the conversion of land from agricultural to urban usage. This legislation provides for the preparation of county farmland preservation plans, and state income tax credits for the maintenance of farmland in delineated preservation areas. Ultimately, only those farmers owning lands within delineated prime agricultural areas which are zoned for exclusive agricultural use will be eligible for the full state income tax credits provided under the law.

The Chippewa County Soil Survey considers soils with the classification suitability of I, II, and III to be potentially productive agricultural areas (Map 3-3). These are soils that can have few to severe limitations and may require some conservation practices in order to be able to farm. The City of Cornell has 842 acres of potentially productive agricultural areas evenly spread throughout the City, although much of it has already been developed.

There are approximately 210 acres of existing agricultural fields within the City Limits (Map 3-4). Over 116 acres of those existing agricultural fields are on potentially productive soils.

Threatened and Endangered Resources

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an “endangered” species is one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or significant portion of its range. A “threatened” species is one that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. These species are protected because of their scientific, educational, aesthetic, and ecological importance.

The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory Program maintains data on the location and status of natural features, rare species, and natural communities in Wisconsin. These sites are broad in nature and provide a general location for rare, threatened, or endangered species as well as high-quality natural communities.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides maps that depict the sections where endangered or threatened resources have been found and breaks them down by the type of species found, such as aquatic, terrestrial, or both (Map 3-5). The DNR does not further identify the locations in order to protect those species. If development were to take place in a section where endangered or threatened species are listed, the DNR would get involved to ensure the new development would not infringe upon those species. According to the map, there are two sections along the Chippewa River that have been identified to have threatened or endangered resources within the City Limits (more sections are identified just outside the City). They are classified as aquatic occurrences and can include animals, plants, and natural communities.

Stream Corridors and Surface Waters

The City of Cornell is fortunate to have a number of nearby surface water resources such as lakes and streams (Map 3-6). Surface waters provide an excellent source of recreation, as well as habitat for wildlife. Unfortunately, development has the potential to have a negative impact on the quality of water in the surface waters. Areas upstream of lakes and rivers impact the waters downstream. That is why it is important that communities and lake groups protect these resources.

The Chippewa River flows through the western edge of the City of Cornell and provides the City with nearly seven miles of shoreline. The Chippewa River Basin contains some of Wisconsin's most scenic natural resources. Most of it is undeveloped and consists of State and Federal land. This ensures that this part of the river will likely remain undeveloped for foreseeable future. Wildlife habitat is abundant and diverse along the riparian areas of the Chippewa River. The UW-Extension has partnered with the DNR and developed a Lower Chippewa State of the Basin Report that provides a snapshot of the current condition of land and water resources in the basin and a look at what can be done to

preserve and restore those resources. Management recommendations from that report should be incorporated into Cornell's Comprehensive Plan.

The City of Cornell also has a few streams, some of which are unnamed. The other two named creeks, Clark Creek that flows from the east, and French Creek that flows from the south, both flow to the Chippewa River. Stream corridors often have significant vegetative growth and act as habitat for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic species. Many species rely on the cover provided in stream corridors ranging from trees and plants, to water and rocks for their survival. Stream corridors often do not lend themselves to be easily fragmented, however, damaging the water quality and clear cutting the banks can do irreparable damage to the integrity of the habitat.

Floodplains

Floodplains are areas, which have been or may become, inundated with water during a regional flood (Map 3-7). A regional flood is often referred to as a 100-year flood or having a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. Because of danger posed in a flood event, most structural development within a floodway is not allowed. Development within the flood fringe is generally accepted, provided adequate flood proofing measures are taken.

The City of Cornell does have mapped floodplains on both sides of the Chippewa River. Most of the land within the floodplain and adjacent to the river is government owned and undeveloped. There are also a number of hydroelectric dams along the Chippewa River that can control water levels reducing the likelihood of flood damage to buildings or structures in the City.

Wetlands

Wetlands act as natural filters, removing sediments and contaminants from water (Map 3-8). Wetlands also regulate water levels by containing water during periods of excessive rain or snow melt. These unique environments are hosts to a wide variety of plant and animal communities, including some threatened and endangered species. Wetlands also serve as rest areas for migratory waterfowl during the fall and spring months. Wetlands also serve as major source of groundwater recharge and flood control. In the past decade, however, strict regulation of wetland conversion has slowed the loss of habitat and made conversion to other uses too expensive and impractical. Chippewa County does not have digital wetland information and therefore the WISCLAND was used to identify the general locations of some of the larger wetlands. Based on the WISCLAND information, there are approximately 45 acres of wetlands within the City Limits.

Wetlands are found in only a few small areas in the City of Cornell. Most of the larger contiguous wetlands are found in the northeast and southeast corners of

the City. There are a lot of wetlands just outside the City Limits. Although the wetlands less than 2 acres have not been mapped, that does not mean other wetlands do not exist in the City. When development or other land disturbing activities take place, it is important that each site is assessed to determine if wetlands exist. Even with strict regulations in place, it is important to take precautions when developing near wetlands.

Topography/Slope

Undulating topography offers a picturesque setting for rural areas. Residential areas are often developed on or in view of high points along the terrain. Despite the appeal of topography, areas of severe slopes should be avoided in development.

The topography and elevation of Cornell is varied and reaches its highest point in the southeastern part of the City just west of Townline Road. The City has an approximate relief of 190 feet from 958 feet to 1,148 feet of elevation (Map 3-9). The low point occurs in the southwestern part of the City along the Chippewa River.

Development in areas with severe slopes (described as 20% slope or greater) should be limited (Map 3-10). Typically buildings should not be constructed on any slope that is 20% or greater. Roads and driveways are often more restrictive and should be limited to slopes of 12% or less.

Wildlife and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife habitat are extremely important for the protection of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and plants (Map 3-11). The preservation and possible expansion of these areas is vital to maintain a diverse ecosystem. Areas that may be considered environmentally sensitive area or wildlife habitat are forests, lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, steep slopes, and shoreland buffers.

Environmentally sensitive areas, also referred to as corridors, consist of wetlands, floodplains, forestland, slopes of 20% or greater, and buffers around the surface waters (300 feet around streams, and 1,000 feet around lakes and ponds). Each of these features have been described earlier in this chapter however it is important to view them all together in order to identify contiguous environmental corridors. The integrity of these environmental corridors should be protected whenever possible.

The City of Cornell has a variety of environmentally sensitive resources. These areas should be factored in when the City makes future development decisions.

Metallic/Nonmetallic Mineral Resources

Communities now have the right to adopt an ordinance establishing requirements for reclamation of non-metallic mines (NR 135). If a community chooses not to adopt an ordinance, the county or regional planning commission may do so instead for the covered region. The primary reason for these requirements is to prevent owners and operators of non-metallic mines from abandoning their operations without proper reclamation of the site. Currently, the City of Cornell does not have any metallic/non-metallic mineral resources being mined at this time, but there have been in the past and some of those sites have not been property reclaimed.

Soil Suitability for Dwellings with Basements

Soil properties and characteristics are a major influence in the land use activities that can occur on a given soil type. Soils are grouped into classifications based on their respective properties. It is important to assess the various types of properties that occur within the soils of the City of Cornell to identify the optimum locations for development and preservation (Map 3-12).

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has developed a limitations rating system for the various soil characteristics discussed in this chapter. Below are the descriptions of those limitations:

No to Slight Limitations: Soil properties and site features generally are favorable for the indicated use and the limitations are easy to overcome.

Somewhat to Moderate Limitations: Soil properties are not favorable for the indicated use and special planning, design, or maintenance is needed to overcome or minimize the limitations.

Severe Limitations: Soil properties or site features are so unfavorable or so difficult to overcome that special design, significant increases in construction costs, and possibly increased maintenance is required. In the case of severe limitations, questions regarding the economic and environmental feasibility of such development should be seriously considered.

An important element of soils is their suitability for dwellings with basements. The soil properties that affect a soil's suitability are slope, depth to bedrock, moisture, and the content of rocks. These characteristics, when factored together, illustrate which areas will have limitations as well as the degree of limitations. A soil limitation on a person's property does not necessarily mean a basement cannot be built, but rather there may be an increased cost of construction.

The City of Cornell has an area of 2,395 acres. The soil survey shows that 177 acres of soil are not limited and 1,115 acres are somewhat limited when it comes to supporting a dwelling with a basement. The soils that make up the largest percent of land (49%) are classified as very limited when it comes so supporting dwellings with basements. The areas of the City that have the most severe limitations are in the lower elevation areas of the City.

Soil Suitability for Septic Tank Absorption Fields

Although the City of Cornell has a municipal water and sanitary district, some of the rural areas still require septic systems. Drainage or absorption fields are connected to the end of the septic tank and allow for the septic effluent to be distributed to the soil over a large area. Soil acts as the filter for the septic systems and if the soils are not suitable for absorption fields, they could contaminate the groundwater (Map 3-13). The main properties of soil that affect the soil's suitability for absorption are soil permeability, soil depth to bedrock, soil depth to the water table, and susceptibility to flooding.

The NRCS interpret the various soil types and determine their ability to act as functioning absorption fields by looking at soils ability to maintain a properly functioning septic system but also the soils attenuation ability.

The majority of Chippewa County has severe limitations for septic tank absorption fields. The City of Cornell is no different. Nearly the entire City has severe soil limitations for septic tanks. This does not mean septic tanks cannot be built on soils with severe limitations; however, residents should be aware of those areas and make sure their septic systems are designed and maintained properly to protect the areas wells and groundwater. Modern technology can still be used so that septic systems function properly in soils with severe limitations without adversely affecting the groundwater.

Stormwater

With development also comes a responsibility to manage stormwater. Development results in impervious surfaces and increases the volume of water entering streams, creeks, lakes, and other surface waters. Stormwater erodes soils and carries the pollutants and sediments to these surface waters causing damage to the water resources. Soil erosion is one of the leading causes of water pollution in the state. There is a wide range of state and federal regulations as well as local programs and actions that local municipalities must implement to appropriately manage stormwater.

Surface waters, specifically the Chippewa River and adjoining creeks, should be protected. Implementing erosion control and stormwater management ordinances can go a long way towards protecting these resources.

Historical/Cultural Resources

The City of Cornell is coming up on its Centennial and was established in 1913. It is important to preserve the cultural resources of this area. The loss of our State's cultural resources over the past century has been significant. According to the Wisconsin Historical Society, only 30% of historic buildings documented during the Great Depression by the Federal Historic American Building survey program still exist and only 25% of Wisconsin's Native American mounds remain intact.

The State Historical Society's website hosts the Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory (AHI). The Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) is a collection of information on historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and historic districts throughout Wisconsin (Map 3-14). This Inventory is housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison and is maintained by the Society's Division of Historic Preservation. The AHI is comprised of written text and photographs of each property, which document the property's architecture and history.

An architectural inventory was done in communities beginning in the mid-1970s until 1980 with the help of State grant money. Reconnaissance surveys were conducted by summer students and then intensive surveys were conducted by professional historic preservation consultants. These buildings and details may be viewed at www.wisconsinhistory.org. Follow the historical sites link. The AHI has information on two properties in the City of Cornell listed below:

Site Name	Location	Year
Cornell Pulpwood Stacker	Mill Yard Park	1911
Cornell Public Library	117 N. 3 rd Street	1928

While these buildings are not necessarily protected, the City should make every effort to preserve buildings, sites, and structures of historical and architectural significance. The Cornell Pulpwood Stacker is also listed as an official Wisconsin Historical Marker.

Other sites of cultural significance were found on the National Heritage Inventory that provides various archaeological resources. The inventory lists the name, type, and section of the artifact(s). The City has the following six archaeological resources listed on the inventory:

Site Name	Site Type	Town, Range, Section
Lot Six Cemetery	Cemetery/Burial	31, 6, W, 18
Brunet Village	Campsite/Village	31, 6, W, 18
Brunet's	Trading/Fur Post	31, 6, W, 19
Cornell City Cemetery	Cemetery/Burial	31, 6, W, 19
Chippewa River Bridge Burial	Cemetery/Burial	31, 6, W, 18
Cornell Wood Products Mill	Mill/Sawmill	31, 6, W, 18

Some sites have not been mapped due to the sensitivity of the resource.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Protect groundwater/drinking water quality and quantity

Objectives

1. Provide safe drinking water to City residents.
2. Limit development near wetlands – groundwater recharge areas and municipal wells.

Policies

1. Consider establishing guidelines for fertilization and chemical treatment of forests, gardens, and lawns.
2. Support County ordinances in regard to septic system inspections and maintenance.
3. Support County ordinances in regard to sewage treatment hookup when available.
4. Consider developing and enforce ordinances for erosion control and storm water management.
5. Consider developing wellhead protection ordinance if State land were to sell that surrounds the wells.
6. Update vulnerability studies and consumer confidence reports annually.

Goal 2: Protect existing urban forestland

Objectives

1. Enhance and promote preservation of trees within the community.
2. Restore native trees.
3. Increase the tree canopy in the City.

Policies

1. Investigate the opportunity of an Urban Forestry Program.
2. Seek grant funds to assist with tree maintenance, inventory, and planting.
3. Consider mapping and identifying existing trees in the City and create and maintain a database if the City is awarded a grant.
4. Continue Memorial Tree Planting Program.

Goal 3: Limit the amount of erosion from agricultural lands

Objectives

1. Keep existing agricultural lands productive.
2. Ensure that soil erosion does not negatively affect local water resources.
3. Ensure fertilizers do not negatively affect local water resources.

Policies

1. Consider identifying programs that assist or provide incentives to farmers to use no till practices and/or leave winter cover crops and provide that information to the local farmers.
2. Encourage farmers to add only needed fertilizer per soil test results.
3. Investigate the need for an ordinance to prevent farmers from applying manure to frozen ground or on steep slopes.
4. Encourage farmers to fence pastured stream banks so cattle cannot cause erosion along streambanks.
5. Consider revising zoning code to remove some currently permitted undesirable uses.

Goal 4: Improve the quality of surface waters

Objectives

1. Reduce erosion of soil which increased the amount of sediments that make its way into streams, rivers, and lakes.
2. Protect water that recharges aquifers.
3. Limit land disturbing activities near banks of the Chippewa River and streams that flow into the River.

Policies

1. Encourage residents to infiltrate roof water by redirecting roof downspout outlets from an impervious surface to a grassed area or rain garden.
2. Consider developing and adopting a Stormwater Management and Construction Erosion Control Ordinances for the City.
3. Identify sources of erosion and degradation and apply for appropriate grants for stormwater runoff to improve these areas where applicable.
4. Support existing ordinances to protect the Chippewa River riparian area.

Goal 5: Protect and preserve the integrity of the existing wetlands

Objectives

1. Prevent wetlands from filling in due to sediment from land disturbing activities including new and redevelopment.
2. Prevent development increasing or decreasing the natural flow of water into wetlands.

Policies

1. Consider following up with contractors if they have the appropriate permits for land disturbing activities near wetlands and navigable waterways (Chapter 30 Permit).

Goal 6: Protect the floodplain from development

Objectives

1. Prevent future development from occurring in areas in the floodplain prone to flooding.

Policies

1. Utilize WDNR, Chippewa County, or UW-Extension staff for education purposes when the opportunity arises.
2. Support enforcement of current floodplain zoning.
3. Support property owners who want to rezone floodplain areas to Conservancy.

Goal 7: Protect steep slopes where possible

Objectives

1. Reduce erosion coming from steep slopes.
2. Stabilize soils that are on steep slopes.
3. Leave steep slopes vegetated.

Policies

1. Consider limiting development from disturbing slopes over 20%.
2. Consider restricting roads and driveways to land with slopes under 12% grade.
3. Encourage logging individuals and companies to re-vegetate steep slopes if disturbed or logged.

Goal 8: Preserve sensitive natural resource areas and habitats

Objectives

1. Prevent the fragmentation of existing environmental corridors.
2. Utilize corridors for passive parks, trails, and educational purposes.

Policies

1. Work with neighboring communities to preserve environmental corridors and expand on the existing connected trail system.
2. Encourage developers to work around corridors and replant areas that are damaged during development through developer agreements.
3. Require new developments to preserve open space and area for trails.
4. Investigate making a connection to the Ice Age Natural Scenic Area Trail from the City and existing trail system.

Goal 9: Encourage reclamation of Nonmetallic Mineral Resource sites

Objectives

1. Prevent previously mined sites from being a blight and possible danger to the community.

2. Support and enforce non-metallic mining ordinance.

Policies

1. Support existing regulations that require reclamation plans.

Goal 10: Manage stormwater runoff to protect all water resources

Objectives

1. Reduce erosion of soil which makes its way into streams, rivers, and lakes.
2. Protect water that recharges aquifers.

Policies

1. Consider developing and enforcing ordinances for erosion control and storm water management.
2. Consider developing an information and education program regarding the use of phosphorus fertilizers and other stormwater related issues.
3. Restore shorelines to native vegetative state where practical.
4. Encourage proper stormwater management on private property and investigate ways of proper stormwater management on City-owned land.
5. Encourage new development to incorporate grass swales.
6. Support existing ordinance that regulates new construction and additions to have stormwater management plans for development within 300' of river way.
7. Maintain and monitor the need for setback regulations.
8. Apply for appropriate grants for stormwater runoff.

Goal 11: Preserve, promote, and rehabilitate cultural resources

Objectives

1. Preserve the historic aspects of the community.
2. Increase the City's appeal to new businesses and residents.
3. Promote non-sensitive cultural resources as ways to educate resident's local history and attract tourists to the area.
4. Encourage new development to preserve the architectural integrity of the structures.

Policies

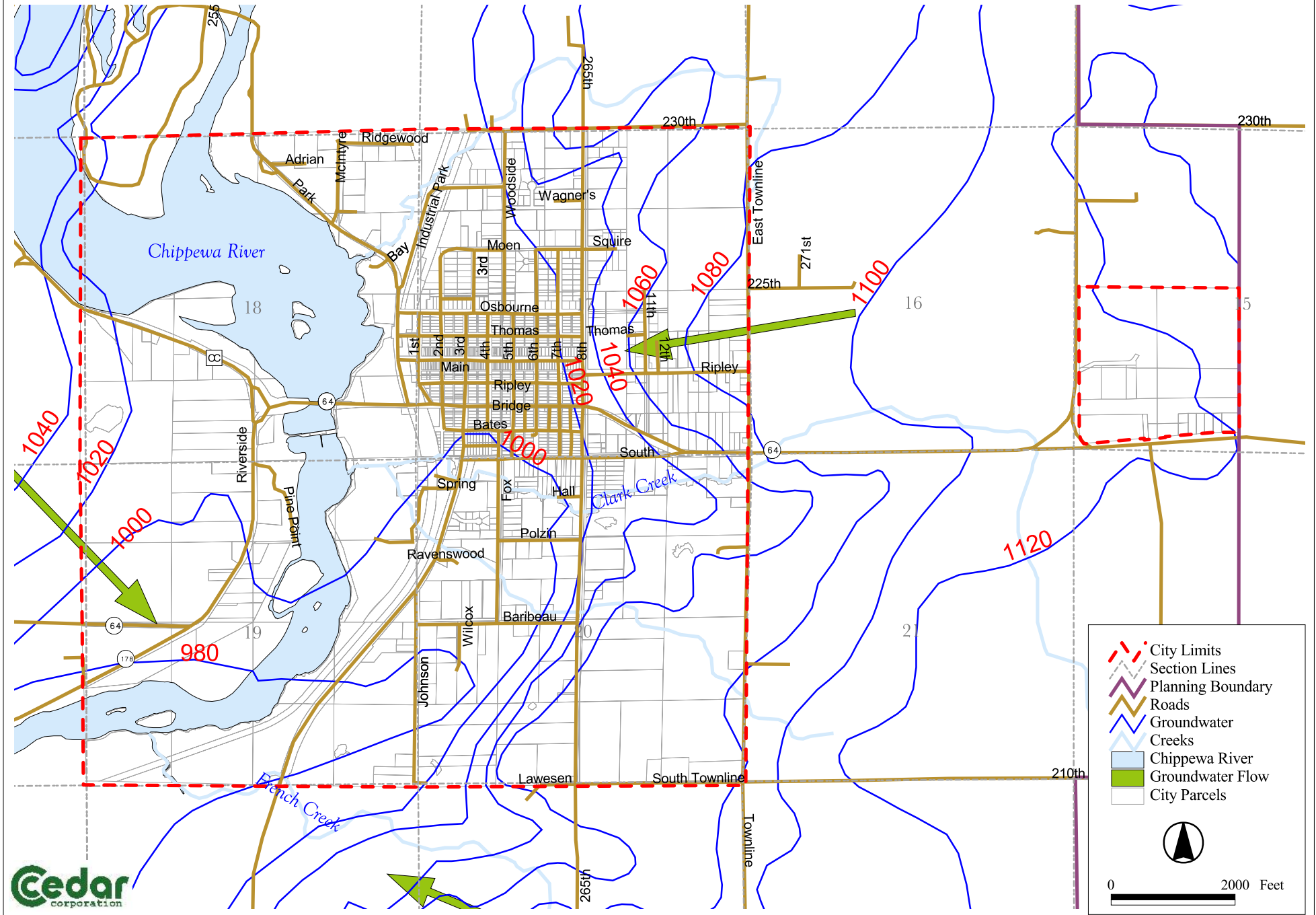
1. Consider updating Wisconsin Architecture and Historic Inventory (AHI) findings and photograph homes and structures for local inventory.
2. Consider informing property owners of any historical aspect of their property and inform them of possible local and national incentives for preserving or rehabilitating their property.
3. Consider developing Centennial book to commemorate the 100-year history of the City.

4. Consider contacting the Wisconsin Historical Society for further information gathering and guidance.
5. Explore the possibility of adding historical markers within the City.
6. Consider developing a local historic/cultural resource preservation plan.
7. Encourage the investigation of the cultural resources of the area including the Stacker, to determine which resources are sensitive and should be protected.
8. Explore opportunities for grant funding which could be utilized for historic preservation initiatives.
9. Encourage businesses to utilize available low interest loan programs such as MicroLoan Fund, Downtown Façade Loan, and the Revolving Loan Fund.

Groundwater Elevation, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

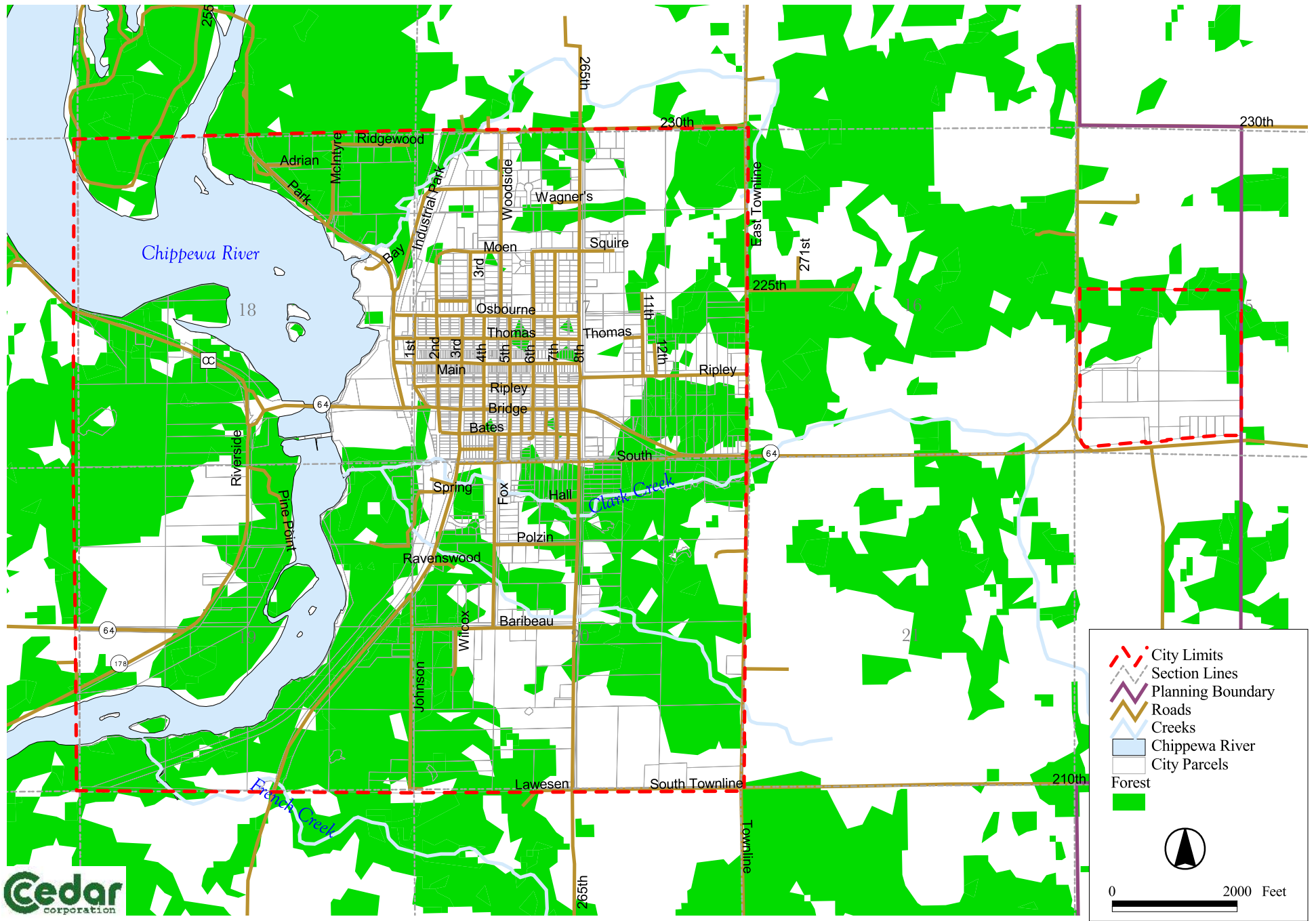
Map 3-1



Forest, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

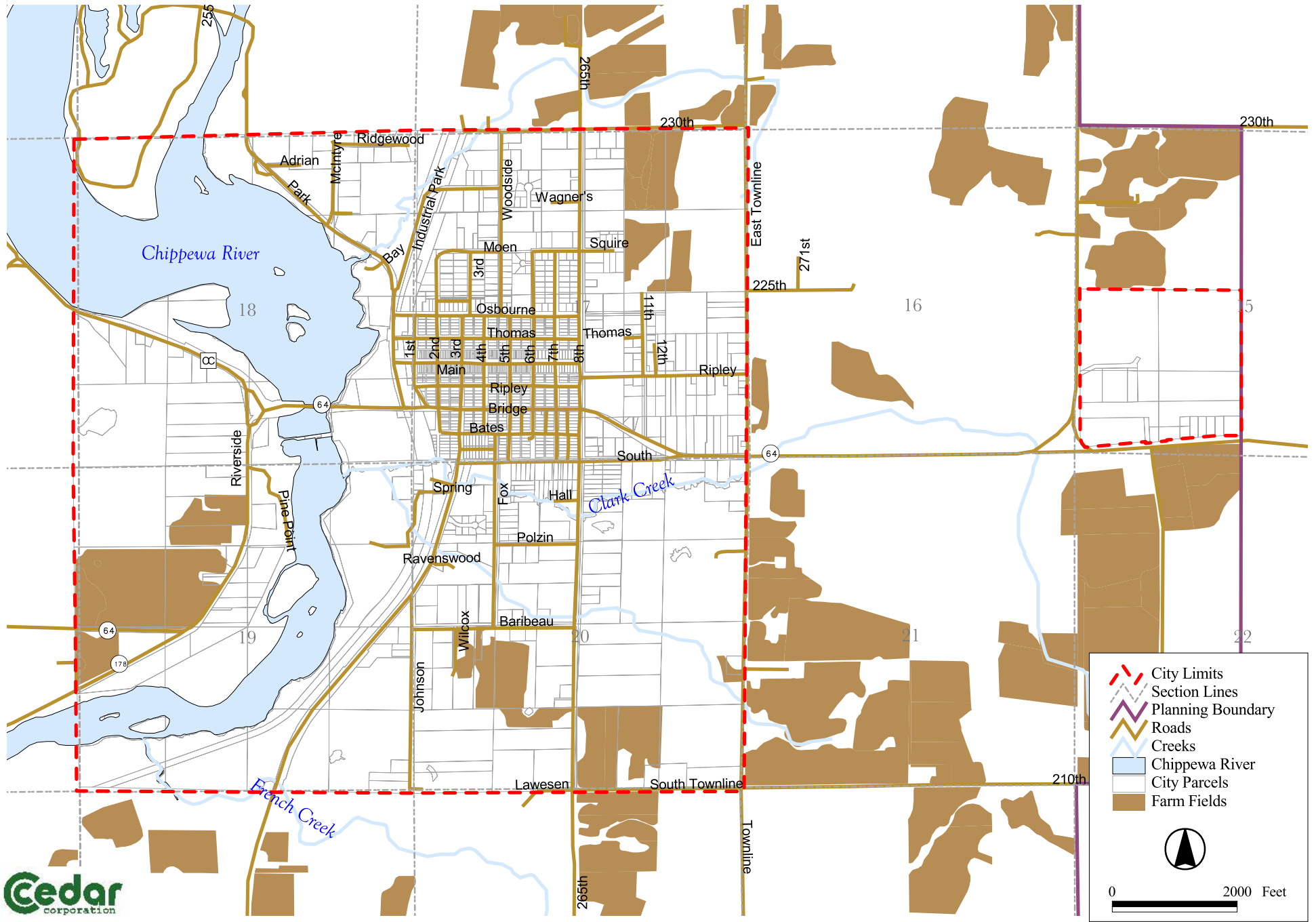
Map 3-2



Farm Fields, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

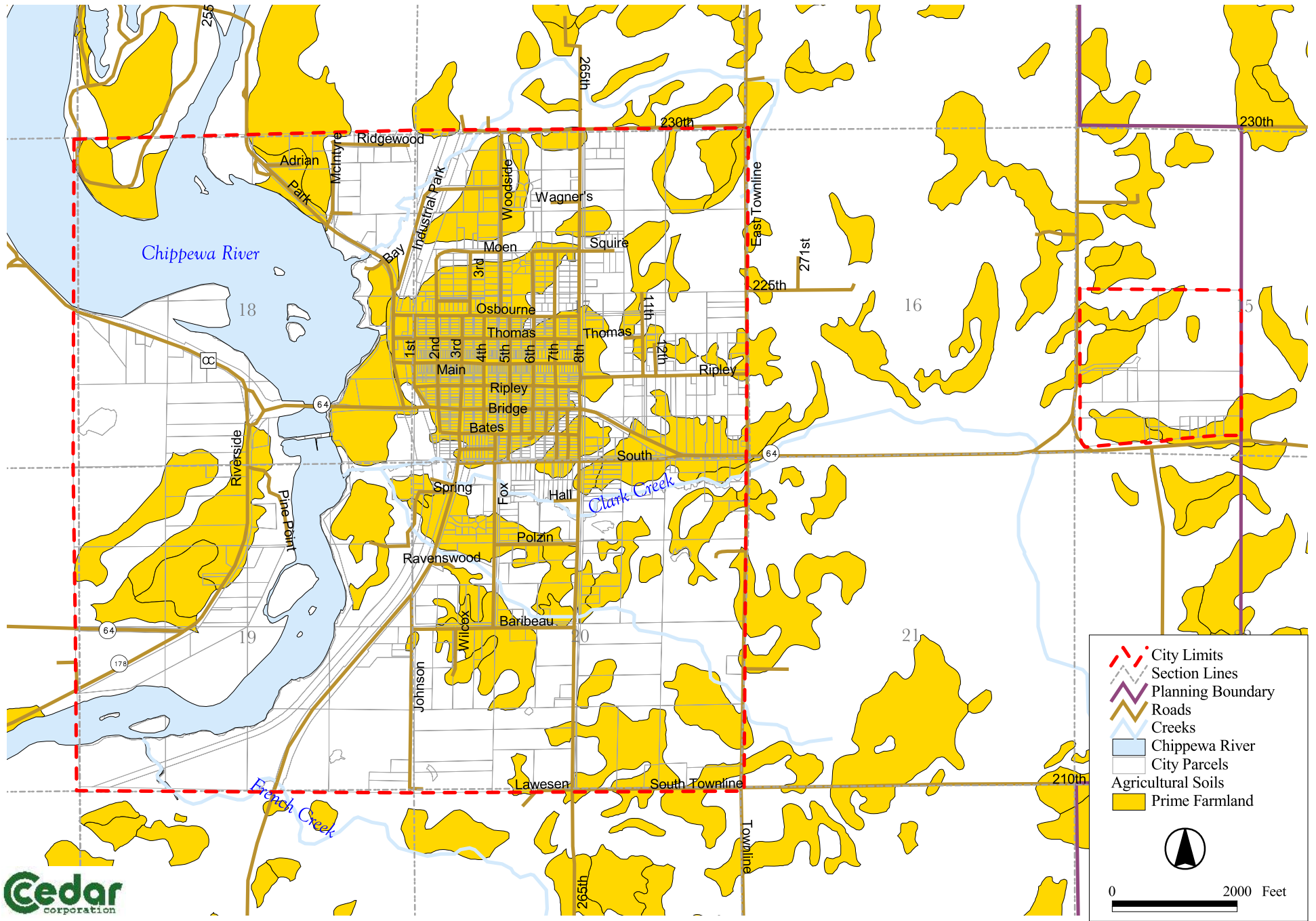
Map 3-3



Prime Agricultural Soils, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

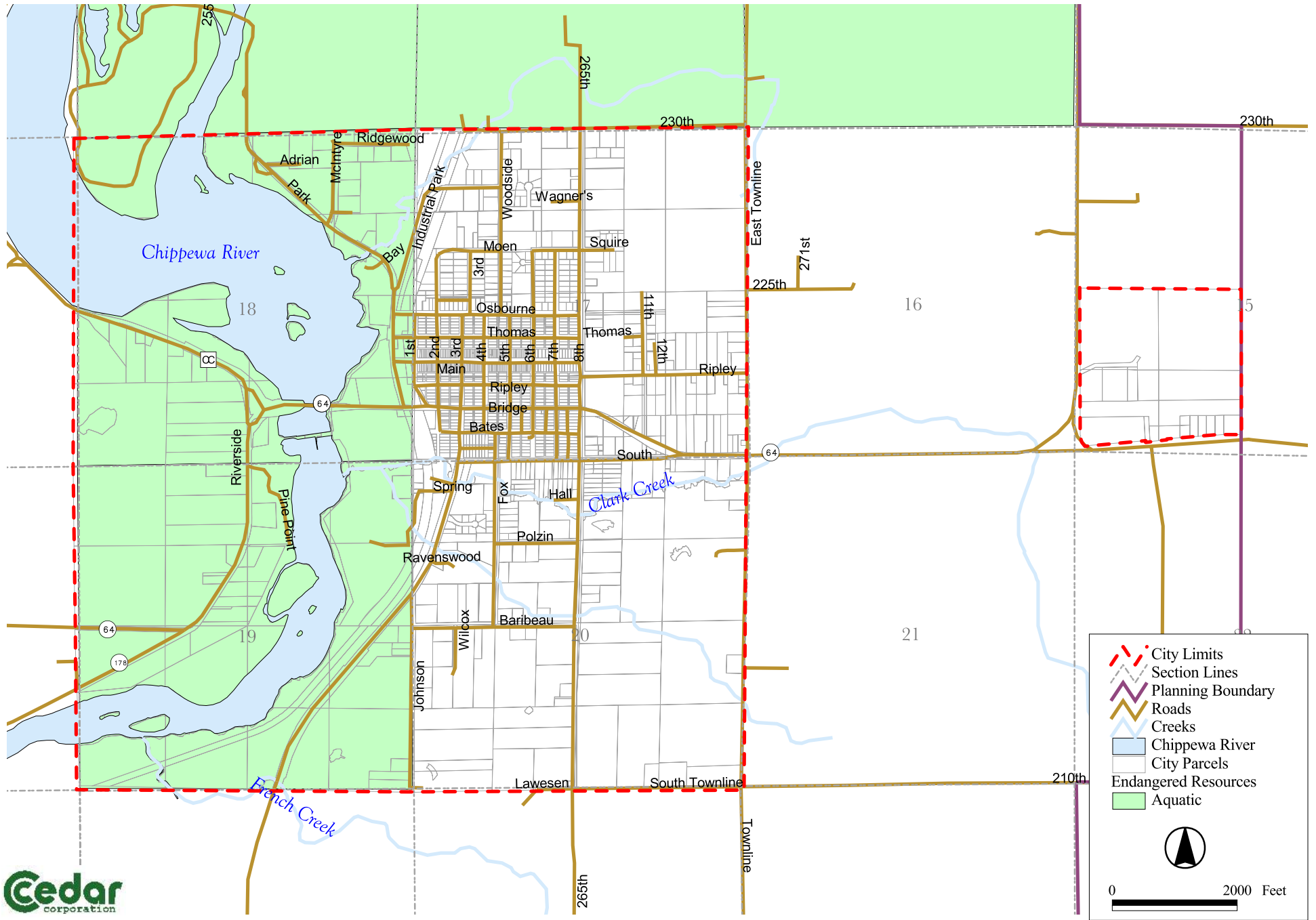
Map 3-4



Endangered Resources, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

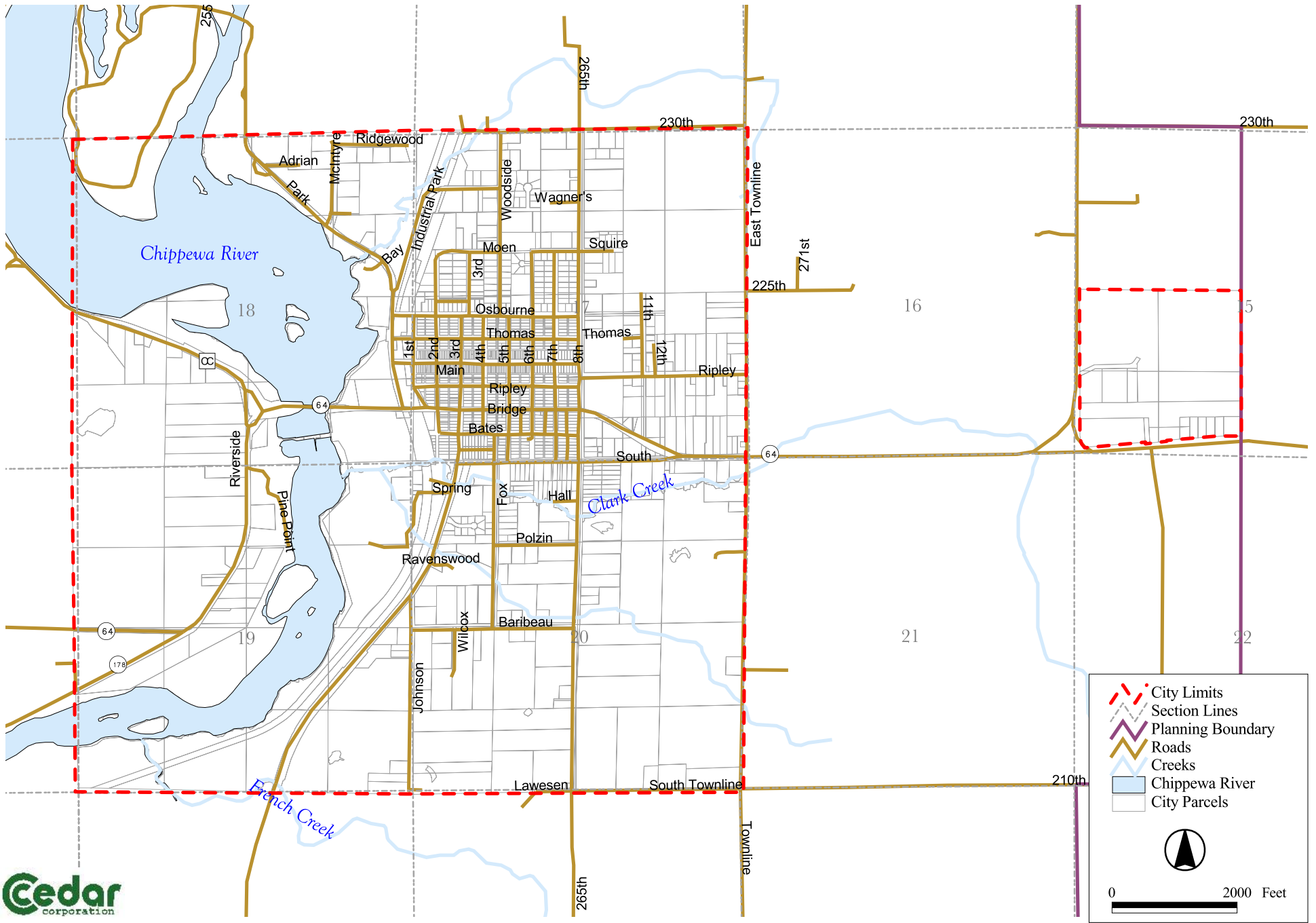
Map 3-5



Surface Waters, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

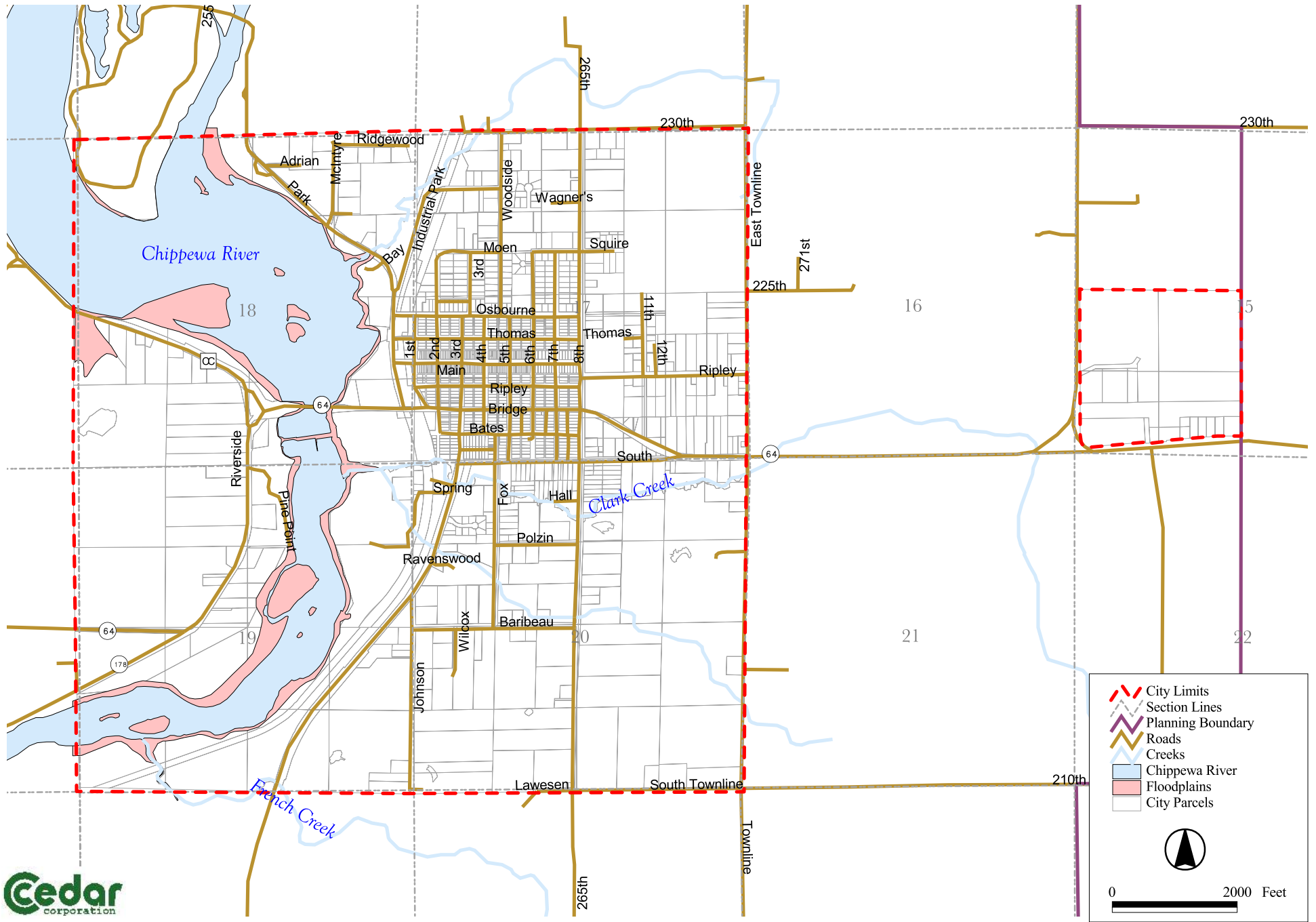
Map 3-6



Floodplains, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

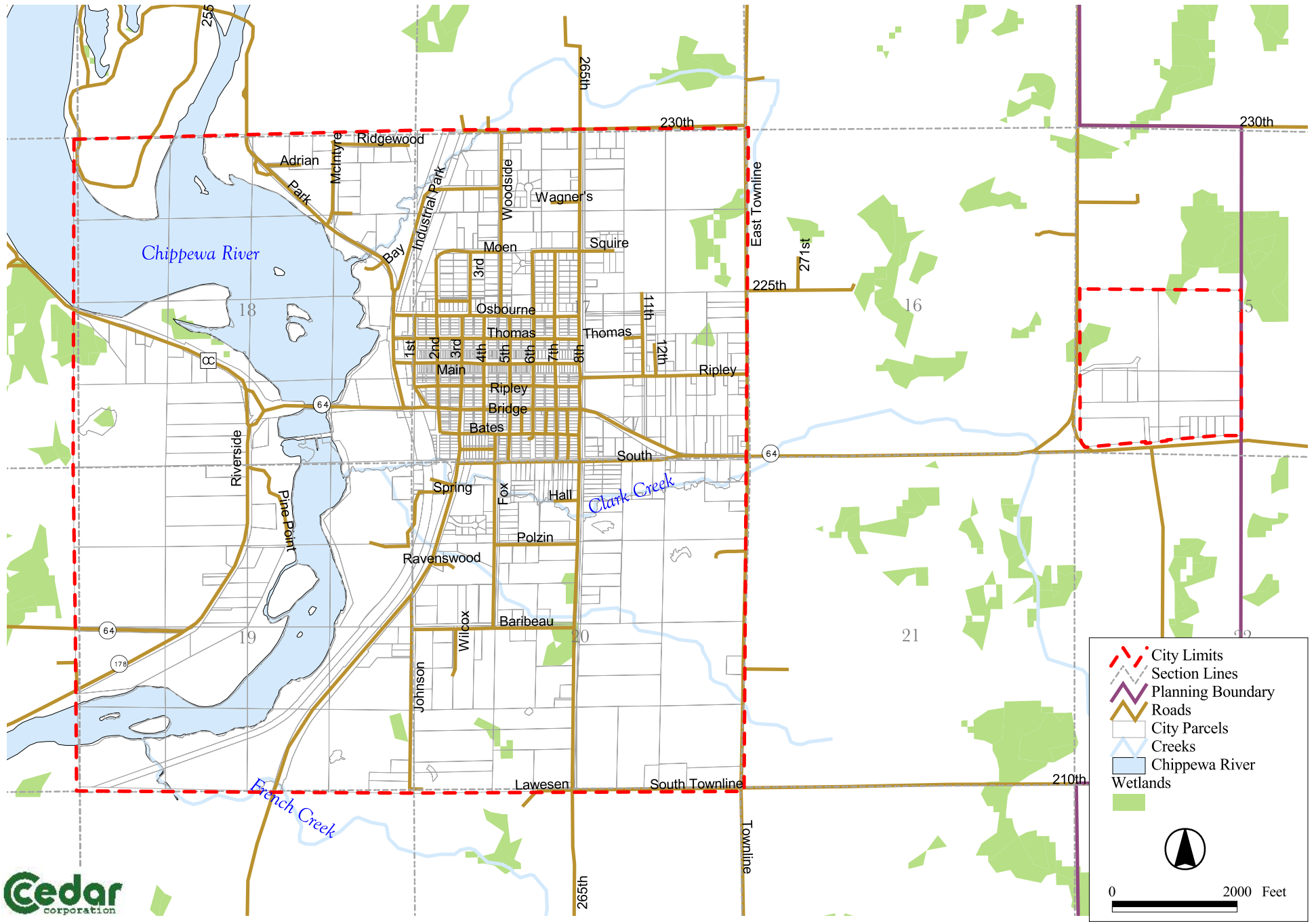
Map 3-7



Wetlands, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

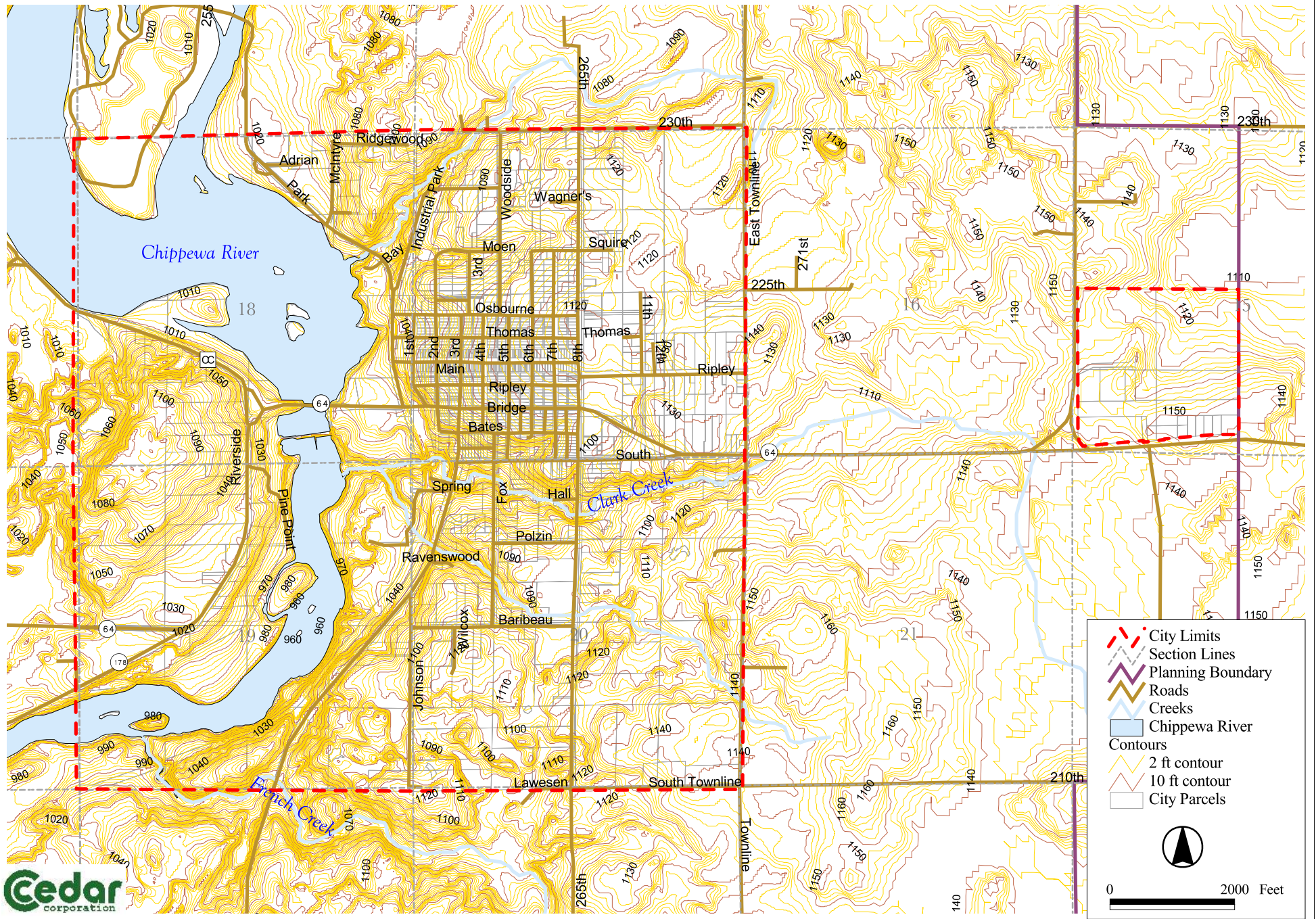
Map 3-8



Contours, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

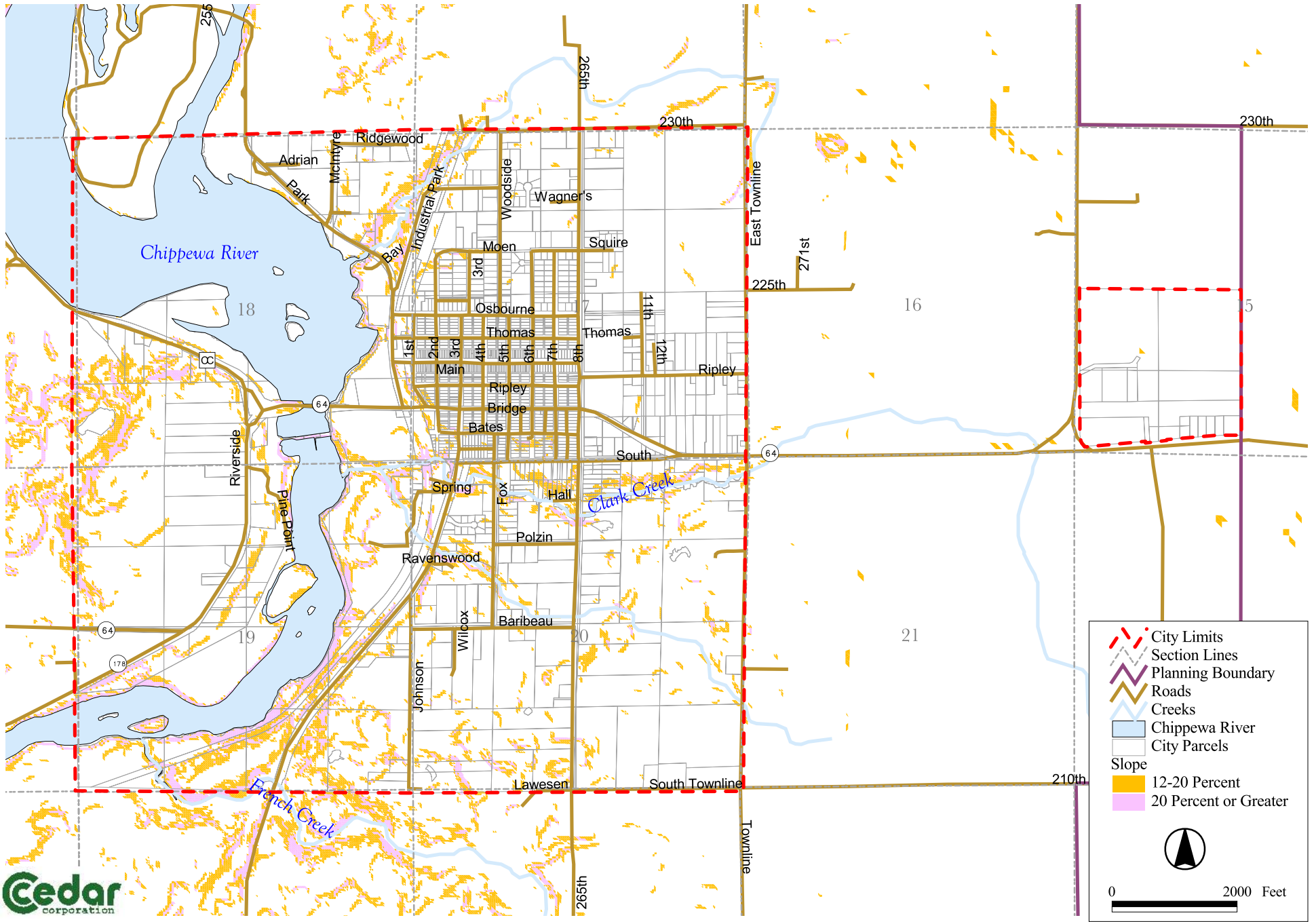
Map 3-9



Slopes, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

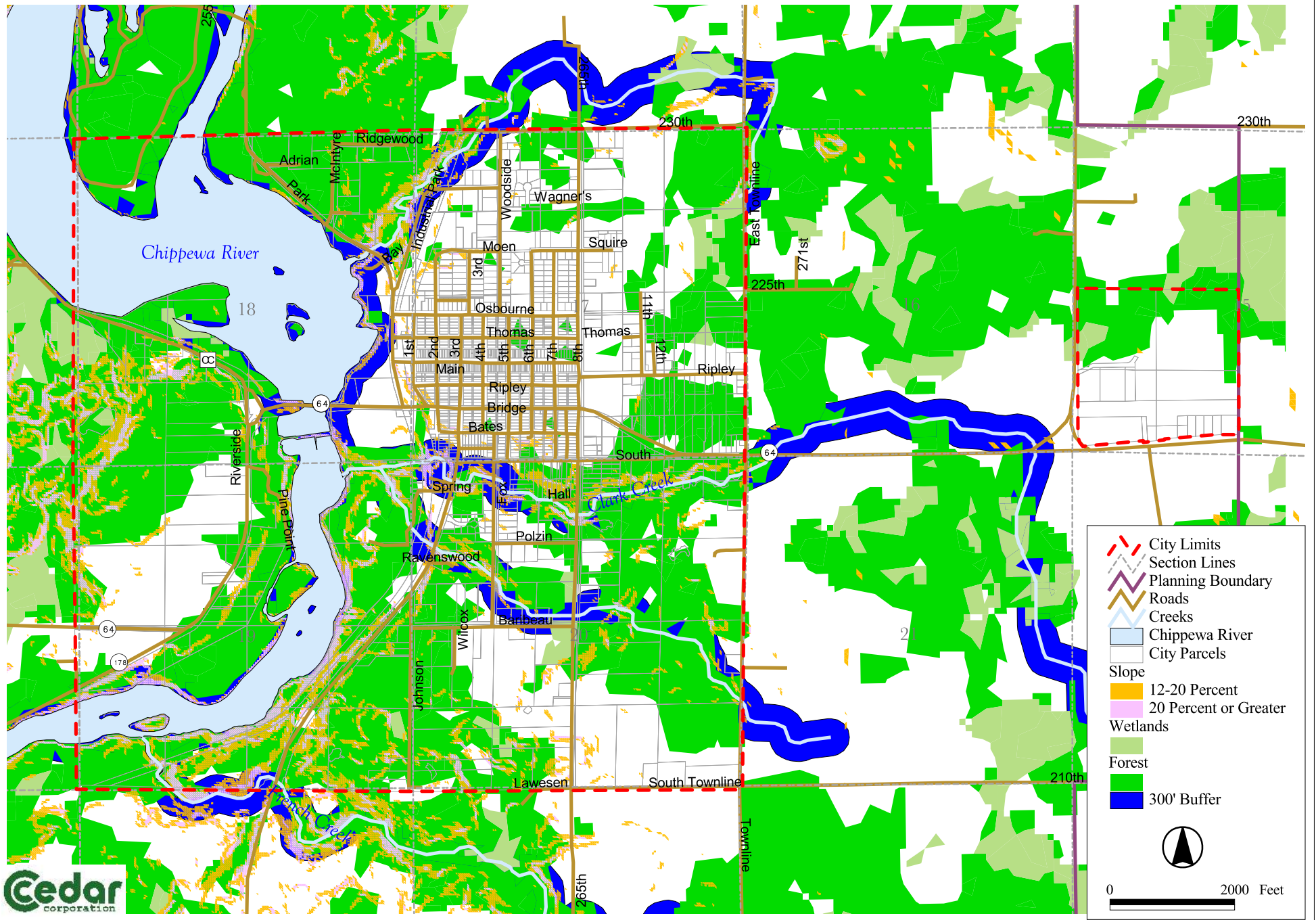
Map 3-10



Environmental Corridors, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

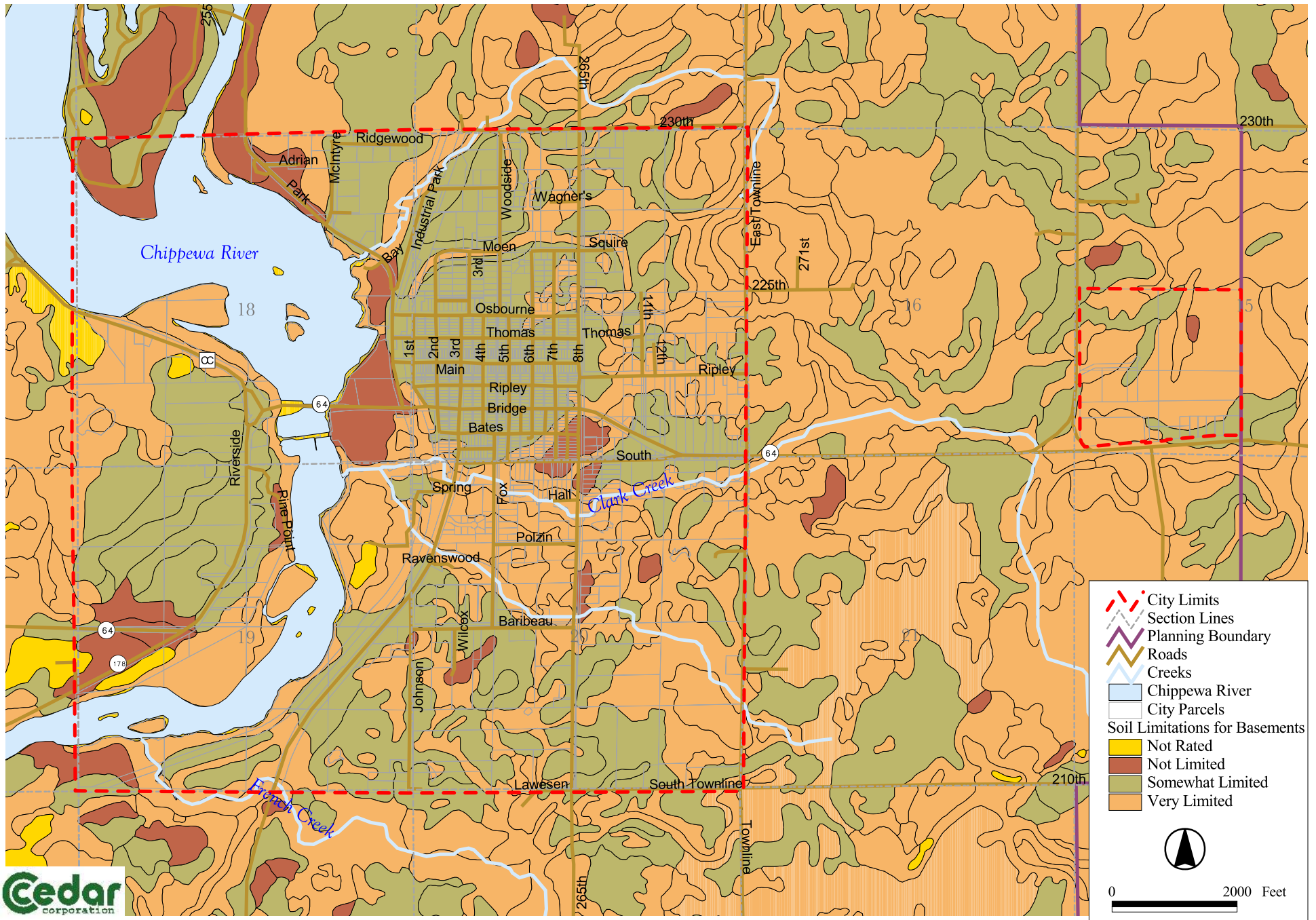
Map 3-11



Soils: Dwellings with Basements, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

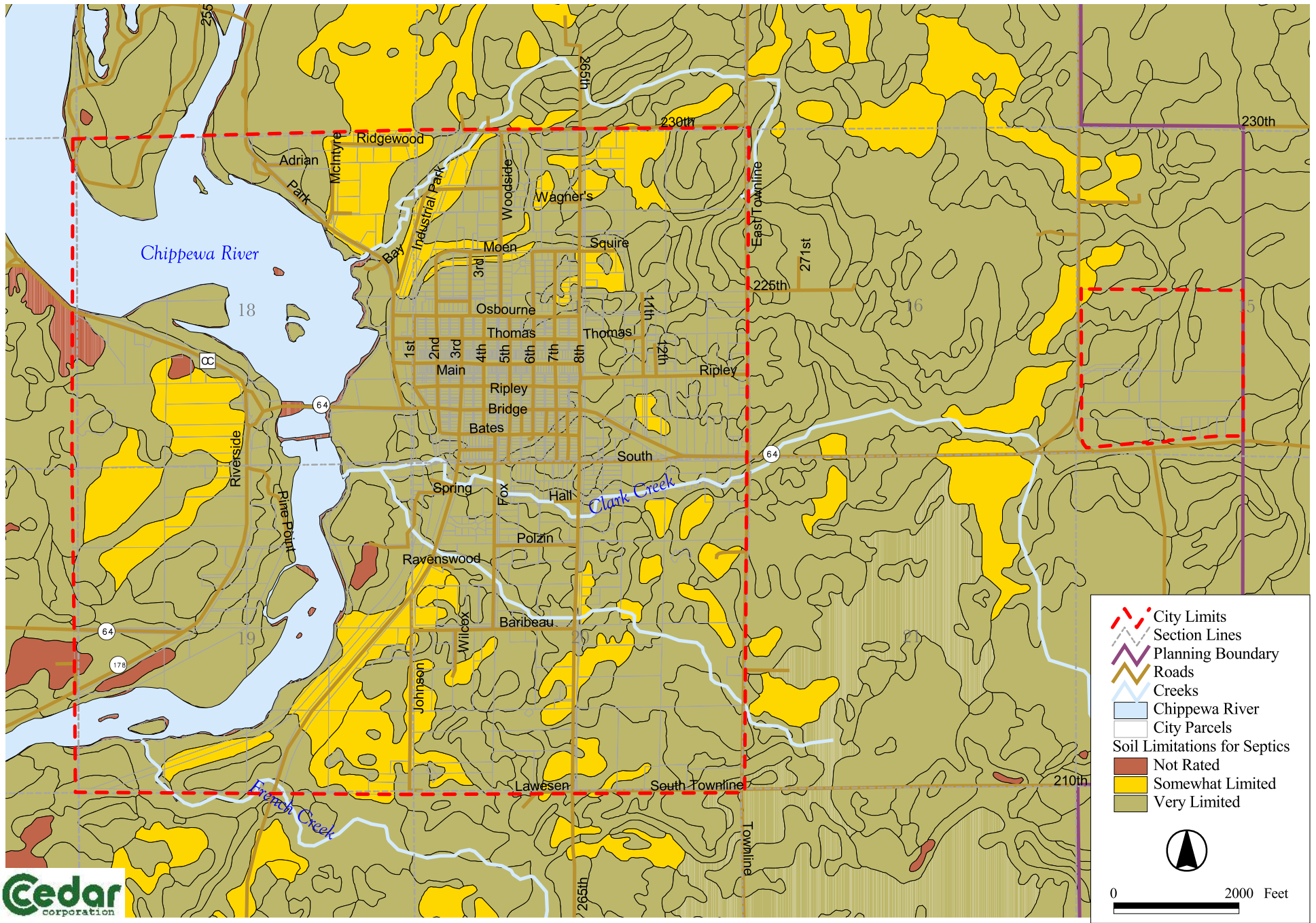
Map 3-12



Soils: Septic Limitations, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

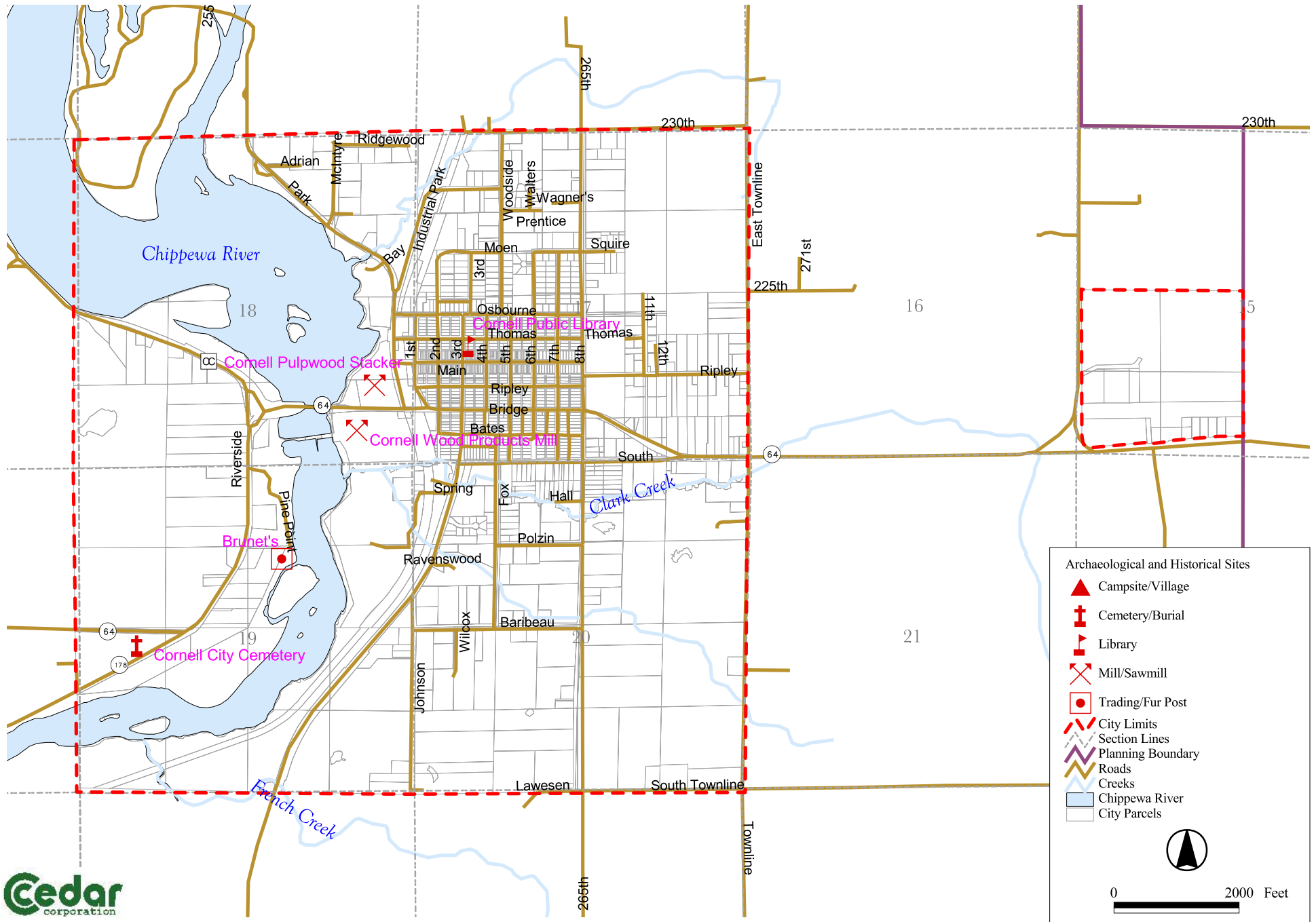
Map 3-13



Cultural Resources, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 3-14



CHAPTER 4

Housing

Introduction

Housing in the City of Cornell is significant for several reasons. First, it is typically one of the largest expenditures in a person's life. Second, housing and the land it occupies generates significant tax revenue. Finally, the desire to develop land for housing can have visible effects on the town's land use patterns.

Housing in the City is influenced by the age of the structure, income of the residents, and occupancy characteristics. Housing also can affect the image of a community by the design of subdivisions, housing styles, and property maintenance. The Housing Chapter includes an analysis of the impact of the local government's policies and regulations on the development of various types of housing. The analysis is intended to take into account the current and projected housing needs in the community and result in policies that provide opportunities for the development of the types and amounts of housing projected for the next 20 years. The Housing Chapter analyzes various housing characteristics in order to identify housing seeds in the future. Land use issues related to housing will be addressed in the Land Use chapter.

Housing is also a major source of revenue through property taxes for the City. These taxes also go to the school district (Cornell School District), vocational technical college (Chippewa Valley Technical College), and county (Chippewa County).

Survey Results

Below are the results from the Community Survey:

The City of Cornell needs more.....	
	Count
Single family houses	41
Multi-family rental apartments	20
Elderly housing	55
Low-rent housing	42
High-rent housing	9
Condominiums	22
Mobile homes	1
No additional housing	9
Not sure	31

In the survey residents were asked the type of housing the City of Cornell needs more in the future. The category with the greatest number of responses was “elderly housing” with 55 responses followed by “low-rent” (42) and “single family” (41).

In general, where should future residential development occur in the City?	
	Count
South side of City	35
West side of City	24
North side of City	43
East side of City	44
No growth is needed	14
Not sure	44

Residents were also asked where they would like to see future residential development in the City. The most common responses besides “not sure” were “East side of the City” and “West side of the City.”

SWOT Exercise Results

Strengths

- Affordable housing
- Low cost utilities
- Low taxes
- Low vacancy rates
- Abundance of emergency services
- Good schools
- Abundance of churches
- Housing program
- Inviting community atmosphere
- Good sidewalk network
- Low crime
- High quality utilities
- Great care facility
- Available medical – health care facility
- School consolidation

Weaknesses

- No assisted living
- Housing stock is old
- Limited variety of housing stock

- Small lots
- Current subdivision ordinance – discourages development

Opportunities

- Assisted living facilities
- Elderly housing – condos
- Single family housing
- Revise subdivision ordinance
- Housing on riverfront – revitalization project
- Trees – aesthetic for homes
- Overall aesthetics of the community

Threats

- Industries closing
- Loss of jobs
- Poor housing market
- Continued increases in the cost of fuel
- Cost of heating
- High cost of construction materials
- School consolidation
- Tornado – natural disasters

Housing Needs

Currently, the City of Cornell is considered by many to be a “bedroom community” referring to the large numbers of residents that commute some distance to their jobs. If this trend continues, availability of housing will be a major factor in attracting new residents as they will likely require a variety of housing stock.

Due in part to the demographic breakdown of the City, residents see there is a need to provide assisted living facilities to support its growing elderly population.

Generalizations can be made concerning the state of housing in the City of Cornell by analyzing US Census Bureau statistics without doing an extensive housing survey.

- A growing population with increased buying power is driving property values up.
- The cost of single family housing had jumped significantly since the mid 1990s.
- Foreclosures have been increasing throughout the U.S.
- Residents need to be aware of programs that assist in housing/rental costs and repairs including low income assistance.

Some important issues to consider when planning the current and future housing needs of the City of Cornell include: types of housing, amount of housing, and demands of housing within the community.

Age Characteristics

Table 4-1 shows the year a home in the City of Cornell was constructed within a specified time period. Nearly all of the housing stock was constructed before 1980 and 33% of the housing stock is over 60 years old or older. An aging housing stock could indicate a need to replace sewer/septic systems, siding, furnaces, windows, and other repairs. There are available programs discussed later in this chapter that can assist eligible homeowners with some repairs.

Table 4-1 – Year Structure Constructed

Year Built	Homes	Percent
Total	671	100.0%
1999 to March 2000	5	0.7%
1995 to 1998	23	3.4%
1990 to 1994	17	2.5%
1980 to 1989	35	5.2%
1970 to 1979	116	17.3%
1960 to 1969	71	10.6%
1940 to 1959	182	27.1%
1939 or earlier	222	33.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Depending on the condition of some of the housing, older houses may provide an opportunity to designate some of the homes as historic, or possibly designate an entire area as a historic district.

Table 4-2 – Building Permits Since 2000

Year Issued	Total Housing Units	Single Family Housing Units	Percent
2000	3	2	66.7%
2001	0	0	0.0%
2002	6	1	16.7%
2003	3	3	100.0%
2004	4	4	100.0%
2005	10	4	40.0%
2006	2	2	100.0%
2007	3	3	100.0%
Total	31	19	61.3%

Source: City Office

The City has had a total of 31 new building permits since 2000. 61% of the new construction has been single family homes. New construction is often an indication of growth. Although the housing market seems to be leveling off

throughout the Country, Cornell has added some new houses in the last few years.

Structural Characteristics

The type of heating fuel used in homes can indicate potential energy expenditures within the City and reveal trends in heating systems related to new construction. Most homes are heated by Utility Gas or Fuel Oil/Kerosene (see *Table 4-3*).

Table 4-3 – Types of House Heating Fuel

Fuel Type	Number	Percent
Utility Gas	350	56.6%
Bottled, Tank, or LP Gas	29	4.7%
Electricity	56	9.1%
Fuel Oil, Kerosene, Etc.	157	25.4%
Coal or Coke	0	0.0%
Wood	24	3.9%
Solar Energy	0	0.0%
Other Fuel	0	0.0%
No Fuel	2	0.3%
Total	618	100.0%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau

The number of units in a structure or home provides an indication of the type of housing stock the City has. The City contains a variety of housing units with over 70% single family units and nearly 15% multiple family units (see *Table 4-4*). The variety of housing units meets the needs of area residents and prospective residents because they have access to municipal utilities and services.

A 1-Unit, detached structure is a separate building that has open spaces on all sides. A 1-Unit, attached structure is separated from other structures by dividing walls that extend from ground to roof.

Table 4-4 – Housing Units in Structure

Units	Number	Percent
Total Housing Units	671	100.0%
1 Unit, detached	519	77.3%
1 Unit, attached	10	1.5%
2 Units	28	4.2%
3 or 4 Units	34	5.1%
5 to 9 Units	23	3.4%
10 to 19 Units	13	1.9%
20 or more Units	0	0.0%
Mobile Home	44	6.6%
Boat, RV, Van, etc	0	0.0%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau

Home Values

Table 4-5 reveals that the median owner-occupied housing value doubled between 1990 and 2000. The increases can be attributed to normal appreciation or the construction of new homes by residents. The recent decline in the housing market may slow the appreciation in home values in the future.

Table 4-5 – Median Owner-Occupied Housing Value

1990	2000	% Change
\$36,400	\$55,600	52.7%

Source: US Census Bureau 1990, 2000

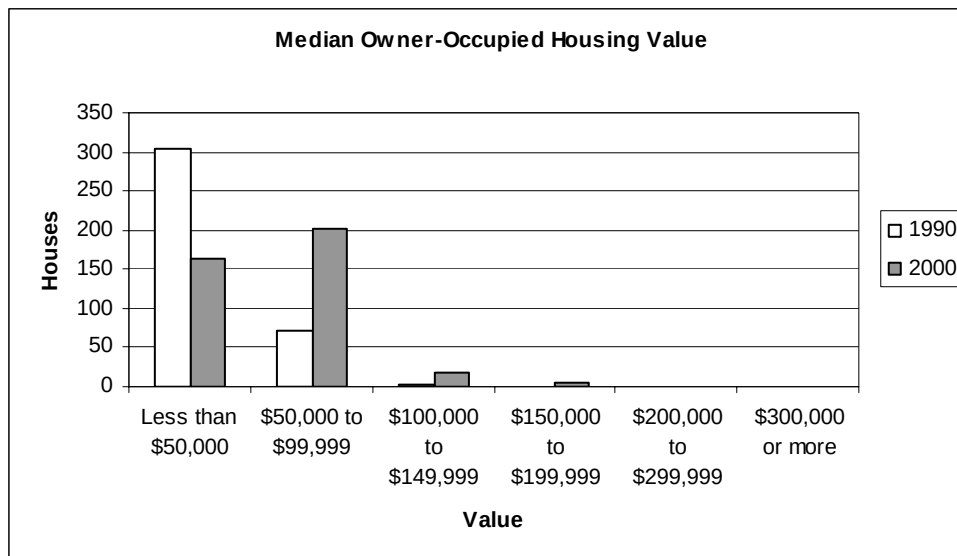
Table 4-6 and Figure 4-1 show that a majority of housing in 2000 is valued between \$50,000 and \$99,999. There has been a notable increase in the number of homes valued at \$100,000 to \$149,999 but little to no increase in homes valued over \$150,000. These numbers are already 8 years old and most of the home values have increased since that time. However, due to the recent economic situation and the increase in foreclosures, home prices have leveled off.

Table 4-6 – Owner-Occupied Housing Value

Value	1990	2000	Numerical Change	% Change
Less than \$50,000	305	163	-142	-46.6%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	71	203	132	185.9%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2	17	15	750.0%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	0	5	5	-
\$200,000 to \$299,999	0	0	0	-
\$300,000 or more	0	0	0	-

Source: US Census Bureau 1990, 2000

Figure 4-1 – Owner- Occupied Housing Value



Occupancy Characteristics

All housing units are classified as either owner-occupied or renter-occupied. A housing unit is considered owner-occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. All occupied units, which are not owner-occupied, whether they are rented for cash rent or occupied without payment of cash rent, are classified as renter-occupied.

In 2000, the majority of housing in the City of Cornell was owner-occupied (72%). This compares to Chippewa County (75.7%) and the State of Wisconsin (68.4%). This percentage for the City decreased slightly since 1990. The renter-occupied units are primarily multi-family dwellings which have increased in numbers and slightly in the overall percentage of housing units.

Table 4-7 – Occupied Housing Units

	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	Numerical Change	% Change
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	439	74.3%	438	72.2%	-1	-0.2%
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	152	25.7%	169	27.8%	17	11.2%
Total	591	100.0%	607	100.0%	16	2.7%

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

Another occupancy characteristic to consider is the amount of vacant housing in the City. Table 4-8 shows that the vacancy rates have dropped from 1990 to 2000. It appears that in 2000, more of the vacancy rate was made up of season housing so for full time residents their occupancy rate has actually increased.

Table 4-8 - Total Housing Units - City of Cornell

	1990	2000
Total Housing Units	635	652
Occupied Housing Units	591	607
Homeowner Vacancy Rate	3.7%	2.0%
Rental Vacancy Rate	5.6%	4.5%
Vacant Housing	44	45
Seasonal Vacant Housing	3	8

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

Another occupancy characteristic to consider is the City population has slightly declined from 2000 to 2007. During that same time span, 31 new building permits have been issued adding new housing to the area. This could indicate a possible increase in vacant housing in the City, or a decline in the number of people per household. Based on local observations, the likely answer is the latter – low vacancy rates with fewer people per household.

Housing Affordability Analysis

HUD defines affordable housing as housing (for rent or purchase) for which the occupant is paying no more than 30% of their household income for gross housing costs.

Table 4-9 reveals that over 80% of residents owning homes pay less than 30% of their household income for housing costs. The monthly owner costs are calculated from the mortgage payment, real estate taxes, home owners insurance, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.

Table 4-9 – Monthly Housing Costs-Percentage of Household Income

Year 1999	Number	Percent
Less than 15%	191	49.2
15 to 19%	60	15.5
20 to 24%	46	11.9
25 to 29%	30	7.7
30 to 34%	11	2.8
35% or more	48	12.4
Not computed	2	0.5
Total	388	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau 2000

Costs associated with renting can vary significantly compared to homeownership. Renters do not have to directly pay property taxes, insurance costs are less, and utility costs may be included with the rent.

Gross rent is the amount of the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, water and sewer) and fuels if these are paid for by the renter or for the renter by someone else (*Table 4-10*). Approximately 53% of the households that rent are paying less than 30% of their income on housing.

Table 4-10 – Gross Rent-Percentage of Household Income - City of Cornell

Year 1999	Number	Percent
Less than 15%	38	21.0%
15 to 19%	20	11.0%
20 to 24%	21	11.6%
25 to 29%	17	9.4%
30 to 34%	22	12.2%
35% or more	36	19.9%
Not Computed	27	14.9%
Total	181	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau 2000

Units for which no cash rent was paid and units occupied by households that reported no income or a net loss in 1999 comprise the category "Not computed."

Housing Unit Projections

The Department of Administration's population projections show a decline in City population for the next 20 years. However, many factors or scenarios can change those projections and the City should still plan for some growth as projections may not accurately predict what will happen. Also, the City has a more positive outlook for the community and is striving to add more people, jobs, and housing to the City in the future. They are a proactive community and despite a recent history of declining population, they are searching for new opportunities to attract new businesses that will spur on new housing.

Table 4-11 - Housing Forecasts - City of Cornell

Year	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Persons Per Household	2.42	2.38	2.34	2.30	2.26	2.23
Total Occupied Housing Units	607	597	607	617	627	637
Additional Units Needed	-	-10	10	10	10	10

Source: WI Dept of Administration: Population and Housing Projections

The table above (Table 4-11) indicates a projected housing goal of adding two new households per year. If new households are established that means more housing will be needed along with more jobs.

One interesting thing to note is even though the population has been decreasing and new homes have been constructed, there is a very low vacancy rate in the City. This primarily indicates that the people per household have been declining.

Cornell's Housing Program

Cornell applied for and received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Bureau of Housing, Department of Commerce. This grant has been used to establish a Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program to conserve, rehabilitate, and improve residential property occupied by low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents of the City of Cornell.

The primary objectives of this program are to expand the affordable housing stock for LMI persons, eliminate neighborhood blight and structural deterioration, and eliminate housing conditions that are detrimental to public health, safety and welfare. The assistance is in the form of 0% interest deferred payment home repair loans for LMI occupants, 0% interest loans for repairing units rented to LMI tenants and homebuyer assistance. Eligible projects can include weatherization, siding, roofing, windows, replacement of septic systems, furnaces, and other program approved maintenance. The goal of each project is to make the home Decent, Safe, and Sanitary.

The program now becomes a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for the City so as the loans are repaid, that money then becomes available to other home owners for future needs.

Housing Assistance Programs and Agencies

The ability to afford or maintain housing can be challenging for some residents. There are several county, state, and federal programs and agencies that assist first time homebuyers, disabled, elderly residents, and low-medium income citizens to meet their rental/home ownership needs.

HUD

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provides subsidized housing through low-income public housing and the Section 8 Program. Under the Section 8 Program, rental subsidies are given to low-income households, including households renting private apartments. HUD is also responsible for providing funds to communities through various grant programs.

Rural Development –United States Department of Agriculture

The Rural Development Program provides housing opportunities for individuals living in predominantly rural areas (population <10,000). The Rural Development Program provides support for rental housing, mortgage loans for homebuyers, and support for cooperative housing development.

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)

This agency finances housing development through the sale of bonds. WHEDA provides mortgage financing to first-time homebuyers, and financing for multi-family housing.

West CAP

West CAP is a non-profit corporation that works in partnership with local communities to plan and develop good quality, affordable housing for low and moderate-income families and individuals.

Movin' Out

Movin' Out is a housing organization that provides assistance, housing counseling, information, and gap financing for rehabilitation and purchase to Wisconsin households with a member with a permanent disability.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that builds homes for low-income families.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

The CDBG program provides grants to local governments for housing rehabilitation programs for low- and moderate-income households.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

The LIEAP program provides payments to utility companies or individuals to help pay for home heating costs in the winter.

Housing Cost Reduction Initiative (HCRI)

This state program provides funding to local public and non-profit agencies to reduce housing costs for low- and moderate-income households.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Once an inventory has been taken of the existing housing stock and conditions, the next logical step is to look at what the community hopes to achieve in the near future regarding housing stock, density and conditions.

Goal 1: Attract new residents to live in the area.

Objectives

1. Plan for growth in the City of Cornell.
2. Increase the City's population.
3. Increase the number of occupied housing units in the City.

Policies

1. Work with groups or programs to attract elderly housing and assisted living facilities to the City of Cornell.
2. Work with the County to attract jobs to the area that will lead to an increase in population.
3. Promote the City as a place to live, work, and recreate.

Goal 2: Ensure land is available for future housing needs.

Objectives

1. Maintain steady and planned growth in the City of Cornell.

Policies

1. Use proposed land use map to guide residential growth.
2. Explore extra-territorial plat review and zoning with surrounding towns to avoid land use conflicts.
3. Consider revising subdivision ordinance to make it more developer-friendly.
4. Develop a plan for the land area along State Highway 64 east of the City, between the current City Limits and the airport.

Goal 3: Provide a balance between single family and multi family housing.

Objectives

1. Maintain 70/30 owner-occupied home ownership ratio.
2. Protect property values.

Policies

1. Help residents locate housing programs and agencies that will help them achieve home ownership.
2. Encourage developers to provide a variety of housing sizes and styles to meet the needs of all residents.
3. Encourage the use of Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) that is served by a network of paths, streets and lanes suitable for pedestrians as well as vehicles and includes a variety of housing types and land uses in a designated area.

Goal 4: Address the aesthetics of new developments and housing.

Objectives

1. Encourage residential development that uses a variety of styles and colors.

Policies

1. Encourage the use of Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) that is served by a network of paths, streets and lanes suitable for pedestrians as well as vehicles and includes a variety of housing types and land uses in a designated area.
2. Encourage developments to use a variety of building footprints, colors, windows, etc...
3. Discuss possible ordinances on property maintenance code.
4. Discourage development which is unsightly or costly to the community.
5. Preserve and improve the quality of existing neighborhoods and assure that the new neighborhoods are well designed.

Goal 5: Support and encourage sustainable design of residential development including “Green Building.”

Objectives

1. Reduce energy consumption.
2. Promote environmental sustainability and responsibility.

Policies

1. Work with local contractors to construct a home that meets the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Standards.
2. Encourage architects and developers to incorporate LEED Standards and promote “green buildings.”

3. Review ordinances to identify opportunities to provide incentives for green building.
4. Develop standards and incentives for promoting green space and walkability in residential developments.

Goal 6: Maintain and rehabilitate the City of Cornell housing stock.

Objectives

1. Provide housing opportunities for existing and future residents.

Policies

1. Identify local, state, and federal programs to help rehabilitate housing in the City.
2. Provide housing program information to residents throughout the City.
3. Undertake municipal improvement to maintain and improve neighborhood conditions, including street reconstruction, sidewalk replacement, sewer and water improvements, and park facilities.
4. Consider creating a blighted Tax Incremental Finance District (TID) in areas of residential and commercial blight to provide incentives to help property owners improve their building facades.

Goal 7: Promote the availability of land for the development or redevelopment of low-income housing.

Objectives

1. Provide housing opportunities for low-income residents.

Policies

1. Identify local, state, and federal programs to help rehabilitate housing in the City.
2. Provide housing program information to residents throughout the City.
3. Consider creating blighted TIF District in areas of residential blight.
4. Assist in efforts to provide affordable housing to residents, especially low- and moderate-income families and elderly.

CHAPTER 5

Economic Development

Introduction

This element examines demographic data, existing business and industry, and the tools and programs the City has at its disposal to encourage economic development. Economic growth in the City of Cornell can determine land use and future development patterns. The economies of neighboring communities and counties influence commuting patterns, job opportunities, and personal incomes of City residents. Business and industry help diversify the City's tax base and allows the tax burden to be spread more evenly among property owners. A strong local economic base provides an opportunity for residents to work and live in their community.

Survey Results

Below are the results from the Community Survey:

The City should provide limited term parking downtown.		
	Count	Percent
I strongly agree	9	6.3%
I agree	21	14.8%
Not sure	39	27.5%
I disagree	44	31.0%
I strongly disagree	29	20.4%
Total	142	100.0%

The majority of the responses (79%) were not in favor of limited term parking for the downtown.

There is a need to improve the _____ in Cornell's downtown.	
	Count
Streets	60
Store fronts	55
Sidewalks	46
Lighting	15
Seating (benches)	52
Bicycle Racks	19
Signage	28
Nothing	5
Other: (list and tally)	6

When asked what needs to be improved in Cornell's downtown, the top three responses were Streets, Storefronts, and Seating. Lighting and bicycle racks had the fewest number of responses.

How important is it to you to see more work opportunities provided in the Cornell area?		
	Count	Percent
Very important	110	80.3%
Somewhat important	16	11.7%
Not important	6	4.4%
No opinion	5	3.6%
Not sure	0	0.0%
Total	137	100.0%

Overall, more work opportunities are very important (80%) to the residents of Cornell.

Do you think there is a need for more industry in the City of Cornell?		
	Count	Percent
Yes	121	90.3%
No	4	3.0%
Maybe	8	6.0%
Not sure	1	0.7%
Total	134	100.0%

According to the survey responses, the City needs more industry (90%).

Economic activity in the City of Cornell is influenced by many factors. Two significant factors are the City's distance and access to State Highway 29, a four-lane freeway with limited access, and the communities desire to attract viable new industries to the area. The Economic Development element will evaluate labor and economic characteristics and explore the current and future opportunities for economic growth.

Business Survey Results

In 2007, the Industrial Committee went to all the businesses with a 25 question business survey asking them questions related to the following categories:

- Business Profile
- Employees
- External Factors
- International Trade
- Local Environment
- Business Plans and Decisions
- You & Business Support Services
- Comments

They separated the results based on whether or not the business was located on Main Street. The information below provides some of the highlights of some of the responses.

Main Street Businesses

Products and services provided by Main Street Businesses include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ Insurance | ▪ Screen |
| ▪ Taverns | ▪ Printing/Embroidery |
| ▪ Ice Cream | ▪ Antiques |
| ▪ Legal and Financial Services | ▪ Beautician |
| ▪ Newspaper | ▪ Floral and Gifts |
| ▪ Dental | ▪ Hardware Store |
| ▪ Bowling | ▪ Drug Store/Pharmacy |
| ▪ Car/Tire Repair | ▪ Theater |
| ▪ Country Coop | ▪ Teen Activity Center |

The overall responses from the businesses are positive and many have experienced growth. Some of have remained stable and others commented that the City needs to grow for their business to grow. Currently, Main Street businesses employ approximately 100 people. Two years ago there were approximately 85 employees, and two years from now, businesses project to have 110 employees. An increase in Main Street employees is a good sign for the community. Most of the products are sold locally.

The primary external factors listed by the businesses that are likely to impact their business in the next two years are: population changes, local competition, and energy costs. Some of the government policies listed as having a potential impact to Main Street businesses are: smoking ban, drinking/driving enforcement, universal health care, purchase of new technology, new housing, and funding.

Two of the primary needs listed on the survey were an improvement of telecommunications services and a sign on State Highway 64 and 27 directing people to Main Street.

Non-Main Street Businesses

Products and services provided by Non Main Street Businesses include:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ▪ Insurance | ▪ Funeral Home |
| ▪ Restaurants | ▪ Chiropractor |
| ▪ Auto Dealers/Repair | ▪ Furniture Store |
| ▪ Grocery Store | ▪ Satellite TV |
| ▪ Truss Manufacturing | ▪ Custom Machine Work |

City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029

- Custom Cabinets
- Custom Performance Parts
- Roofing
- Auto Parts Store
- Gas Station
- Nursing
- Dollar Store

The overall responses from the businesses are positive and some businesses have experienced growth. One of the major concerns that may have an impact on local businesses is rising fuel costs. Currently, Non Main Street businesses employ approximately 325 people. Two years ago there were approximately 346 employees, and two years from now, businesses project to have 280 employees. The trend for employment opportunities away from Main Street seems to be decreasing. The City is looking to address ways of attracting more jobs throughout the City.

The primary external factors listed by the businesses that are likely to impact their business in the next two years are: new products, economic climate, and transportation/energy costs.

The primary need listed on the survey is a need for local competition of telecommunications services.

Both groups surveyed (Main Street and Non Main Street) were also asked how they rank Cornell as a place to live and own a business. Some of the factors that were given a low ranking were: Cultural Facilities, Other Education and Training Providers, and Housing. Factors that were considered overall good or excellent include: Schools, Freedom from Crime, Drugs, Etc, and Sporting and Recreational Facilities.

All businesses were also asked to list ideas to help make the local economy stronger and create more jobs. Below are some of the highlights from the surveys:

- Promote Tourism and Recreation
- Fast Food Restaurants
- Actively Recruit new Industry
- Provide Incentives for Starting or Expanding Businesses in Cornell
- Encourage Technology Based Businesses by Improving Existing Infrastructure
- Consolidate Schools
- Relocate City Shop
- Develop Waterfront
- Farmers Market

Inventory of Local Businesses and Employers

There are over eighty City of Cornell businesses listed on the City's website, though other businesses also exist in the City. Many of these businesses are typically smaller in size and meet the basic needs of City residents. The larger, manufacturing businesses employ a significant number of area residents and provide products and services to locations all over the Country. Many of the types of businesses and services are listed above.

Larger businesses, such as retail chain stores and hotels are found in nearby Cities of Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire.

Local Labor Characteristics

An analysis of the labor characteristics of the City of Cornell workforce can help illustrate the relationship between education, income, population, and employment opportunities. The labor characteristics can be used to help assess and plan future economic activities within the City.

A number of labor characteristics were addressed in Issues and Opportunities Chapter. A summary of the 1990 and 2000 Census findings is listed below:

- Educational attainment of residents 25 and older has risen
- Nearly 36% of the population 25 and older has completed Some College, Associate, Bachelor's, Graduate, or Professional Degree
- The median household income for City residents was \$30,690 in 1999. This was a 50% increase over the 1989 figure
- Approximately 25% of the population 25 and older is employed in Production, Transportation, and Material Moving occupations
- Approximately 22% of the population 25 and older is employed in Management, Professional, and Related occupations
- Approximately 22% of the population 25 and older is employed in the Sales and Office Related occupations
- Unemployment rates in Chippewa County 2000 was 4.2%; Chippewa County 2007 unemployment was 5.4%; Cornell's 2000 unemployment rate in 2000 was 2.2%

Place of Employment Characteristics

The labor characteristics above does not indicate where the jobs are, just that residents work in those occupations. Table 5-1 and 5-2 shows the general location of where local residents work. Table 5-1 shows that 77% of the working residents, 16 years of age and older, work in Chippewa County.

City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029

Table 5-1 - Place of Work 16 Years and Over - State and County Level

Place	1990	Percent	2000	Percent	Num. Change	% Change
Worked in state of residence:	585	99.0%	636	99.8%	51	8.7%
Worked in county of residence	501	84.8%	488	76.6%	-13	-2.6%
Worked outside county of residence	84	14.2%	148	23.2%	64	76.2%
Worked outside state of residence	6	1.0%	1	0.2%	-5	-83.3%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Table 5-2 - Place of Work 16 Years and Over - State and County Level

Place	1990	Percent	2000	Percent	Num. Change	% Change
Total	591	100.0%	637	100.0%	46	7.8%
Living in Place	591	100.0%	637	100.0%	46	7.8%
Worked in Place of Residence	340	57.5%	301	47.3%	-39	-11.5%
Worked Outside Place of Residence	251	42.5%	336	52.7%	85	33.9%

Source: 1990, 2000 U.S. Census

Table 5-2 shows over 42% of the workforce in Cornell works outside the City.

Commuter Characteristics

In 2000, nearly 86% of workers, 16 years of age and older, in the City of Cornell commute to work by car, truck or van (*see Table 5-3*). Of those workers, over 75% drove alone while 10% carpooled. Approximately 14% of residents walked to work or worked at home, down from 20% in 1980. These percentages are likely to change as more people are able to connect to their workplace from home through the internet (telecommute) and gas prices continue to climb.

Table 5-3 - Commuting to Work 16 Years and Older

Mode of Transportation	1990	Percent	2000	Percent	Num. Change	% Change
Total	591	100.0%	637	100.0%	46	7.8%
Car, truck, or van - drove alone	400	67.7%	481	75.5%	81	20.3%
Car, truck, or van - carpooled	70	11.8%	65	10.2%	-5	-7.1%
Walked/Worked at Home/Other Means	117	19.8%	88	13.8%	-29	-24.8%
Public Transportation	4	0.7%	3	0.5%	-1	-25.0%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Travel time to work can indicate how far away from the City employment opportunities are. Table 5-4 reveals that 52% of workers, 16 years of age and older, commute less than ten minutes. Nearly 39% of all commuters traveled more than 30 minutes. These commuters are likely working in the Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire Area. Commuting time does not indicate how much of that time was spent in traffic delays.

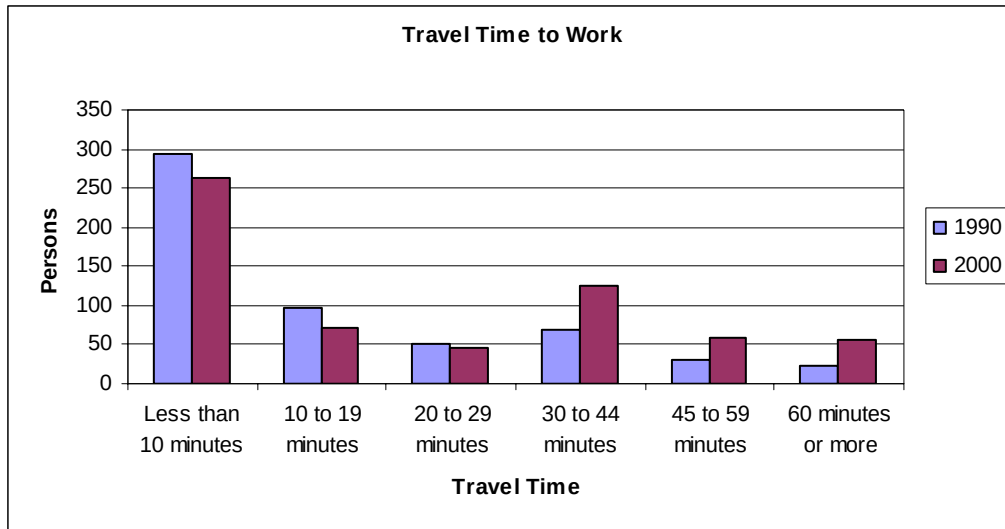
Table 5-4 - Travel Time to Work Workers Who did not Work at Home

Travel Time	1990	Percent	2000	Percent	Num. Change	% Change
Total	564	100.0%	619	100.0%	55	9.8%
Less than 10 minutes	293	52.0%	263	42.5%	-30	-10.2%
10 to 19 minutes	98	17.4%	72	11.6%	-26	-26.5%
20 to 29 minutes	52	9.2%	46	7.4%	-6	-11.5%
30 to 44 minutes	68	12.1%	125	20.2%	57	83.8%
45 to 59 minutes	31	5.5%	58	9.4%	27	87.1%
60 minutes or more	22	3.9%	55	8.9%	33	150.0%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Commuting time has seen an increase from 1990 to 2000 likely due to more high paying jobs in that area.

Figure 5-1 – Travel Time to Work



Possible Business Growth Scenarios

Before we can create a vision for economic growth, the City of Cornell must determine if growth is desirable. Below are three scenarios to consider:

1. The City will not actively promote commercial and economic growth. Residents will continue to shop and work outside the City.
2. The City will encourage more commercial/industrial development along State Highway 64. This development would continue eastward if annexation would occur towards the airport.
3. The City will identify and protect areas for possible commercial or industrial growth. These areas could include any identified contaminated or remediated lands, or look to expand the existing industrial park.

Strengths and Weaknesses for the Retention and Attraction of Businesses

To determine, to what extent, the City of Cornell might grow economically, its strengths and weaknesses for retaining and attracting businesses must be evaluated.

Strengths

- Strong community
- Beautiful location
- Educated workforce
- Community loyalty
- Available undeveloped land within the City Limits
- A proud heritage
- Parks system
- Recreational opportunities – Brunet Island, Old Abe Trail, and Ice Age Trail
- Available land within the City
- Recent improvements to Main Street
- Lowest utility rates in the area
- Available significant capacity of well, water supply, and wastewater treatment facility

Weaknesses

- Distance from State Highway 29
- Lack of available space in the industrial park
- Vacant downtown storefronts
- Declining population
- Lack of rail infrastructure

Opportunities

- Motels/condos on the riverfront
- New industries
- Future low cost utilities
- Available space for industry
- Available space for downtown businesses
- ATV routes
- Old Abe Trail/Ice Age Trail
- Tours at the mill – Paper (Cornell), Cheese (Jim Falls), and Beer (Chippewa Falls) Coop Tours
- Arts/theater community
- Paper museum
- Further development of airport industrial park
- Chippewa County loan programs for businesses

- Tax Incremental Finance Districts

Threats

- Fuel costs
- Natural disasters
- Loss of funding for grant and loan programs
- Interest rate increases – addition bank failures
- Apathy

Location is a major factor when businesses consider where to become established. Locations near major transportation infrastructure are more attractive to businesses because of the proximity to high traffic areas. Although the City is some distance from the State Highway 29, it is only 15 miles away and State Highway 27 provides a direct route to it. State Highway 64 provides an opportunity for commercial/industrial growth considering the volume of traffic and that it is a primary east-west corridor for North Central Wisconsin.

Desired Businesses

The results from the community wide survey indicated that some types of businesses would be desired including fast food and family restaurants, hotels and tourism shops, and big box stores. Most residents feel the City needs more industry.

Tourism and Recreational Opportunities

The City of Cornell has ample tourism and recreational opportunities (Map 5-1). The City is fortunate to be located on an amenity such as the Chippewa River and have the Old Abe Trail and Brunet Island State Park right in the immediate vicinity of the City.

The Chippewa River provides a number of recreational opportunities such as swimming, boating, and fishing. Much of the land on both sides of the River is government owned and allows this pristine area to remain undeveloped. There is a public boat ramp and beach just east of downtown.

The Old Abe State Trail is a paved 19.5 mile trail that connects Lake Wissota State Park in Chippewa Falls and Brunet Island State Park in Cornell. The trail uses an abandoned railroad that has been developed into a trail for bicyclists, snowmobiles, hikers, horse back riders and in-line skaters. In addition the trail meets all accessibility standards.

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a thousand-mile footpath throughout Wisconsin that celebrates the legacy of the Ice Age and goes through the western part of the City of Cornell. Currently, 600 miles have been completed.

Wisconsin's Department of Tourism has recognized the Ice Age Trail as Wisconsin's number one outdoor recreational resource

Brunet Island State Park contains more than 1,200 acres of scenic beauty, wildlife, and recreational opportunities. Each summer, thousands of visitors come to camp, fish, boat, canoe, hike, swim, and picnic. The park is near the confluence of the Fisher & Chippewa Rivers. Almost 70 campsites are available to campers.

Some of the other recreational opportunities include the City parks. Mill Yard Park, located on the Chippewa River, is the site of the Visitor's Center, Native American Museum, and the only remaining pulpwood stacker; a 175 foot monument of the area's logging history. The Visitor's Center provides information, pictures, and pieces of interest that are on display for tourists and locals that are interested in the history of Cornell. There is also a City park kitty-corner from the elementary school and athletic fields across the street from the high school.

Along the banks of the Chippewa River are 1,000s of acres of forested County land that provide a picturesque setting preserving the natural state of the River. These lands provide recreational opportunities for hunters, birdwatchers, and hikers.

The City also provides marked routes for snowmobilers and trails for cross-country skiers coming from the surrounding area to go through the City. This allows residents easy access to rural trails for these popular winter activities. The City is also currently working on identifying ATV routes through the City so ATV riders from surrounding Towns can ride through the City and patronize local businesses. A major goal of designating such a route is to reach as many businesses as possible.

The City of Cornell is within a 30 minute drive of dozens of area lakes. The City's location provides residents a quick access to other lake related recreational opportunities.

Community Events

The City of Cornell has community wide events throughout the year. These area events attract people from throughout the region and provide an economic boost to area businesses. The City has a full list of events on their website.

Redevelopment Opportunities

There are opportunities for redevelopment within the City. One of the primary redevelopment possibilities include the three parcels located directly on the Chippewa River (25 acres). Presently, the City Shop and Electric Utility is located on one of the parcels, a boat landing on the second, and the City's main

park on the third. In 2008, the City put together a grant requesting funds to complete a revitalization plan for this site. The proposed plan would identify funding, potential developers, community needs, highest and best use of parcels, land use, and redevelopment needs.

The other areas in need of redevelopment include the industrial park to the north of the City and the airport industrial park to the east. Both areas could provide a setting for future businesses and desired industries.

Economic Development Programs

Business owners and prospective business owners have a wealth of programs and assistance available to them to help develop their ideas and visions. Below is a comprehensive list of local, county, state, and federal agencies and incentives for economic development.

Regional Loan Fund Programs

A seven county region (Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, and St. Croix) have a number of loan programs available to local businesses. Many of the loans are low or no interest. Below is a brief description of those programs:

- Downtown Façade Loan Program – provides financial assistance to encourage property and business owners in core downtowns to revitalize downtown commercial buildings.
- MicroLoan Fund Program – provides small loans to start-up, newly established, or growing small businesses. The key objective is to assist business owners, who have traditionally had difficulty accessing debt financing, by affording them another alternative for obtaining credit.
- Revolving Loan Fund – is a flexible source of loan funds for commercial and industrial projects that create quality jobs and increase tax base.

The Technology Enterprise Fund (TEF)

Companies locating, or agreeing to locate, their primary operation to Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, or St. Croix County, may be eligible for TEF Funds - a revolving loan fund that provides creative financing to new and emerging technology companies. The goal of the program is to leverage private investment dollars and enhance sustainable economic development opportunities within the region.

Chippewa Valley Economic Development Loan Fund

Chippewa County Economic Development Loan Fund (CCEDLF) is a flexible source of loan funds for economic development projects. The purpose is to encourage the creation of quality jobs and to increase the tax base. The County prefers participation loans with private lenders to

qualified borrowers. Direct loans may be allowed under certain circumstances.

Enterprise Development Zone Program

The Enterprise Development Zone Program provides tax incentives to new or expanding businesses whose projects will affect distressed areas. Businesses earn credits only by creating new full time jobs or by conducting environmental remediation on a "Brownfield" site.

Interstate 94 Corridor Technology Zone Program

The State of Wisconsin has designated a tax credit zone along Interstate 94. The counties included in this zone are: Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix. Eligible businesses within the zone must have the ability to create new jobs and be a new or expanding technology firm. The State has allowed \$5 million in tax cuts for these businesses.

Industrial Revenue Bond

All Wisconsin municipalities—cities, villages, and towns—are authorized to issue Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs). IRBs are municipal bonds whose proceeds are loaned to private persons or to businesses to finance capital investment projects. The Industrial Revenue Bonds are exempt from federal tax and therefore, are at a low interest rate. The entire project including land, buildings and equipment can all be paid for via IRBs. Communities that issue these bonds, either to retain businesses or to encourage the expansion of new businesses, generally do so to build their economic base and add jobs.

Community Development Block Grant-for Economic Development (CDBG-ED) – Department of Commerce

Any city, village or town with a population of less than 50,000 and is located outside Milwaukee or Waukesha Counties, is eligible for this program. These grants are to be used to assist businesses that will invest private funds and create jobs as they expand or relocate into the state.

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

Chippewa County has a revolving loan fund where monies are obtained by a CDBG program and borrowed by local businesses at a low interest rate. As the loan is being paid back, the fund is built up again and other new or expanding businesses will be able to borrow from the fund.

Tax Incremental Financing (TIF)

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts are established to improve and revitalize blighted areas or extend new development for industrial purposes. Taxes on the improved value of the land because of redevelopment pay for the extension of the infrastructure and raise the City's tax base on an area that would otherwise stay undeveloped.

Business Improvement District (BID)

A Business Improvement District (BID) allows business owners to create a BID, develop an operating plan, and assess fees to businesses within the district to implement this plan. At least 61% of the assessed businesses within the district must agree to be part of the BID. Operating plans can be the creation of promotional materials or making aesthetic improvements. The fees that are collected to implement the operating plan can be assessed per business or as a percentage of assessed value.

There are also a number of regional groups that assist with the above programs and are resources for additional information about economic development. Below is a list of some of those available resources:

Economic Development Group

An Economic Development Group (EDG) assists new and existing businesses. It can be comprised of local business owners, bankers, and citizens that have expertise in an area valuable to the economic development of the community. An EDG is often the first point of contact within a community for a prospective business.

Chippewa Valley Economic Development Corporation

Chippewa County offers a competitive package and a series of opportunities if you are considering relocating or moving into the area. We have a series of financing tools that can provide low-interest options and various other creative means to help ease the burden of relocating. www.chippewa-wi.com/

UW-Extension Office

UW-Extension Offices provide educational tools in land use and economic matters for residents and businesses. They custom fit their knowledge and provide research to communities with whom they are assisting. www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/stcroix/

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is responsible for planning for the physical, social, and economic development of the region. www.wwrpc.org

Wisconsin Small Business Centers

An organization dedicated to assisting businesses in education, training and other initiatives. www.uwex.edu/sbdc

Forward Wisconsin

The State of Wisconsin offers a wide array of financial resources available to businesses. www.forwardwi.com/assist/

Department of Workforce Development

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is the state agency responsible for building and strengthening Wisconsin's workforce.

www.dwd.state.wi.us

Wisconsin Department of Commerce

A number of grants and assistance are available through this state agency. www.commerce.state.wi.us/MT/MT-COM-2000.html and

www.commerce.state.wi.us/BD/

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program's goal is to increase participation of firms owned by disadvantaged individuals in all federal aid and state transportation facility contracts.

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/dbe-main.htm

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Support and guide future economic growth in the City of Cornell.

Objectives

1. Ensure economic growth and development is compatible with the City's desire to retain its small town atmosphere.
2. Increase the City's tax base.

Policies

1. Support locally owned businesses.
2. Encourage potential business owners to research available resources for financial and professional advice for creating new businesses.
3. Require new commercial and retail construction to fit into neighboring residential areas.
4. Continue to support the local visitor center.
5. Continue to support the Industrial Committee and work with them to attract new businesses.
6. Work with the Chippewa County Tourism on promotion of the recreational opportunities in the City.
7. Maintain covenants for the industrial park.
8. Consider requiring design standards for downtown businesses.
9. Consider developing recommendations/guidelines for landscaping, parking, and architecture that would apply to the industrial park.
10. Investigate the opportunities and incentives that creating Tax Incremental Districts could provide for attracting new, expanding existing, or revitalizing blighted areas.
11. Ask a committee to put together an economic development package for new and existing businesses that provide information and resources for available assistance programs.

Goal 2: Develop aesthetic guidelines for new commercial/retail development that support the small town feel of the City.

Objectives

1. Create and maintain a unique identity for the City of Cornell.
2. Preserve the aesthetic qualities of the City and ensure they are applied to new development in the community.

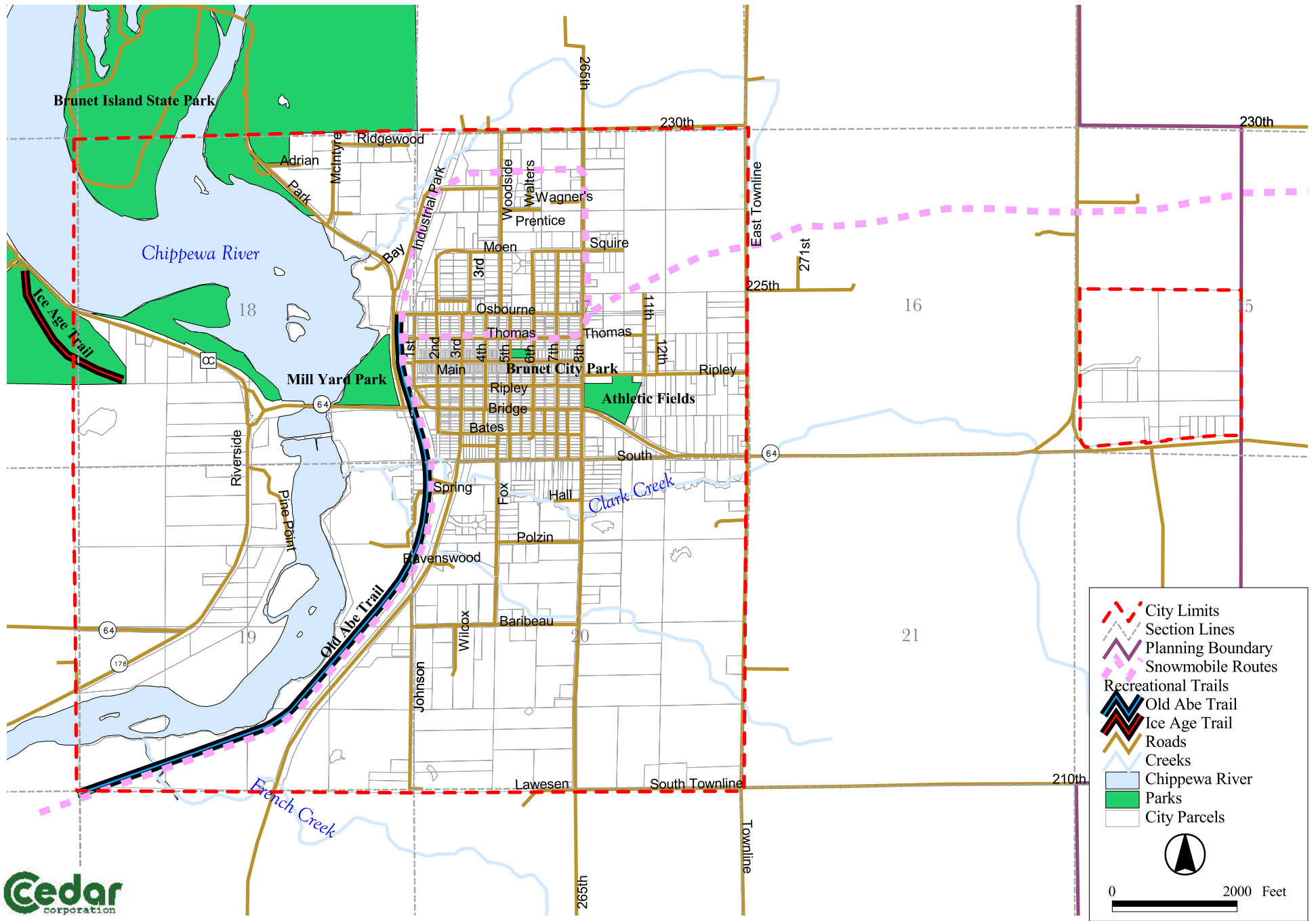
Policies

1. Look into recommendations/guidelines for landscaping, parking, and architecture that would apply to downtown of the City.
2. Work on developing a “Memorial Bench Program” for residents to donate benches to the City as a memorial or benefit to the community.

Recreational Opportunities, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 5-1



CHAPTER 6

Transportation

Introduction

Having access to a quality transportation system is essential to residents in the City of Cornell. An excellent road network makes a City a desirable place to live because it allows residents to enjoy small town living yet have access to a wide variety of job opportunities in other communities. Manufacturing is an important industry in the City and there is a need for a good transportation system to support the shipment of manufactured goods to and from the area.

The Transportation element will inventory and evaluate local modes of transportation and identify possibilities for future development and improvements.

Survey Results

Below are the results from the Community Survey:

The City of Cornell should support...	
	Count
Bike lanes/paths	63
Sidewalks to key areas	58
Area car pool/"park and ride"	30
Foot paths	36
ATV Routes	39
Snowmobile Routs	40
None	15
Total	281

The top two responses to the survey question asking what the residents would support regarding alternative transportation system was bike lanes/paths (63) and sidewalks to key areas (58).

SWOT Exercise Results

Strengths

- Proximity to highways
- Good trail network
- Size of community
- Proximity to large communities for jobs
- Access to airports
- Aesthetics of area

- Roads well maintained
- Variety of transportation modes
- Scenic highways nearby
- State park – trails
- Nearby access to rail
- Active government for transportation
- Lack of traffic congestion
- Local airport

Weaknesses

- People not wanting to change
- Too far from interstate
- Lack of land for industries
- No busses or taxis/public transportation
- No rail spur
- Tight turn onto Highway 64 from Highway 27 for trucking
- No signage for overnight truck parking
- No official park and ride
- Signage for businesses/downtown
- Cost of fuel

Opportunities

- Outdoor recreation opportunities
- Continue to develop sidewalks/trails
- Tourism and other recreational opportunities
- Maintain existing
- Promote existing facilities/amenities
- ATV and snowmobile routes
- Attract bus stop
- Taxi/shuttle service

Threats

- Fuel costs
- Loss of funding/grants
- Potential bypass
- Natural disasters – flooding/tornado
- Major road construction on nearby highways coming to Cornell
- Closing the airport
- Terrorist attack

Functional Road Classification and Jurisdiction

Roads and highways provide different levels of service. Highways provide for the movement of through traffic while streets provide access to property. Most public

roads in Wisconsin are classified according to their function and jurisdiction. A functional classification system groups roads and highways according to the character of service that they provide (Map 6-1). It also helps determine eligibility for federal aid. Classifications are divided into urban and rural categories, based on population. The City of Cornell falls under the urban functional classification system.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation uses population figures, land uses, spacing between classified roads, and average daily traffic counts to determine the functional classification. Classifications are updated every 10 years after census information becomes available. The City can request a review of their classifications but would be required to collect the data needed.

Functional Road Classification System (Rural <5000 Population)

Principal Arterials: Serve interstate and interregional trips. These routes generally serve all urban areas greater than 5,000 people. The rural principal arterials are further subdivided into:

- Interstate highways.
- Other principal arterials.

Minor Arterials: In conjunction with the principal arterials, they serve cities, large communities, and other major traffic generators providing intra-regional and inter-area traffic movements.

Major Collectors: Provide service to moderate sized communities and other intra-area traffic generators, and link those generators to nearby larger population centers or higher function routes.

Minor Collectors: Collect traffic from local roads, and provide links to all remaining smaller communities, locally important traffic generators, and higher function roads. All developed areas should be within a reasonable distance of a collector road.

Local Roads: Provide access to adjacent land and provide for travel over relatively short distances. All roads not classified as arterials or collectors are local function roads.

Within the City of Cornell, State Highway 178, 64 and 27 are the principal arterials (state jurisdiction); County Trunk CC is a major collector (Chippewa County). The remaining roads are local roads, primarily maintained by the City and County.

Commuter Patterns

The road network in and surrounding the City of Cornell is a major factor in the City's commuting habits. State Highway 178 starts/stop at the City of Cornell; additionally the City is bisected by ST.H. 64 and ST.H. 27, all act as principal arterials for the City.

Driving is the most common mode of transportation for residents who commute to work. Table 6-1 shows that 75% of residents drive alone while only 10 % of carpool. Thirteen percent of residents walk or work at home which could indicate residents engaged in farming or home based businesses.

Table 6-1 – Commuting to Work 16 Years and Older

	2000	%
Total	637	100.0%
Car, truck, or van – drove alone	481	75.5%
Car, truck, or van – carpooled	65	10.2%
Walked/Worked at Home/Other Means	88	13.8%
Public Transportation	3	0.5%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

There are no Department of Transportation regulated van and carpool lots in Chippewa County, yet in 2000 about 10% of residents carpooled to work.

In general, in 2000 the number of residents traveling 30 minutes or more had increased significantly, while the number of residents traveling 29 minutes or less decreased significantly. Many residents are likely commuting to jobs in Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census nearly 40 percent of working residents that work outside their homes, commute over 30 minutes to work.

Table 6-2 - Travel Time to Work Workers Who did not Work at Home

Travel Time	1990	Percent	2000	Percent	Numerical Change	% Change
Total	564	100.0%	619	100.0%	55	9.8%
Less than 10 minutes	293	52.0%	263	42.5%	-30	-10.2%
10 to 19 minutes	98	17.4%	72	11.6%	-26	-26.5%
20 to 29 minutes	52	9.2%	46	7.4%	-6	-11.5%
30 to 44 minutes	68	12.1%	125	20.2%	57	83.8%
45 to 59 minutes	31	5.5%	58	9.4%	27	87.1%
60 minutes or more	22	3.9%	55	8.9%	33	150.0%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Air Transportation

The City of Cornell is served by a number of airports including Cornell's Municipal Airport, Eau Claire's Chippewa Valley Airport, and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

The Cornell Airport is privately owned, but the City of Cornell owns most of the land within the City Limits to the north. The airport, located east of the downtown at 28250 State Highway 64 in the City of Cornell, has a paved runway of 2,420 feet.

The Chippewa Valley Regional Airport in Eau Claire is approximately 24 miles away. Its main connection is to the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Northwest Airlink Airlines, through Mesaba Airlines, provides eight round trip flights per weekday with connecting service to over 220 domestic and international destinations. Mesaba provides both scheduled passenger and air cargo/package express service from this airport.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, approximately 120 miles away, provides major commercial air service for Western Wisconsin and City of Cornell residents. The airport consists of the Humphrey and Lindberg Terminals. This airport will continue to be the main provider of passenger and commercial service in the area.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails

Today, more people are interested in physical fitness than ever before. Besides basic transportation, biking and walking are increasingly popular ways to exercise regardless of age. Besides health benefits, sidewalks provide a safe way for pedestrians to move throughout the City while bike trails can offer an aesthetic and relaxing way to enjoy Cornell while bringing in financial benefits to local businesses as well. The City of Cornell has an extensive sidewalk and trail system throughout the City (See Map 6-2). The City maintains a map showing the years and locations of sidewalk upgrades since 2000 (Map 6-3).

One of the primary uses for sidewalks is for the safe transportation of students to and from school. In 2008, the City developed and adopted a Safe Routes to School Plan where the Safe Routes Task Force inventoried existing City sidewalks and trails and identify needs for improvements while exploring ways to improve and finance them. The Plan addresses topics such as existing safe routes efforts, sidewalk and trail design standards, traffic calming techniques, signage, funding opportunities and recommendations.

There are some areas of the City that remain without sidewalks but for the most part, the sidewalk network has connectivity and the sidewalks are in good condition overall. Map 6-4 identifies the areas of the City that at this time are

missing sidewalks, but have been identified as possible future locations for sidewalks and paths.

Cornell is also a trail head for the Old Abe State Trail that is a paved 19.5 mile trail that connects Lake Wissota State Park in Chippewa Falls and Brunet Island State Park in Cornell. The other major trail that extends to the Cornell area is the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Both of these trails provide recreational opportunities for the area residents and visitors. It is important to maintain access to these trails and connectivity with the existing sidewalk and trail network within Cornell.

Local and regional hiking/biking trails provide connectivity and access to the recreational trails in the Brunet Island State Park. There are many trails throughout the park for hiking and biking.

The City also provides marked routes for snowmobilers and trails for cross-country skiers coming from the surrounding area to go through the City.

The future sidewalk/bike trail plan will take these factors into consideration:

- Providing safe passage to generators of traffic including parks, schools, public buildings, restaurants, and retail stores.
- Locate sidewalks along roads with heavy traffic such as arterials and collectors.
- Build sidewalks that provide connectivity to other sidewalks.
- Provide adequate road width and shoulder space for safe sharing of road space with bicycles and vehicles.
- Establish trails that link park and conservancy areas and provide parking for non-resident use.

Transportation Facilities for the Elderly and Disabled

The Chippewa County Department of Department of Aging, Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) provides transportation services for the elderly and handicapped throughout Chippewa County and the City of Cornell. Transportation services are run by volunteers who will take residents to medical appointments, grocery shopping, or for personal appointments. The services are available to Chippewa County senior citizens aged 55 and older. Below is a list of groups available in Chippewa County for elderly transportation services:

- Department of Aging Volunteer Drivers
- Triniteam Caregivers Volunteers Drivers
- Volunteer Caregiver Program
- Veterans Service – Veterans Van
- Faith in Action

Chippewa County Department of Aging also provides contact information for services that can be contacted by wheelchair bound senior citizens and handicapped residents to arrange lift-equipped transportation. Below is a list of groups available in Chippewa County for disabled transportation services:

- Chippewa Co. Transit
- Abbey Van
- Comfort Carriers Medford
- Patients' Express – Non-Emergency
- Tender Care Transport

Truck Transportation

There are a number trucking companies in and around the City – Dave Hakes (hauls logs), Bohaty Trucking (hauls trusses and logs), S & S Trucking at the airport, and Burlingham Trucking in the Town of Estella that provide transportation of goods for the City and throughout the Country.

The City does not allow overnight or day parking on the streets. Current places to park overnight are the City Shop, across from the Visitor's Center, and as a last resort at Mule Hide on Bridge Street.

Other Modes of Transportation

There are no rail (passenger or freight) or water transportation services in the City of Cornell. It is unlikely that any of these services would be available over the next 10 to 20 years. However, there is rail service in nearby communities. Bloomer, Ladysmith, Cadott, and Chippewa Falls all have rail service and are all within 20 miles of Cornell.

The City recently passed an ordinance allowing Neighborhood Electric Vehicles. This action allows local residents and visitors to Brunet Island to get around the City with electric vehicles. The vehicles must meet certain criteria established in the ordinance.

The City has also established ATV routes through the City connecting to existing ATV routes adjacent to the City.

State, Regional, and Local Plans

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has several state and regional transportation plans that were reviewed to ensure consistency. The plans reviewed are:

- Connections 2030
- West Central Regional Freeway System

- Wisconsin Rail Issues and Opportunities Report
- Midwest Regional Rail System
- Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020
- Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020
- Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020
- Wisconsin Statewide Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020

Future Considerations

There are a number of things to consider when planning future roads and improvements to the transportation network. When reviewing existing infrastructure and future site plans, the City should ask the following questions:

- Are there existing dead ends and stub roads that proposed roads could be connected to?
- Is there a need for a “park and ride” facility?
- Can a proposed road increase/improve east-west, north-south corridors?
- Do proposed roads follow and preserve the natural features and topography of the land?
- Are there dangerous intersections that could be made safer?
- Are there existing regulations that cost/policy prohibitive for future road and trail network projects?

Future Improvements

As the City grows, the transportation infrastructure will need to be upgraded and expanded. Below are descriptions of some of the possible future upgrade and expansion projects of the transportation system. Map 6-4 identifies the locations of those future corridors.

Intersections

Most automobile accidents occur at intersections. If there are visibility speed issues at an intersection, there may be higher accident rates at that location. Steps can be taken to reduce the factors contributing to some of the accidents. There are a number of intersections that are considered dangerous and some have had a high rate of accidents. Dangerous intersections include: Third Street and Main Street; Third Street and Bridge Street (State Highway 64); 6th Street and Bridge Street; 8th Street and Bridge Street; and, the Fox Road alley that comes out at Bridge Street. In 2008, the City developed a Safe Routes to School Plan which identified many of these intersections as needing additional safety improvements.

Roads

Future roads will depend greatly on future development. There are some current locations the City has identified as possible road corridors in the future. Primarily

these future roads provide transportation to areas likely to be developed as well as provide connectivity to the existing road network.

Sidewalks and Trails

There are a couple of areas that the City would like to connect to the existing sidewalk network (Map 6-4). Developing sidewalks at these areas would provide connectivity and safe pedestrian routes for residents.

Road Maintenance Planning

Road maintenance is vital to keeping the road system safe and functioning properly. Because of the local climate and recent oil prices, road maintenance is a significant cost of a municipality's budget. A sound transportation plan should be able to foresee and plan for upcoming expenses. The two primary ways of planning for future road projects are by using the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) program and devising a long-range Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

PASER allows for better allocation of resources by identifying pavement conditions and those areas in need of repair and allows for long term planning. CIPs list, prioritize, and provide cost estimates for public infrastructure improvements over a five-year period.

Potential Funding Sources and Organizations

Local multi-modal transportation projects can be funded through different sources. Some of the most common sources that are or could be used are:

- State Shared Revenue
- Local General Funds
- Community Development Block Grants
- DNR Stewardship Grants
- Enhancement Grants
- Private Foundations
- Corporate Foundations
- Local Volunteer Groups
- Local Organizations (Boy/Girl Scouts)

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Create and maintain a safe pedestrian and bicycle network within the City of Cornell.

Objectives

1. Investigate opportunities for residents to move throughout the City by multimodal forms of transportation.

2. Encourage walking and biking as ways of experiencing one's neighborhood and community.
3. Reduce the use of fossil fuels.
4. Promote the health benefits of walking and biking.
5. Provide safe routes for people to enjoy the City's parks.

Policies

1. Encourage Bike/Pedestrian Plans in new subdivisions and redevelopment to concentrate on connectivity.
2. Consider visiting and evaluating accident sites for signage and visibility.
3. Utilize signs and striping to ensure safe crosswalks for residents.
4. Consider working with surrounding municipalities, including the Town of Estella and Town of Cleveland in developing a biking, ATV, and walking trail network.

Goal 2: Support the development of public transportation in the area.

Objectives

1. Provide safe conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists.
2. Reduce the use of fossil fuels.
3. Provide transportation options for the elderly and disabled.

Policies

1. Support local transportation options such as bus and carpooling.
2. Participate in local and regional transit planning with surrounding communities, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Chippewa County.
3. Identify, map, and preserve potential lands in the City of Cornell that could be used for public transportation in the future.
4. Encourage the use of local groups, such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, to help develop walking and bicycle trails.

Goal 3: Provide cost effective maintenance and a safe transportation network.

Objectives

1. Reduce the tax burden of City residents.
2. Maintain safe roads in and around the City.

Policies

1. Research and apply for grants to offset the costs of sidewalks, trails, and road reconstructions.
2. Utilize the PASER pavement evaluation system to efficiently plan future infrastructure expenditures.
3. Use a Capital Improvements Plan to plan and budget for future road maintenance.

Goal 4: Promote a road system that provides connectivity where possible.

Objectives

1. Create transportation that promotes the smooth flow of traffic and preserves road corridors.

Policies

1. Review site plans to ensure future right-of-way space is preserved to extend roads to existing roads if possible in the future.
2. Provide multiple access points to subdivisions where possible.

Goal 5: Provide a multi modal system of transportation throughout the City.

Objectives

1. Maintain existing sidewalk and trail system.
2. Support safe alternative methods of transportation.

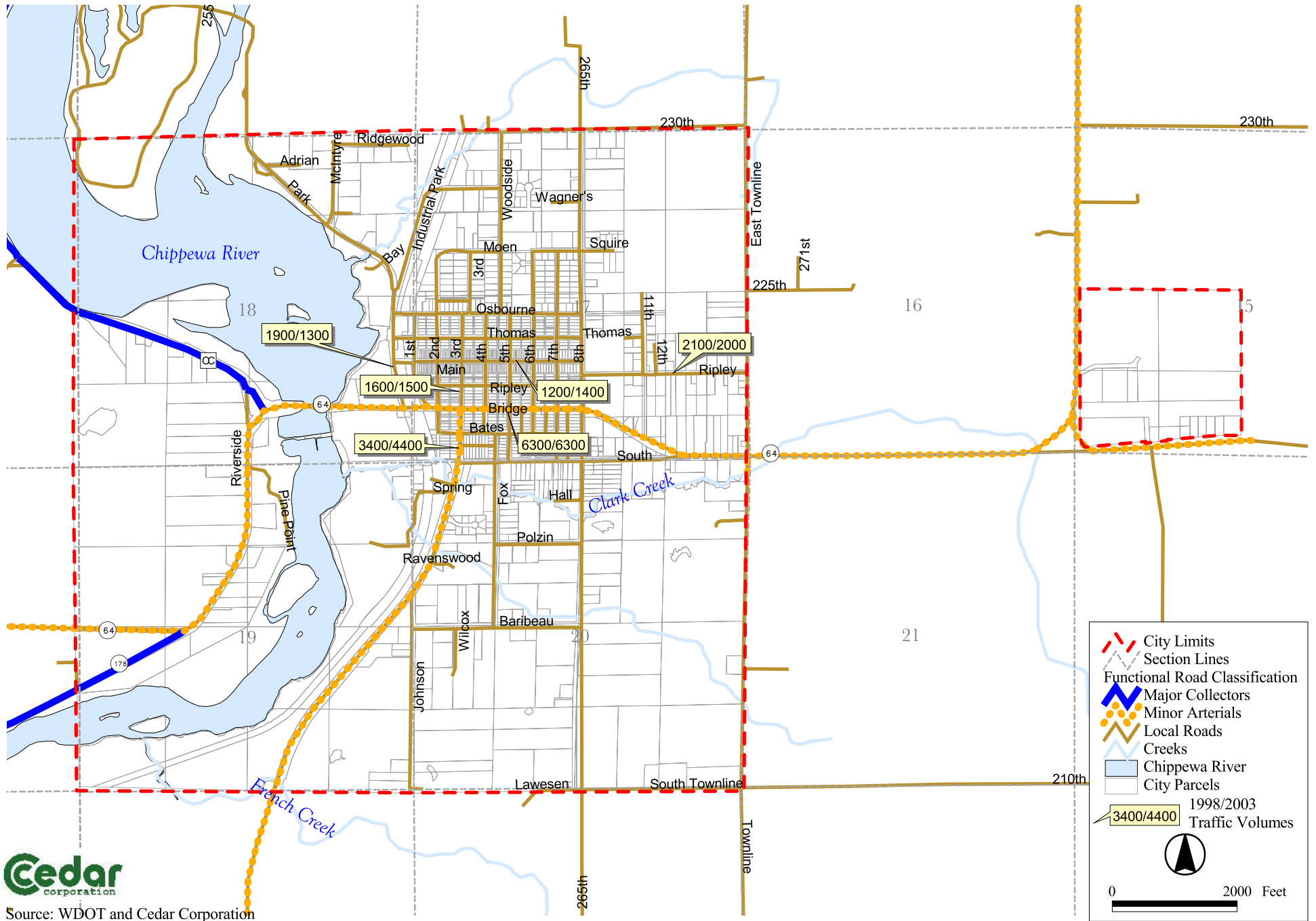
Policies

1. Review site plans to ensure sidewalk and trail connectivity.
2. Maintain existing Neighborhood Elective Vehicle Ordinance.
3. Support future ordinances that encourage safe and fuel efficient alternative forms of transportation.

Functional Road Classification, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 6-1

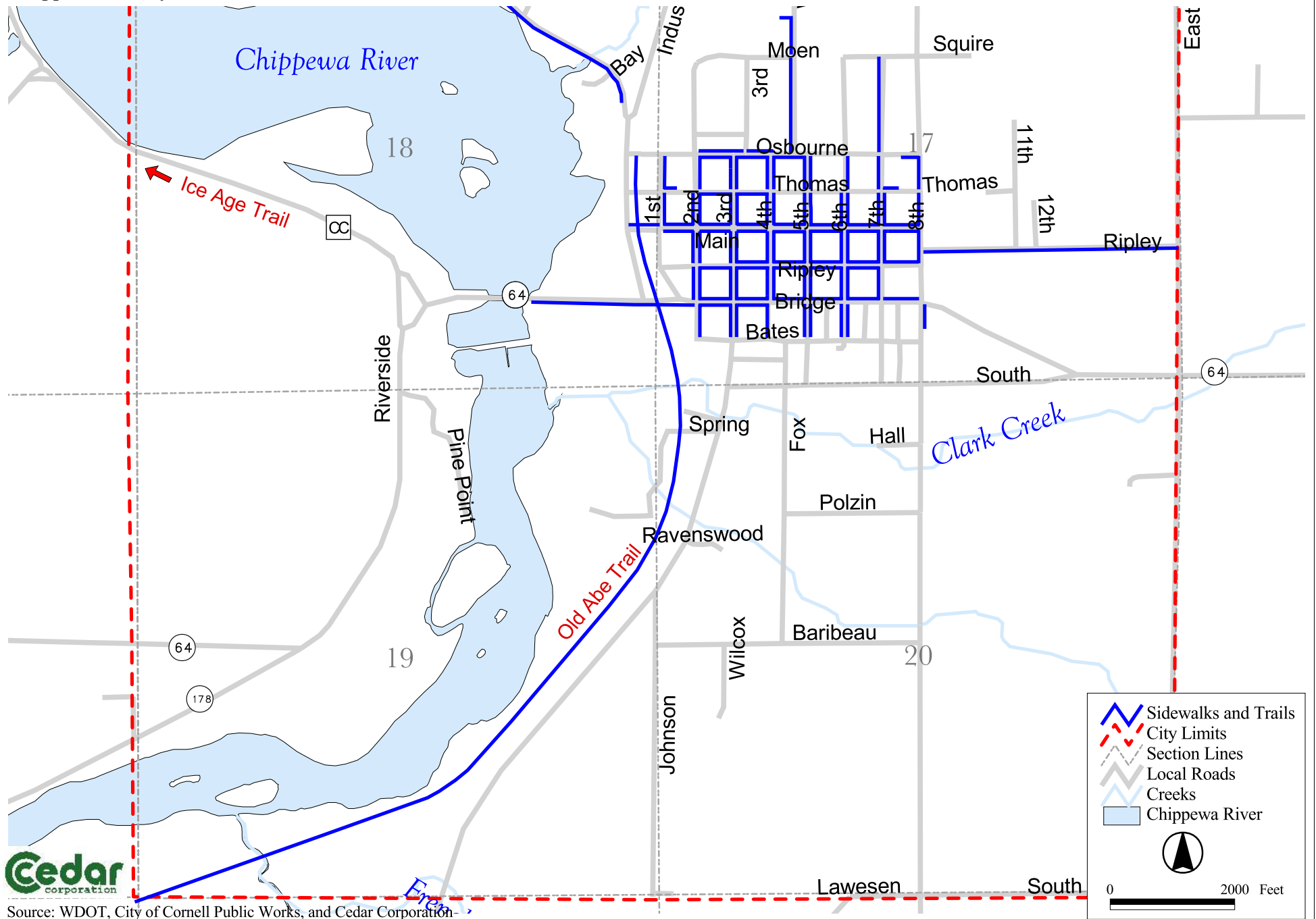


Source: WDOT and Cedar Corporation

Sidewalks and Trails, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 6-2

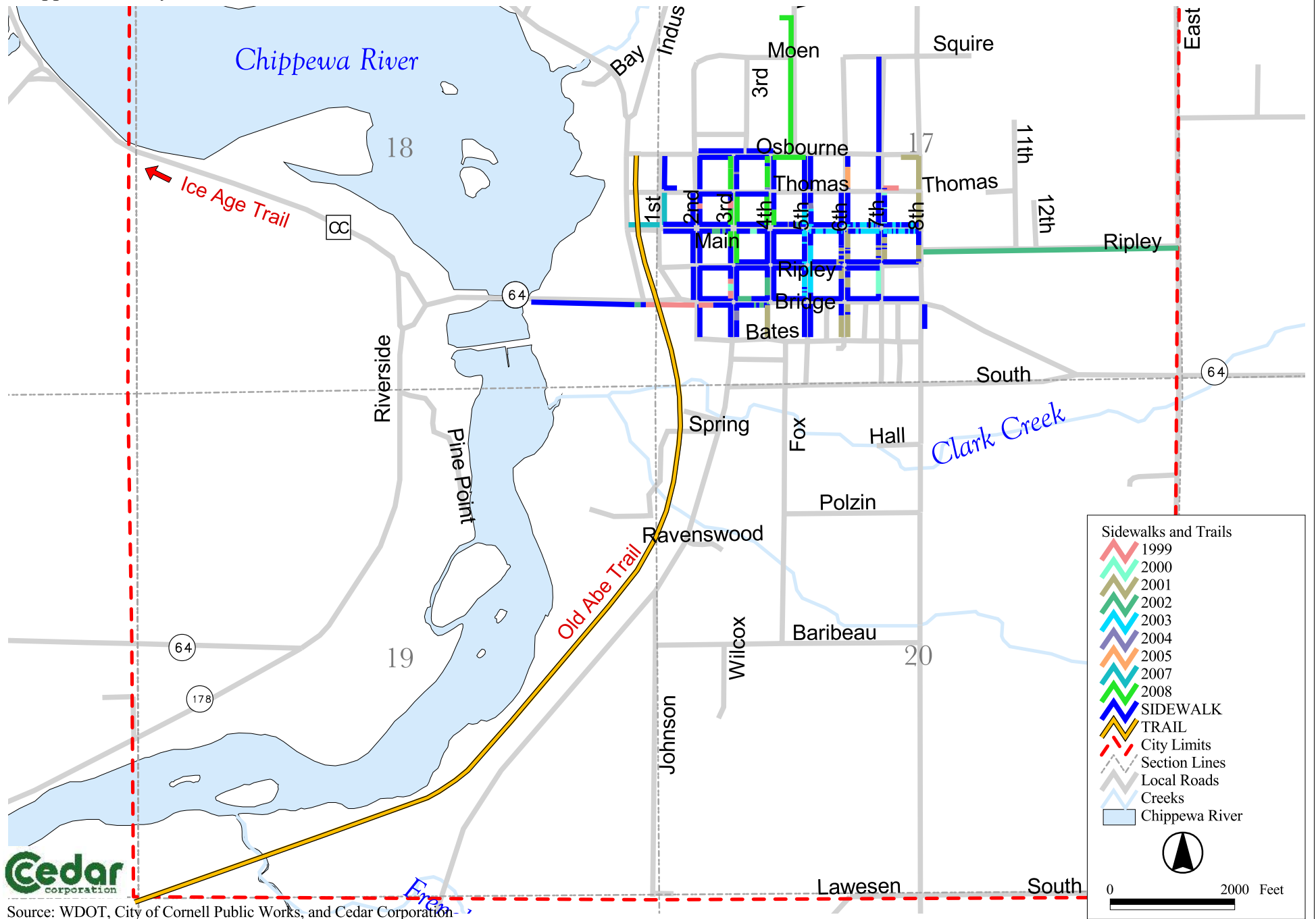


Source: WDOT, City of Cornell Public Works, and Cedar Corporation

Sidewalk Project Inventory, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 6-3

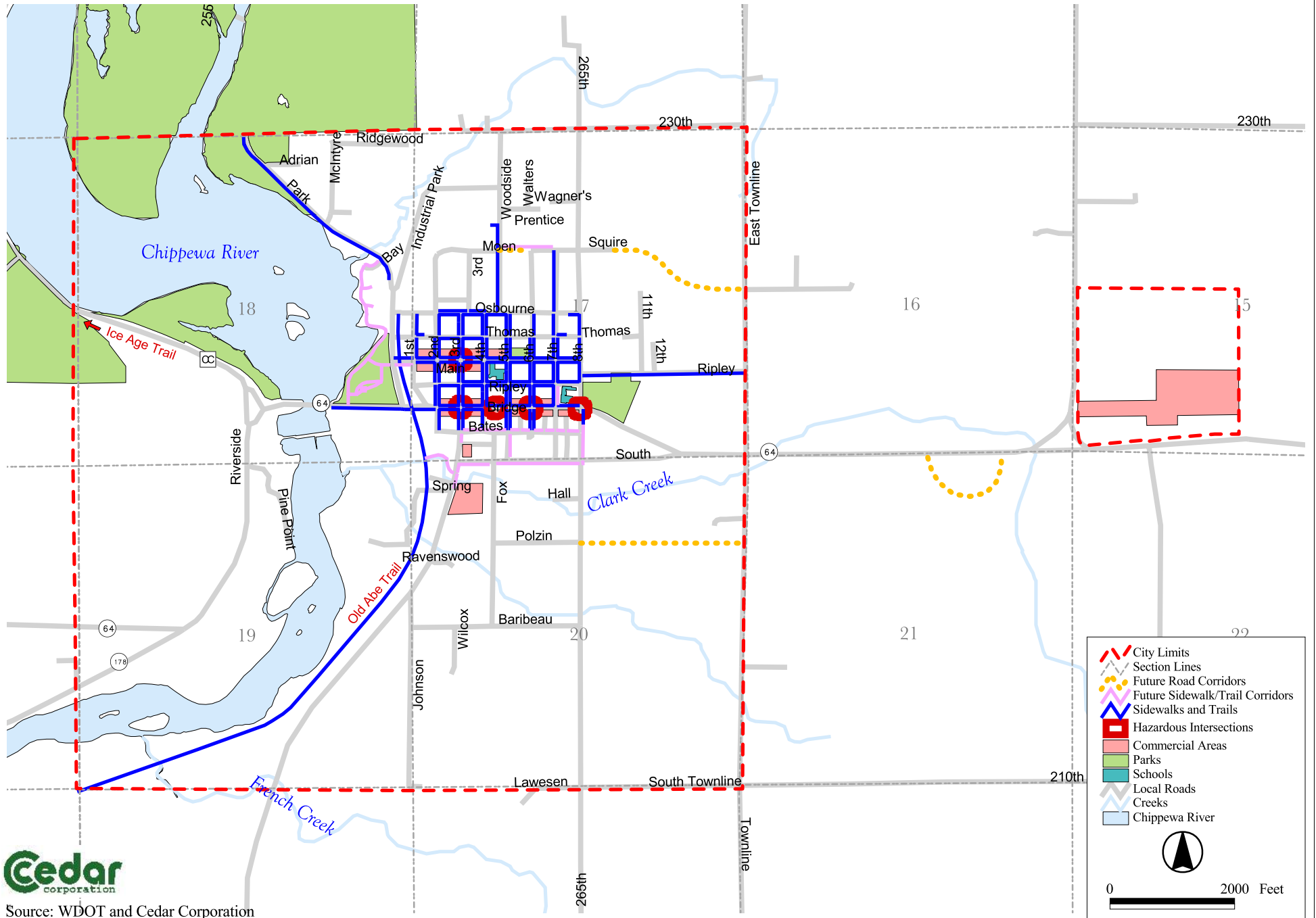


Source: WDOT, City of Cornell Public Works, and Cedar Corporation

Future Improvements, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 6-4



Source: WDOT and Cedar Corporation

CHAPTER 7

Utilities and Community Facilities

Introduction

The provision of adequate public utilities and facilities is essential for the development of any community. It is important that public utilities and public facilities be available to meet the needs of citizens, businesses, industry, and government entities.

This section discusses existing systems and planned projects in the areas of water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, solid waste, recycling, recreation, and public facilities and services. Each utility will be discussed separately.

Survey Results

Residents of the City of Cornell were asked how they felt about park amenities and possible future recommendation facilities. The tables below illustrate their responses:

The City could use or improve the following park amenities. (please check all that apply)	
	Count
Playground equipment	24
Benches and	50
Soccer fields	6
Baseball/softball fields	15
Football fields	7
Shelters	22
Tennis courts	10
Basketball courts	17
Volleyball courts	14
Horseshoe pits	20
Parking	20
Ice skating rink	35
Skate park	20
Trails	25
Total	285

When asked which park amenities could be used or improved in the City, the top two responses were benches (50) and an ice skating rink (35). During the winter

of 2007-2008 the City did have ice skating rink at Mill Yard Park and are planning on doing so in the future.

Would you support the implementation of future recreational facilities (i.e. community pool/aquatic center, multipurpose/community center) in the City of Cornell? (please check one)		
	Count	Percent
Yes	52	40.0%
No	43	33.1%
Maybe	25	19.2%
Not sure	10	7.7%
Total	130	100.0%

When asked if they would support future recreational facilities such as a community pool or multipurpose community center, nearly 60% of the responses were yes or maybe.

SWOT Exercise Results

Strengths

- Low cost utilities
- Emergency services in the City
- Medical clinic
- New rehab facility
- New fire hall
- Great park system
- Excellent capacity of wells/water tower/WWTP
- New grade school
- Quick response times
- New ambulance facility

Weaknesses

- Aging WWTP
- Wells only in one aquifer
- Lack of competition for telecommunication services
- No satellite internet available
- High school is old
- Sub standard police station
- Need indoor/improved animal control facility
- Infiltration and inflow problems with sanitary sewer
- Lack of media competition
- Lack of licensed childcare facilities
- Lack of assisted living facilities
- Age of substation

- Heavily rely on volunteers for emergency services

Opportunities

- New police station
- New childcare facilities
- New assisted living and elderly housing
- Find a new well
- More events held at Mill Yard Park
- Satellite internet
- School consolidation
- Upgrade substation
- First responders for EMS

Threats

- Contamination of wells/Chippewa River
- New regulations on WWTP
- New regulations for stormwater
- Natural disaster
- Mass casualty incident
- Energy crisis
- Loss of funding for infrastructure/equipment/facilities

Community Facilities and Services

The City of Cornell has a wide variety of community facilities and services. The following services are available within the City or can be found in the vicinity. It is likely that Cornell and its surrounding area will continue to provide these services in the future. Map 7-1 identifies the locations of many of the community facilities discussed below.

Library

Library services are found in the City. The Cornell Public Library is part of the Indianhead Federated Library System. The library is open to City and surrounding area residents and has a total service population of over 3,000. The Cornell Public Library is part of the WISCAT system that is an online catalog of Wisconsin library holdings. The library is located at 117 North 3rd Street near downtown Cornell and is housed in the original village hall that was built in 1928.

There have been some recent upgrades to the library such as replacement of the front steps, sidewalk. They also added parking space. The Cornell Public Library still needs new windows.

Health Care Facilities

The Marshfield Clinic provides medical services and the Cornell Area Care Center provides adult care for the City of Cornell and surrounding area.

Additional nearby health care facilities in Chippewa County are the Bloomer Community Hospital in Bloomer, St. Joseph Hospital in Chippewa Falls, and Victory Memorial Hospital in Stanley. All these facilities are within 20 minutes from Cornell. It is likely that these facilities and the many others throughout Chippewa County and the City of Eau Claire will continue to provide health care for residents.

Cornell residents also have access to a local dental and chiropractic care services.

Veterinary Service

The City is also fortunate to have a local veterinary clinic located at to treat and provide health services to area pets and animals.

Childcare Facilities

The City of Cornell has a Head Start Program, but does not have any large daycare facilities. The local daycares are private and run out of homes. There seems to be a potential need for a larger daycare facility. There also is a need for a before and after school program.

Senior Center

Located on 106 N. Third Street, the City of Cornell has a Senior Center open Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The Camaraderie Club also offers activities, community services, field trips, and social activities.

Visitors' Center

The City of Cornell Visitors' Center is located at 51 Bridge Street and is open May through October. There is a desire to do more to promote the Visitors' Center throughout the area.

Fire/Rescue

The Cornell Area Fire Department provides protection for the City and protects approximately 6,500 people in an area of over 267 square miles. The coverage area consists of the City of Cornell and all or parts of the following Townships within Chippewa County: Arthur, Birch Creek, Cleveland, Colburn, Eagle Point, Estella, Lake Holcombe, and Ruby. It is a public department whose members are all volunteer firefighters and are paid on a per call basis. The services provided include firefighting, hazardous material response, vehicular rescue, and search and rescue. The Cornell Area Fire Department includes 30 firefighters and averages 80-100 calls per year. Vehicular equipment for the fire department includes:

- 2 engines
- 2 tankers
- 1 equipment van
- 1 pick up/brush rig
- 30' Trailer with rescue equipment.

The fire hall was located at 222 Thomas Street in Cornell but has since moved to a new location at 100 Osborne Street in October of 2008. The facility includes 4 bays, meeting room, bathrooms, and an office.

The Cornell Area Fire Department could use a new pumper truck to replace the current back up pumper truck from 1971.

Emergency Medical Services

Cornell Area Ambulance Inc., which consists of the City of Cornell and all or parts of the following Townships within Chippewa County: Arthur, Birch Creek, Cleveland, Colburn, Eagle Point, Estella, Lake Holcombe, and Ruby. The EMS service consists of 21 paid volunteer EMTs. They receive an average of 400 calls per year and have three ambulances. They have up to date equipment and facility and are purchasing a new cardiac monitor that can transmit information to the hospital. The Cornell Area Ambulance Inc. takes patients to the following hospitals: Luther Midelfort and Sacred Heart in Eau Claire; St. Joseph's in Chippewa Falls; the Bloomer Medical Center; Rusk County Memorial Hospital; and, occasionally to Our Lady of Victory Hospital in Stanley. The ambulance station is located at 412 South 3rd Street in Cornell.

The Cornell Area Ambulance Inc., is connected to the Med-Flight service – Mayo Clinic out of Eau Claire and Rochester and Life Link 3 out of Rice Lake – are available for trauma cases.

Future needs of the Cornell Area Ambulance Inc. include incorporating First Responders as part of the Cornell Area Ambulance service, looking for ways to improving evacuation plans, and conducting a full tri-county regional mass casualty exercise. Coordination among the neighboring entities is important and critical to handling catastrophic situations.

Police Department

The City of Cornell Police Department is located at 204 North 3rd Street. The Cornell Police Department consists of three full-time officers and two part-time officers. Currently, they have one fully functioning squad car and another older squad car that is unmarked and used by City Staff. The City recently purchased a building (December, 2008) on Main Street to relocate the existing police department. This building will need to be renovated to fit the needs of the Police Department, but the new location will be ideal and the facility will be considerably better than the existing building.

Future needs include a taser, indoor dog kennel, and a laptop with printer to write citations from the squad car and be part of the Badger Tracks Computer Network.

One of the main concerns for the Cornell Police Department is animal control.

Post Office

City of Cornell residents use the Cornell Post Office which provides all postal services for City residents. The Post Office is located downtown at 301 Main Street.

Cemeteries

The Cornell City Cemetery is located in the southwest part of the City just west of State Highway 178.

Radio

The City of Cornell is within listening distance of a wide variety of radio stations.

Website

The City of Cornell has a website that can be accessed at the following address: www.cityofcornell.com. This website provides valuable information regarding City Information, a list of local businesses, points of interest, and upcoming events.

Newspaper

The Cornell Courier serves much of Chippewa County and is the official newspaper for the City where legal notices are posted.

Solid Waste Disposal

Current solid waste disposal needs are handled by Waste Management out of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. They offer weekly curbside pickup on Thursdays.

Recycling Facilities

Waste Management provides recycling curbside pickup for City residents on Thursdays.

Parks

The City of Cornell has over 25 acres of parks and athletic facilities within the City. The parks include Mill Yard Park on the Chippewa River, the Brunet City Park across from elementary school, and the ball fields and track across from the high school. Park equipment includes the following:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ Shelters | ▪ Stacker |
| ▪ Chalet | ▪ Museum |
| ▪ 3 Ball Fields | ▪ Visitor Center |
| ▪ Track | ▪ Trails |
| ▪ Football Field | ▪ Playground Equipment |
| ▪ 4 Tennis Courts | ▪ Skate Park |
| ▪ Basketball Court | ▪ Picnic Area |
| ▪ Ice Rink | |

Future development of the park may include a redevelopment of Mill Yard Park including additional trails.

City Hall

The current City Hall is located at 222 Main Street. The City Hall was recently remodeled and has ample space for existing needs. The Board and Plan Commission meetings are held in a board room.

Public Works and Utility Department

The Cornell Public Works Department works on the local utilities in the City. They have office space and the Public Works Shop/Garage at 300 Park Road, the primary storage facility. There is also office space located at the waste water treatment plan. The compost pile is also located here.

Schools

The City of Cornell is located in the Cornell School District. There are two schools in the District: Cornell Elementary School and Cornell High School.

The Cornell Elementary School is located at 111 South 4th Street. And teaches grades K – 6th grade. The Cornell High School is located at 708 Bridge Street and teaches grades 7th -12th grades. Table 7-1 shows the historic and projected future enrollment for the Cornell School District.

Table 7 - 1 - Historical and Projected Enrollment

Grade	Historical Enrollment				Enrollment Projections			
	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11
K4	28	30	35	30	26	24	24	24
Kindergarten	36	31	30	37	33	28	26	26
1st	37	34	29	29	32	33	28	26
2nd	31	31	35	28	29	32	33	28
3rd	26	31	33	34	31	29	32	33
4th	42	26	33	33	32	31	29	33
5th	42	39	25	34	39	32	31	29
6th	54	43	33	24	30	39	32	31
7th	46	53	47	34	25	30	39	32
8th	45	46	50	43	36	25	30	39
9th	46	41	44	50	36	36	25	30
10th	36	46	42	41	51	36	36	25
11th	49	38	48	41	43	51	36	36
12th	50	44	34	37	40	43	51	36
Total	570	536	522	499	483	469	452	427

Source: Cornell School District

The Cornell School District does have an interest in consolidating with a nearby school district in order to keep some of the existing programs. At this time, nothing has been worked out to consolidate.

Food Pantry

Food and other donated items from Cornell Area Food Pantry located on the 400 block of South Second Street in the City of Cornell, is available to area residents. The Food Pantry provides food to local families and residents in need. The facility is open on Thursday mornings.

Wastewater Treatment Plant / Sanitary System

The sanitary system in the City of Cornell consists of sanitary sewer mains, lift stations, forcemains, and a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The sanitary sewer system collects wastewater from homes, businesses, and industries and uses gravity mains and lift stations to convey it to the WWTP where it is treated. Sanitary sewer mains within the City are maintained by the City.

There are three lift stations in the City of Cornell. Lift stations are used when the topography does not allow for gravity mains. The wastewater is pumped to a chamber so it can then either use gravity mains or be pumped to the WWTP.

Rebuilt in 1981, the current capacity of the WWTP is 1,300,000 gallons per day. Currently, the City is using on average 395,400 gallons per day of that capacity. At this time, the City does not have a need to expand the WWTP. Weekly monitoring and testing shows that the WWTP is functioning properly as the test results meet the requirements and are below the state limits.

There are also some Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) in the City of Cornell. These are primarily located in the western portion of the City across the Chippewa River. POWTS are commonly referred to as septic systems and are permitted and monitored by Chippewa County.

Current concerns relate to a significant infiltration and inflow problem from the stormwater. At this time, the public works department is unable to track where the problem is coming from. If the problem is unable to be located, at some point a complete study of the sanitary sewer system may have to be conducted. The City may want to expand across the Chippewa River to the west in order to hook up existing City residents to the sanitary system; a project that would be rather expensive and require running sewer lines along the existing State Highway 64 Bridge.

Sanitary Sewer Service Area

In order to gauge where development can occur within the existing sanitary and water infrastructure, it is important to identify the existing and future extent of the sanitary sewer service area. Map 7-2 shows the areas that could be developed without addition of lift stations or significant upgrades to the infrastructure.

There are a number of homes on the west side of the Chippewa River without sanitary sewer service that the City may want to expand to in the future. On the west side there are also large tracts of vacant land that could be ideal for future growth.

Water System

The water system of the community is made up of wells, water towers, hydrants, and water mains that help draw, store, maintain pressure, and distribute water to homes, businesses, and industries in the City.

The City of Cornell is served by one well and one back up well. The current well was drilled in 1962. Both wells are located just south of Brunet Island State Park and are using the same aquifer. The water is high in Manganese and Iron and is treated for both. Only typical maintenance is planned at this time.

The City has one water tower built in 1982. The water tower is located north of State Highways 27/64 and east of the high school ball fields and has a capacity of 350,000 gallons. The tower is used for water storage and to pressurize the water system. The tower adequately meets the needs of the City. The tower is considered to be in good condition.

There are also a number of private wells in the rural area of the City. Private wells must comply with all statutes, ordinances, regulations, and rules of the State and Chippewa County.

The City's water supply has to meet all specifications set by the Safe Drinking Water Act established by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1974. Copies of the City's testing results are mailed to City residents each year.

Overall, the water system is in good condition, but will likely need a new well.

Water pressure plays a role in future development. In areas of high pressure (100 psi or greater) a pressure reducing valve may be needed on water mains or laterals to lower the water pressure in areas of low elevation. Map 7-3 shows the high pressure areas in the City occur along the Chippewa River due to its low elevation. The rest of the City falls between 35 psi and 100 psi which is adequate pressure for residential and commercial needs.

Stormwater

The City's stormwater system is made up of outfalls, inlets, and storm sewer pipes. The stormwater system is designed to collect stormwater and snowmelt runoff and move it away from existing development. Today, an emphasis is put on stormwater quantity, quality, and infiltration in an effort to protect the natural resources within watersheds and basins.

There are several challenges to stormwater management in the City of Cornell. First, the topography makes some areas susceptible to erosion due to steep slopes and unstable ground cover. Second, sand washing off the streets can clog outfalls. Holding ponds are commonly used to catch sediment and allow it to settle before the water passes through or infiltrates. At this time, the City does not have any holding ponds, but will have to consider maintenance issues if and when ponds are constructed.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are techniques and devices used to control stormwater runoff and reduce pollutants that reach surface waters. One BMP currently in place is that the City has sumps in nearly half of their inlets. Sumps are areas of clearance in the storm sewer inlet that allows water to collect and drop out its suspended sediments. The sumps are cleaned out annually. Other methods the City can use to reduce sediment and related contaminants are to reduce the amount of sand used on streets in the winter and to encourage rain gardens to capture runoff in resident's yards.

During significant storm events, the area under the bridge for the Old Abe trail on State Highway 64 does flood. This could eventually lead to washout problems if not addressed in the future. The stormwater outfall along the Chippewa River is also beginning to silt in near the City Shop. Continued siltation and sedimentation of the Chippewa River can cause a degradation of water quality.

Telecommunications Facilities

Communication facilities become an important factor when people are considering moving to a smaller city. Nowadays, people are becoming more dependent upon the need to communicate for both business and personal matters.

Cellular Service and Towers

New technologies are rapidly advancing, and cellular phone service is a vital component to communication in today's society. While cell towers are a necessary component to this form of communication, they can become an eyesore on the landscape and the environment. Methods are used to incorporate these towers into the environment. Included in these methods are innovative ideas such as placing antennas on already existing structures like silos, water towers, street lights, and buildings. Using the existing structures minimizes the impact of towers. However, these alternative antenna placements are not ideal for every situation. Currently, Alltel and AT & T have antennas in the City.

Internet

The availability of high-speed internet service is an important factor for attracting new business and residents. Many businesses count on reliable services such as high-speed internet in order to be competitive and operate efficiently.

Residents, especially those moving from an urban area, are used to amenities such as high-speed internet service. Currently, in the City of Cornell, there is access to the internet including dial-up and DSL through Century Tel. One comment on the business survey is that there is a lack of competition in the telecommunication field and therefore residents and businesses have limited choices when it comes to their internet service.

Phone

Century Tel provides the City area with local phone, and long distance services are provided by a choice of most major long distance carriers and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Television

Cornell residents have access to cable and satellite television service. The cable infrastructure exists throughout the central commercial and residential areas of the City. Charter Communications is the major cable service while the two major satellite service providers are Dish Network and DirecTV.

Energy Sources

Energy is quickly becoming one of the more important topics in today's society. As energy prices rise, it is important that communities find ways to provide low cost, high quality energy sources for residents and businesses in the community.

Transmission / Distribution Lines

The City of Cornell has both distribution lines and transmission lines running throughout the City. Currently, most power lines in the City are overhead lines.

Electricity

The electricity providers for the City are Cornell Municipal Electric, Chippewa Valley Electric Coop, and Xcel Energy. Cornell Municipal Electric is owned by the City and allows them to charge low rates to residential and commercial customers. Chippewa Valley Electric Coop formed to provide electricity to the rural areas and serving much of Chippewa county and also small parts of Rusk, Taylor, Dunn, and Barron counties in Wisconsin. Xcel Energy serves areas in 11 states throughout the U.S. and covers most of Northwestern Wisconsin. Residential, business, commercial, and industrial are all sectors that are serviced by Xcel Energy. Xcel Energy generates electric power from a mix of fuel sources, and distributes natural gas and electricity over transmission and distribution lines throughout our service area.

Windmills

With the cost of energy rising, interest in windmills to supplement electricity is becoming more common. A windmill (small wind energy system) is used to generate electricity. Chippewa County set forth a process for permitting wind energy facilities with the Windpower Management Ordinance. The ordinance

includes setback requirements, noise standards, signage, aesthetics, and other additional regulations required to construct a windmill. Currently, there are no windmills in the City.

Utility Gas

Utility gas is available to some residents in the City of Cornell from We Energies.

Future Utility Projects

The City of Cornell maintains a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) to identify future utility and facility projects and provide projected costs over the next five years.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Provide quality community services and facilities at a reasonable cost to taxpayers.

Objectives

1. Make sure the demand doesn't exceed capacity.
2. Minimize the cost of repairing and replacing existing utilities and infrastructure.
3. Reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff to infrastructure and water quality of surface waters.

Policies

1. Consider designing new community buildings that can accommodate future growth needs when new community buildings are needed.
2. Continue to explore opportunities to share services with the surrounding communities.
3. Consider developing recommendations or standards for community facility design and aesthetics.
4. Explore grants such as Community Development Block Grants or DOT Transportation Economic Assistance, DNR Stewardship or create a TIF District to help offset utility improvements and emergency service needs.
5. Investigate grant opportunities for funding of emergency management equipment needs.
6. Analyze and assess existing utility infrastructure system and capacities to determine potential "smart growth" areas.

Goal 2: Maintain historical aspects of public buildings.

Objectives

1. Preserve the City's past.
2. Give the City its own unique identity.
3. Draw people to the area/make Cornell a destination.
4. Increase economic activity.

Policies

1. Require additions or remodeling to match the existing structure and materials of historic building.

Goal 3: Support and improve the quality of schools, health care, parks, museums and library, etc.

Objectives

1. Maintain and improve the quality of life for Village and surrounding residents.
2. Make the City more attractive to business and industry.

Policies

1. Investigate ways of improving communication between the City, emergency services, school district, and businesses.
2. Support a variety of community enhancing activities in community parks.
3. Repair existing fencing, picnic shelters, and restrooms at park facilities when necessary.
4. Consider consolidating school districts with a neighboring school district.

Goal 4: Support long-range planning that addresses the existing populations and future growth of local and regional populations.

Objectives

1. Meet the long-term needs of residents.
2. Reduce long-term costs associated with area growth.
3. Analyze facilities to determine expansion as needed.

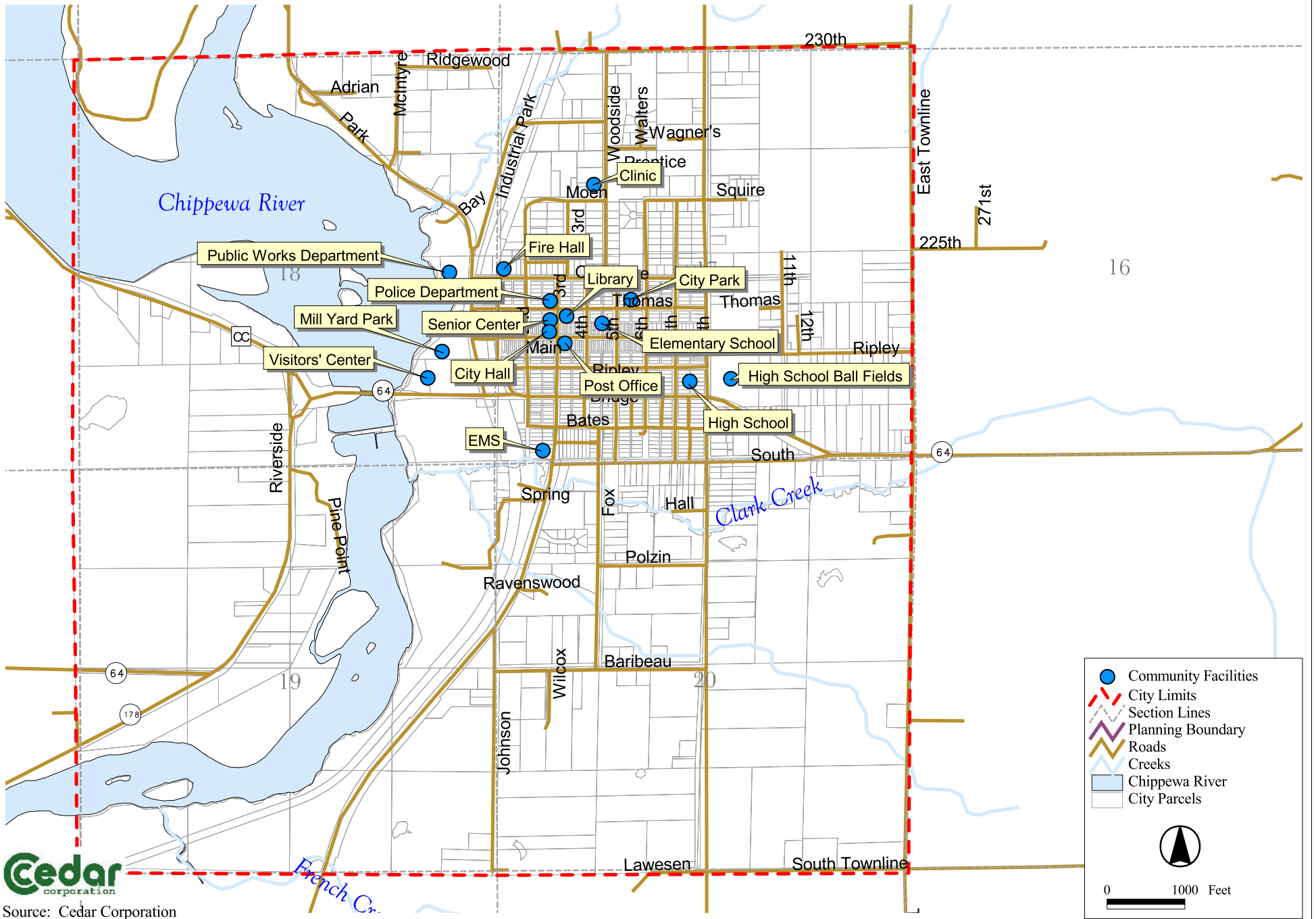
Policies

1. Design buildings for future expansion that fits the original design.
2. Analyze trends for facility development and capacity.
3. Ensure adequate land for anticipated growth.
4. Update equipment and emergency plans for safety and cost-effectiveness as appropriate.
5. Consider developing parks and recreation plan and updating current outdoor recreation plan.
6. Consider acquiring land that is necessary for expansion and redevelopment.

Community Facilities, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 7-1



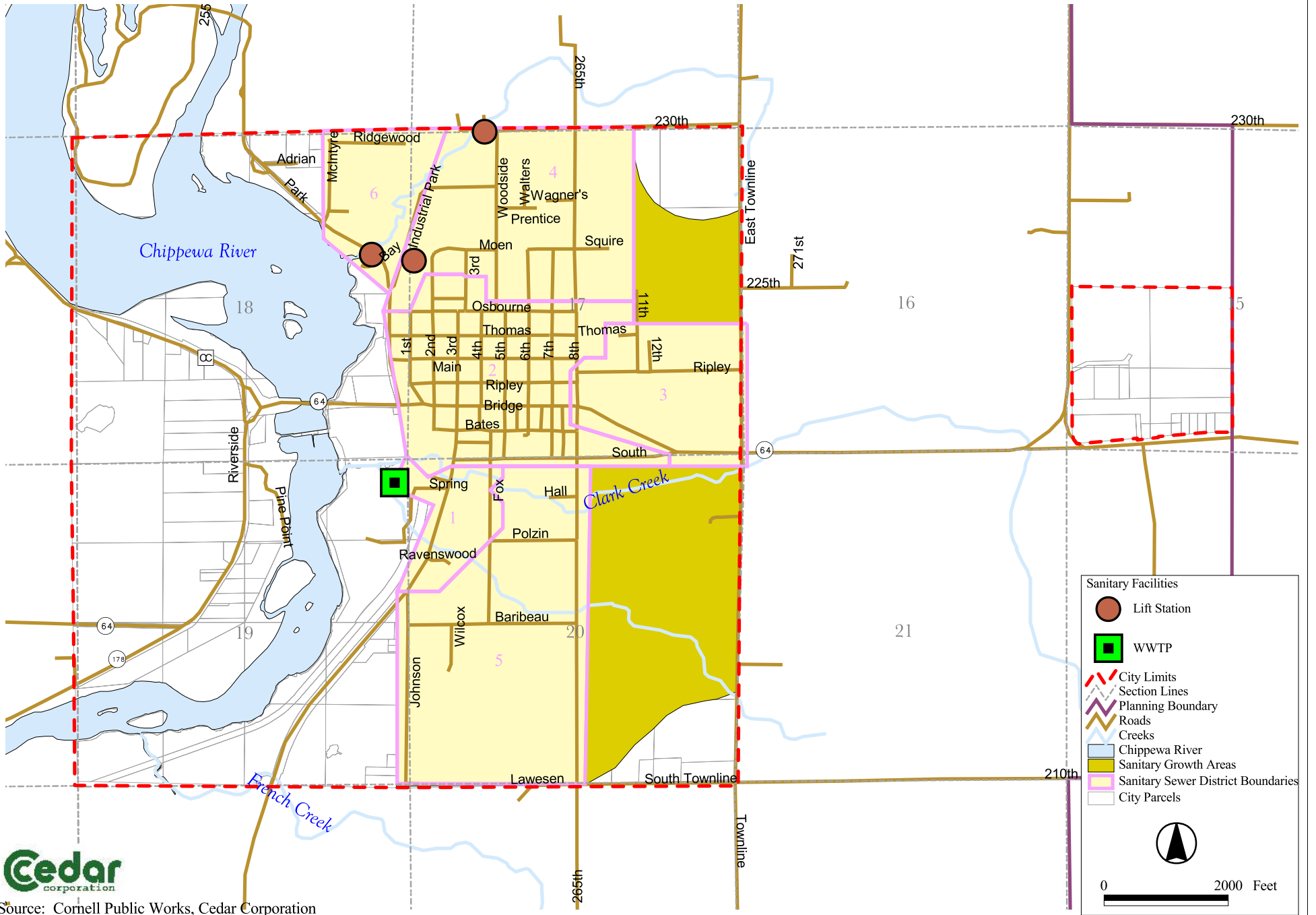
Cedar
corporation

Source: Cedar Corporation

Sanitary Sewer Service Area, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 7-2

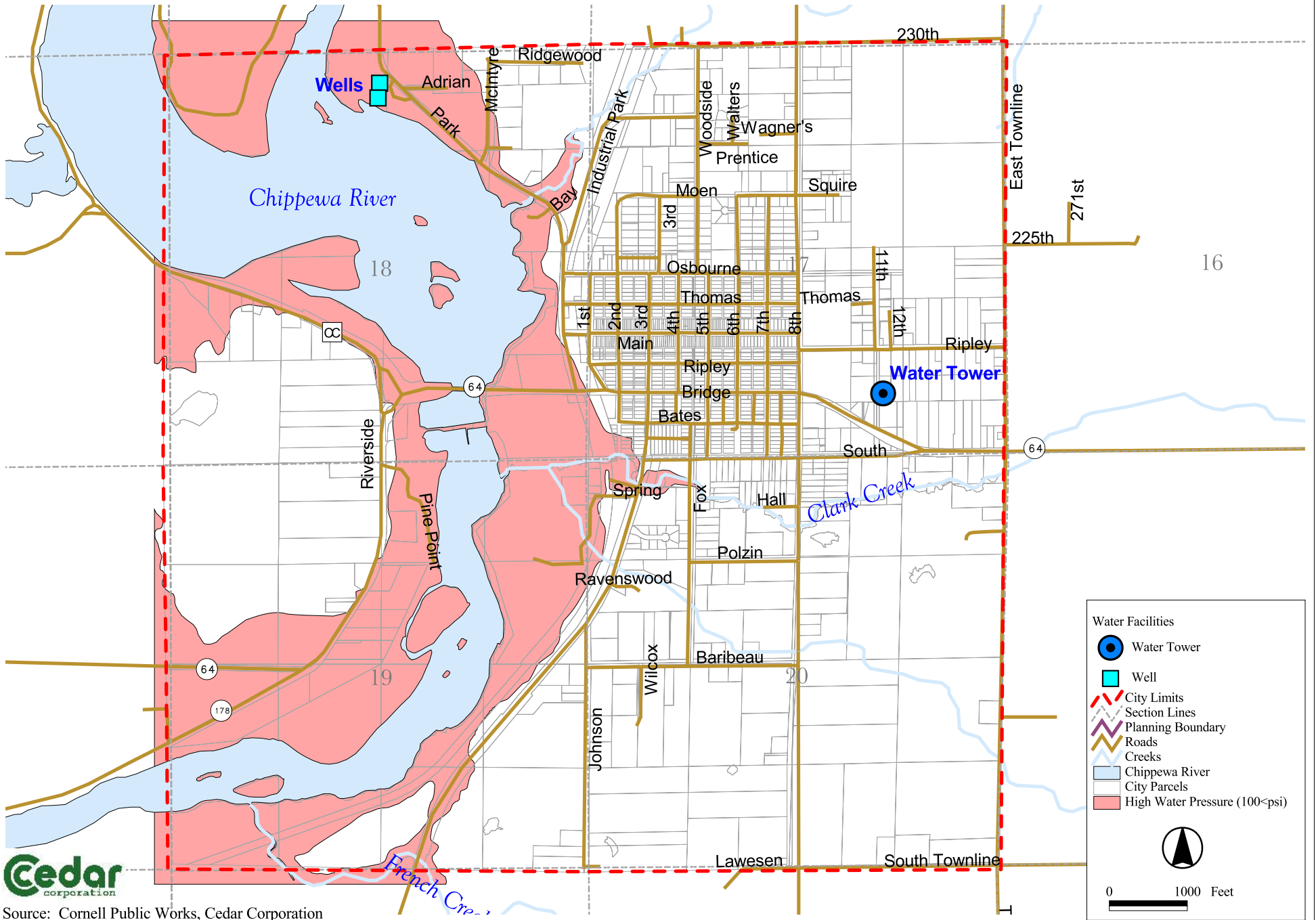


Source: Cornell Public Works, Cedar Corporation

Water Pressure, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 7-3



Cedar
corporation

Source: Cornell Public Works, Cedar Corporation

CHAPTER 8

Land Use

Introduction

The purpose of the Land Use element is to promote orderly growth by balancing the needs of residents and property owners, while maintaining the City's natural resources. The Land Use chapter is to identify and analyze how land within the City of Cornell is being used at a specific point in time and to help recommend appropriate uses for the land in the future.

The information in the Land Use Chapter act as a guide for future public and private land use decisions. The chapter inventories and maps existing land use patterns and helps in analyzing and understanding the influences on these patterns.

A well thought-out land use plan will help the City to make zoning decisions, evaluate development proposals, and provide a vision that provides the necessary background information for local government, residents, business owners, and developers to make consistent and informed decisions.

Survey Results

The City should purchase land to ensure room for future growth.		
	Count	Percent
I strongly agree	14	10.0%
I agree	35	25.0%
Not sure	52	37.1%
I disagree	30	21.4%
I strongly disagree	9	6.4%
Total	140	100.0%

Only 35% of the respondents felt the City should purchase land to ensure room for future development.

City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029

Development should be limited to preserve our natural environment. (please check one)		
	Count	Percent
I strongly agree	19	14.2%
I agree	57	42.5%
Not sure	28	20.9%
I disagree	23	17.2%
I strongly disagree	7	5.2%
Total	134	100.0%

Over half of the respondents (57%) felt that development should be limited to preserve the natural environment.

The City needs more parks/recreational areas. (please check one)		
	Count	Percent
I strongly agree	7	4.9%
I agree	18	12.7%
Not sure	33	23.2%
I disagree	65	45.8%
I strongly disagree	19	13.4%
Total	142	100.0%

A majority of the respondents (59%) did not feel there is a need for additional parks or recreational areas in the City.

If more parks are needed, where would you like to see them? (please check all that apply)	
	Count
South side of City	16
West side of City	16
North side of City	15
East side of City	16
Other: (list and tally)	10
Total	73
Holcombe	
not needed	

If there were to be additional parks, the respondents to the survey did not have any consensus of which area of the City it should be located.

SWOT Exercise Results

Strengths

- A lot of potential development land
- Available acreage
- Uniqueness of the area
- Riverfront
- Trails and recreational opportunities
- Chippewa River
- Parks
- Room for Growth
- Low cost utilities
- Low cost land prices

Weaknesses

- Lack of funding
- Lack of multiple family housing
- Lack of State funding for infrastructure projects
- No four-lane highway
- Public utilities don't reach all areas of the City
- Lack of private sector/local capital/funds

Opportunities

- Redevelopment along the riverfront
- New Subway restaurant
- Industrial park development – airport
- A lot of undeveloped land within the sewer service area
- Available capacity of water tower and WWTP
- Available capacity of the schools

Threats

- Natural disaster
- Developer currently take on infrastructure costs – greater potential for risk
- Economy
- Lack of developer interest
- Growth going to other communities
- Lack of transportation options – four-lane highway/rail
- Loss of local school
- Lack of funding – grant programs
- Additional DNR or State regulations
- Potential contamination

Land Use vs. Zoning

Both land use planning and zoning are important elements in land use management efforts of local governments because an effective zoning decision should be based on a sound plan that is supported by the community. The Land Use Chapter focuses on the future and establishes community goals and objectives regarding how land will be used in the next 20 years. Zoning on the other hand, is only one tool that can help communities achieve their respective goals and objectives through land use regulation.

The Land Use Chapter identifies where and how citizens would like to see the physical development of the community take place. Planning is a process that helps a community prepare for change, rather than react to it.

Zoning is a tool that gives the government the power to intervene in the lives of private citizens for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. It does this by separating conflicting land uses and ensures development is directed in certain areas that can accommodate that particular land use. Under zoning, communities are divided into different districts, (or zones) which impose different land use controls or specific restrictions on each district. A local government comprehensive plan will likely be more successful if the plan and zoning ordinance are well integrated and if they accommodate the interests and needs of neighboring communities.

In summary, zoning is a regulatory tool used to regulate and enforce comprehensive plans. The development of a comprehensive plan ensures effective and consistent zoning decisions at the local level. The Land Use Chapter is a useful tool for decision makers to guide growth and development of the community and should be consistent with future zoning decisions.

Existing Land Use Analysis

The purpose of the existing land use analysis is to identify existing land uses and land use patterns (see *Map 8-1*). Creating an existing land use map will help determine future land uses and identify existing and/or potential land use conflicts. Below is a brief description of land use patterns for the following categories.

City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029

Table 8-1 - Current Land Use

Current Land Use	Acres	Percent
Single Family Residential	644.5	29.3%
Multiple Family Residential	7.4	0.3%
Commercial	45.6	2.1%
Industrial	108.3	4.9%
Institutional	76.9	3.5%
Parks/Recreation	144.4	6.6%
Agricultural	219.8	10.0%
Conservancy	164.7	7.5%
Undeveloped	785.1	35.7%
Total	2,196.7	100.0%

Source: City of Cornell and Cedar Corporation

Single Family Residential: The majority of housing options in the City of Cornell are single family homes. Single family homes occupy approximately 644 acres (29% of total acreage) within the City and can be found throughout the City.

Multiple Family Residential: The City of Cornell has over 7 acres of land (0.3% of total acreage) devoted to multi-family housing. Multi-family homes consist of apartments, twin homes, and condominiums and typically are higher density developments compared to single family. Most of this type of land can be found scattered throughout the City.

Commercial: Commercial properties create employment opportunities within the City and provide residents with goods and services. In general, they are less expensive to provide services for than residential properties. The City of Cornell has a mix of downtown commercial and highway commercial properties. The City of Cornell has 45.6 acres of commercial businesses (2.1% of total acreage). These properties are mainly located along Bridge Street, Main Street and 3rd Street.

Industrial: Industrial development offers job opportunities and a significant source of tax revenue for municipalities. Like commercial properties, they also require fewer services than residential uses. The City of Cornell has a few industrial areas in the City: south of the dam and west of State Highway 27; northeast of the City Garage in the industrial park; and, out near the airport. There are approximately 108 acres of industrial land (4.9% of total acreage) in the City.

Institutional: Institutions provide valuable services to a community. There are nearly 77 acres of institutional land in the City of Cornell (3.5% of total acreage). These properties include the schools, churches, museums, visitor center, senior citizen's center, City Hall, Police and Departments, and water tower. Typically, institutional land uses are scattered throughout a community.

Parks/Recreation: Park and recreation land provides valuable passive and active recreational opportunities for area residents and is considered a measure of the quality of life a community has to offer. The City has approximately 144 acres of park land (6.6% of total acreage). The park land consists of open space along the Chippewa River, playground equipment, parking, restrooms, Old Abe Trail, and a beach area that is located in the northwestern part of the City.

Agricultural: Agricultural land is land that is being actively farmed. The City has nearly 220 acres of agricultural land (10% of total acreage). Most of this land occupies a good portion of the southeastern and northeastern portion of the City and across the Chippewa River to the west.

Conservancy: Conservancy land is land that owned by the State or County and will likely not be developed in the future. Within the City there are about 165 acres of conservancy land (7.5% of total acreage). Most of this land occupied is found along both shores of the Chippewa River.

Undeveloped: There are approximately 785 acres of undeveloped parcels (35.7% of total acreage) within the City. Undeveloped lands are important to a community as they provide a “land bank” for future growth needs. Most of the undeveloped properties in the City are lands that would be considered open space and aren’t used for farming, but may include wetlands, slopes, or other undevelopable lands.

Existing Land Use Patterns and Influence on Patterns

Land use patterns in the City of Cornell have been influenced by two main conditions. First, the Chippewa River that provided a conveyance system for lumber production in the early 1900s. This was a major influence on how the City grew. This has allowed a number of industries such as saw and paper mills to start up in the area.

Second, the City is split by State Highway 64, a main east and west transportation corridor in Northern Wisconsin and State Highway 27. These highways provide transportation routes for the City to attract workers that can commute to the City and for industries and businesses for shipping their goods.

Land Value

One of the most important costs associated with development is the price of land. Land Values vary greatly depending on the current use that they have or use that it may have in the future. Generally, an acre of rural farmland won’t have the same value as an acre of commercial land in the City. An analysis of price per acre based on how it is taxed is done by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue each year (Statement of Assessment). This information on Table 8-2 is from 2008.

City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029

Table 8-2 2008 Land Values

Land Use Category	2008 Land Value per Acre	2008 Improvement Value per Acre	2008 Total Value per Acre	2008 Total Land and Improvements Value of the Entire City
Residential	\$11,494	\$72,949	\$84,443	\$43,910,400
Commercial	\$14,063	\$80,757	\$94,820	\$10,525,000
Manufacturing	\$4,284	\$25,349	\$29,633	\$2,074,300
Agricultural	\$208	\$0	\$208	\$30,400
Undeveloped	\$574	\$0	\$574	\$85,500
Ag Forest	\$697	\$0	\$697	\$42,500
Forest	\$1,114	\$0	\$1,114	\$479,000

Source: 2008 Statement of Assessment - Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue

Overall property values continue to increase. Total real estate property values increased by about \$850,000 between 2007 and 2008. Land values increased by \$40,000. Overall land values and improvement values are slightly increasing. Unless new development occurs, future improvement values will likely decline in the short term, and then begin appreciating again.

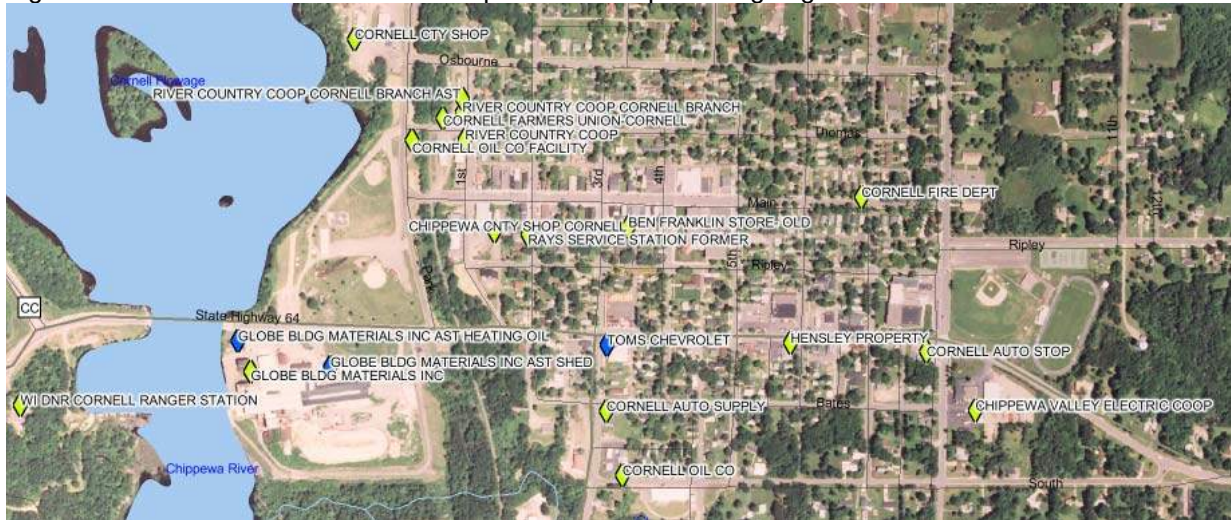
Limitations for Development

The primary issue that could impact further growth and development of the City of Cornell are natural limitations such as topography, slopes, wetlands, and floodplains restrict some areas in and around the City making them undevelopable.

Redevelopment Opportunities

Redevelopment opportunities typically occur in Brownfield areas or locations that have been previously contaminated. The City of Cornell has few known sites that have some environmental groundwater or soil contamination, often caused by underground storage tanks (Figure 8-1 and 8-2). The majority of sites found on the DNR website have since been cleaned up. For those property owners that are interested in cleaning up their property there are a number of Brownfield cleanup grants available through the DNR and EPA. Most of the sites have been remediated and are classified as closed.

Figure 8-1 – Contaminated Sites of Completed Cleanups or Ongoing



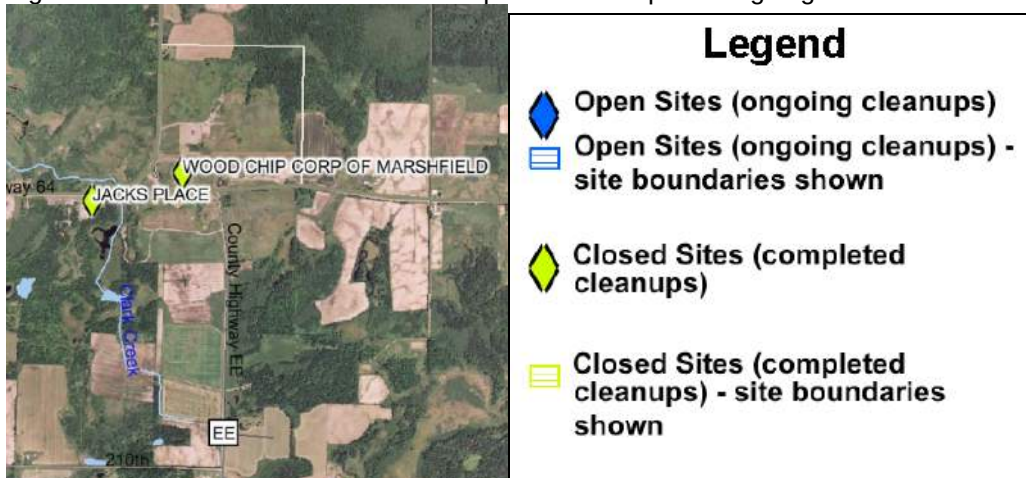
Closed Sites (Completed Cleanup)

- Cornell Farmers' Union
- River Country Coop
- Wolniak Machine Corp
- Jack's Place
- Chippewa County Shop
- Cornell Oil Co.
- Cornell Fire Department
- Brunet Island State Park
- W & W Hardwoods Inc.
- Cornell City Shop
- WDNR Ranger Station
- Wisconsin Truss Inc.
- Ray's Service Station (old)
- Chippewa Valley Electric Coop
- Singleton Residence
- Ben Franklin Store (old)
- Cornell Auto Stop
- Hensley Property
- Cornell Auto Supply
- Wood Chip Corp of Marshfield
- Globe Building Materials Inc.
- Cornell Oil Co.

Open Sites (Ongoing Cleanup)

- Globe Building Materials Inc.
- Tom's Chevrolet

Figure 8-2 – Contaminated Sites of Completed Cleanups or Ongoing



Influences on Land Demand and Supply

Land prices have remained relatively steady in recent years and some has even declined in the past year. This is opposite the trend in the late 1990's and early 2000's where land prices were rapidly appreciating each year. Because of the decrease in cost for land, it is possible that the area could see an increase in the demand in the near future. Also, the available undeveloped land in the City offers a variety of opportunities for future residential and other commercial development.

Existing or Potential Land Use Conflicts

Land use conflicts occur when incompatible land uses cause a negative effect. One example of a potential future conflict would be if the industrial zoned area adjacent to a residential area evolved into a manufacturing center and created noise and traffic problems. Currently, no land use conflicts are identified and the development of the Comprehensive Plan and cooperation with City residents and adjacent Towns will help to minimize potential conflicts in the future.

One of the primary objectives of identifying future land use needs and selecting locations for future land uses is to minimize potential conflicts.

Future Land Needs Analysis

The City of Cornell future land needs analysis will be based on potential residential needs.

Table 8-3 shows the amount of additional households which would be needed based on population and household projections from the Housing Chapter. If the projections are accurate, the City will have an additional 40 households between 2005 and 2025.

Table 8-3 - Housing Forecasts - City of Cornell

Year	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Persons Per Household	2.42	2.38	2.34	2.30	2.26	2.23
Total Occupied Housing Units	607	597	607	617	627	637
Additional Units Needed	-	-10	10	10	10	10

Source: City of Cornell and Cedar Corporation

Our projections we will assume a half acre per lot (this includes open space requirements and rights-of-way). If 40 lots or households are needed, 20 additional acres of residential acres will be needed and includes multiple family residential.

Currently, the City has about 785 acres of undeveloped land plus 220 acres of agricultural land. Some of this undeveloped and agricultural land is unbuildable due to natural limitations or current zoning limitations.

Smart Growth Areas

The term Smart Growth Areas means an “area that will enable the development and redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and municipal, state and utility services, where practicable, or that will encourage efficient development patterns that are both contiguous to existing development and at densities which have relatively low municipal, state governmental and utility costs.” (WI Statute: 16.965)

It is important for the City of Cornell to consider areas that are ideal for growth. One way to do that is to look at factors such as wetlands, steep slopes that limit where growth can go and areas that are cost effective for expanding infrastructure. Map 8-2 shows the areas that should be protected as well as areas that would require a lift station. Due to these conditions and availability of land, there is not a need to annex future land in the foreseeable future, but there will likely be a need to expand the sanitary service area especially in the southern portion of the City or across the Chippewa River.

There are approximately 334 acres of undeveloped land within the “Smart Growth Area” of the City. Portions of this undeveloped land contains wetlands and steep slopes, however, much of the land would be suitable for potential development. This indicates that the City has ample room for future growth within the Current City Limits.

Future Land Uses

Table 8-4 projects the future land use acres based on the Future Land Use Map that was developed by the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Due to the ample supply of undeveloped land within the City, the Future Land Use Map stayed within the current City Limits (see *Map 8-3*).

The future land use map should be consulted when addressing future rezoning requests and land use issues. However, it is not meant to be a tool for a mass rezoning of City properties in order to match the Future Land Use map. Based on the available land within the City Limits, there is plenty of land to take on growth for the foreseeable future.

These future land use acreages listed in Table 8-4 (calculations were based on the Future Land Use Map) as well as the designations on the Future Land Use Map 8-3 are estimates and are not to be interpreted as committing the City to developing that amount of land in the next 20 years.

City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan 2009-2029

Table 8-4 - Future Land Use

Future Land Use	Acres	Percent
Single Family Residential	802.3	36.5%
Multiple Family Residential	54	2.5%
Commercial	56.9	2.6%
Industrial	183.9	8.4%
Institutional	73.1	3.3%
Parks	144.4	6.6%
Agricultural	113.5	5.2%
Conservancy	164.7	7.5%
Undeveloped	603.9	27.5%
Total	2,196.7	100.0%

Source: Cornell Commission and Cedar Corporation

Trends in Land Supply and Demand

Table 8-5 shows projected land use needs in five year increments in the City of Cornell. Overall, there is plenty of undeveloped land available for future growth in the City.

The largest need for land in the future will be for residential development. The City will need roughly 5 acres of land every 5 years for residential use based on the Household Forecasts in Table 8-3 and assuming the lot sizes will average approximately one-half acre.

Table 8-5 - Projected Land Use Needs in Acres

Year	*2008	2010	2015	2020	2025	Additional Acreage
Residential	652	654	659	666	672	
• Acres		2	5	7	6	20
Commercial	46	48	51	54	57	
• Acres		2	3	3	3	11
Industrial	108	110	115	122	128	
• Acres		2	5	7	6	20
Agricultural	220	214	201	184	169	
• Acres		-6	-13	-17	-15	-51

Source: * 2008 is Existing Land Use calculations.

There are approximately 76 acres of undeveloped land in the northern portion of airport industrial park within the City available to potential future industrial type businesses.

Future Land Use Trends

In the past 30 years, more and more agricultural and forestland has been lost as development increased and sprawled into the rural areas. In recent history, however, development has begun to slow. It is important for Cornell to establish a land use strategy or plan to protect them from undesirable land use activities in the future.

Land Supply

The amount of land in the City may increase over time if land is annexed from adjacent municipalities in the future. Currently, there is approximately 2,197 acres of land including portions of the road right of way, of which about 47% of the land is considered developed (1,027 acres). This leaves a significant amount of land that is currently not developed within the City Limits, although some of the undeveloped land is Conservancy that won't be developed in the future (164.7 acres). Under the Current Land Use, the City has approximately 717 acres of developable land within the City Limits.

Land Demand

There is an occasional land division in the City, but there has not been a significant major subdivision in quite a while. The City desires future growth, but considering the state of the national housing and job market, it is difficult to predict how much growth can be expected in the next 20 years. Currently, the supply outweighs demand.

Options to Annexation

Although unlikely, it is possible that the Towns of Estella and Cleveland could be developed up to the City of Cornell's legal boundary. This would greatly decrease the chance that land would be annexed in the future. The City could support two actions that would increase the amount of residential land in the City if desired. First, the City could create a residential zoning classification that reduces the minimum lot size.

Second, the City may encourage redevelopment of some areas to accommodate higher residential densities.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Ensure orderly growth within the City of Cornell.

Objectives

1. Try to avoid land use conflicts that may decrease the value of properties.
2. Preserve neighborhoods.

Policies

1. Use the City's Land Use Plan as a guide for future development and zoning decisions.
2. Utilize "Smart Growth" areas for cost efficient growth when feasible.
3. Encourage developers so that the look and scale of redevelopment is consistent with the neighborhood it is in by allowing variances to existing subdivision and zoning codes such as in the original platted area of the City.
4. Consider developing joint committees with the Towns of Estella and Cleveland to discuss and avoid future land use conflicts.

Chippewa County, Wisconsin



The map displays the Chippewa River Watershed, bounded by City Limits (red dashed line) and Section Lines (black dashed line). The Planning Boundary is shown as a thick purple line. The map includes various land use types: Single Family Residential (yellow), Multiple Family Residential (orange), Commercial (pink), Industrial (light blue), Institutional (light green), Conservancy (green), Parks/Recreation (dark green), Agricultural (brown), and Undeveloped (light brown). The Chippewa River is shown as a blue line. The map also includes a legend for City Limits, Section Lines, Planning Boundary, Creeks, Chippewa River, and Current Land Use.

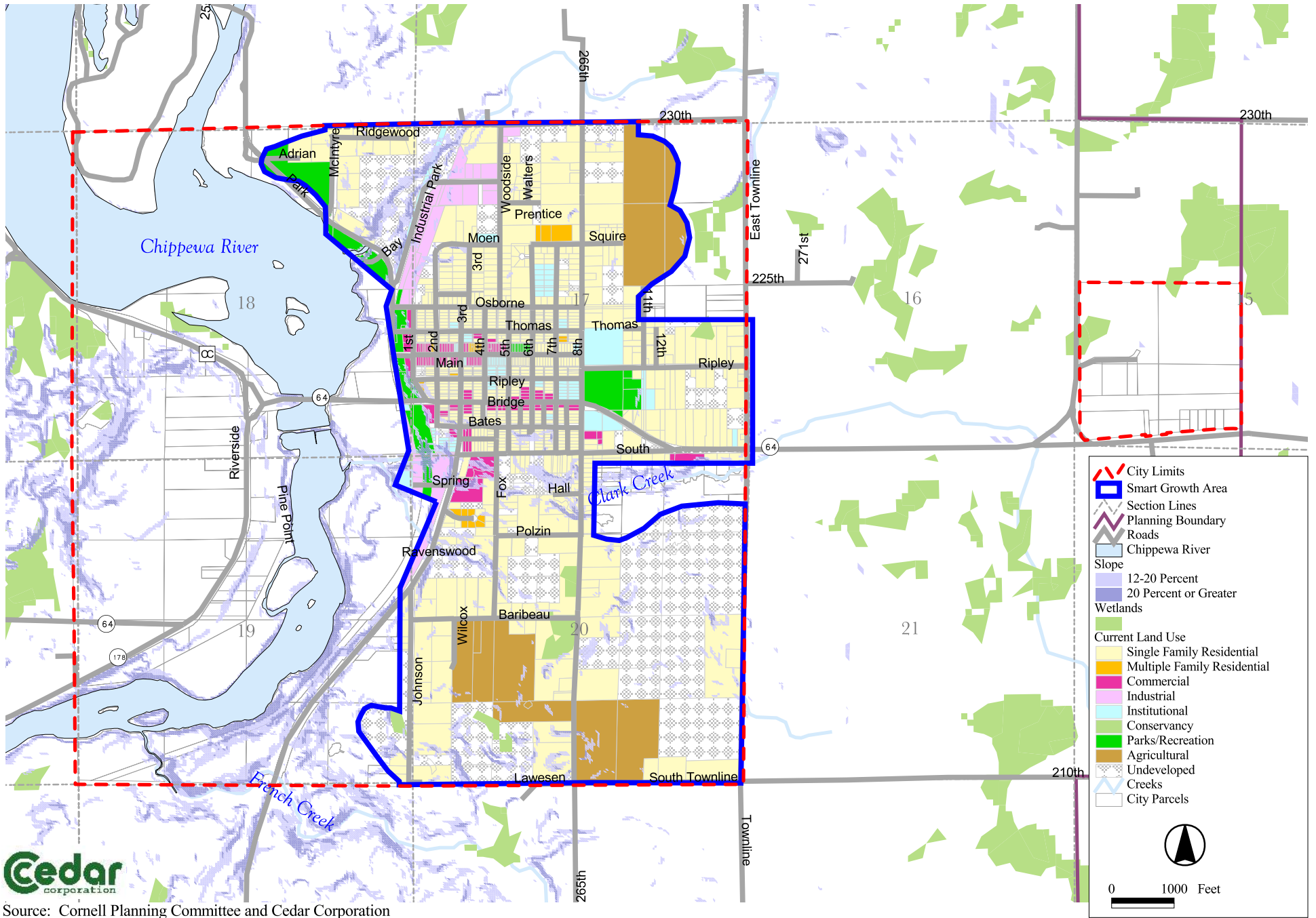


0 1000 Feet

Smart Growth Areas, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

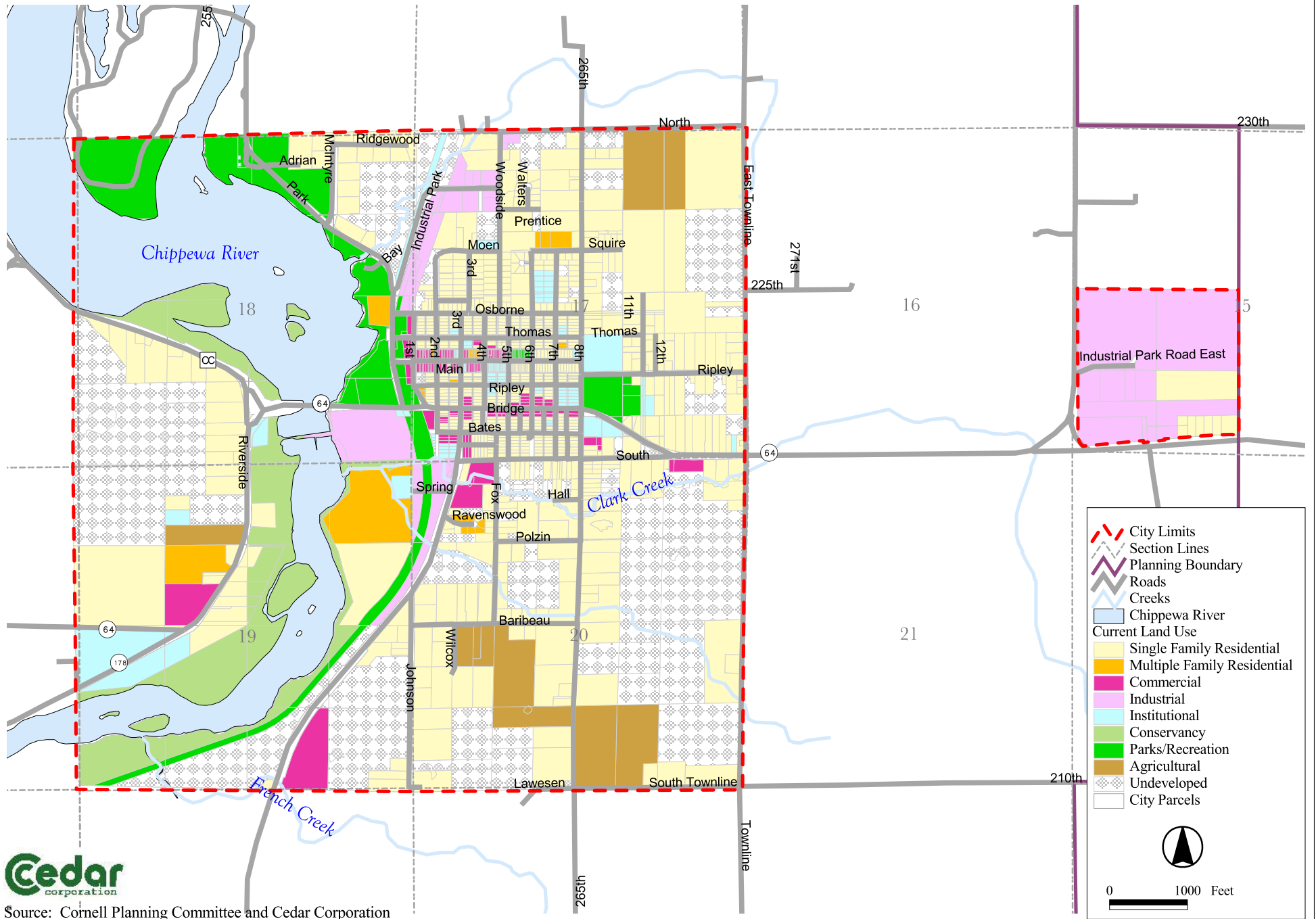
Map 8-2



Future Land Use, City of Cornell

Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Map 8-3



Source: Cornell Planning Committee and Cedar Corporation

CHAPTER 9

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Introduction

Intergovernmental communication, coordination and cooperation can make a significant difference in the implementation and administration of a comprehensive plan. Intergovernmental cooperation can be developed over time. This section explores the relationships between the City of Cornell and other municipalities, agencies and others; identifies existing and potential conflicts and offers processes to resolve conflicts and build cooperative relationships.

Survey Results

Over 90% (129 answers) of the respondents rate the emergency services from fair to excellent.

Rate the Following Emergency Services...	Count	Percent
Excellent	88	61.5%
Fair	41	28.7%
Poor	9	6.3%
Not Sure	5	3.5%
	143	100.0%

Considerations for Cooperation

It is estimated that 75% of governmental units engage in some sort of cooperation with at least one other governmental unit. Intergovernmental cooperation provides the City an opportunity to work with adjacent and other influential governmental units on a number of issues. The City of Cornell may want to take the opportunity to do the following:

- Identify areas of common interest
- Consider the impacts of City actions on adjacent Towns
- Anticipate the effects on your community of actions taken by neighbors
- Minimize potential conflicts before they arise
- Make the Comprehensive Plan consistent with Zoning Code, Shoreland and Wetland Zoning, Official Map, and Subdivision Code.

There are a number of benefits when considering cooperative efforts between municipalities. Intergovernmental cooperation benefits may include the following: cost savings through economy of scale, availability of additional services, ability to address regional issues, and meet the consistency requirements.

Units of Government Influence on Cornell

The first step in coordinating cooperation between various municipalities is to identify the adjacent municipalities and some of their existing plans. The City of Cornell abuts two municipal units of government, the Towns of Cleveland and Estella. The following is a list of plans those units of government may have or are working on:

Chippewa County

- Town of Cleveland
 - o Comprehensive Plan is in progress
 - o Subdivision Regulations
 - o Junk or related nuisance ordinance
 - o Animal control ordinance
 - o Cell tower ordinance in progress
- Town of Estella
 - o Comprehensive Plan is in progress

School District

The City of Cornell lies within the Cornell School District. Both the District and the schools within the District were discussed in this Comprehensive Plan in the Utility and Community Facilities Chapter. The City has an active interest in the success of the schools and therefore would like to see that the schools continue to remain within the community. The entire City rests in the Cornell School District and the school facilities are open to the public.

Chippewa Valley Technical College

The Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) has five campuses located throughout West Central Wisconsin. The Chippewa Falls Campus is the closest to Cornell and offers Associate Degrees, Technical Diplomas, certificates, as well as opportunities to complete many general education credits needed for graduation.

University of Wisconsin System

The University of Wisconsin system of public universities consists of two doctoral research universities (UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee), eleven comprehensive universities, thirteen two-year colleges, and the Statewide UW-Extension system.

West central Wisconsin is particularly blessed with three comprehensive universities, being home to UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout (Menomonie), and UW-River Falls (see Table 9-1). Of the thirteen University of Wisconsin colleges in the State offering associate's degrees, UW-Barron County located in Rice Lake

is the only one located in west central Wisconsin. Residents may also access associates-degree programming via the Internet based UW Colleges Online.

University of Wisconsin-Extension partners closely with county governments to provide supportive services to all residents, businesses, and governments. This is a very active expression of the “Wisconsin Idea”, which is a philosophy that the University of Wisconsin System is a partner in improving the quality of life of all Wisconsin residents through education.

Table 9-1 – Local Colleges

Campus	1998-99 Enrollment	2007-08 Enrollment	% Change	Distance from Cornell
UW-Eau Claire	10,852	10,854	0.02%	42 miles
UW-Stout	7,731	8,477	9.65%	57 miles
UW-River Falls	5,617	6,452	14.87%	100 miles
UW-Barron County	491	606	23.42%	50 miles

Source: West Central Wisconsin Conditions and Trends Report, Cedar Corporation

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

UW-Eau Claire is a public university located on the banks of the Chippewa River that was founded in 1916. The average class size is 28 students. The University offers about 80 undergraduate degree programs and 14 graduate programs, providing study opportunities in a wide range of majors and minors. Some of the majors include accounting, chemistry, business administration, nursing, physics, and social work. The University is approximately 30 miles from Cornell.

University of Wisconsin - Stout

UW-Stout was founded as an experiment in industrial education back in 1891. Subjects taught include business, industrial management, technology, education, human development, and art and design. Average class size is 29 students for lecture sessions and 21 for laboratory sessions. Faculty and academic staff teach more than 99% of the course sections. Less than 1% of classes are taught by teaching assistants. UW-Stout is approximately 57 miles from Cornell.

University of Wisconsin - River Falls

The University of Wisconsin – River Falls (UWRF) provides undergraduate, graduate and continuing education courses which support the fine arts, liberal studies, technology, business and industry. The City of Cornell is almost 100 miles from the River Falls campus.

University of Wisconsin – Barron County Extension

UW-Barron County offers extensive academic programs for those interested in pursuing two-year degree options, as well as those who wish to transfer to a four-year institution down the road.

County and Regional Government Units

- Chippewa County
- West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- UW-Extension Local Government Center

Chippewa County has a number of plans and ordinances that may have an influence on future growth in the City of Cornell. Some of the plans below were a coordinated effort between Chippewa County and West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The following is a list of the various plans developed by Chippewa County:

- Chippewa County Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Chippewa County Existing Conditions and Trends Report
- Official Mapping
- Shoreland and Wetland Zoning
- Floodplain Ordinance

One of the more recent cooperative efforts includes the development of the Existing Conditions and Trends Report. This project was made possible by a Department of Administration Comprehensive Planning Grant award. This report was written by the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and includes information supplied in part by Chippewa County. The report was then shared with all the municipalities within Chippewa County to assist with the development of each community's comprehensive plan.

The UW-Extension Local Government Center is a cooperative effort of the Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin Counties Association, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, county UW-Extension offices, and the University of Wisconsin System. Through workshops, documents, teleconferences (WisLine), and other such outreach, the Local Government Center provides educational programs for local government officials. The Extension office in Chippewa County is located in Chippewa Falls.

State Agencies

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation

The Wisconsin DNR is often the regulatory agency that is responsible for the protection and sustained management of woodlands, waterways, animal habitat and other natural resources. The DNR worked with the City to develop the bike trail that connects the Old Abe Trail to the Brunet Island State Park. The Cornell Police Department often patrols the State Park and rangers often assist the City when the need arises.

If the City needs a new well, the State-owned land may be the most feasible location to cite one. If that happens, the City will need to work together on an agreement for a possible future well location.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining and improving U.S. Highway 27, 64, and 178, the main highways through the City. For this reason, cooperation and communication between the City of Cornell and the Wisconsin DOT are extremely important for the development of the City. The City is responsible for snow removal along the curb and maintaining the parking area along the highways that run through the City.

Existing City Plans and Implementation Tools

The City does have an existing Code of Ordinances as well as official mapping, zoning, and subdivision regulations.

The City also has a Safe Routes to School Plan developed in 2008 that describes future plans for the City's transportation improvements related to pedestrian and multi modal facilities. The City's Outdoor Recreation Plan 1994 – 2003 will need to be updated.

Below is a list of ordinances that the City currently has:

- Manufactured/Mobile Home Park Standards
- Junk or Related Nuisance Ordinance
- Animal Control Ordinance

Current Agreements and Cooperative Efforts

Intergovernmental agreements can be as simple as sharing information to something more complex such as entering into contracts to provide services. The City of Cornell recognizes the benefits of working with the surrounding communities and government agencies and is currently engaged in the following agreements:

Fire/Rescue: The Cornell Area Fire Department provides protection for the City and protects approximately 6,500 people in an area of over 267 square miles. The coverage area consists of the City of Cornell and all or parts of the following Townships within Chippewa County: Arthur, Birch Creek, Cleveland, Colburn, Eagle Point, Estella, Lake Holcombe, and Ruby.

Emergency Medical Services: Cornell Area Ambulance Inc., which consists of the City of Cornell and all or parts of the following Townships within Chippewa County: Arthur, Birch Creek, Cleveland, Colburn, Eagle Point, Estella, Lake Holcombe, and Ruby. The EMS service consists of 21 paid volunteer EMTs. They receive an average of 400 calls per year and have three ambulances. They have up to date equipment and facility and are purchasing a new cardiac monitor

that can transmit information to the hospital. The Cornell Area Ambulance Inc. takes patients to the following hospitals: Luther Midelfort and Sacred Heart in Eau Claire; St. Joseph's in Chippewa Falls; the Bloomer Medical Center; Rusk County Memorial Hospital; and, occasionally to Our Lady of Victory Hospital in Stanley. The ambulance station is located at 412 South 3rd Street in Cornell.

Cornell Public Library: Library services are found in the City. The Cornell Public Library is part of the Indianhead Federated Library System. The library is open to City and surrounding area residents and has a total service population of over 3,000, many that live outside the City and in adjacent Towns. The Cornell Public Library is part of the WISCAT system that is an online catalog of Wisconsin library holdings. The library is located at 117 North 3rd Street near downtown Cornell and is housed in the original village hall that was built in 1928. The City has its own budget for the library and therefore is exempt from the County library tax.

ATV Trail: The City has worked extensively to designate appropriate ATV routes within the City that hook up with the rural routes that reach the City Limits from the Town of Estella. These rural routes can then be used to reach Holcombe and other County routes.

SWOT Exercise Results

Strengths

- Emergency Services
- Proximity to higher education
- DNR – with respect to parks
- State Park – police and ranger cooperation
- City provides police protection to neighboring Towns in an emergency
- County provides police services to City residents if needed
- The local EMS buildings are in the City making response times lower to City residents

Weaknesses

- Lack of funding for schooling
- Lack of resources for future development
- Limited opportunities for cooperation

Opportunities

- Work with nearby entities to expand and maintain recreational opportunities including the following: Brunet Island State Park, Old Abe Multi-use Trail, Scenic River Road – State Highway 178, Ice-Age Trail, fishing and boat landings, Historical Wood Stacker, Visitors' Center/Native American Museum, 5 nearby golf courses (Holcombe (2), Cadott, Bloomer, and Ladysmith), annual events:

Bluegrass Jamboree, Rendezvous, Fair, Country Fest, 4th of July with fireworks and street dance, Rock Fest, Car Show, Softball Tournament, Pork 'N' the Park, Polka Fest, Rodeo.

Threats

- Not cooperating with other communities and agencies
- Lack of proper communication

Future Cooperative Opportunities

Being bordered by the Towns of Estella (east) and Cleveland (west) the City may want to consider extraterritorial authority for portions of both Towns in the future. The City has the ability to plan out 1.5 miles from their municipal boundary limits. Working together now sets up the possibility of working on other cooperative efforts such as plat review and extraterritorial zoning.

The City may want to consider developing cooperative boundary agreements with both Towns so future growth and development can be directed and agreed upon in a cooperative effort.

There may be tasks in the future that will require collaboration between the City of Cornell and its adjacent municipalities. Some of these efforts will cross multiple boundaries because they are related to environmental conditions in the area:

- Watershed Studies
- Stormwater Management Plans
- Farmland Preservation
- Multi-modal Transportation Planning
- Natural Resource Plans
- Mass Casualty and Evacuation Plans
- Work with the DNR for the future citing of a City well

Potential Future Cooperative Efforts

As the City of Cornell grows, the potential exists to have an impact on the Towns of Estella and Cleveland. It is important for the City to work with these communities so future development will be acceptable to all entities involved. One way to achieve agreeable results for future planning is to develop a joint committee, members from each municipality, that meet on a quarterly or semi-annual basis to discuss these issues. Any potential future conflicts should be presented at the joint meeting.

Benefits to Agreements

The City of Cornell has a lot to gain by being actively involved in intergovernmental cooperation. Some of the benefits are cost savings,

emergency preparedness, consistency, reduction in litigation, addressing regional issues, and having foresight in understanding future needed services.

Possible Conflicts

There are three potential conflicts that were identified during the development of the Comprehensive Plan. These include the potential of not being able to mitigate the wetlands in the airport industrial park, contamination issues if the City Shop site is reclaimed, and annexation of land from the neighboring Towns. At this time these are not issues, but these issues have the potential to raise conflicts.

Conflict Resolution

When conflicts arise, it is important to address them in a manner that produces mutual understanding of the issues and creates an atmosphere under which the conflicts can be resolved successfully. The City may want to consider holding joint meetings with neighboring governments and agencies to resolve future conflicts. Initial guidance may come from the City's Plan Commission or City Council.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Encourage adjacent government units to work together to achieve the goals of this Comprehensive Plan.

Objectives

1. Share services when it is possible and feasible for both the City of Cornell and neighboring municipalities.
2. Establish agreements with adjacent municipalities that will benefit all parties involved.
3. Encourage adjacent government units to adopt and implement consistent residential development standards, policies and review practices.
4. Provide services in a cost effective manner.

Policies

1. Promote open communication with adjacent government units.
2. Consider developing a consistent Park Plan among the neighboring municipalities in order to get the most efficient use out of the existing facilities.
3. Investigate opportunities for future cooperative agreements.
4. Update and maintain City of Cornell website.
5. If need arises, develop a joint meeting committee with the Towns of Estella and Cleveland.
6. Provide a copy of this comprehensive plan to all surrounding or nearby local governments.

7. Apply for available grants to provide equipment and training to reduce costs of providing City services.

CHAPTER 10

Plan Implementation

Introduction

The development and adoption of a Comprehensive Plan becomes meaningful only if the plan is implemented. It is best used as a guide for future decisions and kept current with new information. Beyond maintenance, the plan can be used to guide the City's development decisions for zoning, subdivision regulations and intergovernmental relations.

The Implementation Chapter explores the various tools the City has at its disposal, including regulatory, financial, and planning, that may be used to initiate the policies created within this plan.

Survey Results

Nearly half (46.7%) of the respondents felt that the City communicates adequately with City residents.

Communication from the City is adequate		
	Count	Percent
I strongly agree	7	5.3%
I agree	55	41.4%
Not sure	37	27.8%
I disagree	26	19.5%
I strongly disagree	8	6.0%
	133	100.0%

The top preferred methods of communication from the City are a newsletter (83) and newspaper notices (83).

Best way to communicate	
	Count
Website	24
E-mail announcements	10
Newsletters	83
Newspaper notices	83
Public meetings	58
Other (NARRATIVE)*	4

*Word of mouth, open meetings, door to door

Current Regulatory Implementation Tools

Zoning

The zoning code controls the use of the land and directs growth in appropriate areas. They are used to ensure that land uses are compatible

with one another with regard to type and spatial layout. Zoning can also direct growth in appropriate areas and protect existing property against zoning conflicts. The goals, objectives, and policies of this plan should guide decisions for rezonings, special exceptions, and variances (Chapter 8 Land Use).

Cornell currently has its own zoning code. Zoning classifications are currently in place to generally carry out the land use provisions of the Plan. Currently, the Future Land Use map is consistent with the City's Zoning Map.

This does not mean that rezonings cannot take place, but should make the following considerations when reviewing a potential rezoning:

- A rezoning would make the use of the property more compatible to adjacent uses.
- Not rezoning would cause an unnecessary hardship on the property owner.
- A variance or conditional use is not permitted under the requirements of the existing zone of the land of the property owner requesting the rezoning.

Subdivision Ordinance

Subdivision Ordinances control the development of land. They enable a community to control the subdivision of land by a developer. A community can specify lot sizes, density, design features, infrastructure, etc. They can also help guarantee that sufficient existing and planned public utilities and facilities such as schools, parks and emergency services will be there for future growth as stated in Chapter 7 (Utilities and Community Facilities).

Developments that create new parcels in Cornell are subject to the City's subdivision regulations. Regulations in the Subdivision Ordinance are made with a reasonable consideration of the character of the City with a view of conserving the value of the buildings placed on the land, providing the best possible environment for residents, and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the City in accordance with this Comprehensive Plan. One of the requirements of these ordinances is that proposed subdivisions are to be consistent with adopted local plans and ordinances. Therefore, the review of subdivisions by the City Plan Commission and Council should include a comparison of the proposed subdivision to the goals, objectives and policies of the Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 4 – Housing and Chapter 8 Land Use).

Uniform Dwelling Code

Building codes control the construction of buildings. The codes are put in place so that newly constructed and remodeled buildings conform to state

building, plumbing, and electrical codes. Housing codes may be enacted to prevent housing from becoming dilapidated and blighted and to implement policies from Chapter 4 (Housing).

Code of Ordinances

The City of Cornell's Code of Ordinances covers a wide variety of regulations to help protect the City. Some of the issues covered in the Code include: Building Construction, Citations, Emergency Management, Impact Fees, Parks, Subdivision of Land, and Zoning.

Driveway Ordinance

Driveway Ordinance provides for safe and efficient movement of traffic and provides safe access to land adjacent to roadways. The City does have a Driveway Ordinance in place as part of their Code of Ordinances.

Official Map Ordinance

The official map is a legal document which shows existing and future streets, rights-of-way, parks, school sites, and other public facilities. It ensures that future development does not infringe on planned streets and public facilities. This tool is a way to implement policies from the Transportation Element (Chapter 6). The City presently has an official road and speed limit map that is updated on an annual basis.

Access Control Ordinance

An Access Control Ordinance provides for safe and efficient movement of traffic and provides safe access to land adjacent to roadways. Through this, land development along roadways can be managed. State, county, and local governments often use this to address roadway traffic, access, and development issues. The City can use this tool to implement policies from Chapter 6 (Transportation).

Site Plan Review

The City currently uses a site plan review process to ensure compliance with the subdivision ordinance.

Floodplain Ordinance

The Chippewa County Floodplain Ordinance controls the use of land within a floodplain. This ordinance is used to minimize expenditures for flood control projects, business interruptions, and damage to buildings and public facilities. Goals and policies of this plan in Chapter 3 (Agricultural, Cultural, and Natural Resources) are in compliance with this ordinance.

Financial Tools

Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

A Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) allows the City to prioritize and budget monies for future improvements to public buildings, roads, parks, and utilities. It examines available tax dollars and future revenues to predict expenditures for the future and assists the City in reaching specific policies and goals of the Comprehensive Plan. The City does have a CIP in place.

Planning Tools

Safe Routes to School Plan

The City developed and adopted a Safe Routes to School Plan where the Safe Routes Task Force inventoried existing City sidewalks and trails and identify needs for improvements while exploring ways to improve and finance them. The Plan addresses topics such as existing safe routes efforts, sidewalk and trail design standards, traffic calming techniques, signage, funding opportunities and recommendations (Chapter 6 – Transportation and Chapter 7 – Utilities and Community Facilities).

Outdoor Recreation Plan

Cornell has an Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan is out of date and should be updated to be used as the guidance document regarding park and recreation issues for the City of Cornell. It is important to include the neighboring towns because they can assist in estimating the recreation needs for the area residents such as capacity, number of facilities and location of facilities (Chapter 7 – Utilities and Community Facilities).

Comprehensive Plan

The Plan is meant to be a guide for all types of community development decisions. With adoption by the City Council, the Plan becomes the official policy of the City for planning and development issues in Cornell. Development of a community happens incrementally, one development, and sometimes, one parcel at a time. In addition, committees and boards responsible for making development decisions change over time. Therefore, using the Plan as a guide for overall development decisions will build consistency, continuity and legal protections into the development process.

Available Implementation Tools

Historic Preservation Ordinance

A Historic Preservation Ordinance aims to protect historic buildings, structures, and districts. The City may address historical accuracy when designated buildings, structures, or districts are rehabilitated or

redeveloped. It is designed to protect communities from development that would detract from its appearance and character. An historic preservation ordinance can be used to meet policies established in Chapter 3 (Agricultural, Cultural, and Natural Resources).

Transportation Plan

Existing and future road corridors could be mapped and followed to form continuity between existing and future development in a Transportation Plan. Cornell may want to consider developing a Transportation Plan in the future.

Impact Fees

The City of Cornell, in an effort to pay for costs of improvements required because of new development, could establish an Impact Fee Ordinance. Under the ordinance, the City would collect funds for road improvements, City facilities, park and recreation, and fire protection wells. The Comprehensive Plan should be reviewed if the City decides to adopt Impact Fees and develop the Impact Fee Needs Assessment.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

A TIF program allows the City to use the taxes collected on the increase in the value of taxable property for financing additional property improvements. This tool is used by communities to capture future increases in property tax revenue and make these dollars available as a development incentive, subsidy or investment. Cities can create TIF districts to encourage economic development in distressed or underdeveloped areas where development would not otherwise occur and rehabilitate blighted areas. A TIF District can be used as an incentive tool to draw new tourist activities into the area and assist with implementation of Economic Development goals (Chapter 7).

Local Action

Developing a Comprehensive Plan requires local action from the City. Some of the activities include holding public meetings, sending out newsletters/press releases, and providing information to interested local residents. Most of the meetings for the Comprehensive Plan were held before the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Below is a list of additional opportunities for City residents to be involved in the planning process:

Local Citizens

The City of Cornell encourages ideas from its citizens. Throughout the planning process, public participation has been encouraged through several means including a public hearing, newspaper notices, and monthly Comprehensive Planning Committee meetings. This process does not end with the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive

Plan will need to be updated as situations change and new ideas evolve. Therefore, public participation will always be needed and welcomed.

Planning Commission

The Plan Commission's role in the planning process is to review all pertinent information, give input, and act as an advisory body to the City Council. The recommendations of the Plan Commission should guide the future direction of growth and development in Cornell in a manner which benefits its citizens and minimizes the City's costs. Future revisions of the Comprehensive Plan will likely go through the Plan Commission.

City Council

In order for the Comprehensive Plan to be implemented, the City Council must formally adopt the Plan. Upon adoption, the Comprehensive Plan becomes the official guide for decision-making by City officials. As chief policy makers, the Council is also responsible for establishing and actively supporting a continued planning program.

Committees

Cornell has a variety of committees that meet periodically to discuss local issues and report to the City Council. The City Council often relies on these committees to investigate community-wide opportunities and provide information for the decisions the Council makes. The following is a list of standing committees:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ▪ Finance | ▪ Planning Commission |
| ▪ City Works | ▪ Housing Committee |
| ▪ Public Safety and Health | ▪ Library Board |
| ▪ Building, Parks & Rec. | ▪ Zoning Board of Appeals |
| ▪ Industrial | ▪ Fire and Rescue Squad Board |
| ▪ Board of Review | ▪ Comprehensive Planning Committee |
| ▪ Utility Commission | |
| ▪ Police Commission | |

Chapter Integration

Each chapter in the City's Comprehensive Plan was written to be consistent in nature with rest of the Plan. All of the goals, objectives and policies within this Comprehensive Plan as well as any maps, analysis and appendix have been presented and reviewed by members of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Policies from each chapter were assessed to ensure they would address the goals and objectives of each chapter. Future revisions to this plan shall undertake the same process.

Plan Amendments and Updates

Comprehensive Plans are meant to be dynamic. Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(i) states that the comprehensive plan shall be updated no less than once every 10 years. Because this plan is scheduled to be adopted in 2009, a complete update will be required of all nine chapters by 2019. Revisions or amendments to the plan can be addressed at any time by following the procedures for adopting a comprehensive plan under Wisconsin Statutes and the adopted public participation procedures.

On-going evaluation and monitoring is important to maintain the integrity of the Comprehensive Plan. The needs of the community today may not match the needs 20 years from now. Therefore, the Plan Commission will need to monitor the progress of the Plan implementation. It is recommended that the Comprehensive Plan be reviewed yearly and changes be made when the situation is warranted. A potentially large update may be needed after reviewing 2010 census data.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal 1: Continue the implementation of the City's Plans including the Comprehensive Plan.

Objectives

1. Establish a set schedule of when to review and update each plan.
2. Upon review of each plan, amend when necessary.
3. Look at other possible types of plans that could be beneficial to the City.

Policies

1. Effectively utilize available regulatory tools.
2. Review Comprehensive Plan every five years.
3. Update Comprehensive Plan every ten years.
4. Amend the Comprehensive Plan to coincide with new data when necessary.
5. Develop Implementation Task List and Schedule.

APPENDIX A

Public Participation Plan

RESOLUTION #09-01
CITY OF CORNELL, CHIPPEWA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Cornell has decided to prepare a comprehensive plan under the authority of and procedures established by Sec. 66.1001 Wis. Stats; and

WHEREAS, Sec. 66.1001, Wis. Stats, requires that the governing body of the local governmental unit adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation at every stage of comprehensive plan preparation, and that such written procedures shall provide for wide distribution of draft plan materials, an opportunity for the public to submit written and oral comments on the plan materials, and a process for the governing body to respond to such comments; and

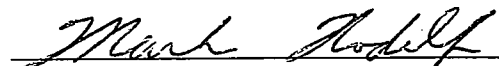
WHEREAS, the City of Cornell believes that regular, meaningful public involvement in the comprehensive plan process is important to assure that the resulting plan meets the wished and expectations of the public; and

WHEREAS, the "Agreement for Professional Services" between the City and Cedar Corporation, a consulting firm, includes written procedures to foster public participation, ensure wide distribution of draft plan materials, provide opportunities for written comments on such materials, and provide mechanisms to respond to such comments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Cornell hereby adopts the written procedures included in the "Public Participation Plan" meeting the requirements of Sec. 66.1001, Wis. Stats. A copy of said procedure is attached as Exhibit A.

Adopted this 22nd day of January, 2009.

CITY OF CORNELL


Mark Nodolf, Mayor

ATTEST:

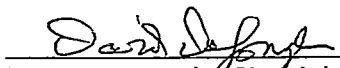

Dave DeJongh, City Administrator

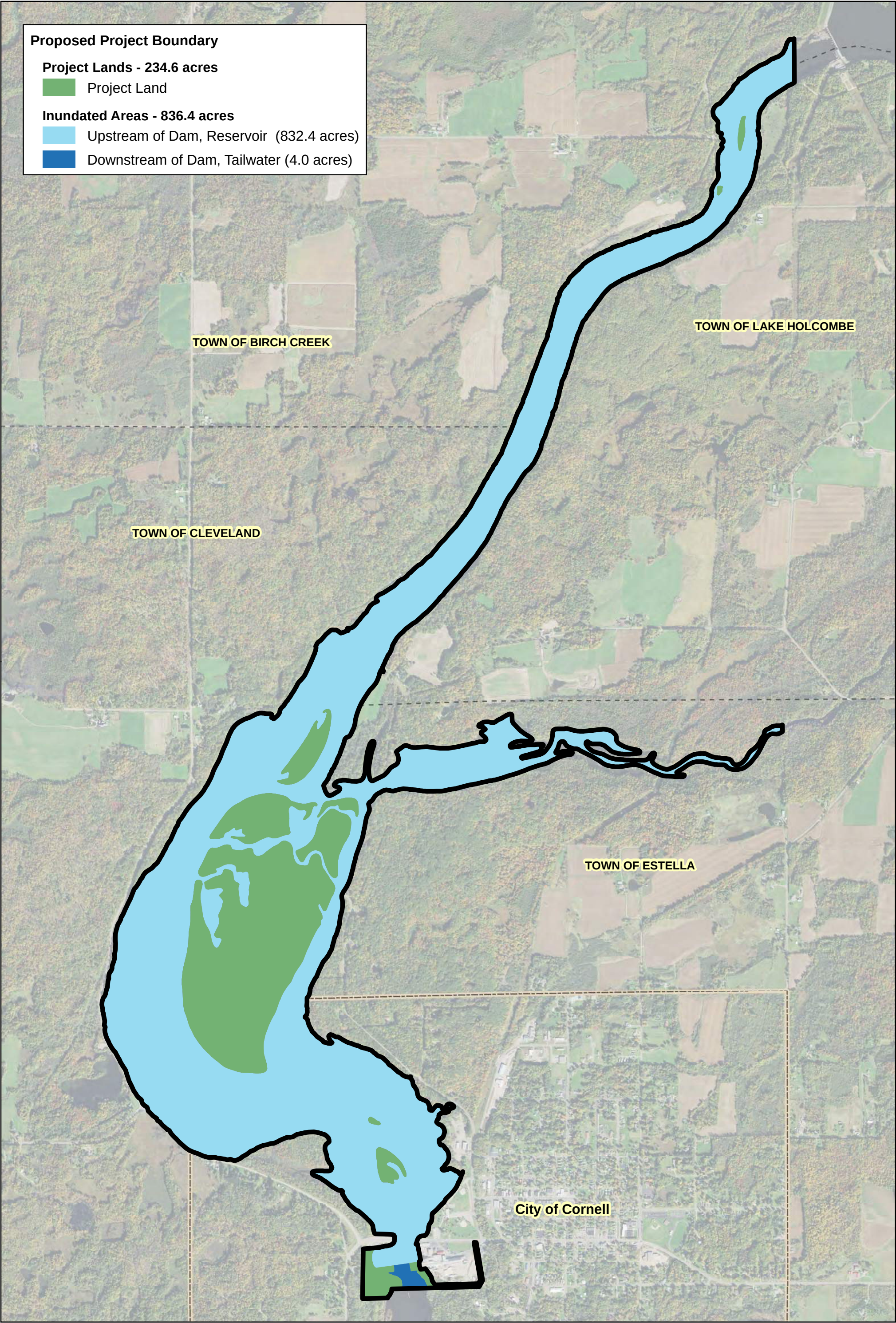
EXHIBIT A

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

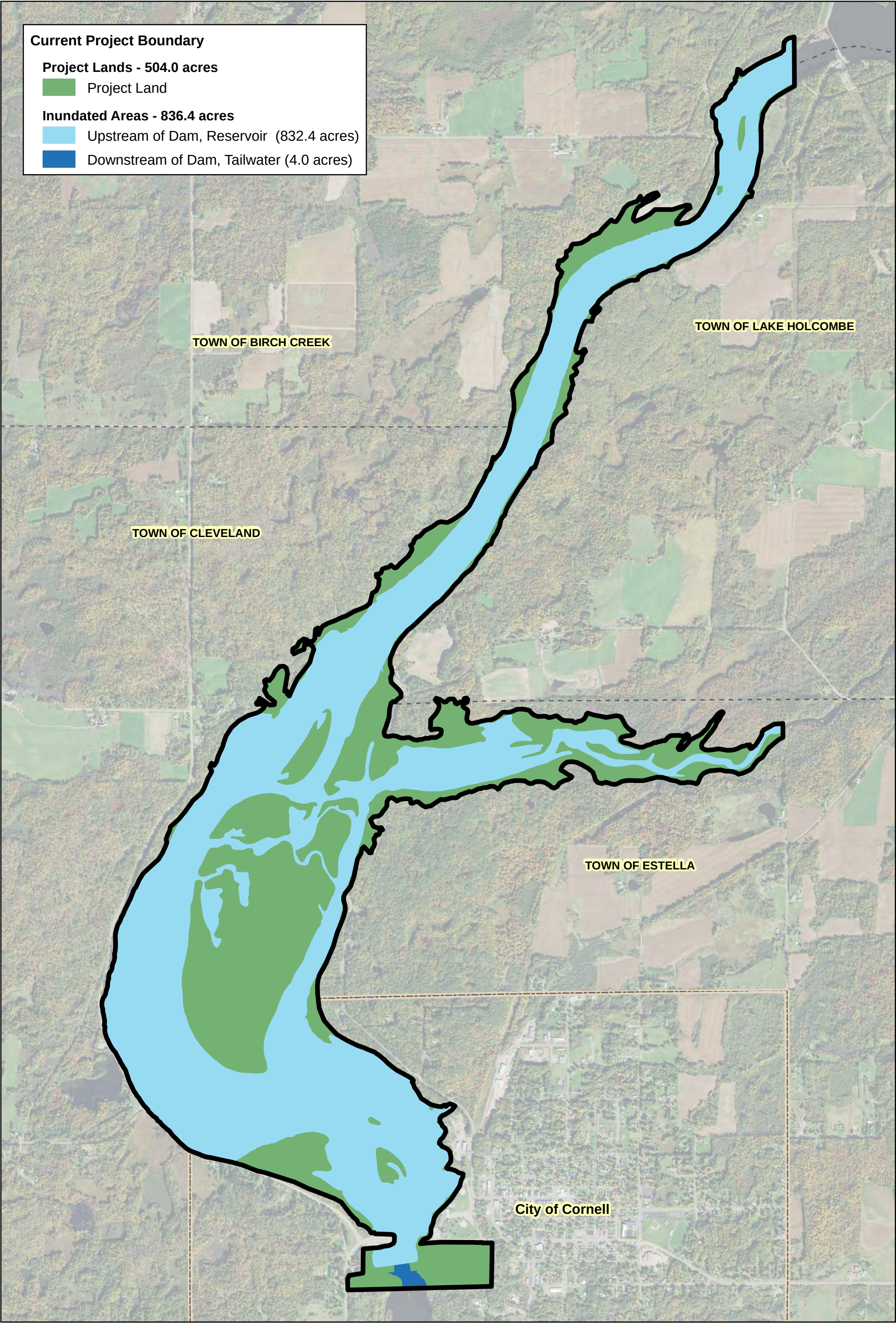
The following methods will be used, when practical, to foster public participation and input for the City of Cornell Comprehensive Plan.

- **Opinion Surveys:** The City of Cornell will conduct an opinion survey of all residents and property owners.
- **Press Releases:** Press releases will be sent periodically to the Cornell Courier.
- **Websites:** The drafts of the Comprehensive Plan will be available to the public on a website.
- **Informational Pamphlet:** An informational pamphlet on the Planning Process and aspects of the Comprehensive Plan will be made available to the public during the 2008 National Election.
- **Public Meetings:** The public is invited to attend all Comprehensive Planning Committee meetings and agendas will be posted.
- **Public Hearing:** A public hearing is a legal requirement of the Comprehensive Planning Law. It allows residents to express their views and offer comments before adoption of the comprehensive plan.

The City of Cornell is not limited to the public participation methods listed above and may engage in other methods not identified here as the planning process moves forward.



Layer Credits: National Agriculture Imagery Program 2015, 1m; National Wetlands Inventory



Current Project Boundary

Project Lands - 504.0 acres

Project Land

Inundated Areas - 836.4 acres

Upstream of Dam, Reservoir (832.4 acres)

Downstream of Dam, Tailwater (4.0 acres)

Layer Credits: National Agriculture Imagery Program 2015, 1m; National Wetlands Inventory



Current Project Boundary

Town Boundary

City Boundary

0

0.25

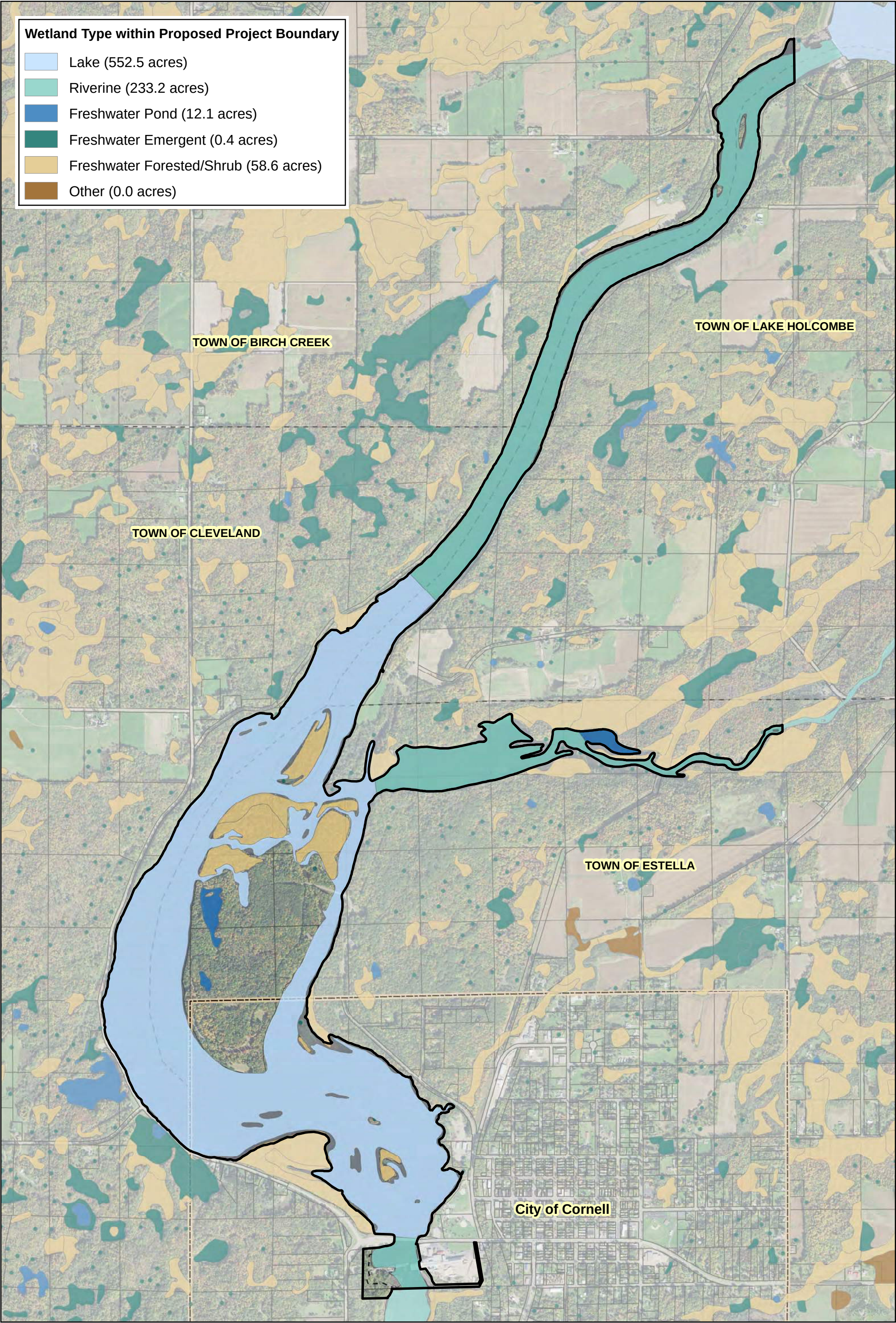
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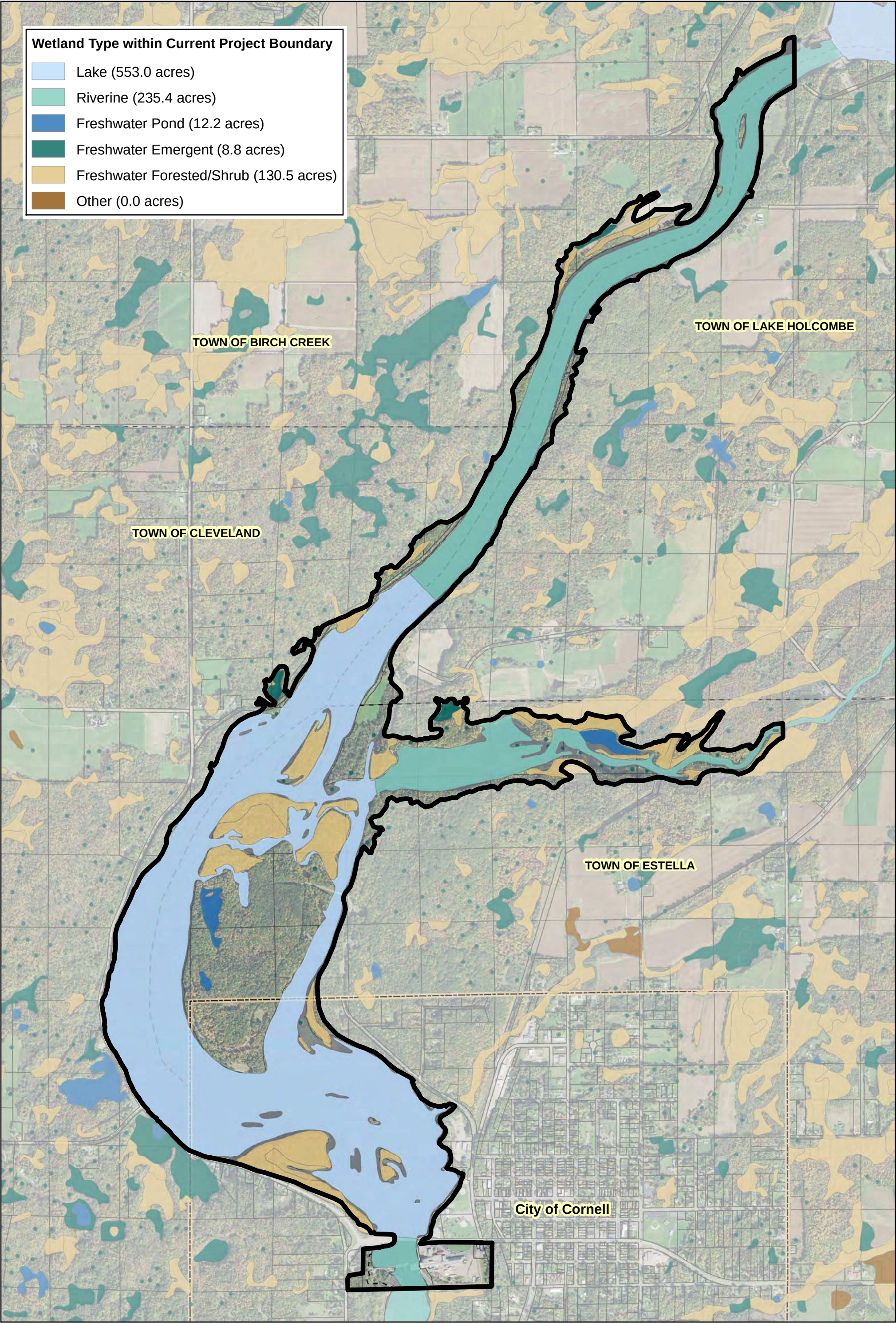
Miles

Cornell Hydroelectric Project

Project Lands and Inundated Areas

FERC No. 2639





Layer Credits: National Agriculture Imagery Program 2015, 1m; National Wetlands Inventory

**The Flashboard Study has been filed separately with FERC
as Critical Energy Infrastructure Information**